

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Jan-15 07:03 PM GMT

Hi All,

On June 4th 2013 we visited the Isle of Wight for the Glanville Fritillary. after a very early start (6.30am ferry) we arrived at Bonchurch at 8am to a leaden sky, a stiff breeze and a choppy sea. But despite these conditions Doug spotted a Glanville almost immediately. But luck was on our side as the cloud cleared leaving a clear blue sky and very strong harsh sunshine, which meant casting a shadow over our quarry could hardly be avoided. But on the plus side every butterfly we saw was in pristine condition 😊, and there were plenty of them. Some of my shots are a little on the dark side,so strong was the glare of the sun i had to set the exposure right down.

TREVOR





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Jan-15 10:36 PM GMT

Hi Once again,

To me January 15th will herald the peak of mid Winter, then it is all down hill to the spring!! 😊
So, for the last of my retrospective images I thought I would post some Butterflies that, will hopefully, greet us in the first half of 2015.

This year I should have a new camera, and hopefully Wurzel and myself will post images promptly 😊

See you in the spring,
TREVOR



FEMALE ADONIS BLUE, HIGH AND OVER.



ADONIS BLUE, HIGH AND OVER



BROWN ARGUS, HIGH AND OVER



SMALL BLUE, KITHURST HILL



GRIZZLED SKIPPER, KITHURST MEADOW



DUKE OF BURGUNDY, KITHURST MEADOW





PEARL BORDERED FRITILLARY, ABBOT'S WOOD

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 07-Jan-15 02:00 AM GMT

Great pics there Trevor, I particularly like the Brown Argus. Never seen one with red spots that extensive, that must have stood out even in flight!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-Jan-15 05:56 PM GMT

Hi All,

Just a thought, my faithful old Nikon Coolpix camera is doing all sorts of weird things, and is now untrustworthy. So I would like the advise of UKB'ers, who no doubt own camera's worth anything from £30 to £3,000, what may be recommended for the £100 to £200 I have to spend. Bearing in mind the need to get close up to the subject. Hope you can help.
TREVOR.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 07-Jan-15 09:36 PM GMT

Love your photo's Trevor, my old camera is a Coolpix and also started to go funny on me, but it still takes long distance shots ok,.

I bought a Cannon EOS 1100D for £299 I thought and was told because it was my first SLR it would be easier for me to get use to this type of camera, I've really enjoyed using it this year but these camera's can do so many different things that your learning all the time. Hope you choose a camera that fits your needs people on this web site will certainly help you Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-Jan-15 02:38 AM GMT

Hi All,

Just a quickie

Have you ever noticed the ' Ducks Head ' image on the underside of the Pearl Bordered Fritillary. When I showed this to my little Grandson a few years back he has refered to them as Ducks Head Butterflies ever since. 😊

TREVOR



Re: Trevor

by Padfield, 09-Jan-15 04:06 AM GMT

Quacking picture, Trevor!

Guy

Re: Trevor

by David M, 09-Jan-15 05:51 AM GMT

Can't say I'd noticed prior to your revelation, but the evidence is irrefutable!! 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 10-Jan-15 06:16 AM GMT

Cracking shots from Kithurst and Abbots Wood Trevor and I can see the Duck's head although I can't work out what species it would be 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Jan-15 07:58 AM GMT

Hi All,

What do you make of this one?. Pearl Bordered Fritillary again but upper side this time, I can see a pair of staring eyes, which look distinctly Feline.

All the best,

TREVOR



Re: Trevor

by John W, 10-Jan-15 08:03 PM GMT

"trevor" wrote:

Just a thought, my faithful old Nikon Coolpix camera is doing all sorts of weird things, and is now untrustworthy.

So I would like the advise of UKB'ers,who no doubt own camera's worth anything from £30 to £3,000, what may be recommended for the £100 to £200 I have to spend. Bearing in mind the need to get close up to the subject.

