

## Re: ChrisC

by ChrisC, 13-Jan-13 07:00 PM GMT

Nothing to report wildlife wise. so an update on the front garden. From about July last year i extended my wildlife friendly gardening to the front lawn. i say gardening but in fact it's more an absence of gardening that i have introduced. i have created a few patches of longer uncut grass. Since then the autumn produced far more grass moths and craneflies (and quite a few hedgehog deposits) than i have seen out there before. I have bought some wild flowers to plant out there but today decided to leave it as is and see what comes up naturally. I know meadows are supposed to be mown but i think i'm going to go for unimproved grassland rather than a meadow. so now have to find homes for 70 plants in the back garden. should be interesting 😊 with a bit of luck i'll be able to work out which grass species i have out there this year and keep/amend accordingly.



i've had good responses from a few passers-by too which was actually quite a surprise.

## Re: ChrisC

by ChrisC, 26-Feb-13 07:18 PM GMT

i don't know how many people have seen this but i started the evening in a good mood til i saw this, very very depressing and I hasten to add upsetting <http://vimeo.com/25563376>

## Re: ChrisC

by David M, 26-Feb-13 08:54 PM GMT

That IS concerning, Chris. I've read about a region in the Pacific (similar to the Doldrums) where human detritus collects and floats on the surface but if Albatross chicks truly are dying in large numbers due to consuming vast quantities of plastic then it is a vivid example of how one person's laziness/irresponsibility can filter down the line and end up having fatal consequences elsewhere.

Living in Wales as I do, I'm affected by the government's decision to levy a statutory charge of 5p on every plastic bag taken away from a retailer. People grumbled, but within a fortnight practically everyone was taking their own bags to the shops and it is now considered the norm.

The only way to reduce consumption is to tax it. Sadly, I doubt any of the taxes go towards conservation but at least a sizeable proportion of toxic material is taken out of the food chain.

About time England followed suit, I feel.

## Re: ChrisC

by Mark Colvin, 26-Feb-13 10:46 PM GMT

Thanks for sharing Chris.

I agree, this is not pleasant viewing but it certainly put an important message across ...

## Re: ChrisC

by ChrisC, 29-Mar-13 07:43 PM GMT

thought i would get out for a couple of hours this morning as the weather was ok. I went up to my local wood to see how the weather was affecting things. i'm glad i did as it lifted my spirits quite considerably. as well as a calling and flyover tawny owl i also came across a roost of approx 150 redwing and feildfare roost. the noise was amazing. i don't know if they were resting birds heading north but i thought 11am was a bit early to be roosting. The wood itself is a working wood and over the winter they seem to been quite busy. so it will be interesting to see how the butterflies and ground flora flourish

coppicing hazel



I noticed they had uncovered what i assume are charcoal burners which were buried last year



some birch clearance



i missed the daffs last year but there were quite a few up this year.



and it's looking good for the bluebells too, i didn't notice much overlap between the daffs and the bells so whether the ground requirements differ i don't know.



despite the footprints in the mud i still didn't see anyone. 3 deer but no people. my kind of place.

## Re: ChrisC

by ChrisC, 06-Apr-13 07:23 PM GMT

### Has Spring Sprung

After some good news on a personal front first thing, today just got better. My only real chore of the day was to move the log delivery from the front lawn and top up the log pile.



with that done the sun decided to come out and with it, at long last, some butterflies. first was a Red Admiral, my 1st identified butterfly of the year, followed by 3 Brimstones, a comma was next and then more Brimstone. The only butterfly shot I got was this Brimmy disappearing over the fence.



I was sat in the garden pretty much all day after that. buzzards overhead, a singing Blackcap, the resident Dunnock pretty much non-stop, and we seem to have acquired a very friendly blackbird that would come to within a couple of feet. 2 pairs of Robins visiting and squabbling over territory with the swaying display adding to the spring like conditions. allegedly it's supposed to be warmer tomorrow, here's hoping.



## Re: ChrisC

by Wurzel, 06-Apr-13 10:03 PM GMT

Here's hoping it is warmer tomorrow as well Chris! Mind you if it is I better remember to wear a hat so as to not get sunstroke – I'm just not used to the heat anymore 😬😅

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: ChrisC

by Susie, 07-Apr-13 09:00 AM GMT

Good luck with the woodpile, Chris. Do you get much in there? Mine rarely has much apart from the occasional frog or snail.

