# MOTH NEWS FOR DERBYSHIRE©

Produced and edited by Tony Davison - www.derbyshiremoths.org

VC57

**This bulletin is dedicated to the memory of Paul Buxton.**

**October Moth News - 1st October -**

Well, it is not often that I post the first returns of the new month! I kicked off October with the first posting overnight from the Melbourne moth trap. A **White-point, Feathered Thorn, Rush Veneer, Beaded Chestnut** (3), **Black Rustic** (3) were the highlights from 17/9. Brian Hallam from Findern had a rewarding trap with 43/14, with highlights of **Deep-brown Dart, Rush Veneer, Vestal, Green-brindled Crescent, Small Mottled Willow, Blair's Shoulder-knot** and **White-point**.

Dave Evans recorded 28/16 from his trapping session in the Darwin Forest, but with no species of note. Pete Mella discovered a **Clifden Nonpareil** on a neighbour's door in Norton Lees.

John Turner recorded a low species count from New Mills with highlights from 15/7 being **Autumnal Moth, Black Rustic,** and **Feathered Thorn.**



**Clifden Nonpareil** - ©Pete Mella



**Feathered Thorn** - ©Tony Davison



**White-point** - ©Tony Davison



**Beaded Chestnut** - ©Tony Davison

**October Moth News - 1st October -**

**2nd October** - Graham Pollock from Quarndon recorded **Barred Sallow, Chestnut** and **Rush Veneer**, the best from 16/9. Brett Sentence ran his light trap from Ashbourne recording 8 moths in total, but **Brown-spot Pinion, Barred Sallow** (2), **Black Rustic** and **Green-brindled Crescent** were good records.

Clive Ashton recorded 15/9 from Cromford, recording similar autumn species, **Green-brindled Crescent, Angle Shades** and **Barred Sallow** worthy of a mention.



**The Vestal -** ©Brian Hallam



**Green-brindled Crescent** - ***f.capucina***
©Brian Hallam

3rd October - From my Melbourne moth trap overnight I recorded **Blair's Shoulder-knot** (2) and **Red-green Carpet,** both (NFY) and **Small Mottled Willow** from 19/7.



**Blair's Shoulder-knot** - ©Tony Davison



**Red-green Carpet** - ©Tony Davison

Matt Leedell recorded another **Clancy's Rustic** (the 8th individual since the first two on 22nd September), from his Belper garden light trap. Other highlights were **Blair's Shoulder-knot** (2), **Red-green Carpet**, **Merveille du Jour** (3), **Green-brindled Crescent** and **Barred Sallow.**

**4th October** - Ann Wood from Sandiacre recorded 31/17 which included **Beaded Chestnut**, **Blair's Shoulder-knot** and a **Barred Sallow**.

**October Moth News:**



**Clancy's Rustic** - ©Matt Leedell



**Merveille du Jour -** ©Matt Leedell



**Blair's Shoulder-knot** - ©Tony Davison



**Red-green Carpet** - ©Tony Davison

**4th October cont'd** - Dave Newcombe ran a single actinic from his Belper garden recording 23/19 which included highlights of **Brown-spot Pinion, Green-brindled Crescent, Merveille du Jour** (2) and **Red-line Quaker**. Dave Evans also trapped in his Belper garden recording 43/22 with highlights of **Blair's Shoulder-knot, Chestnut** and **Rusty Dot Pearl.** Clive Ashton from his Cromford garden light trap recorded **Beaded Chestnut, Green-brindled Crescent**, **Small Mottled Willow** (any other year and we would have been leaping up and down to catch one of these), and **Barred Sallow.**



**Small Mottled Willow** - ©Clive Ashton



**Red-line Quaker** - ©Dave Newcombe

**October Moth News:**

**4th October cont'd** - Don Cambridge recorded the spectacular **Clifden Nonpareil** with his new LED trap from **Falcon Moth Traps**. Nikki Barrow from Shirland recorded her second **Vestal** of the year, also a few good autumn species, **Red-line Quaker, Barred Sallow, Deep-brown Dart, Beaded Chestnut** and **Black Rustic**.



