

Bealeswood Common Wildlife

July 2023

As seen by the Bealeswood Wildlife Recording Group (BWRG)

Copies of this and previous notices can be found at

www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk/wildlife

Fungi (Amanda Adolph)

With the dry June and early July, fungi have been scarce on the Common but the rains and damper weather later in July have promoted a late showing.

The Hairy Curtain Crust is back and producing new fruiting bodies and the Broadleaf Bleeding Crust has spread along a favoured dead tree branch since last month. In addition, the Charcoal Burners are just starting to show and a new species for the Common records is the Olive Brittlegill (*Russula olivacea*) that popped up in the last week of the month.



Olive Brittlegill- *Russula olivacea*
(photo Amanda Adolph)

Flowers (Dan Bosence)

July has seen an abundance of flowering plants (Angiosperms) on the Common and a total of 90 species have been recorded. The early summer flowers of May and June have been added to by late summer flowering species such as the Harebells, Montbretia, Meadowsweet, Angelica, Hemp Nettle, Marjoram and 2-3 species of Mint. In addition, early summer and spring flowering plants that had set seed in the June heat had a second phase of flowering brought on by the recent rains.

Dominating the grassland areas at present are the purple Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) whose nectar proves to be a magnet to many butterflies. The bright pink to purple flower comprises a large number of florets each with their nectar source. These rest on the large dark brown bud that gives the flower its alternative names of Black Knapweed or Hardheads. This year saw the surprise occurrence of a white form which is described as nationally “rare”, or for some, “occasional”. This is not to be confused with the white garden variety *Centaurea montana alba*.

Also prominent are the purple willow herbs with the most prominent being the Great Willowherb (up to 2 m high) along ditches and in marshy areas of the Common. Unfortunately, its more graceful cousin the Rose Bay has not appeared this year. In addition, we record the smaller Broad Leaved and the Marsh Willowherbs.



Brimstone on Common Knapweed
(all photos Amanda Adolph)

Painted Lady on Knapweed Small White on Knapweed

Moths (Philippa Hall)

A moth trap was set up in a garden adjacent to Bealeswood Common one night in July which attracted over 40 species of moths. These ranged from large hawk moths (Poplar Hawk and Pine Hawk) to micromoths such as Long-legged Tabby & Thicket Knot-thorn. Although many moths are useful pollinators, some do not have functional mouth parts and so do not feed, while others have only a rudimentary proboscis but may still feed. Some of the micro-moths are so primitive that they have not developed even a basic proboscis but use mandibles instead.



Poplar Hawk (65-90 mm) Rosy Footman (23-27 mm) Long Legged Tabby (22-27 mm)
(photos by Philippa Hall, all measurement are wingspan in millimetres)

As with butterflies, the most important part of a moth's life cycle is the larval (caterpillar) stage so that moths visiting Bealeswood Common are mainly looking for suitable plants on which to lay eggs. These host plants will then provide food for the emerging caterpillars. Whilst some moth larvae are polyphagous (prepared to eat a wide range of plants) others are specialist feeders and will only consider one particular food source.

A complete list of the moths trapped in July, and also in June is added at the end of this Newsletter.

Butterflies (Philippa Hall)

So far the numbers of Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers, although a little down on last year, have not dropped off as was feared because of the drought . However, some butterflies seem to have suffered – in particular we have recorded fewer Common Blues than last year.

Butterflies species seen on Bealeswood Common transects in July (in descending order of numbers recorded):_Meadow Brown, Purple Hairstreak, Gatekeeper, Marbled White, Ringlet, Speckled Wood, Large White, Small/Essex Skipper, Silver-washed Fritillary, Clouded Yellow.

Bealeswood Common holds on to its Green Flag award

Following judging in April this year the Common has again been awarded Green Flag status. We were particularly commended on the community involvement in the regular recording of the fauna and flora on the site and its appropriate management by Waverley Borough Council and Dockenfield Parish Council. The expertise and the proactive nature of the volunteer monitoring was also noted together with our notices and posting of results on the Parish Council Website. Green Flag Awards are internationally recognised green spaces and parks for their standard of management, accessibility to the community they serve and to promote good practice amongst the green space sectors. The awards are managed by the UK Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

Bealeswood Common Wildlife; an evening of talks

Dockenfield Parish Council have invited the Bealeswood Wildlife Recording Group (BWRG) to present a series of talks about the diversity of wildlife on this wonderful Common. The talks will focus on different aspects of our recording work that shows long- and short-term changes, wildlife hotspots and biodiversity. In addition there will be a photographic display with images taken on the Common by some of the very talented members of the group.

The talks will take place at The Church of the Good Shepherd on Friday 27th October from 7.30pm. Entrance will be free, with refreshments afterwards. Do pop the date in your diaries as a mustn't miss event!

