

Re: Susie

by Susie, 04-Jan-11 06:21 PM GMT

New year's day.

<http://www.facebook.com/v/10150115024506972>

4th January

A walk out in a forlorn hope to see the partial eclipse this morning gave me an opportunity to look for brown hairstreak eggs. I only found two, but that's a start.

I also heard waxwings and a small flock flew overhead and southwards, no chance to get a decent look at them though. Plenty of redwings, fieldfares, and other thrushes, a pair of greater spotted woodpeckers together, green woodpecker, three tree creepers, nuthatches, siskins, chaffinches, green and gold finches, etc.

Re: Susie

by Jack Harrison, 04-Jan-11 10:44 PM GMT

Not a bad list of birds Susie. I'm jealous. The cloud broke just enough here so I did see the eclipse but had seen plenty before although sadly never a total solar eclipse.

Jack

Re: Susie

by Susie, 04-Jan-11 11:53 PM GMT

Hi Jack, I managed to see a total solar a few years back. It was quite spooky as the birds went to roost and then as the sun came out again they started up the dawn chorus.

I have noticed today that the birds seem to be pairing up; the woodies this morning and then several pairs of birds (mainly great tits but also blackbirds) coming to the feeders plus there is interest in the bird boxes. The snowdrops have just broken the turf so looks like although it feels as if spring is a long way away it isn't that far off really. 😊

Re: Susie

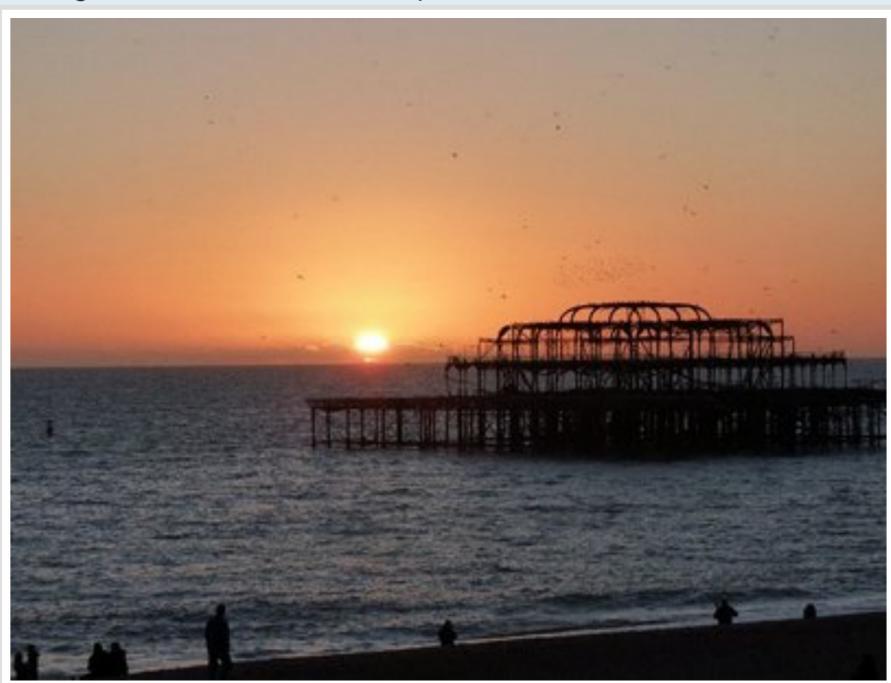
by Susie, 08-Jan-11 07:04 PM GMT

Absolutely nothing to do with butterflies, just a little (very silly) something for all the pedants from Greenwing <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VBq7CTWz4jE>

Re: Susie

by Susie, 10-Jan-11 02:55 AM GMT

I went to Brighton this afternoon with two of my girls for a little bit of shopping but mainly so I could finally see the starling murmuration. It was worth waiting for; what an awesome experience!



We went to the old pier and the sunset was gorgeous and watched a small flock of starlings swooping until they finally settled, it was beautiful as the sun went down. Then I saw there was a huge flock over the other pier! I ran hell for leather along the prom, leaving the kids to catch up later 🙄 They know their mum is a tad excentric about things like this so are cool with it. This starling murmuration was incredible and we were able to get right up close to it as they flew over, under and around us.

Re: Susie

by Padfield, 10-Jan-11 03:45 AM GMT

Ah Susie! With one post you mock us pedants and with the next you use beautiful words like 'murmuration', which we live for.

Guy

Re: Susie

by Susie, 10-Jan-11 06:53 AM GMT

Shouldn't that be "we pedants", Guy?

<http://www.facebook.com/v/10150119823801972>

Re: Susie

by Paul, 10-Jan-11 07:20 AM GMT

Oh joy.... The Green Wing... what a series tha\t was 😊

(edit) or pedantically "that"

Re: Susie

by Jack Harrison, 10-Jan-11 01:27 PM GMT

Susie:

Ah Susie! With one post you mock us pedants. *Shouldn't that be "we pedants", Guy?*

Sorry Susie, Guy was perfectly correct. The simple rule about I/me and we/us is to break down the sentence. It would have been wrong had Guy said: "With one post you mock we" but perfectly correct to. say: "with one post you mock us"

I am reminded when newsreader Anna Ford who said: "It's goodnight from Nicholas and I" and apparently the BBC was inundated with complaints. Next night she correctly said: "It's goodnight from Nicholas and me". In other words, the rule was she she couldn't say: "It's goodnight from I" but fine to say "It's goodnight from me".

Ronnie Corbett: And now, it's goodnight from me... Ronnie Barker: ...and it's goodnight from him.

Jack

Re: Susie

by Susie, 10-Jan-11 05:57 PM GMT

"Jack Harrison" wrote:

Susie:

Ah Susie! With one post you mock us pedants. *Shouldn't that be "we pedants", Guy?*

Sorry Susie, Guy was perfectly correct. The simple rule about I/me and we/us is to break down the sentence. It would have been wrong had Guy said: "With one post you mock we" but perfectly correct to. say: "with one post you mock us"

I am reminded when newsreader Anna Ford who said: "It's goodnight from Nicholas and I" and apparently the BBC was inundated with complaints. Next night she correctly said: "It's goodnight from Nicholas and me". In other words, the rule was she she couldn't say: "It's goodnight from I" but fine to say "It's goodnight from me".

Ronnie Corbett: And now, it's goodnight from me... Ronnie Barker: ...and it's goodnight from him.

Jack

I know that, Jack, me was just being silly. 😊

Green Wing was wonderful, Paul.

And finally, thanks to Pete for sorting out getting this to play for me, just a little bit of the murmuration!

<http://www.facebook.com/v/10150119823801972>

Re: Susie

by Jack Harrison, 10-Jan-11 06:19 PM GMT

I love that Starling video and the seaside noises. Was it with the FZ38?

I do know how to make a video but grind to a halt after that and don't know how to upload for others to see. Advice please.

Jack

Re: Susie

by Susie, 10-Jan-11 06:26 PM GMT

Hi Jack,

I'm a real technophobe and needed Pete's help to upload that but I'll try to help.

Yes, it was taken with the FZ38. The quality of the HD video is very good on there as you will be able to see (at least after your op 😊). Transfer the video to any internet hosting site (Facebook, Photobucket, YouTube, etc) and from there you will get a link you can paste onto any forum or email to friends.

Re: Susie

by Pete Eeles, 10-Jan-11 06:58 PM GMT

"Jack Harrison" wrote:

I do know how to make a video but grind to a halt after that and don't know how to upload for others to see. Advice please.

See [faq.php#f2r13](#)

Let me know of any problems.

Cheers,

- Pete

Re: Susie

by Jack Harrison, 10-Jan-11 07:36 PM GMT

Thanks for the tips Susie and Pete.

Jack

Re: Susie

by Susie, 10-Jan-11 09:21 PM GMT

Due to popular demand ... 😊

<http://www.facebook.com/v/10150120295731972>

Re: Susie

by Gibster, 11-Jan-11 05:36 AM GMT

WOW...when the flock wheels their wings almost sound like waves breaking on a pebble-strewn beach!!! 😊

Lovely stuff, glad to see you're into birds too.

Gibster.

PS - If ever you're close to a large Starling flock be VERY careful not to stand directly underneath...were a Peregrine to fly past, the entire flock could take off in a panic and (possibly to lose weight and therefore gain speed?) crap everywhere. And if that flock was 50,000 strong you'd *definitely* want to shed some clothing before returning to your car. Hypothetically, of course (ok, forget the hypothetically bit - hands up all those who've been as dumb as I once was...)

Re: Susie

by Susie, 11-Jan-11 05:51 AM GMT

"Gibster" wrote:

WOW...when the flock wheels their wings almost sound like waves breaking on a pebble-strewn beach!!! 😊

Lovely stuff, glad to see you're into birds too.

Gibster.

PS - If ever you're close to a large Starling flock be VERY careful not to stand directly underneath...were a Peregrine to fly past, the entire flock could take off in a panic and (possibly to lose weight and therefore gain speed?) crap everywhere. And if that flock was 50,000 strong you'd *definitely* want to shed some clothing before returning to your car. Hypothetically, of course (ok, forget the hypothetically bit - hands up all those who've

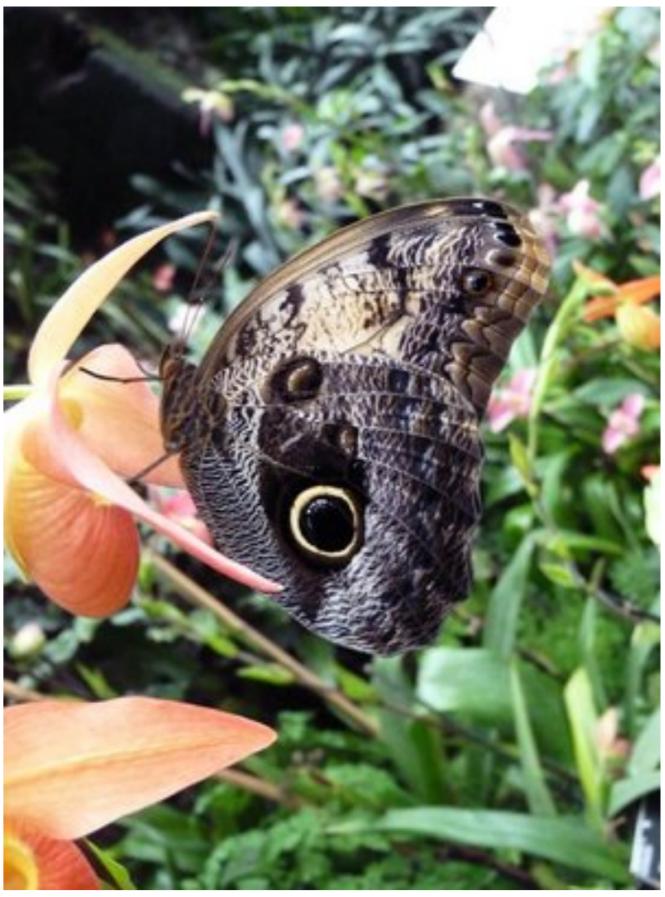
been as dumb as I once was...)

Lol. Brilliant. Thanks for the warning! 😊😄

Re: Susie

by Susie, 18-Jan-11 12:29 AM GMT

Went to see the butterflies at Wisley today and had a lovely time. It's a nice way of spending Blue Monday, although it's been nothing but happy in our household!



Happy birthday to me! 41 today and loving life 😊

Re: Susie

by Pete Eeles, 18-Jan-11 12:59 AM GMT

What a great way to spend a birthday – Happy Birthday Sooz!

Cheers,

– Pete

Re: Susie

by Jack Harrison, 18-Jan-11 01:13 AM GMT

Susie made a typo:

Happy birthday to me! 41 today and loving life 😊

It's very easy to make a silly error like that especially with the 3 being next to the 4 😊

Happy birthday.

Jack

Re: Susie

by Neil Hulme, 18-Jan-11 01:53 AM GMT

Aha, Jack you ole smoothy – excellent work 😊

And Happy Birthday Susie. I'll be doing Wisley myself in a couple of weeks time.

Neil

Re: Susie

by Susie, 18-Jan-11 02:00 AM GMT

Thanks, Pete and Kipper. 😊

And bless you, Jack. You've not had your eye operation yet, have you? 😊 x

Re: Susie

by Neil Hulme, 18-Jan-11 02:21 AM GMT

Hi Susie,
Now we've buttered you up (I've always thought this a peculiar expression), please can you send me a high resolution copy of your SWF bilateral gynandromorph (as in July 7 post) for our 2010 Annual Report – to be fully credited and printed in glorious technicolour of course 😊
Thanks, Neil

Re: Susie

by Jack Harrison, 18-Jan-11 02:33 AM GMT

Susie asked:

You've not had your eye operation yet, have you?

Yes I have. It's working a treat but still needs to stabilise for a few weeks before I can get a new prescription.

I can see in 3D for the first time in ages. I hope this will mean greater success next season when someone points out a butterfly. Hairstreaks gave me the most trouble last year. Do you think I could see that Purple feeding on bramble? And those White letters in Bedford Purlieus. Neil will recall how much I struggled to see the Brown Hairstreaks at Povey Cross that he was pointing to.

Jack

Re: Susie

by Susie, 18-Jan-11 02:40 AM GMT

Imao, I can think of many replies to being buttered up but none suitable for a family forum! However, no butter required for a copy of that photograph which will be winging it's way to you as soon as I get on the main computer.

I'm so pleased your operation has been successful, Jack. It would be great, if you visit this part of the world this summer, to meet you after all these years. Good luck with spotting those hairstreaks!

Re: Susie

by Vince Massimo, 18-Jan-11 09:42 AM GMT

Belated birthday greetings Susie, looks like you had a good day 😊 .

Vince

Re: Susie

by Lee Hurrell, 18-Jan-11 05:08 PM GMT

Happy Birthday for yesterday Susie! What a lovely way to spend the day.

Like Neil I'll be going to Wisley too over the next few weeks.

All the best for 2011,

Lee

Re: Susie

by Susie, 18-Jan-11 11:49 PM GMT

Many thanks, Vince and Lee. I had a lovely day at Wisley and hope you do too. I hope to pop back there shortly on my own so I can get some decent pics.

Today I went a'hairstreak-huntin'. Spurred on by the challenge of getting the most northerly brown hairstreak egg I got out the map and headed up the A24 to the Sussex border path north of Kingsfold. The first field to the west of the path looked like it would have been very suitable but the blackthorn had been threshed to within an inch of its life. I gave the hedge a look and there was an egg on a lichen covered spur just a centimetre long! Result. 🍷 I then crossed to the other side of the road and checked along the path as far down as the railway track and despite the habitat looking perfect didn't find a thing. Still, that one egg is another tetrad ticked off 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 19-Jan-11 02:55 AM GMT

I had a bit of a sort through some of my photos from last year this afternoon. Here's a couple to lighten a dark evening.



Re: Susie

by ChrisC, 19-Jan-11 04:13 AM GMT

lovely shots Susie. i'd have them both up on the wall.

Chris

Re: Susie

by Susie, 19-Jan-11 05:16 AM GMT

Thank you. 😊 I'm rather pleased with the first one and might even get it printed off, can't believe I missed them in all the other photos I took last year.

Re: Susie

by Paul Wetton, 19-Jan-11 08:13 AM GMT

Lovely shots Susie and a Happy belated Birthday, now we're back in the sensible world away from high heels in the highlands.

Re: Susie

by Lee Hurrell, 19-Jan-11 10:10 PM GMT

Hi Susie,

I LOVE the chalk hill photo – superb!

Cheers

Lee

Re: Susie

by Susie, 20-Jan-11 03:26 AM GMT

Thanks Paul and Lee. 😊 I'm really pleased with that photo but now I am on a different computer it appears really over satuated so I am going to have to adjust it. I think my photos are improving. Can't wait to get out there this coming year and practice a bit more! 😊

Re: Susie



Re: Susie

by Susie, 06-Feb-11 01:12 AM GMT

Springs around the corner. Snowdrops, aconites, primroses, crocus, cyclamen, christmas box, shrubby honeysuckle and single dandelion flower and a knautia flower are blooming in the garden. The pond looks churned up so I think the frogs are back and getting upto mischief. 😊

I've searched a few places for brown hairstreak eggs recently but not found anything. I've also looked along the downs link in Cranleigh but the section I have searched has no mature blackthorn. I'll venture further afield when the weather improves more.

Re: Susie

by Gibster, 06-Feb-11 04:25 AM GMT

Heading towards Cranleigh, you say? This is an excerpt from BC's Black Hairstreak BAP (1998) so keep your eyes open...things "lost" have a habit of being "found" if enough effort is put in – no disrespect to those who've already looked!!!

"There was also a well-known introduction to a Surrey woodland in 1952, near Cranleigh, outside the historical range of the species. This survived as a small colony before the wood was destroyed in 1960. However, the butterfly must have spread because fifteen years later in 1975 a colony was found in a wood 1½ km away from the original release site and soon spread into adjoining areas to become the largest known colony in the country. A detailed survey then found 5 colonies in the area but these have subsequently died out as the habitats have been lost through afforestation, the clearance of overgrown hedges and agricultural improvement (Thomas & Lewington, 1991; Collins, 1995). Until very recently, a colony survived on a nearby abandoned railway line but the butterfly has not been seen here for the last 2 years (G. Jeffcoate, pers. comm.)"

Gibster (currently having luck finding Brown Hairstreak eggs in Surrey – but not a darn whiff of WLH 😞)

Re: Susie

by Susie, 06-Feb-11 04:32 AM GMT

I should have separated those two sentences. I have been looking for brown hairstreak eggs, but not in Cranleigh, in Sussex. I've been looking for mature blackthorn in Cranleigh. Fortunately you seemed to understand what I meant, Gibster. 😊 The mature blackthorn I've been looking for is so I am able to look for black hairstreak in the summer.

There is also a patch of young elm just adjacent to Sainsbury's carpark on the downs link at Cranleigh. Could be a good place for WLH but I've not seen an adult there and can't get close enough when wearing work clothes to search for eggs.

I had a good view of waxwings which were eating berries on trees just outside the office window on Thursday afternoon. Made my day. 🍓

Talking of birds, I stopped off to watch the deer at the deer park this afternoon and right in the middle of the herd was a buzzard, sitting on the ground and being stared out by a crow. When the buzzard finally took off the crows mobbed it mercilessly.

Re: Susie

by Gibster, 06-Feb-11 05:02 AM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

The mature blackthorn I've been looking for is so I am able to look for black hairstreak in the summer.

Hmmm...I think my girlfriend was hoping to be the one to refind Black Hairstreaks in Surrey this year. Could this be a Declaration of War? The Sussex Lady vs the Surrey Lass? 😊 To be fair, we've a rather hectic summer planned, so you'll *probably* have the blackthorn to yourself. The eggs are probably easiest to locate right about now though...

"Susie" wrote:

Could be a good place for WLH but I've not seen an adult there and can't get close enough when wearing work clothes to search for eggs.

Not an astronaut are you? Or one of those folk who wear big floppy Disney character outfits in theme parks? 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 06-Feb-11 05:12 AM GMT

I read the eggs are really hard to see, even if you're an expert, and one of them I ain't! I think you're good lady stands a far better chance than I of taking the title.

No, I'm a burlesque dancer. Those brambles play havoc with my fishnets and feathers get in a most terrible state. 😊

Re: Susie

by Rogerdodge, 06-Feb-11 05:21 AM GMT

No, I'm a burlesque dancer. Those brambles play havoc with my fishnets and feathers get in a most terrible state.

Phew – I need to go for a little lie down now..... 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 06-Feb-11 05:35 AM GMT

Obviously I was joking I am an astronaut really ...

Re: Susie

by Matsukaze, 06-Feb-11 06:18 PM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

...

There is also a patch of young elm just adjacent to Sainsbury's carpark on the downs link at Cranleigh. Could be a good place for WLH but I've not seen an adult there and can't get close enough when wearing work clothes to search for eggs.

....

Hi Susie,

You might stand a good chance of seeing the adults there one bright and still morning before work in the second half of June or early July. The males will spiral upwards chasing each other like little purple emperors from the local high point.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 07-Feb-11 08:48 PM GMT

Thanks, Matsukaze, I'll try that. 😊

A walk today over my local patch lifted my spirits, as always. Despite the gloom and drizzle the birds were singing and the flowers just starting to come out.

Wild primroses on High Wood.

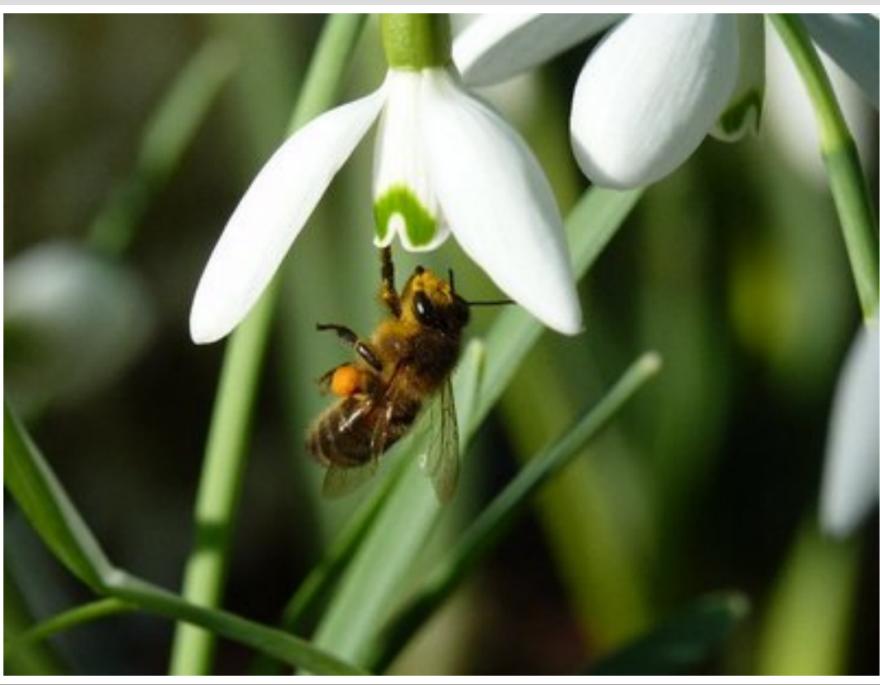


It also gave me a chance to test out my new macro lense.



Re: Susie

by Susie, 10-Feb-11 03:30 AM GMT



I was so thrilled to watch this honeybee on the snowdrops at the garden centre yesterday that I bought a load to supplement the ones in the garden. There was a real feel of spring in the air. It also gave me a chance to practice with my new macro lense.

Edit: Just been out in the garden as it is such a mild night. A dozen or so frogs hopped into the pond as I approached 😊. I tried to get a picture of Mrs False Widow as she is getting really big now (abdomen around the size of a 5p coin – surely getting towards the end of her life span?) but no luck. We got the halogen lamps set up but she didn't like the light and went into her tunnel in the brickwork. She seems to have been excavating as there are now two holes rather than just one and there seems much more motal missing, although none of it is cracked so I shouldn't have thought it would have fallen out naturally.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 13-Feb-11 06:08 AM GMT

Yesterday a very kind gentleman that I don't know left a CD of his butterfly photographs at work for me, and they are really lovely. Don't suppose he reads this but if he does ... Thank You! 😊

Re: Susie

by Jack Harrison, 13-Feb-11 08:46 AM GMT

Yesterday a very kind gentleman that I don't know left a CD of his butterfly photographs at work for me

That's a new one. I used to offer to show my etchings.

Jack

Re: Susie

by Susie, 13-Feb-11 08:12 PM GMT

Did it work, Jack? 😊

Following on from the Coca Cola ad in the Ribena thread I found this very entertaining. It's beetles though, not butterflies (I love the sound of the dragonfly's wings). I wonder if it is the same company making all these ads.

<http://www.youtube.com/blackbeetle>

Re: Susie

by Jack Harrison, 13-Feb-11 08:23 PM GMT

Did it work, Jack? 😊

Huh. But it does remind me of the advert:

"For sale. Wedding Dress Size 8. Worn once in error"

Jack

Re: Susie

by Susie, 15-Feb-11 04:50 AM GMT

I don't usually follow blogs but I find this chap's blog very interesting. I'm not sure where I stand on pan-listing though so have found the latest item quite interesting.

