

## Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 09-Mar-15 01:56 AM GMT

2015 begins..... 😊

Saturday 7th March 2015

Ah, its good to be back.

Upto 13 degrees Celsius today with some sunshine. I scoured my local ex-landfill site for anything resembling a butterfly but no.

Some lovely clusters of Coltsfoot though. Quite breezy on this exposed site.



*Kilnwood Landfill Coltsfoot*



*Kilnwood Landfill Coltsfoot (2)*

I hope to have a good year studying this site before all is lost to development as Crawley tries to join Horsham! Crawsham or Horshley anyone. 😊

Crossed the A264 and settled into the woodland around Buchan Park, first butterfly, a solitary male Brimstone that didn't settle..

Into the meadow and a solitary Peacock that wouldn't settle, or maybe I'd lost my "approaching butterflies mojo" over Winter.....

My first Adder sunbathing, spooked before camera was ready.

Up to Target Hill at the top of the park, and my first butterfly photographed of 2015.



*Buchan Park Red Admiral*



*Buchan Park Red Admiral (2)*

Excellent,we're off(forgot how to post,that took ages!)

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 28-Mar-15 06:38 PM GMT

Friday 27th March 2015

First chance of the year to wander around the Cherry Lane and Willoughby Fields area of my town.About 12 degrees with quite a stiff South-Westerly(not warm)breeze.A reasonable showing of post-hibernators,not quite up to 2014's levels

though.(It has been quite chilly,of late,and the weekends have been lacking any sunshine!)

Small Tortoiseshells and Commas prevail,one Peacock.



*Cherry Lane Small Tortoiseshell*



*Willoughby Fields Comma*



*Willoughby Fields Small Tortoiseshell*

It was cool to see butterflies again, it seemed a long winter.....

I did manage to get some shots of this cheeky fellow a few weeks back on the River Mole that flows through this patch, mixed feelings on these, live and let live I guess.



*River Mole Mink*

First Mink I've seen this side of the town for a while.

## **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 14-Apr-15 03:52 AM GMT

Early April 2015

Thought I'd have a quick jolly down the Brecon's to do some early season hill-walking on these.



*The Black Mountain and Red Kite country.*

Also to photograph these.



*Llanddeusant Red Kite*



*Llanddeusant Red Kite 2*



*Llanddeusant Red Kite 3*

And one of these, quite a light individual. (Big bird) on a wire.



*Llandeusan Buzzard*

The warmest day of the trip was spent on Welsh Moor, Gower looking for Marshy nurseries, good to see.



*Marsh Fritillary youngsters*



*Marsh Fritillary youngsters 2*

My brother has moved down here for work, needless to say the adult Marshy's are on the hit list this year, anyone know much on these Gower colonies?

Thanks

## **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Wurzel, 15-Apr-15 06:15 AM GMT

Carcking shots of the Red Kites Buchan Boy. 😊 If you're after info about Welsh Marsh Frits then I'd ask David M as he's down teh neck of the woods.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 15-Apr-15 03:44 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel,

I noted that Jonathan Mullards New Naturalist on the Gower has quite a useful distribution map,I'll talk to David M.

Thanks

**Re: Buchan Boy**

by Goldie M, 17-Apr-15 05:08 AM GMT

Lovely shots of the Red Kite and especially the Buzzard on the fence, it looks so regal Goldie 😊

**Re: Buchan Boy**

by Maximus, 17-Apr-15 05:29 AM GMT

Hi Dave, your Red kite 3 photo is absolutely stunning 😊 it really does justice to this beautiful bird 😊

Mike

**Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 19-Apr-15 04:02 AM GMT

Thanks Guys,Red Kites are the best,full stop. 😊

Saturday 11th April 2015

A quick jaunt around the ex-landfill site adjacent to where I live produced 15 Small Tortoiseshells and 4 Peacocks,actually a good showing of Small Tortoiseshells now around the town,I would say on par with last year,and Peacocks are having a better year than last year I would say.Red Admirals are still fairly scant.



*Kilnwood Landfill Small Tortoiseshell*



*Kilnwood Landfill Peacock*

I then wandered up to the raised plateau at the site,which last year housed a couple of nice colonies of Small Coppers,but the breeze was knocking six

bells out of everthing,no chance.

However it was worth noting summer coming back from its migration!



*Kilwood Landfill Swallow*

Species Count for Kilwood Landfill 2015

(1) Small Tortoiseshell

(2) Peacock

Thanks

**Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 19-Apr-15 05:06 AM GMT

Friday 17th April 2015

Easterlies cooling things down,but I figured a few sheltered spots on the Downs might produce my first Dingy's and Grizzled Skippers of the year.

One of the sheltered hollows at the Brockham,ex Limekilns Quarry,nature reserve would surely be harbouring something interesting,in fact the sheltered spots were rather pleasant. 😊

Just the one Dingy,enough to make my day though.



*Brockham Quarry Dingy Skipper*

Theres some good work going on here and the creation of corridors from one lump of ideal habitat to the next should bear fruit soon.Or at least have disparate colonies a chance to cross fertilize.

I spent some time on the slopes of Boxhill but in the stiff breeze nothing else was to be found.



*Brockham Quarry Slowworm.*

Lovely sheltered Dingy hollow centre bottom. Exactly one day earlier than 2014.



*Brockham Quarry*

All good,thanks.

### Re: Buchan Boy

by Wurzel, 19-Apr-15 06:12 AM GMT

That is a cracking find Buchan, is it the first of the year for the UK? 🍀 It's all kicking off now 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Buchan Boy

by millerd, 19-Apr-15 06:18 AM GMT

Lovely Dingy, Buchan. I must get along to Brockham next time I visit Box Hill. I'm glad you reminded me about it!

Dave

### Re: Buchan Boy

by David M, 19-Apr-15 06:34 AM GMT

#### "Buchan Boy" wrote:

My brother has moved down here for work, needless to say the adult Marshy's are on the hit list this year, anyone know much on these Gower colonies?

BB, Marsh Frits can be guaranteed on both Welshmoor and on certain parts of Fairwood Common at the right time of year.

