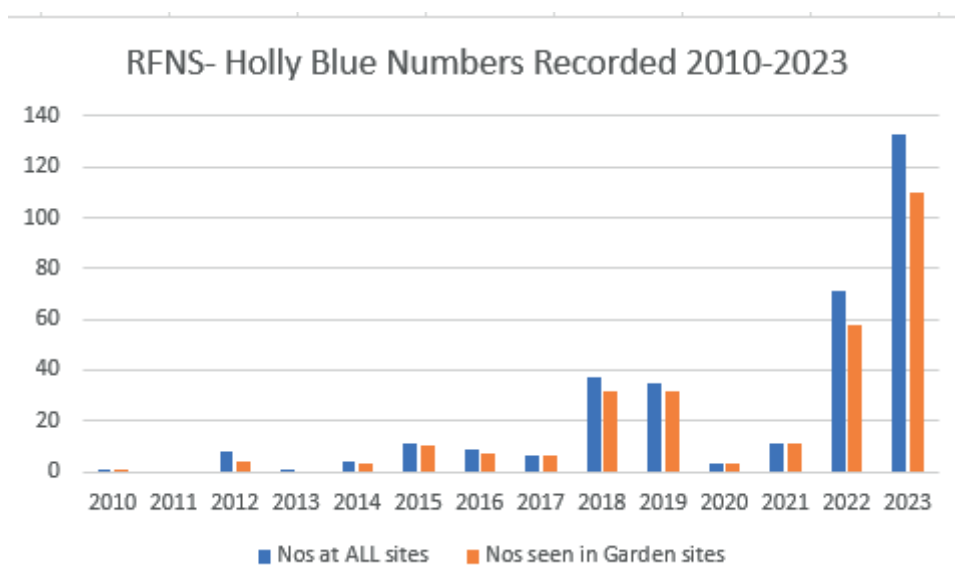


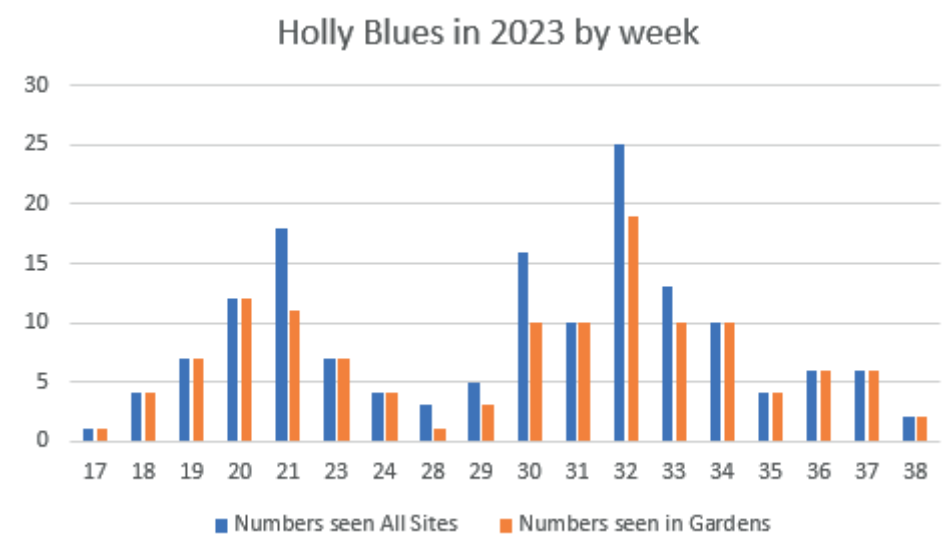
Holly Blue Butterfly Sightings by RFNS Observers 2023

Although we have both Holly and Ivy in our garden – i.e. ideal conditions for Holly Blues to breed and survive – we occasionally only see one flying rapidly through the garden and out and over the fence. So we couldn't believe our eyes when in 2023 they appeared in two's and three's & lingered and basked in the sun. All of you were commenting about them too and the records came flooding in. In September Butterfly Conservation announced that Holly Blues had had another good summer, with numbers up 66% on 2022, in keeping with its longer-term Big Butterfly Count trend of a 41% increase.

Here's how they have been faring in **Rochdale and the Surrounding Area** - taken from your monthly returns:



And this chart shows which Weeks in the year saw the biggest numbers:



Week 17 = last week in April; Week 32 = beginning of August 2023