

NO:19 NOVEMBER 2024

# MOTH NEWS

## FOR DERBYSHIRE 2024

Derbyshire Moths Facebook Group (DMFG)



VC57

### November Moth News

Emily Milnes made a dramatic start to the November moth sessions with another *Palpita vitrealis* from 21/9 from her Sandiacre garden light trap on 1st.



*Palpita vitrealis* - Emily Milnes©



**The Brick** - Brian Hobby©

Mild conditions during the first week in November created perfect conditions for late autumn moth trapping. **November Moth agg**, **Blair's Shoulder Knot** and **Juniper Carpet** were being frequently recorded. Martin Roome recorded 28/11 from his Chaddesden garden moth trap which included a late and pristine **Brimstone Moth**, also an *Exapate congelatella*, a species which is not normally recorded so far south in the county. Also on the 1st and Brian Hobby's final night for the Garden Moth Scheme, he recorded the **Brick** amongst 26/11 from his Kirk Hallam garden light trap. Brian mentioned that total numbers were well down on comparison years 2022-2023. The "**Umbers**" were also putting in appearances, with records from Quarndon, New Mills and Staveley. Yet another *Palpita vitrealis* was recorded by Graham Pollock from Quarndon and Steve Thorpe from High Leas, both on 2nd, taking the total for VC57 of this species to 22 individuals, with 12 being recorded in the past 5-6 weeks.

## November Moth News

Steve Thorpe ran the moth trap at High Leas Farm on 2nd/3rd recording 66/17 which included, as previously mentioned above, another ***Palpita vitrealis***, along with, **December Moth, Merveille Du Jour, Mottled** and **Scarce Umber, Red** and **Yellow-line Quakers** and **Brick**, all of which are classic autumn moths.



***Palpita vitrealis*** - Steve Thorpe©



**Red & Yellow-line Quaker** - Steve Thorpe©

The next bumper moth was recorded by Clive Ashton from his Cromford garden light trap overnight on 2nd, when he found a **Delicate** on 3rd, the 5th record for VC57 & Derbyshire, and also another **Brick** from 26/11.



**Brick** - Clive Ashton©



**Delicate** - Clive Ashton©

Brian Hallam recorded an ***Udea ferrugalis* (Rusty Dot Pearl)** from his Findern moth trap on 2nd. Stephen Moores also had another from Chatsworth, also on 2nd, along with his first ever **Merveille Du Jour**. I ran my garden moth trap overnight on 3rd from Melbourne and record my first garden **Merveille Du Jour**, quite an exciting moment.



## November Moth News



**Merveille Du Jour** - Tony Davison©



**Silver Y** - form **nigricans** - Martin Roome©

Martin Roome recorded what appears to be the "**nigricans**" form of **Silver Y** from his Chaddesden garden light trap on 3rd. This form is almost black. On the 5th Clive Ashton recorded 25/11 from his Cromford garden light trap including 2 **December Moth**, **Scarce Umber**, 2 **Mottled Umber** and **Brick**. Similar moths recorded by Dave Evans on 6th from his Belper garden, apart from a mega, **The Gem**, which he found on the side of his shed!

Seems like John Turner from New Mills has closed down his moth trap for the year, finishing off in the high NW with a **Chestnut**, a **Yellow-lined Quaker** and a **November Moth agg**. John has produced some excellent records from his area of north Derbyshire.



**Gem** - Dave Evans©



**December Moth** - Clive Ashton©

Some very mild weather for November produced a really early **Pale-brindled Beauty**, recorded by Dave Newcombe on 5th from his Belper garden light trap. This species is generally not recorded till January to March.

## November Moth News



**Scarse Umber** - Clive Ashton©



**Mottled Umber** - Clive Ashton©



**Pale Brindled Beauty** - Dave Newcombe©



**The Brick** - Clive Ashton©

Matt Leedell recorded **Yellow-line Quaker**, **Angle Shades** and a **Grey Shoulder-knot** from his Belper garden light trap on 8th and Nikki Barrow had a single **Blair's Shoulder Knot** also on 8th from Shirland. Another **Blair's Shoulder Knot** trapped by Andrew-John Shervill at Normanton, Derby on 8th.

