

Re: Susie

by Susie, 06-Jan-13 04:29 PM GMT

This afternoon was mild but cloudy and visibility wasn't great. No butterflies for me yet this year and unfortunately no brown hairstreak eggs in the garden this year despite searching. I did find the remains of a dead hedgehog though 😞

Re: Susie

by Susie, 20-Jan-13 08:18 PM GMT

Yesterday the kids started making a snowman in the garden and had got to the stage of making three big balls of snow and put them on top of each other but hadn't completed it. After a lunchtime down the pub and a large glass of wine I decided to attack it with a knife today despite the constant light snow 😊



Don't ask what made me make a mermaid, I don't know! She's rather creepy, like something out of Dr Who 😬

Two of my girls came out to help me and added more snow around the base so I can make her tail.

It's still not finished although I managed to get a bit more done after the photo was taken before I finally lost the use of my fingers. Maybe tomorrow if it doesn't melt too much.

Re: Susie

by Padfield, 20-Jan-13 08:35 PM GMT

She's beautiful.

Guy

Re: Susie

by MikeOxon, 20-Jan-13 09:31 PM GMT

Next time, get yourself a block of Carrara marble!!!

I once spotted some snow on a gate that reminded me of a china figurine, so I tinted the photo in Photoshop:



Mike

Re: Susie

by Susie, 20-Jan-13 09:39 PM GMT

That's so clever, Mike! 😊

Thank you, Guy, but I am afraid you're over generous. She looks nothing like Buffy 😊

She's a funny looking thing but I did enjoy making her.

Re: Susie

by John W, 20-Jan-13 10:03 PM GMT

That statue is very impressive. Well done!

John

Re: Susie

by Susie, 20-Jan-13 10:19 PM GMT

Thanks John 😊

Re: Susie

by David M, 20-Jan-13 11:42 PM GMT

A snowLADY.

Impressive!

Re: Susie

by Susie, 02-Feb-13 10:13 PM GMT

Nothing really to report on the butterfly front. I popped to Wisley earlier in the week. I know I shouldn't like it, it's like an old fashioned zoo really, but I still feel joy when seeing butterflies in flight.



I saw this online tonight and wanted to share it. I understand the science behind it but it's still awesome to see the moon appear to be so huge (wonderfully shot too). <http://vimeo.com/markg/fullmoonsilhouettes>

Re: Susie

by Padfield, 02-Feb-13 10:33 PM GMT

Very cleverly shot – and super weird to see the moon rise from right to left, upside down!

Guy

Re: Susie

by Susie, 02-Feb-13 10:53 PM GMT

"padfield" wrote:

Very cleverly shot – and super weird to see the moon rise from right to left, upside down!

Guy

You're right! I'd not noticed that until you said. 😊

Re: Susie

by Mark Colvin, 03-Feb-13 03:47 PM GMT

Hi Susie,

"Susie" wrote:

I saw this online tonight and wanted to share it.

I'm so glad you did – thanks.

What a super piece of video matched perfectly with truly heart warming music 😊😊😊

Great stuff ...

Kind regards. Mark

Re: Susie

by MikeOxon, 03-Feb-13 05:31 PM GMT

I'd love to know how he made that video. I've edited my initial post as I now realise he is in the Southern hemisphere, so the moon will appear inverted near the horizon!

I took this shot of Red Kites on the moon last April 1st – it's genuine, despite the date!



RadleyGP, Oxon - 1st April 2012 Nikon D300s with 300/4 + 1.4X TC - 1/500s@f/11 ISO400

Mike

Re: Susie

by Susie, 03-Feb-13 08:22 PM GMT

Thanks Mark, I am glad you enjoyed it. 😊

I think your photograph is marvellous, Mike! 😊

Re: Susie

by David M, 03-Feb-13 09:25 PM GMT

"MikeOxon" wrote:

I took this shot of Red Kites on the moon last April 1st - it's genuine, despite the date!

That's a very impressive image, Mike, the sort you might see in National Geographic.

Re: Susie

by MikeOxon, 03-Feb-13 11:15 PM GMT

Thanks, Susie and David M - I'm pleased you liked my photo. I had been watching the two Kites circling overhead for some time and was 'willing' them to cross the face of the moon, so I was delighted when they obliged! 😊

mike

Re: Susie

by Neil Hulme, 03-Feb-13 11:56 PM GMT

Fantastic image Mike. It reminds me of the shot which I am yet to get! I know where I can see male Purple Emperors perched on the edge of a master tree, with the moon directly behind them in mid/late afternoon. I now have a teleconverter ready for the moment!
BWs, Neil

Re: Susie

by Susie, 04-Feb-13 10:29 AM GMT

I think it's great when threads wander off topic and throw up gems like this. Mike's photo was wonderful and now I can't wait for Neil's purple emperor silhouetted against the moon. 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 18-Feb-13 05:20 PM GMT

It's amazing how a couple of sunny days can lift the spirits. There isn't much going on in the garden yet but the urge to give the garden a good tidy up struck yesterday and now it's ready for spring. The frogs are out of hibernation too so it won't be long until spawn starts to appear.

We went for a bracing walk today up at Kithurst Hill. It was good to see the work that Sussex Kipper and his comrades had carried out. It looks marvellous.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 19-Feb-13 06:39 PM GMT

Mini Challenge

I set myself a mini challenge at the start of the year. To see 43 species of butterfly this year. It shouldn't be too difficult (I hope!)

Today number 1 presented itself (or themselves, as there were two of them) at Wakehurst Place, West Sussex.

1. Red Admiral



Re: Susie

by David M, 19-Feb-13 06:52 PM GMT

Well done, Susie. Wish I'd have had today off work instead of Thursday as it was lovely here in Swansea and I reckon there'd have been a decent chance of a Welsh sighting!

Re: Susie

by Susie, 04-Mar-13 05:25 PM GMT

Today I decided to explore East Sussex as I don't know much about it. Where better to start than the iconic white cliffs called the Seven Sisters 😊



It was so cold in the wind off the sea that despite the sunshine that I couldn't feel my fingers after a while. I didn't see a single insect the whole time I was out but that didn't stop the skylarks from singing their hearts out.

On the way back I went via Wilmington and visited the long man.



Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Mar-13 07:33 PM GMT

I popped to Denbies Hillside today after my dance class as it was the nearest possible spot for butterflies to where I was and I wasn't disappointed. The sunshine was warm and despite the lack of flowers (I didn't see a single one in bloom yet) five male Brimstone butterflies were searching relentlessly for females. I think they may have a bit of a wait yet as more cold weather is on the cards. A couple I got chatting to said they had seen a fritillary today, when I queried this with a question of was it black and orange they replied in the affirmative so I think they actually saw a comma. Nice to know they're on the wing too.

Watching the brimstones was interesting because as well as searching along the rides they were flying into the brambles and long grass and looking under the upper part of the undergrowth. I've not seen that before.

So, my butterfly challenge goes on.

1. Red Admiral
2. Brimstone

Re: Susie

by Neil Freeman, 05-Mar-13 09:41 PM GMT

Hi Susie,

A nice start to your season, all the best with the rest of your challenge.

Neil F.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 06-Mar-13 07:33 AM GMT

Thanks Neil. Have a great season too 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Mar-13 10:07 AM GMT

The weather may be grim again with snow forecast in the next few days but there are loads of frogs in my pond and two clumps of frog spawn, one is very fresh and the other a bit older. I last checked the pond on wednesday so it cant be that old. 😊

Re: Susie

by Mark Colvin, 09-Mar-13 10:36 AM GMT

Hi Susie,

Glad to hear you have some frogspawn. Mine appeared yesterday, exactly a year to the day in 2012 (how they worked that I'll never know). Sleeping with the back window open, I can hear them calling during the late evening and early morning.

Another sign that spring is almost officially here 😊😊😊

Good hunting.

Kind regards. Mark

Re: Susie

by Susie, 10-Mar-13 09:50 AM GMT

Hi Mark, good to hear from you. How interesting that your frog spawn turned up at approximately the same time as mine. Makes me think that there must be some signal they are aware of that 'now is the time!'.

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 10-Mar-13 04:36 PM GMT

Alright Susie? The timing of frog spawning might have something to do with daylength if I can remember correctly back from all those years ago at Uni (although they were pretty hazy memories even at the time (there were 53 pubs in Aberystwyth! 😊😳)). There is definitely something rattling around in my brain about Red and Far Red Light affecting seasonal rhythms- although that could be to do with plants, 😊 I'd prefer to think that they've all consulted their diaries and gone "yep tonight's the night!" 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 11-Mar-13 05:16 PM GMT

Just checked back in my diary and last year the frogspawn arrived here on 4 March, and that was a week later than the year before. Even though the frogspawn was late this year it is still under a layer of ice and an inch and a half of snow today. 😳 I have no worries for the spawn but I hope the froggies are okay.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 29-Mar-13 09:48 AM GMT

The sun is shining, the daffodils are continuing to bloom, the birds are singing their hearts out but it's still bitterly cold. It feels like a typical day for mid February!

In the garden the frogspawn still hasn't hatched and the cuckoo flower, which is my indicator of when I am likely to see orange tips, hasn't grown very much at all. There are a few flower stalks appearing which are an inch or two high with tight little buds. They are weeks off flowering it seems. But then nature is a wonderful thing and just a few days of warm weather and everything will switch into overdrive to try to make up for lost time.

If we do get some decent warm weather it will be a sensational spring with everything happening at once 😊

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 29-Mar-13 10:55 AM GMT

Here's hoping that spring does actually come - at the moment it just feels like there is no end in sight. I suppose when we want the high pressure in the summer we'll get the lows meaning wet and windy 😊 Still you never no!

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 06-Apr-13 09:31 PM GMT

Yesterday my copy of the Sussex BC report arrived. It's a really excellent read with some smashing articles written by members of this forum. I'd highly recommend it. I wrote lots of field trips on my calendar and am looking forward to the season ahead.

This afternoon as the sun shone and temperatures rose it began to feel like spring at last. I didn't see any butterflies unfortunately but I did see a queen bee and my first hairy footed flower bee of the year; a male. HFF bees are a personal favourite of mine and have such character. 😊

The frogspawn has hardly developed at all in the pond and the cuckoo flower is still in tight bud on short stalks. I don't think I'll be seeing any orange tips for a good couple of weeks yet.

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 06-Apr-13 10:06 PM GMT

Good news about the bees 😊 I use them as "indicators" for butterflies as once it's warm enough for bees butterflies shouldn't be far behind. Hopefully spring will go off for a rocket so you better keep a close eye on the cuckoo flower or blink and you could miss it! 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 06-Apr-13 10:21 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel.

I tend to keep a close eye on the flowers to give me an idea of what to look for. 😊

Have a good day tmrw.

Re: Susie

by Mark Tutton, 06-Apr-13 10:23 PM GMT

Can highly recommend the Sussex bc report – have bought the last three and I am awaiting delivery of the latest 😊
The Hants BC one is also very comprehensive and a thoroughly good read with a significant moth section which is always very interesting – being a member I receive this automatically – however I cant recall if it's available for purchase?

Re: Susie

by NickMorgan, 06-Apr-13 11:05 PM GMT

It sounds as though you are still a couple of weeks ahead of us. The frogs only returned yesterday after their brief appearance the first week in March. The cuckoo flowers are just a few small leaves. I planted them too late last year for them to come to anything. I hope that they grow a little larger this year as they wouldn't support an orange tip caterpillar for long as they are!

Re: Susie

by Susie, 07-Apr-13 08:48 AM GMT

Hi Nick, I imagine that if your cuckoo flower is happy it will grow very quickly with the right weather. I know mind did and now it self seeds around the garden.

Hi Tuts, I imaginee Pete or Gruditch could let us know if the Hants report is for sale to non members 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 12-Apr-13 01:31 PM GMT

We saw two swallows today over Southwater country park.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 14-Apr-13 09:18 PM GMT

Three brimstones in and around Petworth this morning

Re: Susie

by Susie, 21-Apr-13 08:54 AM GMT

I took the kids to Mill Hill yesterday in the hope of seeing grizzled skippers (or anything!). We didn't see any skippers but we did see a peacock and two small tortoiseshells. Then we went to Five Oaks and saw three brimstones on the way there and a small white just before we arrived at our destination. Once there we saw a couple of male orange tips, a comma and several more brimstones. It was a good day. 😊





Butterfly challenge so far:

1. Red Admiral
2. Brimstone
3. Peacock
4. Small Tortoiseshell
5. Small White
6. Orange Tip
7. Comma

Re: Susie

by Susie, 28-Apr-13 06:31 PM GMT

On Tuesday morning I had a spare hour so I went back to Five Oaks but despite it being a warm sunny day it wasn't late enough in the day for me to see Orange Tips. I did however see a peacock, a couple of commas and a brimstone before I had to leave. The birds were singing their hearts out, the blackthorn scented the lane and a pair of buzzards circled over head. One came down quite low.



