



# MONMOUTHSHIRE MOTH & BUTTERFLY GROUP

**NEWSLETTER No 173**

**September and October 2021.**

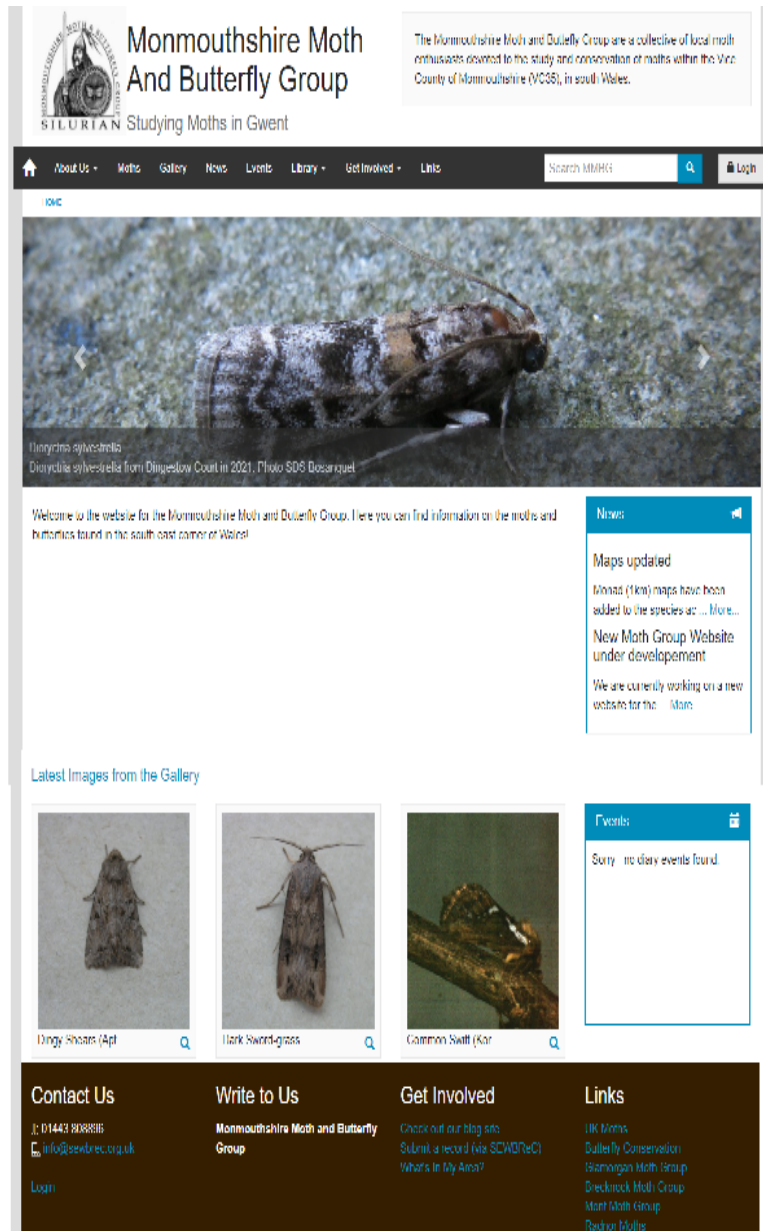
*A bimonthly newsletter covering*

*Gwent and Monmouthshire Vice County 35*

*Editor: Martin Anthoney*

<http://www.gwentleps.org.uk/>

A New Website



Thanks to the efforts of Dave Slade at SEWBReC, our local record centre for SE Wales, a new website has been set up to cover the lepidoptera of Gwent/ Monmouthshire / Vice County 35. The new website complements the existing Gwent Mothing Blog <http://gwentmothing.blogspot.co.uk/>

*Gwent mothing blog*: allows people to submit recent highlights and contains archives of The Silurian Newsletter, distribution maps for butterflies and moths and accounts of the history of lepidoptera recording in Gwent.

*Gwentleps website*: allows access to a gallery of nearly seven hundred photos of Gwent specimens of macro moths and micro moths. It also enables the Gwent datasets (up to 2020) of verified macro moth records (Martin Anthoney) and verified micro moth records (Sam Bosanquet) to be interrogated. It is hoped that butterfly photos and dataset will be added to the website within a few weeks.

The website is still under development, but the main features are working and we welcome people trying out the website and let us know any comments:-

Go to <http://www.gwentleps.org.uk/> When the website opens, ignore "log on" and click on *Moths* on the black bar.

