



Summer has arrived (the season if not the weather!), and with it has come cautious new freedom and hope as regards the pandemic. So, with more liberty to get out and about, and our insect-life so active, there should be plenty for you to tell us about in our next newsletter. Around 150 individuals, families and organisations receive our publication, and will be keen to read about your discoveries. Glynis Harris (editor)

### FROM THE PRESIDENT ...

#### WELCOME TO THE SUMMER EDITION OF OUR NEWSLETTER

There is an ancient Chinese curse – “May you live in interesting times” – and this past year has certainly been “interesting”. The continuation and subsequent relaxation of Covid restrictions has, however, given rise to optimism. Just as this new freedom started allowing us to travel more, though, and meet with like-minded friends, the weather intervened, and our spring was largely cold and wet. This was also not great for invertebrates like butterflies and moths. Conditions such as this can lead to serious declines in spring species. We hope that by the time you read this the weather has improved significantly.

A new season brings new challenges – the discovery last year of Purple Emperor larvae in Nottinghamshire, for instance, gives us the opportunity to see this magnificent butterfly without the need for excessive travel. The question of whether these are releases or not remains unanswered. Cotgrave Forest is a good place to start looking.

Another good place to start getting close to local entomology is to undertake a ‘safari’ such as Felicity describes later in this newsletter - Select a location (does not have to be exotic, could be your back garden), take your camera/camera phone and a couple of field guides if you have them, and let us know what you find. Send us photos, share them in our newsletter, or post them on our social media sites, and we will try and help with any that you can’t identify.

Phil Gilbert

- |          |                                                                                            |          |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>D</b> | ▪ Meet people who share your interest in entomology                                        | <b>D</b> |
| <b>a</b> | ▪ Take part in meetings, fieldwork, exhibitions, trips and social events                   | <b>a</b> |
| <b>N</b> | ▪ Report your insect sightings for our database, to help with research and conservation    | <b>N</b> |
| <b>E</b> | ▪ Learn more about insects, and share your knowledge with others                           | <b>E</b> |
| <b>S</b> | ▪ Join in with your news and conversation on our Facebook and Twitter                      | <b>S</b> |
|          | ▪ Enjoy (and contribute to) this newsletter and other DaNES publications                   |          |
|          | ▪ Make use of our society’s entomology books, photos, microscopes and collecting equipment |          |

## DaNES NEWS



Latest news updates from your DaNES committee

By Russell Nevin

### JOURNALS

The first draft of Part 1 of the Summary 2013-18 journal has been prepared, and whilst a few pieces of information are still required to finalise this, we shouldn't be too far away from seeing this completed. Work is proceeding simultaneously on the 2020 journal, but this definitely needs more material, especially on orders other than Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths). Please let Phil Gilbert know if you can supply anything.

### DaNES FIELD EVENTS ORGANISER

After many years of successfully organising DaNES' field events, Darren Clarke wishes to stand down from this role, and the committee wishes to convey its thanks to him for his work in this area. We would be keen to hear from anyone who may be interested in taking over from him. We also need to find a new home for the events equipment that Darren currently stores - banners, chairs, tables etc. These approximately fill a small shed. If any member can offer suitable weatherproof accommodation for them (perhaps an outbuilding or unused garage?) then please let Phil Gilbert know.

### DaNES ADVISORY SERVICE

DaNES is pleased to have, again, been asked for entomological advice, this time to assist with some conservation work planned locally.

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

With news regarding the pandemic changing almost daily, there is little point in trying to predict when physical meetings may be permitted again. The staff at Shipley Country Park have advised us that use of their meeting room will only be allowed once all restrictions are effectively lifted. Our AGM was postponed until Sept 14<sup>th</sup> (to be held at Shipley or via Zoom, Covid-dependent) but if restrictions are lifted we may be able to hold it at Shipley at an earlier date.

### FIELD MEETINGS

A provisional list of potential sites for field meetings is being prepared. This includes the new Derbyshire Wildlife Trust reserve "Wild Thornhill" near Ladybower Reservoir. Phil Gilbert would like to hear from any members who have suggestions for suitable locations for field meetings later this year. This is especially so for sites in the east of Nottinghamshire, where our recent activity has been somewhat sparse.

### INDOOR EVENTS

We still hope to be able to run some sort of summer show at Shipley, as well as the annual autumn show but, until restrictions are relaxed, venue providers are unwilling to make any commitments.

### NEW MEMBERS

DaNES has welcomed another new member since our last newsletter was published in March.

### EDITOR'S NOTE

*To change from email to printed newsletters, or vice versa, contact Dave Budworth dbud01@aol.com or 01283 215188*

## DIARY DATES



8 <sup>th</sup> July -10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>National Moth Night</b>	Participate at home (or other locations, Covid-dependent) See <a href="https://www.mothnight.info/">https://www.mothnight.info/</a>
16 <sup>th</sup> July -8 <sup>th</sup> Aug	<b>Big Butterfly Count</b>	Participate at home (or other locations, Covid-dependent) Details nearer the time on <a href="https://bigbutterflycount.com">https://bigbutterflycount.com</a> .
25 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>DaNES Insect Day</b>	Shipley Country Park Visitor Centre (Covid-dependent) Details to be arranged
30 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>NightWatch event</b>	Rosliston Forestry Centre, or Zoom - Details nearer the time on <a href="https://www.facebook.com/EnvironmentalEducationProject">https://www.facebook.com/EnvironmentalEducationProject</a>
14 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<b>DaNES AGM</b>	Shipley Country Park Visitor Centre (Covid-dependent) or via Zoom - 7.30pm

**Please check our website for DaNES updates** <http://www.danes-insects.org.uk/>

## EARLIEST UK BUTTERFLY SIGHTINGS 2021

**Earliest sightings of resident and common migrant butterflies which were reported to Butterfly Conservation from January-March 2021. Interesting as a comparison with the 2020 records listed in our spring newsletter last year.**

Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>	1 Jan	Derbyshire
Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	3 Jan	Derbyshire
Peacock	<i>Aglais io</i>	6 Jan	Derbyshire
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	7 Jan	Devon
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	21 Jan	Derbyshire
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	22 Jan	Wiltshire
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	6 Feb	Cornwall
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	21 Feb	Cornwall
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	7 Mar	Derbyshire
Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	11 March	Kent
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	18 March	Cornwall
Clouded yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>	19 March	Dorset
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>	23 March	Derbyshire
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	29 March	Suffolk
Wall	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	30 March	Derbyshire / Somerset
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	30 March	Somerset

**Ref:** <https://butterfly-conservation.org/butterflies/first-butterfly-sightings-2021>

## A MINI SAFARI

By Felicity Jackson

Mid-May, Allestree Park: Hazy sunshine, I have a camera, though not a brilliantly good one, and I'm looking for some insects. The oak leaves are late opening this year, but in a warm sheltered spot there are plenty of new leaves and it looks hopeful ... Well, on the newly emerging leaves there was a lot of small life. Some insects were just too fast for me, but plenty were in view ...

