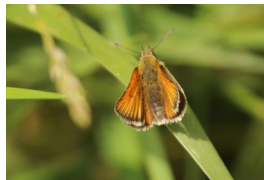
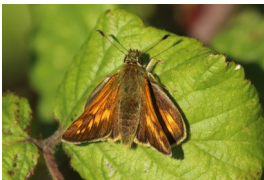


## **A short guide to the Butterflies of Lympsham**

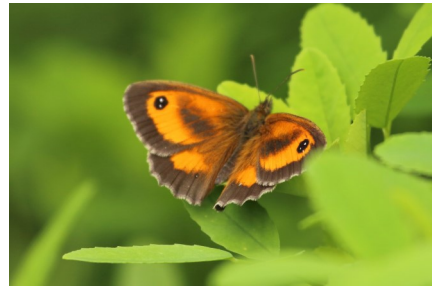
### **Part 2: June onwards**

At the start of June those Butterflies that have overwintered as caterpillars (Larva) start to arrive on the scene. If you walk along the footpath that runs from Purving Row Lane down to Dulhorn Farm, you may spot some **Brown Argus** (below) in the long grass beside the rhyme. These beautiful little butterflies are very similar to the female **Common Blue** and are stunning.

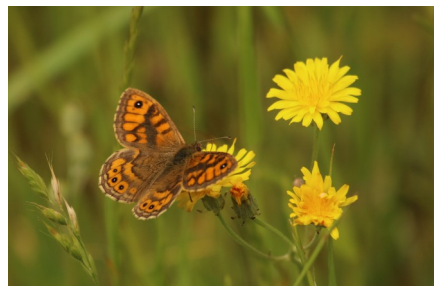
Along this same stretch you may also spot small groups of **Large Skipper** (below left). More like a moth than a butterfly, they are pretty orange flecks amongst the grass. **Small Skipper** (below right) will start to appear in July along these same stretches, also keep your eyes peeled along Purving Row Lane and the Middle Rhyme footpath near the West Road footbridge.

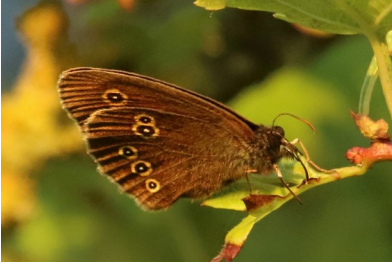


If you are lucky you may see **Common Blue** (top right) amongst these same grasses and anywhere the grass is still long. As the height of Summer approaches the hedges and verges come alive with butterflies; **Meadow Brown, Red Admiral, Peacock, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell, Large, Small and Green-veined White** as well as **Speckled Wood** are all on the wing and competing for space in the brambles. They will also be frequent visitors to gardens, especially those with an abundance of flowers, buddleia being everyone's favourite.



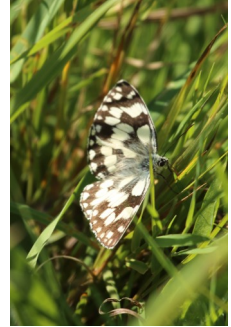
Joining this merry band are the **Gatekeeper** (upper right) and **Wall** (right) butterflies. As the name suggests, the **Wall** can often be seen near walls, so check out the churchyard, old boundary walls and around the Pavilion and cricket net.





At this time of year any walk on a sunny day will reward you with sightings of numerous species. The Footpath from Wick Lane across the fields heading towards West Road, is a great place for **Meadow Brown** and **Gatekeeper**, but check the hedgerows more carefully and you may spot the exquisite **Ringlet** (left).

Harder to find, but staggeringly beautiful is the **Marbled White** (right) and for this you will have to venture a little bit further. If you walk the length of West Road, turn towards East Brent and then take the first footpath on the right, head up to Brent Knoll and you may be lucky to find them playing in the long grass and thistles. **Ringlet**, **Gatekeeper**, **Meadow Brown**, **Comma**, **Peacock** and **Red Admiral** can all be found in good numbers here also.



Not resident in the UK, but a frequent migratory visitor, is the exquisite **Painted Lady**. In some years, millions of these butterflies get as far as the UK from North Africa, in other years there will be none. When they do join the party, they can be seen in the hedgerows and along paths taking up minerals from the ground.

The highlight of any year for me, is not a butterfly but a moth, the distinctive flight and sound of a **Hummingbird Hawk Moth** (left) sends me running for my camera every time. They often visit lavender in gardens and will hover like a tiny Hummingbird extending their massive tongue to drink nectar from the flowers. Once they have found a good spot they often return so keep watching.

I hope you have enjoyed this brief exploration of the butterflies and the occasional moth that surround us during the spring and summer months. If this has sparked an interest in butterflies check out my booklet, 'The Butterflies of Lympsham' available from the Post Office and Brent House Farm Shop, all profits are being donated to the school. Thanks , Jim.

