



WELCOME to a new style newsletter. As you'll see we're making them shorter, more news focused and including more photographs, and we aim to increase the frequency as well.

The first thing we need to do is to send our heartfelt thanks to Sue Thomas who has been our editor for the last 4 years! She remains a member and has helped with this evolution but has now handed on the baton to me, Giles Lury.

BUTTERFLIES GALORE

If you go down to the lake today - or in the next couple of weeks, you should be able to see lots of different species, often 10 or more. It's peak butterfly season and in addition to species such as Large and Small White, Peacock, Red Admiral, Comma, etc you could also see those pictured below. Later in the month and into August there should be lots of Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers.



All photographs © Cliff Buckton

WHERE & WHEN CAN I SEE THEM

The various species favour different habitats. Look out for Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Skippers and Marbled White on the grassy areas, while you will most often find the others in sunny areas of nettles, brambles and buddleia. Speckled Wood are most likely to be in the shady areas.

Butterflies are always more active on warm, calm, sunny days so avoid wind and rain. Early and late in the season, afternoons will usually be better for spotting them than mornings because it's warmer.

OUR BUTTERFLY SURVEY

We have been carrying out weekly butterfly surveys at Stocker's Lake between April and September every year since 2012 so we now have good records of numbers counted both in total and by species. The totals vary quite widely by year depending upon the weather and other longer-term factors. However, there are clear trends for the distribution of butterfly numbers and species across what is known as 'the flying season'. More details can be found on the website.



Did you know?

A female butterfly lays an average of 50 eggs every year of which 20-40 hatch into caterpillars. Perhaps 10 will survive to form chrysalises, of which only 1-3 will become adult butterflies.

Friends of Stocker's Lake is a registered charity No. 1080501. It aims to support conservation at Stocker's Lake Local Nature Reserve.

www.fosl.org.uk www.facebook.com/friendsOfStokersLake

<https://www.youtube.com/@friendsofstockerslakefosl2445>



Friends of STOCKER'S LAKE



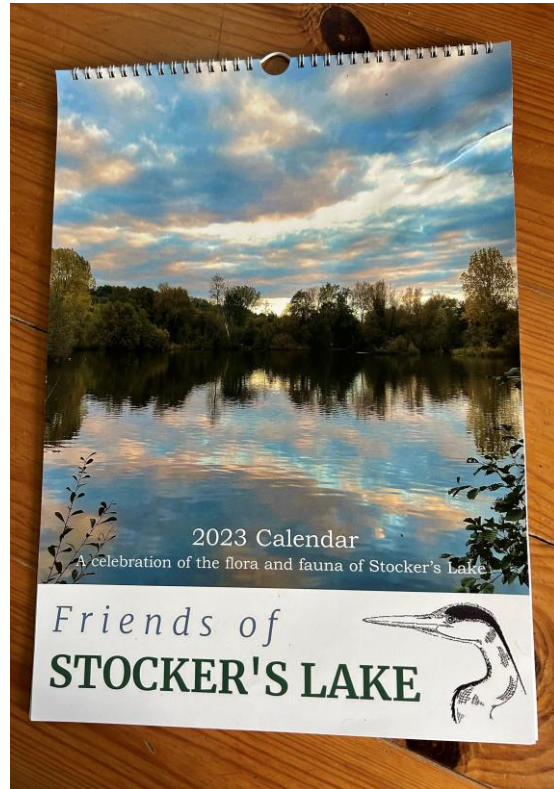
CALENDAR 2024 - CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: 31st JULY

Deadline for entries is July 31st so get submitting!

Following the success of last year's calendar, we are going to produce another calendar this year.

The entry criteria:

1. All photographs to be taken by members.
2. Photographs to be landscape in format and reasonably hi-res (1Mb+) as they will need to be crisp and clear when printed (A4 size).
3. All shots need to have been taken at or around the lake within the last 3 years. We won't be re-using any shots used in 2023 so please don't resubmit those.
4. Can you also let us know when (the month and year) and where on the reserve any shots were taken.



The 2023 calendar which was completely sold out and raised over £500

5. There are 4 categories (1) landscapes, (2) birds, (3) other fauna (4) flora. Each photographer can submit up to 6 photos but no more than 2 in any one category.

Please send entries to giles_lury@hotmail.com

MUD, MUD INGLORIOUS MUD

With summer approaching it is easy to forget how wet and muddy sections of the path around the lake got throughout the winter.

Improving these areas has been a focus for our volunteer work parties in the last couple of months and will be in the coming months too.

Affinity Water kindly donated the materials and teams have already managed to move 2 tonnes of gravel, making a great start to improving walking conditions.

Dense undergrowth from the corral entrance to the cattle fields has been cleared.

There is more to do, so if you can come along and help, please volunteer.

FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

You're invited to join any or all of the forthcoming talks and walks, they are always an enjoyable and informative experience and free to everyone.

And we're looking for volunteers who can come and help the work parties and survey teams who do such valuable work in preserving and improving the reserve.

No special skills required so if can, please come along.

Contact: Jack Westbrook 07716 296093, warden@fosl.org.uk



Talks and Walks	Work parties/Volunteering
Sunday 23rd July Dragonfly and Butterfly Walk: Meet at the Causeway Seat 1030 hrs what3words: list.chase.from.	Sunday 2nd July 0955 hrs - Check location with Jack Westbrook 07716 296093, warden@fosl.org.uk
July 31 st Deadline for entry of photographs for Calendar 2024 project giles_lury@hotmail.com	
	Sunday 6 th August 0955 hrs - Check location with Jack Westbrook
	Sunday 3 rd September 0955 hrs - Check location with Jack Westbrook
	Sundays 10th & 24th September Recruitment Drive: Details nearer the time. Let Russell Ball know if you are available to help. 07884 426671

More details on these as well as updates and reports on previous activities can be found on the website <https://www.fosl.org.uk>