

EAST MIDLANDS
Butterfly

ISSUE 79 – SPRING 2026

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**Butterfly
Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment



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Welcome to the Spring
2026 EMBC Newsletter.

Spring has to be the most welcomed time of the year. The long closed season for dedicated butterfly recorders is coming to an end as our over-wintering species awaken on warmer winter and spring days. Flowers open their enticing blooms calling on butterflies and other pollinators to top up their nectar reserves ahead of the new breeding season.

In this issue we will talk about the different ways you can record Lepidoptera and also look at ways you can attract more species into your garden.

Best regards. **Richard Jeffery**

Branch Organiser's Notes

As I write we have just emerged from a brief cold snap that came with an amber weather warning for snow and ice. Yes, we did have some snow, and yes we did have ice, but this is winter and this should be the norm. I would much rather get up to a cold, frosty morning knowing that it would be followed by a bright sunny day than have to endure day after day of grey, gloomy skies accompanied by drizzly rain.

Spring is just around the corner and so too is the butterfly recording season. It is also the time of year when we call on you, our loyal supporters, to join our ever growing team of butterfly recorders and encourage you to get out and about and record the butterflies and moths in your part of the region. In this issue we will discuss the various ways you can join in, no matter how much or little time you can spare. To paraphrase a well know supermarket chain; every little helps.

Remember to look out for any signs of butterflies emerging from their winter dormancy, and please make sure to notify your county recorder if you do see one.

Richard M. Jeffery

Recording and Monitoring

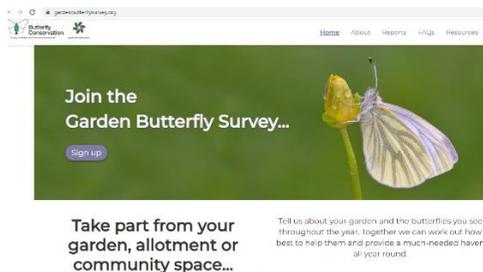
The keystone to everything that Butterfly Conservation does on a national, regional and local level is recording and monitoring our butterflies and moths. Without the vast number of records submitted by you we would not be able to understand how our Lepidoptera are faring, what species are doing well and what species need our intervention.

The data collated each and every year is verified and validated, and then submitted for inclusion in county and national databases. This data ultimately contributes to the 5-yearly State of Butterflies and State of Nature Reports. It also helps to formulate future conservation plans on a local and a landscape level.

We cannot stress highly enough how invaluable the data generated by everyone who records butterflies and moths is. It doesn't matter whether the records come from the open countryside, local nature reserves or residential gardens. Every record is useful. There are several ways that you can record the butterflies and moths you encounter, and I will go through them one by one.

The first one I would recommend, and it does not involve any travelling at all, is to look at what frequents your own little space; your own garden. Garden butterflies have been long overlooked and it is only in recent years that the value of gardens has been recognised in helping biodiversity in its myriad forms.

The total area of gardens in the UK equates to more than that of all of our nature reserves added together



The Garden Butterfly Survey scheme was set up by Butterfly Conservation to address this issue and records submitted via this scheme are beginning to highlight some important points. The main one being that our gardens can become important ‘stepping stones’ for our local wildlife by bridging the void between nature reserves and country parks.

The Garden Butterfly Survey can be accessed from any mobile device and allows for recording butterflies in real time. Once you have registered and logged your location using an interactive map, you can record the butterflies in your garden as and when you see them. Identifying the butterflies is made that much easier as each species listed is accompanied by a photograph to aid identification.

To register and to participate please use the following link:

<https://gardenbutterflysurvey.org/>

For members who are more interested in moths than by all means record the day-flying moths that you see in your garden. Any sightings can be recorded using the **i-Record** app or website and your record will be checked and verified by your county moth recorder(s).



