

## BARRY GOATER (1930–2022)

Barry Goater, a BSBI member for 62 years, died peacefully at his home in Chandler's Ford, Hampshire, on 29 July 2022, after a period of increasing infirmity.

Barry was born in Southampton, the son of William Cecil (Bill) and Joan Adelaide Goater (née Adamson). Joan was a keen and energetic amateur naturalist who wrote extensive journals over nearly 50 years. Barry was educated at Peter Symonds School, Winchester and University College, Southampton, gaining an Honours degree in Botany in 1952. After completing National Service in 1954 he took a teaching post at Haberdashers' Aske's



Barry Goater in his teaching years, c.1960.

School where he became Head of Biology after just four years, continuing in that post until 1988 when he took early retirement. He was clearly an inspirational teacher: those under his tutelage included notable BSBI members George Peterken and Richard Pryce. In his book *Wildwood* the naturalist and writer Roger Deakin celebrated the ‘wild camping’ field trips to the New Forest that Barry organised for Haberdashers’ students. The living arrangements may have been informal, but the teaching aspect was by all accounts rigorous, with every pupil working

on a scientifically organised project. In 1991 he returned to Hampshire and took up residence in the parental house in Chandler’s Ford where he remained until his death.

Amongst naturalists, Barry is best known for his wide-ranging work on Lepidoptera. He became an international expert on micro-moths, travelling widely in Europe, especially in France and Spain, with many papers and informal articles to his name in British and European journals and major contributions to standard works on many moth groups. One genus of moths (*Goateria*), eight species and four subspecies are named after him; my favourite is *Armada goateri*, which conjures up visions of a warlike crew of Goaters sailing up the Channel. Local naturalists will probably know him best for *The Butterflies and Moths of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight*, published in 1974, and *Moths of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight* (2001) in which he shared authorship with Tim Norriss. He was an honorary member of several of the main European scientific societies and served as President or Vice-president of two.

However, Barry maintained a keen interest in botany (encouraged by his second wife Jane) to the end of his life, joining the BSBI in 1960 and the British Bryological Society in 1961. Unsurprisingly Barry in botanising mode was, as in all things related to natural history, a good and careful observer and recorder, although he was often diffident about his own talents. He threw his energies into BSBI recording projects in Hampshire; for example, methodically and without complaint covering some of the least exciting areas of Hampshire for the *New Atlas* (2002) with Jane. They nearly always found something unusual and of interest which he would share, often over a glass of wine, later in the day. I believe that he is the only person ever to have made records for a plant species in every single monad of a Hampshire hectad (sadly but unsurprisingly, *Urtica dioica*).

Barry was a regular and assiduous volunteer at the Hampshire County Museums Service at Chilcomb House, Winchester. Much of his time was spent dealing with the entomological collections, but he also curated and catalogued important sections of



Barry Goater in Dibden Bottom, New Forest, Hampshire, 2008. *Martin Rand*

the herbarium. A few years ago when the future of the scientific collections looked uncertain, he was a staunch member of the successful campaign to see them preserved. He involved himself with the Flora Group of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and is responsible for the monumental index of its 32-year run of twice-yearly newsletters, which he compiled with an accuracy and speed which is daunting for his successors.

Field trips with Barry were always enjoyable, if occasionally hair-raising. He was very much of the persuasion that 'that which is not forbidden, is permitted', with the odd extension to 'that which I have taken care not to notice is forbidden'. He had a great reserve of charm and old-fashioned schoolmasterly politeness which frequently helped him out of awkward situations. Trips farther afield in Britain and the Continent were usually undertaken with a camper van, and he was very proud of the fact that he had never paid for a campsite in his life. Concerning wildlife losses over the decades he was

passionate and also pessimistic, having seen how perceptions were affected by shifting baselines with each generation.

In the last few years, the infirmities of old age reduced his capacity for long jaunts, but he remained a keen bird watcher and avid 'twitcher' for anything unusual in the local area, and with the help of friends and family managed to continue getting out on short trips, ending with an Eastern Olivaceous Warbler. He died quietly in the small hours of 29 July 2022, attended by his son Rick.

Barry is survived by his four sons, who very generously made his botanical library available to sell in support of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's Flora Group and the BSBI. To date this has raised just under £900 for the two charities. There are still some good titles available, and anyone interested in seeing the remaining catalogue can contact me.

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**Martin Rand**