

Introduction – January 2006

Welcome to Planetthanet.org. Now, well into our 3rd year, we are established as one of Kent's premier independent wildlife website. Our aim is to continue to supply the cyber system with our take on all aspects of wildlife that occur within the general area of Thanet. The main purpose of this venture is, as it has always been, to promote the positive aspects of the Isle of Thanet (in direct contrast to the media – who thrive by reporting everything negative that occurs within the district and so perpetuate the myth of “Planit Fannit!”)

In 2006 we will continue with our provision of wildlife news and hope to expand our coverage to include more of the botanical species (plants – for those, like Dylan, who think they exist only to keep footwear from getting muddy!) that are of particular interest, or importance, around our recording area. Our Garden Watch idea failed to take off so, for 2006, we will incorporate any garden news within the Bird, Moth or Non-avian News pages, as relevant.

In an attempt to help visitors to Thanet, we are going to post a quarterly summary of the species likely to be seen, with locations, based upon the information provided by our contributors. This will be obviously biased towards bird news, yet there is also a great deal of non-avian information that might be of interest.

We aim to continue with our format of innovation and information in the hope that we can promote the Isle of Thanet as a place worthy of a visit and challenge the negative perception, as portrayed by the popular media!

Gadget & Dylan

Introduction – September 2003

The Isle of Thanet is situated on the Northeast corner of Kent. Popularised by the “kiss-me-quick” hats and amusement arcades of the sea front, Thanet has been a popular holiday destination for Londoners since Victorian times.

For those of us who live and work here, we see a very different side of the coin. True, we do have drug and alcohol related problems, like many other seaside towns, but generally life is pleasant and the opportunity to enjoy natural history is almost limitless. It is to this end that we have set this web site up. Frustrated by the lack of information from other local sources, a small group of enthusiastic observers, based around Ramsgate and Dumpton on the Eastern side of the island, have decided to provide the cyber system with our tilt on things.

Birds and insects, particularly Moths, will be the mainstay of our input. Yet if we become aware of any other wildlife related news, this will also be included.

Although we are based on Thanet, we do travel about in the county, so any other sites that we visit will be included, especially the prolific reserve at Stodmarsh/Grove Ferry which is only twenty minutes away to the west of us.

Deal (sea watching) and Kingsdown (migrant moths), to the south, are about as far as we need to travel in order to see the majority of the county’s species during the course of a year. We also make regular trips to the woodland around Canterbury, where some fantastic birding and mothing can be had, particularly in the spring. News from these sites will be made available whenever we visit these areas.

We have no fixed agenda and will be happy to develop and learn as we go. We hope that you enjoy what you find and will come for another look in the near future, but in person – not via the web! Thanet is every bit as deserving of a visit as Dungeness, just you may have to work that little bit harder to reap the full rewards. Hopefully our site will provide some assistance.