

Butterflies seen in St Lawrence Churchyard

Early spring in the churchyard produces a number of colourful butterflies. During any warm winter day hibernating butterflies will have woken and can be seen enjoying the warming rays of the sun. These include **Red Admirals**, velvet black with red and white bands in rows. The spectacular **Peacock** with its four false eyes and deep red colour bask on bare ground. The unmistakeable 'butter-coloured' **Brimstone** (see below) can be spotted patrolling hedgerows.

The first 'new' butterflies of the season often hatch in March. Holly bushes and ivy stands attract the small **Holly Blue**. This butterfly produces a second generation in late summer. The **Orange-tip** often announces the arrival of spring. A white species with deep orange wing tips. It is an active flier in open land and along hedgerows. Bright yellow dandelions and bluebells attract a selection of white butterflies. **Large** and **small whites** are joined by the **Green-veined White** which displays delicate green lined veins on its under-wings.

Dappled areas of shade in summer are home to the territorial **Speckled Wood**. A brown butterfly with cream markings. Long grassy areas in the churchyard produce **Meadow Browns**. Dancing in the tall grass stems they display one single false eye on each brown forewing. Along the pathways look for the fast flying **Small Copper**. A pretty orange brown butterfly that visits daisy flowers. In mid summer the hedgerows will support the **Gatekeeper**. Orange brown in colour they are fond of resting with their wings open, low down on vegetation.

With the days long in high summer the **Small Tortoiseshell** should be looked out for. Richly coloured with blue, black and yellow markings on their orange wings. The ragged edge to the **Comma** make this orange and black marked species stand out. It basks in sunlight and will feed on bramble flowers. Migrating butterflies like the orange black **Painted Lady** and the **Clouded Yellow** have been seen in the churchyard. Both fast fliers they may stop to nectar on thistles and clover flowers.

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