



The Gloucestershire Branch of Butterfly Conservation took on a small part of the Monastery garden at Prinknash in 2010. The nectar garden was extended in 2011 and in 2014 a wild flower patch was also created.

The walled garden is owned by the Monks at Prinknash Abbey who have kindly allowed the Branch to cultivate part of it for the benefit of butterflies and moths. The rest of the garden is overseen by Matthew Haynes and work undertaken by REACH and Probation Service Volunteers. The pear arch (above) is the first thing you see on entering the garden.

The picture below shows the entrance to the nectar garden. The aim was to stock it with a variety of flowering plants from which butterflies, moths and other insects could nectar. A full list of the plants can be found on the Branch website.



The beds are filled with herbaceous plants, shrubs and annuals giving a colourful display throughout the summer. Butterflies particularly like open single flowers growing in a sunny, sheltered spot.



The wildflower bank contains caterpillar food plants and nectar plants growing in the long grass.



A group of Branch volunteers come to the garden once a month throughout the summer, with a few other gardening sessions during the spring and autumn. The monthly sessions are in preparation for the Branch open days which also occur once a month. These dates are advertised in the Branch newsletter (Antennae) and also on the Branch website.

If you are interested in gardening and helping with the gardening sessions please contact Tricia Atkinson (vice-chair@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk) or Sue Smith (chair@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk). You don't have to be an expert to help!



On the open days the Branch volunteers also display moths caught either in a trap in the Monastery Garden the previous night or from a volunteer's own garden. This usually creates a lot of interest, particularly with children, who are fascinated by the moths' diversity. June and July are probably the best months for this.