Hi Trevor,

You can pick up a secondhand Lumix FZ38 on eBay for between £50 and £100, and the close-up lens will cost you about another £50. Then you will be able to take pictures as good as Neil's! (well potentially... 😊)

Cheers
John

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 12-Jan-15 02:37 AM GMT

That's one I have noticed before Trevor, and it's even more apparent on Marsh Frits! 😊
As to cameras – a lot of people on UKB swear by the Lumix FZ range, although I don't have one.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-Jan-15 12:03 AM GMT

Hi All,

Three images from my garden this afternoon. The Camelia usually flowers late February/early March and the snowdrops are all February flowering varieties.

TREVOR.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 24-Jan-15 04:28 PM GMT

HI Everyone,

Some news for all 'Birders' out there. A friend who keeps horses, on the outskirts of Hailsham had a good view of a Snowy Owl whilst out tending to the animals. It was also seen by his Daughter, and later in the day by someone else.

Whether or not this was a natural visitor or an escapee from captivity I don't know. As the location of the sighting is only about a mile from my home I will keep my eyes open.

If anyone wishes to risk a trip to see it , find 'Saltmarsh Lane on your map. Date of sighting 21.1.15

All the best
TREVOR.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-Feb-15 06:12 AM GMT

HI Everyone,

A poor image, i admit , but there is a really large Halo around the Moon this evening.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 04-Feb-15 03:38 AM GMT

HI All,

I have just discovered a mislaid memory card from 2012.

On it are some images of the Brown Hairstreak, one notable feature of that day was the number of near pristine specimens to be seen. They are all Girls, the males at this site are very elusive.

Best wishes,
TREVOR





Re: Trevor

by David M, 04-Feb-15 06:08 AM GMT

Those specimens are positively gleaming, Trevor. You must have got your timing bang on!

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 04-Feb-15 06:45 AM GMT

That was one hell of a find Tevor - absolutely cracking shots 😊📷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 04-Feb-15 06:51 PM GMT

Thanks David, for 'timing' read luck, one of those days when everything was perfect.
Hi Wurzel, yes, a 'cracking ' little Butterfly.

Looking through that 'lost' memory card from 2012, I have selected some more images from that year.
Firstly the Blues.....





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 04-Feb-15 08:05 PM GMT

And now some of the other images from that 'lost' 2012 card.....



Brown Argus, Aug. 2012



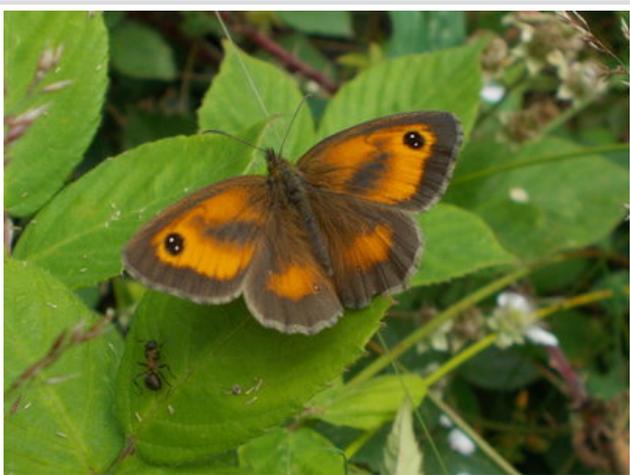
Docile Wall Brown, Aug. 2012



Small Copper, Aug. 2012



My first ever Silver Spotted Skipper



Re: Trevor

by dave brown, 06-Feb-15 12:12 AM GMT

Hi Trevor,

I take it no more sightings of the Snowy Owl. Wild birds are not out of the question, especially with the very cold northern/ north east winds of late.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-Feb-15 12:33 AM GMT

Hi Everyone,

That 2012 memory card again !!.

This time the Dark Green Fritillary. Although 2014 proved to be a poor year for this species at my usual site, 2012/3 were very good years,

TREVOR.





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 07-Feb-15 12:49 AM GMT

Great shots Trevor, it makes us want to rush into Summer Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Pete Eeles, 07-Feb-15 01:26 AM GMT

"trevor" wrote:

This time the Dark Green Fritillary.

Your first DGF is an ab. – with reduced markings!