I do love listening to the call of buzzards.

## Re: ChrisC

by ChrisC, 07-Apr-13 09:13 AM GMT

I've had 2 male stag beetles visit but yet to see a female but you never know. various holes in the original pile and fungi but to be honest where it's situated in the garden isn't conducive to observation. I just let it get on with it.

CHris

## Re: ChrisC

by ChrisC, 21-Apr-13 03:55 PM GMT

a great weekend of wildlife. first cuckoo and willow warblers over Ringwood Forest, A walk over Martin Down produced a Red Kite, first whitethroats, lizard and slowworms, a single white, commas, Peacocks, small Tort and Brimstones.





the buzzards were getting plenty of grief



### Re: ChrisC

by Wurzel, 21-Apr-13 06:12 PM GMT

I missed you by a day Chris but it sounds like you had a more productive one than me, I was scanning for whites until me eyes bled with no joy 😞 Still spring has finally arrived so lots more goodies to look forward too. If you fancy trying Bentley for Pearls this year give us a shout 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: ChrisC

by ChrisC, 03-May-13 11:24 PM GMT

things are picking up nicely in the garden, the garden year list now reads

Red Admiral

Comma

Peacock

Small Tortoiseshell

Small white

GV white  
Brimstone  
Holly Blue

and joining it today the first speckled wood. not many sticking around for me to get the camera out but i'll take it. 😊

and a new barkfly record for the garden this week too, I think it's *Epicaecilius pilipennis*  
approx. 2mm so a bit cropped.



## Re: ChrisC

by ChrisC, 04-May-13 07:22 PM GMT

Didn't go looking for butterflies today, I went purely for Bluebells at my local wood. Bluebell woods have a special place in my heart as I was introduced to the natural world at Perivale Wood in Middlesex. home of the Selborne Society which was founded in 1885 to commemorate the eighteenth century naturalist Gilbert White of Selborne in Hampshire. Anyone visiting Noar Hill will possibly have driven past his House and very famous gardens. Anyway, there were a few butterflies around Peacock, Brimstone, Speckled Wood, Whites but the stars of today for me were the bluebells.



## Re: ChrisC

by ChrisC, 06-May-13 07:51 PM GMT

had a flying visit to Martin Down this morning, new for the years even that early in the day were small heath and Grizzled but was on my way home again by 10.30. the rest of the day was spent in the garden. lots of whites, Brimstone a couple of peacock and holly blue but that's about all. spent quite a bit of time just sitting and watching things going on. there seem to be a lot of rove beetles this year of various sizes. had the first Rhagium bifasciatum Longhorn beetle of the year and a new tick for the garden was Forget-me-not sheildbug, I should pay more attention to the true bugs as I had never heard of this one. just a few pics, of some of the other stuff as the butterflies weren't playing ball.



watched the mating flight of this *Eristalis* before he swooped in on his target



**Re: ChrisC**

by Susie, 06-May-13 08:05 PM GMT

What's the spider? That's an evil looking wee beastie.

**Re: ChrisC**

by ChrisC, 06-May-13 09:02 PM GMT

one of the Xysticus group. not really got into trying to differentiate the species yet. but it was only a wee beastie

**Re: ChrisC**

by ChrisC, 03-Jun-13 10:17 PM GMT

so busy enjoying everyone else's diary I have been neglecting my own. new beetles and spiders for the garden, and of course I have been out after butterflies. just a few pics from the weekend.







## Re: ChrisC

by ChrisC, 15-Jun-13 08:15 AM GMT

internet problems have plagued me for a week now so I have lots of catching up to do on other peoples diaries. but last weekend after at last finding Brimstone eggs on the garden buckthorn, I was walking over Ringwood forest which is quite literally on my doorstep and after maybe 10 minutes walking I thought I saw a moth fly into one the conifers. I went to investigate and low and behold it turned out to be a green hairstreak. I've not seen one over here before. to say I was pleased is an understatement. a 10 minute walk for GH? this place just gets better and better.



no pictures but I was also very pleased to see a day flying Beautiful yellow underwing and during the week at dusk a Silver-y and small magpie.

