

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 09-Mar-14 07:20 PM GMT

Loved this advert.



Off to Ireland mid week and then in early April, south of England for a few days (6th to 10th Selsey area) so might just see something then. Nothing flies here on Mull in the rain (1200+ millimetres rain since beginning December)

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 19-Apr-14 05:34 PM GMT

**Isle of Mull 19th April**

Finally some Mull butterflies with my own eyes today (mentioned in April sightings that wife saw Tortoiseshells yesterday).



Well, it's not the best photo you ever saw of a Peacock (it's on that bracken covered bank on the left) but a splendid view from Glengorm across to Ardnamurcan.

Elsewhere on Mull, one GV White.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Chris Jackson, 19-Apr-14 08:21 PM GMT

A stunning view Jack. It makes you want to take a deep breath of that pure air, and it is hard to imagine that 1200 mm of rain have fallen since December.  
Chris

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 22-Apr-14 07:35 PM GMT

In another thread, someone referred to *"Hibernating Harrison"*. I didn't take offence at that but maybe I should explain.

I haven't so much been hibernating as being less active. Sadly age (I am 75) is catching on me. I have arthritis of the knee caps and stiffness in the hips. This means I struggle to walk on uneven ground. Perhaps even more annoying is my failing eyesight. I have Age-related Macular Degeneration , AMD (so far, left eye only). As you might imagine, I am driving *Specsavers* mad with my rudimentary understanding of optics (*quoting Prentice's Rule, for example!*), but after yet another visit today, hopefully some progress; basically we are trying to sort out prismatic spectacles to minimise the distortion and more significantly, avoid double vision.

So not really hibernating, more a case of slowly wearing out. Still, I have to remind myself that I have lasted longer than many of my contemporaries (newspaper obituaries are mandatory reading for people of my age. *"Beat him!"*) I often muse.

No sympathies needed about these issues. But I thought it appropriate that I put the record straight

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Susie, 22-Apr-14 09:08 PM GMT

For your arthritis I would recommend you try turmeric capsules. They work wonders. Check with your gp first though because they can affect diabetic treatment and also medication for heart problems by thinning blood.

### "Jack Harrison" wrote:

In another thread, someone referred to *"Hibernating Harrison"*. I didn't take offence at that but maybe I should explain.

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So not really hibernating, more a case of slowly wearing out. Still, I have to remind myself that I have lasted longer than many of my contemporaries (newspaper obituaries are mandatory reading for people of my age. *"Beat him!"*) I often muse.

No sympathies needed about these issues. But I thought it appropriate that I put the record straight

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by MikeOxon, 22-Apr-14 10:23 PM GMT

For the record, the Met Office did a great job for me yesterday. It was a mainly fine afternoon here, with localised thunderstorms. I looked on the Met O website and it showed a major storm due to pass just South of Oxford, so I crossed my fingers and headed out to a reserve just north of Oxford, to photograph Green-winged Orchids.

I drove through some torrential rain but, when I arrived at the site, the sun shone and I got my pics, while thunder rumbled away to the South!

Having said that, I suspect that the longer range forecasts *are* suffering from the increased atmospheric instability, caused by atmospheric warming. By its very nature, chaos is not predictable!

Mike

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 29-Apr-14 12:03 PM GMT

Thanks people. Long delay in replying as I was five days without internet after router hardware failure.

Yes Susie, turmeric is probably very good. Stella uses it and she is very fit and free from many of the problems of someone of her age (discretion prevents me from disclosing her age but there's a big milestone in August). I have tried tumeric in powder form (might get some capsules after chatting with GP) and no ill effects. Apparently anti-oxidant (whatever that means).

-----  
Two recent butterfly observations. Last Friday at Grasspoint in the extreme southeast of Mull (nearest point to mainland Scotland some 10 kilometres away), a Tortoiseshell seen flying in off the sea in rather cloudy conditions with a good following wind. Monday, a tantalising possibility of an Orange Tip seen distantly on the outskirts of Tobermory in the north of Mull. It might of course have been an ordinary(and abundant) GV White, but I suspected I saw a glimpse of orange coloration. And I heard a poor report of a *"butterfly with orange"* over the Tobermory golf course (Tortoiseshell most probably). Orange Tips have apparently colonised the south of Mull (Grasspoint area) in only the past ten years and it is there where I have had my only positive sightings. Still, most of the island has suitable habitat and foodplants so I guess it's only a matter of time befoer they can be confirmed in the north of Mull.

