

Re: PhilBWright

by Wurzel, 01-Jan-15 06:01 PM GMT

In very desperate years I'd still be tempted to count it Phil! 😊 I read that the invasions of Painted Ladies are cyclic (in line roughly with 'Clodued Yellow years') so maybe 2015 will see a return to the huge numbers of this butterfly? Fingers crossed. Have a happy New Year 😊

Have a goodun (2015)

Wurzel

Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 17-Jan-15 11:23 PM GMT

Thanks Trevor and very generous Wurzel !

I am hoping to go to this, who else is going ?

Apparently Butterfly Conservation have a stand this year, very interesting. 😊

[https://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/Whats-on... glasshouse](https://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/Whats-on...glasshouse)

Looking back at the summer.....



A nice thistle !

Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 01-Mar-15 03:53 AM GMT

Butterflies in the Glasshouse at Wisley, Surrey. Long time, no log in !

I went with my son Alex to the above event today. He also said that he had never seen a real birds nest apart from those fake box ones!

I think we need to get out more 😊



When a butterfly settled. Amazing !



A Blue Morpho

This was the first time I used my Canon camera this year (I felt a bit "rusty" so I left it in P mode most of the time and didn't try changing the settings too often.

Kind Regards,

Philip

Re: PhilBWright

by Wurzel, 01-Mar-15 06:22 AM GMT

Good to see you back on UKB Phil 😊 Lovely shot of the Blue Morpho 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 08-Mar-15 10:25 PM GMT

Thank you very much Wurzel,

I know that I am miles behind, I only saw my first spring butterfly yesterday. A Brimstone on my way to pick up my new camera.

Here are some results from my first experiments with it this morning. The Herons are nesting at Bookham Common.

One can't miss them in flight as they fly quite slowly and are about 100 times larger than a Purple Emperor ! The camera I previously used to take video

footage of the PE's has been given to someone young enough to know how to use it 😊 I never fully got to grips with it



Collecting twigs





Enjoy the Spring,
Philip

Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 18-Mar-15 07:56 AM GMT

OK, so it's 17th March and I'm off (like a snail). I have still yet to photograph my first Spring butterfly

Here is a short video clip I just uploaded to youtube:

I called it the disappearing Silver Washed Fritillary:

[.https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m-6soDi...e=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m-6soDi...e=youtu.be) The "special" (not really) effect has been made just by cutting and then overlapping a short video clip.

Cheers,
Philip

Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 10-May-15 02:46 AM GMT

Hi Guys,

I wont be posting so much this year. I will try and keep the quality reasonably good:



9.5.2015 Fairmile Common about half way between Cobham and Esher



Green Hairstreak on Gorse, Fairmile Common near (but not on) the South Facing Bank of A3

Kind Regards,
Philip B Wright

Re: PhilBwright

by kevlng, 10-May-15 03:50 AM GMT

Philip.

If it's going to be quality over quantity, you're off to good start. Cracking shots of the Green Hairstreak. Especially love the sharp colours of the second pic.

Regards Kev

Re: PhilBwright

by trevor, 10-May-15 04:11 AM GMT

Hi Phil.,

Good to see you posting again. Great Green Hairstreak images, a species that has avoided me this year so far. Looking forward to reports from Bookham Common.

All the best,
TREVOR.

Re: PhilBwright

by PhilBJohnson, 04-Jun-15 04:53 AM GMT

Thank you TREVOR and Kev,

I was at Bookham Common today. Red Admirals, an overwintering Peacock but no SWF or White Admirals yet but they will be emerging very soon (looking at the brambles flowering in full sun).

Kind Regards,

Philip

Re: PhilBwright

by Maximus, 04-Jun-15 07:17 AM GMT

I hope you'll be posting shots from Bookham soon, Phil 😊

Re: PhilBwright

by PhilBJohnson, 09-Jun-15 11:48 AM GMT

Thanks Maximus,

Between now and the weekend, for me Bookham Common is "after work only".

On Monday 8th after work, I couldn't even see a Speckled Wood. It rained when I left (please don't tease me about it). It is like going fishing and "blanking"

I have a couple of mobile phone images from the Thames Valley
A couple of "snaps" taken during scheduled work breaks (I don't smoke).