St Mark's flies, *Bibio marci* drifted by, settling on leaves and twigs. A minute gall wasp, way beyond the camera's capabilities and my ID skills. A little black fly, possibly family Bibionidae. One small and fast moving dark grey beetle, likely to be a *Cantharis* species. Then a small parasitic wasp, in a hurry to find prey. A Birch Shieldbug, *Elasmotethus interstinctus* was then one I could actually identify, though the camera wouldn't focus quickly enough. And something like an ant, running over and under the leaves; I managed to get it running over my hand and this time the camera worked. It was the ant-mimic nymph of the bug *Miris striatus*, the adults of which are rather beautifully striped, and I'll be looking out for them. A Hawthorn Shieldbug, *Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale*. Plenty more mirid bugs – camera worked again – *Harpocera thoracica*, males and females, sexually dimorphic and attractively patterned in closeup. Short-lived as adults, they spend most of their life in the egg stage. Opening up a curled leaf I found a green Cucumber Spider, *Araniella* species. On another tree, a different species of small spider, *Philodromus* species. There was also evidence of caterpillar chewings on the leaf tips, but the caterpillars were gone - had they become bluetit food? The spiders and the wasp were looking out for their prey. Then I discovered another *Araniella*, lurching on one of the *H. Thoracica*.

It's a dangerous world out there for small creatures! A fascinating one nonetheless, mostly unseen and unnoticed - so much going on at a tiny scale.



*Miris striatus* nymph



*Harpocera thoracica* - female



*Harpocera thoracica* - male

## PROPOSED A38 EXPANSION : DERBY JUNCTIONS SCHEME MARKEATON PARK, DERBY

By Christian Murray-Leslie

Since we lodged a legal challenge against the Department for Transport in January, against the building of this scheme, Grant Schapps (Secretary of State for Transport) has abandoned the defence of his Development Consent Order (DCO) and acknowledged that, in giving it, he acted unlawfully. It was unlawful as he failed to take proper account of the carbon emissions which would be generated during the construction period, and also of the cumulative emissions which would follow the greater traffic flows in relation to the UK's obligations to keep its legally binding emission reduction pledges under the Paris Climate Agreement. Currently the DCO is in the process of being quashed by the High Court and the scheme has, for now at least, been halted.

The BBC has recently reported that the government is to undertake a review of its extensive road infrastructure scheme (RIS2) in the light of reduced traffic resulting from more people working at home due to Covid 19. The congestion that the massive A38 scheme was designed to relieve really only occurred at peak times. The scheme would have cost £127m, and taken 4 years to complete whilst liberating an estimated 131,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. It would also have seen the destruction of some beautiful mature oaks with their associated wildlife, and a huge number of smaller trees, many planted as mitigation for the original construction of the bypass. Moreover, despite reducing congestion at peak times, the scheme would inevitably increase overall traffic flow and hence carbon emissions, and lead to bottle necks as the planned 6 lane section through the park reduced down to 4 lanes at each end.

It seems Covid, in this instance, may have done us all a favour. However, the fight may not be over and it is possible that Grant Schapps may try again as the road transport lobby is very powerful and there are massive developments planned with the Freeport at Etwell, both industrial and an estimated 11,000 houses!

Those of us who have been involved in the legal challenge are immensely grateful to DaNES for supporting the open letter to try and stop Highways England from destroying the oak trees, whilst the outcome of the challenge wasn't known. If all those trees remain, it is a big plus for the environment as so many trees are being lost elsewhere with house building, roads and HS2.

For more information visit our website <https://www.a38derbychaos.org/>

### JULIE'S BLOG FROM HOLBROOK



By Julie Marshall

If it's cold and raining outside do I really want to trek to the charity shop to pass on that jumper? There is never anywhere to park anyway ... It's so expensive buying organic food and those plants look healthier that have been treated with neonicotinoids ... and so it goes on. I'm retired but at the age of 66 I'm constantly tired. I have arthritis in my feet, hips, shoulders, and various health issues. Why do I go to the trouble to wash and separate the recycling food packaging when it would be easier just to dump it all in one big bin? And (hopefully...) why do you do the same?

Sadly it's clear that this is not enough. The government seems to be feathering its own nest (excuse the ironic pun) to support its own image, and profit from creamed off overseas investors that will slowly and insidiously own the soil we stand on. It's got to stop. If we don't make a fuss, shout louder, write letters and stop giving our custom to that shop that puts every matchbox and pencil in separate plastic bags we may as well hang our heads in shame. However, humanity always takes the course of least resistance and I'm no exception. Do I want the hassle? I'll be dead in 20 years or so (who knows?) and all I want is a quiet life. The common man fought in two world wars for freedom but what we are seeing now is a war with wounds of a different kind, wounds on the planet that will be far more devastating than any bomb because it has been executed by the worse kind of weapon ... apathy.