I'd be happy to give you precise details if you wish to PM me.

### Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 24-Apr-15 04:30 AM GMT

Many thanks and David,yes I'll be in touch.

Saturday 18th April 2015

Yesterday the North Downs to find one Dingy Skipper,today the South Downs to have a hunt for Grizzled's.I figured the Easterlies that were howling in would keep a check on the butterflies in exposed areas so somewhere sheltered I reckoned.

A quick scan of the old Ordnance Survey explorer 122 had me on the train to Lewes,Malling Down being my destination,more precise,the combe at Malling Down.Being a rare combe that has its mouth towards the West and therefore Easterlies

should ping right over the top,I was right it was gorgeous.I reached the site just as the sun was started to warm the Northern flank,on which about half way up,the first Small Copper of the season was noted,over the stile up behind the

allotments and another Small Copper,bag on floor,camera out,I'll hang around here for a while.The Coppers were warming up.



*Malling Down Small Copper*

Amazingly just out in the periphery of vision whilst trying to get the shot I noted what I first took to be a Dingy,but realized rapidly my first Grizzled had arrived



*Malling Down Grizzled Skipper*

Just when I thought that was it,a day of Grizzled's is before me,nothing else happened,searched for half-an-hour,futile.Moved up the Northern arm of the Combe before finding the spot.



*The Spot*

Then my first Green Hairstreaks of the year starting to wake up and the morning then descended into Small Copper vs Green Hairstreak battle fest, much overlapping of territories going on, causing much friction. I had to take my chances carefully as the floor was covered in lovely, young stinging nettles, and early in spring, they are without doubt at their most vicious 😡



*Malling Down Small Copper 2*



*Malling Down Green Hairstreak*



*Malling Down Small Copper 3*



*Malling Down Green Hairstreak 2*

Noted quite a few Small Tortoiseshells as well, who became my guide for hunting Small Coppers, nice tactic that one 😊  
It was approaching midday now and all was rather lively. All the butterflies had definitely congregated here, twas hectic. I tried, in vain, to get a shot of the Green Hairstreaks nectaring on the bugle, frustratingly difficult and not successful!



*The Bigger Spot, Lewes out yonder*

The Peacocks were as classy as ever, smooching around, a rather good showing as well.



*Malling Down Peacock*



*Malling Down(worn out)Peacock 2*

No more Grizzled's though,I checked the more Southern arm to the Combe but it was almost empty bar a couple of Kestrels that were remarkably unfazed by my presence.  
Sat there and watched them for a while,a little nap,time to go.Somedays are just lovely and that winter seemed to go on forever,or maybe I'm getting older.



*Malling Down Small Copper 4*



*Thankyou very much!*

NB. 5 Green Hairstreaks  
12 Small Coppers  
1 Male Orange Tip  
2 Female Brimstones  
1 Grizzled Skipper  
loads Small Tortoiseshells  
2 Very stung up calves and wrists,tingled for days!  
2 Sheep ticks,tuck those clothes in boys and girls.

Thanks

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 13-May-15 03:15 AM GMT

Saturday 9th May and Sunday 10th May 2015

Brockham Quarry,North Downs

I do seem to be getting quite drawn this marvellous site more and more,I figured Dingy and Grizzled Skippers would be worth a go,although I'm not entirely sure how the Grizzleds are here.

This reserve is looked after by the Surrey Wildlife Trust and they seem to be doing a rather fine job,the butterflies seem to agree.

13 species noted over the weekend,3/4 hours each day although Sunday afternoon was best for the count,Sunday midday best for photography.

30-40 Dingy Skippers across the site,I think they have now peaked here.



*Brockham Quarry Dingy Skipper*



*Brockham Quarry Dingy Skipper2*

About 10 Grizzled Skippers noted on Sunday and have just started I reckon, only 4 noted on the Saturday. Probably be good here next weekend.



*Brockham Quarry Grizzled Skipper*



*Brockham Quarry Grizzled Skipper2*



*Brockham Quarry Grizzled Skipper3*

3 Holly Blues, which I have always struggled to photograph.



*Brockham Quarry Holly Blue*

2 Common Blues, just hatched.



*Brockham Quarry Common Blue*

4 Small Heaths, quite fresh



*Brockham Quarry Small Heath*

A few Large Whites passing through



*Brockham Quarry Large White*

Half a dozen Peacocks vying for the sunniest spots as the angle dropped.



*Brockham Quarry Peacock*

Also noted 2 Green Hairstreaks that were in cop.that I lost sight of,would of made a cracking shot.

Brimstones,Orange Tips,GV Whites and one Comma,also made appearances.

Just as I was calling it day a rather light coloured Speckled Wood posed for me,at first I thought I had the first Wall Brown recorded around these parts for a while,but no(heart racing).Lovely all the same.



*Brockham Quarry Speckled Wood*

The Eastern end of the reserve.



*Brockham Quarry*

Next weekend again methinks.

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Neil Freeman, 13-May-15 04:03 AM GMT

Hi Buchan Boy,

A cracking selection of species and great photos in your past couple of reports 😊

Cheers,

Neil

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Goldie M, 13-May-15 04:40 AM GMT

I second that, just wish I could see so many species up hereGoldie 🍷 😊

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 17-May-15 02:23 PM GMT

Wednesday 13th May 2015

#### Mount Caburn nr Lewes

Blimey, some sunshine, drove down to Lewes, parked at the small car park at Glynde and took a wander upto the old hillfort on Mount Caburn. I remember seeing Small Blues here some 20 years ago and thought it would be nice to see if I could still locate them. Also to check-in on Burnt Tip Orchids and Wart-Biters. It warmed up very quickly and I soon realised that butterflies were going to be "difficult" today! 😞

Nevertheless it wasn't long before they started waking up, Dingy Skippers in good numbers, also worth noting 3 Painted Lady's on the wing, I wondered when they might start appearing from across the channel. Just the one Grizzled Skipper, but my window of opportunity was now closing as the temperature and sun rose.



