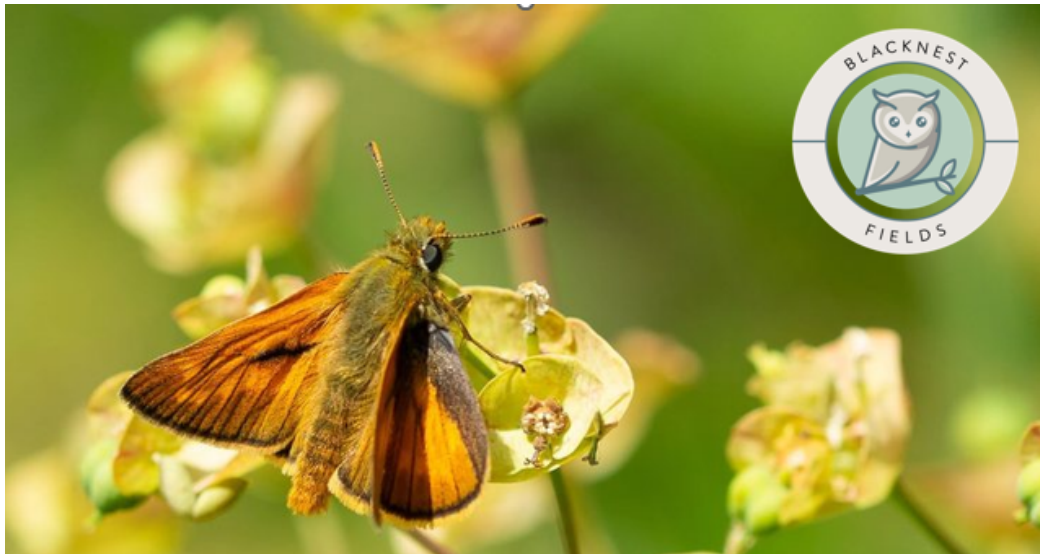




High summer !

Details of upcoming events and activities

Now is a great time to visit Blacknest Fields. Lots of butterflies and moths are around, along with many grasshoppers, bumblebees, dragon- and damsel-flies. Pick a warm, sunny, still day, when more butterflies are on the wing.

- **Walkers and cyclists can visit the Fields any time** - the Fields are always open. A nice way to visit is take a circular route from Alice Holt's Gravel Hill (free) carpark, via Butterfly Conservation's Bentley Meadows Reserve, through the forest to Blacknest Fields, and back to Gravel Hill. [This link](#) describes the route, and you can download directions before setting off.
- **On Friday afternoons this August people can also visit Blacknest Fields by car, and park on-site.** Come over to explore, and perhaps take a picnic! We want to widen access for people who find the walk too much, including families with young children. Gates will be unlocked from 12:00 until 18:00 - but do check Blacknest Fields' Community

British weather can affect plans:



Come to a summer wildlife recording event

If you're a nature lover with an interest in wildlife, why not join in with some of our summer recording sessions? Don't let a lack of confidence in identifying species put you off ... there's a welcoming community of experienced wildlife enthusiasts to help. All ages are welcome and you will be able to park onsite.

Fri 7 August, 14:00-16:00, 'Big Butterfly Count'

Join us at the Fields for this citizen science survey and practice identifying butterflies and day-flying moths. Butterfly activity generally peaks between noon and 16:00.

Sat 22 August, from early evening, Birds, Moths and Bats evening & Sun 23 August, drop in between

07:00 and 10:30 An evening and morning of birds, moths and bats, will be led by Daniel Banks and Chris Piper. Early evening will see some bird recording taking place at the site, and from dusk we will focus on listening for bats and look at moths arriving at a moth trap. Next morning, watch as the contents of the moth trap are revealed and recorded, and more bird recording takes place. If you haven't witnessed these activities before, you'll be amazed - both by seeing birds at close range and by the range, size and beautiful patterns of moths. Moths are really important pollinators and the UK has over TWO THOUSAND species of them

get over our grudge about two moth species liking to eat cashmere sweaters!

Tuesday 22 September, 10:00-12:00, Spider Survey

A walk around our mix of grassland habitats to identify different spider species will be led by Simon Moore, an expert in spiders and other fields of natural history.

If you do plan to join any of our events, do always check our Facebook page before you set off .

Get involved in 'citizen science' this summer

Scientists at Butterfly Conservation are keen to discover how this year's crazy mix of heatwaves and wet weather is affecting butterflies. Their *'Big Butterfly Count'* (17 July - 9 August) urges as many people as

possible to become citizen scientists to help answer this question. You only need to devote 15 minutes counting butterflies (and day-flying moths) in this period. You're welcome to join the recording session at Blacknest Fields on Friday 7 August (details above); or you could carry out your own survey, in your garden, or during park or countryside visits, and upload your results at [this website](#).

Blacknest Fields volunteers also need extra help with our wildlife monitoring programmes - at present, we monitor bees, moths, birds, bats, amphibians, reptiles and flora at the site. We would also like to set up some mammal and beetle surveys. Please get in touch if you can help with any of this - no previous expertise needed - just email us at bnf@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk.

Surveys help us understand which species are using Blacknest Fields, and see them up close. For example:

- A goshawk, whitethroats and yellowhammers seem to now be regularly using the site.
- A southern cuckoo bumblebee and a mimic hoverfly were seen during bumblebee recording.

have also been spotted.

- April's moth survey recorded several species that were new to us: including the amazing 'Puss Moth' (pictured below).



We love: Chris Packham's periodic tables of bats

Chris Packham has designed some witty 'periodic tables' that organise the UK's resident and 'vagrant' bat species into their respective families. Periodic tables for butterflies and dragonflies are also available (as TShirts). Genius!

RESIDENT		BAT <i>Myotis daubentoni</i>				
		Beb BECHSTEIN'S BAT <i>Myotis bechsteini</i>				
		Ntb NATTERER'S BAT <i>Myotis nattereri</i>				
		Alb ALCATHOE BAT <i>Myotis alcathoe</i>				
Ghb GREATER HORSESHOE BAT <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	Brb BRANDT'S BAT <i>Myotis brandti</i>	Noc NOCTULE <i>Nyctalus noctula</i>		Cpp COMMON PIPISTRELLE <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Spp SOPRANO PIPISTRELLE <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	Blb BROWN LONG-EARED BAT <i>Plecotus auritus</i>
Lhb LESSER HORSESHOE BAT <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	Whb WHISKERED BAT <i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	Ser SEROTINE <i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	Lrb LEISLER'S BAT <i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	Ntp NATHUSIUS PIPISTRELLE <i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	Bbs BARBASTELLE <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	Glb GREY LONG-EARED BAT <i>Plecotus austriacus</i>
	Gmb GREATER MOUSE-EARED BAT	Nob NORTHERN BAT		Kpp KUHLS PIPISTRELLE		



Alison Melvin
Lead for Blacknest Fields
for Binsted Parish Council



Sarah Womersley
Volunteer Co-ordinator
Friends of Blacknest Fields

p.s. Got any questions about Blacknest Fields? Email bnf@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk.

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Friends of Blacknest Fields

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This link will take you to the Blacknest Fields Community Facebook page. Do follow us (if you don't already.) Local photographers share beautiful photographs of their sightings at the Fields: we would love you to use it to share accounts of your visits too. The page includes a site location map.

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