

The Bexley Lepidopterist ~ Issue No. 3 (as at 31 May 2018)

Compared to 2017, it was a fairly quiet start to the 2018 Butterfly' Season in the London Borough of Bexley: doubtless prompted by some Spells of Severe Chilly Weather during March.

Things subsequently bucked up and despite further Chilly Spells, there have been Recorded Sightings of 18 (Eighteen) Butterfly' Species during the first Five Months of 2018: namely:

Brimstone (first seen 16 March)

Brown Argus viz. (first seen 18 May)



Comma (first seen 14 March)

Common Blue viz. (first seen 11 May)



Green Hairstreak (first seen 19 April)

Green-Veined White (first seen 14 April)

Holly Blue (first seen 19 April)

Large Skipper (first seen 31 May)

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 Copper (first seen 17 May)

Small Heath viz. (first seen 18 May)



Small Tortoiseshell (first seen 17 February)

Small White (first seen 26 March)

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

The 2018 Butterfly' Data Set contains 728 (Seven Hundred and Twenty-Eight) Lines of Records compared to 578 (Five Hundred and Seventy-Eight) Lines of Records for 2017.

Of the 2018 Records, around 23% (Twenty-Three percent) relate to Sightings on the Crossness Nature Reserve and Surrounding area, 11% or so (Eleven percent) to Sightings in the Upper Bedon Stream area, 11% or so (Eleven percent) to Sightings in Gardens at Home and a further 20% (Twenty percent) or so combined, relating to Sightings in Braeburn Park, on the Crayford Marshes and Surrounding area and on the Holly Hill Open Space.

With regard to the Individual Butterfly Species, it would seem to be an Exceptional Year for Holly Blue Butterflies viz.



with some Significant Individual Sightings Recorded viz. 30+ (Thirty plus) Butterflies. There is of course the ever-present Risk of Double-Counting &c. with this flighty Butterfly so extreme caution is required when Recording them.

2018 Butterfly' Sightings have been Recorded from 41 (Forty-One) Locations.

Moths are very much Under-Recorded with just 12 (Twelve) Species of Moth included in the 2018 Moth' Data Set: Species represented include (the day-flying) **Burnet Companion**, **Cinnabar**, **Mother Shipton**, **Silver Y** and an ethereal looking **Latticed Heath Moth** viz.



2018 Moth' Sightings have been Recorded from 11 (Eleven) Locations.

The first of the Scheduled **Butterfly Walks** took place on 24 May in Foots Cray Meadows. Despite some Early Morning Rain, the Walk went ahead as planned. And thankfully we saw some Butterflies and Moths viz.

Burnet Companion, **Common Blue**, **Holly Blue**, **Mint Moth**, **Emerald White** (assumed), **Mother Shipton**, **Small Copper**, **Small Heath** and **Small White**.

The remaining **Butterfly Walks** are Scheduled for:

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 at least one Marbled White Butterfly was seen during 2017)

5 June 2018

Mike Robinson