

**Re: Paul**

by Chris, 06-Jan-11 04:24 AM GMT

Hi Paul, long time no see! Just down the road here in Thrintoft we're having a good year for bramblings too... we have them in numbers now having never seen them before. The cold weather has also brought the yellowhammers into the garden, which is a treat! I'm lucky that aside from the house sparrows that live in my roof, the two commonest birds at the feeders are goldfinches and tree sparrows... I've counted up to sixteen at once! We're also seeing curlew come very close to the house, grey partridge in the back field and barn owls in the village, again a first for me here.

Tell me... how are you getting so close with a 100mm Macro?

**Re: Paul**

by Paul, 06-Jan-11 06:42 AM GMT

Hi Chris,  
how you doing! 😊 The birds get very close!!!!

Have you had a look at "where in Europe" in the overseas section - we lack a fourth for dates 22-30/4/11 in the Alpes Maritime/ Provence/ Var... 3 of us are going anyway... 😞

You would have to contact Roger pronto if you wanted in 😊

**Re: Paul**

by Chris, 07-Jan-11 03:09 AM GMT

Pah! Curse my virility!! The wife is due to drop in May and gave me a firm "no" when I asked (tea and biscuit sweetener already exchanged but wasted)!

That sounds like a good week and it's a part of the world I've never explored 😞(

Do you know any medical tricks that will guarantee her not giving birth before the end of May? 😞)

**Re: Paul**

by Jack Harrison, 07-Jan-11 04:16 AM GMT

Chris:

Do you know any medical tricks that will guarantee her not giving birth before the end of May? 😞)

Yes. Last August!

Jack

**Re: Paul**

by millerd, 07-Jan-11 05:04 AM GMT

What is it about August? All my three boys were born in May..

Dave

**Re: Paul**

by Paul, 07-Jan-11 06:26 AM GMT

😊😊😊

**Re: Paul**

by Paul, 22-Jan-11 01:53 AM GMT

A fine but very cold day today, took a walk along a local south facing field edge looking for ovae... really quite succesful, and a few photos in the low sun...

Purple Hairstreak

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and one I think may have been parisitized.

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and another WLH..

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**Re: Paul**

by Padfield, 22-Jan-11 02:27 AM GMT

Those are fantastic pictures, Paul!

Guy

**Re: Paul**

by Paul, 22-Jan-11 03:30 AM GMT

I think I'm beginning to work this new camera out!! 😊

**Re: Paul**

by Jack Harrison, 22-Jan-11 03:35 AM GMT

I think I'm beginning to work this new camera out!! 😊

With pics like those, what more can there be to work out?

Jack

**Re: Paul**

by Paul, 22-Jan-11 05:05 AM GMT

well, for a start, they didn't fly off, and there was no breeze 😊 but- thanks anyway, appreciate the compliment 😊

**Re: Paul**

by Paul, 30-Jan-11 08:46 PM GMT

another WLH ovum, from a different place, but one where I've found them before. I searched 2 trees' reachable branches for about 30 minutes to find just this single one... no great idea how the female made it's choice.... wonder how many were higher up 😊



**Re: Paul**

by Paul, 06-Feb-11 01:38 AM GMT

Even up north spring is just around the corner... first flower in my wildflower bit...



the \snowdrops are well on...



and the birds are wearing their spring plumage..



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and only 76 sleeps to go to Nice 😊😊😊

## Re: Paul

by Paul, 06-Feb-11 07:50 PM GMT

A mixed bunch of finches this morning included a Tree Sparrow, and for the first time in ages, a Siskin...



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😊😊 had to take these through a window though 😞

## Re: Paul

by Paul, 12-Feb-11 02:16 AM GMT

MV trap out for the first time this year last night... 4 moths, all ennominids, Early moth, Dotted Border and x2 Pale Brindled Beauty..



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### Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 12-Feb-11 04:22 AM GMT

I've been running my trap for about two weeks now. Not caught a thing.