**Clifden Nonpareil** - ©Don Cambridge



**Vestal** - ©Nikki Barrow

Brian Hallam ran his light trap in Findern recording 65/20, which included **Merveille du Jour, Red-green Carpet,** another stunning **Vestal, Rush Veneer, Small Mottled Willow, Blair's Shoulder-knot** and **Deep-brown Dart**. Not a bad selection for early October.

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**The Vestal** - ©Brian Hallam



**Deep-brown Dart** - ©Brian Hallam

**5th October** - My Melbourne garden light trap produced a **Vestal, Barred Sallow, Black Rustic (13), Rosy Rustic, White-point (3), Spruce Carpet** and a very late **Waved Umber** from a total of 33/12. While Pete Mella, from Norton Lees, noted **Feathered Thorn, Barred Sallow, Black Rustic, Blair's Shoulder-knot** and **Azalea Leaf-miner**. Ann Wood from Sandiacre record **The Vestal** (3), **White-point, Red-line Quaker** and **Green-brindled Crescent**.

**October Moth News:**



**Barred Sallow** - ©Tony Davison



**Waved Umber** - ©Tony Davison

**5th October cont'd** - Clive Ashton's Cromford garden moth trap attracted 42/18 which included **Barred Sallow** (8), **Small Mottled Willow** and **Spruce Carpet** and ***Hypsopygia costalis***. Sid Morris recorded **Merveille du Jour** from his Staveley garden, always a nice record, along with another **Clancy's Rustic**, **White-point**, and **Box Tree Moth** (65). David Knass from Hathersage was waiting in anticipation for his first **Vestal** to arrive and recorded a super pink one.



**The Vestal** - ©David Knass



**Yellow-line Quaker** - ©Dave Evans

Dave Evans recorded 125/28 to his MV light in Belper most of which were **Box Tree Moth**, but as always Dave gets a few goodies, **Merveille du Jour, Green-brindled Crescent, Red-line Quaker** and **Yellow-line Quaker.**

Brett Sentence ran his garden light trap in Ashbourne and recorded **Merveille du Jour (2), Straw Dot** and **Barred Sallow** as highlights.

**6th October** - The autumn is one of the best times to search for leaf mines and Dave Evans recorded a total of sixteen species from Wyver Lane, Belper, including ***Cameraria ohridella*** on *Aesculus*, ***Coptotriche marginea*** on *Rubus*, ***Phyllonorycter corylifoliella*** on *Crataegus*, ***Prays fraxinella*** on *Fraxinus* and ***Phyllonorycter tristrigella*** on *Ulmus glabra.*

There is a comprehensive leaf mine gallery on the website, which should prove useful to those wishing to take up identifying leaf mines, a fascinating side of moth-ing.

**October Moth News:**

**6th October cont'd -** Two **Grey Shoulder-knot** were found at Wyver Lane by Dave Evans. Brian Hobby found larval feeding signs of ***Choreutis nemorana*** **(Fig-tree Skeletoniser**). Brian took a leaf off his Fig-tree and placed it in an insect rearing cage. An adult emerged on 6th October representing the second record for VC57 of an adult of this species.



**Fig-tree Skeletoniser** - ©Brian Hobby



**Red Sword-grass** - ©John Turner

John Turner ran his light trap at New Mills and despite the rain, managed to record a **Red Sword-grass**, the first one for the year. This species likes to feed on ivy flowers this time of the year, so well worth checking large areas of ivy by torchlight.

Clive Ashton ran his garden light trap at Cromford recording 66/24, which included **Merveille du Jour** (2), **Green-brindled Crescent *f.capucina***, **Blair's Shoulder-knot**, **Barred Sallow** (7) and an **Orange Sallow.**

Martin Roome was the latest recorder to join the Derbyshire **Clancy's Rustic Club,** when he discovered one in his overnight Chaddesden garden moth trap, so far the 12th individual for Derbyshire, since 22nd September 2026.



