

# Creating a Home for the Small Blue Butterfly in Greenwood Park - Malcolm Hull of Herts & Middx Butterfly Conservation



# Today's Presentation

- **The Small Blue Butterfly in Herts**
- **Why we wanted to build a chalk bank in Greenwood Park**
- **How we did it**



# BC in Herts & Middx



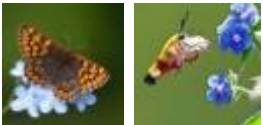
# Small Blue is Rare in Herts and Under Threat



- Small Blue has never been common in Herts.
- In the 1980's it was still found on the chalk hills in north & west Herts.
- Numbers declined and it died out due to the loss of suitable habitat
- By 2004 there were no breeding colonies left in our county.
- From 2009 onwards it started a recovery, first around Tring
- In recent times, the largest colony has been at the former Butterfly World, Chiswell Green

# Herts & Middx Small Blue Project

- Aim to create a network of sustainable sites.
- Improve management of existing sites.
- HMBC funded Kidney Vetch planting at Heartwood Forest and Small Blue is now thriving there.
- Butterfly World is currently suffering from neglect & is potentially threatened by development.
- So we are aiming to develop new sites nearby to sustain the local population.



# Small Blue survival depends on Kidney Vetch



Small Blue on Kidney Vetch

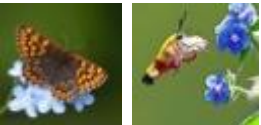


Ant tending a Small Blue Caterpillar



# Building a Chalk Bank for Butterflies in Greenwood Park

- Researching & designing a scheme
- Agreement with the landowner, St Stephen Parish Council
- Securing a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund
- Employing a contractor to build the bank
- Recruiting volunteers - branch members, local people and the staff and pupils of Killigrew School all helped.
- Planting & seeding the bank
- Designing temporary posters & permanent Display Boards



# Removing Topsoil



Work started at the end of April  
2019





# Adding Chalk



# Shaping and Planting the Chalk Bank



Topsoil is removed and replaced by path grade chalk



The design incorporates a south facing bank and ditch



Phil Sterling, Mandy Floyd & Sharon Hearle



Birds-foot Trefoil

# Killigrew School Posters – the competition winners



Trishul (2T)



Maddy (2T)



Nicole Rees (3PR)



Spencer Pateman (6W)



Jacob Dayman (1LW)



Leia Page (3PE)



Mio Evans (5J)



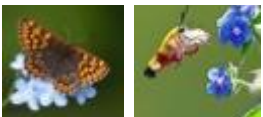
Jovan Phagvra  
(Sunshine Reception)



Reilly (2D)



Juliette Edmunds  
(Rainbows Reception)



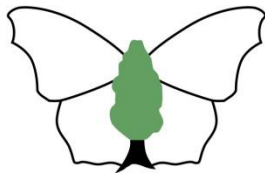


## Seeding and Planting Completed Autumn 2019



# The Future

- Permanent information display boards to be erected in Spring
- The site will mature and blend into the meadow.
- Future maintenance – cutting and minor soil disturbance
- Monitoring the butterflies which move in
- More sites on the way!
- MANY THANKS to all who have helped



**Butterfly  
Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and their habitats



**HERITAGE  
FUND**



**ST STEPHEN  
PARISH COUNCIL**