Jack (Cambridgeshire)

### Re: Paul

by Paul, 19-Feb-11 03:15 AM GMT

Found my first hatched WLH ova today 😲, definitely this year's, on the southeast side of the tree. Those on the southwest and west sides were still unhatched. The Elm flowers are really quite far on thankfully.

### Re: Paul

by Padfield, 19-Feb-11 03:45 AM GMT

That's amazing, Paul. Presumably there's still a chance of another month or more of bitter weather and frosts up in Richmond. Maybe the larva will be protected deep inside the elm flower. Well spotted!

Guy

### Re: Paul

by Paul, 19-Feb-11 05:16 AM GMT

Uuuuurm Guy... I'm really hoping to see Spring soon 😊 but you're right, I hope it can survive deep in a bud... it was absolutely bitter here today 😞 The Elms do seem to be further on with their flowers than I recall them being in recent winters....? warmth, or chemoreception, or both, triggering hatch 😞

### Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 19-Feb-11 02:55 PM GMT

he Elms do seem to be further on with their flowers than I recall them being in recent winters....? warmth, or chemoreception, or both, triggering hatch 😞

See my comment on Sussex Kipper thread about temperatures this February. [viewtopic.php?f=29&t=4065&p=41450#p41423](http://viewtopic.php?f=29&t=4065&p=41450#p41423)

Jack

### Re: Paul

by Paul, 19-Feb-11 08:34 PM GMT

Yep that fits well doesn't it - it's snowing here today, and bitterly cold. 😞

### Re: Paul

by Paul, 20-Feb-11 07:09 PM GMT

Another Siskin this morning..... they really like the Niger seed feeder... any bird lovers out there... well worth getting one.. but it took about a month before it was found by the Goldfinches.

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## Re: Paul

by Paul, 03-Mar-11 04:28 AM GMT

Some old images manipulated out of boredom to pretend to be SLR...

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I think faking it wouldn't be impossible with a bit of meticulous work. 😊

### Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 03-Mar-11 05:00 PM GMT

Who needs an SLR with pictures like those?

I notice that you have the much appreciated blurred backgrounds but managed to keep both antennae in focus. That's an even better idea than my previous suggestion: [viewtopic.php?f=23&t=4906&start=80#p41855](http://viewtopic.php?f=23&t=4906&start=80#p41855) when I was accused of stirring!

Now you Paul, being the owner of a cheap and nasty Box Brownie compact and *also* a high-end DSLR wouldn't dare accuse me of stirring.

Jack

### Re: Paul

by Paul, 04-Mar-11 02:33 AM GMT

might just have wasted a lot of money 😊 – watch this space this year & you can be the judge! 😊 .... but are these things above still photos 😊😊 I don't think they could be printed out with much success.

### Re: Paul

by Zonda, 04-Mar-11 02:38 AM GMT

They look a bit like 'digiscoping' pics, but good anyway. 😊

### Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 04-Mar-11 03:51 AM GMT

I don't think they could be printed out with much success.

Um! I'm sure they could. But who prints nowadays in any case?

Jack

### Re: Paul

by Paul, 05-Mar-11 08:42 PM GMT

I do myself an album every year on Photobox, a pleasure to look back on, and turning into quite a collection of memories. Also do a montage poster from each holiday... framed and in my room at work... mind you, might re-arrange that lot soon, as is too much of a conversation piece while I'm trying to get through the work. 😊

Some Oak Beauty shots from today – I had never noticed that even the antennae had a pattern!! 😲



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and another manipulated image... the original had a very busy background...



so I think this has improved it 😊

### Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 05-Mar-11 09:18 PM GMT

Paul mentioned Photobox.

I too use Photobox but not for butterflies – just for holidays, family, etc. Very good service at reasonable prices. For example at 1050hrs yesterday I placed an order for some 80 prints 6x4.5 cms, total cost just over a tenner. They arrived this morning, all beautifully printed. I have no idea of the longevity of the prints as there is bound to be some fading if kept in the light.

I recommend Photobox.

