



Phil Grey Langton Matravers '07

A lepidopterist whose extensive collection includes aberrations and variations of all our native species, European butterflies, equatorial birdwings and a great variety of moths.



Phil's house was named Coridon after the Chalk Hill blue.

Collector and Conservationist

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Phil Grey's sunburst display of British butterflies.

His great passion was the conservation of wildlife in general. A founder member of the Dorset Branch of **Butterfly Conservation** Phil led twice-yearly walks on Ballard Down and there are said to be over 7000 records of his on the database since 1949.

Collecting became popular in the early 17th century and private collections of more recent times form the much larger collections that can be seen in our museums today.

In the late 18th century there were several Aurelian societies. *Aurelians*, butterfly collectors later became known as Lepidopterists.

There are 18,000 species of butterflies worldwide, 482 can be found in Europe and just 61 of those breed in the British Isles.

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Swallowtail *Papilio machaon*.

The Natural History Museum has in the region of 80,000 drawers of butterfly and moth specimens. 5,500 of those being British specimens, the oldest date back some three hundred years.



Monarch *Danaus plexippus*.

North American butterfly occasionally seen in the south-west of England.

Towards the end of the 18th century it became common practice of collectors to attach a label to each specimen, with the date, place and captors name. A valuable source of information for those researching biodiversity, conservation and climate change.

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