

The Bexley Lepidopterist

Issue No. 6 (as at 31 August 2018)



Compiled by Mike Robinson ~ September 2018

There have been Recorded Sightings of 29 (twenty-nine) Butterfly' Species in the London Borough of Bexley during 2018. Butterfly' Species seen:

Brimstone (first seen 16 March)
Brown Argus (first seen 18 May)
Comma (first seen 14 March)
Common Blue (first seen 11 May)
Clouded Yellow (first seen 12 July)
Essex Skipper (first seen 21 June)
Gatekeeper viz. (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 viz. (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)

The 2018 Butterfly' Data Set contains almost 2,000 (two thousand) Lines of Records as at 31 August 2018.

2018 Butterfly' Sightings have been Recorded from 55 (fifty-five) Locations (including Gardens at Home as a single Location).

There will be another Series of Butterfly' Walks during 2019, including:

4 May 2019: on Foots Cray Meadows

15 June 2019: on the Holly Hill Open Space

13 July 2019: on the East Wickham Open Space

Could you do a Butterfly Transect?

Now in my second year of recording butterflies for Bexley. Why do I do it? That's easy; it's fun, it gets me out in the fresh air and I am learning more and more about butterflies. Hopefully it is helpful and useful to have the records of butterflies in an area.

With a butterfly transect you walk a fixed route every week if possible from the beginning of April to the end of September. You do not have to be up early as the best time to see butterflies is between 10.45 and 15.45 hours. I am retired so I do not want to be up at the crack of dawn. Butterflies like the sun and the warmth. You should only record the butterflies you see if the temperature is more than 13°C with sunny conditions, and more than 17°C in any weather, but not in the rain. That suits me nicely as I do not like getting wet either. As you walk your set route you look for butterflies 2.5 m each side of your pathway. I always take a chart to help me when identifying what I see. With experience, identifying skills improve. However, there is also the chance when you start that you will come across a species you have not observed before. It is thrilling when you make a new discovery. Some species are similar and you have time to look at them in flight and also see the underside of their wings. Looking for little details that tell them apart, is a challenge which I find satisfying. They are colourful and a delight to watch as they flit from flower to flower.

Over time I notice the different species emerging as the year progresses. As the seasons change from spring, to summer and autumn it is good to see the changes. I enjoy being out in the fresh air and delight in the beautiful surroundings that are on my doorstep without driving out into the countryside. The different wild flowers that appear and then disappear; the birds that fly by and don't give me a second glance as well as the fantastic insects that attract my attention. Getting to know 'my patch' is very rewarding. It is lovely to be able to experience the amazing things in nature that are there to be looked at in awe and wonder. What a good feeling it is. Why don't you get out there and do your little bit for nature?

Linda Graham

A Moth Trapping Session was held in Lesnes Woods on 21 August.

Moths seen: **Beautiful Carpet Moth, Black Arches Moth, Box Moth, Brimstone Moth, Centre-Barred Sallow Moth, Common Carpet Moth, Copper Underwing Moth, Light Emerald Moth, Maiden's Blush Moth, Meal Moth, Peach Blossom Moth, Vine's Rustic Moth** and **Wax Moth**.

Ian Holt, the Lesnes Estate Manager, is keen to hold further Moth Trapping Sessions and says, 'after the positive response of all those that attended I am hopeful that we can make this a Regular Event.

Ideally, we will look to cover different times of the year as well as different locations within the Wood and Park. It will be interesting to compare the findings with those we have from approximately 100 years ago.

This is not something that could be done without great volunteer support and in this case Ron Waters in particular.'

And finally: **Garden' Butterflies** viz. a Reminder that the Data Set identifies 21 (twenty-one) Species of Butterfly as being seen in Private Gardens during 2018: namely, **Brimstone, Comma, Common Blue** viz.



Essex Skipper, Gatekeeper, Green-Veined White, Holly Blue, Large Skipper, Large White, Meadow Brown, Orange-Tip, Painted Lady, Peacock, Red Admiral, Silver-Washed Fritillary, Small Copper, Small Skipper, Small Tortoiseshell, Small White, Speckled Wood and **White-Letter Hairstreak**.