

Bealeswood Common Wildlife

Bealeswood Wildlife Recording Group (BWRG), June 2024

See also at www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk/wildlife

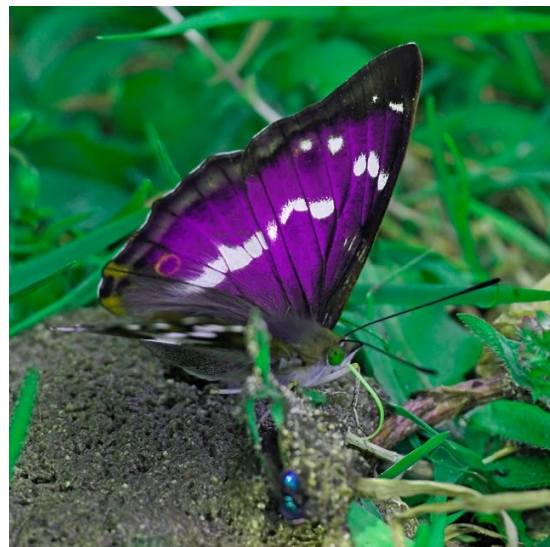
Butterflies and Moths (PH)

The Butterfly Walk on June 29th led by Philippa Hall and Claire Jackson targetted a well-known Master Tree in Alice Holt Forest to find the Purple Emperor. The weather was clear and warm but although we sighted a good range of butterfly species on the way: Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Marbled White, Large White, Large Skipper, Small/Essex Skipper, Red Admiral, White Admiral, Speckled Wood, Comma, Silver-washed Fritillary and even some Purple Hairstreaks, waiting at the tree was a little disappointing as only a couple of Emperors were visible, high up in the canopy.

However, on the way back, we saw a group of enthusiasts clicking away with cameras at a butterfly on the ground – and yes, it was a Purple Emperor, attracted to the minerals found in dog poo. His Imperial Majesty gave us plenty of photo opportunities, seeming undisturbed by the 8 or 9 people gathered round, and displayed his purple upper side as well as the patterned underwing which made for spectacular photographic opportunities.



Underside of wings of Purple Emperor
with Common Green Bottle flies on dog poo



Upper wings with its striking purple
(photos Alan Cox)

Although butterfly numbers haven't quite caught up after the cool, damp spring, moths appear to be doing well. An overnight moth trap, adjacent to Bealeswood Common, produced over 60 species. A full list can be seen at the end of this notice.



Left to right: Elephant Hawkmoth, Scarce Silver-lines and a well camouflaged Buff-tip moth (photos Philippa Hall).

Flowers

June is the month when most plants are seen flowering on the Common. This year, the weekly counts are around 80 species, not including shrubs and trees. Also, not surprisingly, the non-flowering plants such as ferns, and mosses. To coincide with this maximum blooming on the Common a wildflower walk was organised 16th June led by Dan and Alison Bosence.

A party of 10 and one very well-behaved dog gathered at the noticeboard on a bright and sunny morning. Our immediate attention was taken up with the magnificent display of Common Spotted Orchids in the grassy sward. This orchid has benefitted hugely from the late summer cut of the Common having spread from a few treasured flowers in the southwest of the Common 30 years ago and spreading out to most grassland areas today.

A walk through the grassy areas also revealed the small, but just as spectacular, vetches that have flowered well this year: Common Vetch, Grass Vetchling, Meadow Vetchling, Hairy Tares and the clover family; Red and White Clover and Birdsfoot Trefoil. After exploring the marshy area of the Main Common (thankfully dried out after the winter rains) where we saw two of our Red Lusted flowers (Ragged Robin and Lesser Spearwort) we moved downhill to the freshly excavated pond on the Lower Common, off Bealeswood Lane (see map on next sheet). Here the winter floods and the dredging have produced a large spread of sandy gravel on the northern pond margin. The most striking coloniser of this new habitat is a cluster of Yellow Monkey Flower together with blue Forget-me-not and Red Campion. Nearer the pond margin are the blue flowering Brooklime (*Veronica becca-bunga*, yes, really!), white flowering Watercress and the striking Yellow Flags. Alan Cox's photos of these marginal pond plants follow on next sheet.

A walk back up Bealeswood Lane to the noticeboard gave us the opportunity to contrast the verges that are regularly cut with those that are left to flower, which clearly results in a diverse flowering community with many pollinating insects.



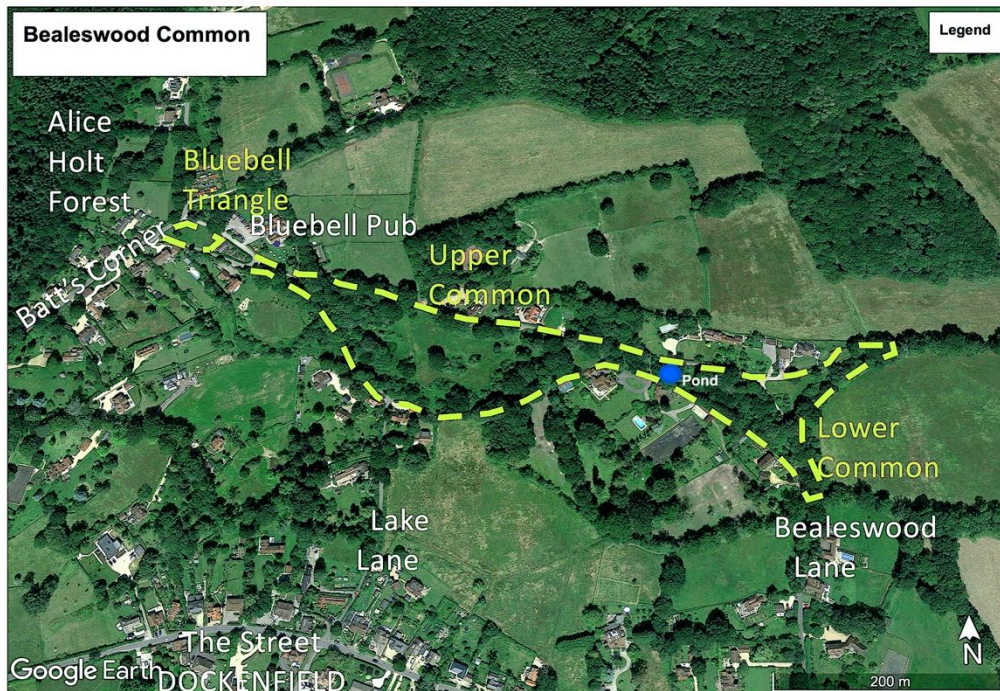
Yellow Monkeyflower
standing 30-40 cm tall