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Padfield, 29-Apr-14 12:29 PM GMT

Hi Jack. I didn't know about turmeric's anti-arthritis effects but I did know it as one of the few superfoods with a pretty solid evidential backing, over many years of research. Staving off dementia and certain cancers are among its probable benefits. Because I only eat curry, and I cook from fresh ingredients every day, I get through literally kilograms of turmeric a year (I buy it in 400g bags from Indian shops) and there are no evident ill-effects - I haven't been to a doctor since 1985, when I pulled a muscle the day before an important race. Who knows, it may even be the ingredient that stops the mosquitoes biting me ... So if you want this GP's advice, go for it!

I'm glad you're getting some butterfly sightings too! It's some time since I saw one now ...

Guy

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 13-May-14 07:57 PM GMT

At last some good weather on Mull and significant numbers of butterflies.

Main centre of activity was just to southwest of Lochdon (NM720322) where every second dandelion had a GV White on it. Very dark, well marked form, here.



Much more exciting was that new colonist, Orange Tip. In a 300 metre stretch of roadside, saw perhaps seven or eight individuals – all male. None stopped for the camera.

While chasing an OT came across this:



Earlier I had been to Grasspoint, a favored spot for Sea Eagles. Saw just one. I had seen a Golden Eagle just outside Tobermory on the way to Grasspoint.

This scene reminded me of the Plains of East Africa. Replace the "Hairy Cow" with something more exotic...like a Wildebeest:



Grasspoint and Marsh Fritillary country. Ben Cruachan on the mainland in the background. (The hollow mountain – hydro–electric power station)

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by David M, 13–May–14 11:25 PM GMT

Great stuff, Jack. Your island is looking stunning as ever.

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 16–May–14 06:55 AM GMT

Thursday **15th May**, the annual **Corncrake** "fix" on Iona.

Six or seven different birds calling during a one hour walk. But the best was near the end of the visit just below the St.Columba Hotel (decent lunch there at sensible price). The vegetation in that meadow is much shorter and a Corncrake showed continuously for fully five minutes to the "wows" of the assembled watchers. I had stupidly NOT taken a camera with me in the certain knowledge that you NEVER see Corncrakes 😞

Also seen at very close range – many birds on Iona quite tame – Rock Doves (fairly certain they were genuine wild ones), Linnets, Sedge Warblers, Rooks and Jackdaws (strangely, neither normally occur on "mainland" Mull), Ravens, Hooded Crows and Wren (Wrens *are* on Mull but elusive).

Also numerous domestic chickens 😊

Not a single butterfly in the overcast mild conditions.

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Pete Eeles, 16–May–14 09:22 PM GMT

#### "Jack Harrison" wrote:

Main centre of activity was just to southwest of Lochdon (NM720322) where every second dandelion had a GV White on it. Very dark, well marked form, here.

Classic *Pieris napi ssp. thomsoni*, Jack – you're very lucky to see 'em 😊

Cheers,

– Pete

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 21–May–14 03:47 PM GMT

**20th May**

I was on a roadside verge near Lochdon crouched over a GV White taking photos.



Car pulls up and disturbs me. "Are you all right?" "Yes, taking photos." "Well you looked very odd."

I suppose driver might have thought I was ill so I should be grateful for his concern. But in the heat of the moment, I did suggest that he might like to get on his way. (well, words to that effect).

Moved on the Grasspoint where on a short stretch of track, at least half a dozen Green Hairstreaks. Three seen spiralling together to the delight of some birders who had never seen Greenstreaks before. The occasional one settled but the birders understood the difficulty of following them as they landed but they did get a reasonable view. No photos though.

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Pete Eeles, 22-May-14 11:26 PM GMT

#### "Jack Harrison" wrote:

I was on a roadside verge near Lochdon crouched over a GV White taking photos.