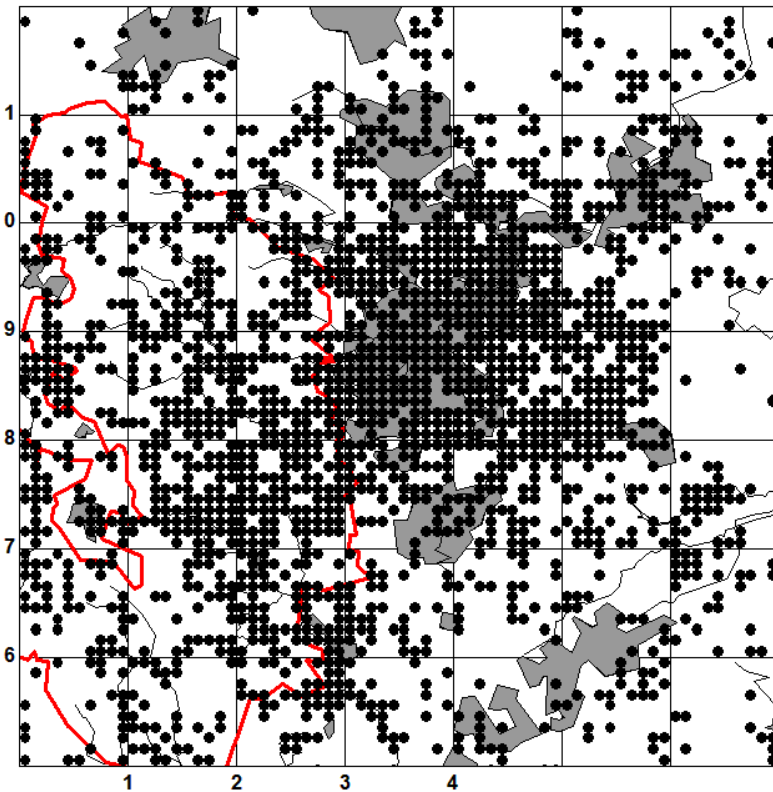
Tonight I am going to switch off the telly and sit down and write to my local MP to ask what measures he is putting in place to stop plastic packaging, and how he is encouraging local growers to be supported against the big supermarkets. I'm going to ask what excuses he has for not insisting our recycling isn't 100% productive, and why he isn't encouraging local parishes to set up local learning programs about local wildlife habitats. I am not the only one ... lots of other people are doing the same. I am sorry this isn't an article about lovely insects or about how wonderful village life is in Holbrook. I am nobody special, I'm not clever and I don't want any credit for trying to play my part for the environment ... of course I love nature, we all do ... but why am I doing it? ... because I have a son.

## MAPPING HOVERFLIES IN SORBYSHIRE

By Derek Whiteley

I have produced a provisional “working” atlas summarising hoverfly records for the Sorby recording area that includes Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Staffordshire north of the SK50 grid line, and most of the Peak National Park. The map below illustrates the area covered, and the recording effort, on a simple geographical basis. The take home message is that we have covered a fair bit of ground, but there is still much to do and much to discover. The main aims of the atlas are to summarise existing records and act as a stimulus for further recording.

### All Hoverflies



### THE MAPS

These are based on 58,000 records collected mostly over the past 45 years. They include datasets from DaNES, other organisations and individual recorders.

The grid lines are 10km apart and a dot represents a record in a 1km grid square (monad).

The red line is the approximate boundary of the Peak National Park. Grey indicates built up areas and wiggly lines represent waterways.

The atlas is available as a free pdf file from Derek Whiteley

[invertebrates@sorby.org.uk](mailto:invertebrates@sorby.org.uk)

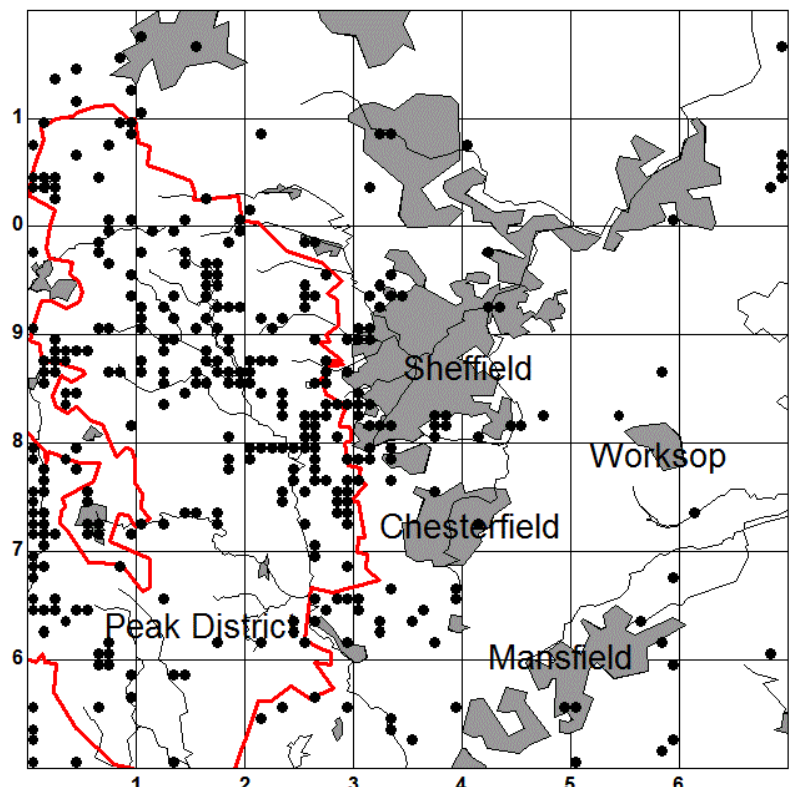
As an example, here is the map for *Sericomyia silentis* (the Bog Hoverfly), one of our familiar moorland species. Most records are from Peak District uplands but with a smattering of records in lowland areas. It breeds in peaty pools but adults can disperse some distance from the breeding site. It is an easy species to identify and record.



*Sericomyia silentis*

Photo by Ken Gartside

### *Sericomyia silentis*



## INSECTS IN THE NEWS

### RARE BUG DISCOVERED IN SCOTLAND

The Cow Wheat Shieldbug is nationally scarce, but was recently seen in woodland in Strathspey. It was the first to be seen in Scotland in 30yrs. It has been adversely affected by a decline in traditional woodland management, and this is now being addressed in the Cairngorms National Park.

April 2021 Info from

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/environment/discovery-of-rare-bug-not-seen-in-scotland-for-more-than-30-years-3207289>

### LIGHT POLLUTION AND INSECT DECLINE : RESEARCH

Scientists around the world are stepping up research into ALAN (artificial light at night) and its role in insect decline. Insects swarming round lights can die from exhaustion and are more visible to predators. Their response to light can also disrupt their breeding cycles. They are affected in many ways, and studies have confirmed fewer insects in some artificially lit areas. Type, brightness and positioning of lights can alter their impact, but much more research is needed.

May 2021 Info from

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2021/05/can-scientists-help-insects-survive-their-fatal-attraction-light-night>

## BOOK REVIEW

By Andy Large

### THE ACCIDENTAL COUNTRYSIDE

By Stephen Moss

Published by Guardian Faber, 2020 (258 pages)

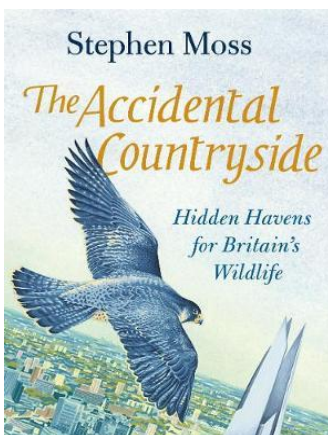
I recently “celebrated” my second consecutive lockdown birthday and one of my gifts was the above book. Like most people interested in insects I also take a keen interest in all manner of natural history subjects and so I thought I would share my views of the book with similar-minded people.

