

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 03-Jan-14 03:57 PM GMT

I got back from Kent on Sunday the 29th Dec, had a great Christmas but boy what a storm we had over Christmas week.

Tree's down every where, I've seen it bad up North but we've never witnessed any thing quite like that even with our share of wind and rain we don't get the flooding like they got in Kent. Lucky for us we didn't at least get the water every where and although the electric went down it was only for a short time, I won't grumble about living North West any more 😊

Any way we're in January now and nearer to Spring 😊 Also the birds seem to be showing up more in the garden " Gold Finch " yesterday and today also Black Birds things are looking up 😊 Goldie M

## Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 03-Jan-14 10:26 PM GMT

Glad to see you got back alright Goldie, Happy New Year 😊

I too have been out trying to photograph birds – I thought it would be easier as they're bigger so I wouldn't need to get as close – right? Wrong – they're too mobile most of the time – still needs must, it's better than sitting around and eating even more 😊 Great shot of the Robin – you should save that for next years Christmas card 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-Jan-14 04:46 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, Happy New Year to you has well.

The only bird shot I got this year so far was in my Back Garden, still it's the first time I've seen the Gold Finch for ages so I'll settle for that. 😊

I may go to Penn Flash if it ever stops raining, some one as seen a "Rail" there ,(don't know if I've spelt that right) It's close to one of the Hides as well, it's one bird I've not got a shot of yet so has soon as it stops raining I'll be off.

That's a good idea for next Christmas, (the Robin ) I may just do that 😊

Popped into the garden this morning and my Snow Drops have started to come through , not open yet , but it made me smile . Goldie . 😊 PS so did the Gold Finch.



## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 12-Jan-14 05:06 PM GMT

This last Wed's I went to Penn Flash the weather was cold but not bitter has there was very little wind which made a change 😊 We walked along the path to one of the hides, I was hoping to see the "Rail" , no such luck I'm a fraid but I did manage a few photo's of my Favourite bird, the "Robin" and I also got a shot of a "Nut Thatch" which was lucky as it didn't settle very long 😊

The weather here as been very wet so no chance of seeing any Butterflies hibernating or other wise; when it's dry it's very cold this morning the bird bath was frozen and we'd to break the ice, the Gold Finch though are not worried as long as their suply of seeds keeps coming 😊 At least the bulbs are coming up and the Snow Drops Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 12-Jan-14 09:35 PM GMT

Great shots of the Robin Goldie 😊 and I see you've started your own multi-species quiz 😊 I can make out a Grey Heron, Mallard and various feral ducks, Teal, Gadwall and a Tuftie. There's one far back on the left that I can't make out as the zoom isn't too good on my laptop.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 13-Jan-14 08:34 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzal, your much better than I am with the Ducks names 😊 It was pretty crowded at the Flash , loads of birds. I'm getting to know the smaller ones much better but ducks not too good on them I'm afraid.

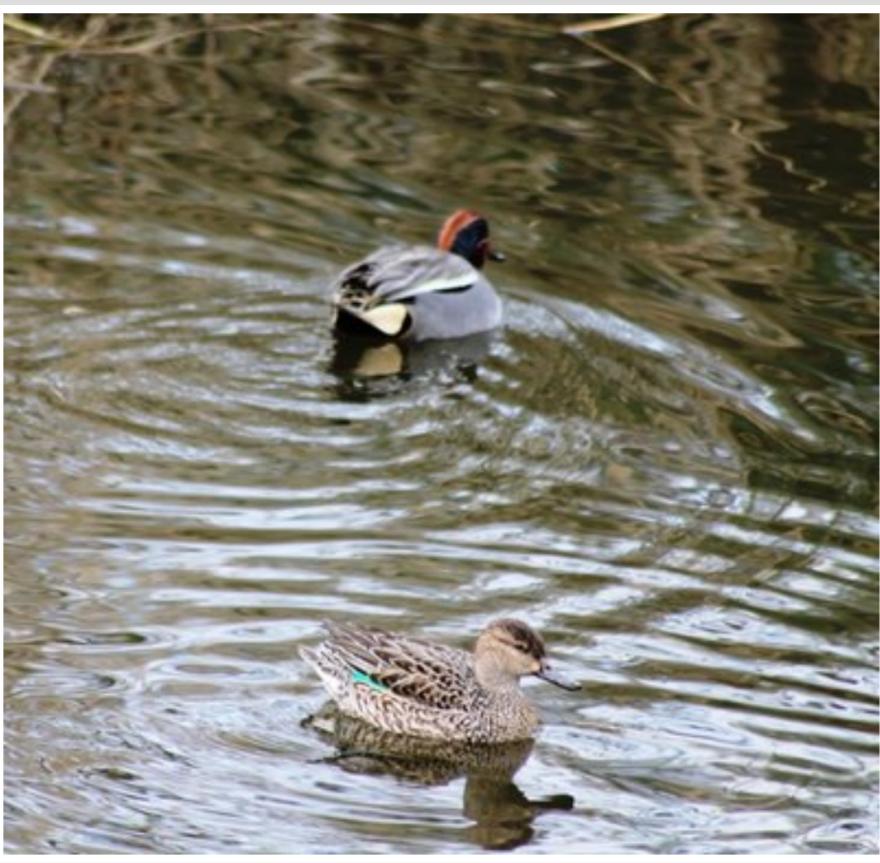
Thanks for what you said about the Robin, I couldn't miss him he came and sat on a branch so near to me I could have leaned out and touched him, I'm saying he because he seemed much plumper than a couple of other Robins that were near by, now who's getting in trouble with sexist remarks 😊 I just hope I can get good shots of Butterflies this Spring with this new lens, I can't wait for the Orange tips to come a long this Spring. Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 09-Feb-14 03:18 PM GMT

Well our new year started with a bang alright when on the 23rd Jan my husband after painting the kitchen fell off the kitchen unit and broke two ribs one of which pierced his lung; it's been a night mare over the last weeks how ever he's on the mend now but it was very frightening for a while at least he's got the summer to get back to normal.

Anyway the very last photo's I took were at Mere Sands on the 19th Jan, I think this is a Teal with it's mate and of course I couldn't resist the Robin again 😊 Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 09-Feb-14 10:47 PM GMT

Alright Goldie, lovely shots of the Teal and brill Robin shot 😊 🍷  
Wish your husband well with his recovery.  
Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 10-Feb-14 11:54 AM GMT

Sorry to read of your husbands accident but glad he's on the mend. He should have followed the standard male rule of never venturing near the kitchen 😊

I always think Teal are delightful ducks, with the green flash on the wing and the head pattern that looks as though it's made from a couple of pieces of velvet!

Mike

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 10-Feb-14 05:00 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzal and Mike, he's doing well now but can't drive for another five weeks which isn't going down too well. Like I told him though he'll just have to put up with my driving for a while, ( the eye brows went up at this) 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 11-Feb-14 07:16 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, some great photos in your last few posts 😊

Sorry to hear about your husband, hope he recovers soon.

Neil.

### Re: Goldie M

by Maximus, 11-Feb-14 08:36 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, I hope your husband makes a speedy recovery.

Mike

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 22-Feb-14 07:21 PM GMT

We've had a few set backs over the last couple of weeks, (thanks Mike and Neil for your posting) but my husband has a great sense of humour and didn't let things get him down, now all he wants is to get out he's fed up of sitting about, we're just waiting now for better weather and with luck off we'll go 😊

March next week, I've been in the garden today trying to tidy up a bit, it was lovely to see the Crocus and Snow Drops out, we've had a lot of birds in the garden as well, Long Tailed Tit's, Wren's, Robin, Coal Tit, Chaffinch, both Blue and Great Tit's, also Gold Finch, and Starlings etc, My husband calls the back garden "Starlingrad" 😊 Keep hoping a Butterfly will suddenly appear, too cold yet for that anyway thanks again for your postings Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 02-Mar-14 04:37 PM GMT

March at last! Not been able to go anywhere just yet, hope fully though if the weather is fine I can start looking for Butterflies soon.

I've spent the few days we've had gardening, it's been hard but I'm finally seeing some results. My Perennial Wall Flower believe it or not is still in flower, it's a wonder in itself.

I've also taken a couple of shots of the birds in the garden I think Spring has definitely arrived for them, the Black birds have been chasing one another about also the Wood Pigeon's and the Gold Finch have been in the garden every day also this annoying Squirrel.

Can't wait to get moving again hubby is fed up now but should be driving this week all being well it's been a long road Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 03-Mar-14 11:41 PM GMT

Glad to hear that the end is in sight, both for your Husband and also for the winter Goldie 😊 Like the Starling action shot 😊

Have a goodun

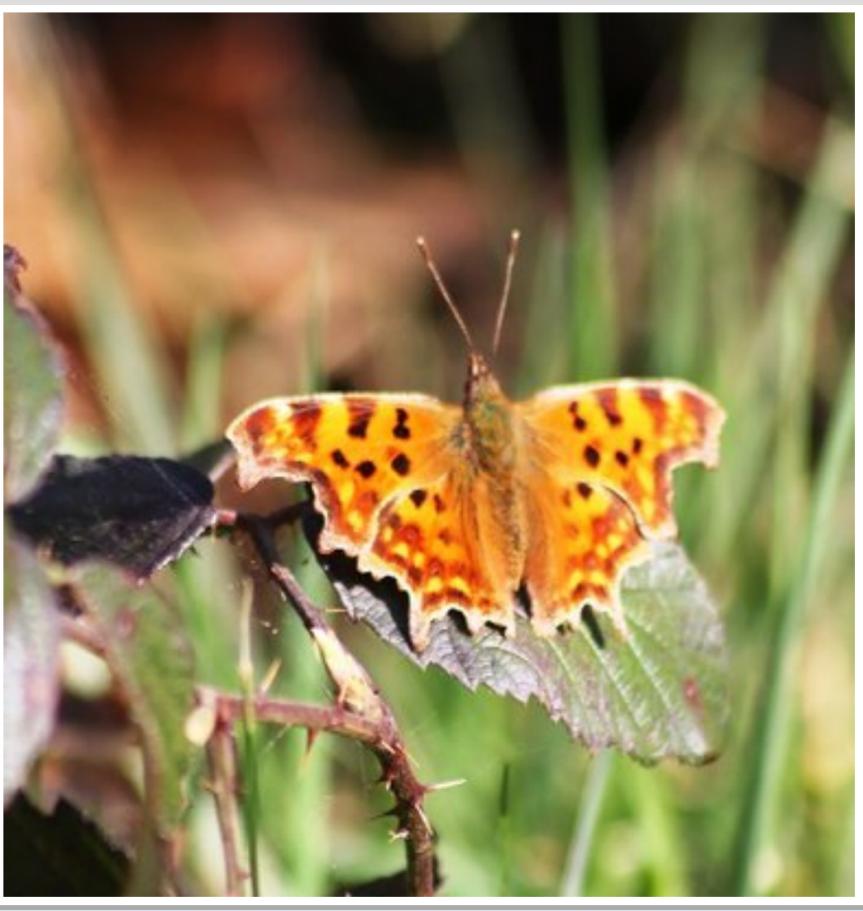
Wurezl

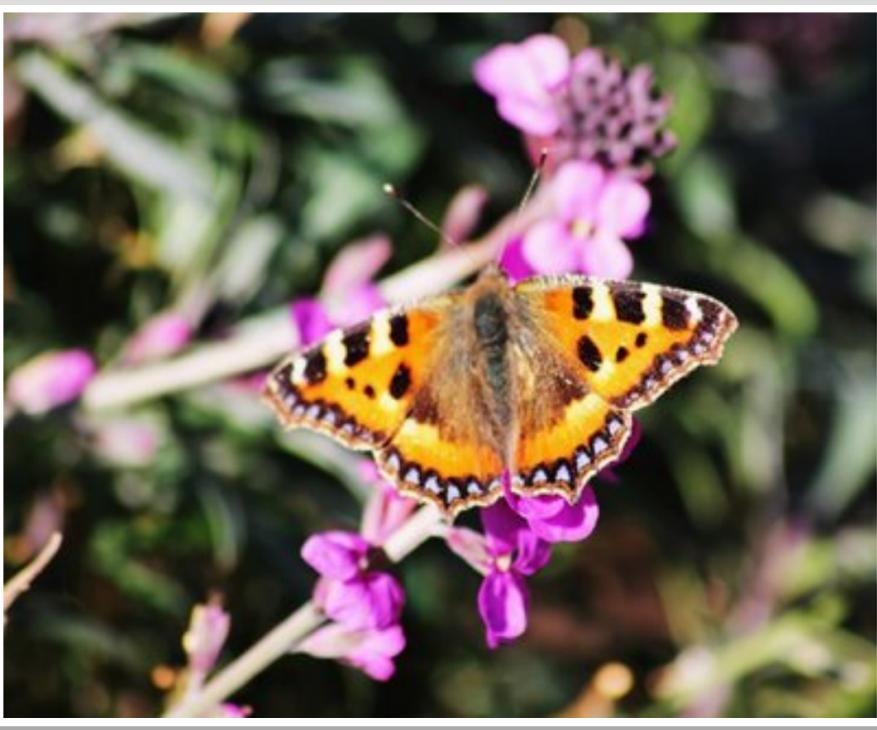
### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 12-Mar-14 06:36 PM GMT

Fantastic week so far I went to Hall-Lee\_Brook on Monday and saw my first Small Tortoiseshell of this year. I managed to get some shots as well which was great. It's the earliest I've ever seen them around here so let's hope that's a good omen for the year a head. I counted about 10 altogether some were even in my garden when I got back home which was great.

Today I went there again because I missed taking a shot of a Comma and was lucky to find him in the same area as yesterday and got my my photo. 😊  
It really feels like Spring now I can't wait to find a Peacock BF now 😊 Goldie





## Re: Goldie M

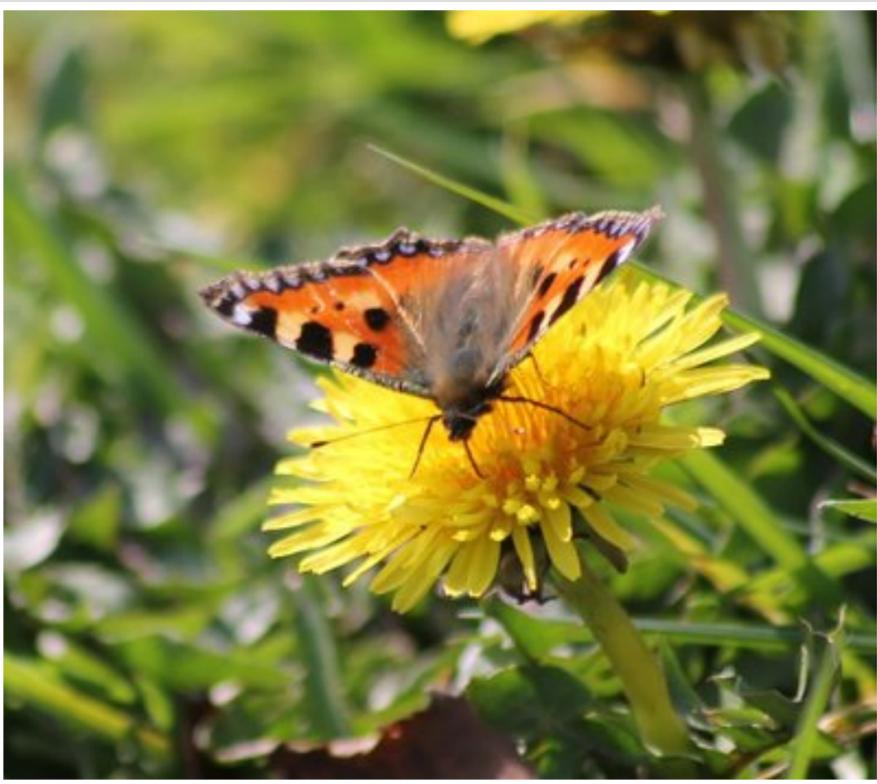
by Goldie M, 14-Mar-14 01:18 PM GMT

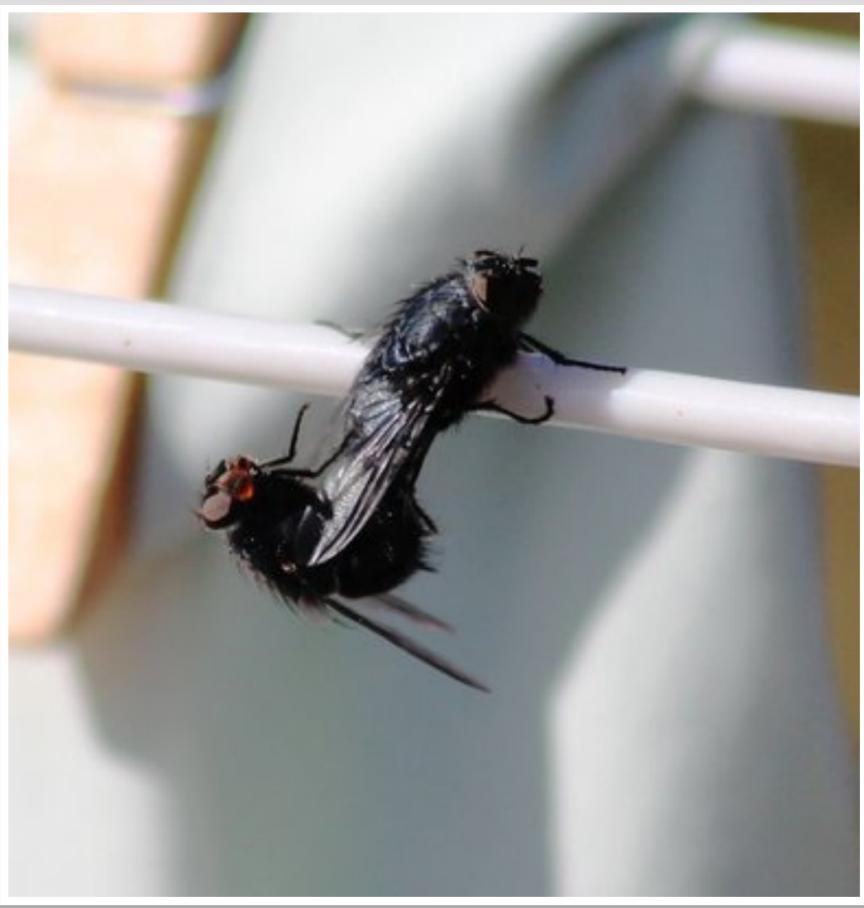
Looks like the weather is going to be bad today, too much mist about so I thought I'd just put a couple of shots in my diary that I took this week.

After putting my washing out on the line the other day I came across these two, I'm not too well up on flies etc, so I'm not sure if their Blue B or Hover F, one things for sure Spring had certainly arrived 😊

On my visit to Hall-Lee-Brook I came across the man made Pond now full of Frogs and I suppose Toads with the noise they were making 😊 It's truly amazing that this Waste Land I talked about when I first started My diary is becoming quite the avon for so much wild life now, hope fully more species of Butterfly will be attracted there in the near future. Goldie 😊

Still getting use to my Camera 😊





## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 22-Mar-14 01:48 PM GMT

I've only seen one Butterfly since the 19th of March, although it's been sunny at times it's been very cold, snow on my garden shed this morning and both bird baths were frozen so not too good for BF.

On the 19th however I did have a "Honey Bee" and a "Bumble Bee" correct me if I'm wrong 😊 in the back garden and my Magnolia is starting to open so things are feeling like Spring ( just hope the frost dosen't spoil it)

The Butterfly I saw was a Small Tortoiseshell, it was looking for some where to hide because it landed in some large grasses and just disapeared, this was at Hall-Lee-Brook, I've yet to see a Brimstone there at any time, even the Peacocks are keeping a low profile up to now. I hope the weather improves next week Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 24-Mar-14 12:06 AM GMT

I hope you get a break in the weather soon Goldie but it appears that rumours of Spring were greatly exaggerated 😊 Great shots there. I think that your Honey Bee is a Hoverfly – some sort of Drone fly – Mark Colvin pointed me in the right direction on this a while back. The bee is a Tree Bee – if you go to the BWARS website they should be interested in your sighting as this species has been working northwards from the continent.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 25-Mar-14 10:31 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzal, sorry it's taken so long to reply but yesterday was a lovely day , very cold though with an East wind, the temp was about 9/10 at the best but I know that parts of Hall-Lee-Brook are sheltered from the wind (lots of hollows and tree's to protect it in some parts) so I ventured there very hope ful I'd see some thing, but with the temp being 6 below the night before I wasn't too sure that I would.

Has luck would have it , the first place I came to that was sheltered ,(down by the frog pond )produced a Comma and a Small Tortoiseshell, I was so busy filming these two I missed the Peacock that was sunning itself 😞 my one consolation was that I'd seen my first Peacock of the year and now I know their starting to fly. Rain today though so I'll have to wait and see what tomorrow morning's like.

Your info about the Bee is interesting has I saw one at HLB whilst I was there, I'll go to that sight you mentioned. I thought I was wrong about the Honey Bee, I suppose we'll have to wait for warmer weather to see many of them. If I catch sight of any to compare with the Hover Fly I'll take a photo 😊

Incidentally I kept my camera on micro for some of the shots, but I think I got abit too near on a few, I certainly enjoy trying the different settings . I caught the STS just has it was about to take off in the distance, thanks again Wurzal Goldie 😊



## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 02-Apr-14 01:24 PM GMT

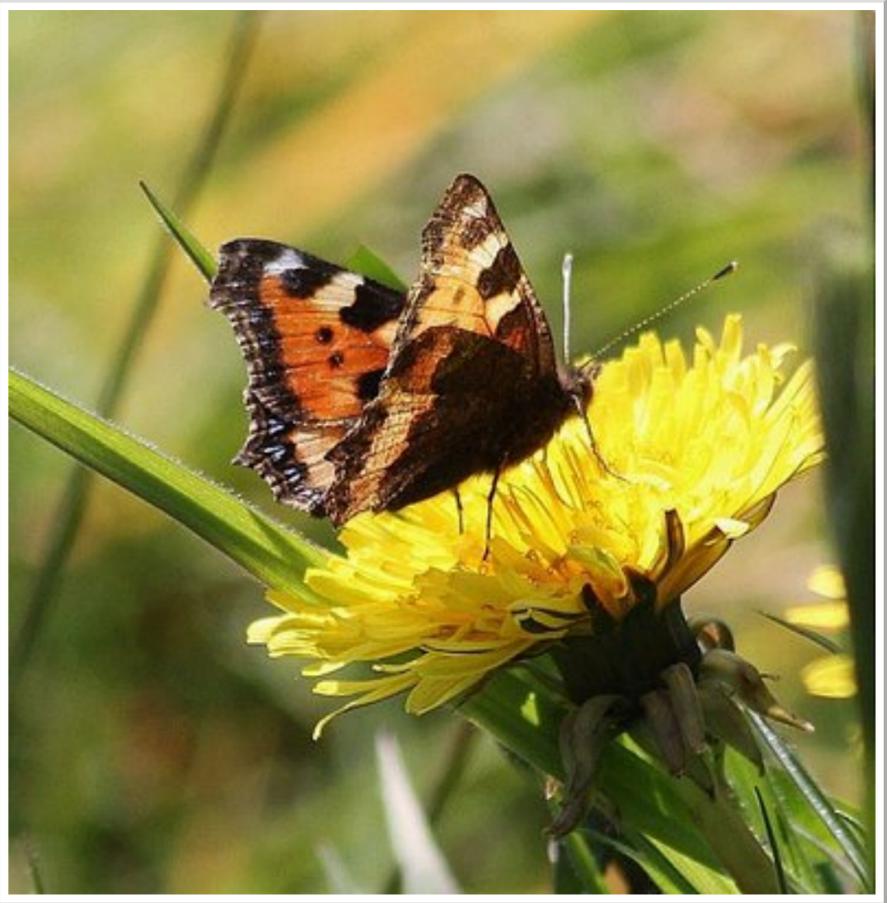
I've had a good weekend at Hall-Lee-Brook, also the 1st of April, my husbands better now but still taking things easy, HLB is just across the way from us so we took a walk around there Sunday and Monday (took the car just incase.)