## Re: ChrisC

by ChrisC, 21-Jun-13 06:51 PM GMT

at last some internet access, for how long I don't know.

the 2 painted ladies from this week, the one with missing bit of hindwing on the 18th and the other on the 19th.



The Small tortoiseshell and finally got a shot of the beautiful yellow underwing that's been visiting too.





Only other gossip is I found a new breeding garden species in the shape of a Common footman caterpillar.



**Re: ChrisC**

by Wurzel, 21-Jun-13 07:52 PM GMT

Cracking shots Chris - hopefully the Painted Ladies will shift North a bit 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: ChrisC**

by Pauline, 24-Jun-13 06:30 AM GMT

A beautiful Tortoiseshell Chris - the colours are just stunning.

**Re: ChrisC**

by ChrisC, 30-Jun-13 04:03 PM GMT



the worst picture of a green hairstreak you are ever likely to see I know, but what makes this one special is, it just landed on the buddleia in the garden woohoo!

**Re: ChrisC**

by Susie, 30-Jun-13 04:46 PM GMT

Awesome! 😊

**Re: ChrisC**

by David M, 01-Jul-13 08:38 PM GMT

**"ChrisC" wrote:**

the worst picture of a green hairstreak you are ever likely to see I know, but what makes this one special is, it just landed on the buddleia in the garden woohoo!

As garden 'ticks' go, Chris, that one's mightily impressive.

**Re: ChrisC**

by ChrisC, 01-Jul-13 09:08 PM GMT

Thanks Susie and David, yep I was chuffed 😊

CHris

**Re: ChrisC**

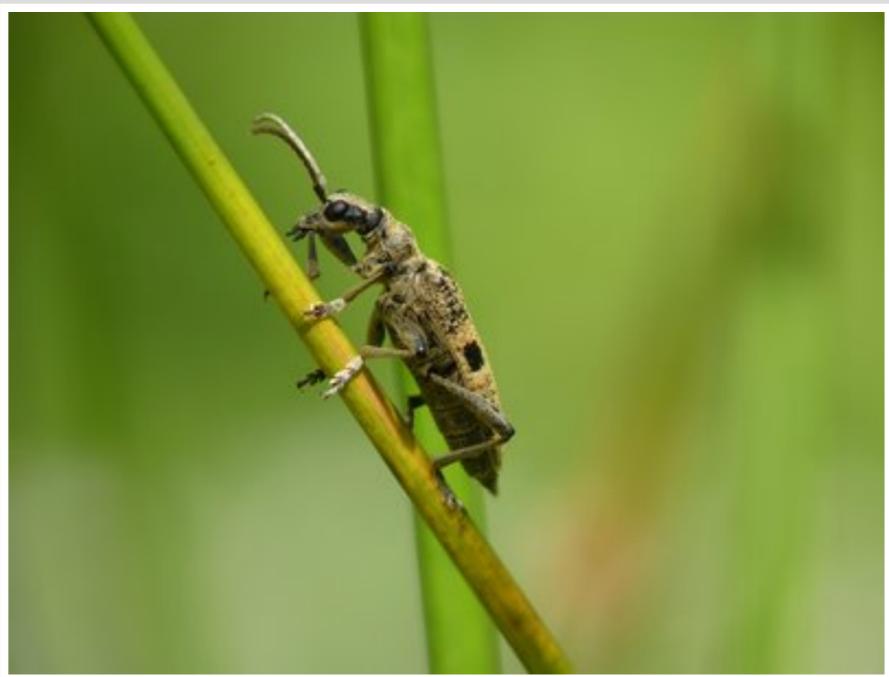
by ChrisC, 02-Jul-13 07:06 PM GMT

i'll do the butterfly bit first, Iping common for silver studs,





having spotted Kippers silver washed I thought i'd try my local woods just in case but unfortunately no luck. But along with Speckled wood, brimstone meadow browns and the 2 aberrant Burnets I did find a new beetle



*rhagium mordax*

I also saw for the first time the glittering greenfly *Poecilobothrus nobilitatus* it put on a fine show against all-comers protecting his puddle fascinating to watch



and after years of seeing the aphid remains of the work of this wasp, last night I finally got to view the process in action. sitting on ones drive with a camera trained on knapweed, using the lcd as a mini tv, for 10 minutes will probably have the neighbours talking but hey, more interesting than some of the programmes they put on these days.



