

# Antennae

Newsletter of the Gloucestershire Branch of Butterfly Conservation

**ISSUE 72 Autumn 2025**



**Butterfly  
Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

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Photo Front Cover: Clouded Yellow - Matthew Oates

Back cover: Emperor Moth - Steve French

Unless otherwise stated all photos by the Author  
or from Butterfly Conservation web-site

The opinions expressed in the articles of this newsletter are not necessarily those of  
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## From the Chair

Tricia Atkinson



Welcome to the Autumn edition of *Antennae*. What an amazing summer it has been. In last year's cool and damp summer, we didn't see many butterflies or moths. We wondered how this would affect butterfly numbers the following year if the weather wasn't warm enough for them to find a mate and lay eggs. Well they have certainly bounced back but probably only to average numbers. Purple Emperor has had a good year in the county as described by Matthew Oates on page 3 and towards the end of the season we saw some Clouded Yellows coming in from the continent which was a great treat. I think I have also seen more Small Coppers this year towards the end of the summer than I have ever seen before and the Large and Small Whites (the so-called Cabbage Whites) certainly enjoyed feasting on my poor Purple Sprouting plants in my garden this year. Chris Wiltshire, our county butterfly recorder gives more insights into how butterflies have fared on page 7.

The weather has also been good for our events and walks. These events give us an opportunity to share our knowledge and enthusiasm with the public and hopefully inspire more people to develop an interest in butterflies and moths. More about this on page 35.

Now that we are into Autumn, our work for these wonderful creatures continues. We will be holding conservation work parties on both Prestbury Hill Reserve and Rough Bank throughout the autumn and winter, details on pages 38 - 40. If we want to conserve the butterflies we see in the summer, we need to do the management work in the autumn and winter. We need more volunteers so do come along if you are able. It's great to be out in the fresh air, getting exercise and working alongside like-minded people, whilst knowing that you are making a great contribution to helping our butterflies, moths and all other wildlife.

I hope that you enjoy reading this edition of *Antennae*. Please remember that we welcome articles from all our members so if you feel inspired to write something that you think would be of interest to our members, then do send it to Lynne, our editor, or myself. Our contact details are on page 42.

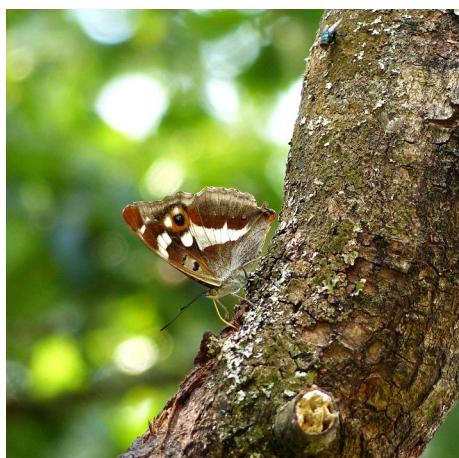
# Takeover! The Purple Emperor in Gloucestershire

Matthew Oates

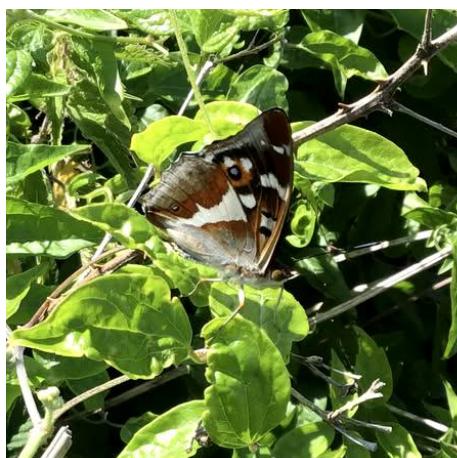
Gloucestershire is being taken over, by His Gloriously, The Purple Emperor. When I moved here from Hampshire in 1992 I never dreamt that my favourite butterfly would follow me, but it has, and it means business.

This is one of several butterflies on the march nationally, and it had an outstandingly good year in 2025. It is infilling within its accepted range, and moving north. Derbyshire, from where the Purple Emperor had never been recorded, is being invaded from the sallow-rich plantings of The National Forest in the south, and from Sherwood Forest in the east. More incredibly, Yorkshire is becoming Purple, with a scatter of sightings along the Nottinghamshire border and, this year and last, sightings in the middle of the county, and one last year inland of Scarborough, and this year from just south of Middlesbrough. Scotland, here we come!

Nearer to home, Worcestershire is purpling itself nicely and this year Emperors were seen on the summit of the middle Malverns and near Ledbury – the first Herefordshire record in half a century. There is also considerable expansion happening in north Wiltshire, in the Forest of Braydon and the Cotswold Water Park.



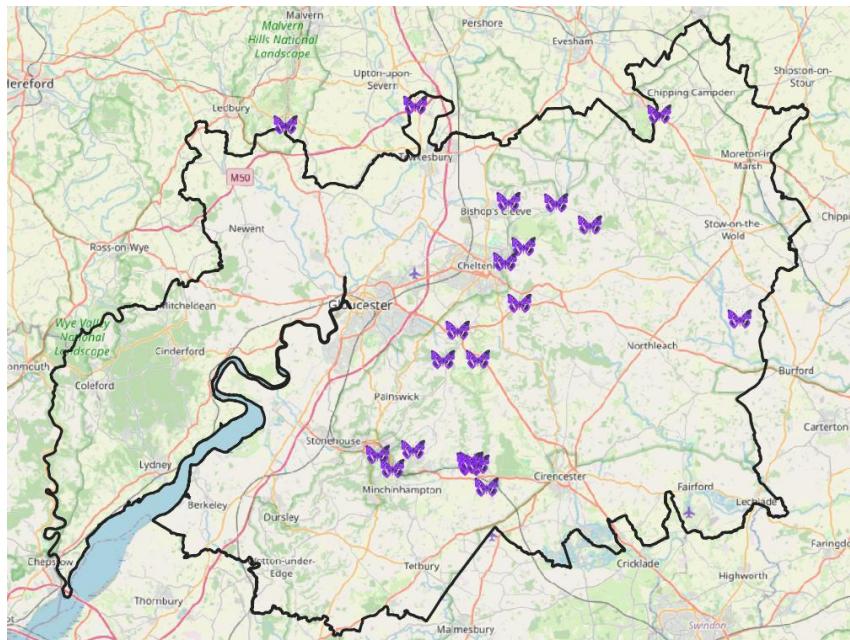
PE found sapping  
Ash Hill Sapperton 11.7.25.  
Photo by the Author



PE found on the Crickley Hill  
Transect  
Photo by Ken Newcombe

Emperors are prone to sudden years of relative abundance, during which they expand their numbers. I've been monitoring the 'egg lay' in Savernake Forest since 2009, through standardized searches. In most years, I find only low numbers – 12 to 24 eggs and young larvae – but there are years of plenty, with three figure tallies: 2009, 2013, 2018 and 2025, which looks like being the best of the lot.

