

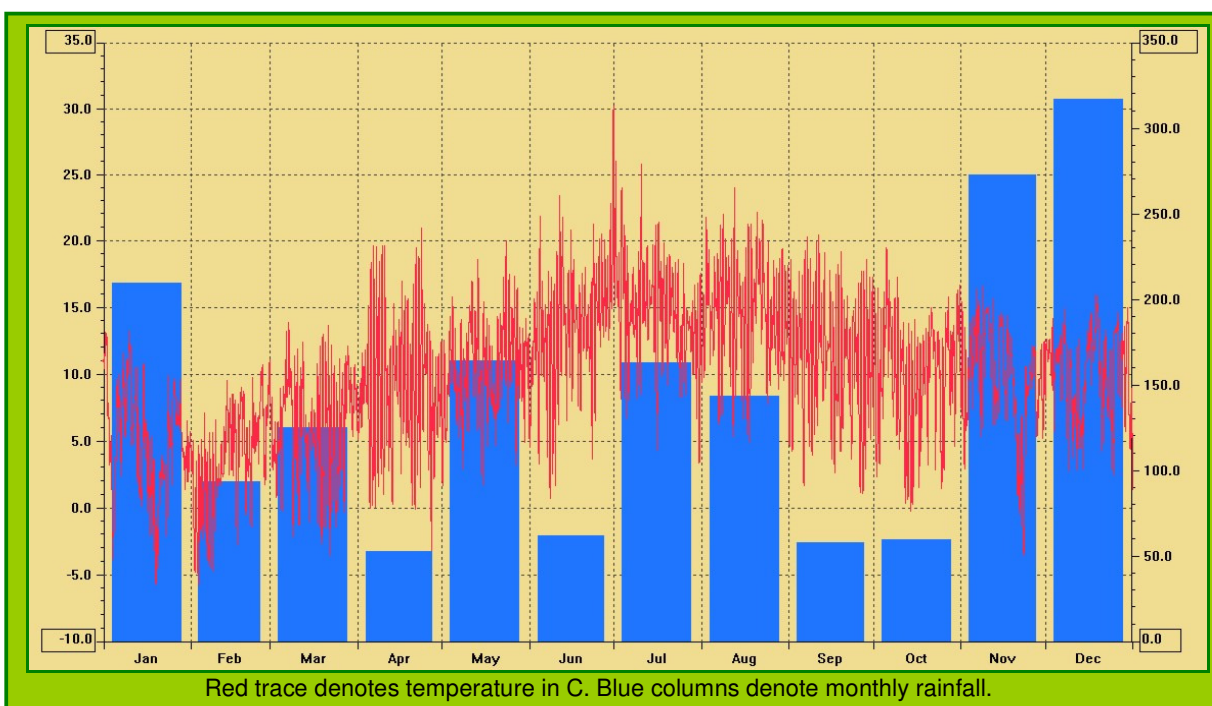
Mothing in Montgomeryshire – 2015 Annual Report

Weather Conditions

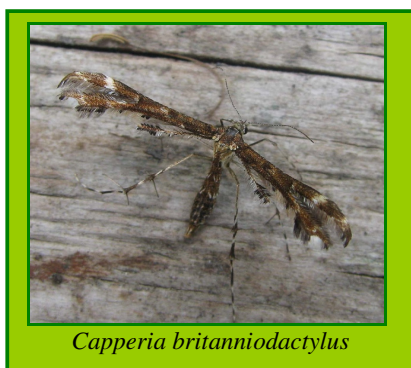
Readings below taken at Commins Coch in the west of the county.

Generally speaking, the average temperature for 2015 was pretty normal, but the temperatures for the summer months were all slightly down on normal. The hottest day was June 30th when the mercury hit 30.2c; the coldest night was on February 3rd when it fell to -5.7c.

April, June and September had below normal amounts of rainfall. May, July and August were fairly wet, the winter months were all very wet with above average figures. The chart below shows the temperature and rainfall (mm) for 2015.



The Moths - New Species Recorded



The high number of new species we've recorded in recent years dropped away for 2015, but, this was expected and bound to happen sooner or later. However, we did manage 20 new county records (15 micros and 5 macros). The fairly high ratio of new macros to new micros was a bit surprising; but it just goes to show that with the ongoing northward and westward spread of many species (due to global warming), that there will be plenty of scope to add more new macro species to the county list in the future.



