

A little blue but happy

by mud-puddling, 05-May-14 04:14 PM GMT

On Wednesday evening I visited Chantry Hill on the search for some roosting Grizzled Skippers. Not to be disappointed I found with Katrina's help 3 Grizzleds and 1 roosting Small Copper.

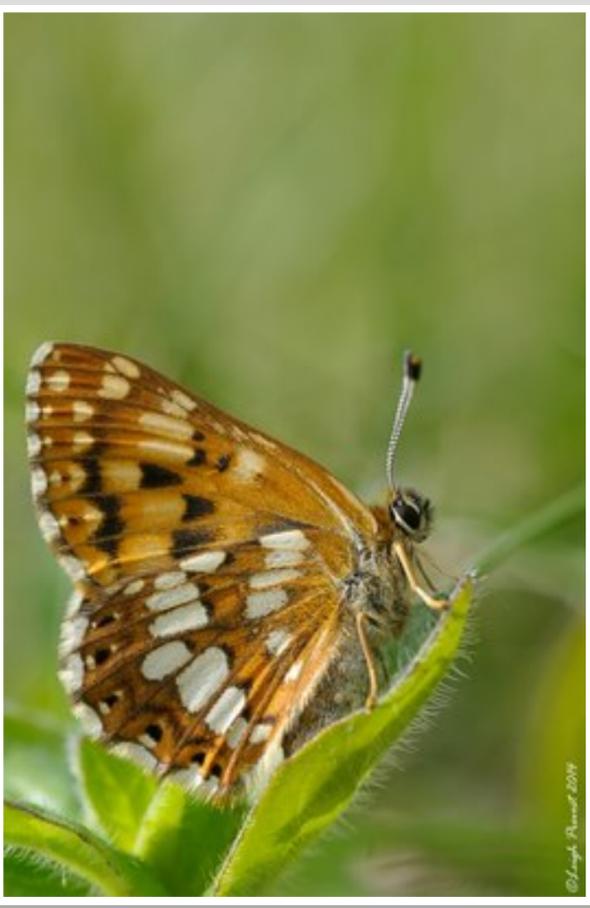


Grizzled Skipper, Chantry Hill

On my first visit to Kithurst Hill this year (Sunday 4th May), I was pleased to see the abundance of Cowslips in bloom but the highlight of course was a lone Duke of Burgundy. Whilst not one for posing, I managed a few pleasing images. And just as I was leaving an added bonus in the form of a freshly emerged Small Blue! Got to just love that colour! The season (and the weather) it seems is hotting up!



Small Blue, Kithurst Hill



Duke of Burgundy, Kithurst Hill

Re: mud-puddling

by Susie, 05-May-14 08:07 PM GMT

Beautiful, Leigh 😊

An evening stroll around Mill Hill, West Sussex

by mud-puddling, 18-May-14 09:48 AM GMT

Had a good little stroll around the Southern Slope at Mill Hill this evening – Adonis, Common Blue, Dingy Skipper and best of all a posing Grizzled which started off wings open and then eventually closed as the sun went down. Some photos below and on my Flickr page:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/48896022@... 4003076288>



Adonis Blue, Polyommatus bellargus



Adonis Blue, Polyommatus bellargus



Common Blue, Polyommatus icarus



Grizzled Skipper, Pyrgus malvae



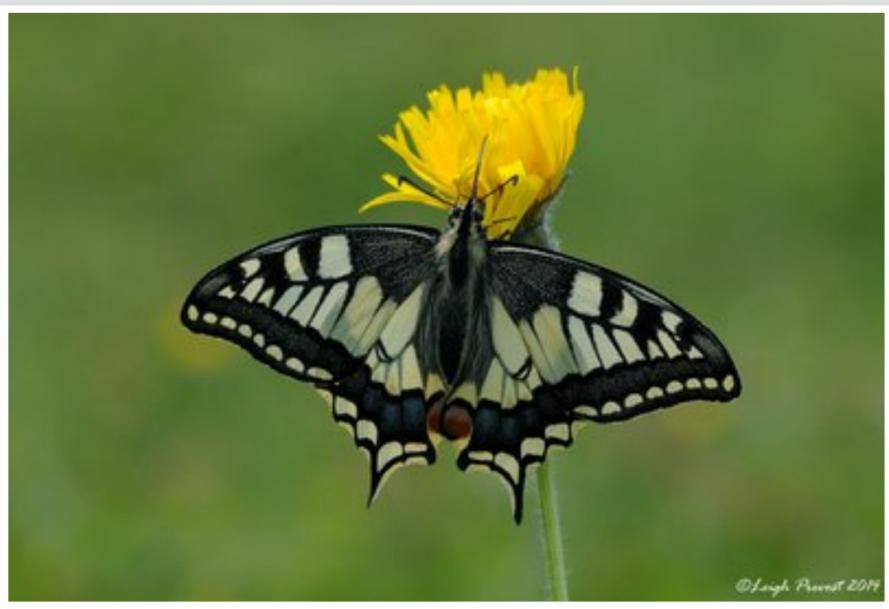
Grizzled Skipper, Pyrgus malvae

Re: mud-puddling

by mud-puddling, 06-Jun-14 08:49 AM GMT

Thanks to Neil I managed to be witness to the historic emergence of British born European Swallowtails in Sussex. This photograph of a beautiful female European Swallowtail was taken up on the downs near home. I'm indebted Neil!