On Thursday there was a partial lunar eclipse. It was a bit disappointing to be honest but you can just see that the top left hand corner (if you can have a corner on a circle) is missing 😊



Today I went to the Sussex BC spring event with my eldest daughter. It was held at the Knepp Castle Estate and it was an excellent event. Charlie Burrell gave a talk on the rewilding project they are working on at Knepp before taking us all on a tractor ride and tour of part of the estate. They are doing fantastic things here which can be read about on the Knepp Castle Estate website. Exmoor ponies, pigs, highland cattle and deer roam wild but don't seem at all bothered by people being around. Insect and birdlife is flocking back to the area. 😊

With fishy stories from Neil, a marvellous cake from Dr Dan and Michael Blencowe to bring the event to a close it was a thoroughly enjoyable way to spend a few hours and look forward to the year's butterfly recording ahead. I've made a note to be a bit more organised this year and make a record of the butterflies I see for the atlas. 😊



Charlie Burrell telling the people in the tractor about the rewilding project.



Re: Susie

by Padfield, 28-Apr-13 07:41 PM GMT

I didn't notice there was an eclipse on Thursday, Susie. We had lovely weather here that day and I would have tried for a photo too, if I'd known.

For me, a lot of things in the sky are exciting through the imagination, not through what you actually see. Even if the eclipse barely sings the moon, as in your photo, you can imagine the shadow of the earth reaching through space and you get a sense of perspective on your life.

Guy

Re: Susie

by Susie, 30-Apr-13 09:21 PM GMT

I agree, Guy, the imagination is a wonderful thing especially when it comes to the heavens.

Yesterday I went for a walk over cissbury ring. It wasn't a good choice of location as it was cooler than at home and the cold wind and cloud meant there wasn't much flying but it was good to be out. I still managed to find a comma and half a dozen peacocks though. 😊

I went home in much better spirits than I had been in when I arrived.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 01-May-13 07:40 PM GMT

I saw an orange tip male flying along the verge as I drove through Rowhook at lunchtime today and then there was a peacock in the garden when I got home this evening.



Re: Susie

by Susie, 02-May-13 08:53 PM GMT

Small tortoiseshell and small white in the High Street in Cranleigh today. The former seemed to be a female looking to lay eggs but she kept 'tasting' hebe. To my knowledge they don't lay on this. Does anyone know if they do?

It seems like all the butterflies are appearing at once when I can't get out to see them. Most frustrating!

Re: Susie

by Susie, 04-May-13 05:02 PM GMT

Thoroughly frustrating trip to Denbies today – not a single butterfly seen, probably because of the cool cloudy and windy conditions. There was a damselfly though, my first of the year 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 06-May-13 11:28 PM GMT

What a stunner of a day, and on a bank holiday too – how often does that happen! 😊

This morning I visited my local bluebell wood, on the way there I saw plenty of orange tips and brimstones flying around the flower filled hedges and road sides. At the wood there was a large white and more brimstones, orange tips and green veined whites.



I drove home via Itchingfield and again there were all the usual whites and a holly blue. This was my second holly blue of the day as I had seen one earlier flying over the garden. I decided to call in at Five Oaks on the way but apart from more whites I didn't see anything unusual. The nightingale singing in the hedge was lovely though.

At home a female orange tip was showing interest in the cuckoo flower. She didn't lay though, and sat on some garlic mustard for a while and then on some columbine which enabled me to get the camera out. This was the first time I've been able to get a shot of a butterfly which hasn't been in a mad hurry this year.



After lunch I went to Denbies again. Again, there were plenty of whites flying, and also a peacock. I went to the spot where I hoped to find green hairstreak and my attention was caught by some rustling in the grass; it was an adder. The green hairstreaks were also showing well. I know there were grizzled skipper around as other people showed me their excellent photos of them but I didn't get to see any myself as I ran out of time but I did manage to see a speckled wood flying over.

All in all, not a bad day and a few more to add to my challenge total.



Butterfly challenge:

1. Red Admiral
2. Brimstone
3. Peacock
4. Small Tortoiseshell
5. Small White
6. Orange Tip
7. Comma
8. Holly blue
9. Large white
10. Green veined white
11. Green hairstreak

12. Speckled wood

Re: Susie

by Nick Broomer, 06-May-13 11:43 PM GMT

Hi Susie,
nice to see you had a lovely day. I must of just missed you up at Denbies, i left about one o`clock, i also saw some Adders, three in total, two of which were youngsters, probably last years young. Maybe i will bump into you soon, if my timing is better. 😊

All the best, Nick.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 08-May-13 08:48 PM GMT

Hi Nick. I got to Denbies at 3, next time I hope to see you too and catch up.

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 08-May-13 10:53 PM GMT

Cracking shot of the Greenstreak 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-May-13 06:14 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel. You don't know how happy I was to see it 😊

This is nothing to do with butterflies but I think some of you may enjoy watching it. It is time lapse footage of the earth from the ISS

<http://youtu.be/FG0fTKAqZ5g>

Re: Susie

by ChrisC, 09-May-13 06:46 PM GMT

great youtube link Susie.

Re: Susie

by NickMorgan, 09-May-13 06:46 PM GMT

Beautiful pictures Susie. It is such a lovely time of year with great light for photography. 12 species so far – well done, I'm at five! My target for East Lothian is 20 this year.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 12-May-13 05:00 PM GMT

Thanks Nick 😊

I took a couple of the kiddies along to Sussex Kippers walk at Rewell Wood on behalf of Sussex BC this afternoon. It was a bit overcast but Neil still managed to perform his butterfly charming act and conjure up a couple of pearls for the visitors. My thanks to Neil for another very enjoyable walk.



It was lovely to meet the other people on the walk, some of whom I have met before and some new faces too.



And finally, something completely different. 😊 Yesterday it was a morris dancing festival in Horsham, and it was great fun!



Butterfly challenge:

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2. Brimstone
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8. Holly blue
9. Large white
10. Green veined white
11. Green hairstreak
12. Speckled wood
13. Pearl Bordered Fritillary

Re: Susie

by Neil Hulme, 12-May-13 05:57 PM GMT

Hi Susie,
Glad you enjoyed the walk. Please can you send me a larger copy of that image – the one with a PBF on my finger. Catch up soon for some Duke action.
Best Wishes, Neil

Re: Susie

by Susie, 12-May-13 06:00 PM GMT

Yes, of course, I will do as soon as I'm on the home pc – and thank you for sharing your expertise with us all again. 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 13-May-13 06:36 PM GMT

Today I went to Heyshott but unfortunately the weather wasn't as good there as it was at home and I didn't see very many butterflies but I did see just enough 😊

What I did notice though was what a tremendous amount of work has been done to the site since I was there last year. Huge areas have been cleared. I know we've all been reading about the sterling work the work parties have been doing over the winter but when I saw it today the impact of what a huge effort they must have put in was realised. Well done chaps! 😊 The flora of the site seems to be about three weeks or more behind what I would expect to see at this time of year, so there is much to look forward to.

Despite the cool overcast and very windy conditions the sun came out briefly for about five minutes. This was enough for me to find one Duke and two Dingy Skippers. I managed to get a couple of quick shots of the Duke before the wind caught it and up and away it went never to be seen again. Likewise the Skippers. Once the few minutes were over and the sun gone again no more butterflies were seen so I headed home. Five minutes away from Heyshot it was bright sunshine. Typical! 😞

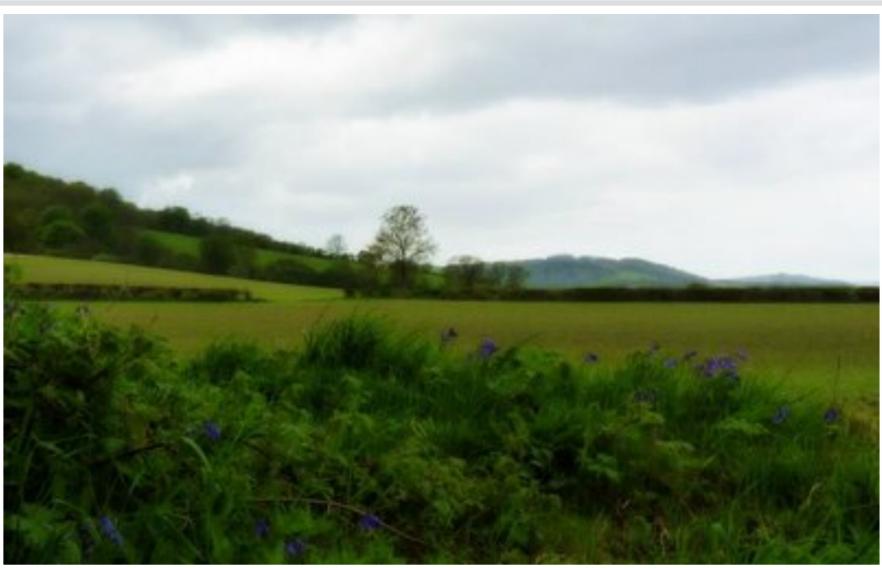
Duke



Dingy feeding on orchid



Heyshott in the drizzle



Path to Heyshott



Butterfly challenge:

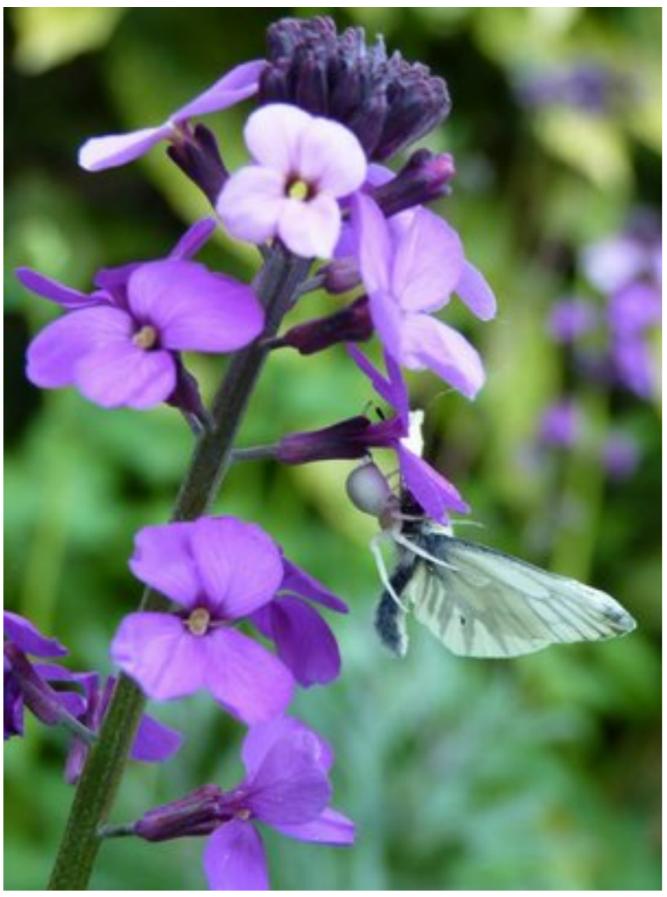
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10. Green veined white
11. Green hairstreak
12. Speckled wood
13. Pearl Bordered Fritillary
14. Duke of Burgundy
15. Dingy Skipper

Re: Susie

by Susie, 17-May-13 06:27 PM GMT

I came home from work yesterday to find a green veined white in the garden 😞



Re: Susie

by ChrisC, 17-May-13 06:52 PM GMT

butterflies and spiders in the same shot. always sad to see but dare I say at least you got a green veined white 😞

Chris

Re: Susie

by Susie, 17-May-13 06:55 PM GMT

On the same plant last year one caught an orange tip but I assume it was a different spider, I dont think they live that long.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 18-May-13 08:03 PM GMT

Well I must say that I had rather a marvellous time today! 😊

Sussex Kipper was leading at walk at Heyshott to see Duke of Burgundy. It was lovely to see some familiar faces and chat to some friends. The weather was, to my mind, perfect for the occasion being overcast with occasional spells of warm sunshine. This enabled us to see the butterflies and then when the sun went in they would hunker down and let us have a good look and take photos – how perfectly civilised!