What camera was it using? 😊

Cheers,

- Pete

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 23-May-14 06:17 AM GMT

Pete:

Jack Harrison wrote: I was on a roadside verge near Lochdon crouched over a GV White taking photos.

What camera was it using? 😊

That is my sort of humour that I appreciate, humour also shared by my sister who recently sent me a cutting from her local Somerset newspaper:

"Collision on M5 between Burnham and Weston"

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 24-May-14 08:25 PM GMT

#### Isle of Mull 24th May

Greenstreaks seen in several spots on Mull today including one on a silver car near the Craignure ferry terminal.

This one on dwarf something-or-other (Willow?) on the minor road to Loch Buie in the south of the island.



Possible Marsh Fritillary in flight near Lochdon (Marshie seen this locality in 2013).

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 04-Jun-14 08:31 AM GMT

### Chequered Skipper 3rd June 2014

First stop Ariundle Woods NM826633 where by arrangement we met Phil and Rosalyn from Cambridgeshire. A few sunny intervals brought out the GV Whites in number but it was some time before we found the first CS not far along the track from the car park.



Habitat at Ariundle with Rosalyn wondering where the CS had gone. Phil and Mike (who was staying with me and had never seen CS before) found two on that hillside.

Phil and Rosalyn then left for Glen Loy while Mike and I drove back towards the ferry at Kilchoan (for Tobermory) and stopped at the Ardery car park NM746618. Mike immediately found a CS on a small patch of Bugle. I tried to photograph but had a minor camera problem. At the moment, a car pulled up and disturbed the butterfly. I was initially a little annoyed, but a young lady got out of the car and it turned out that she was something of an expert on CS. She showed us an area where we would never have ventured (very hard work for me through the undergrowth). Habitat at Ardery.



And a male and female CS posed superbly. Very sensitive to sunshine and wings stayed tightly shut until the sun appeared.





So a good day....until.

It must have been all that struggling through the bracken that took its toll later. I woke up about midnight with excruciating cramp in a calf muscle.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by NickMorgan, 04-Jun-14 09:48 AM GMT

Lovely pictures of the Skippers. I am sure you will think they are well worth the cramp!

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 04-Jun-14 08:42 PM GMT

**Isle of Mull 4th June 2014**

**Fishnish Woods** with wife Stella and visitor Mike Rubin for Chequered Skipper NM665418.

This was just a hunch based on fact that CS occurs just across the water at Lochaline. But although the Fishnish habitat looks quite good, based on our experiences yesterday of CS on the mainland,. Fishnish is probably too dry as it lacks damp ditches.

GV Whites (which seem to favour damp conditions) were not as numerous as they are normally on Mull. This one bears a passing resemblance to a Black-veined White 😊



Successes were two male Orange Tips (a new locality for me on Mull), five Small Heaths including a mating pair and Mike found and photographed a Small PB Fritillary which I only managed to see in flight.

Small Heaths were easy to approach VERY CLOSELY



Golden ringed dragonflies were amazingly docile.



We then moved on to **Grass Point** NM745306 hoping for Marsh Fritillary (seen here last year).

No luck but the well-worn Green Hairstreaks were numerous.



Several Clouded Border moths.



Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by David M, 04-Jun-14 10:45 PM GMT

That GVW really DOES shout 'Black Veined White' at you.

Glad you managed to catch up with Chequered Skippers, Jack. I know you were determined to track them down this year.

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 05-Jun-14 07:18 PM GMT

**Isle of Mull 5th June 2014**

No butterflies today in cloudy conditions but this was a pleasant surprise in Calgary Bay.



Great Northern (left) and Black-throated Divers.

Given tomorrow's good weather forecast Stella, Mike and I will be on a boat trip to the Treshnish Isles (Puffins, etc). Not cheap, but what the hell – you only live once.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Rosalyn, 07-Jun-14 11:00 AM GMT

Hi Jack, I'm pleased you had had better luck at Ardery than at Ariundle, though it is always a bonus to bump into a local to point you in the right direction. See you when you venture southward again 😊

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 07-Jun-14 02:12 PM GMT

Treshnish Isles lived up to expectations. Suffering today from minor sunburn! Yes, it can be sunny in these parts.