I saw a Brimstone, some thing I'd not seen there before, things are off to a good start and it looks like my thoughts on differant species making a home there are coming good.

It was abit cloudy at first, when I saw this spot of Yellow coming our way, I was so taken aback I missed it at first, it flew back in front of us and I managed to get a photo, boy was I pleased 😊

I also got some photo's of the Peacocks, so all in all it's been great these last few day's, now I'll keep going back until I spot the Green Veined White and the Orange Tip's, not today though the wind seems to be from the East and rain has been forcast, first nice day , I'm off 😊

One Peacock I saw had lots of white on it's wing concidering the've not been out very long, it looks like a flaw, I think I read some where that this can happen with Peacocks Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by William, 02-Apr-14 05:33 PM GMT

That's a lovely Brimstone Goldie 😊😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 02-Apr-14 11:13 PM GMT

I agree, great shot of the Brimstone 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 04-Apr-14 02:29 PM GMT

Thanks William and Wurzel, I was so pleased to see it. I went back to HLB today but it's too cloudy and still abit chilly for the BF's so I'll have to be patient and wait for the Sun to shine again.

I heard this bird in the garden the other day I couldn't get a Good shot of it though, it was too cloudy but I can make out a very long tail , a light speckled breast, the rest of the bird seems very dark, it didn't sound like a Thrush I wondered if it could be a warbler of some kind, I'd like to give it a name.Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 04-Apr-14 09:59 PM GMT

EDIT having looked at the image in Photoshop and seen a clearly grey head – I now agree with later posts

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 04-Apr-14 10:46 PM GMT

The warbler like call suggested Dunnock to me and then first shot shows a greyish head so I'll go with that, hope this helps.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by jasonbirder, 06-Apr-14 10:26 AM GMT

I'll second that...Dunnock it is

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-Apr-14 02:42 PM GMT

Thanks everybody, I've got photo's of Dunnocks but I just couldn't work it out from the photo's, Dunnocks my photo's seemed much darker than this bird, I'm glad I know for sure, thanks again Goldie 😊

# Re: Goldie M

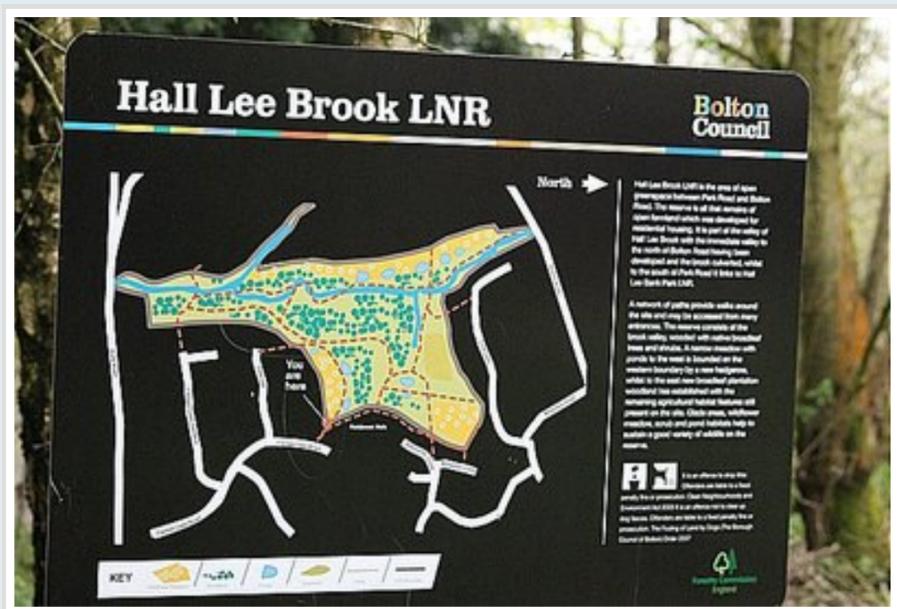
by Goldie M, 12-Apr-14 03:03 PM GMT

Yesterday I went to Hall-Lee-Brook which is Now a conservation area, lucky for me I live so close to it.

The weather was cloudy and sunny, perfect I thought for filming Butterflies, I was right, I caught sight of my first OT and at that moment the Sun went in, he landed on a leaf near me and stayed perfectly still so I went to work with the camera.

I decided that when the Sun came out he'd shoot right off again so I thought it a good Idea to try and catch his movements if I could has He opened his wings, the pictures I took tried to do this. I just finished shooting him when a Small White landed near by again the Sun had gone in, this one was abit too quick so I only managed a couple, this went on all day I saw anther Brimstone and thanks to the Sun got more shots of that. I looked for a Speckled Wood no luck yet though .

I was happy with what I'd got and I'll keep going to HLB each day, I didn't realize that the Park which is next to HLB has also been taken into the nature reserve, there's a small stream runs through HLB which runs under the road and into the park , I've put the sign for the place into my post. When I checked it out there were Garlic flowers growing a long side the stream and the smell was lovely really Spring like, any way hope fully the weather will continue to be kind, weve had a week here of cold winds and rain I was hoping for a change of some kind, but we're back in the clouds today, at least Spring has come for me now with the sight of the Orange Tip Goldie 😊







### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 12-Apr-14 10:04 PM GMT

Great sequence of shots Goldie 😊 I'm still at the seeing Orange-Tips – they're being far too active at the moment for me to get shots.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 13-Apr-14 09:22 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, I was lucky ,it was a cloudy yet sunny day and of course when they land in front of you an open invitation 😊

Your bound to get some shots soon, I'm looking forward to seeing them ,your pic's are always good. Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 20-Apr-14 12:45 PM GMT

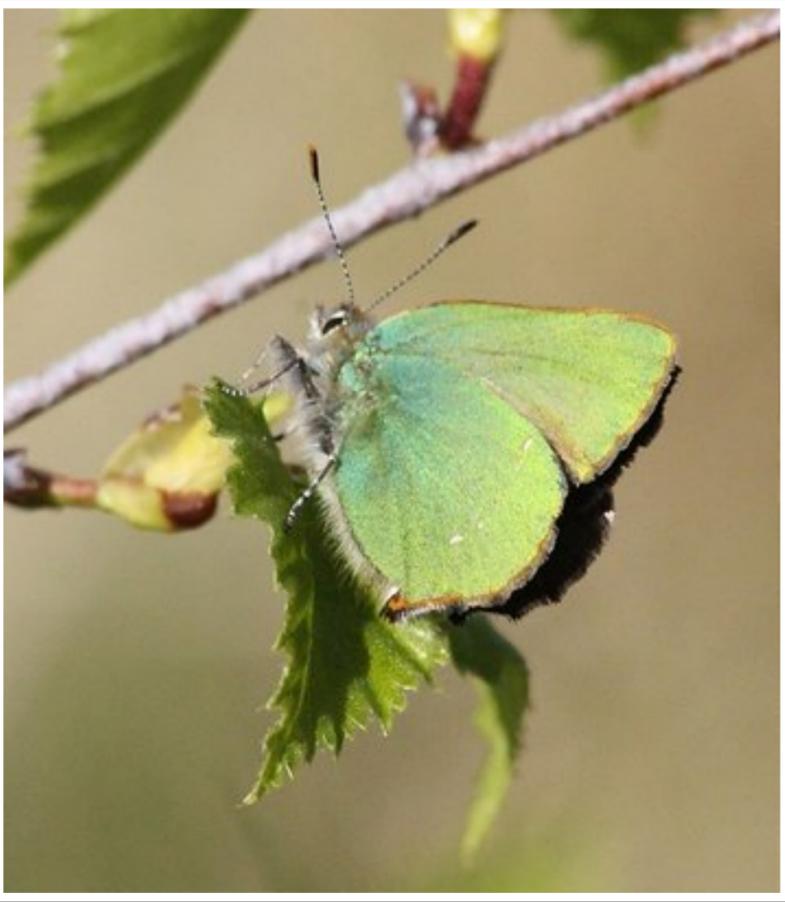
On Tuesday the 15th of April I went up to Gaits Barrow for the day. It was cool in the morning but the afternoon was hot. I took the Purple trail because I'd seen the Green Hair Streaks there last year and although it was the middle of April thought I may be lucky, I was.

I was also suprised nothing appeared to move and I could see no signs of them when suddenly this HS flew just in front of me you can tell by my photo's he was suprised has well 😊

We went looking for the Duke then but no sign of them yet I thought not when I saw no roped off area, anyway I also saw Speckled Wood, Brimstone and a Green Veined White that didn't want to be filmed 😊

The day after Wed, I went to Hall-Lee-Brook and there I got a shot of the GVW together with companion 😊  
On Friday the 18th I was back at HLB where I saw more ORT's GVW's STS,PeaC SW, and then a flash of blue, I couldn't miss this photo was my thinking and followed it along the edge until it landed 😊 I was very pleased because last year I saw nothing of them up here at all.  
Every chance I get I'm over at HLB now looking to see if any thing new turns up, then I hope to go back to GB next week or the week after because I'm sure the Dukes will be out soon , may be even the PBF,( I'm forever the the Optimist) 😊 Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 20-Apr-14 10:42 PM GMT

Sounds like a great day,Goldie. You've certainly had the best of the weather,it's been raining all day down south!

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 20-Apr-14 11:07 PM GMT

Great Holly Blue shot Goldie 🍷 They are tricky butterflies because of their habits so you can never really tell when you're going to come across them 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 22-Apr-14 09:11 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, just been looking at your Photo's and they're great as usual 😊 I went back to HLB for a quick look a round yesterday, although the weather was good the sun was hazy and the Butterflies reluctant to settle for long, they were all after partners 😊 I finally found this pair and nothing was going to distrub them 😊 I also couldn't resist taking this shot of a Peacock, they were there in quite big numbers, so were the Speckled Wood, and Green Veined White has you can see 😊

Today Essex Buzzard we've had your rain 😊 It's the first we've had during the day for a while, but we've certainly had cold winds up here, Hall-Lee-Brook is sheltered in parts so if the sun's shining and your out of the wind you can still get the Butterflies, hope the weather improves for us all Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 22-Apr-14 11:17 PM GMT

Cheers Goldie 😊 Great mating shot - I was almost blushing 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 23-Apr-14 11:30 AM GMT

I thought it was too Wurzel, blushing aside it's great to see them like that, it means there will be more GVW too come 😊

Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 30-Apr-14 09:02 PM GMT

I've been out and about alot lately the weather has been too nice to do too much house work, so what I've had to do I've done very quickly . 😊  
I think I've got most of the early BF now, I want the Wall and the Small Copper next, don't think I'll get the Duke just yet, I plan on a visit to Gaits Barrow maybe next week or the week after, the PBF could be out then as well, mean time i've been taking photo's of the Orange Tip, Small White, GVW, and SPW,( how much is enough ):lol: I can honestly say I've never seen so Many OT's at Hall-Lee-Brook before, I can't keep a way 😊 I've just put a few pic's on for fun because i've had great fun taking them Goldie 😊







**Re: Goldie M**

by Pauline, 30-Apr-14 09:29 PM GMT

Enjoyment is what it's all about Goldie, else why would we do it 😊 Thank you for sharing 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 30-Apr-14 11:56 PM GMT

Loving the 'take-off' shots Goldie they're ace 😊🍀 Good luck with the Dukes et al 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 02-May-14 01:42 PM GMT

I agree Pauline, it's great fun. 😊

Thanks Wurzal, I like that one as well, I've just read siting for Lanc's and the Duke is out at Gaits Barrow so off I go 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 02-May-14 03:52 PM GMT

I enjoyed your OT pics, too, Goldie 😊

Especially the 'upside down' one (IMG\_5200.JPG) showing the wonderful coloured pattern through the hind-wings. A really unusual and fascinating photo 😊

Mike

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 02-May-14 06:56 PM GMT

Thanks Mike, I think he was adjusting him self to a take off when I took the Photo 😊 I couldn't tell which was which at first, he looked kind of, inside out 😊

It's great when you can get some shots of BF before they become too active, I'm still looking for the female's ( good excuse to go back) 😊 Thanks again Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 04-May-14 04:21 PM GMT

I went to HLB again yesterday and at last the female OT's were out . I spent a good hour over there taking photo's and dodging the horse fly's, they were out in force and a real pest.

I got some shots of the OT's Mating, some are ok but because the male seemed to do a dance around the female for a while some or abit blurred, I couldn't make out if the Female in one couple was rejecting the male, they didn't seem to mate like the other Butterflies do, I'm no expert has you can tell on Buterflies 😊

The Females were fresh out not a mark on any of them, I took a shot of one about to land, I've put it in to seperate the two couples. It was a fasinating hour . Goldie 😊







**Re: Goldie M**

by Hoggars, 04-May-14 04:39 PM GMT

Fascinating shots, Goldie – they're incredible acrobats!

PS – I've planted some Black-eyed Susans in the garden(Rudebekia) so I hope I get as many butterflies on them in late Summer as you did on yours!

Best wishes

Hoggers

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 05-May-14 02:26 PM GMT

Thanks Hogger's, your right they are a pleasure to watch.

I keep going over to HLB but I can't find any Small Copper's like your's ,they're great photo's you've got 🍷 I think it's abit too early a round here because the OT females have only just come out but I'll keep looking 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 10-May-14 02:25 PM GMT

The weather here has been awful, I can cope with the Showers but the temp's have been really low only 9c in the Lakes when it's been 13 or 14 c here ,so I'll have to wait for the High we're suppose to get next week before looking for Dukes and PBF. I did however manage a Pic of a Large White and a Green VW in my garden at the Beginning of the week and thats about it sadly Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by maverick, 10-May-14 08:36 PM GMT

I always checkout your Post's Goldie, being from the same area I need to know what I'm missing out on and what's about in the gardens I too have spotted my first confirmed large white in my garden today I just need to get up to Gait Barrows to see my first GHS I haven't seen any in or around Warrington

### Re: Goldie M

by Maximus, 10-May-14 08:48 PM GMT

Lovely photos in your recent posts Goldie, love the Orange-tips 😊

Mike

### Re: Goldie M

by Pauline, 10-May-14 09:18 PM GMT

I also love your OT shots Goldie. I am no expert either but it looks to me as if your female is rejecting the male and seems to have her eye on that Lady's Smock flower perhaps for a bit of serious egg-laying if she has already been mated. Well done on capturing all the action which I have repeatedly failed to do 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 11-May-14 08:39 AM GMT

Fantastic aerial shots of the OT's Goldie - the one where you've caught the female in mid-air is brill, it's just hanging there captured in time 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 11-May-14 01:53 PM GMT

Thanks Maximus for your post , it's always nice to hear when some one has enjoyed your photo's 😊

Maverick, you say you want the GHS at Gaits Barrow ,until last year I struggled to find it, then whilst up there I met this woman who told me where they were ,may be I can point you in their Direction so you can find them after all a little help like I got made my day 😊

Take the purple trail, if you know where the Dukes are ignore their turning and keep straight until the path splits into two take the right hand path, along there you should find them. I hope you do 😊

Also try Eve's Wood in Silverdale, go through SD and just before you turn left onto the Arnside rd that's Eve's Wood, you'll also find the PBF and SPBF there if their out, hope that helps 😊

Pauline, thanks for your input I never thought to check if she'd layed eggs or not 😊 What a dope 😊

Glad you liked the Photo's I hope my luck stays with me for the Dukes and PBF etc I missed the SPBF last year last year, I'm off up there this next week. 😊

Wurzal glad you liked the shot, I've set the Camera to fire quickly and it seems to pick up the BF's when they land and take off, it's great fun to see what I've got after wards 😊 Off for a brew now Goldie 😊

## Re: Goldie M

by maverick, 11-May-14 08:41 PM GMT

thanks goldie 😊

i would like to try for the dukes also

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 20-May-14 11:53 AM GMT

I went up to Gaits Barrow last Friday, I arrived about 11am, the weather was great so when a DOB flew past me I thought great that's a good start. I saw about 5 in total ,not very good considering the weather and the fact they'd been out since 28th April. Still I was pleased to get some Photo's but a little concerned has well. 😞

I was concerned again , when I didn't see one PBF, only one person I spoke to said they'd seen one, so either their just coming out are their few in numbers, I'll have to go back next week and look in a different area.

I took some more Photo's of the Green HS these didn't seem has colourful has the the ones I took in April, having said that, it's a month since I took the other Photo's.

My day was made though with the Brimstones, I came across this pair just getting to know one another when another Male came onto the scene, right away the Males started to see each other off , the Female suddenly dropped down into a clump of Grass and while the Males were still at it , she flew off 😊 A girl with a mind of her own 😊

We'd spent about three hours there and so we called it a day it had it's high lights and disapointments but then that's what it's all about and why we do it Goldie 😊







**Re: Goldie M**

by Pauline, 20-May-14 11:59 AM GMT

Excellent shots of the Brimstones Goldie and well done on finding the mating Dukes 🍷🍷

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 20-May-14 12:30 PM GMT

Thanks Pauline, just wish I could get a Photo of a Wood White, some are supposed to be in GB ,your photo's are fantastic 🍷 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 21-May-14 02:02 PM GMT

Cracking Brimstone sequence Goldie – proper all action stuff 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 24-May-14 02:59 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzal, I'm late as usual with my posts 😊

I went to Southport last Wed's 21st, I was hoping the Common Blues were out in the Dunes.

We drove down Marine Drive and the weather was great, we arrived at Ainsdale Nature Reserve and to my delight the first thing I saw was a CB.

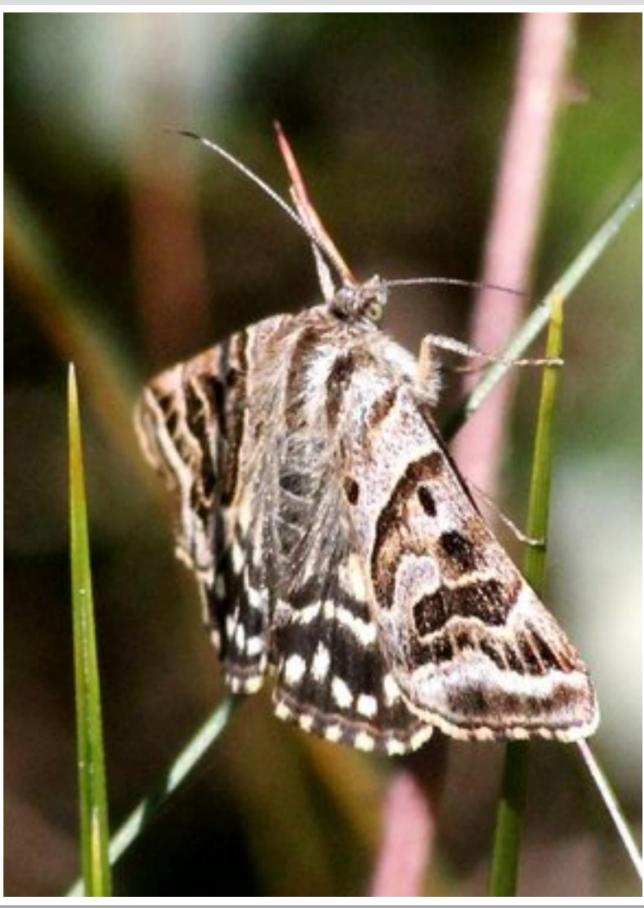
As we went further into the Dunes Small Heath were everywhere I was excited because it was my chance to get a decent shot of them, I hoped 😊  
Then I saw a large patch of yellow flowers and flitting about in them was a couple of Small Copper, they looked a bit worn, well, one did, they didn't settle for long before flying off, I was pleased though because it's the first time I've managed to get a photo of one at this time of year, so if the shots are not too good there's still hope for later on. 😊

The grass on the Dunes was fairly tall and the butterflies were hard to film because they all seemed to have grass stems in front of them I missed quite a few trying to miss the grass stems, in the end I gave up, 😊 but I still managed some without a blade of grass in front, the Mother Shipton Moth was very obliging and flew on to a grass stalk for me 😊

We were there about 2 to 3 hours, lunch was a picnic and we moved to different places in the dunes, then I wanted to go back onto Marine Drive towards the Sand Mill. Wagons used to go down onto the beeches, load up with Sand and take it back to the mill, this all stopped a few years ago but the mill came down and all the rocks and stones were left < it's like a small quarry but not too deep. I'd been told that Butterflies love it, so we went there and to my delight we found some Wall BF, Talk about a lucky day 😊 I've put a photo in of the sea taken from the Dunes you can drive your car onto the sands at Southport this we don't do because we move on too much but it's great if you've got kids. Off for a brew now Goldie 😊







### Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 25-May-14 05:31 PM GMT

Lots of super photos, recently, Goldie - I loved your Brimstone in-flight shots: 3 at once!!!

I grew up in Southport, so always enjoy your photos from there. At the time, I just took all the rarities in the sand dunes for granted - Natterjack Toads, Sand Lizards, and the like 😊 .

Mike

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 25-May-14 10:19 PM GMT

Great report Goldie - I really like the Mother Shipton - I've yet to see on this year, fantastic little critters they are 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 28-May-14 02:38 PM GMT

Thanks Mike and Wurzel, I'm pleased you like my pic's 😊

Mike there's also Hares in the Dunes they're very big I've tried to take their photo but they're too quick 😊

I went up to Gaits Barrow on Monday it was cloudy when we set off but by lunch time it was lovely.

