

OATEN HILL & SOUTH CANTERBURY ASSOCIATION



SUMMER NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2020

No. 15

digital edition

FROM THE EDITOR:

What a difference a week makes – in March, in the week after the Spring newsletter went to print, the country went into lockdown. OHSCA's many planned meetings and get-togethers had to be cancelled. All of us have been appalled at the scale of the infection in the UK, and the number of daily deaths. OHSCA offers its collective sympathy to all persons and families who have been affected by the coronavirus crisis. In England, although social distancing still remains, some restrictions have now been eased on the movement of people and on the opening of retail outlets. Maintaining social distancing will be a challenge for our local high street shops, and for smaller independent businesses.

What the lockdown has demonstrated, however, is the capacity of people for kindness and concern for each other, and a greater feeling of community and togetherness (the cliché of 'we are all in it together' proving itself very true). I was struck by the number of times strangers would smile or greet my husband and me during our daily exercise walking along Old Dover Rd or New Dover Rd, something not really noted so much pre-COVID. As Dr Charlotte Sidebotham writes in the June edition of the British Journal of General Practice, "every moment of darkness has been matched by a moment of light with gestures of compassion, and the language of kindness has connected communities." Challenging times have always brought out the best in people. Let us not lose our sense of belonging as a social community, and care for each other once the world 'goes back to normal'.

As the lockdown is easing, the need to alert OHSCA members immediately to new notices around the coronavirus becomes less urgent; therefore, the weekly Bulletins have ceased with the 12th issue, and any future important updates will be placed on the OHSCA website, or as a one-off bulletin as the need arises. The editor is grateful to all who contributed to the bulletins over the last four months.

Greta Cotterrell

Summer roses at St Lawrence Forstal



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please note that although many OHSCA meetings have been cancelled due to COVID-19, the St Augustine Abbey picnic will take place on 22nd Aug. starting 12.30–1pm, and walks will resume from Wed. 24th June. Further news will be posted on the OHSCA website and/or by email to members.

FROM THE CHAIR AND PLANNING

As we grind into the 12th week of lockdown, during which there have been no OHSCA committee meetings, and the social calendar casualties include to date the Plant Share, and Local History Group meetings, and will almost certainly go on to include the Summer Event and Yard Sale, you might be forgiven for wondering whether OHSCA was all a dream.

However, the silence has been magnificently broken by our Newsletter Editor, Greta Cotterrell, producing 12 excellent Bulletins and our thanks must go to her, and to Dick Vane-Wright who proof-read and assisted in many ways.

I am sure that the moving spirit of the Association – neighbourliness and enjoyment of companionship – has continued to be expressed in countless supportive encounters, volunteerings and assistances given. I am sure that this spirit will continue to bloom. And, we may need to take on providing for ourselves more of our local services, if more reductions in Government funding will mean more Council charges, as is happening already with charges for green bins. Watch this space!

PLANNING DEVELOPMENTS

After the first three weeks, when developers raced to lodge plans in case the system shut down, there has been a notable drop in commercial applications. With a housing and office building recession already under way, and predicted to take up to three years before prices recover, it is not clear for how long development plans will remain shelved. For example, we have asked Corinthian Land what their general intentions are for restarting the Mountfield Park project, but they are not willing to part with that information at present.

Some may say this is welcome news, but we have to remember to what extent the Council's finances depend on development, and that there is an agreed annual rate of house building set out in the Local Plan that the council must deliver. So turning off the tap for a year or two will have many unforeseen negative consequences when we try to catch up.

As David Kemsley says, CCC are continuing to develop their ideas for how the Local Plan should be revised at the end of its first five year period, and will need to take into account all these new factors.

NOTABLE APPLICATIONS

Care home application: 35–41 New Dover Road. We attended and made representations at the Appeal hearing for McCarthy and Stone's 50 room massive extra care home. Even before the hearing, CCC had conceded that three of the four reasons the building was refused were invalid because:

- there is not enough provision in the Local Plan for accommodation for this age group
- this type of accommodation is exempt from the duty to provide affordable housing
- the financial contribution offered was adequate after all.

The fourth ground for refusal – that the massive building volume harmed the conservation area – was accepted, but this was more than offset by the public benefits of the scheme, so the Appeal was allowed.

White Lodge at Abbots Barton Walk. This was refused by CCC but on odd grounds – unduly affecting the footpath, removing one residential plot. They had no quarrel with the number of units, or the design. An appeal is likely once, or if, the student market picks up again.

More Student accommodation: 68 Old Dover Road. This was refused on design grounds, and we expected to hear that it was being appealed. However, there are hopeful signs that the developer wants to agree with the council a more acceptable design. Whether student accommodation will still be required after all is in some doubt.

A slightly better designed application for the **former ATC building in Cossington Rd** has been lodged, but we continue to object. Increases in the numbers of two **Rhodus Town student blocks** were approved.

Tim Carlyle

SOCIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES (SEA)

The members of the SEA sub-committee had planned a varied programme for Summer 2020 and were looking forward to welcoming members to the social gatherings. However, world-wide events overtook us all and we were forced to cancel all the activities because of the COVID-19 virus. As things stand, we remain dependent on government guidance as to what events we can arrange.

Therefore we outline the events that did manage to go ahead, at a happier time before the lockdown, the ones that we had planned but subsequently had to cancel, and what we propose in the meantime.



