Butterflies of Shamley Green

Shamley Green is fortunate in not, as so many other villages are, being totally surrounded by intensive agriculture. There can still be found, albeit in dwindling numbers, most of our traditional countryside butterflies within a short walk of the green.

We hear much about the sad plight of our specialist butterfly species; the tiny Swallowtail populations in the Norfolk Broads and the Adonis Blue clinging to south facing patches of the South Downs. But before our very eyes, the so-called generalist species, those we are used to seeing on our Sunday picnics such as the Small Tortoiseshell and the Comma, are steadily fading from view.

It is these generalist species that can be helped on a local level. The Parish Council has recently opened up glades in local woodland to help such species as the White Admiral, Siver-washed Fritillary and Speckled Wood. One landowner has planted wildflower meadows, bringing in various Skipper species, Marbled Whites and the exquisite Small Copper. Wildflower meadows are a wonderful habitat for all kinds of butterflies, so if anyone fancies planting some more… Grassland mowing regimes have been introduced to benefit flowering and insect population growth.

The following pages give information on the couple of dozen or so butterflies that you can expect to find round about our village and the kind of environment that you can expect to find them in.

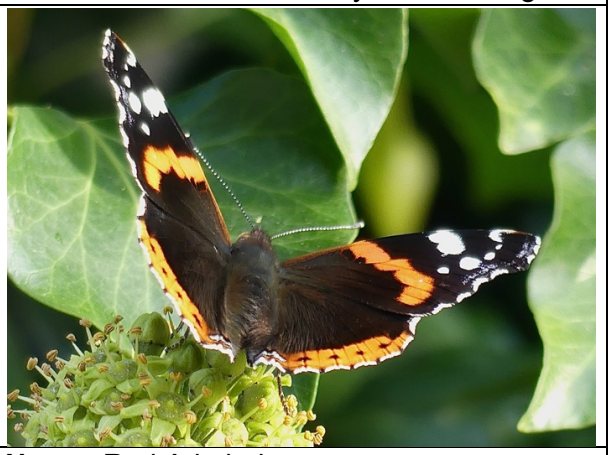
When it comes to identifying the white butterflies, a handbook will almost certainly be required unless you are an expert. The sexes are different and the size depends on how well the caterpillar fed rather than the species. Not every butterfly has a photo yet and some photos leave a lot to be desired as this is a work in progress, but it can't stay on my laptop forever. So, in the meantime why not, when the sun is beckoning through your window, print off a page, or two, pick a butterfly you fancy and see if you can find it a short walk away?

John Portess

4/11/26

	
Name: Small Skipper (male with sex brands)	**Name:** Essex Skipper (male with sex brand)
Location: Grassland, Meadows	**Location:** Grassland, Meadows
Time of Year: June-August	**Time of Year:**June-August
Comments: Similar to Essex Skipper	**Comments:**Similar to Small Skipper
	
Name: Large Skipper (male with sex brand)	**Name:** Clouded Yellow
Location: Rough Grassland, Woodland Clearings	**Location:** Scrub, Open Land, Gardens
Time of Year: May-August	**Time of Year:** Usually Late Summer/Autumn
Comments:	**Comments:** Migrant us. from Mediterranean
	
Name: Brimstone	**Name:**
Location: Hedgerows, Gardens	**Location:**
Time of Year: Any, Peaks May & July	**Time of Year:**
Comments:	**Comments:**

	
Name: Large White	**Name:** Small White
Location: Grassland, Parks, Gardens	**Location:** Grassland, Parks, Gardens
Time of Year: May-Sept. Peak July-Aug.	**Time of Year:** May-Sept. Peak July-Aug.
Comments:	**Comments:**
	
Name: Green-veined White	**Name:** Orange-tip (female)
Location: Woodland margins, Hedgerows	**Location:** Hedgerows, Patures, Parks
Time of Year: Peaks May and again in June	**Time of Year:** April-June
Comments:	**Comments:** Only the male has orange between the black tip and the black dot.
	
Name: Small Copper	**Name:**
Location: Meadows, Woodland Rides	**Location:**
Time of Year: may-October	**Time of Year:**
Comments:	**Comments:**

	
Name: Common Blue (female blue type)	**Name:** Holly Blue
Location: Meadows, Gardens	**Location:** Gardens, Hedgerows, esp.
Time of Year: Peaking May, July/August	**Time of Year:** May/June & July-September
Comments:	**Comments:** Look for on Ivy at head height
	
Name: White Admiral	**Name:** Red Admiral
Location: Woodland Clearings and Rides	**Location:** Anywhere with Nettles, Gardens
Time of Year: June/July	**Time of Year:** Anytime, Peaking July-Oct.
Comments:	**Comments:**
	
Name: Painted Lady	**Name:** Small Tortoiseshell
Location: Often Bare Ground	**Location:** Gardens, Hedges with Bramble
Time of Year: Spring peak, then up to Oct.	**Time of Year:** All Summer peaks April, July
Comments: Migrant, numbers vary annually	**Comments:**

	
Name: Peacock	**Name:** Comma
Location: Gardens and Woodland	**Location:** Tracksides, Glades and Gardens
Time of Year: July, August	**Time of Year:** Best in Spring & Midsummer
Comments:	**Comments:**
	
Name: Silver-washed Fritillary	**Name:** Speckled Wood
Location: Woodland Glades and rides	**Location:** Anywhere there are trees
Time of Year: May-September	**Time of Year:** March to October
Comments:	**Comments:**
	
Name: Marbled White	**Name:** Gatekeeper (male)
Location: Meadows, Rough Grassland	**Location:** Tall Grasses and Hedgerows
Time of Year: Around June, July	**Time of Year:** Peaking July/August
Comments:	**Comments:**

	
Name: Meadow Brown	**Name:** Small Heath
Location: Grassland and Gardens	**Location:** Dry Grassland
Time of Year: Peaking July/August	**Time of Year:** May-September
Comments:	**Comments:** Like a tiny Meadow Brown
	
Name: Ringlet	**Name:**
Location: Rough/Damp Grassland	**Location:**
Time of Year: Around July	**Time of Year:**
Comments:	**Comments:**
Name:	**Name:**
Location:	**Location:**
Time of Year:	**Time of Year:**
Comments:	**Comments:**