

Earlswood Wildlife Partnership

Contact us at: ewp2010@btinternet.com or on 07528 595444

Garden Butterfly Survey 2018

Thank you to everyone who returned their 2017 survey forms. Happily 2017 was a much better year for butterflies than 2016 with almost twice as many individuals recorded, however we are still not back to the numbers we were seeing in 2014. So we need your help, whether or not you have taken part before please help us this year and record the butterflies in your garden.

To help we have put together a photographic chart of the main butterflies you might see:



Large white

The most commonly seen Earlswood butterfly in 2017



Small white



Gatekeeper



Speckled wood



Orange tip

NB. The female does not have the orange tips



Comma



Small tortoiseshell



Peacock



Brimstone

The original 'butter coloured fly' and earliest sighting in 2017



Red admiral



Green veined white



Meadow brown



Ringlet



Holly blue



Painted lady

How many will you see in your garden in 2017?

Butterfly numbers, like all insects, have been declining in recent years and our gardens are becoming even more important in helping many species survive. Butterflies feed on nectar from our garden flowers, so if you want to attract more butterflies to your garden the top 5 varieties for summer nectar are:

- ❖ Buddleia
- ❖ Verbena
- ❖ Lavender
- ❖ Perennial wallflower
- ❖ Marjoram

And there are many more such as daisies, bluebells, lilac, honeysuckle and ivy. More information on how to attract butterflies to your garden can be found at the Butterfly Conservation website <http://butterfly-conservation.org/> and they also have a handy identification tool at: <http://butterfly-conservation.org/50/identify-a-butterfly.html>. plus much more information about butterflies on the website so it is worth a visit.

Every garden has different habitats so the more people that take part in the Earlswood Butterfly Survey the more information we will be able to gather, and you don't even have to leave your garden!

Butterflies can be seen on the wing at any time of the year if the weather is warm and sunny enough. The earliest butterfly record in 2017 was a Brimstone seen on 9th March but we have previously had reports of Brimstone butterflies in January, so keep your eyes peeled, **can you spot the earliest butterfly in 2018?**

Please return your completed form to ewp2010@btinternet.com or 122 Malthouse Lane, B94 5SA by the end of December 2018.

If you need any further help or information please let us know. Here's hoping for a good summer.

Bob Roberts

(Membership Secretary)