**Merveille du Jour** - ©Clive Ashton



**Barred Sallow** - ©Clive Ashton

**October Moth News:**

Dave Evans ran his garden light trap at Belper recording 70/26 with highlights of **Feathered Thorn, Angle Shades, Blair's Shoulder-knot, Black Rustic** and **Barred Sallow**. Brian Hallam trapped at Findern recording **Pink-barred Sallow**, **White-point** (2) and **Merveille du Jour** (4), **Small Mottled Willow**, another **Clancy's Rustic** and good counts of **Beaded Chestnut** (10), **Lunar Underwing** (11) and **Black Rustic** (11). **Clancy's Rustic** is still a good county species and we mustn't get carried away, Brian's record is only the 10th since the 1st one on 22nd September.



**Clancy's Rustic** - ©Martin Roome



**Pink-barred Sallow** - ©Brian Hallam

At this point I would like to mention the passing of a dear friend of mine and a great friend to many other people from the Moth-ing and Birding community, both in Derbyshire and across the country. Paul Buxton passed away on 7th October in Truro Hospital, having been taken ill on the Isles of Scilly on Friday 2nd October, doing what he loved, Birding on the glorious Isles. He was also a very enthusiastic moth-er and a great supporter of Derbyshire Moths and of DMFG. Such very sad news indeed and I would like to dedicate this News Bulletin in his memory. No more "Hello Matey".

**7th October** - A **Pink-barred Sallow** was recorded by John Turner at New Mills during 2°C overnight.

**9th October** - Jeremy Erde from Atlow recorded 10/4 which included a **Green-brindled Crescent** and a **November Moth agg**. Brett Sentence from Ashbourne during cold and wet conditions overnight recorded **Merveille du Jour** (3), **Green-brindled Crescent** and **November Moth agg** (3). Brian Hobby ran his weekly Garden Moth Scheme (GMS) trap in a minimum temperature of 9.0°C. Highlights from 33/14 were **Dusky-lemon Sallow** (a real rarity these days), **November Moth agg** (6), **Green-brindled Crescent, Blair's Shoulder-knot, Red-line Quaker** (3), and **Merveille du Jour** (6).

**11th October** - I ran my 40W Actinic from my garden in Melbourne overnight recording highlights of **White-point, Angle Shades, Rush Veneer, Red-green Carpet** (2) and **Black Rustic** (4) from 20/12. Nikki Barrow ran her garden light trap at Shirland recording 12/5 with highlights of **Green-brindled Crescent** (7) and **Red-line Quaker** and **Yellow line Quaker.**

**October Moth News:**



**Dusky-lemon Sallow** ©Brian Hobby



**Yellow-line and Red-line Quakers** - ©Nikki Barrow



**Rush Veneer** - ©Tony Davison



**Angle Shades** - ©Tony Davison

**12th October** - Mark Radford collected a few good leaf mines from Seymour, Markham Vale North, highlights were ***Parornix finitimella*** and ***Parornix torquillella.*** Jeremy Erde from Atlow recorded **Mottled Umber, Pink-barred Sallow**, **Red-line Quaker, Feathered Thorn**, **Green-brindled Crescent** of the form ***capucina*** and **November Moth agg**. Martin Roome recorded **Beaded Chestnut** and a second generation **Least Carpet** from his garden light trap in Chaddesden. Christian Heintzen recorded ***Exapate congelatella*** at Long Clough.

Mark Radford discovered a couple more scarce *Coleophora* larval cases from Markham Vale North Tip - ***Coleophora milvipennis*** and ***Coleophora violacea,*** also ***Stigmella basiguttella***, with the mine in a ‘green island’ on a fallen oak leaf.

Matin Roome recorded an adult ***Phyllonorycter messaniella*** from his overnight moth trap at Chaddesden. Martin managed an excellent photograph which shows the key features well.