Scarlet Tiger moth

Photo by Richard M. Jeffery

For the night owls among you, you can venture into the world of moth trapping. A word of warning is need here though. ***Moth trapping can become addictive.***



Beginner's Moth Trap

Moth trapping generally involves the use of a suspended light bulb (*usually a mercury vapour or actinic light bulb*) to attract moths at night. The moths fall into a suitable container under the light source, or even onto a white sheet, from where they can be identified and recorded. Placing egg trays in the containers provides shelter for the moths where they will happily rest until the container is emptied at first light. Emptying at first light is crucial here as many of our avian garden residents are often up before we are, and moths around the trap can provide a tasty breakfast.

For both day-flying and night-flying moths your records can be entered on to i-Record. For more details please use the following link:

<https://irecord.org.uk/>



If you would like to record butterflies in the open countryside, then why not consider signing up to one of our fixed route butterfly transects, established by what is now the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme.

It is an excellent way to learn about butterflies in the field and to meet up with like-minded people. Joining an established transect will allow the beginner to improve his or her identification skills by being paired up with a seasoned butterfly recorder. The

butterfly transect season always starts on the 1st of April and runs for 26 weeks, concluding at the end of September. The optimum is to aim for walking your transect on alternate weeks or, at least, one week in three. This allows the recorder to see the full range of butterflies throughout the season.

A transect is a fixed route that, once established, is never changed. This allows for accurate data to be recorded on the route year after year, and allows for population abundance trends to be plotted after a few years (usually 5) of recording.

Recording is carried out in a 5 metre cube, counting butterflies that are seen to the left, the right and in front of you.



Bardon Hill Quarry Leics. Transect Route

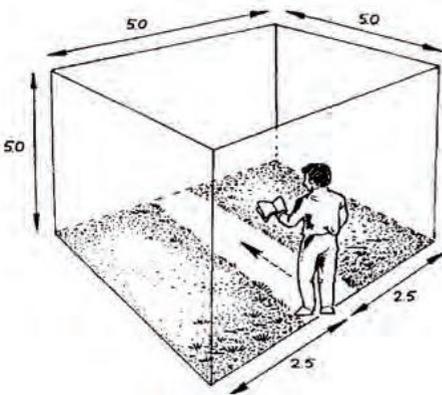
A transect walk can take anywhere between 45-60 minutes in April to 60-90 minutes (*or more*) at the height of summer.

All of the data recorded on the transect is uploaded onto the UKBMS website by a nominated member of the team. At the end of the season the data for all of the transects carried out in each county is processed by each County Butterfly Recorder for inclusion on both local and national databases.

This form of recording will invariably lead to a heightened interest in other flora and fauna. You will almost certainly start looking out for the larval and nectar food plants for the butterflies you see. I have developed an interest recording bumblebees on my transects, and also a fascination for dragonflies and damselflies. Why not give it a go this year? A new journey awaits.

We currently have vacancies on several transects in each county. Please contact your local County Recorder for more information using the contact details shown on page 19.

Richard M. Jeffery



The transect recording cube.

It is recommended that you ignore any butterflies that appear from behind you as you may have already counted them (*unless it is a different species, of course*).

The Local Nature Recovery Strategies



The VC55 Local Nature Recovery Strategy logo

The Local Nature Recovery Strategies are legally binding commitments to halt, and even reverse the decline in biodiversity in England. Set up during the Rishi Sunak Conservative government and overseen by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), 48 responsible authorities were set up in England, each one responsible for setting up their own Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).

In the East Midlands we have 3 authorities. Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, and Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (VC55). Although each of the authorities has a defined boundary, each authority will work sympathetically with each of its neighbours as our flora and fauna are not aware of these boundaries.

They will also work closely with other organisations and partners to agree on each individual LNRS and to ensure that all key species and habitats get a fair representation. The same bodies will also ensure that the authorities deliver on the goals agreed over the short term (5, 10 and 15 years) and long term (25, 50 and 100 years).

Each authority will be required to draw up a species long-list and gradually whittle that down to a species priority list. They will also have to produce a local habitat map. Once done, they will then have to provide a written statement of biodiversity priorities.