I didn't think that the walk this year would be able to surpass last year's fly past and mating Dukes but it did. To our amazement Pearl Bordered Fritillaries were found on the site and hotdogs! Perfect for hungry butterfly hunters. The Dukes were around in good numbers too if you knew where to look – they were in pristine condition and I think many of them had emerged just this morning. At one point I was sitting on the grass enjoying the sun with at least five Duke of Burgundy within ten feet of me. Watching them spiral up into the blue sky as they sparred was magical.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 18-May-13 08:04 PM GMT

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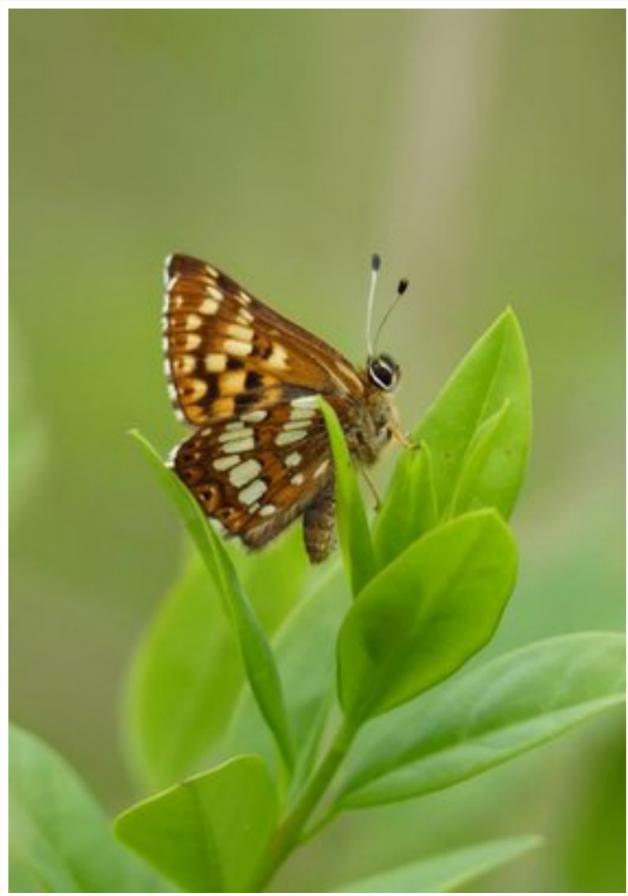
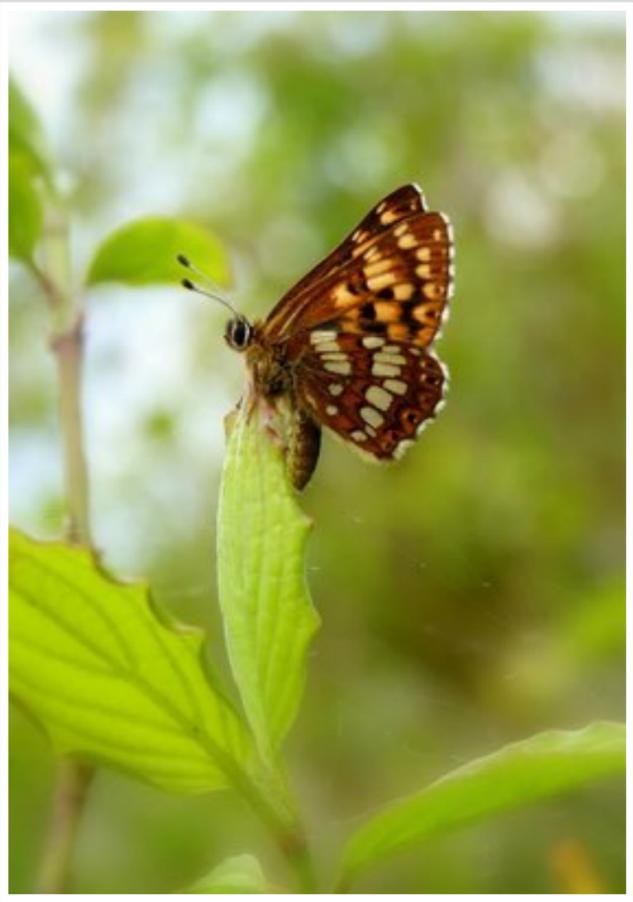
Sermon on the Mount



Pearly Queen



Dutchess of Duke Street (with a wonky wing)



I know the last photo is "wrong" for all sorts of reasons, not least because the foliage is blocking out part of the butterfly, but I rather like it for some reason. 😊

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 18-May-13 09:39 PM GMT

Some cracking shots there Susie 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by NickMorgan, 18-May-13 09:58 PM GMT

I don't think that last picture is wrong for any reasons, Susie. I like it, too.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 18-May-13 10:42 PM GMT

Thank you Wurzel and Nick 😊

Re: Susie

by Neil Freeman, 19-May-13 09:30 AM GMT

Hi Susie,

Nice photos.

A photo is only 'wrong' if you don't like it yourself, if you like it then it is 'right' 😊

Cheers,

Neil F.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 19-May-13 09:36 AM GMT

Good point, Neil! 😊

I've already had my first sighting of the day, I was hanging out the washing and noticed this in the garden

Holly Blue



Re: Susie

by Susie, 20-May-13 05:27 PM GMT

We went to the coast yesterday for lunch – mistake – the weather was cool and drizzly down there. 30 minutes drive away at home it was full sunshine! I made the most of the late afternoon after we came back to go for a walk over my local fields. The swifts screeched overhead and it actually felt like summer for once with some white butterflies still on the wing in the hedgerows. I went to the wild garlic which again lined the valley bottom and looked very pretty.



Today was another dull drizzly day so I caught up with chores at home. I got a bit stir crazy after a while and checking the forecast the best chance of weather looked to be around Dorking this afternoon so I set off for a quick walk. I managed to find three small heath and one dingy skipper. The temperature never rose enough for any of the butterflies to take flight but there were loads of St Marks flies on the wing.





Re: Susie

by Susie, 20-May-13 05:30 PM GMT

Butterfly challenge:

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16. Small Heath

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 20-May-13 08:04 PM GMT

That habitat shot is great – it looks like the start of an epic adventure 😊 Lovely shots of the Dingy making it's own "tent" 😊

Have a good in

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Pauline, 20-May-13 08:08 PM GMT

Liking your GVW on the garlic Susie. Nice composition. Miserable weather here in Hants.

Re: Susie

by David M, 20-May-13 09:08 PM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

The swifts screeched overhead...

One of my favourite sounds in life – absolutely symbolic of long evenings and warm(er) weather.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 21-May-13 05:04 PM GMT



I was checking the cuckoo flower in the garden today for eggs (nothing there) and noticed a very unusual looking flower bud. When I opened it up it was full of bright orange grubs. Sorry for the quality of the photo which I took with my phone but does anyone know what they could be? Does cuckoo flower have a sawfly?

Re: Susie

by Susie, 26-May-13 08:59 AM GMT

Well finally the weather is perfect for butterflies but I have a different photo for today. Yesterday we got a puppy from Allsorts Dog Rescue. He's shown a keen interest in butterflies and has managed to chase one so far (but not catch it). He'll be a great companion when I'm out on my butterfly walks I hope.



Re: Susie

by NickMorgan, 26-May-13 01:43 PM GMT

Congratulations on the puppy Susie. We have also recently got a new puppy. A yellow Labrador as a companion for our three-legged chocolate Labrador. They give me a great excuse to go for a walk (and look for butterflies), but they do show a little too much interest in them. Just as I get a shot nicely framed one of them will run over to see what is so interesting. Jimmy (the chocolate one) was quite used to me, but Midge (the puppy) still has to learn to leave me in peace!!

Re: Susie

by Susie, 26-May-13 09:57 PM GMT

Your dogs sound lovely, and good companions albeit not great butterflyers! 😊

Today I popped along to Kithurst Hill for a short while. I saw some small blue, a single female duke of burgundy, a dingy skipper, a small heath, various whites and a common blue flew over. At home there were more whites and holly blue.



1. Red Admiral
2. Brimstone
3. Peacock
4. Small Tortoiseshell
5. Small White
6. Orange Tip
7. Comma
8. Holly blue
9. Large white
10. Green veined white
11. Green hairstreak
12. Speckled wood
13. Pearl Bordered Fritillary
14. Duke of Burgundy
15. Dingy Skipper
16. Small Heath

- 17. Small Blue
- 18. Common Blue

Re: Susie

by Susie, 02-Jun-13 10:08 PM GMT

Because it's been half term butterflying has been put on the back burner a bit. Today I had some free time though and really I should have put in the effort and gone out to see as many species as I could but I really couldn't get motivated and decided to go to the Floral Fringe Fair at Knepp Castle and just bumble about looking at the stalls and tag along on the walk given by Neil Hulme on behalf of Butterfly Conservation. I caught part of a talk about butterflies given by Matthew Oates as well.

I saw more butterflies on my way into and up the drive of Knepp Castle (orange tip, holly blue, speckled wood and a white (i think it was small but could have been green veined) than I did on the walk 😊 but that was no one's fault. Matthew Oates did spot a fresh Small Copper which was my first of the year. 😊 I didn't get any photos of the small copper but I did get one of Matthew Oates. I am sure he won't mind my including it here as he is a bit of a celebrity 😊



1. Red Admiral
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11. Green hairstreak
12. Speckled wood
13. Pearl Bordered Fritillary
14. Duke of Burgundy
15. Dingy Skipper
16. Small Heath
17. Small Blue
18. Common Blue
19. Small Copper

Re: Susie

I had planned to get to Denbies early this morning and make the most of the butterflies as it was a lovely day but because of the puppy my leaving home was delayed because of a pressing need to play games and be generally silly and I didn't get there until much before 12 noon.



With full sun and a strong breeze there was little chance of taking decent photos but there were quite a few butterflies to see. I have never seen so many small heath at one time, they must be having a good year. The green hairstreaks are still hanging on and I saw about six. I saw quite a few male brimstones, I am not sure if they are hangers on from the spring or early summer emergences; the former I guess but they seemed in good condition. There were plenty of dingy skippers around and I saw four grizzled skippers too. I saw around a dozen common blue and Adonis Blue, all males except for two female common and one female Adonis.

The hillside looked beautiful today with lush vegetation and flowers. The orchids seem to only just be coming into bloom so plenty yet to see.



1. Red Admiral
2. Brimstone
3. Peacock
4. Small Tortoiseshell
5. Small White
6. Orange Tip
7. Comma
8. Holly blue
9. Large white
10. Green veined white
11. Green hairstreak
12. Speckled wood
13. Pearl Bordered Fritillary

14. Duke of Burgundy
15. Dingy Skipper
16. Small Heath
17. Small Blue
18. Common Blue
19. Small Copper
20. Grizzled Skipper
21. Adonis Blue

Re: Susie

by Susie, 30-Jun-13 09:48 AM GMT

I haven't been butterflying for ages due to family commitments and have had to all but give up on my butterfly challenge but yesterday I went to Iping to join the BC walk. I arrived early as I hoped to photograph a male silver studded blue being attended by ants. I found two, but both times I only had a brief look before they took to the wing. I should have got there even earlier than I did but a heavy cold and lack of sleep left me feeling not too energetic. 😞

I managed a quick snap of one



The SSB were plentiful and it was a lovely day. I got rather carried away with the camera and missed the start of the walk, considering how grotty my cold is though it was probably just as well as I would have infected them all with my coughs and sneezels. As is always the way with these popular sites I did run into people I knew on the way round including a UKB member. I did eventually find Colin Knight leading the walk over the other side at Stedham by which time they were heading in the other direction but it seems that they had a fabulous morning too and the blues showed well for them.



All in all a great and memorable day despite the lurgies!