Stephen Moss is a naturalist, and a broadcaster at the BBC Natural History Unit where he has worked on productions such as Springwatch and Birds Britannia. He is originally from London but now lives in a village on the Somerset Levels.

In the book, Stephen explores the unlikely oases for hard-pressed wildlife within the UK by visiting various sites and discovering how nature has come to terms, or not, with man-made changes that have affected our countryside and created, albeit accidentally, important areas for wildlife to thrive.

The book is well set out and seems to follow a historical timeline. In Chapter 1, he visits remote islands and the early settlements of Celtic Britain. Chapter 2 covers the 4 main invasions of Britain – Roman, Anglo Saxon, Viking and Norman – looking at the effect on the land, and animals that may have been introduced. The remaining chapters address the industrial revolution, the creation of our road network, the effect of the wars, the extensive housebuilding programme which continues today, the creation of artificial water bodies to supply water or gravel etc, wildlife that can be found around our modern ports and commercial docks and, finally, the effects of actions in other countries which have an impact on our migratory wildlife.

The chapters are written in relatively small sections making it an ideal book to pick up and read a few pages between other jobs. We tend to hear mainly negative reports on the news channels and in magazines about how all our wildlife is under threat, but perhaps some species becoming scarce in some areas, or even extinct, may be part of a natural cycle (controversial I know!). However, this book also looks at the benefits of some of our actions and the efforts made by various groups to protect habitats and promote the benefits of reconnecting with nature. It is not all doom and gloom!



The book includes examples of birds, insects and wild flowers and is interspersed with some very thought-provoking figures. Reading local papers and seeing what is happening locally, I envisage that, in no time, England will be a concrete and brick jungle of housing estates. You may, then, be surprised to know that the percentage of land built upon for housing is only 2.3%.

This was a very enjoyable read and at times quite reassuring that we are not totally destroying the planet and its creatures, but perhaps with the caveat that we cannot expect everything to remain unchanged. The key seems to be how we adapt to that change whilst considering our impacts on what is around us. For anyone with an interest in natural history in general, I would certainly recommend it. Has anyone got a birthday coming up and is struggling to think of what to have?

## ENDANGERED MOTHS SET TO BE SAVED AND CELEBRATED IN KENT

FROM BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION PRESS RELEASE  
APRIL 2021

By Jo Bower  
(Communications Manager)

A new project called Kent's Magnificent Moths will save and celebrate some of the UK's most unique and special insects which are found in Kent. The project, recently launched by wildlife charity Butterfly Conservation and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, will showcase some of the county's most impressive but threatened moths and make a real difference to their conservation in Kent.

Project Officer Emma Pestrige says: "Moths are remarkable creatures and serve an important role in supporting our ecosystems. This project will provide the opportunity for local people to see and help save some of the UK's rarest and most threatened species. One of our eight priority species is the stunning but critically endangered Black-veined Moth, which occurs in Kent and nowhere else in the UK. Most of the eight moth species that are the focus of the project could easily be mistaken for butterflies thanks to their impressive colouring. One example is another priority species, the bright green Sussex Emerald, which is sadly now only found in significant numbers in Dungeness and Deal."

In the last 50 years, populations of Britain's larger moths have declined on average by 33%, with the south experiencing even greater declines. Butterfly Conservation want to encourage people to identify moths whilst highlighting the major roles they play in our ecosystems, as pollinators and as food for other species like bats and birds. A continuing decline in moths would have disastrous knock-on effects for all these wildlife species.

Emma continues "The Elephant Hawkmoth is a wonderful example of a common moth which is a visitor to gardens across Kent each year but can be quite a surprise to many who spot it for the first time and discover it is a moth, not a butterfly. The caterpillar of this moth can grow to 9cm in length and when recoiled reveals two, large 'eye-like' markings behind the head, startling predators and giving the impression of a much more sinister, snake-like head. They then transform into large vivid pink and green adults."

Over the next three years the dedicated team will partner with local schools, farmers and an array of community groups, including those that support mental health and wellbeing, to improve habitats across the county. This will involve propagating foodplants including Wild Carrot, Hog's Fennel and Marsh Mallow to encourage breeding of the moths across a wider area. Conservation work will link with moth events, from practical habitat work to close encounters of the UK's rarest species. The project's news and recent sightings can be found on our social media ..... Instagram (@kentbutterflies), Twitter (@bckentbranch) and Facebook (@butterflyconservationkent).



Black-veined Moth  
Photo by Dave Green



Sussex Emerald Moth  
Photo by Rob Skinner



Straw Belle  
Photo by Mark Parsons



Fisher's Estuarine Moth  
Photo by Peter Maton



White-spotted Sable,  
Photo by Rebecca Levey



Fiery Clearwing  
Photo by Mark Parsons



Bright Wave  
Photo by Dave Green



Marsh Mallow Moth  
Photo by Dave Green

## DaNES SOCIAL MEDIA

### LOG ON AND JOIN IN

Facebook and Twitter are a great way to communicate and get involved with the society. News, views, photos and questions can be shared, conversations can be had, and there are links to other wildlife organisations. Insect sightings can also be reported via our Facebook page.

FACEBOOK <https://www.facebook.com/DaNESinsects> Manager: Phil Gilbert - [pgilb10221@aol.com](mailto:pgilb10221@aol.com)  
TWITTER [https://twitter.com/danes\\_insects](https://twitter.com/danes_insects) Manager: Kieron Huston - [morelemurs@talktalk.net](mailto:morelemurs@talktalk.net)

## SOME DAYS OUT IN 2020 ...

By Keith Cox

These are some notes about my days out last year, between lockdown and the 3-tier Covid restrictions, when we could travel outside the county ...

**5<sup>th</sup> JUNE** - A day out in Cheltenham and a short visit to Prestbury Hill to see what was flying. A short list of what I found there includes Grass Rivulet (P1), Yellow Shell, Chimney Sweeper and Five-spot Burnet, and some common butterflies such as Meadow Brown and Small Heath, and it is a good place for the Small Blue (P2).