On 10th Brian Hallam recorded 26/8 from his Findern garden moth trap which included a **Dark Chestnut** (the first he has recorded since February 2024), 2 **December Moth** and **Mottled Umber**. From mid November, most moth-ers who were running their garden light traps were now recording similar species of **Mottled and Scarse Umber**, **Light-brown Apple Moth**, **December Moth**, **Feathered Thorn**, and **Red-green Carpet**, all being typical late autumn species.



## November Moth News

Clive Ashton bucked-the-trend on 16th recording a **Winter Moth** the main highlight of 7/6 from his Cromford garden moth trap.



**Winter Moth** - Clive Ashton©



**December Moth** - Mark Radford©

From the 17th November the weather began to deteriorate somewhat and it was like moth traps were switched off for good! From the 19th the weather became extremely wintery with heavy snow and freezing conditions, remaining until 23rd. After the heavy snow, one intrepid moth-er at Sandiacre set up her garden light trap on 23rd and recorded 2 **Light-brown Apple Moths**!!

A **Winter Moth** was found in the Sheepwash Hide at Carsington Reservoir on 24th by Clive Ashton. Clive also recorded 2 **December Moth** (male and female), apart from size differences the males have feathered antennae which they use to detect the scent of unmated females. Also a **Red-green Carpet** from his Cromford garden light trap on 25th.

Sid Morris conducted another winter tunnel survey along his usual stretch of the Monsal Trail and at Cressbrook Tunnel recorded 3 x **Herald** and 2 x **Tissue**. Brian Hobby ran his garden light trap on a chilly night (7 degrees) on 25th only resulting in a single **Red-green Carpet**.

## November Moth News



**December Moth** - male (R) & female(L) -  
Clive Ashton©



**Acleris logiana** - Christian Heintzen©

On 25th Christian Heintzen recorded another **Acleris logiana** from Long Clough, this is the 3rd VC57 & Derbyshire record of this species that only reached Yorkshire in 2010.

On the 30th Sid Morris searched the tunnels on the Markham Vale Seymour site, recording 52 **Herald** and a single **Common Plume**.

There was a flurry of mothing activity on the last evening of the month as a warm airstream reached the UK, with overnight temperatures in our county on 30th, of 12 degrees. Several **Winter Moths** were recorded, a number of **December Moths**, a very late and battered **Lesser Yellow Underwing**, recorded by Emily Milnes from her Sandiacre garden light trap, a **Dark Sword-grass** from Graham Pollock at Quarndon, was a real surprise, a few **Mottled Umber** and finally a **Common Quaker** from Steve Thorpe, the only moth he recorded from his garden light trap at Breaston and one that is very early.

The end of another interesting month of moth trapping and moth recording. Good December mothing and have a great Christmas everybody - *Tony Davison*