Purple Emperor larvae were discovered in Cirencester Park Woods in April 2020, by happy chance. The butterfly had probably moved up the railway line from the Swindon area in 2018. Now, it is steadily consolidating itself in the woods, and is spreading along the Frome valley. Last year I saw a male on territory at the entrance to Rodborough Fort, on Rodborough Common. I felt at the time that it might have come from sallows lining the Stroud Canal. This year, a female was seen at Swellshill, Brimscombe, close to the canal, and a male was photographed in Toadsmoor Woods (July 3rd). A special prize goes to the male



Provisional map of Purple Emperor sightings 2025

The map includes sightings submitted on iRecord and verified and also sightings not yet submitted. If you have seen a Purple Emperor this year, please submit the sighting online at [www.butterflyrecording.org](http://www.butterflyrecording.org) or email to [vic@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk](mailto:vic@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk) along with a photo if you have one.

photographed winebibbing at the Daneway Inn, Sapperton during a Large Blue meeting! There is also an interesting record from Brimspfield, suggesting that the Emperor has spread right the way up the Frome valley.

Something is happening along the Cotswold escarpment. An Emperor was seen at Crickley Hill on June 18th and we have exciting records from the vicinity of our Bill Smyllie Reserve at Prestbury Hill, one as early as June 16th and the other on July 1st. In addition, I have seen a photo of a female taken in Buckle Woods, Cranham, once again the butterfly has been seen around Lineover Wood. We have two records from the Winchcombe vicinity, and one from a new area along the A44 at Fish Hill. (near Broadway)

I have previously found larvae at Brockridge Common, north of Tewkesbury, and this year the butterfly was seen at Whiteleaved Oak at southern end of the Malverns. Way to the east, we have another record from the Windrush valley system, from Great Rissington.

Missing, oddly, are records from the southern part of Gloucestershire, although I found a larva in Lower Woods, Hawkesbury Upton, in the autumn of 2023.

All this raises the question of whether the Purple Emperor is in the Forest of Dean? Of course He is! It's just that we haven't looked. He should be in Highnam Woods too. I plan to search for Purple Emperor larvae in the Dean this autumn, using the new and highly efficient Dangle Leaf method (vacated feeding leaves remain attached to the sallow trees after leaf fall, attached by caterpillar silk, spinning distinctively in the breeze). Watch this space, and have great expectations.

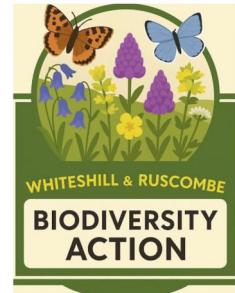


PE at Sapperton. Photos by Andrew Brown

# Wild Spaces Success for Biodiversity Action Group

Chris Tracey

Whiteshill and Ruscombe Biodiversity Action Group was formed in response to the call for all parish councils to raise awareness of the rapid decline of our wildlife at a local level and to record and map out local wildlife. How do you start this daunting task? The Butterfly Conservation Wild Spaces leaflet held the clue and a few months after the initial meeting of the group a leaflet was delivered with the newsletter to every household in the parish. Thanks to two enthusiastic members of the group, Peter Keevil and Nigel Pitel, attention was drawn to the scheme on the local Facebook page, at



Flowers in the Graveyard

the Primrose Teas in the church and a special wild spaces table at the Party in the Park in July. The old graveyard at the parish church, the chapel graveyard and the small village green were first to be registered with BC. Peter has teamed up with the local Men's Shed woodwork group who make bird boxes to offer to everyone who pledges to register a wild space in their garden. We now have 25 registered wild spaces and more people are expected to join in. Team effort but with special thanks to Peter and Nigel!



Party in the Park Wild Spaces table

Nigel Pitel Wild Spaces Leaflets



# The Effects of Summer 2025, the Recorder's First Impressions

Chris Wiltshire

Stating the obvious, the summer was unusually dry and unusually hot, a complete contrast to 2024. This affected the plants and subsequently the butterflies along with other invertebrates and the creatures which depend upon them and also the sales of SPF 50!

The following weather data is from a weather station on Stinchcombe Hill.

	Rainfall	Days with no rain	Days above 20°C
June 1 <sup>st</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup>	29mm	3	5
June 16 <sup>th</sup> to 30 <sup>th</sup>	10mm	8	12
July 1 <sup>st</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup>	7mm	13	13
July 16 <sup>th</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup>	25mm	6	15
August 1 <sup>st</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup>	24mm (20mm on 1 <sup>st</sup> )	11	11
August 16 <sup>th</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup>	15mm	10	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>110mm</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>69</b>

The effect was clearly felt by us humans and the butterflies. At first it was lovely while the ground was still moist but it soon became apparent that drought had taken hold and the soil moisture content was falling and plants were wilting, especially on the thin soils of Cotswold limestone grasslands. This was bad news for several reasons. It reduced the number of flowers and those flowers produced less nectar than usual which reduces the food sources available to adult butterflies. The foodplants themselves started wilting which rendered them unpalatable to many larvae which became malnourished and eventually produced dwarf adults, many of which were seen in August.

Another effect of wilting foodplants was that butterflies would reject them as being unsuitable. I watched several Adonis and Chalk Hill Blues on

several sites and they would locate the plants as usual but crawl all over and around them then fly off to repeat the procedure on more plants without laying any eggs. I hope that they did find some plants that were still green enough to be accepted.

At the time of writing, in the last week of August we have had moderate amounts of rain and already it is apparent that things like Horseshoe Vetch were not dead but are producing new green shoots already. In a normal season there would still be plenty of Chalk Hills and Adonis around into the first week of September but another effect of this year was that everything was two to three weeks early and these species are near the end of their flight period in late August. We can only hope that the few left on the wing will be able to utilise this fresh growth.

Another effect of the hot season was a change in behaviour of some species which took to resting in shady places around the middle of the day. I saw several Red Admirals resting on branches in the shade of the tree canopy, sometimes on the underside of a branch. Meadow Browns were doing something similar but lower down in scrub. Another change in behaviour that I noticed was that there was increase in the activity of various species, Lycaenids in particular, on north facing slopes which did not "drought off" so quickly and larval foodplants remained fresher for longer.

The Ringlet numbers were well down this year, they really do not like hot and dry conditions, Small Blues were in short supply, larger Fritillaries were in short supply but some species seemed to do quite well, such as Small Heaths which have been abundant in later summer. Small Coppers have had a minor population explosion in August seemingly everywhere. We have even had some Clouded Yellows.

It will be interesting to see what survives and what thrives next year!



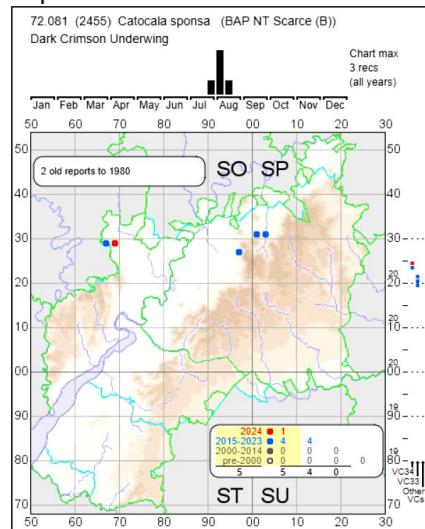
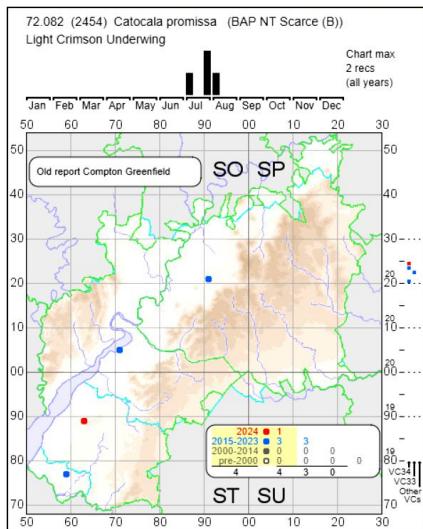
# Crimson Underwings in Lower Woods - July 2025