Revised Dates and List of Wildlife Walks- Unless otherwise stated the walks are free but you need to book a place and meet at this noticeboard on the Common.

Friday 11th August. 20.15 - 22.00. Bats at sunset on Bealeswood Common, walking to Frensham Mill and back, good paths. Leader Caroline and James Fillingham, Surrey Bat Group. Donations please

to <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/sussexbatappeal>. Contact Dan Bosence to book a place on dwbosence@btinternet.com

Saturday 2nd September. 09.30 -11.00. Small mammals of Bealeswood Common. Leader: Roger Trout. Contact troutdpc@gmail.com to book a place.

Friday 13th October. 11.00 -12.30. Fungi of Bealeswood Common, then adjourn to the Bluebell. Leader: Manda Adolph and book place on adolphdpc@gmail.com

Bealeswood Wildlife Recording Group

Amanda Adolph, Dan & Alison Bosence, Alan & Pauline Cox, Philippa & Colin Hall, Clare Jackson, Phil Nangle, Alex Potts, Anne Tutt, and Raf Wane. 27/7/2023.

Moths June 4th 2023 at garden adjacent to Bealeswood Common

Common Swift *Korscheltellus lupulina*
Orthotaenia undulana
Poplar Lutestring *Tethis or*
Spruce Carpet *Thera britannica*
Common Marbled Carpet *Dysstroma citrata*
Green Carpet *Colostygia pectinataria*
Mottled Pug *Eupithecia exiguata*
Clouded Border *Lomaspilis marginata*
Brown Silver-lines *Petrophora chlorosata*
Scorched Wing *Plagodis dolabraria*
Brimstone *Opisthograptis luteolata*
Common White Wave *Cabera pusaria*
Light Emerald *Campaea margaritaria*
Straw Dot *Rivula sericealis*
Pale Tussock *Calliteara pudibunda*
White Ermine *Spilosoma lubricipeda*
Four Dotted Footman *Cybosia mesomella*
Vine's Rustic *Hoplodrina ambigua*
Treble Lines *Charancyca trigrammica*
Marbled Minor *Oligia strigilis*
Middle-barred Minor *Oligia fasciuncula*
Light Brocade *Lacanobia w-latinum*
White-point *Mythimna albipuncta*
Heart & Dart *Agratis exclamationist*
Ingrailed Clay *Diarsia mendica*
Least Black Arches *Nola confusalis*

Moth Night July 17th 2023, garden adjacent to Bealeswood Common

Drepanidae

Oak Hook-tip *Watsonalla binaria*
Lackey *Malacosoma castrensis*

Sphingidae

Poplar Hawk Moth *Laotoeopopuli*
Pine Hawk Moth *Sphinx pinastri*

Geometridae

Brimstone *Opisthograptis luteolata*
Scorched Carpet *Ligdia adustata*
Peppered Moth (insularia & Carbonaria) *Biston betularia*
Treble Brown Spot *Idaea trigeminata*
Riband Wave *Idaea aversata*
Cloaked Carpet *Euphyia biangulata*
White-spotted Pug *Eupithecia pusillata*
Clouded Border *Lomaspilis marginata*
Scalloped Oak *Crocallis elinguria*
September Thorn *Ennomos erosaria*

Early Thorn *Selenia dentaria*
Willow Beauty *Peribatodes rhomboidaria*

Erebidae

Snout *Hypena proboscidalis*
Black Arches *Lymantria monachal*
Yellow Tail *Euproctis similis*
Buff Ermine *Spilosoma lutea*
Rosy Footman *Miltochrista miniata*
Dingy Footman *Eilema griseola*
Hoary Footman *Eilema caniola*
Common Footman *Eilema lurideola*
Light crimson Underwing *Catocala promissa*

Noctuidae

Spectacle *Abrostola tipartita*
Silver Y *Autographa gamma*
Nut-tree Tussock *Colocasia coryli*
Uncertain/Rustic *Hoplodrina octogenarian/Hoplodrina blanda*
Dusky Sallow *Eremobia ochroleuca*
Dark Arches *Apamia monoglypha*
Common Rustic *Mesapamea secalis*
Dun-bar *Cosmia trapezina*
Clay *Mythimna farrago*
Smoky Wainscot *Mythimna impura*
Flame Shoulder *Ochropleura plecta*
Large Yellow Underwing *Noctua orbona*
Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing *Noctua fimbriata*

Micro-moths

Mother of Pearl *Pleuroptya ruralis*
Small Magpie *Anania hortulata*
Long-legged Tabby (Synaphe punctalis)
Thickset Knot-Thorn (Acrobasis suavella)
Long-horned Flat-body (Carcina Quercana)