

Backies News

NEWSLETTER FROM THE FRIENDS OF CLIFTON BACKIES



Clifton Backies is a paradise for butterflies!

This may come as a surprise, but Clifton Backies has been found to support 23 species of butterfly—that is almost half of all native species in the UK!

There is a good reason for this—butterfly larvae all rely on specific food plants, and they are all available in abundance within the many habitats present at the Backies. Meadowland is one such habitat that has become scarce in the UK but is being protected on Clifton Backies. Larvae feed on grasses, birds-foot trefoil and various other leafy plants, while adults drink the nectar of knapweed and native flowers.

Within recent years, the work of groups connected with Clifton Backies have been improving habitats for wildlife—for example, the Brimstone butterfly (right) is breeding on Buckthorn bushes that have been specially planted for them.



New species have been added to the growing list of Butterflies at Clifton Backies recently, including:

- Brown Argus (top picture, top left)
- Marbled White (top picture, bottom left)
- Purple Hairstreak (top picture, main)

Please support us in our efforts to maintain Clifton Backies by becoming a member, and celebrate in our success!

Upcoming events

The next Friends meeting will be held at 7:30pm on Monday, March 3rd at the Burton Stone public house.

Events planned for 2014 include nature walks, talks and volunteer sessions. Join the Friends group to keep informed and gain free entry to events.

Latest News

This is the first edition of our newsletter—it will be issued to members on a quarterly basis with the latest news and upcoming events.

The Friends group are applying for a litter-picking grant.

Bur Dyke supports water voles, which we would like to protect by clearing out rubbish and cutting back the encroaching blackthorn.

Discussing ways to encourage people to clear up after their dogs.

Join Us!

I would like to be a Friend of Clifton Backies and enclose £5 subscription payment for annual membership (per household).

Name:

Address:

Email:

Please circle preferred contact method: Email Post

Please make cheques payable to the Friends of Clifton Backies

Return to : Tony Fairburn (Treasurer), 41 Westfield Grove, Wigginton,
York, YO32 2QJ

For further information regarding the Friends please see the Clifton Backies web pages : www.cliftonbackies.org.uk.