

MOTH NEWS FOR DERBYSHIRE

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VC57

APRIL Moth News - Well April certainly got under way with a “flying start” pardon the pun! Dave Evans was trapping at Darwin Forest over a few nights early in the month and recorded some superb early spring species including - **Engrailed**, **Brindled Pug**, **Pine Beauty**, **Tawny Pinion**, **Pale Pinion**, **Powdered Quaker**, **Early Tooth-striped**, **Streamer**, **Water Carpet**, **Nut-tree Tussock**, **Early Thorn**, and **Mottled Grey**, as well as the usual common species.



Pale Pinion - Dave Evans©



Tawny Pinion - Dave Evans©



Nut-tree Tussock - Dave Evans©



Streamer - Dave Evans©

The first good macro moth of the year was discovered in Clive Ashton's Cromford garden light trap on 3/4th April, no less than a **Blossom Underwing**, the second record for VC57 & Derbyshire. The amazing thing was that I'd sent out a message to the group a few days prior, suggesting that **Blossom Underwing** was one to look out for! What a prediction!

APRIL Moth News cont'd -

**Blossom Underwing** - Clive Ashton©**Comparison with Common Quaker**

Clive Ashton©

Some good trapping conditions continued during 3-5th April and a range of common spring species were being recorded - **Clouded Drab**, **Twin-spotted Quaker**, *Diurnea fagella*, **Early Thorn**, **Early Grey** etc. Sid Morris recorded the *Tortrix*, *Philedonides lunana* on Ramsey Moor along with an **Emperor Moth**. The very warm weather had certainly got these stunning beauties on the wing, especially up on the moors and incredibly a female was discovered at Blackwell near Alfreton on a drive way (Dave Clay).

In the warm weather the day flying *Dyseriocrania subpurpurella* was about in numbers and Mark Radford recorded one from Markham Vale on 5th. Mark also recorded a *Mompha subbistrigella* also on 5th. Steve Thorpe recorded a **Satellite** from his Breaston garden light trap on 5th, best of 7 moths and apparently a new one for his garden.

I spent a superb afternoon up on the moors above Glossop on 7th and **Emperor Moths** were very quick to visit the EMP Lure. We had at least 7 males. Then we visited a local oak wood and recorded 7 *Pammene giganteana* using the SKI & FUN Lures.

**Emperor Moth** - Tony Davison©*Pammene giganteana* - Tony Davison©

APRIL Moth News cont'd - Graham Finch posted an interesting record on 8th. A Bycatch from Carver's Rocks on 7th while he was looking for Beetles. The moth was *Heliozella sericiella* which was beaten from Gorse under Oaks. The adult moth is rarely seen. Identified by Gen Det.



Heliozella sericiella - Graham Finch©



Eudonia angustea - Tony Davison©

I ran my garden light trap overnight on 8th and recorded 2 **Early Thorn**, 3 **Hebrew Character** and 1 *Eudonia angustea*, in some cold over-night temperatures.



Early Thorn - Tony Davison©



Early Thorn - Tony Davison©

Dave Newcombe recorded 8 moths from his Belper garden light trap on 8th including a **Powdered Quaker**, **Brindled Pug** and an early **Chinese Character**, the first one of the year. On 10th Mark Radford recorded The **Streamer** from his Staveley garden light trap, not many recorded so far.

Clive Ashton ran his garden light trap in Cromford on 10th and recorded 13/12 including the first **Scalloped Hazel** of the year, **The Streamer**, **Herald** and **Brindled Pug** as highlights.

Brian Hobby recorded a pair of mating **Common Heath** on Stanton Moor on 11th.

Local recorders were beginning to attract some good spring species to their light traps during mid-month including, **Streamer**, **Scalloped Hazel**, **Muslin Moth**, **Brindled Beauty**, **Iron Prominent** and it seems to be a good year for **Water Carpet**. On the 11th Sid Morris and the Markham Vale team ran several light traps at "The Grips" between Clowne and Creswell. Highlights were a **Scorched Carpet**, **Satellite**, **Small Phoenix** and **Purple Thorn**. **Waved Umber** were beginning to emerge with several being recorded from the 11th

APRIL Moth News cont'd -

I ran my garden light trap in Melbourne on 11th and recorded the first **Lunar Marbled Brown**, and **Flame Shoulder** of the year for the recording area. Other highlights were **Red Chestnut** and **Purple Thorn**.

