

## Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 15-Apr-10 01:21 AM GMT

My photo website which includes butterflies and moths, is at: <http://www.snapperjack.co.uk>

I live in the extreme south of Cambridgeshire – in fact the highest village at 142 metres above sea level. The local patch is disused orchards and meadowland with 24 butterfly species recorded, one of the highest site totals in the county *and it's on my doorstep.*

Jack (username used to be jackharr)

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 16-Apr-10 11:04 PM GMT

15th April, cold 11degC and windy. Just two Commas briefly before sun went in again. Very worn.

Jack (username was jackharr)



## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 18-Apr-10 04:35 AM GMT

I have just got a new camera, a **Panasonic Lumix DMC FZ38**. I had been considering a change as my Canon A650 must be getting tired after such heavy use and cannot be expected to last forever. I don't want it to fail in the middle of the butterfly season. When I was sent some butterfly sample photos from Neil Hulme (aka Sussex Kipper on ukb) that was it. I decided to buy. It's a remarkable piece of kit for the money and not at all heavy. I got mine from Amazon for reliability of service. I paid £245 but is available slightly cheaper from other sources.

[http://www.panasonic.co.uk/html/en\\_GB/P...\\_index.html](http://www.panasonic.co.uk/html/en_GB/P..._index.html)

I am very impressed with the results. This picture was taken from about 100 cms range, a distance that I am far more comfortable with than getting in really close. First is a simple resize but showing the whole frame. Then a crop that has not been resized. The details of those scales are impressive. Still some learning to do – the different modes, etc – but it is quite easy "straight out of the box".

Grabs the focus very quickly and the stabilization is amazing at huge zoom.

Still no Orange Tips but first Small White today (GV a couple of days ago)

Jack





### Re: Jack Harrison

by Susie, 18-Apr-10 05:20 AM GMT

Very nice photos, Jack. I am seriously considering off loading my DSLR and getting one of these cameras too.

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 19-Apr-10 01:38 AM GMT

Two localities in Cambridgeshire visited on Sunday 18th April.

Devils Dyke and old railway cutting Burwell: [http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?x=55 ... 65260&lm=0](http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?x=55...65260&lm=0) primary target being Green Hairstreak. Six to eight seen over a two hour period centred around the banks in photo. No pictures of the butterflies possible.

Then to the Roman Road at Worsted Lodge: [http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?x=55 ... 52095&lm=0](http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?x=55...52095&lm=0)

In total, eight species seen over the two localities:

Peacock (numerous), Small Tortoiseshell, Comma, Brimstone (numerous), Small White, GV White, Orange Tip (first for me this season, just 3 days later than in 2009) plus the Green Hairstreaks.

All pictures were taken with my Lumix FZ38; the two butterfly ones at a range of about two metres – attempting to close in spooked them.

Jack





**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 20-Apr-10 01:20 AM GMT

19th April, Waterford Heath just north of Hertford. Target Grizzled Skipper on same date as first seen in 2009. Just one seen in south pit at map ref TL317149

Map link

[http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?x=53 ... 14950&lm=0](http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?x=53...14950&lm=0)

Pictures show the sandy bank where seen, a typical habitat, plus a record shot taken from about one light-year away.

Hazy sunshine, temperature 14 deg C

Jack



## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 21-Apr-10 01:49 AM GMT

20th April was not entirely successful. I drove the 22 miles to the Stetchworth side of Devils Dyke in the hope of Green Hairstreaks (TL629606). I had foolishly not realised just how cold it would feel in the 15 knot wind. No butterflies and fewer Pasque Flowers than previous years.



I returned to nearer home where a path sheltered from the wind by a small wood gave three GV Whites, one Orange Tip, one Brimstone and a very worn Peacock.



Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 22-Apr-10 01:39 AM GMT

[size=150]21st April

Pushing my new Lumix FZ38 to the limit.



This was taken from fully 3 metres away, so while nothing like as sharp and detailed as a good close-up, it does illustrate the potential for getting records shots from great distances. Guy: line up a Large Tortoiseshell in Switzerland and I'll see if I can image it from here.

First Holly Blue of 2010. In flight over my garden in South Cambridgeshire. No photos.

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 23-Apr-10 01:26 AM GMT

22nd April

Local in morning then a few stops on the way to Stevenage station to collect my wife. My first Speckled wood of the year.

But this Small Tortoiseshell was more interesting.



It seemed brand spanking new (just one minor nick in wing) but it can't have been (or can it?) This is not the first time I have seen an apparently fresh Small Tort in the latter part of April. It raises questions.

1. Did it enter hibernation last year very promptly before becoming worn?
2. Could it be an offspring of last winter's hibernators? (seems very unlikely unless an early immigrant)
3. Is it remotely possible that like the Queen of Spain, STs occasionally overwinters as a pupa?

The butterfly was healthy and active but was engrossed in nectaring on Ground Ivy and Dandelions, behaviour somewhat different from other STs I have seen this spring which are more intent on basking than feeding.

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 25-Apr-10 01:31 AM GMT

24th April

Cambridgeshire Devils Dyke at Burwell Cutting. [http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?x=55 ... 65260&lm=0](http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?x=55...65260&lm=0)

Good numbers of Green Hairstreak (difficult to know how many repeat sightings but perhaps a dozen in total)



First Small Copper of the year



Later to Fulbourn Fen where the usual whites and Speckled Woods. [http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?x=55 ... 55945&lm=0](http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?x=55...55945&lm=0)

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 26-Apr-10 04:49 AM GMT

25th April

I am topping up 17 year old daughter Polly's driving lessons – the professionals (BSM) did the initial donkey work. Apart from one instance when she tried to emulate Lewis Hamilton at a roundabout, all went well – she should be taking her driving test soon.

But then the butterflies after lunch. Perfect weather for a visit to Waterford Heath just north of Hertford where I had seen a single Grizzled Skipper a week ago. Not a thing today (apart from one Peacock).

Off to West Sussex on Monday, hopefully for Duke of B, Pearl Bordered, Dingy and some more Grizzlies.

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Padfield, 26-Apr-10 06:26 AM GMT

#### "Jack Harrison" wrote:

Guy: line up a Large Tortoiseshell in Switzerland and I'll see if I can image it from here.

So the Lumix can actually bend light, Jack?

You're getting very good pictures with it, though, I must admit. I enjoy the thread.

Guy

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 30-Apr-10 12:13 AM GMT

I drove to West Sussex on **Monday 26th April**.

Tried a Grizzled / Dingy Skipper site in the heart of the South Downs but with cloudy skies, I didn't see a single butterfly let alone a skipper.

A fascination for me as a retired professional pilot was to see this light aircraft parked on a farm. The landing area is small and steep and hemmed in on all sides by hills. The pilot is either very skilled or mad – or both. You would never have got me landing on that airstrip.



The sun came out later and I visited a Pearl Bordered Fritillary locality where I had seen one or two in 2008 (in the 1970s there was a thriving colony).

Again very little was flying, just a couple of whites and Peacock.

### Tuesday 27th

In the morning, I again went to the PB Frit spot. This time I saw three Peacocks, two GV Whites and an Orange Tip. This was an improvement on yesterday but even so, why so few butterflies? I then moved on to Mill Hill near Shoreham in the certainty of finding Grizzlies and Dingies. Extraordinary! Where I had seen them in previous years, not a single sighting! I learnt later that I was almost but not quite in the right spot. Nevertheless, there was not much else about. The inevitable Peacocks (what a spring they are having!) just a handful of Brimstones despite vast amounts of small buckthorn bushes, the odd white and a solitary Speckled Wood. Later I moved on to Devils Dyke but by this time, a cutting sea breeze had set in reducing the temperature to about 14 degrees. I returned to my hotel where the same "saddo" as the previous evening was propping up the bar playing a handheld computer game – he was still at it on Wednesday evening.

**Wednesday 28th** was a much better day. I met up with Neil Hulme (aka Sussex Kipper) and three other enthusiasts. Neil took us to a woodland site near Arundel where the conservation effort he has organised has clearly paid dividends; he has rescued the Duke of Burgundy in the nick of time.



*Neil suddenly announced that this was the time to get out his little tool. The rest of us were relieved to see him produce a small pair of scissors to cut off some photo-spoiling foliage.*

*Neil's memory card became full. He was lent another card by Colin but didn't know how to format it (Neil is a professional scientist, but I do empathise with his phobia about camera technicalities – I haven't bothered to learn how to send a text message!) Anyway, I put the new card in my identical Lumix FZ38, formatted it (I can do some things!) and Neil was on his way again.*

We traipsed through the woods to a remote spot where "we will see Pearl Bordered". I claimed the first sighting in Sussex for 2010, but nobody really believed me (I too was far from confident) but within a minute or so, confirmation was forthcoming. We chased the little fellows around the clearing but soon realised that they had a semi-regular route and periodically stopped off to refuel at patches of Dandelions. The simplest way to photograph them was to stay near some flowers and wait. Adjoining the little clearing is a large newly coppiced area. Within two or three years, this could easily become



*the best* PBF locality in the south of England – the potential is quite excellent.



The flog back to the car was tiring. My arthritis is not good at the moment and that coupled with being significantly overweight meant that several stops short rests were needed. I can't do much about the first problem but i really should about the second.

It had been a brilliant day. I even managed my first photo on a Speckled Wood of 2010 – actually sitting on wood. The one regret was failing to get a picture of the solitary Holly Blue – I hate the others who got some lovely shots of a pristine female.

The weather went downhill, so I returned to Cambridgeshire early on the Thursday.

