

Expanded features

Beetle update by Jim Baldwin

Glow Worms

Peter Burgess has reported a record year for Glow Worms in his garden at Wootton Bridge. Peter has meticulously maintained an annual garden survey of Glow Worms for the past ten years.

He has recorded a total of 132 females present between 24th June and 24th August with a peak daily total of 26 on 21st July. This surpassed the previous record total in 2017 when 104 females were recorded. The 2017 numbers are thought to be responsible for the 2019 increase as Glow Worms generally take two, or sometimes three, years to mature.



Hopefully the larvae can find enough slugs and snails in Peter's garden to produce another boom year in 2021!

Spanish Fly

There have been three reports of the rare Spanish Fly (*Lytta vesicatoria*) this year. Despite its name it is actually a beetle which is classified as a scarce, irregular immigrant from Southern Europe but does breed in small numbers on the Island and in Kent.

Two were seen and photographed by a holidaymaker at Orchard Bay on 25th May, visiting coleopterist Mark Gurney recorded a male at Bembridge Down on 6th June, a new site for this species which appears to be now established in small numbers on the Island.

Finally one was seen and photographed by a holidaymaker in the Orchard Bay area on 3rd August, the latest record for this species.



Photo: Mark Gurney