Bealeswood Local Nature Reserve

Highlights for August 2026

As reported by the Bealeswood Wildlife Recording Group:

Amanda Adolph, Dan & Alison Bosence, Alan & Pauline Cox, Philippa & Colin Hall, Alex Potts, Roger & Jill Trout, and Anne Tutt

Bealeswood's first fungus of the autumn. This fabulous Chicken of the Woods (Laetiporus sulphureus) fruited overnight after the brief rain on the 18th of August

Micromoths (AC, PH)

In mid summer a walk across Bealeswood will see a shower of small insects in flight that fold their wings and wrap themselves around a plant stalk to become almost invisible. These are micromoths. In the UK we have around 2,700 butterflies and moths (Lepidoptera); 60 butterflies, 900 large moths and 1600 micromoths.

On August 15th PH's light trap contained at least 18 species of micromoth (4 of these are illustrated below) of which 11 had not been recorded here previously. A full list of the moths is given at the end of this notice.

Clockwise from top left:
Pale-streaked Grass moth (6 mm),
Rush Veneer moth (12mm),
Oak Longhorn moth (4mm), and
Clover Case-bearer moth (6 mm).

Drought Busting Wildflowers (DB)

With the extended dry conditions and record-breaking temperatures the Common was universally brown this year and a late August cut was organised.

Of interest to us, and looking forward to the likelihood of more hot summers, are the flowers that appear unfazed by this summer's drought and do well into the future.

Prior to the essential late summer grass-cut of the Common, two late summer flowering members of the Carrot family (the Apiaceae) were doing well. These are both Red-Listed species with Burnet Saxifrage being classified as "Near Threatened" and Pepper Saxifrage as "Endangered" throughout England.

Left- Pepper Saxifrage (*Silaum silaus*) flower head (photo Alan Cox).

Right- Burnet Saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*).

In the shadier verges their cousins Upright Hedge Parsley and Sison continued to flower until the end of the month. Similarly members of the Daisy family (Asteraceae) are doing well, as they do each summer; Yarrow, Sneezewort, and Fleabane. Areas of these are in no-cut areas to prolong the nectar and pollen feasts for our insects.

The nationally rare and Red Listed, dandelion-like, Rigid Hawkweed seems to have thrived in the hot dry summer in the acid grassland patch above Lake Lane.

In the hedges and scrub the large white flowers of the climbing Convolvulus (Hedge Bindweed) continue to impress with its large white trumpets whilst the climbing Honeysuckle died down early in the month. Damper ditches and marshy areas of the Common are seeing spreads of our four species mints in flower; Water Mint, Corn Mint, Spearmint and Peppermint.

Wildlife Walks on the Common These start at the notice board at the end of the lane downhill past the Bluebell pub garden (GU10 4EX). Contact the leader if you wish to join the walk, so that we can keep a track of numbers and in case of bad weather etc:

Small Mammals (wood mice, voles etc)- September 26th (Saturday) 10 am, led by Roger Trout, contact: rabbitwise@hotmail.co.uk

Mushrooms- October 17th (Saturday) 10.30 am, led by Manda Adolph, contact: amandaadolph@gmail.com

Fleabane; a late Summer feast for our insects- The Common Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*) provides a welcome feast of pollen and nectar for our insects when other flowers have died down. Here photographed by Alex Potts (note images not to scale).

Brown Argus X2 (*Aricia agestis*)

Small Copper (*Lycaena phlaeas*)

Common Blue
(*Polyommatus icarus*)

Small Heath (on Hawkweed)
(*Coenonympha pamphilus*)

Painted Lady
(*Vanessa cardui)*

Green-eyed Flower bee
(*Anthophora bimaculata*)

Image

Green-veined White
(*Pieris napi*)

Moth List Bealeswood common August 15th 2026

Common Name	Scientific name	Number	New
Macro-moths			
Hepialidae			
Orange Swift	Trodia sylvina	1	N
Drepanidae			
Oak Hook-tip	Watsonalla binaria	22	
Chinese Character	Cilix glaucata	1	
Lasiocampidae			
Pale Eggar	Trichiura crataegi	1	
Sphingidae			
Poplar Hawk-moth	Laothoe populi	2	
Geometridae			
Single-dotted Wave	Idaea dimidiate	1	
Riband wave	Idaea aversata	2	
Maiden's Blush	Cyclophora punctaria	2	
Clay Triple-lines	Cyclophora linearia	4	
Vestal	Rhodometra sacraria	1	N
Grey Pine Carpet	Thera obeliscata	2	
Narrow-winged Pug	Eupithecia nanata	1	
Peacock Moth	Marcaria notata	2	
Tawny -barred Angle	Macaria literata	7	
Brimstone	Opisthograptis luteolata	5	
Dusky Thorn	Ennomos fuscantaria	1	
September Thorn	Ennomos erosaria	9	
Great Oak Beauty	Hypomecis roboraria	2	
Light Emerald	Campaea margaritaria	10	
Notodontidae			
Swallow Prominent	Pheosia tremula	1	
Lesser Swallow Prominent	Pheosia gnoma	2	
Erebidae			
Snout	Hypena proboscidalis	1	
Vapourer	Orgyia antiqua	1	N
Light Crimson Underwing	Catocala promissa	1	
Noctuidae			
Copper Underwing	Amphipyra pyramidea	2	
Small Mottled Willow	Spodoptera exigua	22	
Vine's Rustic	Hoplodrina ambigua	6	
Straw Underwing	Thalpophila matura	8	
Ear Moth	Amphipoeaoculea	1	
Flounced Rustic	Luperina testacea	1	N
Common Rustic/Lesser Common Rustic	Mesapamea secalis/didyma	2	
Cloaked Minor	Mesoligia furunculi	2	
Centre-barred Sallow	Atethmia centrago	1	
Brindled Green	Dryobotodes eremita	1	
Common Wainscot	Mythimna pallens	9	
Delicate	Mythimna vitellina	1	
White-point	Mythimna albipuncta	2	
Heart & Dart	Agrotis exclamationis	1	
Shuttle-shaped Dart	Agrotis puta puta	1	
Large Yellow Underwing	Noctua pronuba	5	
Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	Noctua janthe	7	
Square-spot Rustic	Xestia xanthographa	3	
Six-striped Rustic	Xestia sexstrigata	4	
Setaceous Hebrew Character	Xestia c-nigrum	3	
Small Black Arches	Meganola strigula	2	
Micro-moths			
Dark-bordered Pearl	Evergestis limbata	4	N
Oak Longhorn	Carcina quercana	6	
Common Purple & Gold	Pyrausta purpularis	5	
Rusty-dot Pearl	Udea ferrugalis	4	N
Rusty Acorn-piercer	Cydia Amplana	2	N
Large Fruit-tree Tortrix	Achips podana	4	
Garden Pebble	Evergestis forficalis	1	N
Common Grass-veneer	Agriphila Tristella	7	
Tufted Tortrix	Acleris cristana	1	N
Oak Knot-horn	Phycita roborella	2	
Pale-streaked Grass-moth	Agriphila selasella	1	
Tufted Oak Knot-horn	Acrobasis tumidana	2	N
Tabby Knot-horn	Euzophera pinguis	1	N
Chestnut Tortrix	Cydia splendana	1	N
European Corn-borer	Ostrinia nubilalis	5	
Common Masoner	Blastbasis adustella		N
Clover Case-bearer	Coleophora alcyonipennella		N
Rush Veneer	Nomophila noctuella		N