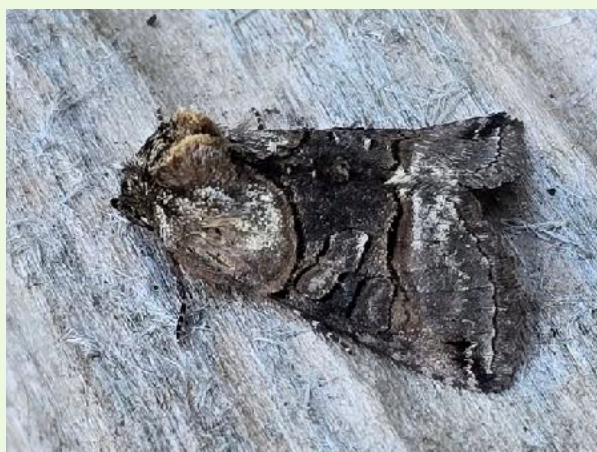


Lunar Marbled Brown - Tony Davison©



Purple Thorn - Tony Davison©

Steve Thorpe recorded the next good moth on 12th from his Breaston garden light trap, a **Chocolate-tip**. Brian Hobby recorded the first one for the year on 28th March and so far 7 have been reported for 2025. On the 12th Mark Radford recorded the first **Scalloped Hook-tip** for the year. Clive Ashton had the first **Spectacle** of the year for the recording area from his Cromford garden light trap on 14th.



Spectacle - Clive Ashton©



Chocolate-tip - Steve Thorpe©

Brindled Pug, **Oak-tree Pug** and **Double-striped Pug** were also being recorded in most peoples light traps during 11th - 17th. Also on 17th Sid Morris recorded the first **Buff-tip** of the year for the recording area at Staveley.

APRIL Moth News cont'd -

By the 17th the first **Shuttle-shaped Dart** were appearing with 2 from my garden moth trap in Melbourne, 2 from Matt Leedell, Belper and 5 from Dave Evans' garden moth trap in Belper.



Shuttle-shaped Dart - Tony Davison©



Oak-tree Pug - Dave Evans©

Dave Evans also recorded **Oak-tree Pug** and **Lunar Marbled Brown** from his garden light trap on 17th. Also on 17th the first **Lesser Swallow Prominent** of the year from William Grange in Allestree, along with another **Lunar Marbled Brown**, which seems to be having a good year. Clive Ashton also ran his Cromford moth trap on 17th and recorded 14/11 with highlights of **Scalloped Hazel**, **Water Carpet**, **Waved Umber** and **Brindled Pug**. I recorded **Waved Umber**, **Oak-tree Pug** and **Brindled Pug** in addition to the Shuttle-shaped Dart as mentioned above.



Water Carpet - Clive Ashton©



Brindled Pug - Tony Davison©

Dave Newcombe recorded another **Lunar Marbled Brown** from Belper on 17th, so this species seems to be widespread and having a good year. The good numbers this year maybe a reflection of last year's early leaf on oaks and the nice spring we had. This seems to be following true with a number of species that seem to be well represented this year.

APRIL Moth News cont'd -

Brian Hobby recorded the first **Seraphim** of the year from his Kirk Hallam garden moth trap on 18th. A rare and localised species with most records from the central and western side of the recording area. On 19th Nikki Mahadevan recorded **Pale Tussock** and the first **Swallow Prominent** of the year from her garden light trap at Shirland.



Seraphim - Brian Hobby©



Swallow Prominent - Nikki Mahadevan©

On 20th Graham Pollock from Quarndon recorded **Chocolate-tip**, **Grey Birch** and **Spectacle** from 17/12. Also on 20th Clive Ashton had **Streamer** and **Golden-rod Pug** as highlights from his Cromford garden light trap. Steve Thorpe recorded a **Pebble Prominent** on 20th from his Breaston garden light trap.



