

# Introduction

Dr Alison McDonald restarted Fritillary in 2000 with Volume 2 and since then seven volumes have been published. This is the ninth volume and the sixth on-line, dealing with the study of the natural world in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

We begin with a paper on the Pyramidal Orchids on the Hinksey Hill roundabout and nearby road verges in Oxford by Michael Bloom a member of the Abingdon Naturalists. First spotted by Michael as he travelled by bus from Abingdon to Oxford, this led to an annual count over eight years.

From Orchids we move to non-coleopteran fungivorous insects and a paper by Richard Fortey and Peter Chandler. Seventy eight species of these insects were raised from fungi collected in semi-natural beech wood in the southern Chilterns which allowed host and associated insect species to be identified.

Remaining with woodlands, Helen Read and Vicki Bengtsson, discuss their work in Burnham Beeches, a Buckinghamshire reserve of European importance, due to the ancient beech and oak pollards and their associated saproxylic species.

Steve Gregory reports four species of millipedes (Diplopoda) new to Oxfordshire. Thirty seven species were known to be present in the county by the late 1990s but not until 2013 was another added.

Our first paper on Slime Moulds comes from Professor Bruce Ing and describes recordings made in Oxfordshire between 1958 and 2014.

We end with the history of the Fungus Survey of Oxfordshire by Mollie Dewey, one of the founding members and Wendy MacEachrane. Interesting finds are listed including several firsts for Oxfordshire and one for the UK.

Fritillary aims to record the changing state of nature across our three counties as both national development projects and environmental changes disrupt existing habitats and disturb the distribution and survival of wildlife within this area. With this in mind we welcome research reports on all aspects of the natural world within the counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

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