Projects that are likely to be required include restoring wetlands/peatlands, planting of trees and hedgerows, sustainable management of existing

woodlands, heathlands and grasslands, joining up priority habitats and working closely with farmers to discuss habitat creation and sustainable food production.

The Derbyshire LNRS is still very much in the planning stage, but the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland LNRS was officially launched on the 8th of July 2025 and the Nottinghamshire LNRS launched in the autumn of 2025.

After much consultation and discussion 8 species of butterfly were included in the VC55 LNRS. They are:

Black Hairstreak and **White-letter Hairstreak**. Both species needing the creation of more quality habitat and joining up existing habitat.



Black Hairstreak
Photo by Richard M Jeffery

Grizzled Skipper, Dingy Skipper, Wall, Small Heath and Dark Green Fritillary. These are species with specific requirements for habitat management and will benefit from connection to nearby habitat.



Dark Green Fritillary
Photo by Richard M Jeffery

White Admiral. A species of broadleaf and mixed woodland that needs more evidence to ascertain precise locations, to understand the reasons for the species decline and work out what actions are required to halt the decline. The species seems to be expanding its territory in neighbouring Northamptonshire and could potentially do the same in VC55.



White Admiral
Photo by Chris Laycock

At the time of writing I do not have a copy of the short-list of VC55 moths, but I hope to provide an update in a future newsletter.

Delivery of the goals of each LNRS is down to each authority. Whilst there are no statutory requirements that any proposals MUST be carried out, incentives have been put in place to ascertain how the requirements for Biodiversity Net Gain are calculated and to recognise the endeavours in taking action to meet the LNRS proposals. Environmental charities will be expected to prove that any applications for external funding will also benefit the relevant LNRS.

The Local Nature Recovery Strategies are being put in place to help reverse the decline in biodiversity and halt habitat loss, whilst at the same time improving our wellbeing and providing us with a sustainable future. Now that could and should be a win/win for everyone.

Richard M. Jeffery

Conservation Work – Winter 2025-26

Despite the unpredictable weather this winter, work has continued improving habitat for the Grizzled Skipper in Nottinghamshire. As per previous years, the work parties were led by Chris Jackson, Biodiversity Officer for the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group, and supported by a team of dedicated volunteers.

Much of the work involves scrub clearance to enhance the habitat to

support a wide range of invertebrates, with the Grizzled Skipper butterfly being the key species.



***Scrub Clearance - Kilvington, S. Notts
– before*** Photo by Chris Jackson



***Scrub Clearance - Kilvington, S. Notts
- after*** Photo by Chris Jackson

Chris says that “*this site is developing into a haven for wildlife and supports an incredible diversity of habitats and species across the site*”

Scrub clearance aims to create a series of clearings within the vegetation offering sheltered areas of grassland ideal for bees, butterflies and other pollinators. The spaces created allow for further planting of the Grizzled Skipper’s larval food plants, with

Agrimony and wild Strawberry being planted. The plants were raised from seed or cuttings and nurtured by skilled volunteers until they were ready for planting out.

It will be interesting to see how the population of Grizzled Skipper butterflies respond to the enhancement that has taken place. Only time will tell.

Gardening for Butterflies

Emerging from a Winter Sleep

As winter draws to a close and Spring begins to dawn, some of our hardier insects begin to venture out on warmer days seeking to top up on nectar reserves before the flight season begins in earnest. It is imperative, therefore, to cater for this early emergence by planting the right plants either in the garden or in planters grouped together.

Plants that will flower at the end of February and throughout March and April will provide that invaluable nectar source that the early risers will need. At this time of the year garden centres and nurseries will be tempting us to buy with plants for sale in full bloom. Look out for the following:

Aubretia, Bugle, Forget-me-not, Grape Hyacinth, Heather, Kilmarnock Willow, Lungwort, Sweet Rocket, Sweet William and Wild Primrose.

It is a good idea to group your containers together in a sunny corner of your garden so that the butterflies do

not have to search for their nectar and they are sheltered from any cold winds.

