



William Willett

## Clocks to spring forward

At 1am on 29 March, the clocks go forward by one hour, marking the start of British Summer Time (BST). The clocks change to BST, also known as Daylight Saving Time, every year on the last Sunday of March. It is done so that people can make the most of the extra hours of daylight there are during the summer. The first person in the UK to suggest BST was a man called William Willett, who wrote about the idea in 1907. The change was introduced in 1916.



## Wales announces plastic plan

The Welsh government has announced a plan to ban some single-use plastics, following similar measures in England and Scotland. The Welsh government's ban will cover a wider range of items than elsewhere in the UK, and includes cotton buds, straws and stirrers, in an attempt to reduce plastic pollution. The Welsh government wants to hear from certain citizens – such as people with disabilities who use straws to drink – before voting on the law in 2021.



A message in the sky above Australia, in March.

## Skywriting could return

Planes could once again be allowed to write smoke messages in the UK's skies, according to Government plans. Skywriting (written by one plane) and skytyping (made by a group of planes) has been illegal in the UK since 1960. It was originally outlawed because the Government feared that misleading information could be written in the skies. The Government is now asking members of the public whether they would like to see the art form return.

A dark green fritillary on a thistle.



A marbled white butterfly.

## Record year for British butterflies

Summer 2019 was the best season for British butterflies in 22 years, according to the results of an annual survey. More than half of Britain's butterfly species increased their population numbers.

The UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (UKBMS) is an annual survey of butterfly population numbers in the UK. It started in 1976, and relies on the work of thousands of volunteers. Last year, more than 3,000 sites across the UK were studied, which was a new record for the survey.

The survey results show that a butterfly species called the marbled white had its best year since the survey began, and its numbers increased by 66%. The marbled white is a black-and-white butterfly found in southern England and Wales. Meanwhile, the ringlet butterfly had its second-best year on record, with a rise of 23%, and the dark green fritillary had its third-best year, with a rise of 51%. Another success story was the Lulworth skipper, which is a rare species of butterfly found in Dorset, England. The species had

been in decline since 1992, but last year there was an increase of 138%.

Butterfly populations have surged because of conservation efforts and hot weather. Last summer saw the highest temperature ever recorded in the UK – a sweltering 38.7°C in Cambridge, England – and 2019 was one of the warmest years on record. Scientists say that climate change has increased the likelihood of such high temperatures across Europe. Climate change is the long-term change in world weather patterns, including rising temperatures, largely caused by human activities.

Professor Tom Brereton, who works for the charity Butterfly Conservation, said the survey shows that the fall in butterfly populations is slowing – and for some species, even being reversed. However, he added that there are still many species of butterfly that are in decline. The survey also recorded below-average years for species such as the common blue, which fell by 54%, and the Adonis blue, which fell by 40%.

**WOW!**  
There are around 60 species of butterfly in the UK, and more than 20 of these can be spotted in gardens.

## THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

**“NASA fixes Mars lander by hitting it with a shovel”** *cnn.com*



# Clocks to spring forward



*Read the article on the top left of the page opposite, then try the following activities:*

## Hold a debate

Changing the clocks by an hour every spring and autumn might have made sense over a hundred years ago, but is it still useful today? Our lives are very different these days with many people not following traditional work patterns - especially right now. What's more, it is not as if we really gain any extra daylight – we just get it at a different time. Or is it unnecessary to make such a change when it doesn't really cause any problems? Furthermore, many people actually like the change in the clocks, especially the way it allows them to enjoy the warm summer evenings for longer, so perhaps we should just leave it as it is. What do you think?

## Writing challenge!

Choose one of the following writing warm-ups.

**1** In autumn, the clocks will go back and it will feel like you get the chance to live the same hour again. Write a recount of a single hour from your life that you would like to relive if you had the chance and explain why you chose it.

or

**2** Write a limerick (a funny, five-line poem with the rhyming structure AABBA) about the clocks changing. If you're still not sure how to write them, you can search limericks KS2 on BBC Bitesize.

## Investigate

What exactly were the reasons for changing the clocks in the UK and why did William Willet feel so strongly about it?