

# Archive Page

Sightings and news from January to June 2006

[▶ Archive Index](#)

[▶ Photo House Index](#)

This page contains sightings details of all the butterflies and moths reported to the [Sightings page](#) between January and June 2006.

Note: These pages have been copied from the original sightings page and some links will no longer work. All images of butterflies or moths have been removed, but most can be found in the [Photo House](#)

## June 2006

### Friday 30th June

I went to the [Cornmill Meadow](#) arrived at 9am left at 11.45am. I saw my first Gatekeeper of the year. I also saw 3 Red Admiral, 1 Painted Lady, Large and Small Skippers, 100 plus Meadow Browns, Ringlets and a Small White - Sandra Standbridge.

[Broxbourne Woods NR](#) - arrived 10.30 and 10.38 saw a grounded male Purple Emperor which moved up into a sallow at 11.25 and stayed there until at least 11.45. Also feeding alongside were white admirals, a red admiral and a comma. Then from 1pm, no sightings yet of territorial males over Claypits Wood (nr Brickendon) or Broxbourne Common - Andrew Middleton

### Thursday 29th June

[Park Wood, Ruislip](#) - 14 White Admiral, 1 Marbled White, 1 Ringlet, 4 Red Admiral, 2 Painted Lady, 2 Comma, a few Large Skipper, Large & Small White and numerous, Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood and Small Skipper but no Gatekeeper - Steve Pash

1 White letter Hairstreak at the [Commons N R. W.G.C](#) - Ian Hardy and Dave Beer

Barton Clay Pits just in Bedfordshire and just west of Ravensburgh Castle included: Dark Green Fritillery, Marbled White\* Red Admiral, Meadow Brown\*, Ringlet\*, Small Heath\*. \* = also at Hexton Chalk Pits and along the Hexton to Lilley road at Gravel Hill - Nigel Agar

First [Purple Emperors](#) seen in Hertfordshire at [Northaw](#) this lunchtime, 1 male initially and 1 clash seen - Andrew Middleton. Also, if anyone wants to join Andrew tomorrow (30th) to search for Pes along the ride at Broxbourne and later to monitor territories, welcome to join him - "I'll be at the west car-park from about 10.30am"

Going back to look for the golden skipper (LS) at [Mudchute LNR](#) that I missed last time, I visited the site today June 29th. I didn't find the skipper I expected to find but I did find an Essex Skipper instead. I also saw for the first time at the site Comma (2), Painted Lady (1), Red Admiral (3) & Meadow Brown (2) raising the species sightings for the site to 14 this season. Also seen today, Speckled Wood (5), Green Veined White (2), Small White (4) & Small Tortoiseshells (2) - David Chandler

### Wednesday 28th June

2 White letter Hairstreak, opposite [Oakwood Tube Station](#) this evening also 2 Ringlet in [Trent Park](#) and a male Purple Hairstreak at [Vicarage Farm](#) - Robert Callf

I spent 3 hours in [Broxbourne Woods](#) from 9am until 12pm. I saw 1 Painted Lady, 1 Comma, Meadow Browns and Ringlets. The weather was overcast with only a glimpse of the sun. I did have a couple of sightings of a large black & white Butterfly high in the

Sallows.(Near the seat where Nick's photo was taken.) But regret I am unable to give a positive I.D. - Sandra Standbridge

Tuesday 27th June

Moira and I drove to **Bricket Wood** and parked in School Lane. Cloudy-bright, warm day. We followed the path sign-posted as leading to Bucknalls Lane. We saw Small and Large Skippers, Marbled White x 2, White Admiral x 2, Speckled Wood, Meadow Brown, Burnet Moths & Grasshoppers. They were all in prime condition. Didn't have the camera with me but will on the next visit! - Glen Barnes

Some news from **Horsenden Hill** over the weekend, including the joint LNHS/BC walk on Sunday. Saturday 24th June: Continuing on from last year, decent numbers of White-letter Hairstreaks on the Horsenden West transect. A total of at least 19 individuals were recorded on the day, 18 of which were on the transect (4/8 sectors). [No Gatekeeper this week, but I had an early individual on the previous weeks transect (17th June).]

Sunday 25th June: The joint LNHS/BC event attracted about 15 participants. Conditions were mainly overcast and a little on the cool side. We started off with Dave showing highlights of the previous evenings trap which included 'show stoppers' like Poplar and Elephant Hawk Moths and other stunners like Buff Tip, Buff Arches and Burnished Brass. Dave had a starting theme around moths that have either declined or increased in recent years and I thought this part of the event was well received. Butterfly numbers were a little low on the walk but we managed about half a dozen White-letters buzzing over some low elms before the discovery of a nectaring individual allowed good views for all. The timing was fortunate as we had a little sunshine early on that disappeared after we had seen the Hairstreaks. We then continued walking around the site picking up various items of interest of which the longhorn beetle *Agapanthea villoviridescens* probably took top billing. Otherwise, butterfly numbers were down and we were limited to Meadow Browns, Speckled Woods, Comma, Small Skippers and a few day-flying moths like Narrow-bordered 5-spot Burnet and Burnet Companion - Andrew Culshaw

Had a trip to **The Commons**, local nature reserve in Welwyn Garden City today with Ian Hardy looking for White-letter Hairstreak, but had no luck, weather was overcast and warm, did not see any sun. We did see 5 Small Skippers, 1 Gatekeeper, 4 Large Skipper, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Small White, 20+ Ringlet and 30+ Meadow Brown and a Yellow Belle Moth - Steve Lane

First Ringlet of the year seen in **Tewin** Garden today - Jim Farr

Out of county news - Bedford's Park, **Romford, Essex**. 2 White letter hairstreaks on elms at south end of park this morning - Ian Phillips

Monday 26th June

I was walking back from the shops on the afternoon of Saturday June 24th and was in Reeds Crescent in Central Park **Watford** when I saw a female Common Blue nectaring on a ragwort plant. It was very pleasing to confirm to myself that the small colony of Common Blues are surviving in central Watford - David Chandler

News from Saturday 24th - Another mad dash around Southern England, 2 sites in Somerset, 1 in Wiltshire and 1 in Hampshire. Somerset, 3 Silver-washed Fritillary, Meadow Brown and Large Skipper. Then to another site for Large Blue, Common Blue, Small Heath, Marbled White, Ringlet, Meadow Brown. Next Bentley Wood, 25+ Silver-washed Fritillary, 20+ White Admiral, 2 Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, the high-lights. And finally to Hampshire, 100+ Silver-studded Blue - Steve Lane (with John Tomkins, Dave Beer and Ian Hardy)

We had thirty nine Heath Fritillaries on 23rd June in Essex - Ian Hardy and Dave Beer

Sunday 25th June

A walk I did today on **Stanmore Common** saw a White Admiral. It was seen here two years ago. Lots of Honeysuckle around - John Hollingdale

We started our walk at **Balls Wood** at 9.00am and saw 7 White Admiral, **1 Small Skipper**, 16 Large Skipper, 4 Meadow Brown, 10 Ringlet, 7 Speckled Wood, 1 Large White, 2 Comma, 1 Red Admiral, we then walked along **Ermine Street** at 10.20 and saw 8 Large Skipper, 2 Speckled Wood, 3 Ringlet, 4 Meadow Brown, 50 Peacock Caterpillars. Went into **Broxbourne Woods** at 11.00 and saw 8 White Admiral, 3 Speckled Wood, 3 Small White, 14 Ringlet, 16 Large Skipper, **6 Small Skipper**, 5 Red Admiral, 1 Comma, 2 Large White, 18 Peacock Caterpillars, 5 Meadow Brown, 15 Cinnabar caterpillars, finished at 1.30pm - Kevin & Sandra Standbridge

Spent the morning looking for White letter in my **decad (TL41)**, targetted 4 tetrads and found individuals in all 4. Maximum time spent was 30 minutes finding suitable elm, or more to the point elm with ash and maple that had good visibility and didn't involve being knocked down by a car! The best colony where I saw about 9 was in the infamous **Kettle Green** tetrad! Finding Large Skipper was a different matter with only 1 individual and that was in a tetrad where they had already been recorded - Liz Goodyear

On Friday 23rd saw my first Ringlet of the year in my **Stevenage garden**, also Painted Lady - Steve Lane

Saturday 24th June

**M1/M25 Junction area**, Large White 2, Red Admiral 2, Peacock 1, Marbled White 22 - most of sightings were on the motorway embankments around junction 6A M1, Meadow Brown 20, 23rd June: **Watford**, Painted Lady 1 - Flying around ringroad - Bob Cripps

I had good (if brief) views of a HB Hawkmoth in our back garden at **Puckeridge** today - Murray Orchard

Spent 3 hours over **Fishers Green**, saw **2 Small Skippers** the first of the year for us. We also saw 2 Red admiral, 30 plus Meadow Brown, 2 Speckled Woods, 12 5- spot Burnet Moths - Sandra and Kevin Standbridge  
**Broxbourne Wood NR**, 2 White Admiral, numerous Ringlet and Meadow Brown, also Speckled Wood and Comma - Several observers attending a HMWT Butterfly Workshop. Later at **Brickendon Green**, several active White-letter Hairstreak on the remaining elm - Liz Goodyear & Andrew Middleton

Friday 23rd June

First sightings of Marbled Whites (5) on my **Bunkers Park transect** - Michael Pearson

Ken Willmott the nation's true Purple Emperor expert saw 2 Purple Emperor at Bookham Common today - we are now on total alert! - Liz Goodyear

I was pleased to eventually see 2 white-letter hairstreaks in each of 3 tetrads through **Edmonton** where I'd spied a few elms earlier in the year. I also found 1-2 large skippers in each, several fresh commas, a hummingbird hawkmoth and a **purple hairstreak** high around a lime in **Tatum Park near the A10/North Circ roundabout** - Andrew Middleton

A White Admiral briefly on bramble blossom at 3pm in a **Garston garden**: the first-ever record for the site, which is just 1 km west of Bricket Wood - Colin Everett

Thursday 22nd June

I went to **Balls Wood** at 1.30pm today and left at 3.30pm and saw **2 White Admirals**, 3 Comma, 5 Meadow Brown, 14 Large Skippers, 6 Speckled Wood - Sandra Standbridge.