**October Moth News:**



***Parornix finitimella*** - leaf fold on Blackthorn
©Mark Radford



***Parornix torquillella*** - leaf fold on Blackthorn
©Mark Radford



***Coleophora milvipennis*** - larval case on underside of Birch leaf
©Mark Radford



***Coleophora violacea*** - ©Mark Radford



***Stigmella basiguttella*** - ©Mark Radford



***Stigmella basiguttella*** - ©Mark Radford

Brian Hallam from Findern was rewarded with 76/21 which included two **Clancy's Rustic**, a second brood **Muslin Moth**, **Merveille du Jour** (2) and **White-point** (2). Jeremy Erde at Atlow recorded a slightly early **December Moth,** they are usually on the wing from late October through to January.

**October Moth News:**



***Phyllonorycter messaniella-*** ©Martin Roome



**Clancy's Rustic** - ©Brian Hallam

**13th October** - Matt Leedell ran his garden light trap in Belper, temperature was 13°C at 20:00. Highlights were a **Merveille du Jour, Scarce Bordered Straw (2),** and a **Rusty Dot Pearl**. Always interesting to see other 'moth-ers' light traps.



**Matt Leedell's hone made moth trap**



**Merveille du Jour** - ©Matt Leedell

Mark Radford recorded a few more decent leaf mines from Hall Lane Ponds, Markham Vale. ***Phyllonorycter cerasicolella*** in a 'green island' on Bird Cherry, proving very difficult to find this year***, Gypsonoma dealbana*** on narrow leaved Willow spp, ***Gypsonoma oppressana*** on Poplar spp, and ***Phyllonorycter spinicolella*** on Blackthorn. Ann Wood recorded 14/5 from her Sandiacre garden light trap including **Red-line Quaker** (3) and a **Turnip Moth**.

**14th October** - I ran my garden 40W Actinic in Melbourne recording 36/15 which included 14 **Black Rustic**, also ***Agonopterix alstroemeriana*** and **November Moth agg** (both NFY); **Rush Veneer**, **Turnip Moth** (2); **Blair's Shoulder-knot** (2) **Red-green Carpet** and **Beaded Chestnut** (2). Brett Sentence from Ashbourne recorded a **Clifden Nonpareil** and a **Figure of Eight.** Mark Radford had a bumper catch for mid October with 85/24 from his Staveley garden light trap, including ***Psychoides filicivora***, also **Brick** and **Juniper Carpet.** However Dave Evans blew everyone away with 90/27 from his Belper light trap in breezy conditions. Highlights were **Scarce Umber** and **Mottled Umbe**r with a good supporting cast of **Merveille du Jour, Barred Sallow, Pink-barred Sallow, Satellite, Brown-spot Pinion, Red-line Quaker** and **Yellow-line Quaker.**

**October Moth News:**



**Mottled Umber** - ©Dave Evans



**Scarce Umber** - ©Dave Evans

Ann Wood recorded an unusually marked **Vestal** from her Sandiacre garden light trap.

The Calke Park Moth Survey Team ran lights overnight on 14th at South Wood. Although part of the NT Calke Estate, the wood lies mainly in the VC55 (Leicestershire) recording area. Good for the Calke moth survey, but not so good for moth recording in VC57. ***Diurnea lipsiella*** was a new species for the Calke Estate survey and a **Pale November Moth** was confirmed by Gen Det. Steve Orridge recorded 18/9 from his Buxton garden which included the fourth record of **Delicate** so far this year and his 2nd **Clancy's Rustic.**



***Agonopterix alstroemeriana*** - ©Tony Davison



**November Moth** agg - ©Tony Davison

**15th October -** Martin Roome recorded his second **Clancy's Rustic** from his Chaddesden garden light trap. This record represented the 18th individual since 22nd September, when the first for VC57 Derbyshire was recorded. John Turner from New Mills recorded his first **Merveille du Jour** of the year. Also **Rush Veneer, Red-green Carpet** (3), **Silver Y** (3), **November Moth** agg and **Juniper Carpet** (30) made up the rest of his catch. Jeremy Erde from Atlow recorded **Mottled Umber** and **The Brick** (3).

