

## Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 08-Mar-14 08:45 PM GMT

And so it begins.....

I vowed to start my personal diary the day I photographed my first butterfly in 2014,that day has now arrived.

A wander around my local patch,Buchan Park and adjacent woodlands, produced the first spring entries into my field notes.

Comma



*Buchan Comma*

Oh so lovely as always.

The adders were waking up and surprisingly spritely.



*Buchan Adder*



*Buchan Adder 2*

The Common Lizards were also having a spot of sunbathing in the mild conditions,15C, March 8th,brilliant.



*Buchan Common Lizard*

A few Brimstones around as well, and something resembling a Peacock wizzed by at top speed.

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Susie, 08-Mar-14 08:52 PM GMT

Lovely. I like Buchan cp and woofers likes swimming in the dog pond. A trip there could be on the cards tomorrow.

I am looking forward to seeing more entries in your diary 😊

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Maximus, 08-Mar-14 09:19 PM GMT

Very nice shots BB, the Adders are fab, look forward to more 😊

Mike

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Butterflysaurus rex, 08-Mar-14 09:54 PM GMT

Wow your day was almost a carbon copy of mine! What are the chances 😊 I didn't see any lizards but my day was one of Commas and Adders too.

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 09-Mar-14 09:20 PM GMT

Sunday 9th March 2014

Lovely morning/day, just had to be out today. I wandered down to the Broadfield Pond to see if there was anything showing, a few Brimstones were already on the wing but not a lot else. However, noticing a commotion in the margins of the pond, I found the local population of Common Frogs were in full-on breeding mode. Sat down and studied them for half an hour, what joy.



*Broadfield Pond Common Frog*



*Broadfield Pond Common Frogs*



*Broadfield Pond Common Frog 2*

I then had a quick scout round and moved onto Buchan Park to see if anything was going on. The first Tiger Beetles were flying, but not too many reptiles around yet, found a spot in a clearing in the woods that was just spot on for early Nymphalids. A good hour was spent watching and stalking for photographs, a joyous mid afternoon spent in barmy temperatures, in March.



*Buchan Comma*





*Another Buchan Comma*



*Buchan Small Tortoiseshell*

Enjoyed that.

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Neil Freeman, 09-Mar-14 09:43 PM GMT

Hi BB,

Good start to your diary, looking forward to more as the season gets going.

Neil F.

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Wurzel, 09-Mar-14 11:35 PM GMT

A great start to the PD Buchan - long may it continue 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 14-Mar-14 08:09 PM GMT

Friday 14th March 2014

North West Crawley in the North East of West Sussex.....in the middle of the Wield has a strip of "common land", that has sort of been left aside of any further expansion of the new town project. I suspect the long term arrangement is it will be devoured by a second runway when a government with some balls finally makes a decision about these matters. Until then I have this land to roam in search of wildlife and suchlike, and todays preoccupation was the plethora of Commas and Small Tortoiseshells that have majestically appeared with the coming of late winter sun. I actually don't recall seeing so many of the aforementioned species before in this area.This area is much famed for its Brown Hairstreak populations that I will be reporting on later.....hopefully.In the meantime some of the post hibernators photographed today.

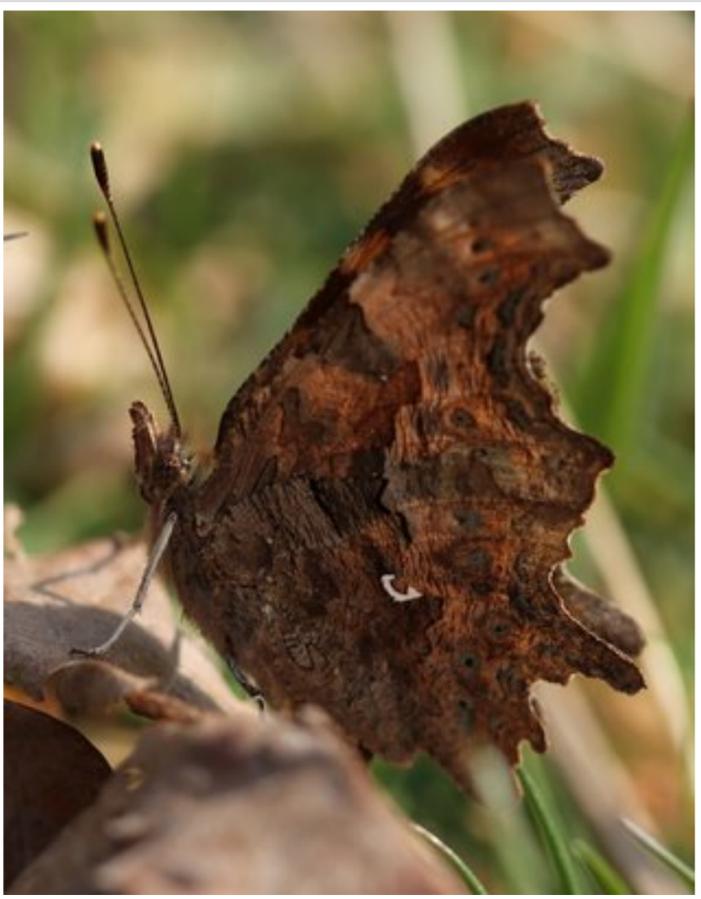
About 25-30 Small Tortoiseshells seen,10-15 Commas,1 Brimstone(where did they all go?) and 2 Peacocks that I couldn't follow.No Red Admirals yet?????.



*Cherry Lane Small Tortoiseshell*



*Willoughby Fields Comma*



*Willoughby Fields Comma Underside*



*Willoughby Fields Comma 2*



*Rusper Road Small Tortoiseshell*



*Rusper Road Comma*

Its only the 14th of March, it was the Arctic this time last year, completely mad!  
Thanks

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Susie, 14-Mar-14 08:55 PM GMT

Hi Buchan boy, another good post. I look forward to reading more about your brown hairstreaks. I saw one last year flying over the car boot market at Pease pottage! 😊

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 15-Mar-14 09:14 PM GMT

Saturday 15th March 2014

Another corking day after 11am, over to Buchan Park for a look around. I'm still amazed at the amount of Commas around at the moment, truly brilliant. Not so many Small Torts over this side of Crawley, I've only seen one in Buchan Park itself, and none today, good habitat as well. Still struggling with seeing snakes, perhaps they are weary of popping out this early, did spot my first Grass Snake but it exploded into action as I rounded the thicket it was bathing on the edge of, no chance, but I know now where one likes to bathe. I reckon some Speckled Woods will be on the wing very soon at this rate.



*Buchan Tiger Beetle - Cicindela campestris*

The first Orthopteran of the year, they can be found all year round, but hide in leaf litter through the winter.



*Buchan Common Groundhopper - Tetrix undulata*



*Buchan Comma*

Plenty of common lizards starting to show, they'll begin their mating soon.



*Buchan Common Lizard*

The Common Toads are all mating up and I found a rather magic spot where they have all congregated, plan to get back up there tomorrow for some further study.

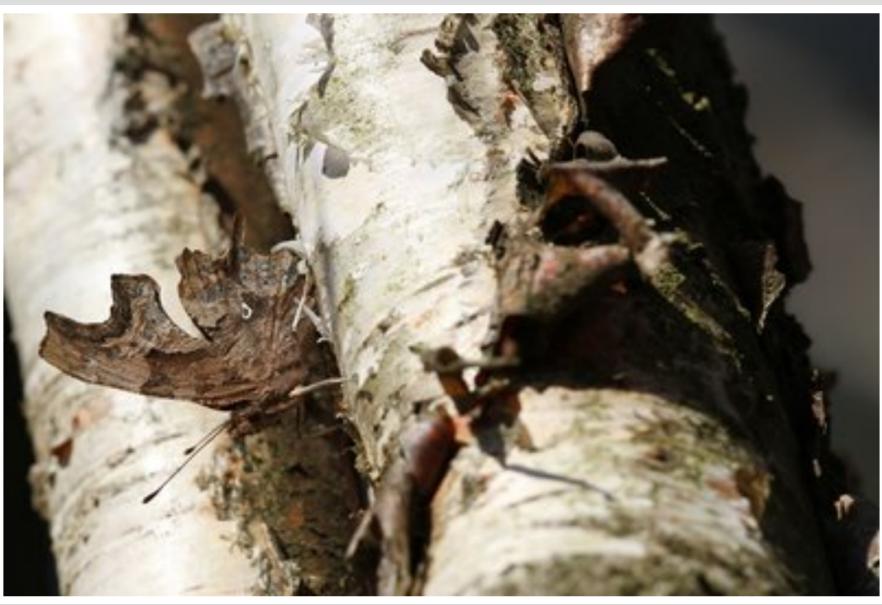


*Buchan Common Toad*



*Buchan Comma Underside*

Oh to be camouflaged!



*Buchan Comma on Silver Birch*

Oh to be loud!



*Buchan Peacock*

Same again tomorrow, thinking Toads and Grass Snakes.  
Thanks

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Wurzel, 16-Mar-14 12:50 AM GMT

Greta stuff Buchan Boy 😊 The Green Tiger Beetle is a good get as they tricky little bu£fer\$ to get shots of, and you're right I always see Specklies and Green Tiger beetles at around the same time so soon...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by William, 16-Mar-14 03:30 PM GMT

Magnificent Shots Buchan Boy, particularly the lizard, toad and final Comma – stunning 😊

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 16-Mar-14 06:52 PM GMT

Sunday 16th March 2014

Thanks for the kind comments people.

Checked in on the small reserve at Broadfield Pond, it did get rather warm rather early today, not much stopping.  
A couple of Small Tortoiseshells around.



*Broadfield Pond Small Tortoiseshell Underside*

My first Speckled Wood of the year, March the 16th.



*Broadfield Pond Speckled Wood*

Nearly got a male Brimstone but naaa.....couple of Commas and a couple of Peacocks around as well.

Seeing the Speckled Wood made me ponder if there were any other emergences this early, I shot up to Newdigate Brickworks where good colonies of Specklies and Orange Tips are normally found, but nothing. One Peacock was showing.



*Newdigate Brickworks Peacock*

The Newdigate site is looking more and more as an absolute dead cert for Brown Hairstreaks later on in the year, a huge bank of Blackthorn facing the sun all day long, I believe they have now been found here, anyone out there know much about Hairstreaks here?, I'll probably be finding out August time. Back to work.....

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Susie, 16-Mar-14 07:10 PM GMT

They must be there. I've found them on the Sussex border by the a24 so they must be further north too 😊

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Neil Freeman, 16-Mar-14 08:03 PM GMT

Oooh, a Specklie 😊

I wondered if I might see one today, not quite yet around here but can't be long now.

Cheer,

Neil.

### Re: Buchan Boy

by Wurzel, 16-Mar-14 11:34 PM GMT

Great stuff Buchan Boy 😊 Looks like I was right about the Green Tiger Beetle and the Specklie 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Buchan Boy

by David M, 17-Mar-14 04:12 PM GMT

I spent half an hour in Linda Vista Gardens in Abergavenny this morning looking for Speckled Woods and/or Whites. No joy but I'm sure it won't be long.

Well done for spotting yours, BB.

### Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 29-Mar-14 07:19 PM GMT

Saturday 29th March 2014

Joy of joy, spring has sprung!

Today, I decided that a sweep of South-West Crawley was in order. With the wonderful weather and nursing a slight hangover, from seeing a Madness tribute band the night before, a walk was called for.

Started at my usual haunt of Buchan Park, but decided to have a look at the "island" of deciduous woodland behind the nature centre, an island because of the two roads that taper it towards a junction, erm, noisy I guess is the word I'm looking

for! Quite chuffed really, although I've seen bucketloads of Brimstones this year, I haven't managed to photograph one yet. (Note to self, try harder with Brimstones).

Just having a warm up before not stopping at all today.....



*Buchan Brimstone*

A slow-worm was spotted, also first of the year



*Buchan Slow-worm*

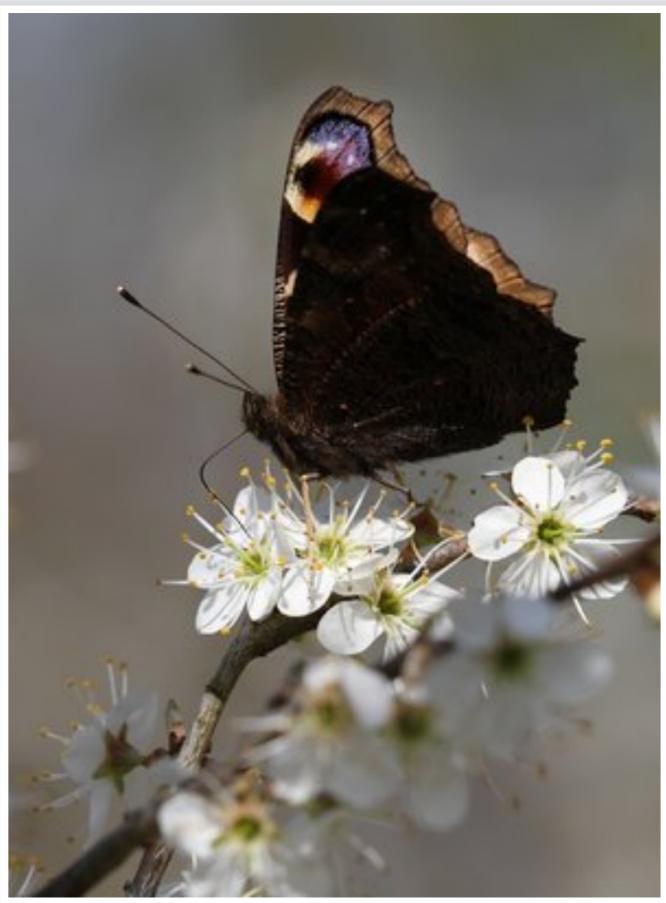


*Buchan Slow-worm 2*

Then towards where the roads meet a small clearing has been formed where some Hawthorn was in bloom and Peacocks were nectaring



*Buchan Peacock*



*Buchan Peacock 2*

I'll spend a bit more time here in the future,potential looks good.Also Small Tortoiseshell and Brimstones loitering but no success with photos.



*Buchan Peacock ground shot*

Moved on and went up to the reserve on Target Hill, Broadfield, same as, Peacocks and Brimstones and Commas



*Target Hill Comma*

Moved round to the Southern side of the reserve where upon I tripped over the Small Tortoiseshell bombardment, i was surprised, but it is their world at the moment. An amazing year for them, never seen anything like this around this town.



*Target Hill Small Tortoiseshell*

A particularly hairy lady!



*Target Hill Small Tortoiseshell 2*

Frayed wings



*Target Hill Small Tortoiseshell 3*



*Tortoiseshell Heaven*

It was great to spend time with 20/30 urticaes in one small area, watching them go about their daily chores!  
Time to shift down to the small wood and environs at Broadfield Pond, expecting the Specklies to be emerging, all was good.





*Broadfield Pond Speckled Wood 2*



*Broadfield Pond Speckled Wood 3*

Probably 5/6 all told,tomorrow I will go again and see some more.  
I liked this shot,as with the Tortoiseshells,its been marvellous this year.



*Broadfield Pond Comma*

Some are looking pretty knackered!



*Broadfield Pond Comma 2*

This Peacock was very approachable....