Did some tetrad bashing in **TL41** assisted by Andrew Middleton today, hoping to find White-letter Hairstreak and Large Skipper!!! Should have known better with wind strength and cloud but managed three tetrads in 5 hours with the grand total of finding Large Skipper/WLHS in 2 out of 3 tetrads! Spent 1 1/2 hours in one tetrad without a Large Skipper but one pristine White-letter nectaring on White Bryony - Liz Goodyear

Wednesday 21st June

**Maple Cross, Ladywalk Wood**, close to M25 minimum of **20 very active White-letter**

**Hairstreak** making use of field maple and ash, also Large Skipper, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Red Admiral, Painted Lady and Comma - Ann Piper with Andrew Middleton and Liz Goodyear

I saw our first **White Admiral** at **Ruislip** on Sunday June 18th - Ched George

Just back from Slovenia, where I spent a few days looking for butterflies in and around the meadows near Lake Bohinj. Butterflies were not as abundant in comparison to the profusion of wildflowers but nevertheless found a few interesting ones. I also saw a few moths and beetles including a Green Tiger beetle catching an ant! - Bob Hasra

Tuesday 20th June

I spent 4 1/2 hours looking for White Admirals, but no luck YET. However, did see my first Ringlet's of the year 2 in Balls Wood and 1 in Broxbourne Woods. I started my walk at **Balls Wood**, went along **Ermine Street**, then crossed the road at Goose Green and entered **Broxbourne Woods**. I then turned right by the pond and walked to the top of the hill. All along the route were Large Skippers. I also saw Meadow Browns, 1 Painted lady, 3 Red Admirals - Sandra Standbridge.

Today 20th at **Aldbury Nowers**: 1 Marbled White, 15 Ringlet, 3 Large Skipper, 20+ Meadow Brown plus Brown Argus, Common Blue, Painted Lady, Red Admiral, Brimstone, Small Heath, Speckled Wood. Also amongst various moth caterpillars seen: The Mullein - very obvious at the moment on the food-plant - Andrew Palmer

**Ickleford**, weather today not ideal with fairly stiff breezes blowing across the site. Marbled Whites up to 9 (probably more. Also good numbers of Meadow Brown and Small Heath and my first **Ringlet** of the year - Simon Crockford

11.30 am 20 June 2006 **Wood Lane, Pirton Transect** First sighting here of a Marbled White - see photo attached. 4 Meadow Browns, 4 Small Heath, 6 Speckled Wood, 1 Orange Tip and 3 Large White (huge specimens)- Val Fullforth

Thought I'd send in some recent reports from my lunchtime (from work) walks at **Ickleford**. All sightings are between 12:10 & 12:45 (approx)- Friday 16th June: Several Large Skipper (10+) all appeared to be females. **1 Marbled White**, Several Common Blue, Small Heath, Speckled Wood and white Sp. + unidentified Burnet sp. Monday 19th June: **4 Marbled White**, 4 Large Skipper (again all female), Red Admiral, 6+ Meadow Brown, 3 or 4 Small Heath, Speckled Wood - Simon Crockford

Monday 19th June

Sightings for today. Weather not perfect, a bit overcast and windy, but still warm. **Great Ashby District Park**; 40+ Meadow Browns, 25+ Painted Lady, 3 Large Skippers, Speckled Wood, Common Blue and Brown Argus. On Saturday 17th June, with Trevor Brownsell, had another rush around ticking of species in an attempt to see all the mainland species in a season. 80+ Black Hairstreak, Strumpshaw Fen, Norfolk - 8 Swallowtail, and Essex - 100+ Heath Fritillary. Now on 35 species - Steve Lane

Sunday 18th June

Improvement continues... male Orange-Tip in the garden (**Hemel Hempstead**) today. Haven't seen one since 25th May! Humming-Bird Hawk Moth back for third day running on Red Valerian. Painted Lady on and around same plant for two hours. Speckled Wood and Holly Blue also seen. Very worn Peacock yesterday. Three almost fully grown Brimstone caterpillars on Purging Buckthorn at allotment wildlife garden - Malcolm Newland

On our **Kenwood transect** on the 13th, we had a really good view of a very deep yellow butterfly with what appeared to be black marginal bands on its wings. It was flying at about 2 - 3 metres, very powerfully and rapidly, heading from south to north along the woodland edge of our West Meadow. It was certainly the right size and shape for a Clouded Yellow and it was absolutely nothing like any of our other species so far recorded at Kenwood which include a respectably large population of Brimstone (2 seen today engaging in their usual activities 200m away and, it must be said, in our Kitchen

Garden approx 1km away, our 1st Painted Lady on Verbena) - Mike Taylor (Kenwood Transect)

Ware garden, even I had my first Painted Lady of the year in my garden - Liz Goodyear

Saturday 17th June

Saw my first HBHM of the year last Thursday (15th) at seven in the morning in the garden (Tring), and probably the same one again at five o'clock. Seen so little else of note this season that it was a very pleasant surprise - Colin Sturges

June 16/17 saw lots of Silver Y moths feeding at red campion in my garden around 9.30pm. And more silver Ys during the daytime fluttering around nettle and bramble. Today at **Ladywalk Wood in Maple Cross** saw my first Hummingbird Hawkmoth feeding on honey suckle and my first Meadow Brown browsing through bramble. A couple of Speckled Woods, 1 peacock and 1 small tortoiseshell made up the total. Not too much around at the moment - Ann Piper

I spent 4 hours over **Fishers Green** today and saw 1 Red Admiral, 2 Common Blue, 1 White and 5 Painted Ladies, 3 of which were nectar feeding on the same bramble bush. I watched them for about 3/4 of an hour and during this time 2 had a tussle, flying really high then coming back to the same bush to feed again. No Large Skippers or Meadow Browns seen. Although I did see 1 last week in Dorset. Then went over to **Balls Wood** at 3.45 and saw a Hummingbird Hawkmoth, 16 Large Skippers, 4 Meadow Browns, 3 Commas, 8 Speckled Woods, 2 Red Admirals, Oak rollers and Hundreds of Peacock Caterpillars. We were looking for White Admirals but no sign at present. We also saw 1 Large skipper and 2 Painted Ladies on the outskirts of Balls Wood - Sandra and Kevin Standbridge

Hemel Hempstead, after a very quiet spell things started to improve today with three Holly Blues seen after a gap of thirty two days. Also saw three Large Whites one of which nectared on *Erysimum* "Bowles Mauve" as did a Red Admiral. A Speckled Wood arrived while my first Humming-Bird Hawk Moth of the year visited Red Valerian - Malcolm Newland

Friday 16th June

During 2 hours of dragonfly survey work at **King's Mead** today on a hot sunny day, I only managed to see 1 butterfly - a cracking **Clouded Yellow**. I've had worse days !! Alan Reynolds

I spent 3 hours at the **Cornmill Meadows** and saw 1 Large Skipper, 12 plus Meadow Browns, 2 Red Admirals, 1 Painted Lady, 3 Large White and 3 Common Blues - Sandra Standbridge

Thursday 15th June

I had a **Stevenage** garden first today - 2 Painted Lady's - Steve Lane

Wednesday 14th June

We took a walk tonight over to **Balls Wood** and saw some nice moths, a Beautiful Golden Y, Light Emerald, Drinker & Blood-Vein, Oak Rollers & several Swift moths, not sure of which ones too fast . Some photos attached - Sandra & Kevin Standbridge

Tuesday 13th June

Went to the Isle of Wight on Sunday; 200+ Glanville Fritillary, 25+ Painted Lady, 25+ Dingy Skipper, plus Common Blues and Hummingbird Hawkmoth. Then we went to Bonchurch Down; 15+ Adonis Blue, 40+ Common Blue, lots of Dingy Skippers, Whites, 2 Wall. In my **Stevenage garden** over the last few days; Speckled Woods, 1 Comma and lots of Whites - Steve Lane (Trevor Brownsell and John Tomkins on the Isle of Wight)

Monday 12th June

We had 1 Hummingbird Hawkmoth briefly in our garden in **Berkhamsted** about 7.30pm today - Michael Anderson

At 8 40 am this morning at **Russel Ave, St Albans** I was surprised to see a Yellow Sulphur Butterfly. I followed it for about 30 seconds as it flew along the road until it disappeared over a fence into gardens. It was smaller than a Brimstone - about Small White size & and paler in colour The temperature was mid20 degrees & the sun bright, so do not think its a Brimstone Moth It was most similar to the North American sulphurs I saw in New England in April 2001 Anyone seen anything similar or has any suggestions what it might be? - Malcolm Hull

Painted ladies seem to have appeared in abundance in the last couple of days. I saw two at **Rothamsted** today and other possibles zapping through. My prediction is a record generation later in the year - Ian Woivod