Details of new micro species recorded

0012 *Eriocrania sangii* – adult to light; Hafren Forest (MMG event); 18-04-15

0796 *Prolita sexpunctella* – adult to light; Lake Vyrnwy (GBC); the first north Wales record for some years; 11-06-15

0175 *Narycia duplicella* – adult to light; Middletown (DBo): This was only the second record for north Wales, 29-06-15

0309 *Parornix torquillella* – adult to light; Middletown (DBo); 29-06-15

0577 *Coleophora artemisicolella* – adult to light; Middletown (DBo); 29-06-15

0072 *Stigmella myrtillella* – adult to light; Lake Glaslyn (DBo); 30-06-15

1494 *Capperia britanniodactylus* – adult to light; Llandinam Gravels (DBo); a 'nationally scarce B' plume species; 01-07-15

0724 *Metzneria lappella* – adult to light; Middletown (DBo); 07-07-15

0583 *Coleophora tamesis* – adult to light; Middletown (DBo); 21-07-15

0636 *Denisia similella* - adult to light; Lake Vyrnwy (GBC); 'nationally scarce B' plume species; 15-07-15

1205a *Spilonota laricana* – adult to light; Hafren Forest (DBo); 12-08-15

0889a *Mompha bradleyi* – adult to light; Middletown (DBo); 19-08-15

1068 *Celypha rivulana* – adult to light; Lake Glaslyn (MMG event); 19-08-15

0030 *Ectoedemia arcuatella* – leaf mine; Llanymynech Rocks (DK); A 'nationally scarce A' species, new to north Wales. 05-09-15

0245 *Tinea pallescentella* - adult to light; Derwenlas (AT); 19-11-15



Details of new macro species recorded



Bordered Straw
Heliothis peltigera

2204 Obscure Wainscot *Leucania obsoleta* – adult to light; Derwenlas (AT); 20-06-15

2403 Bordered Straw *Heliothis peltigera* – adult to light; Newtown (PE); 24-06-15

1840 Shaded Pug *Eupithecia subumbrata* - adult to light; Middletown (DBo); 29-06-15

2373 Webb's Wainscot *Globia sparganii* – adult to light; Cors Dyfi Nature Reserve (DBo & PRW); 17-08-15

2080 Square-spot Dart *Euxoa obelisca* - adult to light; Middletown (DBo); 29-06-15. Previous records (since 2009) of this 'Nationally Scarce B'; species are thought to have been miss-identified as White-line Dart, *Euxoa tritici*, but those records have now been corrected in the database.

Other notable species recorded during the year

0252 *Ochsenheimeria urella* – adult, daytime observation; Middletown (DBo); 19-08-15

0225 *Triaxomera fulvimitrella* – adult to light; Llandinam Gravels (DBo); 01-07-15

0601 *Elachista albifrontella* – adult to light; Roundton Hill Nature Reserve (DGG); 27-06-15

1256 *Leucoptera spartifoliella* – adult, daytime observation; Middletown (DBo); 17-07-15

1804 Barred Rivulet *Perizoma bifaciata* – adult to light; Derwenlas (AT); 29-07-15

2082 Garden Dart *Euxoa nigricans* – adult to light; Middletown (DBo); 02-08-15

2115 Rosy Marsh Moth *Coenophila subrosea* – two adults to light; Cors Dyfi Nature Reserve (DBo & PRW); 17-08-15

1973 Death's Head Hawk-moth *Acherontia atropos* – adult, daytime observation; Pont Robert (JJK) 30-08-15

0373 Currant Clearwing *Synanthedon tipuliformis* - adult, daytime observation; Newtown (SCC); 02-07-15



Key to the above recorders



DBo - Douglas Boyes
 GBC – Gavin Chambers
 DK – Dan Knight
 AT – Alan Tadman
 PE – Phil Evans
 PRW – Peter Williams
 DGG – Dave Green
 JJK – John King
 SCC – Susan Cain



End of Year Statistics

Summary of end of year statistics; figures in brackets show 2014 totals.

