

WORKING PARTIES

THURSDAYS 10—1

- APRIL 13th
- MAY 11th
- JUNE 8th

WEEKENDS 10—3

- Sat JUNE 17th
- Sun JUNE 18th

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Chairman's Ramblings

Welcome to the first newsletter for the Friends of the Down Cemetery.

A lot has happened since we set up this group last year—our website is up and running (www.fotdc.org) and we also regularly update our face book page—take a look and click 'Like' to follow our progress.

We held our first membership event at Paxcroft Mead Community Centre in January. After a

short presentation, we had a question and answer session, and a number of new members joined that very evening.

Our first cemetery working party was held in the cold and rain on 12th January and I would like to thank the volunteers who braved the weather.



Photograph—Wiltshire Times

We have had two more sessions since then and things are progressing well. We are clearing the left hand side (as you enter) from the gatehouse to the chapel. You just have to glance to the right to see how much we have already accomplished.

Our recent funding bid to the Area Board was successful—so we will be purchasing some tools and a first-aid kit.

I would like to say thank you to Wiltshire Council, Alison Racey

and Maryrose Mantle for all their help and support, Jonathan Hawkes for web support, and the Committee for their patience.

Most of all, I want to thank YOU—the volunteers who are making this monumental project possible.

Bulb Planting

A group of volunteers has planted nearly 400 daffodils at the Cemetery on the 24th February.

The bulbs went in at the front entrance—under the Cemetery Opening Times sign and on the roundabout at the top of the drive.

Too late for this year, they should nevertheless make a great show next spring.

Thank you to Trowbridge Garden Centre for their generous donation of the bulbs.



Trowbridge Garden Centre



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INSIDE—Butterfly Identification Sheet—LAST PAGE—Looking Forward to the Summer