Re: Susie

by Neil Hulme, 15-Feb-11 05:18 AM GMT

Hi Susie,
Graeme Lyons is our guest speaker at the BC Sussex Spring Social – alongside Sgt Blencowe and me 😊.
See you there!
Neil

Re: Susie

by Susie, 15-Feb-11 05:19 PM GMT

Well I didn't know that! I shall look forward to going even more now 😊

Re: Susie

by Gibster, 17-Feb-11 03:49 AM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

I'm not sure where I stand on pan-listing though so have found the latest item quite interesting.

Do it! Pan-species listing is brilliant! If nothing else it keeps you fully motivated to check **any** aspect of natural history you care to look at.

A chap called Mark Telfer brought pan-species listing into the limelight just a few weeks ago via this Birdguides article <http://www.birdguides.com/webzine/article.asp?a=2533>. His personal website is <http://www.markgtelfer.co.uk>

Thanks to Mark's article my life has been in turmoil these past couple of weeks, frantically sorting out my lists. I'm over 2200 so far and still to sort out the fungi and a few odds and sods. Seriously, it's completely reopened my eyes to orders I've mostly ignored over the past few years. I've finally found the motivation to dig out that Key to the Adult Lacewings book I've got hidden away somewhere. I'm keen to learn again!

Plus I like the idea of a Listing League Table, dirty though it may be to reduce the wonder of nature into a mere list! 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 17-Feb-11 04:15 AM GMT

Hmmmmmm, your enthusiasm is contagious, Gibster. 😊 I'm not really much of a lister though, I find it hard enough just submitting my butterfly records, but I do like to discover new things. I might give it a bash for a while and see how it goes.

I don't think I could ever achieve your current total of 2200 though 😲 😊

Oh dear, just checked out the blog and can see that I am going to become an even bigger geek than I am already.

Re: Susie

by Piers, 17-Feb-11 04:42 AM GMT

"Jack Harrison" wrote:

Yesterday a very kind gentleman that I don't know left a CD of his butterfly photographs at work for me

That's a new one. I used to offer to show my etchings.

Jack



Any success Jack..?

Re: Susie

by Susie, 17-Feb-11 04:53 AM GMT

Ask his wife 😊

Re: Susie

by Gibster, 17-Feb-11 05:24 AM GMT

Ha Ha! Nice to meet you, Dave. Don't let Holly give you the Blues 😊

...I'll get me coat...

Re: Susie

by Susie, 19-Feb-11 04:19 AM GMT



Driving to work this morning I saw a barn owl sitting on a post by the side of the road. I did a double take, then backed the car up until I was adjacent, only a few feet away from it, and the pair of us sat there regarding each other for a good few minutes until it took off and glided a couple of hundred yards up the road. Again I drove up to where it was perched and had a good long look before it finally flew off. It didn't seem phased at all. It so graceful in flight. The experience might have made me a tad late for work but by goodness it was worth it. There's nothing quite like a close encounter with nature to set you up for the day. 😊

Re: Susie

by Goldie M, 19-Feb-11 09:46 PM GMT

What a pity Susie you didn't have your camera with you 😞 Goldie M

Re: Susie

by Susie, 19-Feb-11 10:08 PM GMT

That's what I thought at the time, and also I was kicking myself on the day I saw the waxwings because the light was great and I was able to get right up close to them, but subsequently I've had a change of heart. Sometimes when I am out butterflying I'll put down my camera and just enjoy the moment. It was fantastic yesterday just to sit and watch the owl and not do anything else. 😊

Re: Susie

by Jack Harrison, 19-Feb-11 10:38 PM GMT

The memory is often better than a physical record. I use my own example.

Up the age of about ten, I used to catch, kill and pin butterflies. That was a perfectly acceptable hobby in the late 1940s. One morning, there was a perfect Red Admiral perched on a plant in the garden. I had my net in hand. It would have been so easy to catch it and add to my collection. But I hesitated; it somehow seemed wrong to take away a beautiful life. So I just enjoyed watching that Red Admiral. There was no physical record but in my mind even today, I can still *see* that butterfly, a memory I treasure far more than had it simply been caught and killed.

Jack

Re: Susie

by Piers, 19-Feb-11 10:59 PM GMT

Are you ok Susie? the only reason that I ask is you don't look so good in your new avatar...



Re: Susie

by Jack Harrison, 19-Feb-11 11:09 PM GMT

She's just had a birthday – she's allowed to look "mature" 😡

Jack

Re: Susie

by Susie, 20-Feb-11 12:52 AM GMT

Hats never did suit me 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 22-Feb-11 06:46 AM GMT

The Mighty Hulme did a thoroughly splendid job this evening speaking about Purple Emperors. The hall was packed and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. I know I was transported to sunnier days and am really eager for the butterflying season to begin (even though I already was). Lots of new people will be out looking for his Majesty this coming summer. Well done, Neil. 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 22-Feb-11 07:39 AM GMT

<http://www.sussexwt.org.uk/appeal2011/index.htm>

Please watch the video in support of the Western Weald project.

Someone really should tell them to put blackthorn in their hedges though.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 23-Feb-11 04:49 AM GMT

I took a couple of my daughters to the British Wildlife Centre in Surrey today. It's a fascinating place but the weather was a disappointment; very cold, grey and drizzly. I'll definitely go back, ideally in the summer.





There is also a heronry there. Watching herons flying in with very large twigs in their beaks is quite something as they build their nests. They look quite prehistoric.

I went for a walk over High Wood when I got back. There are lots more primroses flowering and under a hedge on the way up there was a big patch of violets in flower. 😊

Re: Susie

by Gibster, 23-Feb-11 05:11 AM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

I took a couple of my daughters to the British Wildlife Centre in Surrey today.

How large a gaggle do you have, lol? 🤪

Re: Susie

by Susie, 23-Feb-11 05:15 AM GMT

Three. A small, medium and large mini-me. 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 27-Feb-11 02:58 AM GMT

The first of the frogspawn has appeared in my pond. 😊 Spring's here.

Re: Susie

by Zonda, 27-Feb-11 03:08 AM GMT

Mine have been there for several days. So who is that on your avatar, it's not Bob Dylan,(who it should be), so who is it?

Re: Susie

by Susie, 27-Feb-11 03:33 AM GMT

It's the actor, Ray Stevenson.

Why should it be Bob Dylan?

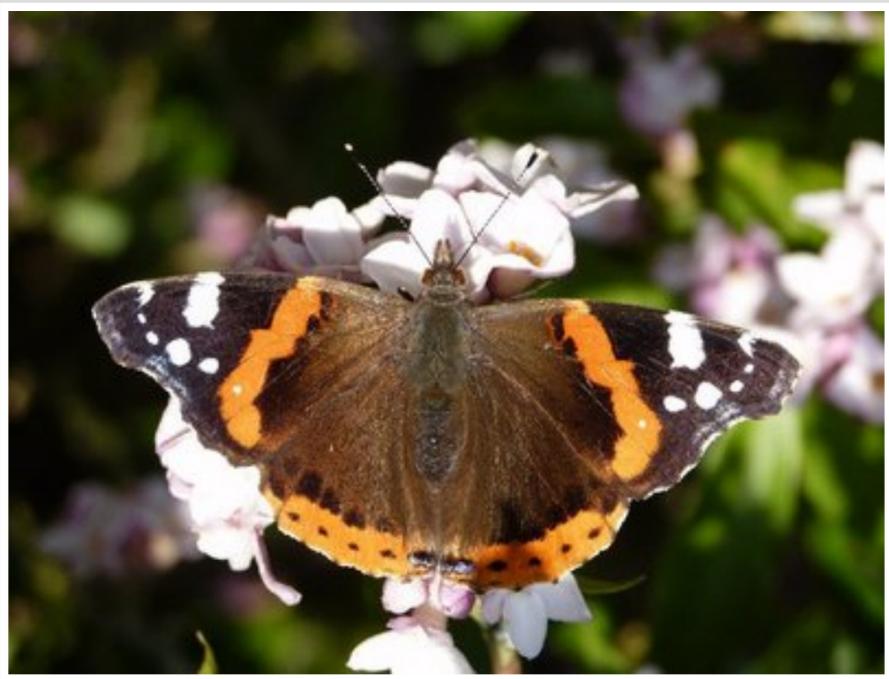
Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Mar-11 01:16 AM GMT

Found my first bumble bee of the year, a terristris, last Friday dying of cold. We brought her in for the night and revived her with a little honey water. She was successfully released on Sunday.

There was a frost last night and this morning the frog spawn was frozen. Hopefully the underneath of it will have survived.

I went to Wakehurst Place which, once the Daphne bholua is flowering, is reliable for red admirals. This is the third year running I have seen red admirals here in March. After Vince's sightings yesterday I didn't expect to be disappointed and wasn't. Within minutes of arriving by the flowers in question I was buzzed by a RA. I spent a pleasant morning walking around and looking at the flowers. There were plenty of bumble, honey bees and hover flies around.



It was a feisty little critter and didn't want to share it's spot. This year I want to take film of butterflies as well as photos, it just adds that little bit more character.

["http://www.facebook.com/v/10150156768391972"](http://www.facebook.com/v/10150156768391972)

This afternoon I decided to check out some woods closer to home which I haven't been too before. One is technically private woodland but judging by the amount of paths crisscrossing it people take no notice. 😊 It should be a cracking spot for bluebells in about six to eight weeks. Plus I've found a new pub. Can't wait to visit. 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Mar-11 01:27 AM GMT

<http://www.facebook.com/v/10150156771556972>

More of the RA. Nothing much happens, but it's nice to see blue skies, pretty flowers and a butterfly. Shame about the texas chainsaw massacre going

on in the background though.

Edit: Just noticed that privacy settings on the videos mean you can't see them. I'll change that shortly.

Re: Susie

by Pete Eeles, 09-Mar-11 01:33 AM GMT

Superb videos Susie – really excellent quality!

Cheers,

– Pete

Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Mar-11 01:38 AM GMT

I'm hoping to get plenty more this summer. It will be great to actually share what I've seen rather than just post a picture of it. It'll be lovely to look back on over the winter months too and I might even learn something about behaviour. Considering that the video was taken on maximum zoom and then facebook has reduced the quality somewhat it has come out quite well. Made my arms ache after a while though holding the camera up so tis a bit wobbly. 😊

Re: Susie

by ChrisC, 09-Mar-11 04:38 AM GMT

glad to see your season has started susie. Looking forward to more of the same 😊 Chris

Re: Susie

by Susie, 10-Mar-11 03:36 AM GMT

I went for a walk this morning through some of the woodland I drove past yesterday. It is a lovely place and will be well worth another visit. I am rapidly gaining an alternative list of places to visit in the summer rather than the over-popular Marlpost Woods.

There were plenty of wild native daffodils.



This pic is from yesterday and I think the hazelnut has been knawed by a wood mouse. There are lots of tree stumps over high wood which have mounds of hazelnut shells around them which have been chewed in this way.



Re: Susie

by Gibster, 10-Mar-11 04:40 AM GMT

"I don't like people" ???

You OK out there Susie? Is it coz the weatherman said it's gonna snow this weekend?

Re: Susie

by Susie, 10-Mar-11 04:55 AM GMT

Snow? Really? Not here I hope. 😬

I'm fine, thanks. I just like my woodland uncluttered by other folk.

Re: Susie

by Jack Harrison, 10-Mar-11 05:01 AM GMT

I am more likely to win a photo competition than snow in the south this coming weekend. It WON'T snow in the south (except perhaps on the very highest hills).

Jack

Re: Susie

by Gibster, 10-Mar-11 05:16 AM GMT

Doh! Just noticed your latest change of avatar 😬

That's good news, Jack. I'll never listen to Sky News again, huh! Foreign rubbish... 😊

Re: Susie

by Jack Harrison, 10-Mar-11 01:41 PM GMT

Sky News

Sky News has been streets ahead of the other channels in its coverage of the Libyan crisis IMHO.

Jack

Re: Susie

by Susie, 15-Mar-11 05:58 AM GMT

Sky's coverage of the situation in Japan was thorough at the weekend too.

Today I went to visit a friend at the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice in Farnham. He's an excellent photographer and has taken some beautiful fungi and landscape shots in particular. He has a blog which is about his personal fight at the moment and his courage and determination are an inspiration. <http://youwinagain-cybershot.blogspot.com/>

Driving back I saw five male brimstones in a short section of road in Farnham in lovely warm sunshine.

I was disappointed to find it cold and overcast when I got home so there were no butterflies on the wing here but had the (un)pleasant surprise of

finding another load of clothes moth cases as they were living in an old teddy bear. These are a real nuisance and I thought I had got rid of them all. Looks like poor old Big Ted is going back in the freezer!

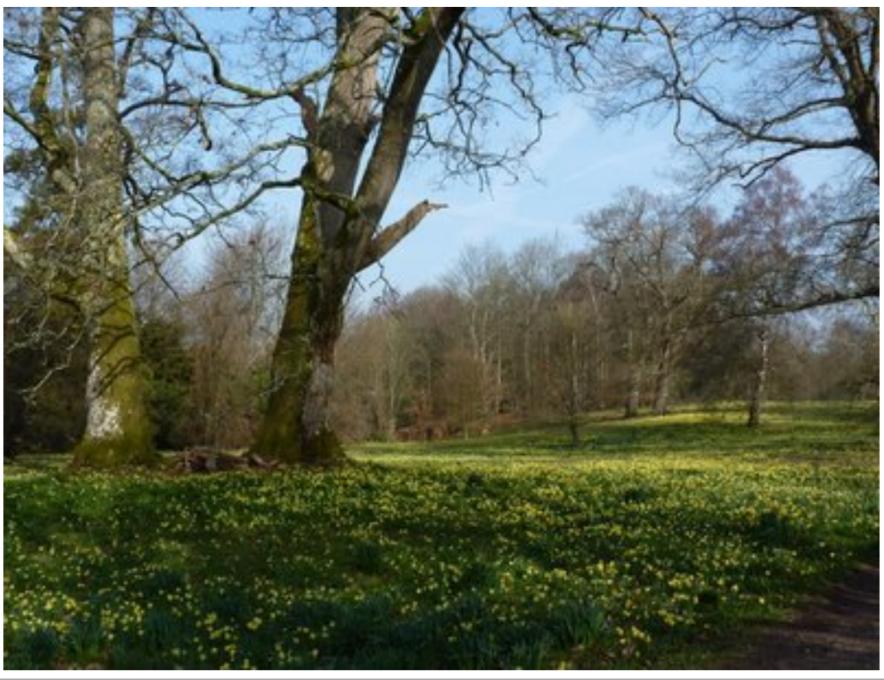
Re: Susie

by Susie, 16-Mar-11 01:00 AM GMT

Today the sun shone, albeit intermittently, and by jingo it was good when it did! I saw six male brimstones on my travels, including one having a dog fight with a comma. 😊

I travelled around a bit today and did an awful lot to walking too, my favourite kind of day. I met a lovely lady at Ebernoe nature reserve who gave me a map and suggested some things I look out for. It was my first time at Ebernoe and I certainly wasn't disappointed by this beautiful woodland and will be going back at frequent intervals through the coming year. I found a few brown hairstreak eggs as well as seeing a male brimstone flying. Chiff chaff and skylarks were singing their hearts out.

Last week I saw my first wild daffodils, and since then I've found that they are everywhere in the hedgerows and woods. I have never seen anything as impressive as this sight though; thousands of native daffodils! The lady at the reserve told me that some years they count 7000 wild native daffodils in the woods there. The area in the photograph is a carpet of bluebells later in the season.



The lesser celandines, primrose, blackthorn, willow, daffodils and the first wood anemones are starting to bring the woods and hedgerows to life here. It won't be long before the ladies' smock blooms and the orange tips are about.

After Ebernoe I did a quick walk along one side of Burton Mill Pond and then dashed home to my local reserve, Warnham.

At Warnham I saw the male Brimstone and the Comma as well as three slow worms and a herald moth flying over.

www.facebook.com/v/10150163370511972 A jolly good day 😊

Re: Susie

by Neil Hulme, 16-Mar-11 01:22 AM GMT

Hi Susie,
Lovely shot of the Ebernoe daffs. The slow worm footage would probably benefit from being speeded up. Nice job though – I might try a bit of video myself this year.
Neil

Re: Susie

by Susie, 16-Mar-11 01:26 AM GMT

But then it would be a fast worm; surely that'd be in breach of trade descriptions? 😊

Re: Susie

by Gibster, 16-Mar-11 01:38 AM GMT

Hiya Susie,

I know you're a keen gardener 'n all, but...regards your native daffodils...

I just had a look through my copy of Stace (the botanist's bible) and this is what he says;

"An extremely popular garden genus with numerous interspecific hybrids and thousands of cultivars, many with uncertain parentage. Many occur naturalised in fields, waysides, woods, rough ground, banks etc and are very difficult to classify.(...) others occur and are then best assigned to the recognised Divisions of the *International Daffodil Checklist*.

This is where it gets really good.... 😊

Division 1 – Flower 1, with corona at least as long as tepals
Division 2 – Flower 1, with corona > 1/3 as long as but shorter than tepals
Division 3 – Flower 1, with corona < 1/3 as long as tepals

Division 4 – *Flore pleno* variants of garden origin of any affinity
Division 5 – Derivatives of *N.triandrus*, with characteristics of that species evident
Division 6 – Derivatives of *N.cyclamineus*, with characteristics of that species evident
Division 7 – Derivatives of *N.jonquilla*, with characteristics of that species evident
Division 8 – Derivatives of *N.tazetta*, with characteristics of that species evident
Division 9 – Derivatives of *N.poeticus*, with characteristics of that species evident

There are several named subspecies and naturalised species out there, although the 'proper' Wild Daffodil is often abundant where it occurs, as your beautiful photo shows.

So, hope that sorts out your daffs! 😊

Cheers,
Gibster.

Re: Susie

by Neil Hulme, 16-Mar-11 01:42 AM GMT

Hi Susie,
A gentle canter would be a sensible compromise. Seriously... your recent videos of Red Admiral etc have made me think more about filming – a whole new world to obsess about. 😊
Neil

Re: Susie

by Susie, 16-Mar-11 02:07 AM GMT

Thanks for clearing that up, Gibster I think! 😊

The great thing about filming is that you can get an image when it is too far away to get a macro shot. I just wish I'd had this camera last year when shooting the bilateral gyandromorph as I could have got some great behaviour footage as it both tasted the leaves for suitability for egg laying and chased the other males around territorily. The coming year holds so much promise! 😊

Re: Susie

by Pete Eeles, 17-Mar-11 04:47 AM GMT

"Sussex Kipper" wrote:

Hi Susie,
A gentle canter would be a sensible compromise. Seriously... your recent videos of Red Admiral etc have made me think more about filming – a whole new world to obsess about. 😊
Neil

I agree – the vids are quite something. I've been getting guidance from the ever-so-helpful Gruditch on how best to dispose of my ready cash. Video is a requirement 😊

Cheers,
– Pete

Re: Susie

by Susie, 22-Mar-11 01:42 AM GMT

A misty start burned away to a lovely day for me to go exploring again. Today I in my endeavour to visit new local places I went to St Leonard's Forest where, legend has it, there be dragons 😊 This area reminds me a lot of the New Forest. It's greensand and acidic so there is some heather here and I have heard silver studded blues – something to check out later in the year. It's a mixed wood of conifer (Forestry Commission's fault) and broadleaf with lots of huge beech and oak. I didn't find any dragons today but I did find a monster mound of wood ants – the biggest I've ever seen. I reckon the nest is about three and a half foot tall by eight across. <http://www.facebook.com/v/10150168769356972>

I also found butterflies! Hoorah! A comma was sitting on the path sunbathing and breakfasting on a dog poo. Soon after there was another comma. One of them, dear god I hope it was the latter, decided to land on my head. 😊 There were also four male brimstones and a peacock flying around in the hot sunshine. It was splendid and this is definitely another place I'm going back to.

<http://www.facebook.com/v/10150168996581972>

This afternoon I did a quick walk around my local patch of High Wood. I was hoping to see Orange Tips because this is perfect habitat but no joy there. However two more peacocks and a small tortoiseshell made a lovely end to the walk.

Edit: The tadpoles hatched out this weekend. 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 23-Mar-11 12:47 AM GMT

Today I went to The Mens ... not cos the ladies loos were closed either. 😊

It's a vast area of woodland with lots of beech and oak near Petworth.

After that I went to Kingley Vale. I love this place and it has a slightly Tolkien-esque feel to it I find with dark murk woods of ancient yew and barrow graves on top of the hill.

A lot of violets are now in bloom and the brimstones were taking advantage of this. It had warmed up by the afternoon and there was a comma, a peacock, and five brimstones (one female and four males) flying.

The female brimstone, shown below, looked really grubby but not damaged in any way. She must have had a tough winter.

Loads of bird calls were going on, many I didn't recognise but some I did; chiff chaff, willow warbler, blackcap, whitethroat, gold crest, buzzard and barn owl. I got a look at the barn owl too.



Re: Susie

by Susie, 23-Mar-11 07:42 PM GMT

Orange Tip in Broadbridge Heath!!!! 😊

Re: Susie

by David M, 23-Mar-11 11:42 PM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

Orange Tip in Broadbridge Heath!!!! 😊

Great spot! I have read that a Holly Blue has been sighted too.

In spite of the freezing December, butterfly emergence times appear not to have been retarded.

Re: Susie

by Mark Lyman, 24-Mar-11 12:01 AM GMT

Hi - I too saw an Orange Tip this lunchtime - Hursley near Winchester.

ATB, Mark.

Re: Susie

by Jack Harrison, 24-Mar-11 12:46 AM GMT

In spite of the freezing December, butterfly emergence times appear not to have been retarded.

I don't think exceptionally cold weather in December and January has any effect on subsequent emergence date. Whether it is **very** cold or just plain ordinary cold, no development of larvae, pupae will occur. I reckon that February is crucial. A warmer-than-average February (as we have just had) followed by a warm March (except the first week or so) might allow development. Conversely, a cold or even an average February might still be too cold for things to happen.

So my contention is that exceptional cold in the depth of winter has no bearing.* But late winter and early spring can make a huge difference one way or the other.

* I am not talking here about species that don't like damp winters - eg Camberwell Beauty

Jack

Re: Susie

by Susie, 24-Mar-11 04:21 AM GMT

It's lovely to read about your sightings too. 😊

I really hope this is a good year for butterflies. It does seem that a cold winter doesn't hold back butterfly emergence in the spring and can be positively beneficial.

This morning I headed off early as it was a beautiful morning and unlike the last couple of days warmed up quickly. I drove to the next village and walked along the bridle path by Warnham Manor and Benland Wood and back through the fields by Tilletts Lane. There wasn't much in the way of insects flying initially but the birds were singing their hearts out, including chiffchaff and yellowhammer. Primroses, wild daffodils, violets, lesser celandine, speedwell, dandelion, wood anemone, sorrel and cuckoo flower edged the path and lanes intermittently. It won't be long before it's a riot of colour. Walking back to the car I saw a comma and male brimstone.

When I arrived home I had an hour before I had to get ready for work and as it was such a lovely day and so warm I dashed straight out again and went for a walk around a local area we call the "goose pond" as there is a flock of greylag or pink footed geese here (not sure which?) as I really wanted to see orange tip and this area of flood plain is really good for them. I was disappointed though as half an hour into my walk I hadn't seen a single butterfly and it will probably be next Monday at the earliest before I get a chance to go out looking again. I turned back and started for home when I saw a male brimstone by the river Arun and down the lane something else was flying away from me. I did a double take, took in the size, shape and jizz 😊 and took off in lumbering pursuit after it, wellies thundering on the tarmac. There was no mistaking the flashes of orange on the wing tips as I closed in. It settled for a second before disappearing over a hedge. Drat! A comma and a peacock flew into sight before also disappearing in the garden over the hedge. After waiting around for a while and sending off some excited texts I made for home. A quick recky along the drainage ditch on the way home by the by-pass turned up more brimstone, loads of cuckoo flower, another peacock and a pair of courting small tortoiseshells which spiralled up into the sky. The drainage ditch is edged with a hedge of what I thought was blackthorn but now know is actually damson or bullace. The hedge is now in full flower, faces south, and it and the ditch is a mecca for butterflies as it is south facing and protected from the wind. It's great getting to know the area I live in and the best spots to look for butterflies which aren't always the most obvious or the most attractive. 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 26-Mar-11 01:58 AM GMT

I found two decent sized stands of mature blackthorn in Cranleigh today in an effort to establish areas worth searching in the summer. I couldn't see any eggs on them, but I didn't really expect to see any. Also two small tortoiseshells seen.

Re: Susie

by Jack Harrison, 26-Mar-11 03:06 AM GMT

...decent sized stands of mature blackthorn in Cranleigh...

