

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 12-Jan-12 04:18 AM GMT

I have just had a day which included opening a new glossy 27 page NHS document informing me how as a GP I need to behave in order to hand out free condoms to patients. 😞 I don't know whether to laugh or cry..... so.....

Here's pics of Escher's Blue from the summer....



upperside



underside

Ah, that's better. 😊

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 13-Jan-12 11:41 PM GMT

Great to have a cool clear sunny winter's day to have a walk... Definitely the best conditions to search for ovae, and with recent strong winds, there are quite a few oak branches lying around.... time for egg rescue!...



Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 15-Jan-12 08:08 AM GMT

Hmmmm... I'm off to Marrakech for a few days at the end of feb... anyone seen any butterflies there at that time of year.... regardless, anyone know any promising sites in the region?? 😊

Re: Reverdin

by John W, 15-Jan-12 09:16 AM GMT

I went out there in early March a couple of years ago and the only butterfly I saw was a Speckled Wood:



Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 15-Jan-12 08:12 PM GMT

LOL.... but what a fine specimen!! Thanks for replying... that was my suspicion, never mind 😊

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 27-Jan-12 07:12 AM GMT

Presently I'm whiling away hours picking the best of what I took last April in the south of France and in the process, processing a few I'd left before, and finding some sharper ones than I previously chose... one or two Osiris Blue shots to share, for what it's worth...





by Reverdin, 28-Jan-12 08:09 AM GMT

Here's a couple more previously neglected shots from the Var last April...



female Provençal Orange Tip



Scarce Swallowtail

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 30-Jan-12 04:25 AM GMT

It's taking ages to go through and delete/ keep images from the past year... I've brought a little cameo of Baton Blues together just to add a bit of variety to the task.. some new, and old ones here..



Male



underside



Female



Female

Re: Reverdin

by Rogerdodge, 30-Jan-12 05:14 AM GMT

Paul

Great photos - great memories.

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 30-Jan-12 06:46 AM GMT

for sure... you can almost smell the thyme can't you 😊

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 31-Jan-12 06:04 AM GMT

Another worthy candidate..



Male Queen of Spain
and another..



Mallow Skipper

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 01-Feb-12 05:10 AM GMT

A little distraction... I have always loved orchids, and these photos are of some we came across in the Var and Alpes-Maritimes last April... I haven't even attempted to name them, but would be delighted if anyone "with the knowledge" would oblige...





2



3





5



6



7



Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 07-Feb-12 03:45 AM GMT

Nobody with an interest in orchids then 😊 - a couple more re-developed RAW files from last year....



Re: Reverdin

by Susie, 07-Feb-12 04:15 AM GMT

Your orchid photos are lovely. 😊

Re: Reverdin

by MikeOxon, 07-Feb-12 04:26 AM GMT

"Reverdin" wrote:

Nobody with an interest in orchids then

I'm afraid my knowledge is rather limited to the UK. It's a bit like butterflies – easy to deal with the small number of species here but much more difficult once you cross the Channel!

Your first looks like Burnt Orchid (providing it is fairly small) and the next two like Lady Orchids. After that a couple of Ophrys and then what look like a White Helleborine and, finally, Sword-leaved Helleborine. These may at least help you search through Google images until a 'real' expert comes to your aid!

Mike

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 07-Feb-12 04:40 AM GMT

thanks very much 😊 – when no-one immediately made any suggestions I did google a couple of sites.... and discovered just how difficult it is in Europe, and Mike... I think you're spot on from what I've looked at.... I never dreamt there were so many – so thanks a million to you both for the sentiments, will probably keep on photographing them. 😊 They don't really need names do they!



Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 21-Feb-12 06:49 AM GMT

another small selection of Green Underside Blue images, re-developed southern France, April 2011





Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 30-Mar-12 08:05 AM GMT

First home butterfly of the year, Small Tort on 11th March

then.... Comma 15th March

Peacock 24th March

Brimstone 26th March

Orange Tip 28th March

All garden butterflies, the last 2 not seen by me 😡 as I was at work... but off tomorrow and hoping for something... Andy took a shot of the OT with the Lumix FZ50...



Spring arrives in North Yorkshire 😊

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 31-Mar-12 03:57 AM GMT

Interesting day.. weather still spectacular for what is still March. Male [b]and[b] female 😊 Orange Tips, Peacock, ST, Comma and first garden GVW 😊 this year. On arrival home, early evening....



