



Contents

	Page
Wales Moth List updated to 2020	1
Big Butterfly Count Results for Wales	2
Award for Wildlife Recording	2
Could you spare 20 minutes?	2
Butterflies in the house	3
Lots of leaflets!	3
Volunteers needed	3
About Frits About	4
Frits About No. 3	4



Clifden Nonpareil

Dear All

Welcome to the Wales Newsletter. As we move into the winter months there's still plenty to do and opportunities to get involved with egg surveys, habitat management or maybe help us create a new 'Volunteer Role' description!

The Wales Moth List is updated for 2020 and the Clifden Nonpareil is continuing to extend its range here while the Big Butterfly Count analysis for Wales shows more worrying declines in numbers of many species. On a brighter note, we're delighted to congratulate our own Andrew Graham on winning the Terrestrial category of the NBN Award for Wildlife Recording. We hope you'll enjoy reading the newsletter, we'd love to hear any comments via the [Wales staff team email](#).

Best regards,

Andrea, Clare, Dai and Judy - **Butterfly Conservation Wales Team**



Shining Marbled, Pseudeustrotia Candidula: Sam Bosanquet

Wales Moth List Updated

The Wales Moth List has been updated to 2020. [Clifden Nonpareil](#) continued its incredible recent expansion. It has now been recorded from over half of the Welsh vice-counties, having first appeared in Glamorgan in 2017.

Six species were new for Wales: Dotted Fan-foot (Montgomeryshire), [Dark Crimson Underwing](#) and Shining Marbled (both Monmouthshire) and the micro-moths *Caryocolum kroesmanniella* (Denbighshire), *Acleris abietana* and *Evergestis extimalis* (both Monmouthshire).

The full list and account can be viewed in [English](#) and [Welsh](#) on the Wales webpages.

[Read more here](#)

Big Butterfly Count Results for Wales

Huge thanks to all of you who took part. You submitted 5,911 butterfly counts in Wales, representing almost 15,000 hours of butterfly counting and a 36% increase on 2020!

But worryingly, the results showed the decline in the number of butterflies and moths across the UK is continuing, with the overall number of butterflies recorded per count at its lowest level since the Big Butterfly Count began 12 years ago.

Some of Wales' most-loved species including the [Small Tortoiseshell](#) and [Peacock](#) butterflies dropped in numbers this summer while the cloud-tolerant [Ringlet](#) increased on 2020.

[Read more here](#)



Ringlet pair: Brian Roberts

Celebrating the achievements of a North Wales County Recorder

Congratulations to Andrew Graham who's won the 2021 [National Biodiversity Network \(NBN\) Award for Wildlife Recording](#) (Terrestrial), announced on November 24th.

Andrew has served as County Butterfly and Moth Recorder for various North Wales Vice Counties for over 20 years, helping to determine specimens and verify tens of thousands of records. He also provides a pivotal role in collating and sharing records from all North Wales Vice Counties, through a website – [North Wales Lepidoptera](#) - which he developed and maintains. Andrew has submitted over 580,000 records to the Local Environmental Records Centre – [Cofnod](#).

Andrew has passed on his passion for butterflies and moths to countless volunteers, encouraging them to learn more about these fantastic insects and contribute records of their own. He also works closely with BC staff, providing a wealth of specialist knowledge and support for which we are extremely grateful.

Butterfly Conservation Wales would like to say a huge thank you to Andrew and a richly deserved **Well Done!**

[Read more here](#)



Could you spare 20 minutes please?

We're looking for existing volunteers to give us feedback on our updated Volunteer Role Descriptions to ensure they're easy to understand and cover the key aspects of the role. We're reviewing the role descriptions to make it easier to recruit new volunteers and they will also be used to develop a volunteer training programme, to be launched in the spring.

Please contact Kate Barrett (kbarrett@butterfly-conservation.org), Senior Volunteer Development Officer. if you think you can help with this. Thanks!

Butterflies in the house?

As winter approaches we're often asked how best to take care of butterflies – usually [Small Tortoiseshells](#) and [Peacocks](#) - which come indoors to shelter.

It's best to leave them somewhere cool and sheltered where they won't be disturbed. This may be a room which is kept at a lower temperature or a shed or garage. If you can gently coax them (try a small, clean soft brush) into a cardboard box they're easier to move!

If you're lucky you may find some [Herald moths](#) sheltering in an outbuilding or under a stone bridge.

It's fascinating to see how different species overwinter. As they rely on external heat sources (although some can 'shiver'!) most are inactive in cold conditions as egg, larva or pupa or as adults in a dormant state.



[Read more here](#)

Explore our Leaflets!

Try some winter armchair exploring - browse our wonderful selection of more than 20 Wales-focussed, free leaflets about butterflies, moths and how to look after their habitats – including your garden!