**Saturday 10th June**

A stroll after 6.00pm when the weather had cooled somewhat yielded my first 2 Painted Ladies of the year. One was patrolling a south west facing hedge along the border of **Maple Cross** school to be joined briefly by a second one twirling into the air. I also saw 2 large skippers in roughly the same place as last time. There were also some larval webs and a batch of tiny caterpillars almost certainly peacocks. The previous day I saw my first small tortoiseshell caterpillar of the year. In addition 1 silver Y moth fluttered through the undergrowth and a single peacock was basking on the path - Ann Piper

I saw my first Large Skipper of the year in meadows along the **River Pinn at Ruislip Golf Course**. Painted Lady, Speckled Wood, Comma, Holly and Common Blue also present on **9th June**. - Steve Pash

Rather disappointing walk in **Broxbourne Woods** today (Saturday June 10th). Only saw two Speckled Woods and two Speckled Yellow moths. However, I did see two grass snakes swimming in the pond and then later back at home in **Cheshunt** my watching of the England game was interrupted by a Meadow Brown which flew through the open patio doors and then out again - Roger Newbold

**Therfield area:** a very early morning walk produced Painted Lady, Peacock and five Speckled Wood on the Icknfield Way, plus a Brown Argus and five Small Heath on Therfield Heath - Martin Shepherd

**Friday 9th June**

Ched George and I saw an early **Meadow Brown** yesterday afternoon (8/6/06) in meadows adjacent to **Copse wood, Ruislip** (between Copse Wood and Ducks Hill road), Ruislip. Also, 2 - 3 Common Blue and lots (probably 100+) of Burnet Companion moth in the same area - Steve Pash

**Thursday 8th June**

**Waterford Heath**, 2 Grizzled Skipper in north pit. South Pit 3 Grizzleds and Brown argus 17 Small heath 5, Common blue 7, Burnet companion 6, Orange tip 1, Brimstone 1 - Andrew Middleton

Roger Gibbons is in the South of France at the moment and sent this message "We've seen 80 species so far and visiting various sites at weekly intervals always reveals some new species just emerged. Most sites around here yield 30+ species in an afternoon visit and I'm coming to the conclusion that so-called rarities such as osiris blue, yellow-banded skipper (a strange pyrgus underside), spanish festoon, and several others are quite widespread but at lowish density and confined to small colonies centred around the larval foodplant. We also have a regular breakfast visitor - either a southern white admiral or a cardinal or heath frit or, most usually, a two-tailed pasha (even though this chap only has one of his long tails left) - he can't resist the rotting banana and rum mixture and can be approached quite closely when he's competely pie-eyed".

**Tuesday 6th June**

**Mudchute LNR**, it being a lovely day today plus hearing reports that Large Skippers are emerging, I decided to pay the site a second visit this week. Unfortunately, I didn't find any skippers but I did find a pair of Small Coppers, raising my species sightings for the site to nine this season. Also seen Common Blue (1), Speckled Wood (6), Green Veined



White (8), Small White (3), Large White (1) & Brimstone (1) - David Chandler

News from 3rd June: **Wheathampstead LNR** - 4 male Common Blue, 3 Orange-tip and 1 Peacock. 2nd June Friday - **Pegsdon Hills**: 5 Green Hairstreak, 11 Dingy Skippers, 1 Peacock, 6 Brown Argus, 10 Small Heath and a few **Cinnabar**, Burnet Companion, Mother Shipton and Pyrausta moths. **Hoo Bit**: 2 Common Blue. **Hexton Pit**: 2 Dingy Skipper, 1 Small Heath. **Sharpenhoe**: 1 Dingy Skipper, 1 Common Blue, 1 Green Hairstreak, 3 Small Heath, 2 Brimstone, 1 Large White, 1 Brown Argus. **Ivinghoe**: 1 Peacock, 1 Red Admiral, 20 Small Heath, 5 Brown Argus, 3 Brimstone, 1 Large White, 7 Dingy Skipper, 1 Common Blue, 1 Green Hairstreak. - so a good day out. 1 Duke of Burgundy was also seen - Trevor Chapman

Monday 5th June

I went for my lunchtime walk around **Mudchute Park in Tower Hamlets** [in the Middx tetrad bit] today (5/06/06) to look for June species. I was very pleased to add a new species to my list of those seen for 2006 - a freshly emerged male Common Blue. Other species seen today were: 12 Green Veined White, 6 Small White & 3 Speckled Wood. I'll go back again to the site on a sunny day in July to see what "Browns" have emerged in the long grassland areas - Dave Chandler

Was rowing down the River Bure on Sunday, when I saw a Swallowtail in a neighbour's garden. I had to moor up, get out of the dinghy...and get into the neighbour's garden. Then rush back get the camera, change the lens as the swallowtail was high up in a lilac and rush back. It was still there! This was my first sighting of a Swallowtail near my mother's in 35 years!! What a sighting - Liz Goodyear

A mix of pictures that may be of interest (*not all posted due to space and time*). The Duke must be a female looking at the brightness and width of her abdomen! Also saw Dingy on Bramble but it was clearly nectaring and a The Drinker caterpillar was on grass in amongst nettles. The Small Blues in Bedfordshire were fascinating with around 40 on one area of well weathered chalk debris in one small area, clearly taking nutrients from the surface - mostly (all?) males. Around 8 were seen on dog poo. Over a 100 seen during an evening stroll. A couple were several 100m away from the colonies but I have yet to work out the distance - Andrew Palmer

We went to Bedfordshire to look for Small Blues, we saw 10 male & 2 female Brimstones, 5 Male Orange Tips, Small Heath, 3 Large White, Common Blue, Holly Blue and 50 plus Small Blue. Weather very hot & sunny but also very windy, visited between 2.00pm to 5.00pm. Also saw strange black fat bug, do you know what it is or anyone else who may be able to help, never seen it before. Pics of Small Blue mating & fat black bug attached - Sandra & Kevin Standbridge

On Friday 2nd June, Steve Lane, with Tony Hukin, Trevor Brownsell and Ian Hardy went 'south' to look for butterflies. This is their report "First stop Bentley Wood; 20+ Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, 8+ Pearl-bordered Fritillary, 1 Painted Lady, 1 Peacock, Large White and Speckled Wood. Onto Martin Down, first stop, 100+ Small Blues, Grizzled and Dingy Skippers, Painted Lady, Common Blues, to name a few. Second carpark stop; 20+ Adonis Blues, 30+ Small Blues, 12+ Marsh Fritillary, Small Copper, Green Hairstreak, Grizzled and Dingy Skippers, Painted Lady. Final stop Portland; 8+ Wall, 8+ Adonis Blue, 1 Clouded Yellow. A Narrow-bordered Bee Hawkmoth was also seen during the day. A trip list of 23 species in total."

Sunday 4th June

Had a stroll round **Maple Cross and West Hyde** this afternoon and saw my **first Large Skipper** of the year sitting on a grass stem. I got close enough for a good look and then it flitted away. Also saw 2 pristine peacocks, 3 male orange tips, 2 large whites and several small/green veined whites. A red admiral darted off at my approach. As a bonus I also met an Emperor dragonfly, many small blue damselflies, a cinnabar moth and a silver Y. Oh yes and a rabbit scuttled past as well! - Ann Piper

**Stevenage transect 3 June 1030-1145**, ideal weather (100% sunshine, very light winds

& temperature about 18 degrees) but only 3 butterflies seen - Small Copper, Speckled Wood and Green-Veined White! - Peter Clarke

**Saturday 3rd June**

Guy Manners and a fellow walker went for a long walk around the **Pegsdon Hills in and out of Hertfordshire/Beds** on Saturday..."We started in Hertfordshire on the Hitchin Road with a male Orange Tip. From there to the entrance to Deacon Hill (Icknield Way, Herts/Beds), we logged 2 male Brimstone, 1 white sp., 1 Large White, 1 Holly Blue. Around Deacon Hill (Beds), we clocked 1 Dingy Skipper, 1 white sp., 1 "large" white sp., 1 Green Hairstreak, 3 male Common Blue. Back on the Icknield Way to the road Herts?), we logged 1 Speckled Wood, 4 white sp/p., 1 Peacock, 1 Painted Lady. Continuing on through Mortgrove Farm to, we had numerous whites, 1 Large White, 1 male Orange Tip. Following the road and northbound path, we had 1 ?Cocksfoot Moth, 1 Comma, 1 carpet sp., male and female Brimstone. Hexton (Herts) itself, including path around W side of Church Wood, yielded 1 Peacock, numerous whites, 1 male Orange Tip. Barton Hills NNR (Beds) gave us 2 male Common Blue, 1 Green Hairstreak. Heading south from Bedfordshire, we had 1 Peacock, numerous ?Cocksfoot Moths, 1 Common Carpet, 1 Holly Blue. Continuing south, we had 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Peacock, numerous Brimstone. Back on the Icknield Way, we saw 1 Comma, 1 male Orange Tip, numerous Brimstone, 1 carpet sp., and a naked cyclist!!! Telegraph Hill NR (Herts) gave us 1 Small Heath. Pegsdon Hill NR, Beds?) gave 4 Small Heath, 1 male Common Blue, plus whites. There was another Small Tortoiseshell in there somewhere, maybe on the Icknield Way between Telegraph Hill and Pegsdon Hill."

