

Country Notes for July 2021

My goodness we have been waiting a long time for some real summer weather but it has finally begun in mid-July with some very hot days - and very warm nights! There are so many signals that summer has finally arrived, with its sun filled days and clear blue skies.

One such pleasure is the sight of a buzzard, such as I witnessed the other day over my garden, circling against a windless and deep blue sky, accompanied by its plaintive mewing call. It seemed so peaceful as it soared and when it began rising and then falling at great speed, over and over again, I can only assume that it did so for the sheer pleasure of being alive! Only a few years ago this would have been a rare sight indeed, but how lovely to witness it on a hot summer's day.

The Hollingbourne Meadows have suddenly come alive with meadow brown butterflies dancing just above the tops of the grass and coming to rest, showing their brown wings with the orange patch on their forewing. Best of all has been the sight of marbled white butterflies flying above the grass searching for nectar filled flowers. They are one of my favourite butterflies with their black and white checkerboard wings. At first glance as they fly past they might be confused with one of the white butterflies, but they are not. Rather they are members of the brown family such as the meadow brown.

Let's hope summer is here to stay for a while. The butterflies in particular will be thrilled!

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