

## Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

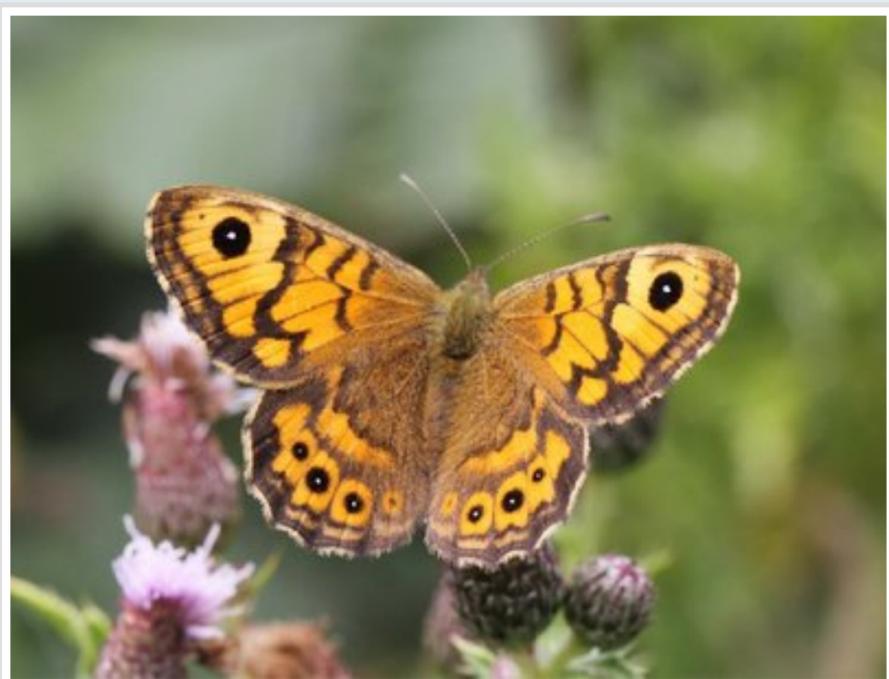
by Butterfliesaurus rex, 18-Jan-14 11:43 AM GMT

East Sussex has some very good sites for Wall Browns, my local area in particular. I'm rather happy about this because they are a favourite of mine. Of course this does not stop them from driving me mad, they are hyper sensitive to my lumbering presence so getting a half decent photo can be a real challenge.

Taken on the 11th of July 2011



Taken on the 27th of July 2011



B'saurus

## Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 20-Jan-14 11:04 PM GMT

Fantastic Wall Browns, that's the type of shot I'd love to have of a female 🍷 😊 Something to work for in 2014 me thinks!

Have a goodun  
Wurzel

## Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 24-Jan-14 08:01 PM GMT

Thank you Wurzel 😊 I certainly have to work very hard when it comes to Wall Browns, they either land on the least picturesque spot they can find or if you manage to catch one feeding they just don't sit still long enough for the camera to focus. Worst of all is that they are often extremely difficult to approach without scaring them off. Of course this only makes it a lot more rewarding when you finally do get a half decent shot of one. I hope you manage get a fantastic photo of a female WB this year.

B'saurus

## Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 24-Jan-14 08:50 PM GMT

In a few months time I will be making my annual pilgrimage to the BC reserve at Park Corner Heath hoping to see and 'perhaps' photograph some Small

Pearl Bordered Fritillaries. Unfortunately I hardly saw any SPBF's at the reserve last year. I am hoping that some good spring weather will come to the rescue in 2014 and with any luck they will make a comeback.

Taken on the 13th of June 2011



Taken on the 6th of June 2012



Taken on the 6th of June 2012



B'saurus

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 25-Jan-14 12:05 AM GMT

Cracking shots of the SPBFs Rex 😊 I'm lucky that Bentley is a good site for them and it's just down the road. Good luck with them in 2014 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by William, 25-Jan-14 10:51 AM GMT

Great Shots Rex - you have inspired me to get some better than my current ones, that underside is stunning!

## Re: Butterflysaurus rex

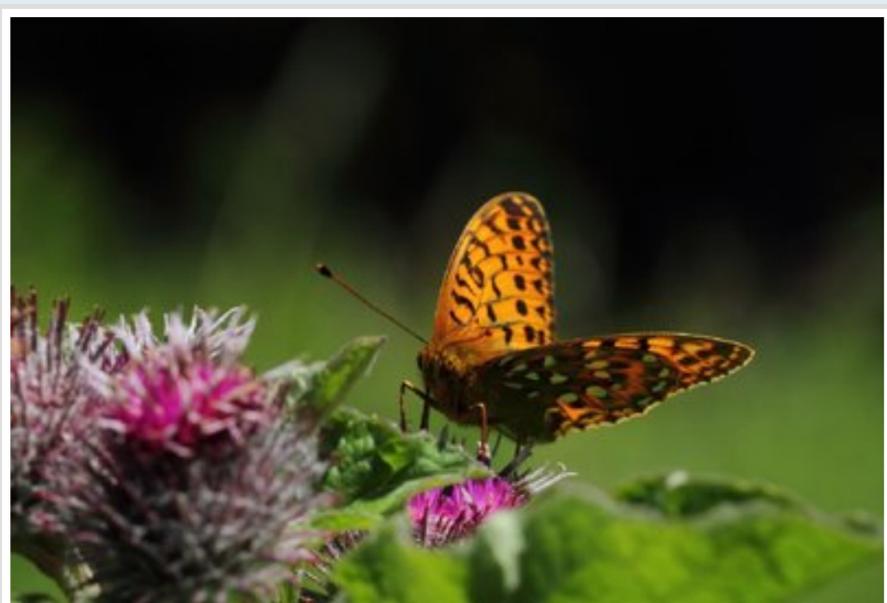
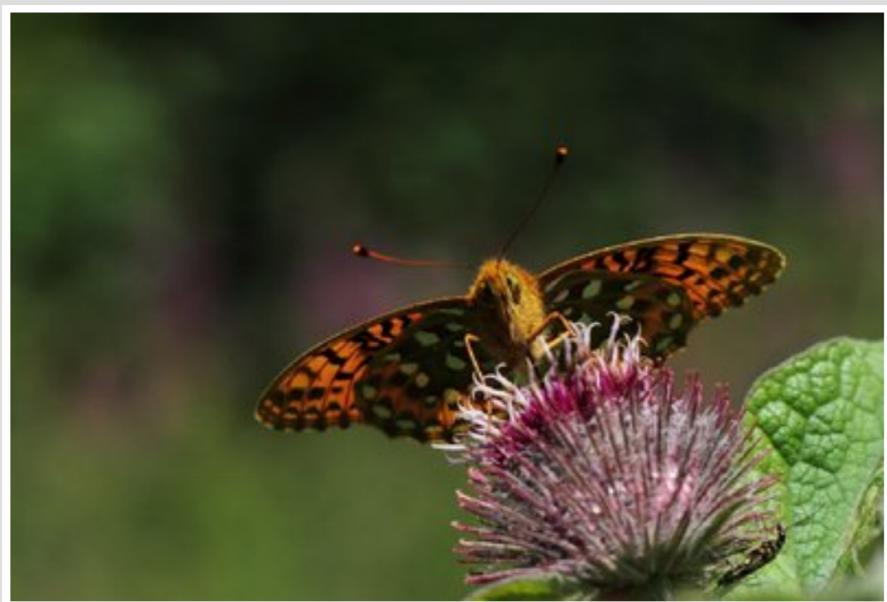
by Butterflysaurus rex, 04-Feb-14 09:34 PM GMT

Many thanks Wurzel and William, I hope I'm not pushing my luck by posting up even more Fritillary photos but I'm feeling in a Fritillary kind of mood so here goes.....wish me luck 😊

After a spell of illness I finally feel well enough to continue with my diary and post up few of my older photos. Better still I've really enjoyed catching up with everyone's personal diaries & other postings that I've missed.

Way back in June 2011 I was lucky enough to stumble upon a veritable bonanza of Dark Green Fritillaries. I had a tremendous time for a few hours trying to make the most of this golden opportunity – I think I filled up my memory card on that particular day.

All taken on the same day on 23rd of June 2011





B'saurus

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 16-Feb-14 06:09 PM GMT

White Admirals are quite high on my "tricky to photograph" list, they are so active during hot summer days that I rarely catch them sitting still for long enough to grab a half decent shot.

One day I hope to get a decent photo 'or two' of a nice fresh WA but until that day these are the best I've been able to manage.

Both taken on the 23rd of June 2011.



B'saurus

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 18-Feb-14 10:54 PM GMT

Cracking DGFs Rex 🍷 I share your frustration with White Admirals. For me they're either bombing along at ninety miles an hour or are so old that they're worn and past it. If I do find a good looking specimen it never wants to close it's wings to show me the beautiful under wing 😬😬 Still if we got all the shots we wanted when we wanted them it wouldn't be half as much fun 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Neil Freeman, 19-Feb-14 08:14 PM GMT

Hi Rex, ditto with the White Admirals.

I am still after a good photo of a nice fresh WA in a decent pose myself, maybe this year...

I suppose that spending so much time flitting about brambles means that they soon get a bit raggedy around the edges. Mind you, watching their graceful flight as they skim and glide along the rides is a joy in itself.

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 19-Feb-14 09:41 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel and Neil 😊 with no Purple Emperors in my immediate locality WA's are much more than just a consolation prize. As you say Wurzel if it were easy it wouldn't be much fun. I've yet to even see a mating pair of White Admirals so that's another thing I've got that to try and photograph as well!

I'm sure that is why they get so tatty in such a short time Neil, I guess you've got to be around just after one has freshly emerged to even stand a chance.

Hopefully at least one of us will get lucky this year 😊

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Maximus, 20-Feb-14 06:30 PM GMT

Some lovely photos in your Jan to Feb posts B Rex, I'm sure you'll get your White Admiral shots in 2014.

Mike

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 23-Feb-14 07:30 PM GMT

#### "Maximus" wrote:

Some lovely photos in your Jan to Feb posts B Rex, I'm sure you'll get your White Admiral shots in 2014.

Mike

That's very kind of you Mike, your kind comments are most appreciated 😊 I will certainly keep on trying, what I need is some really good luck 😊

B'saurus

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 28-Feb-14 06:50 PM GMT

Until the glorious summer last year I could not help but notice the worrying decline in numbers of the Small Copper in my area during the couple of summers preceding 2013. Sadly one of my favourite local spots for Small Coppers was totally destroyed by a power company as they removed a telegraph pole and installed a new transformer. 🙄

The place used to be packed with Small Coppers before they caused 'maximum damage' and eradicated all butterflies from the site. Last summer for the first time in couple of years I saw the first SC re colonise the site. I doubt it will ever retain it's former glory but it was great to see the return, they are one of my favourites.

These were both taken at the site before it was ruined on the 25th of September 2010.



B'saurus

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 01-Mar-14 12:01 AM GMT

Cracking shots Rex 😊 I can't stand it when great little areas get wiped out 😞 but you've just got to hope that life will find a way back, and 2013 was a great year for Small Coppers so hopefully they'll return 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 02-Mar-14 10:02 PM GMT

Thank you Wurzel 😊 yes I was angry and upset when I saw what they had done. There's a lot of heavy handed "management" of the countryside around here, not at all helpful when it comes to wildlife 😡

But hope springs eternal, with any luck things continue to improve there, unfortunately the butterfly friendly Fleabane has all gone from the site.

At least I found a new good spot for Common blues not far away 😊

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 04-Mar-14 08:09 PM GMT

AT LAST

I finally got my season started today with the help of Badgerbob, I saw my first Small Tortoiseshell of 2014 as it flew past. After that things just got better and better when Bob kindly showed me some Wall Brown Larvae at his local spot.

Bob located 5 in under an hour, without his help I would still be out there looking.

When we next encounter these as adults they certainly won't let us get this close for a photo 😊 Thanks for a brilliant afternoon Bob 😊

The first two are of a little'un.



This one was approximately twice the size.



B'saurus

## Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by badgerbob, 04-Mar-14 08:29 PM GMT

Hey James, good to see you got some great shots of them. A good couple of hours spent and glad we found some and you got your first butterfly of the year, adult and baby!!

## Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Maximus, 04-Mar-14 08:47 PM GMT

Nice shots of the Wall Brown larvae James 😊

Mike

## Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 05-Mar-14 06:41 PM GMT

Thanks very much Bob I'm very glad you found some 😊 I'm really pleased with the photos. It was nice to see my first butterfly of the year in such good company, usually I'm alone when I see my first one of the year so it made for a nice change.

I'm off to a great start 😊

B'saurus

## Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 05-Mar-14 06:45 PM GMT

Thank you Mike 😊 it was fantastic to photograph a species that I've only ever seen as an adult, Wall Browns are one of my favourite butterflies so I'm rather chuffed.

B'saurus

## Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 05-Mar-14 11:50 PM GMT

Good to see you got your Wall cats Rex, and cracking shots they are too 😊 And you're off the mark too -ace!

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 06-Mar-14 08:21 PM GMT

Cheers Wurzel 😊 Keep an eye out for my next post when I cautiously start my "sightings" Diary for 2014. With it only being early March I don't know how many more entries I'll be able to make but I had a great day today so.....more to follow in a mo 😊

## Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 06-Mar-14 09:29 PM GMT

With signs of spring showing everywhere, and a gloriously warm and sunny afternoon on offer today I could not help but be tempted to venture outside for a couple of hours. There were two things that I was hoping to accomplish today and amazingly I managed to do both of them..... today was a good day 😊

The first of these was to get a proper look at some butterflies, I saw one fly past "at speed" on Tuesday with Badgerbob but nothing settled meaning no photos. As soon as I arrived at the path leading to my ultimate destination I disturbed what I thought it was a Small Tortoiseshell. After tracking it for a while it landed and I got my first shot of the year, not a Small Tort after all! But a very tired and tatty Red Admiral, what a little warrior!



Further along the path I caught a glimpse of a Peacock chasing after a Small Tortoiseshell, things are definitely looking up I thought to myself 😊

After another hundred yards or so I reached my destination. I've been telling Badgerbob about a spot near me where we get very good numbers of Wall Brown and that it would be a very good place to search for some Wall Larvae. There was a cool but gentle breeze the sun felt nice and warm so I was hoping against the odds that it would tempt a Wall caterpillar into view. I didn't fancy my chances much, I'd only just seen my first Wall Larvae thanks to Bob so finding one in a totally different location and flying solo this time I felt it would be some task. Nevertheless I intended to give it my best shot, if I failed then at least I'd managed to get my first butterfly photo of 2014.

Attempting to locate a Wall Brown Larva is exactly like trying to find a very small needle in an enormous haystack!

After searching for about 15 minutes something caught my eye, it looked like a larva but it was very dark, definitely not a Wall then – I thought. On closer inspection I appeared to have found a vacated larval skin. If anyone has any idea what it is/was please let me know.



After that false alarm I stopped for a spot of lunch. Feeling refreshed I resumed my search, maybe the food had sharpened my senses but "I think it was pure luck" my efforts were rewarded with my first solo discovery of a Wall Brown Larva in a local place where I had suspected that there simply had to be some.

Compared with the ones I saw 'thanks to Bob' the size of this little fellow was roughly somewhere between the small one and the large one in last Tuesday's post.

This is where I found him/her enjoying some early spring warmth 😊



I then managed to carefully isolate the larva on it's blade of grass before returning it safely to the place I'd found it. Here's the larva on a blade of grass with my finger for scale, as you can see it was pretty small.



And finally a few more shots of my little new found friend 😊





With that wonderful discovery I happily started back for home, on the way I spotted another Small Tortoiseshell, I couldn't resist stopping for a quick record shot.



It was a really enjoyable afternoon, and I promise that's it for Wall larva for now..... well maybe one more, but next time it will be just for fun 😊

What do ya reckon Bob not too bad for a beginner eh? 😊

B'saurus

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 06-Mar-14 10:14 PM GMT

Well you've heard of "spot the ball" competitions. This ones called SPOT THE WALL 😊

Just for fun can anyone spot the wall larva, sorry no cash or real prizes. I hope it's not too easy..... good luck 😊



B'saurus

### Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by badgerbob, 06-Mar-14 10:23 PM GMT

I can see 5 in there!!! Only joking, but well done on finding your own little chap.

### Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 07-Mar-14 10:40 PM GMT

Even better sightings Rex plus self found Wall larvae 🍷😄 Mind you I've hurt my eyes playing your "spot the Wall" game, blooming Mozilla only zooms in a tiny bit 😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 07-Mar-14 11:36 PM GMT

#### "badgerbob" wrote:

I can see 5 in there!!! Only joking, but well done on finding your own little chap.

😄 Well I can believe that Bob 😄 perhaps I should have said "spot the most obvious Wall larva" 😄

B'saurus

### Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 07-Mar-14 11:44 PM GMT

#### "Wurzel" wrote:

Even better sightings Rex plus self found Wall larvae 🍷😄 Mind you I've hurt my eyes playing your "spot the Wall" game, blooming Mozilla only zooms in a tiny bit 😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Sorry about your poor eyes Wurzel, I'll give you a clue, it's down from the top, up from the bottom, right a little, left a little, and it's somewhere in the grass 😄

Honestly there really is one in there, if it's a bit too hard I can post a slightly easier version. However if you go out looking to find a Wall caterpillar this

is what it's like but on a much bigger scale! 🤪

B'saurus

## Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by NickMorgan, 08-Mar-14 11:20 AM GMT

No wonder I have never found a Wall caterpillar in the field!

## Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 08-Mar-14 06:35 PM GMT

Hi Nick 😊 the camouflage on these little guys is just fantastic. You either need loads of patience and dedication (or like me) have a bit of good luck. I think my find had a lot more to do with the latter 😊 The one thing I have going for me (other than pretty good eyesight) is the knowledge that there are usually very good numbers of Wall Brown in that area 'almost every year' so I thought I had a pretty reasonable chance of finding one.

Best Wishes

B'saurus

## Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 08-Mar-14 07:05 PM GMT

### 8th of March 2014

Today I made my first trip of the year to Park Corner BC reserve in weather more akin to early April than early March!

Only a few minutes after arriving I spotted my first Comma of 2014 and it was in fabulous condition too. I saw a few more Commas during my time there

including a pair of males spiralling high up above my head, always a lovely sight 😊



There were also Male Brimstones aplenty ceaselessly patrolling (in vain for the moment) for females, it's a sight that makes my heart sing every spring. Predictably they were almost impossible to photograph so I just sat back and enjoyed the spectacle occasionally being treated to a flypast at close quarters.

With these two species in the bag I've seen all of our resident hibernators in the space of a week 😊

In what has been a week of firsts I saw my first Adder of the year – this individual was beautifully marked.

They are rather tricky to approach when it gets warm but this one allowed me a few shots before slinking off into the undergrowth.



I've had a really good week so far and the forecast says more glorious weather is in store for Sunday, heaven knows we need some sunshine after all that rain.

A great start to 2014 for me, I hope it continues.....

B'saurus

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 09-Mar-14 11:52 PM GMT

Great set of the Comma and the Adder is lush Rex 😊🍷 I do hope that this continues and we don't have a repeat of 2012 when it all went cold and damp again after a few great weeks in March 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 10-Mar-14 12:53 AM GMT

I've been thinking the same thing Wurzel, I suppose we can only hope that the jet stream behaves itself this year. I got lucky with the Comma and Adder encounters, they were both in tip top condition. Thank you for the compliment 😊

B'saurus

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Pauline, 10-Mar-14 08:26 AM GMT

OK James, are you going to put us out of our misery as I now have a headache from staring at your photo 😊 Like Wurzel I can't magnify it much – my best guess would be on the blade of grass that is almost horizontal, slightly to the right of the photo with the vertical blade crossing it – but it could just be a trick of the light?

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 10-Mar-14 10:00 AM GMT

CONGRATULATIONS Pauline 😊 well spotted. I didn't want to make it too easy – or too impossible either 😊 I still can't believe I managed to find one!