Cheers,

– Pete

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 07-Feb-15 07:09 AM GMT

More great shots Trevor 😊 The female DGFs are great – you can really tell the difference between them and the really ginger males, nice ab too 😊🇮🇪

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-Feb-15 05:46 PM GMT

Looking forward to meeting HIM again this season.

It will soon be time to get your cameras out of hibernation!! 😊 .

All the best,
TREVOR.



Re: Trevor

by Vince Massimo, 13-Feb-15 06:36 PM GMT

Some interesting shots there Trevor 😊

I sent you a PM on 6th February. Can you please check your User Control Panel for new messages.

Vince

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 16-Feb-15 03:10 AM GMT

Great shot of the Purp 🇮🇪 – I'm hoping to reacquaint myself with Him this year 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-Feb-15 08:34 PM GMT

IN PURSUIT OF PURPLE

Several years ago i was present when Neil Hulme gave an impromptu master class, to the assembled group, on how to approach a grounded Purple Emperor.

Last year that lesson came in very handy, when on my second day at Botany Bay, i decided to arrive very early in hope of my own personal Emperor, this hope was granted. At 8.35am a spiraling Emperor landed a few yards away from me . remembering that lesson i waited impatiently for him to settle, once happy he was engrossed in taking up salts i had him lined up on my camera screen, i could see lots of purple!!!

Click,click,click until he flew off, i've done it i thought, all four wings purple!. Not to be, when i reviewed my images the right hand forewing was brown. Looking down to where the Butterfly had been i could see that the offending wing was resting on a stone ie. at the wrong angle!

Never mind, there's always this year.

TREVOR.



NOTE THE OFFENDING WING.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 17-Feb-15 09:12 PM GMT

At least you got a shot of a PM that would do me Trevor, I've yet to see one 🍷 Goldie

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-Feb-15 12:05 AM GMT

HI All,

This beauty landed on my house this afternoon at 3.51pm. my first Butterfly shot of 2015 😊



RED ADMIRAL, HAILSHAM 17.2.15 3.51PM.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 18-Feb-15 02:14 AM GMT

Well done, Trevor. Looks like winter has been fairly kind to this species.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 19-Feb-15 03:28 AM GMT

How can I put this, well, I have found another memory card from 2012, or to be more precise a card that contains many images of my old railway carriage, which also has some Butterflies on it. It was the Butterflies I had overlooked.

Anyway here are some Small Pearl Bordered Fritillaries from Park Corner Heath BC. Reserve. 2012 was the last year that they were plentiful there.

TREVOR





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 19-Feb-15 04:12 AM GMT

Lovely photo's Trevor they remind me of June at Gaits Barrow Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 20-Feb-15 07:03 AM GMT

Lovely images indeed Trevor 🍷 , just a pity they were of the last of the line 😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Feb-15 04:10 AM GMT

On 29th May 2012 I went to Toternhoe quarry in Bedfordshire, guided by a local enthusiast. This is a good site for Dukes, but these were past their best, the surprise of the day was the presence of a large number of Small Blues. But the biggest surprise came when about six of them took a liking to my shoes!, chasing me as I walked. When I stopped several landed on my shoe (see image)!. A day I shall never forget.



A LIKING FOR SHOES!





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 22-Feb-15 04:32 AM GMT

Great shoe shots Trevor 😊 I've not seen that behaviour in that species before, perhaps they were suffering from delusions of grandeur and confused themselves with His Nibbs? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Feb-15 12:42 AM GMT

I've been experimenting with my FZ 38, so that i'm ready for the new season. I must say that,so far, i am very impressed with it's capabilities . Today i pointed it at the moon, and for a hand held shot, i was most surprised to be able to to see some of the craters on it's surface.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-Mar-15 09:59 PM GMT

HI All,

This morning I went on my first Butterfly expedition of 2015, to Park Corner Heath BC. reserve. With a chilly wind blowing I thought my chances of seeing anything would be slim, but I soon saw a pristine male Brimstone, my first this year, enjoying the sun. Unfortunately my best shot has a shadow over part of the Butterfly.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-Mar-15 10:56 PM GMT

Here is the shot of the Brimstone,i've had to crop it as the original file was too big !.



Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 07-Mar-15 11:47 PM GMT

Lucky you Trevor, seems like the Brimstones are definitely on the move, Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 09-Mar-15 06:03 AM GMT

Congrats at getting off the mark Trevor 😊🍀

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-Mar-15 05:54 PM GMT

.Firstly, cheers Goldie and Wurzel,

One of my springtime pleasures is seeing the Daffodils burst into flower, and some years ago i caught the bug of collecting some of the miniature species and hybridizing them. Unfortunately,one year they were wiped out for some unknown reason. But this year one has emerged on my patio, obviously a stray seed (Ants carry them off). The fifty pence piece gives an idea of scale.

This is probably the smallest Daffodil growing in sussex, unless you know different 😊.

And congratulations to all of you who have posted images from the past weekend, I think some are of prize winning quality!.

All the best,
TREVOR



N, ASTURIENSIS X N, CYCLAMINEUS

Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 10-Mar-15 04:01 AM GMT

A great start to 2015 with that Brimstone,Trevor 😊 and that Daffodil is tiny 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-Mar-15 02:47 AM GMT

HI All,

A visit to a local woodland this afternoon produced my first Peacock of the year.

TREVOR.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 24-Mar-15 11:00 PM GMT

HI All,

This afternoon i went for a short walk in Abbot's Wood , unsurprisingly no Butterflies were seen. But I did stumble across this very active Wood Ant's nest, one of many to be found there.

Waiting for Spring !

TREVOR.



Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 25-Mar-15 03:20 AM GMT

You can almost hear the rustling of the Wood Ants, Trevor. We're all waiting for spring!

Re: Trevor

by David M, 25-Mar-15 05:57 AM GMT

Wow! That's not a sighting, Trevor, it's an infestation!!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 25-Mar-15 05:28 PM GMT

Many thanks Maximus and David,

The ride where the Wood Ants were found is host to about a dozen nests , at their peak they look like large compost heaps. And yes I could here them rustling.

Also Pearl Bordered Fritillaries are found along this ride, but now in fewer numbers. hopefully 2015 will be a better year for them!

Best wishes,
TREVOR.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-Mar-15 12:11 AM GMT

This morning a male Brimstone visited my garden, sampling some of my Primroses.

Although it made frequent stops to visit various flowers it did not stop for long enough for a decent shot.

Never the less it's nice easy Butterflying when they visit me 😊.

All the best,
TREVOR.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 28-Mar-15 04:51 AM GMT

For a spring Brimstone that's a pretty decent shot - they are pains at this time of year as all they want to do is fly and feed, fly and feed - understandably really but annoying in terms of photography 😊.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 31-Mar-15 09:40 PM GMT

Hi Everyone,

A real treat for me to-day. I popped out into the garden with a lunchtime coffee and there was this beautiful Comma nectaring on my Daphne Odora. This was despite the strong almost stormy wind !

Fortunately I had time to grab my camera 😊.

TREVOR.



COMMA, HAILSHAM, 1.00pm

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Apr-15 09:07 PM GMT

Another day, another Comma !.

This morning, despite the cold wind and a temperature of 9c. I set out for a walk around Abbot's Wood. The rides there were acting as wind tunnels, so I went to a spot where it is sheltered, out of the wind, and in full sun.

I was soon treated to the sight of a Comma trying to warm up. As I carried on I became aware of a beady eye looking down on me, in the shape of a Grey Squirrel.

The Primroses were magnificent too, 2015 is a good year for them.

TREVOR.



Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 03-Apr-15 06:24 PM GMT

Lovely photos Trevor, nothing here yet but wind and rain hope fully the weekend will bring some thing out of hibernation Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-Apr-15 02:22 AM GMT

WARMING UP !

Today was a working day for me. I have a part time job based on a farm in Halnaker, West Sussex. On arrival I could not believe the number of Peacocks on the ground,warming up. I would estimate that about twenty were seen throughout the day as well as several Small Tortoiseshells . As few of the Butterflies were competent flyers (even when the temperature rose) I would guess that they had just emerged from hibernation. Even so they could still give my camera the run around!. Also seen was one flypast Brimstone.