Peter Cranswick

Lower Woods is an ancient woodland in the south of West Gloucestershire. Almost 300 ha in extent and dominated by oak, it boasts a moth list of over 750 species. Peter Hugo and I trapped there multiple times in the 2010s and found many notable species. Our efforts were limited to the north of the wood as there are no drivable tracks south of the Little Avon River, which divides the site roughly in half. I've long wondered what might lurk in the deep south, surely there were more interesting species to be found. Neil Lodge, the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust warden was also enthusiastic so we planned to transport my mothing kit of 2 generators and 4 MV traps, in his Land Rover and leave them in the southern part for a week in mid-July. I'd run two pairs of traps in different locations, then move them a few hundred metres the next day. I figured I might trap on three or four nights over the week, depending on conditions and how energetic I felt.

A week beforehand, Neil found a Dark Crimson Underwing, just the 8th County record of this nationally rare species. It added to my sense of anticipation ...

# Light and Dark Crimson Underwing Records for Gloucestershire up to 2024



Counting the traps on the first morning proved a little deflating. The alarm had gone soon after 5am, I had walked 3 km from the public car park just to turn off the generators and be sitting at the first trap. However the moths were, contrary to the picture so far that summer, distinctly few and far between. I was already pondering if I might only trap every other night!

In the last of the four traps, I turned over a tray and had a genuine 'moth moment' – a pristine Light Crimson Underwing, a cousin of the Dark Crimson Underwing.

The first Light Crimson Underwing  
caught 19th July 2025 Lower Woods



Both species are nationally rare. Their distribution is limited to the New Forest and nearby oak woodlands in north Hampshire and southeast Wiltshire. Both decreased in range last century, and though the National Moth Atlas notes recent expansions, the atlas maps show distinctly restricted distributions. I have a friend who is a voluntary warden at an NNR bordering the New Forest,

and a few years ago, we got permission to trap in private woodlands, specifically hoping for these species. We had found small numbers of LCU and a single DCU. Still, neither had been on my radar for Lower Woods.

There had been just four records of LCU in Gloucestershire, all very recent and in locations that suggested wandering individuals. But this was different, pristine LCU and DCU at the start of their flight season in a large ancient oak woodland. I was determined to trap again that night.

I left one set of traps in the same place, both had had so few moths that I suspected the lights had failed overnight, and I moved the other. Returning the next morning, the 'poor' traps fared little better and I wondered if the big catches in recent weeks were due to an early hatch in the hot weather and that this week would be lean. In the second trap, however, I pulled out another fresh LCU. OK ... something is going on. A few minutes later, having removed all the trays, I lifted the lid to reveal a fresh DCU sitting inside.

## Dark and Light Crimson Underwings caught July 20th 2025 (Trap 2)

*(Catocala underwings are often especially flighty, so cajoling two onto a more photogenic background was a little stressful)*



My mind was racing now. Two (including Neil's sighting) of each species, in different locations, they had to be local! Indeed, they had to be breeding, surely? Had two nationally rare species restricted to the New Forest established populations in a wood in Gloucestershire ...? I decided not to get ahead of myself and moved to the traps at the new location I'd set the previous day.

Again, frustratingly, there were very few species in the first trap. Then in the second, among many wings lying in the trap (there were multiple wasps and hornets in the trap, which had clearly been feasting) was a set of LCU wings. Lifting the last tray from the trap, another DCU was underneath, albeit that it had also succumbed to the stripey yellow ones. Now there was no doubt in my mind. Three LCUs and three DCUs at three different locations. Lower Woods could add these spectacular rarities to its list of headline resident species showing it to be a thriving, significant woodland habitat.

It was now obvious I'd trap every night for the week. And I'd move the traps every night, to gauge how widespread the species were. Arriving at the far traps the next morning, a Dark Crimson was the first moth I saw sitting boldly on the veins. At the next, I pulled out a tray with two LCUs while yet another stared at me from the inside. Neil brought his volunteer group to see what had been caught in the third trap, and we pulled out yet another LCU. And so it continued. On each of the six nights and at every location bar one where I set a pair of traps, I found at least one or other



Crimson Underwing. A week later, I returned to trap in the northern half of the woods, hoping to map the species' distribution across the site, but it coincided with an unseasonably cold night and very few moths. Other commitments prevented me returning during the remainder of their flight season.

There has been infrequent trapping in the north of Lower Woods in recent years, but perhaps those did not coincide with the flight time for Crimson Underwings, or the species have arrived only very recently, or their distribution is, for some reason, restricted to the southern half of the wood. Next year will show. I'm also yet unclear to what extent the species have occupied the landscape between here at the New Forest, in west Wiltshire or Dorest. Somerset has had only two records of LCU and none of DCU, which would suggest they have not increased to the same extent as so many other species over the last decade. I will make enquiries in the coming weeks. Nevertheless, it seems inescapable that both species are widespread and breeding in Lower Woods. Also in the species' stronghold in Hampshire when trapping we caught around ten LCUs and just one DCU over several visits using eight MVs.

Before this July, seeing a Crimson Underwing in Gloucestershire felt like a thing of fantasy. Now, four species of this eye-catching genus, Red Underwing, Clifden Nonpareil, Light Crimson Underwing and Dark Crimson Underwing, are breeding in the County. Indeed, in just one wood.

# Butterfly-friendly Councils

Tricia Atkinson

Butterfly Conservation is campaigning for councils to be butterfly-friendly and have created a five-step plan for them to follow over the next three years.

They are asking councils to tackle the Butterfly Emergency by:

**Creating a biodiversity plan to save nature**

**Improving and creating places for butterflies and moths**

**Ensuring access to green spaces for residents**

**Ending the use of pollinator-killing pesticides**

**Tackling light pollution seriously**

I live in Cheltenham and am very impressed with what Cheltenham Borough Council's Green Spaces team have achieved in the town. They manage all the parks and Green Spaces in the town and also Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common, a fantastic unimproved limestone grassland site on the Cotswold Escarpment on the outskirts of Cheltenham. They have developed wild areas in most of the parks and



Pittville Park, Cheltenham

have created wildflower meadows in some parks. They often use seed collected from Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common which means that the wild areas have native perennial plants rather than annuals. Apart from being the cheaper option and more sustainable, these flowering plants are more beneficial for insects.

We have developed a good relationship with the Green Spaces Rangers. We have given advice on what to do to encourage butterflies and moths for their Wild Spaces and have carried out butterfly and moth recording at some sites. We produced a poster on how to record butterflies on the iRecord Butterflies app, which they have put up in several of their parks to encourage visitors to notice the butterflies there and record them.

