

Well, at long last the time has come for another year of recording. We can't wait to get out there and see what's around and hope you are all feeling as enthusiastic as we are!

Please always remember that willing help is at hand if you have problems completing a walk you are down to do; just contact your Team Leader or us as Group Leaders.

As previous years, please confirm when you have a valid result and send your result on our excel sheet as soon as possible so that we can include it in the Weekly Newsletter. It would help us if you could name your excel file with transect abbreviation followed by week number, space, your name (eg AD01 Your Name).

As usual, the first week should be dominated by those species which over-winter as adults: Brimstone, Peacock, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell & Red Admiral. We have also seen a Small White (over-winters as a Chrysalis) and there is always a chance of a Speckled Wood or maybe even a Holly Blue.

Good luck to those walking transects for the first time this week.

Remember - don't start before 10.45 or finish after 15.45. The temperature must be at least 13°C with 60% average sun or 17°C with zero sun.

Looking at the weather forecast for the week it looks as though Monday will be the best opportunity to secure a result within these weather parameters.

Moth to Spot: The **Orange Underwing** (click name of moth for link to UK Moth website photos) flies during March and April has already been seen on the wing this year. While it usually spends most of its time high in the tops of Birch trees (its larval food plant), it does come down to the ground, particularly to visit horse dung! ***In flight, it looks orange and can easily be mistaken, in size and colour, for a Small Copper butterfly, which is far less likely to be flying this early.*** Do click on the moth name above to look at the photo and if you are lucky enough to spot one on transect remember to include this sighting in the 'notes' section of the electronic submission form, giving the section(s) of the transect where you spotted it / them and the number seen in each section.

Please remember to take some photographs if you possibly can. Ideally these should be uploaded to flickr. Contact details and guidance on image sharing have been sent to Group Members.

In addition to the programme of walks in Hampshire organised by the local Branch of Butterfly Conservation and previously circulated, a programme of walks on the Isle of Wight have also been published should anyone want a trip across the Solent and a chance to see Glanville Fritillary! These can be found at <http://www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk/fieldtrips.php>