Sightings for **Great Ashby Park/Priors Wood**; 1 Painted Lady, 1 Small Copper, 10+ Common Blue, 20+ Brown Argus, Large Whites, Orange-tips, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, also; Mother Shipton, Burnet Companion, Silver Y and Cinnabar moths - Steve Lane

Brief visit to **Tatem Park, Enfield**. Noted Holly blue 2, Small white 2, Painted lady 1 and Speckled wood 1. (Also a broad-bodied chaser and many azure damselflies) - Robert Callf, Phil and Carrin Rhodes.

**Chorleywood Common**: Saturday, I saw Small Heath 2, Common Blue 6, Small Copper 2, Small White 2, Green Veined White 2, Large White 1, Peacock 1 and a very worn Painted Lady heading north at a very fast rate of knots - Dave Chandler

I saw 2 Brown Argus and 2 Common Blue over **Fishers Green** on **Friday**. The first I have seen over the Lea Valley Park for this year - Sandra Standbridge

**Thursday 1st June**

**St Albans area**: a Purple Hairstreak larva beneath an oak along the edge of **Park Wood near Chiswell Green** and a Painted Lady in the same monad - Colin Everett

**May 2006**

**Wednesday 31st May**

**Broomfield Park, Enfield**, 50 minutes, no butterflies seen; **Tatum Rec.** 2hrs, speckled wood and 2 small whites, and Diane pointed out many Harlequin ladybird larvae on leaves of almost everything - Diane Andrews and Andrew Middleton

**Monday 29th May**

**Bricket Wood**, in between the showers I saw 10 Green veined Whites, all nectaring on Bugle, 2 Large Whites (one nectaring on Bluebell), 2 Painted Ladies, 2 male Brimstones & a Mother Shipton. The canopy in the overgrown Hornbeam coppice is full of holes - some trees have lost 90% of their leaves - apparently caused by caterpillar damage - Malcolm Hull

I had a very washed out and tatty PAINTED LADY at **Kimpton Hoo** today 29th May - Robin Smith



Sunday 28th May

Waterford Heath south, 7 Grizzled Skipper - Tony Clancy

**Pitstone Hill: (just in Bucks)** 18 Dingy Skipper plus 3 eggs on Birds Foot Trefoil, **Aldbury Nowers:** c.5 Grizzled Skipper, c.3 Dingy Skipper, 2 Green Hairstreak, 5 Brown Argus - Andrew Middleton, Andrew Palmer, Nick Bowles and Tom Dunbar

First 2006 sightings of Common Blue (2 males) on my **Bunkers Park** transect - Mike Pearson

A final-instar Purple Hairstreak larva beneath an oak along **Grove Mill Lane in rural Watford**. Small Copper, 2 male Common Blues and a Small Yellow Underwing moth near **Sarratt Bottom**; Small Copper in fields off **Plough Lane north of Sarratt**; Large White nectaring on hawthorn blossom at the edge of **Whippendell Wood**. Many other insects including cardinal Beetles (both species) and longhorn beetles (four species); abundance of Garden Chafers near Chorleywood - Colin Everett

Saw two Orange Tips, one unidentified white and 27 Speckled Yellow moths whilst walking from the west car park of **Broxbourne Wood** on Sunday afternoon. Weather generally overcast - Roger Newbold

13 weather beaten Dingy skippers at **Hexton Chalk pit** along with 2 common blues and a small heath - Stuart Pittman

**Ayot St Lawrence** I saw a fresh male Orange Tip out side the Brocket Arms public house - David Chandler

Friday 26th May

Thursday 25th May

Arrived at **Pegsdon** at 10.45 and saw up to **24 Dingy's without trying**. **3-4 Dingy's** on **Telegraph Hill** which seems very low, plus 3 Green Hairstreak. Saw Dingy's laying on Bird's-foot trefoil - it's over in a flash not like GH. Found a Dingy on the field margin well away from Telegraph and it was going places, followed it for a couple of 100m's when it flew out over the crop near the wood. At one stage it took 'salt' on a bird dropping along with 3 flies! Then went to **Hexton** (5pm). **Dingy's** all over the site - a quick walk around produced 16 assumed different individuals, a conservative figure but they were very, very active, going for extensive flights at times). Lots of basking and nectaring but didn't manage to see any laying activity. Left around 7pm - Andrew Palmer

Saw **3 male and a female Common Blues** today on the steep bank (left side) off the minor road to **Therfield off the A505** (first turning on left coming from Royston), also Large White, Small White and a Mother Shipton I've found a dozen or more groups of damaged elm leaves possibly from White-letter Hairstreak caterpillars on the elm tree next to my house in **Stevenage**. (same as photo on Hampshire and Isle of Wight BC website - *see links*)- Steve Lane

**Waterford Heath**, day started very quiet. We walked along the bank near the railway line for nearly an hour and saw no Grizzleds. Richard Bigg was walking his transect and he too later reported seeing nothing. He did however see during his visit Small Heath, **Common Blue** and Brown Argus. We then walked across the track to the bank near the pond and over a period of about an hour saw **three Grizzleds** messing about. Around 2 o'clock we left to go to the south pit and our luck just changed. A female was seen egg laying, two were seen mating and another two seen clashing in addition to several singletons. From the Sacombe Road side we walked into the middle and found them there, by the entrance gate and in front of the view point. Later near the kissing gate as well. A rough estimate at 5 o'clock was about **15 but later Andrew confirmed by text that there was probably 18** just on the bank alone!!! Quite something after such bad weather - Liz Goodyear & Andrew Middleton

A Painted Lady flew across the main quad at **UCL (Gower St, WC1E 6BT)** this lunchtime - Fraser Simpson

**Tuesday 23rd May**

Grizzled Skipper observations between rain showers as part of the vulnerable species initiative. "Not sure how successful the trial habitat condition survey was today.

Egglaying on bramble was interesting – should spend more time watching egglaying – and what appeared to be a rather fat female stayed on a St John's Wort hidden in the corner of the 'roost' area, even when the sun shone. 2 males occupying high perches on teasel and nettle at the bottom of this slope." - Andrew Middleton (If anyone can help Andrew Middleton do some habitat condition surveys please email him

Went for a walk in **Mill End** lunch time in between rain and caught a really warm spell. [TQ037946] The footpath leads to the M25 where I saw my first Small Copper of the year - just a brief sighting and then it was off. Also saw some orange tips and small and green veined white. The area should be worth other visits - Ann Piper

First lunchtime out for days. **East side of Amwell** - Small Copper, 2 Orange Tips, 1 Red Admiral and **2 Small Yellow Underwing** moths. Large emergence of damselflies around 12 o'clock after rain, when the sun finally came out - Trevor Chapman

Just returned from a trip to **Scotland**, we found a single Chequered Skipper, 8 Pearl Bordered Fritillary, plus 100s of Orange-tips, Speckled Wood, Small White and Peacock - Ian Hardy, Steve Lane with Richard Pople, John Tomkins, Tony Hukin, Dave Beer, Keith Cherry and Trevor Brownsell

**Saturday 20th May**

We went to **Pegsdon Hills** today, weather slightly better, very windy with outbreaks of sun and rain every so often. We saw 1 male Brimstone, 1 Red Admiral, 5 Common Heaths, 2 Burnet Companion, our first 2 Green Carpets(pic attached), 2 Dingy Skippers and our first Green Hairstreaks of the year, 6 different individuals, some getting worn, pics attached. Good day out considering weather - Kevin & Sandra Standbridge

**Thursday 18th May**

Had a day out with Dave Beer to our county borders and visited 3 sites. First was **Bison Hill in Beds**, we had Green Hairstreak, Brown Argus, Red Admiral, Small Heath, Holly Blue, Brimstone, Orange-tip, Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Small Tortoiseshell and an almost black Peacock which was stunning, but would not settle long enough for a photo. Next to **College Lake in Bucks** and we saw Common Blue, Dingy Skipper and 3 nice moths Lesser Teble-bar, Burnet Companion and Silver Y. Then finally back into Herts to **Aldbury Nowers** and had 8 Dingy Skippers, 1 Grizzled Skipper, 6 Green Hairstreaks, Brimstone, Orange-tip, Large White, Small White, Holly Blue 4 Small Heaths, Small Tortoiseshell and a nice Silver Y moth. A total of 16 species - Steve Lane

**Tring Park**, Monday 15th May no butterflies seen at all, however I was only there for a very short time. Tring Park, Tuesday 16th May: 9 people attended my CMS guided walk and we saw 1 peacock and 1 Grizzled Skipper roosting right at the bottom of the escapement viewed from the open grassland area and over the barbed wire fence - Jez Perkins

**Monday 15th May**

THE STATE OF BUTTERFLIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND is launched on the 15th May

**Sunday 14th May**

**Aldbury Nowers Field Trip Report**, 20 people came along despite the weather including 8 at the pub. Saw Martin and his sheep. Not many butterflies but we did see about 10 including Grizzled Skippers (at least 2) Small Heath (3) and right at the end after most people had gone home, a Painted Lady. - Malcolm Hull

We went to **Pegsdon** today hoping to find Green hairstreaks but the weather was cloudy & drizzly. However, we did see two species of moth, which we think are Common Heath approx 10 and 4 Wood Carpets. We then went to **Sharpenhoe Clappers** and saw our first Dingy Skippers of the year, approx 8. This was only for approx 15mins when the sun shone for a short while - Sandra and Kevin Standbridge

**Tring Park** in dull weather, 1 Dingy Skipper and 4 roosting Grizzled Skipper - Jez Perkins

Went for a walk in the **Broxbourne Woods** area. It was quite overcast and there was not much around but as well as two unidentified whites seen in the distance I saw a **Speckled Yellow moth** - Roger Newbold

**Saturday 13th May**

Jez Perkins (Grizzled Skipper Species Co-ordinator) rang to say he had seen a Grizzled Skipper at **Aldbury Nowers** just at the entrance, also 1 Dingy Skipper. *This Grizzled Skipper sighting is very significant as this is the first report away from the top paddock for several years. Please could everyone visiting AN please look very carefully and report exactly where the sightings of all the key species (Grizzled, Dingy and Green HS) are made - Thanks*

**Friday 12th May**

I spent an hour at **Waterford Heath** South from 2.50pm today with my wife we saw 10 Grizzled Skippers 8 being different individuals, two were mating the others just flying and basking in the sun. They were all in the area down the slope from the old bench and on the Wild Strawberries. We also had three small whites and six orange tips. I also had an orange tip in my garden in Stevenage today - Ian and Sue Hardy

Andrew Middleton and Andrew Palmer visited **Tring Park and Aldbury Nowers**. Accompanied by Brian Jessop at **Tring** they saw 1 Dingy Skipper, 5 Grizzled Skipper and 9 Green Hairstreak. At **Aldbury Nowers**, they saw 1 Green Hairstreak and 5 of each Grizzled and Dingy Skipper, also 1 Painted Lady, 1 Small Heath and 1 Small Copper.