They gave us a very interesting talk in February. A student from the University of Gloucestershire came to the talk and met the rangers. He had carried out butterfly recording on a transect previously and was keen to start up one locally. In collaboration with the Green Spaces team, he set up a transect in Pittville Park which is close to the University in Cheltenham. He and a few fellow students have carried out the recording throughout the summer, giving them valuable experience and giving the Green Spaces team useful information on the butterflies in the park. The transect went through the wildflower areas and the mown parts of the park so a comparison will be able to be made between the two types of habitat.

Other councils in Gloucestershire may or may not be just as good. If you feel that your council could do better to help butterflies and moths, would you like to help with the campaign? This would involve contacting the appropriate person at the council. Pip Gray, the campaigns officer at Butterfly Conservation has produced a campaign's pack which gives more information on the campaign and a template for a letter or email to the council. If interested please email me at [chair@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk](mailto:chair@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk). I could then send you the campaigns pack.

# Prinknash News 2024/25

Sue Smith

As most of you know, the Gloucestershire Branch of Butterfly Conservation has been involved with a ‘butterfly garden’ at Prinknash Monastery Garden since 2010. We have grown lots of butterfly friendly plants – cultivated and wild - and have held various open days there.

Last year we were informed that various parts of the monks’ estate were going to be sold. This meant a lot of uncertainty for us, but we sat tight and watched as things unfolded. The Stroud Valleys Project (SVP) volunteers’ contract to work on their part of the garden was terminated at the end of January.

In the end, the cottage next to the garden, the garden and another field was bought by someone who seems to have encompassed the ethos of the garden. We have now met Pilar Albertson, the new owner, and we have been very encouraged by her enthusiasm and wish for much of the garden to remain as it is and open to the public.

Although we managed one visit before contracts were exchanged at the end of March, we weren’t allowed into the garden for several months.



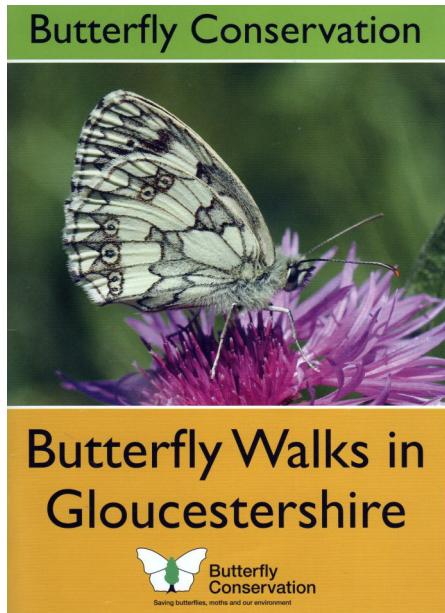
However, we have now resumed our gardening activities and SVP are now back once a week. We are hoping that with the new owner, things may be even better than they were before. The aim is to make the whole garden more accessible to the disabled and the entrance is being moved to help this happen. The gateway sign will be moved to the position of the new entrance. This might also mean that our piece of the garden might be extended.

If you wish to help maintain this butterfly garden, we might well need more volunteers, so please get in touch, [sue.smith@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk](mailto:sue.smith@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk), especially next year, after some of the renovations have been completed.

Work has started on the cottage and the new entrance, and the brick wall is being repaired. The Bird and Deer Park have also been sold to a local family who plan to open it again this autumn. There are already some deer and birds there. The café and car park still remain in the ownership of the Prinknash monks, administered by Trustees; much of the land surrounding the monastery has also been sold, I think, to local tenants/farmers.



# Butterfly Walks Booklet Updates



The branch produced the 2nd edition of the Butterfly Walks in Gloucestershire booklet in 2016. Since then, there are five walks which can now not be accessed as described. These are:

Walk 2: Bathurst Estate. It is no longer possible to park and access Oakley Wood. A new visitors car park is now open at The Old Kennels, off the Old Tetbury Road, Cirencester Park and it will be necessary to walk in from there in order to look for Pearl-Bordered Fritillaries. However there is a good colony of these butterflies at nearby Siccaridge Wood, grid ref, SO936034, W3W.cheeses.number.essays. There is limited parking in a small layby at SO938032 W3W. duos.magic.doubt on the other side of the bridge from the Daneway Inn.

Walk 3. Breakheart Hill and Quarry There has been a change in ownership of Breakheart Hill and the hill is now fenced off, although people are still allowed to walk around the fenced off area. However there is still public access to Breakheart Quarry and parking is still allowed.

Walk 6. Chedworth Nature Reserve. This has now been closed to the

public due to the reserve suffering severely from Ash dieback.

Walk 24. Midger Wood. Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust have now closed this reserve due to the danger of extensive Ash dieback. Additionally, the steps to the most important part for butterflies, Saddlewood Roughs, have totally deteriorated.

Walk 25. Miserden Valley – Bull Banks Miserden valley is accessible but not through the gate to the right of the river as it is locked these days. To access the route, go through the gate to the left of the river and follow the fence line alongside the river. At the top of the field it may be necessary to skirt around a raised mound before turning right towards the river. Cross the footbridge and on reaching the main track turn right. Turn left before the gate and head up the hill following the route in the Walks booklet.

We will still be selling the booklets but with stickers on the appropriate pages to give notification when a walk is not accessible. To reflect this, the cost of the booklet will be reduced from £4 to £3.

A digital version of the booklet has now been produced using Google maps and is being trialed. This will include up-to-date information on the species to see and any updates in access. See link below.

<https://www.google.co.uk/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1whwaVRJye4ERaDaXJqBiYCZZefVQM3aR&usp=sharing>



It might be possible to turn it into an app. If anyone knows how to do this then please get in touch, [chair@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk](mailto:chair@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk)

We are also hoping to produce a PDF version so that people who already have the booklet can check for updated information.

# Butterflies of the Heddon Valley

Graeme Davis

In my mission to try to find all the UK butterflies, I decided to find the most challenging butterfly for me, both in terms of identification and location.

I joined another butterfly enthusiast from Kent (Kel), who I chatted to on Instagram and booked a B&B in the Heddon Valley in Devon, a site that Matthew Oates knows very well. We had a few potential locations to look for our rarest butterfly, the High Brown Fritillary: a lovely large orange fritillary, very similar to the Dark Green Fritillary - which it can often be seen flying with.



The High Brown Fritillary was once widespread in England and Wales, but since the 1950s has undergone a dramatic decline. Now only found at a few sites, it frequents Bracken-dominated habitats and limestone rock outcrops, where it feeds on Common Dog Violet.

It was late in the season, and I thought that identifying the butterfly, or even seeing one, was going to be a hard task. The identification features are best seen on the hindwing, where you can see the distinctive row of

brownish-red spots, but getting one to sit still in glorious sunny weather is another task. Upper wing identification is much harder, though not impossible.

We had just three days to see the High Brown, so we were quite apprehensive that we wouldn't see it. However, luck was on our side. On the day we arrived we decided not to book into the B&B straight away but pay a late-in-the-day trip to the valley. The valley was alive with butterflies, and we quickly racked up a tally of 20+ Silver-washed Fritillary. There



Silver-washed Fritillary Butterfly  
(*Argynnis paphia*)  
8.7.25.Heddon Valley, Devon.

were plenty of Oaks in the valley and we suspected it wouldn't be long before a Purple Hairstreak made an appearance, and lo-and-behold, within five minutes of the conversation, we saw our first one. Our plan was to photograph every fritillary we saw. On return to the National Trust Office, I went through my photos and had a stab at identifying everything I had seen. I showed the Rangers a picture of what I thought was our target and was happy to find out the second picture I had taken on the day was a High Brown!