Now is also the time to plant for the summer season to provide a source of nectar and also to provide food plants for the larvae to feed on. Try Bird's Foot Trefoil, Buddleia, Catmint, Clover, Cosmos, Cranesbill, Dahlia (single flowered varieties), Hebe, Honeysuckle, Ivy, Knapweed, Lavender, Michaelmas Daisy, Red or White Valerian, Sage, Thyme and perennial Wallflower.



Orange Tip feeding on Aubretia

Photo by Richard M. Jeffery

The above list of plants is just a sample of the options available and I would encourage you all to investigate further. If you can, do get out and visit other gardens and make a note of the plants that attract the most pollinators.

What I would strongly recommend is that you source your plants from nurseries that grow their plants in a peat-free compost. The total ban on peat based composts is long overdue in my opinion and it really is time the horticultural trade got its act together. Nurseries and garden centres can no

longer use the poor excuse that peat-free composts are inferior to the standard composts that have been used for decades. Many nurseries have been growing sustainably for many years and with great success. This year, all nurseries exhibiting at any of the R.H.S garden shows must grow their plants in peat-free compost.



Green Carpet moth

Photo by Richard Jeffery

Some of the plants that are available for sale are also grown in composts that have been pre-treated with fungicides and pesticides. Beware of plants that are labelled a pollinator friendly. Some are not. Look out for specialist nurseries that genuinely grow sustainably and organically and source your plants from them. It may cost you a little more than your local garden centre, but it will be less harmful to your garden pollinators. You will also be supporting the smaller nurseries that do struggle to compete with the large chains. Many nursery men and women have a vast knowledge of plants and plant propagation. This knowledge is in danger of being lost as nurseries close, never to re-open.

For the more experienced gardeners, and for those who wish to try for the

first time, why not consider growing your plants from seed? If you wish to add some native wildflowers to your patch then do consider purchasing seed from a local nursery as these seeds will be more adapted to our local conditions.

If you do not have either the time, or conditions to raise your plants from seed then do consider purchasing plug plants. These are young plants that the nursery has already started into growth allowing you to pot them up and grow them on, ready for planting out as the ground warms up in spring.



Delivery of Wildflower Plug Plants

Plug plants and smaller 9cm pots of cultivated perennials are also available. Younger plants are cheaper to buy and establish much quicker than larger specimen plants available in garden centres.

Introducing just a few of the plants listed above into your garden or onto your allotment can make such a big difference. You will attract not only butterflies, but a whole host of other pollinators too.

Richard M. Jeffery

Dates for your Diary

Transect Training and Butterfly Identification Courses 2026

There is a free course available on **Sunday the 1st of March 2026** for volunteers who would like to be involved in transect walking in the East Midlands region during 2026 or for those of you who just need a refresher course.

The meeting runs from 11.30am to approximately 2.30pm and will include transect methodology training and a slide show of the region's butterflies to aid identification.

Tea, coffee, biscuits and home-made cakes will be provided.

The venue is the **Allestree Club, 39 Cornhill, Allestree, Derby, DE22 2FS** and it will be an opportunity to meet and seek advice from Ken Orpe, the Transect Co-ordinator for the East Midlands. Please book your place at this important free meeting by emailing Ken Orpe at ken.orpe@outlook.com

A second training session will be held on **Saturday 21st of March** at the **Pleasley Pit Nature Centre**, starting at 11.00am. This event will be run by Willy Lane and will appeal to volunteers who live in North-east Derbyshire and North Nottinghamshire.

Please contact Willy at the following email address for more details:

doeleaboy@gmail.com



Brimstone on Dandelion
Photo by Richard M. Jeffery

Summer Sales Events

We will be at the following events this summer if you would like to come along to see us (*more dates will be added over the coming weeks – please refer to our website for details*):

Sunday 24th May **PLEASLEY PIT WILDLIFE DAY** Postcode for SatNav NG19 7PH 10am - 4pm. Admission Free.

Friday 10th, Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th July. **GLOBAL BIRD FAIR** Lyndon Visitor Centre, Oakham, Rutland. LE15 8RN 9am – 5pm. Admission Charged. Tickets available on line or at the gate.