The monthly **OHSCA Coffee Mornings** in Café Rouge proved very popular and we plan to resume these in due course. We had put some thought into researching a venue and the photo here shows our research trip to Phoebe's cafe in Ivy Lane. Sadly, we decided it was too small to fit us all in.

*Researching a venue for the coffee mornings.
Lorna Durrani, Alison Culverwell, and Hazel Vane-Wright, on 8th October 2019 at Phoebe's*

We settled on Café Rouge which proved suitable in being able to accommodate the numbers who attended, though we had to contend with the fire alarm going off on one memorable occasion, and the till running out of small change on another! We managed to meet on four occasions before having to cancel the meeting on 7th April 2020 because of lockdown.



Coffee morning at the Café Rouge, 4th February 2020

The next and final event that we were able to hold was the **Spring Party** on Friday 6th March at the Kent and Canterbury Club. About 32 people attended with 4 tables as the 4 teams for the quiz. Dick Vane-Wright had devised a devilish quiz which stretched our little grey cells to the limit. As well as the quiz, we enjoyed a splendid 2-course buffet dinner and a raffle organised by Marion Bell. The worthy winners of the photography competition were: in the Adult section: 1st prize Madeleine Richardson, 2nd prize Sarah Lockyer, and in the Children's competition: 1st prize Sienna Durrani, and 2nd prize Alicia Durrani.

The events that we cancelled include the Garage/Yard Sale planned for July, the Summer Lunchtime Event in early August, and a number of themed walks to see butterflies, wildlife and flowers. We had hoped to keep the twice-weekly walks but these also had to be cancelled. However, we encouraged members to continue walking in their family groups. The Gardening Interest Group (GIG) also had to cancel the Gardeners' Question Time in April, and the Plant and Produce Share event in May 2020.

However, **we now propose holding St Augustine's Abbey Picnic on 22 August** on a 'bring your own picnic' basis, to arrive between 12.30–1.00 pm, while respecting current social distancing guidelines and restrictions on numbers of six in a group. All residents of CT1 and CT2 are eligible for free entry to St Augustine's Abbey. Some of you have a card to open the gate. For those without a card, we will arrange for someone to let you in. Please form an orderly queue to enter without crowding, bring a collapsible chair to sit on and your own food and drink. There are some chairs there and of course the grass to sit on.

A number of OHSCA members have resumed walking on Wednesdays and Fridays, keeping to rules. From Wednesday 24 June, you are welcome to join in. We meet at 9.30 am at the K&C Hospital gate.

The photos on page 4 show some of the SEA events held in 2019.



Visit to Bladbean, 21st July 2019



The Duke of Burgundy, 12th May 2019. Photo by Phil Perkins



Lunch on the Lawn at the home of Alison Culverwell & Francis Green, 4th August 2019

MEMORIAL TO DORIS HUGHES

Dedication of the Plaque, boulder and tree to the memory of Doris Hughes

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Terry Westgate, unveiled the plaque on the green outside the Travelodge Hotel at 1.00pm on 11th of March, in the presence of Val Hawkins and Iris Bex, respectively Doris's daughter and sister, and Joyce Cobb, a lifelong friend of Doris, who had made the journey from London for this special occasion. About fifteen members of LHG and of the wider Association heard tributes from the Lord Mayor, Michael Steed and Marian Heath. The Association were thanked for the establishment of the memorial by Val.



The Lord Mayor and Mike Brain unveiling the stone on 11th March, 2019



The inscription on the plaque on the stone recognising the contribution by Doris Hughes to the enhancement of local green spaces and the planting of trees in the Oaten Hill district

BUTTERFLIES IN YOUR (SOUTH CANTERBURY) GARDEN

Compared with tropical regions like New Guinea (about 1000 species), Tanzania (over 1400) and Peru (perhaps 4000), the UK has a very small number of resident butterflies – less than 70 species. However, documented for over 400 years, our few butterflies have nonetheless been a source of inspiration for artists, naturalists and scientists, worldwide.

In 1968, with growing concern about increasing rarity and even extinction, the UK-based charity *Butterfly Conservation* was founded. Sir David Attenborough is the current President. Since 2010 BC has organised one of the world's largest butterfly surveys – the Big Butterfly Count. Steve Wheatley, BC's Conservation Manager for SE England, says "do please get involved in the Big Butterfly Count [<https://www.bigbutterflycount.org/>] (17 July to 9 Aug) and encourage others to get involved. This year more than ever we need everyone to spend 15 minutes recording the butterflies they see."

But which species can we expect in our gardens, and how to tell them apart? Kent has over 40 resident species – but you can only expect to see less than half of these in a South Canterbury garden. By my count there are 14 species you have a good chance of seeing over the course of a year – including the Brimstone, Holly Blue and Gatekeeper, and another 6 are possible. A few extremely rare migrants could turn up almost anywhere – such as the Monarch (from America, perhaps), or the Camberwell Beauty (from Scandinavia).

Some of our most common species are difficult to separate when flying – such as the Small White (their larvae will eat your cabbages!) and the Green-veined White (very rarely if ever on your cabbages). To help with all 20 that are likely, and a few of the rare migrants, I have created a simple guide along the lines of 'white butterflies', 'small blue butterflies', 'browns' etc. This is attached to this, the digital version of OHSCA Newsletter no. 15 – or it can be downloaded separately from the OHSCA website (under Publications). If you can make digital images and want your identifications checked, please send your pictures to social@ohsca.org.