*Mount Caburn Grizzled Skipper*

Common Blues now on the wing and my first Brown Argus of the year.



*Mount Caburn Brown Argus*

Got to one of the large bramble thickets here and the tell tale silvery flicker crossed my vision,hey Small Blue,a male warming up.Good to see they are still here.



*Mount Caburn Small Blue*

I then spent a while trying to locate more but as seems to be happening a lot this year so far,just the one,need to get back down here. No Burnt-Tip Orchids yet,I couldn't even locate any shoots,they must be 2-3 weeks behind this year. But,I did manage to locate young Wart-Biters,in good numbers as well,the second biggest colony in Britain.



*Mount Caburn Wart Biter*



*Mount Caburn Wart Biter 2*

That was good, after watching the paragliding guys for a while, which is quite a spectacle, decided to wander down the slope and try my luck at Abbots Wood for Pearl-Bordered's.

Now this might not look much, but it was the only shot of a Wall Brown that I could manage, four noted in total on the rabbit spoil, chalk, sunning, no approaching though!

I was rather chuffed, first time I'd seen them on these slopes, best get the record in, and get back here for better shots.



*Mount Caburn Wall*

Next, up the road to Abbots.....  
And the Ouse keeps meandering



*Ouse from Mount Caburn*

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Goldie M, 17-May-15 06:37 PM GMT

Great photos of the SB, GS and BA, 🍷 three species we don't get a round here except for the NBA which at present is absent Goldie 😊

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 19-May-15 01:43 AM GMT

Thanks Goldie

Wednesday 13th May 2015

Abbots Wood

I drove along the A27 to the Abbots Wood spot to see how the Pearl-bordered's were faring this year, reports have been good.

It was now a cloudless sky and sun beaming down, the show should be full-on, and I was not disappointed.

I have no idea how many were flittering around but its the best showing I've seen in my neck of the woods for a long while and a true pleasure. Sat and watched them for a couple of hours before some cloud slowed them up and photos

were achieved.



*Abbots Wood Pearl-bordered*



*Abbots Wood Pearl-bordered 2*

Some days are just magic.

Excellent work to all concerned for keeping this a viable colony.

**Re: Buchan Boy**

by bugboy, 19-May-15 03:09 AM GMT

**"Buchan Boy" wrote:**

Thanks Goldie

Wednesday 13th May 2015

Abbots Wood

I drove along the A27 to the Abbots Wood spot to see how the Pearl-bordered's were faring this year, reports have been good.

It was now a cloudless sky and sun beaming down, the show should be full-on, and I was not disappointed.

I have no idea how many were flittering around but its the best showing I've seen in my neck of the woods for a long while and a true pleasure. Sat and watched them for a couple of hours before some cloud slowed them up and photos

were achieved.

Some days are just magic.

Excellent work to all concerned for keeping this a viable colony.

I was there that day, getting my first ever audience with PBF. Totally agree about it being a magical experience 😊

### Re: Buchan Boy

by Wurzel, 19-May-15 06:29 AM GMT

PBFs are great aren't they - a species which rarely lets you down 😊 The first one you featured looks good for an ab as the wing margins look almost chequered 🍀🍀

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 30-May-15 04:24 PM GMT

Friday 15th May 2015

Heyshott

I'd noted some reports of Dukes on the wing at Heyshott but the weather was looking gloomy, the "if in doubt go out" mantra kicked in, so off I went.

Arrived at Heyshott, had quite a good look around but way too gloomy, luckily at about 9.30 a shaft of golden sunlight appeared and I had about 30 minutes before the gloom resumed, 5 Dukes were noted.

Got some shots.



*Heyshott Duke Of Burgundy*



*Heyshott Duke Of Burgundy2*



*Heyshott Duke Of Burgundy3*



*Heyshott Duke Of Burgundy4*

The sun then went and grey heaviness resumed,just managed one Dingy



*Heyshott Dingy Skipper*

Then I figured a quick study on the Early Purple Orchids and Twayblades,I find Twayblades quite lovely.



*Heyshott Early Purple*



*Heyshott Twayblade*



*Heyshott Early Purple2*

Just as I was calling it a day and just about to leave the escarpment one of the biggest Early Purples, on the site, deserved some attention.



*Heyshott Early Purple3*

A closer check noted the Dingy covering down for the day!



*Heyshott Dingy Skipper2*

It was worth it after all!

**Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 21-Jun-15 02:00 AM GMT

Slightly behind.....

Sunday 17th May 2015

[Kilnwood Landfill](#)

A quick scout round my local patch on a lovely Sunday morning, first male Common Blues waking up.



*Kilwood Landfill Common Blue*

Worth noting very close to new neighbourhood being built was a young Broad-bodied Chaser



*Kilwood Landfill Broad-bodied Chaser*

Also on some of the spoil heaps, where chalk had been dumped in vast quantities (not sure where that came from!) the first small coppers. These have only been established in the last two years.  
Record shot noted,



*Kilwood Landfill Small Copper*

NB as of 20th June 2015 colony now probably lost due to development encroachment, access becoming difficult. Although it's been utterly inevitable, I'm still somewhat gutted! 😞  
Quite a tatty Small Tortoiseshell noted and the first Green-veined whites



*Kilwood Landfill Small Tortoiseshell*



*Kilwood Landfill Green-veined White*



*Kilwood Landfill Green-veined White 2*

Did photograph Gannets in Scotland earlier in the month though.



*Northern Gannet*



*Northern Gannet 2*

Cheered me up! 😊

Species Count for Kilnwood Landfill 2015

(3) Common Blue

(4) Small Copper

(5) green-veined White

## **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 21-Jun-15 06:23 AM GMT

### Whitsuntide in Dorset

I've been trying to catch Marsh Fritillary's in their glorious splendour, ie. within two days of emergence for a few years now. Since an upgrade in camera gear they've been very high on the "must do agenda". The last couple of years

have been all wrong for timing but this year opportunity was within sight. Being a Sussex person nearest colonies are either Wiltshire or Dorset and having been to one of the Dorset colonies a few years ago, I figured a return in order.