All the best,
TREVOR



Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 07-Apr-15 02:26 AM GMT

Looks like their on the move at last Trevor 😊 Nice shots lots hope we see more shortly Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 07-Apr-15 04:35 AM GMT

Hi Trevor,

Nice photos.

Loads of Peacocks about my way today as well, also seemed to be the first day around here that good numbers were awake and on the wing.

Cheers,

Neil

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 07-Apr-15 06:24 AM GMT

Great stuff Trevor – things are indeed getting going and the weather looks set to remain good for a while – better get that camera fully charged and ready! 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Hoggers, 08-Apr-15 12:32 AM GMT

Great Commas, Trevor – I haven't seen a single one yet, so I'm very envious!

Best Wishes,

Hoggers.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 08-Apr-15 02:20 AM GMT

INFLIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

Today I went back to Abbot's wood and walked along one of the rides , where later on Pearl Bordered Fritillaries may be found. There were many Commas flying there , and I have to say they do a good PBF. impersonation ie they are about the same size,the same colour, and fly with a short flutter then a glide. They were so realistic that I almost felt obliged to check each one to make sure that it wasn't an early Pearl.

Later on I encountered a Brimstone , which took off as I pressed the shutter , so i caught him in flight . My apologies for the quality of that image.

But I won't apologise for including some more Primroses.

I hope things are picking up where you are.

TREVOR.

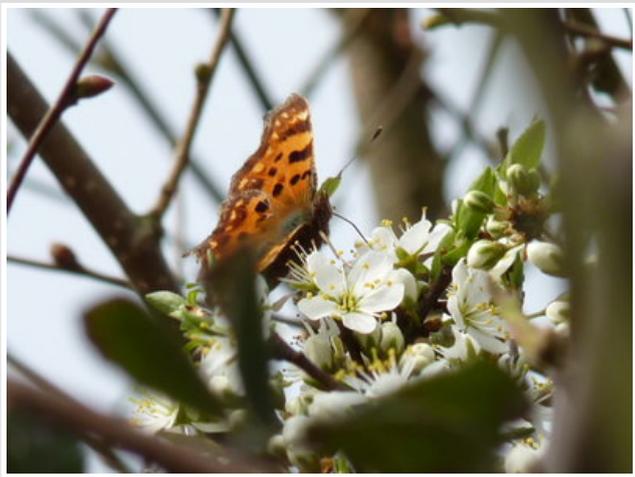


by trevor, 09-Apr-15 12:44 AM GMT

Commas , yet more Commas.

Rather like Dennis Moore and his Lupins all I can offer today are more Commas.
Despite visiting three locations , where I might have seen Orange Tips and other early species
all I got was even more Commas. I've included the Ladybirds for a little variety !.

All the best,
TREVOR.





Re: Trevor

by Mike Robinson, 09-Apr-15 01:38 AM GMT

I'm still waiting to see a Comma this year. Some nice pictures.

I'm also keeping an eye on Ladybirds this year; despite being rather small they do tend to keep still which I find very helpful!

Kind regards ~ Mike

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 09-Apr-15 06:12 AM GMT

You, can, never, have , enough, Commas, Trevor 😊 Great shots especially the silhouette 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Apr-15 12:15 AM GMT

Lots of Peacocks today , seeking nectar rather than warming up on the ground.

I thought the nectar sources were unusual , one on Primroses and another on Cuckoo Flower.

Perhaps newly emerged hibernators have to be opportunistic feeders at this time of year.

Also when i got home i had a coffee in the garden and pieces of dead bark started falling from the Oak tree , looking up i saw this Spotted Woodpecker busily dislodging pieces of bark.

TREVOR.