Best Wishes

B'saurus

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 12-Mar-14 11:26 PM GMT

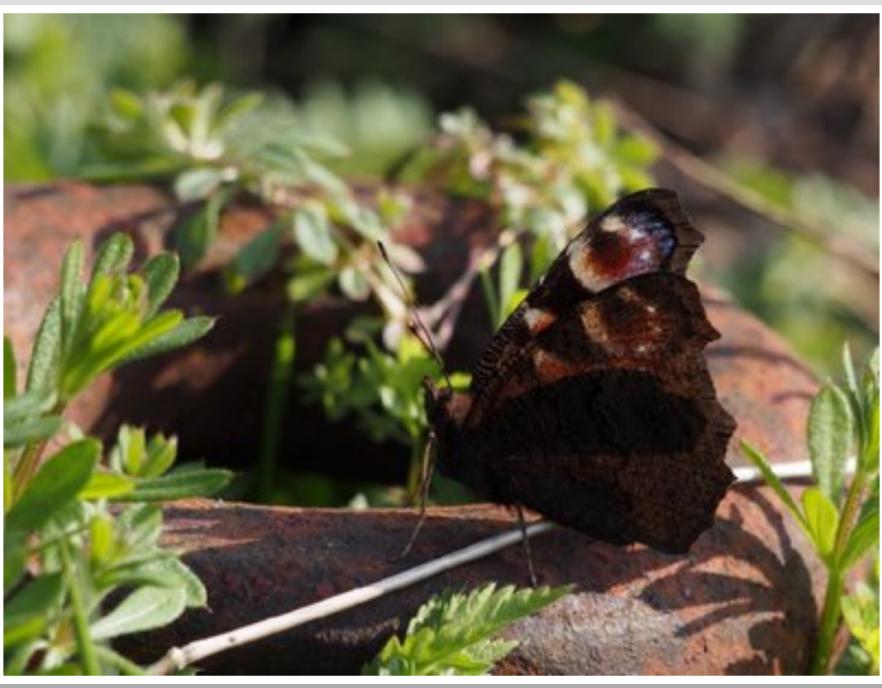
Having only seen one Peacock whizz past a few days ago it was great to finally catch up with one basking in the warm sunshine allowing me my first photo opportunity of the year. This is only the second Peacock I've seen close to home.

For some reason Peacocks and Comma's seem to be taking a bit longer to get going in my local area. I'm sure it's all down to local variation and they will start to appear soon.

If I manage to find a less hyperactive Brimstone to photograph I will have a full set of hibernators before mid March! That will be a record for me 😊 If not at least I've seen and photographed all the others.

Now bring on the Orange tips.....





B'saurus

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 13-Mar-14 12:39 AM GMT

Cracking shots as per usual Rex – is it just the way it's holding it's wings or is that a 'blind' Peacock –I couldn't see the 'eyes' on the hind wing on the back lit shot? Either way I know what you mean about the Peacocks taking a while to get started as that's the case here too.

Definitely bring on the Orange-tips! 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 13-Mar-14 10:46 AM GMT

You know what Wurzel I think your right 😊 On closer inspection it is missing it's eye spots! As you point out it's the 'back lit' shot that really confirms it. Well there's another photo to add to my 'oddities' folder 😊

With any luck it will be a good year for Peacocks, numbers have been pretty low here for a number of years, last summer they definitely increased a bit so fingers crossed.....

Orange tips will get me in shape for the summer, always have great fun running around after them 😊

Best Wishes

B'saurus

#### EDIT

I've just had a look at a couple of my other shots of the Peacock Wurzel and it does have the eye spots. The backlit shot fooled me too, you can't see a hint of it but it's there all right.

Cheers

B'saurus

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 01-Apr-14 06:30 PM GMT

After a bit of a hiatus thanks to the "dreaded lurgi" I was back in action this afternoon – still not feeling 100% but well enough to go hunting for some Orange Tips 😊 Seeing them flutter down the country lanes was just as great a thrill as ever.

It got pretty hot out there today and the OT's were rather active not stopping for long. Seeing as it's still a bit early numbers were not high, I only saw 4 males and 1 female over the course of 3 hours. Nevertheless it's still good going for April the 1st!

I really hope this will be the beginning of a torrent of Orange Tips to start off another great season.



I also saw at least 8 Peacocks, 5 Brimstones, 3 Commas, and 2 Small Torts.

B'saurus

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Neil Freeman, 01-Apr-14 07:17 PM GMT

Hi B'saurus, I'm glad that you are up and about again... just in time for the Orange Tips too. A couple of great photos there 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 01-Apr-14 09:35 PM GMT

Thanks Neil 😊 it was great getting up to my usual mischief again, it really made my day seeing my first Orange Tips of the year.

Here's something for you Moth aficionados out there, while out looking for Orange Tips this afternoon I came across this little fellow. I think it might be a "broad bordered yellow underwing caterpillar" please correct me if I'm mistaken. Not the wild Orange Tip Chrysalis I was hoping for but still it's not something I'd ever seen before. It was sitting amongst a rather large patch of Cuckoo flower.



B'saurus

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by David M, 01-Apr-14 10:11 PM GMT

#### "Butterflysaurus rex" wrote:

After a bit of a hiatus thanks to the "dreaded lurgi" I was back in action this afternoon – still not feeling 100% but well enough to go hunting for some Orange Tips 😊 Seeing them flutter down the country lanes was just as great a thrill as ever.

Absolutely agree. Is there any better remedy for early spring afflictions?

The sight of this butterfly is sufficient to put anyone's health on an even keel.

I personally can't wait to see them in my local 'zone'.

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 01-Apr-14 10:27 PM GMT

The Orange Tips can't be too far off for you now David, today did feel like a dose of the best medicine 😊

I'm looking forward to seeing your Orange Tip photos when they start emerging in Wales.

All the best

B'saurus

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by David M, 01-Apr-14 11:02 PM GMT

#### "Butterflysaurus rex" wrote:

The Orange Tips can't be too far off for you now David, today did feel like a dose of the best medicine 😊

I'm looking forward to seeing your Orange Tip photos when they start emerging in Wales.

All the best

B'saurus

Can't be long now, Rex. I guess next weekend will see the first emergences.

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 01-Apr-14 11:32 PM GMT

Glad to hear you're on the mend 😊 Those Orange-tips are great and I'm feeling ill myself now – through envy 🤧😄 I think I've almost crashed the car 16 times in the last few days because I've been so intently scanning the verges on the drive home and I've still not seen one 😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 02-Apr-14 09:25 PM GMT

"David M" wrote:

"Butterflysaurus rex" wrote:

The Orange Tips can't be too far off for you now David, today did feel like a dose of the best medicine 😊

I'm looking forward to seeing your Orange Tip photos when they start emerging in Wales.

All the best

B'saurus

Can't be long now, Rex. I guess next weekend will see the first emergences.

I read that some Orange Tips have been seen in Norfolk so I would imagine the Welsh OT's should be imminent 😊 the period of cooler unsettled weather forecast might case a slight delay.

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 02-Apr-14 09:43 PM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

Glad to hear you're on the mend 😊 Those Orange-tips are great and I'm feeling ill myself now – through envy 🤧😄 I think I've almost crashed the car 16 times in the last few days because I've been so intently scanning the verges on the drive home and I've still not seen one 😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Thanks Wurzel, I hope I've seen the last of the viral infections for this year. I hate being ill when there are Butterflies on the wing. I hope the Orange tips reach you before you crash the car! It's likely that there are some in your area already but numbers are still low, they've only just started down here and it was hard work finding them, we only saw 5 and one of those could have been the same individual coming back round again 😊

In the meantime drive safe 😊

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by David M, 02-Apr-14 10:27 PM GMT

"Butterflysaurus rex" wrote:

I read that some Orange Tips have been seen in Norfolk so I would imagine the Welsh OT's should be imminent 😊 the period of cooler unsettled weather forecast might case a slight delay.

Problem is that it'll be the weekend after next before I can get out to look for them. 😞

I'm sure they'll be well underway by then.

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 02-Apr-14 11:12 PM GMT

Considering that the weather forecast for this coming weekend does not look too good I hope that the following weekend will be more conducive for OT hunting. They should definately be out in Wales by then. The best things in life are worth witing for 😊😄

## Re: Butterflysaurus rex

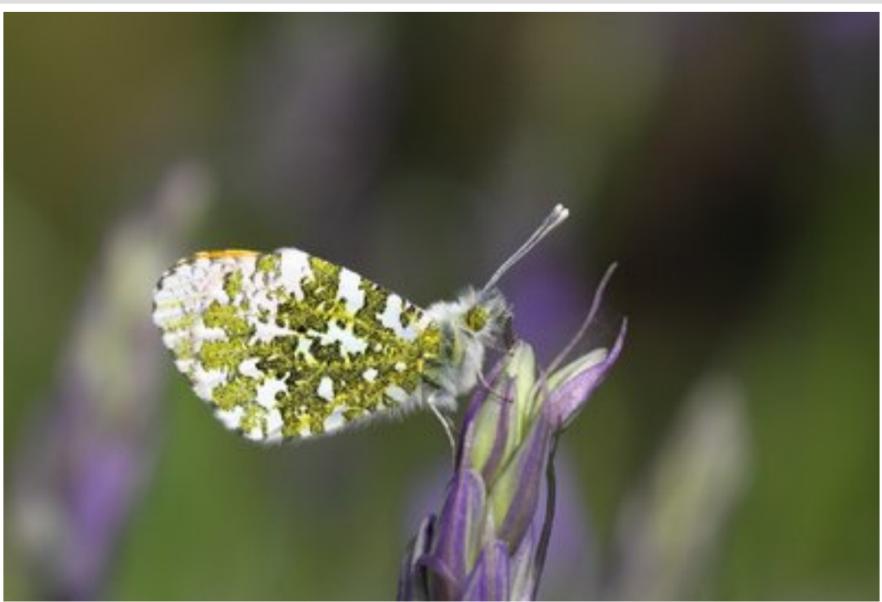
by Butterflysaurus rex, 09-Apr-14 08:13 PM GMT

With a rather strong and "very cool" breeze but plenty of sunshine I thought I'd pop out and look for some more Orange Tips around the area that I last saw some. I didn't have very long to look today and the conditions did prove to be somewhat "challenging" but I did see plenty of Orange Tips in the hour and a half I was there.

I've still yet to see my first Green Veined White of the year, I had a possible distant sighting today but not good enough to be sure. It can't be long now though 😊

I happened upon my first Speckled Wood of 2014 today, Unfortunately I didn't manage to get any photographic evidence to prove it.

Other than that I saw two Peacocks and one Comma during a short but very worthwhile trip.





B'saurus

**Re: Butterflysaurus rex**

by badgerbob, 09-Apr-14 08:33 PM GMT

Hi James. I seem to recognise that orange-tip on the bluebell!! Good to see you earlier. That last orange-tip shot is really good.

**Re: Butterflysaurus rex**

by Butterflysaurus rex, 09-Apr-14 09:11 PM GMT

**"badgerbob" wrote:**

Hi James. I seem to recognise that orange-tip on the bluebell!! Good to see you earlier. That last orange-tip shot is really good.

Yes he recognises you too Bob look he's waving at you 😊 You know I can't believe how well that last one came out, that strong breeze was pushing him all over the place. I put it all down to a fast shutter speed 😊

It was great to bump into you and that other bloke... err whatsizname too.

**Re: Butterflysaurus rex**

by David M, 09-Apr-14 09:44 PM GMT

Nice images, Rex. Spring is truly underway once you've seen your first Orange Tip!!

**Re: Butterflysaurus rex**

by Butterflysaurus rex, 09-Apr-14 10:06 PM GMT

**"David M" wrote:**

Nice images, Rex. Spring is truly underway once you've seen your first Orange Tip!!

Thanks David 😊 I managed to see quite a few today despite the strong and chilly breeze. Some of the poor Orange tips were clinging on for dear life! Tomorrow looks a lot better but I don't think I'll be able to get out. It won't be long now before I'm admiring one of your OT photos 😊

Best wishes

B'saurus

**Re: Butterflysaurus rex**

by David M, 09-Apr-14 10:55 PM GMT

I hope so, Rex, and cool temperatures CAN be a bonus with this species. They tend to be far, far easier to approach when it's colder than 14c.

## Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 10-Apr-14 09:46 PM GMT

Indeed they can David, I just wish it hadn't been so windy!

Today I managed to get out for a couple of hours on my home patch near the coast where the Orange Tips have yet to reach. I went out hoping to see my first Holly Blue of the year and perhaps get my first Speckled Wood photo of the season. Of course with such grand plans in mind I dually failed to achieve both these goals.

But I did see loads of other butterflies 😊 The now ubiquitous Small Tortoiseshell's were still out in force, with any luck this trend will continue..... Seeing so many Small torts around brings back many a fond childhood memory when a sight such as this was commonplace.

AT LAST! I finally managed to grab a poor record shot of my first Green Veined White of the year. I witnessed very good numbers of GVW's today chasing each other around the dazzling yellow fields of oilseed rape never seeming to settle even for a second. I'm sure there were some small whites among them but they far were too distant for a confident ID



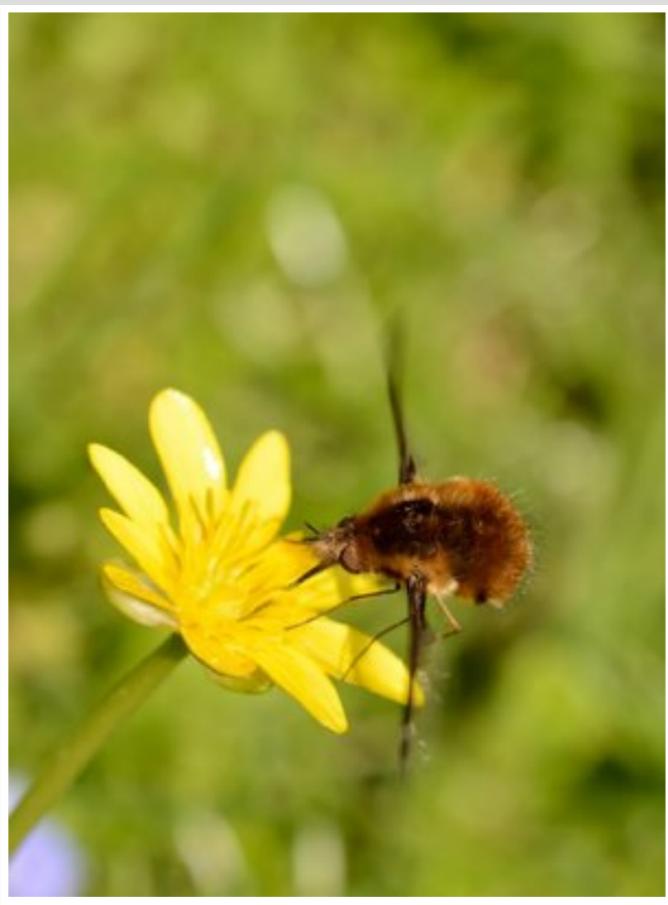
Today felt like an archetypal spring day, warm but with a slight chilly breeze. As I strolled amongst the rides I could hear nestling's crying out for their next meal. The parents could be seen busily trying to accommodate their young families. The most numerous of these were Chaffinches, they were so engrossed in their business that I got close enough to grab a half decent shot with my Macro lens!



Reaching a spot where I normally see the first Orange Tips arrive locally I saw more Bee Flies than I've ever seen in one place before.



I had a go at getting a photo of one in flight, at least one or two of them came out reasonably sharp. Charming little fellows 😊



It's looking like the Brimstones had a really good year in 2013, In my locality Brimstones are not a common sight however this spring I'm seeing more of them here than ever before. I've yet to see a single one of them land making me resort to "desperate measures" 😬



I'm very pleased to see there has been a big increase in Peacock numbers. They have been steadily rising over the past few weeks. Locally at least – they are nearly matching the Small Torts in numbers! Most have seen better days and were too flighty to photograph in the warm sunshine. As I headed for home I thoroughly enjoyed watching them spiralling high into the air tempting me into trying for this rather ambitious photo.



Just before I put my camera away something caught my eye. It looked for all the world like a wasp having a snooze in a leaf shaped hammock! I don't know if it was dead or diseased but I'd never seen a wasp behave in this way before 😊



well even though I didn't manage to find myself a Holly Blue or get that Speckled wood photo today I still had a marvellous two hours not too far away from my front door.

B'saurus

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 10-Apr-14 11:32 PM GMT

Fantastic OT's and now a Green Veined White 🍷 (I'll believe you on the Specklie – thousands wouldn't 😊). I'd like to get out tomorrow to look for them but the ceilings thingy continues 😞 My main hope now is the Welsh hedgerows around Aberearon.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 11-Apr-14 06:15 PM GMT

#### "Wurzel" wrote:

Fantastic OT's and now a Green Veined White 🍷 (I'll believe you on the Specklie – thousands wouldn't 😊). I'd like to get out tomorrow to look for them but the ceilings thingy continues 😞 My main hope now is the Welsh hedgerows around Aberearon.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Ta very much Wurzel, most kind of you 😊 Surely there's a better way to get plastered 😊 Those Welsh hedgerows won't know what hit em!

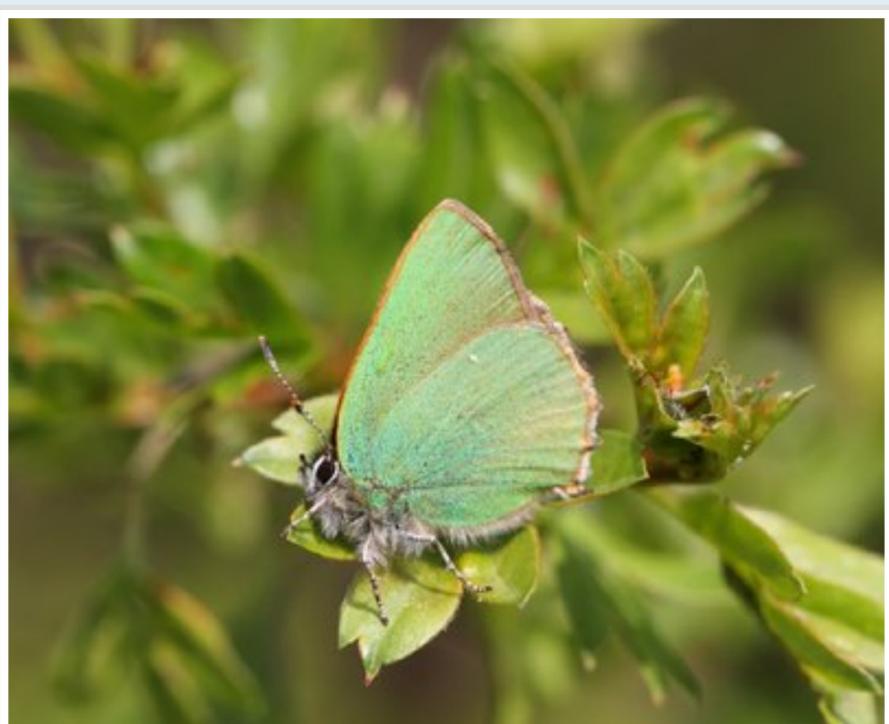
After learning that a morning appointment had been cancelled I thought I'd grab the opportunity to go in search of my first Green Hairstreak of the year. On the way I finally managed to get my first photo of a Speckled Wood (three days after seeing my first one of 2014 fly twice around my head and over a hedge) Soon after that I saw a second one but it didn't stop for a portrait.



When I arrived at the GHS site it was still cool and breezy, I didn't see anything else for about half an hour then suddenly on the path ahead I saw my first Green Hairstreak of the year. A very distant and poor record shot was all I could manage. There must be more around 'I thought' so I started a wider search of the area. Out of the corner of my eye I saw a familiar flurry of movement. I ran over only to find that it wasn't a GHS at all but a moth that I have been unable to identify. Hopefully one of the brains on UKB will be able to let me know what it is?



By now the breeze had dropped away and it started to get nice and warm. As if on cue – when the temperature was goldilocks porridge (just right) I saw my second GHS of the year only this time it came to rest on one of it's territorial perches.



After that things just got better, I saw another three until some thick cloud quickly rolled in 😬 so I had to take the last few photos in very poor light.



The last two I saw briefly posed together, probably exhausted after one of the longest GHS dogfights I have ever witnessed!



This is by far the earliest I have seen Green Hairstreaks. All of them had some signs ware so they must have been out for a couple of days at least. I hope that these will be the first of many.

B'saurus

### Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by badgerbob, 11-Apr-14 06:27 PM GMT

Well done on the Greenies. The moth is a Common Heath. I saw several there yesterday, it is a very good site for them. The male has a fab antennae! After the last 2 years being poor for Green Hairstreak on our patch it all looks a bit brighter this year.

### Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 11-Apr-14 06:37 PM GMT

Indeed it does Bob 😊 I didn't expect to find as many as I did to be honest! Thanks for the Moth ID, all of the photos that I found of the Common Heath didn't appear to be the same colour, hence the confusion 😊

### Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by William, 11-Apr-14 07:34 PM GMT

Superb shots Rex, the penultimate one is a lovely shade of pale green under the cloud – fantastic 😊 😊

## Re: Butterflysauros rex

by Butterflysauros rex, 11-Apr-14 08:02 PM GMT

Thanks William 😊 I had some fun taking that shot, thankfully the GHS settled close to the ground. With some stealthy manoeuvring I managed to lay on my side trying hard not to roll down the steep scarp while using my elbows as a makeshift tripod 😊😊

I'm glad no one else was around to witness such an undignified sight!

B'saurus

## Re: Butterflysauros rex

by Maximus, 11-Apr-14 08:30 PM GMT

Excellent pictures of the Green Hairstreaks Rex 😊 I also like your Bee Fly shots.

## Re: Butterflysauros rex

by Butterflysauros rex, 11-Apr-14 08:48 PM GMT

### "Maximus" wrote:

Excellent pictures of the Green Hairstreaks Rex 😊 I also like your Bee Fly shots.

Thanks for the kind comments Mike 😊 I'm glad your Orange Tips emerged successfully, those photos in your diary were fantastic 😊

## Re: Butterflysauros rex

by Neil Freeman, 11-Apr-14 09:08 PM GMT

Nice Green Hairstreaks, especially the second photo. Looks like things could be shaping up nicely for over Easter 😊

Cheers,

Neil

## Re: Butterflysauros rex

by David M, 11-Apr-14 10:31 PM GMT

Easter Green Hairstreaks.

What a bonus!

## Re: Butterflysauros rex

by Wurzel, 11-Apr-14 10:59 PM GMT

That is great stuff Rex – I thought I was having a good day with my first Orange-tips (no photos as they were on patrol) and Large White (again no photos – young daughter 😊 still not fully trained) – and then you go and get shots like those of my previous nemesis 🍷😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Butterflysauros rex

by jasonbirder, 12-Apr-14 03:00 PM GMT

Great photo's and jealous of the Green Hairstreak...hopefully a few more warm days and we'll have some new species out in Notts

## Re: Butterflysauros rex

by Pauline, 12-Apr-14 06:58 PM GMT

Great shots of the Green Hairstreak – one of my favourite species and a very difficult one to take such good photos of – your undignified pose was clearly worth it 🍷

## Re: Butterflysauros rex

by Butterflysauros rex, 12-Apr-14 09:52 PM GMT

Thanks Neil and David, if the good weather holds out I think many more Green Hairstreaks will be seen over Easter 😊

HURRAH Wurzel! You got your first Orange Tip 😊 I knew it wouldn't be long before you found some, the first of many. Next on your hit list – it has to be the green nemesis 😊

Thanks Jason, I'm certain you'll be finding fresh greenies in Notts soon, we do seem to be starting a bit earlier than most down here in the southeast.

Thank you Pauline 😊 they are a big favourite of mine too. I would willingly get into an even sillier position to photograph a freshly emerged one like a certain Mr Hulme just posted in his diary 😊

Best wishes to you all, your very kind comments are most appreciated.

B'saurus

## Re: Butterflysauros rex

by David M, 12-Apr-14 11:59 PM GMT

If tomorrow is sunny and mild I'll be searching for two things on Welshmoor on the Gower: Green Hairstreaks and Marsh Fritillary larval webs.

Many thanks for the inspiration.

## Re: Butterflysauros rex

by Butterflysauros rex, 13-Apr-14 09:50 PM GMT

### "David M" wrote:

If tomorrow is sunny and mild I'll be searching for two things on Welshmoor on the Gower: Green Hairstreaks and Marsh Fritillary larval webs.

Many thanks for the inspiration.

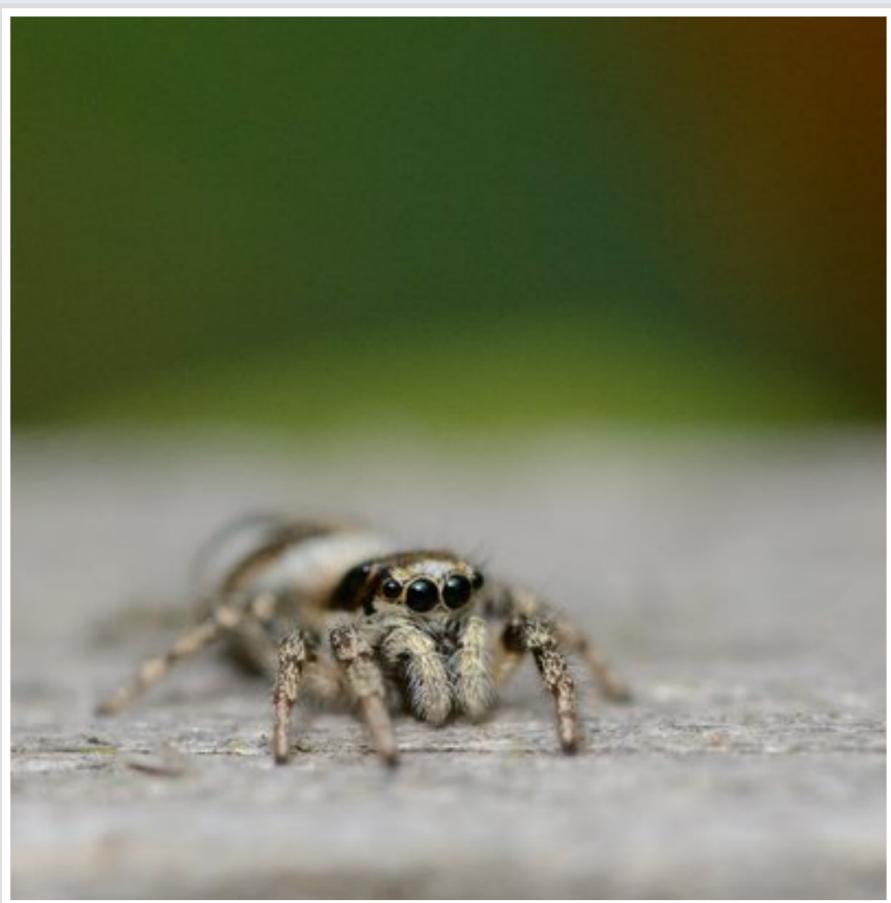
Keep on checking your local hotspots David, where I am some places are producing the goods and some aren't. Thank you very much indeed for your very kind comment 😊

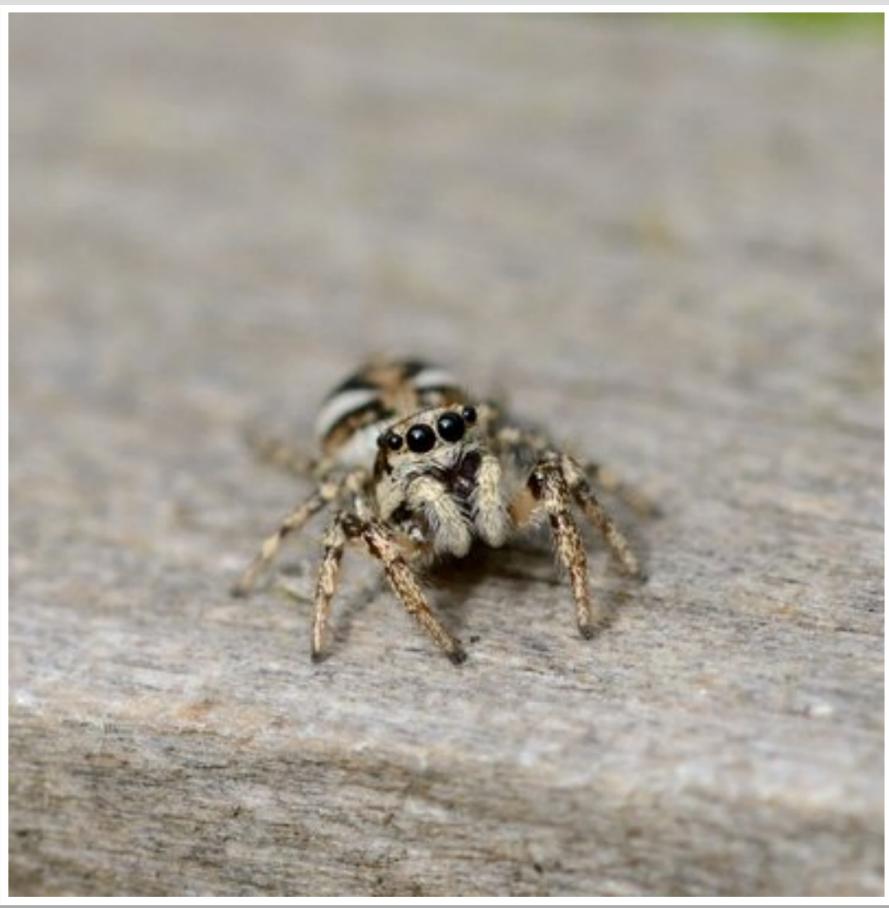
While out in the garden this morning hoping to see my first Holly Blue of the year my attention was drawn by something much smaller on the garden fence.

Seeing as I had my camera with me "just in case" I thought I'd try and have a go at photographing the mini drama unfolding before me.

One of my favourite species of spider, the Zebra Jumping Spider was hunting these little nymph like creatures. Trying to take photos of something so tiny hand held was a big ask but to my surprise a few of the images came out OK!

Predator



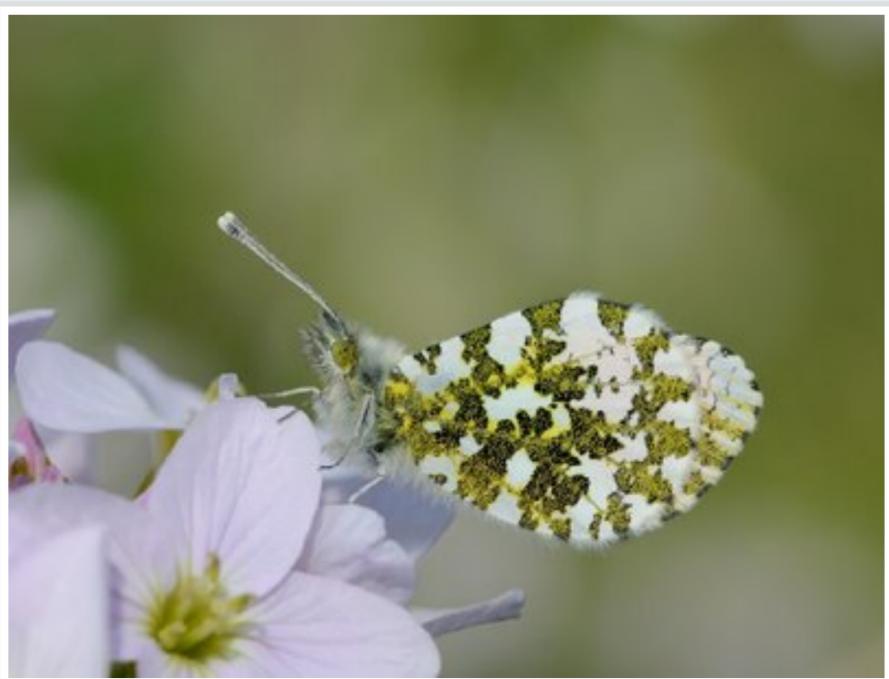


Prey



I never did see that Holly Blue! 🤔

After that bit of excitement I went further afield and saw that even more Orange Tips have emerged.





Overall I had a rather enjoyable day 😊

B'saurus

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 13-Apr-14 10:04 PM GMT

Fantastic shots of the OT and Jumping spiders – they're brill to watch 😊 I know what you mean about some places delivering and others not – Salisbury seems to be in it's own time zone – about a week and a half behind everyone else 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 13-Apr-14 10:13 PM GMT

Yes indeed Wurzel it's really spotty at the moment, even on a local level things appear to have got going in some places and not in others. With any luck it will just make the season last longer as other places start up over the coming weeks. 😊

I certainly didn't think the duke of Burgundies would be out this early! There I was planning on making a trip in early May to see them! Might be all over by then 😊

All the best to ya

B'saurus

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by badgerbob, 13-Apr-14 10:26 PM GMT

Any bets on Pearls this week!!

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 13-Apr-14 10:46 PM GMT

I had a look in Abbot's Wood today Bob, not a sausage..... or a PBF for that matter. Hopefully not long now 😊

BW's

B'saurus

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 14-Apr-14 06:49 PM GMT

I spent a splendid afternoon on the downs with Badgerbob today. The weather was marvellous and it started to get rather hot out of the wind. We saw plenty of Green Hairstreaks 😊 and I also saw my first Large White of 2014 fly past.



I'm delighted to say that I also saw my first Small Coppers and Dingy Skippers of the year as well. Strangely there was no sign of any Grizzled Skippers! Hopefully they will start to join the Dingy's on the wing soon. I only manage to get a couple of poor record shots of a Dingy and a Small Copper. Hopefully I'll manage to get some better images next time.





Then on the way home I stumbled upon a very fresh Speckled Wood basking in the late afternoon sun.



After that encounter I enjoyed walking the rest of the way home in the company of many a Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell and ever increasing numbers of Green Veined Whites.

A fabulous day 😊

Oh yes and if you managed to find my diary it was great to meet you today Gary's mum 😊

B'saurus

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by William, 14-Apr-14 07:09 PM GMT

Lovely Green Hairstreak Rex 😊 – that Small Copper seems quite pale, but maybe it's just the light?

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 14-Apr-14 08:29 PM GMT

Thanks William 😊 the Small Copper had a worn patch on it's right fore wing. The other ones I saw today looked pristine but they were being too camera shy for me today.

I'm really looking forward to seeing some of your Green Hairstreak and Small Copper photos when you add them to your diary.

## Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Neil Freeman, 14-Apr-14 08:49 PM GMT

Nice photos Rex 😊 got a week off work next week and hoping to get out and look for some of these species myself.

Cheers,

Neil.

## Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 14-Apr-14 08:59 PM GMT

Things have really got going down here in Sussex Neil, I would imagine many other places in the UK will get under way too over the Easter period. With a whole week at your disposal I think the chances of you seeing these species are excellent. I'll be keeping an eye on your diary for the photos 😊

## Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 14-Apr-14 09:24 PM GMT

Stunning Greenstreak Rex 🍷 and Small Coppers too 🍷🍷 I so need to get back onto home turf look at what I'm missing out on! 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 14-Apr-14 09:32 PM GMT

Don't worry Wurzel you've got the Easter break coming up. If you're back by then it will all be waiting for you. Hopefully you'll see some really fresh Green Hairstreaks and Small coppers too. 😊

## Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by David M, 14-Apr-14 09:44 PM GMT

**"badgerbob" wrote:**

Any bets on Pearls this week!!

Good Friday?

## Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by badgerbob, 15-Apr-14 10:16 AM GMT

Good to see you James and all the greenies. I will hopefully have a couple of pictures to put on when my computer returns from the computer Dr!!

## Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 15-Apr-14 08:47 PM GMT

**"badgerbob" wrote:**

Good to see you James and all the greenies. I will hopefully have a couple of pictures to put on when my computer returns from the computer Dr!!

Great to see you as well Bob. What on earth have you done to that poor computer 🤖 I'm really looking forward to seeing those photos when it's all fixed. I'll bet that Green Hairstreak photo is a real cracker.

B'saurus

## Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 16-Apr-14 08:58 PM GMT

Sadly I've not had much time to enjoy any Butterflying over the past couple of days but I did manage to spend an hour close to home this afternoon. I saw my first Holly Blues of the year, they flew past without stopping 😊 I spent most of the short time I had available looking for larva, my time was too limited to have a really thorough look around. I did spot a Small Tortoiseshell larval web, the caterpillars were only about 6mm long and a real challenge

to photograph hand held, this is the best I could manage. It's always a privilege to see a brand new generation start it's journey.



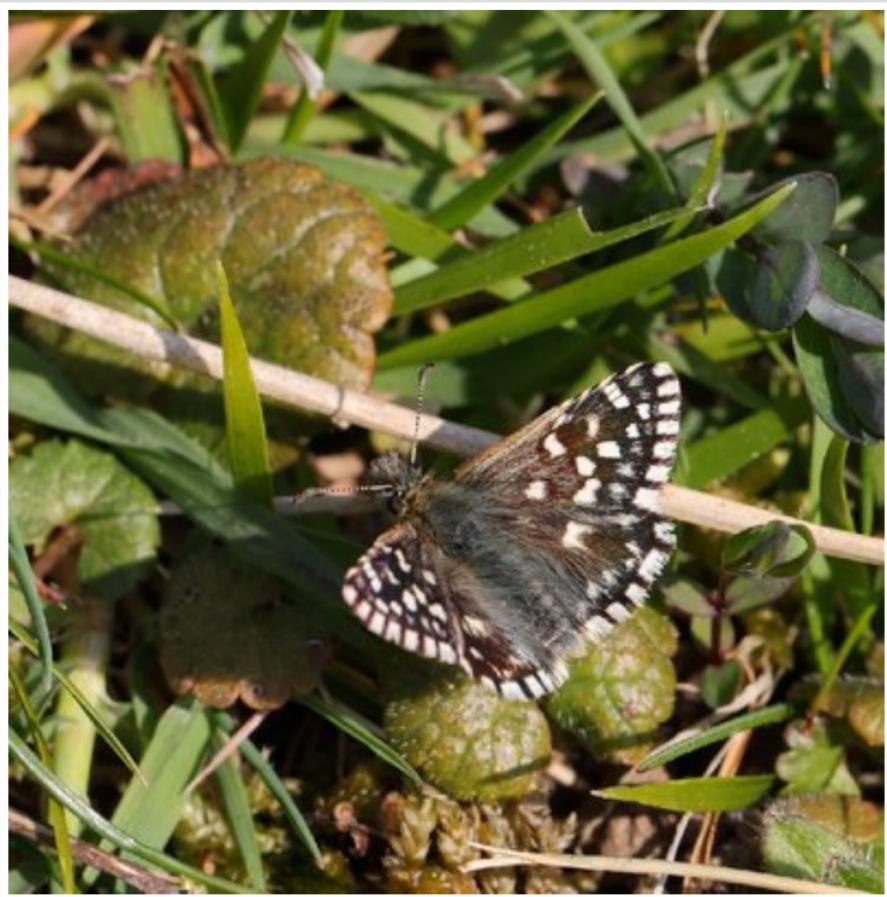
I also saw plenty of adult Small Tort's, lot's of Peacocks, quite a few Green Veined and Small whites, 2 Orange Tips and a couple of Red Admirals.... Oh yes and how could I forget a few fresh Speckies too 😊

B'saurus

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 17-Apr-14 09:41 PM GMT

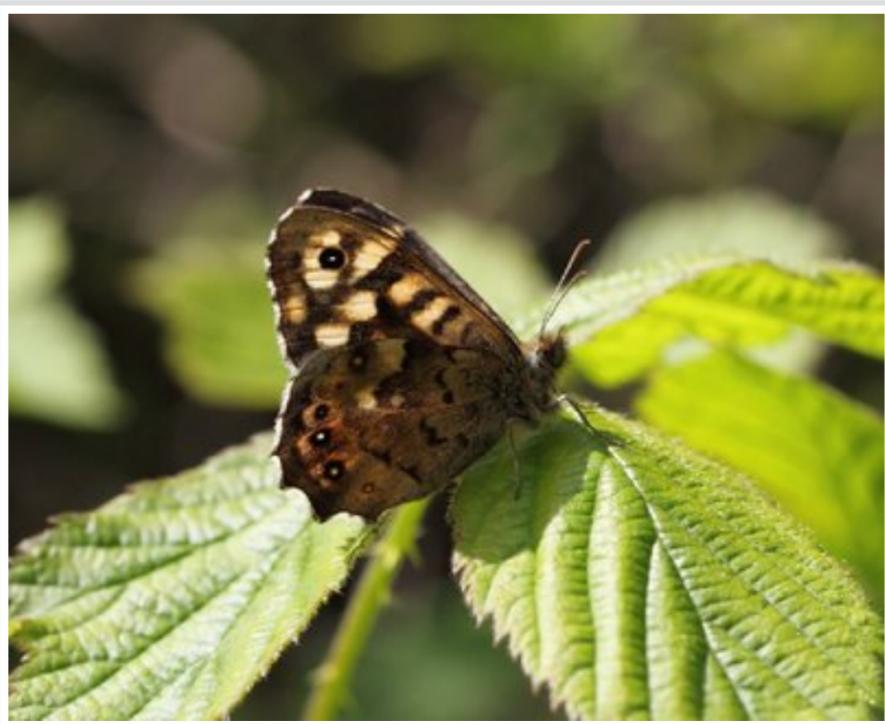
Another quick flying visit today proved to be well worth the effort as I managed to see my first Grizzled Skipper of the year! 😊 I only managed a quick record shot but it was delightful to see one at last.



After seeing a few Dingy Skippers the last time I visited the site I was somewhat surprised to find only a single specimen today!



The numbers of Speckled Wood are increasing nicely around these parts too.



And finally the Green Hairstreaks were a little flighty today but one settled for me just long enough for me to grab a photo or two.



Not too bad for a hour and a half, I only wish I could have stayed longer.

B'saurus

### Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by David M, 17-Apr-14 10:32 PM GMT

Grrr. Everybody seems to be seeing Green Hairstreaks except me!!! 😞😞

I hope to put that right this Easter weekend.

### Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 17-Apr-14 11:54 PM GMT

What do you mean "see a Grizzled Skipper at last"? They've only just started coming on strong and I've still to see a Greenstreak, Dingy Skipper and a Duke 😲 Honestly some people – they don't know they're born 😞😞 Great shots 😎 – what's up with the Dingy there seems to be some damage to the abdomen?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 18-Apr-14 09:58 AM GMT

#### "David M" wrote:

Grrr. Everybody seems to be seeing Green Hairstreaks except me!!! 😞😞

I hope to put that right this Easter weekend.

I hope you find some David, this is by far the earliest I've ever seen Green Hairstreaks. It must be the prolonged and unseasonably warm spell we've been having here in the south east. There have been quite a number of days where it's felt quite hot out of the breeze.

Good luck on your Easter search 😊

#### "Wurzel" wrote:

What do you mean "see a Grizzled Skipper at last"? They've only just started coming on strong and I've still to see a Greenstreak, Dingy Skipper and a Duke 😲 Honestly some people – they don't know they're born 😞😞 Great shots 😎 – what's up with the Dingy there seems to be some damage to the abdomen?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Hi Wurzel 😊 Yes I didn't explain myself very well there, what I should have said was, I've seen nothing but Dingies so far and that's quite unusual. The grizzlies are usually out first or at least at the same time in these parts. So my exclamation of "at last" really should have been something like "they've arrived" or something like that. With reports about them possibly having a poor year it was just a relief to see one. I'm not sure what up with the Dingy's abdomen, it did look extremely fresh. Maybe it had just pupated and not everything was in order yet?

ATB

B'saurus

## Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Neil Freeman, 18-Apr-14 08:42 PM GMT

Nice photos Rex 😊

I must admit that I usually see the Dingys, Grizzlies, Greenstreaks etc. start to get posted on here and give it a couple of weeks to start looking around Warwickshire. Yes, there will always be the odd one or two spotted earlier but the season around here tends to be a week or two later than the South East.

Cheers,

Neil

## Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 18-Apr-14 09:01 PM GMT

Thanks Neil 😊

Some sites have really sprung into life down here where as others have yet to get going. One spot in particular has already produced GHS's, Dingy Skippers, Grizzled Skipper, Small Copper Speckled Wood and Orange Tips. In stark contrast I made a brief visit to another local site that usually produces all of the above and I couldn't find any of them! I'm hoping that this will prolong the season here as the later sites start to come alive later on.

😊 It may well do the same thing in and around Warwickshire too.

All the best

B'saurus

## Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 18-Apr-14 11:32 PM GMT

No worries Rex – I'm made up as I got some Greenstreaks today with a side order of Grizzlie 😊 Now for those Dukes, Dingies, Coppers, Pearls...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 21-Apr-14 09:12 PM GMT

### "Wurzel" wrote:

No worries Rex – I'm made up as I got some Greenstreaks today with a side order of Grizzlie 😊 Now for those Dukes, Dingies, Coppers, Pearls...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

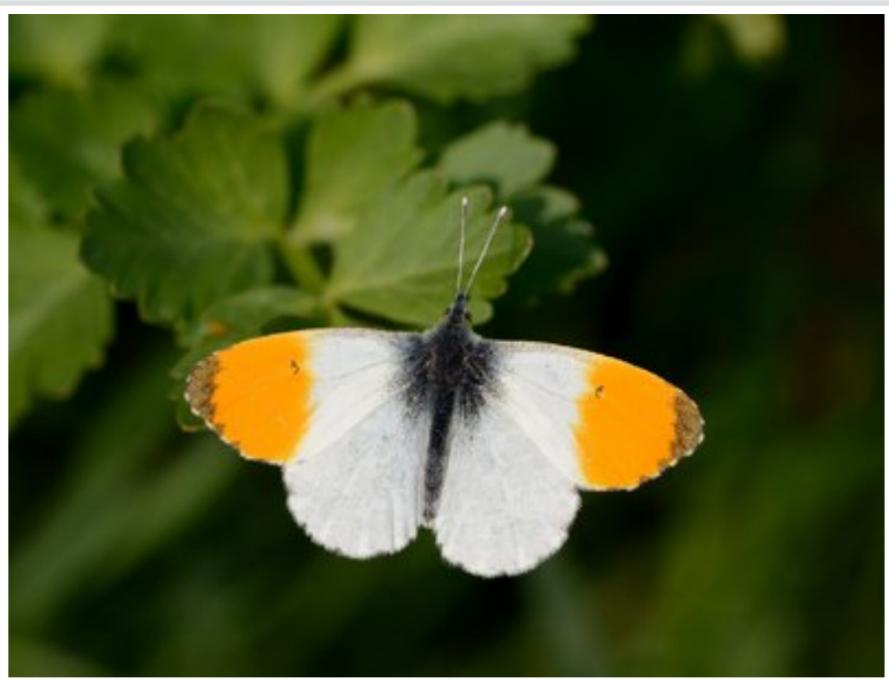
Brilliant Wurzel, knowing you it won't be long before you have all of those in the bag 😊

Seemingly against the advice of the Met Office I set out this morning to look for some more Orange Tips and hopefully my first Pearl Bordered Fritillary of the year. It didn't look too promising when I arrived, the early sunshine had given way to increasing amounts of cloud. Thankfully there were enough sunny spells coming through and there was hardly a breeze.

The first butterfly I saw wasn't an Orange Tip but a nice fresh looking Green Veined white.



Soon after that I saw my first Orange Tips of the day.





I must admit that I thought it was still a little bit early for the Pearl Bordered Fritillaries to be on the wing at Abbot's Wood but to my surprise and delight I saw 2 the moment I arrived. They were both extremely fresh and as bright as a new penny.



Only moments after I took these photos the heavens finally opened and I got all wet. It was well worth it though, I had such a wonderful day today, I might even have a few more photos to post up after I've had more time to look through the rest of them.

Hopefully this spring will be a lot kinder to the PBF's then recent years and numbers of this lovely butterfly will start to recover.

B'saurus

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by David M, 21-Apr-14 09:17 PM GMT

Lovely images, Rex. It'll be a fortnight before I can make a date with my 'local' PBFs but you have sure whetted my appetite.

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 21-Apr-14 10:14 PM GMT

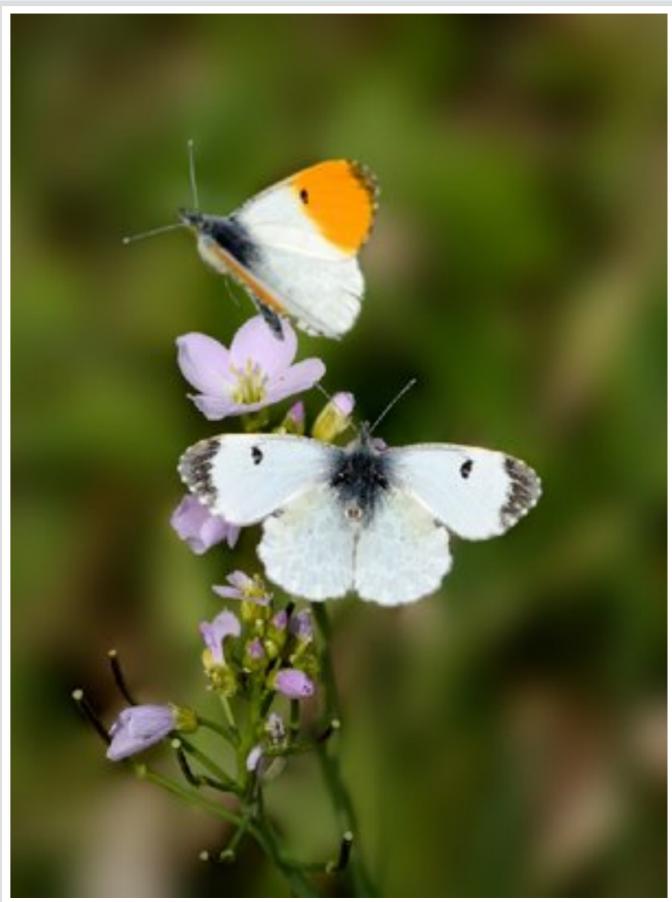
"David M" wrote:

Lovely images, Rex. It'll be a fortnight before I can make a date with my 'local' PBFs but you have sure whetted my appetite.

Cheers David, They are a lovely sight when they are so fresh and undamaged 😊

Having just looked through some more of today's images, I am please to say that a few more came out ok – I saw my first ever pair of mating Orange Tips today 😊

I even managed to photograph some courtship before the coupling.





B'saurus

**Re: Butterflysaurus rex**

by Lee Hurrell, 21-Apr-14 10:49 PM GMT

Lovely sequence of the courting Orange Tips, Rex. Good to hear also about Abbots Wood, I'll be visiting there myself next weekend.

Best wishes,

Lee

**Re: Butterflysaurus rex**

by Wurzel, 21-Apr-14 11:17 PM GMT

Great Orange-tip sequence Rex and those Pearls are something else 🍷 We're about a week or more behind you so hopefully the weather will be good next Bank Holiday 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Butterflysaurus rex**

by Butterflysaurus rex, 21-Apr-14 11:30 PM GMT

**"Lee Hurrell" wrote:**

Lovely sequence of the courting Orange Tips, Rex. Good to hear also about Abbots Wood, I'll be visiting there myself next weekend.

Best wishes,

Lee

Thank you Lee, hopefully there will be even more fresh ones on the wing by the time you visit next weekend. 😊

All the best

B'saurus

**"Wurzel" wrote:**

Great Orange-tip sequence Rex and those Pearls are something else 🍷 We're about a week or more behind you so hopefully the weather will be good next Bank Holiday 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Cheers Wurzel, I hope the rain stays away, we all know about bank holidays and the 'magnetic attraction' they seem to have for clouds and precipitation 🤔 I was very lucky to see some pearls so close to their emergence. They were minty fresh 😊

All the best

B'saurus

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Pauline, 22-Apr-14 06:53 AM GMT

Beautiful Pearls but I am equally in awe of your OT's especially after my recent 'near miss'. 🤖

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Neil Freeman, 22-Apr-14 07:27 PM GMT

Some lovely photos for the PBFs and Orange Tips Rex and I love that OT courtship sequence 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 22-Apr-14 09:52 PM GMT

#### "Pauline" wrote:

Beautiful Pearls but I am equally in awe of your OT's especially after my recent 'near miss'. 🤖

Many thanks Pauline 😊 yes it is disappointing when you miss out on a chance like that. You'll get another chance though, being so dedicated I'm sure that chance will come sooner rather than later 😊

All the best

#### "nfreem" wrote:

Some lovely photos for the PBFs and Orange Tips Rex and I love that OT courtship sequence 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

You're very kind Neil, it was a lovely moment to witness, I'm very pleased that my camera didn't fail me at the critical moment. 😊

Best Wishes

B'saurus

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Hoggers, 23-Apr-14 03:16 PM GMT

You've got me itching to make the trip to Abbot's Wood, B'Saurus! And the courting Orange Tips photographs are wonderful!

Marvellous work!

Happy Hunting

Hoggers

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 23-Apr-14 10:14 PM GMT

#### "Hoggers" wrote:

You've got me itching to make the trip to Abbot's Wood, B'Saurus! And the courting Orange Tips photographs are wonderful!

Marvellous work!

Happy Hunting

Thank you kindly Hoggers 😊 I hope it's a good year for the Pearls at Abbot's in 2014. Hopefully you can get there and see some lovely fresh ones soon.

All the best

**Even more greens!**

Today I managed to get over to my local GHS spot for a couple of hours, the weather was unexpectedly warm and sunny so I couldn't resist popping out to see what I could find.

As I walked to the site I saw my first Wall's of the year, about 7 or 8 in total! As usual they didn't allow me a decent photo, I took a few but they'll all end up in the bin along with most of my Wall "attempts" 😞

As well as the Wall Browns I counted a further 16 species including my first Painted Lady of 2014.

Hopefully I'm not over doing it with the Green Hairstreaks photos in my diary, they are a real favourite of mine so I'm trying to make the most of them.

Along the way I spotted this handsome Angle Shades Moth.



And the Numbers of Speckled Wood are still on the rise.





When I arrived at the site it seemed that the Greenies were being rather elusive and harder to find than usual, the reason for this would become clear a little later on.

After a good search I did find a couple of Greenies defending their territories.

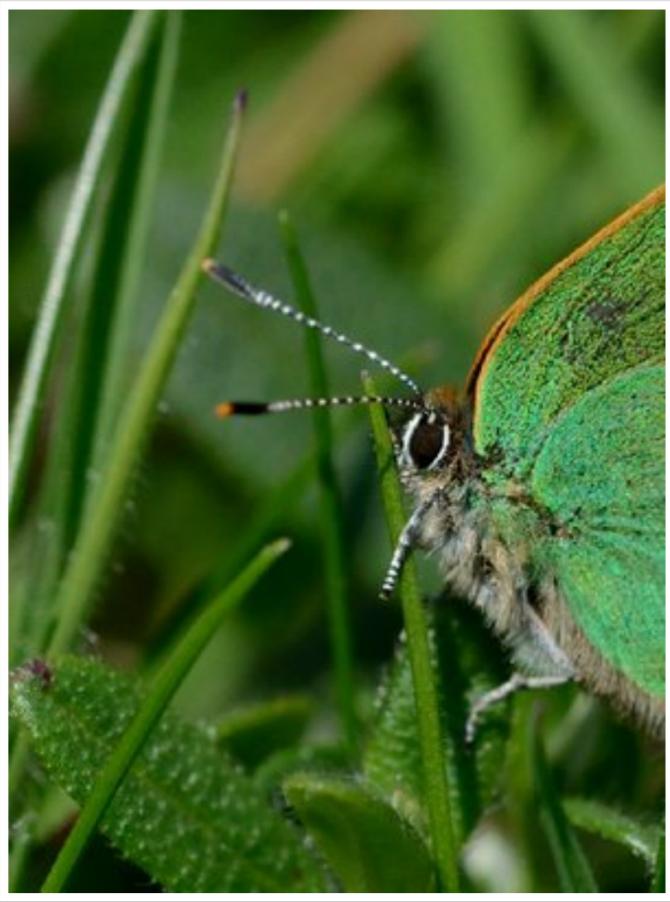


As I continued my search I started to notice more and more GHS's on the ground and especially in amongst the grass. It would appear that I had stumbled upon the females egg laying day! In total I counted 6 females ova-positing. This would appear to be the reason I could not find as many territorial Greenies as usual perched higher up enjoying the sunshine.

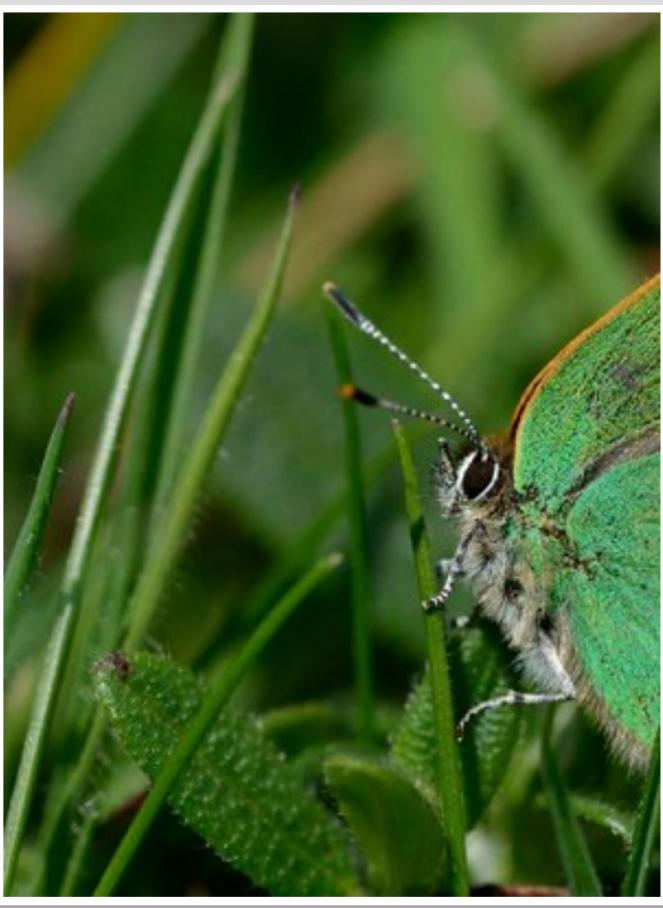
Female GHS laying an egg.



Mmmmmphh mmm mmpph mph mmmppphhh! What's that Mrs Hairstreak? I couldn't quite catch that.



I said it's hard work laying my eggs down here in this heat!



B'saurus

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 23-Apr-14 11:05 PM GMT

A few years ago I would have found your PD and all the "horrible green thingies 😡" (as I called them at the time) really hard going, but now that I have conquered my nemesis I'm lapping up the images Rex 😊 But hold the phone "16 other species", 17 in a day? I have still seen only 14 so far this year 😲 Oh for the South Easts climate over this side of the country. 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Neil Freeman, 24-Apr-14 08:46 PM GMT

#### "Wurzel" wrote:

... But hold the phone "16 other species", 17 in a day? I have still seen only 14 so far this year 😲 Oh for the South Easts climate over this side of the country. 😊😊

Wurzel

Or in the middle, I have been on 9 species for the past couple of weeks, still waiting for some more to wake up around here 😲

Cracking photos Rex, keep them coming, its the closest I am getting at the moment 🍷😊

Cheers,

Neil

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 24-Apr-14 09:53 PM GMT

#### "Wurzel" wrote:

A few years ago I would have found your PD and all the "horrible green thingies 😡" (as I called them at the time) really hard going, but now that I have conquered my nemesis I'm lapping up the images Rex 😊 But hold the phone "16 other species", 17 in a day? I have still seen only 14 so far this year 😲 Oh for the South Easts climate over this side of the country. 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

"Horrible green thingies"! That's a bit harsh Wurzel 😊 16 species was pretty good going for these parts at this time of year!  
I saw in no particular order:

Wall  
Holly Blue  
Small Tort  
Peacock  
Green Veined White  
Large White  
Small White  
Orange Tip  
Speckled Wood  
Green Hairstreak  
Dingy Skipper  
Red Admiral  
Brimstone  
Small Copper  
Comma  
and the big surprise a painted lady!

You do live in a lovely part of the UK though Wurzel, it's probably worth waiting a little bit longer 😊

**"nfreem" wrote:**

**"Wurzel" wrote:**

... But hold the phone "16 other species", 17 in a day? I have still seen only 14 so far this year 😲 Oh for the South Easts climate over this side of the country. 😊😊

Wurzel

Or in the middle, I have been on 9 species for the past couple of weeks, still waiting for some more to wake up around here 😊

Cracking photos Rex, keep them coming, its the closest I am getting at the moment 🍷😊

Cheers,

Neil

I'll try Neil 😊 but the weather fairy is frowning at me. I get the impression from the Met Office that we're in for an unsettled spell 😞

Thank you for the kind comment though 😊

Best wishes

B'saurus

**Re: Butterfysaurus rex**

by David M, 24-Apr-14 09:57 PM GMT

Good work, Rex. You are having a barnstorming start to the season.

Wall Brown is particularly notable.

**Re: Butterfysaurus rex**

by Butterfysaurus rex, 24-Apr-14 10:07 PM GMT

Cheers David, it's been really great so far, of course Badgerbob saw quite a few Wall Browns 'probably' over a week before I did. I would love to see some Dukes next but the weather looks a bit ominous. Hopefully soon 😊

All the Best

B'saurus

**Re: Butterfysaurus rex**

by Pauline, 24-Apr-14 10:19 PM GMT

What an amazing sight and great that you managed to get a shot of one in the process. I have never seen that before J. How close were you able to get and would you say that they were focused on the task or quite wary?

**Re: Butterfysaurus rex**

by Butterfysaurus rex, 24-Apr-14 10:27 PM GMT

Hi Pauline, I didn't want to get too close and disturb her so my photos are heavily cropped. I was amazed to see not only this female out egg laying but several others all on the same day!