Comma basking in evening sun



Green Veined White settling in for the night

Took a chance during the afternoon to see what was going on at my Green Hairstreak site locally.... astonished to find 2 sparring males 😊😊 .. but no more.. really fresh, and beautiful as ever...



Moorland Green Hairstreak



Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 02-Apr-12 02:36 AM GMT

Back on the moors today, but no Green Hairstreaks in the cold breeze... we did see these though, Andy took some record shots with the Lumix - not birding quality but hey ho...





Re: Reverdin

by Wurzel, 02-Apr-12 06:19 AM GMT

Ring Ouzels are cracking birds 🍷 I've only ever seen them twice – once in near Chamonix (bit stringy though) and then a couple of years ago at Hengistbury Head – the real deal 😎 . It must be nice to see them in their "proper habitat" doing things properly rather than in the middle of a field on the coast looking knackered!

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 03-Apr-12 02:48 AM GMT

thanks Wurz, glad you appreciate how pleased I felt 😊 – will have to get some mammoth long lens before I can put anything really worthwhile up. 🍷 I see R.O.'s from time to time whilst out Green streaking, but they are really really shy... mind you my appearance would make most living things scarper 😂

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 03-Apr-12 03:30 AM GMT

If anyone is looking, and recognizes this.. maybe you could tell me... is it a Tree Pipit????



sorry about the poor quality

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 09-Apr-12 06:22 AM GMT

The weather is really annoying me! 😞 – Where I saw my first Green Hairstreaks over a week ago now looks like this...



Not looking like seeing any more for a while yet.

Re: Reverdin

by Wurzel, 09-Apr-12 06:51 AM GMT

Tell me about it we're looking like having non-stop rain/showers until Friday down here 😞 . What makes it worse is the smiling weather people – the worse the weather the broader their grins! 😡

Here's hoping they get it totally wrong, hang on in there!

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 13-Apr-12 04:57 AM GMT

This was resting by the pond tonight, after a heavy showery day with some warm bright spells bringing steaming pavements – the first butterfly I have seen now for a good while, and I notice the weathermen are still smiling! 😞



Roosting male cardamines



closer



Re: Reverdin

by Padfield, 13-Apr-12 05:37 AM GMT

How are your *w-album* doing, Rev? Have the eggs hatched?

Guy

Re: Reverdin

by Wurzel, 13-Apr-12 06:12 AM GMT

The first photo is lush - with a green waterfall in the background, ace! 🍷😄 The weathermans grin almost split his head in two it was so big last night when he announced that it was going to be getting colder over the weekend 🤔 It must be special training they get for that...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 13-Apr-12 07:02 AM GMT

aha.... the green background is actually blurry young Yellow Flag leaves.... accidentally rather waterfally... but, hey, you win some..... glad you like it Wurzel, thanks, and damn the weatherpeople 😊

Hi Guy, yes, the *w-album* ovae had hatched by the first time I got to visit in early March, straight on return from Marrakech.... really really early I think, with the flowers barely breaking... I haven't any young larvae photos, as the position is difficult and they are impossible to find!! Hope they are OK.. will have to scour the tree when they are larger. I actually became aware of loads of ovae around here, sometimes 2 together, so seems they did quite well in 2011... hope that doesn't bring a fall this year. 😊

Re: Reverdin

by MikeOxon, 13-Apr-12 07:09 AM GMT

"Reverdin" wrote:
is it a Tree Pipit?

As no-one else seems to have stuck their neck out - I'll say that I think it is! I'm not an expert birder but, unless it's something very rare, it seems to fit the description to me.

Mike

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 13-Apr-12 07:27 AM GMT

Thanks Mike... I was giving up on that one... wasn't a great shot 😊 but appreciate the endorsement... it's nice to know 😊

Oh... and just to add... the PH ovae locally have also hatched in the last week, well... 2 out of 4 I was watching have. I am accustomed to checking out fallen oak branches in winter now... and by the river for the first time this year I found an egg on one!... I might just have saved my first butterfly 😊😊 wired the dead bud to the Oak in our garden.

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 15-Apr-12 05:39 AM GMT

Another forgettable day's weather, cold, windy and squally..... that is until mid afternoon when I trudged round the garden... there is a scattering of violets, primroses and peggles, and on one I was delighted to find an absolutely pristine female Orange Tip. She had to be gently moved into a more image friendly position, but it was still cold, and she wasn't going anywhere! So some leisurely practising later, I came up with these images... (the background of the first 2 is a Silver Birch trunk)





... and then she was carefully placed just where she started, hopefully to lay some eggs in due course all over the garden. 😊

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 21-Apr-12 12:41 AM GMT

Another trip up to the moors this afternoon, with the sun occasionally breaking through... only 2 Green Hairstreaks, but the chance of more images... this male sitting on one of the charred heather twigs left over from last year's burning... right through the middle of the bilberry patch they centre round.... maybe their paucity is not just weather related 😊



and a bit closer....



Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 23-Apr-12 04:13 AM GMT

Only a few short bursts of sunshine today, and plenty of brooding rainclouds. A male cardamines and a male napi were briefly out and about at home, and bluebells gave a promising backdrop...



napi among bluebells



up close



sheltering cardamines

single rapae and aegeria were in the garden yesterday for the first time this year



Re: Reverdin

by Anonymous, 23-Apr-12 05:06 AM GMT

beautiful photos Reverdin! they were just resting on the flowers, right? nice place for doing that. 😊

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 23-Apr-12 06:01 AM GMT

or was it the "hand of God" as Marradonna once said 😊 (English joke – World Cup tradgedy)

In truth, whenever I find them roosting, it is on white narcissi, but as long as one is careful, they aren't harmed.... as long as they go back on the white narcissi afterwards that is.

That also means, shots such as the above are un-natural really, as if on bluebells at all, they would be nectaring on a decent day. Still, made for some pretty pictures, and no harm done... 😊

however I know there are some purists here who would tut loudly at the thought. Please presume I frequently feel tutted at 😊

Re: Reverdin

by Nick Broomer, 23-Apr-12 07:36 AM GMT

I`m sure the practise is common place one way or another, no matter what the subject. And whats wrong with someone using ones knowledge of wildlife to get the photo they desire. Nothing, as you said, "there is no harm done to the butterfly"

By the way some lovely photos.

Nick.

Re: Reverdin

by Anonymous, 23-Apr-12 06:21 PM GMT

well, it's ok! 😊

I assumed it would be a little weird if all the butterflies were resting on such nice and noticeable spots. 😊

Re: Reverdin

by Rogerdodge, 23-Apr-12 07:32 PM GMT

I consider that moving torpid butterflies to obtain a pleasing photograph is not a problem, as long as certain rules are followed.

1/Move on a stick – not a finger. The warmth from the finger can encourage the butterfly to fly before the ambient temperature will allow sustained flight.

2/ Physical contact should be kept to an absolute minimum.

3/ Return the insect to it's original position once finished.

I also feel that the more endangered species should, perhaps, be left alone.

More than once, I have found myself wandering around with a butterfly on a stick looking for a nice posing spot.

Now I look for the spot *before* I move the butterfly.

I am sure that there are some who will feel that any interference to a butterfly is wrong, but I am sure that if the above rules are followed, the harm done will be minimal.

Perhaps the benefit from the public seeing a beautifully posed, and well taken photograph thus increasing awareness of "our" insects, will compensate?

Re: Reverdin

by MikeOxon, 23-Apr-12 07:49 PM GMT

Strange, I'd never thought of moving a torpid butterfly to get a better photo! I do often follow an active one around for some time waiting (hoping!) that it will settle somewhere reasonably photogenic, and I regard this as part of the challenge of photography.

I am also willing to use Photoshop to tidy up a cluttered background if necessary. I suppose all this reflects that I am more comfortable messing about with photographs than with live creatures, where I fear I might be too clumsy. It also means that I avoid photo competitions that stipulate unaltered images, since I believe that post-processing of an image is an integral part of the art of photography. After all, one wouldn't expect an artist to include intrusive elements in a landscape painting.

Mike

Re: Reverdin

by Padfield, 23-Apr-12 08:12 PM GMT

You're the gentlest giant I've ever met, Rev, and I would happily entrust any butterfly to your handling! 😊

For me, though, the artistic value of a photograph cannot be entirely separated from its truthful representation of a butterfly and its environment. Personally, I would resist posing a roosting butterfly on a flower I had never known it to use for roosting – it would seem to be a teensy weensy lie. To take an extreme example: if you posed a torpid purple emperor on a beautiful flowerhead the result might in one sense be exquisite but in another sense it would ring very false.

Not a criticism – just another angle on this question. I have no idea if orange tips do ever use bluebells for roosting.

Guy

Re: Reverdin

by Rogerdodge, 23-Apr-12 08:46 PM GMT

I have no idea if orange tips do ever use bluebells for roosting.

Guy
If they knew how wonderful it looked, they would do it all the time!