This season is early. Sure, it will be cooler over the next couple of days but it should then warm up again.

Black Hairstreak has an incredibly short flight season – just two (maybe three) weeks. So timing your search in the Cranleigh area will be difficult. You might even have to consider the very beginning of June. Black Hairstreak emergence seems to more-or-less coincide with that of the much commoner Meadow Brown so there is a useful clue as to when to start the search.

Of course, the old literature suggests that Black Hairstreak is a July butterfly – but that's not the case nowadays.

Jack

Re: Susie

by Susie, 26-Mar-11 04:17 AM GMT

Hi Jack,

Fortunately as I work in the area I can get over to the site regularly and plan to over the coming months. My main concern is being able distinguish between purple, white letter and black hairstreak as I am fairly certain the former two are in the area.

Re: Susie

by Paul Wetton, 26-Mar-11 04:37 AM GMT

Hi Susie

I hope you don't mind me butting in here but I was interested on the video comments. One thing I would say is for all those who wish to use a video camera the more zoom used the more stability one requires. I would suggest the use of a tripod to anyone who uses a video camera. I know it's a bind to carry one around but even a light weight video camera will benefit massively from the stability of a tripod. You have some lovely HD footage. I like the slow/moderately fast Worm.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 26-Mar-11 05:01 PM GMT

Thanks Paul, and no need to apologise, your comments are very welcome. I was thinking something similar the other day when I took a 360 shoot of the view from the top of Kingley Vale which I had hoped to put on here cos it is a lovely sight on a clear day but the footage was so wobbly it made me feel seasick just watching it.

Re: Susie

by Paul Wetton, 26-Mar-11 05:05 PM GMT

Hi Susie

I know exactly what you mean. I took my first video camera to Lesvos on a bird watching holiday and when I got home I watched a lot of shots of great birds that were ruined by the wobbles. After that I vowed never to take another shot without a tripod. What type of video camera do you have as the picture quality looks excellent.

Re: Susie

by Jack Harrison, 26-Mar-11 05:13 PM GMT

Susie said that her:

main concern is being able distinguish between purple, white letter and black hairstreak

I would suggest a rule of thumb. If a hairstreak is seen before the middle of June, then it is most likely to be a Black. The other two species emerge about two weeks later. But of course, Purple and White letter might not have read the rule book and emerge earlier than they are supposed to just to annoy you.

The corollary is that a hairstreak seen after middle of July will definitely not be a Black (unless it too hasn't read the rules!)

Jack

Re: Susie

by Susie, 26-Mar-11 08:18 PM GMT

Thanks, Jack, I shall bear that in mind.

Hi Paul, I use the Panasonic Lumix FZ38 that several people on this site have.

I've been checking the potted blackthorn in the garden on which brown hairstreaks laid eggs last year. I didn't tag all the eggs but of those I did, on one bush five of the six eggs have disappeared over winter and on the other three out of six. I must remember to put black cotton around the plants to keep the birds off. 😬

Re: Susie

by Susie, 28-Mar-11 06:41 AM GMT

Having lunch at the Shelley this afternoon I saw brimstone, orange tip and some other kind of small white butterfly (either small white or green veined I guess) flying around in the beer garden.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 28-Mar-11 11:02 PM GMT

There was cloud cover almost all day today but when the sun did come out this afternoon there were a few butterflies out locally. I saw a couple of commas, a peacock and this little chap, patrolling the drainage ditch along the bypass.

Blink and you'll miss it 😊

www.facebook.com/v/10150174798311972

In the garden was a wretched lily beetle. These aren't such a problem now as I no longer grow lilies (I had to admit defeat cos I couldn't keep up with the nasty little pests). Grrrrr. It wasn't in the garden for long though. 😡

There was a *Osmia rufus* in the garden too, it's nice to see these little chappies. I met a chap a few years back who takes colonies of these around the country to pollenate crops (cherries in particular if I remember rightly). Apparently they are far more efficient at doing the job than honey bees.

There's a jenny wren nesting in a roosting pouch I put in the front garden. I saw her today taking moss in. I hope she has better luck than the wren who nested in the back garden as her brood fried in the hot May weather we had a couple of years ago. As long as the cat doesn't get her the new site should be a far more suitable position.

Re: Susie

by Paul Wetton, 29-Mar-11 02:48 AM GMT

Here's a little Wren gathering moss for you. 😊



Wren with moss

Re: Susie

by David M, 29-Mar-11 04:23 AM GMT

So, it's official, Orange Tips are OUT.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 29-Mar-11 05:36 AM GMT

Thanks Paul, that's a gorgeous picture. 😊

OTs have been out since last week. For all those people who said to me (not on this forum I hasten to add where people are lovely) that I didn't see an OT last week cos it's too early I have one word "swivel". 😊

Re: Susie

by Mark Lyman, 29-Mar-11 06:22 AM GMT

...I've seen two OT now – best of all, the second was in our garden yesterday.

Cheers, Mark.

Re: Susie

by Paul Wetton, 29-Mar-11 07:41 AM GMT

Glad you like it and you tell em Susie.

I've not seen OT yet but they may be out a bit later up here in the Midlands.

Re: Susie

by Jack Harrison, 29-Mar-11 03:21 PM GMT

Susie uses the phrase:

...one word "swivel". 😊

It's obviously a girlie expression. My wife also uses it but believe it or not, I've never heard it from a male:

<http://www.urbandictionary.com/>

Explains the meaning of this and other jargon.

Jack

Re: Susie

by Susie, 29-Mar-11 06:21 PM GMT

Thanks for the linkage, Jack.

I admit to thinking at times but I'd never say it to anyone! 😊

I'm very envious of your garden OT, Mark. I keep checking out the garden but I haven't found any emerging yet.

Re: Susie

by Jack Harrison, 29-Mar-11 06:27 PM GMT

Susie admits

to thinking at times but I'd never say it to anyone! 😊

That shows excellent self-restraint. My dear wife has been known to reinforce the word with a gesture 😊

Jack

Re: Susie

by Susie, 29-Mar-11 06:36 PM GMT

"Jack Harrison" wrote:

Susie admits

to thinking at times but I'd never say it to anyone! 😊

That shows excellent self-restraint. My dear wife has been known to reinforce the word with a gesture 😊

Jack

She must be quite a character! 😊

I was taught that if I don't have anything nice to say then don't say anything at all. As a result I am quite quiet and keep my thoughts to myself, unless I'm with people I like or on the internet! 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 29-Mar-11 11:54 PM GMT

I went to check on the Brontes this afternoon at Marlpost Woods as it continued to be grey and unpromising for butterflies. After losing so many of my brown hairstreak eggs that are on the potted blackthorn I wasn't expecting a high rate of survival so I was extremely pleased to see that all four of them were still there. 😊



The road verges were full of cuckoo flower, lesser celendine, violets, primroses and wood anenomes and very pretty they looked too. In the woods I found yet more wild daffodils and the very first bluebell almost in bloom.



Oh, and there was some kind of weird fungus on a rotting hazel stump. it looked a bit like a cauliflower floret. I'll try and upload a photo later.

Re: Susie

by Matsukaze, 30-Mar-11 04:05 AM GMT

WLH can be out and about in early June, particularly in the south-east. Here's a flight times chart from the WLH Project website:

<http://www.hertsmiddx-butterflies.org.uk/flight.php>

I went to a talk on bumblebees some years ago given by Paul Williams, the bee expert from the Natural History Museum. The venue was on the Somerset Levels which still has a fair number of small orchards fringing it (cider country!). He was recommending *Osmia rufa* as the best pollinator for the apples, particularly as its flight season is well synchronised with the apple trees being in blossom. Unlike honeybees and bumblebees, because the flight season is brief it does not require different sources of forage in other months of the year.

Re: Susie

by Piers, 30-Mar-11 04:33 AM GMT

...which explains why preparatory mason bee homes are recommended for apple orchards. Is *B. sylvarum* still present around Shapwick to your knowledge Matsukaze?

(sorry Susie 😞)

Re: Susie

by Matsukaze, 30-Mar-11 05:49 AM GMT

Hi Felix,

Funnily enough I spent much of last summer observing bumblebees around Shapwick for an undergraduate dissertation on bumblebee foraging habits (the results should be published in the next SANHS annual review, if you're interested). I did not see *sylvarum* though this may be because by the time its peak flight season finally came about I was busy writing up the dissertation...

I hear it has been seen in the past couple of years from Berrow and from the Large Blue reintroduction areas in the Poldens.

Shapwick is a fine place for wildlife but the meadows produce the most extraordinary concentration of deer ticks!

Re: Susie

by Susie, 30-Mar-11 05:58 AM GMT

Thanks for the link, Matsukaze. 😊



This is the fungi I saw earlier. A friend suggested it could be an immature spongiporous, whatever that is. If anyone can identify it I'd be grateful.

Re: Susie

by ChrisC, 30-Mar-11 06:22 AM GMT

I'd give Zonda a nudge. i'm sure he was a mycologist before he started taking annoyingly good pictures of birds 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Apr-11 02:12 AM GMT

I went for a drive this morning to Five Oaks with high hopes of seeing butterflies but it stayed chilly and nothing was flying so I came home again. I thought it might be warmer this afternoon so cycled along the downs link path to the Bax Castle but still nowt about. there were loads of cuckoo flower out along the route including the white type. Also there is a huge variety of primroses around, some flowers have very long stems, others the more normal form. There are cowslips as well so I wonder if they're interbred; is an oxlip a hybrid? I'll have to do some research.

On the way back I saw a grey wagtail at the mill pond and then later, at home, the oak tree was full of waxwings. The sound they made was incredible!

Re: Susie

by ChrisC, 05-Apr-11 02:15 AM GMT

🍷 i seem to using this green with envy quite often on here these days. when you say full....how many are we talking? (do i really want to know) 😊
Chris

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Apr-11 02:42 AM GMT

I was just walking to the car to go out and hear the noise coming from the tree and my first thought, however bizarre it seems now, is that it was coming from the nest boxes on the trunk. Then I looked up and the top of it was filled with waxwings. My face must have been a picture. There could have been dozens and dozens but I couldnt say with any accuracy. I turned back to the house to get the camera and they were gone. It's another of those moments I won't forget in a hurry, albeit swift. 😊

Re: Susie

by Trev Sawyer, 05-Apr-11 02:50 AM GMT

You will probably have to wait for Zonda to identify your "fungus", but it looks like a slime mould to me... One of the most well-known slime moulds in the UK is descriptively called "Dog Vomit" (lovely! 😊), but yours looks more like *Reticularia lycoperdon*. Zonda?

Trev

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Apr-11 03:44 AM GMT

Hi Trev, you are right, it is slime mould. I had it identified on Facebook and didnt think to update my diary here. Sorry.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 07-Apr-11 05:49 AM GMT

I saw my first swallows of the day this morning and it really did feel like summer weather at Five Oaks. The grass has turned a bright emerald green and put on lush growth lately and the lanes are embroidered with a tapestry of flowers. I had hoped to beat the OTs but when I arrived in Five Oaks at 9.30 they were already starting to fly. I saw over a dozen separate males patrolling the lanes but there were probably more, it is so hard to keep an accurate count when they keep criss-crossing each other. There was also a couple of peacocks, a couple of commas and a red admiral. I went into the woods and saw brimstones, more orange tips and my first female orange tip of the year, exactly two weeks to the day after I saw my first male OT. Her wings looked soft and I think she'd emerged that morning. I managed a couple of snaps before she flew off (to be added later). Driving home via Bashurst Hill I saw more orange tips and a brimstone.

When I got home there was an orange tip in my front garden – my first butterfly of the year here. Huzzah! The pond is absolutely chockablock with tadpoles at the moment.

I had to go to work this afternoon but there were still more opportunities for butterfly spotting along the route and I clocked up a few more OTs in BBH, Slinfold, and Rowhook, all of which will be added to the records for Sussex BC.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 08-Apr-11 02:06 AM GMT

First of the brown hairstreak eggs in the garden has hatched. Not sure if it safely made it to a leaf bud or not. I shall have to give it a suitable name.

Edit: On the assumption it has made it safely to a bud, and due to the day of it's hatching, it's named THOR. 😊

Re: Susie

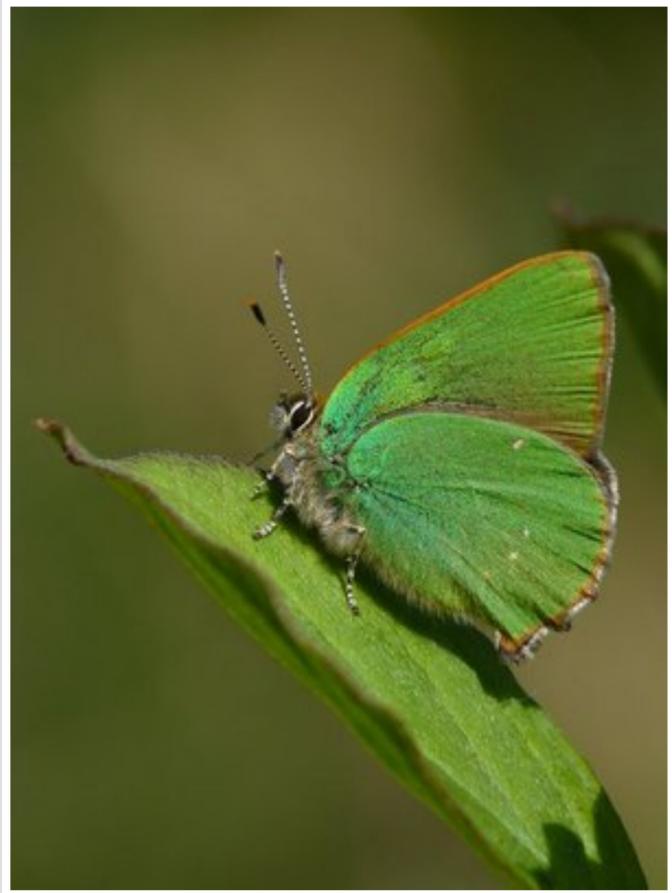
by Susie, 10-Apr-11 01:55 AM GMT

I went to Denbies again this afternoon to hunt for grizzled and dingy skippers but without success. Found something much better though (in my opinion) a speckled wood and green hairstreaks. 😊

Also seen were brimstone, orange tips, comma, peacock, holly blue and small torts.

Today was the first time I've really played around with the Lumix with the additional lense on that I got for my birthday. I had a chance to compare it to my old camera, the Canon 400D. I must say that I was really pleased with what I managed to get the Lumix to do and compared to the shots I got with the Canon the Lumix seemed better (purely, I suspect, because I am just not very good with the Canon! and it's a bit too complicated for the likes of me 😞).

Lumix pics as they came out of the camera with nothing done with them apart from being reduced so I can post:-





For a first attempt I am very pleased with these. Hopefully I'll improve over the summer 😊

Re: Susie

by millerd, 10-Apr-11 03:15 AM GMT

Just missed you at Denbies AGAIN, Susie. I did see two Grizzled Skippers there in the morning as well as the lovely Hairstreaks, but it was a long wait...

Dave

Re: Susie

by Susie, 10-Apr-11 05:15 AM GMT

Oh well done with the grizzlies! I thought that they must be there but I just couldn't find them. Next time I go I'll have to announce it in advance. 😄 I think Jack is intending to go on Monday and I will try to get along there sometime too then but have family commitments around mid-day so it will probably be later on. I'm hoping to spot Jack there anyway cos I've been wanting to meet him for years! 😊

Re: Susie

by ChrisC, 10-Apr-11 05:53 AM GMT

great shots Sue. I think i could be in the market for the panasonic macro lenses.

Chris

Re: Susie

by Susie, 10-Apr-11 05:58 AM GMT

Well I ain't selling. 😊 If, however, you want to buy a 400D with a 100mm macro ...

Re: Susie

by Gruditch, 11-Apr-11 01:32 AM GMT

Lovely Green Hairstreak images Suz, you may as well not bother with the Workshop now. 😊

If you are going to sell your 400D, I would get on with it. As digital has been around a while now, the price of camera body's on second hand market is dropping all the time. A Canon 300D, that would of cost around £600 new, would only get you £60 trade in now.

Regards Gruditch

Re: Susie

by Jack Harrison, 11-Apr-11 02:20 AM GMT

body's on second hand market is dropping all the time.

So do tell us Susie. What price are you asking for your body?

Jack 😡

Re: Susie

by Susie, 11-Apr-11 04:21 AM GMT

Hmm, what's the going rate, Jack? It's in very good condition! 😄

Well, I spent this glorious sunny butterflying day stuck at home cooking, cleaning and gardening in preparation for a family get together this afternoon. However, on the upside it did mean I got to watch a brimstone laying eggs on the alder buckthorn in the garden 😊 I've been wondering whether to cut down the 12 foot tall buckthorn to get new growth to encourage the brimstones in, now I know I don't need to. Also orange tips flying in the garden and laying on the garlic mustard.

Thanks, Gruditch, high praise indeed coming from you! 😊 Okay, you can cancel my place ... NOT!

I think there could be some far better GH pictures coming from the Mighty Hulme anytime soon though so I still have a standard to aspire to insofar as Lumix pics go.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 11-Apr-11 05:54 PM GMT

A little bit of film from Saturday which shows one of the green hairstreaks. It was windy, that's not me shaking the camera!

<http://www.facebook.com/v/10150215140606972>"

Re: Susie

by Susie, 12-Apr-11 12:20 AM GMT

More of the same

Being Easter hols curtails my butterflying activities a tad but I managed to get up to Denbies for a couple of hours today. By jove it was hot! It was windy, the light was harsh as it was lunchtime and the hairstreaks were incredibly skittish and constantly fighting each other so not ideal for getting photos. However, there were loads of them about, I would conservatively say I saw 14 separate individuals and there were probably far more. One looked decidedly tatty already, with one wing ripped to ribbons.

I love the pattern of white dots on the wings of these feisty little chaps. Some have a few, some a whole line and others none at all. 😊





Before I left home there were two female orange tips laying on cuckoo flower and driving along the roads here there appeared to have been an orange tip explosion. I counted more than a dozen in about 50 yards and it was like that at every patch of cuckoo flower along the roadside, which grows commonly around here. I reckon I easily saw over a hundred and probably more like a couple of hundred.

Spring lamb. Delicious!

<http://www.facebook.com/v/10150215431756972>

Re: Susie

by Susie, 12-Apr-11 04:03 AM GMT

Just got in from the garden where i've been checking out the orange tip and brimstone eggs.

I had a look at the brown hairstreak eggs too. Another hatched yesterday, now named Odin, and at least two more hatched today. I found a tiny caterpillar, about 2mm long, which is probably Thor but could be Odin. I took some pics so if they are reasonable I'll post later.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 12-Apr-11 06:28 AM GMT

I cropped and played around with the pics to improve them and then lost the finished result so you'll just have to have the originals and see if you can spot the egg and Thor.



Re: Susie

by Susie, 13-Apr-11 04:40 AM GMT

Dragged the young 'un up to Denbies again where she sat very patiently with her book and a green hairstreak took a liking to her and sat on her hand 😊





We also saw brimstone and grizzled skipper.

Went to a local wood this afternoon and the bluebells are opening. There was a speckled wood flying around.





Found a patch of wild pink wood anemones among the usual white ones.



Re: Susie

by Susie, 19-Apr-11 12:50 AM GMT

I spend a pleasant couple of hours this afternoon in the company of Jack Harrison and my youngest daughter. Don't believe the grumpy persona Jack puts over on the forum, he's lovely company and far more sprightly than I expected.



Jack gave me some tips for my camera for which I am grateful and I need to look up how to turn off burst mode in the camera manual to be able to put use of the flash into practice.

We saw plenty of brimstone and green hairstreak, a couple of orange tips, a couple of grizzled skippers and an adder.



I love the "eye lashes" on this chap.

Re: Susie

by Jack Harrison, 19-Apr-11 02:13 AM GMT

Susie said about me:

Don't believe the grumpy persona Jack puts over on the forum, he's lovely company and far more sprightly than I expected.

But just as fat as expected 😊

Susie was exactly as I had expected – bubbly and most enjoyable company. Thanks Susie.

You missed a superb view of an adder just after you had gone.

Jack

Re: Susie

by ChrisC, 19-Apr-11 02:50 AM GMT

if you mean the one that takes 3 pictures press the delete/wastebasket button.

Chris

Re: Susie

by Susie, 19-Apr-11 03:49 AM GMT

Thanks, Chris

Re: Susie

by Susie, 19-Apr-11 04:47 AM GMT

Well I had an amazing experience this evening, nowt to do with butterflies though, I just watched a calf being born. Fabulous.

I'm never eating beef again – solidarity between mothers and all that.

Re: Susie

by Jack Harrison, 19-Apr-11 11:30 AM GMT

Susie:

....watched a calf being born.

We used to stay regularly on a dairy farm in Dorset. I was away working one time so Mum took the children – then aged 5 to 12 – without me. Great anticipation for the birth of a calf for them to watch. Very sadly, the calf was one of the small percentage that are still-born. However, they did see a live birth soon afterwards.

They still eat beef.

Jack

Re: Susie

by Susie, 23-Apr-11 04:51 AM GMT



Don't you just hate it when there is a butterfly explosion and you don't know where to go first or have enough time to do the species out justice!

We went on a bike ride along the downs link today, with a minor detour, and saw stack loads of butterflies, mainly orange tips. It was a wonderful way to spend a spring day (even if it did feel like July!)



Re: Susie

by Susie, 24-Apr-11 02:45 AM GMT

What a splendid St George's Day I have had today. I can't think of anything nice than mucking about with butterflies 😊

Firstly I went on the Sussex BC walk led by Neil Hulme at Mill Hill where green hairstreak, grizzle skipper, dingy skipper, brimstone, holly blue, red admiral, orange tips, speckled wood were showing well. I think everyone had a lovely time, I know that I did.



Then Neil offered to show me the dukes at Kithurst Hill and I jumped at the chance. Not only was there a duke there but also a common blue and a small heath (I didn't get to see the small heath) and many other butterfly species. I was quite blown away by the cowslips at Kithurst and it's on my list as another of my new favourite places!





Now I'm settling down with Dr Who, shortly to be followed by a take-away curry and a bottle of red wine. There's nowhere I'd rather be! 😊

Re: Susie

by Lee Hurrell, 24-Apr-11 02:50 AM GMT

Lovely pictures Susie.

I'll be watching Dr Who shortly. I really like your pictures! We had the curry last weekend...

Cheers

Lee

Re: Susie

by Susie, 24-Apr-11 03:57 PM GMT

I really do not like this Dr :-S

Re: Susie

by Susie, 25-Apr-11 05:15 AM GMT

I had to go to one of my godson's birthday parties this afternoon but it was such a beautiful day I sneaked out for a few hours this morning over my local patch so I could have a look for dragonflies. After reading that scarce chasers and hairy dragonflies were flying I was a bit worried I might be missing the scarce chasers even though this is stupidly early for them. As it was I saw 20+ large red damselflies (one pair mating) and a couple of banded demoiselles but that was it. Phew! 😊 The ramsons were out in the valley and the birds were singing, including nightingales and a cuckoo – my first of the year.

I saw loads of orange tips, large white, brimstone, green veined white, speckled woods (loads) and a peacock and red admiral.

Photos to follow a bit later.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 25-Apr-11 05:53 AM GMT

I knew there was something else I wanted to add, the orange tip egg that was laid on the cuckoo flower next to my pond has hatched, I watched the tiny little caterpillar today. That seems jolly quick!

Re: Susie

by Susie, 25-Apr-11 07:00 AM GMT

Arun river flood plain.





<http://www.facebook.com/v/10150228031751972>

<http://www.facebook.com/v/10150228042026972>

Re: Susie

by Susie, 25-Apr-11 09:07 PM GMT



I escaped early this morning and headed for Rewell Wood. You can't bottle that feeling of heading out early on a cracking day searching for butterflies! 😊

I bumped in Richard Roebuck there and between us we managed to find three pearl bordered fritillaries. 😊

<http://www.facebook.com/v/10150228608316972>

<http://www.facebook.com/v/10150228610101972>



Re: Susie

by Susie, 27-Apr-11 02:44 AM GMT





I headed out for wood white this morning at Botany Bay. Despite the tomtom trying to sabotage my plans I arrived. Hurrah! 😊 It was sunny but a bit on the nippy side this morning and not at all the hot sunshine I have rapidly become accustomed to and nothing was flying. The first thing I noticed about the wood was the bird song. Cuckoos were calling and nightingales singing and a whole shed load of other birds too.