- Numbers of records in general were down during 2015, but we did manage to add a total of 14,304 (20,656) records to our database. The share between macro and micro was; 11,973 (16,470) macro and 2,331 (4,186) micro. We now have 167,345 macro records and 28,855 micro records, giving us a grand total of 196,200 records in the database.
- Total number of species now held in our database is 521 (517) macro species and 631 (616) micro species giving us a total of 1152 species recorded in the county.
- Total species recorded in 2015 was 421 (434) macro species and 324 micro species, giving a grand total of 745 species for the year.

The following charts show the 2015 rank of the top five species in various categories recorded in Montgomeryshire. **Please note** The previous year's totals are shown in parenthesis and a dash indicates that the species was not in top five the previous year. Once again, I have separated the macro (left hand charts) from the micro moths (right hand charts), so that you get a better overview of how both groups are doing.

The two charts below show the top five most numerous records for the year. The top macro moths once again consist of mainly summer species with the Large yellow Underwing changing places with the Flame Shoulder to take top spot. In the Micro moths *Endrosis sarcitrella* has once again topped the table and apart from *Anania hortulata* coming in at fourth place, most other species are the same as last year.

Rank	Log No.	Macro Species	Records	Rank	Log No.	Micro Species	Records
1 (2)	2107	Large Yellow Underwing	205 (282)	1 (1)	648	Endrosis sarcitrella	92 (124)
2 (1)	2102	Flame Shoulder	183 (313)	2 (2)	1338	Eudonia lacustrata	90 (96)
=3	2321	Dark Arches	180 (-)	3 (4)	1293	Chrysoteuchia culmella	79 (87)
=3	2089	Heart & Dart	180 (-)	4 (-)	1376	Anania hortulata	70 (-)
4	2258	Chestnut	166 (-)	5 (3)	1405	Pleuroptya ruralis	69 (94)

The next two charts show the top five species by the quantities trapped. In the macro moths; unlike 2014 the spring species have mainly been pushed out of the top five by the summer species, with Heart & Dart taking top place. In the micros, *Chrysoteuchia culmella* has retained top place with *Endrosis sarcitrella* and *Agriphila straminella* moving into the top five.

Rank	Log No.	Macro Species	Counts
1 (-)	2089	Heart & Dart	1627 (-)
2 (-)	2107	Large Yellow Underwing	1408 (-)
3 (3)	2190	Hebrew Character	1139 (2066)
4 (5)	2049	Buff Footman	932 (1550)
5 (-)	2044	Dingy Footman	818 (-)

Rank	Log No.	Micro Species	Counts
1 (1)	1293	Chrysoteuchia culmella	517 (469)
2 (4)	1305	Agriphila tristella	268 (342)
3 (3)	1405	Pleuroptya ruralis	267 (347)
4 (-)	648	Endrosia sarcitrella	234 (-)
5 (-)	1304	Agriphila straminella	210 (-)

The last two charts show the top five all time records in our database. The order of the macros is the same as last year and in the micros *Celypha lacunana* has come in at number five pushing out *Agriphila straminella*.

Rank	Log No.	Macro Species	All records
1 (1)	2107	Large Yellow Underwing	2637 (2432)
2 (2)	2102	Flame Shoulder	2476 (2293)
3 (3)	1906	Brimstone Moth	2237 (2083)
4 (4)	2190	Hebrew Character	2190 (2028)
5 (5)	1764	Common Marbled Carpet	2152 (2000)

Rank	Log No.	Micro Species	All records
1 (1)	1334	Scoparia ambigualis	912 (850)
2 (2)	1405	Pleuroptya ruralis	864 (794)
3 (3)	1305	Agriphila tristella	816 (756)
4 (4)	1338	Eudonia lacustrata	806 (714)
5 (-)	1076	Celypha lacunana	733 (-)

The Moth Group Events – MMG

During 2015 we held 8 events throughout the county all of which were well attended. Full reports for 2015 can be seen on the events page of the web site, but here are some of the year's highlights:-

Late March event Our first event of the year at **Coed Pendugwm Nature Reserve** will be remembered for the severe storm which hit us. With the strong winds and rain lashing down on us, it was more a case of self preservation than anything else. However, amidst all this we did manage to record 14 spring species of moths, making the event worthwhile.

Mid April event on this occasion we were at the



Mid April event at the Hafren Forest
Skinner trap sited amongst the trees

Hafren Forest, the weather was calm and cool and once again we recorded 14 species which, rather surprisingly, included the new county record of ***Eriocrania sangii*** which kicked off our additions of new county records for 2015.