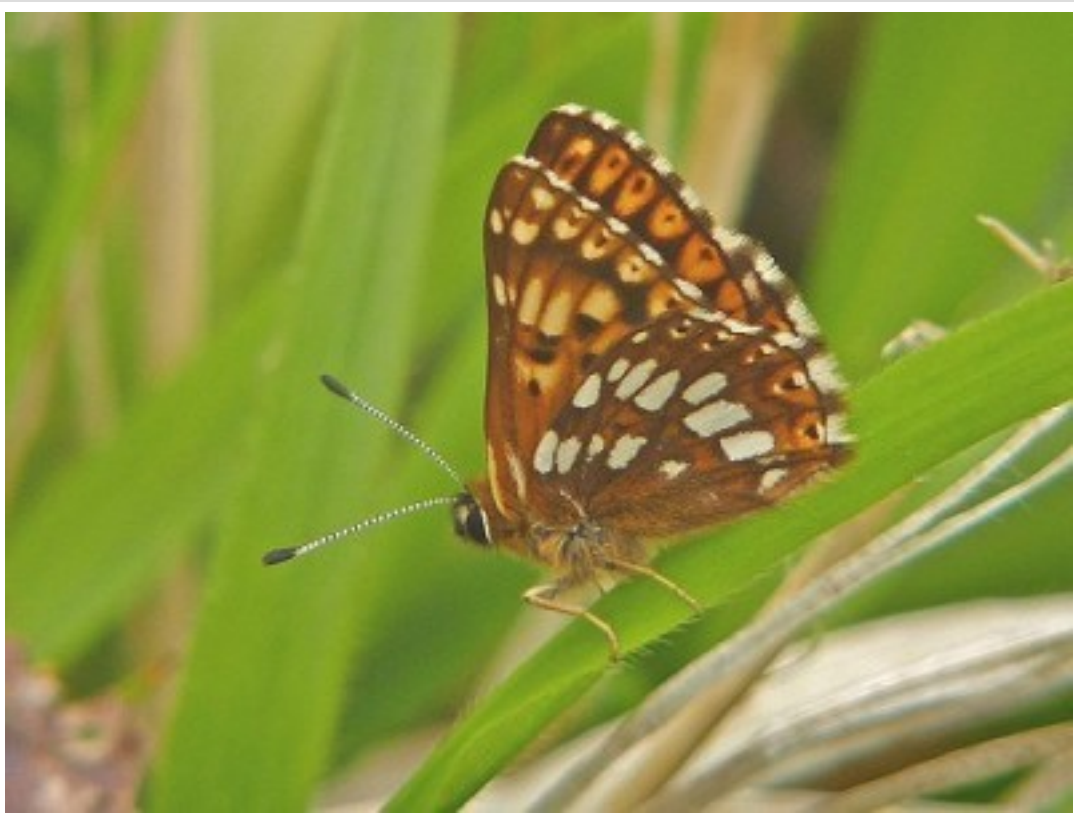
Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 02-May-10 01:09 AM GMT

### 1st May

Much of the morning was spent dealing with a backlog of photos. Came across this piccie from “Wonder Wednesday” (28th April).



Later in the day I continued supervising daughter Polly's learner-driving on some tricky narrow country lanes. (Driving Schools never seem to cover rural driving with hazards such as horses, cyclists, rambles who lurk round blind corners). I had planned a crafty bit of reversing practice on an unmade-up track at the entrance to a small wood. Unfortunately, there were no fewer than six cars already parked there. So a change of plan was in order. I showed Polly how to find Orange Tip eggs. I set the challenge at a dozen but she fell one short, albeit in a mere ten minutes of searching.



I am still pleased with my Panasonic Lumix FZ38. The lack of an articulated screen (as on many Canons) is less of an irritation than I had anticipated. The fitting of a Flipbac



(link: <http://flipbac.com/>) mirror attachment gives a reasonable (but not perfect) alternative for those ground level shots.

I had been disappointed with the noise in the dark areas of the images from the FZ38, even at ISO80. Problem has been solved by using RAW and noise is now effectively non-existent. I use the SilkyPix software (bundled with the camera) to read the RAW files. It's easy enough to use once you have worked out how to do it - instructions are however someone meagre.

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 06-May-10 04:00 AM GMT

### 5th May

First butterflying since the weekend. Today I arranged to meet up with Nick Ballard in Mill Road cemetery, Cambridge, the target being Holly Blue.

The sun broke through the medium level cloud as I arrived and I was in luck the moment I went through the entrance with a single Holly Blue; sadly it was too high to photograph. I saw three or four more, got a record shot of a female (she had just been egg-laying) from about three metres range.



Nick arrived during his lunch break. He showed me the potential hot spots in the cemetery but by this time, the cloud had filled in. We were about to leave when an accidental brush against a bush disturbed a Holly Blue. This was in the area I had taken the record shot - probably the same individual. The butterfly was scarcely awake and allowed close approach, but she did not open her wings this time.



Coffee and snack at a nearby cafe, Nick returned to work and I made my way back to the Park & Ride.

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 08-May-10 05:55 PM GMT

### 8th May

I have become jealous reading about Wood Whites, PB Frits, Dukes, Dingies and so on. With the exception of a brief interlude when I saw those Holly Blues in the "Dead Centre" 🤪 of Cambridge last Wednesday, it has been unremittingly cold with a biting wind since last Saturday. Today carries on in the same vein.

The moth trap has produced an average of just two specimens per night. The best has perhaps been solitary Muslin last night. The antennae of the male are fantastic when seen at close quarters.



It was so dark under the overcast even at 0900 hours when I took the picture that use of flash was essential.

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 14-May-10 02:17 AM GMT

### 13th May

At last a better day. I arrived at **Wood Walton Marsh** (TL213810) *not called Fen as earlier posting* at 1015 hours with a temperature of only 10 degs. Wood Walton Fen is a tiny reserve squeezed between the main east coast rail line and a minor road.

**NOTE: Click on an image to see better resolution 800 x 600 picture.**

I was soon in luck with Orange Tips, GV Whites and then the target, Grizzled Skipper



(female) In addition I saw one male.

This Orange Tip was captured at the moment of take off



I was joined later by Richard Mitchell. He has the biggest lens I have ever seen!



Cloud cover was intermittent and after a couple of hours at Wood Walton - on Richard's advice - I went to **Twywell Hills and Dales**.

Cloud cover remained a nuisance and initially I was out of luck apart from one possible sighting of a Dingy Skipper. Then I met Roger Warren who took me to the best spot, much further on at Twywell (SP947777) than I had been previously. We soon spotted a Dingy Skipper. Then it clouded over again. Roger advised where to look for resting skippers and he quickly found this male Grizzled on a dead flower head of Wild Carrot (we think that is what it was)



Three or four more Grizzlies were seen and were relatively easy to photograph. Dingies were a different story although we did see four or five. I finally got on to this one



The mechanical damage to the right wings suggests a predator attack while resting with its wings wrapped round a dead flower head. What might the attacker have been?

So a good day, but still no decent picture of a Dingy Skipper this year.

All photos taken with Panasonic Lumix FZ38. For the small skippers, I used a +2 achromatic close-up lens.

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 15-May-10 12:01 AM GMT

### 14th May

I had considered joining Rob Parker and his Suffolk BC friends for a Dingy search in King Forest, Breckland. But a visit to the doctor to pick up some medication and then some car light bulb replacements to be fitted didn't quite work out as planned. The right side rear indicator flashed red not amber!

*I recall a similar problem my Dad had years ago. He got his car back from the garage and found that when he tried to use the right semaphore indicator, the horn sounded. When he sounded the horn, the left indicator shot out (or something like that). Dad was cross and his humour was not improved when Mum and I couldn't stop laughing.*

So to butterflies. I decided to have an hour in my local patch in South Cambridgeshire. Saw my first Small Heath of year (this is a very reliable site), a Holly Blue high up in some trees and several Orange Tips, the target species for the lens. Male Orange Tips are always very difficult as they rarely land in their endless quest for females. But the weather was co-operative. I would follow one until the sun went behind a cloud; it landed almost immediately. I would close on the resting butterfly meanwhile keeping one eye on the cloud. Within a few seconds of the sun coming out again, he would slowly open his wings and for no more than about half a minute, would give excellent photo opportunities. Then he was away again. Pictures show one resting and then as he woke up again.



(click on image for better resolution)

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Zonda, 15-May-10 01:05 AM GMT

Yes Jack, that is exactly how i shot my last OT. As the sun comes out, they open their wings. 😊

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 15-May-10 03:04 AM GMT

deleted Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Padfield, 15-May-10 04:15 AM GMT

Very successful test, Jack!

The weather here is so awful I'm tempted to believe those who blame the volcano. Rain all day today, snow forecast for tomorrow ... Not even the small heaths are flying. It's been like this for two weeks.

Guy

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 15-May-10 02:53 PM GMT



Further test, this time using (as Paul recommends) Photobucket (took ten minutes to set up – free) for hosting.



Clever this, and saves hosting space on ukb.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Pete Eeles, 15-May-10 03:19 PM GMT

Hosting space isn't an issue Jack. The reason UKB creates thumbnails by default is to reduce the time it takes for a page to load into the browser which, I believe, was implemented at your request!

A good reason for doing this is when you want to simply reference an image that is elsewhere on the Net. If something should change on UKB then let me know!

Cheers,

– Pete

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 15-May-10 04:04 PM GMT

Not entirely clear about this. See my post re Paul: [viewtopic.php?t=3979&start=1000#p32314](http://viewtopic.php?t=3979&start=1000#p32314)

Yes there was a discussion some while back. I don't recall that I favoured the present system. I preferred (as well as I can remember) obvious thumbnails that implies that you HAVE to click on them. What we seem to have now is a compromise which literally *compromises* image quality.

Anyway, it's a fine day and we should be out butterflying not discussing matters such as this. I have some garden chores though so any butterflies will be incidental (Holly Blue perhaps? - camera always at the ready)

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 16-May-10 12:39 AM GMT

15th May

Two captive male Orange Tips emerged this morning. The first took off for his first flight only for the cat to appear from nowhere. My wife was amused to observe the highly unusual site of me running round the garden chasing the cat. The butterfly successfully evaded the cat - and my camera.

An hour later we watched the second one drying its wings (in a totally un-photographical position in its box). This time the cat was corralled as the butterfly was released gently into the garden.



FOR IMPORTANT INFO, PLEASE GO TO:  
[www.photobucket.com/P500](http://www.photobucket.com/P500)

*(The eye glint is from the flash used to stop the swaying motion caused by the gentle breeze).*

Even in the hot sun, he took a long time to warm up. Finally, off he went and over the hedge never to be seen again.



FOR IMPORTANT INFO, PLEASE GO TO:  
[www.photobucket.com/P500](http://www.photobucket.com/P500)

Just two moths came to light overnight, a Nut Tree Tussock and a Waved Umber



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[www.photobucket.com/P500](http://www.photobucket.com/P500)

both firsts for 2010.

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 22-May-10 06:08 PM GMT

17th to 21st May

I had been given a "leave pass" by my wife Suzie and had a superb week away. Maybe I should re-phrase that. It was a superb week doing my own thing and not being tied down. Try again; I was away on my own all week..... I give up, I can't find the right form of words. Anyway, five days of non-stop butterflying.

#### Monday

The M25/M23 via Dartford/Gatwick was less of a hassle than usual and I arrived at Botany Bay Chiddingfold at about 1015 hrs. In company with two others who had also just arrived, Roger and Matthew, we wandered south toward Tugley Wood. We were soon seeing numerous **Wood Whites**.



FOR IMPORTANT INFO, PLEASE GO TO:  
[www.photobucket.com/P500](http://www.photobucket.com/P500)

Matthew made a count on the way out (21) and notched up 25 on the return. It is difficult to know how many were repeat sightings but I suspect not many; it wouldn't surprise me if we hadn't see 50 individuals over a two hour period. With strong sun but occasional cloud, they were relatively easy to photograph when the sun went in. It was interesting to observe - as has been noted by others - that they often rest close to one another.



FOR IMPORTANT INFO, PLEASE GO TO:  
[www.photobucket.com/P500](http://www.photobucket.com/P500)

(Picture taken with flash)

I then moved to Magdalen Hill, Winchester. It's a wonderful cowslip meadow but I saw few butterflies although I didn't venture to the bottom of the slope, apparently the best spot. But I did tick off my first **Red Admiral** and **Painted Lady** of the year. A single **Green Hairstreak** eluded the camera.