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 24-Apr-12 03:36 AM GMT

interesting views... I've seen Pierids nectaring on bluebells, but as a roost... sort of hari-kiri really. Maybe not the most genuine photos and of no scientific value whatsoever... Believe it or not I did think quite a long time about it before, decided to but sort of does detract from any value, so won't hurry to repeat the folly.

Also agreed, handling a rarity would be too risky under most circumstances to contemplate.... just not worth it.

Otherwise, thanks for some kind words all. 😞

Re: Reverdin

by Neil Hulme, 24-Apr-12 04:08 AM GMT

Orange Tips and Green-veined Whites both sit on bluebells with some regularity. On Sunday, while leaving Heyshott Escarpment via the sheltered lane at its base, I watched a male Orange Tip react immediately to the temperature drop as thick cloud covered the sun. Despite the availability of plants offering much better camouflage it dived straight onto a bluebell. I've seen two other Orange Tips (1m, 1f) and a GVW perched on bluebells this spring, and that's despite not being out nearly as much as usual! Perhaps this is a reflection of rapid shutdown, rather than the more leisurely selection of a bed for the night under more favourable weather conditions. It is certainly more common to find them at slumber on a plant affording a much better match. Neil

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 24-Apr-12 04:28 AM GMT

That's very interesting, I've just never seen that naturally myself..... should have claimed genuine photos 😊😄😁 Hey ho... that's why I would be no good at Poker 😂

Re: Reverdin

by David M, 24-Apr-12 05:00 AM GMT

The only butterfly I've ever seen settled on bluebells is Marsh Fritillary (and even then it wasn't nectaring).

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 24-Apr-12 05:18 AM GMT

Maybe they like blue.... reminds me of the Alps a couple of years ago, and another sort of blue...



and I didn't stage that one 😊

Re: Reverdin

by Wurzel, 24-Apr-12 05:21 AM GMT

Visually stunning shots however they were obtained 😊 I've had female Orange-tips roosting on Bluebells this year but I don't know about other whites.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Reverdin

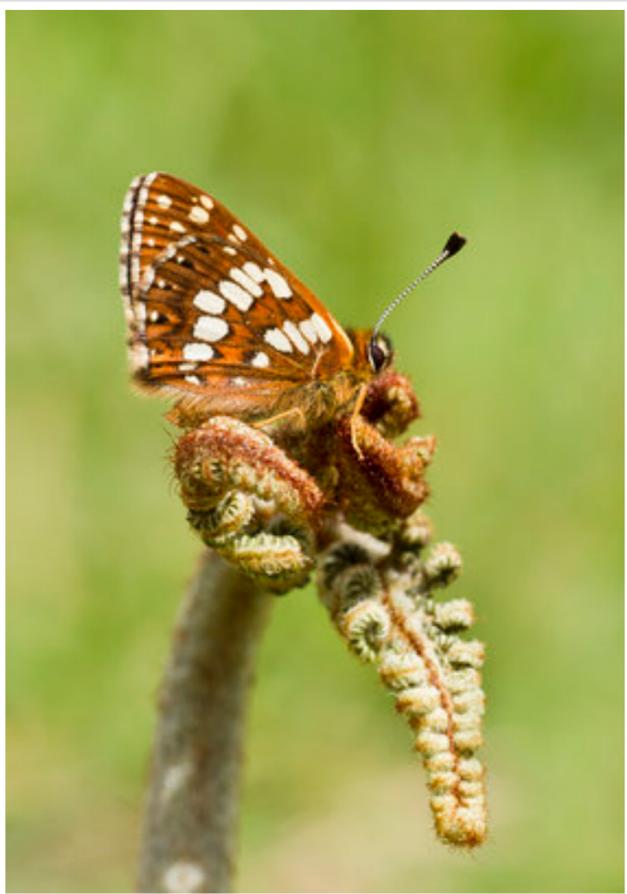
by Reverdin, 07-May-12 05:05 AM GMT

Today was the first hopeful day up here for a while, though cool, the sun was out. 😊 The decision was between late GHs nearby, or earlyish Dukes and PBFs a bit further afield.... well.... there was only ever one decision, and fingers x'd for the sparing of wall to wall cloud on arrival, I set out..