*Broadfield Pond Peacock*

So I studied the wing markings,Its quite remarkable really when looked at so close,I ponder the variations in these,and also is there "a face of Christ out there somewhere" (hairs stand up on back of neck!)



*Broadfield Pond Peacock wing marking study.*



*Broadfield Peacock wing marking study 2*

And that was that, thought I might go and see if I could find some Brimstones settling down to roost but a chicken madras won! One more Comma? Oh go on then.



*Broadfield Pond Comma 3*

That was my day.....  
Thanks

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by robpartridge, 29-Mar-14 07:36 PM GMT

Some lovely clean shots, thanks for sharing them. I have to agree on the numbers of of Small Tortoiseshells so far this spring but no sign of Speckled Woods in my part of the fens yet,

Rob

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Wurzel, 30-Mar-14 12:13 AM GMT

Great close up shots 😊 But I'm really envious of your Specklies – I was hoping for one today but no joy still 🙄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 31-Mar-14 06:59 PM GMT

Sunday 30th March 2014

A quick trek to see if the Specklies were about in other locations around North-West Crawley, all good.

Coupling up down the Millpond.



*Gossops Millpond Speckled Woods*

Down to the Rusper Road Common Land



*Rusper Road Speckled Wood*

Small Tortoiseshells still looking fantastic!



*Rusper Road Small Tortoiseshell*

Peacocks and Brimstones still loitering around.....fast,no Whites yet though.

Thanks

## **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 02-Apr-14 07:16 PM GMT

Tuesday 1st April 2014

Seeing butterflies walking home from work,marvelous,x 1 Comma bathing in Goffs Park

Wednesday 2nd April 2014

Even better, photographing butterflies whilst walking home from work, always nice for a normally active weekender only!





*Broadfield Pond ginger one 2*

Thanks

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 05-Apr-14 08:19 PM GMT

Saturday 5th April 2014

After washing the Saharan desert off my wife's car, a window of opportunity arose, didn't expect much sun today to be honest.

Noting that plenty of Cuckooflower is now showing I hoped maybe to see my first Orange Tips, alas no success, but managed to see a couple of old friends before moving on.



*Broadfield Pond Peacock*



*Broadfield Pond Speckled Wood*

I don't think there's any new emergences since the 5/6 I counted a couple of weeks ago, seemed about the same, the Specklies that is.

I'd planned to have a look at the consultation for Gatwick's second runway, that was being held at the local arts centre, but the queue put me off. I need to see some proper mapping to see what will become of my Brown/Purple Hairstreak populations on the North Western edge of Crawley. I fear the worst if the expansion gets the go-ahead. But hey, enjoy it whilst we have it!

One population of Hairstreaks that isn't under threat yet is the Rusper Road bunch, I've always struggled with egg hunting, I have no idea why! Success today.



*Rusper Road Hairstreak hatched ovum.*

Then it rained 😞

Thanks

## **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 11-Apr-14 05:03 PM GMT

Wednesday 9th April 2014

A quick meet up with my old buddy (Pete) down at Broadfield Pond, after work, resulted in a non-successful Orange Tip hunt, but I wasn't surprised due to the time. Did check for roosters on the Cuckoo-flower but no.

We quickly legged it over the field side of the Millpond where some Specklies were worth admiring, checked the big bank of Holly on the railway embankment for Holly Blues but no.....



*Field Millpond Speckled Wood*

Friday 11th April 2014

Weekend warrior that I am, does, fortunately start at midday on Friday's, so I can get a little afternoon jolly across my North West Crawley Arc, today resulted in 4 firsts for 2014.

Cherry Lane and Willoughby Fields produced some Specklies, the Cuckoo flower patch's are immense and come some sunny spells I'm sure will produce some whites, I will check these out, temperature/sun allowing, later this weekend.

You can never be too far from what might eventually happen to this area.....



*The chant has begun.*

The sun appeared at about 1pm and lifted the temperature a good 5/6 degrees immediately just as I reached the Rusper Road common land.

My first Orange Tip male appeared quickly followed by my first Holly Blue of the year, stood and watched but far too lively to get anywhere near, still some Peacocks hanging around.

I studied the first decent patch of Cuckoo flower, by the church, for half an hour when eventually my first Green-veined White of 2014 came along for a sniff around.



*Rusper Road Green-veined White female*

My first Red Admiral of 2014 was spotted high up on the Blackthorn bloom, still surprised I haven't seen anymore this year so far given how all the other post hibernators have had a right royal party!



*Rusper Road Red Admiral*

And then on a decent patch of Mustard Garlic my first photo opportunity for an Orange Tip male, spring truly has sprung.



*Rusper Road Orange Tip male*

Just as I was pondering wandering home for an early dinner a quick reminder of the Small Tortoiseshell empire that ruled a few weeks back, came into view, what a party they had, thanks for the photos!



*Rusper Road Small Tortoiseshell all partied out!*

Nice.  
Thanks

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 14-Apr-14 07:36 PM GMT

Saturday 12th April 2014

I'm enjoying the Speckled Woods this year, a small unknown population was located in my "island reserve"(road island that is!) up Buchan Park, they were all lying around awaiting the sun to appear at about 10am.

Allow me to indulge.....



*Buchan Park Speckled Wood 1*



*Buchan Park Speckled Wood 2*



*Buchan Park Speckled Wood 3*

I lifted some of the corrugated iron put down to ease in gauging local populations of reptiles, and a bootlace slow-worm graced my presence, I'm not particularly happy with the shots mind you, but a record nonetheless. About a dozen adults as well. This one is about 5 inches long.



*Buchan Park Slow worm youngster*

I was a tad lazy and decided to take a short cut up the dual carriageway to gain access to the Park from a different direction, not recommended but I wanted to cover some spots with an afternoon "booking" with the wife fast approaching! Slightly amazed to find two Specklies on the roadside verge, if just being here wasn't dangerous enough trying to nail some shots was positively suicidal!

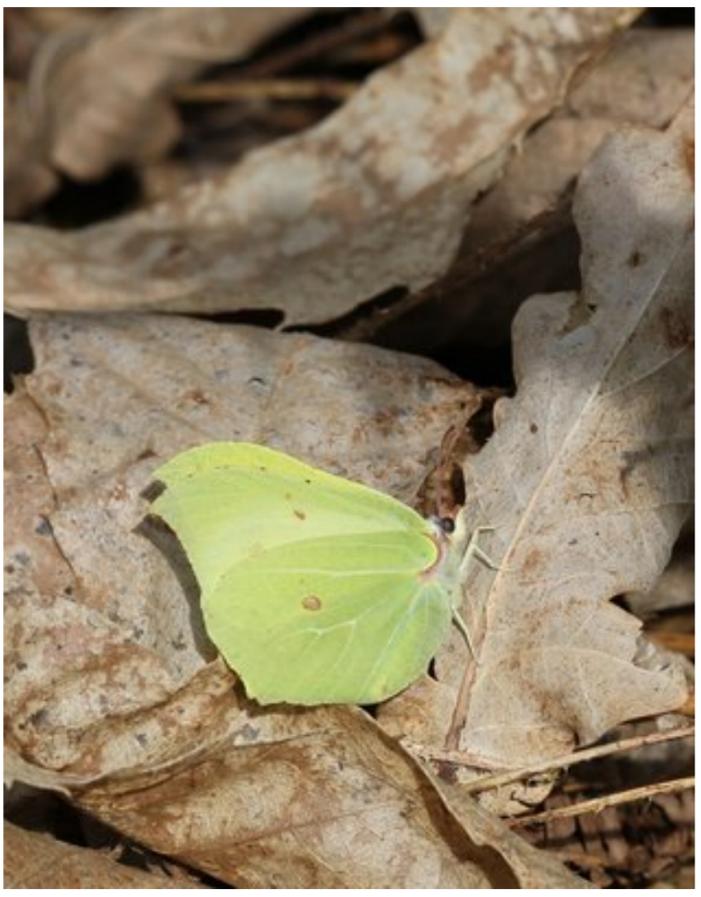


*A264 Speckled Wood 1*



*A264 Speckled Wood 2*

I survived the A264 situation and retreated to the calmness of the woods, actually a bit too calm, not a lot going on, the Peacocks and Commas are now declining for a while, did manage to bag a Brimstone having a sunbathe.



*Buchan Park Brimstone*

Also a Comma still enjoying life down by the big pond



*Buchan Park Comma*

I quickly trekked up to Target Hill to see how the Small Torts were getting on, greatly reducing now, spotted my 2nd Holly Blue of the season but too far away.

Peacocks still hanging on in there!



*Target Hill Peacock*

And of course the Small Tortoiseshells are still kicking around just before the sun went behind a big swathe of cloud and I had to leg it to spend some time with Mrs Buchan Boy 😊



*Target Hill Small Tortoiseshell 1*



*Target Hill Small Tortoiseshell 2*

The Orange Tip hunt begins in earnest tomorrow.  
Thanks

## **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 14-Apr-14 09:19 PM GMT

Sunday 13th April 2014

Today is the first Orange Tip day proper around my side of Crawley,(a pretend confidence now!).

Down to the Broadfield pond area,sporadic sun and a bit chilly around about 10.15,a quick check on the Specklies and the colony now up to about 16 individuals,i think.

Heres some,I won't get bored of these little beauties so expect plenty more!



*Broadfield Pond Speckled Wood 1*



*Broadfield Pond Speckled Wood 2*

The sun was now appearing in longer spells and starting to warm up, I had a wander around the open meadow at the site and noted a couple of whites, hurry up cloud!  
Cloud came and I tracked one of the whites into the undergrowth, my first small white of the year photographed.



*Broadfield Pond Small White 1*



*Broadfield Pond Small White 2*

You know that funny prancing thing you do when you see a butterfly go down when clouds appear,i did that,a local jogger gave me a weird look. The sun then appeared and the whites were off with a vengeance,lost sight of them,headed back to the pond to the Cuckoo flower patch's,but not before stumbling upon another Speckly!



*Broadfield Pond Speckled Wood 3*

I flanked the pond and the first Male Orange Tip of the day shot past me,,,,,,,,,,,,,oh no,one of those days!I still chase occasionally if it's promising,or is just early season joy!

Got to the Cuckoo Flower boggy area and stood and watched,the same male returned and headed straight down to the plants,a tustle with a female,and he was off,leaving me with the less excited female.11.15 this was.



*Broadfield Pond Orange Tip Female 1*



*Broadfield Pond Orange Tip Female 2*

She was the only one, i did get lucky with one male, there were 3 by now, but after this it was futile!



*Broadfield Pond Orange Tip Male 1*

Realising now was a good time for a spot of lunch, i went home and decided it may be prudent to go to Willoughby Fields and have a look at the vast banks of Cuckoo Flower there.

An enjoyable afternoon in blazing sunshine was had with half a dozen females and probably about the same males, got lucky really as nothing was staying still for long.



*Willoughby Fields Orange Tip Female*



*Willoughby Fields Orange Tip Male*

Cuckoo Flower vastness.



*Orange Tip stuff*

At this point I pondered hanging round to see if I could catch some roosters, but the sight is rather large and I thought a trip back to Broadfield may be the better option. So that was that.

I got back to the Broadfield site just as they were settling down and noted one deep down and managed the shot.



*Broadfield Pond Orange Tip Male 2*

And one just hanging round before a Comma came along and he sprung into action!



*Broadfield Pond Orange Tip Male 3*

Aforementioned ruiner.....of good shot,so I took one of him instead!



*Broadfield Pond Comma*

I like Orange Tip days, think I might go all exotic over Easter and head for the South Downs maybe.....  
Thanks

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Wurzel, 14-Apr-14 09:32 PM GMT

Fantastic shots Buchan 😊👍 Seeing the field of Cuckoo Flower suddenly makes it clear why I'm struggling to find Orange-tips round my way – there is nothing like that with only tiny little clumps scattered across a huge number of fields.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 14-Apr-14 09:39 PM GMT

Cheers Wurzel,

Forgot to mention,saw my first Swallow of 2014 yesterday evening as well 😊

Thanks

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by David M, 14-Apr-14 09:49 PM GMT

Some lovely spring shots there, BB.

I'm sure Orange Tips will be flocking to that heap of cuckoo flower that you are so fortunate to have near your doorstep.

## Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 15-Apr-14 07:58 PM GMT

Tuesday 15th April 2014

I managed to get to Broadfield Pond after work, in good sunshine but the Easterlies were lowering the temperature a tad, the light was lovely however.

One male Orange Tip still on the wing but wouldn't settle and what I thought to be a female Orange Tip turned out to be my first Green-veined White for 2014 at this locality.



*Broadfield Pond Green-veined White male.*

Lovely light.



*Broadfield Pond Peacock*

Hope there's loads more lovely evenings to come.  
Thanks

## Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 18-Apr-14 07:37 PM GMT

Friday 18th April 2014

On the train down to Falmer quite early, for my first foray on the South Downs of this year. A quick trek past the footy stadium and up the hill, across the SDW, and into Castle Hill NNR.

I've been coming to this fabulous reserve for many years now, albeit later in the season for the wonderful Orthoptera this downland sanctuary boasts, but since I've developed further interests into orchids and butterflies, I've been getting here earlier and earlier, sometimes with big frosts still around.

The reserve holds one of the largest colonies of Early Spider Orchids in the country, last year they were not around until mid-May, this year is somewhat near normal.



*Castle Hill NNR Early Spider Orchids 1*



*Castle Hill NNR Early Spider Orchids 2*

In about two weeks this place will be awash with these little beauties  
Bumped into my first small coppers of the year, warming up in a couple of sheltered spots.



*Castle Hill NNR Small Copper 1*



*Castle Hill NNR Small Copper 2*

It was still quite chilly around 11 ish so I found a sunny sheltered spot, ate my lunch, and grabbed a half hour kip! (Takes its toll, all this walking!)

Just as I stood up ready to go searching for stuff again my first Dingy Skipper of the year passed by, couldn't see it go down, but a good sign.

Walked along the valley bottom which was reaching some nice temperatures and to the Green Hairstreak spots of former years, did a good check around but none here yet, I figured it's been quite chilly down this close to the coast lately, maybe they're slightly behind.

Sat down to watch a patch of bugle to see if any Dingys would come by and noted the Early Purple Orchids starting to rise.



*Castle Hill NNR Early Purple Orchids 1*



*Castle Hill NNR Early Purple Orchids 2*



*Castle Hill NNR Early Purple Orchids 3*

Just as I was about to move to another area,hello Dingy! and another and another,they'd all congregated in the warmest,most out the wind place on the whole reserve,counted 15 in all.



*Castle Hill NNR Dingy Skipper 1*



*Castle Hill NNR Dingy Skipper 2*



*Castle Hill NNR Dingy Skipper 3*

Even the Pheasants wanted to see what was going on.....