Jack

### Re: Paul

by Paul, 06-Mar-11 07:56 PM GMT

I've been expanding my calcaerous flower patch bit again, by another few square metres. Results are as shown... hopefully will cover nicely as time, (or thyme 😊) goes on.... helping it on with some seedling Birdsfoot Trefoil, Thyme, Sanfoin, Rockrose, fescues, Kidney Vetch, Viper's Bugloss, Harebell and wild Strawberry.

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Watch this space later in the year.... the ugly chicken wire is to keep the rabbits out 😡

## Re: Paul

by Paul, 13-Mar-11 12:58 AM GMT

A couple more DSLRified images... bored without butterflies 😞 ....

Provençal CHB..

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Adonis Blue..

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## Re: Paul

by Paul, 15-Mar-11 03:32 AM GMT

3 new moths for the year this weekend just gone, and a chance to play with the DSLR...

2187 Common Quaker Orthosia cerasi NZ202003 s1 125 f11 i400

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2188 Clouded Drab Orthosia incerta NZ202003 s1 125 f11 i400

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2190 Hebrew Character Orthosia gothica NZ202003 s1 125 f11 i400

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lookin' good I think! 😊 😊

## Re: Paul

by Rogerdodge, 15-Mar-11 03:48 AM GMT

Paul

lookin' good I think!

Looking excellent I think.  
f11 is giving great results – perhaps try a bit further with f13 or f14 to try to get the further antennae in focus.

I assume you are on a tripod?

ISO 400 is excellent on that camera – virtually no "noise" at all.

It looks like you will have to stock up on some more interesting looking twigs!

Only 39 sleeps.

### Re: Paul

by Paul, 15-Mar-11 04:46 AM GMT

Thanks Roger... yes to tripod, and count down is moving forward apace... can't wait!!! – as the light improves I will indeed try higher f stops, and hopefully will have some idea by the time it gets to 2 sleeps 😊😊😊

### Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 15-Mar-11 10:50 AM GMT

I looked up the Hebrew alphabet:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew\\_alp...e\\_alphabet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew_alp...e_alphabet)

Which letter is the mark on the moth supposed to resemble?

*Note the time of posting – a little insomnia* 🕒

Jack

### Re: Paul

by Dave McCormick, 15-Mar-11 03:20 PM GMT

Nice shots Paul, been trying to figure out what f stop is good to get the whole subject in focus and keep background out of focus when photographing some moths, looks like from your images f11–13 looks like a good range, just got to play around until I get it right, least with moths they won't move around like active butterflies, so good to practise on.

Jack, its the Hebrew letter Nun ן same with the mark on Setaceous Hebrew Character (Xestia c-nigrum)

### Re: Paul

by Paul, 16-Mar-11 03:11 AM GMT

Glad I'm not the only one struggling with DSLR witchcraft 😊 – I stand educated as well, as I wouldn't have even thought of Jack's question, let alone the answer!!! 😊 Brilliant. 😊

Dave, I think the available light to photograph in is the key.... seems a northern winter is too dark to practic much 😊 – how did I always know that anyway 😊

### Re: Paul

by Paul, 19-Mar-11 12:31 AM GMT

Beautiful day up here today... saw my first butterfly of the year this morning at a Garden Centre, battered Small Tort indulging in feeding from ornamental heathers... then at home this pm, there was another, much better preserved, warming up on the rough ground I have...



Last night I had another Oak Beauty come to light... pristine and brilliant... seems to be year for them 😊

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2011 thus commences... 😊😊😊

### Re: Paul

by Paul, 24-Mar-11 03:35 AM GMT

Another fine day today, very pleasant early spring day here in North Yorks. A couple of butterflies in the garden at lunchtime... evidently a different Small Tort and the first tatty Comma. 😊

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### Re: Paul

by Paul, 26-Mar-11 02:03 AM GMT

Peacock the other day and more STs & Commas.. moths are out in droves.. two types from last night...

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Twin spot Quaker s1/160 f9.0 i160

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Early Grey s1/160 f9.0 i160



### Re: Paul

by Paul, 03-Apr-11 04:33 AM GMT

Another decent day after a very gloomy start. Small Torts and Comma in the garden..