Saturday 25th, Sunday 26th July **WOODLAND FESTIVAL SHERWOOD FOREST TRUST** Thoresby Hall, Ollerton, Notts. NG24 0EP 10am - 4pm. Admission Free. Car Park Charge

Sunday 13th September **BURBAGE COMMON OPEN DAY** Hinckley. LE10 3DD 10am – 4pm. Admission Free

East Midlands Butterfly Conservation

Field Trip Programme 2026

These field trips are a great way to learn about butterflies and their habitat, there will be help with identification available and there will also be photographic opportunities. Walks are open to anyone to attend. Please check weather conditions and come suitably prepared.

The following is very important.

All walks must be pre-booked with the leader of the walk. This is essential so the leader can inform you if the walk is cancelled for any reason. Also, all walks will be limited to a maximum of 12 participants. If you arrive at a venue without booking, you could be turned away if the number of participants has reached its maximum.

Longstone Edge (Derbyshire)

Saturday 10 May

I propose meeting at **10.30am** in the big layby Grid Ref SK 199 730 on the single-track road that leaves Great Longstone on the left, just at the RHS bend in the village coming from Monsal Head. The St Crispin pub is just beyond this. If you see this you have gone too far!

This is a meet suitable for those who have difficulty getting around as the walking is very short and easy. There are no conveniences

Last year was a great success but even if we do not see many butterflies the views are wonderful from the car park. Hope to see you there.

Target Species: - *Green Hairstreak, Wall Brown, and other spring butterflies.*



Green Hairstreak

Photo by Christine Maughan

**Contact: John and Sylvia Green
07760 136369**

**Bingham Linear Park
(Nottinghamshire)**

Sunday 17 May

Meet at 10.00am at the bridge on Tithby Road in Bingham (grid ref SK 701393).
Approx NG13 8GP.

Target Species: *Spring butterflies - hopefully Grizzled Skipper.*

Wear stout walking boots or shoes as the ground is rough. No toilets or facilities so bring your own drink or snack. The walk is about 6 km and takes approx 2 hours.

Contact: Jenny Craig: 07979 355413

**Pleasley Pit Country Park, Pleasley
(Derbyshire)**

Sunday 24 May

Meet at the Pit Café (open 10.00am – 2.00pm) at **10.45am**, Post Code: NG19 7EY.



Small Blue

Photo by Christine Maughan

There are good facilities on the site and if members of the Pit Team are on site it

will be possible for anyone interested to have a tour of the Pit Top and Winding Houses.

Also well worth a mention is that Pleasley Pit Nature Study Group are holding their Wildlife Day on the same day, which means there will be a number of stalls representing a wide range of organisations, so plenty to look at and get involved in right throughout the day

The walk (weather permitting) should be easy going with two hours being the maximum time needed for the route.

Target species: *Countryside butterflies, plus there has been good numbers of Small Blues seen on site during the last five years.*

Directions: From M1, Junction 29 take the A617 to Mansfield. There is only one roundabout on the route, approximately 3.5 miles from the Motorway, at the roundabout take the 4th turn right, then take the first right up Pit Lane, drive past the first car park, go through the gate and turn right and drive up to the car park at the Pit. Approaching from Mansfield (A617), the roundabout is approximately 3.5 miles from Mansfield, at the roundabout take the first turn left, then following the instruction outlined above.

Contact: Willy Lane 07790 000770

New Lount Local Nature Reserve (Leicestershire)

Thursday 28 May

Meet at 11am in the car park.

New Lount Nature Reserve is situated on the site of New Lount Colliery, one of the shortest lived collieries in the area. The reserve offers walk through woodland, grassland and ponds with a wide variety of flora and fauna. The walk consists of grassy paths and there are several steps to the upper levels. Some areas can be wet and muddy so do consider bringing wellington boots or waterproof footwear.



Dingy Skipper

Photo by Richard Jeffery

There is a free car park at Rempstone Road Coleorton, LE67 8HR, but no toilet facilities. Nearest toilets and facilities (lovely cafe) are in Staunton Harold Garden Centre (LE65 1RU).