**13<sup>th</sup> JUNE** - I decided to go and have look for the Large Blue butterfly in Gloucester at Daneway Banks which was featured on Spingwatch. It was a sunny day and I parked in the pub carpark. At the time this was only open for takeaway hot drinks, so I walked up the road opposite the pub to the entrance to the reserve. As I entered, there was someone taking a photo of a mating pair of Large Blues (P3), and (P4) is photo of a single female. There were good numbers of these on the reserve. While I was taking the photo of the Large Blues, a Silver-washed Fritillary flew past me. There were also Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Common and Small Blues, Small Tortoiseshells, Small Heath and Marbled White (P5).

On the way back I went to another reserve called Rough Bank to look round, and saw a Roman Snail. I didn't take a photo of that, but I did take one of two *Cryptocephalus aureolus* (P6). There were good numbers of this common species.

**26<sup>th</sup> JUNE** - An outing this morning to Chambers Farm Wood to see what was about. It was a bit cloudy, and all I saw was a White Admiral, two long-horned beetles - a Rufous-shouldered (P7) and a Black and Yellow (P8), and a Dark Bush-cricket (P9).



P1 Grass Rivulet



P2 Small Blue



P3 Large Blues



P4 Large Blue - female



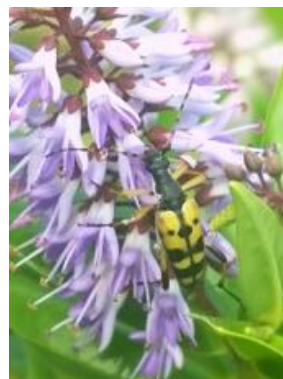
P5 Marbled White



P6 *Cryptocephalus aureolus*



P7 Rufous-shouldered  
Longhorn Beetle



P8 Black and Yellow  
Longhorn Beetle



P9 Dark Bush-cricket





P10 Brown-tail Moth



P11 Kent Black Arches



P12 Scotch Argus



P13 Tree-lichen Beauty



P14 Pretty Chalk Carpet



P15 Straw Underwing



P16 Black Arches



P17 Red Underwing



P18 Sea Aster Mining Bee

**18<sup>th</sup> JULY** - A day trip to Norfolk, to Holme Bird Observatory, to see what they had caught in their moth traps the night before. With nobody allowed to go to the traps, I rang up so they could save the moths for me to see, which would hopefully include a Brown-tail and Kent Black Arches as these would be new ones for me. When I arrived at Holme, at the NWT visitor centre there was a Hummingbird Hawkmoth in their buddleia. And when I got to the Bird Observatory and asked what they had caught, they brought out a Brown-tail (P10) and a Kent Black Arches (P11) - The photos of these are not very good because they were in pots. They had also caught a Webb's Wainscot and Silky Wainscot, Oak Eggar, Pine Hawkmoth, and a micro called *Vitula biviella* which was a new moth for me. On the way back to the car I saw a wasp-like insect going into a burrow with what looked like a bee. (I looked it up when I got home. It was a Bee-wolf.) I then went on to Titchwell RSPB for the toilets, where I saw a Common and Buff Footman, a Riband Wave, and a Common and Fen Wainscot. On the way back I stopped off at Hunstanton and, on a wall there, saw a Hummingbird Hawkmoth caterpillar.

**23<sup>rd</sup> JULY** - I went to find High Brown Fritillary and Scotch Argus in Cumbria at Arnside Knott. On a sunny day at this time of the year hopefully both would be flying. I saw a ranger there, and asked if she had seen any of the two butterflies I was looking for, but she had only just arrived, so I carried on. It took a bit of time to see the only High Brown Fritillary, and I did not get a photo as it was very active. I thought, then, that was it and I would not see a Scotch Argus but, as I was going back to my car, I saw the same ranger as before and, when I asked if she had seen any, she said yes! So I asked her to show me, and I told her about the fritillary. As we walked to see the Scotch Argus (P12) we also saw some other species including Small and Large Skipper, Gatekeeper, Ringlets, Meadow Brown and Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet.

**8<sup>th</sup> AUGUST** - I returned to Holme Observatory, hoping to see a Tree-lichen Beauty which would be a new moth for me. They had caught a few during the week. When I got there they had not yet opened the traps so I had to wait. When we went to the first trap, on the side of the ringing-hut was a Tree-lichen Beauty (P13), and in the traps there were good numbers of macro and micro moths, including several which were new to me - a Pretty Chalk Carpet (P14) and Angle-barred Pug, and six of the micros. The total number of species caught was 101. Some of the other species caught included Least Carpet, Lychnis, Archer Dart, White-line Dart, Straw Underwing (P15), and Garden Tiger. The six micros which were new to me were *Pediasia contaminella*, *Cochylidia implacitana*, *Acrobasis suavella*, *Gymnancyla canella*, *Eucosma obumbratata*, and Twin-spot Plume. Back to the car and a nip to Titchwell for the toilet and a look around. On the visitor centre was a nice Black Arches (P16).

**22<sup>nd</sup> AUGUST** - I went to Titchwell just to look around, and found a Red Underwing (P17) on the toilet block. I then went to the beach to do a bit of sea-watching and spotted a small bee flying around ragwort. I saw some of these last year but did not get a photo of them. It was a Sea-aster Mining Bee (P18).

... and that was the end of my travelling for a bit.

Another stay-at-home project: a little quiz about pests. I got this idea from the Staffordshire Invertebrates Science Fair in March 2020 where there was a stand from the Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA). They had some example insect pests encased in acrylic, and I bought some for myself (quite easy to find online). Pictures of these, plus a few other pests in my collection, are shown below. All you have to do is match question to image then look for the answers on page 14. (*The images are not all to the same scale*).

- Q1: This one usually lives a solitary life, but occasionally the build-up of individuals forms vast swarms which eat vast amounts of vegetation.
- Q2: Unlikely to see this one in the UK in the wild, but internationally it is a nuisance pest of urban areas in warm climates, eats lots of vegetation, and is possibly the most frequently occurring invasive species of its group.
- Q3: If you see one of these in any of your fruit trees, you must report it to APHA.
- Q4: Hardly a pest compared with the international competition in this list but UK gardeners who love lilies might disagree.
- Q5: This one loves bamboo – both the babies and the adults.
- Q6: Another minute pest in this company, this one is certainly found in the DaNES lands, perhaps snacking on your potted plants.
- Q7: For some bizarre reason someone thought it was a good idea to import this into S.E.Asia in the early 1980's and rear it for food (for humans).
- Q8: Another Asian pest, this one is a destroyer of lychee trees.
- Q9: Killer of honey bees (and other insects) in its native habitats, this one can be confused with a similar closely related species, invasive in USA and southern Europe.
- Q10: Now that you have sorted out the pictures, which of these is the worst pest?