I stayed the night at possibly the worst hotel in Wiltshire. At least, the beer was good.

#### Tuesday

I had arranged to meet Gary Richardson (Gruditch) at Stockbridge Down. Nothing special seen although this Small Copper had the right idea on the National Trust property.



FOR IMPORTANT INFO, PLEASE GO TO:  
[www.photobucket.com/P500](http://www.photobucket.com/P500)

Firsts for 2010 were Common Blue and Brown Argus.

We then moved on the Bentley Wood. Excellent numbers of **Pearl Bordered Fritillaries**, including some observed egg-laying. I spotted a **very dark individual** and both of us **assumed** it was a **Small Pearl Bordered**, one of about four that we thought we saw in what is quite clearly the very start of their season. (wrong)



FOR IMPORTANT INFO, PLEASE GO TO:  
[www.photobucket.com/P500](http://www.photobucket.com/P500)



*Guy correctly pointed out that this is a PB Frit and not a Small PB. See comments further along this thread. The photos we took of the "Small PB" were clearly of PB Frit, a fact that we didn't appreciate until looking at the photos later. Embarrassment all round. So Small PB is still NOT on my year list 😞*

Gary had a hunch about **Duke of Burgundies** at a nearby location and after some ten minutes or so in a very hot and humid clearing, he spotted one and then a second; the two males clashed repeatedly.



Dukes had not been seen here before, the nearest previously known site being some 6 or 7 kilometres away. This discovery hints at better dispersal capabilities than many had thought – unless the Duke had lurked nearby undetected for decades.

*This was the first time I had met Gary in person. His intuition is incredible and he has the knack of knowing exactly where to look and what he is seeing – like spotting that 2010 rarity, a **Large White**, which initially I had missed.*

I stayed the night at one of the better hotels in Wiltshire. It didn't do evening meals but the nearby pub was excellent, again with quality real ale.

**Wednesday** was the one unsuccessful day. I went to look for **Glanville Fritillaries** in their only natural mainland colony. The weather was perfectly adequate, warm and bright albeit with thin high cloud. Not only were there no Frits but didn't see any butterflies of any description.

I then did a sea wall walk for **Wall Browns** in one of its few reliable sites in Hampshire. By this time it had clouded over significantly and a chilly sea breeze had set in. Unsurprisingly, again I saw no butterflies. But hovering and plunge-diving Little Terns were impressive. The ubiquitous (who would have used that word 20 years ago?) Little Egrets were taking short flights.

I returned to my hotel and enjoyed a superb ham and eggs at the Landford Poacher (with of course the Ringwood real ale)

**Thursday** started off very cloudy. I drove to locality at the western edge of Salisbury Plain where Marsh Fritillaries are well established. It was still cloudy when I arrived and the prospect of climbing up *the Matterhorn* didn't appeal to this 71 year old. I moved on in my 60 mpg Peugeot to Somerford Common northwest of Wootton Bassett, a locality I knew well in the 1970s when based at nearby RAF Lyneham. Somerford used to have PB, Small PB and Marsh Fritillaries and a small colony of the Duke. The habitat at Somerford still looks very good with plenty of wide rides; but no rarities were seen on this visit.

So to the "guaranteed" **Marsh Fritillary** site at Seven Barrows near Lambourn. Well it wasn't guaranteed on Thursday 20th May 2010. By now it was overcast and a wander round the site produced nothing better than the inevitable Dingy Skipper (they really are having a good season). I was due to stay with Chris (a former airline colleague) and meet his brother Peter Marren ("Twitcher in the Swamp") and had aimed to arrive at around 1600 hours. I had a doze in the car and awoke at just the right time to drive the ten miles to the Marrens. It was now brilliantly sunny; I was prepared to arrive at my host late. It was worth the delay. A pristine Marsh Fritillary.



We had an excellent evening in the Crown and Anchor, Ramsbury. The steak pie was magnificent.

**Friday** saw me leaving Ramsbury at around 0830. I had to go to Bookham in Surrey to collect my daughter and bring her home, but there was time for a couple of hours on Denbies Hillside. In the hot sun, the **Adonis Blues** were very lively and only occasionally settled.



Then "Tiger Woods" appeared. He found a virgin female and within less than 20 seconds of fluttering, they were paired.

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR ACCOUNT TO ENABLE 3RD PARTY HOSTING



FOR IMPORTANT INFO, PLEASE GO TO:  
[www.photobucket.com/P500](http://www.photobucket.com/P500)

A surprising find at Denbies was a **Holly Blue**. The Common Blues were less unexpected and again, Dingy Skippers were numerous. A couple of **Green Hairstreaks** added to the colour.

I collected Felicity, had an agonising trip round the M25, and then had to divert to avoid a complete standstill on the M11. I was greeted back home by a Holly Blue – but the camera was still in the car at this point.

The only failure was Glanvilles but I suspect I was a few days too early at this very exposed site. On the Isle of Wight undercliff, the warm microclimate is clearly far more to their liking. But all in all, a truly excellent week.

*PS. That last paragraph was written before the PB/Small PB Frit fiasco became apparent.*

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Padfield, 23-May-10 02:43 AM GMT

Hi Jack. A wonderful record of a wonderful week, so it seems almost churlish to point out that the picture you have labelled small pearl-bordered (PB-10-05-18-160-SPBFrit.jpg) is actually a pearl-bordered!!

Guy

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 23-May-10 04:45 AM GMT

You are of course quite correct Guy. But this is confusing. Gary (Gruditch) and I were BOTH certain we had seen Small PB but the target butterflies were lively and difficult to photograph. I might well have photographed one of the far more numerous PBs in error thinking (and not confirming properly later) that I had “captured” a Small PB. I’ll have to find out what Gary thinks and see if he did in fact get a confirmatory picture of a Small PB. But I agree that picture of mine is a PB and definitely not a Small PB.

In truth I suspect Gary and I were both mistaken (or were we?)

Meanwhile, I'll edit my blog.

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Pete Eeles, 23-May-10 04:58 AM GMT

For the record, I can definitely confirm SPBF in Bentley Wood – although I, too, failed to get a photo!

Cheers,

– Pete

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Gruditch, 23-May-10 02:48 PM GMT

Hi Jack, when I got home, I checked the images of the one we see in the Eastern Clearing, and that was a very fresh and very dark PB. He just stood out from the rest so much, that it was a easy mistake to make. 😊

Regards Gary

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 23-May-10 03:06 PM GMT



### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 26-May-10 04:21 AM GMT

25th May

I had aestivated during the hot spell and had planned some gardening today now it was cooler. But the sun came out more than I had dared hope so a change of plan and off to Totternhoe Quarry SP983220

I was greeted by those 2010 rarities, two Large Whites. I then wandered to my favoured Small Blue spot under the cliff at SP983220 where the track leads into the meadow. There were scores. I once had seven Small Blues in view at once in an area perhaps no more than 2 metres by 2 metres.

This pair showed interesting behaviour and I assumed a normal courtship ritual. The top one was “nuzzling” up to the lower one and stayed very close for a long time. But on studying the pictures, it seems that they are both males. So am I justified in naming them “Elton” and “David”?



Also in the quarry, countless Common Blues, mostly males, perhaps a dozen Dingy Skippers, one Brown Argus and at the far end, 3 Duke of Burgundies.

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 26-May-10 10:25 PM GMT

26th May

I never really expected this to be published in a *gliding* magazine but thought – what the hell. Nothing lost in trying.



Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Zonda, 27-May-10 12:39 AM GMT

Very nice Small Blue picture, and always nice to make a bob from a picture. 😊

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 27-May-10 01:39 AM GMT

I didn't make any money out of that PE; I was just amazed that I managed to get something about butterflies published in a magazine dedicated to gliding.

Now there's a challenge to the rest of you. Get a butterfly article published in “Steam Monthly” (that should be easy – burnt track sides) or in “Stamp Collecting” (illustrations) or in “Yachting Quarterly” (migrant watching). But most challenging of all “Darts for Toffs” 🚨🤔

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 29-May-10 01:43 AM GMT

28th May

Phil Bromley joined me at Mepal Cambridgeshire in a search for Wall Browns. Phil saw it first and I confirmed. It was the only Wall seen in some two hours of searching along the banks of the New Bedford River. No photos possible but these impressive girls in the meadow between the old and new

bridges (TL438810) were keeping a careful watch.

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Also in the area 3 Brown Argus, 2 Common Blue, 2 Small Heath, 5 or 6 Small Coppers plus the usual whites (including one Large)

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by NickB, 30-May-10 06:40 AM GMT

**"Jack Harrison" wrote:**

**28th May**

...but these impressive fellows in the meadow between the old and new bridges (TL438810) were keeping a careful watch.

Jack

Nice to see some English Long Horn cattle; used by WTs to manage traditional meadows and grasslands. They would be kept in the woods and forests overwinter and taken down to meadows and water-meadows in Spring. The meadows then provided a hay-cut once the cattle had gone-on to market. Very placid. Crazy horns!

My son looks after 6 big but old girls on his WT reserve, and found large groups of local youths were meeting to throw rocks at them (and had spent considerable time collecting bags of large stones to take with them) every evening after he left the reserve. He stayed and caught a couple. When asked why, the kids said, "Well, its fun, init! Making 'em run...." He has had to remove the cattle from the reserve for their safety...

It says something about our society that the only thing open to these kids for amusement, in their eyes, was throwing stones to hit animals to watch them run.... 😞

N

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 30-May-10 02:05 PM GMT

Nick's son:

He stayed and caught a couple. When asked why, the kids said, "Well, its fun, init! Making 'em run...." He has had to remove the cattle from the reserve for their safety...

Couldn't your son have found a less-placid bull as a replacement?

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by NickB, 30-May-10 04:16 PM GMT

**"Jack Harrison" wrote:**

Nick's son:.....Couldn't your son have found a less-placid bull as a replacement?

Jack

Believe me, Jack, he has had **LOTS** of ideas as to what he would like to do.....



however, "m'learned friends" would probably have something to say, as most of them are probably illegal in these enlightened times .....

N

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 31-May-10 11:24 PM GMT

**31st May**

What disappointing weather. The hints that the earlier forecast of fine sunny conditions was going wrong prompted an e-mail to Nick Ballard suggesting that our Wall Brown odyssey on the Ouse Washes might not come off. Monday dawned cold and cloudy confirming the worst fears.

The moth trap was spectacular (I don't think) with just three, a Peppered Moth



a Common Swift



and a boring brown job that was hardly worth photographing ( I think it was an Early Grey).

So to a tall weed in the flower garden, a Hedge Garlic which has to stay for the sake of the Orange Tips. This egg has been there for several days so presumably won't emerge until it gets warmer.



It was so cloudy and dull that flash was needed to photograph.

I then photographed some Orange Tip caterpillars (photo earlier in the thread of daughter Polly collecting).