High Brown Fritillary Butterfly  
(*Fabriciana adippe*)  
8.7.25.Heddon Valley, Devon



High Brown Fritillary Butterfly  
(*Fabriciana adippe*)  
9.7.25.Heddon Valley, Devon

The next day we ventured out early to try again. This final day tested our ID skills and eyesight, as it was a day of orange butterflies. Lots of Silver-washed, Dark Greens, Commas and even a Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary, second generation. Thankfully, after some time we both got our eye in for High Brown Fritillary, and ended up photographing five individuals. Though most worn and tatty, we were thrilled to see such a rarity. Just three more butterflies remain for me to see now – the Chequered Skipper, Large Heath and Cryptic Wood White in Northern Ireland.



Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary Butterfly  
(*Boloria selene*)  
11.7.25.Heddon Valley, Devon

# Gloucestershire Branch Annual Members' Meeting

Date: Saturday 25th October 2025  
Time: 2.00 pm  
Venue: Christchurch Abbeydale, Heron Way, Abbeydale, Gloucester GL4 5EQ (opposite Morrisons).  
What3words: agreed.nurse.hurray.  
Speaker: Mike Slater from Warwickshire BC  
Topic: The Warwickshire approach to conserving butterflies.

Mike Slater is the chair of BC Warwickshire Branch. He and Keith Warmington have written a splendid book 'Butterfly Conservation – The Warwickshire Approach'. It was so popular that the books are now sold out and he has been asked to write a second book.

Mike will talk about the way he and the Warwickshire branch approach conservation and describe what they have learnt over the years through observation, experimentation and monitoring. He will also include some interesting tips for finding butterflies in all their life stages out in the field.

As usual, the formal part of the meeting will be followed by refreshments and the talk from Mike Slater. It is usually an interesting afternoon and a chance to meet up with and chat to other Butterfly Conservation members.



## Photographic Competition

The annual photographic competition is free and open to all members of Gloucestershire Branch and their children and grandchildren. See competition rules on the branch website and below. As in the previous few

years we would like digital photos which will be compiled and set to music to be shown at the meeting.

Please send up to three in each category as JPEG attachments to emails to reach Simon Fenner at [simonf@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk](mailto:simonf@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk) by 13th October. These will be judged by our speaker before the meeting. The winners will be announced after we have viewed all the entries during the meeting.

There will be 4 categories UK Butterflies, UK Moths, Overseas Butterflies and Moths, Immature Stages.

Please encourage your children or grandchildren to enter. If the photo is taken by someone under the age of 16, please give their name and age. There will be a separate prize for the winner of the under-16s.

The photographer of the overall winning entry will receive £10 in cash as well as the shield proclaiming the 'Gloucestershire Butterfly

Photographer of the Year'. All category winners' photos will be published in the 2026 Spring edition of *Antennae*.

## Competition Rules

All entrants must be a member of Gloucestershire Branch of Butterfly Conservation or the child or grandchild of a member.

All images must be the entrant's own work and they own the copyright for them.

None of the images submitted have been published elsewhere or have won a prize in any other photographic competition.

Butterfly Conservation Gloucestershire Branch can reproduce, enlarge, publish or exhibit, on any media, any of the images entered into the 2025 photography competition, for any purpose connected with Butterfly Conservation.

Note that the closing date is 13th October 2025.

# How I became Moth-er

Peter Hugo

I have spent much of my life studying moths, and more recently, butterflies, surrounded by moth traps, generators, breeding cages containing caterpillars and even moth genitalia dissections! I have spent entire nights in fields and woodland looking at moth traps and recording every moth that arrived. I've been there at dusk and was sometimes still there as the sun came up the following morning.

So how did this all start?

At primary school in Chipping Norton I had a friend called Terry who lived near me. One day he suggested I meet his new friend, Brian, who collected butterflies. Brian showed us a large piece of stiff cardboard on which were pinned out around 30 Red Admiral butterflies which he had collected in the New Forest. Now, before you throw up your hands in horror this is exactly how Sir David Attenborough started out, by collecting; it's what people did in those days. Brian also had a moth trap, one of the first of a new type, the Robinson Mercury Vapour trap. His dad had built him a shed with windows which was devoted almost entirely to moths, where Brian would take the trap containing the overnight catch. The moths would always fly to the window where he would record them as best he could before saving some for his collection.

From that moment I too, wanted a moth trap. But we were quite poor and the only way I was going to get a trap was to make one myself using



Robinson Trap c1950

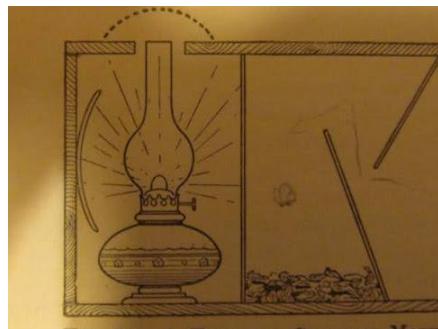


FIG. 51.—A TRAP FOR CATCHING MOTH

Moth Trap 1906

whatever materials I could find at home.

This was long before the days of the internet and the only clue to making a trap was in a copy of a book published in 1906 by W. Furneaux. I have included a picture of his oil lamp trap. Oil lamps were no longer in fashion in the 1950s so I devised a trap base using a shallow wooden box on top of which I constructed a clear polythene cover into which I inserted a clear polythene funnel (not illustrated). A 100 watt tungsten light bulb was then placed across the top – and I was in business! The trap worked well and caught a good selection of moths but I was to lie in bed at night listening to our ancient cat, Snowie, pouncing on the moths as they arrived.



Occasionally there would be a massive explosion when large rain drops fell onto the bulb. Rain shields had not been invented in those days as the bulbs, being quite large for their wattage, didn't get too hot and so for much of the time you could leave them out in the rain. This was around the time I was changing from Junior school to Chipping Norton Grammar School and things then really took off. I acquired a large number of friends, all of whom wanted to collect butterflies and moths. There must have been at least ten people in this group and we called ourselves the Lepi gang. We even invented our own lepi language: "Dosya yosyu sesya sizya?" transcribed into "Do you see Sarsgrove Woods?" I can still speak the language. The gang didn't last long and ended in a fight with an opposing gang (called "The Mads") We agreed to meet at an appointed time in the street with an assortment of weapons for a final clash. After that there were just the original three lepidopterists, myself, Terry and

Brian, who continued to look for butterflies and moths. Almost everyone in Chipping Norton knew about us and most thought we were completely mad. We all bought ourselves a paraffin pressure lamp each and at night we would walk to the local woods (about one and a half miles each way) and set up a white sheet on the ground with the lamp in the middle and await the arrival of moths. This proved very successful, especially in the spring when the Sallow blossom (Pussy Willow) was in bloom. The blossom attracted moths which were then attracted to our lights and at times the sheets were heaving with moths. It also attracted the police as someone had reported us as poachers.