Also seen, speckled wood, red admiral and my first meadow brown of the year. When I got home there were four small tortoiseshell in the garden. That's the most I've ever had at one time. 😊

1. Red Admiral
2. Brimstone
3. Peacock
4. Small Tortoiseshell
5. Small White
6. Orange Tip
7. Comma
8. Holly blue
9. Large white
10. Green veined white
11. Green hairstreak
12. Speckled wood
13. Pearl Bordered Fritillary
14. Duke of Burgundy
15. Dingy Skipper
16. Small Heath
17. Small Blue
18. Common Blue
19. Small Copper
20. Grizzled Skipper
21. Adonis Blue
22. Silver Studded Blue
23. Meadow Brown

Re: Susie

by Susie, 01-Jul-13 03:36 PM GMT

I took the puppy out on his first butterfly walk today to Southwater. It was a beautiful morning and the speckled woods spiralling in the sunshine at the entrance to the woods made me eager to see what I would find. I was hoping for silver washed fritillary and marbled whites. Speckled woods were around in good numbers and there were also quite a few meadow brown around as well but that was all I saw. When I got to the meadow my heart sunk, it has been scalped. The cut throughs from the woods to the meadows have been blocked off too, with barbed wire or tree trunks so it looks like the land owners are not keen on people traipsing over their land anymore. 😞 I was really quite gutted as these meadows have brought me a huge amount of joy in the past, although I understand that it is the land owners right to do what they want. Still, all those marbled white, meadow brown, and skipper butterflies gone . 😞



It was like this last year



Re: Susie

by NickMorgan, 01-Jul-13 08:54 PM GMT

Hi Susie. I know how you feel as this sort of thing seems to be quite common at the moment. I was talking to a fencer recently who was putting up

fencing around a lovely wild area that used to be great for butterflies. He said that many landowners are doing this in anticipation of a revised agricultural payments scheme. It is rumoured that future payments will be based on the amount of land that is in production rather than the total acreage of the farm. We are also finding many areas of permanent pasture being ploughed in this year as it is also rumoured that in the future farmers will not be allowed to plough areas that haven't previously been ploughed.

I am sickened by the amount of herbicide that has been sprayed around field margins and road verges here, killing off the wild flowers and insects.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 01-Jul-13 09:36 PM GMT

Hi Nick. thanks for the information. That makes sense. I cant blame the landowner, we all have to make a living. It just seems such a shame as this one meadow out of all of them was something special for wildlife.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 06-Jul-13 06:15 PM GMT

Today I planned to stay at home (apart from shopping trips) and make preparations for a family get together tomorrow but slaving over a hot stove on such a cracking day didn't hold much appeal as I watched painted ladies fly over the garden. Finally in mid-afternoon I could stand it no more and headed for Southwater for a quick walk around. There were good numbers of speckled wood and meadow brown around but the white admirals and silver washed fritillary (and dare I hope for His Imperial Purpleness) seemed too much to hope for. I put it down to bad timing on my part and headed for home, happy at least that I had my first large skippers and ringlet of the season. On the last part of my walk back I saw a flash of orange sparring with something briefly. It was flying in my direction and my hopes were confirmed, it wasn't a comma or a red admiral, it was a freshly emerged silver washed fritillary. He sat on the ground several times but only for split seconds and I didn't get close enough for a photo but he raised my spirits immensely. Definitely my butterfly of the day 😊

1. Red Admiral
2. Brimstone
3. Peacock
4. Small Tortoiseshell
5. Small White
6. Orange Tip
7. Comma
8. Holly blue
9. Large white
10. Green veined white
11. Green hairstreak
12. Speckled wood
13. Pearl Bordered Fritillary
14. Duke of Burgundy
15. Dingy Skipper
16. Small Heath
17. Small Blue
18. Common Blue
19. Small Copper
20. Grizzled Skipper
21. Adonis Blue
22. Silver Studded Blue
23. Meadow Brown
24. Painted Lady
25. Large Skipper
26. Ringley
27. Silver Washed Fritillary

Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Jul-13 06:57 AM GMT

Yesterday morning I went back to iping to have a last look this year at the silver studs. With a hot wind blowing across the heath, the constant crack of the gorse pods popping, and warm sand under my feet I could have been abroad. It certainly didn't feel like England. The silver studded blues are still around in good numbers and I saw about a dozen mating pairs so hope for a good showing next year too.



In the afternoon I went to southwater with the dog and husband. There were about three silver washed fritillary and my first two white admiral of the year.

Another painted lady flew over the garden too.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 13-Jul-13 12:34 PM GMT

A quick walk around Southwater Woods this morning with daughter and dog turned up all the usual suspects. Silver washed fritillary and white admiral numbers continue to grow. I didn't see any purple hairstreaks but did see one purple emperor coming down to a damp patch on the path and then gliding around low. Didn't get close enough for a photo though. Still great to see! 😊

1. Red Admiral
2. Brimstone
3. Peacock
4. Small Tortoiseshell
5. Small White
6. Orange Tip
7. Comma
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16. Small Heath
17. Small Blue
18. Common Blue
19. Small Copper
20. Grizzled Skipper
21. Adonis Blue
22. Silver Studded Blue
23. Meadow Brown
24. Painted Lady
25. Large Skipper
26. Ringlet
27. Silver Washed Fritillary
28. White Admiral
29. Purple Emperor

Re: Susie

by Susie, 13-Jul-13 09:53 PM GMT

Mid afternoon I had a couple of hours to go butterflying. What a dilemma over where to go though! Botany Bay nearly won but in the end I decided to go to my old favourite haunt, Denbies. I am glad I did.

It was scorching and to be honest I am now a bit red and crispy around the edges 😬 but the butterflies were loving the heat. I saw great numbers of marbled whites, meadow browns, large and small skippers. Also seen were small heath, large white, small white, small tortoiseshell, about eight or more dark green fritillary, 20+ chalkhill blues and my surprise of the day, a white admiral feeding on privet along the edge of the wood. As far as I can remember I haven't seen a white admiral here before.

1. Red Admiral

2. Brimstone
3. Peacock
4. Small Tortoiseshell
5. Small White
6. Orange Tip
7. Comma
8. Holly blue
9. Large white
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11. Green hairstreak
12. Speckled wood
13. Pearl Bordered Fritillary
14. Duke of Burgundy
15. Dingy Skipper
16. Small Heath
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18. Common Blue
19. Small Copper
20. Grizzled Skipper
21. Adonis Blue
22. Silver Studded Blue
23. Meadow Brown
24. Painted Lady
25. Large Skipper
26. Ringlet
27. Silver Washed Fritillary
28. White Admiral
29. Purple Emperor
30. Small Skipper
31. Marbled White
32. Dark Green Fritillary
33. Chalkhill Blue

Re: Susie

by Susie, 13-Jul-13 10:00 PM GMT



Re: Susie

by Susie, 13-Jul-13 10:01 PM GMT



Re: Susie

by Susie, 13-Jul-13 10:01 PM GMT



Re: Susie

by Nick Broomer, 13-Jul-13 10:31 PM GMT

Great to see you are getting out and about again Susie, lovely photos, especially the Chalkhill Blue, brilliant. 😊 I will have to get myself up there soon. All the best, Nick.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 13-Jul-13 10:45 PM GMT

Thanks Nick, it is good to get out even if for only the odd hour here and there 😊

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 13-Jul-13 11:50 PM GMT

Cracking shot of the Chalkhill Blue 😊 Is it that time of year already?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 14-Jul-13 06:17 PM GMT

This morning I was walking the pup and I saw an orange something flying around the top of the ash trees. Now I know that it is a) too early in the year for bh and b) it was too early in the day to be typical behavior but I am certainly going to be keeping my eyes peeled from now on. 😊

Re: Susie

by Neil Freeman, 14-Jul-13 10:31 PM GMT

Hi Susie,

Just been catching up on your diary, you are doing well with your challenge.

I like the image of the silver-studded blue pair, that is one species that I think I am going to miss out on this year, so little time and so much to see....

Regarding your orangy something, Vapourer Moths should be out from about now through September and males can be very similar to BH when in flight, especially as they have a habit of flying high around many deciduous trees. Just a thought but a possibility given the timing 🤔

All the best,

Neil F.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 20-Jul-13 01:06 PM GMT

Hi Neil,

I think you are absolutely right, that is definitely the most likely critter.

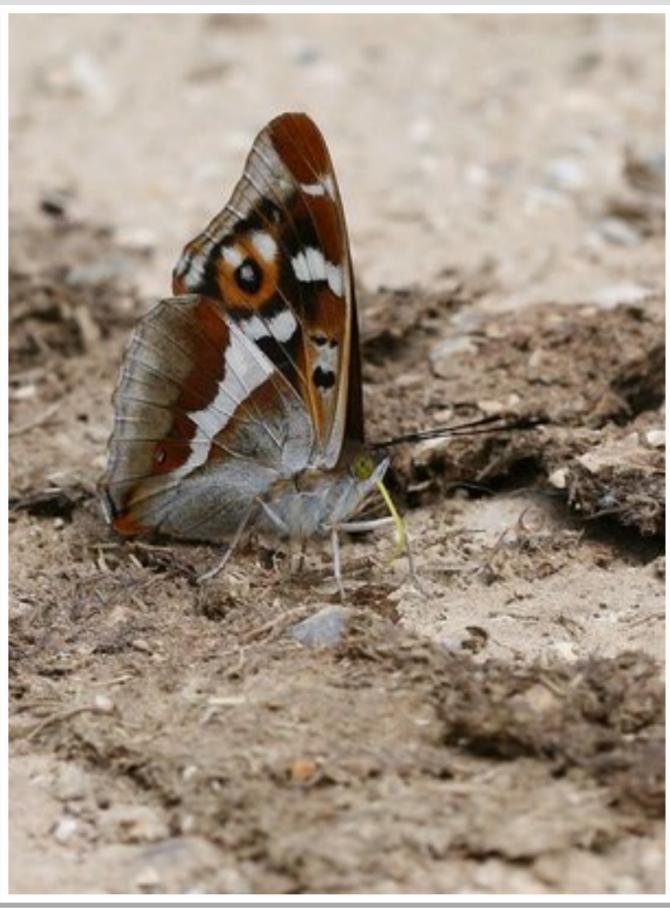
However, the hemp agrimony is just about starting to flower in my garden so it is a good indicator to look for BH very soon 😊

I hope you have all been enjoying the heat. 😊 I haven't done much butterflying over the past week but it's not all been work and boring family stuff. I did have some fun too! Last weekend I took part in a belly dancing festival in Worthing. I'm in there somewhere! lol



But this morning I booked time off from all my various commitments and went out with my camera. Firstly I would like to express my thanks to Nick aka Hideandseek for his help today. Nick was fabulous and without his help my morning wouldn't have been nearly half as good as it was as he found a smashing Purple Emperor on the ground at Chiddingfold and was kind enough to give me a shout so I could see it too. 😊 Also thanks to Mark Colvin. 😊





I also saw gatekeepers so another butterfly for my list.

1. Red Admiral
2. Brimstone
3. Peacock
4. Small Tortoiseshell
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12. Speckled wood
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18. Common Blue
19. Small Copper
20. Grizzled Skipper
21. Adonis Blue
22. Silver Studded Blue
23. Meadow Brown
24. Painted Lady
25. Large Skipper
26. Ringlet
27. Silver Washed Fritillary
28. White Admiral
29. Purple Emperor
30. Small Skipper
31. Marbled White
32. Dark Green Fritillary
33. Chalkhill Blue
34. Gatekeeper



Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 20-Jul-13 01:12 PM GMT

Lovely shots of His Nibbs 🍷 The soft focus around the edge of the photo really draws you into the image, nice 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Mark Colvin, 20-Jul-13 01:20 PM GMT

Excellent.

I'm really pleased for you. I thought you'd be successful ... 😊😊😊

Kindest regards. Mark

Re: Susie

by Susie, 20-Jul-13 01:45 PM GMT

You had more faith than me then! I thought I might have left it too late.

Don't think I am going to make the 43 species of butterfly this year though.

Re: Susie

by Maximus, 20-Jul-13 04:11 PM GMT

Hi Susie, lovely photos of the Purple Emperor.

Regards,

Mike

Re: Susie

by Susie, 20-Jul-13 05:32 PM GMT

Thank you 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 22-Jul-13 07:50 PM GMT

Well I got a surprise this afternoon. I went to Steyning to see if I could find a wall butterfly for my challenge list . On reaching the far end of the path past the allotments something caught my eye flying in the canopy. It looked like a purple emperor but I thought it couldn't be and as it settled before I got a good look I dismissed it and carried on my walk. BUT when I came back it was there again and although it stayed up high it was unmistakable 😊

Also seen: Marbled, large and small whites, small and Essex skippers, meadow brown, gatekeepers, peacock and red admiral

1. Red Admiral
2. Brimstone
3. Peacock
4. Small Tortoiseshell
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7. Comma
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20. Grizzled Skipper
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23. Meadow Brown
24. Painted Lady
25. Large Skipper
26. Ringlet

27. Silver Washed Fritillary
28. White Admiral
29. Purple Emperor
30. Small Skipper
31. Marbled White
32. Dark Green Fritillary
33. Chalkhill Blue
34. Gatekeeper
35. Essex Skipper

(after being told not to be defeatist by someone regarding my butterfly challenge I have calculated that I can just do it if I am lucky. I still need to get White letter hairstreak, brown hairstreak, purple hairstreak, wood white, brown argus, grayling (still never seen a grayling), wall, and/or silver spotted skipper & clouded yellow – that's easy then 😊)

Re: Susie

by Susie, 23-Jul-13 01:47 PM GMT

Just had my first purple hairstreak of the year over at the Fort.