A mid-afternoon surprise was when wife Suzie said she had found a moth in other daughter's bedroom (Felicity is away) – a splendid Buff Ermine.

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And the sun came out for a millisecond and two Small Whites sparred outside the window.

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 01-Jun-10 03:46 AM GMT

### 31st May part 2

After watching England rather painfully beat Bangladesh in the Test match, I decided on a walk in the local meadows. The Cow Parsley was at its very best.

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I checked the time and got quite a surprise. Here it was on my sleeve.

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Taking the picture was tricky (I was on my own). I presume I had brushed it onto my arm while walking through the Cow Parsley.

I didn't see any more butterflies for a while, but was attracted to a familiar but nostalgic sound. The camera was still in macro mode but I managed this record shot of a vintage Vampire aircraft

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I had flown Vampires during my advanced flying training some 50 years ago.

A Silver Ground Carpet Moth presented itself.

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The sun came out briefly and I managed my first picture of the year of a Large White, little more than a record shot.

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 03-Jun-10 01:36 AM GMT

2nd June

Hockley Wood near Southend for Heath Fritillaries where I was joined by Dave Miller and Kevin Taylor

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Clearly it's very early in the flight season as numbers increased during the visit as presumably there were new emergences. Even so, no more than about 8 individuals seen.

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This last one looks as if flash was used. It wasn't according to the Exif – it just posed beautifully.

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 08-Jun-10 02:14 AM GMT

### Thursday 3rd to Monday 7th June

**Thursday**, according to the records, was the sunniest day so far this year. With the summer solstice less than a couple of weeks ago, it is likely to be THE sunniest day of the entire year.

The amount of sun was not ideal at Park Corner Heath (as mentioned in Sussex Kipper's blog). He's quite right; it is almost pointless trying to photograph the Small PB Fritillaries in those conditions. I must say that I saw nobody entering the roped off areas even though that was where the Frits often chose to land.

**Saturday** we went to the Kings Lynn area for a barbecue with friends. One Holly Blue in the garden was the butterfly highlight.

**Monday 7th June** was cloudy but bright – ideal. My *local meadows* in South Cambridgeshire were teeming with Common Blues with at times as many as five within a couple of metres of where I was standing. Small Heaths were almost as numerous. (This is a very reliable site) with on one occasion three sparring together. They chased off the Common Blues with enthusiasm, the colour contrast between the Orange/Yellow of the Small Heaths and the blue being impressive.

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Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 11-Jun-10 01:42 AM GMT

### 10th June

Miserable day here in South Cambridgeshire. However, during a brief bright interval, a blue seen outside. Dashed into the garden and found this very tatty Holly Blue (notice that streamer of damaged wing). It chose to nectar on Meadow Cranesbill.



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*Flash needed due to poor natural light*

Holly Blue is an infrequent visitor to my garden being seen no more than three or four times per year. The Meadow Cranesbill, although a native wild plant, makes a delightful garden flower. This was however, the first time I have ever seen any butterfly using it for nectar.

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 13-Jun-10 02:36 AM GMT

12th June

I went to two sites near Huntingdon, firstly Brampton Wood. There were significant numbers of photographers

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chasing some boring little brown jobs that inconveniently hung around the tree tops. I didn't bother with such insignificant little insects. Instead I concentrated on the abundant Speckled Woods.

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There were more of these little brown jobs in Monks Wood where Phil Bromley had used super-glue to stick one on a convenient leaf at head height. I thought I had better take a photo just for the record.

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Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by selbypaul, 13-Jun-10 06:17 PM GMT

Love the photograph Jack, I'm very jealous. Oh and the shot of that LBJ is ok too 😊

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 14-Jun-10 04:09 PM GMT

Sunday 13th June

Some hesitation about the weather prospects, but the excellent satellite image website Sat 24: <http://www.sat24.com/frame.php?html=vie...gb&sat=vis> suggested a possible clearance coming in from the west so Mike Rubin and I gambled on a visit to Strumpshaw. It was a long wait, but at around 1300 hours, the sun showed feeble, it warmed up quickly and the Swallowtails appeared in the popular garden of Dr.Martin George. Thank you Martin, we really do appreciate your enthusiasm and allowing us access.

One particularly flower bed was especially popular with the Swallowtails. At one point, it had three butterflies. I commented to the crowd of photographers: "Three in a bed. Every man's dream!". This even brought a smile on the faces a couple of rather earnest ladies. But I was upstaged by video-photographer Paul Wetton (website: <http://www.youtube.com/user/paulwetton>) who commented: "Only dreaming then Jack?"



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We were back in time to watch our boys Lewis and Jenson achieve first & second in the Canadian Grand Prix. It had been a good weekend all round.

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 16-Jun-10 02:48 AM GMT

15th June

Collard Hill for me tomorrow and Thursday, but today I visited my local meadows this morning. (foreground in photo).



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There was plenty of heavy cloud as can be seen but the countryside sparkled during the brief sunny breaks. The pale blue sheen on the hill on the right is a Linseed crop.

The observant might notice the hovering Kestrel on the right just above the sky-line. But that of course wasn't a birding highlight. A Quail was doing its ventriloquist's "Wet my Lips" somewhere in the meadow but as many will know, locating a Quail is almost impossible; needless to say, I failed.

This locality is some 140 metres above sea level so butterfly emergences are a little later than on lower ground. Nevertheless, I saw my first Meadow Brown and Large Skipper on the site this year.

No butterflying next weekend as we have visitors.

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 19-Jun-10 06:20 AM GMT

### Wednesday 16th to Friday 18th June

27 miles in the first two hours. Not a good start. But things improved once I got on to the M25 which was running surprisingly well. Indeed from then on I had a good run to Collard arriving at 1300 hours.

Over the next four hours I saw about 15 Large Blues. They did not really pose for the camera.



I went to the hotel where I enjoyed some excellent beer and a very decent meal.

Next morning I was at Collard Hill by 0730. Again the Large Blues were very difficult to photograph when they first appeared at around 0930. You really need to be a mountain goat to charge up and down that hill; I am certainly not fit enough nowadays. My legs ached, so late morning I left Collard and more in hope than expectation, went to Sand Point just in case there were any late Glanville Fritillaries still about. Sand Point is delightful but I saw no Frits.

On Friday I had to collect my daughter from near Leatherhead but had sufficient time to check out Fairmile Common (aka Fairmile Heath) near Cobham. As soon as the cloud broke Silver Studded Blues were in abundance just opposite the car park (TQ117617) with up to four being seen at any one time.



An enjoyable three days but the Large Blue photos disappointed.

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 22-Jun-10 03:44 AM GMT

### 21st June

Easy trip up the A1 and I was at Crowle Moors by 1020 hours. *The access road to the car park is rough, rough, rough!*



Apparently Bog Browns are common all over that bog but I saw them almost immediately along the track running northwest from the car park at SE759148

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Also seen at Crowle: Large Skipper, Meadow Brown (surprisingly few) and single female Brimstone. But without doubt, the most numerous butterflies were the Bog Browns.

I only managed to stay on site for two hours as the Horse flies were a real menace and they won!

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by selbypaul, 22-Jun-10 04:20 PM GMT

Was there a day earlier Jack and also got bitten by the Horse Flies!

Was quite surprised at how many Large Heath there were. I must have seen at least 20 in a very short 200m stretch and I wasn't even properly counting

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 29-Jun-10 04:56 AM GMT

#### 28th June

At 1800 hours met up with Nick Ballard at Cambridge Madingley Park&Ride in search of elusive hairstreaks. No White Letters but Nick found the Purples on the oaks just by the entrance. They stayed high and I then saw perhaps as many as six.

A lovely fresh hutchinsoni Comma kept landing on my shirt but ignored Nick entirely. Here it is at a more conventional refuelling station

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albeit in a somewhat unconventional location.

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Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by NickB, 29-Jun-10 06:51 AM GMT

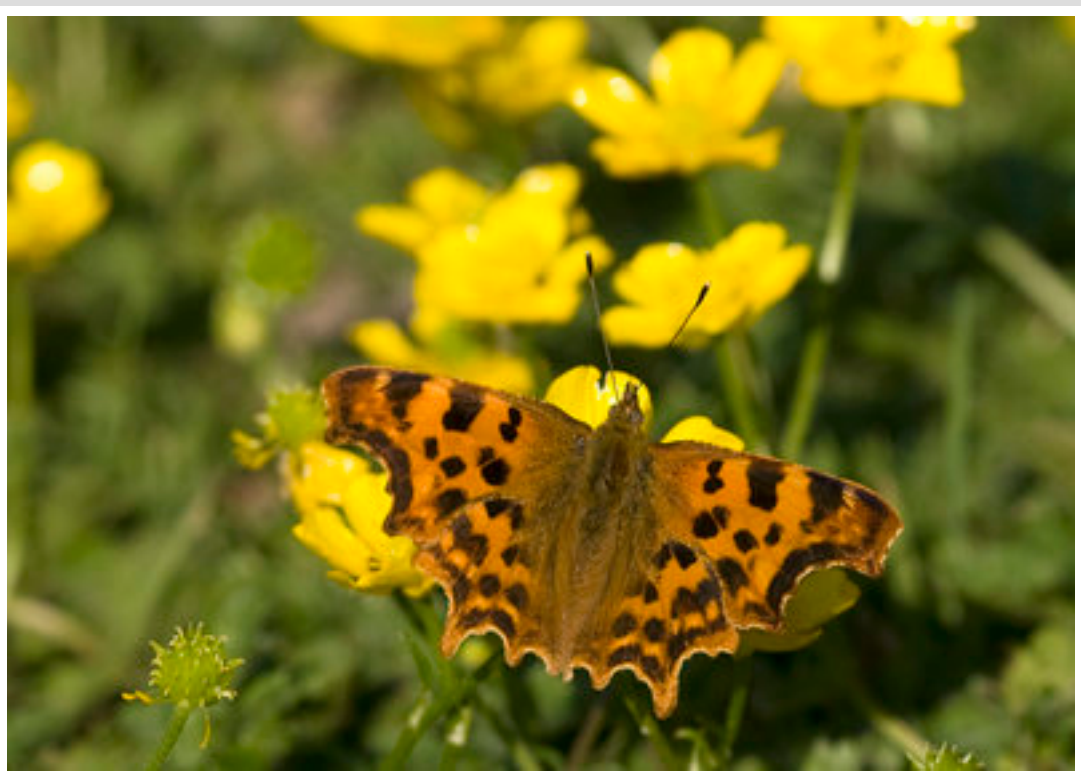
"Jack Harrison" wrote:

**28th June**

A lovely fresh hutchinsoni Comma kept landing on my shirt but ignored Nick entirely.

Jack

No comment... 😊



### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 29-Jun-10 01:42 PM GMT

I found this from "Lone Sentry" which might explain:

.... attack under the cover of smoke, with a constantly changing visibility, demands initiative and resolution ....