At other times we would inspect the shop windows in town which were always lit up and attracted moths. In the daytime we inspected the fronts of cars in the town car park as they invariably had a good selection of moths impaled on the exposed radiators. We would also go "lamping" where we would patrol hedgerows which always had a good show of moths. On one occasion we even spread our light sheet out in the middle of the A361 road. There were almost no cars around in those days but the first car to arrive that night was the police. We were not arrested; they were quite bemused and thereafter would stop if they saw us inspecting the hedgerows and ask how we were getting on. They would also give us a lift home sometimes. Health and safety and rules and regulations had yet to be invented at that time. I'm sure there are still some trees around Chipping Norton that have a dark streak on the bark where we had painted our moth sugar mixture – a concoction which attracted moths. Much of our secondary school days and nights revolved around moths and butterflies.



Around that time I replied to an article in an entomological magazine. The Agricultural Research Council were inviting people to take part in a national survey using one of their moth traps. I duly replied and began to run a trap for the Rothamsted Insect Survey on every night of the year for several years. I now jump forward a few years. I had left school and was working in the Biology Dept. of Banbury School. Out of the blue, I received a letter from Rothamsted inviting me to visit them to take a look at their survey. After a successful visit I received another letter offering me a job on the survey. I had no idea that I had attended an interview; I thought this was a social visit, and I declined the offer as I was very happy at Banbury. Some six months later I was again offered a position on the survey and this time I accepted. I was to become the light trap coordinator, liaising with a variety of establishments, National Trust, Forestry Commission, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, RSPB, farmers, private individuals, schools and universities, Kew Gardens, etc. etc. establishing a national network of up to a hundred moth traps throughout the country and helping to identify the catches. The technician was responsible for installing and servicing the traps but I was also able to install some of the traps and meet the operators. This took me to most parts of the UK all year round and in all weathers. I developed a particular interest in SW Scotland. I also installed a moth trap at Christ's Hospital School in Horsham, which was attended by one of our branch's well known members as mentioned in his book "In Pursuit of Butterflies" but at the time he had already left school. Rothamsted, being a high-profile organisation, was often asked for help from many quarters and as a result I was able to appear on television in "Animal Magic" (Johnny Morris) and "Tomorrow's World."

I met my future partner at Rothamsted. I was working on pest moth populations and she was working in another part of the entomology building, on pea moths – the ones which cause maggots in peas. I wanted to get to know her and had to find a way of meeting up and starting a conversation. At the time I was warming up some male moth genitalia in Sodium Hydroxide solution. This was to soften them up so that they could be dissected in order to more accurately determine the species. So, as I entered the tea room that morning I tapped her on the shoulder and said "would you like to come and see my genitalia?" She did, and I'm sure she

must have regretted it from time to time, but after over fifty years we are still together.

I was a regular attendee at the British Entomological and Natural History Society (BENHS) meetings in London where I was asked to become one of the founder members of the British Butterfly Conservation Society. The newsletters were produced on flimsy paper in a "Banda" machine and the print very soon faded. This was the beginning of what was to become Butterfly Conservation of which I soon became a life member. Many of the BENHS members were insect collectors and, indeed, still are to this day. As an aside I ran a small business printing data labels for their collections and got to know many of the well known entomologists of the day, some of whom were also very eccentric. One such person was the Baron Charles de Worms who would sit at the front of the meetings, often asleep and I swear he never took his spectacles off as they seemed to be "grown" into his face. A colleague told me that he once stayed at his house and was sitting up in bed reading one evening when the baron burst in and shot the light bulb out with a shotgun, complaining that it was attracting the moths away from his garden trap! Another attendee at the meetings was Jeremy Thomas and I remember him introducing us to his new theory regarding the reintroduction of the Large Blue, which we all now know was a resounding success. Col. Maitland Emmet, a well known expert on micro moths would show some slides of his discoveries. One idea of his was to have the actual specimen inside the slide and project it to the audience. On one occasion I remember a micro moth larva being projected onto the screen, only to melt and shrivel up before our eyes to much laughter. At this time I was also elected a Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society.

From childhood I always secretly wanted to become a musician. While still at school I was playing the piano and the accordion in local pubs and being paid for it. So while at Rothamsted it is no surprise that I was arranging concerts in Rothamsted Manor House which was owned by Rothamsted and was being used as accommodation for staff, students and visitors, many from overseas. The concerts were always well attended as we regularly hired well known professional performers, one of whom was my piano teacher. Jumping forward a few years I suppose it was inevitable that I would eventually find myself back in the Cotswolds working for Gloucestershire Music Service as a visiting instrumental

teacher in schools, a position which I enjoyed, even more than Rothamsted. As I had become the Moth Officer for our branch, every school I worked in had to have a moth trap and take part in the Garden Moth Scheme, which involved running a trap once a week. This became the highlight of break or dinner time as the children crowded around the trap. I'm sure many children overcame their fear of creepy crawlies as a result.

I had invented a portable moth trap, the "Hugo" Trap, and set up a moth trap loan scheme whereby members could borrow a moth trap for a few months and at the end of this time could either return it or purchase it. Very few people returned the traps and as a result there are many moth traps now operating throughout our area. The loan scheme is still being run by our Moth Conservation Co-ordinator, Steve French who now has, at the last count, 534 members in his Gloucestershire Moths group.

Due to a health condition I have now stopped most of my moth activity but am very pleased to say that I can continue butterfly recording. I am the lead for the two butterfly transects at Westonbirt Arboretum and it's fascinating to be able to monitor the many changes taking place there. We

have a great team of very enthusiastic volunteers and until last years' abysmal weather there has been an upward trend in the numbers of butterflies recorded.

Moth recording has become so much more fashionable nowadays. Gone are the days when I was regarded as a "curiosity" and "mad." Butterfly Conservation has accumulated a vast database which provides evidence of changes in our environment. I hope I have been able, in my small way, to make a contribution towards this.



The Hugo Trap

# A Technique for Capturing ‘Open-wing’ Photographs in Butterflies

Andrew D. Brown

With the advent of social media such as Facebook we have begun to see wonderful images of butterflies in flight or even while nectaring with their wings open. In the latter many species keep their wings shut with only occasional flicks. We all know them: Graylings, Large Heaths, most Hairstreaks, Clouded Yellows and others.

In the past you might have been very lucky and pressed the camera shutter at the exact moment such a flick occurred. Nowadays the newer cameras with advanced features will allow you to run off a series of exposures in rapid succession with a ‘Burst’ setting built in. Back at home you might have to sift through a large number of these in order to pick out that special one that captures the moment.



Wings Open Photos taken at Daneway Banks and Cold Ashton.  
From left to right, Small Heath, Brimstone and Clouded Yellow  
(all photos by the Author)

I made my first attempts this summer when the Clouded Yellows appeared in August this year. The camera takes care of exposure settings such as ISO and f-stop at high speed, delivering very pleasing results. The tricky part is keeping the butterfly in the central part of the screen as it ducks and dives while you follow in great pursuit. This is obviously much easier during feeding so long as the flower remains fairly still.

Should your camera not include a Burst option but does have video (preferably 4K), you might be able to capture some screenshots by playing back the sequence at slow speed until you find the best frames.

# A Swallowtail Surprise

Duncan Dine

I have lived in Leckhampton for about 25 years and have always kept a garden butterfly list. I was encouraged this summer by a first record of Small Copper, a fly-through Silver Washed Fritillary and record numbers of Gatekeepers. But nothing could have prepared me for the afternoon of Saturday 9th August when during a cursory look around the back garden I noticed a butterfly I didn't recognise.