**16th October -** Clive Ashton recorded ***Crocidosema plebejana*** from his Cromford light trap, along with **Merveille du Jour** and **Green-brindled Crescent**. Garath Thomas from Duffield recorded a **Scarce Bordered Straw** from his garden light trap (per iRecord).

**October Moth News:**



**Clancy's Rustic** - ©Martin Roome



**The Vestal** - ©Ann Wood



***Crocidosema plebejana*** - ©Clive Ashton



**December Moth** - ©Tony Davison

**17th October -** Matt Leedell recorded ***Caloptilia azaleella*** (**Azalea Leaf-miner**), **Merveille du Jour** (3), **Red-line Quaker** and **Green-brindled Crescent** (2) from 22 moths of 11 species from his Belper garden light trap.

**18th October -** I ran my 2 x 20W Actinic from my Melbourne garden recording 9/5 between 7pm to 11-30pm. Surprised to find a **December Moth** (NFY) along with **White-point, Black Rustic, Red-green Carpet** (2) and **Light Brown Apple Moth** (4). Brian Hobby ran his GMS trapping session from Kirk Hallam recording 19/11, highlights of **Juniper Carpet, Merveille du Jour** and a late ***Blastobasis adustella***, amongst the usual October species.

19th October - Mark Radford discovered a few good leaf mines at Seymour, Markham Vale including, ***Stigmella basiguttella, Ectoedemia intimella, Stigmella centifoliella, Phyllonorycter cavella,*** and also a **Northern Winter Moth.** Dave Evans recorded 28/18 from his garden light trap in Belper. Highlights were **December Moth**, **Grey Shoulder-knot, White-point** and **Juniper Carpet**. Clive Ashton trapped at Cromford and from his garden light trap recorded 34/15 which included **Merveille du Jour**, **Green brindled Crescent,** plus the usual suspects. However Dave Newcombe recorded **The Streak,** an excellent record**,** from his Belper garden light trap, which was a welcome addition to his garden list.

**October Moth News:**



***Stigmella basiguttella*** - ©Mark Radford



***Stigmella centifoliella*** - ©Mark Radford



**Grey Shoulder-knot** - ©Dave Evans



**Juniper Carpet** - ©Dave Evans



**The Streak** - ©Dave Newcombe



**Green-brindled Crescent** - ©Mark Radford

**October Moth News:**

**22nd October -** Recent weather conditions temporarily curtailed any moth trapping since 19th, however Dave Evans went looking for leaf mines at Wyver Lane and found a new species for VC57 Derbyshire. He discovered the leaf mine of ***Stigmella viscerella***, a moth that is associated only with Elm. The mines are very distinctive and the larva creates a strongly contorted gallery mine that twists back and forth in incredibly tight S-shaped “gut-like” loops.



***Stigmella viscerella*** - ©Dave Evans



***Stigmella viscerella*** - ©Dave Evans

**23rd October -** Mark Radford discovered a **Green-brindled Crescent** tucked away under the lip of his wheelie bin in Staveley. Pete Mella found the leaf mine of ***Phyllonorycter esperella*** on Hornbeam at Graves Park. Due to the scarcity of Hornbeam, this species is rarely recorded.

**25th October** - Mark Radford discovered the leaf mines of ***Ectoedemia hannoverella*** (Black Poplar Dot) on Black Poplar. This is a new species for VC57 Derbyshire and a superb find.

**27th October** - I found several hundred leaf mines of ***Stigmella tityrella*** on a Beech hedge at Mercia Marina. Mark Radford discovered more leaf mines, c100, of ***Ectoedemia hannoverella*** at Foxlow Ponds. Most likely this species is widespread wherever there is Black Poplar. Mark also found two other scarce leaf miners, ***Ectoedemia intimella*** on Sallow at Markham Vale and 50+ mines of ***Gypsonoma oppressana,*** on Black Poplar, also at Foxlow Ponds.