Dick Vane-Wright

ADVANCE DECISION /ADVANCE DIRECTIVE /LIVING WILL and LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY

In these uncertain times of COVID-19 Janet Penton, one of our OHSCA members, offers her thoughts and advice to readers:

"Some of our members may be amongst what our government considers to be "elderly and vulnerable people over the age of 70"(!) If you are amongst them, you may have made an Advance Decision/Advance Directive/Living Will or Lasting Power of Attorney, or may possibly not even realise that you can make such a document yourself.

(I feel so strongly about my end-of-life healthcare that I have in place an Advance Decision, which I regularly update, together with a DNACPR order [Do Not Attempt Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation] due to recent family illnesses and bereavements.)

An Advance Decision, as opposed to an LPA, can be made quickly and easily at no financial cost. It can help healthcare professionals in case you fall ill and are not able to speak for yourself about preferences regarding what treatments you may or may not wish to be given. This is particularly relevant at the moment, as we are all at risk of catching COVID-19. If you have family, it may also help them to know of your wishes.

If you would like to know more about ADs and wish to investigate the possibility of making one for yourself or helping a relative or friend to do so, then there is plenty of help and information online from, amongst others, <https://compassionindying.org.uk/> or <https://adassistance.org.uk/>".

Should anyone want to know more on the subject then Janet will be happy to talk with them over the 'phone. Please email the Editor (gretaohsca@gmail.com) for her contact telephone number.

Janet Penton

CCAP: CANTERBURY CLIMATE ACTION PARTNERSHIP

In July last year Canterbury City Council formally declared a Climate Emergency and set for itself a target of carbon neutrality by 2030. Around this time the Canterbury Society, in combination with the local UN Sustainable Goals Forum, decided to establish an Eco forum which would bring together a very wide range of public and private organisations, community groups and individuals, all of whom shared an interest in extending the aim of carbon neutrality across the community as a whole.

Such was the level of enthusiasm generated within this new forum that events moved very quickly thereafter and the **Canterbury Climate Action Partnership** (CCAP) was formally established. It has since progressed to become a registered Community Interest Company with a Board of 15 Directors, one of whom is myself in my capacity of Business Secretary of the Alliance of Canterbury Residents Associations (ACRA). Board meetings are held quarterly immediately prior to the full forum itself which, prior to lockdown, generated an attendance of around 35 members.

It is pleasing that both Canterbury City and Kent County Councils together with University staff and students are fully supportive of and engaged with the Forum's work. Please access the website (www.ccap.org.uk) for further detailed information about its constitution and activities and how to make contact with CCAP with questions, suggestions and offers of help. The action plan is especially informative because it describes the very wide range of initiatives that CCAP sub groups (many of which involve OHSCA members) are busy working away on.

This is an illustrative list of CCAP projects and priorities, more fully described in the Action Plan:

Climate Change awareness raising – reference the leaflets on the website/Recycling and Composting/ Development of safe cycle routes and pavements for pedestrians/Air quality /Repair cafe/ Plastic-free Canterbury /Zero carbon buildings /Biodiverse land use /Permaculture/ Trees and Hedges /Abbots Mill project /Vegan organics.

Although in its infancy I do feel that one of the striking successes of CCAP to date has been the bringing together of experts and enthusiasts from so many different fields who otherwise would not have had any contact with each other. These new informal networks and the resulting cross fertilisation of ideas has brought about some really exciting creativity. An important point is that with so many partner organisations and community groups under its wing CCAP is able to contribute informed and credible evidence to our local authorities during both formal and informal consultation processes. Please do look at the website. As you appreciate, it is fairly new and will be enhanced in due course.

ALLIANCE OF CANTERBURY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATIONS (ACRA) UPDATE

ACRA continues to be active despite lockdown. We have many things on our long-term agenda but here is a brief summary of matters that are of immediate interest.

Air Quality: Thanks to the efforts of Cllr Pat Edwards who has worked quite tirelessly to break down various irritating bureaucratic obstacles it is envisaged that before too long the two Zenith AQ monitors that were acquired via a grant from CCC will at long last be put in position and that real time data on various air pollutants, including importantly PM2.5, will be available for public scrutiny.

CCC Corporate Plan: The Council has suspended work on this for the time being. ACRA felt that the document issued prior to lockdown was not fit for purpose and had submitted suggestions for improvement

Safe Cycling and walking: ACRA will be monitoring with keen interest the temporary measures which are to be put in place in the near future.

CCC Local Plan: CCC work on the next iteration of the Local Plan is progressing. It will be interesting to see whether the pandemic has caused any change of direction. The stage has been reached where "opportunities will be provided for local people, interested parties and statutory consultees to consider issues and options".

To check progress, go to the CCC website and click on Planning and Building>Planning policies and guidance>Local Plan review 2019>Local Devt scheme. The timetable is in Appendix 1 Table 1 p7.

David Kemsley

GREEN TEAM

Trees: 2020 is the 850th anniversary of the martyrdom of Thomas a Becket and the start of pilgrimages to Canterbury, so it is appropriate for us to plant one or two trees in Pilgrims Way this year. Climate change is still happening and OHSCA can help. KCC hope to replace two diseased chestnuts (one has already been cut) in St Lawrence Road with liquidambar.

Gardens: During lockdown, Deirdre and I have continued to keep the three gardens going as our permitted hour of exercise. Weeding and pruning definitely count as exercise! Dave has kept the grass under control and Alison kindly supplied plants to help fill the gaps. Help with watering in dry spells would be greatly appreciated, as all our gardens are maintained by volunteers.