**Thursday 11th May**

**St Albans area:** A Painted Lady by the rose gardens at Chiswell Green, Red Admiral on nettles along Hogg End Lane and scattered Silver Y moths - Colin Everett

**Hemel Hempstead**, had my first Red Admiral of the year in the garden today, a nice fresh-looking specimen which sunned itself on a Meadowsweet leaf but didn't visit any flowers. Also had my first Green veined White one female and several male Orange Tips, also a single Holly Blue - Malcolm Newland

**Pegsdon area today - Hexton Chalk Pit (8.30-9.40)** 1 Green Hairstreak and **7 Dingy Skipper**. **Pegsdon Hills (Beds):** 10.10-13.26, 14.10-14.50, **54 Green Hairstreak, 12 Dingy Skipper**, 1 Small Copper & 3 Red Admiral. **Telegraph Hill: 2 Dingy Skipper & 14 Green Hairstreak**. **Knocking Hoe (Beds)**, about **8 Green Hairstreak**. Many other butterflies and moths observed but no time to type - Andrew Palmer, Liz Goodyear, Andrew Middleton with Nigel Agar

During a visit to **Aldbury Nowers** this afternoon, I saw a **single Dingy Skipper**, which I positively identified sunning itself on grasses; I was able to watch it through binoculars for about a minute, before it flew off. I also saw, what I'm almost certain was a single Grizzled Skipper. It flew close to me, but disappeared without settling, before I could be 100% sure of its identity - it was not a moth. Both sightings were at the top end of the northern compartment, in the expected area. There were no Green Hairstreaks - Michael Pearson

**Waterford Heath area** early morning, one **Small Heath** waking up and later in afternoon **3 Brown Argus** roosting - Andrew Middleton

I took a lunchtime walk today around the **Mudchute Wildlife park** in the Isle of Dogs (Middx) and found lots of butterflies. I saw 45 Green Veined Whites, 6 Small Whites 2 Large Whites, 1 Brimstone, 7 Speckled Woods, 4 Small Tortoiseshells and 1 Holly Blue. I thought 66 butterflies was a good total for an inner city park very close to Canary Wharf - David Chandler

**Wednesday 10th May**

I started of today at **Fishers Green** and saw 2 Holly Blue, 4 Peacock, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Speckled Wood, Orange Tips, Green Veined White and Small White. I also noticed 3

Hairy Dragonfly, Banded Demoiselle and Large Red Damselfly plus a few other Damselfly, which I have yet to I.D. I then arrived at **Waterford Heath South** at 1pm left at 2pm. (As my Dog refused to walk any further as it got very hot.) However, I did have 6 sightings of Grizzled Skipper 4 feeding and then basking. The 2 other sightings of G.S were flying very low to the ground and travelling some distance, before I lost sight of them. They were missing all their favorite foods and flying erratic around all the plants. I also saw a female Orange Tip, laying eggs plus a few males, Red Admiral, 2 Peacocks, 3 Latticed Heath and a few Whites - Sandra Standbridge

**Grovelands Park** – 2 holly blue, orange tip, green-veined white, small white. **Vicarage Farm** – small tortoiseshell, painted lady – Robert Callif

Hemel Hempstead, lucky enough to find mating Orange Tips in the garden, also had a male Brimstone. Saw a Peacock nectaring on Strawberry flowers at the allotment and a Green-Veined White on Horse Chestnut blossom at **Verulam Park St Albans** - Malcolm Newland

**Waterford Heath**, I was at the south side today between 3.30 and 5.00pm I saw two Orange Tips, 5 Peacock, 3 Grizzled Skipper ( 2 nectaring on wild strawberry about 20 yards left of the old bench on the flat ground not the slope. And 1 basking in the sun on a nettle about twenty yards above the wild strawberry. I also had 2 small white, 1 Holly Blue and 1 Small Tortoiseshell in the same vicinity - Ian Hardy

At last! 2 Orange Tips on **Harpenden Common**. Weather perfect, sunny and warm - Michael Healy

Tuesday 9th May

Went to **Waterford Heath** with Ian Hardy this afternoon, arrived about 4.30pm and the sun shone most of the time. We first went to the north pit, not much moving, Small Tortoiseshell, Large White and a Grizzled Skipper, which was on the bank facing the railway line just below the sculptures, it was on a patch of mud and then flew up and disappeared in a few seconds. We then crossed to the south pit, a couple of Orange-tips, Peacock, Small White and another Grizzled Skipper (photo attached) roosting on nettles about 20 yards before the first bench and about a third of the way down the bank. Also seen Latticed Heath moth - Steve Lane and Ian Hardy

Arrived at **Waterford Heath South** at 1pm. The sun was just coming out. I started down the bottom of the slope and saw 2 Grizzled Skippers, feeding on wild Strawberry flowers and Forget-me-nots. After their feed, they would then just lay open on the ground basking in the sun for a short time and then go back to feeding again. Further along again down the bottom of the slope 2 Grizzleds were clashing. I had two other sightings of GS both in different places( but near the top of the slope) feeding on Buttercups. I had a look over the North Pit, but the sun had gone in and no GS were seen - Sandra Standbridge

**Aldbury Nowers**, when it was cloudy two roosting Grizzled Skipper in the top paddock. Later Orange Tip, Brimstone and Red Admiral in the lower section. Drove over to **Tring Park**, by now the sun was trying to shine and walked across park to bottom of escarpment. One Grizzled Skipper was seen nectaring on speedwell growing on an anthill. Orange Tip and Green-veined White being the only other two species seen. **Folly Bridge** - Orange Tip, Green-veined White and Brimstone flying between Buckinghamshire and Herts! - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Monday 8th May

Late news from Ian Small (*it had sat in his outbox since the 4th!*) Saw my first Orange Tip and 2 Speckled Woods in **Welwyn Garden City** at lunchtime today (4th May). Separately, saw 1st Holly Blue in **Welwyn Garden City** at lunchtime on the 5th

There have been reports of Painted Lady and several migrant moths over the last few days. If you should see Painted Lady, Red Admiral, Clouded Yellow or any other apparently migrating butterflies, for information on recording details requested please follow this link: [Migrant Recording Instructions](#) - John Murray

**Sunday 7th May**

Nothing (*meaning Grizzled Skipper*) at **Aldbury Nowers** yet - weather poor - always miss the hour or two of sun and heat. Weather forecasts also wrong! - Martin Hicks

A walk round **Darlands Lake in Totteridge** yesterday found 9 of the 10 usual suspects at this time of year - Small Tortoiseshell let the side down - but we made the round number anyway with excellent views of a smallish Painted Lady in very good condition doing a little patrolling and a little basking along a field boundary hedge - Keir Mottram

In addition to common butterflies, Robert Callf saw two painted ladies in the **Trent Park~Vicarage Farm area of Enfield**. Tony Clancy and Andrew Middleton saw a red admiral flying north low over the water of the **KGV Res, Enfield**, along with two little terns - Andrew Middleton

**Waterford Heath Field Trip** report. Whilst Sandra was in the south pit, 50 people with Alan Downie as leader were searching the north pit for sight of a Grizzled Skipper, many for the first time! Although multiple sightings were reported, many would have been the same individual but we estimate that probably 5 Grizzled Skipper were seen. A smaller group then visited the south pit and although more species of butterfly were seen, only two Grizzled Skipper were found and not by the main group. We were able to show everyone the Latticed Heath moth which can be confused with a Grizzled. On the north pit Grizzled Skipper, 1 Comma, 1 Green-veined White and 1 Large White. A Brimstone and Holly Blue flew through the Carpark and on the South Pit, 2 Grizzled Skipper, Green-veined White, a Painted Lady (very briefly), several Orange Tip including a female, Comma, Peacock, Brimstone, Silver y moths and many Latticed Heath moths. Before the Field Trip 1 Red Admiral on the South pit - Liz Goodyear

**Aldbury Nowers**, a brief and late visit to Turlhanger Wood (above Duchies Piece) did not reveal any Grizzled though a chappie who was sat there enjoying the sun claimed to have seen a small, very dark brown and white, stripey butterfly that he tried to follow but it zipped away to fast for his eyes to keep up. No Dingy or green hairstreak either but I saw *Pyrastra aurata* and silver y while there, Brimstones and Orange Tip, too, but I was there for far too short a time to be able to say No Grizzled yet - certainly not many there - Nick Bowles