PS. The Woodpecker image won't load up , sorry ! 😊



Re: Trevor

by Mike Robinson, 10-Apr-15 01:49 AM GMT

Lovely to see the Peacocks on the Flowers and Blossom.
Thanks for noticing my Peacocks yesterday.
Mike

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 10-Apr-15 07:02 AM GMT

Lovely Peacocks Trevor 😊 – shame about the Woodpecker. I will get round to checking out that video but so much is happening at the moment – it's great! 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-Apr-15 02:01 AM GMT

HI All;

On my travels today I met a fellow Butterflyer who is now something of a local celebrity !. On Easter Monday, whilst out with his camera , spotted and photographed a Large Tortoiseshell here in East Sussex. After i was shown the image on his camera i could hardly say ' would you like to see my Comma image 😊 '. If you would like to see the LT. image , go the Sussex BC website and click on 'recent sightings'. Anyway it was more Commas and Peacocks for me today , but i did spot a distant Orange Tip.

Gobsnacked.

TREVOR.

PS. I have heavily cropped the Woodpecker image from yesterday and it was accepted.



Comma and friend .



Woodpecker showering me with dead bark !

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 11-Apr-15 06:19 AM GMT

Great shots Trevor – especially the Woody 😊 I really wish the 'lot happening' featured butterflies but it's more to do with the house renovations I'm currently completing, that and spending so much time with my girls – it helps remind me of why I bother going to work 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 12-Apr-15 12:36 AM GMT

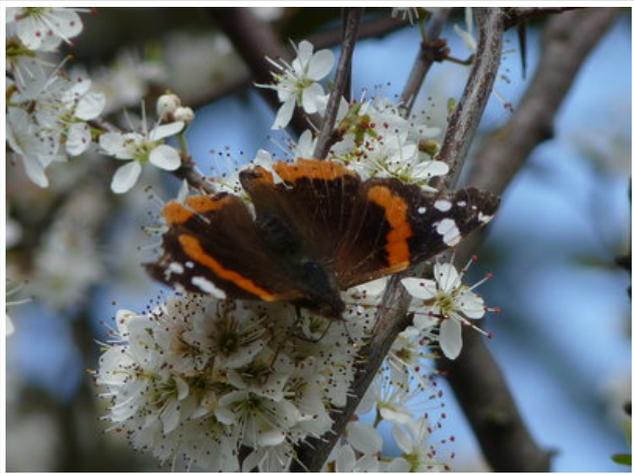
VARIETY !

Today, after the rain cleared, I walked a section of the disused railway line (Beechings folly !) to the north of Hailsham, where the old line is in a cutting. My first sighting was of a Red Admiral nectaring on Blackthorn (my first RA. since February). Shortly followed by my first female Brimstone of the year. As I retraced my steps my first Small White of this year descended onto a clump of Celendine right in front of me.
In all .a very rewarding day.

Happy Butterflying,
TREVOR.



Most of the Butterflies were seen beyond this bridge.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-Apr-15 06:23 PM GMT

SCARCE TORTOISESHELL.

A Scarce Tortoiseshell was seen in West sussex , over several days last week. There are images of this Butterfly on the Sussex BC. website.

ENJOY 🍷

TREVOR.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-Apr-15 10:22 PM GMT

Today dawned cool and cloudy, but the sun eventually broke through so I set out with my camera. The hoped for Orange tips failed to materialise , with a temperature of only 13c. who could blame them. I did find a Peacock , high up , on a Blackthorn which provided a good opportunity to use my zoom.

Having seen the result I don't think there will be any hiding place for HIM. this year 😞 . With Spring now moving into a new phase (ie. More newly emerged species replacing the hibernators, and Primroses giving way to Bluebells.) we've a lot to look forward to.

Happy hunting, 😊
TREVOR



Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 13-Apr-15 11:50 PM GMT

Lovely photos Trevor, Spring as really arrived but the last few days have been awful here, love the shot of your Brimstone Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-Apr-15 01:07 AM GMT

Today saw my first day out with fellow enthusiast Doug.Neve , for several years we have shared driving on Butterfly expeditions. We later bumped into B.saurus rex , all hoping for Orange Tips , which failed to show. In all it was a pretty lousy day for Butterflies , the cool breeze with hot sun was obviously not to their liking. But Doug did spot this Grass Snake swimming along a ditch. We later saw two OTs on the wing. Never mind it was a lovely day in the countryside !.