I assume these are Common Blues

Do they do mobile phones with fast shutter speeds or maybe I don't know how to operate my one properly? (iphone 6)



Painted Lady

The Painted Lady I failed to get a confirmed sighting last year and up to now this year. Small Heath also present in numbers but I didn't manage a photo (working too hard). It is interesting how Thames Water have managed this area and I think they deserve some credit.

Re: PhilBWright

by MikeOxon, 09-Jun-15 08:15 PM GMT

Nice shot of the Painted Lady. Like you, I didn't see any of these last year and so far, have only seen a 'fly by' this year.

You might like to try the '645Pro' app for the iPhone (from the Apple store). I haven't used it but my son thinks it's very good and it gives full control over the camera. See <http://jag.gr/645pro/highlights/> for more info

Mike

Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 09-Jun-15 09:45 PM GMT

Thank you very much, Mike. Very helpful.

Thursday 11th June.

I saw my first Meadow Brown of the year, today.

Small Heath in the Thames Valley.



Kind Regards,
Philip

Re: PhilBWright

by PhilJohnson, 14-Jun-15 02:33 AM GMT

Painted Lady Butterflies at Bookham Common. Sipping nectar on bramble blossom, White Admirals and SWF very soon (if not already and unseen by me).

I saw 3 different individuals there today having seen none there in the last 2 years.

These are not 3 different individuals:





Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 17-Jun-15 06:36 AM GMT

16.6.2015

Recently emerged at Bookham Common, Surrey

This is a very recently emerged var. *Hutchinsoni* Comma which is much paler in hue than those appearing later.



Hutchinsoni Comma Close up



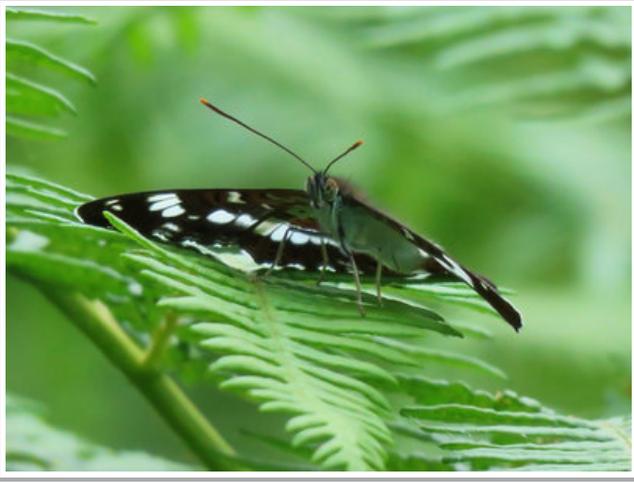
Hutchinsoni Comma Distance

No White Admirals for me yet.

Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 22-Jun-15 03:38 AM GMT

I first saw The Admiral on Friday. I am concerned about numbers being low this year and similar comments were made last year at Bookham. I have not seen any SWF yet.



Saturday 20th June. Bookham Common



Sunday 21st June Bookham Common



Re: PhilBWright

by Pauline, 23-Jun-15 09:12 PM GMT

Hi Phil

Just looking at the Surrey website and also BC. They have first sighting for WA recorded as 21/06 whereas I note you saw it on 20th. Perhaps you need to put them straight?

Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 27-Jun-15 07:38 PM GMT

Thanks for putting them straighter, Pauline.

Bookham Common Surrey. More early records today:



Ringlet



Male Silver Washed Fritillary

kind regards,

Philip

Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 28-Jun-15 02:57 PM GMT

The freshly emerged males fly up and down, fight each other and similar looking Comma Butterflies then lose to males that emerge later with the females.
(or at least that is my experience of them over the last two years).



Early Male Silver Washed Fritillary

My Latest Red Admiral Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjLxo0sLSYM>

Re: PhilBWright

by trevor, 29-Jun-15 02:57 AM GMT

Hi Phil,

Well done with your first White Admiral and Silver Washed Fritillary, i have been seriously searching for these two in the past week, all the local hot spots, all large clumps of bramble with blossom in known locations, but so far nothing. But now with your Bookham sightings i guess they won't be long around here. Now your challenge is to find the Purple one !.

All the best,
TREVOR.

Re: PhilBWright

by Wurzel, 29-Jun-15 06:17 AM GMT

Great shots of the SWFs Phil, especially the one showing the proboscis 😊👍 Interesting observation about the mating success, less "early bird catching the worm" and more "lazy lotharios get the ladies" 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 01-Jul-15 01:42 PM GMT

Thanks Guys,

I must confess, I have been so busy, I need to spend some more time reading other diaries.