My initial thought was that it was a Swallowtail because of the way it flew. It did two circuits of the garden and then, luckily, landed. Approaching it cautiously, I thought it must be a White Admiral because of the white on the wing but quickly realised that was impossible, mainly because of the time of year. Running back into the house to get a camera, I prayed it was still there when I returned. Hurriedly I took some photos and then set about trying to identify it. Using the app 'Seek' on the photo, the ID came up as Citrus Swallowtail, which I'd never heard of before. I double-checked the ID and yes, it was a sub-Saharan species introduced into the Caribbean and Americas where the caterpillars feed on citrus crops.

So how did it appear in the outskirts of Cheltenham? Its appearance in our



garden may have been following a release from a wedding. Alternatively, it may have arrived in the UK as a pupa on a consignment of fruit, and then hatched, or perhaps it had been bred and released by an exotic butterfly species enthusiast. Whatever its origins, it certainly caused me some excitement and was a totally unexpected sighting. Its visit was less than five minutes but will be long remembered.

# The Return of the Clouded Yellows

Andrew D. Brown

My last sighting of a Clouded Yellow was back in August 2019, a long time ago, or so it seems. It was bounding along over the great expanse of Selsley Common seeking out the meagre offerings of summer wildflowers. Luck was on my side as it settled just long enough to capture a reasonable image in the early evening sunlight.

The intervening years have come and gone without so much as a hint of this elusive migrant species, so I could barely contain myself when a chance meeting with a butterfly enthusiast let it be known that she had just seen no less than a dozen Clouded Yellows the day before at Cold Ashton, a small hamlet between the M4 motorway and Bath to the south.

I arrived promptly the next day, entered the field of clover adjacent to the village hall, and scanned the horizon. Almost immediately a Clouded Yellow took to the air only to be whisked away by the prevailing wind. “This is a brilliant start”, I said to myself, but the next two hours were devoid of any more and I busied myself with a couple of fresh Painted Ladies and a smattering of Whites.

Gradually high cloud moved in and the light was lost. Elation gave way to despondency and I began to head back towards the car. Suddenly a shaft of light penetrated the gloom and within the space of a few minutes three or more of the mustard yellow butterflies appeared out of nowhere and began their search in earnest for females, briefly stopping to feed on nectar. I wasted no time pursuing them and came away with some pleasing images.

Two days later I returned, but this time I wanted to use the ‘burst’ setting on my Lumix camera to secure open-winged shots. The high cloud was there again but at midday the sun came out and so did the butterflies. The camera shutter rattled away as I gathered numerous images, disturbing any feeding butterflies into flight. Hours of painstaking examination later on produced a very small selection of passable images, and I was hooked.

This stuff is addictive. A third visit was soon arranged and back I went. All

this time I was anxious to find one of the helice female forms where the ground colour is white, or much rarer, pale lemon yellow. In any given population about ten per cent of the females fall into this category, a phenomenon known as sexual dimorphism, also seen in the valezina form of the Silver-washed Fritillary.

Minutes after arriving the sound of a tractor got louder as it came through the gate and lowered the mowing attachment. No words are needed here. I went home empty handed. One day the Clouded Yellows will return and so will I, working to improve upon those open-winged images. We might even get a bumper year with thousands reaching our shores, and scattered among them the delightful helice form.



*All Photos by the Author*



# A Wild Summer Of Butterfly Fun

Christine Blythe



Our annual programme of walks, talks and family events aims to connect people with nature and to take some action to help the conservation of butterflies and moths. Our Family Events look to engage people of all ages but especially families with young children.

We started the year at The Old Lodge on Minchinhampton Common to celebrate Marking Day with the National Trust. This is traditionally the day in May when the cattle are released onto the Common for the summer grazing. We had a steady stream of visitors and the setting made for a relaxed feel to the day.

A new event this year was the Cheltenham Borough Council's Biodiversity Festival held in May in Pittville Park. We joined all the main conservation charities and were able to engage with around 100 people from families to students.

It was an extremely hot July day for our first visit to Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park. Visitor numbers were down due to the heat but we were still able to engage with some 110 people, mainly families. We promoted the Big Butterfly Count and the children enjoyed meeting the many live moths which we brought as well as the many crafting activities. We had super accommodation with a whole barn to ourselves!

We launched this year's Big Butterfly Count at Crickley Hill. For some unknown reason it was an extremely quiet day despite reasonable



weather. We promoted the Count to some 65 café customers and dog walkers.

The Friends of Barnwood Arboretum invited us to join them again for the Big Butterfly Count. Some 140 people, mainly young children, had lots of fun searching the park for butterflies, checking out the moths, exploring the quiz trail and helping us make a beautiful butterfly banner.

Disappointingly, we only had 15 people come along to Lower Woods in early August for the guided walk and family fun.

Finally, the sun came out at the Painswick Rococo Garden after our two previous visits when it rained. Some 100 people, both local and visitors to



the Cotswolds, enjoyed our activities. The children all made mini wildlife gardens complete with ponds, log piles, flowering plants and trees. With the sun actually shining we were able to spot quite a few butterflies around the garden including Red Admiral, Green-veined White and a Small Copper.

We should like to give a big thank you to all of our event partners and volunteers who very kindly hosted and helped with our events. Thank you also to all of you who came along and joined in the butterfly fun. We look forward to seeing you next year.

We are always looking for more help at our events so if you have a few spare hours to share your passion and knowledge of butterflies and moths with others, please do get in touch.

## **Dates for Your Diary. Indoor Meetings 2025/26**

As in previous years we will be holding two indoor meetings in the New Year. They are usually very interesting and enjoyable and a chance to catch up with other members.

We will be sending out emails to members giving more details a couple of weeks before the meetings but here is advance notification. Details will also be listed on the branch website.

### **Tuesday 10th February 2026 7.30pm A Year in the life of the Butterfly Conservation Prestbury Hill Reserve.**

Shurdington Community Centre, Bishop Road, Shurdington, Cheltenham, GL51 4TB. What3words: trees.rigid.joked

Presentation at 8pm by Ken Newcombe

### **Sunday 8th March 2026 2.30pm Butterflies of the tropics**

Stroud Congregational Church Hall, Bedford Street, Stroud, GL5 1AY.  
What3words: zipped.owners.engineers

Presentation at 3pm by Simon Fenner

For both indoor events, refreshments (hot and cold drinks and home-made cakes) will be available. There will be an entrance fee of £5 per person (cash only please) to include refreshments. Non-members are welcome so please feel free to bring a guest.

### **Saturday 25th October 2025 2pm: Gloucestershire Branch Annual Members' Meeting**

Christchurch Abbeydale, Gloucester GL4 5EQ (opposite Morrisons).  
what3words: agreed.nurse.hurray The formal part of the meeting will be followed by refreshments and a presentation by guest speaker Mike Slater from Warwickshire BC on 'The Warwickshire approach to conserving butterflies'.

# **Dates for Your Diary. Conservation Work Parties**

## **2025/26**

Our conservation work parties are very sociable events and you work at your own pace with no pressure. Any time you can spare would be welcomed. We suggest you bring a warm drink, lunch (or not if you want to leave before), warm, waterproof clothes and boots.