Grabbed all my camping gear and left on the Friday afternoon before the bank holiday weekend, made good time and tent was all set by mid afternoon, I could make an evening effort at one of the two target colonies down this way.

Friday 22nd May 2015

### Cerne Abbas

The giant on the hill.....did some research into the Marshy colony here but it's always difficult to gauge until actually there, "get to the sign and turn left", seemed to be the general idea.



*Dorset's Giant*

It was fairly warm but overcast when I arrived about 4.30pm, not entirely sure whether anything was going to be about, parked in the car park opposite the village hall, and walked up towards the giant, saw the sign....left...awesome.  
Nobody here, cool, 5 yards along the path at the bottom of the fence that encloses the giant, Marshy, awesome....quick check and whoopee, pretty fresh.



*Cerne Abbas Marsh Fritillary*

They had just enough energy for a few yards of flight so keeping up with them was rather easy, lucky boy 😊



*Cerne Abbas Marsh Fritillary 2*

The site here is pretty steep but eases a tad as it gets to the treeline at the bottom, it's also more sheltered and warmer in the lea of the trees, I figured the butterflies would congregate here when windy, actually not necessarily true!



*Cerine Abbas Marsh Fritillary 3*

Only been here 10 minutes and was already cock a hoot, of course you are allowed to do a wee jig in celebration when on your own. 😊  
Also, another target was a *taras* aberration of a Grizzled Skipper, and I vowed I would photograph (or try to) every Grizzled that came my way.



*Cerine Abbas Grizzled Skipper*

A Marshy on an Early Purple.....love it



*Cerine Abbas Marsh Fritillary 4*

Its weird but almost in shadow, towards evening, the Small Coppers were still darting around, good sugar down here!



*Cerne Abbas Small Copper*

Next surprise took to flight as I was tracking a Marshy and immediately was taking 20 metre flights up the hill, took it to be a moth at first, struggled to get close enough to identify but once tired a female Adonis came into focus. This was the only Adonis I saw over the next 5 days.



*Cerne Abbas Female Adonis*

I pondered that one for a while, then I pondered a beer at the pub by the campsite.....not before a few more photographs, when there's no wind, it's all too beautiful. (A nod to Mr Marriot!)



*Cerne Abbas Marsh Fritillary 4*



*Cerne Abbas Marsh Fritillary*

That beer went down nice.....  
Tomorrow was set fair,think I'll come back.

### Re: Buchan Boy

by Paul Harfield, 21-Jun-15 07:30 AM GMT

Hi Buchan Boy

Love your Marsh Fritillary underside on the orchid 😊 And your Small Copper is a stunner. I have not seen any of either species this year 😞

### Re: Buchan Boy

by millerd, 21-Jun-15 07:42 AM GMT

I have to agree, the Marsh Fritillary on the orchid is a really lovely photo. 😊

Dave

### Re: Buchan Boy

by Willow, 22-Jun-15 12:40 AM GMT

Lovely images Dave, it appears your Dorset break was highly productive and much enjoyed 😊

Bill 😊

"When in doubt - venture out"

### Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 14-Jul-15 04:28 AM GMT

Anyways.....

Saturday 23rd May 2015

#### Cerne Abbas

I'd done very little research on the site before arriving so was quite unsure where the Marsh Fritillary colonies were, having found the colony under the Giant yesterday, and figuring this was the "popular" one where butterflyers would congregate, decided to have a scout round and try and locate anymore.

Arrived on a gorgeous morning at about 7.30, decided to turn right at the gate and have a look at the scarp that faces South East from the giant. It gets the sun first so hopefully some Fritillaries here first then as the sun moves round go to spot under the giant for a second go.



*Cerne Abbas North Eastern scarp.*

At first as I wandered along a few Grizzleds were waking up



*Cerne Abbas Grizzled Skipper*

Then just as I thought I was missing something a patch of longer grass with a sort of small hawthorn bush in the middle came into view. Closer inspection revealed the Fritillaries getting ready for the day and drying out. Took my opportunity.



*Cerne Abbas Marsh Fritillary*



*Cerne Abbas Marsh Fritillary 2*



*Cerne Abbas Marsh Fritillary 3*

Well chuffed to catch them this fresh and it wasn't much longer before the temperature rose and off they went skimming over the grass, diving into the grass, off again .....repeat to fade for 9 hours!  
The colony this side is rather small and I reckon only around 20 individuals were present, although I'm sure I was well before peak given that these were mightily fresh looking.  
Plenty of Grizzleds now showing as the morning warmed up.



*Cerne Abbas Grizzled Skipper 2*

It was now time for the part of the morning to move over the top of the hill and drop down to the North West facing bit just under the tree line, where hopefully the butterflies were a couple of hours behind, spot on.  
Worth noting that in the breezy conditions there were Fritillaries all over the hill but two distinct congregations were noted.



*Cerne Abbas Marsh Fritillary 4*

I hadn't realised that there was also a rather large Duke Of Burgundy colony here as well, darting up all over the place from their bramble perches and warming on the grass stems.



*Cerne Abbas Duke Of Burgundy*



*Cerne Abbas Duke Of Burgundy 2*



*Cerne Abbas Duke Of Burgundy 3*

By now there were quite a few enthusiasts wandering around getting their shots so I retreated up the hill to admire the view and catch a midday napp 😴 seems to happen a lot more the older I get!  
Scoffed my sandwiches and wandered back down the hill to spend more time with the glorious Dukes and Marshys of Cerne Abbas.



*Cerne Abbas Marsh Fritillary 5*



*Cerne Abbas Marsh Fritillary 6*



*Dorset Giant*

So chuffed getting exactly what I came for and still a couple more days to go.  
I'd also targeted the Marsh Fritillary colony on Hod Hill, near Blandford, and a Small Blue colony on Portland I wanted catch up with.  
Nice. 😊

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Katrina, 14-Jul-15 04:39 AM GMT

Lovely report – all of the photos are superb!

