

As you may know I took over as Chairman earlier this year after more than 10 years sterling service by Simon Spencer – thank you Simon.

2019 has been a mixed year; European Butterflies Group continues to grow and we now have more than 630 members but it has been a relatively quiet year in terms of activities.

We continued to support our colleagues in Romania with their work on *Colias myrmidone* the Danube Clouded Yellow – Martin Davies attended a workshop in Cluj in May (Martin will I am sure be happy to supply further details if you are interested).

I took a small group to northern Spain to look for *Euchloe bazae* – Spanish Greenish Blacktip which I am pleased to say has just been given legal protection by the Spanish Government. This butterfly flies in 2 populations one near Zaragoza in N Spain and one near Baza in the south. If anyone has any records of sighting these species, please let me have your records as our colleagues in Spain are preparing a Species Action Plan to supplement the Species Recovery Plan which was produced in 2014.

We had hoped that in 2019 one of our bursaries would fund someone to do some research into *Pseudochazara orestes* Dils Grayling which is one of Europe's most threatened species – but unfortunately that did not happen. However, Simon Spencer will go to N Greece next year to look for *orestes* and we hope to arrange some overlapping trips to carry out a search of the area. If you are interested, please speak to Simon in the break – or just pass your name to me or one of the Committee. Simon is also intending to organise a training session for Greek National Park staff if you are interested in helping him please speak to Simon.

Simon will be using Bill Raymond's excellent ID guides which are on our website – if you haven't yet seen them please look on the EBG website.

If you have any ideas about projects which might need our help – principally we are best at helping with surveys – then please talk to me or a Committee member.

I will be attending the BCE partners meeting in December and I will see if our colleagues have any projects which would need EBG's help. If so these will be advertised on the website or I will email members looking for volunteers.

Once again we have run a very successful photographic competition for our calendar. I would like to record to my thanks to Anne Spencer and to the judges for their efforts. Calendars are available today, at the Butterfly Conservation AGM and by post from Anne.

I have been asked in the past if we could allow overseas membership but BC's systems at that time could not allow it. I am pleased to say we can now allow overseas membership which I believe will help us broaden our contacts and spread our influence further - I will discuss this at the BCE partner meeting.

Finally in case you are not aware there is a symposium – The Future of Butterflies in Europe - at Wageningen in early April (the symposia alternate between UK and Netherlands) and there is still time to register at the “earlybird” price.