



**Farnham in Bloom 2019.** The early date of this year's Bourne Show means the In-Bloom judging is yet to occur, but our sites at the Crossroads and Middle Bourne Lane are prepared. At MBL the results of fresh planting we did at the beginning of the year are in evidence as is the re-seeded wildflower meadow. This year for the first time we are experimenting there with a seed mix that claims to produce flowers that will go on blooming "until the first frost." We shall see if it does what it says on the packet!

**The Bourne Green.** In May the grassy bank along Old Frensham Road was alive with buttercups and other wildflowers as shown. We were then alerted by a rightly indignant resident that the whole lot had been mown! We immediately contacted the Borough Council about this mis-management and asked for a site meeting which they agreed to. The result is that they have willingly agreed to institute a fresh scheme similar to the one that has been running at Langham's for several years at our instigation.

There, areas of grass on the periphery of the playing field are left uncut to allow the wildflowers to flourish. Over time this is expected to steadily improve the biodiversity of The Green.



**Improving the Lychgate.** The re-paving of the lychgate completed at the beginning of the year has greatly improved the entrance to the Old Churchyard. The combination of the York Stone and the new gate stop purchased from the Forge at the Rural Life Centre and installed with great ingenuity by Charles Fearnley perfectly complement the old timbers of the rest of the structure. Funding for the stone was generously donated by John Maddox in memory of Wendy and a lovely service of Dedication and Remembrance was conducted by the Vicar on 10<sup>th</sup> April. At this, John was able to unveil a memorial plaque to Wendy funded by our Group as tribute to a much loved member.

**Our role in forming a new conservation group.** In February we took the significant step of inviting representatives of the local councils and other conservation groups to a meeting in the Town Office. Our proposal to them that a Farnham Biodiversity Group should be formed was warmly welcomed. The aim is to develop and implement a Biodiversity Action Plan that will allow better coordination of conservation efforts across the town. Since that time a Community Interest Company has been formed to carry out the task and much preliminary work has been carried out. Taking the lead on this has enabled us to use the experience we have gained since 2002 and is already widening our knowledge of local conservation issues at a time when the natural world is in crisis.



**Services to Farnham Award.** We congratulate Dr Martin Angel on the Services to Farnham Award he was presented with at a ceremony in the Council Chamber on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019 based on his remarkable record of surveying and recording the biodiversity of Farnham especially its moth population. To give an idea of the effort he has made, his latest report shows he has been out trapping and photographing moths on 64 nights in 2018 -19. He takes this in his stride but does find it particularly rewarding when a rare specimen is caught such as the one pictured, caught on Footpath 73 near Compton Fields on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.



*Orange moth, Angerona prunaria*

**Farnham Walking Festival 2019.** As founder members of this Festival in 2017 we were pleased to take part again this year by leading two guided walks with commentaries. Richard and Charles led a Heritage and Conservation Walk through The Bourne Valley taking in our main sites, and David Dearsley led a walk out into Bourne Woods. David's walk became wetter and wetter as time went on and eventually ended abruptly in a surprise downpour but not before the walkers had seen and admired the moths caught by Martin the night before. Despite the weather on that occasion, two very well conducted, informative and enjoyable hikes.



**Future Events and Plans.** Our AGM this year will be on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September and later that month, on the afternoon of Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September, we shall once again be leading a Heritage Open Day walk for the Farnham Society. In the summer or early autumn we have some work to do on our ponds – the one on the Old Churchyard has seemingly sprung a leak so we shall have to drain it down to investigate. There is other work to be done in OCY on trees and grave stones in conjunction with the Church. For next year we shall continue with the rigorous maintenance of all our main sites and see what extra resource we can devote to new projects.