We are looking to do serious work on the Fire Station beds where dry rot has taken hold. Canterbury College are hoping to replace the low bed in the autumn but the five-sided bed will need people equipped with a chain saw. We are entered for a low-key version of South and South East in Bloom and are also part of Canterbury city's entry.

Many of Gill Gower's friends and neighbours have subscribed for daffodils to be planted at the top of Puckle Lane. We will hope to plant these in October, and details will be in our next newsletter – help will definitely be wanted!

Sophie Scott

DICK'S FIENDISH QUIZ

This year I had the privilege for the first (and probably last!) time to set the legendary OHSCA Spring Party quiz. For years this was created by the late George Liddle (see OHSCA Newsletter no. 14) – his efforts were widely acknowledged to be extremely difficult. In 2019 Chris Tucker set a great quiz, although that was pretty tough too. But even my far gentler effort was regarded by some as “fiendish” – yet all of the 32 questions I posed in four rounds ('Music and All That Jazz', 'Clowns and Comics', 'About the Human Body', and 'Earth, Fire, Air and Water') were correctly answered by at least one table. I had in fact prepared eight rounds – perhaps mercifully we ran out of time after the 'elements'. So, much to my amazement, the Editor asked me to offer one of the unused rounds to include in this Newsletter. I have chosen 'Old Politics', about bygone political jokes, bon-mots and (mostly) scandals. All are British except (3) – which clearly the present incumbent does not accept. Get a few suitably distanced friends or family together, a glass of wine or beer or two, and see if you can do them without recourse to the Internet. Answers in the next Newsletter – or if you cannot wait, email to Dick Vane-Wright c/o social@ohsca.org. Sorry, there are no prizes on offer . . . Good luck!

Dick Vane-Wright

Old Politics

- 1 According to Spitting Image, who were the vegetables?
- 2 Who connects a PM, underpants, and *Salmonella*?
- 3 Which politician said "Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt."
- 4 According to Tom Mangold, who was Stephen Ward really working for, but they never admitted it?
- 5 Which politician, who was later revealed to be a spy for the Czech Republic, faked his own death on a Florida beach in November 1974?
- 6 Antonia and Mona led to his downfall. What was the nickname of the first Secretary of State for National Heritage?
- 7 Which British politician was described as a “superb showman, shallow thinker, wit and mimic, cunning opportunist, sinister intriguer, idealistic internationalist and a man with a clandestine homosexual life”?
- 8 How did Alan refer to Valerie, Josephine and Alison?

NOTE: The subscription for this year was due on 1st January 2020. Please address any questions about whether you have paid your subscription – and if not, how to do so – direct to the Membership Secretary, Sophie Scott, using her contact details below. *Thank you.*

OHSCA COMMITTEE 2019–2020

Chair:	vacant
Tim Carlyle	Vice-Chair/Planning subcommittee rep.: vicechairtc@ohsca.org
Marion Bell	Hon. Secretary/Main OHSCA Contact: 13 Wells Avenue, CT1 3YB Tel: 07713 025245: secretary@ohsca.org
Hon Treasurer:	vacant
Sophie Scott	Membership Secretary/Green Team/Planning subcommittee: 27 Ersham Road CT1 3AR Tel: 01227 456285 sophie01@btinternet.com
Tim Chancellor	Committee member: website@ohsca.org
David Kemsley	ACRA /SCA rep./OHC subcommittee/Press Liaison: press@ohsca.org
Helly Langley	Committee member/Planning subcommittee trees@ohsca.org
Denis Linfoot	Committee member/OHC subcommittee
Dick Vane-Wright	Committee member/SEA rep./OHC subcommittee

Weekly CCC planning bulletin	<i>Tim Chancellor:</i> website@ohsca.org
Local History Group rep.	<i>Derek Ray:</i> for information about OHSCA Local History Publications, contact forstal22@yahoo.co.uk or see publications on OHSCA webpage
SEA convenor	<i>Lorna Durrani:</i> social@ohsca.org
Newsletter distribution	<i>Deirdre Hawkes</i>
Tree champion	<i>Helly Langley</i>
Events bulletins	<i>Karen Thomsett</i>
Newsletter editor	<i>Greta Cotterell:</i> gretaohsca@gmail.com

info@ohsca.org

If you are uncertain who to contact, please direct your enquiry to the Honorary Secretary (contact details above).
Note: ACRA = Alliance of pan-Canterbury Residents' Associations; SCA = Southern Canterbury Alliance; OHC = OHSCA HealthCare subcommittee; SEA = Social Events and Activities subcommittee

Some useful contacts

- For problems with student neighbours contact University of Kent student community liaison officer: 01227 816156; communityliaison@kent.ac.uk; <https://www.kent.ac.uk/student-services/community/index.html>
- If you are concerned about security or have an urgent query and need to talk to the Canterbury City Council 'Out of Hours' team, their number is 01227 781 879. This redirects to CCC Control Room staff on duty 24/7.
- To report illegal parking: https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/info/20062/parking_fines_and_restrictions/43/report_illegal_parking
- To report graffiti (with possibility of removal depending on circumstances)
- https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/info/20044/vandalism_and_graffiti/55/report_graffiti

COVID-19 SYMPTOM STUDY

One of our readers has sent a suggestion about using a research app in the interest of helping to combat COVID-19. Input from those over 70, who are said to be at greater risk of complications from the virus, would be particularly valuable.