Enter a moth name in the box marked Keyword.

Click to get "more info" as appropriate, when distribution maps (adjustable to 10km, 2km or 1km resolution) should appear together with a list of all the Gwent records for that species.

The "Gallery" tab on the black bar enables you to look at 700 photos of Gwent macro moth and micro moth specimens.

Martin Anthoney.

## **September and October**

### September

The first part of the month was cloudy and quiet, but it was often fine and warm after that, briefly very warm on the 7th/8th, but some rain in the second week, before a marked change to cooler rainy weather for the last few days. Mean temperatures for the month were provisionally 2.0 °C above average, the third warmest September on record. Most of Wales was close to average for both rainfall and sunshine, though a few spots were rather wetter, and the south slightly duller. There was 99% of average rainfall overall, and 95% of average sunshine.

The month produced reports for 16 species of butterfly and a September record of 170 species of macro moth. The corresponding figures for Sept 2020 were 15 and 140.

### October

The first few days of the month were unsettled, often windy, but reasonably mild, before it became drier for a time. There was further rain after mid-month, some of it heavy and persistent in the closing days, and it was colder around the 21st to 23rd and the 29th to 31st. Mean temperatures for the month were provisionally 1.6 °C above average, with minima higher relative to average than maxima. The north-west corner of Wales was much wetter than average, and much of the country had a rather dull month. There was 123% of average rainfall overall, and 83% of average sunshine.

October produced 10 butterfly species and 79 macro moths, both fairly typical figures. For comparison the Oct 2020 figures were 9 butterflies and 80 macro moths. However, though the number of species was maintained, the numbers of individual butterflies were very low, particularly the Vanessids such as Red Admiral and Peacock.

## September and October Highlights

1<sup>st</sup> Sept The first Clifden Nonpareil moths of 2021 came to light at Penallt (Ian Rabjohns) and at Tintern (John Dawson).  
From 1<sup>st</sup> September to 17<sup>th</sup> October, 23 Clifden Nonpareil individuals were recorded at 9 sites.

White Letter Hairstreak egg found near Gilwern.	(Elizabeth Goodyear)
Bulrush Wainscot to light at Ebbw Vale	(Jane Corey)
Season's first Frosted Orange at Llandogo	(Gail Reynolds)
Lunar-spotted Pinion at Penallt	(Ian Rabjohns)
2 Mocha and an immigrant Small Mottled Willow to light at Tintern	(John Dawson)

A highly unusual large second generation of Peach Blossom moths. Specimens at Penallt (Ian Rabjohns), Newport Wetlands (Kevin Dupé) and Tintern (John Dawson and Hazel Mitchell) contributed to a total of nearly 50 second generation Peach Blossoms. Pinion-streaked Snouts were also recorded at the same four sites.



*Peach Blossom*

*Clifden Nonpareil*  
(Gail Reynolds)



3<sup>rd</sup> Sept Barred Hook-tip and Oak Lutestring to light at Tintern. (Hazel Mitchell)  
Clifden Nonpareil and Clay Triple-lines at Great Crwys, Hendre (Wendy Tyler-Batt)  
Cypress Pug at Cwmbran (Bob Roome)  
Dark Sword-grass to light at Abergavenny (Andrew and Janet Cormack)  
Dingy Shell at Tintern (Hazel Mitchell)  
Pale Eggars to light at Tintern (John Dawson) and Great Crwys, Hendre (Wendy Tyler-Batt)  
Not a common species and restricted to north east Gwent.  
Several very late adult Poplar Hawks were reported, with 10<sup>th</sup> Sept being the latest date.





*Pale Eggar*



*Deep-brown Dart*

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|-----------------------|---|
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Sept  | 50 Common Blue and a Wall Brown at Blaenserchan. The latter is now a rarity in the county<br>(Rupert Perkins)<br>Toadflax Brocade and Autumn Green Carpet to light at Melbourne Way, Newport. The latter is much less common than its relative the Red-green Carpet.<br>(Roger James) |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Sept  | 2 Clifden Nonpareil at Dingestow, with another 2 on 8 <sup>th</sup> Sept<br>(Sam Bosanquet)<br>Another Dingy Shell and a Dark Spectacle to light at Tintern<br>(John Dawson)  |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept  | Deep-brown Dart to light at Pontypool. Not a common species in Gwent, limited to the west of the county above 200m. Also a Garden Dart and a Neglected Rustic<br>(Rupert Perkins)   |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept  | Mouse Moth at Catbrook. Another heavily declined species. Also a new site for Oak Lutestring.<br>(Richard Clayton)  |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Sept  | Bordered Beauty to light at Newport Wetlands.<br>(Kevin Dupé)<br>A late Rosy Footman at Tintern<br>(Hazel Mitchell)   |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> Sept  | Clifden Nonpareil at Tintern, the first of eight at this site in 2021<br>(Hazel Mitchell)   |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> Sept | L-album Wainscot to light at Penallt<br>(Ian Rabjohns)  |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept | Blackneck to light at Dingestow<br>(Sam Bosanquet)  |