Here are just a few of the many, many photographs I took.



Female European Swallowtail, Papilio machaon gorganus



Female European Swallowtail, Papilio machaon gorganus



Female European Swallowtail, *Papilio machaon gorganus*

Re: mud-puddling

by Neil Hulme, 06-Jun-14 09:54 AM GMT

Hi Leigh,

The first shot in particular is a cracker. You did her justice. Hope you didn't get indigestion over your lunch-break!

BWs, Neil

Re: mud-puddling

by Pauline, 06-Jun-14 02:10 PM GMT

I've long been a fan of your photography Leigh (as mentioned recently in my diary) and those are beautiful images. I'm so pleased you decided to share them with us 😊

Re: mud-puddling

by mud-puddling, 07-Jun-14 09:19 AM GMT



Female European Swallowtail, *Papilio machaon gorganus*

Another shot of the Steyning European Swallowtail. What a stunning insect – the underwing as beautiful as the upper.

Re: mud-puddling

by Willow, 07-Jun-14 03:32 PM GMT

Yes indeed some really wonderful creative imagery Leigh.

Bill 😊

"When in doubt...venture out"

Re: mud-puddling

by mud-puddling, 14-Jun-14 10:04 PM GMT

Just back from a week on the Isle of Wight on a family holiday (the location was not influenced in the slightest by the opportunity to photograph the Glanville Fritillary). I saw good numbers despite it being towards the end of their season. Whilst most I saw were past their best I found a good population on the 11th (I can only guesstimate there were at least 30 individuals) just east of Compton Bay (which was a bit of a hotspot for me last year but not this) which had a few seemingly freshly emerged specimen's, including this individual (below), and a few mating pairs.

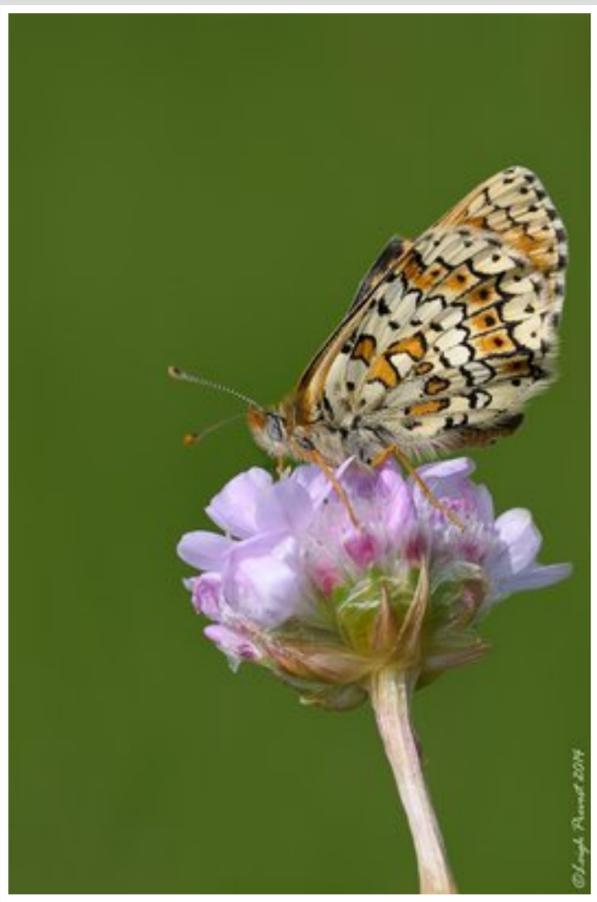
Now I've never witnessed a pair of butterflies in coitus before but one pair I watched were still doing their thing 22 minutes after I first found them together!



Glanville Fritillary, Melitaea cinxia



Glanville Fritillary, Melitaea cinxia



Glanville Fritillary, Melitaea cinxia

I have to particularly thank Andy Butler (I hope you read this) who I met at Bonchurch 'Whealers Bay' on the Monday previous for the tip (I was with my wife and 2 young children).

Re: mud-puddling

by Mike Robinson, 15-Jun-14 07:57 AM GMT

Somr interesting commentaries and lovely pictures

Re: mud-puddling

by mud-puddling, 15-Jun-14 06:44 PM GMT

And here is the pic of the mating couple. A marathon event by all accounts...



Glanville Fritillary, Melitaea cinxia

Re: mud-puddling

by Wurzel, 15-Jun-14 09:53 PM GMT

Great shots mud-puddling 😊🍷 I remember from a similar experience that the Glannies certainly have some stamina 😊 We'd take a few shots, go and find something else and then come back for a few more shots etc etc.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: mud-puddling

by David M, 15-Jun-14 11:27 PM GMT

Nice to hear they're still about in decent numbers in mid-June.

Re: mud-puddling

by mud-puddling, 22-Jun-14 08:42 PM GMT

Whilst I was hoping to find a freshly emerged individual with ants, an early morning trip to Iping Common in West Sussex to see the Silver-studded Blues did not disappoint. Some were even on the wing soon after I arrived as the temperature rose. However, I found a few still roosting amongst the dew covered grasses and wildflowers.



Silver-studded Blue, Plebejus argus