



Between the age of nine and thirteen I collected and bred butterflies and moths. Putting caterpillars out to feed on the branches of our apple tree which I'd netted with a leg or two of my mother's old stockings. I loved learning all about the different species and remember the excitement seeing White Admirals in Wilkswood, Marsh Fritillaries on Hod Hill, Glanville Fritillaries on the Isle of Wight and Lulworth Skippers and Clouded Yellows nearer to home on Weston Farm.



I never saw a cloud of yellow butterflies arriving on our shores thou I remember seeing something resembling a cloak of red, white and black draped over an ivy bush on the track down to Winspit. There are definitely less butterflies around today.

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

In my very first photo album I have a record of a special day out in 1970 with the Savilles visiting 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!

The rise of colour photography and the need for greater conservation meant there was little if any justification for collecting butterflies. I swapped my net for a camera to photograph close-ups of nature.



Scarlet waxcap *Purbeck '81*



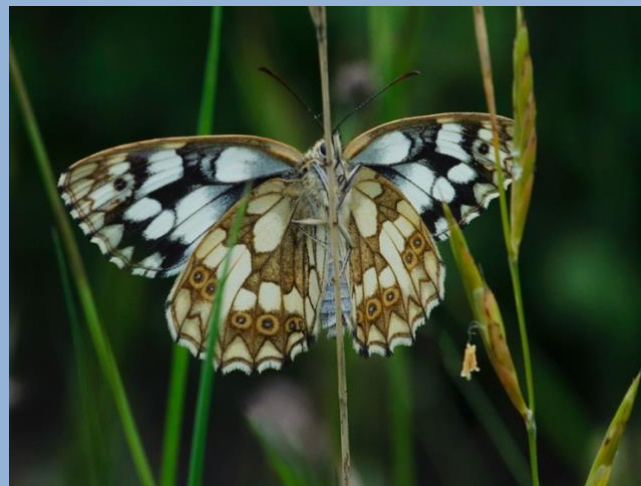
Sand Lizard *Purbeck '77*



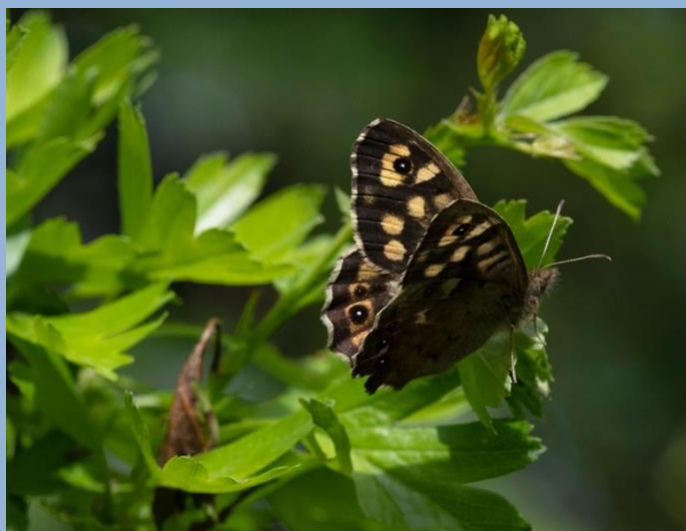
**High Brown Fritillary** *Dartmoor '79*



**Comma** *Purbeck '21*



**Marbled White** *Purbeck '21*



**Speckled Wood** *Little Scrubs '22*

**GENESIS 59**

Copyright © Gerald 'Jed' Corbett 2022