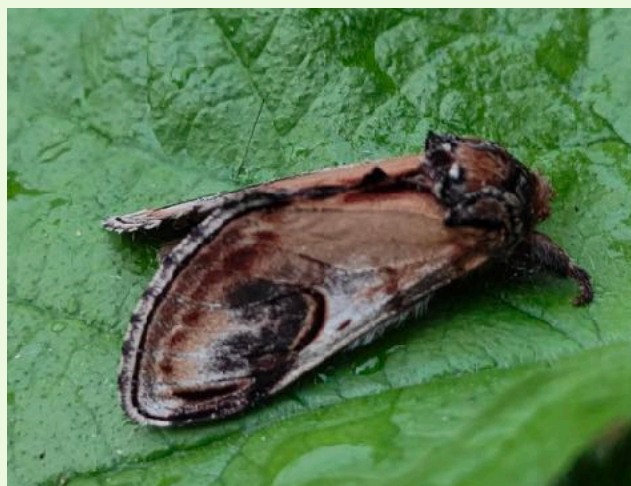
Streamer - Clive Ashton©



Golden-rod Pug - Clive Ashton©

The range of species began to improve from around the 20th onwards and towards the month end. A warm weather spell certainly seemed to be helping. The next exciting moth was recorded by Clive Ashton, when he netted a **Caloptilia cuculipennella**, the second record for VC57 & Derbyshire from his garden in Cromford on 22nd.

APRIL Moth News cont'd -

***Caloptilia cuculipennella*** - Clive Ashton©**Pebble Prominent** - Steve Thorpe©

Dave Newcombe recorded the first **White Ermine** and **Knot Grass** for the year on 20th from his Belper garden light trap. A **Mullein** was discovered by Sid Morris on a door in Staveley on 23rd.

Clive Ashton had a bumper moth trap on 22nd from Cromford, noting as well as the ***Caloptilia cuculipennella***, **Pale Prominent**, **White Ermine** and **Waved Umber** as highlights from 20/16. Clive also recorded a couple of micros, ***Epermenia chaerophyllella*** and ***Grapholita jungiella*** (6) at Rose End Meadows, Cromford during the afternoon of the 25th.

***Grapholita jungiella*** - Clive Ashton©***Epermenia chaerophyllella*** - Clive Ashton©

Another **Mullein** was recorded at New Mills by John Turner on 24th and on 25th Brian Hobby had 21/12 from his Kirk Hallam moth trap including **Currant Pug**, **Waved Umber** and **Shuttle-shaped Dart**. Graham Pollock from Quarndon ran his garden moth trap on 25th and had **The Streamer** and a **Rustic Shoulder-knot**.

I had news on 25th of a new micro moth species for Derbyshire and VC57. ***Depressaria daucella*** which was recorded by Steve Orridge (one of our verifiers) on 26th March 2025 from his garden in Buxton. The moth was confirmed by Gen Det examination. This takes the VC57 micro moth list to 883 species.

APRIL Moth News cont'd -

John Turner recorded a superb **Pale Tussock** at New Mills on 25th and Brian Hallam had a **Knot Grass** at Findern, from his garden moth trap also on 25th. Many of the tiny micro ***Cameraria ohridella*** (**Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner**) were on the wing by 26th.



Knot Grass - Brian Hallam©



Cameraria ohridella - Clive Ashton©

The next good moth came from, you know who, Clive Ashton, in the form of another (3rd record) **Blossom Underwing**, trapped on 28th at Cromford. Other highlights of 43/23 were **Pale Tussock** (3), **Peach Blossom**, **Red Twin-spot Carpet**, **Chinese Character**, **Small Phoenix** and **Golden-rod Pug**.



Small Phoenix - Clive Ashton©



Blossom Underwing - Clive Ashton©

Another bumper moth trap came from Dave Newcombe at Belper with 46/34 on 26th. Highlights were **Alder Kitten**, **Cabbage Moth** (A species not often recorded in recent times?), **Coronet**, **Dwarf Pug**, **Least Black Arches**, **Oak-tree Pug**, **Ochreous Pug**, **Orange Footman**, **Pale Tussock**, **Pebble Hook-tip**, **Peppered Moth**, **Powdered Quaker** and **Yellow-barred Brindle**. One very special recording session.

APRIL Moth News cont'd -

The spell of really warm sunny weather continued through to the month end, providing local recorders with some ideal overnight moth trapping conditions. For the time of year a wide variety of mid-spring species were on the wing, some in good numbers. The regular county moth-ers were producing some good records.

Dave Evans' garden moth trap at Belper produced **Alder Kitten**, **Pale Tussock**, **Mullein** and ***Aethes smeathmanniana*** on 26th.