Hairstreaks, Coppers and Blues



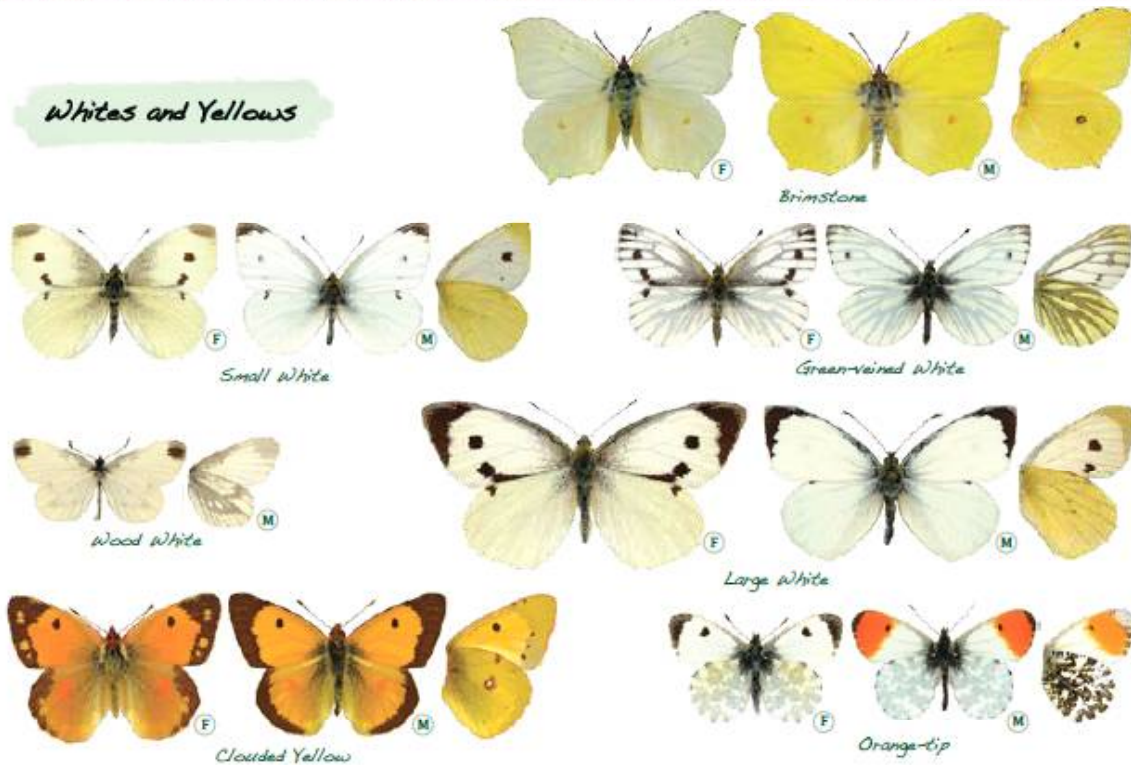
Skippers



Metalmarks



Whites and Yellows



Browns

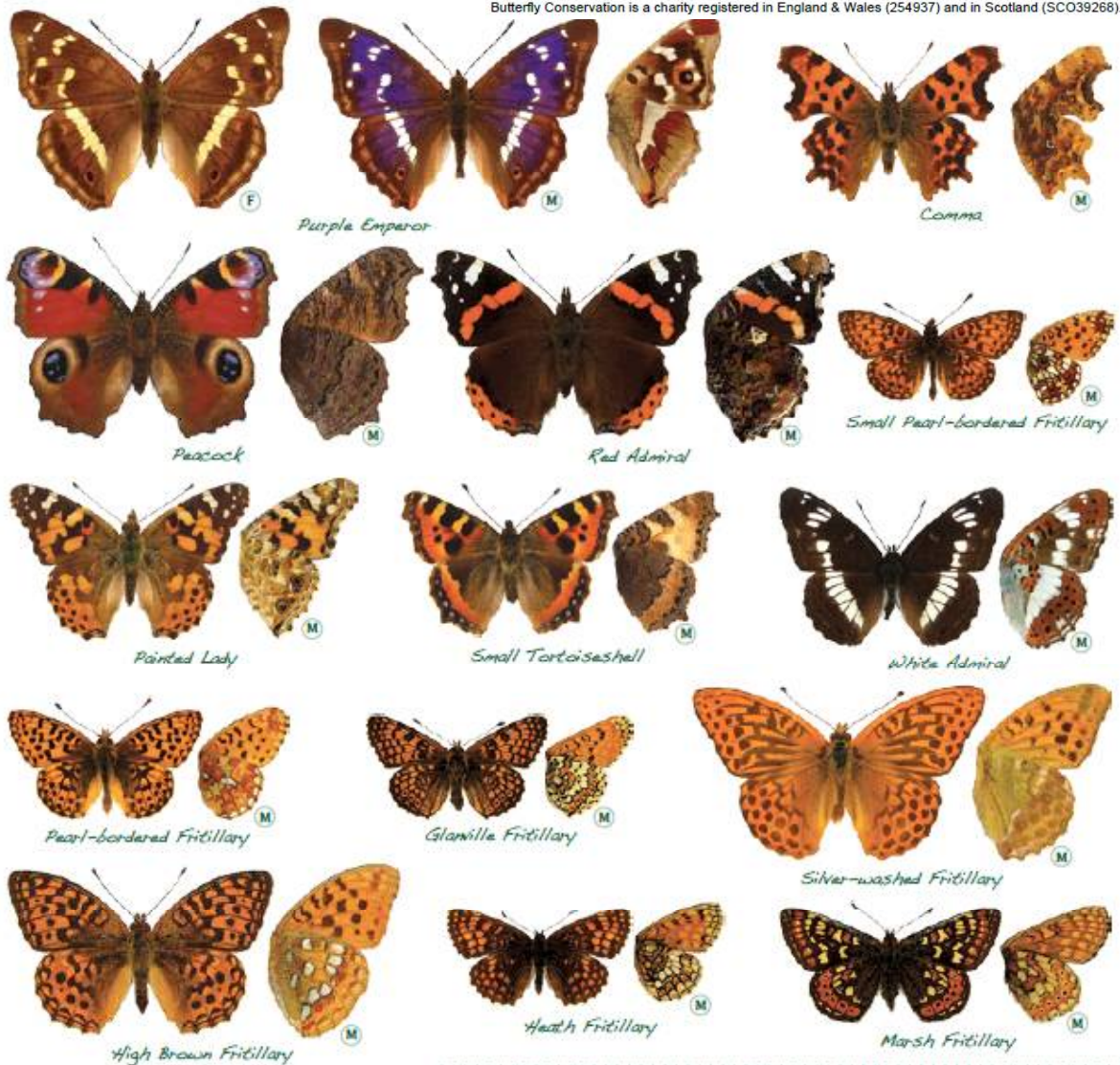
Advance Warning—it could be snakes or spiders next issue!



Emperors, Vanessids and Fritillaries

Original photographs by Dan Danahar of specimens held in the Booth Museum Collection, Brighton. Image treatment by Bob Foreman - Copyright Danahar & Foreman 2013.

Butterfly Conservation is a charity registered in England & Wales (254937) and in Scotland (SCO39268).



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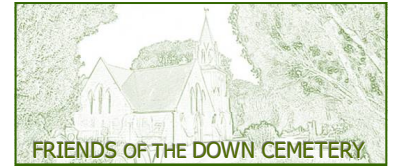
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Looking forward to Summer in the Cemetery



Coming in June - Weekend Working

The first weekend working parties at the cemetery will be held on June 17th & 18th.

This will be to start the process of **documenting** the section of the cemetery that we have cleared—transcribing inscriptions, photographing and mapping.

Don't be put off if you can't make the whole session—please feel free to pop along and give the time you can spare.

We may also be clearing more graves if people would like to do this.



Wildlife in the Cemetery

We have been approached by the **council to do a wildlife study** of the cemetery area. This will be incorporated in our efforts to promote a diverse wildlife eco-system at the cemetery.

We are currently in negotiation with **the council** to be able to put up bird feeders and also bird and bat nest boxes. If we are successful we would be asking members to help by providing bird food.

We will be trialling an area of **wildlife meadow** to see if this is viable as a future project. This will be carried out in the area of the consecrated paupers' graves.



Down Cemetery Heritage

We are hoping to be able to offer **guided walks** of the cemetery on 9th September as part of Trowbridge Heritage Open Days.

We made a start on the research in **February at the History Centre** and were delighted by the breadth and depth of information in the Down Cemetery Committee archives.



Trowbridge Postcards & Ephemera @ flickr.com

If this is something you would like to be involved in—whether by helping to research stories now or by training as a prospective guide in the summer—or both—please email Robert: robertw@fotdc.org.

a Recent Working Party - and - the Fruits of our Labours — photos by Robert Colebourne