***Ectoedemia hannoverella*** - ©Mark Radford



***Ectoedemia intimella*** - ©Mark Radford

**October Moth News:**



***Stigmella tityrella*** - ©Tony Davison



***Ectoedemia hannoverella* -** ©Mark Radford

**27th October cont'd** - I ran my 2 x 20W Actinic from my Melbourne garden between 5-10:30pm recording **Juniper Carpet** (NFY), **Red-green Carpet** and **Light Brown Apple Moth** (3).

**28th October** - Several recorders ran moth traps across the county - I ran mine from Melbourne between 5pm to 11pm. **Juniper Carpet** (4); **Red-line Quaker** (2) (NFY); **Rusty Dot Pearl**; **Light Brown Apple Moth** (2)**.** Brett Sentence recorded a **December Moth** from his garden moth trap in Ashbourne, Mark Radford recorded 20/10 from his Staveley garden including **Mottled Umber, December Moth**, **The Brick** (2), **Silver Y** and **Red-line Quaker**. Clive Ashton recorded 13/5 from his Cromford garden light trap, **Mottled Umber**, **Feathered Thorn** (4), **Juniper Carpet** (2), **Red-green Carpet**, ***Epiphyas postvittana*** (5). **Scarlet Tiger** larva also on Clive's garden fence.



**Red-line Quaker** - ©Tony Davison



**Rusty Dot Pearl** - ©Tony Davison

**October Moth News:**

**29th October -** Mark Radford ran his LED Array at Staveley for a few hours switching off at 21:00 and recording 7 species including a **December Moth**, a **Turnip Moth**, a **Barred Sallow** and 11 **Light Brown Apple Moth**. Clive Ashton recorded a **White-point** and a **Pale Mottled Willow** from his garden light trap at Cromford.



**December Moth** - ©Mark Radford



**White-point** - ©Clive Ashton

An exceptionally late **Beautiful Hook-tip,** usually flies in the summer**,** was recorded by Sid Morris (photographed) from his Staveley garden light trap. Matt Leedell recorded **White-point**, **November Moth agg** (8) and ***Carcina quercana*** as highlights from his Belper garden light trap. John Turner from New Mills recorded **December Moth, Silver Y, November Moth** and **Juniper Carpet.**

**30th October -** Dave Evans found several species of leaf miners at Belper Cemetery including ***Stigmella samiatella*** (12th record for VC57 Derbyshire), ***Stigmella lemniscella, Stigmella aceris*** and ***Stigmella tityrella.*** I ran my Melbourne garden light trap, running a blended MV light and recording a **Merveille du Jour** (2nd garden record), **Silver Y,** 2 **Black Rustic**, **Spruce Carpet** and **Light Brown Apple Moth.**



**Merveille du Jour** - ©Tony Davison



**Silver Y** - ©Tony Davison

**October Moth News:**

**30th October cont'd -** Brian Hobby recorded 17/11 from his GMS trap from his garden in Kirk Hallam. Highlights of **Feathered Thorn**, **The Brick** (2), **Yellow-line Quaker** and **Blair's Shoulder-knot**. Brian Hallam also ran his GMS trap from his garden in Findern recording 8 species including **Merveille du Jour**, **Rush Veneer**, **Rusty Dot Pearl** and **Blair's Shoulder-knot**.

The Calke Park Moth Survey Team ran a trap at Calke Explore for a few hours on 30th October. Sean Browne recorded **Dark Chestnut**, **Merveille du Jour** and **December Moth** as his highlights.

**31st October -** Mark Radford continues to find good leaf mine species in good numbers, recording ***Coleophora potentillae*** (25) and ***Coleophora violacea*** (17) larval cases at Markham Vale, South Tip. Note the upright character of ***C. potentillae*** and the flat to the leaf character of ***C. violacea***.