Best Wishes

B'saurus

## Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 01-May-14 08:25 PM GMT

### Catch up pt 1 - Close!

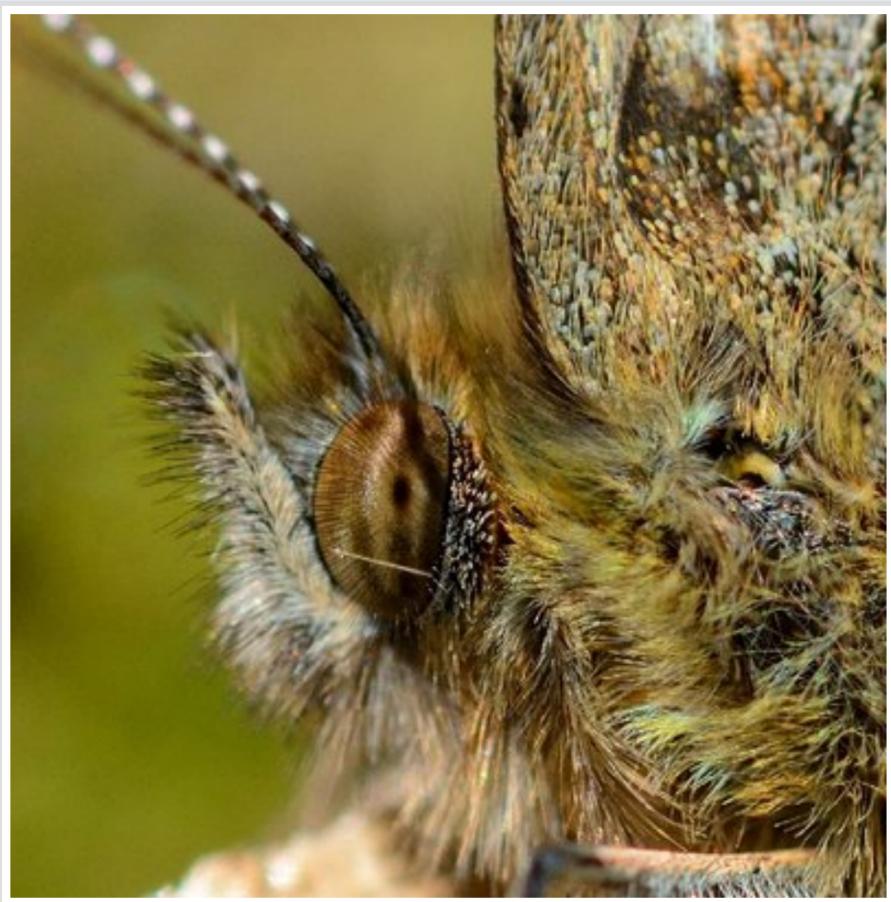
After a bit of an absence I've got a little catching up to do on my personal diary.

Sadly I've been too busy to travel far from my home patch, the good news is there are still some good areas close to home where I'm almost guaranteed to see certain species.

Starting off VERY 'close' to home (my garden in fact) I saw a female Holly Blue egg laying.



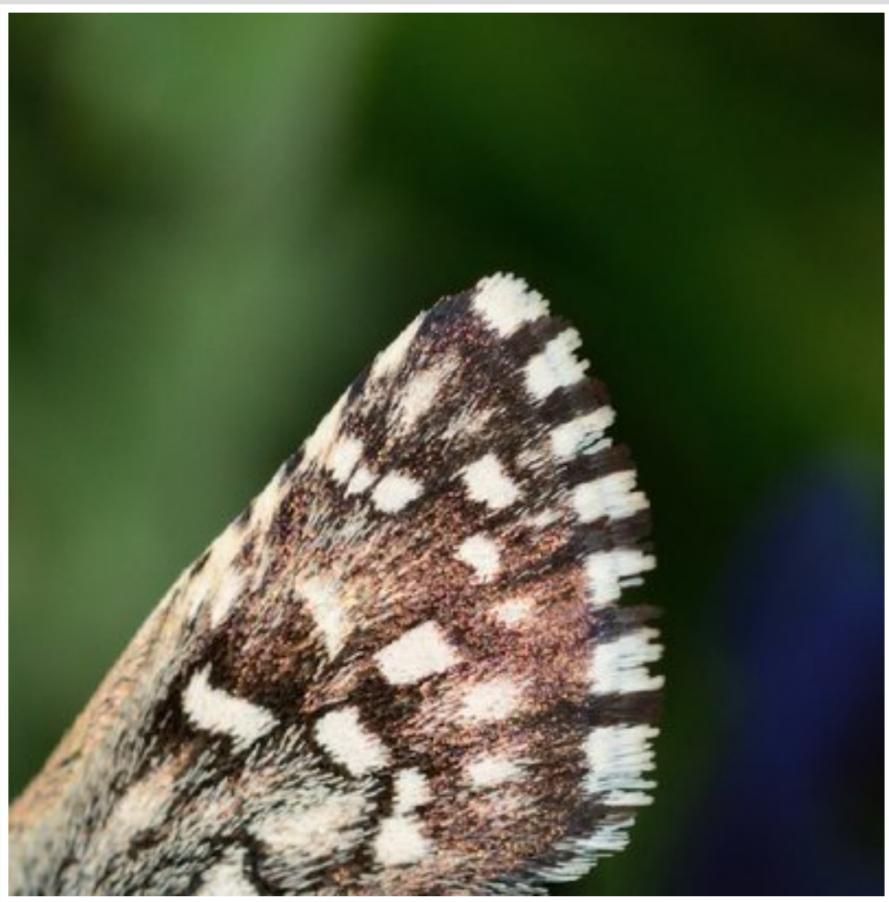
Keeping up with the 'close' theme I "somehow" managed to get rather close to a couple of Wall Browns earlier on this week.





After managing that I felt almost anything was possible 🤪😄 so I went to my local spot for Grizzled and Dingy skippers to see if I could do something similar with them.





After that I went home with a bad headache – no doubt brought on by self induced myopia!

B'saurus

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by badgerbob, 01-May-14 08:31 PM GMT

Hey James. Well done on getting really close to the Wall Browns. Not an easy task!! A fabulous pattern they have on their underwings shown off brilliantly here!

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Neil Hulme, 01-May-14 08:33 PM GMT

Hi B. rex,  
Great Wall close-ups! The first wing detail image reminds me of the carpet in a Sports & Social club I used to frequent in Watford. Happy days.  
BWs, Neil

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 01-May-14 08:56 PM GMT

#### "badgerbob" wrote:

Hey James. Well done on getting really close to the Wall Browns. Not an easy task!! A fabulous pattern they have on their underwings shown off brilliantly here!

Thanks Bob, that's a great compliment coming from a man who knows quite a bit about this species.

#### "Neil Hulme" wrote:

Hi B. rex,  
Great Wall close-ups! The first wing detail image reminds me of the carpet in a Sports & Social club I used to frequent in Watford. Happy days.  
BWs, Neil

Thank you Neil, All that's missing is a few worn out patches & couple of cigarette burns. It really does look like a carpet doesn't it – well one from the 70s for those of us that can remember back that far. 😊

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by David M, 01-May-14 10:14 PM GMT

Real different perspective with those close up wing shots, Rex.

Excellent images.

## Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 01-May-14 11:57 PM GMT

Simply stunning images Rex 😊 – how did you get the Walls to stay still long enough to get that close – what chemicals did you use to induce that 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 02-May-14 07:50 PM GMT

### "David M" wrote:

Real different perspective with those close up wing shots, Rex.

Excellent images.

Thanks David, it's certainly closest I've ever been able to get to Wall. When I saw that a normal photo would have not been very good at normal distance I thought I'd try my luck with an extreme close up instead.

### "Wurzel" wrote:

Simply stunning images Rex 😊 – how did you get the Walls to stay still long enough to get that close – what chemicals did you use to induce that 😊👍

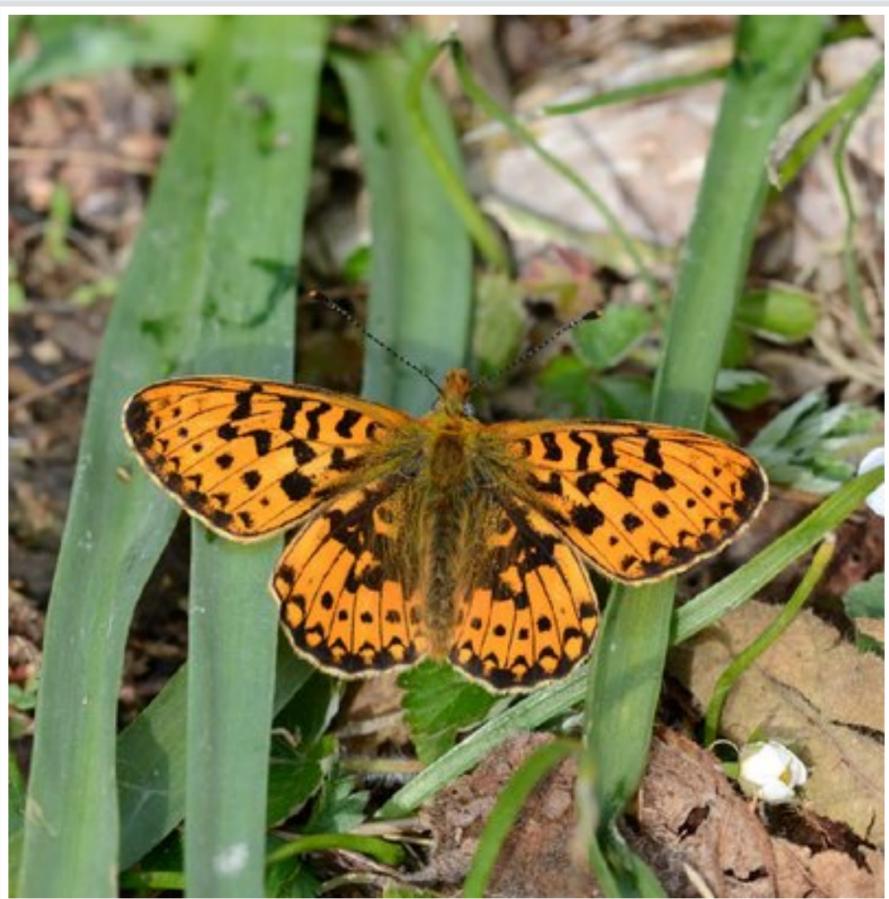
Have a goodun

Wurzel

No drugs or chemicals involved Wurzel, let's just say that they we're both far too preoccupied to worry about me on this occasion 😊 I didn't appear to disturb them at all, after spending a while taking some images I left them there **still at it** 😊

### Catch up pt 2 – Pearls and Small Tortoiseshell larva.

Earlier this week I made another quick visit to Abbots Wood to see how the Pearl Bordered Fritillarys were doing. Numbers had definitely increased a bit since my first visit. I hope some more will appear and make it a better year than the last at Abbots for this lovely butterfly. Surprisingly all of the ones I saw there had some signs of ware.



After seeing so many Small Tortoiseshells this spring it's no surprise that I'm seeing more Larval webs than usual, so I decided to try and make the most of the opportunity and try to take some photos. Getting half decent photos of these wriggling larvae is surprisingly difficult. Well I found it a bit difficult anyway.

I spent a couple of minutes watching this STS caterpillar busy cocooning itself inside a nettle leaf.



On this Nettle there were larvae both light and dark in colour and at differing stages of development.



Looking for greener pastures at full s-t-r-e-t-c-h !



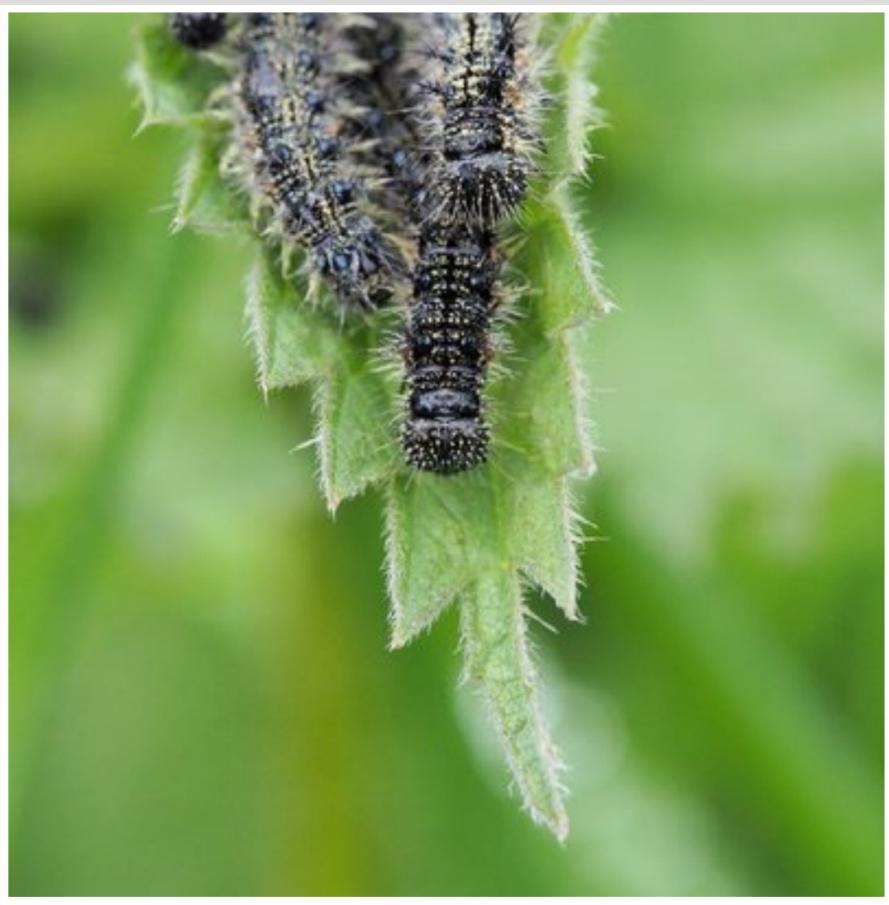
Oh for goodness sake, I've dropped me keys!



Hey waiter! I ordered Nettle soup not Lemongrass!! 🤔



Enjoying the splendid view form Nettles End.



B'saurus

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Neil Freeman, 02-May-14 08:33 PM GMT

Just seen your close ups of the Wall Browns Rex, as other have said, stunning images 😊

Great photos of the ST larvae as well, I'll have to start looking out for them, and Peacocks, myself.

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 02-May-14 09:43 PM GMT

#### "nfreem" wrote:

Just seen your close ups of the Wall Browns Rex, as other have said, stunning images 😊

Great photos of the ST larvae as well, I'll have to start looking out for them, and Peacocks, myself.

Cheers,

Neil.

Thanks Neil 😊 they do have such a beautiful underwing, it was quite a privilege to see it up close. Mysteriously I can't seem to find a single Peacock web, there's been loads of Peacocks around here too. Maybe I'll start seeing some a bit later on.

Best Wishes

B'saurus

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by David M, 02-May-14 10:52 PM GMT

Great images again, Rex. You seem to be enjoying a purple patch right now.

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 03-May-14 09:05 AM GMT

Great stuff Rex 😊 Your Pearl looks slightly more heavily marked than usual 😊 The cat shots are great, I especially like the first group shot which looks like they're dropping off the screen 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 04-May-14 09:13 PM GMT

### "David M" wrote:

Great images again, Rex. You seem to be enjoying a purple patch right now.

It's been great fun so far David, I love this time of the year. I keep being caught off guard because so many species are starting off earlier than usual. I saw my first Common blue today! Thank you for the nice comment 😊

### "Wurzel" wrote:

Great stuff Rex 😊 Your Pearl looks slightly more heavily marked then usual 😊 The cat shots are great, I especially like the first group shot which looks like they're dropping off the screen 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Cheers wurzel 😊 a lot of the Pearls in Abbots Wood seem to be heavily marked, at least I always seem to see quite a few like that. For some reason I thought photographing Small Tort Larvae would be a bit easier than the adult butterflies, after all they can't fly away. Of course I soon learned how utterly wrong I was 😊

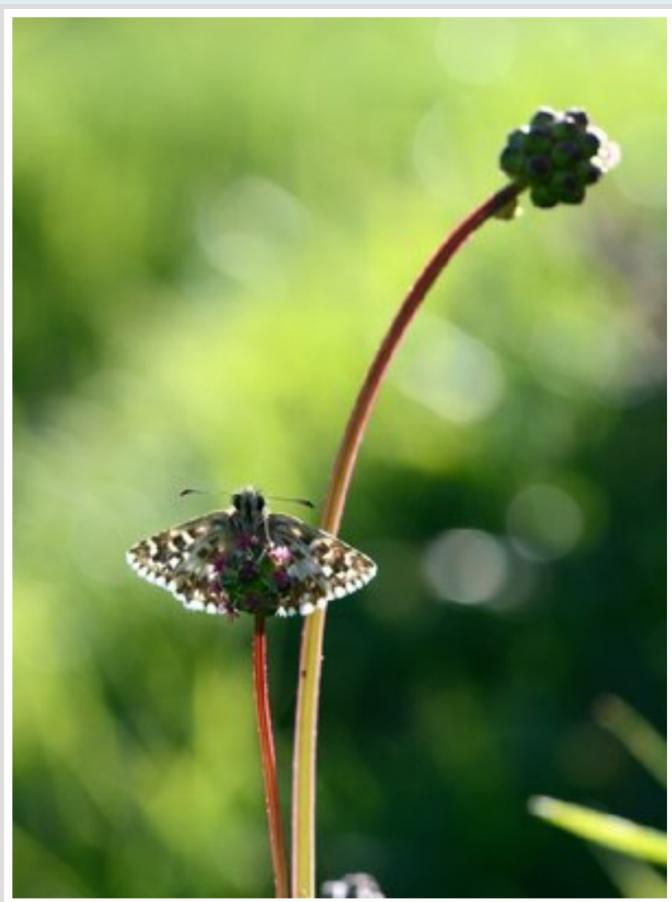
Best wishes

B'saurus

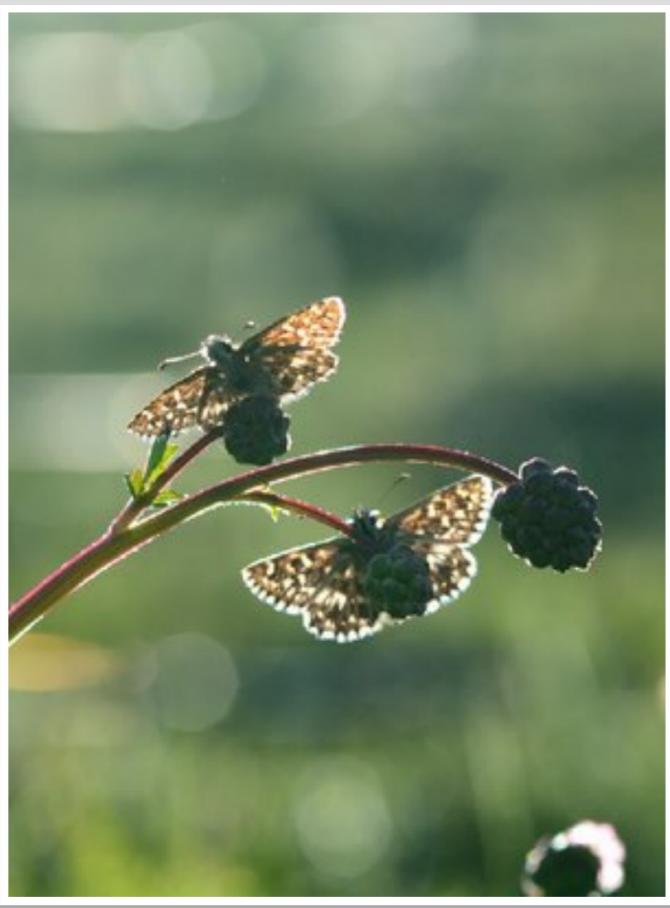
### Catch up part 3 - Grizzled Skippers.

Well I'm still a little bit behind on my diary 😊 I think I'd better to pull my socks up!

Last week I made a flying visit to a local spot I know that's often good for Grizzled Skippers. Thankfully after seeing small numbers in some of the other areas I visit this one seemed to have a healthier population of Grizzlies.



At one point there were three Grizzlies all sharing this perch together! Of course just before I pressed the button one of them flew off. Still It's rare enough for me to see two sharing the same perch so I can hardly complain.