The Study is run by King's College Hospital, London, partnered with an American start-up IT company, Zoe. The website is <https://covid.joinzoe.com/> and the research is looking into where the virus is spreading so that NHS services can be planned efficiently. The app is purely a research tool; it will not sell on your personal details, does not use Bluetooth and is not connected to any tracker apps.

The OHSCA Guide to South Canterbury Garden Butterflies

Butterflies in your (South Canterbury) garden – and the 2020 Big Butterfly Count

Since 2010 the charity *Butterfly Conservation* has organised one of the world's largest butterfly surveys – the Big Butterfly Count. Steve Wheatley, BC's Conservation Manager for SE England has asked "Do please get involved in the [Big Butterfly Count](#) (17 July to 9 Aug)" and encourage others to join in. "This year more than ever we need everyone to spend 15 minutes recording the butterflies they see."

With many of us now spending more time than ever in our gardens, can OHSCA members take up the challenge locally? But which species can we expect in our gardens, and how to tell them apart? Kent has over 40 resident species – but you can only expect to see less than half of these in a South Canterbury garden. By my count there are 14 species you have a good chance of seeing over the course of a year – including the Brimstone, Holly Blue and Gatekeeper, and another 6 or so are possible. A few extremely rare migrants could turn up almost anywhere – such as the Monarch (from America, perhaps), or the Camberwell Beauty (from Scandinavia).

Some of our most common species are difficult to separate when flying – such as the Small White (their larvae will eat your cabbages!) and the Green-veined White (very rarely if ever on your cabbages). To help with all 20 that are likely, and a few of the rare migrants, I have created a simple guide along the lines of 'white butterflies', 'small blue butterflies', 'browns' etc. This is attached to the digital edition of the OHSCA Summer 2020 Newsletter (No. 15) – and can also be downloaded separately from the OHSCA website (<http://www.ohsca.org/publications.html>). If you can make digital images and want your identifications checked, send your pictures to social@ohsca.org.

Our guide to species covers the next five pages, with the butterflies you might encounter grouped by size and colour:

Medium to large brightly coloured red and/or orange butterflies – page 2



Medium to large white and/or yellow butterflies – page 3



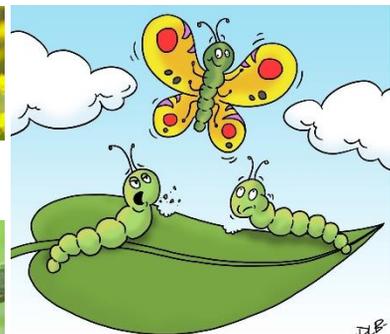
Small to medium brown/orange or blue species – page 4



Six butterflies you might see – page 5



Six extremely rare migrants – page 6



Names, food-plants . . . and winter – p. 7



Sources and credits – page 8

"You'd never get me up in one of those things"

Derek L. Brettle: <https://www.cartoonstock.com/directory/m/metamorphosing.asp>

Medium to large brightly coloured red and/or orange butterflies

There are five species included below that you can expect to see over the course of a year in a South Canterbury garden – all belong to the family Nymphalidae. All pass the winter in the adult stage – although the Red Admiral does not survive very cold winters (annual migrants from the continent augment and re-establish it), and Painted Ladies fly south as winter approaches. You can often find Peacocks and Small Tortoiseshells in the winter hibernating in sheds, lofts and other unheated building spaces – waiting for the Spring so they can emerge to establish a new generation.

The underside patterns of all five are distinctive.



Peacock. Upperside left. Detail of forewing 'eye spot' centre. Underside right. The coloration and striking eyespots on both fore- and hind-wings make this species unmistakable. Wing-span about 2.5 inches (60–70 mm).

Adults can be seen throughout the year, but are more rarely met with from the end of May to early July.



Small Tortoiseshell. Upperside left, centre; underside right. The orange colour varies from reddish to paler orange. The underside is not so dark as that of the Peacock. Note the row of bright blue spots on the wing margins (red arrows). Wingspan about 2 inches (45–62 mm).

With two broods, adults can be seen throughout the year, but are more rarely met with in June and early August.



Comma. Upperside left; underside centre, right. The orange varies from reddish to yellowish. The underside hindwing has a pearly-white crescent mark which gives the butterfly its name. Our only species with such a naturally jagged margin to the wings. Wingspan about 2 inches (50–64 mm).

With two broods, adults occur throughout the year, but are most often seen from end May until late September.



Painted Lady. Upperside left, centre; underside right. Perhaps this butterfly can be mistaken for a Small Tortoiseshell – but it has no blue spots along the wing margins, and is never so strongly orange coloured. Wingspan about 2.5 inches (58–74 mm).

A regular migrant in most years, seen from April to October, it can breed in the summer, but does not pass the winter here.



Red Admiral. Upperside left, centre; underside right. The striking red or bright orange bar on the forewing make this species unmistakable. Wing-span about 2.5 inches (64–78 mm).

Adults occur throughout the year, but are most common from April to November. In summer our population is boosted by migrants from the continent.

Medium to large white and/or yellow butterflies

There are five white and/or yellow species that you can expect to see over the course of a year in a South Canterbury garden – all belong to the family Pieridae.