## Re: ChrisC

by ChrisC, 06-Jul-13 07:32 PM GMT

a walk in the woods to escape the heat paid dividends, with comma, speckled wood, red admiral, large skipper, smessex skipper, ringlet, meadow brown, silver washed frit and I was chuffed to my first white admiral. no shot of the WA but the swf paused briefly for my only shot.





### Re: ChrisC

by Wurzel, 06-Jul-13 11:16 PM GMT

Cracking shot of the Silver Washed – it places it perfectly in its habitat 😊 And a three spot Meadow Brown – nice 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: ChrisC

by ChrisC, 17-Jul-13 07:47 PM GMT

with hairstreaks and emperors being reported and teasing me while i'm having a few days off I thought i'd get out and about around the woods and Ringwood forest as well as the garden.

garden picking up with Large and smessex skippers the former sticking to the front garden and the latter the back garden, whites, small torts, commas, meadow brown, Ringlet, gatekeeper and a couple of Marbled white fly throughs. believe it or not my first common blue of the year popped in too.

The woods, plenty of the above with additional red Admiral, Brimstone, peacock, white admiral and Silver washed aplenty, only one valezina seen so far. not much staying put for photo ops but still all a joy to see.

Ringwood forest

the previous maximum of Silver studs I have personally seen is 5 over there and no females seen before, admittedly this doesn't mean they haven't been there but today over 30 seen including 2 females. You couldn't move for skippers. I've never seen so many.

the dragons and damsels seem to be having a good year too, I won't list them but a great variety putting on a great show to add to the melee. it's hot but so worth the walk.

being lazy I just did a montage (pete if you're reading hint hint 😊)



**Re: ChrisC**

by ChrisC, 19-Jul-13 01:08 PM GMT

a few photos from a couple of other sorties over the wood yesterday and Martin Down this morning





and it wouldn't be complete without a new spider for me and one I've been looking for, ironically found by chance today *neoscona adianta*



### Re: ChrisC

by Susie, 19-Jul-13 02:22 PM GMT

Lovely photos.

I hope you are enjoying your birthday 😊 incidentally, you share it with Benedict Cumberbatch 😄

### Re: ChrisC

by ChrisC, 27-Jul-13 02:09 PM GMT

after yesterday afternoons antics with Brimstones which I accidentally put in sightings (oops) I thought i'd have another quick go at Large whites. best 2 attempts



### Re: ChrisC

by David M, 27-Jul-13 03:02 PM GMT

#### "ChrisC" wrote:

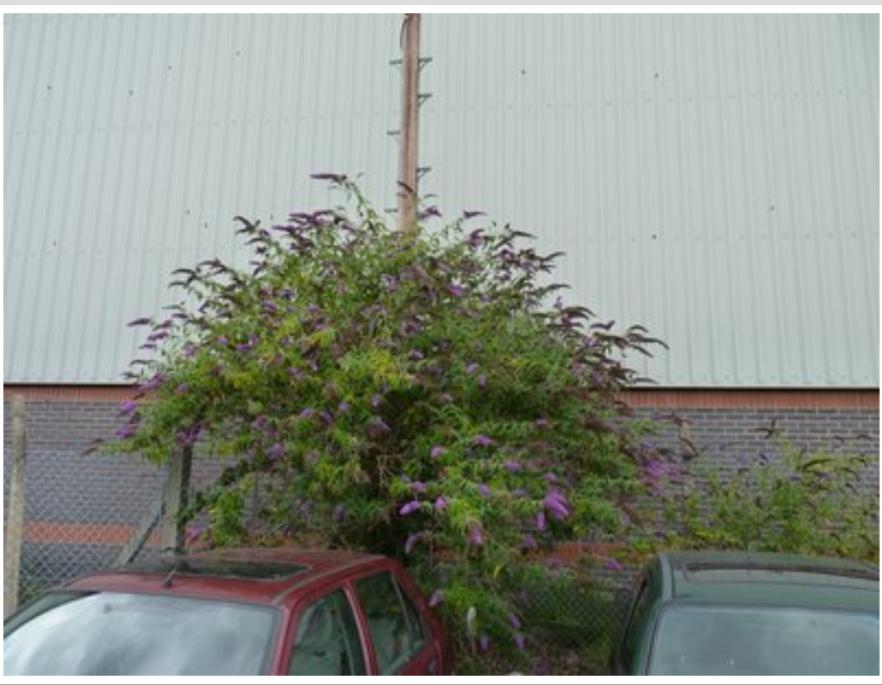
after yesterday afternoons antics with Brimstones which I accidentally put in sightings (oops) I thought i'd have another quick go at Large whites. best 2 attempts

Those are really good, Chris, especially the second one with the intruding hoverfly.