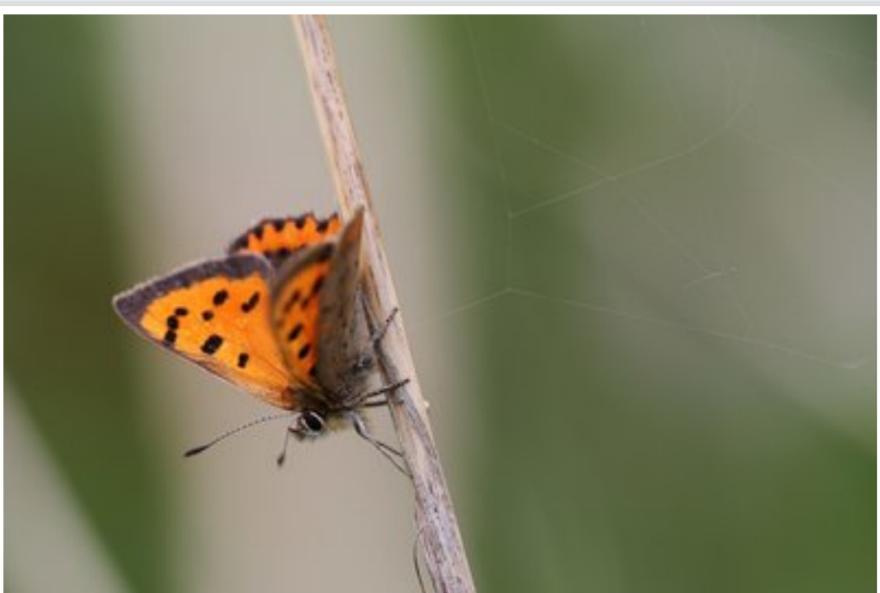
*Castle Hill NNR male Pheasant*

Dingy heaven,be interesting to see what sort of numbers they reach this year



*Castle Hill NNR Dingy Skipper 4*

I had to leave slightly earlier than planned,but was fulfilled nonetheless.



*Castle Hill NNR Small Copper 3*

15 Dingy Skippers  
4 Small Coppers  
2 Speckled Woods  
2 Small Tortoiseshells  
3 Green-veined Whites  
2 Peacocks  
1 possible Grizzled skipper,not sure

A Good Friday for Dingy's

Thanks

### Re: Buchan Boy

by William, 18-Apr-14 07:43 PM GMT

Lovely Photos Buchan Boy - I'm particularly jealous of those Early Spider Orchids 😊

### Re: Buchan Boy

by Mark Senior, 18-Apr-14 07:51 PM GMT

Hi Buchan Boy

I know Castle Hill NR well , I used to live just down the road from it . There are certainly Grizzleds there though they tend to be a bit later than say at Mill Hill . Dingys usually have at least a partial 2nd brood and I can recall one day last year seeing Large , Small , Essex , Silver Spotted and Dingy on the same day .

### Re: Buchan Boy

by David M, 18-Apr-14 07:52 PM GMT

Splendid array of images, BB. Looks like Small Coppers are getting into their stride.

### Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 19-Apr-14 08:57 PM GMT

Saturday 19th April 2014

An odd one this evening,a monograph on the Devils Dyke (Sussex) Green Hairstreaks,a pile of shots from spending a few afternoon hours with this colony at the foot of the valley.

I reckon i probably counted towards 40 individuals in all,a true pleasure,think I photographed 35 of them as well!

Given I'd seen none at Castle Hill yesterday, some of these look like they've been fighting the good fight for a while!

Please excuse the indulgence!

When windy and intermitent sunshine prevails they all move to the back of the scrub,ie.uphill, perfect for a photographer as you are above them all the time,once your eye is "in",they stand out remarkably easy!

This was a habitat shot from a previous year,today its being grazed by cows and wandered on by hoards of humans! 😊



*Devils Dyke Green Hairstreak land*



*Devils Dyke Green Hairstreak 1*



*Devils Dyke Green Hairstreak 2*



*Devils Dyke Green Hairstreak 3*



*Devils Dyke Green Hairstreak 4*



*Devils Dyke Green Hairstreak 5*



*Devils Dyke Green Hairstreak 6*



*Devils Dyke Green Hairstreak 7*



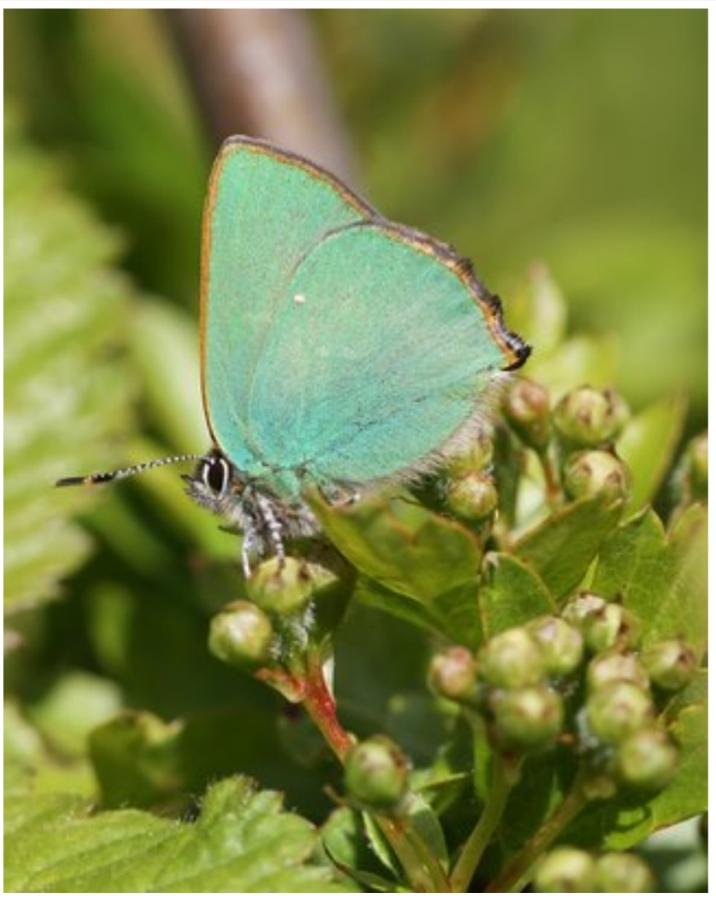
*Devils Dyke Green Hairstreak 8*



*Devils Dyke Green Hairstreak 9*



*Devils Dyke Green Hairstreak 10*



*Devils Dyke Green Hairstreak 11*



*Devils Dyke Green Hairstreak 12*



*Devils Dyke Green Hairstreak 13*



*Devils Dyke Green Hairstreak 14*



*Devils Dyke Green Hairstreak 15*



*Devils Dyke Green Hairstreak 16*

Nearly got them all!,the striking thing is the lack of variation in the white spots.  
Thanks

## Re: Buchan Boy

by Katrina, 19-Apr-14 10:29 PM GMT

Very impressive Green Hairstreak count and array of photos!

## Re: Buchan Boy

by robpartridge, 20-Apr-14 11:34 AM GMT

A fine sequence of Green Hairstreaks – odd to think that your counterpart of a hundred years ago would have brought most of them home with him. Nice habitat shot, too – I'd like to see more of these in personal diaries. No habitat, no butterflies...

## Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 20-Apr-14 11:52 AM GMT

Thanks Katrina and Rob,

Rob,since I've been watching,then photographing butterflies the concept of killing them and sticking them in a box seems so utterly alien to me,to be frank,slightly weird!

I guess our generations have the luxury of marvellous cameras that previous ones didn't.Dont see any justification,IMO,these days,for taking living beings and killing them unless its an absolute must for scientific purposes.

An Easter Sunday sermon,praise the Lord. 😊

Yep,more habitat shots please!

Thanks

## Re: Buchan Boy

by Wurzel, 20-Apr-14 10:53 PM GMT

Great selection of Greenstreak shots BB 😊 The one showing the proboscis separated is very interesting and reminded me of all those lectures on Insect Mouthparts I sat through at Uni 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 26-Apr-14 06:20 PM GMT

Saturday 26th April 2014

A quick check on one of my local Orange-tip populations, also checking the Cuckoo Flower for any egg-laying activity.....both positive.



*Broadfield Pond Orange-tip Female*



*Broadfield Pond Orange-tip Male*



*Broadfield Pond Orange-tip Male 2*



*Broadfield Pond Orange-tip Female 2*

The cycle starts again.



*Broadfield Pond Orange-tip Ovum*

Thanks

## Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 06-May-14 12:49 PM GMT

Monday 5th May 2014

Today I thought I'd take a leisurely drive across West Sussex into Hampshire, South on the A3 to the Queen Elizabeth Country Park. A trek up to the summit on Butser Hill, down the North side to Rake Bottom, a locality that I have always enjoyed.

Pictures can never do justice to how steep this actually is, there is an easier gradient that flanks the Western ridge.....



*Rake Bottom from the top.*

There are two main Duke Of Burgundy colonies here, one at the top and one at the bottom of the valley, although on a day like today they will spread out across the lower parts of the valley so the colonies become less distinct.



*Rake Bottom Duke Of Burgundy 1*

The whole valley bottom was absolutely teeming with butterfly life, Grizzled's and Dingy Skippers aplenty. I tend to photograph all I see, or can get near, to check for aberrations later.

Along the valley bottom, where the wind eases "hot spots" occur, where all manner of butterfly species pick up when the sun arrives.



*Rake Bottom typical habitat.*

A couple of Grizzled Skippers



*Rake Bottom Grizzled Skipper 1*



*Rake Bottom Grizzled Skipper 2*

I'm forever hunting for the *tarasaberration* of these, no luck yet.  
Dingy Skippers gloriously all over the place.



*Rake Bottom Dingy Skipper*

My first Small Heaths and Common Blues of the season



*Rake Bottom Small Heath*



*Rake Bottom Common Blue*

Another amazing showing by Green Hairstreaks, some as fresh as daisies, the frequency of encounters grew as I reached the second area of Dukes at the Northern end of the valley.

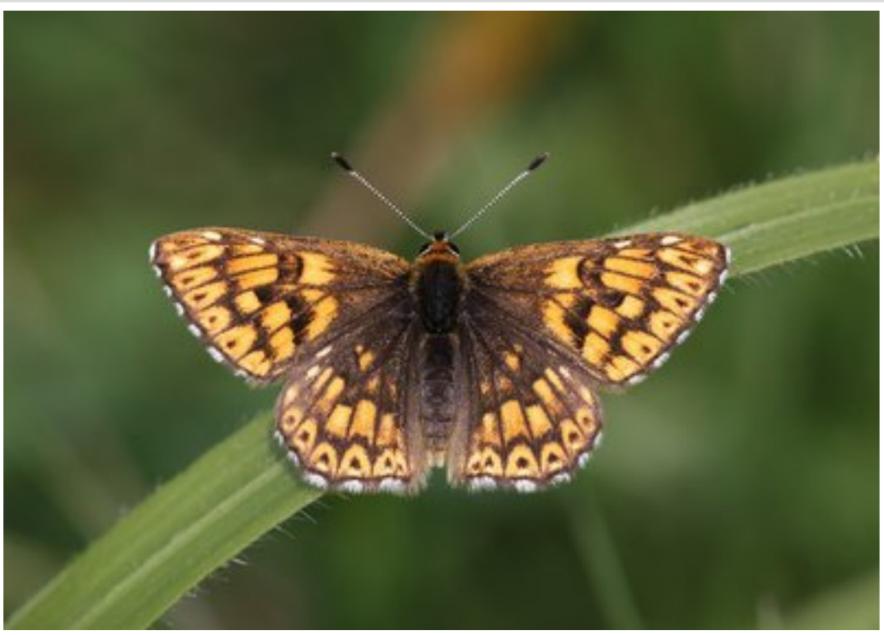


*Rake Bottom Green Hairstreak*

The second main population of Dukes live here, and a rather large population Green Hairstreaks.



*Rake Bottom Bottom*



*Rake Bottom Duke Of Burgundy 1*

Although, to be honest as I've already mentioned, they were all along the valley. So, hoards of Grizzled and Dingy Skippers, probably 30/40 Dukes, hoards of Green Hairstreaks, Brimstones, Orange-tips, 1 small heath and one Common Blue. A possible Painted Lady, but wouldn't settle. The Hampshire South Downs are waking up nicely and a joy to be there it was, can't wait to retire!

Thanks

**Re: Buchan Boy**

by Wurzel, 07-May-14 09:21 AM GMT

Great report Dave – I like reading about sites I've not visited and this seems to have a great range of species. Small Heath and Common Blues aren't out here yet but it looks like they're getting closer 😊 . That Green Hairstrak shot is an absolute cracker 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 07-May-14 03:54 PM GMT

Wednesday 7th May 2014

A break in the clouds, quickly legged it across to a small meadow in Buchan Park where a Female Brimstone came along to start egg-laying on a young alder.



*Female Brimstone ovipositing on alder 1*



*Female Brimstone ovipositing on alder 2*



*Female Brimstone ovipositing on alder 3*



*Brimstone ovum on young alder.*

I then watched a male approach as the female was still ovipositing, only to witness a remarkable display of repelling postures to negate the advances of the tenacious male.

It all seemed like a whirl of madness from the male until I got home and studied the shots.....



*Female Brimstone repelling display 1*



*Female Brimstone repelling display 2*



*Female Brimstone repelling display 3*



*Female Brimstone repelling display 4*



*Female Brimstone repelling display 5*



*Female Brimstone repelling display 6*



*Female Brimstone repelling display 7*



*Female Brimstone repelling display 8*



*Female Brimstone repelling display 9*



*Female Brimstone repelling display 10*



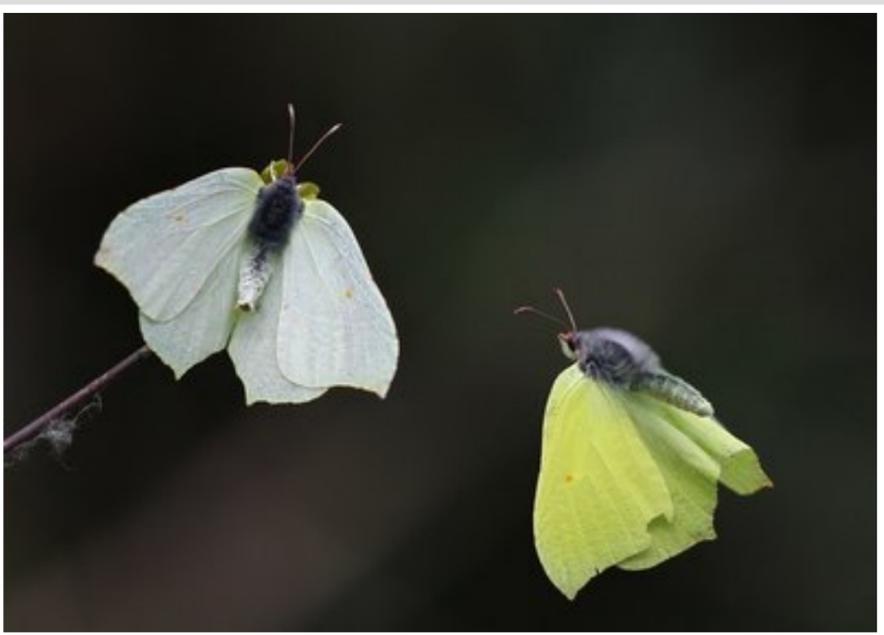
*Female Brimstone repelling display 11*



*Female Brimstone repelling display 12*



*Female Brimstone repelling display 13*



*Female Brimstone repelling display 14*



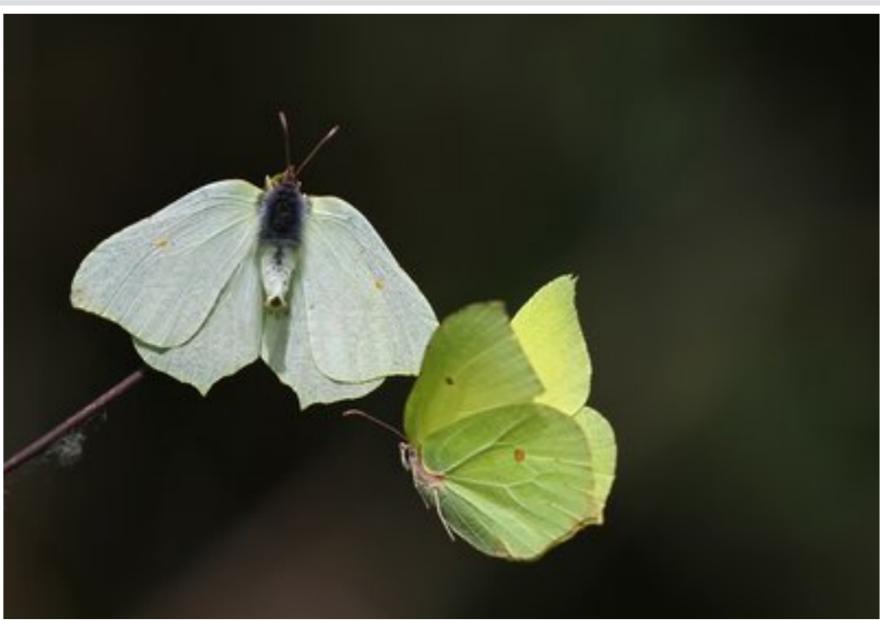
*Female Brimstone repelling display 15*



*Female Brimstone repelling display 16*



*Female Brimstone repelling display 17*



*Female Brimstone repelling display 18*

The female finally took to flight and they both crashed into the undergrowth, remarkable.



*Female Brimstone Submission?*

1/3200 shutter speeds are amazing, exposure comp. down a stop. 180 macro at about 5 feet. Sometimes animal behaviour is just as interesting 100 yards from your doorstep!  
Thanks

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Pauline, 07-May-14 04:20 PM GMT

Amazing sequence of action shots – truly remarkable.

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 07-May-14 04:27 PM GMT

Thanks Pauline,

I think I passed you at Butser on Monday, sorry your day was saddened by your anxiety with those youths!

I'll say hello next time I see you.

Dave

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Vince Massimo, 07-May-14 04:47 PM GMT

Amazing sequence, Dave 😊.

For me the winner is No.4, but I would like to see a selection added to the Species-Specific Album in due course. I will be sending a PM with a list 😊.

Vince

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Padfield, 07-May-14 06:38 PM GMT

Those pictures are quite surreal, Dave. They freeze moments you never quite see when you're there, because it all looks an energetic blur. I love them.

Guy

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Chris Jackson, 07-May-14 09:47 PM GMT

Great set of photos Dave from the 5th and 7th of May. You obviously know how to use your photo gear!  
Its good to see the context photos – they set the scene well.

Chris

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by David M, 07-May-14 10:15 PM GMT

Absolutely magnificent sequence, Dave. Possibly the best I've ever seen on this site.

My personal favourite is number 4 showing both sexes with wings open.

Thanks for a) the effort you put in to get them, and b) taking the time to share them.

Wonderful.

### Re: Buchan Boy

by Katrina, 07-May-14 10:34 PM GMT

Fantastic detail for on the wing shots! Wonderful sequence of photos. I like number 6 the best.

### Re: Buchan Boy

by Pete Eeles, 07-May-14 10:36 PM GMT

#### "Buchan Boy" wrote:

Sometimes animal behaviour is just as interesting 100yards from your doorstep!

Indeed! Absolutely stunning photos – best I've seen of Brimstones in flight. Superb!

Cheers,

– Pete

### Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 07-May-14 11:12 PM GMT

Thankyou Guys,and Guy!

Truth be told,the power of a 7D is awesome,and I'm still learning more everyday,that sequence of shots took 400 photographs in about 3 minutes,having the Female in one position whilst she repulsed the assault was also a bonus.

I'd been practising with exposure compensation for a while,and quickly learnt that whites need nearly a full stop down to not over expose in full sunlight.

The best thing though is not worrying about image quality at 800/1200 ISO,rediculous a few years ago.You can keep very fast shutter speeds in not so great light.Brilliant.

Personally,I love No 6,theres a certain menace going on there! 😏

Thanks again.

Dave

### Re: Buchan Boy

by Pauline, 08-May-14 06:59 PM GMT

Hi Dave, where were you when I needed you?? 😊😊 I am always reassured when I see folk with cameras as I have always found them to be genuine but I thought you'd be long gone. If I'd known you were still there I'd have been a lot happier. Great shots btw, love the Grizzled Skipper and the Common Blue.

### Re: Buchan Boy

by MikeOxon, 08-May-14 07:50 PM GMT

May I add my appreciation of your 'action' shots. In the case of Brimstones, they also provide a rare opportunity to view the uppersides. Splendid stuff 😊

Mike

### Re: Buchan Boy

by Willrow, 08-May-14 08:01 PM GMT

Can you get much better than this...special!!! Superb Dave, it inspires.

Bill 😊

"When in doubt...venture out"

### Re: Buchan Boy

by Lee Hurrell, 08-May-14 08:21 PM GMT

I have to agree, stunning Brimstone photos!

Best wishes,

Lee

## Re: Buchan Boy

by Neil Freeman, 09-May-14 07:55 PM GMT

What can I say about the Brimstone sequence that hasn't already been said, fantastic images, well done!

Cheers,

Neil.

## Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 09-May-14 09:34 PM GMT

Many thanks for all your kind words, glad to contribute to this wondrous website.

Friday 9th May 2014

Had a couple of hours in my local park today, periods of sunshine, windy, but no showers luckily.

The local Odonata is starting to move from the ponds to terra firma, then to the air, Buchan Park's SSSI is based around the marvellous array of Dragonflies and Damselflies it possesses.

Large Red Damselflies are away quite well.



*Buchan Park Large Red Damselfly immature.*



*Buchan Park Large Red Damselfly adult Male*

But great joy arrived when I spotted my first Downy Emerald of the year, quite a distance from where she emerged as well. These are a speciality of this area and emerge earlier than its cousin The Brilliant Emerald, which it shares habitat with.

Quite difficult to get close to in normal circumstances, so I'm glad I got these.



*Buchan Park Downy Emerald Female 1*



*Buchan Park Downy Emerald Female 2*

In upcoming years I'm going to devote proper time to studying these around this area, it's always cool to confirm presence early in the season.

On to Orthoptera, and I'd lost touch with the colony of Slender Groundhoppers up here, but bumped into them again, I only came across two though, but confirmed presence again.



*Buchan Park Slender Groundhopper*

There were also some butterflies around.  
This Peacock was looking a tad weary



*Buchan Park Peacock*

Brimstones on the Bluebells,always a delight



*Buchan Park Brimstone*

Green-veined White on Garlic Mustard



*Buchan Park Green-veined White Male*

Still struggling with Holly Blues this year,not managed a photo yet,only seen two!  
The Downy Emerald more than consoled me though,happy with that. 😊  
Thanks

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Wurzel, 13-May-14 06:25 PM GMT

Been doing a bit of catching up and really glad I did – that Brimstone sequence is just amazing 🍷🍷😊 Wow!

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 17-May-14 04:18 PM GMT

Saturday 17th May 2014

It started sunny,cloud came over and it got quite humid,a first for this year so far I reckon,humidity that is.

Local patch stuff,checking on the meadows and woody edges down my Rusper Road bit.Was hoping for a first Brown Argus but no joy.

But there was other stuff around.



*Rusper Road Beautiful Demoiselle Female*



*Rusper Road Speckled Wood*

The first Small Coppers and Common Blues have just starting emerging in my neck of the woods..... 😊



*Rusper Road Small Copper*



*Rusper Road Common Blue*



*Rusper Road Common Blue 2*



*Rusper Road Small Copper 2*



*Rusper Road Small Copper 3*

Cool

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 19-May-14 06:05 PM GMT

Sunday 18th May 2014

One little fella I forgot to mention from yesterday was the Little Owl on my Rusper Road patch.

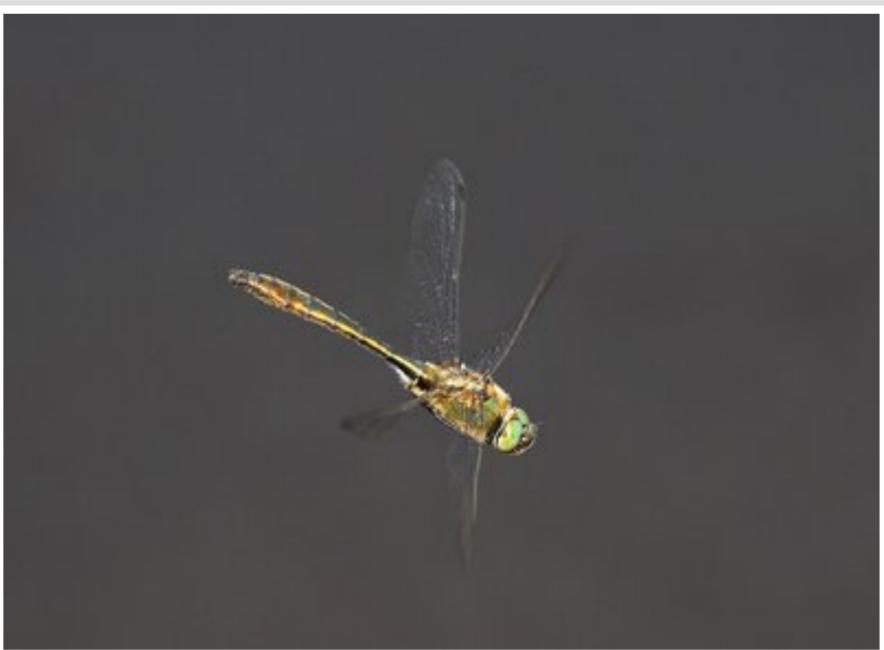
"Theres always someone looking at ya!"



*Rusper Road Little Owl*

So,phew what a scorcher,proper summertime in May!

Had a short window of time to get out today,firstly over to a local pond to see how the Downy Emeralds were getting on.3 males patrolling the margins,



*Spruce Hill Island Pond Buchan Downy Emerald*

Then a quick look in on my A264 roadside verge "nature reserve!"



*A264 Small Copper*



*A264 Common Blue Female*

Then a quick look in on the small Buchan Park meadow, one small Common Blue and one, what I initially took to be being a day flying moth, Dingy Skipper. Joy of joy. Didn't expect this to be honest, I've never seen a Dingy on my local patch around Crawley and confirmed with the Buchan Park warden, Robin Edwards, today, to be a first record for the park, brilliant.



*Buchan Park Dingy Skipper*

Female I reckon as well. (Confirmed male, thanks Vince.)



*Buchan Park small meadow.*

Hopefully soon to be colonised by Dingy's,marvelous.

Thanks

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Vince Massimo, 19-May-14 07:22 PM GMT

#### **"Buchan Boy" wrote:**

I've never seen a Dingy on my local patch around Crawley and confirmed with the Buchan Park warden,Robin Edwards, today,to be a first record for the park,brilliant.

Brilliant first record, Dave 😊 (and in my new local patch as well). It's actually a male, but hope there are others nearby.

Vince

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 19-May-14 08:02 PM GMT

Cheers Vince,

Thanks for confirmation of gender,best get the record off to the local BC branch now! 😊

Dave

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Lee Hurrell, 20-May-14 09:17 PM GMT

That little owl picture is brilliant!

Well done on your local Dingy too, Dave 😊

Best wishes

Lee

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 21-May-14 07:56 AM GMT

Thanks Lee,

I hope the Dingy sighting is the start of something more substantial,the site itself was the area of land where the machinery and site office was when they built Crawley's South-West link road some 25 years ago.It needs to have it's young Alder and Birch sapplings managed regularly,which the wardens and volenters do.Its always good to have a reward like this,even if i feel a tad guilty for just wandering along one day and finding a first for an area! 😊 Ideally it should be one the guys who do the work that would make the discovery.....

Dave

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 30-Jun-14 09:43 PM GMT

Friday 30th May–Saturday 21st June 2014

Vacation in the French Pyrenees,trip report to follow.....honest! 😊

Sunday 29th June 2014

After the wonders of the Southern French Mountains, back to the wonders of early summer in North East West Sussex.Today Buchan Park for a few hours.

Glad to see a couple of my local Ringlet populations in good numbers.



*Buchan Park Ringlet*



*Buchan Park Ringlet 2*



*Buchan Park Ringlet 3*

All three species of orange skippers found locally were gloriously abundant.



*Buchan Park Essex Skipper*



*Buchan Park Large Skipper*



*Buchan Park Small Skipper*

I got to the small pond we used to call the Heath, also known as the Island Pond, confusingly the same name as another Buchan pond and also known as the Spruce Hill Pond. As another local Dragonfly specialist called this pond the Spruce Hill pond and his (James Havers) reports cite the name as such I will keep it as such. So got to the Spruce Hill pond and noted a couple of ducks not seen before here.  
A pair of female Mandarin ducks



*Spruce Hill Pond Female Mandarin Ducks*

Odonata now waking up well,



*Buchan Park Immature or Female White-legged Damselfly*



*Buchan Park Black-tailed Skimmer*



*Buchan Park Black-tailed Skimmer 2*

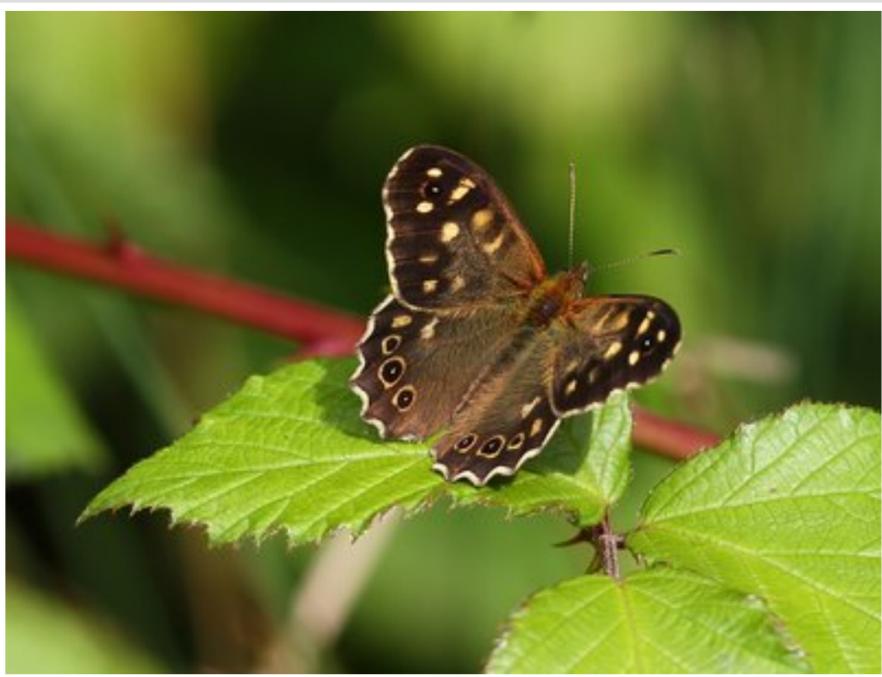
Theres also a good colony of Scarce Chasers here and they should be on the wing now as well,dont think I saw any,slightly worrying.  
I did see a report of a White Admiral pop up on the Sussex BC sightings,for here, and I think I saw one motoring round the canopy,more work to be done there.

I also have a strange interest in Cockroaches but am useless at identification,when I get to work out what flavour this one(I.D now added)



*Buchan Dusky Cockroach Male*

A lovely "new" Speckled Wood and Comma graced my departure.



*Buchan Speckled Wood*



*Buchan Comma*

I also noted a Small/Essex Skipper roost in the long grass beside the A264,counted about 30 individuals within a square metre,unfortunately didn't have the correct camera with me to do it justice,was marvellous to see though.



A264 Roadside verge Essex skipper

Now back to that Pyrenees report.....

Thanks

### Re: Buchan Boy

by David M, 30-Jun-14 10:56 PM GMT

#### "Buchan Boy" wrote:

Friday 30th May–Saturday 21st June 2014

Vacation in the French Pyrenees, trip report to follow.....honest! 😊

I shall look forward to that with great interest, BB.

### Re: Buchan Boy

by Susie, 01-Jul-14 07:59 AM GMT

I haven't seen any scarce chasers at my local patch this year either. Most odd.

### Re: Buchan Boy

by CJB, 01-Jul-14 10:39 AM GMT

I think your ducks are female or juvenile Mandarin ducks.

Love the pictures of the damsels, skimmers and chasers.

Flutter on!

CJB

### Re: Buchan Boy

by Wurzel, 01-Jul-14 10:23 PM GMT

Great shots of the Skippers Buchan Boy 😊 It's great when the little golden blurs are on the scene 😊 I thought Wood or Mandarin Ducks for your UDOs but CJB got there first and Mandarins are more common so I'd go with that ID 😊.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Buchan Boy

by Mikhail, 02-Jul-14 09:22 AM GMT

your cockroach is a male Dusky Cockroach *Ectobius lapponicus*. Haven't seen any Scarce Chasers here either (Bournemouth area).

M.

### Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 02-Jul-14 12:03 PM GMT

Thanks for the ID's guys,think i might go back with the big lense to have a better go at those Mandarin,theres always Males around being as loud(colourfully)as they are,the females are rather more subtle in their tones!

Thanks on the cockroach Mikhail.

Post now edited to reflect new info.

Thanks again.

Dave

## Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 06-Jul-14 09:09 PM GMT

Friday 4th July 2014

On my way down to see my folks at Hythe in Kent,popped into the Wye NNR on the Downs North-East of Ashford,lovely spot.A vain attempt at locating my first Chalkhill Blues of the summer.....It was very windy,but very nice,sadly no Blues.

Plenty of Marbled Whites in "brace" posture!



*Wye NNR Marbled White*

That was that really,bit too windy. 😬

Thanks

## Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 12-Jul-14 08:32 PM GMT

Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th July 2014

Catching up with a couple of bird studies whilst in Kent,not the most glamorous of creatures,normally,but beauty without doubt,is in the eye of the beholder.

Herring Gulls hanging around for chips on the end of Broadstairs Harbour arm.



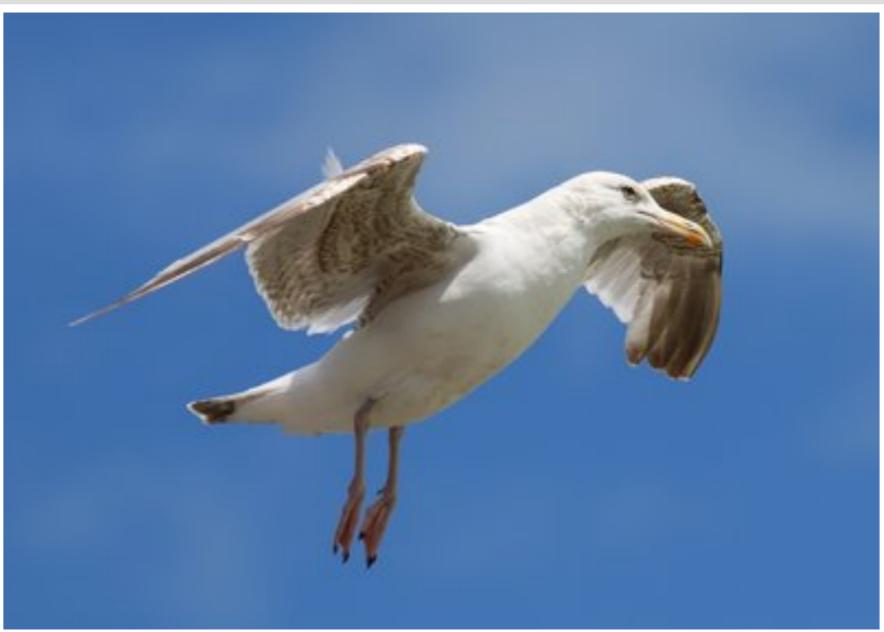
*Broadstairs Herring Gull*



*Broadstairs Herring Gull1*



*Broadstairs Herring Gull2*

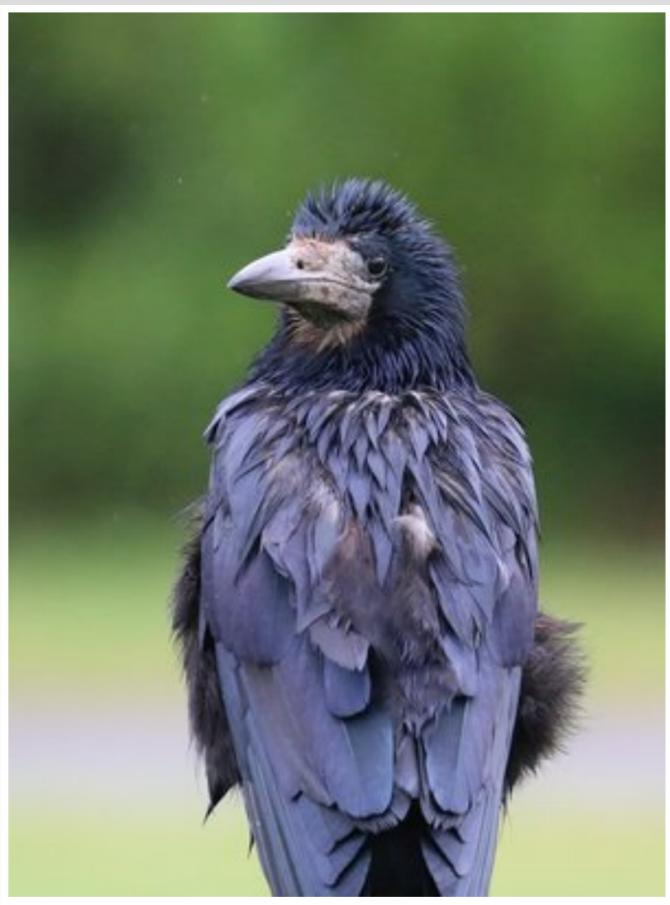


*Broadstairs Herring Gull3*



*Broadstairs Herring Gull4*

And some wet Rooks at the campsite.



*Hythe Rook*



*Hythe Rook2*

Thanks

**Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 12-Jul-14 09:17 PM GMT

Friday 11th July 2014

Bird on a wire.



*Rusper Road Swallow*

Saturday 11th July 2014

We have lots of Gatekeeper colonies in the local environs around Crawley, and I noted one in the garden very early this morning, emergence is away, and I find them beautiful butterflies. A good colony is always found by one of my local ponds. I went there and found one male! 😊



*GG Millpond Gatekeeper*

I figured we must be at the very beginning of the Gatekeeper emergence and wandered to where I know for certain they will be, and a good indicator of where we are.

The big 1950's landfill site between Crawley and Horsham is currently under housing development and the site has been in transition since I was a kid, so all the species found are the quick movers, the sentinel species which can adapt smartish.

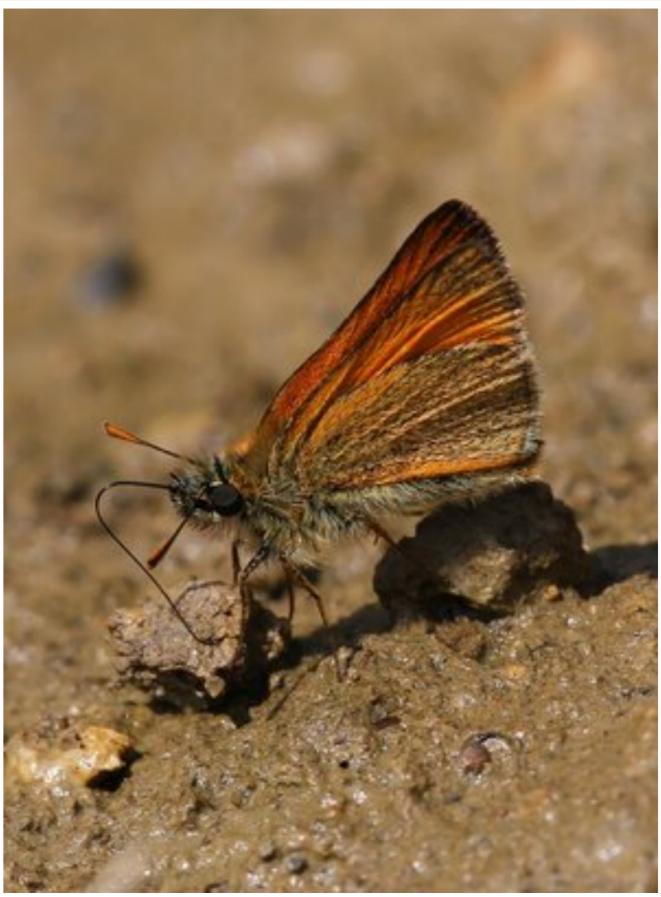
You never knew when the top "substrate" was likely to be turned, as it also took all the local hard core rubbish and any mud/soil that local housing projects didn't need. And believe me, there has been a lot of housing projects around this town!

Anyway, upshot is, it will be gone soon, but at the moment, there are swathes of grassland to wander through.

And swathes of open mud, it was quite warm today so I didn't chase too much but I did watch the Small Skippers probing for salts for a while.



*Kilnwood Small Skipper*



*Kilnwood Small Skipper2*

As with many ephemeral sites they can seem quite sterile, even though they look perfect, I finally located my Gatekeepers, a few were around and I'll go back tomorrow.



*Kilnwood Gatekeeper*

I wandered back over there towards the evening, leaning against an oak tree watching some buzzards when this little fella wandered up to me, I've had this happen a few times whilst sitting quietly, this one came very close.



*Kilnwood Fox*

The sadness is that this will all be gone pretty soon, I guess people need to live somewhere.

Thanks

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Wurzel, 13-Jul-14 09:38 PM GMT

Love the shots of the Small Skippers taking salts it's a cracker and a behaviour I've not witnessed myself before 🍷 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 15-Jul-14 08:55 PM GMT

Sunday 13th-Tuesday 15th July 2014

The Gatekeepers on my local grassland are starting to increase.

Bumped into this little fella again, two evenings on the trot whilst trying to get close to Buzzards



*Kilnwood Fox*

Essex Skipper Male



*Kilnwood Essex Skipper*

Evening Gatekeeper



*Kilnwood Gatekeeper*

About a dozen this evening.

Thanks

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Pauline, 16-Jul-14 06:46 AM GMT

You take some lovely photos Dave and I am enjoying your diary. Love your fox photos but I'm a bit concerned at his apparent tameness. You would be surprised at how many foxes suffer traumas to the head through various means and the resulting damage leaves them 'tame' and sometimes unable to catch/find food. I have 3 at home with neurological damage which manifests itself in epilepsy, narcolepsy etc. Please keep an eye on him and if you are concerned by all means pm me.

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 21-Jul-14 08:27 PM GMT

Monday 21st July 2014

A lovely summer evening on my local ex landfill site, Kilnwood. I was after Gatekeepers on the Ragwort but couldn't quite manage it, still there was enough around to cheer my Monday work blues!

I'm up to 14 species here now, I labelled it as fairly sterile once upon a time, glad to be proved wrong, think I caught a glimpse of Brown Argus as well, I will track it down at the weekend!!!

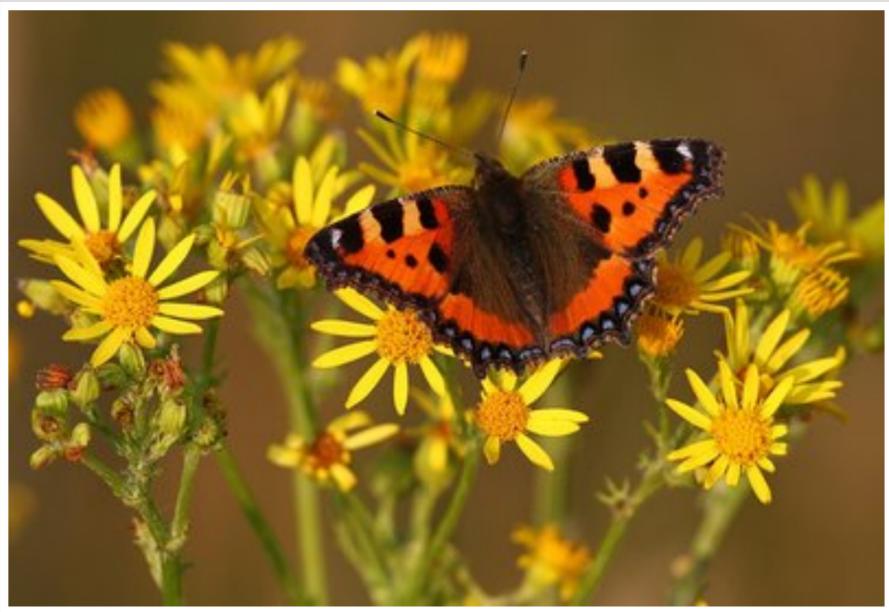


*Kilnwood Common Blue*



*Kilnwood Common Blue2*





*Kilnwood Small Tortoiseshell*



*Kilnwood Gatekeeper*



*Kilnwood Common Blue3*

Thanks

**Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 21-Jul-14 08:45 PM GMT

A couple of other noted things from a few days ago, forgot to mention.

This spider was making a bed out of Ringlet wings.



*Kilnwood funnel web*

And I managed a close up of the exquisite wing base markings on this Immature Broad Bodied Chaser



*Kilnwood BB Chaser*

Thanks

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Chris Jackson, 21-Jul-14 09:53 PM GMT

I love the close-up on the Immature Broad Bodied Chaser, Dave.  
Cheers, Chris

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Wurzel, 21-Jul-14 10:53 PM GMT

Love the golden glow of those evening shots BB and that close up is amazing – how on earth did you get that 🤩🍷😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 22-Jul-14 07:29 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel and Chris,

I use luck to get close to things 😄!,I suppose theres a skill in watching a well used perch as well!

Also the odd prayer ,"please stay,please stay.....amen",helps 😄

Thanks

## Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 25-Jul-14 08:13 PM GMT

Wednesday 23rd July 2014

So, trying to get some shots of my local Gatekeepers on the Ragwort, it was quite breezy in the low evening light, and initially I thought the shots were crud but looking later got one that wasn't too bad.

Cheeky Cinnabar moth caterpillar in the background as well, I bet there's some cracking shots to be had here, I will try!



*Kilnwood Gatekeeper*

Also, the Orthoptera is now just about to go all adult, I'll do a proper study on these over the forthcoming weeks.

Speckled Bush Cricket Male



*Kilnwood Speckled Bush Male*

Friday 25th July 2014

You know that thing that happens this time of year, standing looking at oak trees, ok in the countryside where nobody is around, decidedly weird in towns 😊 Looking for those silvery flickers of the Purple Hairstreaks, found one today on my mum's Oak, it came down into the garden, cool. There's a bigger bank of Oaks down the end of the street, I suspect this is where the colony is based. I have presence in Northgate, Crawley. good.



*Northgate, Crawley, Purple Hairstreak.*

One to work on next year,now for those Brownies and that Argus on my landfill site.  
Thanks

### Re: Buchan Boy

by Wurzel, 26-Jul-14 04:40 PM GMT

That sounds like a typical Purple Hairstreak experience – hours spent looking, waiting or watching for them and then one just drops in when you least expect it – good job you had your camera 😊📷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

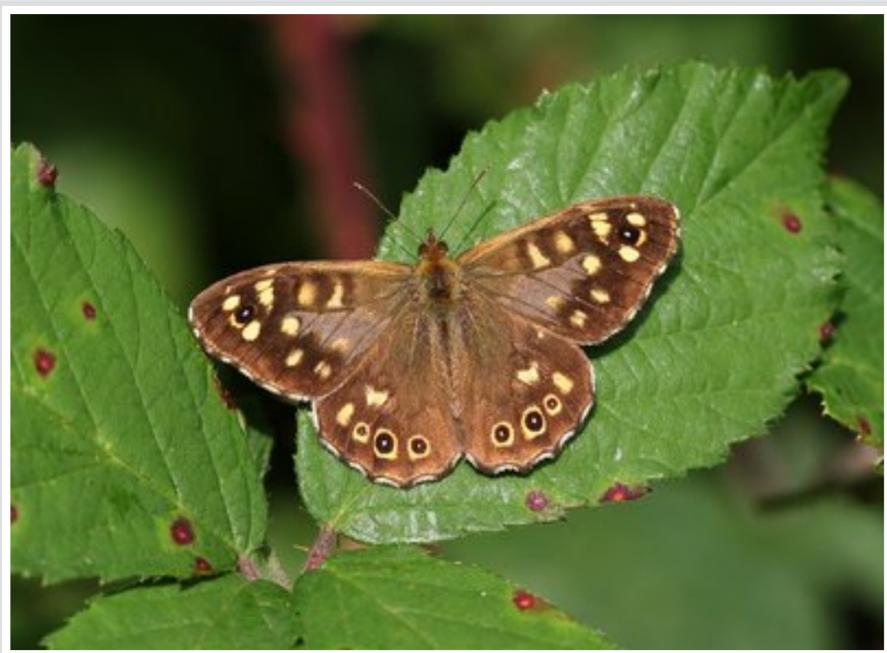
### Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 06-Aug-14 08:52 PM GMT

Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th August 2014

Spent a couple of hours on each of the above days trying to locate my local Brown Hairstreaks,other stuff crossed my path as my quest began.

Excellent second brood Specklies down by GG Millpond



*Gossops Green Millpond Speckled Wood*

Onto Rusper Road and Gatekeeper Central arrives,good year for them as well.



*Rusper Raod Gatekeeper*

A rather tired looking Red Admiral,haven't seen too many new ones this year.



*What a party!*

Did some work on my local Orthoptera as well



*Rusper Road Common Green Grasshopper Female*



*Rusper Road Dark Bush Cricket Male*

Roesels Bush Crickets marched across the country in the 90's and are still marching, 30 years ago there were hardly any records in West Sussex, now everywhere, beautiful as well.



Same for Lesser Marsh Grasshoppers, a recent addition to Crawley's local fauna. (Climate change anyone?)



*Rusper Road Lesser Marsh Grasshopper Female*



*Rusper Road Lesser Marsh Grasshopper Male*



*Rusper Road Meadow Grasshopper Female*

Hornets are tough to keep up with



*Rusper Raod Hornet*

Did I say theres lots of Gatekeepers this year.....



*Another Rusper Road Gatekeeper*

At last.....egg laying has commenced,best go back over the next few days,one will do cause that's all I saw! 😄



*Rusper Road Brown Hairstreak*

I grinned and went home.

Thanks

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 06-Aug-14 08:58 PM GMT

Missed out me Speckled Bush Cricket.



*Rusper Road Speckled Bush Cricket Male*

Not anymore.

## Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 07-Aug-14 08:18 PM GMT

Thursday 7th August 2014

The Rusper Road Brown Hairstreak hunt continues.....

The countryside around here is providing plenty of free grub at the moment,Blackberries,Plums and Hazelnuts are in abundance,although I'm fighting the local wildlife off for some of it.

This young Roe Deer was tucking in to my,yes my,Blackberries!



*Ooy that's my lunch!*



*Me?,yes you!*

Theres recently been a new species of Oak Bush Cricket colonised from the continent,this one however is the original and best!



*Rusper Road Oak Bush Cricket Male*

Around midday I was watching the plethora of Gatekeepers nectering on a knapweed bank just in case there were any Brownies hiding away, low and behold.



*Rusper Road Brown Hairstreak*

Then a fresh female came down and started sniffing around the tiniest of Blackthorn shoots, to egg lay.



*Rusper Road Brown Hairstreak2*

1 yesterday, 2 today, slowly does it, determined to get some decent shots this year, or at least deepen my understanding of these elusive gits! 😊 Think I have my suspicions on the master Ash as well, binos tomorrow!



*Rusper Road Gatekeeper*

Thanks

## Re: Buchan Boy

by Wurzel, 08-Aug-14 09:52 PM GMT

Good luck with the Brostreaks Buchan Boy 😊 I'm trying for my first this year tomorrow so long as the weather plays ball 😊 Nice shot of the excessa Hedge Brown BTW 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 09-Aug-14 07:24 PM GMT

Cheers Wurzel, not so successful today.

Saturday 9th August 2014

Had a look at a different area today that has all the right ingredients (Ash trees and Blackthorn), and although I ID'd two Brown Hairstreaks nothing came within camera distance, mind you I sat in a lovely meadow around midday. A huge Ash Tree with Blackthorn runs underneath, perfect but no target species today, nearly dozed off in all the loveliness 😊

Still, lovely to see the Skippers coming to the end of their summer.



*Willoughby Fields Essex Skipper*



*Willoughby Fields Small Skipper*

A couple of newbies as well





*Willoughby Fields Small Copper*

My search for the brownies will continue there.....  
Back to Rusper Road, and you know I love my grasshoppers, being August an all!



*Rusper Road Lesser Marsh Female*



*Rusper Road Meadow Male*



*Rusper Road Meadow Female*

These second brood Specklies are so lovely



*Rusper Road Speckled Wood*

That was that really, a few new Commas, Large Whites and Common Blues around, it's raining tomorrow apparently. 🤔

Thanks

## Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 13-Aug-14 09:44 PM GMT

Wednesday 13th August 2014

Went to Brockham Limekilns Nature Reserve, on the North Downs between Dorking and Reigate, today. Silver Spotted Skippers and Rufous Grasshoppers today. This whole place oozes loveliness, fab history, in the industrial sense, as well. 😡

A rather indulgent look at the Silver Spotted's as follows, they're doing fabulously well across the whole site.



*Brockham Limekilns Silver Spotted Skipper*



*Brockham Limekilns Silver Spotted Skipper2*



*Brockham Limekilns Silver Spotted Skipper3*



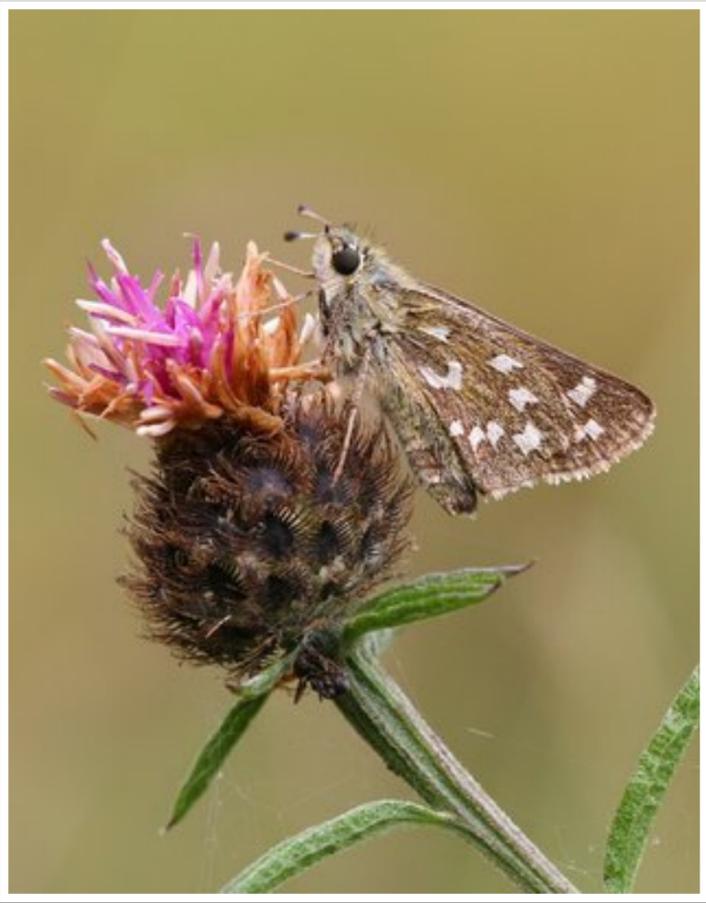
*Brockham Limekilns Silver Spotted Skipper4*



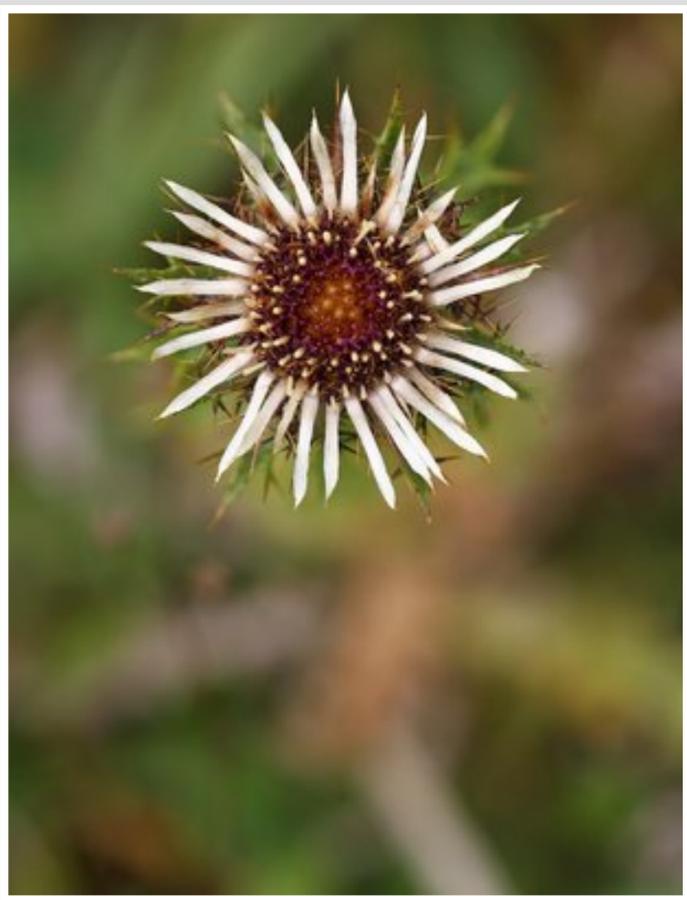
*Brockham Limekilns Silver Spotted Skipper5*



*Brockham Limekilns Silver Spotted Skipper6*



*Brockham Limekilns Silver Spotted Skipper7*



*Not sure, but it looked cool from above!(Carline Thistle, thanks Millerd!)*



*Brockham Limekilns Silver Spotted Skipper8*



*Brockham Limekilns Silver Spotted Skipper9*



*Brockham Limekilns Silver Spotted Skipper10*



*Brockham Limekilns Silver Spotted Skipper11*



*Brockham Limekilns Silver Spotted Skipper12*



*Brockham Limekilns Silver Spotted Skipper13*

Sorry,an indulgent look at the grasshoppers next.

Thanks

## Re: Buchan Boy

by Wurzel, 13-Aug-14 10:16 PM GMT

Great Silver Spots Buchan 😊 They're like little Teddy bears aren't they, my daughter thought they were the cutest butterflies they've seen 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Buchan Boy

by millerd, 13-Aug-14 10:22 PM GMT

Nice array of Silver-spotted Skippers – do they extend all along the slopes to Box Hill?

The flower without petals is a Carline Thistle, by the way – plenty of nectar, and Chalkhills in particular seem to like them.

Dave

## Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 14-Aug-14 07:10 AM GMT

Thanks chaps,

Millerd, thanks for the thistle ID, indeed where the habitat is correct they are along the scarp to Boxhill, haven't checked any of the other colonies this year but if they are doing half as well as this one, a good year is being had by them!

"The Butterflies Of Surrey revisited" book by Ken Willmot and friends is rather excellent reading, concerning this species.

Dave

## Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 14-Aug-14 08:48 AM GMT

Wednesday 13th August 2014 cont..

Brockham Limekiln's Grasshoppers.

Rufous and Stripe Winged Grasshoppers are particularly fond of the chalk with the North and South Downs being national strongholds for both species.

Stripe Winged first.



*Brockham Limekilns Stripe Winged Grasshopper Male*



*Brockham Limekilns Stripe Winged Grasshopper Female*

These can be confused with Common Green Grasshoppers, but if you look at how the wing cells are greatly enlarged on the Stripe Winged against the Common Green below, this is diagnostic.



*Brockham Limekilns Common Green Grasshopper Female*

The Rufous Grasshopper males are much smaller than the females and tend to not show such a range of colour variants, again the white tips to the clubbed antenna are diagnostic to this species.



*Brockham Limekilns Rufous Grasshopper Male*



*Brockham Limekilns Rufous Grasshopper Male*



*Brockham Limekilns Rufous Grasshopper Male*

Now the females show tremendous variation in colouring patterns, I'm not sure why so great, I've pondered writing about why this maybe, predation, ground colour, general randomness??? dunno.

There's also a rather attractive purple/red variety, i.e. a rufous Rufous 😊, but I've not seen one on the North/South downs yet, but it's quite easy to find on the calcareous hills/cliffs of Dorset and Devon, why this is?????

Anyway, this kind of thing fascinates oneself.....



*Brockham Limekilns Rufous Grasshopper Female*



*Brockham Limekilns Rufous Grasshopper Female*



*Brockham Limekilns Rufous Grasshopper Female*



*Brockham Limekilns Rufous Grasshopper Female*



*Brockham Limekilns Rufous Grasshopper Female*

All good that, there's also healthy populations of Meadow Grasshoppers and some old records of Mottled Grasshoppers residing here, but I've yet to locate these.

Thanks

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 15-Aug-14 05:01 PM GMT

Thursday 14th August 2014

Planned to spend the day on Ashdown Forest at various sites but managed about an hour on Hindleap Warren before a succession of thunderstorms halted my fun for the day. Great storms though!



*Hindleap, Ashdown Bog Bush Cricket Male*



*Hindleap, Ashdown Roesels Bush Cricket Female*

It rained.