Bird song. Put your speaks on for this, otherwise it will be very dull. <http://www.facebook.com/v/10150229910616972>

I wandered up the path but only saw a solitary speckled wood. Then I noticed a white flying. It settled down and disappeared! Bugger! I hung around for another half an hour or so and sudden it was back; what's more there were loads of them. They were very annoying in that they had a very weak and feeble flight but rarely stopped for more than a second. Occasionally the odd one did stop though so I managed a few pics. I saw two briefly courting pairs and about half a dozen egg laying.

<http://www.facebook.com/v/10150229970216972>



I bumped into another chap who was photographing butterflies (hello if you're reading this!) who looks into this site. I hope his photos came out okay and he got some decent photos of the courting wood whites.

What is the etiquette to ask someone to let you take some photos after they have had a good bash at it and you're still standing there waiting? 😊 Just as a warning to anyone else I may bump into, I don't go butterflying looking like my profile pic.

Just by the car some ruddy great bird flew out of a tree and gave me a fright!

In the late afternoon I hit Kithurst Hill but was unlucky with the DofB. I did find a pristine small copper though. Result. It was worth going just to see the cowslips and listen to the sky larks.

Butterflies seen today: Wood white, green veined white, small white, orange tip, brimstone, grizzled skipper, dingy skipper, holly blue, speckled wood, small copper, peacock, red admiral.

Re: Susie

by NickMorgan, 28-Apr-11 07:00 AM GMT

Just looking at your pictures on this page. We don't get any of those butterflies here other than the common blue, but I don't expect to see one of those for another month yet!

Thanks for the advice, by the way but I don't think there is any chance of me looking like your profile picture, whether I am looking for butterflies or not!

Re: Susie

by Susie, 29-Apr-11 02:22 AM GMT

"NickMorgan" wrote:

Thanks for the advice, by the way but I don't think there is any chance of me looking like your profile picture, whether I am looking for butterflies or not!

That made me laugh out loud! 😊 How you dress in your own time is none of my business. 😊

Re: Susie

by P.J.Underwood, 29-Apr-11 02:43 AM GMT



One with Susie.



One with Susie.



One with Susie.

I was that other bloke that met Susie at Botany Bay. Yes, I had some good pictures, but the etiquette is just to push that bloke out the way, at least that is what happens often with birdwatchers. At least I am pleased that many people are enjoying the wood and that it is being improved and opened up by the forestry commission. All we need is the pearls reintroduced. It is my local patch and I have hardly seen anyone there before, so this website must be making a difference. The next day I do believe I bumped into P. Eeles on his travels without realising it. For reference, I am the local retired vet.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 29-Apr-11 02:48 AM GMT

Hey, Phil, great to see you here! 😊 Cracking photos, but I wouldn't have expected anything less. I have been looking at some of your photos on your site - beautiful!

If I see you up at Chiddingfold next week I will remember to give you a (lady like 😊) shove. 😂 Feel free to gently shove back.

Re: Susie

by Pete Eeles, 29-Apr-11 03:57 AM GMT

"P.J. Underwood" wrote:

The next day I do believe I bumped into P. Eeles on his travels without realising it. For reference, I am the local retired vet.

I only bumped into one couple the entire time I was there – so nice to meet you Phil!

Cheers,

– Pete

Re: Susie

by Susie, 01-May-11 04:32 AM GMT

I had a lovely time today at the photographic forum so thank you to everyone who organised it or spoke today. It was nice to see so many attendees too.

Thanks to Lee for giving us a lift up to Magdalen Hill and well done for spotting the Marsh Fritillary. It was my first glimpse of this species 😊 I really liked the site and green hairstreaks were so frequent they seemed almost common place.



I also saw Common Blue, Brown Argus, Small Heath, Brimstone and various white. Other people saw dingy and grizzled skippers but they eluded me.

Re: Susie

by Clive, 01-May-11 05:46 AM GMT

Hi Susie

Nice to meet you today, and what a great day it was too. Glad you liked Magdalen Hill Down, one of my favourite sites ...

Clive

Re: Susie

by Susie, 02-May-11 04:32 AM GMT

It was a pleasure making your acquaintance, Clive. You are fortunate being able to go to such a lovely site.

Re: Susie

by Lee Hurrell, 02-May-11 09:10 PM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

Thanks to Lee for giving us a lift up to Magdalen Hill

No worries!

Re: Susie

by Susie, 03-May-11 03:04 AM GMT

I spent the day out with the family today but had a chance late this afternoon to pop along to chiddingfold again. It was VERY breezy but I managed to see a few wood whites putting themselves to bed and get a little bit of video of them courting which I really wanted.

Photography sounds so easy at the forum but try putting it into practice when it is blowing a hooley and everywhere you try to kneel down is prickles. At one stage I think I nearly knelt on a snake because something rustled through the undergrowth a bit sharpish. 🤪

www.facebook.com/v/10150235355296972

I notice that the female has a mark on her wing, or is it a natural spot?

Re: Susie

by NickMorgan, 03-May-11 04:27 AM GMT

That's an amazing video. I love the head nodding! 😊 I wonder how long I will have to wait until wood whites move up here!

Re: Susie

by Susie, 03-May-11 05:14 AM GMT

<http://www.facebook.com/v/10150235386061972>

Here's a bit more of them.

I've been wondering lately, given the amount of woodland around here and there seems to be plenty of the larval food plant why there aren't more wood whites about. I can't see a great deal of difference between the woodland at Chiddingfold and around here.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 04-May-11 01:36 AM GMT



Heyshott was the desired destination for today but by the time I got there conditions were not ideal, it was sunny and windy. The dukes were out in really good numbers and it was great to see three, four and sometimes five dog fighting, with the occasional dingy skipper or green hairstreak joining in. Unfortunately when they weren't fighting they hunkered down in the turf close to ground making photography far from ideal. I got a few shots though.

Butterflies for today: Duke of Burgundy, dingy skipper, green hairstreak, brown argus, common blue, small heath, brimstone, orange tip, small white, speckled wood, small tortoiseshell.

When I got home there was a painted lady in the garden. There was a red admiral in the garden on Sunday and I wondered then if it was a migrant.





Re: Susie

by Susie, 04-May-11 11:49 PM GMT

I went to Denbies Hillside today. The chalk hillside is getting very parched and I saw quite a number of blues with crippled wings which I blame on the arid conditions. It was very sunny and windy again and not ideal for photography.

Species seen today: Adonis and common blue, brown argus, small heath, green hairstreak, brimstone, grizzled skipper, dingy skipper, orange tip, small white, large white, speckled wood and plenty of green hairstreaks too (mainly laying eggs).

Plenty of five spot burnets and other day flying moths around. A couple of rose chafer beetles were buzzing about. Several lizards but no snakes today. A beautiful broad bodied chaser too.

In the meantime, I took a little bit of video of this couple with a grizzled skipper trying to butt in.

I think there should be a caption competition! 😊

<http://www.facebook.com/v/10150237118281972>

More photos to follow.

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 05-May-11 03:48 AM GMT

🤪 Ace film – but shouldn't it have an 18 certificate 😊?

As to captions...as 'ask Diedre' always says "threesomes never end well"!

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-May-11 04:25 AM GMT

😊 Very wise.

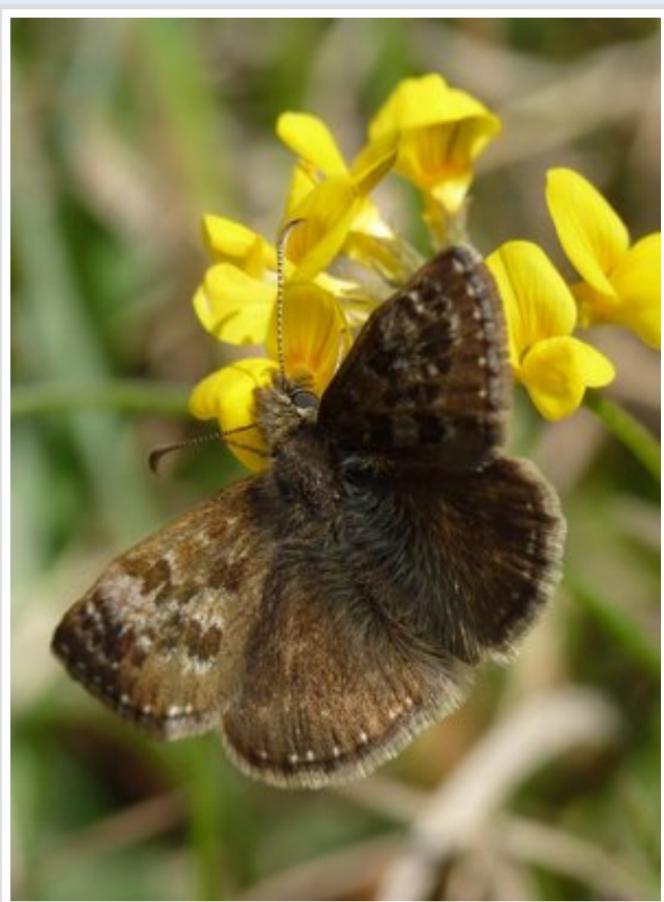
A bit more dirt, this time of a different kind. All tastes catered for here. 😊

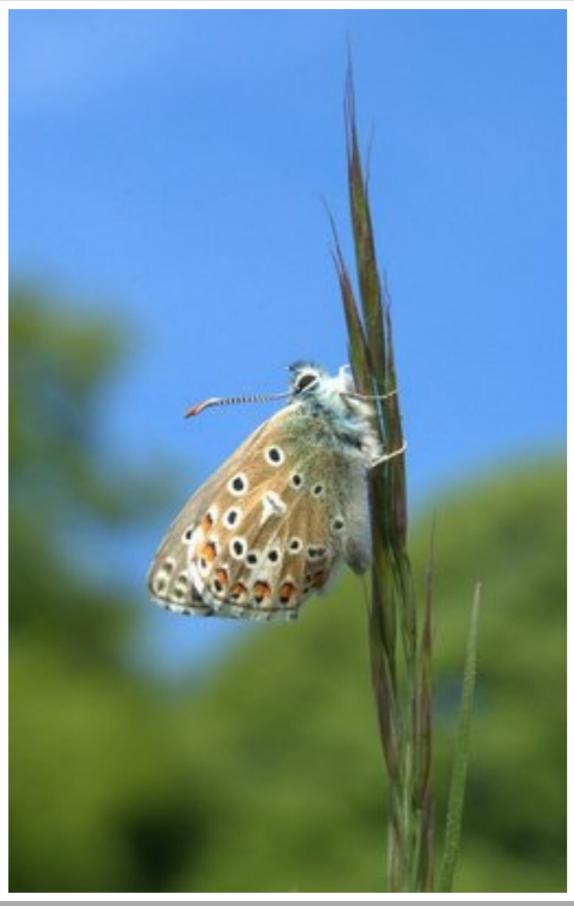
<http://www.facebook.com/v/10150237123646972>

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-May-11 04:29 AM GMT

And finally a few photos.







This chap's so fresh his wings are still soft.



And this one was unlucky 😞



Re: Susie

by NickMorgan, 05-May-11 04:37 AM GMT

I have never seen more than two blues together at one time! Great pictures and videos. Sometimes I come on here and get a little depressed at how few butterflies there are up here!! I had a very fruitless day's searching today, thanks mostly to a cold south-easterly wind.

Re: Susie

by ChrisC, 05-May-11 07:04 AM GMT

some superb pics there Sue. salad burnet must be the butterfly equivalent of a four poster 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 10-May-11 06:35 AM GMT

It was back to Denbies today and the grass was a mass of butterflies on this sunny and very windy day.

Seen today were adonis blue, common blue, brown argus, green hairstreak, small heath, dingy skipper, grizzled skipper, large skipper and comma.

There were lots of malformed and/or aberrant butterflies about. I find myself increasingly intrigued by what causes these aberrations.



Re: Susie

by Susie, 10-May-11 07:56 AM GMT





The first and the third butterflies seem to have a similar form of aberration but the latter has more black near the body.

Re: Susie

by Gibster, 11-May-11 05:41 AM GMT

Hi Susie,

I was at Denbies this evening. Not for long, but long enough to find similar looking specimens to yours. I'm going back there later this week with the camera fully charged. Be nice if the stiff breeze could drop a little though...

Had a Burnet Companion fly up from grasses and settle high in a beech tree, which is something I've never seen before (thought I had a massively early Brown Hairstreak, lol!) Also jammed into a single *Micropterix tunbergella* on beech leaves, it's pretty darn rare in Surrey. Google it and have a look - tis a stunning moth with crazy funky hairdo! 😊

Gibster.

Re: Susie

by David M, 11-May-11 05:46 AM GMT

Susie, that third specimen in your series looks positively malformed.

What kind of numbers are we talking about here?

Re: Susie

by Susie, 12-May-11 02:26 AM GMT

"Gibster" wrote:

Hi Susie,

I was at Denbies this evening. Not for long, but long enough to find similar looking specimens to yours. I'm going back there later this week with the camera fully charged. Be nice if the stiff breeze could drop a little though...

Had a Burnet Companion fly up from grasses and settle high in a beech tree, which is something I've never seen before (thought I had a massively early Brown Hairstreak, lol!) Also jammed into a single *Micropterix tunbergella* on beech leaves, it's pretty darn rare in Surrey. Google it and have a look - tis a stunning moth with crazy funky hairdo! 😊

Gibster.

I think I may have seen you, Gibster. There was a chap with a camera on the eastern side of the field near the hedge. Bet that was you!

I'll go google 😊 I saw burnet companion, mother shipton and a load of other moths.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 12-May-11 02:27 AM GMT



Hi David, there surely are some strange butterflies about. I really couldn't give you an idea of numbers. Just loads.

Re: Susie

by Gibster, 12-May-11 02:48 AM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

I think I may have seen you, Gibster. There was a chap with a camera on the eastern side of the field near the hedge. Bet that was you!

Yup, twas me. You were just going through the gate. I did wonder, but the sun was in my eyes. You're meant to holler, "Oy! You with the camera! Whatyagot, mate???" 😊

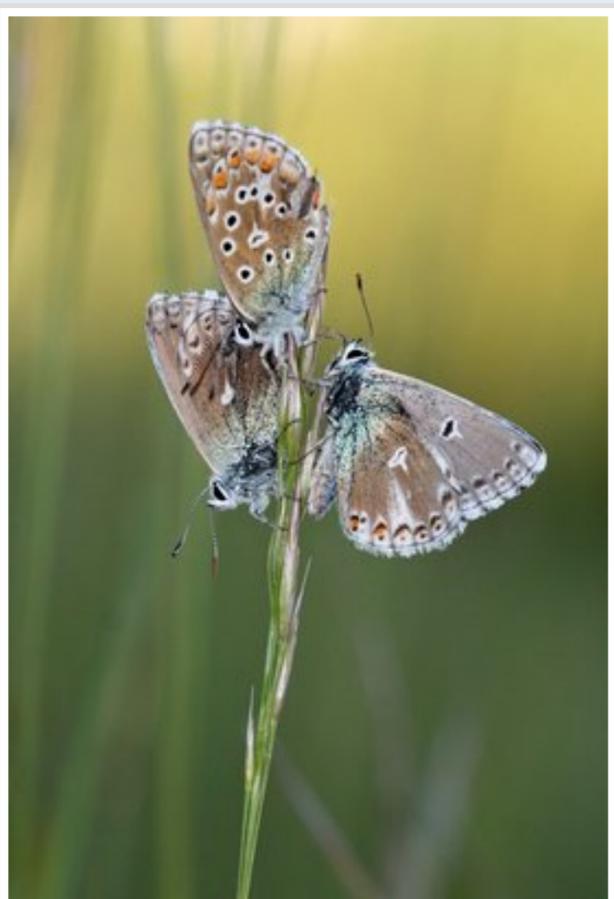
Re: Susie

by Susie, 12-May-11 03:05 AM GMT

lol. when I'm out on my own I avoid people like the plague! 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 12-May-11 06:09 AM GMT



Re: Susie

by Jack Harrison, 12-May-11 08:32 AM GMT

That is an amazing picture. All these aberrations suggest they must be a result of environmental factors (eg abnormal temperatures) rather than being genetic.

No doubt somebody will have some more scientific explanations.

Jack

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 12-May-11 05:22 PM GMT

Those are some strange looking little critters! If these aberrations are caused by temperatures (a bit like the colour changes in Silver Spotted Skipper) then I'll keep my eyes open at other sites because they too could well have similar aberrations. If it was caused by temp then is it because of the cold, snowy winter or the warm, sunny spring 😊

But if these are genetic alterations perhaps you'll get to name the aberration/variation – I'd get your thinking cap on... 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 12-May-11 09:43 PM GMT

I think the majority of the aberrations there are ab. Krodeli and I think that they are caused by environmental factors.

I would be extremely interested to know if this is happening elsewhere.

I only wish I had been able to get the butterflies behind that particular stalk of grass in focus also because the majority of them were abs too.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 14-May-11 08:08 PM GMT

A couple of pics from this morning of one female adonis.

I think she is ab. krodeli and she shows quite distinct blue scaling on her upperside.





More pics to follow later, I'm off out again! 😊

Re: Susie

by NickB, 14-May-11 09:07 PM GMT

Great pics, Susie! Shows what the drought has done; I wonder what our Chalkhills are going to be like...?
N

Re: Susie

by Jack Harrison, 14-May-11 09:56 PM GMT

Nick wonders:

...what our Chalkhills are going to be like...?

I might ask "What Chalkhills?"

Jack

Re: Susie

by Susie, 15-May-11 12:47 AM GMT

I'm with Jack on this one. With the flora so dessicated I don't reckon we'll get much in the way of butterflies on this site later in the year. I hope I am wrong.

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 15-May-11 01:26 AM GMT

I visited Martin Down this morning and saw a few "deformed" Adonis Blue as well – I took photos of one of them but the rest were very flightly, I also found a very deformed Grizzled Skipper that wasn't able to fly but was hopping around like a grasshopper, so that appears that it isn't just Denbies. Haven't managed to sort the photos out yet, but once the kiddiwinks are tucked away for the night I'll post again

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 15-May-11 01:42 AM GMT

I went to Kithurst Hill this afternoon and saw my first ever small blues. They are gorgeous little critters! But I digress, what I meant to mention was that I found a crippled small blue. I guess this may just be par for the course though and it probably happens in every brood to a certain degree.

Re: Susie

by Zonda, 15-May-11 02:12 AM GMT

I'd say the same, in nature only some survive. These are the strongest, and most adaptable, and this is how natural selection works. 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 15-May-11 04:25 AM GMT

Right, so I was at Denbies by 7 this morning and as soon as I got there I realised I had left it too late, the little chaps were wide awake. Many were basking on the grass stalks, blue jewels with wings wide open, it was beautiful. But it meant I couldn't do the aberration count I was hoping to do with a degree of accuracy. However, I reckon one in four adonis blues are aberrant in some way but it isn't always obvious from first glance as with some of them only one wing is affected.

Having been telephoned by the husband who told me to come home for my breakfast 😊 I called it a day at Denbies.

This afternoon I went to Kithurst Hill to look for small blue and wasn't disappointed, there were dozens!

And finally this evening it is raining at last so I don't have to water the garden. 😊

Photos to follow soon.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 15-May-11 05:40 AM GMT

Male adonis blue trying to mate with ab female.

<http://www.facebook.com/v/10150250762316972>

Small blue

<http://www.facebook.com/v/10150250729966972>

And a little bit of shere indulgence so I can look back in the winter months ... the view from Kithurst Hill with the sea in the back ground and the wind rippling the crops in the field and just the sound of cyclist wizzing passed. 😊

<http://www.facebook.com/v/10150250749936972>

Re: Susie

by Susie, 15-May-11 06:28 AM GMT

This is the ab female which is being chased around in the video above. I think she has some mosaic gynandromorph feature



Re: Susie

by Susie, 15-May-11 06:31 AM GMT





Re: Susie

by NickMorgan, 15-May-11 07:42 AM GMT

Fantastic pictures and video, Susie.

Re: Susie

by Vince Massimo, 15-May-11 06:33 PM GMT

Susie, your first encounter with Small Blue was a winner. I have been trying to get photos like that for years 🍷

Thanks again for the Denbies PM.

Vince

Re: Susie

by Susie, 16-May-11 01:19 AM GMT

Thanks nick and vince.

I like taking short videos, it gives an idea of what the butterfly is really like.

I was so lucky with the small blues, it was love at first sight! They are right feisty little critters.

Re: Susie

by Jack Harrison, 16-May-11 03:01 AM GMT

Susie. Your signature line:

KS. Enjoy yourself. It's later than you think.

Explanation please (well the KS bit).

Jack

Re: Susie

by Susie, 16-May-11 03:21 AM GMT

I'm actually an alien and part of an advance party gathering information on earth. That is a secret message to the mother ship. Unfortunately now my secret is out we will have to attack and you will all die. Unlucky 😊

As for the other bit it's a song on radio two's drive time and an apt mantra for life. I think it is particularly pertinent when it comes to butterflies because if you don't make time for them when they're flying then you've missed them for another year and who knows what will happen next year?

Re: Susie

by Pete Eeles, 16-May-11 03:52 AM GMT

"Vince Massimo" wrote:

Susie, your first encounter with Small Blue was a winner. I have been trying to get photos like that for years 🤖

Thanks again for the Denbies PM.

Vince

I agree – superb photos! Keep up the good work Sooz!

Cheers,

– Pete

Re: Susie

by Susie, 16-May-11 04:08 AM GMT

🤖😄 Thanks

Re: Susie

by Susie, 17-May-11 06:26 AM GMT

Today I met up with UK Butterflies member, Pauline, and had a lovely day. She very kindly showed me around Botany Bay. 😊

We saw a purple hairstreak high up in the trees, plenty of speckled woods, common blue, dingy and grizzled skippers, a brimstone (could have been more but I only remember one) and a green veined white and the star of the show was there in good numbers still – wood white.

I thought when we saw this dingy skipper that she had far more pale markings than was normal but looking at the books I now don't think that is the case.



We saw a keeled skimmer and Pauline saw other dragonflies too.



And finally the butterflies





Then this afternoon after the kids were home from school I went for a walk over my local patch. I have neglected this a bit lately (so much to do, so many places to go!) and was greeted by an immature male scarce chaser straight away



The grass was thick with damselflies, including white legged, and demoiselles



there weren't many butterflies about apart from common blue.



and these were starting to roost.

The best bit was watching some deer which were on the edge of the woods running and leaping through the field long grass just a little way in front of me. I plonked myself down for a while in the meadow and just watched the rabbits and buttercups. It's heaven here.

Re: Susie

by NickB, 17-May-11 06:41 AM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

..... if you don't make time for them when they're flying then you've missed them for another year and who knows what will happen next year?

Yep – enjoy life whilst you can 😊

Lovely set of pictures again, Susie 😊

...keep 'em coming, helps make up for the lack of butterflies in Cambridgeshire....

N

Re: Susie

by Susie, 20-May-11 06:23 AM GMT

Another day at the office, another lunchtime spent searching for the Holy Grail 😊

Still no sign.

I did see large skipper, small heath, speckled wood, several small whites and a male orange tip. I am quite amazed that fresh looking male orange tips are still on the wing.

Also heard today, my first crickets chirruping in the grass 🐞 which is a sound I associate with mid to late summer.

Re: Susie

by Paul Wetton, 20-May-11 07:24 AM GMT

Hi Susie.

Some great pics. I think the dragon under the female grizzly is a female Black-tailed Skimmer.

Nice Scarce Chaser. Males and females are all orange when they emerge then the males gain pruinescence and become blue.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 23-May-11 06:25 AM GMT

Cheers, Paul.

I went on the Sussex BC walk in Heyshott on Saturday, details in Kipper's diary. Here are a few photos.



Our esteemed leader pointing out a duke of burgundy



Re: Susie

by Susie, 23-May-11 10:58 PM GMT

I went to see the Glanville Fritillaries today. I got stuck in traffic on the way there which doubled my journey time and when I arrived it was very windy. This changed to extremely windy and then on to blowing a gale during the course of time I was there, which probably explains why no one else was stupid enough to look for these pretty little butterflies as they covered in the undergrowth. When they did venture out the wind caught them and they whipped away out of view in a flash.

My good deed of the day was saving a heavily egg laden female who was looking for ovipositing sites from a big black crab spider.

I am pleased to see the butterflies, and they were a life tick for me, but I came away feeling very grumpy and rather cheated.

Hey ho, there is always next year I guess.