We took pic's of the DOB again who was way off in the distance, also the Dingy Skipper and to my delight the PBF at least I hope it is I've forgotten the difference between the PBF and SPBF 😊 I only know or Remember the PBF has less sliver marking under it's wing but it rarely showed any under wing and when it did it always landed in the grass on Bugle, any way I've got it down as PBF 😊

We also saw the Slipper Orchid it was lovely and there were loads of Speckled Yellow Moth's, also the GHS was still around 😊 I'm off out now shopping Goldie I've to do work some time 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 28-May-14 11:06 PM GMT

Great to see you got your PBFs Goldie 😊 Nice range of species mentioned in your report too 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 02-Jun-14 03:46 PM GMT

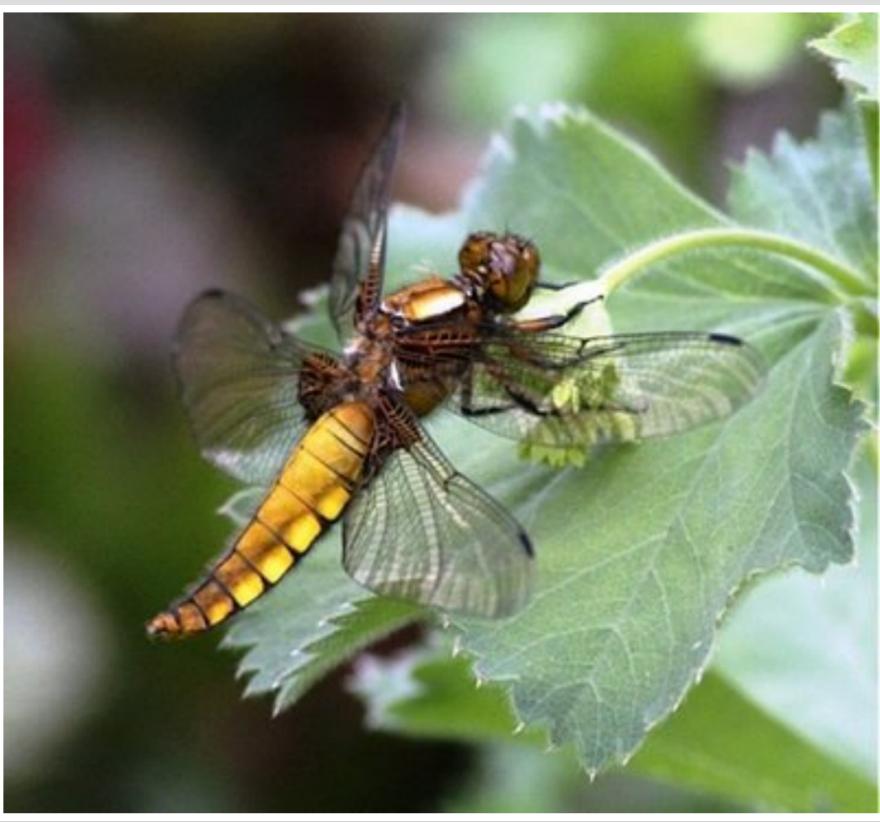
This weekend I've been busy in the garden trying to get things done before we go on Holiday only 3 weeks off now 😊

I was passing my flower bed water hose in hand when I noticed this queer looking creature, I didn't know what it was at first, it's back looked like a caterpillar but I could see wings, then I realized it was a Dragon Fly, it was so still yet it looked to have a face, when I went round to the side of it I could see it was or seemed to be eating some thing, I know this web site is about BF's but I couldn't resist putting these photo's in my posting. 😊

I decided to visit HLB , just too see if there was any thing new there, it's only 5 mins a way and I thought I'd done my bit 😊 there was nothing, no Skippers yet. I did manage to take this photo though of a GVW just taking off .

It looks like weather wise I won't be going to the Lakes this week but I hope it takes up for the weekend Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 02-Jun-14 07:58 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Your Dragonfly is a Broad-bodied Chaser, a female I think. Nice shots.

I love your Brimstones in flight sequence a couple of posts back, great stuff 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Maximus, 02-Jun-14 09:30 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, I think your Brimstones in flight are great too 😊

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 02-Jun-14 11:27 PM GMT

Brill take-off shot of the Green-veined White Goldie 😊 Just in case I forget to say it later – good luck on your holiday 😊

Have a goodu

Wurzel

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 07-Jun-14 05:37 PM GMT

Thanks Neil for the ID on the Dragon Fly I like to give my Photo's names 😊 I'm beginning to get more interested in different species other than BF but BF are still my favourite 😊

Thanks for your compliment about my Brimstones has well Mike and Neil I was very lucky there.  
Wuzal I'm beginning to enjoy take off's and landing's I'm taking off next on my hol's 😊

I was up at Gaits Barrow Yesterday and got My SPBF but again couldn't get rid of the grass 😊

Then I saw this Common Blue, I saw quite a few and they were all like this , I've just posted two Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by Willow, 08-Jun-14 02:50 PM GMT

Some really nice reports Goldie and those 'take-off' shots are tough to get, looks like your doing pretty good though 😊

Bill 😊

"When in doubt...venture out"

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 10-Jun-14 04:43 PM GMT

Thanks Willow for your posting, I keep trying 😊

Today I saw my first Large Skipper of the year, at Hall-Lee-Brook getting scratched was well worth it , it made my day, 😊 the weather has been pretty bad if caught in it, thunder and really heavy rain(it was a case of miss the showers if you can 😊 ) it was worth the dodge 😊

Whilst up at GB last friday I managed to get another shot of a Dingy Skipper, I went up there looking for the Northern Argus and the Small PBF, (which I found) I was very lucky as we only saw the one PBF all the time we were there I think they must have just started to come out. I'm hoping to get another trip up there before we go on hol's to see if I can get the DGFrit and the HBFrit and the NBA. I've not really had a good photo of the NBA yet. Their usually out about the middle of June ( I hope) 😊

I did manage before to take a photo of the Silpper Orchid it was a bit worse for ware this time, off for a cuppa now Goldie 😊







### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 11-Jun-14 09:20 AM GMT

Nice report Goldie, especially like the second Large Skipper shot – I like the three quarters pose 😊 Good luck with the DGF, HBF and the NBA – I've never seen the last two 🍀

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

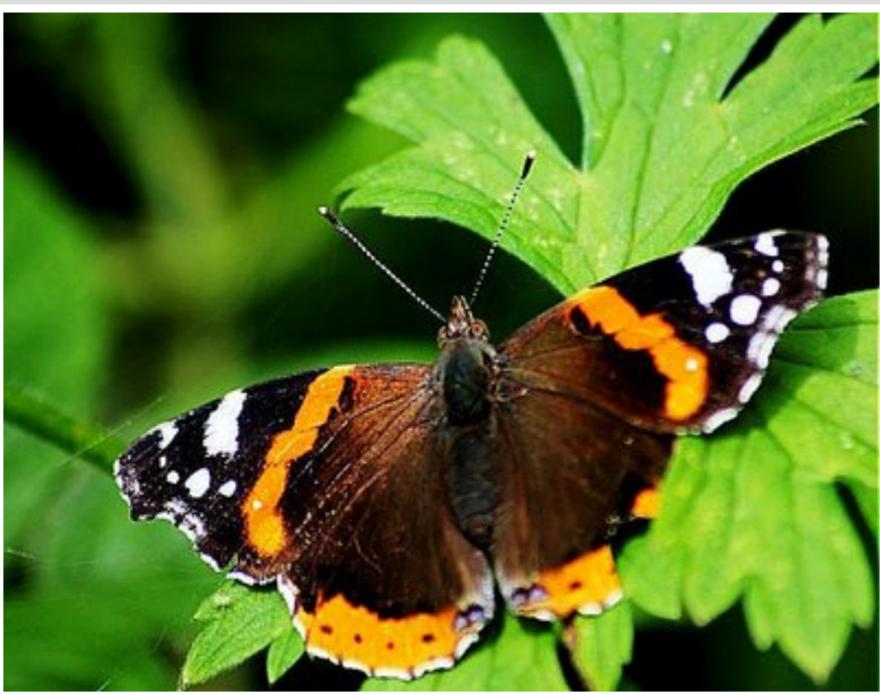
by Goldie M, 13-Jun-14 04:29 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, I'll have to wait patiently for next week to see the HBF, (may be) I know it's usually out about the middle of June that depends on the weather though, when I've gone up to GB before it's been usually hot and around the 22nd, so I thought next week a good idea, it's near enough.

I may try Arnside Knot first for the Northern A, it's been seen there some times before GB, fingers crossed on that one 😊

Glad you like the Large Skipper I always like to see their faces it adds more interest I think 😊

I went to Hall-Lee-Brook again the day after and got some more shots and also a surprise, I saw my first Common Blue ever there and then this Red Admiral landed in front of me, he's a bit worn on the right wing but he's also got an extra white spot, I saw a RA just like this one in my garden last year, that was in October I think, I wonder if we're going to have a few more like it this year, we don't usually see these Butterflies until Sept/October, I must pop over to HLB again soon you never know what will show up next 😊 Goldie





## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Jun-14 06:10 PM GMT

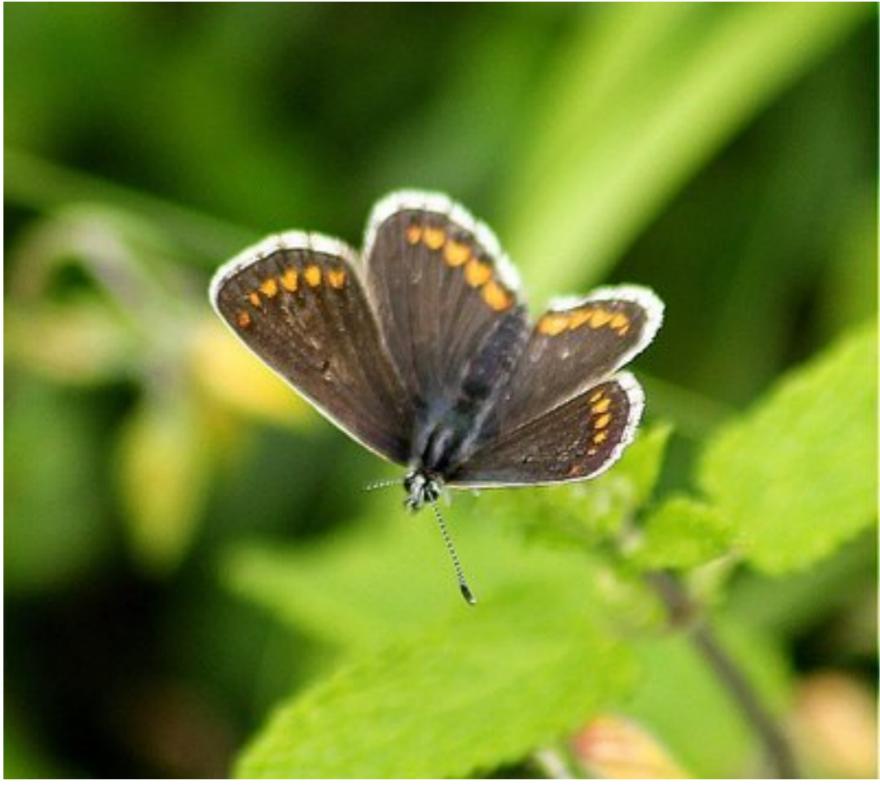
Yesterday I went up to Gaits Barrow, I'd listened to the weather forecast and it seemed the best day of the week the rest being cloudy, anyway as it turns out it was an interesting day but a week too soon for the High Brown and DG Frit's (worse luck)

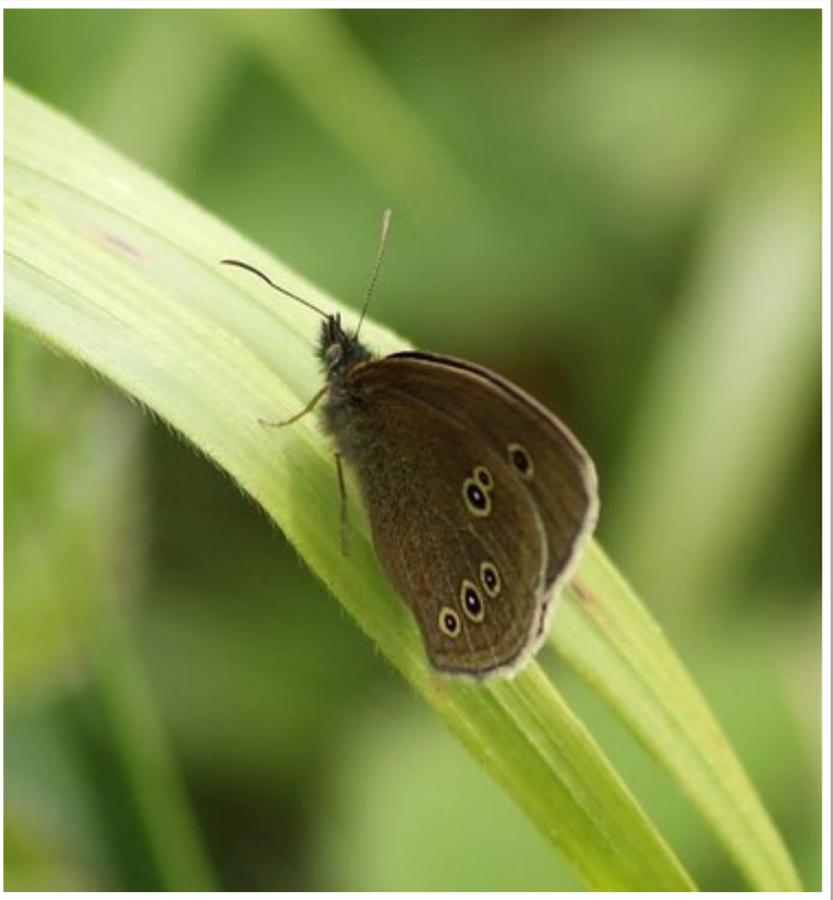
After Parking the car we set off walking and two Speckled Woods caught my attention, I thought they were mating because one was persistently chasing the other one, they landed on the ground in front of me and to my amazement one preceded to lay on it's side as though dead, the other one started to poke and prod it but no way would it move, after a while the Male flew off and the female just got up and did the same 😊

We moved on following the purple path way wondering what we'd encounter next to top that 😊 I saw what I thought was a small moth because it was very pale on the underside so once again I went to look, I was surprised to see the brown and yellow spots, I think it may be a Northern Brown Argus, point is I'm not sure, I know they've a white spot in their wing but this one seemed much more faded it's just my luck if it turns out to be a CB 😊 I took another shot of what I think is a CB Female she was taking off at the time so the pic is a bit fuzzy. I've posted one of each so if any one knows for sure 😊

After that encounter we walked on to the Lime stones I wanted to go where I'd seen the SPBF a couple of weeks before that's when I saw the flutter of wings and couldn't believe it when I saw a Grayling (also Posted) I took some pic's and as we walked on we met this man making a record of what he'd seen, so I showed him my picture because I was so amazed at the Grayling this early, he said it definitely was and he was surprised has us 😊 We told him where we'd seen it and he went I think to look. After that I took some more shots of the SMPF and also the Ringlets we saw which were also coming out. It was a fun day out even if I didn't get the other fritillaries but there's still time yet for those 😊 Goldie 😊







### Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 17-Jun-14 08:44 PM GMT

It looks as though female Speckled Woods know the "I've got a sick headache" routine 😊 Interesting set of photos. The Northern Brown Argus at Gait Barrows are the *salmacis* form that often does not have white spots but looks very similar to the 'Southern' version.

Mike

### Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 17-Jun-14 10:29 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, I have seen Speckled Woods act like this a few times, Like Mike says, it is the females way of putting off the male 😊, probably because she has already mated.

I was at Gait Barrows last Friday afternoon whilst staying up at Arnside, first time I have been there, looks like a great place 😊. I saw a few Northern Brown Argus plus Small-pearl bordered Fritillaries but no Grayling unfortunately, guess they are just emerging there, it does seem early. I have still got to sort through my photos from there to put in my diary.

Bye the way, I reckon that both your shots above are NBAs.

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Goldie M

**"nfreem" wrote:**

Bye the way, I reckon that both your shots above are NBAs.

They **have** to be. There's no other alternative.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 18-Jun-14 04:29 PM GMT

Thanks Guy's, I've also seen Common Blue at Gaits Barrow that's why I wondered about these two photo's, in fact earlier in the month I took a couple of photo's of the female CB which I'll post again in my Dairy.

I was hoping they were NBA and not CB 😊 hoped also for better photo's 😊 but I'll be up there again before I go a way looking for the HBF and DGF, I missed them last year so it's a must this year. 😊 I think I've a thing with grass stalks this year 😊

Gaits Barrow is a great place Neil and you get to know the best places to see the Butterflies, when we were there we went up the path by the meadow, it's a bit of an incline but once your at the top you can see the meadow below and all around us the thistles were taller than we were 😊 When the HBF is out it flies there with the DGF when we didn't see them we knew we were too early. The SPBF also flies there and that's where I got my photo from 😊

Your right Mike about the Female SW she's certainly got the right idea 😊 Last year I took a photo of the NBA but the butterfly was missing bits and pieces and I was told then it was called a Salmascis, so thank you for confirming that for me also for your kind comments 😊

David, thanks for your input but you know what they say (when in doubt ask the experts) 😊

The two photo's were taken at GB on the 6th June, I was informed they were CB's , the photo of the SPBF was taken on the 16th June. Thanks again everyone Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by Pauline, 18-Jun-14 05:30 PM GMT

A nice selection there Goldie. I've heard about that behaviour before but have never seen it and your photo captures it well. Well done for spotting the Grayling and that Frit shot is very nice indeed. You must be feeling very pleased with yourself and deservedly so 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 18-Jun-14 06:44 PM GMT

Thank you Pauline, must admit I feel over the moon. 😊

I can't wait to go South now ,I' d love to see a Brown Hair Streak, your photo's are great. I don't suppose they'll be out when I'm down there, you never know though, I didn't think I'd see a Grayling so soon but there it it was. 😊

Must go back to GB are Arnside Knot before my hol's if possible, the HBF is on my list for this year although I've got shots of it but from a couple of years back.

Also I've heard they' re releasing Large Heath at Heysham nr Morcambe in July, I've no photo's of the LH yet so I must find out the dates for their release. It's all happening Pauline 😊

I hope your feeling better about your cat now Pauline, it took me quite a while to get over my dog. I'd two before her but she was so young, keep your photo's coming I think their fab. Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 18-Jun-14 06:59 PM GMT

If you are looking for Large Heath, Goldie, then Meathop Moss, on the opposite side of the estuary from Arnside, always used to be a good place. I haven't been for many years but the Cumbria Wildlife Trust should have information.

Mike

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 18-Jun-14 09:50 PM GMT

Just catching up Goldie – a great selection of shots. The SPBF is a cracker and the behaviour sequence of the Specklies is just brill 😊 lad to see that you got your NBA, just the DGF and HBFs to go then 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 18-Jun-14 10:15 PM GMT

"MikeOxon" wrote:

If you are looking for Large Heath, Goldie, then Meathop Moss, on the opposite side of the estuary from Arnside, always used to be a good place. I haven't been for many years but the Cumbria Wildlife Trust should have information.

Mike

I paid a short visit to Meathop Moss last Saturday(14th) morning before hitting the M6 back to the midlands. In around an hour in warm sunny conditions I saw a dozen or more quite fresh looking Large Heath, I don't think they had been out long.

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Goldie M

by Pauline, 21-Jun-14 07:23 AM GMT

Thank you for asking after Stanleigh, Goldie – it is very thoughtful of you. I still miss her a great deal and will do for some time I expect. It is the main reason I am spending so much time out with my camera recently – trying to take my mind off it, y'know? Keep posting your lovely photos.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 21-Jun-14 08:20 PM GMT

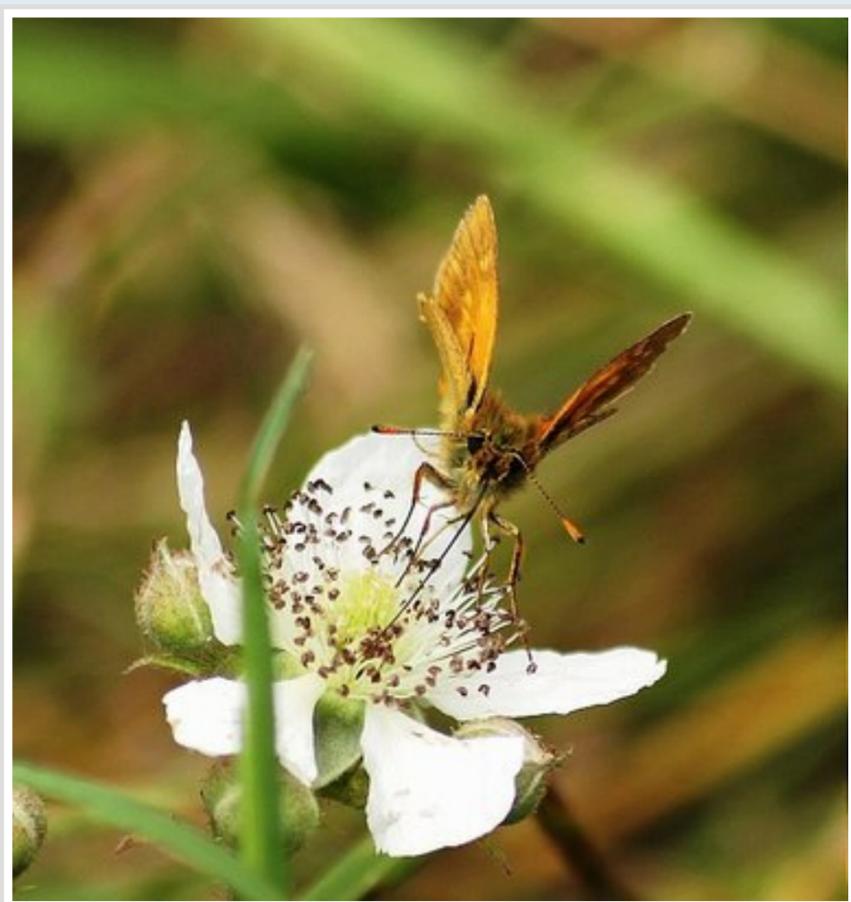
Thanks Neil and Mike for your info on Meathop Moss, I've been once before there but just missed the LH. There is a place nearer to me and I plan to go there first it's called "Winmarleigh Moss" and it's a nature reserve in Lancashire near Pilling which is just across the River Wyre from Fleetwood. Each year for the past 3 I've been going but some thing as always come up to stop me, this time I'm definately going 😊 If I've no luck there I can always try Meathop 😊

Thanks for your posting Wurzel I missed your Photo's and I've to catch up on your reports yet 😊 Glad you like the sequence of shots and PBF I liked that one myself 😊 I'm hoping to go back up to either GB or ASKnot, but since I've heard the Large Heath are out I may check on those first just because I've yet to see one 😊 So (fingers crossed) I've set my self a task for the next couple of weeks before I go south 😊

Hi! Pauline, I got a call from my daughter on Sunday to say she's had to have her dog put to sleep. "Pepper" he was called, when we went down with our dog they played together, Sheba she was called she couldn't wait to get out of the car to see him 😊 (He was 13 a good age for a Lab,) boy did he miss Sheba at first when we went without her, That's when I got up set the most because he looked for her and couldn't understand where she'd gone, She had a brain Tumour she was only 8.

I told my daughter it was for the best, she said she felt guilty, but he couldn't walk so it had to be done. We took Sheba's ashes down there because she loved it so much and Peppers ashes will be scattered where we did Sheba's.