B'saurus

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 04-May-14 11:34 PM GMT

Two out of Three ain't bad Rex 😊 Dreamscape like Grizzlie shots – lush Rex 😊 I've managed to get Dingie, Small Copper, Duke and Pearls so far this weekend but I expect you'll have picked up Brown Argus and Small Heath as well by now 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 05-May-14 12:03 PM GMT

#### "Wurzel" wrote:

Two out of Three ain't bad Rex 😊 Dreamscape like Grizzlie shots – lush Rex 😊 I've managed to get Dingie, Small Copper, Duke and Pearls so far this weekend but I expect you'll have picked up Brown Argus and Small Heath as well by now 😊😊

Have a goodun

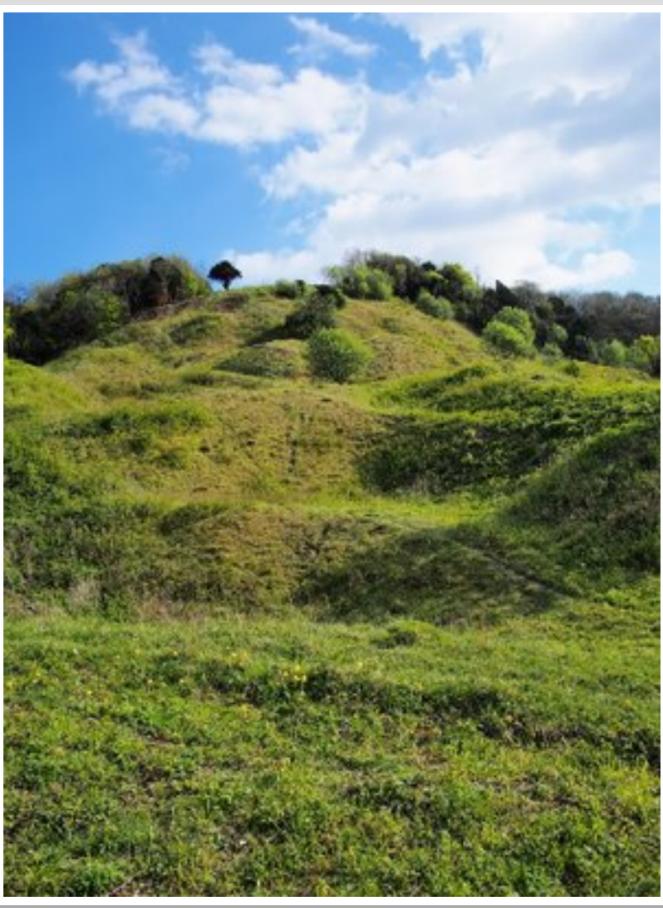
Wurzel

Looks like you had a fantastic weekend Wurzel I'm looking forward to seeing your photos 😊 I've not managed to see a Brown Argus or Small Heath yet but.....

#### Heavenly Heyshott – Dukes aplenty!

On Saturday I finally managed to make my long awaited journey to Heyshott hoping to see some Duke of Burgundies. And have a look at a place I've been wanting to see for quite a long time. I arrived a little later in the day than I had hoped, thankfully the Dukes were not hard to find, they were already very active thanks to some warm sunshine. What a place this is, the hard work by Neil Hulme, Mark Colvin and all of the other volunteers has seriously paid off. It must be hugely satisfying to see the Dukes and skippers flourish there thanks to such careful management.

Almost as soon as I arrived I bumped into Mark Colvin and he very kindly gave me a guided tour of the site. I really enjoyed having a chat with Mark as he showed me around, he pointed out the freshly cleared areas as well as the best places to find some Dukes. The extensive areas now opened up for the butterflies have revealed some stunning vistas, I'm glad I remembered to bring my wide angle lens along with me. Here are a few shots that I took of this lovely place:



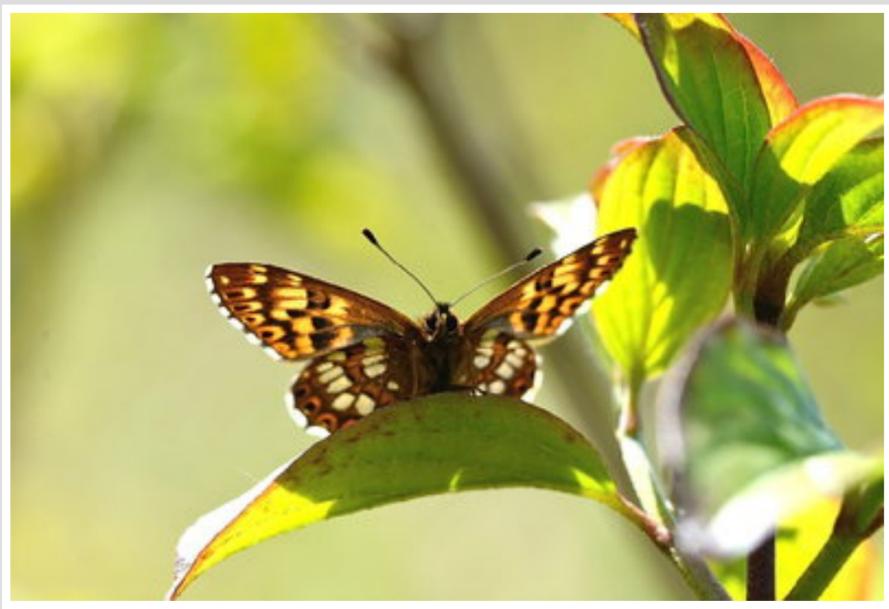
*View looking up the scarp.*





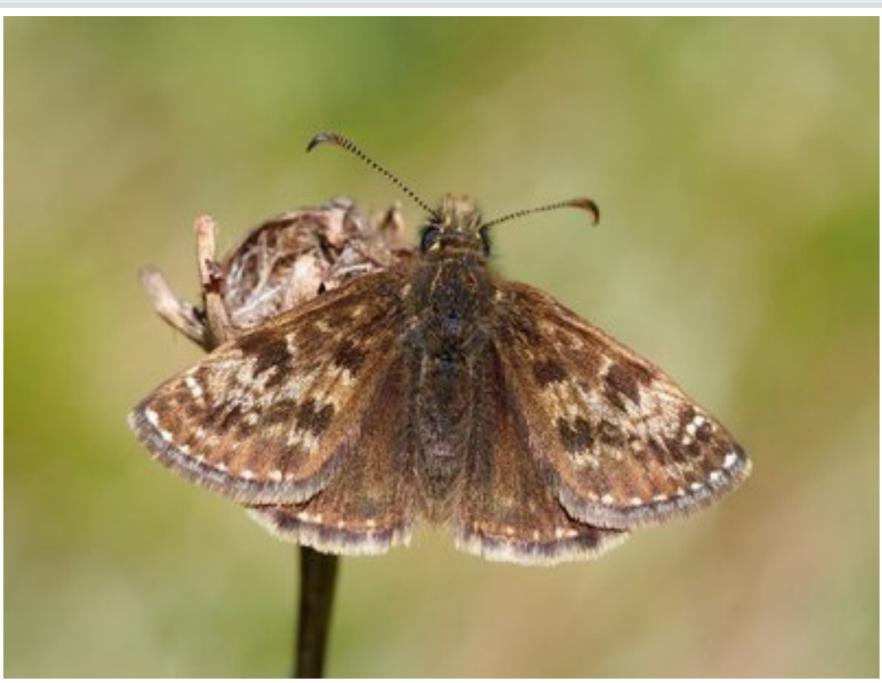
*View towards the West.*

Of course I didn't only visit Heyshott Escarpment for the wonderful views, I was also hoping to see and photograph my first Duke's of the year. numbers were looking very healthy indeed and most of the Dukes looked fresh.





During my amble around I only saw 5 Grizzled Skippers, however the Dingy Skippers were so numerous I didn't even try to keep a count, fresh ones were still emerging. I saved this brand new and floppy winged individual from the unwelcome attentions of a spider. Sorry to have stolen your dinner Mr spider but I got there first. 😊



An unexpected bonus came in the form of some very shiny and fresh looking Green Hairstreaks.



And the biggest surprise of the day, a bright and fresh Pearl Bordered Fritillary came out of nowhere! – That sent a male Duke on the attack. The PBF didn't hang around long enough for a photo but I was thrilled to see one there. I know that this species has only just begun to return to this site after a long absence.

Towards the end of my time there I was pleased to see a couple of familiar faces pop up, we joined forces for a few final photos before it was time to leave – cheers Arthur and Richard 😊 a very nice end to a brilliant day.

B'saurus

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Mark Colvin, 05-May-14 08:49 PM GMT

Hi James,

It was really good to meet you too and I was pleased I could show you around one of my favourite sites in Sussex.

Well down with the Pearl ...

Good hunting.

Kindest regards. Mark

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 05-May-14 09:06 PM GMT

Thank you Mark, as you can probably tell from my report above it is now one of my favourite sites too 😊 I had a fantastic time in great company. Hopefully we'll meet again before too long out there somewhere.

I'm hoping more Pearls will be flying at Heyshott over the coming weeks.

Best Regards

B'saurus

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 05-May-14 10:56 PM GMT

Excellent reports and photos Rex – the close up Duke is stunning 😊👍 I sneaked out again today for some Duke action and now I'm all out of Brownie points 😞 but it was worth it. Hopefully I'll be able to gain some more before the Marshies start flying in earnest if you're interested let us know.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 06-May-14 07:05 PM GMT

#### "Wurzel" wrote:

Excellent reports and photos Rex – the close up Duke is stunning 😊👍 I sneaked out again today for some Duke action and now I'm all out of Brownie points 😞 but it was worth it. Hopefully I'll be able to gain some more before the Marshies start flying in earnest if you're interested let us know.

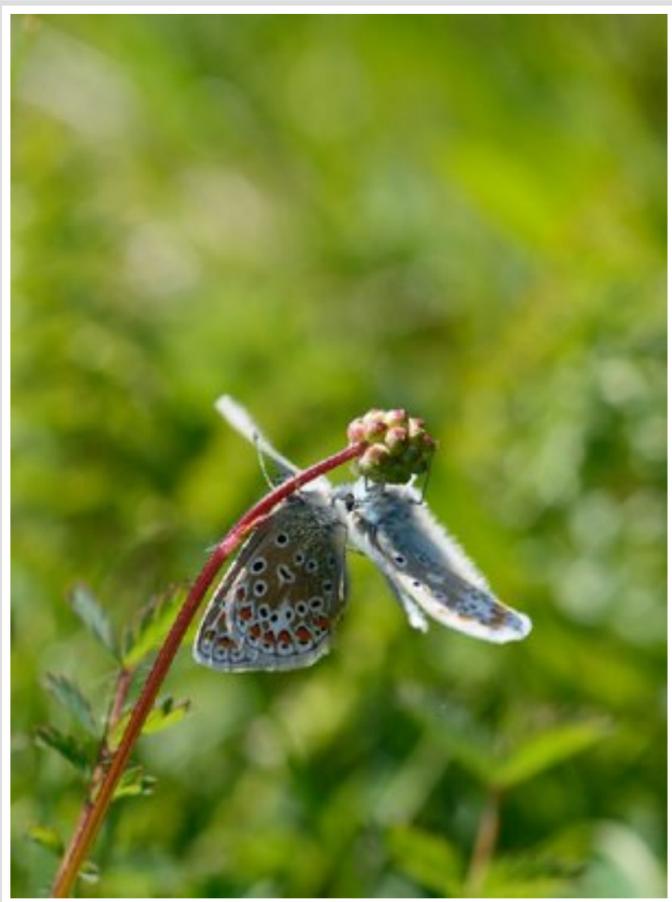
Have a goodun

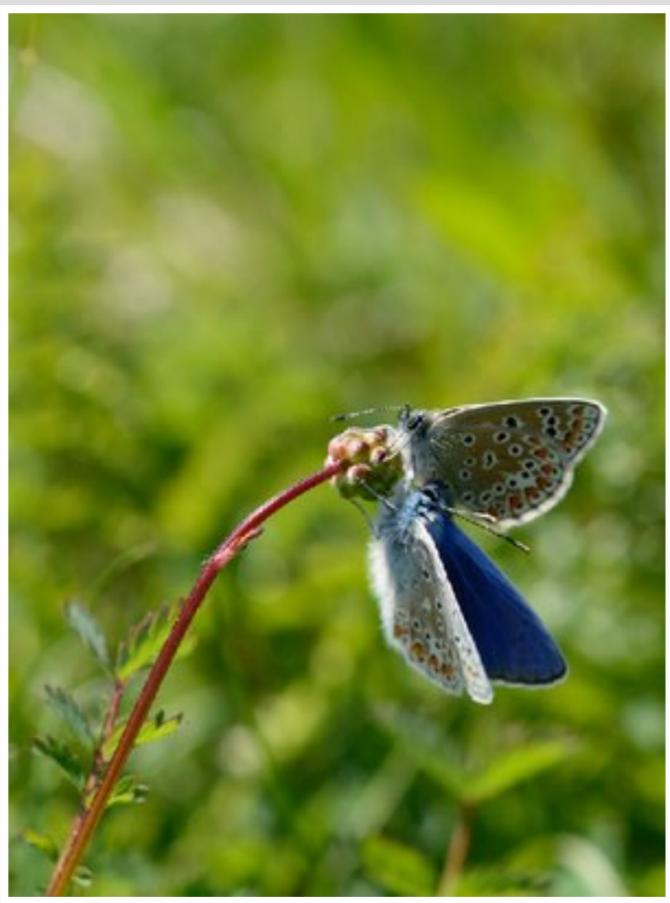
Wurzel

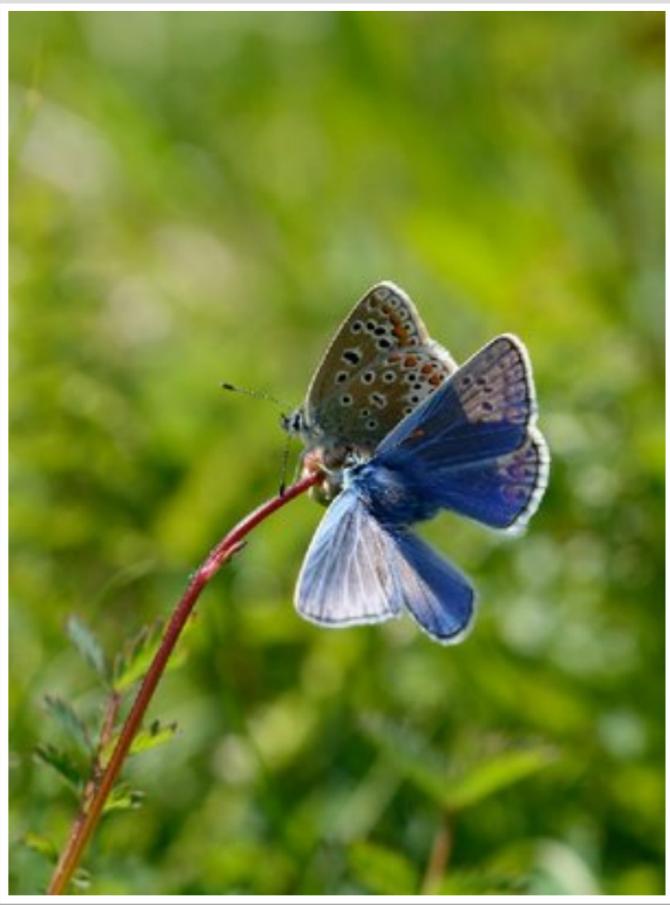
Cheers Wurzel 😊 sneaking out for some Dukes is worth loosing a few Brownie points for 😊 I'll send you a PM about the Marshies.

### Common Blues

After sighting my first Common Blue of the year on Sunday I decided to have a quick look around to see if I could find some more. I didn't see many – just three in total but it's still early days and I only had an hour to find some. I was pleased to observe some courtship activity and take a sequence of photos. It didn't lead to a coupling this time so I'll have to wait for that photo of a mating pair.







It was very windy out there today but I knew of a couple of local sheltered spots where I usually see some Common Blues every year. As you might expect the butterflies were very active during the warmest part of the day. But seeing as I had an hour to kill I tried my best to get a few half decent shots.





It was also gratifying to see the numbers of both Grizzled and Dingy Skippers have increased a little since my last visit.



B'saurus

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Neil Freeman, 06-May-14 08:45 PM GMT

Hi Rex, cracking reports and photo in your last few posts, love the backlit grizzlies especially 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by David M, 06-May-14 10:07 PM GMT

Common Blues look to be out in earnest in those parts, Rex. I trust by next weekend south Wales will be welcoming them too!

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 07-May-14 09:29 AM GMT

Great shots of the Common Blues Rex 😊 I'm reading your diary with interest as it gives me a heads up of what to look for the following week as that's what we seem to be behind by here in Wiltshire.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Philzoid, 12-May-14 01:58 PM GMT

Just catching up on your diary Rex. What can I say about those Wall close up 🤪🌿 x100 ... and those stained glass grizzlies 🙄

**"Butterfliesaurus rex" wrote:**

I've managed to get Dingie, Small Copper, Duke and Pearls so far this weekend but I expect you'll have picked up Brown Argus and Small Heath as well by now

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Looks like you had a fantastic weekend Wurzel I'm looking forward to seeing your photos I've not managed to see a Brown Argus or Small Heath yet but.....

I have 😊

can't be long now Wurzel ....

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Hoggers, 12-May-14 03:33 PM GMT

Hi B'saurus, I really enjoyed the Common Blue photographs. Great Stuff! The photos really bring home just how much I've missed this gorgeous butterfly! I can't wait to see them again.

Best Wishes,

Hoggers.

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 18-May-14 12:26 PM GMT

**"nfreem" wrote:**

Just seen your close ups of the Wall Browns Rex, as other have said, stunning images 😊

Great photos of the ST larvae as well, I'll have to start looking out for them, and Peacocks, myself.

Cheers,

Neil.

Thanks Neil, 😊 I still have not managed to locate any Peacock Larvae! There are plenty of Peacock's about so it's a mystery to me, all I can find are Small Tort's everywhere!

**"David M" wrote:**

Common Blues look to be out in earnest in those parts, Rex. I trust by next weekend south Wales will be welcoming them too!

Cheers David, it's been a while since I last posted so I'm sure you're enjoying the Common Blues by now. The numbers down this way are still growing steadily 😊

**"Wurzel" wrote:**

Great shots of the Common Blues Rex 😊 I'm reading your diary with interest as it gives me a heads up of what to look for the following week as that's what we seem to be behind by here in Wiltshire.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

I'll bet you've caught up by now Wurzel 😊 I've still not seen a Brown Argus or Small Heath! I must be looking in the wrong places 🙄

**"Philzoid" wrote:**

Just catching up on your diary Rex. What can I say about those Wall close up 🤪🌿 x100 ... and those stained glass grizzlies 🙄

**"Butterflysaurs rex" wrote:**

I've managed to get Dingie, Small Copper, Duke and Pearls so far this weekend but I expect you'll have picked up Brown Argus and Small Heath as well by now

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Looks like you had a fantastic weekend Wurzel I'm looking forward to seeing your photos I've not managed to see a Brown Argus or Small Heath yet but.....

I have 😊

can't be long now Wurzel ....

Great stuff Phil 😊 Still now Brown Argus or Small Heath for me yet 😊 I have been looking honest I have 🇬🇧 After a slow start it's good to see the Grizzlie numbers climb steadily in these parts.

**"Hoggers" wrote:**

Hi B'saurus, I really enjoyed the Common Blue photographs. Great Stuff! The photos really bring home just how much I've missed this gorgeous butterfly! I can't wait to see them again.

Best Wishes,

Hoggers.