Re: Susie

by Paul Wetton, 23-May-11 11:08 PM GMT

Hi Susie

Some excellent pics of the Glanvilles despite the inclement weather conditions. I love the shot with the daisies in the background. I tried some shots like this when I visited on Saturday but my DSLR appears not to show as much depth of field and hence a more blurred background. I guess this is due to the size of the sensor.

I put my pics on my diary if you're interested.

We got stuck in traffic in reading on Saturday for a couple of hours which frustrated me enormously. We visited Goring (The Thames) for Club-tailed Dragonfly, Hartslock Nature Reserve for orchids and then Wrecclisham. We tried a detour to Homefield Wood between Henley and Marlow for Millitary Orchids but failed to find it and hit the traffic in Reading. A great day out though.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 23-May-11 11:14 PM GMT

I'm a country girl now, I'm not used to traffic jams and I find them intensely annoying now.

The Lumix really came into its own today, I couldn't get a single decent shot with the Canon. And I'm absolutely interested in other peoples' photographs!!

This poor little butterfly was brave enough to venture out to feed. I bet it ended up feeling sea sick.

<http://www.facebook.com/v/10150259826341972>

Re: Susie

by Paul Wetton, 23-May-11 11:46 PM GMT

You did very well to get any photos at all in that wind. Well done.

Re: Susie

by NickB, 24-May-11 12:16 AM GMT

Good stuff, Susie. Like the daisies...

I'm going to have to get my video going I can see...haven't really done much with it, I have to confess.



Re: Susie

by Susie, 24-May-11 05:07 AM GMT

Changing the subject, the emperor moth caterpillars are doing well. The biggest one of the five moulted again today and now has many more orange markings.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 25-May-11 12:15 AM GMT

Emperor moth caterpillar which has just moulted again. It is now in it's third instar I think.



Two of the others which haven't yet moulted yet and vary in size.

My wild garden. It's scruffy but full of critters! 😊





There are brimstone cats on the alder buckthorn, orange tips on the cuckoo flower, green veined white on the garlic mustard, brown hairstreak on the blackthorn and probably much more. 😊

Re: Susie

by ChrisC, 25-May-11 12:56 AM GMT

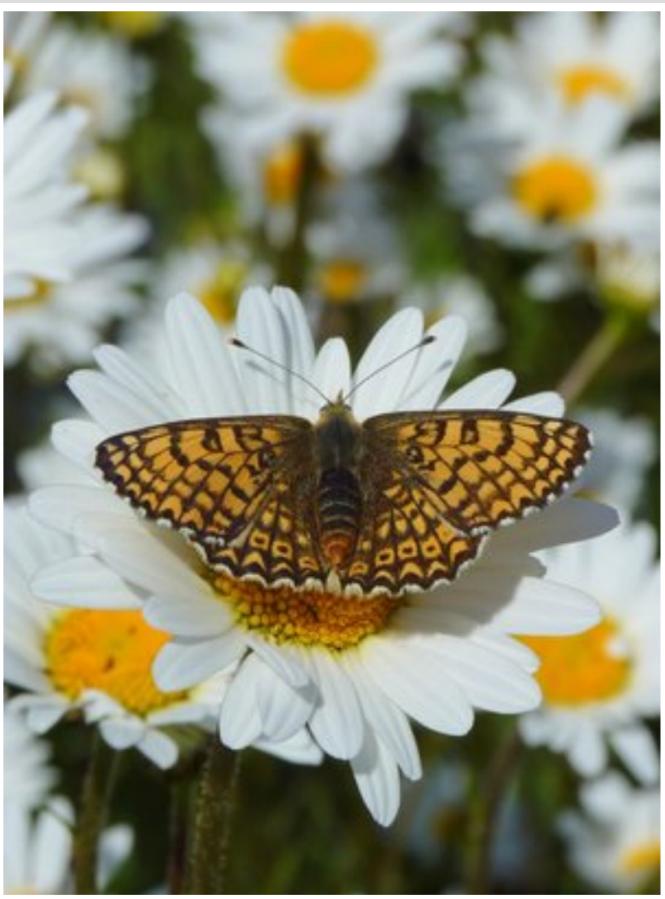
i do pity the neat and tidy and yet empty gardens. i don't think i could cope. looks great susie.

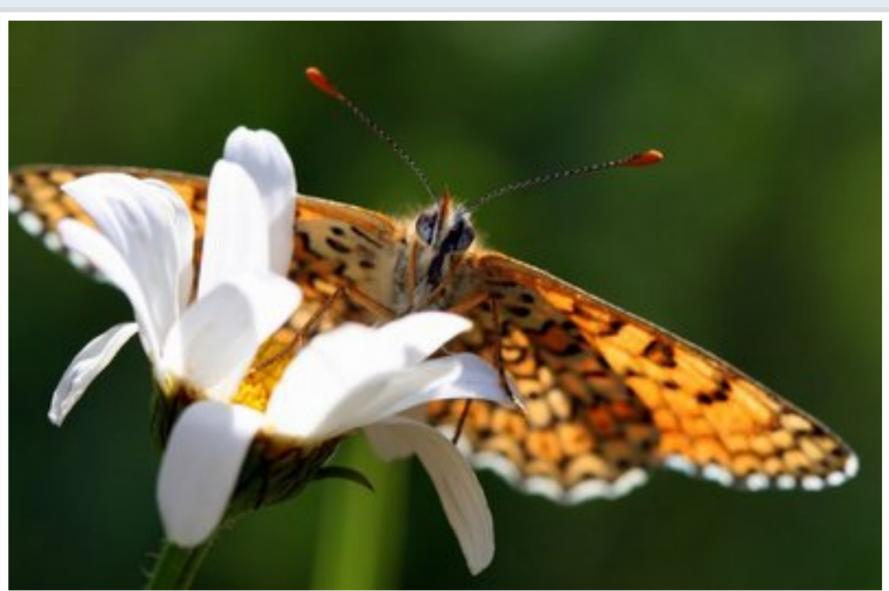
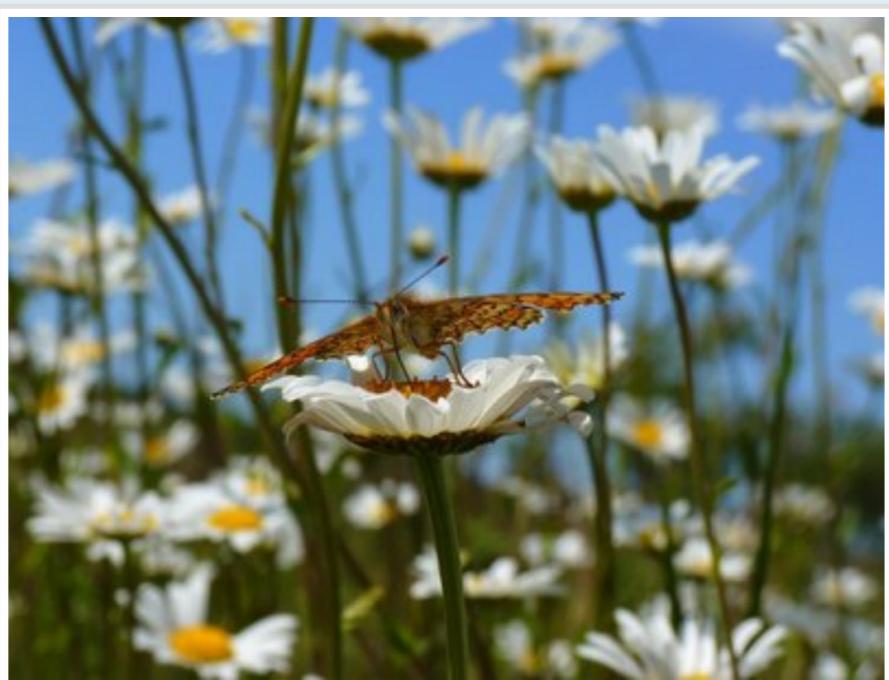
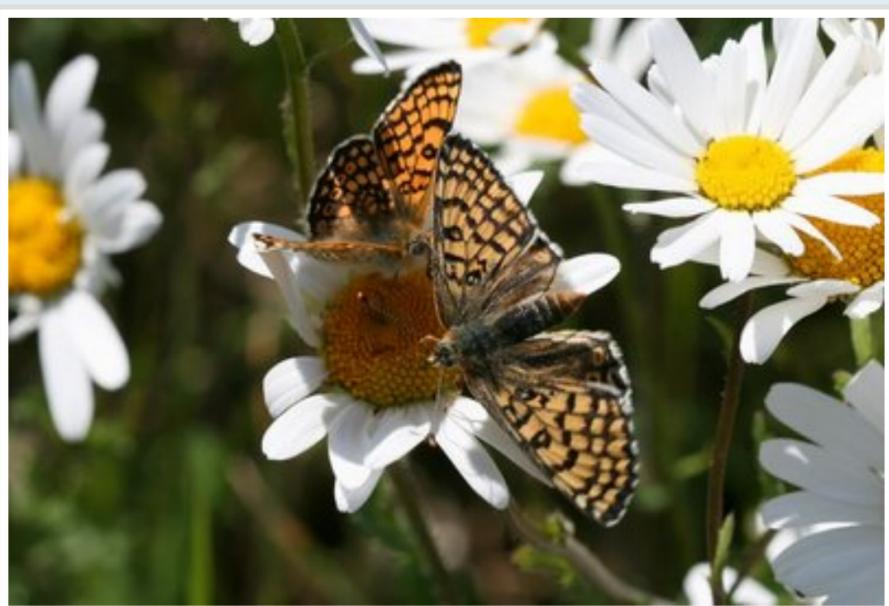
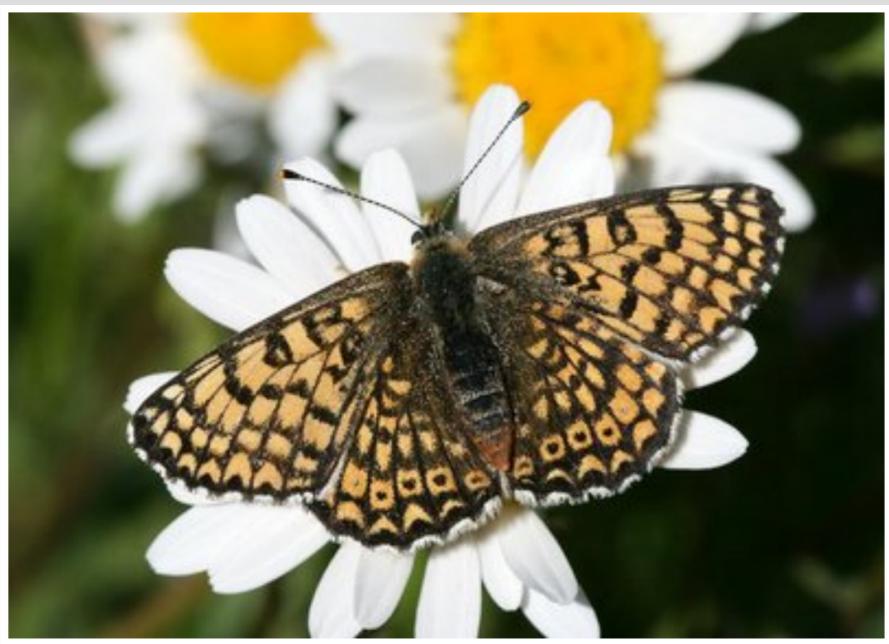
Chris

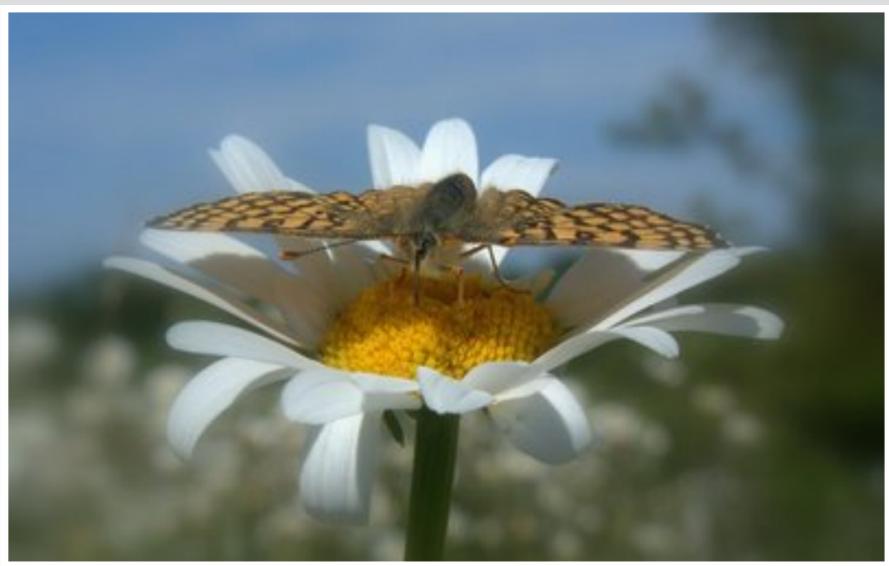
Re: Susie

by Susie, 26-May-11 04:34 AM GMT

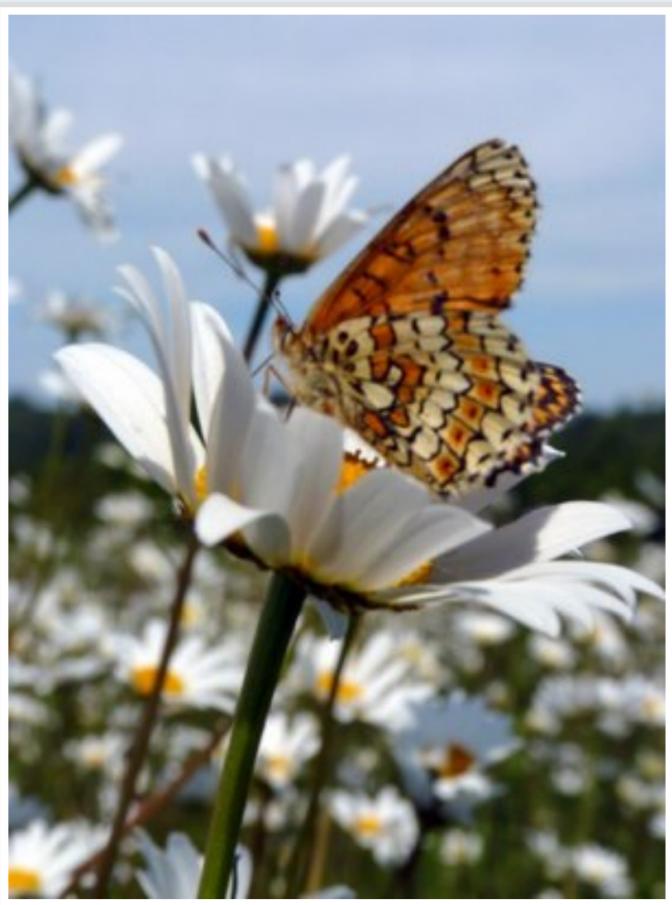
I went back to Wrecclesham this morning before work to have another crack at the Glanvilles. I did a bit better than the other day. I also met some lovely chaps, two of whom view this forum (one posts too, hello EricY, it was a pleasure to meet you and your friend today and hope your butterflying holiday continues to be so successful. You should post your smashing photos on here).







I still haven't managed to get a decent under wing shot but I rather like this one even though it is out of focus! The only times I saw the underside of the wings was when the wind blew them up so I took my chance and clicked the shutter...



Re: Susie

by Lee Hurrell, 26-May-11 05:12 AM GMT

Lovely photos Susie 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 26-May-11 05:15 AM GMT

They look very summery, don't they! 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 28-May-11 02:48 AM GMT

Emperor moths are starting to turn green.



I went for a walk in Cranleigh at lunchtime. No sign of any black hairsteaks. There was an amazingly fresh and particularly beautiful small tortoiseshell though, common blue and small heath about.

Re: Susie

by Paul Wetton, 28-May-11 04:15 AM GMT

Great shots at Wrecclesham Susie.

I particularly like shot 4 with the sky and Ox Eye's in the background.

I take it was less windy this time.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 28-May-11 04:39 AM GMT

Thank you, Paul. I always find it interesting to know which photos of mine people prefer.

Wednesday was still a bit blowy but at least it wasn't knocking me backwards. 😊

Re: Susie

by Lee Hurrell, 29-May-11 05:32 PM GMT

My favourites were the same one as Paul and the one after it 😊

Lee

Re: Susie

by Padfield, 29-May-11 05:36 PM GMT

Me too. I'm a sucker for blue sky in a picture! It gives the butterflies a lovely sense of freedom.

Guy

Re: Susie

by EricY, 30-May-11 08:19 PM GMT

Hi again Susie, lovely to meet you at the GF site on Wednesday, it was the best day of the week on our little tour. Super photos of the GF's you got. I would like to post photos on UKB but have still not yet found out how to do it. I have tried a couple of times with no success, I guess my old brain needs a "retread" lol. Eric

Re: Susie

by Susie, 31-May-11 05:31 AM GMT

Hi Eric,

I am sure someone on here can help you with your photos should you wish them to. They really were good.

Hope to bump into you another time,

Susie.

Re: Susie

by Pete Eeles, 31-May-11 05:39 AM GMT

"EricY" wrote:

I would like to post photos on UKB but have still not yet found out how to do it. I have tried a couple of times with no success, I guess my old brain needs a "retread" lol. Eric

When you make a post, look at the "Upload attachment" tab further down the page. This is what you need to use to upload photos.

Cheers,

- Pete

Re: Susie

by Susie, 01-Jun-11 07:17 AM GMT

My only sighting today was a pair of small tortoiseshells courting over the bypass near home. Yesterday I saw another small tortoiseshell and a small white.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 02-Jun-11 04:38 AM GMT

I'm watching Unsprung and the quizz is driving me mad! My guess is jay, blue tit, chafinch but I don't know the last one, maybe great spot?

Small torts, large white and a red admiral in the garden today.

It felt like silver washed fritally weather this morning but i'm yet to see one.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 03-Jun-11 02:55 AM GMT

Today I did a bit of exploration of new territory looking for butterflies having seen a link on Facebook from Michael Blencowe about the Sussex BC. We didn't find much but there looks to be some good areas here to explore in a few weeks.

This afternoon I went to Southwater Woods having red that white admiral were out at Bookham. I didn't find any WA, PE or SWF but there were meadow browns, speckled wood, loads of large skippers, common blue, a small tortoiseshell, a red admiral, a white of some description and a brown argus. The flowers are starting to come out in the meadow now so I plonked myself down amongst them and was just enjoying being there when I received a visitor, luckily I had the camera set to video mode.

(video to follow).

Re: Susie

by Susie, 03-Jun-11 05:46 AM GMT

<http://www.facebook.com/v/10150269359601972>

I saw a buck on the way out of the woods too.

Re: Susie

by NickB, 03-Jun-11 08:32 AM GMT

Bambi? Dinner! 🍖

N

Re: Susie

by Susie, 04-Jun-11 01:30 AM GMT

I'm very partial to a bambi steak too.

Two small whites today in Goring and a small tort in the back garden.

Re: Susie

by Zonda, 04-Jun-11 02:47 AM GMT

I recently had a roadkill rabbit stew, best stew i ever had. 😊 I dunno why we are buying meat, when its being killed for us by traffic. I don't advocate swerving to achieve this, but if you see a rabbit that's had its lot. Why not stop, and pick it up,,,, same goes for pheasants.

Re: Susie

by Gibster, 04-Jun-11 04:59 AM GMT

"Zonda" wrote:

same goes for pheasants.

WRONG WRONG WRONG!!! Theres some old Law that states it's poaching if you hit and kill a pheasant then pick it up for 'the pot'. **But** if your mate in the car behind picks it up, well – that's technically ok! 😊

Which is exactly what happened to me a few years ago. My mate duly strung the bird up until near-rotten then invited me around for roast pheasant with all the trimmings. Except every bone had shattered and the whole carcass was rendered inedible for fear of choking. The sprouts were nice though...

My only other pheasant/car story involves three mates in a car, a pheasant shoots out across the road, straight in through the open side window and ended up on the lap of the chap in the back seat. Apparently true!

Sorry Susie, you can have your Diary back now. 😞 Good luck with those early WA/PE/SWF hunts!

Gibster.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 04-Jun-11 05:10 AM GMT

You carry on, most entertaining! 😊

I wouldn't eat road kill rabbit around here, there is far too much myxi about. I saw a poor old bunny yesterday running around in the road, eyes are swollen and shut. 😞

Your pheasant story reminds me of something that happened a few years back. I had a new car and was driving along when a song thrush shot out into the road a couple of feet off the ground in front of me. There was no way I could avoid it so I carried on, I checked the rear view mirror and a couple of feathers were floating around. Saddened I carried on my journey. When I arrived at my destination I heard a noise from under the bonnet, look in through the grill and saw a pair of beady eyes looking back at me! I took out the handbook to find out how to open the bonnet (honestly!) and there was the thrush sitting deep down in the engine. 😞 Eventually it flew out, a bit ruffled but seemingly okay. 😊

I've seriously thought about picking up fresh deer I've seen killed by the roadside, never quite been brave enough to do it.

Re: Susie

by Paul Wetton, 04-Jun-11 05:26 AM GMT

My brother and his now wife hit a stag up in Scotland. It did the expected thing, stopped in the road looked at the car (Nissan Micra) and duly placed it's head and antlers through the windscreen between the pair of them.

My brother removed the almost dead animal from the car onto the side of the road and some guy with a pickup truck appeared, made sure it was dead popped it on the back of his truck and drove off, probably after checking they were ok. The stag wrote the car off and they were unharmed. Seems you have to be cheeky daft and quick for this sort of malarchy.

Re: Susie

by Gibster, 04-Jun-11 05:40 AM GMT

Well it's not quite a road kill story, but....

I used to spend a lot of time camping on The Scillies off of Cornwall. There are no foxes or mink there, but there are an awful lot of hedgehogs. The local council were a bit puzzled about what to do with all these hedgehogs. They wondered if they ought to control the numbers through culling, trapping and releasing on the mainland/other islands or just let them get on with it. One night the local radio station aired the topic and invited folks to call in with thoughts and suggestions. One guy, a known 'gypsy' who had moved to the islands years before, said he'd take them either alive or freshly dead, and cook em in the usual way (wrapped in clay and thrown onto a fire). The DJ had to ask, "so what exactly does hedgehog taste like?" The gypsy replied, "Well, don't ask me why coz I don't rightly know – but they taste exactly the same as cat"... and yep, that's another utterly true story folks! 😊

Gibster.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 04-Jun-11 05:33 PM GMT

Cat is supposed to taste like chicken I believe ...

A little update on my Emperor moths; they are all doing well. The largest is nearly double the size of the smallest but the smallest shed it's skin this morning so I hope it will continue to grow. There also seems to be two colour forms. Four have orange spots and black feet, one has yellow spots and pale feet and more of a black line down the centre of it's back.



The caterpillars all have names now; Augustus, Napoleon, Puyi, Akihito and the one with yellow spots is Victoria.

I'm off to enjoy another fabulous sunny day (possibly the last one for a while). I can't help wondering what this very hot spell will do to the pupating WA, SWF, and PE. IF they are in their last few days of development then I'll expect to see more aberrations this year. It has been really hot here lately, 26 degrees yesterday and it was still 21 degrees at 7.30 last night. 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 07-Jun-11 06:15 AM GMT

We were at a friend's farm on Saturday , there were loads of large skipper, small tortoiseshell, some meadow brown and a brimstone. It looks like good purple emperor and brown hairstreak habitat too.

Well I was wrong about the Emperors, there isn't another colour form, it's just a stage they go through.

I went to Marlpost woods today but it was cold, grey and damp. We saw a few meadow browns and that was it, apart from more deer and bunny rabbits.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 08-Jun-11 02:18 AM GMT

The kids finally went back to school at lunchtime today (apart from my eldest who is doing her GCSEs) so I managed to get out and do a bit of butterflying this afternoon. I went to Southwater again today and what a contrast to yesterday. It was still pretty overcast but when the sun came out there were butterflies everywhere. Almost immediately I was greeted by a silver washed fritillary! and then a second! They were beautiful and absolutely perfect in every way – but very mobile. I love the way they glide. Meadow brown and speckled woods were everywhere. The sun went in and I didn't see anything for a while and then I spied a flash of black and white up in the trees. It flew all around them, about 15 to 20 feet up, but not close enough to get a photo; it was my first white admiral of the year. Later on I found more silver washed fritillary, also four or five very fresh red admiral, a small tortoiseshell, a green veined white, and large skipper.