Dukes appeared immediately, first 2 spiralling males, but over the next 2-3 hours, there must have been up to 8 in the small area I patrolled. - no females though. Interestingly, my car told me it was 9.5c as I left it, but the transect lady had a thermometer reaching 16c in the habitat, a small sheltered hotspot... and long may it remain so for the Dukes to continue there 😊



s1/100 f9.0 i100 100mm macro IS + tripod + remote release + PS CS5

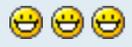


s1/80 f9.0 i100 100mm macro IS + tripod + remote release + PS CS5

After a chat with fellow enthusiast Martin, I followed his suggested route to a PBF area I did not already know... there must have been at least half a dozen there, but they were really skittish, allowing me only one decent record shot. Nevertheless they are always a joy to behold, especially in the frozen North here. 😊



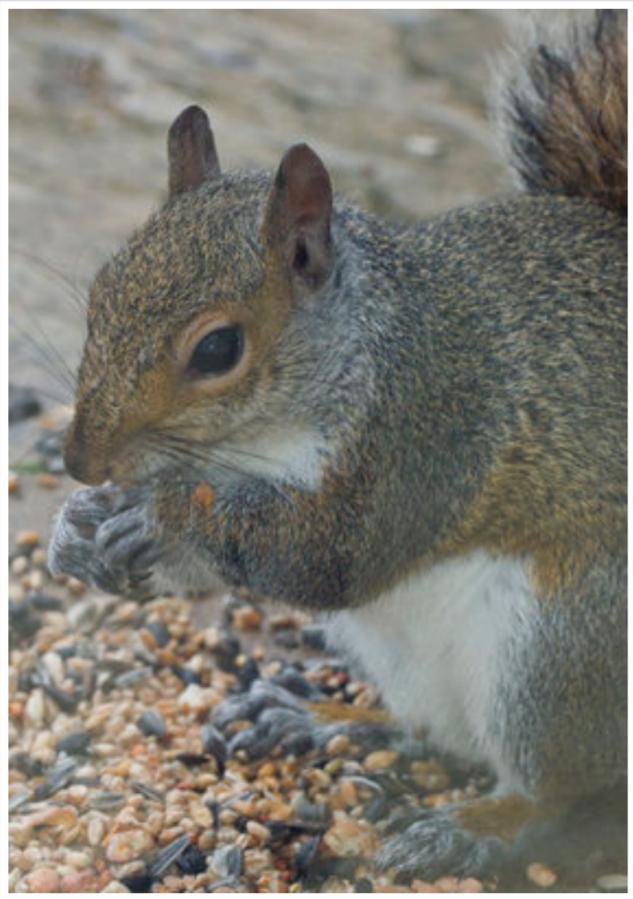
s1/80 f9.0 i100 100mm macro IS + tripod + remote release + PS CS5



Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 12-May-12 04:48 AM GMT

No butterflies today, but this chap popped in for tea.....
taken from about two feet away 🐿️



Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 12-May-12 06:35 AM GMT

Bit of a trial posting...

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Re: Reverdin

by selbypaul, 12-May-12 06:39 PM GMT

They are awesome photo's some of the best I've seen. Well taken!

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 13-May-12 01:49 AM GMT

Cheers Paul 😊 – I am ever trying to work out how much to sharpen etc etc for the best look on screen.... not necessarily the same as best print etc etc... and nowadays there are many stunning photos on this site, I'm still trying to find out how they do it!!! Are you a photographer? Hiding your light under a bushell?? I can't find any you have posted 😊

Here is one from today.... I wanted a well marked GH, and this was among 7 at my local site, most fresh and including one mating pair 😊😊

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Re: Reverdin

by selbypaul, 13-May-12 04:13 PM GMT

Another great photo!

I do take some photo's myself, but its only with a small compact camera. It's good enough to take the odd superb photo, but it doesn't guarantee it. Where is "local" to you? Your profile just says "Northern England" – I'm Sheffield based myself.

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 26-May-12 04:03 AM GMT

There's only one thing to do when you have the day off, and wall to wall sunshine is promised... yay.... a long trip!.... Cumbria beckoned with two species I cannot see any closer, amid beautiful scenery and old fishing towns.

I was not to be disappointed, 😊 though a healthy breeze did make photography difficult 😊

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may add a few more yet 😊😊

Re: Reverdin

by David M, 26-May-12 04:52 AM GMT

Excellent array of photos.

I'm surprised Marsh Frits are already out in northern England though, as they've only very recently emerged in the south.

Perhaps 25c temperatures everywhere are some kind of generic leveller.

