



**Butterfly
Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

Press Release

21st November 2010

Local man wins wildlife award

Mike Ridge from Somerset has been honoured with an Outstanding Volunteer Award by the charity Butterfly Conservation. The prestigious award is in recognition of his outstanding commitment and dedication to the conservation of endangered butterflies and moths.

For over decade Mike has been a butterfly recorder for the Somerset and Bristol Branch of Butterfly Conservation and continues to play a central role in organizing the recording activities. Recording butterflies and moths is vital for the charity to learn how best to protect these dwindling insects. Mike's dedication has achieved outstanding results for his local branch.

Mike has also taken on the role of manager of the Thurlbear Quarrylands Reserve, an important butterfly habitat near Taunton. He leads butterfly walks to help educate member of the public as to how important butterflies are and what can be done to help them.

Dudley Cheeseman, Chairman of the Somerset and Bristol branch, said "Mike has been instrumental in developing the knowledge and understanding we have of butterflies and moths in the county. He has devoted a lot of time and energy over the last ten years to the protection of butterflies and their habitats. We would like Mike to know that not only do we recognise his efforts and they have been absolutely invaluable to our work".

Mike said: "I feel lucky to have been able to turn a hobby into something that makes a real contribution to protecting the natural world. Butterflies are valuable indicators of the health of our countryside. The more we can do to protect the landscape for these beautiful creatures the better the environment will be for us all."

To find out more about moths, butterflies and events and activities in your area please visit www.butterfly-conservation.org

NOTES

Butterfly Conservation is the largest insect conservation charity in Europe with nearly 15,000 members in the UK. Its aim is the conservation of butterflies, moths and their habitats. It runs conservation programmes on over 60 threatened species of butterfly and

moth and manages over 30 nature reserves. Further information www.butterfly-conservation.org

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