PM sent with group photo at Ariundle. I think you (or more correctly, Phil) will appreciate why I didn't go public 😊

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by selbypaul, 07-Jun-14 04:51 PM GMT

Hi Jack  
Do you know if the Great Northern Divers were breeding?  
Paul

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 07-Jun-14 08:18 PM GMT

Do you know if the Great Northern Divers were breeding?

Don't know about this one (remember that the second bird was a Black-throated). I think unlikely. However, I have been told that Great Northern does breed in the northwest of Scotland at an undisclosed locality on the mainland opposite Isle of Skye. Rather vague (I know no more than just given) but I guess best kept like that.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by MikeOxon, 07-Jun-14 08:49 PM GMT

A nice comparison photo of two Diver species. One or other of these sometimes over-winter at my local Farmoor Reservoir.

I remember reading "Great Northern" by Arthur Ransome (the last of his "Swallows and Amazons" series) and thinking it was rather dull, compared with his earlier books. The theme was based around finding a breeding pair of GNDivers while boating in Scotland. In fact, according to the BTO, the first breeding pair in Scotland was recorded in 1970 - Iceland is their usual location.

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by selbypaul, 29-Jun-14 10:14 AM GMT

Thanks Jack  
I'd heard exactly the same (vague) information!  
Paul

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 30-Jun-14 08:54 AM GMT

**Sunday 29th June - Isle of Mull**

Got up for the sunrise at 0435 BST

Tobermory harbour.



I was not the only early bird. It seemed to find its breakfast with ease.



Back to bed and then up a little later.

Small PBFs in good numbers in Glengorm.



Nice view of soaring Sea Eagle (aka White-tailed).

And then for this retired pilot, a degree of nostalgia as a FlyBe Twin Otter flew over on its way to land on the beach at Barra.



This video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QXJbB3TGOX8> shows what fun that sort of flying it is. Sadly, I never did anything like that.

The scenery was as delightful as ever on this fresh sunny day.



Speckled Woods not entirely confined to the wooded areas and several seen over the open ground.



A dozen or so Common Blues were difficult to photograph.



At the end of the track, the ubiquitous "Hairy Coos" were loafing around.



By one small stream, there were numerous Beautiful Demoiselles.



Other butterflies seen: a few GV White (low numbers between main broods), one Small Heath and one Red Admiral.

Afternoon rest and then out again for the sunset at 2220 BST.

Cloud over the Outer Hebrides meant that the sun "disappeared" several minutes before the actual sunset time.



When we got back to the Glengorm car park several bats flew around to end a splendid day.

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by MikeOxon, 30-Jun-14 11:59 AM GMT

"Red in the morning ....."

No wonder you get sunburn; it's the duration not the intensity! I enjoyed the video. Perhaps they should save a lot of money on London's new airport by doing this in the Thames estuary. Just have to remind the passengers to wear wellies. (designer ones in first class)

I went on to watch another video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LzatxVUTTLs> (which could do with some editing). I bet the passengers were relieved when he finally

made it.

Nice butterflies, too.

mike

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 11-Jul-14 12:41 PM GMT

Mull 10th July

Small PB still flying. One Meadow Brown (not numerous here). The GV white that I accidentally bred (didn't see small larva when I collected some Cuckoo Flower) emerged: a fine summer brood female

On higher ground 250 metres+ a few Magpie Moths.



Then for the midnight sortie. Plenty of moths seen in car headlights in Glengorm. But the target was noctilucient clouds. I waited until midnight BST, about 1.30 hours before sun at lowest point below horizon. No hint of noctilucient cluds.

This picture of "ordinary" clouds taken exactly at midnight, about two hours after sunset.



At time of photo, the sun was 9 degrees below horizon. Camera FZ150 on tripod, ISO400, 1.0 seconds @ f/4.0

You can just make out (easier on larger original) light of fishing boat above "pinch point" on Ardamurchan peninsula

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 27-Sep-14 03:47 PM GMT

### Jigsaw Puzzle

Just had a bit of fun. Chequered Skipper. 63 piece puzzle.

