



Collecting and breeding butterflies and moths, I was either chasing them around the fields on Weston farm in welly boots or tending to their caterpillars feeding on the young leaves of an apple tree in our garden, the branches of which I had covered with a leg or two of my mother's old stockings.

To this day I remember the excitement seeing my first White Admiral in Wilkswood, Marsh Fritillaries on Hod Hill and Glanville Fritillaries on the undercliffe at Niton on the Isle of Wight and the highlight each summer.. seeing Clouded Yellows, that had flown across the channel, on East or Westman in Winspit valley.

Butterflying



Clouded Yellow

I never saw a cloud of my favourite butterflies arriving on our shores but I did see a cloak of red, white and black draped over an ivy bush on the track to Winspit.

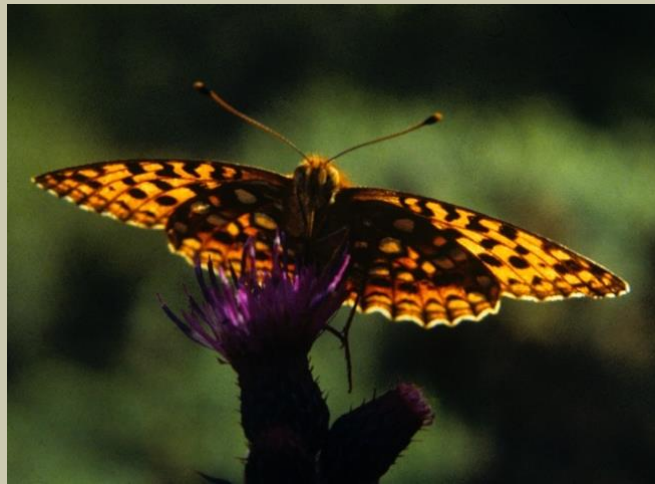
Two school friends shared the same hobby, Bernard Tatchell, interested in hawk-moths and Simon Saville who is currently a Trustee of **Butterfly Conservation**.

In my first photo album I have a record of a special day out in 1970 with the Savilles' who very kindly included me on an outing to Worldwide Butterfly Day at Compton House near Sherborne, opened by the naturalist Sir Peter Scott.

If James Petiver was the first butterfly collector then I reckon we must have been among the last!



Sand Lizard *Purbeck '77*



High Brown Fritillary *Dartmoor '79*



Scarlet waxcap *Purbeck '81*

My first subjects included close-ups of insects, wild flowers, fungi and rare Sand lizards found on Arne and Studland heath. (Taken with a Nikon FE and macro lens).

Butterflying

Previously I had collected Canadian stamps, match boxes, beer mats and Brook bond tea cards. A passion which played a part when I picked up my first camera and instantly started compiling photographic records.



Cryptic Wood White.

When it comes to butterflies, knowing roughly which field, ridge, down or wood to look in for the different species is one thing but actually seeing them can be quite a different story. I was lucky enough to see the Cryptic Wood White earlier in the year when I visited Northern Ireland.