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by NickB, 29-Jun-10 03:51 PM GMT

...and I thought it was your sheer "animal magnetism" Jack 😊

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 30-Jun-10 11:50 PM GMT

#### Mass Hysteria East Anglia 30th June

Small woodland clearing in a remote corner of Norfolk. The crowd was excited; the atmosphere electric. This seemed to be a clandestine Training Camp; they were perfecting *The Salute*. Then someone would shout : "*Ther Tizz!*" Others would chorus "*Ther Tizz!*" It was difficult not to get caught up in the euphoria.

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But I knew better. Exciting yes, but not likely to change World History. Click on this link to reveal: [http://i888.photobucket.com/albums/ac85 ...1277909327](http://i888.photobucket.com/albums/ac85...1277909327)

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by NickB, 01-Jul-10 07:49 AM GMT

The now notorious *Twitchwell* Rally was that...?  
..nice one - yet to see one myself...

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 03-Jul-10 01:55 AM GMT

### 2nd July

I arrived at Fermyn Woods at 0830 but the (weather) front was a little more active than had been hoped - at one point while waiting, the drizzle became quite heavy. Charles played his Didgeridoo(?!). And then, being a maths teacher, Charles subjected me to some mock GCSE papers - and I thought I had gone to Fermyn to watch butterflies not to do simultaneous equations!

Several other people were equally disappointed. But patience was needed and at about 1140, the sun shone briefly. Then half an hour later, there was a longer burst of sun and Phil Bromley soon spotted an Emperor which obliged in the usual fashion by landing on the path. Photos were easy.

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*When seen in close-up, the length of the antennae always impresses.*

White Admirals however never posed for the camera even though about a dozen were seen in flight

Phil, James French (who was having his firsts taste of butterflies for some while) and I then moved on the Bedford Purlieu west of Peterborough. Phil again was "the eyes" and he soon found the target, White-letter Hairstreak high in elms with one eventually descending to feed on (rather distant) bramble. We had about half a dozen sightings of Silver Washed Fritillary but surprisingly, no sign of White Admirals here.

My year tick list now stands at 45.

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by KeynvorLogosenn, 03-Jul-10 03:38 AM GMT

Hi Jack,

Glad to see that you were able to get some lovely shots after all the pessimism about the weather!

Later in the afternoon, we – Charles included – were with a Purple Emperor which had been attracted to the paste. It sat there beautifully on the log and eventually opened its wings, what a stunning creature.

Nice to meet you and happy Butterflying,  
Em

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 05-Jul-10 04:58 PM GMT

### 4th July – Fermyn again

Arrived at 0830. Not much activity for the first hour then my goodness didn't things get going!

I had definite goals today. No more photos Purple Emperors on the ground – I already have plenty. But I wanted pictures of them on vegetation. I also targeted White Admirals.

Both species were in very good numbers, but until late morning, White Admirals insisted on pretending that they were Purple Emperors and flittered around just above the ground. One Emperor was very small and could be compared to a normal White Admiral when the two landed near each other; sizes were remarkably similar. *Both species tended to fly higher as the morning progressed although one PE was still coming down late as 1310 hours (so much for the received wisdom that they land on the ground during the first part of the morning).*

Richard Mitchell and I wandered to Souther Wood (incorrectly called Lady Wood in earlier version of this diary) and were rewarded with plenty of PEs, some obligingly landing on bushes at head height. One took a great liking to a pair of trousers; the wearer was able to take pictures.



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I got my "foliage" shots.



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We then set off to return to the car park at the northern end of the wood (opposite the gliding club). Stupidly, neither of us had adequate maps – I knew the wood so didn't need one! We somehow took a wrong turning and it was a while before we realised our error. But as the general direction required was north, with the sun a useful compass, it was an easy matter to regain our route by following one of the generally northerly tracks through the wood. Wrong strategy! Every "short cut" turned out to be a dead end. Finally, we gave up and back-tracked completely. I was now getting pretty tired and at one point, I got a twinge of cramp in a calf muscle. We met some ramblers who had a map. We were pretty well where we thought we were and within 20 minutes were back in Fermyn Wood.

We then heard the news of a PE form *iole* and two WA *obliteratae* had been seen. I was too tired by now to go back to Souther Wood for the *iole*.

One nice sighting was a Marbled White, a species I had not before seen in Fermyn although with the recent expansion of range, it was only a matter of time.

On arrival back home, found that my Internet Service Provider was having an "outage" that lasted almost 0900 on Monday.

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 07-Jul-10 01:14 AM GMT

### 6th July

I had considered the long trek north to Arnside but decided that accommodation cost (pay by room rather than by person) could not be justified. Next year my wife Suzie will have finished the intense study for her Master's degree and should have some free time when it will be worthwhile for us to go together. The aim then will be for Suzie to learn to distinguish Dark Green and High Brown Fritillaries

So today it was a shortish trip to Bedford Purlieus to west of Peterborough. I soon saw White Admiral



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and Silver Washed Fritillaries although the SWFs were careering around madly and never stopped for more than a millisecond. I managed only some long-range shots.



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Eagle-eyed Phil Bromley arrived. Phil can spot a White-letter Hairstreak end-on at 50 metres range on a distant bramble. I have to confess that I only found one hairstreak myself during my entire time in Bedford Purlieus today and that was high up above the trees. So many thanks Phil for the loan of your superb eyesight/fieldcraft.



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I returned home in time to watch on TV a group of men having a leisurely bike ride around France. These guys get paid to ride bikes (by foolish people like me who subscribe to Sky Sports) but they seemed to keep falling off or getting punctures resulting from riding on totally unsuitable roads. This evening I will watch grown men in brightly coloured clothes kick a ball about – I ask you!

I saw no butterflies on the TV today but often the odd white puts in an appearance.

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Lee Hurrell, 07-Jul-10 05:07 AM GMT

I remember that White Letter Hairstreak giving a star turn at Wimbledon last year...

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 09-Jul-10 01:33 AM GMT

### 8th July – How do you deal with the problem of wind?

Shaking flower perches are not only difficult to focus on but result in blur unless flash is used – which then has an unnatural appearance. Ah well!

Devil's Dyke northwest from B1102 (Swaffham Prior – Burwell) and Burwell Cutting turned up 100+ Chalkhill Blue



but bizarrely only two Gatekeepers, my first of the year, very late indeed.

Ringlets seem to be having a good season everywhere. This fellow sensibly stayed out of the sun.



Closing in on the target of 50 species for the year; now on 47 with three easy ones to come, Essex and Silver Spotted Skippers, Grayling. Might even get the Essex and Grayling tomorrow when I plan to go to a Breckland site (Cavenham).

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Michaeljf, 09-Jul-10 03:41 PM GMT

Hi Jack,

I've been reading (and viewing your blog) and I have to say your photos are fantastic – all superb quality. Do you mind me picking your brain? 😊 While I realise that a lot of the work is not so obvious (i.e. time spent waiting, failed visits, driving up and down the country, right time of year/day/weather and knowledge about sites), but there is a lot of detail in there. Are you always using a tripod? What sort of length macro-lens are you using, and with a shot like the Black Hairstreak on the previous page (a real standout in my opinion) did you use a different lens to get so close, or another attachment? Do you use flash or natural light? Are you using a mid-aperture (say, F11) or is the fine detail a result of the tripod/focusing/macro technique? I can't guarantee I'll change my way of photographing butterflies as a result but I'd be intrigued. I currently use tripod only for landscape photography (panoramics) and I enjoy a break from lugging that around 😊

Michael

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 10-Jul-10 01:36 AM GMT

### 9th July

Cavenham Heath in Breckland just to the southeast of Barton Mills (that's on the A11 London to Norwich road) is a good spot for Essex Skippers and occasionally Graylings are reported. I went there today in scorching heat but no sign of the target species.



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Butterflies were in much smaller numbers than usual. The drought is clearly taking its toll even in this area noted for its low rainfall. Grass feeding species seem to be suffering most. Meadow Browns are having a poor year; Cavenham was no exception today. I saw only two Gatekeepers and Small Skippers, normally abundant here, were in much lower numbers than usual.



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About a dozen freshly emerged Small Coppers were seen – Cavenham Heath is a very good locality for them – so the small numbers seen to today suggest it's early days for the summer brood. They loved the Ragwort flowers.



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Small Heaths are rarely observed taking nectar. But the delightful Viper's Bugloss proved irresistible.

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A Forester Moth was my first sighting of the species.

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Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 10-Jul-10 02:12 AM GMT

Michael was very flattering:

I've been reading (and viewing your blog).....Do you mind me picking your brain? ....Michael

I use a bridge camera, the Panasonic Lumix FZ38. It's a compromise. I wouldn't dispute the fact that big DSLRs give the ultimate in image quality but the cost and bulk (weight) of DSLR gear is not to everyone's liking. I simply couldn't cope with a big DSLR at my age and fitness level even though I might wish I could. Hence the compromise. A bridge camera is significantly cheaper and the quality of the results, while not quite DSLR standards, isn't that much worse - and all for a fraction of the cost.

I never use a tripod although will sometimes use flash so that a very short flash duration can freeze the movement of a shaking flower head in a breeze. The camera's in-built imager stabilisation copes with any photographer-induced shake admirably.

Bridge (and compact cameras) have very small sensors in comparison with DSLRs. That is the main reason that image quality can never match the best from a big-sensor camera. Life gets complicated over appropriate F stops. Small-sensor cameras run into problems with diffraction at very small apertures. I use mine at F5.6 most of the time.

I often use a supplementary lens, a +2 dioptre achromatic picked up from e-bay for £3 plus a few quid for the necessary adaptor rings. I do recommend achromatic lenses (Google if unsure) as giving far better results than simple close-up lenses.

The FZ38 can be bought new for £220. If I drop it and break it, sure I will be upset. But if I had a DSLR costing five times as much and dropped that, I would be in tears. Moreover, at £220 I can just about afford the latest model every couple of years or so.

Finally, in reply to your query about travelling. I have an economical Peugeot 107. Between mid-September last year when I bought it and mid-April this, I did all of 1,400 miles. In the following three months I have done over 4,500. Mileage will tail off abruptly after the butterfly season and I will probably finish up with an annual total of less than 10,000. I am in the fortunate position of being retired so can pick and chose my days out. I have a good grasp of the weather (I was once a part-time forecaster) so although of course I sometimes get it wrong, I can plan to avoid the really miserable days.