Four are 'whites' that are difficult to tell apart when flying – except the male Orange Tip – which, as its name suggests, has a bright orange tip to the forewing. Once settled with their wings closed the Green-veined White and the Orange Tip (both sexes) are easy to tell apart from each other, and from the Large and Small whites. These last two (the only ones that produce caterpillars which will eat your cabbages) do differ in average size, but they vary – a large small white can be bigger than small large white!



Orange Tip. Male left. Female centre. Underside of female right. Both sexes have the same greenish, marbled pattern on the hindwing underside. The wingspan is about 2 inches (45–50 mm).

Adults can be seen from April until the end of June – exceptionally a few can appear at the end of August.



Green-veined White. Male left (summer form). Female centre (spring). Underside right. Both sexes have same greenish-veined pattern on the whitish or yellow hindwing underside. Wingspan about 2 inches (40–52 mm). Black spot on forewing closer to wing margin than in Small White (blue arrows).

Adults fly from April to late September, with up to three broods.



Small White. Male left. Female centre. Underside of female right. Both sexes have very similar undersides, with the hind wing varying from off-white to pale yellow. Wingspan typically about 2 inches, but they vary quite a lot in size, from 38–57 mm.

Adults fly from April to September, in two broods.



Large White. Male left. Female centre. Underside right. Both sexes have similar undersides, with the hind wing varying from white to pale yellow. Wingspan ca 2.5 inches, but variable (55–75 mm), with females usually noticeably larger. Dark tip and outer margin of fore wing upper-side typically darker and more extensive compared to Small White (orange arrows).

Adults fly April to September, in two broods.



Brimstone. Male left. Male underside centre. Underside male right. Both sexes have the same wing shape, with a pointed fore wing tip, and a short, pointed hindwing 'tail'. The female is a much paler yellow, and can be mistaken for a 'white'. Wingspan up to 3 inches (60–74 mm).

Adults fly at almost any time of year, but very few in late June and early July.

Small to medium-sized brown-and-orange or blue species

There are four species included here that you can expect to see over the course of a year in a South Canterbury garden – and one that you might see (Common Blue). The first two are 'satyrs', belonging to the family Nymphalidae; the other three, generally smaller species, belong to the family Lycaenidae. Of these last three, the Holly Blue is by far the most common in our gardens. The Small Copper is a very active little butterfly that will often chase other insects, even birds.



Gatekeeper. Upperside male left, upper-side female centre, underside right. Note double 'pupil' to single large forewing spot, and separate pale spot on hindwing underside (red arrows). Wing-span about 1.5 inches (37–48 mm).

Adults fly from end June to early September and, although a grass or scrub species, it is quite frequent in our gardens.



Meadow Brown. Upperside male left, upperside female centre, underside right. The large forewing spot sometimes has a smaller spot 'below' it (blue arrow); less orange, the Meadow Brown never has a pale spot on hindwing underside like that of the Gatekeeper. Wingspan about 2 inches (48–54 mm).

Adults fly from June to end September; less often seen than the Gatekeeper in our gardens.



Small Copper. Upperside male left, upperside female centre, underside right. The sexes are generally similar, but some females have a small row of iridescent blue spots on the hindwing upperside. Note the short projection on hindwing margin. Wingspan about 1–1.5 inches (26–40 mm).

With up to three broods per year, adults can be seen in May/June, July/August and September/early October. Infrequent visitor to S. Canterbury gardens.



Holly Blue. Upperside male left, upperside female centre, underside right. The only blue butterfly you are likely to see in a S. Canterbury garden, this species is active, and often flies at 1–3 m above the ground. Wingspan about 1–1.5 inches (26–34 mm).

The adults fly from April to June and mid-July to early September. This attractive little butterfly is frequent in our gardens.



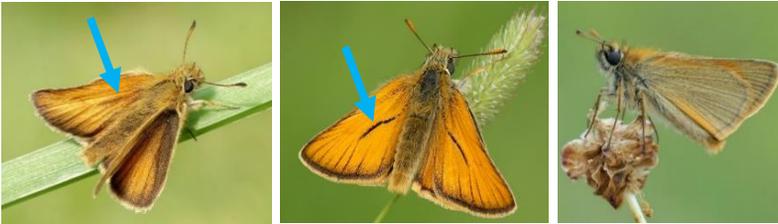
Common Blue. Upperside male left, upperside female centre, underside right. Females vary greatly in colour, from almost as blue as the brightly coloured male, to almost sooty-brown – but unlike the males, they always have at least some orange spots on the upperside wing margins. Wingspan about 1–1.5 inches (29–37 mm).

With up to three broods per year, adults can be seen in May/July, July/September and a sometimes in October. Very infrequent visitor in S. Canterbury gardens.

Small Copper female upperside https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lycaena_phlaeas

Six butterflies you have some chance of seeing in a South Canterbury garden

The six species illustrated here represent four families: HesperIIDae (skippers), Pieridae (Clouded Yellow), Lycaenidae (Purple Hairstreak) and Nymphalidae (Speckled Wood). Of these, I have only seen the first and last in my garden in more than 20 years. Note: there are two other migrant clouded-yellow species (Pale and Berger's) that can sometimes occur in Kent, but they are *extremely* rare and difficult to tell apart; they are not included here.



Essex Skipper male left; **Small Skipper** male centre and underside right. These two active little butterflies are very difficult to separate without close examination. The male 'sex brands' (absent in females) differ (blue arrows). Wingspan about 1–1.5 inches (26–34 mm).

The adults fly from April to June to August. Their natural habitats are rough grasslands and open areas; rare visitors to our gardens.