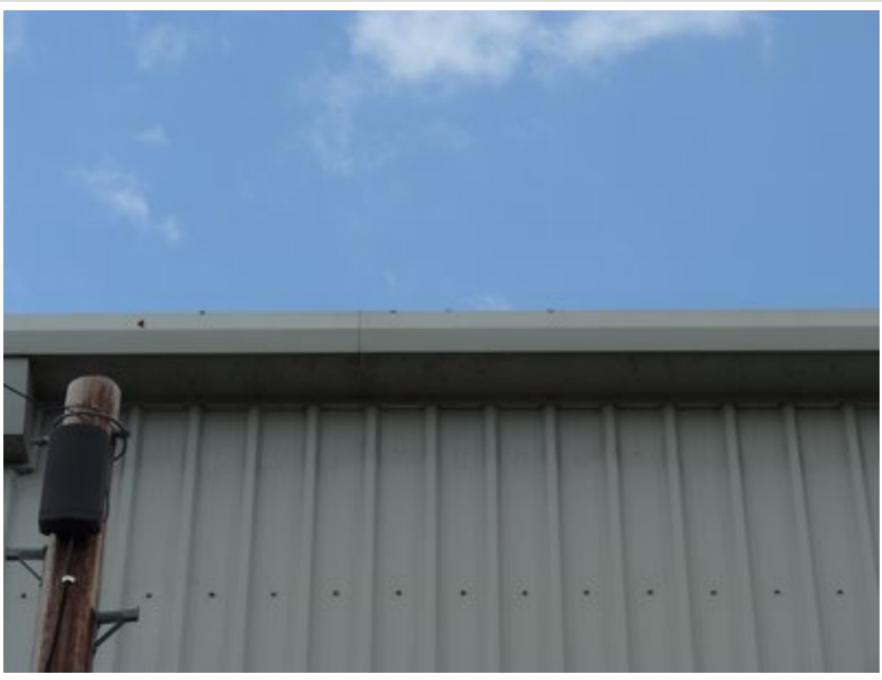
### Re: ChrisC

by ChrisC, 19-Aug-13 07:34 PM GMT

just one of those moments today. At lunchtime as the sun was out I went for a walk, normally seeing the clouded yellow that I did would have made it special but walking around the industrial estate I found this buddleia dripping with butterflies. mainly small tortoiseshell but red admirals, peacocks, whites and brimstone were all in attendance. i'd guesstimate upwards of 150 butterflies were on this. I drove home got the camera but the sun went in. and as I pulled up half took off to land just about every where else.



*the buddleia in question*



*the dots along the gutter are all small tortorts*



*the non uniform line dots are also small tortorts 11 in this pic*



*not even parked cars were safe. 3 on the roof here*

this video will give a better idea although it really doesn't do it any justice. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/60372134@N07/9549252238/>

what clouded yellow.....

### **Re: ChrisC**

by David M, 19-Aug-13 08:14 PM GMT

This, sadly, is where the human eye totally trumps the two-dimensional image.

A week ago, when I was in Abergavenny, I saw a sheltered buddleia with two dozen+ butterflies. Most were Peacocks, but there were all the other 4 vanessids as well as a selection of Whites.

There was no point taking a photo though, as the experience you get in real time and at real size isn't something a mere photograph can truly document (unless you post an image equivalent to your original human field of view, which would obviously require a 10 foot x 8 foot computer screen!)

### **Re: ChrisC**

by Susie, 19-Aug-13 08:41 PM GMT

What a fantastic experience! 😊

### **Re: ChrisC**

by Wurzel, 19-Aug-13 10:18 PM GMT

Great shot of the Large White in flight Chris 😊 I was driving through Broadchalk today and every Buddleia through the village was covered in whites, Small Torts and Peacocks so I totally get your "whatClouded Yellow" moment 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel