

St James's welcomes THE HERDS to London

A Public Art & Climate Action

27 - 29 June 2025

Life-sized puppet animals sweep through London on a 12,500 mile journey from North Africa to the Arctic Circle symbolising their flight from climate disaster.

THE SWARM

The Journey of the Painted Lady

The SWARM installation on the church railings draws attention to the many smaller species of birds and insects that regularly make huge journeys south to north across the globe and whose migration routes and ability to survive are already affected by climate change.

Every year, The Painted Lady butterfly (*Vanessa cardui*) makes this migration in huge swarms, completing a round trip of 9,000 miles each season, more than 500m above our heads (that's taller than The Shard which is 310m high).

A global citizen and neighbour to us all.

The journey takes several generations. Migrating butterflies have no direct knowledge of the route or experienced guides to follow.

The Painted Lady is the most widespread of all butterflies, descending to breed all over the UK from Lands End to the top of Shetland.

Painted Ladies feed and breed on over 300 host plant species - especially thistles.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Join **THE HERDS** events: 27- 29 June 2025.
For more details see their website:

www.theherds.org

Scan QR for more butterfly science, art and poetry

Join the Big Butterfly Count 18 July-10 August.
Many species of butterfly are in trouble. Citizen Science initiatives provide crucial data to support conservation. It took the observations of 60,000 citizens to work out the details of Painted Lady migration.



St James's
PICCADILLY