**A**



**B**



**C**



**D**



**E**



**F**



**G**



**H**



**I**

Answers on Page 14

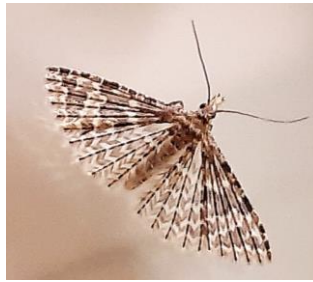
*If you have any entomological equipment or natural history books to sell, swap, or as a freebie, please email details to the editor to advertise in the newsletter ... Editor's email is on back page.*

## WINDOW WATCHING

By Glynis Harris

I don't have a moth trap, but enjoy keeping an eye open for what is attracted to the light from my kitchen window. I live in Beeston Rylands, and the window faces south-east, onto a small garden beside a canal, with fields and the river Trent beyond. These are the moths I have seen on the window this year, up to the end of May. (I hope I have them named correctly.)

Perhaps so few sightings reflect the weather ... warm, dry March; cold, dry April; cold, wet May.



16.3.21 Many-plume Moth



18.3.21 Engrailed (Quite similar to a Square Spot I thought)



19.3.21 Early Grey



31.3.21 Early Thorn



23.4.21 Mottled Pug



9.5.21 Many-plume Moth

## BOOK REVIEW

By Bryan Barnacle

### MICRO MOTH VERNACULAR NAMES

#### A Nomenclatural Checklist of British Microlepidoptera

By Jim Wheeler

Published by Clifton and Wheeler, 2017 (58 pages)

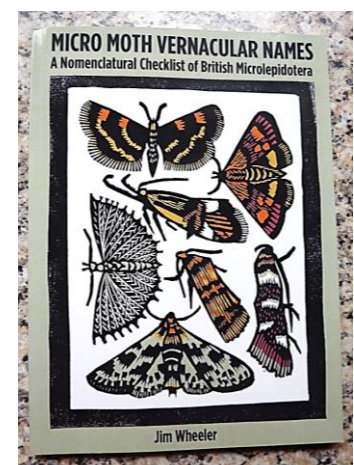
The legend on the back of this book states "Like them or loathe them, the smaller moths have common names too". Use of vernacular names is certainly still an anathema to some of the older, long-term, moth enthusiasts, who can be somewhat scornful of what they see as dumbing down by the newer generation. The reality, of course, is that the majority of moth traps now in use are owned by those who have developed their interest in the last 25 years. Many of these will have gravitated from birdwatching or butterfly transect work and are equally dismissive of those who may still be catching and killing moths for collections and display.

Interestingly, however, the common names in this book are not new. Most were first listed in Victorian publications and were revised in the 1940's and again in 2002. Jim Wheeler has done an excellent job in pulling all of this together, and the book lists vernacular names for 1633 resident, migrant and adventive micro moths that occur in Great Britain and Ireland.

Since there are already some common names in use within the Pyralid species, I ran my eye down that section first. Most survive without any change, although I noticed that what I know as Mint Moth *Pyrausta aurata* has become Small Purple and Gold. Looking at some of the moths that we caught last year, then, I can readily see *Crambus perlilla* as Satin Grass-veneer and *Palpita vitrealis* as Olive-tree Pearl.

Many of the names include such words as Conch (i.e. *Agapeta hamana* and *Agapeta zoegana* as Common Yellow Conch and Knapweed Conch respectively), Marble, Bell, Dowd, Groundling etc and some of those diverted me to Peter Marren's book, Emperors, Admirals & Chimney Sweepers, in an effort to discover the origin of these names.

Whilst I will readily agree that these names may not be suitable in a scientific or professional capacity, I do think that they can play a large part in interesting more people in our smaller moths. They are also fun, which should be part of any hobby. Nothing has been much aided by some excellent publications in recent years, and I view this book as yet another "tool in the toolbox". With a reprint due and the prospect of a digital edition, then I think that it represents excellent value. It is currently £11.



**This is a 3-part article, based on almost seventy years of personal observations in the wild, primarily in and around my home county of Nottinghamshire, although these results sadly also apply to much of the UK. Part 2 of the article will be published in the next newsletter, and part 3 in the one which follows.**

Many theories have been put forward as to why many species of British butterflies and moths have declined alarmingly over the last few decades. Global warming, over-use of pesticides, and pollution have all been mooted and there is, indeed, some truth in all of these. However, my personal viewpoint concerns, if possible, an even more serious cause, in fact two causes, both entirely related and both caused entirely by humans. The first one concerns the current human population explosion. In my own lifetime, the global human population has trebled, and it will continue in this vein if allowed to remain unchecked. The problem here, of course, is that it will certainly continue to go unchecked because nobody is going to be told that they have to reduce the population by having fewer children. With the best will in the world, this is not going to happen. A reduction in the human population by at least two-thirds would be the ideal, but of course I am not for an instant suggesting genocide, just a gradual and continual reduction through a much lower birth rate. Going hand in hand with this serious problem is housing and the necessary infrastructure development. Producing more people results in ever more building development. This is a matter of fact. Most conservationists, however, stop shy of stating the foregoing, perhaps fearing that it will cause too much upset. I, however, have never shrunk from this viewpoint and use it in many of my wildlife talks. Yes, it does upset people, and it needs to, because if people are not upset or made just a little afraid, they will ignore it and consequently do nothing about it, preferring to let others worry about the remedy.

There have been at least two recent television programmes concerning the state of our planet and the human impact upon it: one by Sir David Attenborough and one by HRH Prince William. Both of these programmes were excellent in their own right, but they both stopped short of the real causes. Sir David's programme admittedly did briefly mention human population growth, but it was kept painfully short and basically glossed over. Here, I felt, was a golden opportunity lost. Most certainly, I would have brought the population explosion and building development to the fore, had I been making the programmes. The fact is, we will never control our human population expansion, and thus it follows that we will never control our continuing building programmes, until it is too late and irreversible that is. Why will we never do this? The answer is simple. Most people on earth have little or no interest in wildlife and so will do nothing about it. I am also unaware of anyone in the Houses of Parliament with any clout who has any real interest in wildlife and the environment. Conservation doesn't make money, it costs money, so it will always be on the bottom rung of the political ladder. There are many organisations such as the Wildlife Trusts etc. who are doing amazing work in trying to secure a safe future for our wildlife, and this must continue of course. But, sadly, I fear that whatever we do on this front will, in the not so long term, prove to be too little too late. I am aware that this all sounds negative and full of doom and gloom but think about it. Better still, on your travels, have a good look around you and see for yourselves all the building development going on. Look at sites of your youth that were once natural and wild and see if they are still there and pristine. I think you may be in for a shock. More and more greenfield sites are being put under bricks, concrete and tarmac. Houses are being squeezed in wherever possible on a monumental scale.