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Wurzel, 14-Jul-15 06:44 AM GMT

Cracking shots Buchan Boy it's great to see such great butterflies from the best county 😊😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 15-Jul-15 03:10 AM GMT

Thankyou and Wurzel on par with Sussex methinks! 😊

Sunday 24th May 2015

### Broadcroft Quarry,Portland

One purpose,to find the Small Blue colony before my ageing eyesight fails to keep up these tricky small things.Also the cloud was closing for a damp day from late morning,didnt have long.

Walked into the entrance by the football pitches,scouring bramble and young buddleia,but first thing of note was good early showing of Common Blues with one gorgeous female catching my cameras attention.



*Broadcroft Quarry Common Blue*

I came back a couple of evenings later to find the common blue roost in the grass,quite remarkable,I was so enamoured forgot to take any shots! 😊  
Upto this day I hadn't many shots of Speckled Woods in 2015 so it was lovely to one in some soft light.



*Broadcroft Quarry Speckled Wood*

Also making an appearance, when I'd worked my way round to the old overgrown workings,were some Wall Browns,3 in all,this was the tidiest of the bunch.



*Broadcroft Quarry Wall Brown*

My quarry in the quarry finally made an appearance and although I only noted 5 individuals it was enough for now, I'd noted them here about 15 years ago so it was good to see them still around.



*Broadcroft Quarry Small Blue*



*Broadcroft Quarry Small Blue 2*



*Broadcroft Quarry Small Blue 3*



*Broadcroft Quarry Small Blue habitat*

I'd hoped to have had a go at the Silver-studded's here later this year but so far opportunity has alluded me 😞  
Onwards to the Marsh Fritillaries at Hod tomorrow.....hopefully.  
It rained all afternoon and I went for a soggy walk on the hills behind Portesham.  
All good.

### Re: Buchan Boy

by Wurzel, 16-Jul-15 06:57 AM GMT

Lovely Small Blues Buchan Boy 😊 It'll be interesting to hear how teh Marsh Frits are doing at Hod Hill, I saw my first ones there a few years back and then teh site seemed to go downhill...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Buchan Boy

by Willow, 18-Jul-15 01:17 AM GMT

Some cracking sharp images BB, especialy from Cerne Abbas, I was very impressed on a visit there last year too 😊

Bill 😊

"When in doubt - venture out"

### Re: Buchan Boy

by Neil Freeman, 18-Jul-15 03:54 AM GMT

Great reports from Dorset BB, one of my favourite counties although I have never yet been to Cerne Abbas, something I must rectify one of these years.

Cheers,

Neil

### Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 28-Jul-15 04:39 AM GMT

Monday 25th May 2015

[Hod Hill nr Blandford](#)

Not as warm today but the sun was shining nice and early as I trekked across Dorset to try and locate my second Marsh Fritillary colony of the trip.

It had been a while since I'd been to this most impressive of hill forts, and last time the Marsh Fritillaries were in the North East corner, inside ditch.

I'd also forgotton how steep the climb was from the car park..... 😬 A quick look in the last place I found them here, to find large banks of nettles now overtaking the bottom of the ditch. I pondered only if on really hot days that the fritillaries would venture here as its the last place the sun arrives at. So next stop was the place the sun first arrives at, the Eastern flank.



*Hod Hill Eastern Flank*

It was really well sheltered at the bottom of the huge ditch and scouting along the bank it was relatively easy to spot any butterflies warming up for the day. But it wasn't until I arrived at the far South East corner, where what would have been an entrance, did I come across my first Marsh Fritillary on the site.



*Hod Hill South East inside ditch.*

Makes sense really being the place where the first daily warmth occurs, a little micro climate going on probably a couple of degrees warmer most of the time.



*Hod Hill Marsh Fritillary*

I quickly then scouted the whole of the Southern ditch but no Fritillaries down here yet, however the Grizzleds and Dingys were starting to play,



*Hod Hill Grizzled Skipper*



*Hod Hill Dingy Skipper*

Back to South Eastern corner and all were beginning to wake up, think I had the whole colony here. They started the day in the deep inner ditch and when energy levels were adequate they would then move out for the day, probably only 30 individuals in all and I reckon they were a couple of days earlier, in emergence, to the Cerne ones. Beautiful nonetheless.



*Hod Hill Marsh Fritillary 2*



*Hod Hill Marsh Fritillary 3*



*Hod Hill Marsh Fritillary 4*

It was a rather easy process of walking along the bank and spotting them at the bottom of the ditch sunning themselves, but by mid morning all were off and as the day progressed were noted all across the site, but not in any numbers. A really good showing of Brown Argus's as well



*Hod Hill Brown Argus*



*Hod Hill Brown Argus 2*

One Green Hairstreak, Peacocks and Common Blues also noted. But another day-flying visitor grabbed my attention. A large ginger coloured moth diving into the grass and doing a rather skittish, pheromone induced jig!

A quick check to note a Fox Moth courtship was in action!! had to break it up for photos. 😊



*Hod Hill Male Fox Moth*



*Hod Hill Fox Moth Male and Female*

I'm not entirely sure this large female could actually fly at all!



*Hod Hill Female Fox Moth.*

In summary, I guess I'm glad the Marsh Fritillaries are still at this site, all be it in small numbers. It is a wonderful island of Dorset Downland, privileged again!



*Hod Hill Western Flank*

Cloud arrived later and it cooled down a treat, it can also feel quite exposed up here, even in late May. Nice.

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Wurzel, 28-Jul-15 06:17 AM GMT

Beautiful images Buchan Boy and great to see that Marshies are still at found at Hod Hill 😊 I'm dead impressed with the shots of the Fox Moths as usually they're just a ginger blur bombing past you 🤩👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by millerd, 28-Jul-15 07:05 AM GMT

Terrific photos, Buchan Boy. Hod Hill can be a cracking site, and I'm really pleased the Marsh Fritillaries are still there – this is where I saw my first one ever. 😊 Those moths are something else, especially that colossal female – I can't see how that could take off, either!

Dave

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 29-Jul-15 02:43 AM GMT

Thanks chaps, I'm still astonished by the size of the Female Fox Moth.....

