

## The Bexley Lepidopterist ~ Issue No. 2 (as at 30 April 2018)

Compared to 2017, it has been a fairly quiet start to the Butterfly' Season in the London Borough of Bexley: initially caused by some Spells of Severe Chilly Weather during March.

Things bucked up in April and despite further Chilly Spells, there have now been Recorded Sightings of 13 (thirteen) Butterfly' Species during the first four Months of 2018: namely, **Brimstone** (first seen 16 March), **Comma** (first seen 14 March), **Green Hairstreak** (first seen 19 April), **Green-Veined White** viz.



(first seen 14 April), **Holly Blue** (first seen 19 April), **Large White** (first seen 20 April), **Orange-Tip** (first seen 5 April), **Painted Lady** (first seen 19 April), **Peacock** (first seen 10 January), **Red Admiral** (first seen 19 January), **Small Tortoiseshell** (first seen 17 February), **Small White** viz.



(first seen 26 March) and **Speckled Wood** (first seen 19 April).

This compares to Recorded Sightings of 12 (twelve) Butterfly' Species by the end of April 2017 viz. **Brimstone, Comma, Green Hairstreak, Green-Veined White, Holly Blue, Orange-Tip, Peacock, Red Admiral, Small Copper, Small Tortoiseshell, Small White and Speckled Wood.**

The 2018 Data Set contains 242 (two-hundred and forty-two) Lines of Records compared to 384 (three-hundred and eighty-four) Lines of Records for 2017!

Of the 2018 Records, around 25% (twenty-five percent) relate to Sightings on the Crossness Nature Reserve and Surrounding area, 12% (twelve percent) to Sightings in the Upper Bedon Stream area and 10% (ten percent) to Sightings in Gardens at Home.

Significant Sightings involving Multiple **Identified** Individuals include:

[i] 20 (twenty) **Peacock** Butterflies on 14 April on the Crossness Nature Reserve and Surrounding area

[ii] 15 (fifteen) **Small Tortoiseshell** Butterflies on 14 April on the Crayford Marshes and Surrounding area

[iii] 28 (twenty-eight) **Peacock** Butterflies on 21 April on the Crossness Nature Reserve and Surrounding area

and [iv] 18 (eighteen) **Green-Veined White** Butterflies on 21 April on the Crossness Nature Reserve and Surrounding area

2018 Sightings have been Recorded from 30 (thirty) Locations.

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NB. **A Reminder** of the **Programme of Butterfly Walks**: the first is scheduled for 24 May in Foots Cray Meadows.

The Full Programme is as Follows:

24 May ~ **Foots Cray Meadows** (under the Umbrella of the Bexley Branch of the RSPB, we meet at 10.45 am in Leafield Lane, North Cray Road, for a gentle Stroll around Foots Cray Meadows)

21 June ~ **the Southern (Erith) Marsh**

30 June ~ **the Holly Hill Open Space** (where Marbled White Butterflies were seen during 2017)

5 July ~ **the Crossness Nature Reserve**

14 July ~ **the East Wickham Open Space** (where we understand Marbled White Butterflies were seen during 2017)

The following Item by Dave Sorrel is included with thanks.

### **What's the Romanian for Holly Blue?**

Every summer up to 2010 **Holly Blue Butterflies** regularly visited our garden in Belvedere. In the autumn of that year a Romanian family moved in next door and decided to tidy up their garden. This included cutting down a large prickly holly bush and clearing ivy, and despite my colourful protestations in English/Romanian translations, both the bush and all of the ivy disappeared.

It was a long sorrowful winter with no prospect of seeing my old blue friends again. But on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2011 two **Holly Blues** arrived on time and have repeated the trick each year since.



3 May 2018

Mike Robinson