<http://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=167acb6744c3>

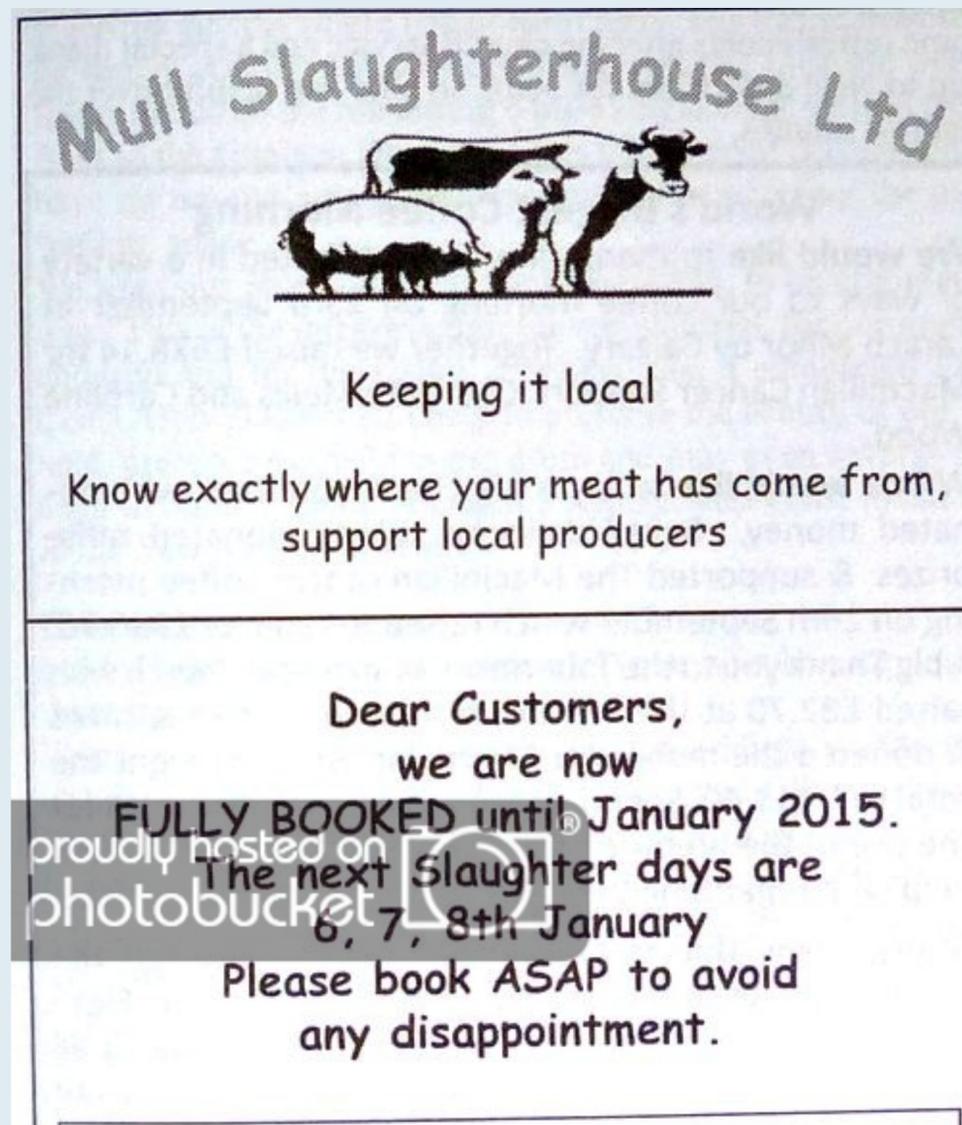
If that's too easy, I can always make a 1000 piece puzzle of an undisclosed species 🙄

Jack

## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 07-Nov-14 12:38 PM GMT

Nothing to do with butterflies.



From our local rag.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by MikeOxon, 07-Nov-14 02:04 PM GMT

Shades of Wicker Man?

Mike

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 07-Nov-14 04:36 PM GMT

Shades of Wicker Man?

I had to look that up.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Chris Jackson, 07-Nov-14 05:31 PM GMT

"Jack Harrison" wrote:

**Jigsaw Puzzle**

...Chequered Skipper. 63 piece puzzle.....

Thank's Jack, I enjoyed that !