For BK, AB and UKB



"His Majesty" My June 2015 photographic record

Thank you Rob Hill for "letting me have a go first".
Thank you Matthew Oates for your "spot on predictions"
Thank you Ken Willmott for "seeing one the day before"

Best Wishes

Re: PhilBWright

by trevor, 01-Jul-15 04:01 PM GMT

Hi Phil,

He might be a tiny speck in your image, but he's unmistakable, very well done 😊.

TREVOR.

,

Re: PhilBWright

by Wurzel, 02-Jul-15 06:00 AM GMT

That's a great sight Phil, so now only a week or two until they're out at Bentley 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: PhilBWright

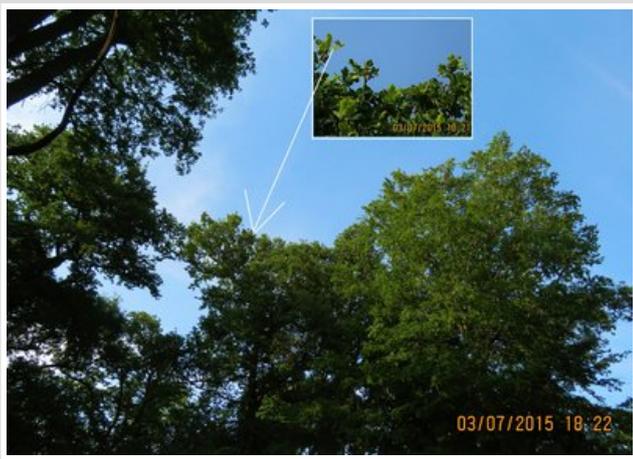
by PhilBJohnson, 04-Jul-15 01:39 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel and Trevor,

It is not easy for me to take leave at short notice but I would say that the next week or two should be perfect for seeing Emperor's on the ground. As I am mostly restricted to an hour or so after work, it is the tree canopy for me !

With the Canon SX60HS and its 65 X optical zoom I am now confident I may be able to pick out some purple on a purple hairstreak in the Oak Canopy ! They certainly appear as more than "just dots"

I don't think I will be doing a long video repeat of last year.



Oak Canopy



Purple Hairstreak in the Oak Canopy

Kind Regards,

Philip B Wright

Re: PhilBWright

by Willow, 04-Jul-15 07:02 PM GMT

Good stuff Phil, that's the advantage of modern bridge camera's, some of the distances the zooms reach are becoming incredible and the manufactures are now in a 'zoom-race' to see who can grab the lion's share of the market 😊

Bill 😊

"When in doubt - venture out"

Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 05-Jul-15 12:25 AM GMT

Thanks Willow,

This is a picture from today with the same camera.



Apatura iris for DB & VB

Kind Regards,
Philip B Wright

Re: PhilBWright

by bugboy, 05-Jul-15 04:34 AM GMT

Impressive Zoom Pictures Phil. I visited Bookham Commons on Wednesday and got a couple of brief views of 'HIM' as well as lots of SWF and WA, the latter a lifer for me. I'm off work for 10 days from monday so I may take a few more days trips to try and get a grounded Emperor 😊

Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 05-Jul-15 08:05 PM GMT

Excellent bugboy. Good luck.

Bookham Common is not the best place to see Emperors grounded but I guess one has more chance during the week in the mornings when cyclists, dog walkers and joggers are fewer in number than at the weekends.

SWF males still fresh. As of yesterday, no females yet:



Silver Washed Fritillary Male



Male

The male has four distinctive black veins on its forewings that contain special "androconial" scales that are used in courtship. (plagiarised from UK Butterflies) 😊

Kind Regards,
Philip

Re: PhilBWright

by bugboy, 05-Jul-15 09:00 PM GMT

"PhilBWright"]Excellent bugboy. Good luck.

Bookham Common is not the best place to see Emperors grounded but I guess one has more chance during the week in the mornings when cyclists, dog walkers and joggers are fewer in number than at the weekends.

SWF males still fresh. As of yesterday, no females yet wrote:

Got a mating pair last wednesday 😊

Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 05-Jul-15 10:20 PM GMT

Excellent bugboy, I apologise for "being short" with you.

I have just been reading your diary and am really pleased for you. The best chance I think of seeing a grounded Purple Emperor at Bookham this week is in the morning in the Mark Oak car park area.