1. Red Admiral
2. Brimstone
3. Peacock
4. Small Tortoiseshell
5. Small White
6. Orange Tip
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9. Large white
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20. Grizzled Skipper
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22. Silver Studded Blue
23. Meadow Brown
24. Painted Lady
25. Large Skipper
26. Ringlet
27. Silver Washed Fritillary
28. White Admiral
29. Purple Emperor
30. Small Skipper
31. Marbled White
32. Dark Green Fritillary
33. Chalkhill Blue
34. Gatekeeper
35. Essex Skipper
36. Purple hairstreak

Re: Susie

by Susie, 25-Jul-13 09:42 AM GMT

Over the last couple of days the forecast rain didn't happen (it had been weeks since we had any significant rainfall here – we finally got a shower last night) and the garden has become increasingly sad and wilted as a result. To get liquid I had butterflies coming to my bird bath (not as posh as the purple emperors coming to swimming pools over the border in Surrey!) including fresh comma and peacock. Also seen in the garden were holly blue, tatty small tortoiseshell meadow browns, and large and small whites.

I have had a walk to the site near Tesco where the elm used to grow looking for white letter hairstreak but all the elm is dead and I didn't find any. I am sure there is still elm around here in the hedgerows so I expect they will be around in low levels until the trees grow back.

Yesterday I went to a site in Barns Green which I had hoped would be good for Purple Emperor but no sign of any butterflies other than whites, browns, commas and a peacock.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 25-Jul-13 08:37 PM GMT

I spent most of the day with the kids but managed to escape for a couple of hours late this afternoon so, having read on the Sussex BC sightings page that there were wood whites on the wing in Sussex, I headed off to the site I know in Surrey that has them . I thought it was a long shot as it was quite late in the day but I was lucky and struck gold. They were there alright 😊 I counted about six, including a mating pair and a male mud puddling near where I saw the purple emperor earlier in the week. The highlight of the afternoon for me though were all the freshly emerged Brimstones. Beautiful butterflies. 😊



1. Red Admiral
2. Brimstone
3. Peacock
4. Small Tortoiseshell
5. Small White
6. Orange Tip
7. Comma
8. Holly blue
9. Large white
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19. Small Copper
20. Grizzled Skipper
21. Adonis Blue
22. Silver Studded Blue
23. Meadow Brown

24. Painted Lady
25. Large Skipper
26. Ringlet
27. Silver Washed Fritillary
28. White Admiral
29. Purple Emperor
30. Small Skipper
31. Marbled White
32. Dark Green Fritillary
33. Chalkhill Blue
34. Gatekeeper
35. Essex Skipper
36. Purple hairstreak
37. Wood white

Re: Susie

by Susie, 27-Jul-13 07:26 PM GMT

Really good amount of butterflies in the garden today. Peacocks, small tortoiseshell, comma, gatekeepers. Meadow brown, large and small whites.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 31-Jul-13 09:30 PM GMT

I went to a funeral in Lincolnshire today. It was s grim rainy day but during the service s peacock butterfly was flying around inside the church. I assume it had come in looking for somewhere to roost or maybe just by accidental but its presence seemed some what symbolic for s life that passed too soon.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 03-Aug-13 11:13 PM GMT

On Thursday morning there were a loads of butterflies in the garden. Peacocks, comma, large and small whites, meadow brown and gatekeepers as well as one brimstone nectaring on the geraniums.

The alder buckthorn that I slaughtered earlier in the year has started to grow back nicely so if any egg laden female brimstones come this way there will be food plant waiting once again.



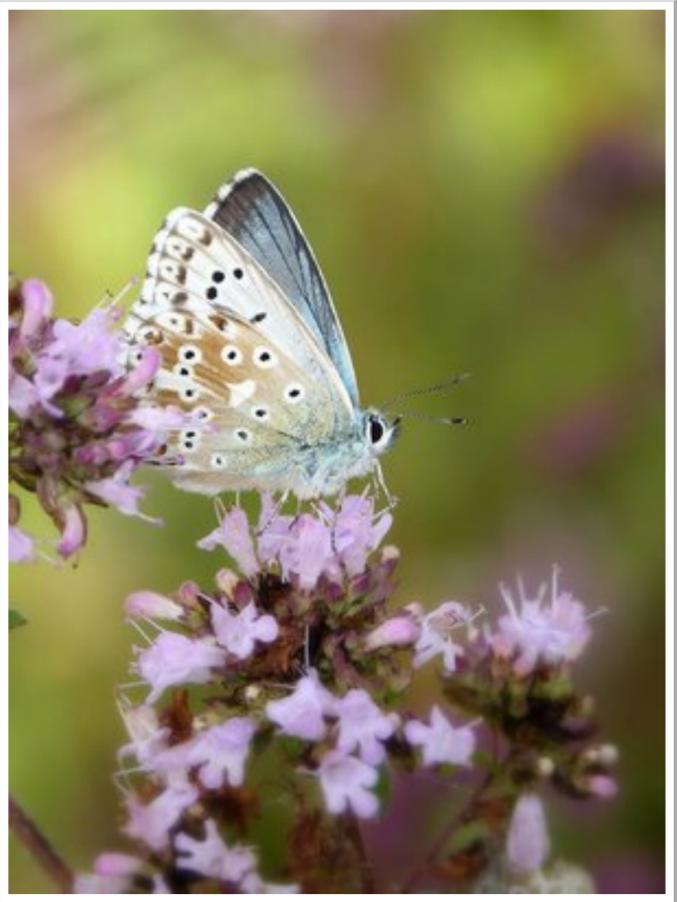
Re: Susie

by Susie, 03-Aug-13 11:21 PM GMT

I went up to Denbies this morning. It was stunning and even better than last year. The butterflies were there in their thousands. At one point there were so many butterflies on the ground I couldn't pick my way through them and had to walk a different route as I didn't want to damage any. My only regret was that I didn't have anyone to share the spectacle with. It was very breezy so I concentrated on just enjoying what I saw rather than taking photos but I couldn't resist attempting a few, especially of the oddities. There didn't seem to be any where near as many abs as in previous years. I saw about half a dozen in the many, many chalkhills I examined.

I also saw a dark green fritillary, large and small whites, common blue and meadow brown.

This was my favourite chap of the day though 😊



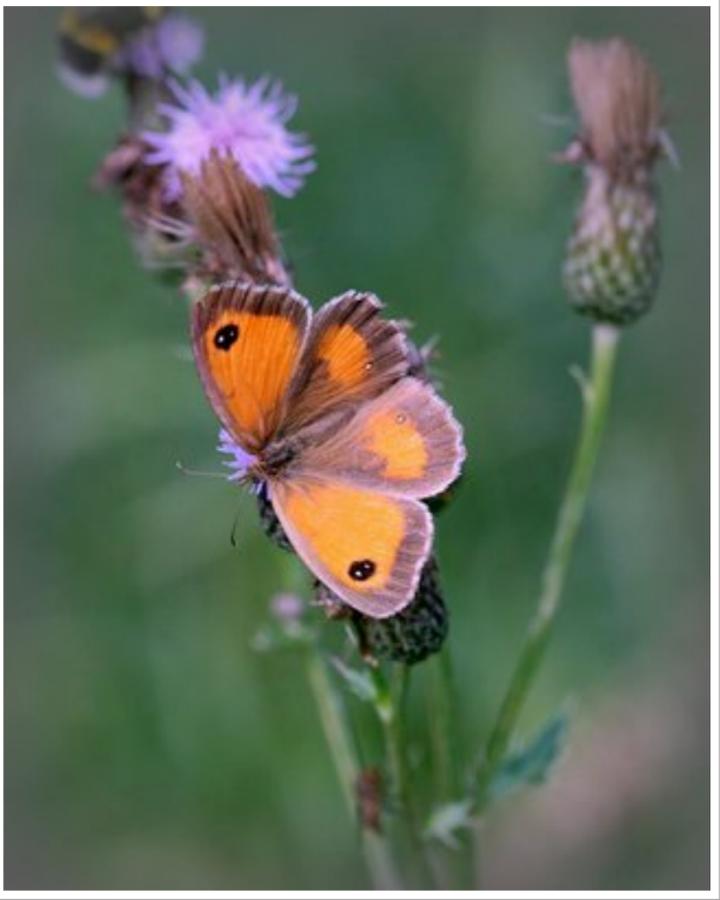




Re: Susie

by Susie, 03-Aug-13 11:26 PM GMT









Re: Susie

by Mark Colvin, 04-Aug-13 08:38 AM GMT

Hi Susie.

Glad you managed to get to Denbies; I think I recognise some of the cast ... 😊😊😊

I particularly like the first aberration which I think may be referable to ab. *radiata*, Bright & Leeds, 1938.

Good hunting.

Kindest regards. Mark

Re: Susie

by Maximus, 04-Aug-13 08:12 PM GMT

Hi Susie, very nice set of photos, and especially the first Chalkhill Blue ab.

Regards,

Mike

Re: Susie

by Nick Broomer, 04-Aug-13 09:53 PM GMT

Hi Susie,

Lovely photos, and your ab, [first picture] what a great find, well done. 😊😊

The Chalkhills are certainly stunning this year, far greater in number than last year, but i don` t think you can beat Denbies for Chalkhills, what a great place.

All the best, Nick.

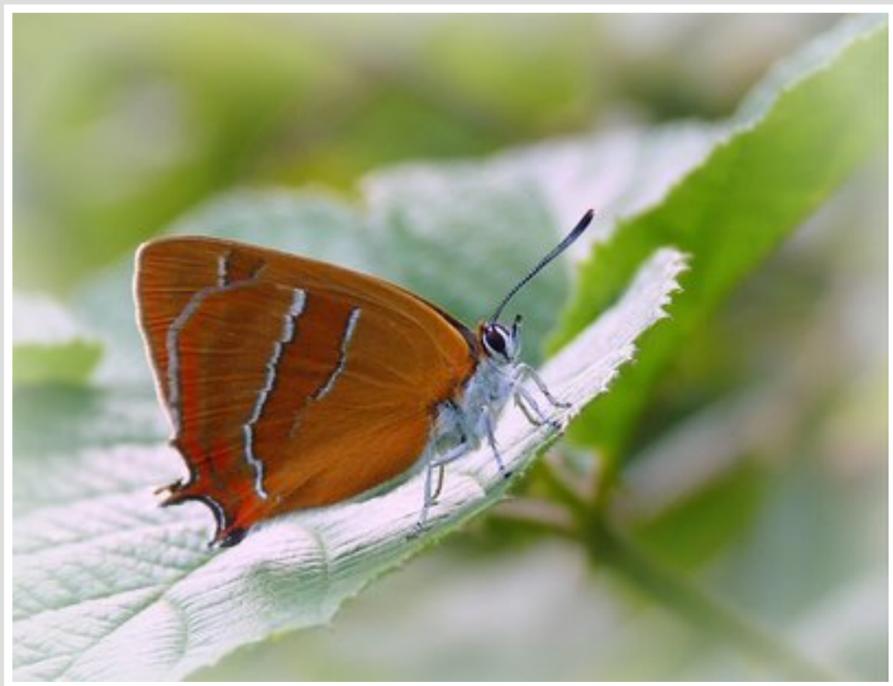
Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Aug-13 04:52 PM GMT

Thank you all. 😊

Over the last couple of days I have been checking out my local patch for brown hairstreak, but without success. Yesterday I did find a pair of mating red tailed bees though, something I haven't seen before.