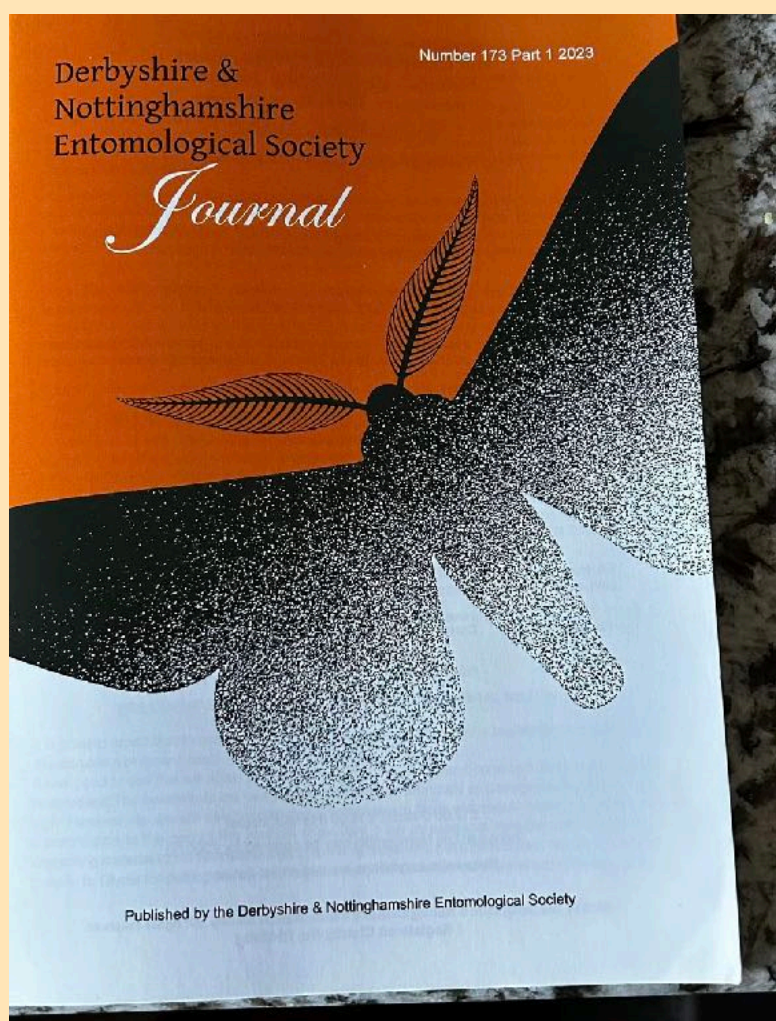
## November Moth News

I am very pleased to announce that the long awaited **Derbyshire Macro Moth Report for the years 2019-2023** has been published in the latest DaNES Journal number 173 Part 1 2023. Out of interest, part two contains the Nottinghamshire Macro Moth Report for 2023.

The **Derbyshire Macro Moth Report** can be viewed here:-

<https://www.derbyshiremoths.org/the-vc57-derbyshire-macro-moth-report-2019-2023/>

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was involved in helping me to put this report together, including proof-reading, producing maps and general statistics, photographers for allowing the use of their excellent images, DaNES for publication and last but not least, you the county moth recorders. Without your valuable records there wouldn't be a report, so a massive thank you from me and on behalf of all the members of the verification team.



## November Moth News

I was recently contacted by Archie Braddock, a long standing and well respected moth-er in Derbyshire and a member of DaNES for over 40 years. He has offered to write about his moth-ing experiences over many years of moth trapping, and so to follow is his first feature write-ups.

### MOTHS: NOW AND THEN - Part 1

I've recently discovered Tony Davison's website, covering the current status of all the Derbyshire moths, plus a detailed feature on the pugs. There must have been a tremendous amount of work put into this, and it set me thinking: I have a lot of information on some of these moths, based on the field work I did up to the year 2000. Yes it's around twenty five years ago, but unless someone does similar field work now we'll never know if big changes have taken place.

So my plan, with Tony's agreement, is to add my thoughts and findings regarding any moth I think I have worthwhile information on. I've been a Danes member for above forty years, and I have a good overall idea of what's rare and what isn't. I have noted that some moths, though scarce in my light trap, are absolutely abundant as larvae. which I'll cover as we go along.

In 1978 a Buff-tip larva came walking down my garden path, I didn't know what it was, so I rushed off to my nearest stationers and bought a book on moths. That was forty six years ago and I've run a home light for all of that time, plus field trips from Dumfries to Dungeness. The first twenty years I lived in a large house with a large garden, and as my breeding and rearing of moths expanded I started planting trees and shrubs to give me easy access to the food plants I needed. Then came retirement, and downsizing to a smaller house. I sold all my moth gear, my moth collection, and ceased the field trips, but I didn't stop light trapping. At the old house I had run 125 watt traps, and the same on field trips, plus 2 six watt actinic box traps powered by small motorbike batteries. Now, with houses close by I had to use a less powerful light, and after experiments with 16 watt and 12 watt actinic lights, Graham Finch suggested Wemlights.

What a find they were! No choke needed, just plug in the bulb. I had always used 6 watt actinic lights on my field trips. The Wemlight, at only 20 watts attracts anything, and over the last twenty odd years I've found the biggest moths, such as Privet Hawks, down to the smallest pug like Double Striped, sitting on the shed around the light. I also bought a small box trap, fitted it with a 20 watt Wemlight, and now on the good nights this goes out and the shed light I switch off.

Although I'm only a quarter of a mile from my previous house, the number of different moths I've taken has been amazing.

*Archie Braddock.*