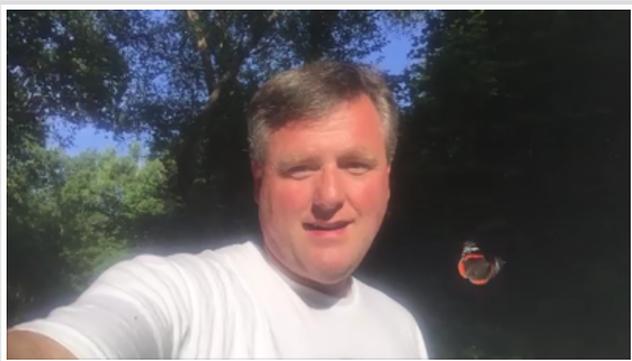
I got my first courting SWF pair today. I just logged in to discreetly edit my original post but noted you have already quoted me.

Here is some low quality record footage from today. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehCi154...> e=youtu.be

Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 08-Jul-15 01:49 PM GMT

I have been having fun recently with Red Admiral Selfies:
Iphone 6 snapshots from video clips:





and this is the best one I have made so far:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UDq8UlwM8Q>



Re: PhilBWright

by bugboy, 08-Jul-15 06:25 PM GMT

Thanks Phil, I shall pay special attention to that car park on my next visit. I was there yesterday but the weather was a bit rubbish so no sign of the Purple One.

Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 12-Jul-15 02:20 AM GMT

Hi,
After seeing "The Empress" on Willow on several occasions at Bookham, today after it was pointed out to me by my mother!
I got my first record picture and was very excited and in my excitement I "over zoomed" into digital. Please forgive me, Mike 😊 :



Apatura iris on Willow

(if this isn't willow and it's not a female, please let me know as I don't want to stumble around from "mistake to mistake") 😊
It was only about 3m above ground on a sapling (I know it's not the typical narrow Willow shaped leaf). I wasn't 100% sure so I thought I better mention it after emailing the picture to Butterfly Experts.

Kind Regards

Re: PhilBWright

by bugboy, 12-Jul-15 04:32 AM GMT

Hi Phil, I can't confirm the sex of the Emperor but that is definately one of the broad leaved Willows 😊

Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 12-Jul-15 05:33 AM GMT

Thanks bugboy,
We only spent approx. 1 hour on the common this afternoon and saw Empress behaviour twice.
I was teaching my Dad a trick or two, here is one of them:



Red Admiral "Neck Tie"

I need to "catch up" reading Neil's diary as soon as I make more time,

Kind Regards,

Philly BB 😊

Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 13-Jul-15 02:16 AM GMT

The One Hundred Pound Car Park at Bookham Common

At almost 5:00pm (there wasn't even much sunshine at the time and it was a bit windy).



Apatura iris

A shared experience with two young girls and mothers who did not know much about the butterfly. I am very happy having had that experience of this butterfly after 3 seasons at Bookham Common. It was just the first time I was in the right place at the right time.

Re: PhilBWright

by Katrina, 13-Jul-15 02:34 AM GMT

Beautiful Emperor photo!

Re: PhilBWright

by Pauline, 13-Jul-15 02:43 AM GMT

There are many of us (me included) who would be VERY happy with a shot like that. Well done Phil 🍷

Re: PhilBWright

by bugboy, 13-Jul-15 03:05 AM GMT

Hey it's a Purple Emperor on the ground, who cares if parts are out of focus! Still a good picture 🤔📷

Re: PhilBWright

by David M, 13-Jul-15 03:12 AM GMT

Nothing wrong with that image, Phil!

A large butterfly like PE is a difficult photographic subject but you've managed to capture Him with a good proportion of his wings bathed in purple nonetheless.

Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 23-Jul-15 06:38 PM GMT

Thank you guys: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUshUR...e=youtu.be>

That is my latest Butterfly Selfie on iphone 6

With many thanks to Buckfast Butterflies. I really enjoyed my visit. Very friendly staff. www.ottersandbutterflies.co.uk

Re: PhilBWright

by Willrow, 24-Jul-15 07:07 PM GMT

Nice to finally get your PE Phil, determination and patience pay dividends, and that's a fine record photograph 😊

BW's

Bill 😊

"When in doubt - venture out"

Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 01-Aug-15 02:29 PM GMT

Thanks guys for your contributions.