Target species: *Dingy Skipper and other spring butterflies.*

Contact: Richard Jeffery 07803 599247

Cloud Wood (LRWT) Nature Reserve (Leicestershire)

Tuesday 7 July

Meet: 2.00pm in the lay-by opposite the reserve.

Location: SK419214. (Postcode for SatNav DE73 8BG). Cloud Wood lies in the N.W. of Leicestershire, 1.5km S.E. of Breedon-on-the-Hill on the road between Tonge and Griffydam. It is part of the site of an ancient woodland that was originally coppiced in the traditional way. Parts of the wood are still coppiced by the Wildlife Trust in rotation, and other areas are left to grow naturally. There is a diverse range of flora and fauna present.

Nearest toilets and facilities (lovely cafe) are in Staunton Harold Garden Centre (LE65 1RU).

Target Species: *Silver-washed Fritillary, White-letter Hairstreak and Purple Emperor.*

Contact: Richard Jeffery 07803 599247

Beacon Hill Country Park, Charnwood (Leicestershire)

Saturday 18 July

Meet at the pay and display car park off Beacon Road, LE12 8SP, just below the summit, near toilets, at **11am**.

Beacon Hill is a site of ecological and geological importance and provides varied habitats for many plants and animals, with much of the site designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Target Species: *Purple Emperor*, *Purple Hairstreak* and other summer butterflies

Contact: Nick Sparrow 07914 768234.

Coombs Dale (Derbyshire)

Wednesday 22 July

Meet at 10.00am at the bottom of the Dale by the playing field where there is a parking area - SK 236751. It is on the A623 towards Stoney Middleton. There is also parking around Calver crossroads.



Dark Green Fritillary
Photo by Richard M Jeffery

Target species: *Dark-Green Fritillary*, *Brown Argus* and other summer butterflies

Morning walk finishes around 12.30pm.
Facilities available in nearby pub and cafe.

Contact: Al Roberts: 07752 675363

New Butterfly Book



A SIXTY YEAR BUTTERFLY ODYSSEY
FROM THE UK TO SWITZERLAND AND BACK



DENNIS DELL



Book Cover Photo

It is with great pleasure that I can inform you of a pending book release from our friend and supporter Dennis Dell. Many of you will know Dennis and of his love for butterflies and the Purple Emperor in particular.

A Sixty Year Butterfly Odyssey tells of Dennis' butterfly journey, from his first encounter in Epping Forest in Essex, through to his 20 years in Switzerland and his subsequent return to the UK.

Dennis has garnered an incredible depth of knowledge throughout his lifetime and he shares that with us within the pages of this book. In Dennis' own words.....

“Nobody can fail to be fascinated by butterflies: their beautiful colouring, intricate wing patterns, and, above all, the miraculous transformation from egg to larva to pupa and finally to the adult butterfly. Apart from the larvae of the Small and Large Whites nibbling your cabbage leaves, they do no harm, and they perform a useful service as pollinators.

“I was hooked from the age of 10 when I encountered these beautiful creatures in Epping Forest, Essex. Because their larvae generally feed on the leaves of various wild plants, to see the less common species, it is necessary to visit wild, unkempt areas of countryside. Such

places have become more difficult to find as a result of increasing urbanisation and agricultural land use. Searches for the rarer species, in Switzerland and in the UK, took me to beautiful habitats: woodland, meadows, and hillsides.

“Just as rewarding has been meeting the many ‘kindred spirits’ during this long journey who share this fascination.”



Purple Emperor
Photo by Richard M. Jeffery

The book is to be published by Austin Macauley Publishers and is due for release on the 27th of February 2026. It is available in both paperback and hardback formats, and also as an ebook.