After picking the nippers up from school I went to another site and found another red admiral, more meadow brown and speckled wood but nothing else (oh, and a very nice brown hawker).





Re: Susie

by Susie, 08-Jun-11 02:19 AM GMT

<http://www.facebook.com/v/10150274006976972>

Re: Susie

by ChrisC, 08-Jun-11 02:56 AM GMT

very jealous sue. i'm also intrigued by the bee? Hoverfly? in the movie. looked a bit odd. with a bit of luck i'll be heading down that way myself in a couple of weeks.

Chris

Re: Susie

by Michaeljf, 08-Jun-11 04:18 AM GMT

Hi Susie,
lovely photographs of the Silver-washed Fritillary, and also of the Emperor Moth caterpillars – they are so cute! Not sure about the names, but *you* are the daddy (or mummy) 😊
Michael

Re: Susie

by Neil Freeman, 08-Jun-11 04:52 AM GMT

Hi Susie,

I think the names of your Emperor cats suit them fine, all Emperors I believe....and one Empress.

Neil.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 08-Jun-11 04:58 AM GMT

First prize goes to Neil! 😊

Thanks, Michael. They are certainly my babies. 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 08-Jun-11 05:08 AM GMT

I did notice that the bee was one I didn't recognise at the time, and from watching the video slowed down I am not even sure now that it is a bee. I don't think it is a hoverfly though so am not sure what else it could be. Could be one for Stuart Roberts if I can't find out what it is from any other resource.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 08-Jun-11 05:37 AM GMT

Okay, this may be mad ... but are there any bee mimic sawflies?

It's not a hoverfly as it has long antennae ... I think it has to be a bee but which one? The nearest I can find is shrill carder bee, which it can't be! Can it?

😲 No, not right for that, scrub that thought.

And a little bit of video from yesterday. I noticed something in the grass and pointed it out to my daughter, who was singularly unimpressed. 😊

We must have caught it napping. Look out for the ears, it's what I always notice first.

<http://www.facebook.com/v/10150274020136972>

Re: Susie

by Gibster, 08-Jun-11 10:32 PM GMT

Darnit...I was hoping for puma or definitive proof of sasquatch!!! 😊

Re: Susie

by Neil Freeman, 09-Jun-11 01:44 AM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

First prize goes to Neil! 😊

Whooppeeee!!!!....I like prizes 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Jun-11 03:20 AM GMT

I have an id for my bee! It's a *bombus lucorum* ... and the bit that caught me out ... *MALE* 😊

They aren't normally on the wing until about August (and I have never seen one before anyway).

Nice page about them here <http://www.bumblebee.org/terr.htm> (actually it is a very useful site about bees generally – I am sure one or two of you would like to brush up on your ID skills).

Re: Susie

by ChrisC, 09-Jun-11 06:58 AM GMT

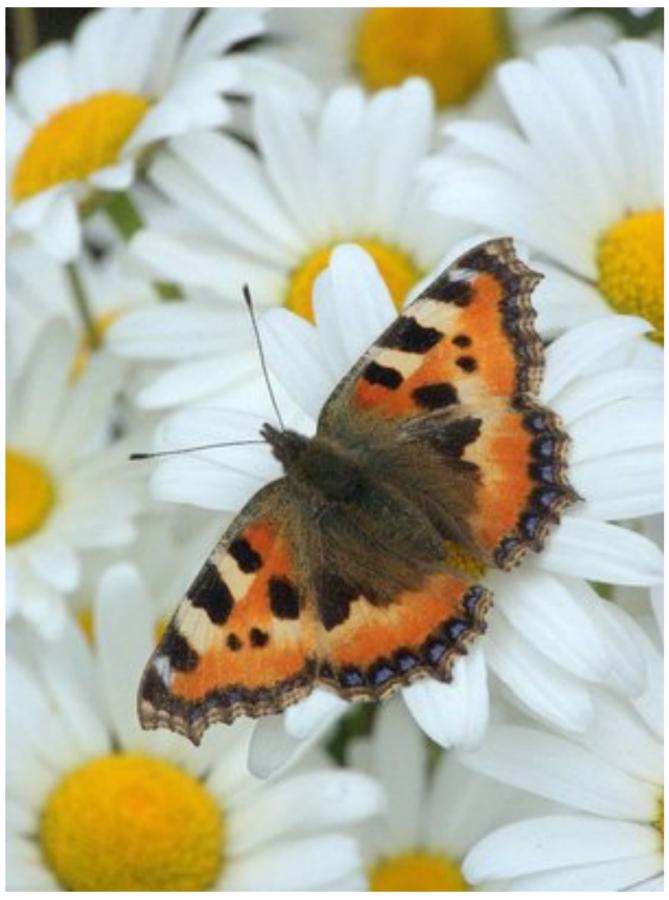
bet you won't forget it now either 😊 bees and wasps i don't really do unless they look remarkably different. Mind you saying that i did try buying The bees of surrey but apparently the first print run flew off the selves (no pun intended 😊) my wasps of surrey is on it's way though 😊

Chris

Re: Susie

by Susie, 12-Jun-11 02:26 AM GMT

It was quite nice today when the sun came out. Unfortunately that wasn't very often. Managed to get a quick snap of a small tort in the back garden though. There was a red admiral around as well.



It's my wedding anniversary this weekend and the weather is pretty similar to how it was 18 years ago. Nothing to do with butterflies. Lol.



The emperor moth caterpillars are coming along well. The biggest one is the size of my little finger now.

Re: Susie

by Jack Harrison, 12-Jun-11 02:37 AM GMT

Congratulations Susie.

Delighted to see that you felt it correct and proper to wear white 😊

My current wife compromised with cream 😊

Jack

Re: Susie

by Gibster, 12-Jun-11 03:00 AM GMT

Such a beautiful bride. 😊 Methinks you've got yourself one very lucky chap, Susie. Where you into butterflies back then too? And was it truly torrential rain all evening, coz it's pretty dire here right now, lol!

Re: Susie

by Susie, 12-Jun-11 03:37 AM GMT

It's off white, Jack. 😊

thanks, Gibster. all brides are beautiful, even those of us who look like the back of a bus. lol

No, I wasn't into butterflies back then, that's a relatively recent thing. I did like gardening though and my first house had a lovely little garden which I planted up from scratch with a long lavender hedge which attracted butterflies.

I wonder who will be the first UKBs wedding, could be you and Sami.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 14-Jun-11 06:47 AM GMT

I went to Iping Common today. It was blowy but the sun came out and so did the butterflies.

This lady was one of the first I saw

<http://www.facebook.com/v/10150279585281972>

Re: Susie

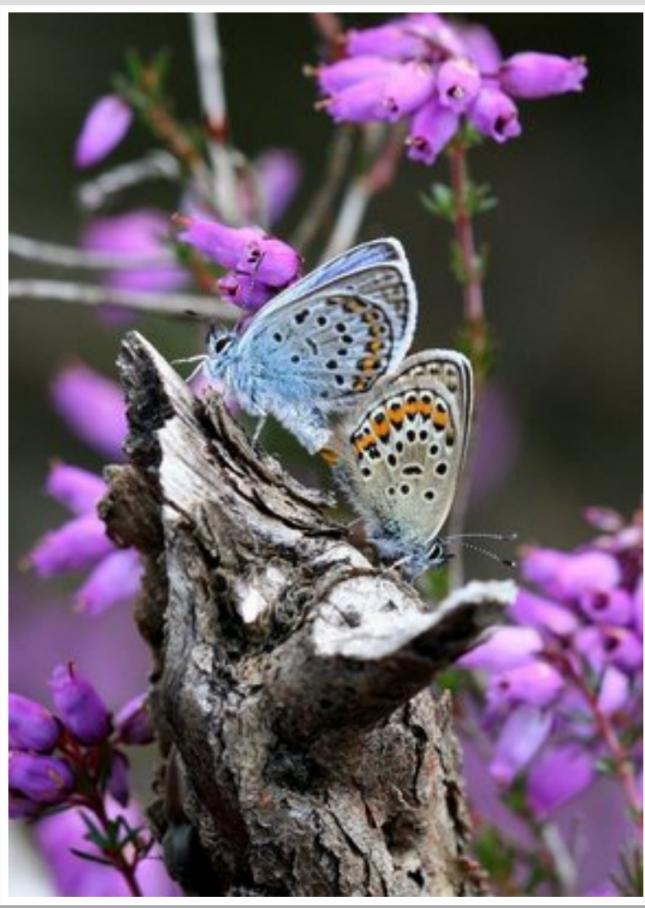
by Susie, 14-Jun-11 06:56 AM GMT

She seems to have more blue on her than I would expect but I imagine this is within normal variation.

Here she is with a friend.







There were quite a few deformed butterflies around, most of them seemed to be female. Many of the males had very minor crinkling to their wings which you wouldn't notice unless you looked closely but they were a lot smaller than the perfect males.

As you can see this chap had a crippled wing on one side and the other side was fine but the markings were very faint.



Re: Susie

by Susie, 14-Jun-11 07:02 AM GMT

After Iping I had to nip home and then I went on to Southwater at 5pm in the futile hope of being the first person to see a Purple Emperor this year. I saw loads of meadow brown, large skipper, red admiral, small tortoiseshell, speckled wood, silver washed frit (4) and white admiral (4) but no purple emperor. Never mind, there's always next year. 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 14-Jun-11 07:06 AM GMT



And just one more SSB



Re: Susie

by Susie, 14-Jun-11 07:39 AM GMT



Re: Susie

by Susie, 15-Jun-11 12:23 AM GMT

I went to Iping again this morning and then on to Southwater in the afternoon. Damn fine day with little breeze and sunny.

At Iping I got to see a female silver studded blue being attended by ants and I got attended by a fair few ants myself! 😊 I dunno about ants in pants but ants in eyes, up nose, in hair, you name it; I guess that's what you get for laying on an ants nest though. I met Robin Crane briefly so was able to tell him about all the deformed butterflies yesterday. He said he had never seen anything like it before. Fortunately for me I was able to show him a couple of pics from this page.

There were a lot of nice people at Iping today, I met a group of ramblers who had never seen a SSB before and were fascinated to see it covered in ants. We may have a few butterfly converts there. Also I met a lovely lady who lives by the downs who sounds to have an incredible "garden" (sounds a bit bigger than my idea of the average back yard as it includes downland and woodland) and gets fritillaries on her primroses in the spring. I hope I have convinced her to submit her records to Sussex BC. Even the dogs were on best behaviour today and nice to be around. 😊😊

I had a very quick dash around Southwater woods. It made me laugh that I have been going there consistently over the last ten days and hardly seen a soul, with my car being the only one parked in the lane, now the Purple Emperor has been seen at Bookham the place was heaving! It was nice to meet a few more butterfly enthusiasts though. I didn't see the Emperor today but I did see white admiral, silver washed fritillary and the other usual suspects.

<http://www.facebook.com/v/10150280263516972>

Photos to follow. I took so many today and some of them aren't awful for a change. There's a shock!

Re: Susie

by Mark Senior, 15-Jun-11 12:50 AM GMT

Hi Susie

I was up at Southwater this morning , bumped into Neil Hulme and his father , Eric . Our consensus is that the PE's are still 1 to 2 weeks off emerging yet .

I am sure you will see them first !!!! We saw quite a number of White Admirals and a few Silver Washed Frits some of both of these were newly emerged today . fresh Commas were also on the wing and I saw 1 Ringlet perhaps the 1st of these this year at Southwater . Sorry not to have met you , perhaps next time .

Re: Susie

by Susie, 15-Jun-11 01:20 AM GMT

I saw Neil's car but didn't see him. Sorry not to have met you too. You've beaten me with the ringlet, I've not seen one of those yet. I reckon we're about four days behind Bookham (we were with white admiral anyway) so I expect we'll see PE by the end of the week (well, someone will, I'll be working).



Re: Susie

by Susie, 15-Jun-11 02:10 AM GMT



White admiral today at southwater. I always think their underside is more attractive than the upper.

And just a few more blues cos they are my favourites (and the hairstreaks)



Re: Susie

by Susie, 15-Jun-11 08:11 PM GMT

I had a possible glimpse of a Purple Emperor at Southwater this morning but too fleeting to be definite. Also seen; two purple hairstreak, white admiral, silver washed fritillary, speckled wood, meadow brown.

Re: Susie

by Vince Massimo, 15-Jun-11 09:29 PM GMT

Susie, that first image of the emerging Silver Studded Blue with "attend-ants" is an absolute cracker 🍷

Vince

PS. have been photographing Brown Hairstreak pupae this morning. Will be posting an update soon.

Re: Susie

by Neil Hulme, 15-Jun-11 10:16 PM GMT

Hi Susie,

The prediction I made some while back on here for our first Purple Emperor (17th June) remains firmly on track – we certainly won't have to wait for a week or two. During every year that I can remember, the first PE in Sussex was seen once female White Admiral is on the wing (only males so far – male numbers still building), when female SWF are numerous (only seen one so far), and when Purple Hairstreak and Small Skipper are out and about (first yesterday). So I'm pretty sure that a sunny spell on Friday will do the job.

The Bookham individual is unusually early, even given this year's weather, and seems like an isolated case (the same butterfly has been spotted again in the same place). In most years the emergence of PE (unlike some species) is remarkably well-co-ordinated, with first sightings in either Sussex or Surrey being matched the following day elsewhere. Some individual larvae/pupae will always 'get ahead', dependent upon localised conditions, but I think that in most years other individuals get the opportunity to catch up. But the change in weather (temperatures) across the South has been so sharply marked in recent weeks that I suspect that an early runner(s) has maintained a significant advantage at Bookham. As a rule I think that all these other indicators will hold good, as they always have done.

See you in the woods on Friday. 😊

Neil

Re: Susie

by Jack Harrison, 16-Jun-11 12:54 AM GMT

Neil:

The prediction I made some while back on here for our first Purple Emperor (17th June) remains firmly on track

I could have sworn you said 18th June. Sounds like an each-way bet to me 😊😊😊

Re: Susie

by Neil Hulme, 16-Jun-11 01:12 AM GMT

You might be right Jack 😊. The weather looks more promising for Saturday. But it will be thereabouts for sure.
Neil

Re: Susie

by Piers, 16-Jun-11 01:32 AM GMT

"Susie" wrote:
She seems to have more blue on her than I would expect but I imagine this is within normal variation.

Here she is with a friend.
[attachment=9:3l7y84k8]252459_10150279674456972_584286971_9035215_6947056_n.jpg[/attachment:3l7y84k8]

You're right Sooze. In fact, the Dorset heath/New Forest populations are the only ones where females with (often substantial) blue on them are not fairly normal in this country.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 16-Jun-11 02:59 AM GMT

"Piers" wrote:

"Susie" wrote:
She seems to have more blue on her than I would expect but I imagine this is within normal variation.

Here she is with a friend.
[attachment=9:23hgavgg]252459_10150279674456972_584286971_9035215_6947056_n.jpg[/attachment:23hgavgg]

You're right Sooze. In fact, the Dorset heath/New Forest populations are the only ones where females with (often substantial) blue on them are not fairly normal in this country.

Thanks, Piers. I am curious why there is a female with dark wings in the aberrant section of the ss blue page of this forum.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 16-Jun-11 03:00 AM GMT

"Sussex Kipper" wrote:
See you in the woods on Friday. 😊

Neil

I'll be stuck in the orifice on Friday (love it there really) but hope to catch up with you for the silly season soon. 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 17-Jun-11 02:12 AM GMT

The first of the emperor moths is pupating. 😊

Re: Susie

by Jack Harrison, 17-Jun-11 03:08 PM GMT

To digress slightly Susie, but would I be correct in thinking that you never looked for or had any success with Black Hairstreak in the Cranleigh area?

Jack

Re: Susie

by Susie, 17-Jun-11 03:27 PM GMT

You'd be correct that I was unsuccessful but not that I didnt look. i was sussing out sites from early in the year and checking the most promising places once or twice a week right up until last thursday when I finally gave up.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 18-Jun-11 06:21 AM GMT

I was gutted to see on the local news tonight that my local stretch of the river arun has been polluted. I am very concerned for the dragonflies.

Re: Susie

by Jack Harrison, 18-Jun-11 11:04 AM GMT

News story here:

http://www.wscountytimes.co.uk/news/loc..._1_2781381

Jack

Re: Susie

by Trev Sawyer, 18-Jun-11 07:22 PM GMT

That's *awful* Susie 😞

I am sure the case will have been/should be reported to Fish Legal – this organisation (formerly known as the ACA) fights for the rights of polluted sections of rivers nationwide. I have been a member for many years and know that they have been extremely successful in forcing polluters to redress some of the damage done to our waterways (even big multi-national companies). Although mostly supported by anglers, the organisation is certainly *not* aimed solely at anglers, but anyone who loves our waterways and wants to see them remain the beautiful and life-filled entities they are supposed to be. As rivers are essentially the "arteries" of our country, we need to ensure that the lifeblood which runs along them is as free of chemical pollutants as possible. A river without aquatic insects is a stale, lifeless drain and those responsible must not be allowed to get away with it.

See: <http://www.fishlegal.net>

Trev

Re: Susie

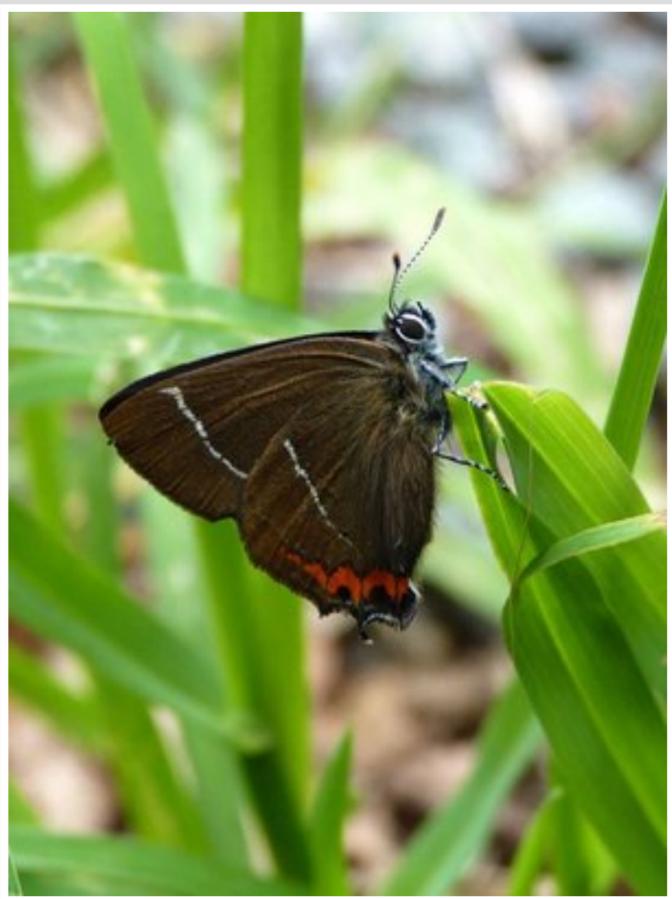
by Susie, 19-Jun-11 02:17 AM GMT

Thanks, Trev.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 20-Jun-11 04:52 AM GMT

After an extremely large lunch out I needed a walk this afternoon so set off for a walk around my local patch. At 5pm with blustery overcast conditions I didnt expect to see much. I was pleased to see meadow brown and half a dozen or so small tortoiseshell. Then I spotted a scarce chaser by the arun and was really pleased. My little bit of the river seems to be unaffected by the recent pollution. I was hoping against hope that I might spot a purple emperor, although I would have happily settled for a silver washed fritillary, white admiral or purple hairstreak but no luck. I was chuffed to see an egret and a hobby though and was bimbbling home when I saw something butterfly like sitting in the middle of the road. It was a fresh white letter hairstreak. I managed a couple of shots before the wind whipped it away.



Another of the emperor moths has pupated. It has been really interesting watching it spin it's cocoon.

Re: Susie

by David M, 20-Jun-11 05:23 AM GMT

Is it just me or does that WLH look a bit unusual?

Seems its 'W' hasn't formed correctly.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 20-Jun-11 05:39 AM GMT

I thought that too but after all my whittering on about aberrations I thought I had better shut up for once. Glad you spotted it!

Re: Susie

by David M, 20-Jun-11 05:44 AM GMT

There's no discernable 'W' at all, Susie.

May as well call it a 'White Line Hairstreak'

Re: Susie

by Susie, 20-Jun-11 05:46 AM GMT

I think there is a tiny trace of the central part of the W but it is very faint.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 21-Jun-11 07:10 AM GMT



Despite the unpromising weather I ventured down to Southwater as it was at least dry in the vain hope that He might grace me with His presence. No such luck! There wasn't very much flying at all. It was nice to bump into ChrisC though, it's a shame I had to leave so soon.

In the soggy meadow which usually is a hive of activity there wasn't much on the wing. There were a few marbled whites around though as well as the meadow browns.





Re: Susie

by ChrisC, 21-Jun-11 07:45 AM GMT

Was good to see you too sue. thanks for the advice on where to see the butterflies 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 21-Jun-11 08:20 AM GMT

No worries. I'm great at telling people where to go! 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 21-Jun-11 05:53 PM GMT

This is a quick bit of film from the weekend of the second emperor moth to spin it's cocoon. I always thought the silk came from their rear end.

<http://www.facebook.com/v/10150286796596972>

Re: Susie

by Gibster, 21-Jun-11 06:27 PM GMT

Hiya Susie,

I'm still trying to figure out which way is up or down in that vid! Clever use of mirrors, or were you hanging upside down on a climbing rope? 😊

I kept and reared a Drinker larva some years ago, housed it in a small fish tank. It decided to spin its cocoon on the glass side and when the adult emerged I kept the cocoon for posterity. The side attached to the tank was perfectly smooth and flat, all I needed was a dab of gum tragacanth and a strip of plastic and hey presto - another curio for my collection 😊 I also have three Convulvulus Hawk pupal excuviae, just try keeping those buggers stuck in place!!!

All the best,

Gibster.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 21-Jun-11 07:52 PM GMT

I am filming down into a plastic tank, the type that is usually used for fish, and there is a glass to one side in which the food plant was kept. The emperor has decided to make home in between the edge of the tank and the glass.

Sounds like you have all sorts of interesting things in your house! 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 22-Jun-11 01:56 AM GMT

I went back to southwater briefly today. Weather was rubbish and not much about. I guess I am getting blaise as I saw a couple of white admirals, a red

admiral, a silver washed fritillary, a few fresh small white, meadow browns, large skipper, speckled wood and a comma. I had a look for white letter hairstreak in broadbridge heath but nowt about.

Re: Susie

by Pete Eeles, 22-Jun-11 05:53 AM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

[attachment=0:bf2s1ij]264854_10150286030461972_584286971_9100436_1778745_n.jpg[/attachment:bf2s1ij]Despite the unpromising weather I ventured down to Southwater as it was at least dry in the vain hope that He might grace me with His presence. No such luck! There wasn't very much flying at all. It was nice to bump into ChrisC though, it's a shame I had to leave so soon.

In the soggy meadow which usually is a hive of activity there wasn't much on the wing. There were a few marbled whites around though as well as the meadow browns.[attachment=2:bf2s1ij]253468_10150286030266972_584286971_9100431_2970159_n.jpg[/attachment:bf2s1ij]
[attachment=1:bf2s1ij]262000_10150286030561972_584286971_9100438_1705488_n.jpg[/attachment:bf2s1ij]

Beautiful shots Sooz. Such a photogenic butterfly!

Cheers,

– Pete

Re: Susie

by Gibster, 22-Jun-11 08:10 AM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

Sounds like you have all sorts of interesting things in your house! 😄

Trust me, you don't know the half of it (and, truth be told, neither do I lol!) 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 23-Jun-11 02:14 AM GMT

Thanks Pete, they don't come much fresher than those chaps. 😄

I haven't seen your place on Life of Grime have I Gibster? 😄

Re: Susie

by Gibster, 23-Jun-11 02:30 AM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

I haven't seen your place on Life of Grime have I Gibster? 😄

Bloomin' cheek!!! 😄 What I meant was that I've large collections of pressed leafmines, a few pupa, some bugs, beetles (yep, a few store boxes stuffed full of micros – don't hate me!), fossils, umpteen dozen reference books, bundles of notebooks, field guides, all sorts of entomological paraphenalia, etc etc. And then there's all the bird stuff! Sam made me leave my boxes of skulls, wings, pellets, feathers etc elsewhere when she moved in with me...