Arrived at **Waterford north pit** at 1.30pm until 2.00pm, very cloudy, no sight of any Grizzled Skippers but saw a Painted Lady (picture attached). We then went to the South Pit and the sun came out, we saw at least 3 Grizzled Skippers who were very active feeding on Strawberry flowers and Forget-me-nots and also basking in the sun. (various pictures of their antics attached). They were all seen at the base of the hill. We also saw 8 Latticed Heaths, Burnet Companion, Mating Orange Tips, various Whites, Peacocks, Red Admiral and a Male Brimstone - Sandra Standbridge

Took advantage of the sunshine to walk through the local bluebell wood in **Maple Cross** and on down the farm footpath. Saw my first red admiral of the year along with a small tortoiseshell, 5 peacocks, a couple of green veined whites and a number of active twirling orange tips hovering around garlic mustard - Ann Piper

**Friday 5th May**

**Waterford Heath**, between 17 & 1800hrs today we had at least 6 grizzled skippers flying in the north pit, the most we've seen there. Peacock, Brimstone and Orange tip also seen - Simon Rasch

6.00pm Rant Meadow (Small Urban Dacorum Borough Council owned Woodland) **Hemel Hempstead**. Red Admiral exhibiting territorial behaviour in a small clearing. Chasing away a would be usurper (also a Red Admiral) several times, then returning to the same perch on a budding Hornbeam sapling. Both rather tatty, "usurper" slightly smaller. Sparring a la Speckled Wood, spiralling upwards, also closely circling one another with much fluttering of wings - Ashley Cox

**Waterford Pit South**, 1 Red Admiral, 8 (5 male, 3 female) Orange Tip, 8 Peacock, 4 Brimstone, 1 **Silver-Y**, 10 **Latticed Heath**. **Waterford Pit North**, 1 Grizzled Skipper, 1 Holly Blue, 1 Peacock, 3 Comma, 6 Brimstone - Andrew Palmer



**Ickleford**, TEN different species, best being holly blue, all 4 overwintered Nymphs plus double figure counts of Orange tip and speckled wood - Stuart Pittman

I have just seen my first speckled woods of the year. It was an afternoon walk on Thursday and very hot. Saw two speckled woods just off the main road in **Maple Cross** up a footpath. Also flitting about were a couple of whites and a tortoiseshell. Later saw a brimstone and a holly blue - Ann Piper

**Aldbury Nowers**, during a 75min visit, on a glorious afternoon, with the birds singing at full throttle, I counted these butterflies over the three compartments: Brimstone - 21; Lge White - 1; Small/GV White - 5; Orange Tip - 14; Holly Blue -1; Peacock - 8 - Mike Pearson

1 Grizzled Skipper 2 Orange Tip 2 Peacock 2 Holly Blues and 1 Comma seen **Waterford North** at lunchtime today - Ian Hardy, Dave Beer & John Tomkins

Spent a couple of hours over **Waterford Heath** today looking for Grizzled Skippers and only saw one - Sandra Standbridge Picture Attached. Sandra Standbridge.Had 2 Grizzled Skippers this am at **Waterford Heath** - Dave Beer

Had a nice orange Tip on Friday 28th April in **Preston village**. At that point I had not seen any whites, ridiculous or what - Stuart Pittman

Thursday 4th May

Today in my **Stevenage garden**, Peacock, Comma, Large White, Orange-tip and Small Tortoiseshell - Steve Lane

2 Orange Tips today at **Watery Grove Stevenage** also 1 Green Veined White - Darrel Bryant

**Telegraph Hill**, 2 **Green Hairstreak** together in flight and one **Burnet Companion** moth - phone call from Andrew Palmer. Later Andrew confirmed: "I saw 2 Green Hairstreak clashing at Telegraph Hill - in the shallower of the two ditches at 11.45. None seen here in 2005 and only one in each of previous years so this is encouraging. Also 3 Burnet Companion Moths"

**Camley Street Natural Park** at King's Cross had at least 8 Holly Blues, 3 Speckled Woods and a female Orange Tip at lunchtime today - Fraser Simpson

Sightings today at **Fir and Pond Woods NR**: Speckled woods (3), peacocks, orange tips, **small copper (1)**, brimstone (1), holly blue (1), also 2 "unidentified whites" - David Gompertz

Wednesday 3rd May

An early evening visit to **Waterford Heath** produced 4 or 5 active **Grizzled Skippers** - Andrew Palmer

A male Brimstone heading along **Euston Road (at the junction with Tottenham Court Road)** in central London today around 1330h. - Fraser Simpson

Tuesday 2nd May

**Waterford Heath** north pit at just after 10 o'clock a **Grizzled Skipper** was seen basking on a seed head before flying off. Later a probable second individual was seen in same area but with a slightly crippled wing. This didn't seem obvious in the first sighting. A visit to Pirton and the Pegsdon Hills later with Andrew Middleton, in at times very dull, windy and cold conditions produced only the usual spring butterflies, no Dingy or Green Hairstreak (nothing roosting either)- Liz Goodyear

**Monday 1st May**

Urgent help needed - can anyone help Bob Cliff by walking his transect on St Michaels Mead Southern Country Park in Bishop's Stortford (OS TL473194) for four weeks as of now. If you can help, please contact Liz Goodyear

**St. Albans**, only one butterfly today - a Speckled Wood nectaring on Cherry Blossom - not seen that before! - Malcolm Hull

**Ware** on Friday - Old Lea Widbury Hill Male Orange Tip also 2 or 3 Peacock - Ian Edwards

**April 2006**

**Saturday 29th April**

Orange Tip in the garden today (**Hitchin**)- Nigel Agar

With the British Natural History group today and we saw a Green Veined White on cleavers/white nettlebed at **Perrywood Farm**, SW of Watton at Stone. Only other sighting was a Small Tortoiseshell in the wheat field near the Watton Road at **Datchworth Green** - Val Fullforth

**M25/M1 Junction area**, rather a cold north wind but in the sheltered areas the following were recorded: Brimstone, 1 - male; Small Tortoiseshell, 12; Peacock, 7; Comma, 1; Orange Tip, 4 - three males one female - Bob Cripps

**Friday 28th April**

**St Nick's Church Yard, Stevenage** 2.00-2.45pm. 4 Holly Blue, 1 Peacock, 1 Speckled Wood - Lee Browne

**Ally Pally**, 2 small tortoiseshells, 4 speckled wood, 1 peacock, 2 small white - Robert Callf

**Thursday 27th April**

Wood Lane, **Pirton** - 14.30 18 deg. sunshine First sighting of 2 Orange Tips near the cow parsley. Totals for the transect were 8 Brimstones (6 males 2 females) 3 Small Tortoiseshell and 13 Peacocks, mostly resting on the pathway near the blackthorn - Val Fullforth

Spent an hour in **Maple Cross and West Hyde** this afternoon (a rather cool 16°C) and saw my first Green Veined Whites - one male, one female. ( I can't really count another one which hatched a few days ago in my house! ) I also saw at least 4 peacocks and 8 small tortoiseshells. Lots of spiralling in twos in the air! - Ann Piper

**Wednesday 26th April**

A thorough search of the **Waterford Heath area**, produced no Grizzled Skippers today - unfortunately the sun went in just after we started looking but no roosters either. Many Peacocks throughout the day as well as a Speckled Wood, Small Tortoiseshell and male Orange Tip were seen. More interesting and funny was a **Green-veined White** doing its best to put off an over amorous Small White. It was the one day when Andrew didn't have his video! - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

**Tuesday 25th April**

**Nick Sampford**

Yesterday, I was told of the very sad news that Nick Sampford died that morning. Nick was a larger than life character and he will be greatly missed by everyone that knew him. Our sympathies go to Angela and his family. Nick had rung me on Friday with the news that he had seen an Orange Tip but I was out and he left a message with my daughter. "Tell Liz" was his message! He later emailed me to confirm that he had seen two that day, little did I realise that this would be his last posting.

I took over the website in 2001 just as Nick got the butterfly and photo bug and he set

himself the challenge of seeing and photoing every British butterfly species in one year. As the year progressed the website was filled with the wonders of his superb photos and news. He loved the Purple Emperor and spent hours waiting patiently at Broxbourne Woods for one to come down on the ground - his patience was rewarded on 9th July 2003 with his classic shot. All his photos and news will be greatly missed although his spelling and punctuation gave me a few head aches at times! If anyone would like me to pass a message to Angela please email me. The funeral will be held at Thundridge Church, nr Ware on Thursday 4th May at 11 o'clock - Liz Goodyear  
I had my first sighting of the year of an Orange Tip butterfly over Fishers Green, **Lea Valley Park** today. We also saw a Holly Blue, Brimstones, and a couple of Peacocks at the weekend again at Fishers Green. - Sandra Standbridge

**Monday 24th April**

One Herald moth seen this afternoon roosting on steps in front garden of my house in **Pinner** - Graham Elcombe

**Sunday 23rd April**

Field Trip reports for today: Two events were run, first John Hollingdale and the Harrow Nature Conservation Group, were at **Stanmore Common** in the morning. John Hollingdale reports "Did a moth evening last Friday at SCP and we had about 150 macros (about 14 species mainly C & S Quakers). Three or four times the number that appeared in my trap the previous evening. It rained for all the time today, but as most of the twelve were Natural History Society members people were there to point out Redpoll and Siskin and identify many species of bird-call. The Wood Anenomes were blooming and the bluebells were just opening. Sulphur Tuft fungus was also seen as were two micros spirally upwards out of reach of the net."