How long can this go on for before we even build on all the fields that provide our food? It simply is not sustainable. Every single item that we have ever possessed comes from nature, everything, from our houses and their contents to our vehicles. And we are destroying it at an unprecedented rate. Go on to google and key in the world's great cities from the air and you will see nothing but concrete and no green areas as far as the eye can see in all directions. These cities get bigger and bigger every year. Villages are swallowed up by the octopus-like tentacles of the towns, spreading forever outwards, eating up all the land like some giant vacuum. If this doesn't convince you, go and visit a current building site which was once greenbelt land. You will see that the entire site is bulldozed to oblivion. Any living thing there has to flee or be crushed to death by the giant earth-moving equipment. Nothing can survive this. The land has been lost forever for the wildlife that once called this home. It can never revert to its former glory and this, perhaps, would not matter too much if this was an isolated case, but it is not, for it is happening everywhere, and I do mean everywhere. We are going to regret this before too long unless we take immediate action because, if we don't, nature will surely do it for us.

*Continued ...*



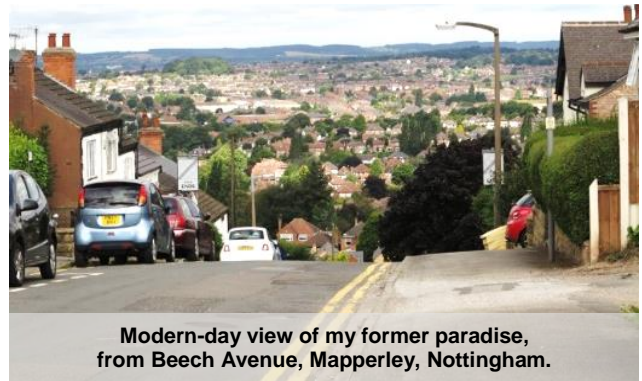
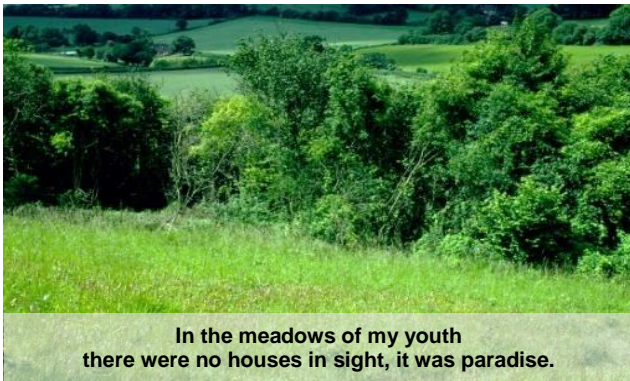
Deciduous woodland, now bulldozed to oblivion

Continued...

So, what about the butterflies, the subject of this article? When I was a young boy, I lived in Beech Avenue, just off Mapperley Plains on the outskirts of Nottingham. From the top of the avenue, one could see for miles, towards Arnold and Hucknall. I was very lucky to live here in the 1950s, because our house was the third to last in a row, and below that was meadows and woodlands as far as the eye could see. There were, perhaps, two or three isolated houses, but that was all. I was free to wander freely wherever I chose. I spent the long school summer holidays in these wild-flower meadows and woods and studied the birds, butterflies and wild flowers that abounded there.

I certainly learnt far more here than I ever did at school. Butterflies were all over the place here and I can vividly remember Large White (*Pieris brassicae*), Small White (*Artogeia rapae*) and Green-veined White (*Pieris napi*) butterflies gambolling together in great clouds of twenty or more. Today, I am lucky if I see two or three of these species together. These great clouds of butterflies are most certainly a thing of the past now. All three of these species, whilst flying down our avenue would, each and every one of them, fly up and cross over a hawthorn hedge at exactly the same spot. For what reason they did this I could never discern, because there were many other virtually identical places they could have crossed over, so why choose this particular spot?

... Article to be continued in the next newsletter



Large White (*Pieris brassicae*)



Green-veined White (*Pieris napi*)



Small White (*Artogeia Rapae*)

## ACTION FOR INSECTS

Senior Conservation Officer  
By Ben Driver - Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (south)

The Wildlife Trusts have launched a national **action for insects** campaign. The campaign highlights the drastic decline of insects and the far-reaching consequences for both wildlife and people. The key messages are that a third of our food crops are pollinated by insects, and as many as 87% of our plants pollinated by animals, the majority by insects. Much of our wildlife, be it birds, bats, reptiles, amphibians, small mammals or fish, rely on insects for food. There is also the role of insects in nutrient and carbon recycling and soil formation. Without them, we risk the collapse of our natural world.

A report, *Insect Declines and Why They Matter*, published in November 2019 by an alliance of Wildlife Trusts in the south-west, brought together evidence that showed the loss of 50% or more of our insects since 1970, and the shocking reality that 41% of the earth's remaining five million insect species are now 'threatened with extinction'.

Locally, we are taking action by creating Nature Recovery Networks which include insect-friendly habitats, both in towns and countryside. We are already working with numerous local authorities, farmers and private landowners, businesses and community groups in order to achieve this.

More details, including how to take part in the campaign and the insect decline report, can be found on the Wildlife Trusts website <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/action-for-insects>

A1 = image H: The migratory Asian locust, *Locusta migratoria manilensis*, this subspecies is native to S.E.Asia. Outbreaks of plagues of these swarming have occurred in various Asian countries. In the Philippines (maybe other countries as well), people eat these locusts (confirmed by my Filipina wife) which might help prevent the build-up of individuals before they swarm.

Ref: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Locusta\\_migratoria\\_manilensis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Locusta_migratoria_manilensis)

A2 = image C: The Giant African Land Snail, *Achatina fulica*, a terrestrial gastropod, native to East Africa. Some people keep these as pets. Outside of its native range it feeds voraciously, is a vector for plant pathogens, and causes severe damage to agricultural crops and native plants. It is listed as one of the top 100 invasive species in the world. I collected these from a cornfield near Mombasa, Kenya in 1980's.