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### Re: Paul

by Zonda, 05-Apr-11 12:42 AM GMT

Ooh! That's a nice Comma. 😊 Is the Early Grey a cup of tea? 😊

### Re: Paul

by Paul, 05-Apr-11 04:07 AM GMT

I'm a relative newbie to moths and I kid you not it took me two years to see it was Early Grey rather than Earl Grey!!!! 😞😞 Still can't wait for the season to really start... moths are OK, but not the same as our butts 😊

### Re: Paul

by Paul, 07-Apr-11 03:32 AM GMT

Orange Tips, GWs Small Torts and Peacocks in the garden today... I blew out my whites 😡 must try harder.

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**Re: Paul**

by Paul, 09-Apr-11 04:14 AM GMT

wonderful weather to be out & about today. The Blackcaps and Sand Martins have arrived, and our Spring butterflies are out properly now. Lots of mucking around with the camera produced.... at s1 400, f7.1 and i100...

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😊 oh, and my wife saw a Brimstone, we don't get that many 😞

I did try to find our local Green Hairstreaks as well today, but with no luck... maybe tomorrow. 😊

**Re: Paul**

by Paul, 10-Apr-11 04:13 AM GMT

Another cracking day's weather.. Orange Tip males patrolling in numbers, and 4 commas in a single scrap at one stage.

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and I thought this one should be named "ee ba gum, this n's got some suction on it"

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## Re: Paul

by Paul, 11-Apr-11 04:28 AM GMT

Today was a Hairstreak day. 😊 I had tagged the White Letter Hairstreak ovae I found earlier in the year, and today I took my son ("Hawkeye") to see if we could find the resultant larvae.... he found 2!! 😊 I found none 😞 One was approx 12 ins from its ova, the other over a yard, presuming they originated where we thought....

C\*\*p photo... larva 1

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and a better one 😊 s1/250 f10 i124 larva 2 – about 5mm long real size

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Later we went up to Grinton Moor in Swaledale to my "personal" Green Hairstreak site... none present on Friday, but 5 in total today... these were my best photo attempts...  
all s1/250 f9.0 and i100

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never noticed before, but if you look very closely at the heads, there is some green scaling at the root of the palpi 🤔

Re: Paul

by Paul, 12-Apr-11 06:48 AM GMT

This couple were a late evening sight in the garden yesterday..

s1/100 f9.0 i200



### Re: Paul

by Rogerdodge, 12-Apr-11 02:08 PM GMT

Paul

Judging by your recent photos, you have really "got to grips" with that Canon.

Some excellent stuff there.

See you Friday week.

### Re: Paul

by Paul, 13-Apr-11 03:17 AM GMT

Thanks Roger.... we will certainly soon see!! Time is starting to travel more slowly now!!! but I have 6 working days to go!!! Roger that PBF photo is great, I must have a close look at the suggestions I have been given. 😊

### Re: Paul

by Paul, 14-Apr-11 02:49 AM GMT

Spotted this roosting OT last night when too late to photo... got it this am and not sure about the result. The pale background is the pond reflecting sky, and the butterfly was in shadow... I could have taken the shot from the other direction, but would have got very wet. 😊

Sensitivities on hold if anyone wishes to tell me whether it works - or not!!

s1/80 f6.3 i100



### Re: Paul

by David M, 14-Apr-11 06:06 AM GMT

Certainly up to your usual standard, Paul.

### Re: Paul

by Paul, 15-Apr-11 02:57 AM GMT

Thanks David, I'm still not sure!! not my usual stuff.... have found 3 roosting GVWs tonight so may be some more photos tomorrow early.. Also a Red Admiral today here in my N Yorks garden... bit of a suprise.... still no Brimstone or Holly Blue.... you lot down south are soooooo lucky... 😊

### Re: Paul

by Paul, 16-Apr-11 12:35 AM GMT

Dull but warm day up here. Went back to look for Green Hairstreaks again, but no luck at all 😞 But I did see my first Speckled Wood, daisy fresh female, 😊 but on a steep hillside I hadn't carried my camera up. 😞  
The GVWs noticed last night provided a subject... s 1/80 f8.0 i100



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### Re: Paul

by Lee Hurrell, 16-Apr-11 01:27 AM GMT

Lovely Paul.