Anyway, getting back on track – your oddly marked WLH – there used to be a small population of WLH on the edge of Epsom Common where the white W was actually yellow! A local chap (Aaron Jones???) used to be very into abbs and he knew of them. Then a couple of huge roundabouts were built and the road widened, the elms were cleared and I've not seen a WLH there since.

Later,

Grimester 😄

Re: Susie

by Susie, 23-Jun-11 04:26 AM GMT

That's very interesting about the WLH. I'd like to know more.

It's a slippery slope between collecting interesting things and living with just a tunnel through carried bags of stuff and dying crushed by a lifetime's supply of atropos. 😄

Re: Susie

by Susie, 25-Jun-11 06:37 PM GMT

I had a day's holiday so popped up to Southwater for a couple of hours yesterday and bumped into a couple of butterfly enthusiasts, one of whom had come all the way from Kent. There were a few silver washed fritillary, white admiral, large skipper, and fresh green veined and small white around. The meadow was full of meadow browns, there must have been thousands. Marbled white numbers are building too. I found Sussex Kipper here who had just had just had the sort of close encounter with a purple hairstreak we dream of and had got some gorgeous photos (as usual). It's always nice to spend time with someone so knowledgeable and willing to share information about butterflies and what's more so considerate. He found some ringlet butterflies as I hadn't seen any this year and helped me get some shots of purple hairstreaks. I'm very grateful to see such gorgeous little critters. The purple hairstreaks were out in good numbers and we put a freshly emerged male up from the grass. No photos of him unfortunately. There were also fresh small coppers.

I had to cut my butterflying short as it was my eldest daughter's school prom and I was taking her out for lunch and shopping before doing her make up and hair and taking her to the preprom party. I felt like mother of the bride! When I left school we didn't do anything, not even a disco! Lots of the kids had stretch limos to take them to the prom but Lizzie and her friends had an old red routemaster bus. 😊 took me back to catching the number 15 when I was a teenager.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 26-Jun-11 02:33 AM GMT

I managed to get some belachan today from a chinese shop in Crawley and it is stinking the kitchen out already. Pooh! 😊

I am really excited at the prospect of carrying out a few experiments and seeing if it attracts other butterfly species too.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 29-Jun-11 01:23 AM GMT

After butterflying over the last few days at every opportunity I got but achieving very poor results (although I did meet some other lovely butterfly enthusiasts which was nice) I have finally reached butterfly saturation point and felt this morning that I didn't care if I never saw another butterfly again so I had a lovely day meeting friends, going shopping and doing "normal" stuff. 😊 I'm sure it will pass

Re: Susie

by NickMorgan, 29-Jun-11 05:42 AM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

... butterfly saturation point ...

Wow, I can't imagine that!! 😊 I saw my first butterflies in 12 days today!

Re: Susie

by Susie, 04-Jul-11 11:41 PM GMT

There is a detailed account of my trip to Southwater yesterday in the Events thread.

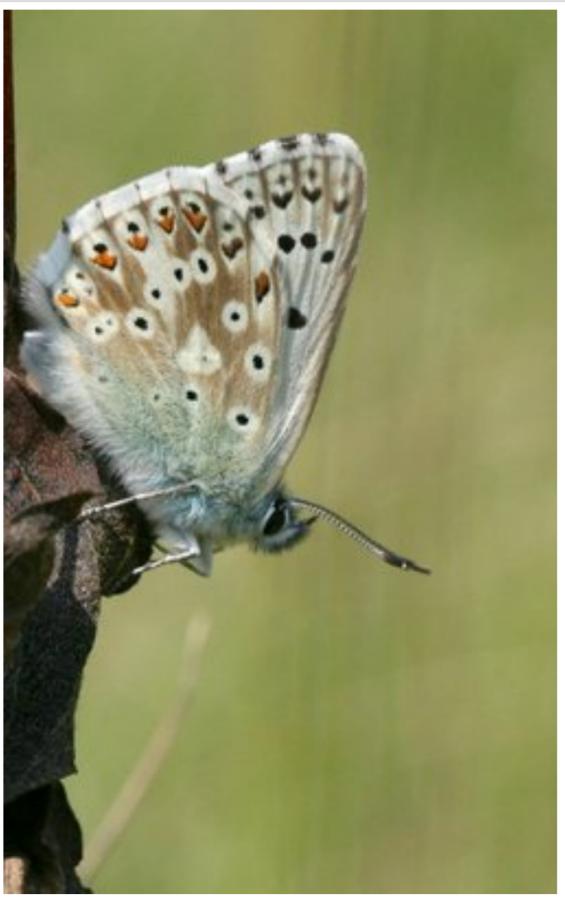
Today I went to Denbies. By the time I got there it was hot. I mean really HOT. Everything was zooming around and there were plenty of butterflies. Not good for photograph so I spent most of my time just enjoying what I saw.

I am glad Millerd warned me about the spraying of the dogwood and stuff or I would have been really concerned. He is right, it does look a mess, and I dread to think what it will do to the green hairstreak numbers next year which have been so good but I guess over all it may be better.

I saw several dark green fritillaries but none stopped, about 20 or more fresh chalkhill blues, a brown argus, a hummingbird hawk moth, a small copper, some small heath, lots of marbled white, meadow brown, large skippers and small skippers. There were other whites around too but I didn't investigate. Butterfly numbers seem to be building nicely.



Fresh chalkhill blue on dead dogwood.



Re: Susie

by millerd, 05-Jul-11 04:26 AM GMT

Glad you saw lots of Chalkhills, and the DGFs! 😊

Dave

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Jul-11 04:31 AM GMT

Now i've seen the dgf I realise that i've seen them there before, I just didnt realise what they were. By goodness they can shift though, I had trouble following them with my eyes at time. I'm so grateful to you for letting me know what they were. Now I just need to get a pic

Re: Susie

by millerd, 05-Jul-11 04:45 AM GMT

Ah, so they *have* been there before! Just that I somehow haven't seen them... I've never seen them at Aston Rowant either before today, but I bet they've been there too. Goodness, what else do I miss? 😊 As for pictures, late in the afternoon they settle down a bit, but the method of standing nonchalantly next to a clump of knapweed and waiting seems to work as well as any. You do get some funny looks, mind...

Dave

Re: Susie

by Susie, 06-Jul-11 01:16 AM GMT

A huge hawk moth flew into the treatment room when I was having a pedicure this morning. Dunno what it was because I couldn't go after it! Lol
Back home in the garden there was a painted lady as well as red admiral, small tortioseshell, small white and meadow brown.
I had a pub lunch at the george and dragon in dragons green and there were a few butterflies flying including some fritillaries.
So, not such a bad day despite not being able to go out butterflying.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 06-Jul-11 02:19 AM GMT



A belated pic of the Sussex Butterfly Conservation walk at Southwater a couple of Sundays ago. Spot the UK Butts member.

Re: Susie

by Lee Hurrell, 06-Jul-11 04:34 AM GMT

Who is that handsome chap hanging around at the back? 😊

Re: Susie

by Mark Colvin, 06-Jul-11 04:45 AM GMT

Handsome? 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 06-Jul-11 04:54 AM GMT

Of course handsome! 😊

Re: Susie

by Mark Colvin, 06-Jul-11 05:05 AM GMT

I think you might need a pair of these Susie?



Re: Susie

by Piers, 06-Jul-11 05:21 AM GMT

"Lee Hurrell" wrote:

Who is that handsome chap hanging around at the back? 😊

He looks like a shifty geezer to me, likely to half inch one of those push bikes as soon as look at 'em... 😊

Re: Susie

by Lee Hurrell, 06-Jul-11 06:07 AM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

Of course handsome! 😊

Thanks Susie 😊😊😊

"Mark Colvin" wrote:

I think you might need a pair of these Susie? 😊

Oh dear....
Mind you, you're probably right Mark...

"Piers" wrote:

He looks like a shifty geezer to me, likely to half inch one of those push bikes as soon as look at 'em... 😊

They're on eBay as we speak! Amazing what you can fit in the back of a Focus... 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 07-Jul-11 03:42 AM GMT

I've got some 😊



Re: Susie

by millerd, 07-Jul-11 03:57 AM GMT

Shiny and purple, of course – had to be, really 😊

Dave

Re: Susie

by Susie, 12-Jul-11 07:18 AM GMT

<http://www.facebook.com/v/10150310579386972>

I popped up to Denbies today and tried out some of my emperor bait. It didn't draw in the chalkhills in big numbers but there was a steady streams of threes and fours.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 13-Jul-11 12:16 AM GMT

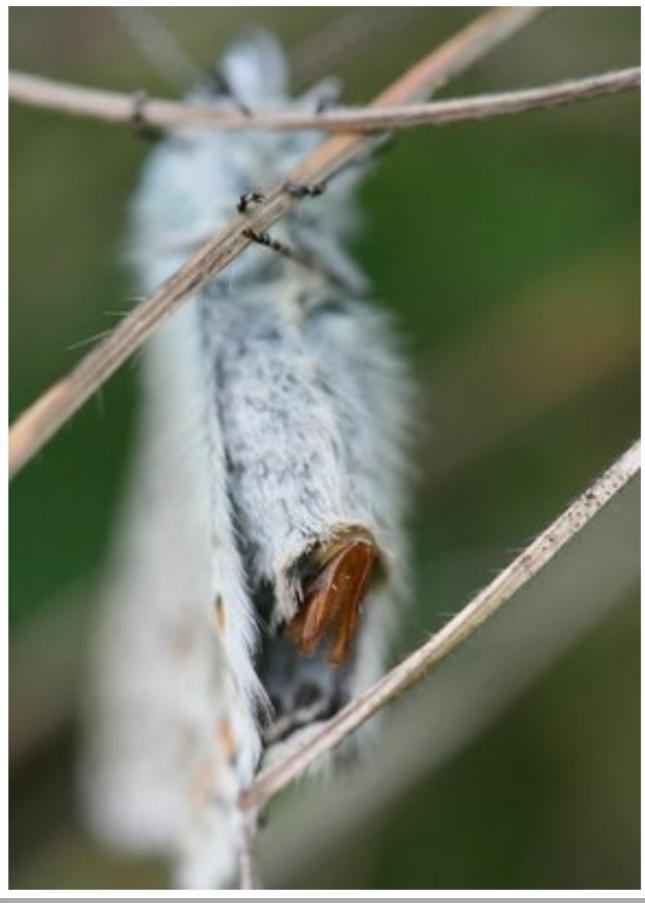
Some more pics from yesterday.

You know I like my oddities, so I concentrated mainly on them. I found a male which appeared to have the end of his abdomen missing and was exposing his claspers. It looked like he had just emerged so I don't think it was post cop and just not put himself away yet. There were a couple more butterflies with deformities too.

The first one is perfect though.









Re: Susie

by Susie, 14-Jul-11 02:48 AM GMT

A quick trip to Denbies this morning before work with over cast conditions was really nice and the butterflies were sitting around on flowers. I couldn't believe my luck. Saw chalkhills, brown argus, small copper, small heath, large and small skippers, marbled white, small white, meadow brown and gate keepers. I didn't realise how attractive the underside of gate keepers were until today. Just as I had to go the sun came out. Typical.



Had small white and speckled wood in the garden.

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 14-Jul-11 05:12 AM GMT

That final, really pale Chalkhill is absolutely cracking! 😊
Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 14-Jul-11 05:20 AM GMT

Well thank you, Wurzel. It's not often I find butterflies just sitting there on something pretty. And not even wanting to fly. 🤔

Re: Susie

by Susie, 25-Jul-11 09:08 PM GMT

On Saturday I joined UKBers Gibster, Sami and Philzoid for a jolly jape down to Portland in seach of Lulworth Skippers. As it turned out there were no Lulworth Skippers but there was a Captain (Bagsy - blog here <http://bagsy-thecaptainslog.blogspot.com/>) and lots of Red Admirals. We were joined by ChrisC for a while. We had a thoroughly splendid time and it was nice to meet such lovely people.

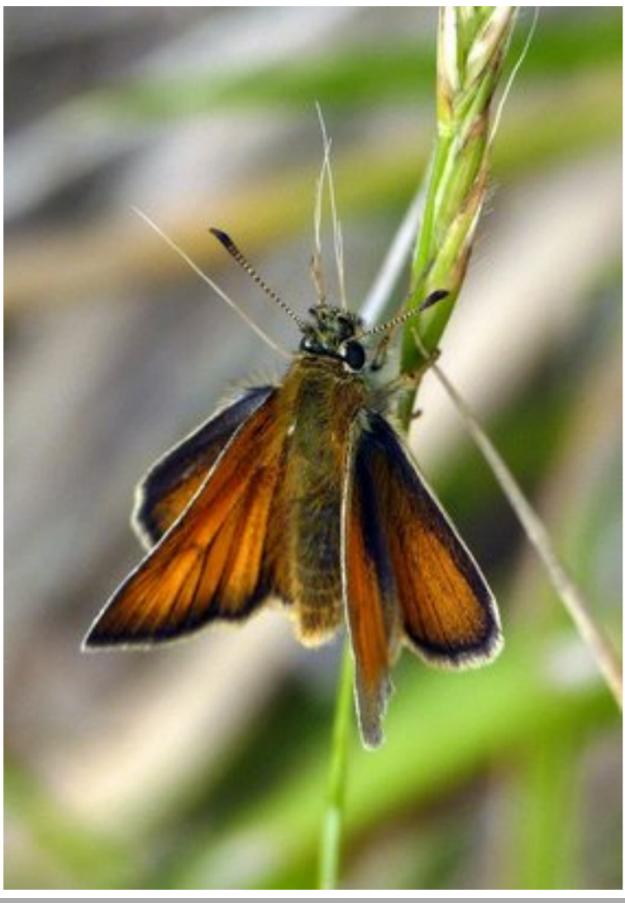
We stopped off at the bird observatory first (amazing book shop!) and had a look at the contents of their moth trap from the previous night. It certainly made me want to give mothing another go. Although we were only there briefly the people seemed very interesting characters and the bird observatory seemed a fascinating place. I would like to go back there again and spend some more time, maybe even do some mothing and stay over.





We then turned our minds to scouring the meadows behind the pub for Lulworths and although we found some small skippers, lots of gatekeepers, some meadow browns, common blue, brown argus, small blue (a really tiny small blue – in fact many of the butterflies here seemed markedly smaller than I would expect), marbled white, a chalkhill blue and there were an awful lot of red admirals coming in from over the sea, the actual Lulworths eluded us. It didn't bother me though, I was having far too good a time with the swallows and martins swooping overhead and investigating the small quarry hoping to see little owls; no luck there either though.







We went on for a pub lunch and despite my ordering lots food but not actually eating a huge amount of it (am on the Dukan diet and it's a right b*gger at times! but incredibly effective – I guess starvation has that effect 🤪😄) I had a lovely time and am envious of Gibsters' bins as well as learning a few birding terms. We found ChrisC's fleece on the way back which should be winging it's way back to him via Royal Mail.

We decided to skip the skippers and go to a quarry to hunt down wall lizards. These proved much easier to find and Gibster led us straight to them. I was a bit scared of going across some of the rocks (I know, coward! 😬) and so viewed from a short distance.



The call of a passing peregrine was something I won't forget in a hurry. Then we witnessed the juvenile peregrines swooping and grabbing the pigeon over the sea which was incredibly exciting and some choice expletives were voiced in our enthusiasm! 😂



To cap the day off we went to a second quarry and Gibster yet again entertained us by turning over rocks and finding slow worms. Great stuff. 😊



Unfortunately time was cracking on and I had to get back so we headed for home. All in all a most enjoyable day.



Re: Susie

by Gibster, 26-Jul-11 08:19 AM GMT

Hey Susie, some cracking pics there...Phil looks positively thrilled just to be there!!! 😊

Check out <http://www.bioimages.org.uk/html/r155218.htm> Looks like you've clinched me another lifer. The 'roach was indeed Panzer's (or Lesser) Cockroach, so you and Phil weren't the only ones to see something new. Sweet!

Catchya later,

Gibster.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 26-Jul-11 08:39 AM GMT

I should point out that Phil had a chalkhill blue on his finger in that photo. 😊

Splendid stuff, Gibster! 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 26-Jul-11 10:00 PM GMT

Sunday

Spent the majority of the day working in the back garden giving it a long needed over haul. The trouble with wildlife friendly plants is that they tend to be a bit, well, wild! The fleabane I planted by the pond had grown very tall and into the lawn on one side and into the pond on the other; this is despite my pulling out every bit I could find last autumn. I've pulled it out again so we can see the pond for a little while at least. There were peacocks, a comma, a holly blue, quite a few gatekeepers and a couple of meadow browns as well as small and large whites and dozens of red admirals.

Monday

I had a quick walk past my local brown hairstreak master tree and there was one sitting in a small ash alongside it.

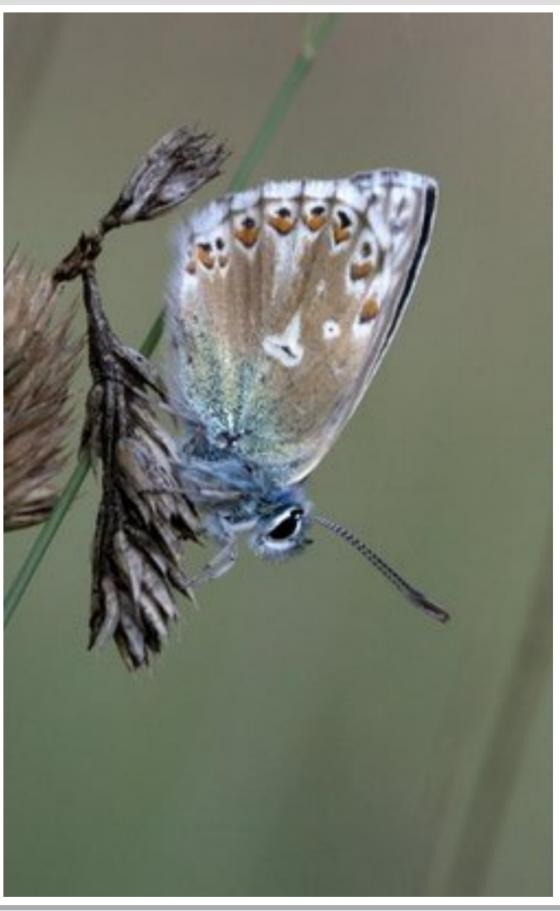
In the evening I went to Denbies to see roosting chalkhill blues. I haven't seen them before en masse hanging up like that and it was certainly an "oh wow" moment. 😊





Long way down!





I also picked up a stranger, unbeknown to me 😳 I found I had a tick on me this morning. Ewwwwww!

Re: Susie

by Gibster, 26-Jul-11 11:43 PM GMT

Glad to see you found one of those Chalkhill abs, but sorry to hear about the little visitor on your own abs 😞

Re: Susie

by Susie, 26-Jul-11 11:53 PM GMT

"Gibster" wrote:

Glad to see you found one of those Chalkhill abs, but sorry to hear about the little visitor on your own abs 😞

Flabs, more like! 😂

Re: Susie

by ChrisC, 27-Jul-11 04:47 AM GMT

the fleece arrived safe and sound this morning thank you 😊 i'll refund postage costs at the pub next time i see you 😊 Chris

Re: Susie

by Mark Colvin, 27-Jul-11 05:06 AM GMT

Love the Chalkhill Blue shots particularly the first image. Very atmospheric. I almost felt I was there.

I must visit Denbies some time as its not very far from me and it appears to be very productive.

Good hunting.

Kind regards. Mark

Re: Susie

by Susie, 27-Jul-11 05:44 AM GMT

Many thanks, Mark. Do go to Denbies, I am sure you will enjoy it. Shame it's not very pretty at the moment with all the dead bushes though and watch out for ticks!

I'm not going to ask which year that will be, Mr C! 😊 I am sure I can spare a bit of change for some postage, it's not a problem.

BTW, Gibster, I found three abs like the one above at Denbies yesterday plus one which was almost white.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 31-Jul-11 06:08 AM GMT

I did a transect today of a square not too far from my local patch. Nothing particularly exciting on the official bit of the walk: meadow brown, gate keeper, large and small whites, some commas and peacock a holly blue and some speckled woods. There were three brown hairstreaks over the master tree up the road when I had a quick look this afternoon. I really must go up there with the camera at a better time of day and see if anything is within range.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 14-Aug-11 01:40 AM GMT

Not had much to report lately, apart from the Denbies walk last Saturday which is described in the Events section, but there were several large and small whites in the garden today as well as a small copper, comma and speckled wood. No sign of brown hairstreak females egg laying here yet.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 23-Aug-11 05:56 AM GMT

I've just had a week away in Turkey and blimey but it was hot. 38 degrees on Friday and still 22 degrees when we left at 2am Turkish time this morning.

The holiday wasn't a bug hunting expedition and the streets of Marmaris get sprayed nightly to keep the mozzies down the holiday rep told us so there was little hope of finding anything in the resort. Despite this I still saw a hummingbird hawk moth, a painted lady, some whites, somethings from a distance which looked like geranium bronzes, some small dragonflies which took a shine to the pool one day and a cricket.

Re: Susie

by Mark Colvin, 23-Aug-11 06:02 AM GMT

Sounds like my holiday Susie.

I've just had a week in Italy (Rome, Pisa and Venice). It was 37 degrees the first day in Rome and didn't cool down much after that ... that's just TOO hot! (and I forgot my camera)!!

Good hunting.

Kind regards. Mark

Re: Susie

by Susie, 23-Aug-11 06:06 AM GMT

But did you enjoy it? Rome is definitely on my wish list to visit 😊

Re: Susie

by Mark Colvin, 23-Aug-11 06:13 AM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

But did you enjoy it?

Venice was nice but I have to admit that there were many times when I wished I was at Steyning looking for Brown Hairstreaks!

Re: Susie

by Gibster, 23-Aug-11 06:20 AM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

and the streets of Marmaris get sprayed nightly to keep the mozzies down

The streets of Marmaris were only just being laid and tarmacked when I was there in 1994! Trust you saw plenty of birds if not butterflies then..? Plus the amaaaaazing rock tombs, Roman ruins, Turkish baths, mud pits, football hooligans? Is everyone still called Mehmet and work in the bazaars, lol?

Gibster.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 23-Aug-11 06:36 AM GMT

We didn't see any of the sights and just stayed in the resort. We still had an amazing time though. I plan to go back at a different time of year and visit all the famous historical and natural attractions. Marmaris is very different from when I was last there on a trip from Rhodes in 1992! All the quaint little shops selling spices and filigree jewellery where the owners offered us apple tea and a chance of haggle over their goods have gone and in their place are shops selling counterfeit superdry and hollister hoodies. The kids were delighted. 😊 We had a Turkish bath though. The locals have given themselves English names now like Paul and Elvis and work in bars. Drinks are unbelievably cheap out there, two cocktails for three quid and a full cooked english breakfast with tea or coffee for under two pounds. Next time we wont go all inclusive.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 23-Aug-11 06:42 AM GMT

"Mark Colvin" wrote:

"Susie" wrote:

But did you enjoy it?

Venice was nice but I have to admit that there were many times when I wished I was at Steyning looking for Brown Hairstreaks!

Goes without saying really!

Re: Susie

by Susie, 27-Aug-11 02:54 AM GMT

I've been laid low with a cold this week (what a waste of a week's holiday this has been!) but popped into the garden to give it a tidy up and watched this going on on the patio doors

["http://www.facebook.com/v/10150352992361972"](http://www.facebook.com/v/10150352992361972)

Re: Susie

by ChrisC, 27-Aug-11 03:13 AM GMT

must have had better weather than me. everytime i looked out from work it was raining. nature can be cruel.

Chris

Re: Susie

by Jack Harrison, 27-Aug-11 03:22 AM GMT

Susie

I've been laid low with a cold this week (what a waste of a week's holiday this has been!)

Poor you. I was lucky in my job in that I was not allowed to be ill when on holiday. Maybe I should re-phrase that.

If illness prevented me from working, then I was allowed time off (within reason). If illness prevented me from having rostered leave, then that leave was in effect cancelled. I was very lucky in my terms of employment.

I now digress. Once, in the middle of the night, I woke only to be rather unpleasantly ill (I needn't go details but it WASN'T caused by alcohol). I was due to fly early in the morning with a report time of 0545 hours so clearly wouldn't be well enough for that. While I was "making love" to the toilet bowl, my wife phoned the Operations Department to say that I couldn't fly in the morning. "Fine" they said, they would have to call the "standby". Unfortunately, they hadn't quite noted the message properly. At around 0545, my phone rang. Wife answered it and through a sickly haze I got the gist of the call. Operations had taken note that one of the pilots had called in sick but had not noted which one! So they phoned around all those due to work early to find out which one it was!!!

