



## Rural Action

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## Pomeroy Woollen Woods Event – Crafters Newsletter 3 – Butterflies

Dear Woollen Woods Crafter,

Thank you for your interest and participation in producing artwork for the Woollen Woods event. Following discussion with Mid Ulster District Council the decision has been taken to postpone the Woollen Woods event until 2021 (subject to Covid -19 restrictions), we will continue however to encourage crafters to produce items so we have an even better display next year.

Continuing with our theme of Bees, Butterflies and Blooms, we look at butterflies in this newsletter.

Northern Ireland is home to around 1,000 species of moth and 25 species of butterfly, with almost half of these being priority species (endangered). Butterflies and moths can be found everywhere from the tops of our mountains to the seashore, in our parks, gardens, fields and woodland. Butterflies are important pollinators to most agricultural



crops. In addition, butterflies are also a food source to predators like birds, spiders, lizards and other animals. Butterflies and moths are insects with short lifecycles most going from egg > caterpillar > chrysalis > butterfly in less than a year. They are widely recognised as a good indicator of the health of the environment. However in this part of the world they are in decline with the State of the Nature Report 2019 reporting that the abundance indicator based on 9 butterfly species has decreased by 43% since 2006.



The annual Big Butterfly count undertaken by Butterfly Conservation is one way we can all get involved in monitoring the health of our butterfly population. The top ten species counted in 2019 were Painted Lady, Peacock, Small White, Gatekeeper, Large White, Meadow Brown, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Speckled Wood and Green veined White. There were 1,228 counts completed across the province with 11,475 Painted Lady butterflies spotted. As Summer fades, there is still time for you to get outdoors and identify butterflies in the Pomeroy and surrounding area using the above ID chart.

It has been great to see that you have all been very busy producing materials to display for the Woollen Woods event. We have had a great response to date and are thoroughly looking forward to the staging of the event, hopefully at some stage early next year

(subject to restrictions). See below, some of the fascinating pieces of work created by our crafters – they all look amazing and a big thank you to all the crafters who have produced the work to date! We are looking forward to seeing more of your creations over the coming weeks and months.



I have included some further knitting and crocheting patterns associated with butterflies.

Finally, thanks to Pomeroy Resource Centre (Phyllis) and The Rowan Tree Centre (Caroline) for continuing to distribute the craft packs in the area, they will also be the collection point for items you have completed, so we can store them unto next year. Please keep sending me photos of the wonderful items that you all have been crafting and I would hope to feature these in our next Newsletter. Also, please feel free to contact me if you require any additional materials – wool, felt etc or indeed require any further help or support.

All the best and happy crafting!

*Rosemary Hunter*

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