Tuesday 26th May 2015

Broadcroft Quarry, Portland

Wandered around Weymouth for the day, one of my favourite seaside towns, before catching a lovely evening back on Portland.

Just seeing if I could gauge any further numbers on the Small Blues, but before that I came across a rather fresh Dingy Skipper, which the low light gave me some lovely tones. 😊



*Broadcroft Quarry Dingy Skipper*

A quick scout and I could only locate a couple more Small Blues, I need more time down here 😞



*Broadcroft Quarry Small Blue*

And then just enough time to capture that thing the Dingy's do when settling down, I only thought they covered like this when rain was imminent, evidently wrong, as it was quite a lovely evening.



*Broadcroft Quarry Dingy Skipper*

And that was Portland for a little while.

**Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 29-Jul-15 03:54 AM GMT

Wednesday 27th May 2015

Cerne Abbas

Having achieved my two goals for this trip, lifetime shots of Marsh Fritillaries and locating the Small Blues on Portland, a quick return to Cerne was called for.

Actually goals and targets make it sound like a work thing nooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo.....!!! 😊

So to enjoy the surroundings and photograph whatever bopped along on another glorious day in Dorset.

I stayed the whole day on the Eastern flank, and once again in 5 hours, no other butterfly persons were seen.



*Cerne Abbas, Eastern flank.*

Just me and some of these.



*Cerne Abbas Marsh Fritillary*



*Cerne Abbas Marsh Fritillary 2*



*Cerine Abbas Grizzled Skipper*



*Cerine Abbas Small Heath*

I got extremely lucky with an Orange Tip that went for a rest just as it was passing me, I'd been watching them motor past all week.



*Cerine Abbas Orange Tip*



*Cerne Abbas Common Blue*

I even managed one of the Marsh Frillaries nectaring on the Hawthorn at the bottom of the slope, this took much patience as they would only land on it fleetingly.



*Cerne Abbas Marsh Fritillary 3*

And to end as it begun, *Euphydryas aurinia*, cheers. (Raises glass)



*Cerne Abbas Marsh Fritillary 4*



*Cerne Abbas from the top.*



*Dorset, I love thee.*

Almost as much as Sussex! 😊  
Awesome.

### Re: Buchan Boy

by bugboy, 29-Jul-15 05:19 AM GMT

Great Shots, your Orange-tip is making me long for spring time already and I've still not finished chasing this years quarries 😊!

### Re: Buchan Boy

by Wurzel, 29-Jul-15 06:28 AM GMT

More cracking images Buchan Boy, but that's to be expected from such a great county 😊 I agree with Bugboy that's a beautiful OT shot 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 30-Jul-15 04:44 AM GMT

Cheers chaps, spring goes by and summer kicks in, albeit in a rather restrained way this year.

Every weekend seemed to be in that cycle of cloud and rain and worse, wind. Not many opportunities to get out this season, too much family stuff going on... 😞 na its alright really.

Saturday 27th June 2015

[Sharpenhoe Clappers, Bedfordshire](#)

If ever a place could conjure up various thoughts, band name?, beer name?... Sharpenhoe Clappers has to be it. A lovely national trust reserve on the Chilterns.

Visiting a friend in Flitwick for the weekend with some vague idea of finding Black Hairstreaks at Finemere.....that idea lasted about as long as that sentence. 😊

Anyways, a bit of rain but a gorgeous Saturday morning, and some reports of Dark Green Fritillaries popping up on the Chilterns, couple of miles drive at sun up, Sharpenhoe Clappers. (Its got to be said out loud.)

Leaving the car park you are immediately drawn to the lush herb and orchid rich meadow that is there.



*Sharpenhoe car park meadow.*

Of course, its Marbled White emergence time as well, even in England sometimes its best to get to these sites early for summer butterflies. The Marbled Whites were stretching out all over the place.



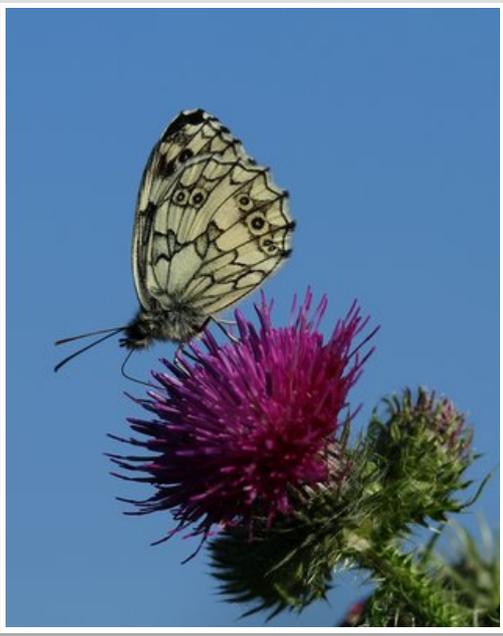
*Sharpenhoe Marbled White*

I quickly wanted a look at the Beech Trees at the Northern bit of the site, so wandered round the ridge path to the hillfort with the trees on it. Big bank of nettles....



*Sharpenhoe Small Tortoiseshell*

Then onto the Western facing slope, good lump of Knapweed, and with the sun still relatively low, good chance to get those underside shots without exposure problems.



*Sharpenhoe Marbled White 2*

Had a good look around the Beech's for any Birds Nest Orchids, but none. I'd already noted the probable Dark Green area, so back round the ridge to the meadow.



*Sharpenhoe facing back towards the car park and lower meadows.*

All was getting ready to go...



*Sharpenhoe Large Skipper*

Hang on I'm not at my best yet! 😊



*Sharpenhoe Marbled White 3*

A rather graceful older girl, I thought



*Sharpenhoe Female Common Blue*

The Dark Greens arrived, once again as big orange blobs against the green warming up, all males. Only had about half hour before mayhem kicked in and flight was the norm.

The breeze over this side, an easterly, was sheltered by the bigger hill with the Beech Trees, normal prevalence would be a Westerly, which I imagine would give this side a windy outlook, luck and all that.