The Purple Emperor experience on the ground was perfect for me. I was returning to my car to leave the Common and the PE was fluttering around a car in the One Hundred Pound Bridge Car Park. Two ladies were standing next to me with two young daughters and I shared the experience with them. I said:

"Look, a Purple Emperor !" The ladies knew very little about the butterfly and when it did finally land on the ground, the two young girls went and stood right next to it.

Here is a record picture of an Emperor at Bookham Common taken one month after my first record.



30.7.2015



My "Purple Emperor Camera" 65 X Optical Zoom

Re: PhilBWright

by PhilBJohnson, 15-Oct-15 02:59 PM GMT

Butterfly Jewelry and "Artistic Licence"

I was searching yesterday "all over" Lincoln for jewelry that specifically represented British Butterflies for my beautiful fiancé and hopefully finding jewelry not just with "artistic licence" .

We all Love UK Butterflies

We visited four jewellers in Lincoln but we found nothing. The closest thing Melissa and I found was priceless silver that might have represented a cabbage white but the saleswoman did not agree with us so it wasn't sold to us.

Lets have this debate with suggestions in jewelers up and down the United Kingdom from "Custume Jewelry" to priceless 18 Carrot Gold with Diamonds.

British Nature Reservers

This "artistic licence" has seaped into the thinking even in the gift stores at British Nature Reserves

We bought a poster yesterday from an English Nature Reserve

The "White" Admiral is bigger than The Purple Emperor and Swallowtail, The Large Blue is almost twice the size of the Ringlet. All butterflies look as if they are displaying their forewings apart from the Green Hairstreak.

There was a scarf for sale with butterflies on it (non of which were recognisable), a picture frame (the same) and a variety of different butterfly "key rings", non of which had any UK butterflies on them.

Outside on the information boards, the best butterflies they could "muster up" was a picture of a Gatekeeper and a picture of a Ringlet.

Kind Regards and Best Wishes in trying to change peoples thinking.

Re: PhilBWright

by Brian Arnold, 15-Oct-15 05:33 PM GMT

Phil,

I could not agree more – most butterfly jewelry and other mass market products are dreadful.

You could always give her a National Trust tea-towel – their butterfly pictures are sometimes vaguely accurate! However as you are not married yet that might send the wrong message!

I have been married for 42 years – giving tea-towels to your loved one can be a bit risky!

Regards and good luck in your hunt, Brian Arnold

Re: PhilBWright

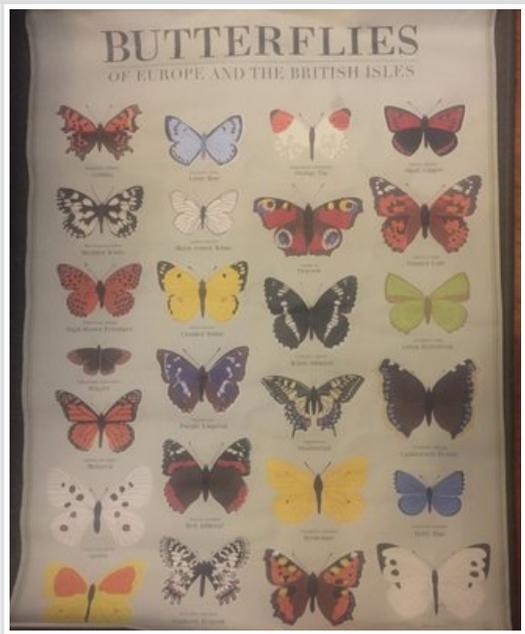
by PhilBJohnson, 01-Dec-15 07:07 PM GMT

This is one of the best realistic items I have found from RSPB:



RSPB

I have moved to Lincoln and am in the process of selling my flat in Surrey. There are some interesting Nature Reserves in Lincoln where I found items such as this poster: "Whisby Nature Reserve, Lincolnshire.



Butterfly Poster

But many of the European Species represented here are not found in the UK, the "White Admiral" is bigger than the Swallowtail, the Ringlet is smaller than the Large Blue and all of the butterflies appear to be showing their forewings apart from the Green Hairstreak !

Have a very Merry Christmas with "artistic licence",

Philip

Re: PhilBWright

by trevor, 02-Dec-15 03:08 AM GMT

Hi Phil;

Good luck in your new home. I will miss the reports from Bookham Common.

All the best,
Trevor.