At **Broxbourne Woods** with Countryside Management Service, Andrew Middleton and Liz Goodyear with Heidi Hutton lead a walk titled '*Introducing Woodland Butterflies.*' Although the rain had stopped, the sun never shown, but we were able to identify the best places to see butterflies in the woods, and the many flowers including larval foodplants that are present. About 14 people turned up and had an enjoyable afternoon.

Sightings for my **Stevenage** garden Saturday 22nd April, Orange-tip, Brimstone, Peacock and Small White. I have just returned from a trip to Tobago, mainly birdwatching, but did manage to find some butterflies, some very similar to British ones. They are very difficult to watch as they never land and have very erratic flight patterns, probably due to the number of Flycatchers on Tobago. I did manage a few photos which I have attached, any help with ID would be good. Butterflies seen; Red Anartia (photos, Large Orange Sulphur (common), Grizzled Skipper? (photos), Postman, White Peacock (photo, damaged), Flamebleu (photo), Owl, Morpho, Skipper species x 2 (photos) and 2 other species photos attached unknown as yet (*will be posted asap*) - Steve Lane

**Saturday 22nd April**

**Maple Cross**, on Friday 21st. I had a lovely sunny walk round Maple Cross and West Hyde. It was 17°C but felt much warmer and obviously tempted out the butterflies. I saw my first male orange tip, my first holly blue and my first large white of the season! I also saw a male brimstone, 7 peacocks and 11 small tortoiseshells. Incidentally the orange tip chrysalis which I have been nurturing since last summer finally hatched on April 15th. a female! - Ann Piper

News from the Watford area: **M25/M1 junction area** on the 14th April, Brimstone 4, Small Tortoiseshell, 2, Peacock, 6. **Woodside area** on the 20th April, Holly Blue 1. **Bricket Wood Common** on the 22nd April, Brimstone, 21, Comma, 2 and Peacock 13 - Bob Cripps

**Friday 21st April**

Two Holly Blues in **Hanover Sq W1** at 11.30 on 21 April. The first time I have seen any butterflies in this location, which I have been walking through most days of the week for the last 10 years! Malcolm Hull

**Hanbury Manor, nr Ware** - Nick Sampford rang to say he had seen an **Orange Tip** this morning. Later Nick confirmed he had **2 orange tips** one by Hanbury Manor the other

near **Westmill, Ware** also 5 brimstone 4 m 1 female 5 peacock an 2 small tortoiseshell

Today at **King's Mead** 3 Brimstone, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Holly Blue, 5 Peacock and 1 Small White - Alan Reynolds

Thursday 20th April

Sightings from **Brimdown EN3 5NY** - Friday 14th April - Brimstone (1), sm Tortoiseshell (3), Peacock (2), Comma (2) and one red admiral. Saturday: Sm Tort, Peacock and Comma were still around Sunday: it was dull but 1 small White and Sm Tortoiseshell. Monday: nice day, Sm Tortoiseshell, Comma, Peacock and what looked like a holly blue, as I can't think what else it could have been. Also, **Hilly Fields, Enfield** Friday 14th April: Sm Tort, Peacock and Comma - Phil MacMurdie

Wednesday 19th April

I saw a comma in **Rothamsted Manor wood** lunchtime today - Andrew Riche

Probable **orange underwing** moth overhead at **Martin's Green carpark** (Danemead) today - Liz Goodyear

Tuesday 18th April

**West side of Bishop's Stortford** in my garden - 2 male and one female Brimstone, single Peacock, Comma and Large White - Andrew Palmer

Been out this morning and there were butterflies everywhere, I was photographing blackcaps and whitethroats at **Stanstead Abbots GPs**. I had 40 + peacock, 10+ comma, 2 small tortoiseshell, 2 small white, brimstone, red admiral. I know that some of the sightings of peacocks were probably the same one, but I did have 6 and a comma clash it was just amazing to see that amount of butterflies - Nick Sampford

To add to the Easter sightings: nothing terribly special, but the dearth of sightings so far, plus the location, makes me think that single Small White, Small Tortoiseshell, and Comma might be worth noting from **Mudchute on the Isle of Dogs** on Easter Monday (17th) - Keir Mottram

Sightings from the weekend in and around **Tring**, mainly my garden. Brimstone x 7, Peacock, Large White, Small Tortoiseshell, Comma x 2 - Jez Perkins

Monday 17th April

A slightly tattered Tortoiseshell today April 17 on **Rothamsted farm, Harpenden**. Sunny, quite warm - Michael Healy

**Vicarage Farm, North Enfield**, 2 peacocks, red admiral, comma and 3 small tortoiseshells - Robert Callf

A drive up the **A10** on Sunday morning, from Ware through to Royston towards the A505, produced three Brimstone sightings in this poorly recorded area. By taking careful notes of the exact location, I was able to confirm that they were in tetrads that had no visits in 2005 (TL3428, 3430 and 3640). Roadside male brimstones (and orange tips & holly blues) can fill many under recorded tetrads but an almost exact grid reference is important - Liz Goodyear

Sunday 16th April

**Enfield**, single **Holly Blue** around ivy in our back garden today. First I've seen this year - Phil Rhodes

One peacock on Vicarage Farm, and a **speckled wood** at Dalrymple Close, Southgate - Robert Callf

News from 14th April

1 Brimstone in my garden in **Stevenage** - Ian Hardy

Two Brimstones at **Hatching Green, Harpenden** - Michael Healy

Two Small Tortoiseshells & a Peacock have been hibernating in my outhouse in **St Albans** since last August. The first Small Tortoiseshell (female) emerged today & spent half an hour sunning herself on the garden path before nectaring for 2 minutes on Aubretia. Perhaps it was not to her taste as she then left in a hurry. The other Small Tortoiseshell & Peacock are still hibernating in exactly the same positions they adopted 8 months ago. Peacocks were the star of the show locally. In 15 minutes at the **Folly Lane allotments** I saw 13 Peacocks, 3 ST's, **Small White**, Brimstone & **2 Large Whites** - Malcolm Hull

**Hemel Hempstead**, male Brimstone and Small Tortoiseshell nectaring on blue Hyacinths while a patriotic Peacock visited red, white and blue Hyacinths. It was my first Peacock of the year more than two months later than my earliest record - Malcolm Newland

**Trent Park** - Peacock & Small Tortoiseshell - Robert Callf

**Saturday 15th April**

Thank you to Andrew for maintaining the website in my absence. I have been to Egypt where butterflies were distinctly lacking but that wasn't a surprise. No obvious signs of a Painted Lady migration - Liz Goodyear

**Friday 14th April**

**Flood plain on Old Knebworth Lane, 14.30-14.45** 3 male Brimstone, 4 Peacock, 3 Comma - Lee Browne

I saw both several brimstones and a peacock on my Bucks transects this afternoon and then precisely the same species at home in the garden here in **Tring**. Still not seen a Small Tort in Bucks. Still some way to go to catch the major players; as ever - Nick Bowles

**Saturday 8th April**

A visitor to the branch stand at Capel Manor reported a blue butterfly around shrubs in **Enfield** garden on Sat 8th April

From just over the border in Essex 5th April, **Sewardstone Marsh**, lunchtime: 3 Peacocks, 2 Commas, 2 Brimstones, Small Tortoiseshell, and 8th April, **Galleyhill Wood**: Red Admiral (11.50), 7 Commas, Peacock - all butterflies within the same warm, sheltered area - Martin Shepherd

A nice Brimstone in **Station Road Harpenden TL136144** on April 5th, nice sunny day, rather cold - Michael Healy

**Thursday 6th April**

I saw my first butterfly this year - on the **Waterford** Transect - a Red Admiral and it was in perfect condition. - Richard Bigg

Saw my first male Brimstone in the garden today. It and a Comma flew over but neither settled. Still waiting for a Peacock! - Malcolm Newland

A lucky sighting today outside my normal Herts area. I was in the Wyevale Garden Centre in **Hitchin** at midday and was delighted to see a bright yellow brimstone enjoying the sunshine. That makes 4 different species in 2 days - good going for such a cold spring so far! - Ann Piper

**Wednesday 5th April**

Small Tortoiseshell in good condition nectaring in the garden today on Erysimum Bowles Mauve and Aubretia - Malcolm Newland

I had a brimstone at **High Cross** and a peacock in my garden [**Thundridge**] today ~ On Saturday last, Angela had a brimstone in the garden [**Thundridge**] and Tom had one too in his Nan's garden in **Wadesmill** - Nick Sampford



**Brimstone at Melbourn** - Male flew through early afternoon, at least thrice - Guy Manners

**Comma on edge of Williams Wood**, Trent Park, after 5pm today - Robert Callf

I had a walk along my usual farm footpath in **Maple Cross** this afternoon. It was only 10°C on the thermometer but the sun was shining really strongly on the south facing hedgerows. I saw 5 small tortoiseshells and my first peacock and comma of the year! Also sunning itself on some nettle was a ruby tiger caterpillar - so a good day's viewing!  
- Ann Piper

I had a Brimstone and Small Tortoiseshell at **Gustard Wood Common** today - Jez Perkins