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 26-May-12 05:07 AM GMT

I guess so... looking back.. last week in May is when they have appeared for the last 5 years, so no different this year... although there were only 2 – so I suspect today or yesterday to be day1. The Small Blues were out in force!!! – up here at least, things seem to be arriving now on time! Interestingly, the OTs & GVWs are still going strong, possibly later than they usually last 😊

Re: Reverdin

by David M, 26-May-12 05:37 AM GMT

Marsh Frits were out in early May in S. Wales last year but have only just emerged now (a difference of almost 3 weeks). That said, Orange Tips and GVWs have practically disappeared down here, so if they're still going strong up north I suspect you're at least a week behind.

Re: Reverdin

by MikeOxon, 26-May-12 05:45 AM GMT

"Reverdin" wrote:

nowadays there are many stunning photos on this site, I'm still trying to find out how they do it!!!

I suspect that the problem with one's own photos is that they are viewed in competition with the memory of the real thing – which was always so much better! Other people's photos don't suffer from that competition.

Mike

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 26-May-12 06:13 AM GMT

possibly so, yes!... I was musing why I take photos today.... it relates to what you just posted, in that I decided it was because I want that moment of beauty in front of me to last forever... and photos serve as a reminder of that fleeting view – but as you say.. a pale imitation (tho' I do saturate a teensy bit 😊)

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 30-May-12 06:08 AM GMT

Here's another minimus from last Friday....

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It has to be one of my very favourite butterflies in this country 😊

..... and another shot of the Marsh Frit...

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A fresh female Speckled Wood in the garden this lunchtime. 😊

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 01-Jun-12 10:56 PM GMT

After a late start this year, my contrived "Alpine meadow" looked a bit spartan in April,





but now at the start of June, is looking a bit more like it.



Hopefully there will be some other colours than yellow around soon!! 😊

So... it's time to add another metre or so....





plenty of seed to come later!! 😊

Re: Reverdin

by hilary, 02-Jun-12 04:09 AM GMT

I very much like your alpine meadow! Is the sheeting there to stop the stronger weeds coming through? (my efforts at a wild flower patch are thwarted by strong growing grasses in a soil that never seems to lose its fertility)

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 04-Jun-12 04:02 AM GMT

sorry... I've been away a couple of days... yes the weed proof membrane is there for two reasons.... the first, as you say is to discourage dandelions, creeping thistle and dock... of which I have plenty!!! 😊 the other reason is to add to the paucity value of the soil, which can be left very thin in places, hence smaller growth of the desired plants.... it works really well!! 😊

A bit of very fine grass seed... I took mine off the thin clumpy grasses on the moors, along with BFTrefoil, Kidney Vetch (warning... tends to rampage), Sheep sorrel, some tighter thrift & thyme plants from the garden centre, some Sanfoin (thanks again Jack) some Viper's Bugloss, and harebells, all from seeds, then whatever grows locally should do well, if it's small - I have very limey soil anyway.

One has to do some prudent cutting back..... I occasionally let the garden's multitude of wild rabbits 🐰 in... but they do tend to DIG 😡😡😡

The Bees love it - but the butterflies are slow in arriving... I would love small coppers and common blues to arrive.... saw SC laying eggs last year but not seen any adults yet here this year.

Do try it... it really can work!! - also looks ok!!

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 04-Jun-12 06:50 AM GMT

AH yes.... those 2 days... met up with Roger H in the West Highlands on a palaemon pilgrimage (like many others this year - we met people from Leicestershire and Southampton 🤪)... generally found we were a bit late, with small numbers flying but some a bit tatty. Definitely more challenging to photograph in a stiff breeze, but managed a couple...

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Roger then set off for Mull, 🚗 leaving me to slog it back to Yorkshire. 😞

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 09-Jun-12 03:52 AM GMT

Fairly abysmal weather persists here 😞 but it brightened a little this afternoon and I wandered into Wensleydale to have a look see if any A. a. salmacis (Castle Eden Argus) were sitting out..... sure enough, a couple showed themselves, one of which was a very pale/ washed out version of normal.... not particularly worn, just pale...

The first one....

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and the paler one...

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and although I didn't achieve a decent upperside shot, she was well spotted with what looked much more routine orange on the ups hind and forewing 😊😊

Re: Reverdin

by Pete Eeles, 09-Jun-12 04:12 AM GMT

Ooh – nice! That has to be an aberration!

Any signs of ssp. artaxerxes oop north (in their waterproofs)?