Mullein - Dave Evans©



Alder Kitten - Dave Evans©

Matt Leedell recorded 18/12 from his 20W UV Heath Trap at Belper on 26th, including **Oak-tree Pug**, **Chinese Character** and **Spectacle**. A **Grey Shoulder-knot** was found on a house wall in Stretton by Tarnya Fisher during the afternoon of 27th.

I ran my garden moth trap overnight on 27th from Melbourne, somewhat disappointing with only 6/5 but three NFY, **Pale Prominent**, **Chinese Character** and **White Ermine**. On 28th Dave Evans had another bumper moth trap from Belper with **Orange Footman**, **Clouded-bordered Brindle**, **Yellow-barred Brindle**, **Lesser Swallow Prominent** and ***Epinotia immundana***. Also on 28th William Grange from Allestree attracted a superb **Iron Prominent** to his garden light trap.

Clive Ashton recorded the first **Ruby Tiger** moths of the year on 28th from Cromford along with other highlights of his garden moth trap, **Least Black Arches**, **Pale Prominent**, **Waved Umber** and **Small Phoenix**.

Dave Newcombe recorded the first **Alder Moth** and the **Miller** for the year from his Belper garden light trap on 28th. The **Knot Grass** was recorded from Chaddesden by Martin Roome and from Kirk Hallam, by Brian Hobby on 28th. The first **Lime Hawk-moth** was recorded by Paul Buxton from his Sandiacre garden light trap also on 28th, along with a **Spruce Carpet**, **Seraphim**, **Orange Footman** and ***Elachista argentella***, quite a rare little micro with the last one in 2021.

Probably one of the best Derbyshire spring moth traps I have seen in recent times came from Sid Morris and the Markham Vale team. An astonishing 119/38 species including 22 **Lesser Swallow Prominent** (probably a record count in one trapping session) 15 **Pebble Hook-tip**, 10 **Grey Birch** and 6 **Scalloped Hook-tip**.

APRIL Moth News cont'd -

29th Ian Hurst recorded the nationally scarce B *Grapholita lunulana* at Whitwell Pit tip. Very few have been recorded in VC57. Some excellent moth traps on 29th with Dave Evans from Belper recording **Puss Moth**, and **Waved Umber**.

Sid Morris from Staveley ran his 125wMV light and two 20x actinic moth traps on 29th recording **Poplar Hawk-moth**, **Poplar Kitten**, **Lesser Swallow Prominent**, **Buff-tip**, **Pebble Hook-tip** and **Pale Tussock** as main highlights. Brian Hallam from Findern had **Eyed Hawk-moth**, **Pale Prominent**, **Ruby Tiger** and **Flame Shoulder** on 29th from 21/13.



Puss Moth - Dave Evans©



Iron Prominent - William Grange©

John Turner from New Mills also on 29th recorded **Iron Prominent**, **Chocolate-tip** and a **Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet**. The first **May Highflyer** and **Brown Silver-line** for the year came from Clive Ashton's Cromford garden light trap on 29th with 31/23.



Chocolate-tip - John Turner©



May Highflyer- Clive Ashton©

Dave Newcombe recorded his first **Pine Beauty** from his garden light trap in Belper on 29th, Nikki Barrow had 15 species, 4 of which were new for the Stretton Handley Primary School grounds (also 29th) highlights were a **Coronet**, **Water Carpet**, **Purple Thorn**, **Pale Tussock** and **Gold Spot**.

APRIL Moth News cont'd -**Coronet** - Nikki Barrow©**Poplar Grey** - Emily Milnes©

Finally we get to the last moth traps for April. On 30th Emily Milnes from Sandiacre recorded 30/19 which included **Orange Footman**, **Iron Prominent**, **Buff-tip**, **Knot Grass**, **Poplar Grey** and **Toadflax Brocade**, the first one for the year. Peter Walley from Mickleover recorded **Lychnis** and **Cinnabar** and the **Brimstone Moth** was now beginning to appear.

Dave Evans final moth trap for April was another decent one on 30th - **Orange Footman**, **Eyed Hawk-moth** and **Lime Hawk-moth**, **Pebble Hook-tip**, **Yellow-barred Brindle**, **Pale Tussock**, **Oak Nycteoline** and **V-Pug** as highlights.