Friday 15th August 2014

Wandered down to Rusper Rd and stood and stared at the knapweed nectaring station for a while, waiting for Brown Hairstreaks.....then a Silver washed Fritillary wafted into the action. I followed it down the banks of blackthorn until just when I thought I'd lost sight, it settled down on a Bramble thicket, took my chance, made my day. 😊



*Rusper Road Female Silver washed Fritillary*



*Rusper Road Female Silver washed Fritillary2*

Hoorah!  
Thanks

## **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 16-Aug-14 09:35 PM GMT

Saturday 16th August 2014

Still loving this second batch of Specklies.....



*Rusper Road Speckled Wood*



*Rusper Road Speckled Wood2*

Thanks

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Wurzel, 17-Aug-14 10:30 PM GMT

I was in Worcester over the weekend and there seemed to be Specklies absolutely everywhere – yet I can't recall seeing very many during the first brood 😊 Great shots of the Crickets and Grasshoppers recently Buchan – I used your post to help me identify a couple that I found recently 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 19-Aug-14 06:23 PM GMT

Glad to have helped with identifying some of your Grasshoppers Wurzel, it can get tricky at times..... 😊

Monday 18th August 2014

Latest instalment of my local Orthoptera and some other bits

Field Grasshoppers can be a pain.....good eyesight at close quarters needs to be good as they have hairy undersides and like to fly a lot.

Sadly I forgot about the males...but I'll correct that later.

Heres some Female Field Grasshoppers from Buchan Park.Habitat is virtually anywhere!



*Buchan Park Field Grasshopper Female*



*Buchan Park Field Grasshopper Female2*



*Buchan Park Field Grasshopper Female3*



*Buchan Park Field Grasshopper Female4*



*Buchan Park Field Grasshopper Female5*

Then things get tricky and eyesight at close quarters, plus an ability to keep up with them helps.....

Woodland Grasshopper Females can be confused with the above but check, firstly the pronotal keels (that saddle behind the head), not as sharply indented, secondly the undersides are diagnostic. They also tend to loiter near woodland, but not necessarily!



*Buchan Park Woodland Grasshopper Female*

The males are small and very dark, although sometimes they can be a dark green.



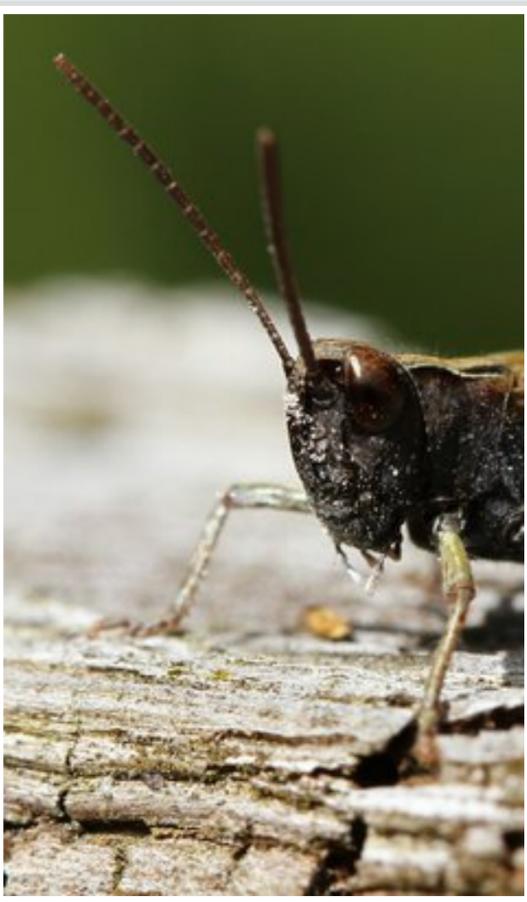
*Buchan Park Woodland Grasshopper Male*

The undersides are unmistakable, white palps and red/orange markings. (She was released unharmed 🤪)



*Buchan Park Woodland Grasshopper Underside*

Head shot showing the white palps.



*Buchan Park Woodland Grasshopper Male headshot*

Mixing these up with Lesser Marsh, Meadow and Common Greens, and it gets funny.....



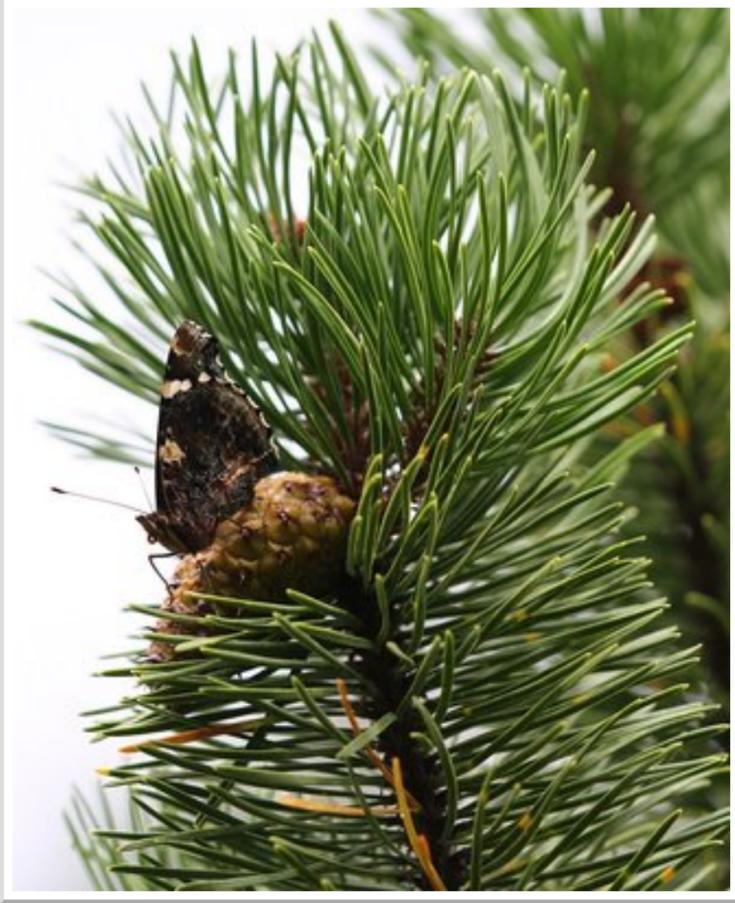
*Buchan Park Common Green Female*

Also noted.....

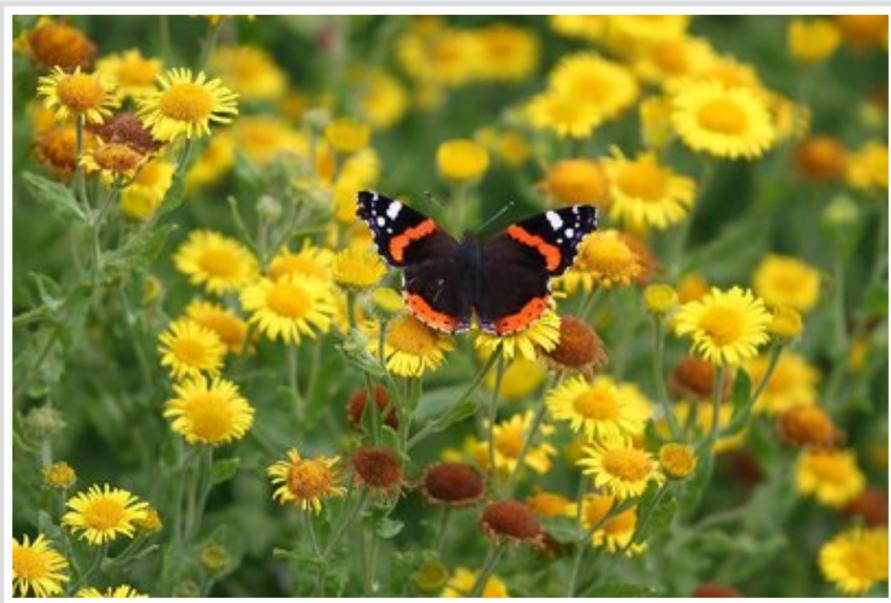


*Buchan Park Female Common Darter*

Shock,horror,there was even a butterfly.....



*Buchan Park Red Admiral*



*Buchan Park Red Admiral2*

Quickly wandered over the road to the ex Landfill site and the Coneheads are maturing.These are Crickets.



*Kilnwood Landfill Long winged Conehead Female*

That's today's stuff done.

Thanks

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by David M, 19-Aug-14 07:24 PM GMT

You sure give us an eclectic mix of insects, BB.

Lovely contrast of colours in the Red Admiral/Fleabane image.

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 19-Aug-14 08:29 PM GMT

Thanks Dave, this cool mid-August period changed my photography priorities, I'd normally leave the Orthoptera a bit longer.....

Also, that's the cleanest Red Admiral I've seen this year, seem pretty sparse round these parts in 2014.

Tuesday 19th August 2014

Drove over to Ashdown again to continue my search for the Mottled Grasshoppers, shame really, up until the late 70's I had colonies on St Leonards, but after many a fruitless search I've not located any there, so at present my nearest colonies of Bog Bush Crickets and Mottled Grasshoppers are about 15 miles east of Crawley.

Back on Hindleap to photograph a Female Bog Bush Cricket, I still haven't found the Mottled's here.



*Hindleap, Ashdown Bog Bush Cricket Female*

Moved onto the Sussex Wildlife Trust reserve, Old Lodge, to get my fill of Mottleds.



*Ashdown from Old Lodge*

Mottled Grasshoppers are tiny, the males are even tinier (er, is that a word!). The males have the clubbed antenna, much like Rufous but no white tips and are smaller.....the females just have thickened tips to the antenna, also they are my favourite grasshopper, just because the colourings are infinite.



*Ashdown, Old Lodge Mottled Grasshopper Male, greenish form.*



*Ashdown, Old Lodge Mottled Grasshopper Female, greenish form.*



*Ashdown, Old Lodge Mottled Grasshopper Male, brownishred form.*



*Ashdown, Old Lodge Mottled Grasshopper Female, brownishred form.*

Small Heath...a few around when the sun came out.



*Ashdown, Old Lodge, Small Heath*

Hopefully get on the Downs in the next few days.

Thanks

## **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 20-Aug-14 06:39 PM GMT

Wednesday 20th August 2014

Went to Castle Hill NNR today to see if the second brood Adonis's were popping up yet. Saw a couple of new males, but I'll go back in a few days time for pictures hopefully.

Plenty of Chalkhills and Common Blues,Brown Argus's,a Marbled white and a Clouded Yellow were also noted,Small Heaths and Small Coppers also.

I've been paying regular pilgrimage to this place for over 25 years now,I even considered moving down this way once,to be closer! 😊

My favourite beasties live here.



*Castle Hill Wart-Biter Male*

This female has sustained some damage to the base of her ovipositor,they are nearly at the end of their season,so hopefully she laid many eggs before injury.



*Castle Hill Wart-Biter Female*

In the late 1980's when I were a young lad,a friend and me found a very rare purple form here,I've been back to search for another year in,year out since then without success. 😞

*Agriope bruennichi* or the Wasp Spider used to be super rare,but it seems to have picked up in recent years.



*Castle Hill Agriope b*

Would love to have stayed,but commitments were calling,back at the weekend.



*Castle Hill Chalkhill Blue Male*



*Castle Hill Chalkhill Blue Male2*



*Castle Hill Common Blues*

If I could buy a house right here.....that would do 😄



*Castle Hill*

Thanks

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Wurzel, 23-Aug-14 09:47 PM GMT

Indeed Buchan Boy – that would make a stunning vista to have from your living room 😊 Great butterfly shots too BTW 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 24-Aug-14 09:50 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, its a lovely place.

Saturday 23rd August 2014

Back to Castle Hill to see the second brood Adonis's, the clouds got stuck in one of those really dark runs that drop the temperatures and dropped the light levels, it carried on like this most of the day, still mustn't grumble.

Thanks Steve Falk, he found me a Great Green Bush Cricket female.



*Castle Hill NNR Great Green Bush Cricket Female*



*Castle Hill NNR Wart Biter Female*

That compares both of our largest Bush Crickets.



*Castle Hill NNR Brown Argus*



*Castle Hill NNR Common Blue*



*Castle Hill NNR Adonis Blue Male*

I'd noticed some of the Common Blues were carrying "passengers" 😬



*Castle Hill NNR Common Blue with mite.*

When the Lady's tresses are popping up, I know we're into the second half of August, these chilly nights are reminiscent of October..... 😬



*Castle Hill NNR Autumn's Lady's-tresses*



*Castle Hill NNR Round-headed Rampion*

There was an old guy wandering round looking at the flowers,he pointed loads out to me,forgot me note pad,thanks old guy,I love those people that rattle off about 30 species in 3 seconds,went home in awe at the old guy's knowledge 😊  
Thanks

## **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 24-Aug-14 04:51 PM GMT

Sunday 24th August 2014

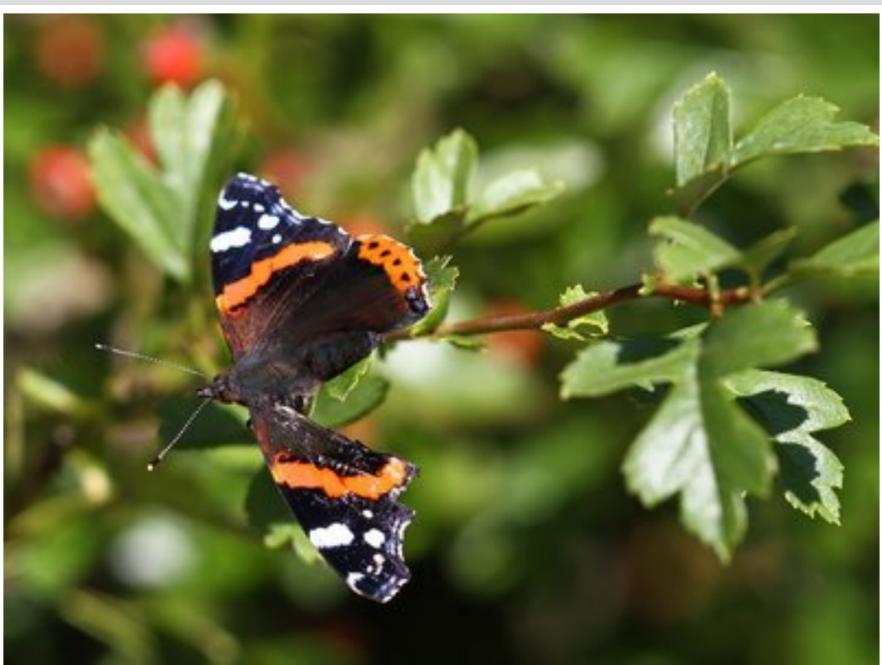
This morning screamed Brown Hairstreak,light breeze,strong sun,all good to see if anything was around on my local patch.

The Dragonflies were taking a while to get going,with the cool night just gone.



*Rusper Road Southern Hawker Male*

This Red Admiral was remarkable in that it could still fly!



*Rusper Road Red Admiral*

one of the local Jays doing that thing their wings.



*Rusper Road Jay*

I've learnt a lot about my local Brown Hairstreaks this year, not seen too many but I think I've found the important trees. Saw three females this morning, and this one hung around on the lower side of one of the huge Blackthorn thickets for a good half an hour. A dog, not on a lead, nearly ruined it for me but luckily the butterfly wasn't too spooked, I may have sworn at the owner, oops sorry. 😡



*Rusper Road Brown Hairstreak*



*Rusper Road Brown Hairstreak2*



*Rusper Road Brown Hairstreak3*



*Rusper Road Brown Hairstreak4*



*Rusper Road Brown Hairstreak5*

Its always a nice feeling when you get some reasonable shots, hope we get some reasonable weather in the upcoming weeks, so I can try and track some more down.