***Choleophora potentillae*** - ©Mark Radford



***Coleophora violacea*** - ©Mark Radford

Well that brings to an end the highlights of a fantastic October of Derbyshire moths. Some 1,300 records of 129 species from 71 sites and from 52 recorders. So far the year total for VC57 Derbyshire is in excess of 55,500 records, of 1,090 species, from 1,214 sites and from 625 recorders and we appear to have broken all previous annual records for the vice county, so an amazing achievement from all the county recorders.

The moth season may well slow down now unless we get any periods of mild weather. We will keep our fingers crossed.

There are a couple of documents below which are well worth reading. As I have previously mentioned, this edition is dedicated to the late Paul Buxton. He was a very enthusiastic moth-er and his personality and friendship to many, along with his moth recording, will be a great loss to Derbyshire.

Tony Davison

**October Moth News:**

**Two documents recently published to the website and DMFG.**

**Scientific Dissection and "Gen Det" for Identification Purposes**

In entomology and wildlife recording, a "Gen Det" (Genitalia Determination) is conducted to conclusively identify, in most cases, a moth species when it cannot be distinguished by its external wing patterns alone.

Many moth species are "cryptic", meaning they look virtually identical from the outside. Because the structural shapes of insect genitalia act like a unique lock-and-key mechanism specific to each species, examining these organs under a microscope is often the only definitive method to tell them apart. As a recording team we are well aware that not everyone supports this scientific determination process.

The recording Team is pleased to announce that one of our team members has now completed a course on Scientific Dissection and is able to conduct a "Gen Det" to determine to species.

Our team member is happy to undertake this process, but for the time being we have decided to limit this to potential new species and 2nd, 3rd records for VC57 and species that are extremely rare or are a migrant and in both cases would represent a very significant record for the vice-county and that cannot be confidently identified by any other means.

Any species that are considered to be readily identifiable as adults should not be submitted or considered for dissection. Any moth that is worn or damaged, in the vast majority of occasions it is highly likely they will be common, i.e. pugs and noctuids, taken at light in gardens, and unless there are compelling reasons that a moth is something unusual, they are best left unidentifiable and unrecorded.

**What to Do**

**First of all there must be a good reason and value in conducting any "Gen Det".**
**Our team member does not want to be inundated with masses of specimens, so please consider each situation carefully.**

In the majority of occasions, the requirement of a "Gen Det" will most likely relate to a micro moth species, but there may be some instances where a macro moth may need to be scientifically determined, such as a new species for the vice-county or a migrant etc.

In all cases of submission for a "Gen Det", a quality photograph of the adult moth is required, preferably in its live state, an idea of the potential species and any specialised/specialist habitat.

In the first instance, if you think you have trapped a moth that meets the above criteria then first of all do not release it. Please contact me via the website **Contact Page,** I will then get back to you and advise what to do further.

Many thanks.

*Tony Davison*

Tony Davison
Joint Derbyshire Moth Recorder.

**October Moth News**

**Derbyshire Moth Recording Team**. **Verification and Guidelines for Leaf Miners VC57** -

Identifying leaf mines is a complex field which requires diligent searching but knowing what host plants to look for facilitates these searches. Bear in mind that many species of leaf-miners cannot be identified at adult stages and can only be identified by the galleries they leave behind in the foliage.

Leaf-mining moths lay their eggs on the foliage of suitable host plants. After hatching, the larvae tunnel through the internal leaf tissues. When they have completed their feeding, the larvae of some species pupate within the foliage, but in others the larvae exit the mines and pupate elsewhere on the plant or in the soil.

Due to the complexity of identifying the mines of leaf mining moths, we have set a minimum level of Category L, as our Verification guideline. Category L requires that all records of the mines of all leaf-miners are to be accompanied by photographic evidence. This is required to help accurately determine to species level as far as possible. This may still not be sufficient to aid identification and further evidence may be required. The Categories for adult leaf mining moths remain unchanged, and the Categories are set at the National Category status guidelines. Thank you for following these guidelines.