*Sharpenhoe Dark Green Fritillary*



*Sharpenhoe Dark Green Fritillary 2*



*Sharpenhoe Dark Green Fritillary 3*

Another posing Large Skipper



*Sharpenhoe Large Skipper 2*

Good orchid spikes, Spotted, Fragrant and Pyramidials, a Small Blue colony worth noting, although they were all getting on.



*Sharpenhoe Orchids*

The Dark Greens all hang around the bowl with the road at the bottom, but on sunny days that "hanging around" is rather....flighty! 😊  
The Chilterns.



*Sharpenhoe Eastern meadow*

The Dark Green Fritillary.



*Sharpenhoe Dark Green Fritillary 4*

Cool.

## **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 31-Jul-15 03:01 AM GMT

Blimey, my PD is in the same month as I write it!....just 😊

A quick entry

Saturday 11th July 2015

[Mount Caburn, Lewes](#)

A howling gale, but sunny, butterfly wise it was pretty impossible, but a good showing of Dark Green Fritillaries and Marbled Whites.

However, my main purpose was to find some adult Wart-biters and having located the colony, via nymphs, a few months ago, it was now time to hunt down some adults.

This proved mightily difficult, for such large insects they are incredibly tough to locate, and with a blasting wind the odds were stacked. But much walking

up and down staring at grass proved finally to be successful.

Two adult males, in pristine condition found and photographed, back down here some more when the wind abates.



*Mount Caburn male Wart-Biter*

Such a fab insect.  
Dave

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by David M, 31-Jul-15 05:50 AM GMT

Never even heard of a Wart-Biter so thanks for posting. Lovely insect.

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Wurzel, 31-Jul-15 06:27 AM GMT

Beautiful images Buchan Boy, the brightness and light is stunning they seem to glow 😊🌿

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 18-Aug-15 04:51 AM GMT

19th-24th July 2015

Arnside Knott, Lancs

Grabbed a few days in North West England hoping to see some Scotch Argus but unfortunately missed them.

The weather was pretty awful with rain, a perpetual gusty wind and rather cool conditions never getting above about 15 degrees but nonetheless it was worthwhile.

A few painted ladies hill-topping at the er top, in various states of batteredness.



*Arnside Knott Painted Lady*



*Arnside Knott Painted Lady 2*

Actually this one wasn't too bad



*Arnside Knott Painted Lady 3*

The Northern Brown Argus's were just a bit over but good to get some in my library.



*Arnside Knott Northern Brown Argus*



*Arnside Knott Northern Brown Argus 2*



*Arnside Knott Northern Brown Argus 3*



*Arnside Knott Northern Brown Argus 4*

Its lovely when the sun does come out



*Arnside Knott Southern Middle bit*

The Dark Greens and High Brown Fritillaries were still on the wing in good numbers.



*Arnside Knott Dark Green Fritillary*



*Arnside Knott Dark Green Fritillary 2*

And I managed a fairly good looking High Brown, this was the freshest I came across. Luckily it took a breather in front of me, phew.



*Arnside Knott High Brown Fritillary 2*



*Arnside Knott High Brown Fritillary*

Good numbers of commoner species, Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers (which were having a really good showing), Large Skippers, Ringlets some Small Tortoiseshells and Common Blues



*Arnside Knott typical habitat*



*Arnside Knott Meadow Brown*



*Arnside Knott Gatekeeper*



*Arnside Knott Gatekeeper 2*



*Arnside Knott Ringlet*



*Arnside Knott Small Tortoiseshell*

A few Graylings around on the open limestone scree patches



*Arnside Knott Grayling*

I knew I was on the cusp of the Scotch Argus emergence but missed it, I did manage to locate one individual just out of pupation although the wings didn't seem to be forming properly. I kept going back but I fear this one never flew.



*Arnside Knott Scotch Argus*

On my last morning I saw one flying on one of the lower slopes but was unable to locate it again, the weather took a decidedly nasty turn for the next week after I left, so I wonder how the season went here, bit late I bet. In all, lovely to be there.



*Kent Estuary from Arnside*

And the Morecambe bay sunsets were a joy to behold, just remember to put your big coat on, after all it is/was July 😊



*Morecambe Bay*

Apologies for the snappy narration!  
Forgot the young Black darter.



*Arnside Knott Black Darter*

Thanks

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Wurzel, 18-Aug-15 06:22 AM GMT

A great report Buchan and some fantastic shots of the NBAs, glad you got a Scotch Argus even if it was only the one 🍷 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Goldie M, 19-Aug-15 11:44 PM GMT

Great shot of the Sunset and the High Brown's Buchan, Goldie 😊

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Maximus, 20-Aug-15 05:48 AM GMT

Lovely photos Buchan, both butterflies and landscapes 😊

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 25-Aug-15 03:22 AM GMT

1st August 2015

[Bewbush,Crawley](#)

Whilst enjoying a cuppa in my back garden a Holly Blue came fluttering around my bank of ivy,I think it laid eggs on the neighbours side,before taking a breather on the Climatis.

Camera was at hand.



*Bewbush,Crawley Holly Blue*

Nice

## Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 25-Aug-15 04:18 AM GMT

2nd August 2015

### Mount Caburn nr Lewes

Decided to spend a few weekends, weather permitting, studying the Orthoptera of Mount Caburn and its environs. The site is quite exposed to Westerly's so calm conditions are relatively rare.

In between Grasshoppers and Crickets I took opportunities to chase the local Lepidopteran population around.

Swathes of Chalkhill blues



*Mount Caburn Chalkhill Blue*

Plenty of Common Blues around to continue the blue theme.



*Mount Caburn Female Common Blue*

The occasional blast of yellow.3 in all.



*Mount Caburn Clouded Yellow*

Quite a bit of big orange around. A dozen or so on the lower slopes by the tree line.



*Mount Caburn Dark Green Fritillary*

A nice place to be in August, and I can catch the train.....bonus 😊



*Mount Caburns Southern slope.*

Thanks

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Wurzel, 25-Aug-15 05:41 AM GMT

Cracking Cloudy Buchan Boy 🇬🇧 and to see three of them 🇬🇧🇬🇧 Haven't seen one his year...yet 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by David M, 25-Aug-15 05:45 AM GMT

Beautiful image of the Cloudy, BB.