To pre-order a copy please follow the link below:

<https://www.austinmacauley.com/book/a-sixty-year-butterfly-odyssey>

**To the Butterfly by
John Clare**

(Northamptonshire Poet)

*Lovely insect, haste away,
Greet once more the sunny day;
Leave, O leave the murky barn,
Ere trapping spiders thee discern;*

*Soon as seen, they will beset
Thy golden wings with filmy net,
Then all in vain to set thee free,
Hopes all lost for liberty.*

*Never think that I belie,
Never fear a winter sky;
Budding oaks may now be seen,
Starry daisies deck the green,*

*Primrose groups the woods adorn,
Cloudless skies, and blossom'd thorn;
These all prove that spring is here,
Haste away then, never fear.*



Orange Tip male -

Photo by Richard M. Jeffery

*Skim o'er hill and valley free,
Perch upon the blossom'd tree;*

*Though my garden would be best,
Couldst thou but contended rest:*



Green Hairstreak

Photo by Christine Maughan

*There the school-boy has no power
Thee to chase from flower to flower,
Harbour none for cruel sport,
Far away thy foes resort;*

*Nought is there but liberty,
Pleasant place for thee and me.
Then hither bend thy roving flight,
In my garden take delight.*

*Though the dew-bent level dale
Rears the lily of the vale,
Though the thicket's bushy dell
Tempts thee to the foxglove's bell,*

*Come but once within my bounds,
View my garden's airy rounds,
Soon thou'lt find the scene complete,
And every flowret twice as sweet:*

*Then, lovely insect, come away,
Greet once more the sunny day.
Oft I've seen, when warm and dry,*

'Mong the bean-fields bosom high,

*How thy starry gems and gold
To admiration would unfold:
Lo! the arching heavenly bow
Doth all his dyes on thee bestow,*

*Crimson, blue, and watery green,
Mix'd with azure shade between;
These are thine--thou first in place,
Queen of all the insect race!*

*And I've often thought, alone,
This to thee was not unknown;
For amid the sunny hour,
When I've found thee on a flower,*

*(Searching with minutest gleg,
Oft I've seen thy little leg
Soft as glass o'er velvet glides
Smoothen down thy silken sides;*



Holly Blue
Photo by Iain Leach



Peacock
Photo by Richard M. Jeffery

*Then thy wings would ope and shut;
Then thou seemingly wouldst strut:
Was it nature, was it pride
Let the learned world decide.*

*Enough for me, (though some may
deem
This a trifling, silly theme,
Would'st thou in my garden come,
To join the bee's delightful hum;*

*These silly themes then, day and
night,
Should be thy trifler's whole delight.
Then, lovely insect, haste away,
Greet once more the sunny day.*

John Clare (1793-1864) grew up in rural Helpston, and was known for his celebrations of the English countryside.

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Annual General Meeting 2025:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who came along to our Annual General Meeting and Member's Day at the Allestree Club, Derby on the 23rd of November.

After the formalities of the AGM, the three County Recorders delivered updates on the butterfly year for each of the four counties. Melanie Penson then gave a presentation, bringing us up to date with her Clearwing and Forester moth project. Ken Orpe gave us a presentation on 50 years of the UKBMS and shared some of his own personal highlights from his 45 years of transect recording in Derbyshire. After the lunch break, Tony Davison gave us an illustrated and informative talk on Derbyshire moths, the Derbyshire moth recording team and the new Derbyshire moths website. To view the full minutes of the AGM, please use the following link:

<https://www.eastmidlands-butterflies.org.uk/downloads/EMBCAGM&MembersDay2025.pdf>

Richard M. Jeffery

Articles required for the next Newsletter

We would like to invite you, the members of East Midlands Butterfly Conservation, to participate in future editions of this newsletter. If anyone has an interesting story or item of news about butterflies and moths in your local area, in your garden or on your regular butterfly transect and would like to share it, then please feel free to send details to me, Richard Jeffery (*See contact details on page 19*). Please attach a high resolution photograph in JPEG format if you have one, and we will include your article in subsequent editions. The content can be either in the form of an email or as a Word document attached to your email.

The deadline to submit articles for the next issue is the 1st of June.

The views expressed within this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor, the Branch or of Butterfly Conservation nationally.

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