



**Orange Tip**  
*By Robert Thompson*

This male is an unmistakable white butterfly with bright orange wingtips. No orange is shown on females. They can regularly be seen in the Butterfly Meadow in May and June.



**Stag Beetle**  
*By Jason Alexander*

Britain's biggest beetle is quite harmless despite its ferocious appearance. It can be found in rough areas within reach of rotting timber, especially near woodland. The male has huge jaws shaped like antlers which are used in courtship to intimidate rivals.



**Long-Tailed Tit**  
*By Nick Martin*

Long-Tailed Tits can be seen searching for spiders and insects in the mature trees and hedges surrounding the Butterfly Meadow. They often form loose flocks with other members of the tit family.



**Wild daffodil**  
*By Jan Hendriks*

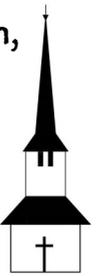
The Wild Daffodil is a more delicate and graceful plant than its cultivated counterparts, with a pale yellow perianth around a golden-yellow trumpet. These can be seen in the grassy areas along the boundary of the Courage Playing Field and are in flower in the months of March and April.

## Further Acknowledgements

Further to those mentioned above, we acknowledge with gratitude major donations towards the construction of the Butterfly Meadow from the Essex Environment Trust and WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd), as well as generous gifts from parishioners and others. We are also grateful for many hours of voluntary labour donated by employees of Ford Motor Company, by members of Shenfield Garden Society and the Writtle Neighbourhood Gardeners' Scheme, and by many local residents.



# The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Shenfield



## A Short Guide to the Butterfly Meadow

If you walk out of the small side gate of St Mary's Church and to the bottom of the graveyard on the left after you've crossed the road, you'll discover a hidden gem — the St Mary's Church Butterfly Meadow.

This project started when the 1.3 acre field that forms the Butterfly Meadow was given to St Mary's Church by the Courage family early in the last century for eventual use as a graveyard. In 2005, recognising that we would not need the site for this purpose for many years to come, we asked for ideas about how the meadow could be used for more immediate community benefit, and the idea of the Butterfly Meadow was born.



John Church came up with the idea of an environmentally friendly scheme for the young and old alike that would involve the whole community, but the burning question was how to finance it? We decided that we would only do the work if we could raise the funds, as we did not want to burden the Church funds.

First we looked for someone to prepare our plans, and we were fortunate when we approached Stephen Hall, a local gardening wizard who had won an award for Garden Design at the Chelsea Flower Show. He knew just what we wanted and produced a very comprehensive scheme that was, with a few minor alterations, perfect.

We found that applying for awards also needed some specialist help and, once again, we were fortunate to have volunteers who helped us form a small committee of five people. These people — John Church, Lisa Friel, Doris Gower, Peter Jones and Joan Pyman — managed to raise all the funds required to keep the project progressing to completion.

Today the Butterfly Meadow is lovingly cared for by Bill Hindley, and it is a significant nature conservation area. Surrounded by mature trees, it includes a large area planted with wild flowers to attract butterflies, clay bound gravel paths, living willow tunnels and domes, and benches with engraved plates for brass rubbing. There is a central maze with beetle banks, and an analemmatic sundial enabling visitors to tell the time using their own shadows.

You will also find a classroom seat in the shape of a butterfly, an area of ornamental trees to attract song birds, log piles for insects, and bird feeding stations. Staff and pupils from St Mary's School and other local residents use the Butterfly Meadow for educational and artistic purposes.

We aimed to make the Butterfly Meadow for the community as a whole, designed by the community, built and blessed by the community. It is a wonderful achievement that reflects the efforts of so many people (see further acknowledgements) over so many happy years, and it will be there for all to enjoy for many years to come.

We invite you to take time to explore our Butterfly Meadow, to discover the features mentioned in this leaflet, and to enjoy this special place.



## Butterfly Meadow Features



### **Small Skipper** **By Alan Barnes**

This is the typical small orange-brown skipper of rough grassland. It is attracted to any sunny spot where wild grasses grow tall. It is widely distributed throughout southern England and Wales. The Essex

Skipper is almost identical, except that the tips of the antennae are black, as if dipped in ink.



### **Cinnabar Moth** **By Mark Parsons**

The day-flying Cinnabar moth is regularly seen in the Butterfly Meadow. The moth is easily recognised by its vivid black and red colouration. Its caterpillar is also brightly coloured, with black and gold stripes. The moth

can be seen flying in the months of May, June and July. The caterpillar can be seen feeding on ragwort in July and August.



### **Red Admiral** **By Jim Asher**

The velvet black upper wings, with a scarlet band and white patches, make this large butterfly unmistakable. The males establish territories along warm edges such as hedgerows and they patrol these daily. They can be

seen feeding into late summer when they are attracted to flowers. They are also particularly attracted to rotting fruit.



### **Green Woodpecker** **By Alain Fossé**

The Green Woodpecker is a common visitor to the Butterfly Meadow. It can be seen searching for ants in grassy areas. If disturbed, it takes flight emitting a loud ringing call known as a yaffle. It has been known to nest

in the spire of St Mary's Church.