Are you using a tripod or monopod?

Cheers

Lee

### Re: Paul

by Paul, 16-Apr-11 03:54 AM GMT

Tripod... I tried a monopod once, but it was cheap rubbish, the ball joint fell apart, and I couldn't hold the damn thing steady anyway..... so I cart a tripod round 😞 Here's a latish evening OT. – oh, and a Speckled Wood was in the garden this eve, but it had poorly inflated wings so not very photogenic... seemed happy enough flying around though. 😊

s1/80 f8.0 i100



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### Re: Paul

by IAC, 16-Apr-11 05:14 AM GMT

Hi Paul,

I am loving your Green Hairstreak shots...unbelievable!! The first one of the series my favourite. Nice Orange Tips as well...they are by far my favourite subject of all the butterflies...I am enjoying your experimentation with the DSLR...WELL DONE.

Iain.

**Re: Paul**

by Paul, 16-Apr-11 06:39 AM GMT

Thanks Iain, you're too kind, maybe see you around Berwick area later in the year for some more practise 😊

**Re: Paul**

by Paul, 17-Apr-11 02:41 AM GMT

First female OT in the garden today... further afield....  
More GHs, in moderately good weather.. 12 seen and some photos....  
s1/100 f9.0 i100

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and probably closest to what I want yet IMHO.. same parameters..

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I really like Green Hairstreaks, would love to see avis, but I reckon it's unlikely, seems quite a tricky customer by what I hear. Still, plenty of other lifers likely to be forthcoming.. 6 days to LOTSW2. 😊

### Re: Paul

by Padfield, 17-Apr-11 03:19 AM GMT

My problem in Spain for *avis* was finding the foodplant, Paul. Unlike *jasius*, which uses the same foodplant, *avis* doesn't travel that far, so if you can't find the plant, you can't find the butterfly. But since *jasius* is generally quite common, the plant must be around...

Guy

### Re: Paul

by Paul, 17-Apr-11 04:33 AM GMT

There is hope then 😊

### Re: Paul

by Paul, 19-Apr-11 03:11 AM GMT

Pic for today... s1/250 f9.0 i100

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### Re: Paul

by Paul, 07-May-11 02:42 AM GMT

My wildflower patch is coming to life....

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and the local WLH cattys are growing up...

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### Re: Paul

by Padfield, 07-May-11 03:13 AM GMT

How long are those cattiees now, Paul?

Guy

### Re: Paul

by Paul, 07-May-11 04:51 AM GMT

I would say 10-12mm - I found 3 of them not far from the last time I put photos up. 😊 I'm just praying feeding birds don't see them as well 😊

### Re: Paul

by Paul, 08-May-11 03:47 AM GMT

I find white butterflies a real challenge... GVW from today's garden...  
s1/100 f10 i100

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### Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 08-May-11 04:19 AM GMT

Sorry Paul. Unusually, you failed the challenge. That GV White is not one of your better efforts. You did ask (or implied).

Jack

**Re: Paul**

by Paul, 08-May-11 04:47 AM GMT

Thanks Jack

**Re: Paul**

by Rogerdodge, 08-May-11 05:05 AM GMT

Jack  
I agree.  
The wing is perfectly exposed, and sharp.  
It falls down in having a confusing background - normally a failing of non-DSLR photographs.  
(Ducks to avoid incoming)

**Re: Paul**

by Paul, 09-May-11 02:30 AM GMT

A little trip out today in thundery and windy weather to find our Dukes..... about 8 seen, with a couple of Small Heaths, 4 Dingy Skippers and a GW. male..



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female, must have been out a while..



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and after a very brief courtship, no messing with this pair... I was taking a photo of the male when she buzzed by... love at first sight 😊



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