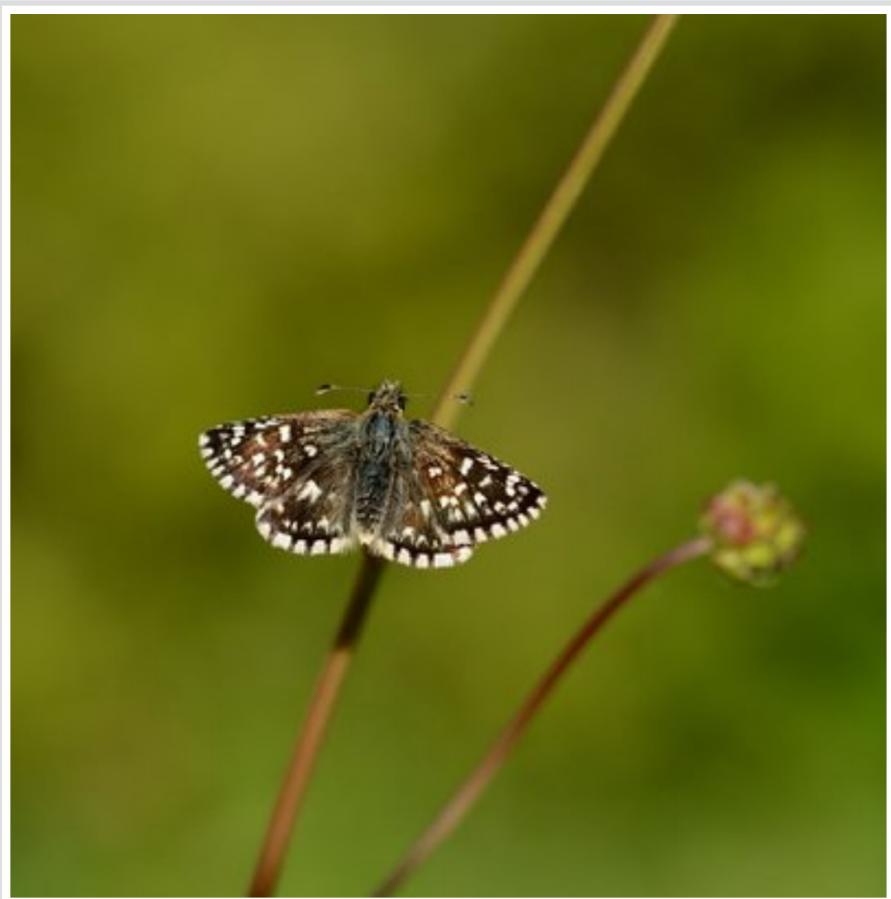
You should come down here for a visit Hoggers! Common Blues are starting to live up to their name. I hope it will continue and we see a bumper year for this species 😊

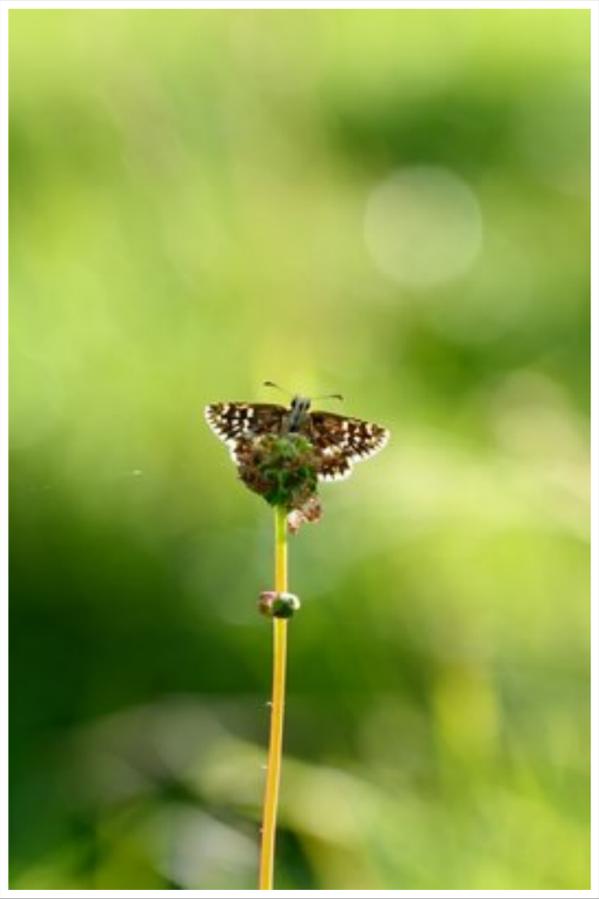
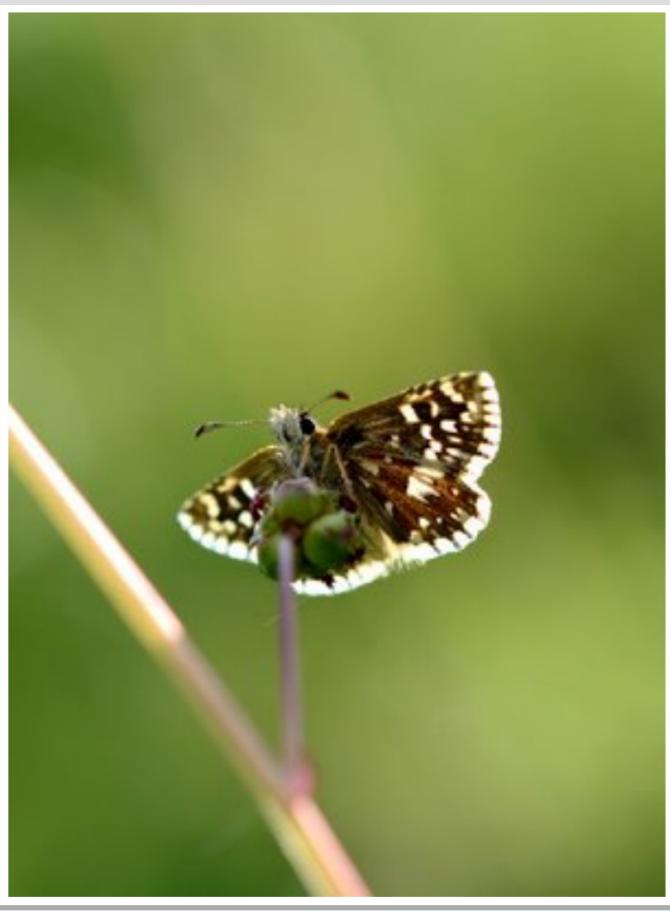
**Catching up AGAIN!**

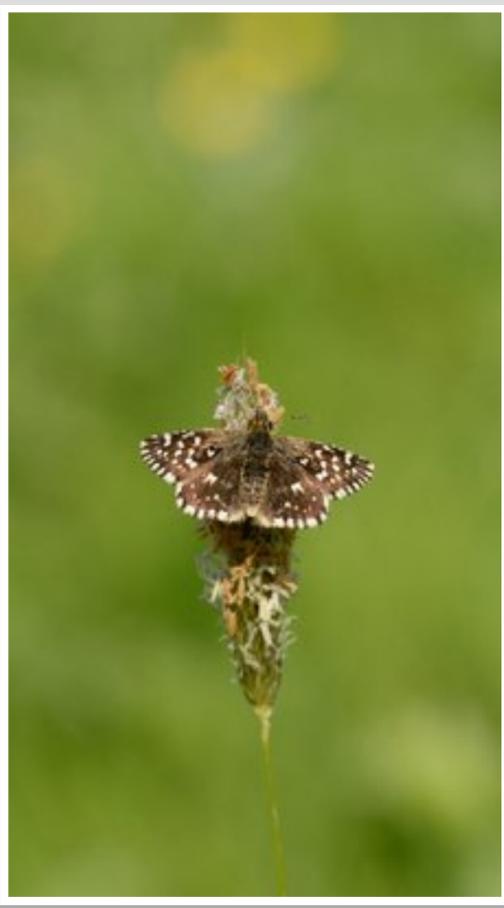
Thanks to being extremely busy I've been forced to neglect my PD so I'm playing catch up once more – I suspect this will become a common theme for me this year.

Over the last week I've mostly been staying local with the exception of a evening visit to Mill Hill over in the next county. Rather than post my photos in order of location I decided to separate them into species instead. Just because it looks less random 😊

Earlier on this week I went out with the intention of photographing some Dingy Skippers. When I arrived at the spot where I'd seen decent numbers of Dingies before that spell of wet cool and windy weather I could not locate a single specimen! A lot of the Grizzled Skippers had also disappeared 😞 I guess the bad weather had taken it's toll. All was not lost – I found a couple fresh Grizzled Skippers that posed very nicely for me.





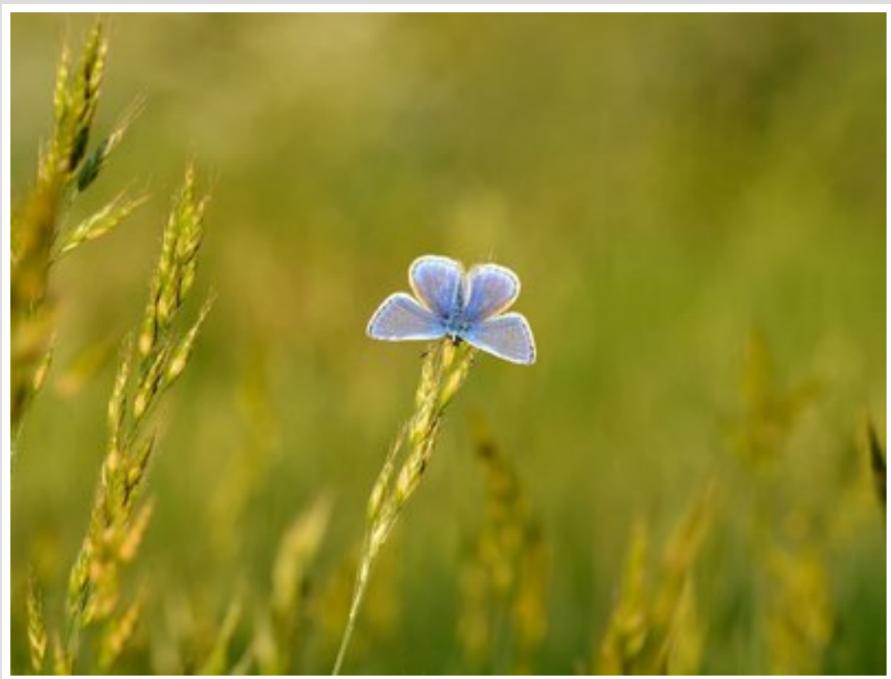


One evening earlier this week I popped over to Mill Hill to see my first Adonis Blues of the year. Some were already looking worn but there were still a few fresh ones about. I had hoped to spot my first Brown Argus of the year but I didn't manage to locate one there. The mission continues.....



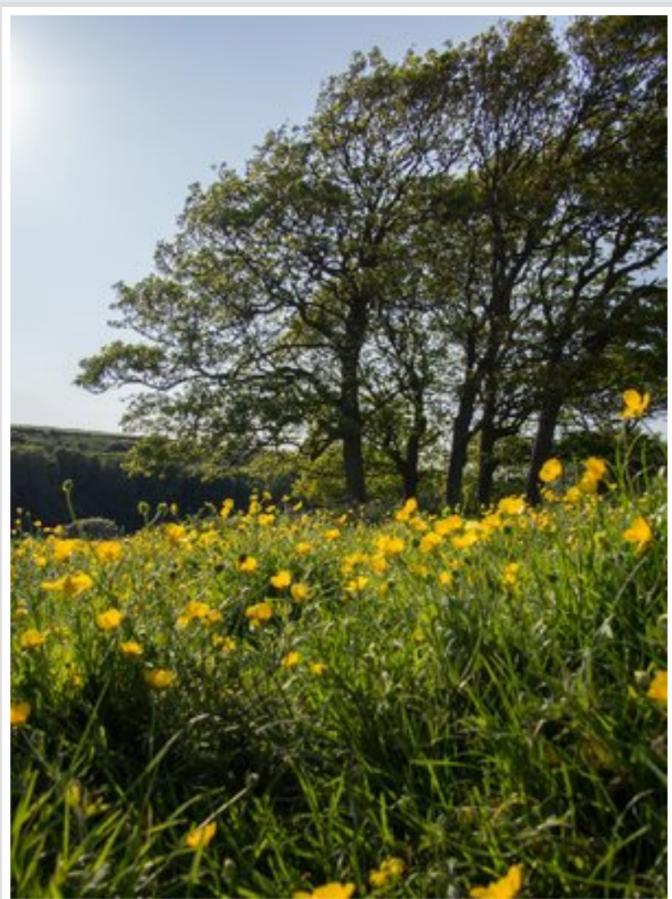


Over the past couple of days I've been concentrating on the local Common Blues. There are a couple of colonies quite close to home and as of yesterday the numbers are still climbing.





On the way home I stopped to take a photo of a local Buttercup meadow, it's lovely to see the fields glowing with intense yellow in the late afternoon sun.



**Re: Butterflysaurus rex**

by Wurzel, 18-May-14 10:29 PM GMT

Cracking Grizzlies shots and the Adonis is lush – still not seen one of those yet this year they're being very slow emerging here 😬 Mind you that means I'll just have to make a few more stop-offs 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Butterflysaurus rex**

by Butterflysaurus rex, 19-May-14 08:29 PM GMT

**"Wurzel" wrote:**

Cracking Grizzlies shots and the Adonis is lush – still not seen one of those yet this year they're being very slow emerging here 😬 Mind you that means I'll just have to make a few more stop-offs 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

I've not seen many Adonis down this way yet Wurzel, unsurprisingly Mill Hill had the most but locally I've only seen 2, although I've yet to check a number of places where I usually find some. A pity the weather is taking a turn for the worst, but only until the weekend if the Met office have got it right. 😊

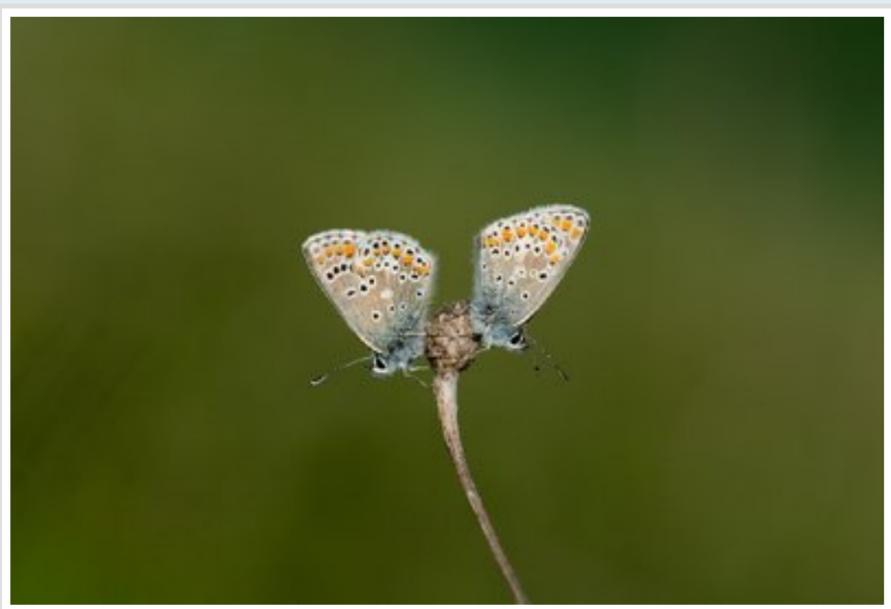
**Another 2 firsts for 2014!**

Late yesterday afternoon I managed to pop out to see if I could finally locate some Brown Argus. The weather was glorious and the Butterflies were thoroughly enjoying themselves, the number of common Blues were still on the rise and I also saw some fresh Wall Browns too.

It would seem that for me finding some Brown Argus is a lot like waiting for buses.....



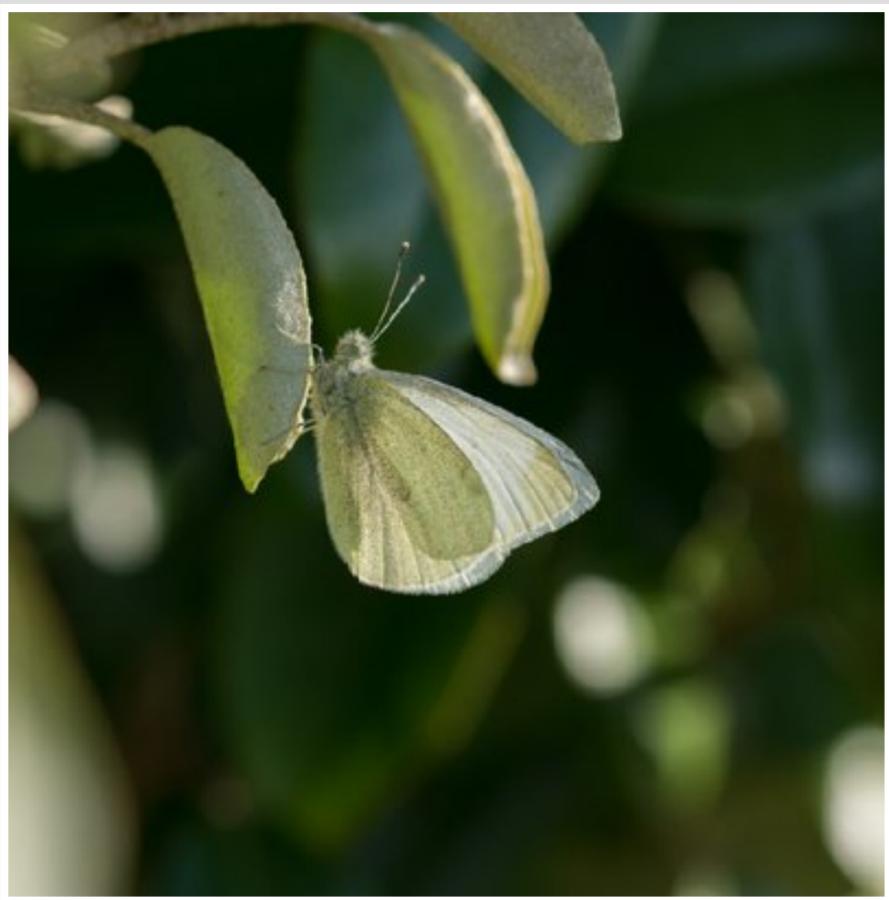




After thoroughly enjoying the antics of my first Brown Argus of the year I was delighted to see my second first for this season a very fresh Small Blue. 😊



As I approached home now rather late for dinner the sun was getting low in the sky and I stopped to watch some Small Whites getting ready to roost.



Only a few yards away I spotted a few Roosting Common Blues and I couldn't resist stopping for just one last shot.



When I eventually returned home my dinner was ruined and I had deservedly lost many a hard earned brownie point from my better half.

B'saurus

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Neil Hulme, 19-May-14 08:41 PM GMT

Those first two BA shots are great James. You need to buy a dog, so Claire will have somewhere to put your dinner when you're late next time. 😊 Here speaks a man of experience! 😊  
BWs, Neil (a.k.a. Mr Late)

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by William, 19-May-14 08:43 PM GMT

#### "Neil Hulme" wrote:

Those first two BA shots are great James.

Seconded – a magnificent sequence 😊

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 19-May-14 09:12 PM GMT

#### "Neil Hulme" wrote:

Those first two BA shots are great James. You need to buy a dog, so Claire will have somewhere to put your dinner when you're late next time. 😊 Here speaks a man of experience! 😊  
BWs, Neil (a.k.a. Mr Late)

Thanks Neil 😊 Seeing as I was already 'in the dog house' she fed it to me! All rubbery it was – with a nice dollop of indigestion for pudding. 😊 Do you use the same lame excuses as me with Hannah? Like "better late than never dear"..... no that one doesn't work for me either. 😊

#### "William" wrote:

#### "Neil Hulme" wrote:

Those first two BA shots are great James.

Seconded – a magnificent sequence 😊

Thanks very much William 😊 coming from two great photographers "that's you and Neil" in case you were wondering – I'm feeling rather flattered.

Best Wishes

B'saurus

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by David M, 19-May-14 09:57 PM GMT

Some sublime images there, Rex.

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 19-May-14 10:02 PM GMT

#### "David M" wrote:

Some sublime images there, Rex.

Thanks David, it was lovely out there yesterday afternoon, loads of fascinating butterfly behaviour going on. So fascinating in fact it made

me late for dinner. 😊

### Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by David M, 19-May-14 10:09 PM GMT

"Butterfysaurus rex" wrote:

"David M" wrote:

Some sublime images there, Rex.

Thanks David, it was lovely out there yesterday afternoon, loads of fascinating butterfly behaviour going on. So fascinating in fact it made me late for dinner. 😊

I know exactly what you mean, Rex, so much so that I avoid making commitments on weekends between May and September because the likelihood is that I'll renege on them.

Thankfully, I don't have a wife so I can usually indulge myself without feeling guilty, though that can still have its disadvantages – I failed one of my two accountancy exams last June because I was too busy studying butterflies rather than Accountancy Law.

Not too much damage done. I passed my resit in December which, of course, is a much more convivial time for a butterfly enthusiast. 😊

### Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 20-May-14 09:28 AM GMT

Fantastic BA which act just like their namesake (he of the "I ain't goin on no plane Hannibal") 😊

Over the few years I've been butterflying there have been an amazing number of "Tractors" on the roads 😊 What I do now is pull in when half way home and phone to say I'm just leaving 😊 That way I'm always early and therefore in the good books 😊  
There are plenty of more tricks but I'll PM them in case my wife has a read...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Lee Hurrell, 20-May-14 09:32 PM GMT

Under promise and over deliver. Works every time 😊

Love the brown argus shots, Rex.

Best wishes,

Lee

### Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 21-May-14 10:21 PM GMT

"David M" wrote:

"Butterfysaurus rex" wrote:

"David M" wrote:

Some sublime images there, Rex.

Thanks David, it was lovely out there yesterday afternoon, loads of fascinating butterfly behaviour going on. So fascinating in fact it made me late for dinner. 😊

I know exactly what you mean, Rex, so much so that I avoid making commitments on weekends between May and September because the likelihood is that I'll renege on them.

Thankfully, I don't have a wife so I can usually indulge myself without feeling guilty, though that can still have its disadvantages – I failed one of my two accountancy exams last June because I was too busy studying butterflies rather than Accountancy Law.

Not too much damage done. I passed my resit in December which, of course, is a much more convivial time for a butterfly enthusiast. 😊

Congratulations on passing your exams David 😊 It's so easy to get totally and utterly carried away when out Butterflying isn't it. 😊

**"Wurzel" wrote:**

Fantastic BA which act just like their namesake (he of the "I ain't goin on no plane Hannibal") 😊

Over the few years I've been butterflying there have been an amazing number of "Tractors" on the roads 😊 What I do now is pull in when half way home and phone to say I'm just leaving 😊 That way I'm always early and therefore in the good books 😊 There are plenty of more tricks but I'll PM them in case my wife has a read...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

"I love it when a plan comes together" 😊 Well on this occasion my only plan was to try and find some Brown Argus, I did much better than I expected for a change 😊 I'm looking forward to that PM 🍷

**"Lee Hurrell" wrote:**

Under promise and over deliver. Works every time 😊

Love the brown argus shots, Rex.