Late May event at **Pont Llogel SSSI** was dry and the temperatures held up pretty well. Nothing too special was recorded, but we did manage to trap 33 species.

The **Late June Event** at **Roundton Nature Reserve** was very successful indeed. In the mild condition the 20 people who turned were treated to a massive total of 165 species, the highest species count at any event for the year.



Early August event at CAT
Unloading all the kit above the quarry



Late August event at Lake Glaslyn
A wet and blustery evening

The **Early August Event** at **CAT** was also very successful on another mild and dry evening. The 19 people who turned up saw exactly 100 species. The highlight of the event was, definitely, the scarce **Barred Carpet**, and the 10+ of this species strongly suggests that there is a healthy breeding population at CAT.

Late August Event our only moorland event of the year was at **Lake Glaslyn Nature Reserve**. Moorland events can be very problematic at the best of times and the storm which hit us there highlighted this issue very well. However, we did manage to record 24 species. The **Neglected Rustic**, which we only have 8 records for in the county, was definitely the evening's highlight.

Mid-September at Dolforwyn Woods Nature Reserve.

Unfortunately, the weather conditions were quite cool for this event which kept the attendance for both the public and moths rather on the low side, but we did manage to record 28 species which included a **Hedge Rustic** - a species which isn't seen very commonly.

Our last event of the year was in **Early October** at **Coed Y Dinas Nature Reserve**. This was the best attended event of the year and the 33 people who turned up on a lovely mild evening witnessed 26 species brought to the table. The best moth of the evening was definitely a Dusky-lemon Sallow, the first time that this species has ever been recorded at a Montgomeryshire mothing event.



Early October Event at Coed Y Dinas
Checking the contents of the traps at base camp

Please note Our new programme of events for 2016 can now be found in the 'Events' area of the website. Please come along and support us wherever you can.

MMG Fundraising

MMG cash flow during the past 12 months up to 30/04/16:

Expenditure

CWCN – web hosting charges.....	£47.98
Pemberley Books – British Moths by Chris Manley.....	29.95
Charlies Stores – 2 x table lamps for events.....	19.98
Total expenditure during the year.....	£97.73

Income

Easyfundraising... ..	£74.52
Donation.....	£25.00
Total income during the year.....	£99.52

Account balance in the bank.....£91.03

I was contacted during the year by someone who wanted to donate to the running costs of the MMG and, at the time, the only way he could do this was to send a cheque via me, (£25.00 'donation' above). However, this got me thinking that anyone who wished to donate to our funds in the future should be able to do so directly, so, Mike has now added a PayPal 'Donate' button on the bottom of the website home page.

Once again, I would like to say thank you to all those who have helped to put some funds in our kitty during the last year via 'Easyfundraising'. To all those who haven't yet used 'Easyfundraising', but use the web to do their shopping, please do so, as it costs you nothing extra to go through 'Easyfundraising' and you may be able to purchase your goods even cheaper with some of the deals on offer. If you use the Montgomeryshire Moths link at the bottom of our home page, you can contribute to our funds - every little bit helps!

The Website

I expect all of you will have noticed that during the spring of 2015 that we added the new ABH log numbers to the website. These new numbers are already in general use throughout the mothing community and many recently published reference books have included the ABH numbers. We decided to keep the old BF log numbers as well as adding the ABH numbers so that anyone using the website can easily cross reference between the two. The new numbers have been added throughout the website, but because of technical reasons we couldn't add them to the 'species thumbnails' or the 'species pages'.

Now that the 2015 data has been processed and added to the website and database please be aware that the status of all species recorded in Montgomeryshire has been re-assessed and, therefore, the status of certain species has changed.

In Conclusion

I would, again, like to say a big thank you to Mike Haigh for all his hard work during the year with the website, especially all the extra work that was involved with adding the new ABH log numbers; and for updating and maintaining our database.

Also, thanks, goes to Douglas Boyes for his efforts in maintaining our Stop Press and Blog and for helping out with all our events, to most of which he brought his own traps along to give us greater a trapping potential.

Lastly, thanks to all you moth-ers out there for using the MMG facilities, when all said and done, that's what makes it work!

I hope we all have a great mothing year in 2016.

Peter.