Enough now of being sad 😊 we have our Memories and our Photography to get on with 😊 I look forward to seeing your photo's Pauline so keep them coming, Mean time I took this one today I think it's cute Goldie 😊😊



### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 21-Jun-14 11:28 PM GMT

It is a cutie 😊 Good luck with the LHs 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 27-Jul-14 02:16 PM GMT

Back from the hol's , I didn't get what I wanted in Hampshire,(which was the Purple Emp ) but I thought Bently Wood was fantastic, I'd not got really good shots before of Silver- W Frit's and to my delight they were every where 😊

I took this shot of a Valezina SWF I didn't have much time, she was hidden in the bush and kept moving mostly round the bottom of a tree then she decided to fly just as I got her in my sight's so I'm afraid the photo's not too good but at least I got some thing so I was pleased. 😊

We had a laugh, when I saw this Butterfly fly down from a tree and I thought it was a PE, it's more like a Meadow Brown 😊 not that I'd know not having seen a PE . 😊( only in books) 😊

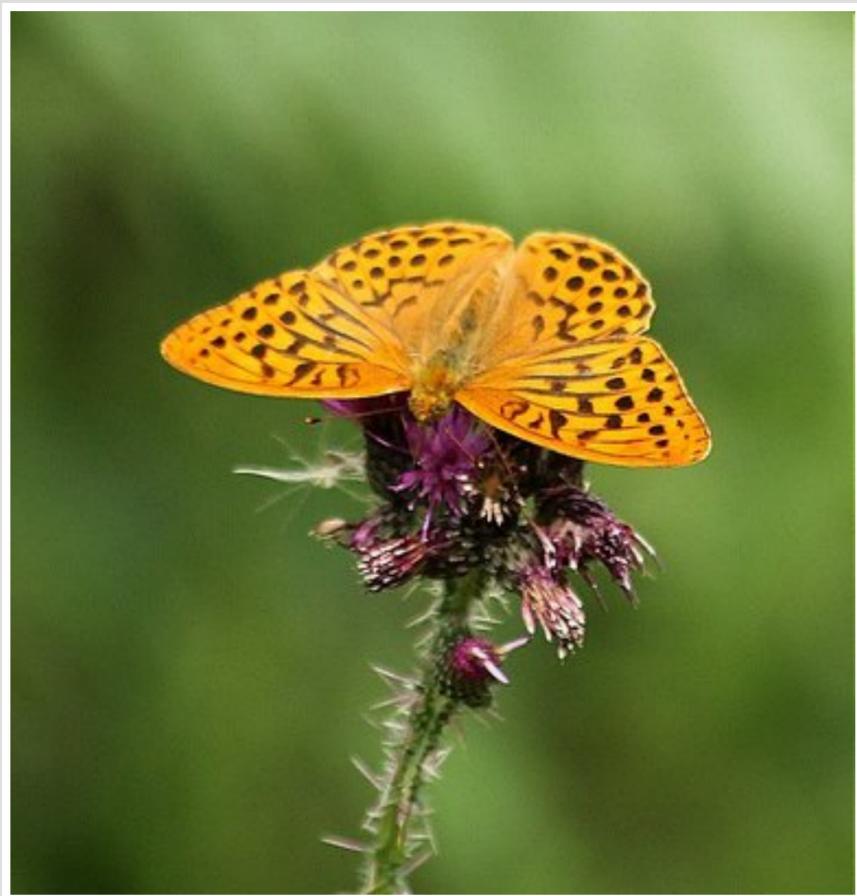
I took lots of shots of Marble Whites, they really are a lovely Butterfly and I couldn't miss them they were in the field directly behind the Cottage where we stayed.

We moved on to Kent second week to my daughter's, of course I made a B line for East Blean Woods and the Heath Frit's. I was amazed when I got there , there were so few of them, I suppose they'd been out for a while and that was why but I'm not sure.

For a day out our daughter took us to Dean Woods and we thought we saw a PE but it could have been a White Admiral in any case it was much to quick for us.

Midweek we went to Dover, my Husband loves to watch the boats going to France and back, I spotted a flash of Blue and followed it, I was so pleased when it turned out to be a Chalkhill Blue because of the nice weather they were early and I thought I'd miss them I was over the moon. 😊

So my holiday turned out to be great and apart from a thunder storm which was quite spectacular ,( I must be strange I love to see the lighting 😊 ) There were no problems. Now maybe I'll go up to Arnside Knot and see some HBF if they've not gone, I went up just before I went a way and saw only SPF, I seem to be either too soon or too late 😊 Goldie 😊







### Re: Goldie M

by Hoggers, 29-Jul-14 09:23 AM GMT

Hi Goldie I'm glad you enjoyed your visit to Kent. Up on the White Cliffs of Dover the views are spectacular and like you I've seen Chalkhill Blues there. And my experience of East Blean Wood this year was just the same as yours, the number of Heath Fritillaries was low. I bumped into a KWT Ranger and he said that it's getting so overgrown there that the Heath's food-plant, Cow Wheat, is being pushed out. I don't know if there are any plans to help clear the unwanted plants to allow the Cow Wheat to re-establish itself.

Best Wishes,

Hoggers

### Re: Goldie M

by Pauline, 29-Jul-14 08:37 PM GMT

Sounds like you had a smashing time Goldie and congrats on getting the Valesina shot – I have wanted to see one for years and have only just succeeded.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 30-Jul-14 08:12 PM GMT

Hi! Hogger's , Yes I really enjoyed my holiday in Kent but was very disappointed when I only saw so few Heath Fritillary, a couple of years ago the car park was full of them, infact you'd to be careful not to run over them 😊 I do hope they do some thing about the unwanted plants other wise we're going to loose another Butterfly.

Hi! Pauline I was very lucky to see the the Valezina, she didn't move far from the base of the tree and it was dark not the sort of place you'd usually look for a Butterfly, but I've since read in my book that's where the females like to go near the base of oak trees looking looking for Violets, any way glad to hear you've also seen one 😊

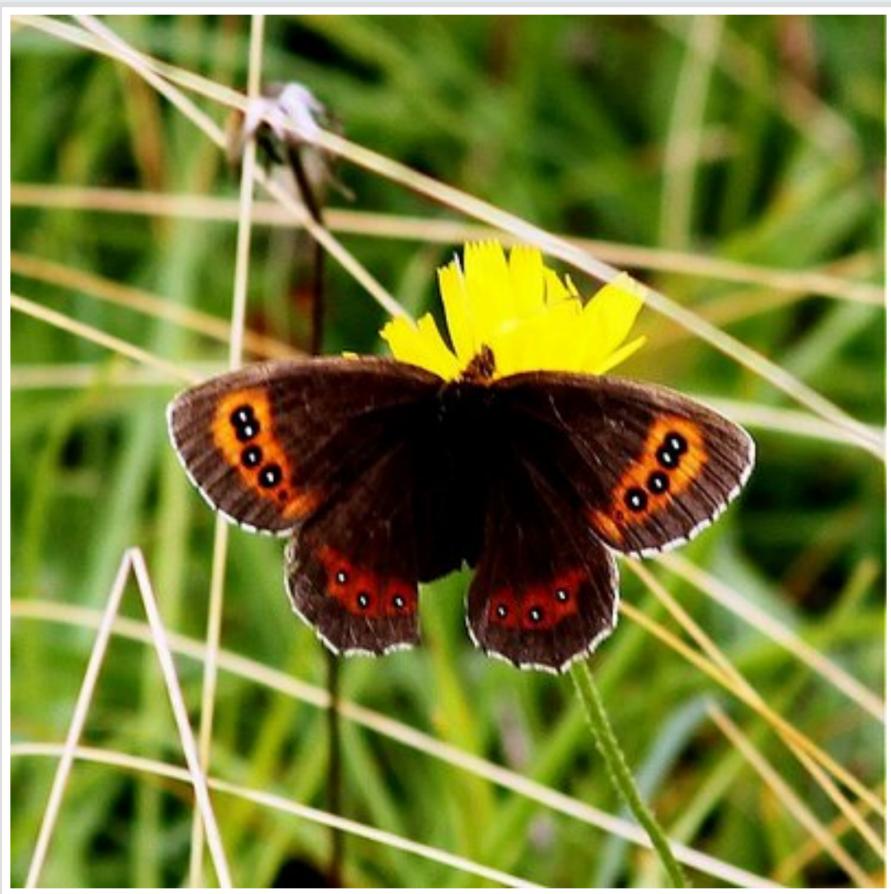
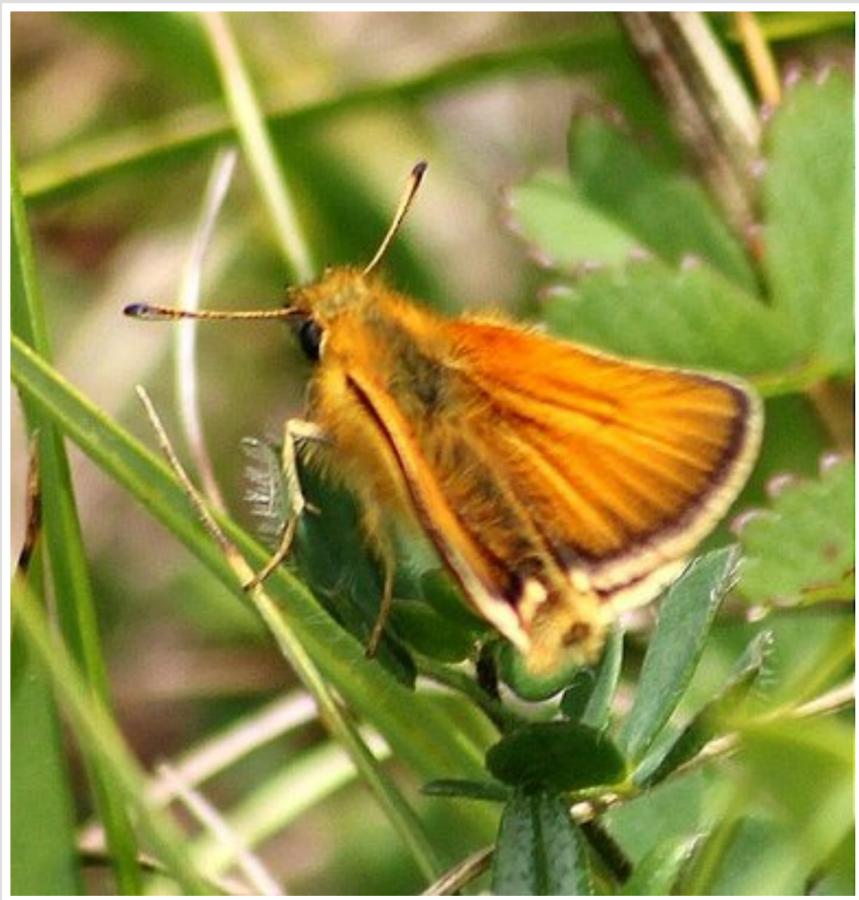
On Monday I went to Arnside Knot looking for the High Brown Frit, also the Dark Green Frit, and I was hoping to see the Scotch Argus, Well I got two out of three so I'm pretty happy. 😊

I saw the Scotch Argus but although I searched I didn't see any thing else, so after a coffee break we decided to go to Gaits Barrow. After arriving we decided to take the road down through the fields to where I'd see them before, It wasn't long before we saw loads of meadow thistles,(the small purple ones) and sat a top was this Dark green Fritillary I was so pleased. The Butterfly was very pale so I supposed she'd been flying for a while but she was in good condition so well worth taking some shots of her, I say her, because I believe the Female is paler than the Male,(I'm not so well up on them yet, I keep reading) 😊 I'd to really look through my books to make sure I'd got the right Fritillary, but I'm getting there 😊

Whilst at Arnside Knot I took a shot of a Small Skipper it looked different, I know it's worn but I've not seen one like this before when it's colour 's have faded, worth a Picture I thought. 🤔

I also and for the first time saw a Gate Keeper just sitting there with it's wings wide open, as if for take off worth anther shot 😊 Goldie 😊

I nearly forgot I also got my first ever Essex Skipper while on my Hols so I'm well Pleased Goldie 😊







### Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 31-Jul-14 09:27 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Looks like you had a good time in Kent and congratulations on your *valesina* SWF 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 31-Jul-14 10:10 PM GMT

Great to see you got the Valezina – Bentley is a 'good' site for them 😊 Hard luck about the HBF's but at least you got the Scotch Argus 🇬🇧 That's one of the hardest things I find with butterflying – knowing where to go and when to – there's always a little niggle that "if I'd gone to such and such I'd have seen" 😞 Still nothing ventured... 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

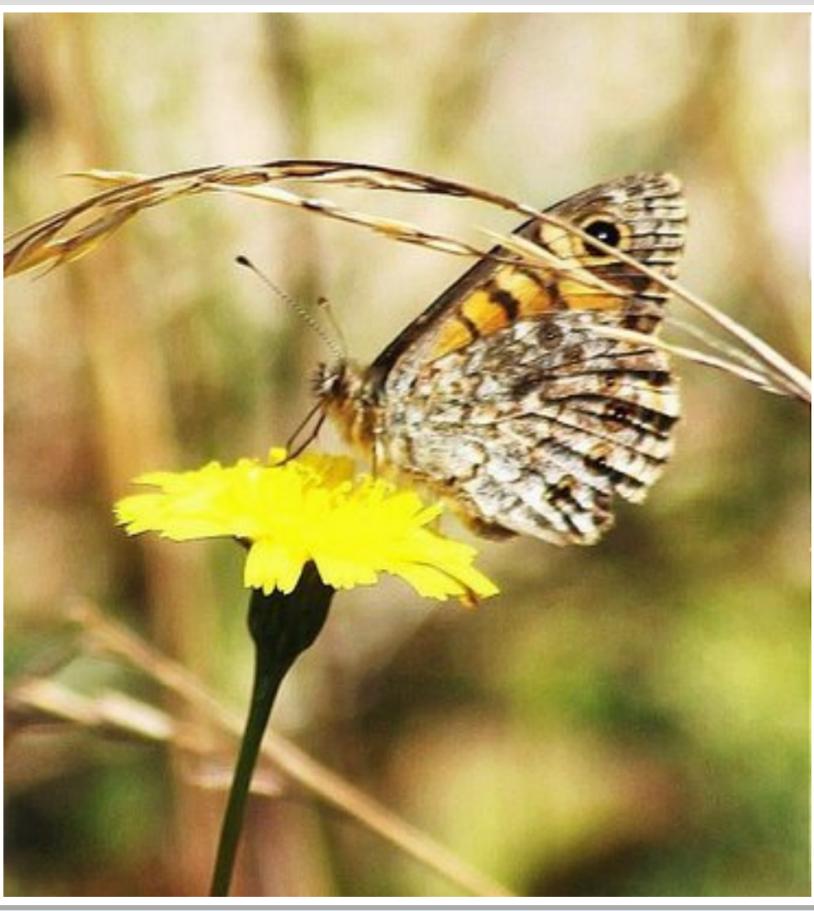
by Goldie M, 08-Aug-14 05:32 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, your right nothing ventured nothing gained, 😊 It's great when you do get what you set out for , that's what it's all about, hope fully there's still time for more adventures 😊

I've certainly been out and about lately but nothing unusual to report, I must go back to Arnside when the weather settles down again some times the Clouded Yellow pay a visit there and since I won't be going back to Kent this August, worst luck, I'll have to settle for trying to find more unusual BF 's nearer to where I live. The NB with the White spot would be great. 😊

I think I've missed the High Brown now, although some one did see one in August last year quite late, so you never know.

I also missed out on the Large Heath, which was my fault again for choosing the wrong time to go and when it was right I couldn't 😞 Any way I did go to Southport this last Monday and it was all happening there with the Common Blue and Graylings 😊 I also saw Peacocks , Gate Keepers , Meadow Brown, and Wall ,once again( I hit a Wall ) you might say , grass again the issue, any way I couldn't resist putting a few photo's in my post.Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 08-Aug-14 10:02 PM GMT

Keep on keeping on with the Walls Goldie and one day they'll land at your feet and pose perfectly for you 😊 It took me four years to get the first shot Wall I was happy with they are notoriously difficult, almost diva like 😬 Great Grayling in cop shot – that's something I'd love to get 🇬🇧

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 24-Aug-14 03:41 PM GMT

Seems ages since I last posted, I did try , wrote a load of stuff , lost it some how, couldn't be bothered to try again 😊

let's hope this lot is successful 😊

We've had only a few days of decent weather here for a while.

About the 9th of August I went up to Arnside Knot and the Scotch Argus looked pretty grim ( really,) the weather had certainly got them, funny though I took a photo of a Painted Lady and it was in good condition . We got badly bitten that day, I'd to go in the long grass for my photo's and my Husband won't go up there now 😬 I've got to be content with the local area like Hall-Lee-Brook but I can't grumble for I've got some good shots of Small Copper from there and in my own garden there's been Peacocks, Red Admiral's, STS, I must say i've missed going to Kent in August, no Clouded Yellow here the weather's been cold as well, AH! well can't be helped I've not done too badly this year so far. Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Pauline, 24-Aug-14 03:56 PM GMT

Great action shot of the GWV Goldie - wish I knew how you do that 🍷

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 25-Aug-14 02:32 PM GMT

Thanks Pauline, it's just luck really, I've got my camera set for fast speed, 3 quick pic's, if the Butterflies happen to slow down any and hover a bit ( which they did 2 of them on seeing the female GVW) I snap it quick. Some times it's good most times rubbish 😊

When I was on my hols I managed to get a photo of a Cinnabar Moth with it's wings open it's the first time I've been able to capture that so I was pleased, I did the same thing , just managed to catch it before it folded them Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 25-Aug-14 10:09 PM GMT

Great flight action again Goldie 😊 Love that shot of the Cinnabar 😊 is reminds me of Michael Palin sweeping in as a Cardinal and screaming "Nobody expects the Spanish Inquisition!" 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Maximus, 26-Aug-14 12:22 AM GMT

You, re doing really well Goldie, keep it up 😊 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Maximus, 26-Aug-14 11:00 AM GMT

Seems ages since I last posted, I did try , wrote a load of stuff , lost it some how, couldn't be bothered to try again

Goldie I also meant to mention to you, that this happened to me on several occasions in the past. I had written my post and added the photos but when I clicked submit all was lost, and I had to do the whole post all over again 😞

This may have been because the web page times out after a spell of inactivity, for instance, when I went to make a cup of tea in the middle of posting 😞 Now I just 'save draft ' which saves all the text (but not the photos) and you can just load your draft again when you are ready. You probably already know this, if so, sorry to clutter your diary.

Mike

### Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 26-Aug-14 11:37 AM GMT

You've really got the in-flight technique sorted, Goldie. Your DSLR helps a lot, because of the 'real' viewfinder that lets you follow the action; it's good to see you exploiting its capabilities 😊 I've tried with a Lumix and found it can't follow the action quickly enough.

The Cinnabar is a good shot, too, and I wish you good luck in finding your Clouded Yellow locally.

Mike

### Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 26-Aug-14 08:40 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, nice shot of the Cinnabar Moth, they always seem to settle low down in the grass for me.

Good luck with a local Clouded Yellow. I saw one at Arnside last year in early August, in one of the meadows down the path towards Heathwaite.

Cheers,

Neil.

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 27-Aug-14 06:08 PM GMT

Thanks everyone for your postings it's always great to get some feed back 😊

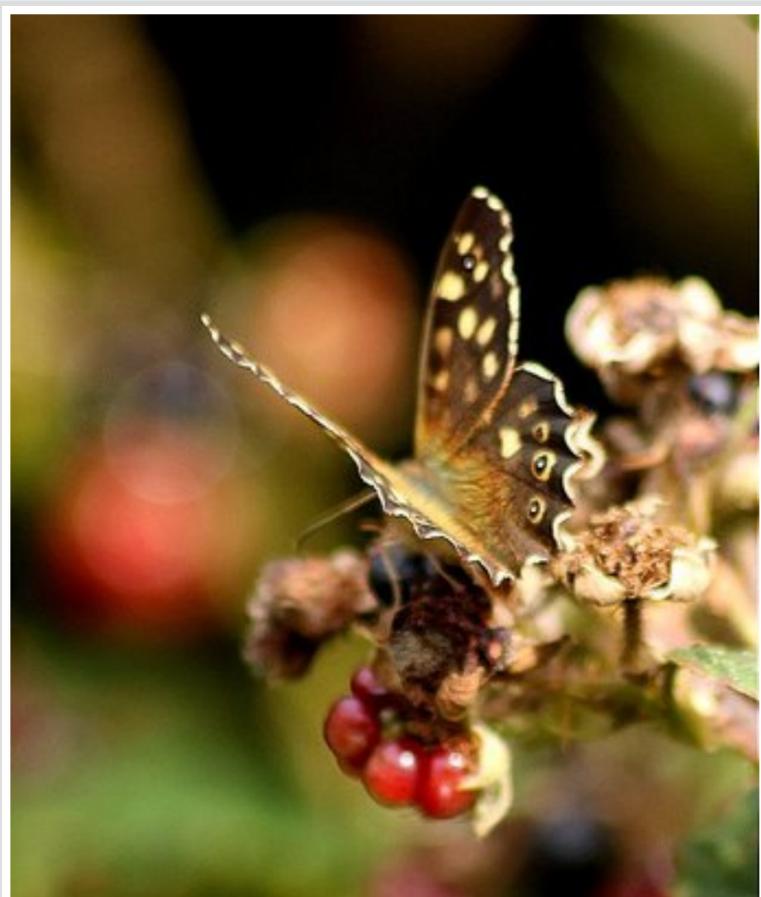
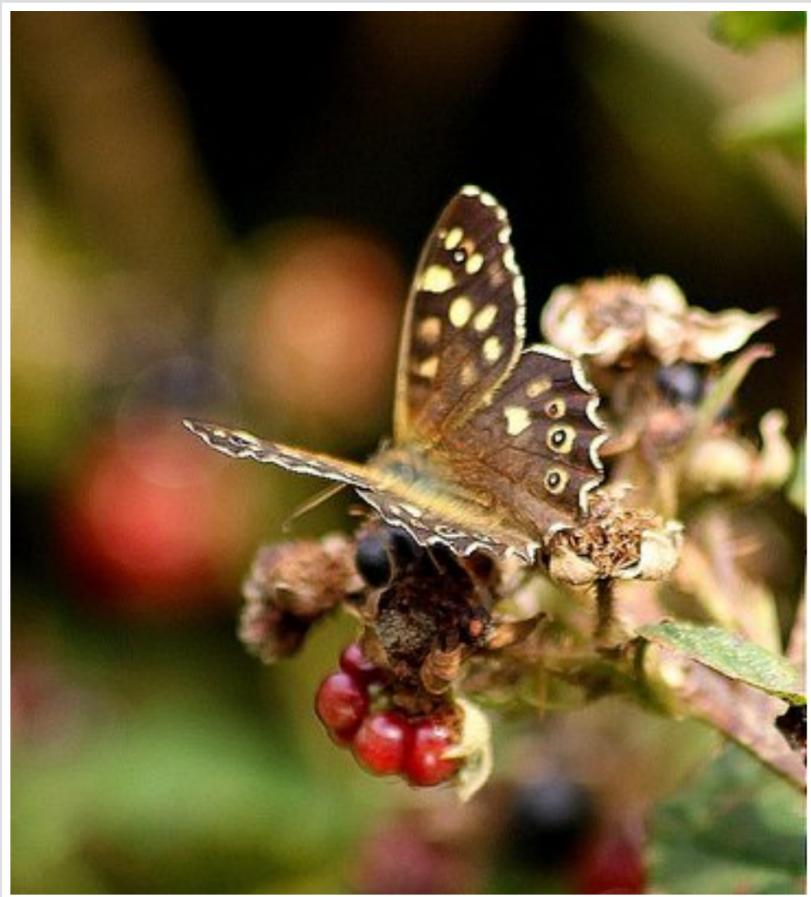
Hi! Maximus your not cluttering my Diary at all, I didn't know you could do that so that's good info, I'll also remember not to go for a cup of tea when I'm posting 😊