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Michaeljf, 10-Jul-10 03:19 AM GMT

"Jack Harrison" wrote:

I wouldn't dispute the fact that big DSLRs give the ultimate in image quality

Jack,  
thanks for that - and also for the detail given - the bottom line is that you have to judge from the results, as already commented, if you can get a shot like the Black Hairstreak on the previous page then that's the proof. The landscape shots you're getting have a nice look too. I was suprised to find you weren't using a DSLR. Interesting about the Image-stabilizer working so effectively. The fact that the camera has a small sensor may even be of benefit - i.e. the large size sensors on the more 'pricey' DSLR's are great for wide-angle landscape shots but the medium cost DSLR's (i.e. £500-£700) are often better for wildlife shots. A smaller 1.6 sensor turns a 100mm macro into a 130mm

macro or a 500mm lens into an equivalent 630mm lens without paying a higher price (or thereabouts – maths was never my strong point). It may be that only on the printed page (as opposed to a website) that you'd only start to see a drop in the quality between your images and a good DSLR image, all things being equal (which they never are!) 🙄

As well as a couple of DSLR Canon's I also take an all-in-one camera for bigger trips (Panasonic Lumix DMC-TZ65) and it can give great results, and again, gives you the option of several formats and lenses in one (and quick to use). I am sometimes wary of anyone saying you must buy 'bigger and better' and more expensive – we can all be blinded by more expensive equipment. Medium format-camera users will look down at us poor standard DSLR users, and Large-format camera users will look down on the medium format-camera users (it reminds me of the old 'I know my place' sketch <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w0DUsgSMwZY>)

The bottom line is, keep taking the photos and letting us see them! 😊

Glad to see you are using your weather forecasting skills, I may well be asking you for tips on which direction of the country to go on a daily basis 🙄 😊

Thanks again,

Michael

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 10-Jul-10 09:36 PM GMT

10th July

I decided to explore the local meadows before the heat built up and was out by 0830 hours. And didn't that pay off 😊

Meadow Brown numbers were better than recently – I guess they are just emerging late this year. Only two Gatekeepers seen so they too are late. Marbled Whites in this newly established colony disappointed with just half a dozen seen although I explored only a small part of the habitat.



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Don't they always do that!



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A Comma *hutchinsoni* showed its pale underside very well.

I walked along the edge of a small wood checking for White Letter Hairstreaks which must surely occur here, although I've never seen one. A mere 200 metres from my house: "There's a nice Silver Washed Fritillary", it looked perfectly at home on a large clump of bramble. And then the penny dropped: "Bl—dy Hell, a Silver Washed!" They just don't occur in this area of South Cambridgeshire (or so I had thought). She was ideally placed for the camera. I doubt that it will breed here as it is too overgrown at the base of the trees for violets (larval food plant) to thrive although they do occur in abundance some 400 metres away. I was nostalgically taken back to another hot summer, 1947 (yes 1947) when I caught a vagrant Silver Washed Fritillary in my garden in Great Yarmouth on the Norfolk coast; I still have the battered specimen with a pin stuck through it.



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Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Trev Sawyer, 10-Jul-10 09:59 PM GMT

Well done Jack...

A frit of any kind in Cambridgeshire is a real red-letter day I reckon. Maybe Susie DID send some up here as requested ;o)

Trev

### Re: Jack Harrison

by NickB, 15-Jul-10 10:23 PM GMT

Hi Jack - There are plenty of sites with violets around S. Cambs (Harlston woods, Barrington etc) along the chalk ridges and where woodlands grow on the clay-capping over the chalk, so it SHOULD have some breeding opportunities. It may be that they DO occur in low densities across the county - they just don't get recorded often...it is also true that they must be the most wide-ranging of all the Frits so these may equally have travelled-in from some distance...

Either way, nice one Jack!

N

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Matsukaze, 16-Jul-10 03:32 AM GMT

Could it be that the fritillaries have just arrived in the area? The species did make a decent-sized jump eastwards during the last sunny summer.

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 20-Jul-10 02:31 AM GMT

#### 19th July Holme Dunes NNR

My self-produced weather forecast for a fine summer's day was of course correct 😊.

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*Yes I know I break all the photographic conventions by having the horizon bang in the middle but it seems to work this time - the sky was too delightful to be relegated to second place.*

Holme is just east of Hunstanton in northwest Norfolk. I was hoping to see Graylings at this reliable site. I found just three. The only photograph I managed was of a damaged butterfly (note the missing bit of wing),

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I suspect it is still early in the season for Graylings in North Norfolk. But it certainly wasn't early for Dark Green Fritillaries; I saw just one and that was incredibly torn and battered.

Quite the most abundant species was Gatekeeper so I concentrated on taking some "non-standard" pictures

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Other species included Small Copper - this one form *caeruleopunctata*.

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Brown Argus, Common Blue, Small Skipper (checked carefully, but no Essex found) and Humming Bird Hawkmoth

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Holme is a lovely spot. But I did warn my wife that if I didn't return this evening, she should send out the search party to look for my car that might be hiding in one of portholes on the access track.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Lee Hurrell, 20-Jul-10 08:56 PM GMT

Where does convention say the horizon should be Jack?

And rules are made to be broken 😊

Cheers

Lee

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 20-Jul-10 09:13 PM GMT

Standard rule of thirds.

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Charles Nicol, 20-Jul-10 09:25 PM GMT

thirds, schmirds

you know when you have taken a good pic !!

Charles



## Re: Jack Harrison

by Lee Hurrell, 20-Jul-10 10:02 PM GMT

It was a good pic too.

LH

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 22-Jul-10 08:59 PM GMT

22nd July

The weather forecast gave showers; these duly materialised. So I stayed at home and cleaned the car before the rain arrived.

I nearly had a nasty accident today while vacuuming the inside of the car. Butterflies were a continual distraction including this Holly Blue.



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During one such distraction, I dropped the vacuum. The pipe attached itself to the inside of my shorts. Just imagine if it had attached itself a few centimetres away!

How could I possibly have explained the resulting injury at A & E?

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Lee Hurrell, 22-Jul-10 09:35 PM GMT

"I was vacuuming the car, became distracted and *fell* onto the appliance, which is how you find me. Honest."

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Neil Hulme, 22-Jul-10 09:56 PM GMT

"Nurse, the vacuum made amorous advances towards me. A man of my age should've known better, but I was 'drawn in'". 🤪  
Neil

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Piers, 22-Jul-10 11:00 PM GMT

**"Jack Harrison" wrote:**

During one such distraction, I dropped the vacuum. The pipe attached itself to the inside of my shorts.

Jack, this already sounds like the excuse..!!!  
Come on, you can tell us; What were you actually doing...? 😂

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 22-Jul-10 11:24 PM GMT

Jack, this already sounds like the excuse..!!!  
Come on, you can tell us; What were you actually doing...?

That's pretty much what my wife said: *"You don't really expect me to believe that!"*

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Zonda, 23-Jul-10 01:52 AM GMT

I can see a Sun newspaper headline in my head. "Butterfly man's Teapot Impression goes Wrong". 😊

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 23-Jul-10 03:52 AM GMT

I've had a look at the vacuum cleaner. I needn't have worried - the diameter of the pipe is far too small.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Charles Nicol, 23-Jul-10 04:04 AM GMT

Naturalist abhors a vacuum ...

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Trev Sawyer, 23-Jul-10 05:21 AM GMT

😂😂 Nice one Charles, but should it not have been "*Naturalist abhors a vacuum*"? 😊

Trev

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Zonda, 23-Jul-10 02:26 PM GMT

I've had a look at the vacuum cleaner. I needn't have worried - the diameter of the pipe is far too small.

LOL We were all convinced that quip was coming,,, sooner or later. 😂😂



## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 24-Jul-10 01:04 AM GMT

23rd July

It was a case of *"Shall I, shan't I?"* The weather was turning out to be the poor end of the range of possibilities. At 1015, the sun appeared so I decided to go to Bald Hill, Aston Rowant NNR. SU724959

The M25 was a nightmare and the weather took a turn for the worse. Still, nothing ventured....I carried on.

I soon found the target, Silver-spotted Skippers, the southwest facing slope of Bald Hill being the most productive.



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But in the cloudy conditions, the six or eight SSSkippers I found all basked to gain what warmth was available. I was able to photograph with wings splayed in typical skipper fashion but I failed to get an underside shot.



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Pictures show both male above and female below.



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Like all skippers SSSkippers are real devils to follow and are very easily lost to sight when they fly off while trying to take photos. I have found with many butterflies and skippers in particular, a second pair of eyes is extremely useful, ie photographers hunting in pairs.

That's my fiftieth species for 2010, a target set at the beginning of the season but only once before reached - and that was way back in 1976.

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Pete Eeles, 24-Jul-10 01:17 AM GMT

"Jack Harrison" wrote:

It was a case of *"Shall I, shan't I?"*

Shall - always! What else are you going to do? I've only once regretted going out - and it wasn't when I broke my 150mm macro lens!

"Jack Harrison" wrote:

That's my fiftieth species for 2010, a target set at the beginning of the season but only once before reached - and that was

way back in 1976.

Congrats Jack – that's truly awesome!

Cheers,

– Pete

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Padfield, 24-Jul-10 01:29 AM GMT

Congratulations, Jack! 😊

Like Pete, I've only once regretted going out. If in doubt, the answer has to be, 'I shall!'

Guy

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 24-Jul-10 02:50 PM GMT

#### Micro Fame at last

I now feature on the Great Chishill (pop circa 600) website. Wow!

<http://www.greatchishill.org.uk/>

Phil, the new webmaster, has produced an excellent website compared with some other village sites I have seen. But he is a professional.

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Piers, 24-Jul-10 05:03 PM GMT

Nice one Jack, anything that raises awareness is always worthwhile. Could you have included a link to your local BC branch?

From tiny acorns...

Felix.

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 27-Jul-10 11:33 PM GMT

Eh, yes 🙄 27th July

We have a team of cleaners every second Tuesday – Poles, Latvians, Hungarians and other assorted East Europeans. One Polish girl has a *useful* command of English (almost too useful). She tells me that she has an English boyfriend who has helped with her language skills.

As she was about to leave, I asked if she was scared of spiders. Not at all. (but one girl was!)



Then I showed her this hoverfly picture and pointed out the real things (less than a centimetre long).

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Her boyfriend is obviously an extremely good tutor in the English language:  
"Funny bugger isn't it?" was her reaction.

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Piers, 28-Jul-10 02:26 AM GMT

"Jack Harrison" wrote:

"Funny bugger isn't it?"

I worked for a time with a couple of very capable Easter Europeans, and was forever impressed with their command of English; to the extent that one can forgive the slight slip-ups, just like this example from your young lady Jack. Of course in this instance the correct sentence should have been "Funny bugger aren't you?" 😊

Felix.

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Padfield, 28-Jul-10 02:38 AM GMT

If someone who watches birds is a birder and someone who watches butterflies is a butterflyer then I guess someone who watches bugs is a bugger.

Guy

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Piers, 28-Jul-10 02:41 AM GMT

"padfield" wrote:

I guess someone who watches bugs is a bugger.

The it would follow that the act of watching bugs is...?

oh dear.

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Padfield, 28-Jul-10 04:54 AM GMT

Bugging, Felix. Bugging. I mean, there's no such thing as birdery, is there? 😊

Guy

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 29-Jul-10 02:00 AM GMT

28th July - long distance to ....

.... Lindrick Common west of Worksop, specifically for the introduced/released Scotch Argus. I have seen them before in their real habitats in Scotland where they can be common roadside butterflies. I saw five or six today, all looking worn.