Brooklime (flower 7 mm)
a low-growing creeper



Watercress (flower 3-4 mm)
on water's edge and in pond



Nature Walks Programme for later in the year

Informal, family-friendly events for which there is no charge. If you are interested let the leaders know so they have numbers and can contact you in case of cancellation/postponement. Meet at this notice board on Bealeswood Common:
Saturday 28th September; 09:30-11:00. Small mammals of Bealeswood Common. Contact Roger or Jill Trout troutdpc@gmail.com
Saturday 26th October; 11:00-12:30. Fungi of Bealeswood Common, and then adjourn to the Bluebell. Contact Manda Adolph amandaadolph@gmail.com

BWRG: Amanda Adolph, Dan & Alison Bosence, Alan & Pauline Cox, Philippa & Colin Hall, Alex Potts, Roger & Jill Trout, and Anne Tutt. 1st July, 2024

Moth List, Keeper's Cottage, Saturday June 29th, 2024 (Philippa Hall)

Macromoths

Drepanidae

Common Lutestring (*Ocropacha duplaris*)

Lasiocampidae

Lackey (*Malacosoma Neustria*)

Sphingidae

Elephant Hawk Moth (*Delephila Elpenor*)

Geometridae

Dwarf Cream Wave (*Idea fuscovenosa*)

Treble Brown Spot (*Idea trigaminata*)

Small Fan-footed Wave (*Idea biselata*)

Riband Wave (*Idea aversata*)

Cloaked Carpet (*Euphyia biangulata*)

Barred Straw (*Gandaritis pyraliata*)

V-pug (*Chloroclystis v-ata*)

Green Pug (*Pasiphila rectangulata*)

Scorched Wing (*Plagodis dolabraria*)

Brimstone (*Opisthograptis luteolata*)

Peppered Moth (*Biston betularia*)

Willow Beauty (*Peribatodes rhomboidaria*)

Mottled Beauty (*Alcis repandata repandata*)

Great Oak Beauty (*Hypomecis roboraria*)

Common Wave (*Cabera exanthemata*)

Common Emerald (*Hemithea aestivaria*)

Notodontidae

Marbled Brown (*Drymonia dodonaea*)

Buff-tip (*Phalera bucephala*)

Erebidae

Yellow Tail (*Euproctis similis*)

Buff Ermine (*Spilosoma lutea*)

Rosy Footman (*Miltochrista miniata*)

Common Footman (*Eilema lurideola*)

Scarce Footman (*Eilema complana*)

Noctuidae

Grey Dagger (*Arconicta psi*)

Poplar Grey (*Subacronicta megacephala*)

Uncertain/Rustic (*Hoplodrina octogenaria*/*Hoplodrina blanda*)

Least Minor (*Photedes captiuncula*)

Clouded Brindle (*Apamea epomidion*)

Dark Arches (*Apamea monoglypha*)

Marbled Minor (*Oligia strigilis*)

Dunbar (*Cosmia trapezina*)
Minor Shoulder-knot (*Bracylomia viminalis*)
Bright-line Brown-eye (*Lacanobiaoleracea*)
Smoky Wainscot (*Mythimna impura*)
Clay (*Mythimna farrago*)
Heart & Dart (*Agrotis exclamationis*)
Heart & Club (*Agrotis Clavis*)
Flame Shoulder (*Ochropleura plecta*)
Large Yellow Underwing (*Noctua pronuba*)
Broad- bordered Yellow Underwing (*Noctua fimbriata*)
Double Square-spot (*Xestia Triangulum*)
Small Black Arches (*Meganola strigula*)
Short Cloaked Moth (*Nola cucullatella*)
Least Black Arches (*Nola confusalis*)

Nolidae

Scarce Silver-lines (*Bena bicolorana*)

Micromoths

Green Oak tree Tortrix (*Tortrix Viridana*)
Bramble Shoot Moth (*Notocelia Uddmanniana*)
Pearl grass-veneer (*Catoptria pinella*)
Italian Bark Moth (*Metalampra italica*)
Box Moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*)
Small Magpie (*Anania hortulata*)
Variegated Golden Tortrix (*Archips Xylosteana*)
White-banded Grass Moth (*Crambus pascuella*)
Common Yellow Conch (*Agapeta hamana*)
Warted Knot-horn (*Acrobasis repandana*)
Bird Cherry Ermine (*Yponomeuta evonymella*)
Large fruit Tree Tortrix (*Archips podana*)
European Corn-borer (*Ostrinia nubilalis*)
Oak Lantern (*Carcina Quercana*)