

The Bristol Spider Web: issue #2 Winter 2023/24

Did you know?

Spiders are arachnids, a class of arthropods which also includes harvestmen, ticks, mites - and also scorpions (which are not native to the UK) and pseudoscorpions (which are!)



Pseudoscorpion by Richard Avery

Welcome to the Bristol Spider Web #2

What did *you* do during lockdown? Gill in Ashton, BS3 started photographing and painting the spiders she found in her garden. We're delighted to share some of Gill's beautiful paintings with you in this newsletter. We'll also share some findings from our spider recording day back in September.

We'd love to hear from **you!** Share your spider photos and stories with us by emailing Nicola: nicolaround@gmail.com. We love these photos taken by Gillian in Bedminster in 2023:



A cucumber spider (*Araniella*), recognisable by the red spot under her rear. Typically, she had spun a web within a single leaf.



A female Green-fang Tube-web Spider (*Segestria florentina*) which set up home in Gillian's bee hotel.

The Bristol Spider Web: issue #2 Winter 2023/24

Spider spotting

The Bristol Spider Group got together for a wildlife recording session at Dame Emily Park on a damp morning in September. Undeterred by the drizzle, we brought our bug pots and hand lenses to the community garden and spotted a number of interesting species. Here's who we found:



Species not confirmed. Possibly a
Spotted wolf spider
(*Pholcus phalangioides*)



Cross orbweaver,
aka European garden spider
(*Araneus diadematus*)



Long-jawed orbweaver
(Family Tetragnathidae)



Can you spot two spiders in this photo?
(species: possibly Spotted wolf spiders)

Our wildlife recording session was part of EuroBioblitz 2023, a Europe-wide citizen science event which encouraged groups and individuals to submit records of wildlife spotted over two days in September. 8,720 people took part, submitting over 64,397 records and providing helpful data for scientists. [Find out more and register for EuroBioblitz 2024.](#)

The Bristol Spider Web: issue #2 Winter 2023/24

Painting spiders

Here's an amazing spider project shared by Gill in Ashton, BS3. Gill has been photographing and painting every insect and spider she has found in her garden since lockdown. Here are some of Gill's beautiful paintings. She hopes to publish a book of these paintings when she has 60 of them to include. We can't wait to see them all!



Top left: Woodlouse spider
(*Dysdera crocata*)

Top right: Wolf spider (*Pardosa amentata*)

Bottom left: Green cucumber spider (*Diaea dorsata*)

Who we are

The Bristol Spider Group is a small group of amateur spider enthusiasts hoping to learn more about spiders in our city. Would you like to join us? Drop an email to Nicola at nicolaround@gmail.com.