Large Skipper male left, female centre, under-side right. Not much larger than the Small Skipper (and also has a male 'brand' – blue arrow), it differs obviously in pattern. Wingspan about 1–1.5 inches (29–36 mm).

Adults fly from end May to early August. Their natural habitats are rough grasslands and open areas, including parks and churchyards; I have not seen it in my garden.



Clouded Yellow male left, pale form female centre, underside right. Male upperside yellow, with solid black wing margins; females yellow, pale yellow or whitish, with spotted borders. Span ca 2–2.5 inches (52–62 mm).

Adults occur March to November, peaking in August. Only rarely surviving our winters, this migrant is a rarity locally but sometimes reaches the south coast in huge numbers.



Purple Hairstreak male left, female centre, underside right. The colour and underside pattern make this unmistakable in our fauna. Wingspan about 1.5 inches (31–40 mm).

Adults occur end June to mid August. Most active about 7 pm, flying at the tops of oak and ash trees, rarely coming to ground level. Easily overlooked, this species might occur in large gardens with mature oaks.



Speckled Wood male left, female centre, underside right. The chocolate brown colour with cream-spotted pattern make this unmistakable. Wingspan ca 1.5–2 inches (46–56 mm).

With up to three broods, adults can occur from end March to end October. A woodland species, it is an occasional visitor to larger and more shady gardens.

Clouded Yellow male by Josef Dvorák <https://www.biolib.cz/en/image/id98504/>
Clouded Yellow pale female by Heinz Rothacher <http://www.schmetterling-raupe.de/art/crocea.htm>

Six extremely rare migrants that you are very unlikely ever to see in a South Canterbury garden ... but you never know!

You are very unlikely to see any of these rare migrants, not just in your South Canterbury garden but anywhere in Kent. However, all of them have been recorded in the county at least once in the past 50 years.



Monarch male. Female similar but veins more darkly marked. Wingspan about 3–4 inches (70–100 mm).

This iconic species is famed for its spectacular overwintering colonies in California and Mexico. First recoded in the UK in 1876, possibly as a stray blown off course from eastern USA, it now appears here from several sources – including escapees from commercial butterfly houses, and from wedding releases (this last also applied to the Painted Lady) – for which celebrations both species are often bred and released in large numbers (to the chagrin of naturalists!).



Queen of Spain Fritillary. Female (sexes similar). Many beautiful large silver spots on hindwing underside. Wingspan about 1.5–2 inches (38–46 mm).

This is a rare migrant from the continent which seems unable to establish here – even though the larvae, like those of our other native 'true' fritillaries, feed on wild violets (*Viola*). Dover has been a bit of a 'hot spot' – 25 individuals were captured there in 1882.

© Adrian Hoskins <https://www.learnaboutbutterflies.com/Britain%20-%20Issoria%20Iathonia.htm>



Large Tortoiseshell. Sexes similar. Could easily be confused with the smaller Small Tortoiseshell, but the wing bases of the latter are much darker. Wingspan about 2.7–3.0 inches (68–75 mm).

The larvae mainly feed on Elm. Formerly a resident UK species it is now locally extinct. Most years a few are recorded, thought to arrive from the continent (some may be captive releases). But maybe a comeback is now 'on the cards'? –

<https://twitter.com/WillLangdon12/status/1272268965792940032>



Camberwell Beauty. Sexes similar. With its large size and pale creamy borders to the dark wings, unmistakable. Wingspan about 3.0–3.5 inches (76–88 mm).

Despite its very 'English' common name (in the USA it is more aptly known as the Mourning Cloak), this butterfly, which is closely related to the Large Tortoiseshell, is not known to have ever been resident here. In some years a few arrive across eastern England, mostly from Scandinavia it is thought.

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=670555>



Bath White. Female. Male similar but with fewer/smaller dark spots. Wingspan about 2 inches (48–52 mm).

A very rare migrant presumed to arrive occasionally from southern Europe. In recent years it has been recognised that the Bath White represents a species complex which has proved very difficult to 'untangle', even using DNA data. This is one of the few cases where there would still be good justification for collecting a 'British' butterfly.

Nilce Coutinho Guerra <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/677299231434379390/>



Swallowtail. Male (female) similar. Wingspan ca 2.5–3.5 inches (65–86 mm).

Although we have a native population of this large swallowtail (once named the 'Royal William') in the Norfolk Broads area, any butterfly of this distinctive appearance in Kent will not be from Norfolk, but most probably a rare immigrant from France. However, this and similar species are 'flown' in butterfly houses, and escape from time to time! If you see anything like this anywhere SE England, do try to get a photograph.

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Old_World_swallowtail_\(Papilio_machaon_gorganus\)_Italy.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Old_World_swallowtail_(Papilio_machaon_gorganus)_Italy.jpg)

Names, foodplants ... and winter

All the butterflies mentioned above are listed here, in 'systematic' order, with their scientific (Latinized) names, main caterpillar food-plants (some butterflies have carnivorous larvae – but none of our local species!) – and how they pass the winter. There is still much scope for new discoveries on their life cycles, even though so much does seem to be known. Each individual butterfly is as genetically unique as we are – so that variation, even within the separate biological species that we are dealing with here, is the rule, not the exception. This affects all aspects of their life, not just details of their colour patterns. There are always surprises once you get to know them!