Best wishes,

Lee

Cheers Lee 😊 I must try and remember to get it the right way round 😊

Many thanks

B'saurus

**Re: Butterfysaurus rex**

by Butterfysaurus rex, 01-Oct-14 09:02 PM GMT

**Return of the rex: 3rd Brood Wall**

Thanks to the arrival of my wonderful baby daughter in July my season & my postings on UKB were 'rather abruptly' cut short this summer. Somehow I managed to get out locally for a few brief excursions but for many reasons I missed out on most of the action from July onwards.

Reading about the good emergence of 3rd brood Wall in Sussex I was keen to pop out and have a look at one of my local hotspots to see if I could find any. Initially things didn't look too promising, but eventually I managed to find around 4 Wall Browns. At least one of them was still in pretty decent shape so I tried to get in close enough for a photo.

Getting my camera within range of Wall Browns using a 100mm Macro lens is definitely **not** a task for the easily frustrated! Or even perhaps for the extremely patient. Thankfully I'm simply an eternal optimist and on very rare occasions "and with a lot of luck" I just manage to wing it.

For some reason all of the Wall's I saw there were males, hopefully they were able to pass on their genes to a passing female or two so I can be easily evaded and totally outwitted by their offspring next year. 😊





Just before I left for home I observed this individual go to roost in one of the cracks in an old flint wall, I've seen Wall Browns go to roost there before. However they are so well camouflaged they simply disappear and are usually impossible to spot. On this occasion a Wall landed close enough for me to see exactly where it went. I then managed to creep along the wall and get a few shot's of it going to bed just as the light was failing.





Sadly I suspect that will be my last butterfly photographing trip of 2014. If I get the chance I might be able post a few of my "post fatherhood" photos before the year comes to an end.

B'saurus

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by trevor, 01-Oct-14 09:57 PM GMT

Hi,B.Saurus,

Good to hear from you! I expect the baby is cramping your style for now.but i am sure she is worth it!.

Hope to see you next year.

TREVOR

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 01-Oct-14 10:59 PM GMT

#### "trevor" wrote:

Hi,B.Saurus,

Good to hear from you! I expect the baby is cramping your style for now.but i am sure she is worth it!.

Hope to see you next year.

TREVOR

Ah she's just wonderful Trevor, and more than worth it 😊 it was really good to get out and see some Wall Browns to finish off the season. I'm looking forward to my first daddy daughter butterfly trip when she's old enough.

See you next year.

Best wishes

B'saurus

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Neil Hulme, 02-Oct-14 09:25 AM GMT

Hi B. rex,

Good to have you back. I hope things have calmed down now for all three of you! By next season it'll be a doddle. 😊

One of the things I've noticed recently, after pursuing third brood Wall on several occasions during the immediate pre-roost period, is the different locations which seem to be chosen by male and females butterflies. Your male broadly fits the pattern, and I'll be paying close attention in future to see how widely the trend I've noticed can be applied elsewhere (beyond the Mill Hill site).

The most typical roosting site for males seems to be just under the overhang of eroded hollows, scrapes and burrows, where grass stems and rootlets dangle over the edge. This breaks up their outline and makes them even less obvious, once they've closed their wings down tight and they're clinging to the bare earth. I've also seen them retire to cavities in the vertical face of the steps on the main Mill Hill slope, between the boards and scree.

On the other hand, almost every female I've watched goes to roost by squeezing herself into a protective clump of thicker grass, particularly Tor Grass.

BWs, Neil

## Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 02-Oct-14 08:57 PM GMT

Hi Neil,

Thank you very much indeed, things have finally settled down for us now 'thank heavens' and I'm really looking forward to next season.

It was fascinating watching the roosting behaviour of the exclusively male Wall. I don't believe I've ever seen a female go to roost before I've only ever seen them basking in the late evening sunshine. It never occurred to me that their chosen roosting sites might be different. The underside of a wall's wing is a rival for the Grayling wrt to blending in with their surroundings. on a few occasions I've seen Wall flying with Grayling and sparring with each other. Maybe they are arguing over who has the best camouflage!

Your recent Wall photos were simply terrific, it's so rewarding when you get a decent photo of a Wall and yours were excellent. They are virtually unapproachable and can have you pulling your hair out with frustration. No other butterfly has made me swear at myself for missing a good shot more than this one. At least I'm not the only one eh 😊

All the best

B'saurus

P.S It's lovely seeing so many fresh Red Admirals around at the moment too.



## Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 02-Oct-14 10:04 PM GMT

Fantastic shots Rex and great to see you back on the forums 😊 Have you invested in a Mountain Buggy or some form of rucsac/sling yet ready for next season? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

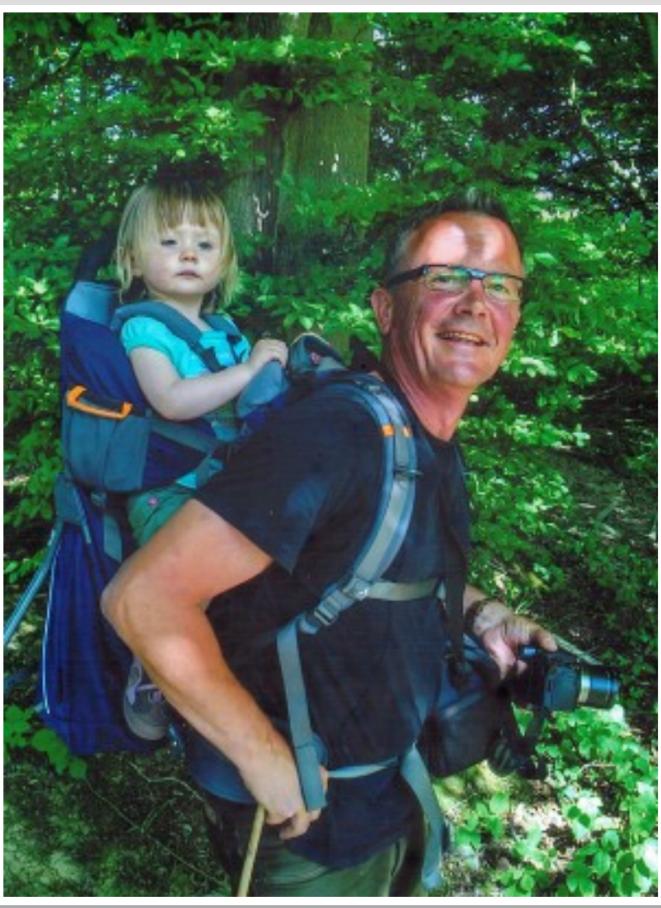
## Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Neil Hulme, 03-Oct-14 08:49 AM GMT

Hi B. rex,

You can't go wrong with one of these! 45 degree slopes no problem, but don't tell Claire! Lady Muck loved going out in this.

BWs, Neil



### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Jack Harrison, 03-Oct-14 05:13 PM GMT

Neil: Lady Muck loved going out in this.

Can't quite make it out but is that a camera or bins in young lady's hands? If not WHY NOT! Never too young.

Jack

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Pauline, 03-Oct-14 06:07 PM GMT

That's a great shot of the RA on the blackberry – very autumnal 😊

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Neil Freeman, 03-Oct-14 07:30 PM GMT

Hi B. Rex,

Good to see you back again with some great reports and photos 😊

Interesting comments from yourself and Neil H on the roosting Wall Browns. Back in early September, at Osmington in Dorset, I watched a female settle down to roost in the same manner as you describe the males that you saw, there is a photo of her on page 59 of my diary.

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 03-Oct-14 09:29 PM GMT

**"Wurzel" wrote:**

Fantastic shots Rex and great to see you back on the forums 😊 Have you invested in a Mountain Buggy or some form of rucsac/sling yet ready for next season? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Hello Wurzel 😊 thanks very much, it's very nice to be back. We're going to get something for rougher terrain in time for the spring when we'll be going out a lot more often. Some of the places that I frequent in search of butterflies aren't even safe for me! I'm looking forward to taking her out to the more "family friendly" places though.

P.S your diary is so epic I'm still catching up on your adventures – brilliant reports and photos as usual.

**"Neil Hulme" wrote:**

Hi B. rex,

You can't go wrong with one of these! 45 degree slopes no problem, but don't tell Claire! Lady Muck loved going out in this. BWs, Neil

[attachment=0:3e0h548t]UKB Mia on butterfly safari.jpg[/attachment:3e0h548t]

Hi Neil, I will email you later on about the make and model if that's OK. I'm afraid Claire already knows about me clinging onto 45 degree slopes.

That is such a great photo of you with your little'un 😊

**"Jack Harrison" wrote:**

Neil: Lady Muck loved going out in this.

Can't quite make it out but is that a camera or bins in young lady's hands? If not WHY NOT! Never too young.

Jack

I suspect she was having too much fun driving her daddy around Jack 😊

**"Pauline" wrote:**

That's a great shot of the RA on the blackberry – very autumnal 😊

Thanks Pauline 😊 it was so warm here yesterday that most of the Red Admirals I saw were doing their best impression of a Wall Brown – as in unapproachable. Thankfully the Blackberrys were so sweet that this RA didn't care about me getting in close for a photo or two.

**"nfreem" wrote:**

Hi B. Rex,

Good to see you back again with some great reports and photos 😊

Interesting comments from yourself and Neil H on the roosting Wall Browns. Back in early September, at Osmington in Dorset, I watched a female settle down to roost in the same manner as you describe the males that you saw, there is a photo of her on page 59 of my diary.

Cheers,

Neil.

Hello Neil, I just had a look at your roosting female – it's a lovely photo I love the under wing camouflage – I think it's possibly even more difficult to get a great shot of a wall's underside. Thank you very much for the kind words and the warm welcome.

My best wishes to you all

B'saurus

**Re: Butterfysaurus rex**

by Goldie M, 04–Oct–14 01:52 PM GMT

Love the Wall shots Rex ,I took a photo earlier in the year of a Wall in front of a Rabbit hole from which it had just emerged 😊

Congrats on the birth of your daughter hope to see some photo's soon Goldie 😊

**Re: Butterfysaurus rex**

by Butterfysaurus rex, 05–Oct–14 11:31 PM GMT

**"Goldie M" wrote:**

Love the Wall shots Rex ,I took a photo earlier in the year of a Wall in front of a Rabbit hole from which it had just emerged 😊

Congrats on the birth of your daughter hope to see some photo's soon Goldie 😊

Thank you Goldie 😊 I've got a lot of catching up to do reading everyone's diaries of course I'm busier than ever now our little one is here. I'm going to try and find your Wall near the rabbit hole photo though. Every decent Wall Brown photo is precious – they are such a tricky subject but their beauty makes all of the frustration more than worthwhile.

Thank you for the congrats 😊

Best wishes

B'saurus

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Goldie M, 06-Oct-14 04:00 PM GMT

Hi!, B saurus, you won't find my photo in the postings . I didn't include it because of Grass that was in the way , but I'll post one on here for you if that's not too intrusive; you can see the hole it came out of in the back ground also the grass UGH! not so good. Goldie 😊



### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 07-Oct-14 10:44 PM GMT

Thank you for showing me Goldie, I've never seen a Wall emerge from a rabbit hole! Wall Browns have a real knack for positioning themselves behind a bit of grass or a twig. It's yet another thing they do to frustrate our attempts at getting a good photo. 😊

ATB

B'saurus

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 21-Dec-14 11:03 PM GMT

#### MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

Well it's that time of year again so I thought I'd put on a silly hat and celebrate with a few of my personal highlights from the 2014 Butterfly season. This year started out very well thanks to the 'unusually warm' early spring. I tried to make the most of it because I knew that by the end of the June Gap I would be welcoming my baby daughter into the world 😊

Small Tortoiseshells are almost always the first butterflies I see every spring and it was heartening to see that the fantastic numbers from 2013 had carried over into this year.



My next highlight has to be the return of the Orange Tips, always a very welcome sight. They started very early in this part of the world and although numbers were not as high as recent years they still seemed to do well in a few local spots.



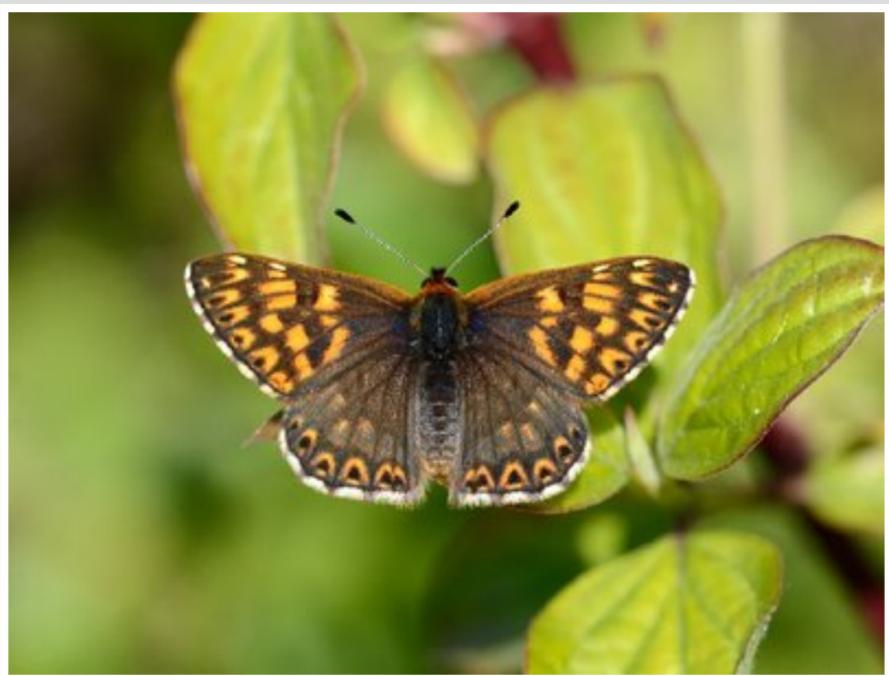
After the Orange Tips arrive I know it won't be long before I see my first Green Hairstreaks of the year, again they started unusually early, in fact this year was the earliest I've ever known for GHS's.



Despite some reports saying that Grizzled Skippers were having a poor year I am very happy to say that in my part of Sussex (at least) they were reasonably plentiful. that meant I had ample opportunity to get a few decent shots.



Without doubt my favourite butterflying trip of this year was my expedition to Heyshott in search of the Duke and Duchess. Not only did I see very good numbers but I also met a few familiar faces as well as making a few new friends, it really was a day to remember.

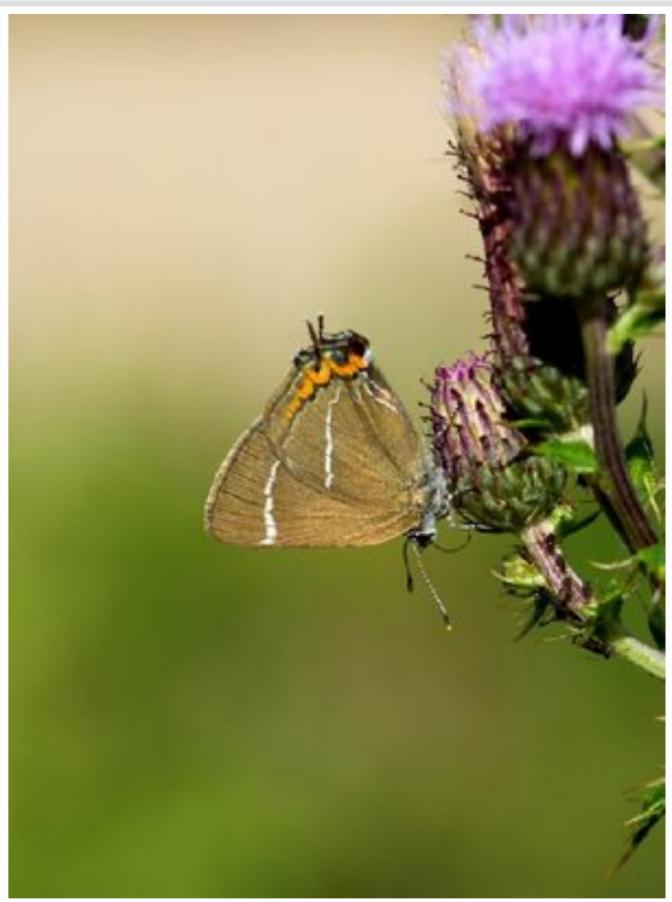




Another highlight came in the form of the Small Heath, with good numbers on the wing I unexpectedly found that I had more chances to get a photo of a butterfly that can be almost as difficult as Wall Browns to photograph. This year I actually got a few half decent photos, most years I don't manage any!



Last but by no means least – just before the joyous arrival of our baby I managed to spend some time in the company of Badgerbob in search of some White letter Hairstreaks. Bob very kindly showed me a few of his favourite spots but I think we were a little early as we didn't manage to find any. Luckily I managed to locate some later on and get some photos of this fabulous little butterfly.



And that's about it, my season came to an abrupt end but for the best possible reason. Of course I can't wait to take my little girl butterflying with me in a few years time 😊

Once again I would like to wish everyone on UKB a very happy Christmas and a wonderful "butterfly filled" 2015. I hope to see some of you out there next year.

Xmas best wishes

B'saurus

### **Re: Butterflysaurus rex**

by David M, 21-Dec-14 11:43 PM GMT

Some seriously good images there, B'Rex.

Hope to see more of you in 2015! All the best.

### **Re: Butterflysaurus rex**

by trevor, 22-Dec-14 08:47 AM GMT

Hi B.Rex,

Lovely selection, almost Hulme quality!! Also, I like your timing, posting them on the shortest day, with that behind us we are now on our way to next season.

Hope to catch up with you in 2015.

Wishing your new family a happy Christmas

TREVOR.

## Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by kevlings, 22-Dec-14 09:58 AM GMT

B'Saurus,

The latest offerings in your PD have me green with envy. Firstly the photos of the Dukes. I've missed out on these for the last two years and have vowed to make 2015 the year I finally see my first examples. Secondly the small heath is the one butterfly I just cannot get close enough to photograph. Your macro image is simply stunning.

Merry Christmas

Regards Kev

## Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 22-Dec-14 08:57 PM GMT

### "David M" wrote:

Some seriously good images there, B'Rex.

Hope to see more of you in 2015! All the best.

Likewise David, I'm glad you liked the photos, my season was cut a bit short but it was fantastic while it lasted. Have a great 2015 😊

Merry Christmas

B'saurus

## Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 22-Dec-14 09:14 PM GMT

### "trevor" wrote:

Hi B.Rex,

Lovely selection, almost Hulme quality!! Also, I like your timing, posting them on the shortest day, with that behind us we are now on our way to next season.

Hope to catch up with you in 2015.

Wishing your new family a happy Christmas

TREVOR.

Thank you kindly Trevor 😊 Yes indeed we'll soon be out chasing Orange Tips and PBF's once more, I can't wait! I'm absolutely certain I'll see you out there somewhere next year, We always manage to catch up at one of the usual spots. 😊

Have a great Christmas – see you next year.

Best Yuletide Wishes

B'saurus

## Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 22-Dec-14 09:38 PM GMT

### "kevlings" wrote:

B'Saurus,

The latest offerings in your PD have me green with envy. Firstly the photos of the Dukes. I've missed out on these for the last two years and have vowed to make 2015 the year I finally see my first examples. Secondly the small heath is the one butterfly I just cannot get close enough to photograph. Your macro image is simply stunning.

Merry Christmas

Regards Kev

Very kind of you to say that Kev, There's still quite a few species I've yet to see. Like you I hope to find a few of them in 2015. Small Heath are very slippery customers, like the Wall they are highly sensitive to movement. Photographing those two species can have you tearing your hair out! I used a 100mm lens on my APSC DSLR for both the small Heath and Wall Brown photos, unfortunately for me you have to get

pretty damn close – I suppose I'm just a glutton for punishment. 😊

Merry Christmas to you, and the best of luck on your mission to see some Dukes next year. I hope to make a trip for the Dukes myself.

ATB

B'saurus

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 22-Dec-14 10:40 PM GMT

Fantastic to see you back on the forums with such cracking shots Rex 😊🍷

Have a fabtastic Chrimble and New Year!

Wurzel

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 22-Dec-14 11:10 PM GMT

#### "Wurzel" wrote:

Fantastic to see you back on the forums with such cracking shots Rex 😊🍷

Have a fabtastic Chrimble and New Year!

Wurzel

Cheers Wurzel 😊 I hope you and the family have a wonderful Christmas. Not to mention a cracking 2015. I've had a very eventful year I'll send you a PM after Xmas after all it's been a while.

All the best

B'saurus

### Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Neil Freeman, 24-Dec-14 07:32 PM GMT

Good to see you posting again B'saurus and looking forward to see how you get on next year.

Hope you have a great Christmas and a New Year,

Cheers,

Neil.