Today walking back from Tesco with hubby, kids and dog I saw something unmistakeable fly across the field. Running to where it had approximately landed there it was – BROWN HAIRSTREAK!!! Huzzah! 🎉 A couple of quick snaps with my mobile and then I was off – running for home (despite a dodgy back) and leaving the family behind. Imao. Cameras in hand I went back to site and it was still there. I managed to fire off a few shots with the Lumix, and then decided to try to take some with my "proper" camera. I got the camera out of my bag and when I looked back it had gone and I have no idea where. 😊 Ten minutes later the rain came down heavily so I assume it found a safe spot to shelter. I am a very happy bunny indeed 😊



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14. Duke of Burgundy
15. Dingy Skipper
16. Small Heath
17. Small Blue
18. Common Blue
19. Small Copper
20. Grizzled Skipper
21. Adonis Blue
22. Silver Studded Blue
23. Meadow Brown
24. Painted Lady
25. Large Skipper
26. Ringlet
27. Silver Washed Fritillary
28. White Admiral
29. Purple Emperor
30. Small Skipper
31. Marbled White
32. Dark Green Fritillary
33. Chalkhill Blue
34. Gatekeeper
35. Essex Skipper
36. Purple hairstreak
37. Wood white
38. Brown hairstreak

Re: Susie

by Mark Colvin, 05-Aug-13 05:56 PM GMT

Huzzah indeed ...

We all need a bit of luck from time to time ... 😊😊😊

Nice work, Susie.

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 05-Aug-13 06:43 PM GMT

Cracking shot Susie – beautiful and fresh 😊🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Gibster, 05-Aug-13 06:46 PM GMT

So that's it done! A butterfly per year of your life! Congrats, anything more is a bonus 😊

Re: Susie

by Maximus, 05-Aug-13 07:07 PM GMT

Stunning photo Susie, beautiful butterfly, an opportunity very well taken!

Regards,

Mike

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Aug-13 10:15 PM GMT

"Gibster" wrote:

So that's it done! A butterfly per year of your life! Congrats, anything more is a bonus 😊

Lol gibster! I have accepted failure in this and no amount of fibbing about my age will change that.

Thank you for the kind comments, guys 😊 .

Re: Susie

by MikeOxon, 05-Aug-13 10:31 PM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

I saw something unmistakable fly across the field.

Great stuff! Whenever I think I've found a BH, it turns out to be a Gatekeeper 😊

Mike

Re: Susie

by Pete Eeles, 06-Aug-13 08:28 AM GMT

Some super aberration images Susie – Denbies is quite a place!

Cheers,

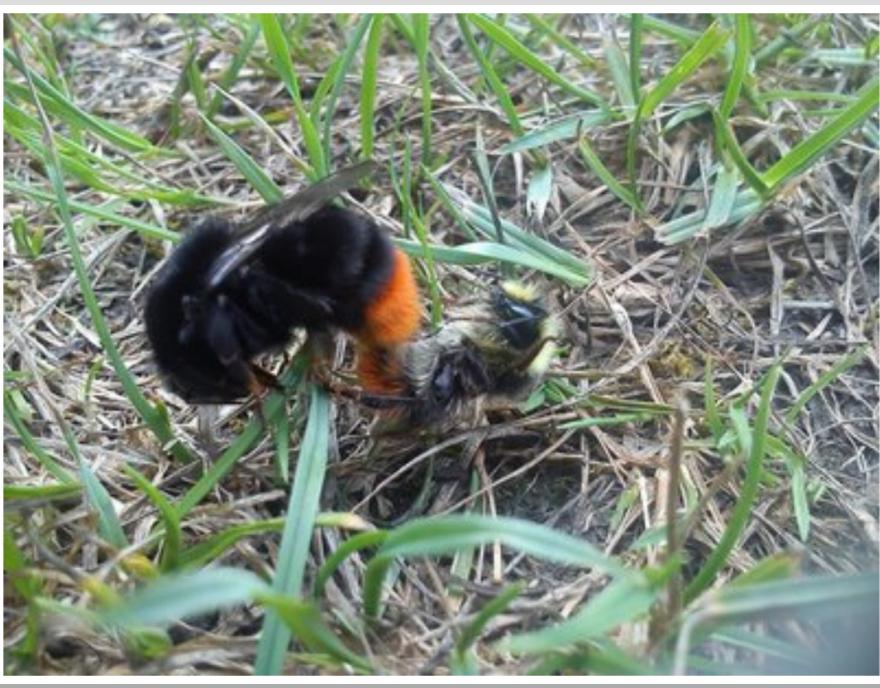
– Pete

Re: Susie

by Susie, 06-Aug-13 10:29 AM GMT

Thanks Pete and Mike 😊

Here is a pic from Sunday taken on my phone. It's not butterflies but it's something I had never seen before and I think it may be of interest to others.



Re: Susie

by Susie, 06-Aug-13 09:25 PM GMT

In the garden today the butterflies were really rather good. Small copper, male silver washed fritillary and common blue to add to the usual suspects.

Re: Susie

by essexbuzzard, 06-Aug-13 11:19 PM GMT

Cracking set of Chalkhill Blue images at Denbies, Susie! Particularly like the first one.

I was there today, and had the pleasure of witnessing the staggering numbers of Chalkhills, a sight that will live long in the memory. 😊 Tens of thousands at least. Also a couple of Silver-spotted Skippers.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 07-Aug-13 10:28 PM GMT

Thank you! 😊

This morning I met up with Pete Eeles at Denbies. I had such a lovely morning and the chalkhill blue explosion continues. I am very grateful to him for pointing out many chalkhill blue abs as well as silver spotted skippers and brown argus.

Numbers of chalkhill blue seemed down a bit on Saturday but that could be just because it wasn't anywhere near as windy. The butterflies are starting to look worn now but there are still good numbers of fresh ones around. It is still an amazing spectacle and really gladdens the heart. 😊

I saw several spiders today include a wasp spider with a veritable chalkhill blue grave yard of a web going on and crab spiders with butterflies in their grasp including one crab spider dragging a chalkhill blue along the path. The chalkhill blue was fighting back and trying to crawl in the opposite direction. Normally I don't intervene but I couldn't resist splitting this pair up.

Here's a picture of one that wasn't (or was, depending on your view) so lucky.



I found it really hard to leave the site but I had promised my girls I'd taken them shopping so had to tear myself away. Walking back up the slope I met Matthew Oates with a Channel Four news team in tow and then Patrick Barkham. I'm looking forward to reading his next book (even if it is about

badgers! 😊).

Re: Susie

by Pete Eeles, 07-Aug-13 10:33 PM GMT

How did I miss that? 🤔🇩🇪 Probably too absorbed with the abs! Great photo Sooz!

Cheers,

– Pete

Re: Susie

by Susie, 07-Aug-13 10:42 PM GMT

Understandable, Pete 😊

So, butterfly challenge to date .. life begins!

1. Red Admiral
2. Brimstone
3. Peacock
4. Small Tortoiseshell
5. Small White
6. Orange Tip
7. Comma
8. Holly blue
9. Large white
10. Green veined white
11. Green hairstreak
12. Speckled wood
13. Pearl Bordered Fritillary
14. Duke of Burgundy
15. Dingy Skipper
16. Small Heath
17. Small Blue
18. Common Blue
19. Small Copper
20. Grizzled Skipper
21. Adonis Blue
22. Silver Studded Blue
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24. Painted Lady
25. Large Skipper
26. Ringlet
27. Silver Washed Fritillary
28. White Admiral
29. Purple Emperor
30. Small Skipper
31. Marbled White
32. Dark Green Fritillary
33. Chalkhill Blue
34. Gatekeeper
35. Essex Skipper
36. Purple hairstreak
37. Wood white
38. Brown hairstreak
39. Brown argus
40. Silver spotted skipper

Three to go

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 07-Aug-13 11:14 PM GMT

Great shot of the Chalkhills Susie 😊 Good luck with the last three 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Aug-13 11:46 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel! 😊

When I was at Denbies on Saturday, because it was too windy to easily take photos I took some short clips of video. When I was back there earlier in the week with Pete I had the idea of putting some of the clips together as a short video. I didn't take the clips with the intention of putting them together so

they're a bit wonky but Denbies shines through anyway with the butterflies as the stars of the show. In the cold dark winter months I'm going to look at this to keep me going. I hope you enjoy it too.

If you put it on wide screen and look carefully you may even spot an ab or two! 😊

<http://youtu.be/jx-a3caUfTo>

Re: Susie

by NickMorgan, 09-Aug-13 01:07 PM GMT

Wow, Susie, that video is unbelievable. I have never seen so many butterflies in one place. I do feel a little sorry for that female towards the end of the video though. I will definitely have to make a pilgrimage down south next year to see some of the butterflies that occur there. Yesterday I was delighted to see my 21st species for East Lothian. Half of the butterflies on your list would be lifers for me. I wonder when the best time of year is to see the most species. I will have to see if I can persuade my family that we should go on a long weekend to southern England, but as they aren't interested in butterflies I will have to come up with a cunning plan!! 😊
Thanks for sharing your video.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Aug-13 04:46 PM GMT

Thanks Nick. Gosh, I don't know when would be best to come down to this part of the world as it really depends on what you want to see. There are an awful lot of butterflies on the wing at the moment though. I don't think it would be hard to encourage the family though, to have a holiday down here; shopping, theatres, museums, sport – what ever takes their fancy.

Re: Susie

by ChrisC, 09-Aug-13 05:19 PM GMT

excellent Susie. bought back great memories of Denbies.

Chris

Re: Susie

by Pauline, 09-Aug-13 08:26 PM GMT

Hi Susie

Don't seem to manage to comment on your diary much but I do enjoy reading and your Chalkhill abs were great. Pity I can't get to denbies more often. Now, just have to ask (might have missed it earlier) but what is the name of that gorgeous pup of yours?

Re: Susie

by Pete Eeles, 09-Aug-13 08:30 PM GMT

Very good Susie! You've reminded me that video footage is something the website needs to support better (e.g. like the photo albums). Will look into it!

Cheers,

– Pete

Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Aug-13 08:55 PM GMT

"Pauline" wrote:

Hi Susie

Don't seem to manage to comment on your diary much but I do enjoy reading and your Chalkhill abs were great. Pity I can't get to denbies more often. Now, just have to ask (might have missed it earlier) but what is the name of that gorgeous pup of yours?

Hi Pauline, the pup is called Billy. He's nearly six months now and is lovely (,apart from between six and eight pm when he turns into a real bundle of trouble – is that usual!).

Like wise I don't comment on your diary but always enjoy reading and looking at your photos.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Aug-13 08:57 PM GMT

"Pete Eeles" wrote:

Very good Susie! You've reminded me that video footage is something the website needs to support better (e.g. like the photo albums). Will look into it!

Cheers,

- Pete

Good idea! 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 11-Aug-13 07:35 PM GMT

Took the dog to Cissbury Ring late this afternoon in the hope of seeing either wall or clouded yellow. I didn't see any clouded yellows but I did see wall, painted lady, small coppers, chalkhill blues, common blues, meadow browns and gatekeepers. There are some very worn dark green fritillaries around too.





1. Red Admiral
2. Brimstone
3. Peacock
4. Small Tortoiseshell
5. Small White
6. Orange Tip
7. Comma
8. Holly blue
9. Large white
10. Green veined white
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12. Speckled wood
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30. Small Skipper
31. Marbled White
32. Dark Green Fritillary
33. Chalkhill Blue
34. Gatekeeper
35. Essex Skipper
36. Purple hairstreak
37. Wood white
38. Brown hairstreak
39. Brown argus
40. Silver spotted skipper
41. Wall

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 11-Aug-13 09:23 PM GMT

Only two to go now then – excellent news 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 11-Aug-13 09:42 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 12-Aug-13 05:54 PM GMT

I took the kids to Windover Hill in East Sussex looking for Grayling. It's a bit of a trek to the top but I had read that it was the top of the hill on gravelly

ground where the Grayling could be found. There were loads of chalkhill blues around, as well as common blue, silver spotted skippers, meadow browns, gatekeepers, small whites and some marbled whites which were in good nick. I assume the butterflies emerge later here than at Denbies. After looking everywhere that seemed suitable without luck we headed back down a different path and there it was, sitting in front of us. 😊 We only saw the one but that was enough. It was very windy so not really suitable for butterfly photography but at least this little chap was sitting on something that wasn't being blown around in the wind! A life tick for me as well as number 42 on the list.



1. Red Admiral
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31. Marbled White
32. Dark Green Fritillary
33. Chalkhill Blue
34. Gatekeeper
35. Essex Skipper
36. Purple hairstreak
37. Wood white
38. Brown hairstreak
39. Brown argus
40. Silver spotted skipper
41. Wall
42. Grayling

Re: Susie

by ChrisC, 12-Aug-13 06:20 PM GMT

well done Susie. a lifer too. Brilliant!