I still hold out hope that I might see one in the UK before the season is over.

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 26-Aug-15 03:59 AM GMT

Thanks Guys, to get the best colours out of the Cloudies on a bright day its worth stopping the exposure compensation down a 1/3 of a stop or two. It brings out the pinks and darkens the yellows and greens, if using evaluative metering rather than focus spot metering that is. But, you have to find them first of course.....😊

Sun 9th August 2015

[Mount Caburn.n.r Lewes](#)

I decided to have a quick go at getting some images of the now rather expanding Silver-spotted Skipper colony at this site. After many an abortive

attempt at getting shots of them nectaring on the flower heads(wind),I finally bumped into a couple happily posing on the end of a chopped branch.



*Mount Caburn Silver-spotted Skippers*

When the fun was over the female took to sunbathing whilst the male looked on,I used the wind to my advantage on these next two shots,letting it blow the wings flat against the wood,it offers a different "look" to these beauties.



*Mount Caburn Silver-spotted Skippers 2*

Finally the male had had enough and just left the female to show off all her wares!



*Mount Caburn Female Silver-spotted Skipper*

Sometimes wind can be good! 😊



*Mount Caburn nr Lewes*

Thanks

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 30-Aug-15 04:54 PM GMT

Sat 15th August 2015

Mount Caburn,nr Lewes

My Orthoptera study of the site was now concluding and it was time to visit some other areas,had a quick wander down the Eastern flank whilst leaving.

It was not so windy today and whilst admiring the view from the top I noted a Painted Lady having a sunbathe with what was left of the day,I disturbed her several times but she would circle round me and pretty much always end up landing at the same spot within a metre or so,this happened about half a dozen times until she got fed-up and shot off over the top of the hill.



*Mount Caburn Painted Lady*

The Chalkhill Blues were also catching the last sun of the day and the males are quite easy to spot on the stems.



*Mount Caburn Chalkhill Blue*

Small Tortoiseshell also still nectaring quite late into the evening.



*Monut Caburn Small Tortoiseshell*

Lovely place.

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 31-Aug-15 03:59 AM GMT

Sunday 16th August 2015

Lewes Ouse, Sussex

Just a quick note to add a couple of shots of a Bush-Cricket not yet in my PD.

A colony of these noted on the banks of the Ouse to the Southern side of Lewes. Not as common as its close relative the Long-wing Conehead, habitat requirements are a lot more "wetter".



*Short-winged Conehead Female*



*Short-winged Conehead Male*

Also a Comma loitering on the brambles, in dank conditions. The Blackberry harvest was/is magnificent this year. No need to take packed lunches at this time of the year. 😊



*Lewes Ouse Comma*

Here's hoping to catch some second brood Adonis's soon, if it ever stops raining. 😞  
Thanks

## **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 31-Aug-15 04:40 AM GMT

Friday 21st August 2015

[Willoughby Fields, Crawley](#)

Trying to get the sunny days to coincide with my days off has been a proper nightmare this August, hoping to get a real good study of the local Brown Hairstreak populations but failing miserably.

However all is not lost....

I bumped into this huge female Grass Snake actively hunting, and at 1.3 metres, one of the biggest native snakes I have ever seen.



*Willoughby Fields Grass Snake*



*Willoughby Fields Grass Snake 2*

No Hairstreaks today...actually not much around at all...



*Willoughby Fields Speckled Wood*

### **Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 31-Aug-15 05:25 PM GMT

Saturday 29th August 2015

Castle Hill NNR nr. Woodingdean.

August Bank Holiday weekend and washout went together well. Just managed to get a morning on the South Downs to see how the second brood Adonis's were doing, bit hit and miss really. The rain of recent days had knocked em about a bit.

Anyways nice shots of copulation are always welcome to gain the ID for contrasts between male and females, for me that's a good thing indeed. 😊



*Castle Hill NNR Adonis Blue*



*Castle Hill NNR Adonis Blue 2*

The last Wall Brown in town.



*Castle Hill NNR Wall Brown*

A few Small Heaths on the Knapweed.



*Castle Hill NNR Small Heath*

But Chalkhill Blues have had a blinder



Castle Hill NNR Chalkhill Blue



Castle Hill NNR Chalkhill Blue 2

And the next generation is on its way..... 😊



Castle Hill NNR Chalkhill Blues

Off to the New Forest for a couple of weekends now and I have caught up, washed out weekends can be productive.  
Dave

**Re: Buchan Boy**

by Goldie M, 02-Sep-15 12:09 AM GMT

Hi! Dave I love the mating pairs of blues both Adonis and CHB but you can keep the Snake 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Buchan Boy**

by Buchan Boy, 08-Nov-15 08:36 PM GMT

Been a little while, my year was made up by the remarkable new colonists in the Orthoptera world, namely Sickle bearing Crickets and a large colony of

Tree Crickets being found on the vegetated shingle at Dungeness.  
Much study to be done in future years, the Small Coppers around the cottages also provided much entertainment.  
Here's hoping the Long tailed Blues manage to gain a foothold in my part of the UK as well... Everlasting Pea.....cool.  
Many thanks to Dave, the warden at the Bird Obs, on Dungeness as well, remarkable.



*Dungeness Small Copper*



*Dungeness Small Copper 2*



*Female Sickle-bearing Cricket*



*Male Sickle Bearing Cricket*



*Female Tree Cricket*



*Male Tree Cricket*

Fantastic.

**Re: Buchan Boy**

by Gary.N, 09-Nov-15 12:02 AM GMT

Loved the first Small Copper Shot. 😊

**Re: Buchan Boy**

by Wurzel, 09-Nov-15 06:23 AM GMT

Great sequence Buchan Boy 😊 It's clear to see why the male Sickle Bearing Cricket is so called – the female on the other hand appears to have her Sickle in a scabbard 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