Cheers,

– Pete

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 09-Jun-12 04:19 AM GMT

Hi Pete,

I haven't been up to the site yet, but I checked when I've been before... 31st May and 5th June other years, and I guess even with this abysmal weather they will be just about out now!... so next sunny day off... 😊😊

Oh, and would you like the salmacis uploaded to abberants on species page? (If you say naah, not really, I will cry 😊)

Re: Reverdin

by Pete Eeles, 09-Jun-12 04:23 AM GMT

"Reverdin" wrote:

Hi Pete,

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Oh, and would you like the salmacis uploaded to abberants on species page? (If you say naah, not really, I will cry 😊)

naah, not really.

Er ... I mean, "deffo", just wanted to see a grown man cry for my own amusement 😊

Cheers,

– Pete

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 09-Jun-12 04:57 AM GMT

aaaawwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwww..... sniff.... er ok then 😊

you up this way anytime soon?

Re: Reverdin

by Pete Eeles, 09-Jun-12 05:15 AM GMT

Probably not for a couple of weeks, to be honest. Work and weather seem to dictate my movements. But will be in touch 😊

Cheers,

- Pete

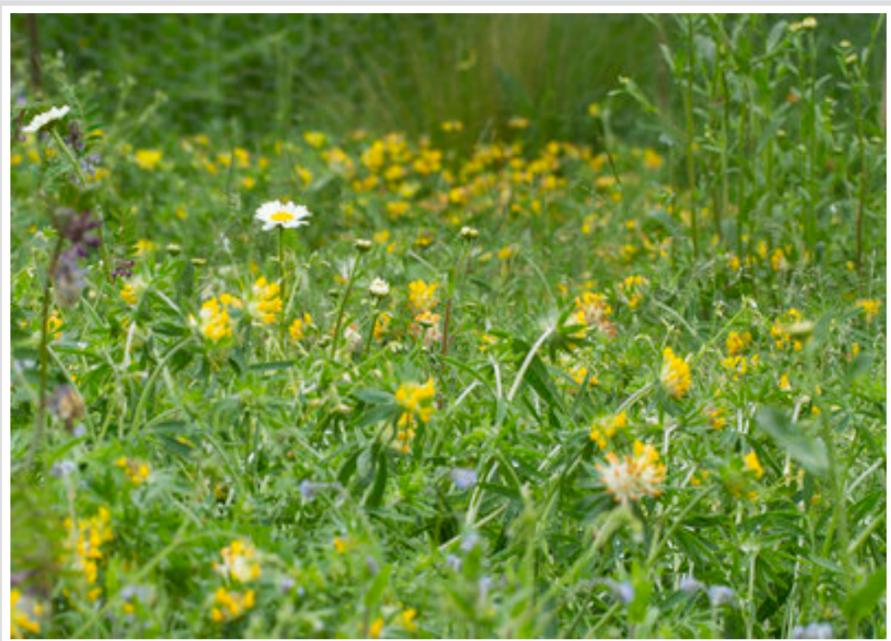
Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 12-Jun-12 04:26 AM GMT

Lousy weather for everything except ducks and plants!.... so I thought I'd add a few more shots of what the little wildflower patch looks like today...



Meadow Clary (I think!)



Daisy in the midst



Sanfoin in the background



Yellow Rattle



and how the newest bit is evolving

Not sure I can cover the whole paddock this way, but watch this space! 😊

Actually... the only thing I think the weedproof membrane discourages is ants.... which could very well turn out to be a major issue for Lycaenids... any thoughts?? would it stop icarus or phlaeas???

Re: Reverdin

by NickMorgan, 12-Jun-12 06:00 AM GMT

The wild flowers are looking great. I would love to be able to do something like that. (A garden 20 feet square limits what I can do!) I'm not sure what you are trying to achieve with the weed-proof membrane. Is it suppressing the stronger grasses? I guess that you could have a sort of chequered pattern to leave areas that would be suitable for ants and others that you put the membrane on.

I was trying to start up a community meadow locally, (which hasn't got very far) and I was told the best way to achieve a wild flower meadow would be to strip off the top soil and scatter the seeds on the less fertile soil below. I have also noticed that some of the best patches of wild flowers around here grow on very sparse soil, almost gravel. I have often wondered if it would be worth importing a layer of gravel in which to grow certain wild flowers. That way it would be possible to have limestone or whatever is most suitable for the plants that you want.

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 12-Jun-12 06:56 AM GMT

good idea about the chequered pattern. I will give that some thought. The idea was a quick cheap (labour wise) way of impoverishing the soil without having to weedkill then double dig to bring subsoil to the surface. I may yet have to resort to that. 😬 I am seeding Yellow Rattle through the rest of the ground... but the rabbits pick it out to eat 🐰 rather than what else is there.... but once I get it going... who knows... I suspect I will just have more dandelions and creeping buttercup 😬

A "plan B" might be needed though, as despite it's good looks, it only appears to attract bumblebees (in masses).... could be worse! 😊

Last shot from the friday excursion for salmacis..