Ref: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achatina\\_fulica](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achatina_fulica)

A3 = image I: The Red-necked Longhorn Beetle, *Aromia bungii*, native to eastern Asia. A wood-boring beetle that breeds in some fruit trees (apricot, cherry, peach, plum), and may seriously weaken and kill host trees. Not yet established in the UK, and it is a notifiable pest.

Ref: <https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/assets/factsheets/Aromia-bungii-Defra-PP-Factsheet-May-2017-2.pdf>

A4 = image A: The Lily Beetle, *Lilioceris lillii*. A UK garden pest. This one is from my own garden in Hucknall.

Ref: <https://www.coleoptera.org.uk/species/lilioceris-lillii>

A5 = image F: The Bamboo Weevil, *Cyrtotrachelus longimanus*, native to south and eastern Asia. Both adults and larvae eat and/or bore holes in bamboo plants. Problem in India.

Ref: [http://www.jbronline.org/articles/JBR\\_16%281%29\\_23-32.pdf](http://www.jbronline.org/articles/JBR_16%281%29_23-32.pdf)

A6 = image B: The Vine Weevil, *Otiorhynchus sulcatus*, native to north Europe. A pest of lots of cultivated plants and one of Europe's "exports" to many other countries. This one I found in my conservatory about to start eating some small plant.

Ref: <https://www.ukbeetles.co.uk/otiorhynchus-sulcatus>

A7 = image D: The Golden Apple Snail, *Pomacea canaliculata*, a freshwater gastropod, native to America. Introduced to Taiwan for the food industry, they escaped/got released into the wild and are now out of control in many S.E.Asian countries where they destroy large amounts of the rice crop. These specimens are from my wife's rice field in Cagayan Valley, Northern Philippines in early 1990's and she has confirmed to me that they are definitely not nice to eat. If spotted in the UK, must be notified to APHA, but so far in Europe they are only a problem in the warmer southern countries.

Ref: <https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/assets/factsheets/Pomacea-Defra-Plant-Pest-Factsheet-revised3.pdf>

A8 = image E: The Lychee Bug, *Tessaratoma papillosa*, native to China and S.E.Asia. It is a destructive pest of lychee trees. The image is of a nymph. For an example of an invasion into Taiwan see:

Ref: <https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/3132866>

A9 = image G: The Asian Giant Hornet, *Vespa mandarinia*, native to East Asia. Feeds on other insects, and attacks honey bee colonies. Not to be confused with the Yellow-legged Hornet (*Vespa velutina*) which is the invasive hornet in warmer countries of Europe and the USA.

Ref: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asian\\_giant\\_hornet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asian_giant_hornet)

A10: Let's forget the pests of gardens in the UK, they are almost nothing compared to the others, so Lily Beetle and Vine Weevil are out. Those that have not become invasive – the damage they do is limited (although I expect people affected by these would strongly disagree), so Bamboo Weevil, Asian Giant Hornet, Lychee Bug and the Asian Locust are also out.

So, the final 3 ... all invasive and I give these equal place as they can be found on lists of 100 worst invasive species and/or DEFRA's list of notifiable pests: the Apple Snail, the African Snail and the Longhorn Beetle. Personally I would choose the Apple Snail as the worst of this lot, but I cannot find the economic cost of the damage these do, so take your pick.

Refs: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/100\\_of\\_the\\_World%27s\\_Worst\\_Invasive\\_Alien\\_Species](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/100_of_the_World%27s_Worst_Invasive_Alien_Species)

[http://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/100\\_worst.php](http://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/100_worst.php)

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/pests-and-diseases/pest-and-disease-factsheets/notifiable-pests/>

A final comment, if you got all or most of these correct, sorry no prize, just enjoy the warm comfy feeling of having some good knowledge of these pests.

## A BLAST FROM THE PAST

Extract from our Minute Book ...

Supplied by Darren Clarke (DaNES Historian)

### FIELD MEETING AT COOMBS DALE AND EYAM MOOR AUG 4<sup>TH</sup> 1968

*Present : Messrs W Bilbie, J Bradley, JH Johnson, Martin Bradley,  
Stephen Mason, Leslie Haywood, Neil Hayes and G Wright*

*We reached Coombs Dale about 10.30am and although it was a dull day before long we were able to start catching moths. The Shaded Broad Bar was easily disturbed from the vegetation. Then Common Blue and Small Heath butterflies began to fly. Among the common species a few Brown Argus butterflies were seen and most people were able to take one.*

*The best sight of the season was the Dark Green Fritillary. At least a dozen were spotted and three were captured, 2 by Stephen Mason, 1 by Martin Bradley. Martin Bradley also found a Gold Spangle at a flower head. It was a female and there is a chance that eggs might be obtained.*

*On the lower slopes on outcrops of limestone, many specimens of Chalk Carpet were seen at rest.*

*After a short break for lunch the party went on to the Plough Inn, Hathersage, where we established our claim to be patrons and then we set off over Eyam Moor in search of the Emperor larvae. Not one was seen and apart from Spinach no large moths were seen. Plenty of micros were seen among the heather and on alder trees.*

*Several Small Tortoiseshell butterflies were seen on the thistle flowers by the side of the path on the way back to the Plough Inn. We set off back home at 5pm.*

*Grass of Parnassus, Parnassia palustris L, was in full flower at Coombs Dale.*



Common Blue



Small Tortoiseshell

All butterfly photos by P Gilbert



Dark Green Fritillary



Small Heath



Brown Argus

Shaded Broad-bar



Gold Spangle



Recent photos  
of the species seen  
on the  
1968 field trip.

Spinach Moth



Chalk Carpet



Photos by N Greatorex-Davies

Photos by N Ward

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IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER**

*Just a few lines or a photo, or a longer article if you like.*

*Email to [glynisharris@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:glynisharris@hotmail.co.uk)*

Please send text as a Word document  
and photos as email attachments (no zip files)  
(Articles preferably 1 page max)

**RECORD & REPORT YOUR INSECT SIGHTINGS**

Please record any insects you see  
and report what / where / when / who to Dave Budworth, our Records Co-ordinator.  
He will add the info to our main database then pass it to our individual recorders.

**EVERY RECORD IS OF VALUE FOR RESEARCH & CONSERVATION!**

Report your records to Dave by phone on 01283 215188  
or by email to [dbud01@aol.com](mailto:dbud01@aol.com) or [records@dan-es-insects.org.uk](mailto:records@dan-es-insects.org.uk)

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