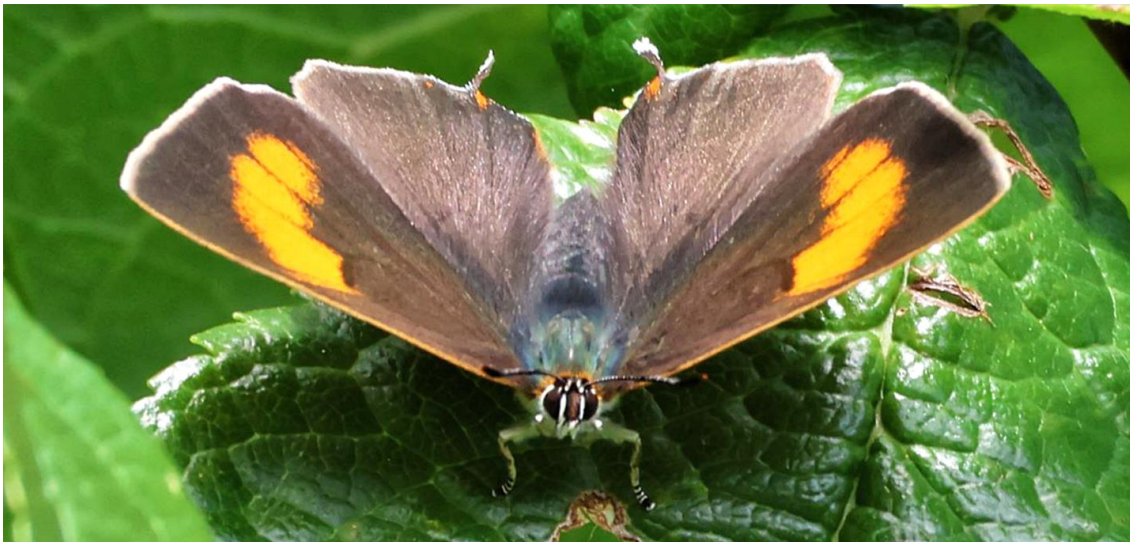




Butterfly Bonanza!



July and August are prime months for Sussex Lepidopterists, with up to 39 species of butterfly on the wing, if you're prepared to travel around a bit!

Prefer a quiet ramble? Then for the good residents of Steyning, there's plenty to see within walking distance of your doorstep.

Here's a collection of just some of the wonderful photos of Steyning Downland Scheme's butterflies, contributed by our very own Butterfly Recording Group. All of these are flitting around our nature reserve right now!



Chalkhill Blue - snapped by Paul Day on Steyning Coombe. Chalkhills look for sunny, south facing slopes with plenty of Horseshoe Vetch where they lay their eggs.



A rather tatty Purple Emperor, seen by Louise Kahn at the top of the Rifle Range. These enigmatic and rare butterflies flit around the South Downs in low numbers, looking for Sallow bushes (their food plant). Neil Hulme has assured us that, contrary to the text books, they don't need Oak trees!



A Painted Lady, all the way from North Africa. Due to its powerful flight, it's the only butterfly ever to be seen wild in Iceland, although it's unable to survive even a wet and windy British winter. Thistles are its primary food plant (photographed on the Rifle Range by Paul Day).



A Brown Hairstreak. Establishing the Brown Hairstreak reserve (where the shot was made by Kat Dahl) has been the SDS's *tour de force* - huge thanks to the Conservation Volunteers for keeping the Blackthorn (its food plant) in great shape for this beauty. Good numbers appearing this year.



Meadow Brown shot by Simon Buck on a Greater Knapweed. Actually the food plant for this butterfly is grass. We have a lot of that on the Steyning Downland nature reserve, so its easy to trip over hundreds of these on a casual walk (if they were big enough to trip over, that is).



A Brown Argus . . . or is it a female Common Blue? They're very similar but there's no figure '8' marking on the hindwing, so it must be a Blue . . . or is it?? Answers on a (digital) postcard. Anyway, thank you Paul Day for the pic!



Last but definitely not least - the very aptly named Drinker. I know, I know
- you'll be saying 'but that's a moth!' but actually all butterflies are really
just moths too!

This little critter was recorded by our newly formed Moth Recording Group
- and they've already found an astonishing 85 species!!!

If you would like to get involved with either our butterfly or moth recording
groups, [just email us](#) for more info - thank you!