Family Papilionidae

Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	Fennel and related plants	[Pupa]
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Family Hesperidae

Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>	Various grasses	Egg
Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	Yorkshire-fog and other grasses	Larva
Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>	Cock's-foot and other grasses	Larva

Family Pieridae

Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>	Mainly clovers and vetches	[Larva]
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	Buckthorn and Alder Buckthorn	Adult
Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	Garlic Mustard, other wild crucifers	Pupa
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Mostly cultivated brassicas	Pupa
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Wild and cultivated brassicas	Pupa
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>	Wild crucifers	Pupa

Family Lycaenidae

Purple Hairstreak	<i>Favonius quercus</i>	Oaks	Egg
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	Sorrels, Docks	Larva
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	Trefoils, Medick, Restharrow	Larva
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	Holly, Ivy, Gorse, Dogwood ...	Pupa

Family Nymphalidae

Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Milkweeds	[Adult]
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Various grasses	Larva or Pupa
Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>	Various grasses	Pupa
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	Various grasses	Larva
Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>	Violets, Lucerne	[all stages]
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Stinging nettles	Egg or Adult
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Thistles and many other plants	[Adult]
Large Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>	Elm, <i>Salix</i> , other trees	Adult
Camberwell Beauty	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	Sallow, Poplar, Elm, Birch	[Adult]
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>	Stinging nettles	Adult
Peacock	<i>Aglais io</i>	Stinging nettles	Adult
Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	Stinging nettles; also Hop	Adult

Although several are close to local extinction, 21 other butterflies are listed for Kent – all of them very unlikely to be seen in our gardens. In 2018 OHSCA members observed two of these in Blean Woods (Heath Fritillary and White Admiral), and in 2019 two more in Denge Woods (Duke of Burgundy and Green Hairstreak). This year we had planned to look for the Silver-spotted Skipper. The 21 are: Dingy Skipper (*Erynnis tages*), Grizzled Skipper (*Pyrgus malvae*), Silver-spotted Skipper (*Hesperia comma*), Green Hairstreak (*Callophrys rubi*), White-letter Hairstreak (*Satyrus w-album*), Brown Hairstreak (*Thecla betulae*), Small Blue (*Cupido minimus*), Brown Argus (*Aricia agestis*), Chalkhill Blue (*Polyommatus coridon*), Adonis Blue (*Polyommatus bellargus*), Duke of Burgundy (*Hamearis lucina*), Small Heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*), Wall (*Lasiommata megera*), Marbled White (*Melanargia galathea*), Grayling (*Hipparchia semele*), Ringlet (*Aphantopus hyperantus*), White Admiral (*Limenitis camilla*), Dark Green Fritillary (*Argynnis aglaja*), Silver-washed Fritillary (*Argynnis paphia*), Purple Emperor (*Apatura iris*), Heath Fritillary (*Melitaea athalia*).

Internet sources

These days there are some excellent websites that cover the British Butterflies. First and foremost is that of Butterfly Conservation itself:

<https://butterfly-conservation.org/>

For Kent: <https://butterfly-conservation.org/in-your-area/kent-and-se-london-branch>

For all the native British species, go to:

<https://butterfly-conservation.org/butterflies/identify-a-butterfly>

Here are two other excellent sites for British butterflies:

<https://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/index.php>

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2019/07/butterfly-identification/>

Books

Witness David Dunbar's 2010 book on British butterfly books (*British Butterflies. A history in books*. London: British Library), there have been literally hundreds — from Amazing through Banal to Catastrophic — and still they keep coming. Among the most recent I would strongly recommend:

Peter Eeles. 2019. *Life Cycles of British and Irish Butterflies*. Newbury: Pisces. ISBN 978-1-874357-88-9

This 2014 field guide is also excellent:

Jeremy Thomas & Richard Lewington. 2014. *The Butterflies of Britain and Ireland* (new revised edition). Cumnor Hill: British Wildlife Publishing. ISBN 978 0 95649 026 1

Look out for a forthcoming book on the butterflies of Kent by Michael Easterbrook.

'*Butterfly gardening*'. There are a number of books on this subject – but I would be wary of any that give the impression, for example, that by leaving a few stinging nettles in a forgotten corner of your garden you will encourage Peacocks, Red Admirals and Small Tortoiseshells to breed – these butterflies will normally only develop naturally on large stands of nettles in a suitable, usually very sunny location. Most of us have quite small gardens – the best thing is to grow good nectar plants that will attract the adults of a variety of our local species – they really do need nectar! For information you can start with: <https://www.gardenersworld.com/plants/10-plants-for-butterflies/> and <https://butterfly-conservation.org/how-you-can-help/get-involved/gardening/gardening-for-butterflies>. If you do have a larger garden and want to try something more challenging, I suggest getting a copy of Andrew George's 2007 book *The Butterfly Friendly Garden* (Totnes: Alphabet & Image) – which is based on the remarkable achievements of Clive Farrell at Ryewater Nurseries, Dorset.

Credits

This guide has been compiled by OHSCA member Dick Vane-Wright – who has studied butterflies for the past 70 years in the UK, elsewhere in Europe, and the tropics. Dick is currently Honorary President of the Kent & SE London Branch of Butterfly Conservation, and is very grateful to Branch Chairman Nathan Jones and to Butterfly Conservation for permission to use the great majority of photographs included here. These images are copyright of Butterfly Conservation, and the individual photographers (who are all noted on the main Butterfly Conservation website – see above). The few images from other sources are separately acknowledged where they appear. The text is copyright of OHSCA/Dick Vane-Wright, June 2020.

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