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Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 19-Jun-12 04:31 AM GMT

Sunday 17th provided a break from the great drench, so headed out to a local but remote hillside where salmacis and DGFs fly... not that any were seen 😬 It is one of those ancient meadow sites with red ant mounds and thyme with a multitude of wildflowers alongside... I can just imagine Large Blues surviving here... but are those red ants sabuletti 😬😬😬 - anyway my first real Common Blue encounter this year, seen along with Small Copper & GVW, but nothing else at all....

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Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 25-Jun-12 02:47 AM GMT

Still suffering from variations on a theme of summer annihilating weather up here, with only a fresh Speckled Wood, and a left over Small Tort to be seen in the last 2 days.... so no photos 😞 - but this is my wildflower bit today 😊



Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 04-Jul-12 05:57 AM GMT

Back in business today in the North of Scotland, at the Bullers of Buchan..... a mist clung to the coast but there was enough light from above to encourage the butterflies up... I think this one was an emergee...



Re: Reverdin

by Wurzel, 04-Jul-12 06:31 AM GMT

Lush photos of the Dark Green Rev 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 04-Jul-12 03:28 PM GMT

Thanks++ 'twas a rare and special encounter for me! 😊

Re: Reverdin

by Neil Freeman, 06-Jul-12 03:33 AM GMT

Lovely photos.

The Dark green frtilliary is one species that never seems to sit still long enough for me to get a good photo, perhaps the cooler weather of late will slow them down a bit and give me a chance this year 😊

Cheers,

Neil F.

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 17-Jul-12 02:43 AM GMT

In my experience, the only good chance you get is by finding them roosting..... not an easy matter !! 😊

(sorry for the late reply.... I've been living it up in the Alps !! 😊😊 – Roger H is going to do the honours, my laptop blew and I have to cadge someone else's to put anything on site now 😊)

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 24-Jul-12 05:37 AM GMT

I've spent the majority of the last 10 days sorting out my French holiday photos, shown elsewhere, and only just got round to processing and showing these two photos of well behaved White letter Hairstreaks close to home on 14th July, early in the morning....



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Re: Reverdin

by David M, 24-Jul-12 05:41 AM GMT

Great images, Reverdin, especially the second WLH. 😊

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 29-Jul-12 04:02 AM GMT

Thanks David.... this is my only Purple Hairstreak shot this year, apart from the French one that is,

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I have these on the oak at the bottom of the garden, and so far the weather has picked up just right for them 😊

Re: Reverdin

by philm63, 29-Jul-12 04:59 AM GMT

That is a beautiful photo

Phil

Re: Reverdin

by Pauline, 29-Jul-12 05:18 AM GMT

Don't know which I like best – your beautiful wild flower meadow or your gorgeous Hairstreak photos 🍷 Keep the photos coming!

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 29-Jul-12 08:29 AM GMT

you're both very kind, 😊

The wildflower bit looks an absolute mess just now! 😞 maybe I'll put in a photo tomorrow. The grass is too long, the kidney vetch much too brutish, along with self heal, and I belatedly let the rabbits in which have flattened (along with the weather) the whole lot! 😞😞 I evidently haven't yet got the balance right, but will work on it. On the plus side, I have trefoil and rockrose established in the grass, and some sanfoin and dianthus in amongst it... the sheep sorrel is also rampant and scabious, wild strawberry and viper's bugloss surviving. The yellow rattle has done well but looks really ugly now.

trying to move trefoils into the rest of the paddock with plug plants, but like a drop in the ocean. White bedstraw and ragged robin and lady's smock see to have found their own way in, which is a bonus.

still a lot of work to do !!! 😞

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 08-Sep-12 04:38 AM GMT

Very scanty butterfly year at home... but this rather worn 2nd generation Holly Blue spent ages nectaring in the garden this pm... seemed to really like the Globe Thistles...

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it is really unusual to see them in our garden, the only time this year !

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 10-Sep-12 04:52 AM GMT

Well what do you know!! 😊 A second Holly Blue today, judging by the hindwing, a different one.... just as worn, and equally attracted to the Globe Thistles!... Only allowed one photo before floating up and away...

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..... and, last evening, TWO Small Coppers on my very wild flower bit... Marjoram and Sheep's Bit Scabious the attractors.... hope the Sorrel nearby is used!!! 😊