Martin Roome recorded a very nice specimen of **Ochreous Pug** from his Chaddesden garden light trap on 30th and Clive Ashton ran a light trap at Hall Wood, Carsington which was a great success. Highlights were the fabulous **Scorched Wing**, **Least Black Arches**, **Lunar Marbled Brown** (9), **Early Tooth-striped** (3), **Streamer**, and **Pale-shouldered Brocade**.

Clive Ashton's last moth trap for April produced **Herald**, ***Syndemis musculana*** and **Pale Tussock** as highlights.

**Ochreous Pug** - Martin Roome©**Scorched Wing** - Clive Ashton©

APRIL Moth News cont'd -

Andrew-John Shervill ran his 20wUV light in Normanton, Derby on 30th, recording **Angle Shades**, **Brindled Pug**, **Garden Carpet**, **Rustic Shoulder-knot** from 11/7.

John Turner from New Mills recorded **Yellow-barred Brindle**, **Cabbage Moth** and the **Streamer** and Dave Newcombe from Belper recorded **Nutmeg**, first for the year, **Scalloped Hazel** of the *f.nigra*, **Cabbage Moth**, **Seraphim**, **Least Black Arches**, **Lunar Marbled Brown** (3), **Pebble Hook-tip** and **Small Phoenix** as highlights from his last moth trap for April.



Scalloped Hazel - *f.nigra* - Dave Newcombe ©



Pebble Prominent - Dave Newcombe©



White-spotted Pug - Dave Evans©



Pale-shouldered Brocade - Clive Ashton©



Lime Hawk-moth - Dave Evans©



Eyed Hawk-moth - Dave Evans©

APRIL Moth News cont'd -



Pebble Hook-tip - Dave Evans©



Orange Footman - Dave Evans©



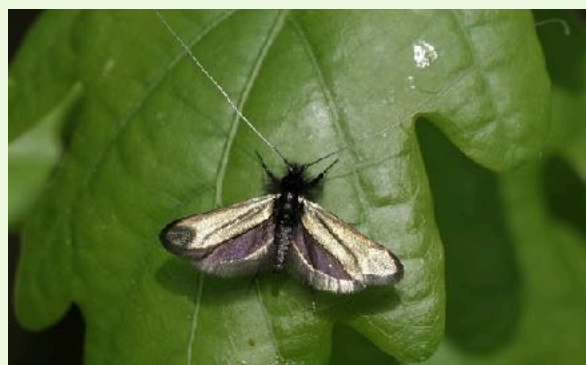
Grey Birch - Clive Ashton©



Clouded Bordered Brindled - Dave Evans©



Grapholita lunulana - Ian Hurst©



Adella reaumurella - Pete Mella©

APRIL Moth News cont'd -



Pale Prominent - Melbourne - April 2025 - Tony Davison©

Update on the Derbyshiremoths.org website -

We have launched some Maps that are now live on the website :-

From the homepage click on "The Moths" Tab, choose "Macro", then click "Distribution Map of Macro Moths".

<https://www.derbyshiremoths.org/mapdata-for-macro-moths/>

Do the same to access the "Distribution Map of Micro Moths"

<https://www.derbyshiremoths.org/mapdata-for-micro-moths/>

From the home page click on "Information" TAB, choose "Mapping Moths" then click "Map on Macro v Micro"

<https://www.derbyshiremoths.org/mapdata-for-macro-and-micro-comparison/>

and the "Map on Distribution of All Moths"

<https://www.derbyshiremoths.org/mapping-page-all-records/>

I hope these meet with your expectations. We are still working on the individual species maps and charts which will be in a similar fashion. This has been an incredibly difficult task to put together, and Richard and I, especially Richard, have put hours of work into it. Some of the requests made are extremely difficult to pull off so we have had to make some compromises. However nothing is impossible and for the time being we feel these Maps provide ample information.

We are hoping to announce, very soon, the completion of Maps and Charts for all the Macro and Micro species that are currently listed on the website.

Feedback is always useful and this can be done via the feedback page on the website.

<https://www.derbyshiremoths.org/visitor-comments/>

Well that concludes the April Bulletin and what a bumper month made more enjoyable by the warm weather system over the UK during the last week in April.

Let's hope May continues in a similar fashion. "Good Moth-ing".

Tony Davison.