

The Bexley Lepidopterist

Issue No. 4 (as at 30 June 2018)



Compiled by Mike Robinson ~ July 2018

Although 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 have subsequently bucked up and despite further Chilly Spells, there have been Recorded Sightings of 28 (twenty-eight) Species.

Butterfly' Species during the first six months of 2018:

Brimstone (first seen 16 March)
Brown Argus (first seen 18 May)
Comma (first seen 14 March)
Common Blue (first seen 11 May)
Essex Skipper (first seen 21 June)
Gatekeeper (first seen 15 June)
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)
Marbled White (first seen 18 June)
Meadow Brown (first seen 7 June)
Orange-Tip (first seen 5 April)
Painted Lady (first seen 19 April)
Peacock (first seen 10 January)
Purple Hairstreak (first seen 28 June)
Red Admiral (first seen 19 January)
Ringlet (first seen 20 June)
Silver-Washed Fritillary (first seen 25 June)



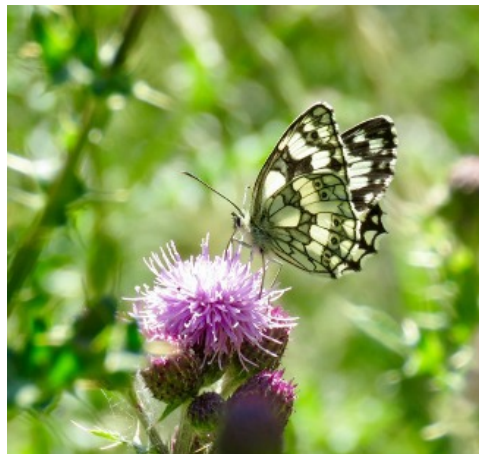
Small Copper (first seen 17 May)
Small Heath (first seen 18 May)
Small Skipper (first seen 15 June)
Small Tortoiseshell (first seen 17 February)
Small White (first seen 26 March)
Speckled Wood (first seen 19 April)

White Admiral (first seen 23 June)



and **White-Letter Hairstreak** (first seen 22 June)

Marbled White Butterflies have again been seen on the Holly Hill Open Space and a single individual has been seen in Braeburn Park. A **White-Letter Hairstreak** has been seen in a Private Garden.



The 2018 Butterfly' Data Set contains 1,305 (one thousand three hundred and five) Lines of Records.

Of the 2018 Records, around 24% (twenty-four percent) relate to Sightings on the Crossness Nature Reserve and Surrounding area, 11% or so (eleven percent) to Sightings in Gardens (at Home), 9% or so (nine percent) to Sightings on the Holly Hill Open Space, 9% or so (nine percent) to Sightings in the Upper Bedon Stream area and 8% or so (eight percent) to Sightings in Braeburn Park.

2018 Butterfly' Sightings have been Recorded from 47 (forty-seven) Locations (including Gardens at Home as a single Location).

Moths continue to be under-recorded with just 28 (twenty-eight) Species of Moth included in the 2018 Moth' Data Set: Species represented include **Burnet Companion, Buttoned Snout, Cinnabar, Mint, Mother of Pearl, Mother Shipton** and **Silver Y.**

The Sighting of a **Buttoned Snout** Moth (in a Private Garden) is of particular significance since the Species is recognized as being Nationally Scarce.

2018 Moth' Sightings have been Recorded from 14 (fourteen) Locations (again including Gardens at Home as a single Location).

The Second of the Scheduled **Butterfly Walks** took place on 21 June on the **Southern (Erith) Marsh**. Butterfly Species seen: **Brown Argus, Comma, Common Blue, Essex Skipper, Green-Veined White, Large Skipper, Large White, Meadow Brown, Red Admiral, Ringlet, Small Skipper, Small Tortoiseshell** and **Small White**.

And the Third Walk took place on 30 June on the **Holly Hill Open Space**. Butterfly and Moth Species seen: **Essex Skipper, Gatekeeper, Green-Veined White, Holly Blue, Marbled White, Meadow Brown, Peacock, Ringlet, Small Copper, Small Skipper, Small Tortoiseshell** and **Cinnabar** Moth.

Summaries of the Fourth and Fifth Walks, on the **Crossness Nature Reserve** and the **East Wickham Open Space** respectively, will be included in the next Issue of 'The Bexley Lepidopterist'.

Acknowledgements: with thanks to [i] Jim Butler for the picture of a Silver-Washed Fritillary, [ii] Donna Zimmer for the picture of a **Marbled White** Butterfly and [iii] Andrew Thompson for the picture of a **White-Letter Hairstreak** Butterfly.

Mike Robinson ~ 9 July 2018