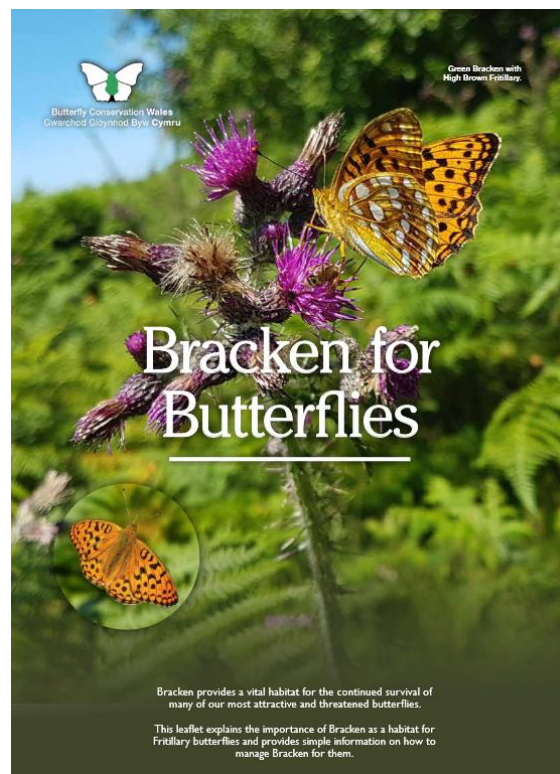
With lovely photos (many taken by enthusiasts in Wales), explore the range including :

- [Gardening for Butterflies](#)
- Guides to managing [Grassland for Marsh Fritillary](#) or [Bare Ground for Butterflies and Moths](#) and [Bracken for Butterflies](#)
- Guides to many of our threatened species in Wales such as [Brown Hairstreak](#)

They can be freely downloaded - or we could send a few by post if you [email us](#)

[Find all the leaflets here](#)

[ac yn y Gymraeg](#)



Volunteers needed

Butterflies might be overwintering but there's still work for us to do! In the winter months there are work parties in some areas, managing habitat for Marsh Fritillary and High Brown Fritillary as well as surveys for Brown Hairstreak eggs in West Wales organised by South Wales Branch.

If you'd like to get involved, please go to the [Volunteers – Wales](#) page to find details or contact us via the [Wales staff team email](#).

Diolch - Thank you !



Volunteers searching for Brown Hairstreak eggs on Blackthorn shoots

About Frits About

Frits About is a newsletter reporting on sightings of Fritillary butterfly species across the whole of Wales. Dozens of volunteers send in their sightings and photos to build up a picture of how the species are faring each year.

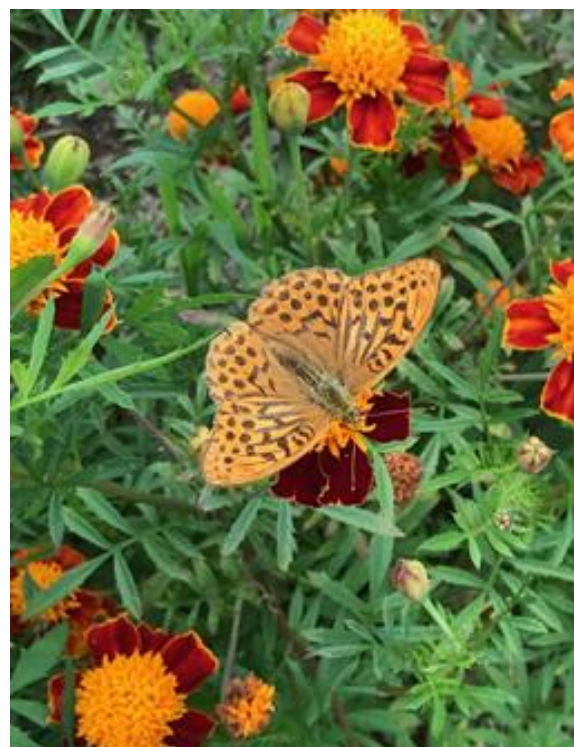
Contributors include volunteers who are members of Butterfly Conservation as well as BC staff, other individual enthusiasts and people from other wildlife organisations. Reports are gathered by Richard Smith of South Wales Branch and Frits About editor. The views included are their own, not necessarily those of Butterfly Conservation.

It's important that all species records are also sent to the local [County Recorder](#)

The amazing work of these dedicated enthusiasts has been creating Frits About for more than two decades.

All editions since 2014 can be found [here](#).

If you'd like to get involved, please [email Richard Smith](#) of South Wales Branch.



From the latest Frits About - Silver-washed Fritillary on marigolds: Quentin McGarvie

FRITS ABOUT, 2021 – No.3

Richard Smith Writes:

"Of the three earliest flying species (the Pearl-bordered, Small Pearl-bordered and Marsh Fritillaries), apart from late starts, there hasn't been much trend of note. In some ways it's been a very average year, perhaps. That said, numbers were modest at best, whether a factor of the general late 2021 emergence or not isn't clear. Ben Williams' timed MF counts around Hirwaun were encouraging, at close to 100 on each of two regular sites.

Dark Green (DGF), High Brown (HBF) & Silver-washed Fritillaries (SWF) also emerged later generally in 2021, with most being 2 to 3 weeks later than last year and probably a week to 10 days later than last decade average."

To read Frits About 2021 No. 3 in full [Please click here](#)

Thanks to the following for supplying their photos:

High Brown Fritillary on Thistle (title bar): Ben Williams; Shining Marbled: Sam Bosanquet; Ringlet pair: Brian Roberts; Peacock in the house: Johannes Weckström, Silver-washed Fritillary on marigolds: Quentin McGarvie

Butterfly Conservation is a charity registered in England and Wales (254937) and in Scotland (SCO39268)

Mae Gwarchod Glöynnod Byw yn elusen wedi'i chofrestru yng Nghymru a Lloegr (254937) ac yn Yr Alban (SCO39268)

Gwarchod Glöynnod Byw Butterfly Conservation Wales, Gardd Fotaneg Genedlaethol Cymru, (Stafell Wallace), Llanarthne, Sir Gaerfyrddin / c/o National Botanic Garden of Wales (Wallace Room), Llanarthne, Carmarthenshire SA32 8HG