Re: Susie

by Susie, 12-Aug-13 06:28 PM GMT

I meant to mention, I saw a couple of meteors last night. They should be visible again tonight.

Re: Susie

by ChrisC, 12-Aug-13 07:11 PM GMT

hope you made a wish 😊 they have been going for over a week, best night I had was last Saturday with some quite spectacular ones.

Chris

Re: Susie

by Susie, 12-Aug-13 08:39 PM GMT

"ChrisC" wrote:

hope you made a wish 😊 they have been going for over a week, best night I had was last Saturday with some quite spectacular ones.

Chris

I did make a wish 😊

If it doesn't come true then I'll know I was wishing on the international space station. 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 14-Aug-13 10:28 PM GMT

Thanks to Colin Knight for his suggestion that I try Kithurst Hill today for Clouded Yellows, and then finding a Clouded Yellow on Kithurst Hill! 😊 This was species 43 for me and completes my butterfly challenge. I have not seen a clouded yellow at close range before and they really are handsome little critters. I think from the photos I have taken there were three separate individuals there and not the two I originally thought.

The other star of the day were the small tortoiseshells which were hanging around in veritable gangs and beautifully fresh and well marked. Also seen, brown argus, chalkhill blue, painted lady, large and small whites, speckled wood, wall, peacock small heath and meadow brown.



Re: Susie

by Nick Broomer, 14-Aug-13 10:39 PM GMT

Lovely photos Susie, especially the Clouded Yellow, beautiful. 😊😊

All the best, Nick.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 14-Aug-13 11:10 PM GMT

Thanks Nick, that is really nice of you to say. 😊

Re: Susie

by millerd, 14-Aug-13 11:35 PM GMT

I love the Clouded Yellow, Susie. The pink of the flowers matches the subtle pink on the butterfly and sets off the yellow so well. That would make a beautiful card. 😊

Dave

Re: Susie

by Susie, 15-Aug-13 08:31 AM GMT

Thank you, Dave 😊

They are very pretty little butterflies. I can't wait to see more! 😊

Re: Susie

by Pauline, 17-Aug-13 06:56 AM GMT

Morning Suzie, lovely Clouded yellow shot. I have to say that if Billy is a 'bundle of trouble' only between 6-8pm then you're clearly doing something right. He is still very young and is obviously a very good pup.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 18-Aug-13 04:05 PM GMT

We did a car boot sale in Pease pottage this morning and late morning what did I spy flying across the field? It was a brown hairstreak!

Re: Susie

by Susie, 19-Aug-13 10:26 PM GMT

Today was a pretty special day for butterflies despite my putting in no effort to see them as the day was taken up with chores and family things. The first one I saw out of the kitchen window this morning was a beautiful painted lady on the honeycomb buddleia. There were also plenty of peacocks, small torts, large and small whites and the odd comma around.

Late morning I took the woofers for a walk to our local spot and across the field I spotted a clouded yellow, before I was able to get close it flew over the hedge and away. Flying around the oak, ash and blackthorn trees though there was a purple hairstreak and brown hairstreak which made up for the loss. 😊

When I got home from the dog walk I was hanging out some washing and watching the butterflies flying around, including a couple of holly blues, when a silver washed fritillary came gliding in. This well worn lady was acting pretty strangely and didn't seem particularly interested in the flowers unlike the other butterflies. I didn't understand her behaviour at the time, but thanks to this website I read the following section of the page relating to silver washed fritillaries and it all made sense "Egg-laying females can be seen flying over the woodland floor searching out the larval foodplant, Common Dog-violet. They will sometimes alight on the woodland floor and crawl among the vegetation to determine the suitability of the site. If a suitable location is found, then the female flies to a nearby tree trunk and lays a single egg in a chink on the tree bark and several eggs may be laid on the same tree. These are typically laid on the moss-covered north-facing side of the tree and between 1 and 2 metres from the ground. It is believed that such a location provides a suitable "microclimate" for the overwintering larva."

She was sitting on various shrubs and then flying down to the ground and disappearing into the undergrowth. At one point she sat on the fence panels for a while. I thought this odd as she did look like she was wanting to lay but as I knew the larval food plant is dog violet I didn't understand why she was on other things. I went to get my camera and I got a short clip of her sitting on the ivy. I was quite concerned at the time as I thought she was caught in a spider's web and was going to extricate her but as I got closer she flew off so obviously wasn't trapped. If you put the clip on wide screen and look at the abdomen I think she is considering laying an egg. 😊

I had promised to take my daughters shopping so I had to leave the excitement in the garden but by late afternoon I was home again and hanging out more washing. Something else caught my eye as it flew into the garden. I thought it was a common blue or brown hairstreak initially but on closer inspection it turned out to be a female purple hairstreak and she really tucked into the hemp agrimony and didn't seem to be bothered much by my being there.

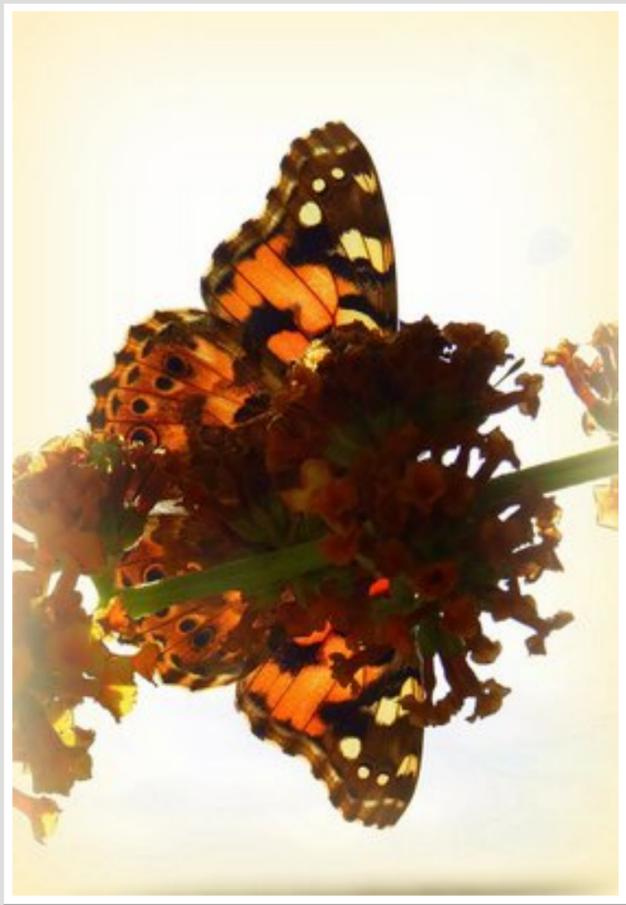
Re: Susie

by Susie, 19-Aug-13 10:31 PM GMT

Silver washed fritillary [https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10 ... 7537065957](https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10...7537065957)

Tomorrow I need to go looking for eggs!

Purple hairstreak [https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10 ... 8906837818](https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10...8906837818)



Re: Susie

by Susie, 20-Aug-13 05:32 PM GMT

I was just trying to count how many small torts were on the white buddleia when one was attacked by s hornet. They tumbled into the fleabane beneath and the hornet stung the butterfly several times before tearing off the wings, eating part and flying off with the rest. Fascinating to watch 😊

Re: Susie

by MikeOxon, 20-Aug-13 06:12 PM GMT

"Susie" wrote:
Fascinating to watch

You should have taken your knitting along 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 24-Aug-13 04:06 PM GMT

Get your knitting out.

Tiny bit of footage here of the hornet. About three stitches worth. 😊

[https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10 ... 1626545704](https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10...1626545704)

Re: Susie

by MikeOxon, 24-Aug-13 09:19 PM GMT

I'm not a fan of snuff movies 😊

Mike

Re: Susie

by Susie, 12-Sep-13 08:12 PM GMT

Autumn may have arrived with a vengeance last Friday but a walk round petworth park on Tuesday afternoon still turned up good numbers of fresh small heath despite the overcast conditions. The deer were looking marvellous too 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 20-Sep-13 07:14 PM GMT

Still whites in the garden and a speckled wood flew over this afternoon which I think is a first for this garden.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Oct-13 10:01 PM GMT

I haven't posted for ages so I thought it time for an update. I'll skip over Kingsdown Leas as that was a bit of a fail 😊 Unfortunately there hasn't been anything interesting relating to butterflies to report. I'm still seeing the odd one around (had small tort, comma, and whites in the garden this week) but on the days when I get a chance to go out the weather has been unsuitable.

As I am now thoroughly disgusted with butterflying and think it a silly thing to do I've gone for what is easy! What we do seem to be having a very good year for is fungi and I'm seeing some very good examples when out at the moment. 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Oct-13 10:04 PM GMT







Re: Susie

by Butterflysaurus rex, 05-Oct-13 10:09 PM GMT

Wow Susie, they are great examples of Fungi, we don't have a variety as good as that in my local area so I'm enjoying your photos 😊

Re: Susie

by Padfield, 05-Oct-13 10:11 PM GMT

Lovely pictures, Susie! The penny bun makes me feel quite hungry ...

Guy

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Oct-13 10:16 PM GMT

I am not absolute sure what they all are. I think this is right, but would be grateful of correction if wrong.

1. Amanita citrina
2. Fly agaric
3. Cep (Penny Bun)
4. Yellow-cracked Bolete Boletus subtomentosus
5. Smooth Earthball Scleroderma verrucosum
6. Fly agaric
7. Common Earthball Scleroderma citrinum

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Oct-13 10:18 PM GMT



Amethyst Deceiver?

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Oct-13 10:20 PM GMT

"Butterflysaurus rex" wrote:

Wow Susie, they are great examples of Fungi, we don't have a variety as good as that in my local area so I'm enjoying your photos 😊

Thanks, these are just snaps taken with my phone as I only went out to walk the dog and not to take photos but they were too good to pass up.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Oct-13 10:22 PM GMT

"padfield" wrote:

Lovely pictures, Susie! The penny bun makes me feel quite hungry ...

Guy

Thanks, Guy. 😊 I didn't even know for sure what it was until I got home. I thought there must be some edible fungi on the site though as a few days before when I was walking the woofers I was greeted by a couple of eastern European gentlemen with carrier bags full of something which it looked like they had collected so I assumed there must be something edible about other than blackberries. People from other countries seem so good at foraging and in England if it doesn't come from a supermarket wrapped in plastic we won't touch it 😊

Re: Susie

by Butterflysaurus rex, 05-Oct-13 10:26 PM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

"Butterflysaurus rex" wrote:

Wow Susie, they are great examples of Fungi, we don't have a variety as good as that in my local area so I'm enjoying your photos 😊

Thanks, these are just snaps taken with my phone as I only went out to walk the dog and not to take photos but they were too good to pass up.

Mobile phones have pretty good cameras these days, my phone is terrible at it though. I agree they are far too good to pass up I would stop

to take a photo of those too 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Oct-13 10:28 PM GMT

They don't fly for starters, that's got to be good 😊

When you're trying to keep your eye on a nut job of a dog having a static subject is a bonus.

Billy Bob Nut-Job Dog at the woods

[https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10 ... 5178742466](https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10...5178742466)

Re: Susie

by Padfield, 05-Oct-13 10:37 PM GMT

Apart from the fly agaric and cep, I'm not confident identifying these just from photos, Susie. With boletes I always cut the flesh and taste and smell them, and I've never really mastered Amanita. I don't eat any Amanita species so don't pick them. Earthballs are inedible/toxic too so these tend to get passed over just as 'earthballs' too. There are so many thousands of mushrooms I tend to concentrate on the ones I can fry up with garlic and onions (which is a lot of species – including almost all boletes).

If you've never tasted fresh cepts (penny buns) straight from the woods, go back tomorrow and search some out! There's nothing like them!

Guy

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Oct-13 10:40 PM GMT

Thanks Guy 😊

I am reasonably confident with the earthballs because of where they were located (in different types of woodland). The Amanita was identified by someone else for me.

I'll have to go back and see if there are any cepts left. If there are lots I will take one to try it. Thanks.

Re: Susie

by Padfield, 05-Oct-13 10:41 PM GMT

PS – sorry to butt in again, Susie, but when I was in Suffolk in September, huge parasol mushrooms were sprouting up all over the place:



These are super-delicious fried flat and whole (the caps) and eaten on toast for breakfast – saved me a few ££ while I was there!