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I was told by another photographer that in addition to Scotch Argus (five or six seen today), Dark Green Fritillary (three today), Marbled White (three today) and Silver Studded Blue (none today) are all down to releases of surplus stock by a "butterfly breeder in Worksop". The Tropical Butterfly House (not mentioned by my contact and I didn't find out about Butterfly House until after I got back home today) is close to Lindrick. I am not putting two and two together however tempting. The photographer also told me that the Marsh Fritillaries at Chambers Farm Wood near Lincoln (now seemingly a self-sustaining colony) have been shown from DNA sampling to be of Continental origin.

Lindrick Common. Lindrick Zoo is more appropriate.

On the return, I diverted for a brief visit to Barnack Hills and Holes near Stamford. Countless Chalkhill Blues, several spilling over on the adjacent roadside verge plus all the usual. Essex Skipper positively identified from a (poor) photo.

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Zonda, 29-Jul-10 02:09 AM GMT

Hmmm! so it's that easy is it? I think not, but i may be wrong.

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 29-Jul-10 02:31 AM GMT

Zonda:

Hmmm! so it's that easy is it? I think not, but i may be wrong.

I'm being dim – not with you.

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 29-Jul-10 04:45 AM GMT

As a diversion today from being a Butterflyer I had a go at being a Bugger (see comments earlier in this thread).

This Shield Bug at Lindrick is a ..... what?

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Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by millerd, 29-Jul-10 09:05 PM GMT

Jack,

I think this lovely beastie is a Common Green Shield Bug (*Palomena prasina*). There's a (less good) picture of one in my Collins Complete Mediterranean Wildlife – though I would take the "complete" bit with a pinch of salt, as this is a medium sized paperback with everything from ants to trees to fish to hedgehogs in it.

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 29-Jul-10 11:09 PM GMT

**29th July**

Thanks Dave for the Common Green Shield Bug i/d. By the way that i/d poser I set a week or two ago was the antennae of a Small Copper not WLH as you suggested.

Another Shield Bug today found on an indoor window ledge! I've seen it before but can't put a name to it.



We have house painters working today. This proliferation of Marmalade Hover Flies intrigued Jed.



This larger one (hoverfly?) with the black and white stripes has not been identified.



Jed was fascinated by Humming Bird Hawkmoth (*what an impossible insect to photograph!*)

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He tells me that he will look up HBHawk when he gets home and explain to daughter. Maybe two new Lepidopterists in the making? And he now knows the name of this common butterfly.

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Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by millerd, 30-Jul-10 01:04 AM GMT

Jack,

It's the Oxford Book of Insects this time... According to this learned work (pocket-sized), the other bug is a Parent Bug (*Elasmucha grisea*) and the big stripy hoverfly could be a *Scaeva pyrastris*, unchristened with a common name.

I had no idea the other hoverflies had such an evocative name!

Dave

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 30-Jul-10 01:26 AM GMT

Dave wrote:

... *Scaeva pyrastris*, unchristened with a common name....

OK, henceforth know as the Atheist Hoverfly.

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by millerd, 30-Jul-10 01:38 AM GMT

Definitely not a Confirmed i/d then...

Dave

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 30-Jul-10 02:13 AM GMT

Maybe Atheist Hoverfly isn't such a daft name after all. After all, there are moths called Quaker, Conformist, Nonconformist, Hebrew Character. It's somewhat discriminatory not to give non-believers their own insect.

I'm sure that biologist Professor Richard Dawkins would be delighted to perform the official naming ceremony.

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by millerd, 30-Jul-10 02:40 AM GMT

Would it be a form of sect-ual discrimination?

Dave

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 30-Jul-10 03:22 AM GMT

I have a busy day tomorrow (circular tour of the M25!) but at the weekend I'll write to my friend Dickie Dawkins 😊

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by selbypaul, 30-Jul-10 06:25 PM GMT

"Jack Harrison" wrote:

28th July - long distance to ....

.... Lindrick Common west of Worksop, specifically for the introduced/released Scotch Argus. I have seen them before in their real habitats in Scotland where they can be common roadside butterflies. I saw five or six today, all looking worn.



I was told by another photographer that in addition to Scotch Argus (five or six seen today), Dark Green Fritillary (three today), Marbled White (three today) and Silver Studded Blue (none today) are all down to releases of surplus stock by a "butterfly breeder in Worksop". The Tropical Butterfly House (not mentioned by my contact and I didn't find out about Butterfly House until after I got back home today) is close to Lindrick. I am not putting two and two together however tempting. The photographer also told me that the Marsh Fritillaries at Chambers Farm Wood near Lincoln (now seemingly a self-sustaining colony) have been shown from DNA sampling to be of Continental origin.

Lindrick Common. Lindrick Zoo is more appropriate.

On the return, I diverted for a brief visit to Barnack Hills and Holes near Stamford. Countless Chalkhill Blues, several spilling over on the adjacent roadside verge plus all the usual. Essex Skipper positively identified from a (poor) photo.

Jack

Hi Jack

I re-visited Lindrick myself yesterday. Saw 4 to 5 Scotch Argus, two of which looked quite fresh.

Two questions to you or anyone else out there are:

- 1) Are the Scotch Argus's at Lindrick a native sub-species, or are they a non-native sub-species?
- 2) Is it a self sustaining colony?

Clearly the habitat is quite different from the rest of their UK colonies. So if its a self sustaining colony, this would lead me to suspect they are non-native. Then again, with what you say about it being "Lindrick Zoo" it's highly likely that there are releases each year.

Paul

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Piers, 01-Aug-10 02:55 AM GMT

"selbypaul" wrote:

Two questions to you or anyone else out there are:

- 1) Are the Scotch Argus's at Lindrick a native sub-species, or are they a non-native sub-species?
- 2) Is it a self sustaining colony?

1) Ex Lakeland I believe

2) Yes

How different is the habitat to the former Yorkshire (natural) colonies at Grassington? I don't know the area I'm afraid.

I wrote something once on the forum not too long ago about the intros at this place....

Felix.

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 02-Aug-10 12:43 AM GMT

### 1st August

An e-mail from Phil Bromley prompted a change of plan. He had seen several Wall Browns at Engine Bank (Ouse Washes) near Mepal, Cambridgeshire, on Saturday. TL441822

*I had first heard about Walls being here from what was almost a casual throw-away line in a birders report last summer. I found two or three in August 2009 but Phil has now tracked down a decent sized colony.*

I joined Phil Bromley and Rosalyn Payne on Sunday morning. We were soon in luck with a male not far from the car park. But further along and down the bottom of the bank was clearly "headquarters". I saw perhaps ten including a mating pair, but the others managed about twice this number.



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Male above with extra wing bar, female below.



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Plenty of other butterflies were present including a few very fresh Painted Ladies. This is clearly a good spot for Small Coppers.



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Many of the female Green Veined Whites were very strongly marked.



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I came home early to watch the **Big Prize**\*\*\*

\*\*\* *One Monday morning some years ago, I flew into Nice on a routine service. I commented to the handling agent that there seemed to be far more aircraft parked than usual.*

*"Ah yes monsieur, we had the **Big Prize** yesterday at Monaco and lots of people flew in to watch"*

*I tried my best to explain that in English we call it a **Grand Prix**. I always refer to it nowadays as the Big Prize!*

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 02-Aug-10 02:10 AM GMT

Felis wrote:

I wrote something once on the forum not too long ago about the intros at this place....

I vaguely remember that but cannot recall the details or where to find it now.

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 05-Aug-10 01:36 AM GMT

### Monday 2nd August

I had to take my daughter to Bookham in Surrey so decided to stay in the south for a few days. So on Monday afternoon, it was Denbies Hillside. Goodness, there had been a veritable explosion of Chalkhill Blues. They were uncountable but must have numbered in excess of 1000 males. One striated aberration was seen but when I followed it with the camera, it sparred with another male. I subsequently chased the wrong one! Presumably a similar number of females but they were far less willing to fly and tended to crawl around searching for egg laying sites and were much less noticeable than the males. Indeed, when I took this picture, I hadn't even noticed the female!

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I came across this Wasp Spider and the remains of ten Chalkhill Blues (wings only) were beneath its web.

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(Possibly the butterfly on the right is a Common Blue – hard to tell).

I had hoped for plenty of Silver Spotted Skippers but only one was seen and that soon disappeared across the downs.

Tuesday 3rd August

I had arranged to meet Neil (Sussex Kipper) at a site by the River Mole near Gatwick airport where a Brown Hairstreaks had been reported. I honestly don't think I would have found them had I been on my own. Neil can spot a twitching antenna at the top of a 20 metre high tree. I suppose his eyes are much younger than mine! As many as four males were seen but none posed for me. A stick was used to pull down a twig and Neil got some superb photos; my pictures were decidedly second rate being taken from long range.

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Take note: If you want to see rare butterflies, don't be afraid to ask an expert.

We went our separate ways, he to investigate a new Wood White site nearby, I to go to the utterly reliable Botany Bay near Chiddingfold. Scores of second brood Wood Whites patrolled the rides. The courtship wing flicking is difficult to capture on camera; this is the best I could manage.

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The usual common species were seen (roosting Common Blues for example)

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and a few elderly Silver Washed Fritillaries completed the scene.

I stayed overnight again in a hotel in Henfield. There was the most appalling background music in the bar (music is an exaggeration). A male vocalist kept doing “speak -overs” in an absurdly deep voice. I suppose it was to create “mood”. Well it certainly put me in a mood. I adjourned to a nearby pub where comparative silence reigned – and it served decent enough food to boot.

### Wednesday 4th August

With heavy rain forecast (and so it turned out) I gave Steyning a miss for a further search for Brown Hairstreak and meandered my way back via Ashdown Forest where there was a brief burst of sunshine. This almost-white butterfly feeding on heather threw me completely until I got close.



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It didn't seem to be the sort of habitat to find Holly Blue. There were no late Silver-studded Blues but several Common Blues.



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I had hoped for Graylings but no luck.

The rain was intense as I drove home along the M11.

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by David M, 08-Aug-10 03:42 AM GMT

Hi Jack. You asked me about Old Castle Down the other week. Went back there today and I took some photos of the climb up to the top of the down.

Take a look and judge whether your legs can manage it 😊



*Taken from the south facing slope across the road (now this IS steep)*



*This is the routine way up. Starts off okay but gets a bit steeper near the top.*

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 09-Aug-10 03:22 AM GMT

**8th August**

Made the trek to Whitecross Green Wood where just one high flying Brown Hairstreak was seen. Then I moved to Piddington Wood where I joined Phil Bromley who had had little better luck. A decent enough total of 20 species were seen during the day.

Numbers of Common Blue were impressive. At Whitecross Green, a large proportion of females had extensive blue.

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A newly emerged Brown Argus posed well.

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Commas old and new.

