

Welcome to the latest Green Newsletter from your local Climate Ambassador. This edition brings more local and national information to our attention. This issue also includes an interesting observation on butterflies written by a conservationist, formerly a local Derbyshire resident.

### Local News

#### **Peoples Trust for Endangered Species**

[People's Trust for Endangered Species | Bringing the wild back to life \(ptes.org\)](https://www.ptes.org)

[#DormouseWeek](#) 🐭 Join us as we celebrate our native hazel dormouse.

Leave your windfall fruit for wildlife. 🍏🦋🍏🐝

At this time of year, butterflies and other insects feed on windfall fruit, which in turn feed insectivorous birds and bats which will be fattening up before winter.



### National News

Make a splash for clean rivers in your community by taking part in the WI's Week of River Action from **11-18 September!**

Go to MY WI – on the NFWI website and follow the link under Current Campaigns.

#### **2023 WI Climate Conference**

The day will feature presentations and panel discussions from experts and will include opportunities for WI member feedback and discussion.

The conference will take place on 17 October, in the Abbey Centre, Westminster, and will run from 9am until 5pm. If you want to join the conference. It's not too late to get your ticket to attend. Go to MY WI – on the NFWI website.

Another date for our diaries is 16 October – World Food Day.

#### **The Earthshot Prize**

The Earthshot Prize was designed to find and grow the solutions that will repair our planet this decade, founded by Prince William who is also the President.

The Awards Ceremony will be held on 7 November and form part of 'Earthshot Week', a series of events for businesses, investors and the public to discover the remarkable solutions of our Finalists. Singapore Southeast Asia

[The Earthshot Prize: Urgent Optimism & Action to Repair the Planet](#)

## The ups and downs of our British butterflies

I'm not convinced that improvements or declines in butterfly numbers are always to do with climate change as cycles have always existed and records don't go back far enough for a proper analysis. The trend of moving northwards by butterflies has been going a lot longer than just recently. In the 80's there were no Speckled Woods, Gatekeepers or Ringlets in Derbyshire and the Comma was only just moving in. Nowadays they are all common and are widespread in their locations.

The Wall Brown in the last thirteen years has suddenly retracted all over the country, to become just a coastal and upland species...from being common everywhere before! Nobody really understands why. It could just be a cycle they go through because a chap we met years ago who was in his 90's could remember a similar pattern happening in the 1930's so it may be normal for them.

The Speckled Wood is very closely related to the Wall Brown but has had the exact opposite trend, becoming a common sight on nearly every woodland fringe and dappled lane.

Migrants ARE more common of late, definitely due to a warmer trend in our climate, but having said that the most notorious of all the migrants, the Painted Lady has hardly been seen at all this year! The Silver-washed Fritillary is moving into south Derbyshire. One had to venture down south to see them a few years ago.

Some butterflies have died out altogether. Although never found in Derbyshire, the High Brown Fritillary is now only found in four locations in the country and is now classed as endangered, only found in two locations in Wales, Exmoor and the Southern Lakes.

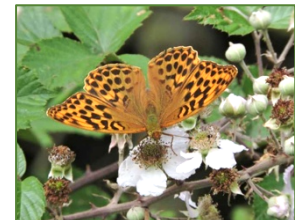
Last year's intense heatwave was predicted to have devastating effects across the board due to larval food plants being burned to a crisp and yet this year has been one of the best butterfly years on record despite us having a dreadful year of high winds, a cold wet May and lashings of rain every month in 2023, so if last year was an example of what we can expect with climate change it would appear that butterflies can handle it very well.

It's habitat preservation and management that's most influential on butterfly numbers and survival of colonies. Most species have particular requirements re habitat and don't move away from where they were born. New roads, housing estates, unsympathetic farming and retail parks are far more of a threat, it would seem.

In summary, if butterflies are anything to go by, and they are always regarded as a barometer of the climate and landscape, then there is a lot more to understanding their ups and downs than just climate change. The very good numbers this year, following the intense heat of 2022 has been somewhat of a surprise to the experts when you compare it to 1977 which was a dreadful butterfly year following the hot summer of 1976. The difference is that 1976 was long and drawn out whereas the heat of 2022 was short and sharp in comparison.

I think that if summers were to get very hot for long periods of time, nature in general WOULD suffer, but at the moment we remain blessed with our 'British climate' of mixtures and extremes and have a lot to be thankful for - for now!

by Ros Bowler  
[www.homeforbutterflies.com](http://www.homeforbutterflies.com)



## Keep Thinking Green

This Green Newsletter needs your input to make it worth doing for all Baslow members. What would you like more information on for our next issue? Bring your ideas to our next WI meeting or speak to me.

*Janette* ♥

**Baslow WI Climate Ambassador**