So, why do we require photographs of the upper and lower leaf mine?

a) Some species can be separated or identified by where they lay their egg on their host plant - upper or lower leaf surface for example.

b) Some species create different types of mines within the upper and/or lower leaf or stem, which helps with identification.

When recording leaf mines it is very important to include the following information and I ask that recorders take this request on board please when you are:-

1) Entering your records into iRecord / iNaturalist or other platforms.

2) Entering your images to DMFG. (Derbyshire Moths Facebook Group).

Please ensure that your record includes:-

A) The food plant
B) The location
C) The date when the mine was found
D) The Latin name of the moth
E) An image of the entire leaf showing the mine in situ, as this will enable our verifiers to see the host plant along with quality close-up images of the backlit mine, especially if it is a tenanted mine.
F) If the mines were identified by other people on other social media platforms, please register the determiner when you enter the record to iRecord.

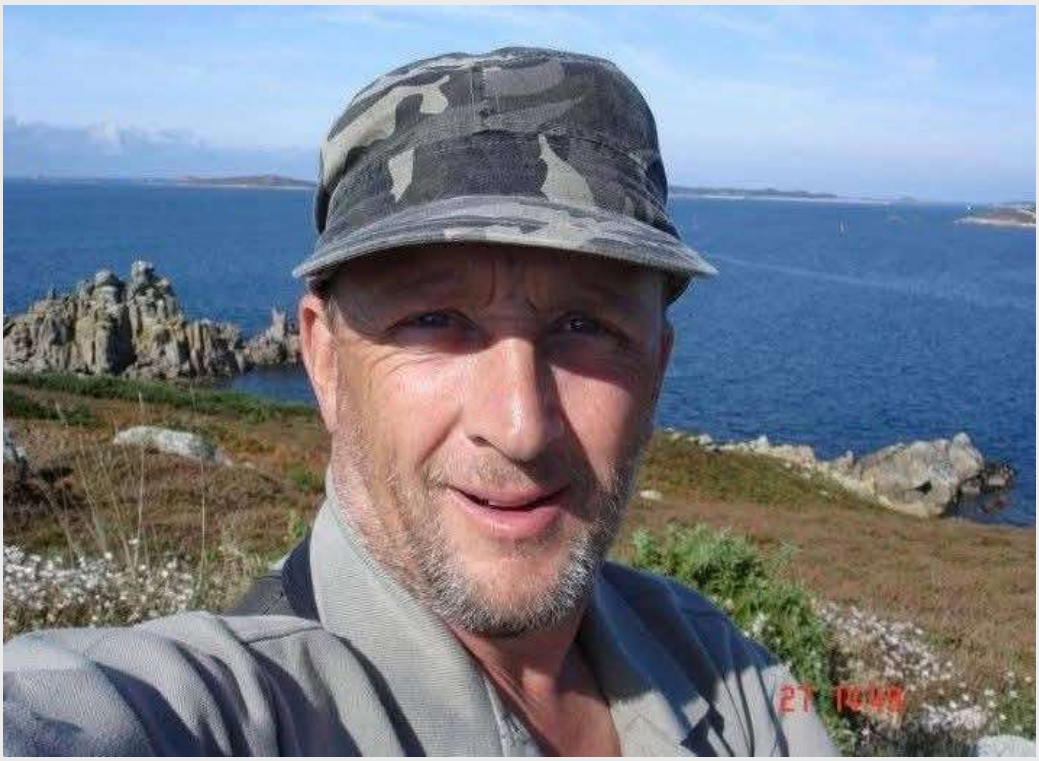
Category Level L - Our definition for Verification purposes.

1. A good quality and in-focus photograph of the whole upper and lower surface of the leaf, clearly showing the shape and structure of the leaf mine.

2. Backlit photograph of the frass/gallery pattern (leaf held close to the camera lens, positioning the main light source behind the leaf).

3. As much information about the larval food plant as possible, ideally to species level but certainly to genus level.

**October Moth News:**



**R.I.P. Paul Buxton - 1961-2026**