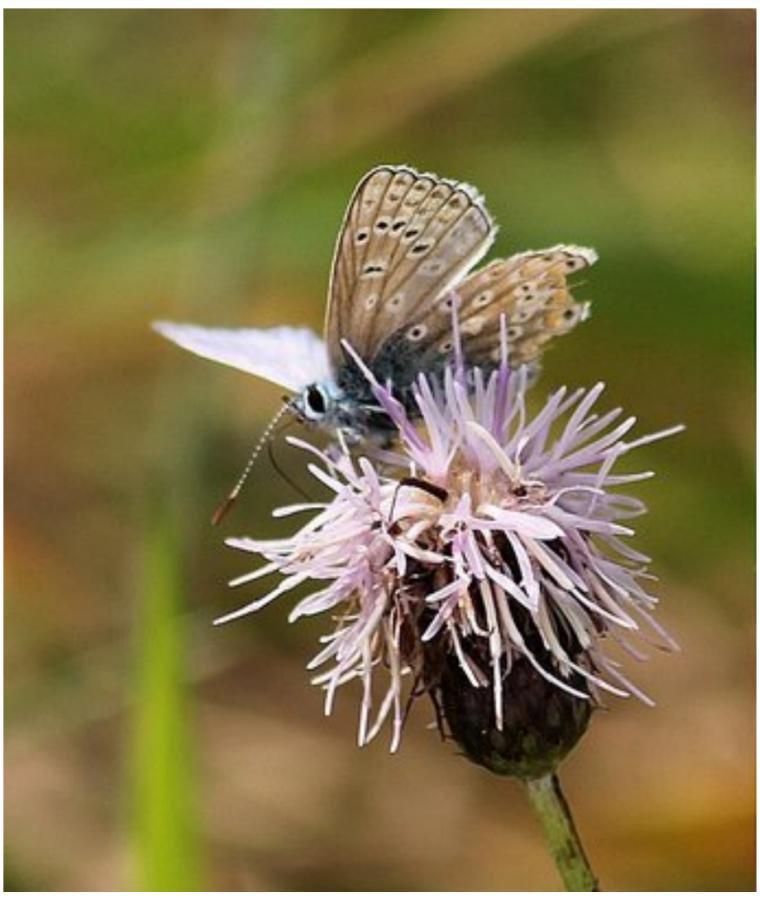
Wurzal you've got a great imagination 😊 But I know what you mean 😊

Thanks Neill, the Cinnabar are usually in the long grass for me has well, this one landed in front of me on Boscombe Prom of all places ,it had no where to hide. 😊

Hi! Mike thanks for your comments about my photo's, I thought I'd go today to look for the Clouded Yellow but I ended up at Hall-Lee-Brook instead, I'd to do shopping etc, May be if the weather stays with us a bit longer I'll get there 😊

Whilst I was at HLB the only Butterflies I saw were A very Battered Common Blue, which was cheerful enough going from Flower to flower, a Small Copper that was really out of it, A Green Veined White that didn't look too bad and about ten Speckled Wood's that were having a great time with the Blackberries and were also in good condition so I have posted a few Pic's because usually the SPW are either on the ground are in the tree's Goldie 😊



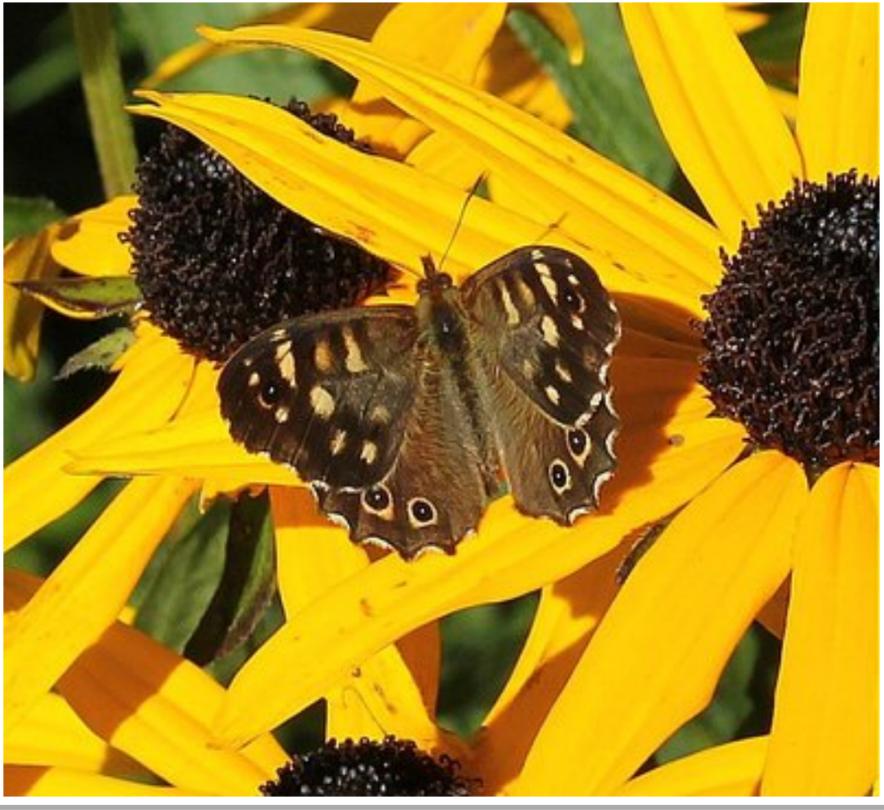


## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 29-Aug-14 05:07 PM GMT

The weather today is very wet and windy but yesterday before the showers again arrived I managed to see this Speckled Wood in the Garden amongst the flowers, so I grabbed my Camera and just got these photo's of ,once again, another Speckled Wood before it flew over the fence.

It seems to be one Butterfly that hasn't done too badly even if the weather has been bad Goldie 😊





## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-Sep-14 04:46 PM GMT

Since the 30th August I've been taking photo's of Red Admirals in my back garden it's been great 😊

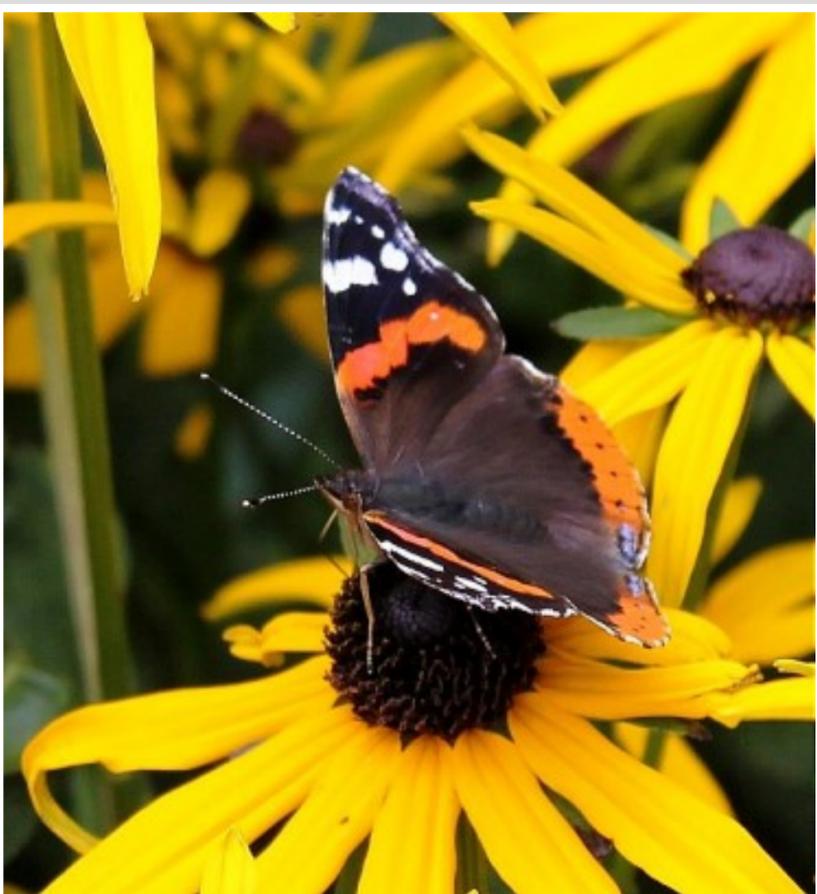
The weather's been too nice to sit inside on the computer, ( I've not got a laptop just an old model computer this is adequate for me up to now) I'll have to wait a bit longer and do more computing before I buy a new one 😊 any way , on the 23rd of August I managed to see a Red Admiral with the extra spot going into the orange on the wing like I saw earlier in the year, that one was very ragged, this one was in good condition.

I've also seen one RA with a spot missing just above the orange on the wing, can't wait for the weather to warm up again,(rain today) may be I'll see some more next week:D

On the 4th September we went once again to Southport Dunes, we saw some Common Blues, one Small Tortoiseshell, a few Dragon Fly, a strange looking Beetle,( I think it's a Beetle) it looks like a face UGH! I'm not in to Beetles at all but this one was unusual that's why I took the Picture.( I also liked the colours, ) 😊

I never got to see a Clouded Yellow, we went to Coppel CP but I think we went to the wrong entrance are some thing because the track was water logged and we ended up in a field 😊 Needless to say the rain had been heavy the night before ( that's a good excuse) 😊 I think I'll have to wait until next year now.

I can't help noticing this year how different it's been from last year at this time. Usually the garden's full of butterflies September is usually the time of year we see loads of STS, Peacocks, we've got the Red Admirals but not has many unless that changes in the next week , I know they came out much earlier than usual but around here we've got a shortage compared to last year and previous years come to that. I wonder if any one as noticed this Goldie 😊







### Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 06-Sep-14 06:51 PM GMT

Another interesting collection of photos, Goldie. I believe your red and black beastie is this one: <http://www.britishbugs.org.uk/heteropte...cyami.html>  
This is another of those creatures now spreading Northwards, having previously been confined to Southern England.

Mike

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 06-Sep-14 11:47 PM GMT

Great Red Admirals Goldie and some interesting variations 😊🇬🇧 Mike is right with his ID too 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 08-Sep-14 03:23 PM GMT

Thanks Mike for your info on the Beetle, if that's moving North hope fully we may get other species of Butterfly as well as Beetles moving North. 😊

The Clouded Yellow has been seen in Gardens in Preston as well as other places, I've not seen one yet but you never know there's still time 😊

Thanks for your comments Wurzel, after me saying I'd seen nothing much lately in my garden, today I've had RA, Comma, Green Veined White and Small Tortoiseshell, so I'm much happier than I was in My last posting 😊 I've to sort the Photo's out yet but it looks like they've been waiting for better weather condition's has they're all looking good. Goldie 😊

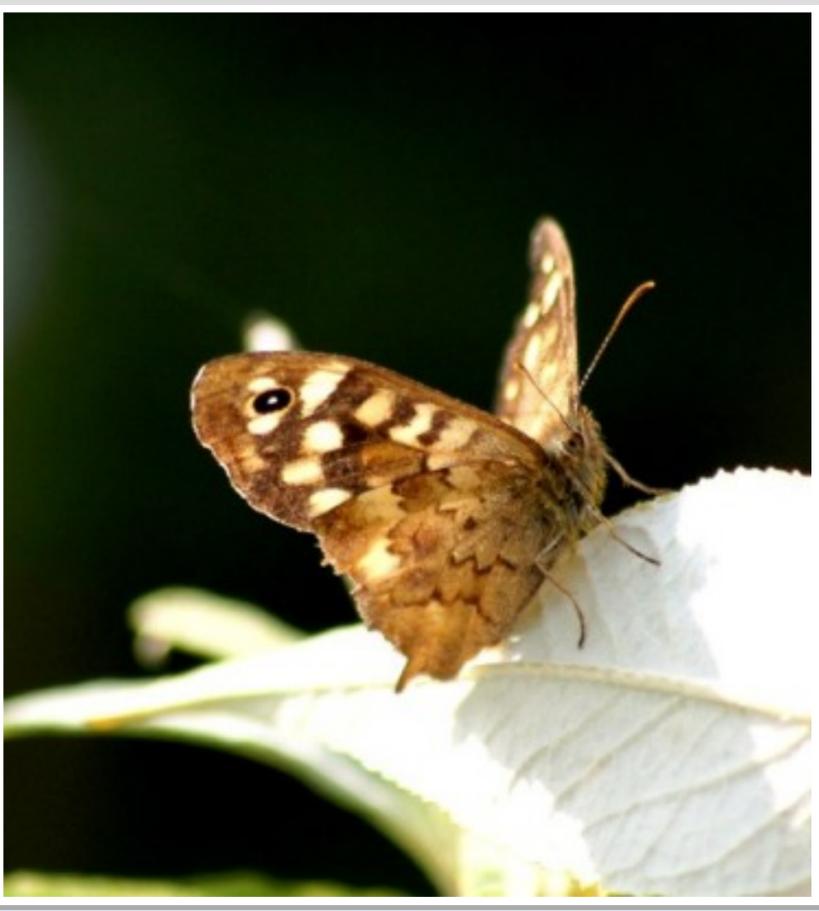
### Re: Goldie M

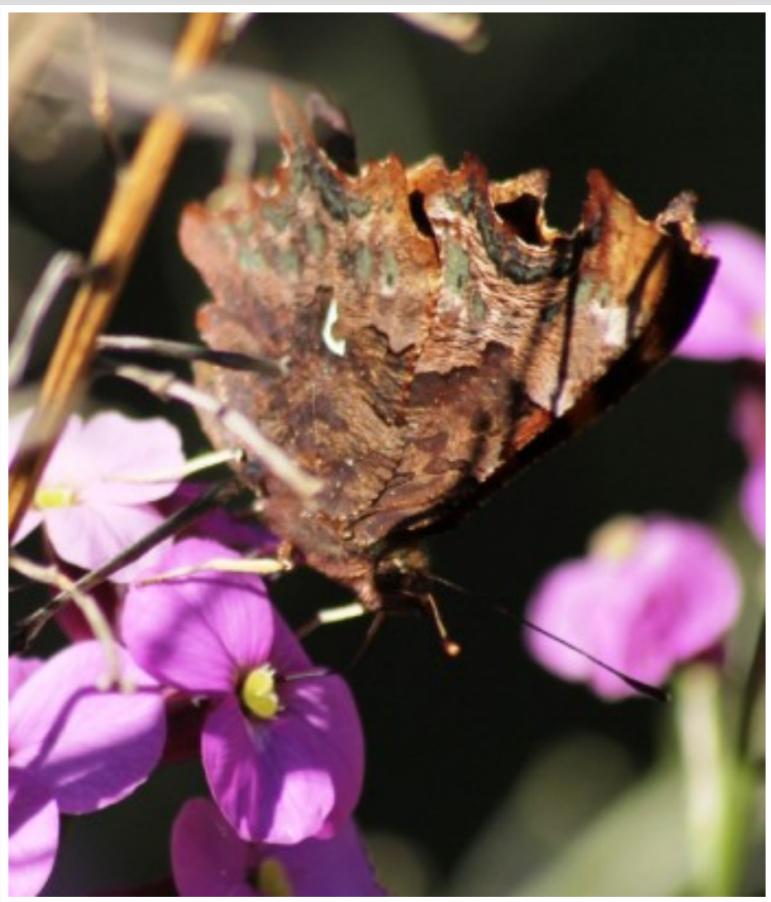
by Goldie M, 14-Sep-14 11:56 AM GMT

Well I've finally sorted out some Photo's, one in particular I'd like to know more info on, it's a Comma and it's got green edges in parts and green spots, I've taken loads of photo's before of Comma's but never seen these Marking's,( may be I've never been close enough before) 😊 Anybody know? 😊

My other Photo's are of Red Admiral, which has been here in the garden since my last Posting Large White and a cheeky little Speckled Wood that thinks it owns the garden and proceeds to chase the other butterflies a way 😊 not forgetting the Small Tortoiseshell that prefers Marjoram 😊

Yesterday, we went up to Arnside, we sat on the front and I took these photo's of the Bay with the railway line and the Lake District in the back ground, sadly I saw no Butterflies but it was a lovely Autumn day. Goldie 😊







**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 14-Sep-14 10:06 PM GMT

**"Goldie M" wrote:**

I'd like to know more info on, it's a Comma and it's got green edges in parts and green spots

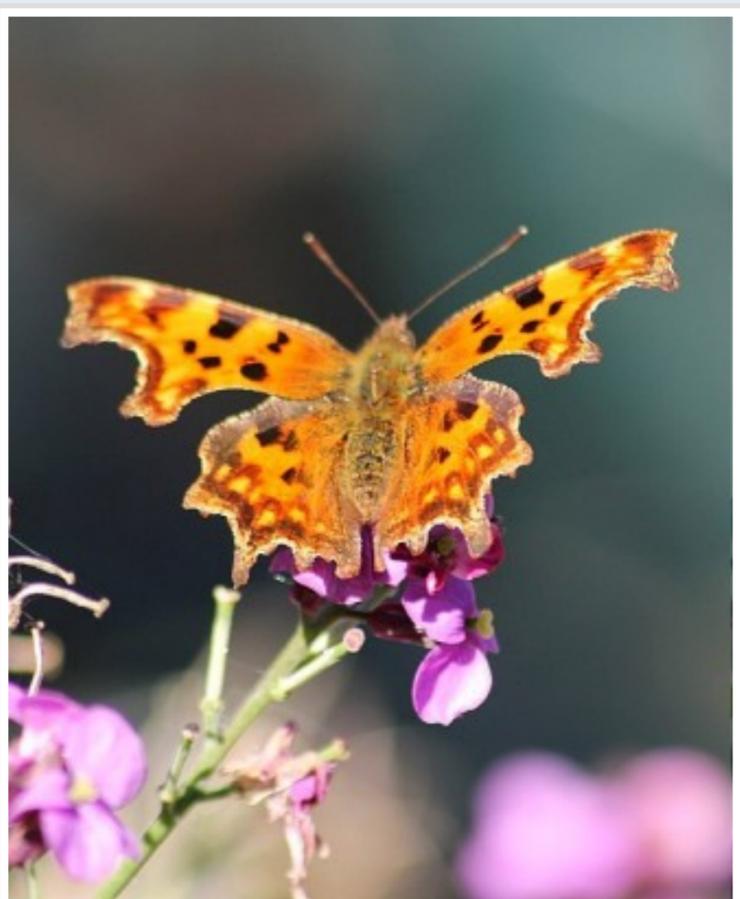
I've been looking through my own Comma photos and found several with these green markings. I believe that it is often found on the *Hutchinsoni* form. Lovely to see Arnside basking in sunshine.

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 15-Sep-14 04:39 PM GMT

Thanks Mike for the info in my book it say's this is a lighter shade then usual so I've checked my Comma's taken on the same day same time and this is a full view of the Butterfly Goldie 😊



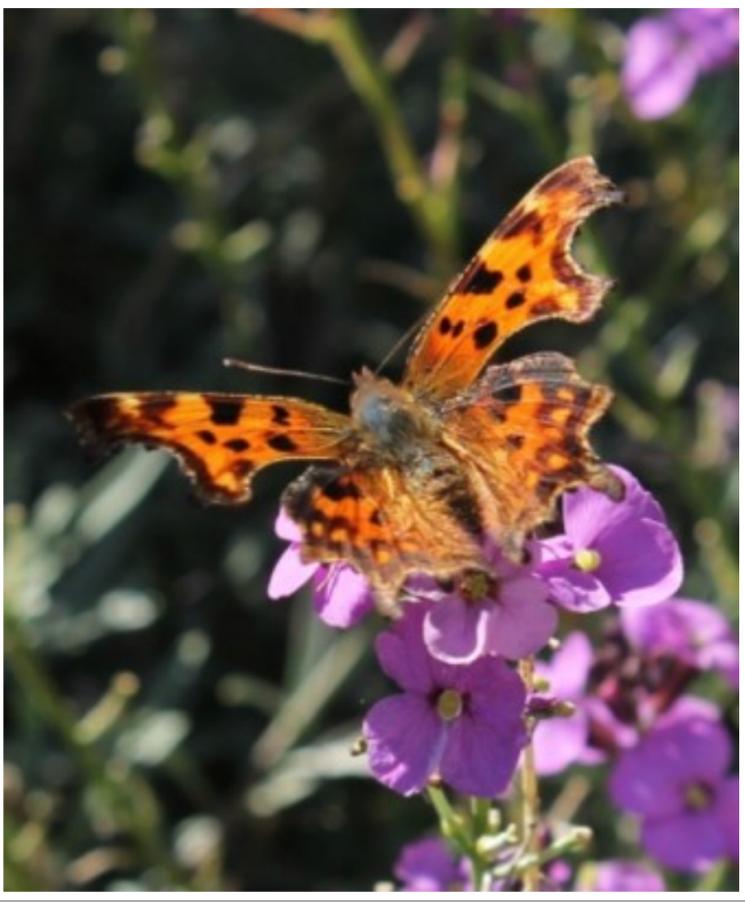
**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 15-Sep-14 05:14 PM GMT

I've been going back through my Comma photo's taken so far this year and I took a couple whilst on Holiday in Hampshire, one at the cottage where we

stayed, one in the New Forest, and one recently in the my back Garden, they all seem different, is this a common trait with Comma's 🤔 I'd be interested to know. Goldie 😊

The first one is taken in My Garden,  
The second in the New Forest,  
The third at Carter's Cove nr Bently Wood



## Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 15-Sep-14 10:42 PM GMT

Great shots, I particularly like the last one Goldie 😊 I reckon the Hampshire and Bentley ones are the summer form Hutchinsoni as they have a more uniform orange colour, whereas the later one is the usual Comma which has more shades of brown in it's colouring?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 16-Sep-14 04:44 PM GMT