Its a good job that you don't have to rotate the pièces as well 😊

Chris

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 18-Nov-14 10:47 AM GMT

**Big SLRs in the wrong hands**

I was returning yesterday from the mainland and leaning over the rail of the ferry hoping for a good sunset.



But it was disappointing.

A woman was also leaning over the rail holding her 5 kilogram thousand-pound DSLR to photograph the sunset and raised the flash which of course fired when she snapped.

I made a comment about how powerful the flash must be to illuminate the distant land. She simply didn't understand and looked at me in complete bewilderment.

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Vince Massimo, 07-Dec-14 12:19 AM GMT

I'm sure that everyone on UKB will join me in wishing Jack a very Happy Birthday today.

He is not expecting anybody to remember 😊

Vince

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Neil Hulme, 07-Dec-14 05:57 AM GMT

Happy Birthday, Jack. That's two before 6am! 😊

Best Wishes, Neil

### Re: Jack Harrison

by PhilJohnson, 07-Dec-14 06:23 AM GMT

Hi Jack,

I'm not sure that eating birthday cake is recommended before breakfast but I hope you have a very

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ! (6:22am 😊 )

Best Wishes,

Philip

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Pete Eeles, 07-Dec-14 07:19 AM GMT

Happy Birthday, Jack!

Cheers,

- Pete

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Chris Jackson, 07-Dec-14 07:27 AM GMT

Happy birthday Jack, from the South of France. I wish you good health for the coming year.

Cheers, Chris

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Padfield, 07-Dec-14 08:30 AM GMT

Many happy returns of the day, Jack. Go easy on the single malt ...

Guy

### Re: Jack Harrison

by David M, 07-Dec-14 02:42 PM GMT

All the best, Jack. Many happy returns.

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Katrina, 07-Dec-14 05:23 PM GMT

Happy Birthday !

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Wurzel, 07-Dec-14 09:24 PM GMT

Happy B'day Jack.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Neil Freeman, 07-Dec-14 09:28 PM GMT

Happy birthday Jack, hope it was a good one.

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Jack Harrison

by millerd, 07-Dec-14 09:50 PM GMT

Best wishes for a great day, Jack!

Dave

### Happy birthday Jack

by Gruditch, 08-Dec-14 08:18 AM GMT

A day late, but I nearly remembered, happy birthday Jack, hope you had a good one 😊

Regards Gruditch

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 18-Dec-14 05:33 PM GMT

**Evenings drawing out** Ref an earlier discussion

Here on Mull, earliest sunset was on 15th December. On the equator, it was approx 1st November. (and in between for latitudes between zero and 56N)

It may seem strange that earliest sunset is not on the shortest day (that is 21s December). This is because the Earth's axis is tilted and the orbit is not a perfect circle.

Good explanation for those interested here:

<http://www.theguardian.com/notesandquer...85,00.html>

BTW thanks to for the birthday wishes some ten days ago.

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 21-Dec-14 04:09 PM GMT

BBC posted about this today:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-30549149>

Precise time of solstice is 2303 GMT.

For interest, South Pole webcam:

<http://www.usap.gov/videoclipsandmaps/spwebcam.cfm>

Every direction you look is north!

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by David M, 21-Dec-14 10:14 PM GMT

Spotted that myself earlier today, Jack.

I had always wanted a better understanding of how mornings continued to get darker after 21st December.

### Re: Jack Harrison

by MikeOxon, 23-Dec-14 02:25 PM GMT

There's another simple reason for sunrises/sunsets not being symmetrical, which doesn't depend on axis tilt or an elliptical orbit.

During the roughly 365 days in a year, the earth rotates on its axis 366 times. The difference is the result of the earth completing an orbit around the sun. (i.e. if the earth didn't rotate at all, we would still experience one 'day' per year) Between each sunrise and sunset, a small part of this 'orbital' day passes, which corresponds to a few minutes during each 'rotation' day.

Mike

EDITED after Jack Harrison pointed out I did my sums backwards!!!

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 23-Dec-14 03:22 PM GMT

Mike said:

During the roughly 365 days in a year, the earth rotates on its axis only 364 times.

I'm not sure you are correct Mike.

