

## Dates for your diary

### July

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>** - Morning walk round Foxley Wood reserve looking for high-summer butterflies, notably Purple Emperor, White Admiral and Silver-washed Fritillary.

At 9.00am as we stood in the drizzle, I thought we might have a rather unproductive walk but we had a fantastic one. The sun soon came out and almost immediately we were given a glorious view of a White Admiral. Although we stood and waited at places where I'd previously seen Purple Emperors, we weren't lucky in seeing them. But while standing and scanning the Oaks trees we did see some Purple Hairstreaks. Besides them we were treated to large numbers of Ringlets, Large Whites and Silver-washed Fritillaries including two females of the *Valezina* form, one of which was being chased by three males. Hugh Barton captured a number of great photos. We also saw Large, Small and Essex Skippers and Hugh's photo's clearly show the black club end of the antennae of the Essex Skipper. This is the best and easiest way to distinguish them from Small Skippers. Besides them we spotted a few Brown Argus, a member of the "blue butterfly" family, and Commas that allowed people to spot the white comma shaped mark on the underwing – hence the name of the butterfly. A thoroughly enjoyable walk.



Essex Skipper left, Small Skipper right. Photos by Hugh Barton.



Silver-Washed Fritillary. *Valenzina* form, right. Photos by Hugh Barton



White Admiral left, Purple Hairstreak right. Photos by Hugh Barton



Ringlet left, Gatekeeper (Hedge Brown) right. Photos by Hugh Barton

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>** - Members social afternoon and BBQ. Members £10, non-members £15, children 5-12 £5, under 5 free.

We are holding a social event on the playing field opposite the Memorial Hall in Great Ryburgh. Do come along any time from 1.00pm. Food will be served from 2.00pm. Please bring your own drink and chair.

At 4.00pm I will lead a walk to some oak trees in the nearby vicinity looking for Purple Hairstreak butterflies. Do come along and hopefully watch these silvery little insects flying around the tops of the oak trees. Binoculars are essential.

If you would like to join us please send an email to [info.ryburghwildlife@gmail.com](mailto:info.ryburghwildlife@gmail.com) and state if you have any special dietary requirements such as gluten free or vegetarian.

### **August**

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>** - 10.00am to 12.30pm Ryburgh community wildlife projects - this is a Norfolk Wildlife Trust event. Booking is via their website

<https://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/events/2025-08-14-wilder-communities-community-focus-ryburgh-community-wildlife-projects>

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>** - visit to Warham Camp to admire the flowers and Chalkhill Blue butterflies. There will also be a short talk 11.30am till 12.00noon by Pat Day on the archaeology and history of the site. Please consider car sharing and assemble by the entrance gate at 11.00am.

To register for this event please contact Gill Waldron by email at [info.ryburghwildlife@gmail.com](mailto:info.ryburghwildlife@gmail.com) .

## **urgent appeal for help**

*Many people in the village are saying that they haven't seen as many swallows, house martins and swifts this year.*

*The Ryburgh Wildlife Group wants to get a baseline of how many active nests there are in the village this year.*

***We need you to tell us how many active swallow, house martin and swift nests you have on your house or can see elsewhere. Swifts will be leaving at the start of August, so we need action now.***

***We need to know the house number and street name plus species nesting and how many active nests. If you have a nest but can't identify it, please take a picture and send to [info.ryburghwildlife@gmail.com](mailto:info.ryburghwildlife@gmail.com) and we will identify it for you.***