Butterflies. One last (?) Purple Hairstreaks in the oaks just outside my garden on Thursday evening, 25th August (NW Norfolk)

Jack

Re: Susie

by Susie, 27-Aug-11 06:33 AM GMT

You were lucky, Jack. I've known other employers who give you the holiday days back too. I am lucky that I am pretty healthy generally.

Re: Susie

by Jack Harrison, 27-Aug-11 03:59 PM GMT

May I digress a little more about health issues?

There has been recent advice about High Blood Pressure and the “White Coat Effect” when seeing the doctor. In my profession, I was always worried about losing my Pilot’s Licence (and livelihood) so it was hardly a surprise that my blood pressure was high every time I had the six-monthly medical. I was lucky in having an extremely good aviation doctor who recognised my concerns and took several measurements during the course of the examination – the BP gradually dropped but was always still slightly high. Then I retired having enjoyed a full career without too many other medical issues. At the next visit to my GP (after retirement) blood pressure readings were taken. I had no concerns now about any risk of losing my licence and yes, you’ve guessed: my blood pressure was well within normal range. I had certainly exhibited the classic “White Coat Syndrome” for all those years.

Jack

Re: Susie

by Susie, 30-Aug-11 02:07 AM GMT

I popped up to Denbies for a short walk this afternoon. Not much going on and the butterflies I did see were hunkered down.



Re: Susie

by Susie, 31-Aug-11 05:46 AM GMT

Random wittering – not about butterflies I am afraid

There's a distinct touch of autumn about. The trees are starting to turn and the nights are drawing in so I decided to sort out one of the boxes of books which has been sitting in the garage for years and came across a set of Harmsworth Popular Science. I haven't looked at these properly before (I inherited them) and they really are quite fascinating so I know what I will be flicking through on rainy winter days. The books were produced in about 1912 and how the world has changed in the last 99 years! Britain and her Empire were the leading force in the world and the World Wars had yet to happen 😞 They're very keen on eugenics too. 😲 There are some fascinating pictures on how they think the world will progress with the aid of technology. If I get a chance over the next few days I will scan the odd bit on because I think a few people on here may find it interesting.

Re: Susie

by David M, 31-Aug-11 05:54 AM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

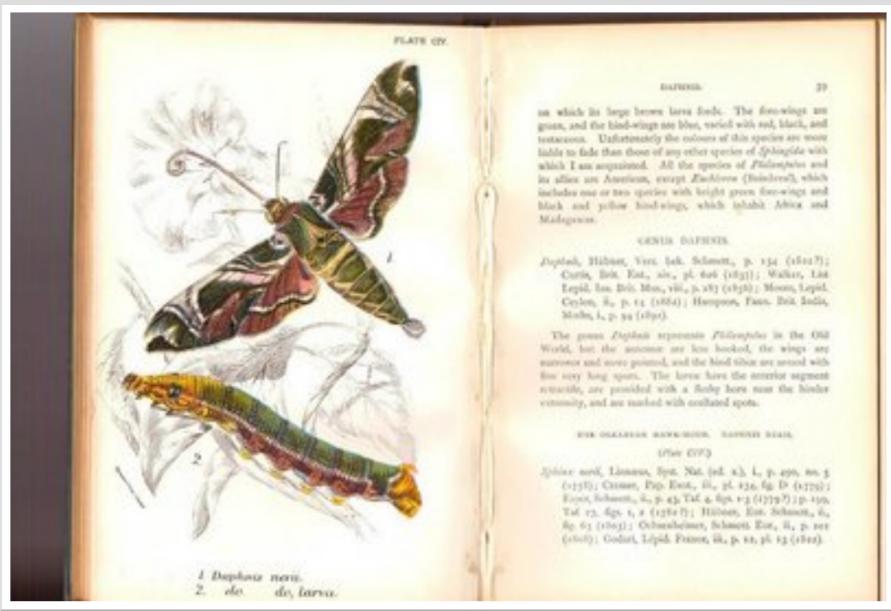
The books were produced in about 1912 and how the world has changed in the last 99 years! Britain and her Empire were the leading force in the world and the World Wars had yet to happen 😞 They're very keen on eugenics too. 😲 There are some fascinating pictures on how they think the world will progress with the aid of technology. If I get a chance over the next few days I will scan the odd bit on because I think a few people on here may find it interesting.

That'd be most interesting, Susie. I shall look forward to it.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 31-Aug-11 06:27 AM GMT

Here's a page from one of my other old books which has beautiful hand coloured pages.



Re: Susie

by ChrisC, 31-Aug-11 06:55 AM GMT

funny you should mention old books Susie, I downloaded "Hymenoptera Aculeata of the British Isles" by Edward Saunders from 1896 , as a PDF only the other day. Not quite the same thing as having a physical book but it was free too so i always keep a look out 😊 keep a lookout to for library sell offs, I picked up 4 moth and caterpillar volumes of the Wayside and woodland series from Uxbridge a few years ago.

look forward to more pages
Chris

just had a look for lepidoptera <http://openlibrary.org/subjects/lepidoptera#ebooks=true>

Re: Susie

by Jack Harrison, 01-Sep-11 01:28 AM GMT

One of my favourite butterfly books is *British Butterflies* by W.S.Coleman. The book itself is nothing special but inside the front cover is a handwritten note which says it all:

"To Len. With love from Mum and Dad. Xmas 1915"

Jack

Re: Susie

by Susie, 01-Sep-11 05:00 AM GMT

Makes you wonder who they were, Jack .

Thanks for the link, Chris.

I'll upload something in the next few days, David.

I popped to Kithurst hill late this afternoon for a little walk. The meadow was beautiful and full of flowers but there weren't many butterflies to be seen. Some small whites, common blue, meadow brown a small copper and a red admiral were all we saw. The best bit was the view and popping into The Sportsman for a drink after.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 02-Sep-11 05:41 AM GMT

A common blue from Kithurst Hill yesterday



I went to Cissbury Ring tonight after work. The butterflies had all gone to roost and it was lovely listening to the birds chattering to themselves as they got comfortable for the night, a barn owl was calling too.



Re: Susie

by Mark Colvin, 02-Sep-11 05:46 AM GMT

Great pictures Susie.

Super landscape shot ... very calming.

Kind regards. Mark

Re: Susie

by Susie, 02-Sep-11 05:48 AM GMT

Thank you, Mark. 😊

Re: Susie

by Neil Hulme, 02-Sep-11 05:57 AM GMT

Hi Susie,
Shame I missed you. I must have been sitting only a couple of hundred metres away when you took that. There's something magical about the place and I get up there at least once a week throughout the year. Earlier in the evening I saw more than 50 (mainly fresh) Small Coppers and a very good female Clouded Yellow. A couple of male Redstarts too.
Neil

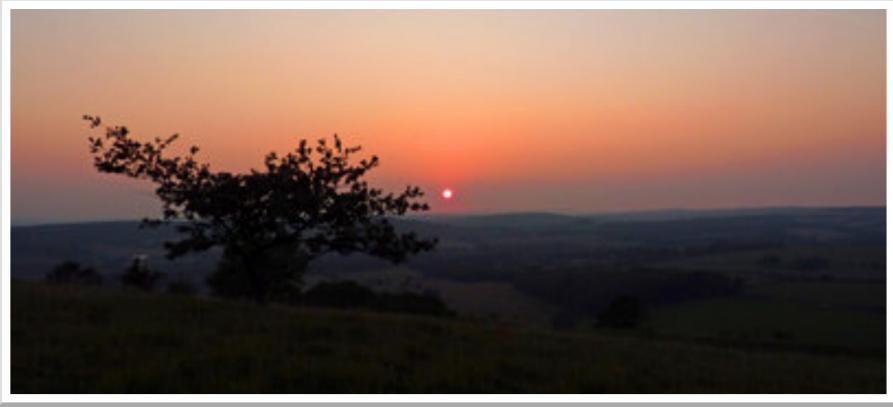
Re: Susie

by Susie, 02-Sep-11 06:01 AM GMT

Oh! Sorry I missed you too. Hope to catch up with you some other time. It's very nice at dusk, isn't it? I've not been there before at that time of day. I want to try to get up to Chanctonbury Ring soon too to try and get some photos. Hopefully the ghosts and UFOs won't spirit me away! 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 02-Sep-11 06:05 AM GMT



Re: Susie

by Susie, 02-Sep-11 06:41 AM GMT

Oh, and I forgot to mention, a friend yesterday sent me a photo to id via Facebook that her children had found on Tuesday in Goring. It was a female Convolvulos hawkmoth, a real beauty. 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 04-Sep-11 07:49 AM GMT



Sunset over Chanctonbury Ring this evening.



Re: Susie

by Lee Hurrell, 05-Sep-11 03:36 AM GMT

Lovely sunsets, Susie 😊

Cheers

Lee

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Sep-11 04:29 AM GMT

Thanks, Lee 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 06-Sep-11 05:16 AM GMT

I've been mucking about with photoshop



I saw a few speckled woods and small whites around Slinfold today.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 03-Oct-11 10:42 PM GMT



Re: Susie

by ChrisC, 04-Oct-11 02:00 AM GMT

home grown? would be a hell of a garden record for sussex. Lovely photo too

Chris

edit: doh. just saw the other thread viewtopic.php?f=16&t=5766

Re: Susie

by MikeOxon, 04-Oct-11 02:12 AM GMT

Lovely pic. So pleased you spotted it emerging in time!

Mike

Re: Susie

by David M, 04-Oct-11 02:35 AM GMT

What's the story behind the Swallowtail, Susie?

Re: Susie

by Susie, 04-Oct-11 02:57 AM GMT

I bought some pupae on Saturday at the AES Exhibition. One of them hatched late last night, three more to go. Hopefully there'll be at least one female amongst them.

The one in the picture is living in my kitchen/diner at the moment and feeding on buddleia in a vase.

Re: Susie

by Mark Colvin, 04-Oct-11 03:17 AM GMT

I was hoping we might see a picture.

Very nice. 🍷

Kind regards. Mark

Re: Susie

by Susie, 04-Oct-11 03:21 AM GMT

I always say that I'm not going to buy anything there but I always end up with something.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 04-Oct-11 04:58 AM GMT

Apart from the swallowtail here today there were also red admirals in the garden feeding on ripe grapes on the grape vine and small whites. A quick walk around warnham nr this morning produced quite a few dragonflies.

Re: Susie

by Padfield, 04-Oct-11 05:44 AM GMT

Your swallowtail has a very narrow submarginal band, with parallel sides. Did they sell it as British swallowtail or the continental subspecies?

Guy

Re: Susie

by Susie, 04-Oct-11 06:17 AM GMT

Continental I think. TBH I dont actually remember, I think it just said Swallowtail and the caterpillars could be fed on fennel, so I assumed it was continental.

What type is it, Guy (fount of all knowledge that you are 😊) if you don't mind my asking?

Re: Susie

by David M, 04-Oct-11 06:23 AM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

I bought some pupae on Saturday at the AES Exhibition. One of them hatched late last night, three more to go. Hopefully there'll be at least one female amongst them.

The one in the picture is living in my kitchen/diner at the moment and feeding on buddliea in a vase.

What are you going to do with them?

Re: Susie

by Susie, 04-Oct-11 06:27 AM GMT

"David M" wrote:

"Susie" wrote:

I bought some pupae on Saturday at the AES Exhibition. One of them hatched late last night, three more to go. Hopefully there'll be at least one female amongst them.

The one in the picture is living in my kitchen/diner at the moment and feeding on buddliea in a vase.

What are you going to do with them?

Show them the countryside, visit a few pubs, a bit of fine dining and a show 😊

I'm thinking that I'll let them live in my kitchen for now and hopefully they will breed. I have fennel as a food plant and netted containers for later when the caterpillars are about if I am that lucky. 😊 I am sure it is not the same as being in the wild for them but that was never an option. At least here they have a large space to fly and it is light and airy. It could be worse.

Re: Susie

by Gibster, 04-Oct-11 06:38 AM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

Continental I think.

I don't think it would go down too well if British Swallowtails were being sold to all and sundry at the AES. They have a certain levels of protection, and there's the 1981 Wildlife Acts...

Gibster.

Re: Susie

by David M, 04-Oct-11 06:39 AM GMT

What if they're all the same sex?

Re: Susie

by Padfield, 04-Oct-11 06:43 AM GMT

It looks like continental swallowtail to me, too, Susie, hence my question. Perhaps they're easier to rear than British swallowtails, taking a much wider range of foodplants. And, as Gibster says, it would perhaps be inappropriate to sell British swallowtails willy nilly at an event like that, though I know British swallowtails are quite widely bred.

Guy

Re: Susie

by Susie, 04-Oct-11 06:45 AM GMT

"David M" wrote:

What if they're all the same sex?

Then I will be jolly suprised if they breed. 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 04-Oct-11 06:46 AM GMT

"padfield" wrote:

It looks like continental swallowtail to me, too, Susie, hence my question. Perhaps they're easier to rear than British swallowtails, taking a much wider range of foodplants. And, as Gibster says, it would perhaps be inappropriate to sell British swallowtails willy nilly at an event like that, though I know British swallowtails are quite widely bred.

Guy

Thanks, Guy. 😊

Re: Susie

by David M, 04-Oct-11 07:46 AM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

"David M" wrote:

What if they're all the same sex?

Then I will be jolly suprised if they breed. 😊

Me too.

What will become of them then? Released to roam the countryside or lepidopteral house pets for the rest of their days?

Re: Susie

by Susie, 04-Oct-11 04:01 PM GMT

House pets. I wouldn't release them because (a) they may carry lurgies and (b) it would confuse the records of BC if someone recorded them as migrants.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 04-Oct-11 10:46 PM GMT

Swallowtail number two has just hatched and I don't think number three is far behind 😊

Re: Susie

by Jack Harrison, 05-Oct-11 12:04 AM GMT

Susie probably made a typo:

feeding on buddliea in a vase

I think you meant Bowles Mauve.

Jack

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Oct-11 12:08 AM GMT

"Jack Harrison" wrote:

Susie probably made a typo:

feeding on buddliea in a vase

I think you meant Bowles Mauve.

Jack

Nice of you to go out of your way to post about what you thought was my mistake in my diary but I think I know what I meant, thank you.

It is *photographed* on bowles mauve but it didn't feed on it. It has been *feeding* on a buddliea called honeycomb.

Re: Susie

by David M, 05-Oct-11 03:58 AM GMT

When they're in your house, where do they roost?

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Oct-11 04:27 AM GMT

Where ever they want within the confines of the kitchen and dining area. So far they have chosen to roost on the branches of the buddleia in the vase.

What's your point with these questions, David?

Re: Susie

by David M, 05-Oct-11 05:20 AM GMT

Just interested to know. I've never kept butterflies in the house.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Oct-11 05:42 AM GMT

Okey dokey. Well fire away if you have any more in that case. 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Oct-11 06:16 AM GMT

Think of their existence as being along the same lines as tropical butterflies being kept in a greenhouse. It's basically the same thing.

["http://www.facebook.com/v/10150402692291972"](http://www.facebook.com/v/10150402692291972)

Re: Susie

by millerd, 05-Oct-11 07:15 AM GMT

Here's a question: how do you stop the butterflies heading straight for the nearest bright window and battering themselves against the glass? My experience of butterflies indoors is that they invariably make straight for the light, regardless of nectary inducements to do otherwise.

Dave

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Oct-11 04:49 PM GMT

For some reason they haven't tried to do that, even on Monday when it was very sunny. Curious now I think of it. The flowers are right next to the window and they seem content to perch on that when not flying or the white curtain next to the window. If they do start battering themselves I do have netted containers they can go in.

Re: Susie

by Piers, 05-Oct-11 09:12 PM GMT

Your own private tropical butterfly house eh Susie? Good for you. It makes a change from keeping land snails, cockroaches, scorpions or tarantulas. In fact it's no different from keeping any other insect or invertebrate in captivity or as a pet. Fingers crossed you achieve a pairing.

Piers.

Re: Susie

by David M, 06-Oct-11 04:28 AM GMT

Have the males established any leks yet?

Re: Susie

by Susie, 06-Oct-11 04:51 AM GMT

There is only one male and one female so far. He's a pathetic specimen in as much as he doesn't seem interested in mating. He spends most of his time sitting on the buddleia or feeding although at the moment he is sitting on the bottom of the ceiling light.

Re: Susie

by David M, 06-Oct-11 05:01 AM GMT

When they're not feeding, what do they do? Are they doing circuits of the room or just lazing about?

Re: Susie

by Susie, 06-Oct-11 05:10 AM GMT

Lazing about most of the time.

Re: Susie

by Philzoid, 10-Oct-11 09:31 PM GMT

"Piers" wrote:

Your own private tropical butterfly house eh Susie? Good for you. It makes a change from keeping land snails, cockroaches, scorpions or tarantulas. In fact it's no different from keeping any other insect or invertebrate in captivity or as a pet.

Fingers crossed you achieve a pairing.

Piers.

Totally agree with Piers on this one!

Good luck Susie. There is always a chance you've had a pairing without seeing it.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 11-Oct-11 04:05 AM GMT

Thanks, Phil, but I think it unlikely. He was pathetic and spent all his time eating and drinking and then keeled over yesterday and died! The three healthy feisty females are sitting (and would be twiddling their thumbs if they had them) resigned to becoming old maids. 😞

Re: Susie

by David M, 11-Oct-11 04:22 AM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

Thanks, Phil, but I think it unlikely. He was pathetic and spent all his time eating and drinking and then keeled over yesterday and died! The three healthy feisty females are sitting (and would be twiddling their thumbs if they had them) resigned to becoming old maids. 😞

At least this gives us an insight into the longevity of the species.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 11-Oct-11 04:25 AM GMT

I think that normally they live much longer. I believe that there was something wrong with him from the start because he didn't exhibit what I would consider to be normal behaviour.

Re: Susie

by NickMorgan, 11-Oct-11 05:53 AM GMT

Lovely butterflies Susie, and I didn't know that you can get yellow buddleia! I have often fancied getting some caterpillars or chrysalis and trying this myself, but I don't think that any butterflies would get on with our cats! I did find a red admiral chrysalis the other day and I brought it home to let the kids see it emerge into a butterfly.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 15-Oct-11 08:04 PM GMT

Eek, one of my swallowtails just escaped! If anyone finds one in west sussex it isn't an immigrant. 😄 It's very easy to recognise as it has deformed wings and none of us thought it was able to fly properly, let alone across the kitchen and out of the door when it was opened for a second. 😱 It's off for one last hurrah I guess.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 28-Nov-11 01:11 AM GMT

About time I posted something. Much of my time lately has been taken up with other, not butterfly related, hobbies.

After newspaper reports about the arctic winter we were going to have and ensuring that the kids had plenty of warm winter clothing it has been unseasonably mild. Many of us have seen butterflies right up to the end of November which is mad (but fabulous!).

Yesterday's forum meeting was great and I was so pleased to meet the fab UK Butterfly members who came along. 😊 I drove past Petworth yesterday on the way to the event and saw the fallow deer in the park of Petworth House, so that encouraged me to get out with the camera to my local deer park at dusk today.

I don't have the right lenses for distant shots and the light really wasn't good (can I think of any more excuses?) but it was nice to be out with the camera again.





A lot of the mature oaks are starting to lose their leaves in good numbers now, especially after last night's gale, but as everyone knows young oaks tend to hang on to their leaves over the winter. 😊



The highlight for me though was this tree stump which, with my over active imagination, seemed a veritable fairy fortress of fungi, lichens and mosses.



Re: Susie

by P.J.Underwood, 28-Nov-11 02:49 AM GMT

[attachment=0:1mv86nnu]Winter Jolly 2 (2).JPG[/attachment:1mv86nnu][attachment=1:1mv86nnu]Winter Jolly 1 (2).JPG[/attachment:1mv86nnu]Just try and identify the fungi!! I have about 50 I have photographed on Hambleton Common, but to identify most is almost impossible. There must be a knack, such as DNA analysis.

I am sending two action photo's from yesterday.

P.J.U.

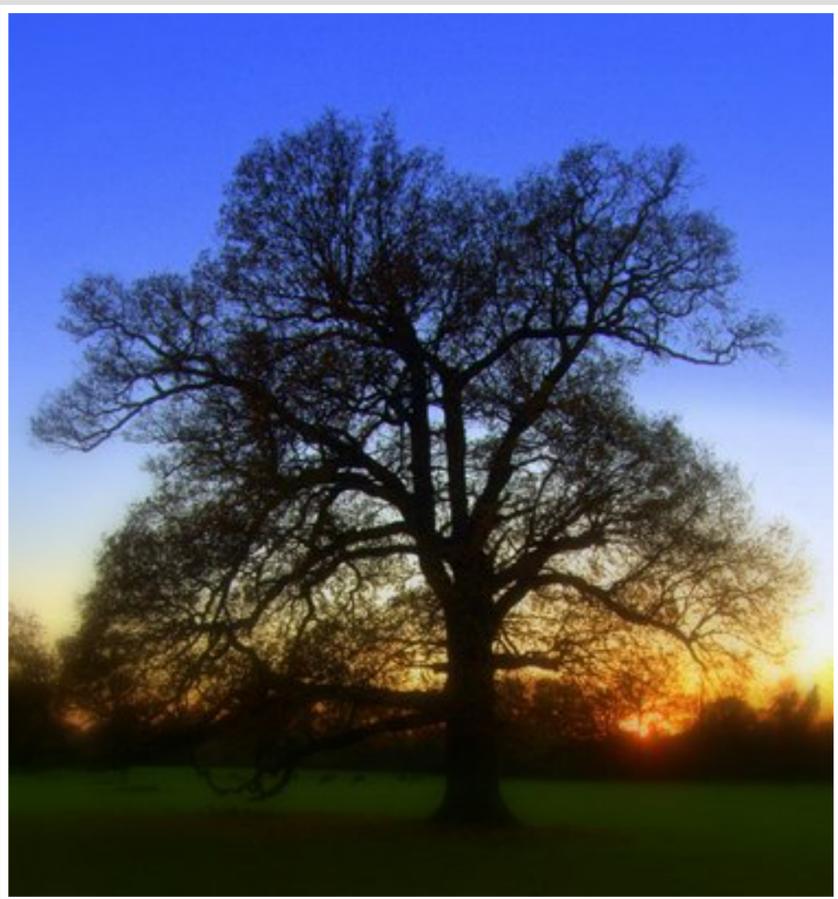
Re: Susie

by Susie, 28-Nov-11 03:20 AM GMT

I agree fungi are very difficult. I imagine these would be a bit easier as on oak but tbh I just enjoyed looking at them and don't have to know. There were some big field mushrooms around too. If my dad had been with me we would probably have picked them but I am not brave enough to risk it without his confirmation that they are okay to eat. He's of a generation that would forage when they could to supplement their diet. Not so me.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 28-Nov-11 06:58 AM GMT



Re: Susie

by Susie, 13-Dec-11 12:34 AM GMT

I've been looking through my photos for the past year and I think this is my favourite



Re: Susie

by ChrisC, 13-Dec-11 04:27 AM GMT

it's a lovely photo. was that the canon or the lumix? are you leading any walks next year or is it too early to say?

Chris

Re: Susie

by Susie, 13-Dec-11 05:03 AM GMT

Thanks. That was the canon. It's lost something in being uploaded to the screen. :-/

I hope i'll do some walks next year, I was pleased with how well the ones went this year (all credit to the butterflies which performed admirably). I'll have a think.

I'm not actually sure I lead anything, I just point people in the right direction and bibble! 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 31-Dec-11 03:02 AM GMT

So, I've been thinking about new year's resolutions and plans for next year. Apart from the obvious that I do every year and then ignore (lose weight/get fit 😊) I'm hoping to join my local camera club and I might finally learn how to take a decent photo.

I'm also thinking about organising a walk or two again next year for anyone who may be interested.

Re: Susie

by ChrisC, 31-Dec-11 05:03 AM GMT

had any thoughts where yet? hopefully you can count me in.

Re: Susie

by millerd, 31-Dec-11 07:17 AM GMT

Me too! The two last summer were really good.

Dave

Re: Susie

by Susie, 31-Dec-11 06:38 PM GMT

Thanks, Dave and Chris. It will be nice to have you both along.

I may do the Denbies walk again but at a different time of year. There is always good stuff to be seen there 😊