13 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Humming-bird Hawk flying in a Bedwas garden Lesser-spotted Pinion to light at Tintern	(Mike and Jackie Pointon) (Hazel Mitchell)
15 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Clifden Nonpareil to light at Newport. Also a Cypress Carpet and Green-brindled Crescent. Brown Argus butterfly at Goldcliff Point. Season's first Merveille du Jour at Catbrook	(Roger James) (Kevin Dupé) (Richard Clayton)
17 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Two Large Wainscots at Tintern (John Dawson and Hazel Mitchell) Season's first Mottled Umber at Great Crws, Hendre	(Wendy Tyler-Batt)
19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Cypress Carpet at Risca	(Martin Anthoney)
20 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Tawny Pinion and Flounced Chestnut to light at Newport	(Roger James)
21 <sup>st</sup> Sept	L-album Wainscots at Newport Wetlands (Kevin Dupé) and Haisbro Ave, Newport (Sheila Dupé)	
27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Clifden Nonpareil at Catbrook, A new site for the species Blair's Shoulder-knot to light at Risca Brindled Green at Newport (Roger James) and Tintern (Hazel Mitchell)	(Richard Clayton) (Martin Anthoney)
28 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Deep-brown Dart to light at Risca	(Martin Anthoney)
1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Buttoned Snout and L-album Wainscot at Penallt. Also the first Feathered Thorn of the season.	(Ian Rabjohns)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Large Ranunculus at Catbrook	(Richard Clayton)
5 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Clifden Nonpareil to light at Llandogo. Another new site for this species	(Gail Eynolds)
6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Season's first Dark Chestnut at Llandogo. Also a Vapourer moth. Four L-album Wainscot to light at Tintern Season's first Mottled Umber at Tintern.	(Gail Reynolds) (John Dawson) (Hazel Mitchell)
7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Mallow Moth to light at Goldcliff, with another on 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct. The only known Gwent site for this species. Also Bordered Beauty at Newport Wetlands.	(Kevin Dupé)
8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	2 Dark Sword-grass at Risca Oak Nycteoline at Tintern Pale Pinion at Llandogo. A late Satin Wave to light at Tintern	(Martin Anthoney) (Hazel Mitchell) (Gail Reynolds) (John Dawson)
9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Figure of Eight at Great Crwys, Hendre. The only 2021 record. Also a Sprawler Grey Shoulder-knot at Llandogo. This species had a good autumn with 16 individuals. Large Ranunculus at Haisbro Avenue Newport	(Wendy Tyler-Batt) (Gail Reynolds) (Sheila Dupé)



*Mallow Moth*  
(Kevin Dupé)



*Death's Head Hawk-moth*  
(Simon Matthews)

10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	A Death's Head Hawk-moth found on a doorpost at Gwehelog, Usk.	(Simon Matthews)
14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Streak moth to light at Tintern with another on 19 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	Hazel Mitchell)
15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Two Pale November Moths at Tintern, confirmed by gen. determination	(John Dawson)
16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Brick moth at Great Crws, Hendre. Very few records of this species in 2021. Also an Orange Sallow.	(Wendy Tyler-Batt)
17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Last Clifden Nonpareil of the year at Dingestow	(Sam Bosanquet)
18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Kent Black Arches to light at Llandogo. A new site for the species.	(Gail Reynolds)
20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	A late V-Pug at Risca	(Martin Anthoney)
22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	First December Moth of the season at Catbrook	(Richard Clayton)
25 <sup>th</sup> Oct	November Moth at Tintern, species confirmed by gen. determination.	(John Dawson)
28 <sup>th</sup> Oct	An immigrant Gem moth to light at Tintern.	(Hazel Mitchell)
30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Another Sprawler moth at Great Crwys. Only two records this year.	(Wendy Tyler-Batt)





*Gem (Hazel Mitchell)*



*Sprawler*

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