**Ware Trinity Road** I came home at 1.15 pm and had a Brimstone in the front garden - Ian Edwards

**Monday 3rd April** - 5.10pm Comma feeding on Sallow at the Flood plain on **Old Knebworth Lane** - Lee Browne

**Transects** - Spring has come so suddenly this year that I have forgotten to remind transect walkers that the transect season started two days ago. Each week starts on a Saturday this year, so if like me you didn't get a chance to walk your transect over the weekend between the hurricane winds and sudden downpours, you have until Friday to do so. This year we are missing transect walkers for Therfield Heath, Telegraph Hill, Waterford Heath, Danesbury Park, Nicky Line and Standalone Farm. If you know of anyone who can help with these, please Email me. Have an enjoyable butterfly season,  
John Murray

**Brimstone at Hexton CP 30 March** - Nigel Agar

I also saw a few Brimstones over the weekend at **Marshalls Heath and Gustard Wood** - John Murray

**Sunday April 2nd**

Saw two Commas spiralling together over the **Hemel Hempstead garden** yesterday (1st) with one nectaring afterwards on Viburnum Fragrans. Another Comma today, this time on Lonicera Fragrantissima but no other species so far - Malcolm Newland

**Saturday April 1st**

My first sighting of the year was a Comma yesterday morning (April 1 - no fooling) at **AllyPally** on the usual sheltered path in the conservation Area - Keir Mottram

First sighting in my **Hitchin** garden, 58 deg. Sunny/Breezy Time: 13.10 to 13.40, 1 Yellow Brimstone also 1 Ladybird - Val Fullforth

Saw my first butterfly of the year in between showers today, a Comma - Malcolm Hull

3 comma **Moat Wood**, Trent Park and a small tortoiseshell nearby at **Vicarage Farm** - Robert Callf

**Friday 31st March**

My first of the year, a Small Tortoiseshell at **Almond Hill Jr School** at 1pm. Lee Browne.

Up to 3 Brimstones in my garden west side of **Bishop's Stortford** today - Andrew Palmer

**Brimstone at Hertford & Peacock at Ware** - Nick Sampford

**Thursday 30th March** - comma on edge of **Moat Wood**, Trent Park - Robert Callf

**Sunday 26th March**

**Brimstone (1) in Wheathampstead** - Trevor D Chapman

Wednesday 29th March - Two male Brimstones and a Comma along the **River Ver at Drop Lane** near Bricket Wood at lunchtime. Some notable migrant birds in the same district included Willow Warblers, a Swallow and multiple Wheatears - Colin Everett

Tuesday 28th March

Delighted to see a comma today just off Walkers Road, Harpenden, on the edge of the **Prickledells Woodland** Nice sunny day, site sheltered from brisk wind - Michael Healy

Sunday 26th March

**Monks Walk, Buntingford**. At least 2 brimstones and a peacock in the garden - Russell Wood

Saturday 25th March - A **Peacock** at **Bayford** railway station in the late morning sunshine. A butterfly very briefly glimpsed on derelict ground with much flowering Coltsfoot near **Bricket Wood** on Thursday 23rd March may have been a Small Tortoiseshell. More significantly, members should know that the latest issue of the *Entomologist's Record* includes a 16-page paper by Richard Fox of BC and Leslie Williams of LNHS discussing recent changes in butterfly distributions in the London Area. - Colin Everett

Saturday 25th March

Four male brimstones during a five mile run from **Harpenden to Redbourn** and back. Nice to have opened the scoring at last, and a good job I went for the run in the morning as it seems to be back to square one this afternoon - Richard Harrington

Brimstone in my **Brookmans Park** garden - Rupert Pyrah

A male Brimstone was seen in our **Crouch Hill** garden, though we have no foodplant (shame...). Looking at the sightings page, it was a good day for Brimstones! Helen Bantock

**Fir and Pond Woods**, am, one red admiral; one comma - David Gompertz

Just to let you know I had my first butterfly of the year, a nice male brimstone in the garden at **Royston**. - Simon Rasch

2 Brimstones seen my garden here in **Berkhamsted** in the sun this morning. The first butterflies I have seen here this year - Michael Anderson

My first butterfly of the season came into my **Stevenage** garden this morning, a **Brimstone** - Steve Lane

Thursday 23rd March

Thursday 23rd in the afternoon at **Trent Park**, two Red Admirals together - Robin White (news via Robert Callf)

Today I saw my first butterfly of 2006!! A **small tortoiseshell** on my usual walk around **Maple Cross farm**. It was only 10\* C but the sun was shining! - Ann Piper

Spotted a Red Admiral cruising down the **Strand in Central London** today at 1.45 p.m. Weather sunny and quite mild. It seemed particularly attracted to the wheels and undersides of vehicles; I pursued it amongst the traffic, to the bemusement of taxi and van drivers, in an effort to usher it to somewhere safer, but discretion eventually proved the better part of valour, so I hope it survives! - Michael Hammerson

At last, one **comma** at lunchtime today (23rd) in The Hyde, **Ware** - Andrew Wood

Monday 20th March

**Small Tortoiseshell** here (**Tring Herts**) yesterday (19th) in sunny weather but back to 4C and gloomy today - Nick Bowles

**Sunday 19th March**

Saw a Peacock on Wednesday in London but sadly it was just south of the Thames so doesn't count. However I had a **Comma** in the garden today (**Hemel Hempstead**) which was flying northwards against the prevailing wind and didn't settle - Malcolm Newland

**Patmore Heath**, Red Admiral in the garden today - first one I have seen this year - Gavin Vicary

**Wednesday 15th March**

I was running a volunteer task today on **Chipperfield Common** and saw **2 Red Admirals** sunning themselves on logs - Jez Perkins

**Chingford Plain** (Essex), about 3 o'clock a butterfly flew across the carpark. It looked more Peacock like than Red Admiral but then some sea gulls flew up from the carpark and it looked like they got it! Andrew Middleton

**February 2006**

**Tuesday 28th February**

Have just returned from a three week visit to my daughter in Kuala Lumpur where I managed to photograph some Malaysian butterflies.

**Sunday 19th February**

Red Admiral butterfly flying near Astonbury Field Centre, **Stevenage** on sunny afternoon of **18th February**. We also had a **small tortoiseshell** fluttering just outside our home the week before (Saturday 11th in **Stevenage**). But the red admiral was flying as it would on a sunny summer's day!! - Christopher Hughes

I don't know whether this counts but there was a Small Tortoiseshell fluttering round St Mary's church in **Hitchin** this morning - Nigel Agar

**Sunday 12th February**

**STOP PRESS:** Butterfly Conservation Branch Stands will be at some Notcutts Garden Centres this week. Our area - Monday at Staines and Tuesday at St. Albans. For more details follow links to 'what's on'

**Wednesday 8th February**

My first Red Admiral of the year unfortunately not in Hertfordshire, rather in Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Miami, Florida! A short butterfly-ing spree that included other "British list" species Julia (Helocanian), Fiery Skipper and Monarch - Guy Manners

**January 2006**

**Sunday 22nd January**

Whilst watching **Hitchin Town** play at around 3.30 pm on Sat 21st January a **Peacock** flew across the pitch and over my head as I sat in the stand. More interesting than the footie I can tell you - Stuart Pittman

**Saturday 21st January**

I saw a **Red Admiral**, too, today on **Kew Green** so a matter of metres into Surrey - Andrew Wood

When I saw today's weather I knew it would be a butterfly day, but didn't expect to see one myself! **Ware** garden, whilst pruning the apple tree, a **Red Admiral** flew through the garden at 2.30, it was then seen by Rachel about 15 minutes later (Rachel having an advantage because she was in the apple tree and higher up). This is my earliest ever butterfly record - Liz Goodyear ( *I expect to hear of other reports later?*)

**Wednesday 18th January**

Chris Tracey of the Gloucestershire Branch has asked if we could post the following message:

Picos de Europa. Teresa Farino, leading local naturalist, invites you to join her for a

relaxing, guided tour of the Picos de Europa in a small friendly group for one week from 25th June 2006. Scenic strolls in the best butterfly areas will be followed by optional moth trapping at Teresa's house. Accommodation in a comfortable family-run hotel in Pesaguero, travel in Spain, food and wine are all included in the price of £670. Flights or ferry from UK to Santander are extra but bookings can be arranged. For further details please contact Chris Tracey on 01453 752051 or e-mail [chris@tracey94.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:chris@tracey94.fsnet.co.uk)

**Wednesday 11th January 2006**

A **Brimstone** was seen at **Patmore Heath** on the 11th by Rob Hopkins - news via Andrew Wood

During this morning's scrub bashing ops on the northern compartment of **Aldbury Nowers**, in glorious sunny weather, a single **Brimstone** was seen by all - Michael Pearson

**Saturday 7th January 2006**

There is to be a major scrub-bashing session on the northern compartment (adjoining Pitstone Hill) of Aldbury Nowers (Duchies Piece) Reserve on Wednesday, 11th January 2006. The work will be carried out under the direction of HMWT & National Trust staff, together with volunteer groups; and has the aim of substantially clearing bramble thicket throughout the area - Michael Pearson Anyone who would like to help, and is free to do so, will be very welcome. Meet: 10.00am Wed 11 Nov 06 at the NT Visitors' Centre, Ashridge Estate. Transport to the site will be provided by the NT to reduce the risk of vehicle damage to the chalk turf of Pitstone Hill. Please let me know beforehand if you wish to attend - Michael Pearson

**Thursday 5th January**

Friends of Marshalls Heath - There will be a work day next Wednesday, January 11th, when we will be doing some scrub clearance on both sides of the road. I shall be there from about 9.00 a.m. onwards. Please bring a packed lunch, waterproofs, good strong gardening gloves and boots, and a garden fork if you have one. Hope to see you there - John Murray