You don't need to book a place but we would appreciate it if you could let the work party leader know by phone or email if you plan on attending. This helps us plan the work and the tools we need to take. (If emailing Serena, please do so before 6pm on the previous evening.)

Please bring your own thornproof gloves and if preferred, your own hand tools (bow saws and loppers), though some branch ones will be available.

### **Saturday 20th September 10am: Rough Bank**

Mainly bramble reduction, scrub and tree thinning. Meet at the car park at SO914087, about 0.5km south of The Camp village. what3words: dislodge.football.cracker Contact: Graeme Davis 07881912835, [graeme@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk](mailto:graeme@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk)

### **Saturday 4th October and Sunday 5th October 10am: Prestbury Hill, Masts section**

Reducing scrub to maintain grassland. Meet at kissing gate entrance to The Masts by parking area SO993248. what3words: chestnuts.array.splice Contact: Serena Meredith 01242 524138, [treasurer@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk)

### **Thursday 16th October 10am: Prestbury Hill, Masts section**

Follow up of weekend work party and/or bramble cutting/up-rooting plus tree popping to reduce small scrub to maintain grassland. Meet at kissing gate entrance to The Masts by parking area SO993248. what3words: chestnuts.array.splice Contact: Serena Meredith 01242 524138, [treasurer@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk)

### **Sunday 19th October 10am: Rough Bank**

Mainly bramble reduction, scrub and tree thinning. Meet at the car park at

SO914087, about 0.5km south of The Camp village. what3words: dislodge.football.cracker Contact: Graeme Davis 07881912835, [graeme@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk](mailto:graeme@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk)

### **Thursday 23rd October 10am: Prestbury Hill, Masts section**

Further follow up of 4/5th weekend work party and/or bramble cutting/uprooting plus tree popping to reduce small scrub to maintain grassland. Meet at kissing gate entrance to The Masts by parking area SO993248. what3words: chestnuts.array.splice Contact: Serena Meredith 01242 524138, [treasurer@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk)

### **Saturday 8th November 10am: Longwood Common, Nottingham Hill**

Scrub clearing to improve habitat for Wall Brown and other butterflies. We are aware that this is Remembrance Sunday and will stop work at 11.00am for a minutes reflective silence. Meet at parking area on Bushcombe Lane at SO983279. what3words: handbag.glimmers.replays Nearest postcode GL52 3PN. Contact: Serena Meredith 01242 524138, [treasurer@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk)

### **Saturday 29th November 10am: Rough Bank**

Mainly bramble reduction, scrub and tree thinning. Meet at the car park at SO914087, about 0.5km south of The Camp village. what3words: dislodge.football.cracker Contact: Graeme Davis 07881912835, [graeme@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk](mailto:graeme@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk)

### **Sunday 14th December 10am: Rough Bank**

Mainly bramble reduction, scrub and tree thinning. Meet at the car park at SO914087, about 0.5km south of The Camp village. what3words: dislodge.football.cracker Contact: Graeme Davis 07881912835, [graeme@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk](mailto:graeme@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk)

### **Saturday 17th January 10am: Rough Bank**

Mainly bramble reduction, scrub and tree thinning. Meet at the car park at SO914087, about 0.5km south of The Camp village. what3words: dislodge.football.cracker Contact: Graeme Davis 07881912835, [graeme@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk](mailto:graeme@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk)

## **Saturday 31st January and Sunday 1st February 10am: Prestbury Hill, Bill Smyllie section**

Reducing area of scrub to maintain grassland. Meet at main entrance to Bill Smyllie SO993244. what3words: hometown.blissful.scrub Contact: Serena Meredith 01242 524138, [treasurer@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk)

## **Thursday 5th February 10am: Prestbury Hill, Bill Smyllie section**

Follow up of weekend work party and/or clematis reduction and tree popping to reduce small scrub to maintain grassland. Meet at main entrance to Bill Smyllie SO993244. what3words: hometown.blissful.scrub Contact: Serena Meredith 01242 524138, [treasurer@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk)

## **Sunday 8th February 10am: Rough Bank**

Mainly bramble reduction, scrub and tree thinning. Meet at the car park at SO914087, about 0.5km south of The Camp village. what3words: dislodge.football.cracker Contact: Graeme Davis 07881912835, [graeme@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk](mailto:graeme@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk)

## **Thursday 19th February 10am: Prestbury Hill, Bill Smyllie section**

Follow up of February weekend work party and/or clematis reduction and tree popping to reduce small scrub to maintain grassland. Meet at main entrance to Bill Smyllie SO993244. what3words: hometown.blissful.scrub Contact: Serena Meredith 01242 524138, [treasurer@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk)

## **Saturday 7th March 10am: Rough Bank**

Mainly bramble reduction, scrub and tree thinning. Meet at the car park at SO914087, about 0.5km south of The Camp village. what3words: dislodge.football.cracker Contact: Graeme Davis 07881912835, [graeme@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk](mailto:graeme@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk)

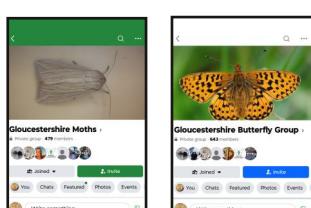
Additional work parties may also take place on Rodborough Common and/or Ravensgate Common. If so, details will be posted on the Gloucestershire Branch area pages of the Butterfly Conservation website in due course, and reminders sent to all these registered as practical conservation volunteers on Assemble (the BC volunteer portal).

# How to get in touch and stay up to date

## Branch website



The Branch has kept its dedicated website as some applications were not compatible with the branch area of the national Butterfly Conservation website. [www.gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk](http://www.gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk)



## Facebook



We have two facebook groups, Gloucestershire moths and Gloucestershire butterfly Group. They are closed groups but to get access search and click join.

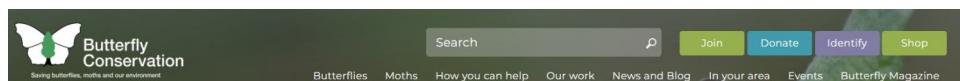
## WhatsApp

There is also a Gloucestershire Butterflies WhatsApp group GlosButts. Once you have an account please contact Matthew Oates on 07771971488 to get added.



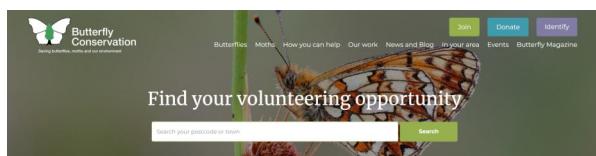
## National Website

For National news and events go to <https://butterfly-conservation.org> and navigate from the main menu. All of the Gloucestershire BC events are posted here and please feel free to share these with friends, family.



For information on volunteering opportunities in Gloucestershire Branch and other branches go to:

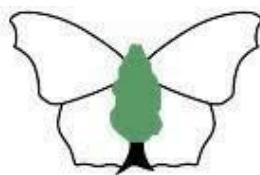
[https://volunteer.butterfly-conservation.org/opportunities#display=grid&s=date\\_advertised&o=desc&limit=14&include=image&public\\_search=true](https://volunteer.butterfly-conservation.org/opportunities#display=grid&s=date_advertised&o=desc&limit=14&include=image&public_search=true)



# Gloucestershire Branch Committee

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<https://www.butterfly-conservation.org/in-your-area/gloucestershire-branch/committee>



## Butterfly Conservation

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