In a year of 365 days the earth rotates 365 times relative to the sun. But as each sidereal day (rotation relative to the stars) is 23 hrs 56 mins the earth rotates 366 times with respect to the stars (space reference) but only 365 times with respect to sun.

So I think you should have said:

During the roughly 365 days in a year, the earth rotates on its axis **366**times.

But I might be wrong.

Guy. Referee this one please.

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by MikeOxon, 23-Dec-14 04:19 PM GMT

you're quite right Jack - i didn't stop to think which way the sums worked - just knew one day per year was 'orbital' - I corrected the original post - it still makes the sunrise/sunset asymmetrical!

mike

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Padfield, 23-Dec-14 06:01 PM GMT

Since my name has been mentioned I will happily confirm Jack is right, even though everyone agrees anyway! The way I explain the orbital day to my pupils is by imagining first that the Earth always showed the same face to the sun, circling around it like an adoring dancer, gazing at the sun ... Then there would be no days, because the sun would stay in the same place in the sky, but the Earth would rotate once with respect to the stars. If the Earth stuck in one extra spin (in the same direction as its orbit) there would be one day a year but two rotations with respect to the stars &c. So, 365 days, 366 rotations with respect to the stars.

In winter, when the Earth is closer to the sun, it sweeps more degrees of orbit in the same time (Kepler II), so has to rotate further to bring the same meridian into line with the sun. Thus, solar days are longer in the winter and shorter in the summer.

Guy

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 23-Dec-14 06:15 PM GMT

It is obvious that Mike, Guy and I have little better to do with our time than discuss matters that are of absolutely no interest whatsoever to anyone else.

I THINK this was a shower this afternoon but I stand corrected 😊



The peninsula in the distance is Ardnamuchan, the most westerly place in mainland UK. (Even pretender-to-the throne Alex didn't manage to change that one!)

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by MikeOxon, 23-Dec-14 07:29 PM GMT

Interesting pic - to me, anyway 😊

I am often surprised by how little interest many people take in what is happening around them. I have written before about the white starling that has visited my garden for many years. One day, earlier this year, she was grubbing around in the grass verge along the edge of a pavement near my home, just as Mums and kids were returning home from school. So far as I could see, no-one noticed this striking and unusual bird!!!

Mike

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Charles Nicol, 23-Dec-14 09:08 PM GMT

**"MikeOxon" wrote:**

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Mike

Oddly enough i was reading something last night where characters failed to notice an unusual bird nesting in a tree. They were supposed to be Naturalists which made the main character ( a policeman ) become suspicious. It was in a Viz annual 😞

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by bugboy, 23-Dec-14 09:51 PM GMT

**"Charles Nicol" wrote:****"MikeOxon" wrote:**

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Mike

Oddly enough i was reading something last night where characters failed to notice an unusual bird nesting in a tree. They were supposed to be Naturalists which made the main character ( a policeman ) become suspicious. It was in a Viz annual 😞

I was at the Barnes Wetland Center in south London in the summer for a spot of birdwatching. Settling down in one of the hides to see what was about I overheard two twitchers talking about a Mediterranean Gull which was apparently lurking somewhere, they both seemed quite excited at the prospect of catching a glimpse. Anyway as they sat there nattering away a Black Headed Gull zoomed across the front of the hide in hot pursuit of a Peregrine. It grounded the Peregrine on a gravel bank in front of the hide and proceeded to mob it for about 5 minutes. The Peregrine was partly out of sight on the far side of the bank. It took the twitchers a couple of minutes to take notice of what was going on and one said something along the lines of "don't know whats going on out there but somethings upset that gull", to which I couldn't help pointing out that there was a Peregrine about 30 feet in front of us. Queue two flustered twitchers.

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by David M, 23-Dec-14 10:45 PM GMT

**"MikeOxon" wrote:**

I am often surprised by how little interest many people take in what is happening around them..

That's probably because the REAL world has been largely replaced by an artificial one where Z-list 'celebs' attract far more column inches than anything of tangible concern to the environment upon which we are all ultimately dependent.

I suspect, sadly, that this will get much worse before it gets any better.

I dread to think what will happen when one of the Icelandic volcanoes finally erupts in earnest.....I guess most folk will still be happy if they can continue to vegetate in front of vacuous TV shows 24/7. 😞