Guy

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Oct-13 10:44 PM GMT

It's good to have your comments, Guy! 😊 Nice looking parasol, now I know where there were lots of those but I have not considered eating them before. 🤪

Re: Susie

by Susie, 12-Oct-13 11:33 PM GMT

Today was a very memorable day. I met up with some UKB'ers briefly at the AES exhibition at Kempton Park, got myself a copy of Butterflies of Surrey Revisited which I am looking forward to reading (and got it signed too – thank you for that if you are reading this! 😊) and also bought a signed Lewington print. I've lost count now of the number of times I've been to the AES exhibition but it's always a curious mix of people but meeting the people from here is always a highlight for me. After the AES I went to rehearsals before dancing in a belly dancing show tonight. Definitely a day of extremes. Am now shattered 😊



Re: Susie

by P.J.Underwood, 13-Oct-13 08:11 AM GMT

Susie,

After the butterfly season it is logical to venture into the world of fungi. They make super subjects for photography. I agree with all your identifications except the bolete. To me it looks like the bay bolete – *B. badius*. I am posting – for interest – a few shapes that fungi can assume, so that you don't miss too many. I am very lucky having Hambleton Common and The Hurst within dog walking distance.

P.J.U.



Rare – found around old pine fires. The pine fire fungus



On deciduous—very rare. The pine form common. The cauliflower fungus



A few around. The zoned rosette fungus



The pestle puffball.



A young one. Beefsteak fungus



An individual in my garden. A pinkgill



Unmistakable before they open—the lawyer's wig.



A delicate inkcap



This is a Myxomycete—an animal that moves like amoeba. The pink one engulfed the yellow one!

Re: Susie

by Susie, 13-Oct-13 08:39 AM GMT

Hi Philip, your photos are great and very interesting. I did take a load more photos last week but hesitated to post them here as I didn't want to post even more off topic stuff 😊

Re: Susie

by P.J.Underwood, 13-Oct-13 09:15 AM GMT

Susie,

I know—I think we are near to dangerous territory, and Pete might get cross! I have followed up Mike Oxon's suggestion and use the Wild about Britain website, Fungal section. I ignore their sections on Birds and Butterflies for obvious reasons.

One needs a working knowledge of poisonous plants and fungi for vet. college, both for their own properties and the drugs they contain.

Here is a poisonous plant growing wild in my son's garden that is poisonous and magical.

P.J.U.



This is Indian pokeweed, a very unusual plant. The seeds probably dropped by migrating birds

Re: Susie

by Trev Sawyer, 13-Oct-13 01:19 PM GMT

Sorry to chip in on your diary Susie, but PJU's plant is *exactly* what I've been trying to identify. I found some on common land in Cambridge a few weeks ago and had no idea what they were. If Indian Pokeweed is not native, are they notifiable? – ie should they be reported to someone I wonder?

Trev

Re: Susie

by P.J.Underwood, 13-Oct-13 01:44 PM GMT

Trev,

One has to ask a County recorder. It would also be necessary to determine whether it is Chinese, American or Indian Pokeweed, so I was advised. There probably isn't a county record for it. I am sticking with acinosa for mine.

It is interesting what pops up on U.K. butterflies.

P.J.U.

Re: Susie

by ChrisC, 13-Oct-13 02:00 PM GMT

posting non butterfly pictures? tut tut . wouldn't catch me doing such a thing 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 13-Oct-13 04:42 PM GMT

I probably will post more later in the year when the diaries are quieter as I need to have some of the fungi identified 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 15-Oct-13 04:14 PM GMT

I went to the Southwick site today in West Sussex to look for long tailed blues. When I arrived I was greeted by Sussex Kipper, there were also several other people on site. Despite searching and conditions being not bad at all we didn't find any. There were good numbers of clouded yellows around and many photo opportunities presented themselves but I had my puppy with me and he had a knack of either disturbing the butterfly or when I said "sit" sitting between my camera lens and the subject 😊 I was watching a clouded yellow egg laying and managed to get a ropey shot (which normally would have gone in the bin but it was all I managed so beggers can't be choosers!) and when trying to get in close I saw something fly up from and over the privet - I am certain it was a long tailed blue! However, for the rest of my time on site I didn't see it again and to my knowledge no one else did either.

Butterflies that were also seen were red admiral, small copper, large white.

It was good to see some familiar faces again and meet some new ones 😊



Re: Susie

by millerd, 15-Oct-13 07:14 PM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

I was watching a clouded yellow egg laying and managed to get a ropey shot

Are those a couple of eggs visible in the picture, Susie, down in the bottom right quarter?

Dave

Re: Susie

by Susie, 15-Oct-13 08:10 PM GMT

Yes, those little white bits are eggs 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 16-Oct-13 08:24 PM GMT

The Sussex BC annual newsletter dropped through my letter box the other day and I read it this evening. Well done to all involved for s good read with lots of interesting reports. 😊

Re: Susie

by MikeOxon, 18-Oct-13 12:26 AM GMT

Just going back to your super fungi shots – I think we should always remind people that there are several very toxic species in UK, so don't nibble anything you are not *really* sure about.

I mention this because I once had an alarming conversation with a Scout leader, who had taken some boys out picking mushrooms to eat. I casually commented that he must know his species well, to know which are not poisonous. His reply "not in this country" shook me to the core. 😱!!!!!!

Some people seem to think there is nothing dangerous out there in the British countryside.

Mike

Re: Susie

by Butterflysaurus rex, 24-Oct-13 09:27 PM GMT

I saw an interesting and 'rather worrying' article on the BBC the other day. It would appear that wild mushrooms are now being massively over harvested on a near commercial scale. They are worth a lot to the restaurant trade, and thanks to cookery programs it's become very trendy to 'forage' amongst enthusiastic foodies. Now rather than an occasional forager harmlessly gathering a few wild mushrooms for their own consumption there are a lot more "money oriented individuals" out with bin liners picking everything in sight, including some of the poisonous varieties that they presumably sort out when they get home. Alarmingly this would suggest that they don't really know what they're picking!

Even more seriously these Fungi are very important for maintaining a healthy ecosystem and this increasing trend in the 'over harvesting' of Fungi is harming this delicate balance.

I had no absolutely no idea this was going on, I guess if there's easy money to be made there will always be some ready and willing to exploit it.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 04-Nov-13 08:53 PM GMT

I saw that too. Although some areas are affected hopefully there will always be quiet places where they still flourish.

I took the woofer to the seaside today and saw a red admiral

Re: Susie

by Butterflysaurus rex, 04-Nov-13 09:19 PM GMT

I hope you're right Susie, people can be very selfish at times. Seeing a Red Admiral at the beach sounds very right and proper, did you name it Nelson 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 10-Nov-13 10:00 AM GMT

😊 No, Marko Ramius

Re: Susie

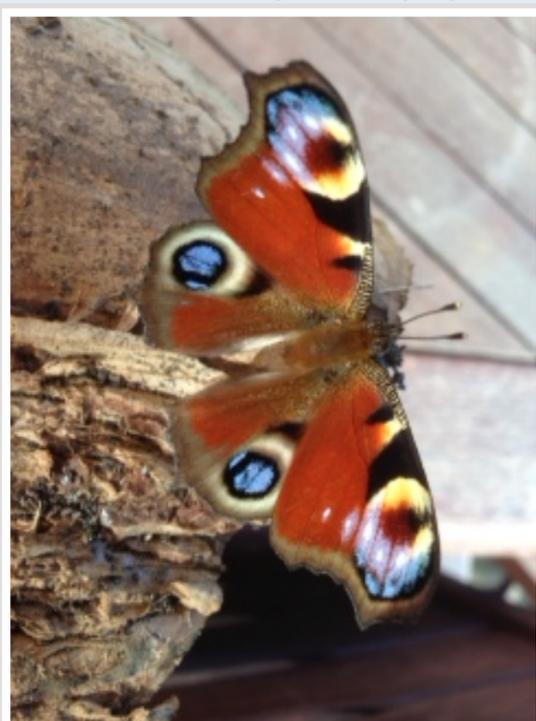
by Susie, 17-Nov-13 09:22 AM GMT

Two butterflies seen on Wednesday and a peacock found hibernating in the woodshed yesterday.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 18-Nov-13 10:32 AM GMT

Peacock from Saturday. Probably my last butterfly of the year.



Re: Susie

by Susie, 04-Dec-13 08:51 PM GMT

I've been thinking about next year already. Hopefully it will be better than this one and I'll tackle the challenge of 44 species! I did actually see 44 this year if I include the long tailed blues 😊



Re: Susie

by David M, 04-Dec-13 10:05 PM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

I did actually see 44 this year if I include the long tailed blues 😊

Absolutely *bona fide* sighting too, Susie. I only wish I could have seen them.

44 is excellent going if you don't travel more than an hour and a half's drive from your 'territory'. Just shows how 'fecund' your immediate area is for our beloved UK butterflies.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Dec-13 09:02 PM GMT

"David M" wrote:

"Susie" wrote:

I did actually see 44 this year if I include the long tailed blues 😊

Absolutely *bona fide* sighting too, Susie. I only wish I could have seen them.

44 is excellent going if you don't travel more than an hour and a half's drive from your 'territory'. Just shows how 'fecund' your immediate area is for our beloved UK butterflies.

I think everything I saw was within a 45 minute drive. I am indeed blessed living in Sussex 😊

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 07-Dec-13 08:43 AM GMT

Forty Four is excellent going 😊, I picked up 46 this year but that was with Lulworth Skipper and I have Marshies nearby. Tell you what I'll swap you those two for the Long-Tails and a Wood White? I know some good sites if you can risk straying into Hampshire, though I try not too 😊😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 07-Dec-13 09:04 AM GMT

I'm definitely planning to visit Hampshire next year, Wurzel. Its a lovely county and I've still never seen lulworth skipper so that's definitely on my wish

list 😊

If your every planning a trip in this direction at the right time of year I'll happily show you wood white.

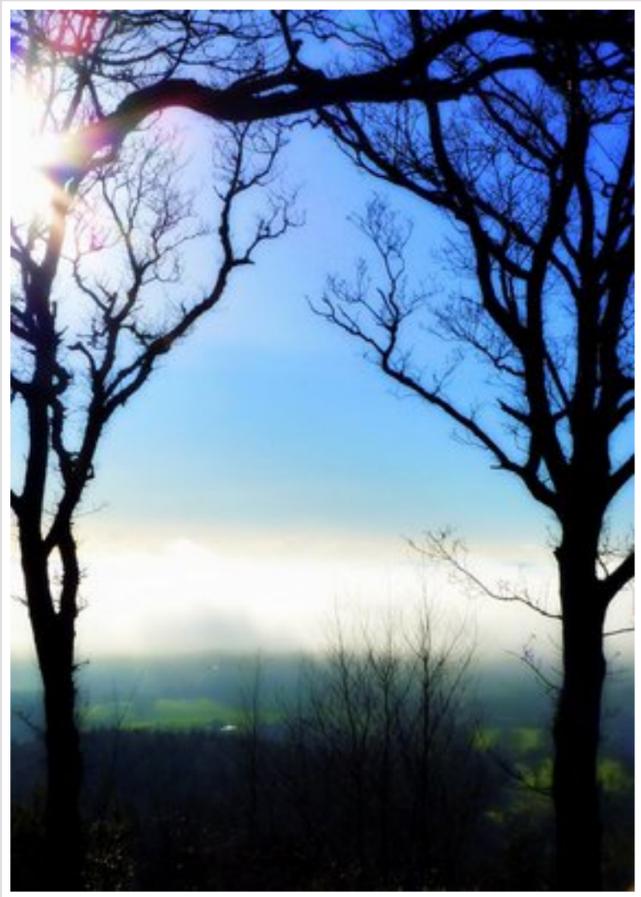
Re: Susie

by Susie, 27-Dec-13 11:06 AM GMT

We've had some wild weather over the last few days. I imagine there will have been a fair few hibernating butterflies disturbed which won't see next spring.

Yesterday we took a walk to Pitch Hill in Peaslake, Surrey, as it was a lovely sunny day. The Surrey Hills seems to have it's own weather at times and we went through thick fog before coming back to the sunshine. There was a lot of standing water about and the storm's presence was still felt by the number of trees down which were as many as I have ever seen.

View from Pitch Hill across Surrey/Sussex with bank of fog in the middle



Fallen trees in the Hurtwood at Pitch Hill



Re: Susie

by Susie, 01-Jan-14 12:44 AM GMT

2014 and 44 species to see ... Let the challenge begin! 😊