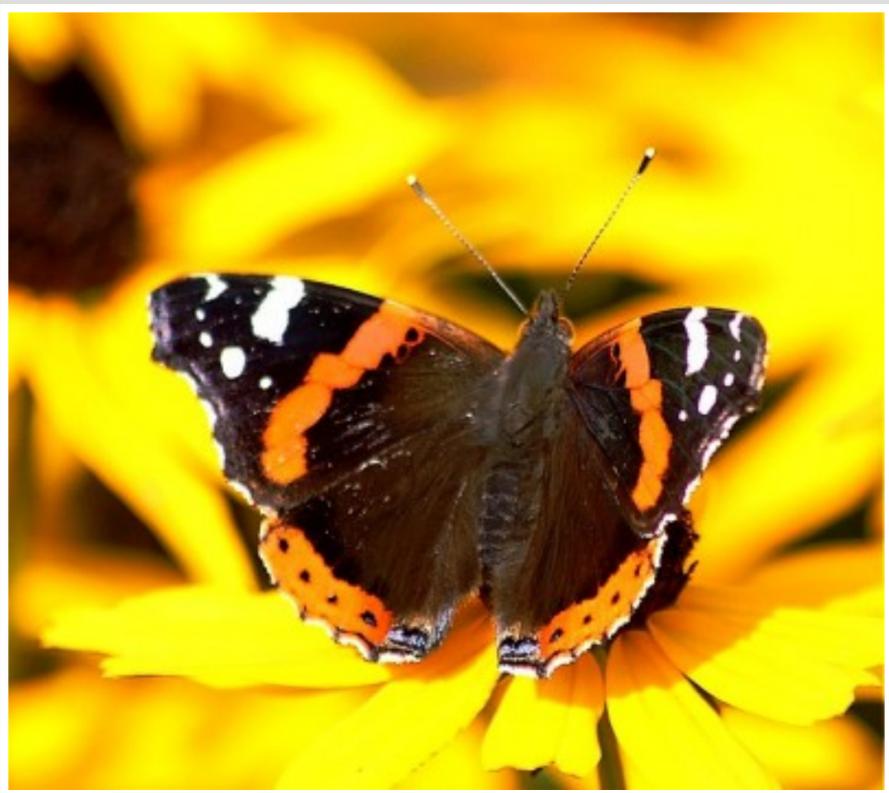
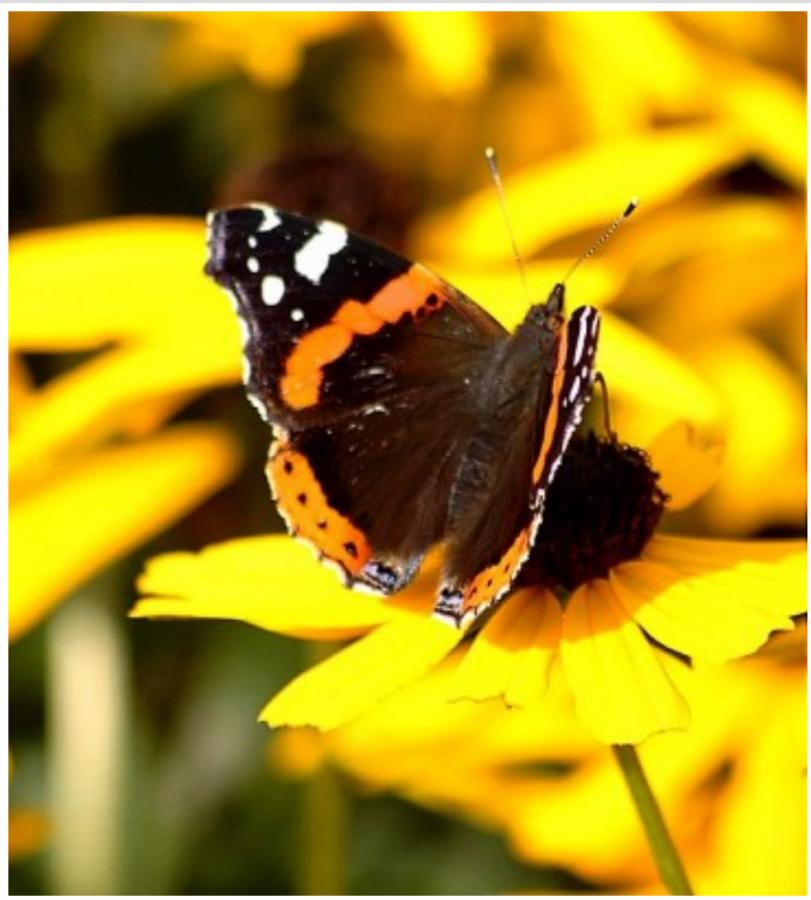
Thanks Wurzel, it's great to get feed back on these things, I'd already got a side view shot of an Hutchinson taken in the garden on the 7th Sept ( many thanks to Mike Oxon for telling me about that) I didn't realize I'd already got pictures of two earlier 😊

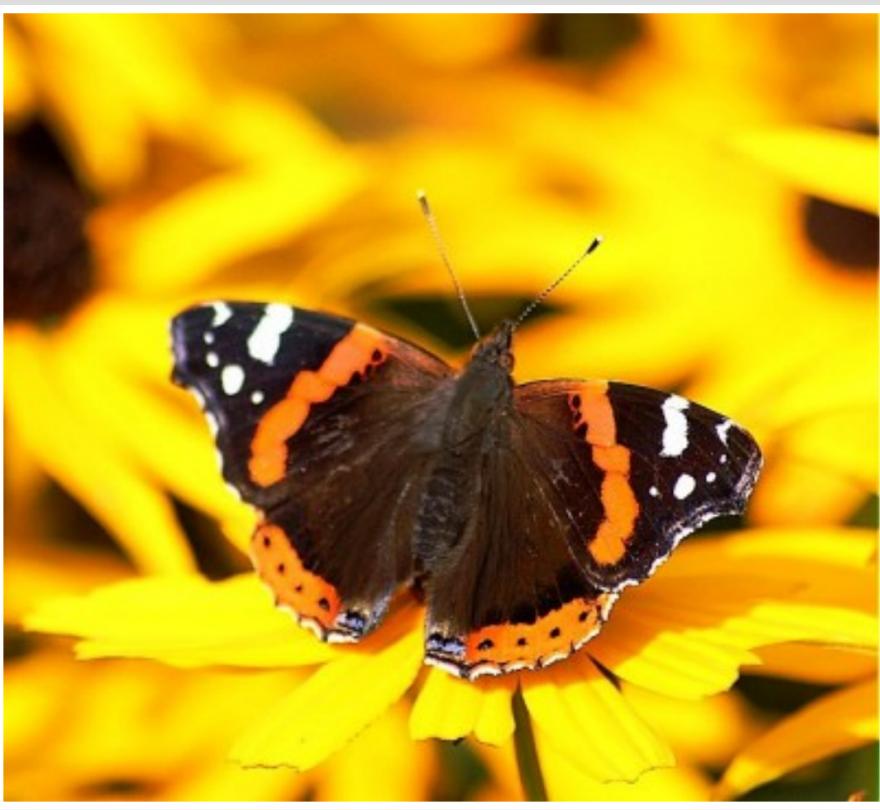
This morning I was in the Garden with my Husband, we were planting a new bush when this Red Admiral landed on my flowers, I took some pic's (has you do) then noticed it had a couple of black spots on it's wings where it should have been a line of straight black on orange, we seem to be getting a lot of Admiral's lately with different characteristics, I wonder if the last two Summers we've had as any thing to do with it.

Does this Butterfly go under any other name because of this ? There seems to be so many different categories for Butterflies which is good and interesting but if your still learning a bit confusing 😊😊

I've taken a picture of one with an extra Black spot in the wing , that comes under one category, I know but what about the Butterfly with with the missing black spot and now this one ,it makes your head spin 😊

The first three I took in the Garden today the last picture also in the garden but taken on August 30th Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 18-Sep-14 10:38 PM GMT

Lovely Red Admirals Goldie 😊 I'm not up on my aberrant RAs so can't come up with any names for the variations you've noticed. That's the great thing – there's always something new to learn 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Maximus, 18-Sep-14 11:45 PM GMT

I'm with Wurzel, Goldie, nice Red Admiral shots 😊 you never know what your going to see, thats the beauty of butterflies 😊

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Debbie, 19-Sep-14 12:30 PM GMT

Lovely pictures and very interesting marking.

Debbie

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 20-Sep-14 12:02 PM GMT

Thanks every one for your comments, your certainly right Mike about the beauty of butterflies, some times like my Red Admirals you don't notice any thing until you check your photo's (well I don't) 😊 then it's so exciting to find some thing like this. 😊

I've put the Red Admiral(1st Pic) into "Imago Abberations" Wurzal, when I looked into the photo's there I saw one very similar except the other one has some Orange on it's wing, I'm not sure what to do with the last one so I'll leave it and see if some one comes up with anther similar to it. 😊

Thanks for your comments Debbie, it's great to be able to talk to you in postings and see your photo's 😊

I was going through some photo's I'd taken a few weeks ago and thought these funny. My Daughter for one of my Christmas presents bought me a small Butterfly house, in it there's a sponge roller, you've got to put this mixture of sugar and water on to it. I was very sceptical at the time but decided to try it out any way this Summer, the following photo's show a Comma who like me was also sceptical 😊 and landed on the top of it never touching the Roller at all 😊 Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 20-Sep-14 12:30 PM GMT

Aumsing sequence that, Goldie. Commas **do** seem to have a penchant for wooden objects. I think they use it to warm themselves.

**Re: Goldie M**

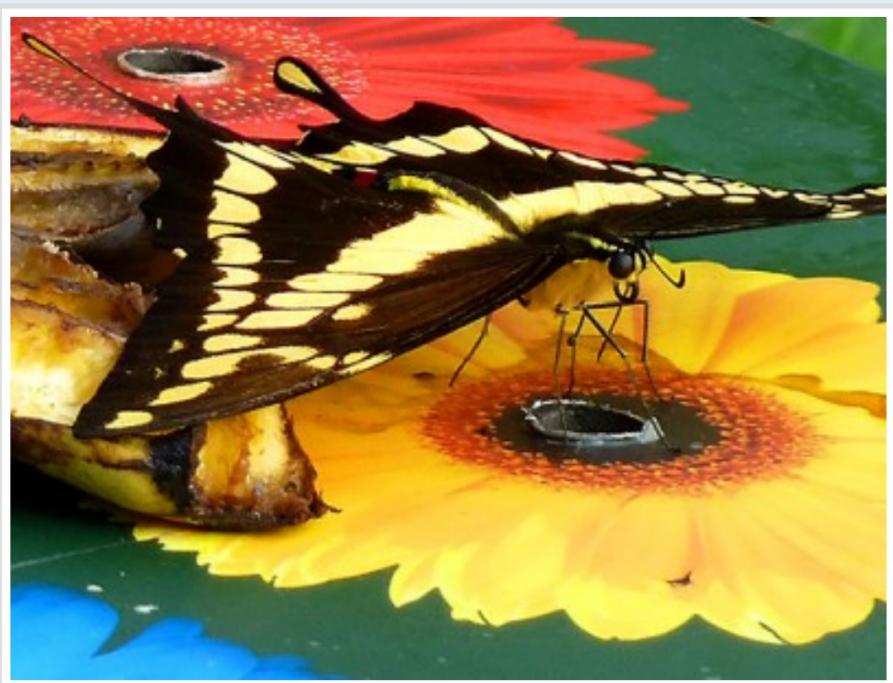
by Goldie M, 20-Sep-14 04:24 PM GMT

This one certainly did David 😊 The only one I saw actually settle on the box like that. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 20-Sep-14 06:53 PM GMT

I bet every butterfly knows that flowers only produce nectar in sunshine, so they're not going to look under the lid of your butterfly house. I expect that the bright yellow roof attracts them and, if you could arrange a little trough of sugar solution along the apex, it might work – A bit like the arrangement they have in butterfly houses.



*Feeding Station at RHS Wisley*

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 21-Sep-14 09:32 PM GMT

An amusing occurrence Goldie, I reckon it didn't attract any other butterflies because the Comma had declared it as it's territory and was standing guard, only taking nectar when you weren't looking 😊 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 22-Sep-14 08:48 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, great Red Admiral photos and lovely little tale of the butterfly house 😊

**"MikeOxon" wrote:**

I bet every butterfly knows that flowers only produce nectar in sunshine, so they're not going to look under the lid of your butterfly house.

Mike

I can't help noticing that the wooden upright that supports the roller has got the sun shining directly on it at the back, turning it around might help 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 23-Sep-14 02:40 PM GMT

Hi!, I went out to the box this morning and it was on the ground, my Husband had put bits of cheese out for the birds and the Starlings had knocked it over, so I've placed it facing the Sun as you suggested Neil, we'll see what happens now 😊

Love the Photo of the Butterfly feeding Mike I'll try that as well 😊

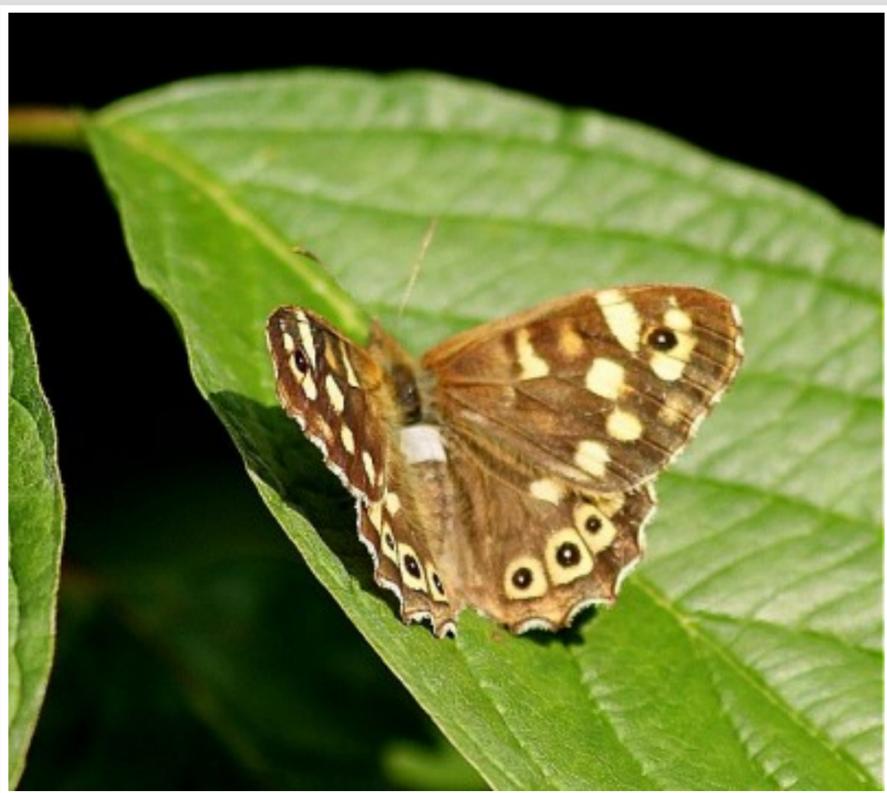
Your right about the the Comma Wurzel , he looks like he's standing guard, 😊 however it 's the Speckled Wood that usually chase' s other Butterflies off, it's had a go at the Admiral's a few times, talking about SW and Admiral's on Sunday we went back to Rossendale Valley, we were both born there and we get nostalgic every now and then as you do 😊 ( besides, they've lovely flowers in the park) 😊 Some one at Lanc's Butterflies had seen Clouded Yellow there a week before so I thought you never know they may still be around.

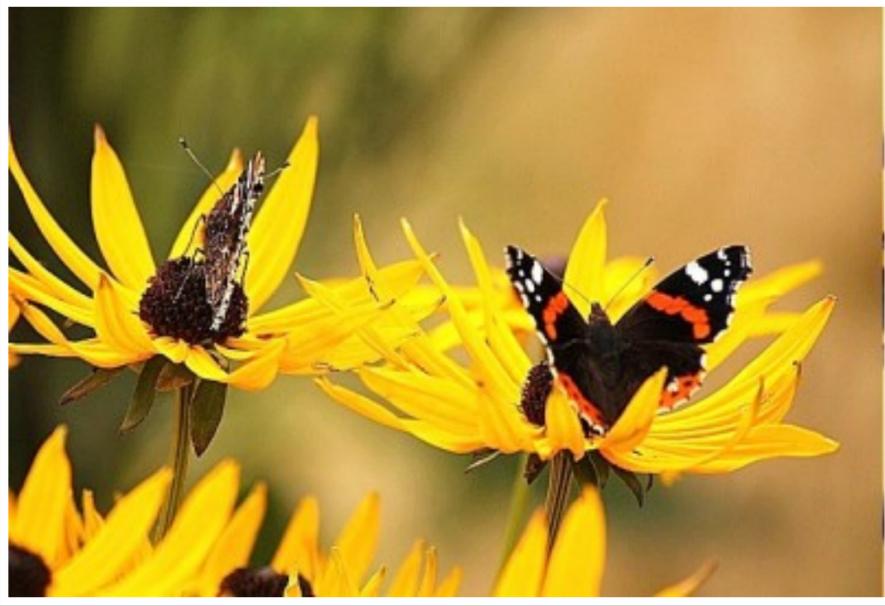
We got there, and I was pleased to find lot's of flowers still in bloom ( the parks called "Stubb-Lee" and it's in Bacup which is part of the Valley) there were lots of Red Admiral's there so I took some some photo's. Sadly no sign of CY.

On our way home the weather was still a bit cloudy but warm so we decided to visit Hall-Lee-Brook near our home, that's when I saw the Speckled Wood.

At first I thought it looked slightly different so decided to take a shot, I managed one before it shot off into the tree's, their so quick, my camera just got a blurred vision but it looks like it's body or part of it's body is cream coloured .

On my photo it looks like it's got a plaster stuck on it 😊 the blurred photo at least shows it's cream mid section, any views on this ? Goldie 😊

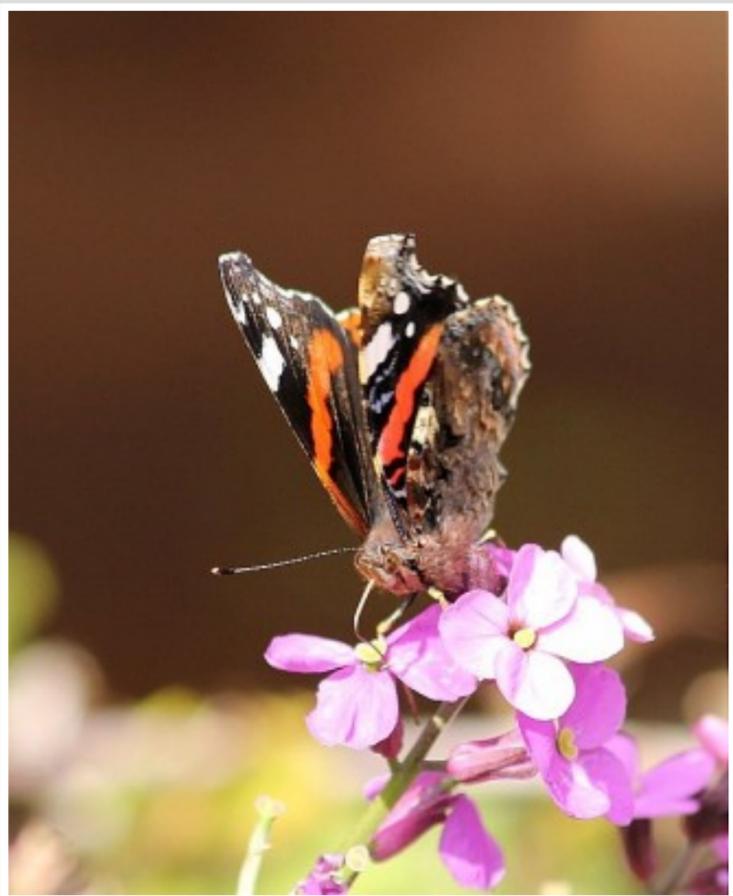




### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 27-Sep-14 06:01 PM GMT

Nothing much to report on here, yesterday in my back garden I saw a comma and a Red Admiral I took some photo's which I've not yet added to my computer, I also took a couple of a Red Admiral shots on Monday which I'll post and then carry on and Finish baking my scones which I've strawberries all ready to put in them, Yummy! 😊 Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by Maximus, 27-Sep-14 07:53 PM GMT

That Red Admiral seems to be enjoying what looks like 'Bowles Mauve' Goldie, we also have some and it flowers all summer. As for your strawberry scones, they sound delicious 😊

Mike

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 29-Sep-14 11:04 PM GMT

Love the Red Admiral pairs Goldie, nice composition 😊 It's finally gone quiet down here – though I did have a Clouded Yellow at the weekend as a possible final flourish 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 30-Sep-14 04:23 PM GMT

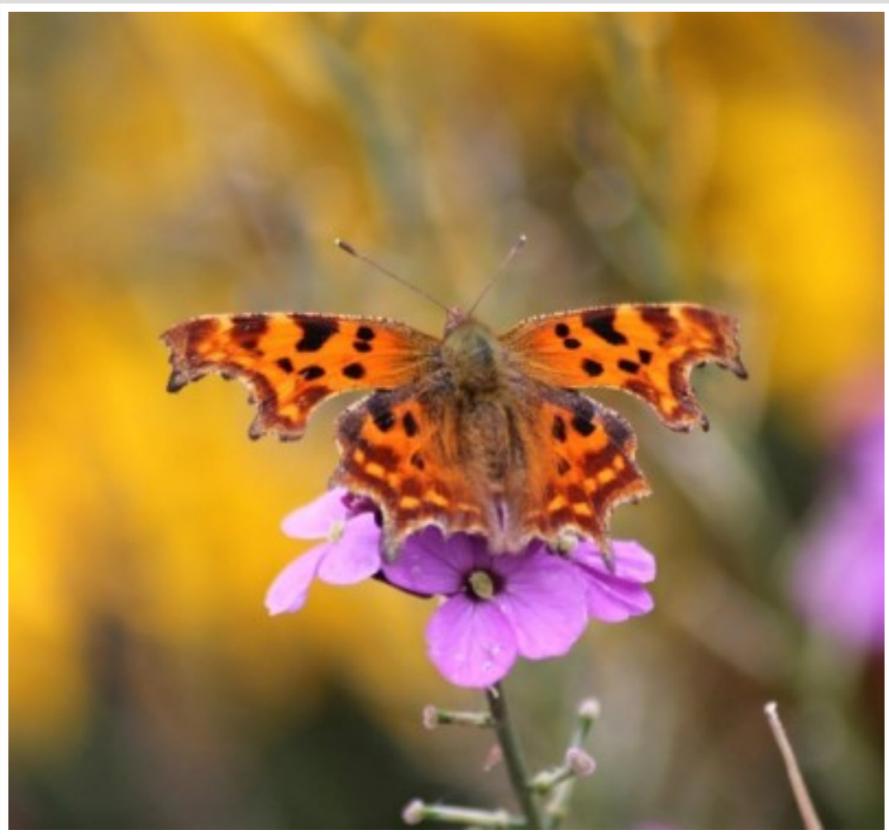
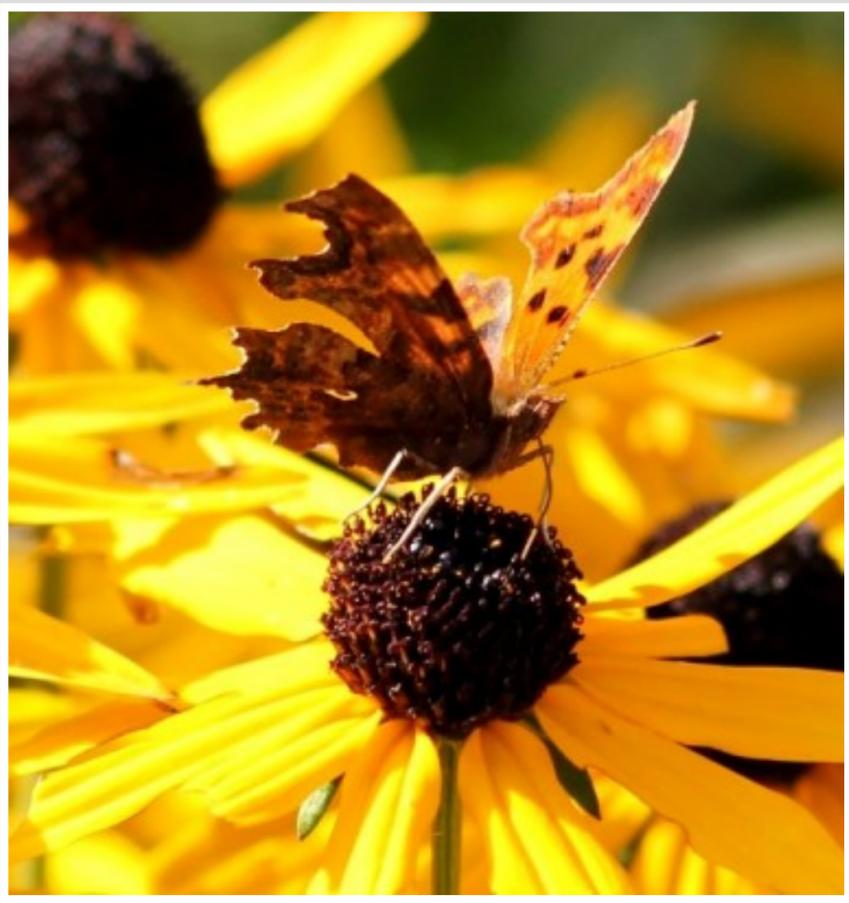
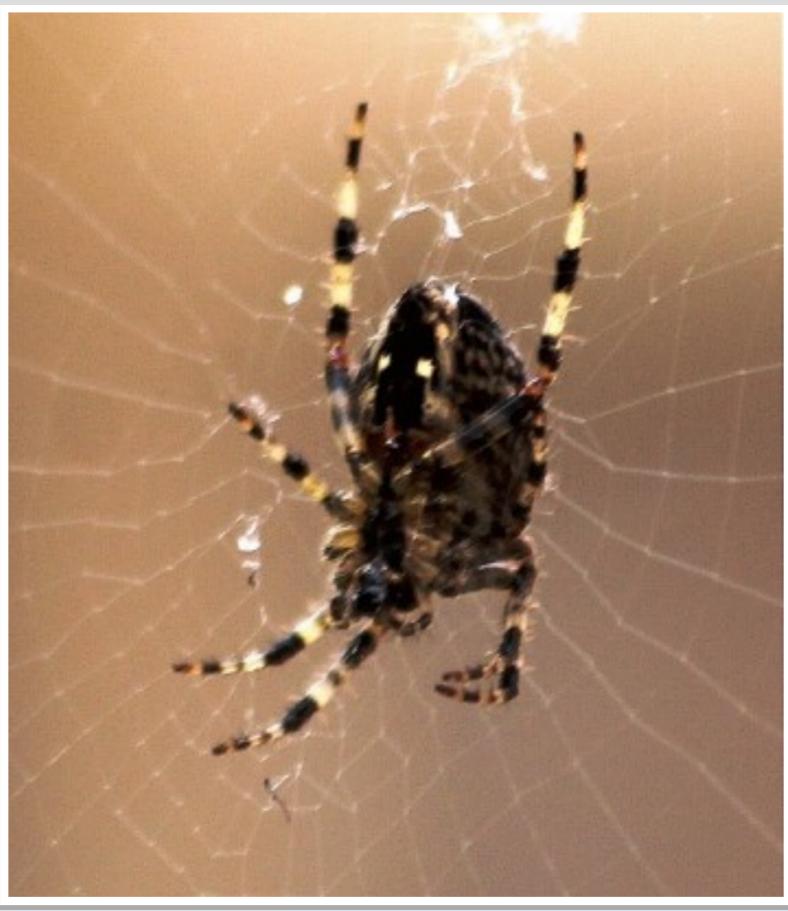
Hi! Mike, if " Bowles Mauve" is a perennial Wall Flower then it's the same as yours and it certainly attracts the Butterflies like you say all Summer and mine lasted into the Winter as well last year, so I bought one for the front garden this year as well 😊 The Scones incidentally I filled with Jam and fresh cream, all gone now 😊 and we're two pounds heavier 😊