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Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 14-Aug-10 12:16 AM GMT

13th August - *The Compleat (sic) Bugger*

Not ideal weather for butterflies, but the garden was fun for bug watching between the showers. This beastie is ENORMOUS being best part of 20 mms long; I've never seen one before. Two pictures of same bug. Any ideas?

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And the spider was still making his web when a hapless hover fly blundered into it. He rolled it over and over in his silk and carried it away for supper.

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Jack (FZ38 +2 diopters achromatic)

## Re: Jack Harrison

by millerd, 14-Aug-10 12:46 AM GMT

How about *Volucella zonaria* for the hoverfly?

There is a website: [hoverfly.org.uk](http://hoverfly.org.uk) which might be interested in the sighting, too.

Dave

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by robpartridge, 14-Aug-10 12:55 AM GMT

Hello Jack,

I'm a complete newcomer to this site but read your diaries as I know you record in Cambs. I just wanted to ask whether all your recent photos were taken with the Panasonic Lumix DMC FZ38 – to my, admittedly inexperienced, eye they look stunning! I could be seriously tempted!

Rob

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 14-Aug-10 01:13 AM GMT

Thanks. Yes, all on my diary this year were with the Lumix FZ38.

For the smaller insects, I add a +2 achromatic close-up lens. If there's the slightest wind, I use a diffused fill-in flash, a small plastic bottle (a moth holding pot) wrapped in translucent tape and pushed over the extended camera flash. The flash freezes any vegetation shake.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 14-Aug-10 01:27 AM GMT

Dave:

There is a website: [hoverfly.org.uk](http://hoverfly.org.uk) which might be interested in the sighting, too.

I looked at the group, registered but it seems a bit of a fag to post a simple sighting. Is that bug so unusual as to warrant a report? I'm not likely to be a regular recorder.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by robpartridge, 14-Aug-10 02:27 AM GMT

Hello again, and thanks for the extra advice. The reviews on Amazon are universally favourable, so it's looking imminent! Is the additional lens that you mention a Panasonic item or a universal thing, and generally available? As you can see, I'm not a camera buff but getting there,

Rob

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by NickB, 14-Aug-10 03:54 AM GMT

Hi

Jack is the man who manages to get what he wants by waiting and watching and trying things out; hence he "put together" his set-up from some bits he had and a bargain lens he found. I just went for the Panasonic branded achromatic (as they call it) "close-up lens" I used on my FZ50, since I knew it would work but it was more expensive... 😞

This link is what I mean....

[http://www.red-onions.co.uk/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=128789](http://www.red-onions.co.uk/product_info.php?products_id=128789)

and you would need one of these...

[http://www.red-onions.co.uk/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=128787&page=2&cPath=149\\_9714](http://www.red-onions.co.uk/product_info.php?products_id=128787&page=2&cPath=149_9714)

N

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 14-Aug-10 04:17 AM GMT

Firstly, find a Sigma achromatic (it must be achromatic for best result, simple single element lenses are inferior) close-up lens by trawling the net. It doesn't matter what diameter it is (but likely to be 52 mms). They are as scarce as Rocking Horse Sh\*t (*that's a traditional military term*). Then and only then worry about the cheap adaptors/stepping rings that will be required. ((I will give advice about that later as required). But finding then achromatic (*fully colour corrected*) lens is the challenge. I found a back-up (spare) recently for £10 so there are bargains to be had.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by robpartridge, 14-Aug-10 05:07 AM GMT

Thanks to you both. I have checked out the links, Nick, and saved them for future reference, just in case. Mostly I expect to be taking in-the-wild shots of butterflies and dragon- and damselflies, and so may not need the additional lens yet, but I am now trying to track down a rocking horse. Will let you know how I get on,

Thanks again,

Rob

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 23-Aug-10 07:44 PM GMT

### New domain

I have just added another domain (*and amazed it was available*) to the two I already had, namely: <http://www.weatherjack.co.uk> and <http://www.snapperjack.co.uk>

I blame Guy for suggesting an excellent name for someone interested in bugs 😊

This new website is just a start but you might like to look at:

<http://www.buggerjack.co.uk>

Jack (PS. Registering this domain name costs the princely sum of £3 per annum)

## Re: Jack Harrison

by NickB, 23-Aug-10 08:28 PM GMT

### "Jack Harrison" wrote:

I blame Guy for suggesting an excellent name for someone interested in bugs 😊

This new website is just a start but you might like to look at: <http://www.buggerjack.co.uk>

...h'mm that one may get caught by some parental and other "1984-style" filters, don't you think, Jack? 😊

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 23-Aug-10 09:40 PM GMT

If you want the PC way, go to snapperjack and then follow link to bugs.

But you must agree that my new domain name is memorable!

Info on domain availability

nick-the-bugger.co.uk is free

As is guy-knows-everything.eu

Sadly pete-the-bugger.co.uk is already taken but pete-the-bastard.co.uk is available

And of course:

gruditch-the-smooth.co.uk is there for the taking.

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 02-Sep-10 02:13 AM GMT

### 1st September



Very fresh Peacocks and Small Tortoiseshells on the fading buddleia.  
(for info of FZ38 users, these two were taken at ISO 200, no close-up lens and no flash)

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The Garden Spider had a fly-supper waiting for him once he had eaten the Ladybird.  
(this one with flash and close-up lens)

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 16-Nov-10 06:20 PM GMT

Sparkling but cold weather here in South Cambridgeshire but of course no butterflies. So I enjoyed the autumn colours on a walk to the adjacent village and back.

<http://www.weatherjackwx.co.uk/snapper/...n-pt2.html>

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Vince Massimo, 16-Nov-10 06:56 PM GMT

Nice photos Jack. I see you have put a question mark against the photo of the Guelder Rose berries. They are in fact Holly berries. Having said that, it's quite an unusual looking Holly. The leaves are spineless in this case and the berries look unusually translucent, which reminded me of a Guelder Rose as well. However, Guelders are deciduous and the leaves at this time of year will either have dropped or be looking very yellow and tatty.

Vince

### Re: Jack Harrison

by NickB, 16-Nov-10 07:35 PM GMT

#### "Jack Harrison" wrote:

Sparkling but cold weather here in South Cambridgeshire but of course no butterflies. So I enjoyed the autumn colours on a walk to the adjacent village and back. <http://www.weatherjackwx.co.uk/snapper/...n-pt2.html> Jack

Nice pics Jack; Not Sure #1 I think is Privet from your First series of pictures.... 😊 N

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 17-Nov-10 01:38 AM GMT

Thanks Vince, I have corrected. Yes now I think about it and see the sequence of shots, it was indeed holly. I believe that holly is only spiny low down (to deter browsers) and higher up, less spiny. The berries in the picture were not particularly high but were adjacent to a tarmac footpath at the edge of a minor road. Can that holly possibly know that deer (the most likely browsers in this area) don't normally feed beside roads?

And Nick. Thanks for the privet i/d.

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Padfield, 17-Nov-10 03:57 AM GMT

#### "Jack Harrison" wrote:

If you want the PC way, go to snapperjack and then follow link to bugs.

But you must agree that my new domain name is memorable!

Info on domain availability

[nick-the-bugger.co.uk](http://nick-the-bugger.co.uk) is free



As is guy-knows-everything.eu

Sadly pete-the-bugger.co.uk is already taken but pete-the-bastard.co.uk is available

And of course:

gruditch-the-smooth.co.uk is there for the taking.

Jack

I created my website back in 1996 and even then it was difficult to find a free domain along the lines of 'Guy's Butts'. I had to settle for guypadfield.com.

Guy

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 30-Nov-10 07:54 PM GMT

Nothing better to do with my time!

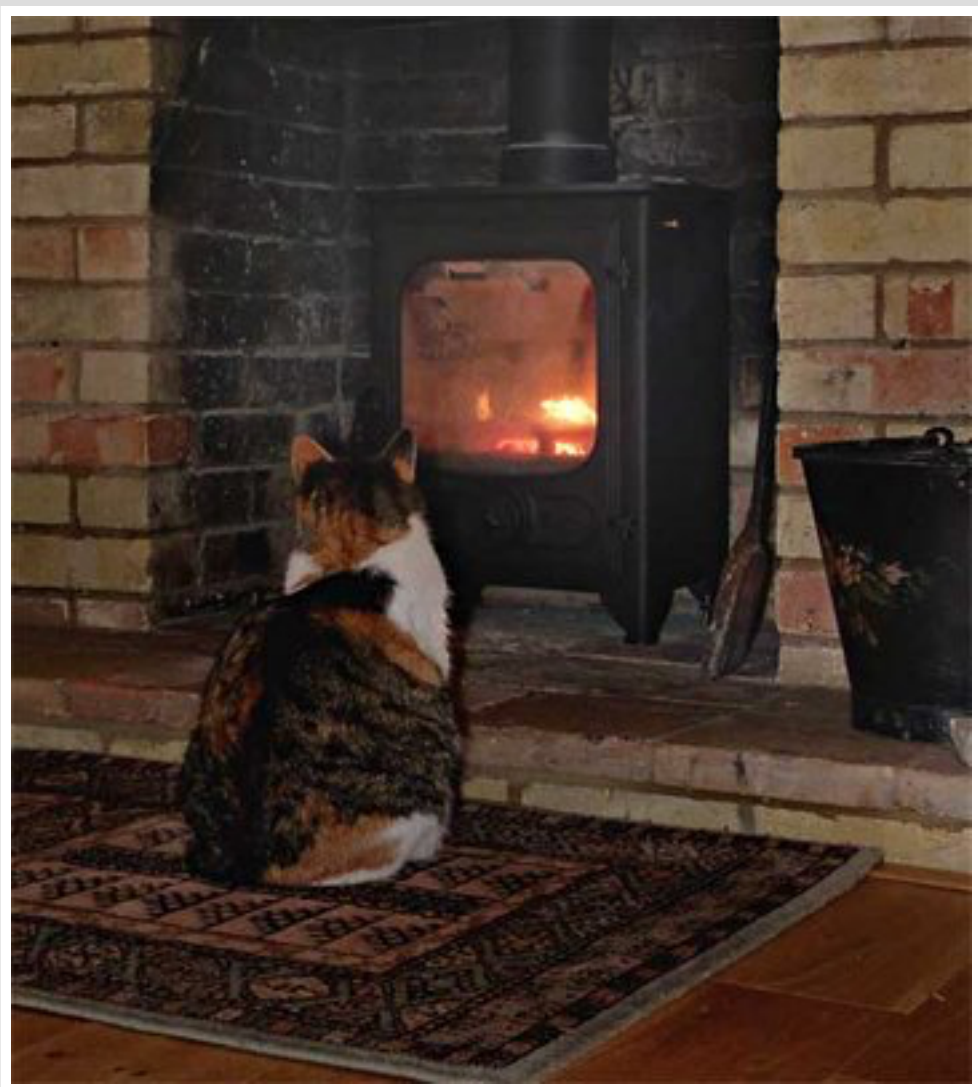
Jack



## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 06-Dec-10 01:58 AM GMT

Millie in heaven.



Jack