Thanks

## **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 29-Aug-14 08:29 AM GMT

Thursday 28th August 2014

Some nice mid-morning sun sent me to my Rusper Road site in search of any Brown Hairstreaks, only one female noted high up on a Blackthorn thicket, she was unwilling to descend!

A quick check around to see what was left. Still some good looking Meadow Browns and the second brood Specklies are still looking good.



*Rusper Road Speckled Wood*



*Rusper Road Meadow Brown*



*Rusper Road Migrant Hawker Male*

Thanks

## Re: Buchan Boy

by Wurzel, 29-Aug-14 09:49 PM GMT

Great set of reports Buchan, I remember reading somewhere that the fore wings provide the power/lift and the hind wings allow banking/turning so was the Red Admiral flying in circles 😊 Great set of Brostreaks too – especially number 3 🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Buchan Boy

by David M, 29-Aug-14 10:59 PM GMT

"Buchan Boy" wrote:

Still some good looking Meadow Browns...

Interesting that. I haven't seen a Meadow Brown here in south Wales for over a week now and those were in extremely ragged condition.

## Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 30-Aug-14 09:23 AM GMT

Come to think of it Wurzel the Red Admiral only flew around the field margins in an anti-clockwise direction,perhaps it couldn't turn right! 😊 Nature can be right hilarious at times as well! 😂

Friday 29th August 2014

Doing some pond clearance at a private site in Surrey,at lunch,got a chance to have a look around.

Some lovely fresh Large White's around,I'll hunt for a female this weekend.(Just noticed how that reads!) 😡



*Newdigate Large White Male*



*Newdigate Large White Male2*

And the Commas are starting their alcoholic period!



*Newdigate Comma*

But the Dragonflies at this site are its speciality, teaming with them, could of done with a bit more sun, ho well.



*Newdigate Southern Hawker Female*



*Newdigate Imm Male Migrant Hawker*



*Newdigate Broad Bodied Chaser Female*



*Newdigate Imm Southern Hawker Female*

Pondwork.



*Before*



*After*

Thanks

## **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 31-Aug-14 09:41 PM GMT

Sunday 31st August 2014

Last day of August, September tomorrow....cripes 🤪

Had a trek round my local patch in search of a Large White Female, new brood, plenty of males, the one female I did spot wasn't obliging..

Did manage to study the Brimstones on the Fleabane though.



*Buchan Brimstone*



*Buchan Brimstone2*

Also worth noting a very lovely fresh Female Common Blue but failed miserably with any decent shots..

But chasing around the local Odonata around bore fruit in the shape of a male Golden Ringed Dragonfly, we get a couple of records a year locally but there are no local colonies, they wander far and wide. St Leonards possibly, acidic, peaty streams are its normal habitat, heathy stuff.



*Buchan Golden Ringed Dragonfly Male*



*Buchan Common Darter Male*

A quick check across the A264 to the ex landfill site to put one more of the Orthoptera in the diary.



*Kilnwood Long-winged Conehead Male*

Autumns coming.....chestnuts.....I love chestnuts,and the trees look heavily laden 😊

Thanks

## Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 21-Sep-14 09:17 PM GMT

Friday-Sun 5th-7th September 2014

Bit of catching up to do.....I always put some time aside at this time of year to get down the New Forest to catch up with a couple of national rarities in the grasshopper world.

The New Forest and Purbeck around the Poole basin are the best areas in the country for Orthoptera and me, being interested in all things Grasshopper and Crickety,tend to be drawn to these areas in late summer.

Specifically these areas are the national strongholds for the Large Marsh and Heath Grasshoppers.The Large Marsh preferring the scary "quaking bogs" and the Heath preferring er Heath,a bit drier in the habitat requirements.

Just like butterflies there are colour variations within populations and one of the jewels is the purple form of the Large Marsh,and although the Purbeck colonies seem to possess greater frequency of the purple ones,the same cannot be said for

the New Forest populations,in fact I've never found one in the New Forest.

I camped at quite a popular campsite on the edge of Lymington and in rather murky conditions set about hunting the bogs and heaths of the Southern parts of the New Forest in search of my quarry.

Wooton Bog,to the South West of Brokenhurst contains a good colony of Large Marsh's and it wasn't long before specimens were located,the light was pretty poor,but I did manage to find a rather striking,freshly moulted, female Large Marsh but

photos were naff,back tomorrow for them.

Lovely Small Copper though.



*Wooton Bog Small Copper2*



*Wooton Bog Small Copper*



*Wooton Bog over to the left*

Next day wizzed over to Bagnum Bog at the far Southern end of Kingston Great Common near Burley, as the sun finally broke through the male Large Marsh's started to "pop", they stridulate differently to other grasshoppers, its quite unique.

The males are striking and readily fly when approached, with their yellow and red legs trailing out behind them, its tricky to keep up and they will have flight bursts upto 10metres, also the added scariness of these bogs makes for a good

adrenaline rush, if crashing through a quaking bog is your thing. Actually that's dangerous, know your limitations! (Always check where the "quaking" begins and make sure its safe before any attempt to walk on it is made, I always check with a

birch pole!)



*Bagnum Bog Large Marsh Male*

The females are slightly more "skulky" and will wander around the undergrowth in short hops, they are bulky insects and flight is more of an absolute necessity, than a normal reaction. So watching footfall is forever going on when searching for the females.



*Bagnum Bog Female Large Marsh*

Now, I've searched for a Purple one here many a time with no joy, today my luck was in, absolutely the find of this year for me, one of Britain's most impressive insects, without doubt.



*Bagnum Bog Large Marsh Female, purple form.*



*Bagnum Bog Large Marsh Female, purple form.2*

Fantastic, a day I will never forget and the shots to do it justice. A good colony here, counted around 40 individuals in about 4 hours, a good survey will produce a good number, I'm sure. Wandered back to the car and still had some energy to chase a couple of Grayling around.



*Bagnum Bog Grayling*



*Bagnum Bog, still quaking!*

Then up to Vales Moor at the Northern end of Kingston Great common for the Heathies and a stronghold of these in the New Forest, they like short heather around those mini-gorse bushes.

It took a little while but lady luck shone on me again, this was the last grasshopper I learnt to identify "on the hoof", always struggled with these but finally got it. From above they have two dark bands across the hind femora and the black

wedges on the pronotum extend to the back of it. The field grasshopper is similar but the black wedges do not extend to the back of the pronotum.



*Vales Moor Heath Grasshopper Female*

And from above showing the pronotum wedges and dark bands across the back legs.



*Vales Moor Heath Grasshopper Female 2*

The males are smaller and tricky little blighters, also very dark, needing to lift the exposure compensation to gain the detail.



*Vales Moor Heath Grasshopper Male*



*Vales Moor*

Went back to Wooton Bog to locate the freshly moulted female and once again refound my quarry.



*Wooton Bog Large Marsh Female, newly moulted*

At first the yellow hew had me suspicious and I needed to consult an expert or two, but we reckon this one probably became adult within the last two days, brilliant.

That was a day for me, spent the evening at Keyhaven having a few beers and reflecting on a marvellous day for me and grasshoppers! Just to cap it a brown form Long-winged conehead female appeared as I was kicking the grass on the banks

of one of the ditch's, amazing these are always bright green with the form being "occasional", first I'd photographed.



*Keyhaven Long winged Conehead female brown form*

Then she tries to lay eggs into this hogweed stem which was a prop for photography, action shot, bizarre contortions!



*Keyhaven Long winged Conehead female brown form2*

Watched the egrets for a while before wandering back to the campsite. Went to another bog on the Sunday but the weather was all foggy and dank, so no more bug hunting this weekend, went home a happy chappy.



*Keyhaven Egret*



*View from Keyhaven*

Isn't there a rare Fritillary sometimes found over that way.....another day maybe 😊

Thanks

## **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Wurzel, 21-Sep-14 09:53 PM GMT

Fascinating reports Buchan, I want to visit these quaking bogs now 😊 Beautiful Coppers too 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Buchan Boy

by David M, 22-Sep-14 12:34 AM GMT

Those are stunning grasshoppers. Thanks for sharing.

### Re: Buchan Boy

by Pauline, 24-Sep-14 07:55 AM GMT

Great account of the Grasshoppers BB and lovely photos too. Inspirational stuff – I've never really been interested in them before but you seem to have me hooked. I'll be taking more interest in future.

### Re: Buchan Boy

by Goldie M, 24-Sep-14 11:23 AM GMT

Great Shots BB of the Grass Hopper, I've seen them in the grass but never so close before. Goldie 😊

### Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 05-Oct-14 06:37 PM GMT

Sunday 5th October 2014

I'd spent good time on the ex-landfill patch to the West of Crawley, this summer. I'd noted Kestrels there and watched them all through the year, so I thought I'd have a go at getting some shots. Not a lot of cover so getting close is quite difficult, it's a learning process. The morning was beautiful after a frosty night.



*Kilnwood Landfill Kestrel*

Also learning to get close to the Goldfinch's, always wanted that shot of them on the thistle heads, still waiting, but I'm patient. 😊



*Kilnwood Landfill Goldfinch*

I wandered around the local woods for a while, chased lapwings and buzzards around to no avail and when the sun peaked wandered back to the landfill, not really thinking of butterflies, glanced out across Fleabane, Thistles and Ragwort that have colonised and noted a couple of yellow butterflies, quick check Clouded Yellows, blimey. I had my big lens with me so I legged it home to pick up the macros and returned, early discussion suggests these are local hatch's, they were all fresh, not sure what the host plants are here. There's some pea looking plants and possibly Lucerne, best go back and check that. Also noted were good amounts of Small Coppers and Common Blues in single figures. Here's some photos of Crawley Clouded Yellows and friends. About half a dozen Clouded Yellows, 2 females.



*Kilnwood Landfill Clouded Yellow*



*Kilnwood Landfill Clouded Yellow2*



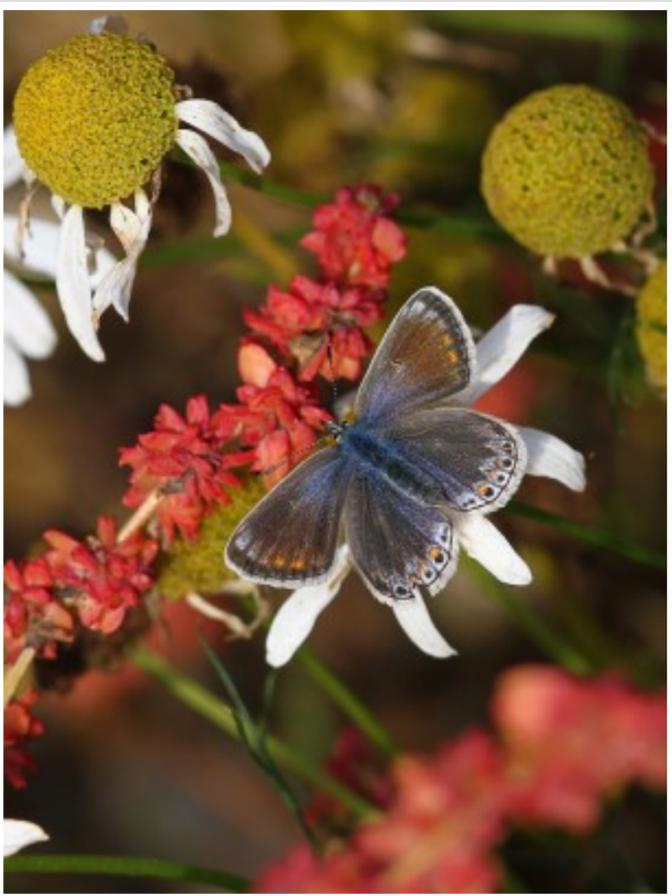
*Kilnwood Landfill Small Copper*



*Kilnwood Landfill Small Copper2*



*Kilnwood Landfill Clouded Yellow3*



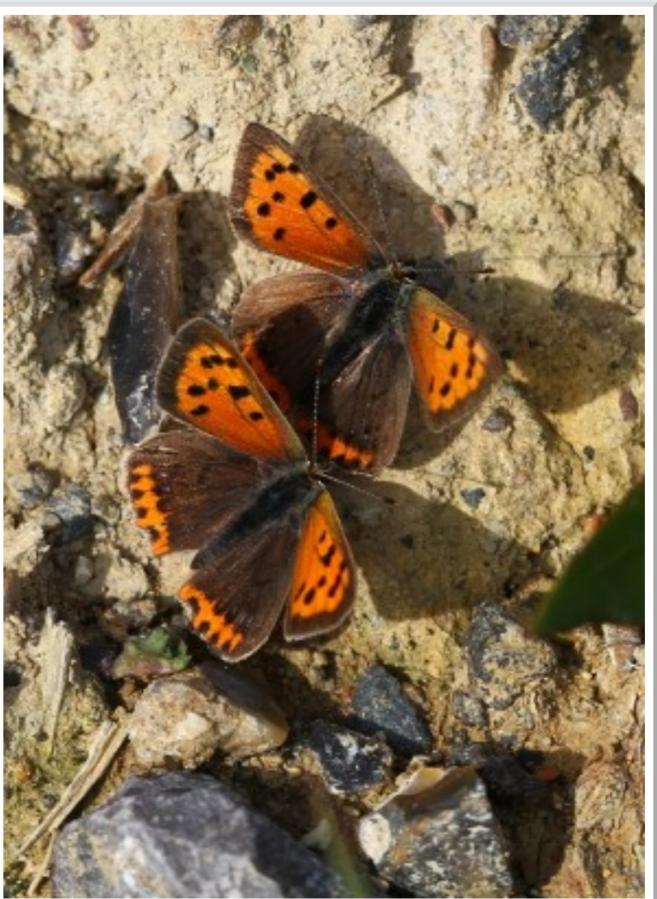
*Kilnwood Landfill Common Blue*



*Kilnwood Landfill Clouded Yellow4*



*Kilnwood Landfill Common Blue2*



*Kilnwood Landfill Small Copper3*



*Kilnwood Landfill Small Copper4*



*Kilnwood Landfill Clouded Yellow5*



*Kilnwood Landfill Clouded Yellow6*



*Kilnwood landfill, soon to be developed.*

All that in early October, apologies for not much commentary, the pictures are enough today!

Thanks

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Wurzel, 05-Oct-14 08:42 PM GMT

No worries Buchan – the pictures are brill 😊 I hope there is a massive delay in the development as that seems like a great little site 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by millerd, 05-Oct-14 08:55 PM GMT

Wow. Those Yellows are amazing – the second one in particular has such depth of colour... 😊 🇬🇧

Dave

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by David M, 05-Oct-14 09:10 PM GMT

The south coast seems to be oozing Small Coppers and Clouded Yellows right now!

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Neil Freeman, 05-Oct-14 10:01 PM GMT

Great report and photos, I echo Dave's comment about the second CY, a lovely deep colour.

Cheers,

Neil.

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Goldie M, 06-Oct-14 03:45 PM GMT

Every thing seem to happen in the South this time of year, we in the North can only long 🇬🇧

Love your Clouded Yellow photo's in fact all your photo's look great 😊 Goldie 😊