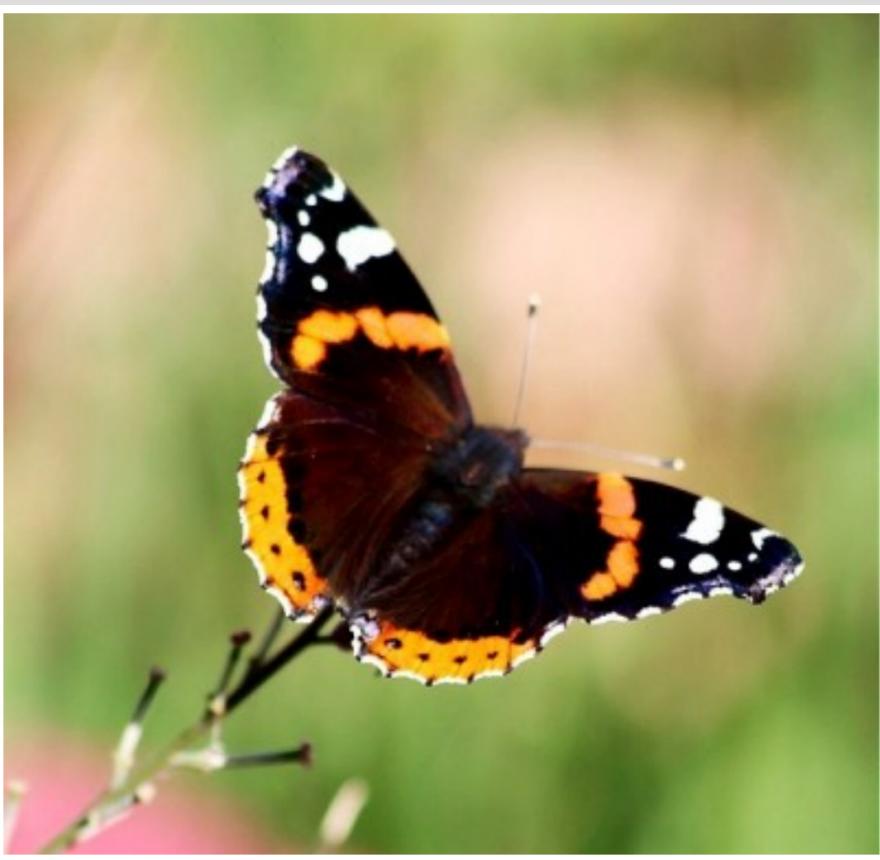
Glad you liked the Red Admirals Wurzel, they seem to have vanished after Sunday but I've had a Comma each day since then and just one rather tatty Small Tortoiseshell, I also took a photograph of a spider after I nearly walked into it's web Ugh! 😊

You lucky thing seeing a Clouded Yellow 🍷🍷 now I'm envious, I'll have to wait until next year now 😊

My first Photo of a RA was taken on the 23rd Sept, my second on the 24th I thought it was the same RA at first then I saw the Difference.

It's been nothing but Comma's since then 😊 Oh! and Spider's 😊 Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 30-Sep-14 06:20 PM GMT

Hi,Goldie.I think you need to plan a couple of summer hols.here in Sussex.Botany Bay,which is mostly in Surrey,is quite reliable for Wood White,very good this year,and Purple Emperor also good this year.Then a visit to Steyning Rifle Range for Brown Hairstreak,very good this Aug. I have never been to Bentley wood so I am not sure how good it is.But it is all down to luck and the weather!.TREVOR.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 30-Sep-14 08:52 PM GMT

Hi! Trevor, that all sounds good to me, looks like i'd have to come twice though, August for the BHS and it's July I think for the the other two if I'm right.

"Bently Wood" is in Hampshire and it seems PEM are best seen there towards the end of July. I was there about the 12th for a week, no luck, how ever I did get some good photo's of the Silver Washed Frit so I was pleased with that.

That's Botany Bay on my list for next year for certain, of course we'll spend the Winter finding all these new places from the maps:D

You mentioned Steyning ,is that near to Botany Bay. ? I'll look it up any way and get our plans going 😊

Can I ask you please when you were at these places, just to get a more accurate time of year, I know you said it's all luck and the weather but a bit of knowledge also helps 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Neil Hulme, 30-Sep-14 09:52 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

If you want to get the best out of these species and these sites you really need three trips, so perhaps it might be better to spread your away-days over a couple of seasons. Timing is everything!

For Wood White at Botany Bay I would recommend visiting during the spring brood, some time in the third week of May. Given even modest breaks in the cloud and a little warmth you can't miss! At this time of year the woods are lush and the nightingales are singing. Wood Whites reappear in mid/late July, but by then the Purple Emperors have stopped coming down to the rides in good numbers (and in good condition). You mention late July for looking for Purple Emperor, but that's a little too late to get them at their best. In most years they are all-but-over by about 25th July, with only a few ragged males and elusive females left.

For Purple Emperor at Botany Bay I would recommend the first week of July. On hot days you need to start quite early, as they start to land on the tracks before 10 am, and particularly between 11 am and midday. There will be plenty of people looking and to help locate grounded males.

For Brown Hairstreak at Steyning Rifle Range I would recommend the third and fourth weeks in August. Start at 11 am on a very warm and sunny day and you can't go far wrong.

BWs, Neil

## Re: Goldie M

by David M, 30-Sep-14 10:00 PM GMT

Given that you're 'up north', then the best bet for Purple Emperor must surely be Fermyn Woods, near Corby.

## Re: Goldie M

by Neil Hulme, 30-Sep-14 10:20 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

David's right. If you live north of Fermyn you can't drive past this site to see them in the South! Fermyn Woods is the best site in the UK by some margin. Timing probably still first week of July, but always keep an eye on the Purple Empire website <http://apaturairis.blogspot.co.uk/> for the most up-to-date news, as precise timing varies from year to year. If you cover yourself in shrimp paste, as I do, you'll have them landing on you.

BWs, Neil

## Re: Goldie M

by David M, 30-Sep-14 10:24 PM GMT

### "Neil Hulme" wrote:

If you cover yourself in shrimp paste, as I do, you'll have them landing on you.

LOL!

If you can persuade Goldie to do that, then I'll stand your drinks for an entire evening!! 😊

## Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 01-Oct-14 09:08 AM GMT

Hi,again Goldie,

Neil Hulme has given you the best possible advice for the timings of your visits to this part of the World.

You asked for sighting dates for this year,i was at Botany Bay on 1st and 2nd of july ,no Wood Whites,but 6 and 4 grounded Emperors respectively.

10 days later, no grounded Emperors,but a good showing of Wood Whites ( summer brood ). But 2015 could be a little earlier or later than this.

Never been to Fermyn but by reputation its far superior to Botany Bay for Purple Emperors.

Best wishes ,TREVOR.

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 04-Oct-14 12:59 PM GMT

Just got back to postings after a busy week, thank you Trevor, Neil, David, for your advice if I don't get at least one of these Butterflies next year there's some thing gone wrong 😞

But Neil, like David said the Peanut Butter will have to stay in the Jar 😊

I think I'll take all your advice and try Fermyn Woods first, I didn't realize there were PE in the North, I presumed they were all in the South, I would certainly have gone there this year had I known. I've got a book that gives places to look , it doesn't mention Corby at all.

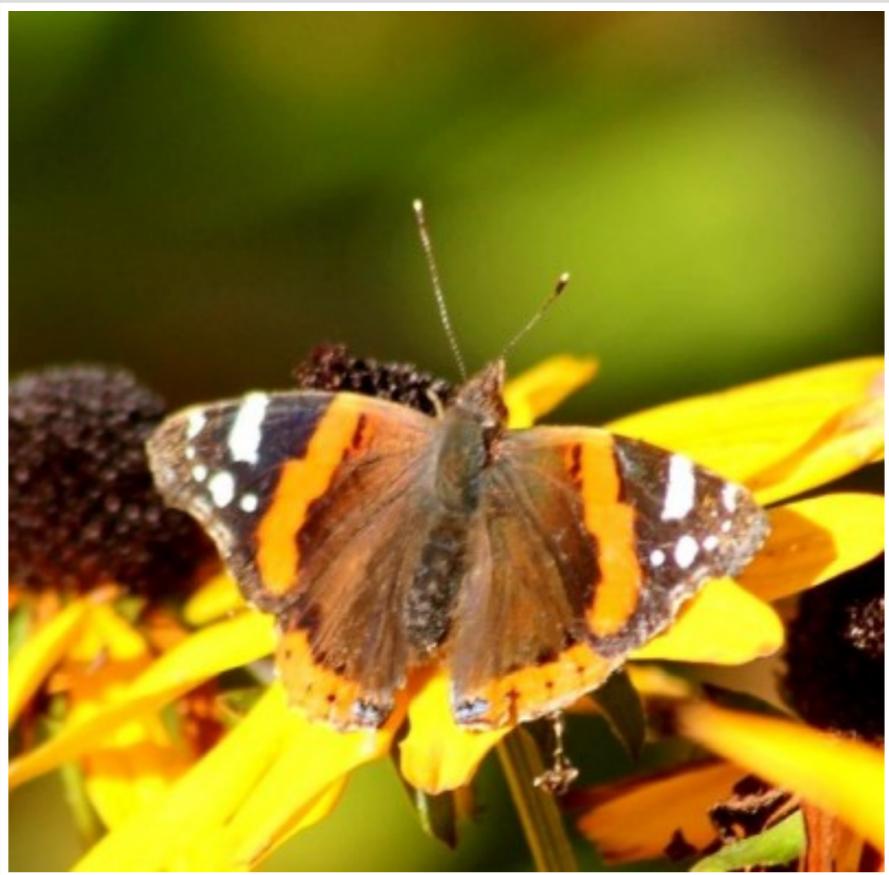
I'll keep an eye on that Web site Neill I've made a note of it. Thanks for the dates and times Guys, Ill try to spread things out a bit more next year.

The Brown Hair Streaks may have to wait I think because they may need a third journey and being as some times I'm in Kent at that time of year it may be a bit too much traveling, I'll see, at least it's some thing to look forward to and plan for 😊

The Butterflies Have not Quite given up here yet, I took these two shots in My garden before I went shopping on Thursday, I think the Red Admiral has been in my garden before, he looks well worn now but still those unusual spots in the Orange strip on his wings look a little brighter. I couldn't resist

including the Bee (think it is) in the shot with the Comma 😊

Once again thank's for your advice , can't wait for next year Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 04-Oct-14 03:52 PM GMT

Hi,Goldie,  
I dont know which part of Kent you visit,but assuming its not in the extreme east of the County it may be possible to visit Steyning.  
Arrive for 11am until about 2.30pm (bring the Sun with you!) and be back for tea.  
Hope this is of some use,  
TREVOR.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 04-Oct-14 05:44 PM GMT

Hi! Trevor, I go to Canterbury to my daughters, which is quite a bit a way from" Steyning" I think, but I go for 2 weeks some times so may be a country run is on the cards 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 05-Oct-14 08:28 PM GMT

Nice report Goldie and good to see you're still photographing the butterflies 🦋 - I'm still seeing them but always in circumstances that don't allow

photography – mind you I'm so far behind on my PD that might be a good thing so I can catch up 😊  
If you're after Brostreaks then I seem to recall that over the last couple of years Alners Gorse has had them really early if that's any use to you...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06–Oct–14 02:49 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel , I don't know where "Alner's Gorse" is I'll have to look it up on the Internet, that's the trouble living in the North, we haven't a clue where places are and when I've looked them up we usually get lost. 😊

Take this year for instance, while I was at my daughter's in July ( a week was spent in Hampshire before traveling on to Kent) She knew I'd been looking for the Purple E and we looked up sightings in Kent, one had been seen in Dean Woods which is near" Tunbridge"( I think I've got the name right) anyway we arrived in Tunbride and could we find the Woods 😊

NO WAY! 😊 finally after about an hour we did but once again no luck , we could only spend an hour there my daughter had to get back so after that I promised I'd get maps etc for next year 😊

I think that's my Winter planned , I'll find all the places to go to , time of year and day and just concentrate on the species I've not got yet, I didn't do too well with that this year only got the Ex Skipper, still I did manage the Female Silver Washed Frit that's a bit rarer so I can't grumble 😊 Goldie 😊

## Re: Goldie M

by David M, 06–Oct–14 06:54 PM GMT

Finding information about Alner's Gorse is the straightforward bit:

[http://butterfly-conservation.org/2401- ... orset.html](http://butterfly-conservation.org/2401-...orset.html)

Actually locating it is somewhat trickier. This reserve is a particularly easy one to drive past as there's no obvious car park and the actual entrance is quite well concealed.

The first time I visited I printed off a couple of maps and familiarised myself with the surroundings by spending time on Google Street View (using Sat-Nav is against my religion).

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 10–Oct–14 12:05 PM GMT

Hi! David, just got back to posting again 😊 Thanks for the information, it seems Dorset is the place to be in at any time, I'm really going to have to plan holidays carefully next year if I want to get the Butterflies not yet photographed , it will give me some thing to do this Winter. 😊

Gaits Barrow is a bit like that, it's just a gate on the road side, it does however have a sign but you can be passed it before you realize it, there's a small parking area once your in and down the lane but you need a permit to park, of course some don't bother with permits even though they're free, (so what's new) any way thanks again it will be a big help on deciding about next year's hol's Goldie 😊

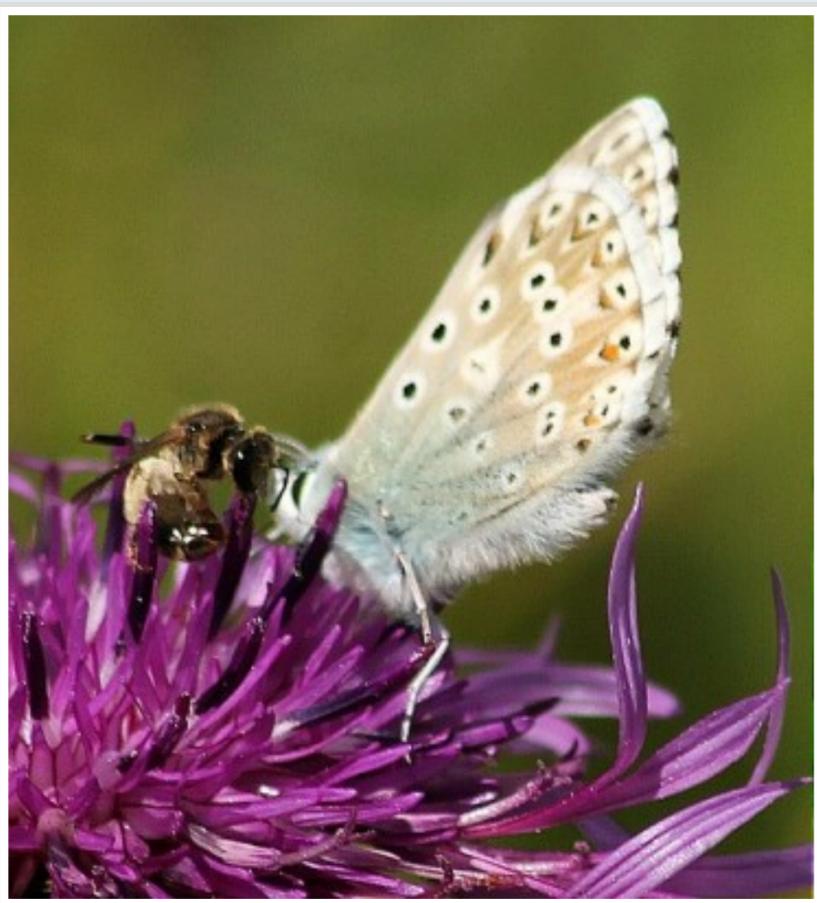
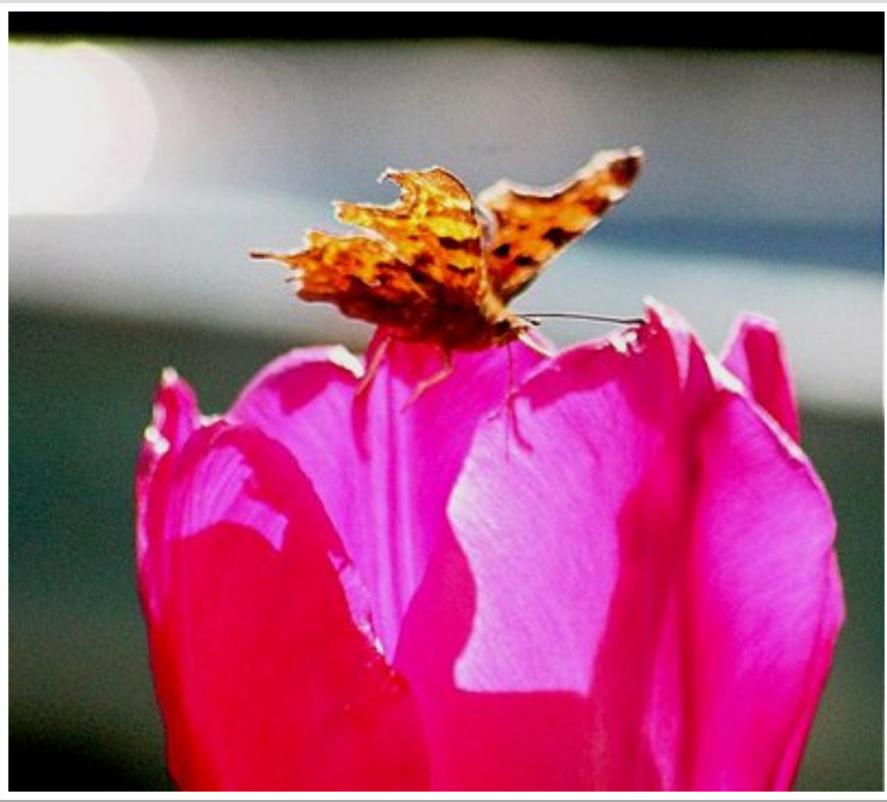
## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17–Oct–14 05:05 PM GMT

I've been going through some of the photo's i thought were funny taken this year, because of course I'm short of butterflies to post 😊  
My first Photo was taken in Kent at Temple Ewell, I was on the look out for Adonis it was only the 15th of July but I thought if the Chalk hill Blues were out there was a chance, so I walked up the hill to find Cow flaps every where and enjoying them these Chalk hill Blues 😊

My second photo was taken the day before the 14th at Dover ,this CHB by the look on his face thought he'd encountered a monster 😊 My third photo was taken in Spring 18th of April in the back Garden, the fun we all had with this little Comma trying his best to feed was some thing you could never buy 😊

Last but not least was the Common Blue who got lost in a flower South Port Dunes 21st May Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 19-Oct-14 07:57 PM GMT

With the threat of work fast approaching 😞 this was a brill post to read as it really cheered me up, nice one Goldie 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by PhilJohnson, 19-Oct-14 08:50 PM GMT

Hi Goldie M,

With regard to finding Purple Emperors next year, I would say Neil Hulme's advice is excellent. I have spent a lot of time at the Bookham Commons this year and I find that generally people get to the top of the hill after about 12:30pm, see a few PEs at distance and then assume that there are a lot of them all over the Commons but I think this assumption was incorrect this year.

I have a theory about populations of predatory Blue Tits and the like being artificially high in certain areas because people generally like to keep them well fed in the winter on their bird feeders but I am not sure exactly how this relates to the Bookham Commons. Purple Emperor caterpillars can be large and if I was a predatory bird, I would probably want the human equivalent of a loaf of bread rather than a single slice making some species more vulnerable than others although there are other factors involved. I think one needs to remember that different people groups have their own interests but for conservation to work properly there needs to be a holistic approach. I am sure I will be corrected if I am wrong and not wanting to hijack your diary here with this topic, I wont be responding to other comments here regarding what I have just said.

best wishes,  
Philip

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 20-Oct-14 06:56 PM GMT

Glad I cheered you up a bit Wurzal, 😊 it's always sad towards the end of October(no more Butterflies) but it's great to take a breath and look back on the photo's we've taken and the plans we can make for next year, if you've any funny shots it would be great to see them 😊

I think your right Phil about Neil's advice I've taken note of it and your not impeding on my post at all , it's always good to get peoples inputGoldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 20-Oct-14 09:01 PM GMT

It rained quite a lot here this morning and with the promise of strong winds and rain tomorrow I thought I'd go for a walk in our local beauty spot "Rivington" (it's where the Commonwealth Games Swimming and Cycling were held a few years a go.)

We were lucky for the hour we were there it didn't rain and the sun came out so I took a few shots of the tree's still with their leaves on no telling what the night's weather will bring at least i've got a few shots now.

I took a shot of the Oak tree and although I've gone to Rivington for years now I've never seen any Green Hair Streaks although they're said to be there(not in the Oak Tree of course) 😊 Perhaps next year I'll see some. Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 20-Oct-14 09:19 PM GMT

Nice images, Goldie. Brings back memories as Rivington Pike was a common destination for family outings when I was a child.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 20-Oct-14 10:42 PM GMT

Lovely atmospheric shots Goldie 😊 – I really must try and get out soon before all the leaves have gone...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Maximus, 21-Oct-14 12:10 AM GMT

Lovely autumnal shots Goldie 😊 now roll on spring 😊😊

Mike

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 21-Oct-14 07:31 PM GMT

Thanks Mike David and Wurzal, I'm glad you enjoyed the photo's, I thought I'd give my Bridge Camera an airing for this outing and it proved to be a good idea 😊 It's much lighter to carry and I knew there was no chance of Butterflies ( they all seem to hibernate early this year,)

I saw my first Butterfly on the 4th of March, a Small Tortoiseshell, usually round here it's about the middle of March, August was a wash out really except for odd days, so that'll be my trend now until next year, out with the Bridge Cam 😊

Today was awful rain, hail, and the wind was some thing fierce, had to that the fact I attended a funeral and that sums up the day 😞 Roll on Spring Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 21-Oct-14 07:50 PM GMT

Some nice Autumn colours there Goldie 😊

Horrible weather here today as well, wet windy and the temperature dropping like a stone...Winter is coming 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 21-Oct-14 08:26 PM GMT

Thanks Neil, I've got an awful feeling about this Winter, on the side of my garage I've a plant that creeps up the wall, I can't remember what it's called but it's got some good thorns on it, any way the only time it's had red berries on it is when the coming Winter's have been very bad and I'm sorry to say it's full of Red Berries again this year. 😞

My Brother-in-law shakes his head in disbelief 😊 but I've told him when it snows and he can't play golf I'll ring him up and say "Any golf today" 😊 all good fun ! can't wait to ring him though 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 21-Oct-14 10:26 PM GMT

Given how poorly butterflies fared after last year's abnormally mild winter, I'm more than happy for it to freeze over for a week or two this year.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 01-Nov-14 03:25 PM GMT

We may have had warmer weather but up here it's been windy and we've not had much sun even though it's been drier the wind felt cold. 😞

My daughter visited us so we decided to go for a run in the car, she wanted to see the the Antony Gormley statues on Corby beach so we went to Southport first then on to Corby, I thought I may see some thing flying in the Dunes but it was much too cloudy ,very dark which my photo's will show, any way I'd no luck in the Dunes , I couldn't help thinking what a difference a few weeks can make .

When we got to Corby the tide was in and I was astonished at the sight of huge waves coming in covering them, it was really an unreal sight, like watching some one drowning, very impressive though but also a bit scary. 😞 The statues are placed for almost two miles and there's an hundred of them.

We bought ourselves a coffee and a sausage muffin, ( Well! it was a consolation prize) and sat down to eat knowing the tide had turned and was on it's way out and may be we'd get a chance to go on to the beach 😊

I noticed lots of Sea gulls and quite a few wader's (least I think they were) I couldn't get near enough to see and the light was very bad even when the tide retreated.

Also coming out from Liverpool was a sailing ship, I took a couple of shots has it passed us by it reminded me of old and new, the statues and the ship. Any way it turned out to be a great day in spite of the weather Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 01-Nov-14 06:37 PM GMT

Nice, atmospheric shots there, Goldie.

I always look out for these statues when I'm returning to Liverpool from the Isle of Man on the ferry!

Did you manage to see any Red Squirrels in the wooded areas? I used to love visiting the reserve and feeding them peanuts.

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 03-Nov-14 10:41 PM GMT

Really spooky shots Goldie, I agree with David – very atmospheric 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 04-Nov-14 11:44 AM GMT

Glad you liked the shots, I thought they looked spooky too, it was quite a day out 😊

In answer to your question David the last time we went to see the Squirrels which would be a couple of years ago now they'd caught a virus and were very sick, in fact it was so bad the Ranger was asking people to tell them if one was seen, since then I believe they've made a recovery but we didn't visit them because the car park is owned by the National Trust and they're charging £5 40 to park, if we'd been staying longer just to see them and the beech that's okay but our main objective this time were the statues.

I didn't know you could feed them, I thought it wasn't allowed, next time I go I'll take some peanuts and some photo's 😊

Hi! Wurzel glad you liked the photo's, I made a real mess of it Yesterday, we went to Blackpool then to St Anne's the weather was Sunny but the wind was bitter on the front so we ended up in the Park (more sheltered) I left my camera in the car (some thing I never do ) and as we walked round the Autumn leaves were thick on the ground, all at once in front of us (I thought it was just another leaf at first) fluttering about on landing was a Red Admiral, you can imagine my delight at seeing it but I could have kicked myself for leaving my camera in the car.

I went back to the car for the Camera we walked all round the park again just in case but never saw it again, it would have been my first in November has well 😊 Needless to say I'll never leave my camera behind again no matter what time of year it is 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 08-Nov-14 04:23 PM GMT

I first wrote about Hall-Lee-Brook in my first Posting, since then it's become a Small Nature Reserve, this year I spotted three more Butterflies to add to the list I'd seen there, making a total now of sixteen different species, which are:

- 1 Brimstone (new one)
- 2 Comma
- 3 Common Blue (new one)
- 4 Gate Keeper
- 5 Green Veined White
- 6 Holly Blue
- 7 Large White
- 8 Large Skipper
- 9 Meadow Brown
- 10 Orange Tip
- 11 Peacock
- 12 Red Admiral
- 13 Small White
- 14 Small Copper (new one)
- 15 Small Tortoiseshell

16 Small Skipper

I hope next year we'll see a Hair Streak in there 😊 I keep looking and hoping Goldie 😊

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 11-Nov-14 01:56 PM GMT

I've sadly given up on Butterflies now until next year, but I've still had loads of pleasure watching the bird visitors to our back garden, I'd taken some old pipes which were on a building site and bought saucers from Garden centers , the rain does the rest has you can see the Blackbird really enjoys himself bathing in one 😊

I took the photo's from inside the house so they're not has clear as they should be. A part from these birds we've had Starlings, Wood P, Collared Dove, Blue Tit,Gold Finch, Robin, I'm sure it's because we live so near to many country Parks, I think a visit to Pennington Flash is on the cards to look for the Wintering Birds. Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 13-Nov-14 11:30 PM GMT

Love the birdbath shots Goldie 😊 Looking forward to the Pennington shots.

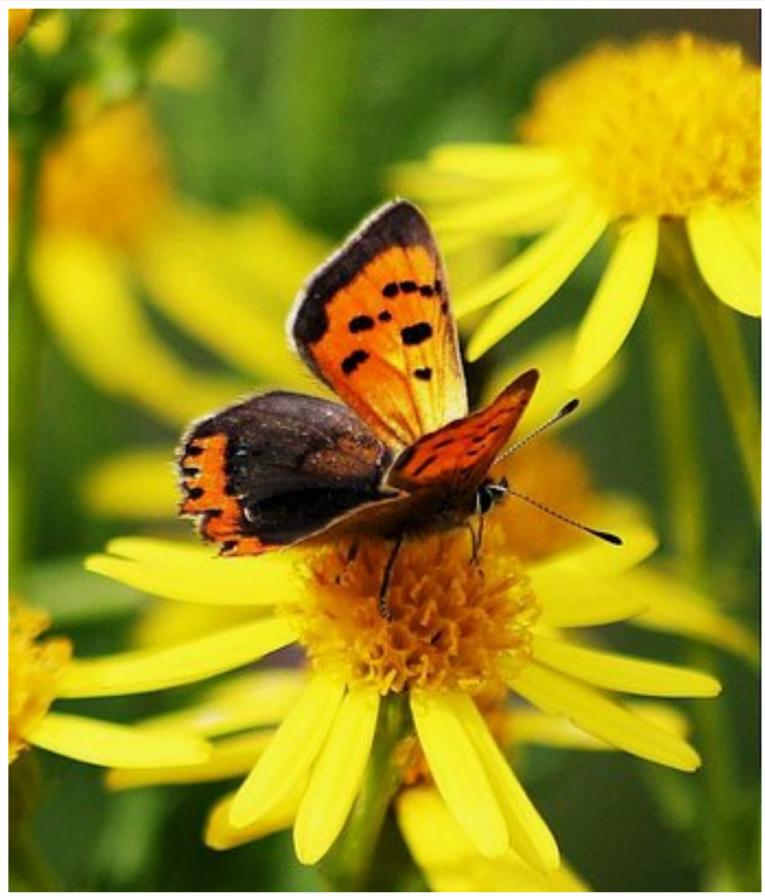
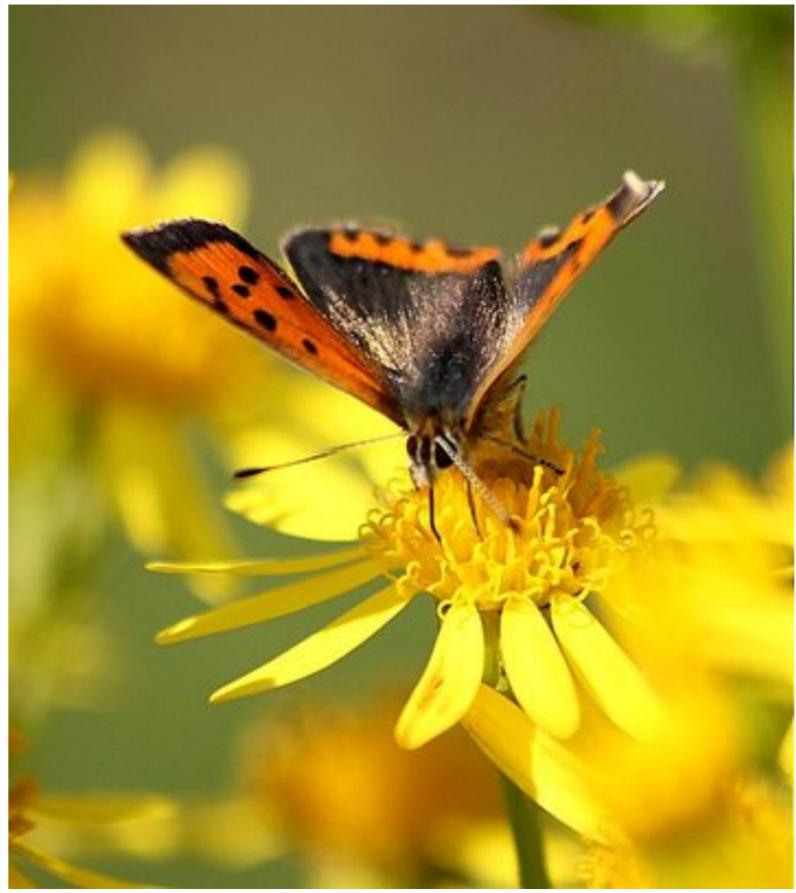
Have a goodun

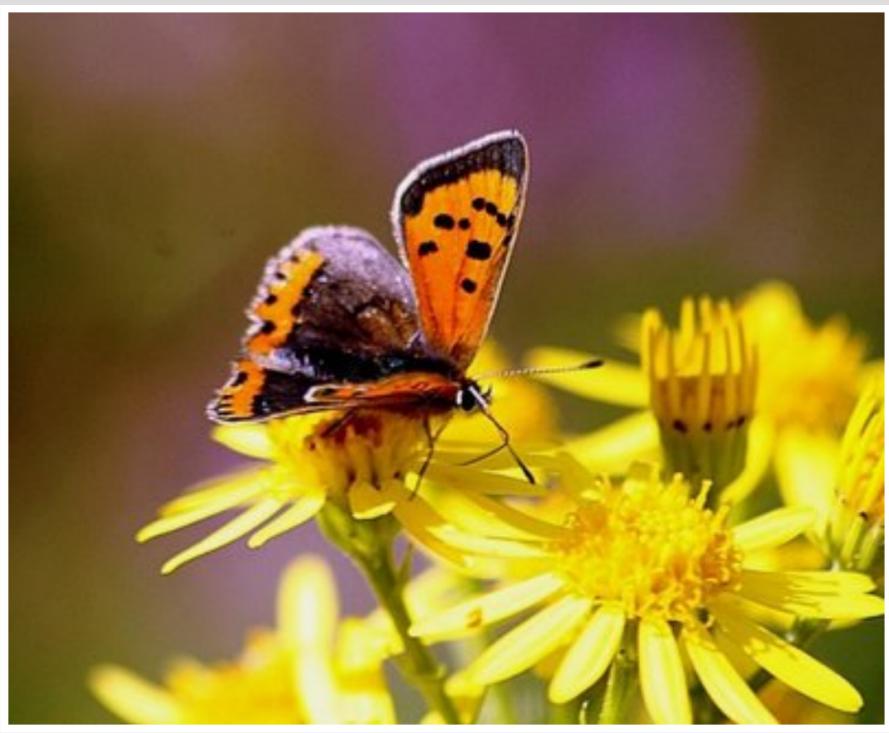
Wurzel

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 15-Nov-14 11:49 AM GMT

I've been getting a bit nostalgic this week thinking on my last visit's to HLB, it was a fantastic year for Small Copper's there and living so near to it was an added bonus, August in particular was my favourite month although I can't leave May out with the photo's of Orange Tips on the May Flowers but the SC I saw in August on a lovely sunny day with the sun shining on it's wings making them turn to copper will be with me all through the Winter to come so I couldn't resist putting a few shots in my posts Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 15-Nov-14 01:40 PM GMT

Lovely copper glows to warm up a wintry afternoon! Thank you for sharing.

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by nomad, 15-Nov-14 06:13 PM GMT

Very nice Small Copper images – full of colour to brighten up this Winters day. 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by PhilBJohnson, 16-Nov-14 07:14 AM GMT

Thanks for sharing these Small Copper images, Goldie M. I think I managed to get at least one half decent shot of a Small Copper this year, best wishes,  
Philip

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 16-Nov-14 06:40 PM GMT

Lovely Small Fuzz Goldie 😊 I'm pretty sure I can make out some blue badges so obviously a Sergeant 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 16-Nov-14 09:59 PM GMT

Nice Small Coppers there Goldie 😊

I am happy to say that they also seemed to do quite well around my neck of the woods this year although it seems that that this was not the case in some other parts of the country.

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Maximus, 17-Nov-14 09:00 PM GMT

Lovely Small Copper photos Goldie, and very nice background colours in the last shot 😊

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 18-Nov-14 08:26 PM GMT

Thanks everybody for your comments about my Small Copper, it was a magic afternoon, in fact I'd a very good year , I only got one new species this year but every thing seemed so early that I missed some, the "High Brown" for instance but yet I got a Grayling in the middle of June ( you win some you lose some) 😊

I took quite a few photo's earlier in the year of the Female Orange Tip, I'd only seen one or two before this year but at Hall-Lee-Brook the field was full of them and May flowers, they arrived a good week or two after the Males, any way I decided to put a few shots in my posts, it makes the Winter shorter 😊

The photo's were all taken on the 3rd of May at HLB Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 19-Nov-14 10:58 PM GMT

Lovely Orange-tips Goldie 😊 Only five months to go until the next ones hopefully 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 22-Nov-14 12:31 PM GMT

Five months sounds along time Wurzal but when you think we've got Spring to arrive with all it's flower's etc, then the Orange Tip arrives in the middle of spring that's okay 😊 My bulbs are coming up already in the Garden, just the tips showing but that's a promise of things to come. 😊

On Thursday we had a ride to Lytham no Butterflies in the Park this time but I took a picture of the Statue in the Small Pond there I thought it looked funny the Autumn leaves all a round him and him with his water rake 😊

On the Way home the Sun was starting to go down, it was only just turned 3pm but it's dark here now by 4pm and on the Motor Way it looked great even with the cars going passed, at least it starts getting lighter in February and we get the Snow Drops Goldie 😊



## Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 22-Nov-14 11:29 PM GMT

Some very evocative shots there Goldie, and what's that bloke doing in the pond? 🤔😬 – He should be down in Wiltshire moonraking like that 😂

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 26-Nov-14 12:35 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, every time I go to Lytham I've to visit the pond and take a look at the Statue 😊 Depending on when you go season wise the Statue looks different some how, this time he's raking the leaves 😊

Glad you liked the pic's, we've had some great Sun sets here this week and no rain (famous last words 😊 it's bound to rain now) it's been a lot cooler though, nearly time for the Christmas Tree's Goldie 😊

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 05-Dec-14 02:48 PM GMT

We've had some nice weather up here recently , nice sunny days, so on Wednesday we went for a walk at Pennington Flash, I expected to get lots of photos of different birds, instead I got shots of Deer, 😊 it's the first time I've ever seen them at the Flash, there's not so many trees for a start so I'm thinking may be they've just been introduced there 🤔

I did get some pictures of birds, once again the Herons were there I counted six in all,. they were all grouped together on a small piece of land. Also some birds down by the Lake I've still to name yet.

They've forecast snow on the hills for tonight so we should get more birds coming into the garden shortly Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 14-Dec-14 03:30 PM GMT

My Christmas as come early this year 😊 My husband has bought me a new computer, he say's it's the only thing that keeps me quiet 😊 so it's well worth the money 😊

It's so different from my old one, it's going to take me a while to get used to it ( I'm not well up with all the new technology) I hope it improves my view of the photo's I take on my old one (which seems to be dying more and more each week) I say my view knowing that if the photo's I take are no good the computer won't make any differance 😊

Any way I'd just like to wish every one on UKB a very happy Christmas and New Year and roll on Spring 😊 Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 14-Dec-14 10:16 PM GMT

And a very Happy Chrimble to you too Goldie and a great 2015 too! 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 14-Dec-14 10:26 PM GMT

Seconded! All the best to you for Christmas and here's wishing you a very successful 2015 hunting down butterflies!

### Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 15-Dec-14 03:49 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

The shots at East Blean were taken in 2013, that must have been a good year.after the area near the car park we searched a wider area but found very few more.

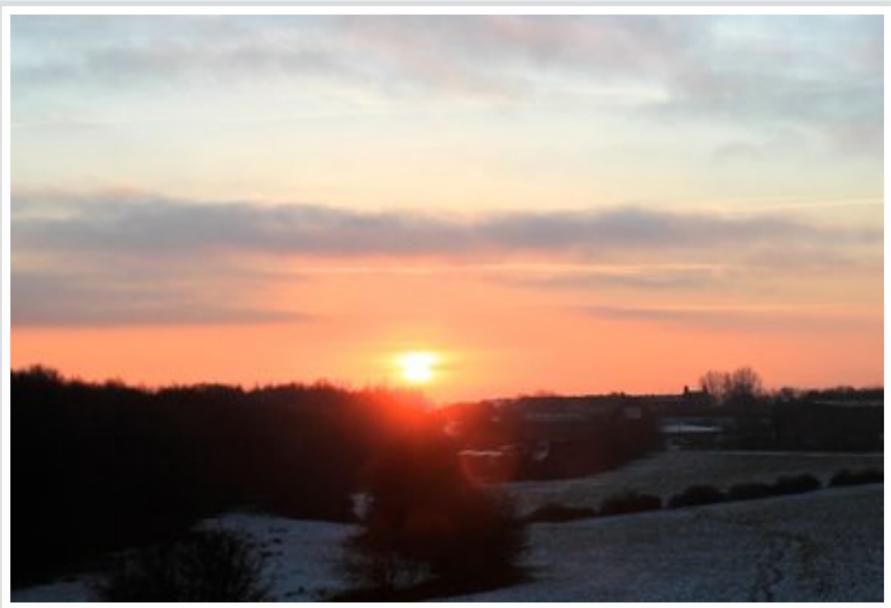
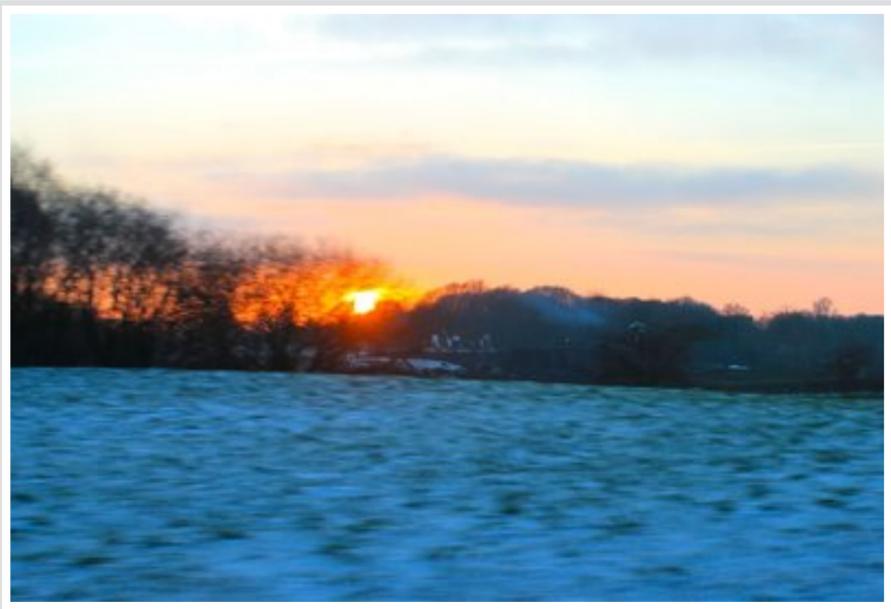
Best wishes for 2015,

TREVOR.

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 29-Dec-14 08:34 PM GMT

We returned from Kent after having a great Christmas to be greeted by the the first snow. After 2hrs stuck in traffic near Stafford where an accident held up the Traffic has did the Rubber Necker's going the other way it was just great to arrive home and enjoy a cup of coffee chased down by a small Dram to warm us up 😊 We did enjoy the Sunset on the way but not as much as the small Dram 😊 Goldie "HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERY ONE" 😊



## Re: Goldie M

by David M, 29-Dec-14 10:24 PM GMT

Sounds like you had a bit of a nightmare journey, Goldie.

Nothing like finally getting home though. Thanks for the sunset shots – very atmospheric.

Happy New Year and good hunting in 2015!

## Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 30-Dec-14 10:16 PM GMT

Glad you got back in the end Golide, make sure you save a few drams for tomorrow night 😊 Happy New Year.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