All the best ,
TREVOR.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 15-Apr-15 06:17 AM GMT

Great shot of the Grass Snake Trevor – I've just finished reading 'Life in Cold Blood' which has increased my envy of that shot! 📷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-Apr-15 11:50 PM GMT

With the Met. office promising a hot day (25c at lunchtime) I set out early to try my luck. A local Orange Tip site was still not producing any Butterflies , but nearby I found my first Speckled Wood for this year, followed by four more as the morning wore on.

I later went on to Frog Firle . which is high up on the South Downs, for Holly Blues .This is a reliable site for this Species and at least six were on the wing but none settled.

As I returned to the car a pair of Large Whites came into view, fortunately my camera was handy as one White caught the other one in mid air and towed it over some bushes , and out of sight !. I thought the blurred image was worth including for interest sake.

All in all a lovely morning.

TREVOR.



The view from Frog Firle.





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 17-Apr-15 04:56 AM GMT

Lovely shots of the Speckled Wood Trevor and it's good to see Large whites even at a distanceGoldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-Apr-15 07:29 PM GMT

Despite the cool wind that continues to plague this Butterfly season , I just had to get out of the house this morning. Unsurprisingly only one Butterfly was seen , a Speckled Wood , which made my day as it posed perfectly for the camera. 😊

All the best ,
TREVOR.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 19-Apr-15 05:54 AM GMT

Great Speckle Trevor I've still to find my first for 2015 🍀

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-Apr-15 10:04 PM GMT

After a very cool start to the day , the Met. office were forecasting 14c. So I set off in brilliant sunshine to see what was on offer. My local clump of Cuckoo Flower was quiet so I headed off up to Frog Firl to look for Holly Blues , but unlike last week the Blackthorn blossom was falling and blowing around in the wind. Every petal could have been a distant Holly Blue !. With the eye confused it was a pleasant surprise when a Holly Blue landed close by and posed for a couple of shots, my first this season. 😊
There were also several Speckled Woods patrolling up and down , one of which allowed me a decent shot. On the way home the car thermometer was reading 20c. so I may go out again later.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-Apr-15 02:09 AM GMT



A tired old Comma.

I could not resist another trip out this afternoon , and all the regulars were on the wing. Peacocks sunbathing , Commas seeing off anything that flew near them, Brimstones and best of all a close view of an Orange Tip that was predictably on the wing and not stopping. An image I did manage was of a male Brimstone ,which spent it's time testing out the many Dog Violets in bloom.

All the best,
TREVOR.



Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 21-Apr-15 03:29 AM GMT

Hi Trevor,

Don't blame you going out again on a day like today turned out to be, nice reports and photos.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Apr-15 12:03 AM GMT

Hi All,

Just the one usable image today. I spent several hours at Frog Firlie mainly for Holly Blues. Several were seen , but only one posed for an underside shot.

Better luck tomorrow!,
TREVOR.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Apr-15 09:46 PM GMT

The local patch of Cuckoo Flower finally attracted some Orange Tips this morning.



ORANGE TIP SITE

First on the scene came a Female Orange Tip , which I initially took to be a GV.White , but there was no mistaking that underside when she landed. Photography was very difficult in the strong wind that continues to plague this Spring season. The Female was closely followed by a Male , but the two never met while I was there. So here are some ' nearly ' shots from this morning that could have been much better had it been a calm day !.

All the best,
TREVOR.





Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 22-Apr-15 10:52 PM GMT

I'm sooo pleased that the one's I sent over there reached you safely Trevor 😊 Well done for getting good shots in such breezy weather.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-Apr-15 12:26 AM GMT

I went out for a short while after lunch today , and got my first image of a Green Veined White this the year. Hoping for a calm day tomorrow !.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 23-Apr-15 07:21 AM GMT

Great OT's Trevor – that patch of Cuckoo Flower looks immense 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 24-Apr-15 11:26 PM GMT



MALE ORANGE TIP.

A bit OT.with an OT.

This morning I went for a walk along a track near Arlington (of Speedway fame) not expecting to see much as a seamist was starting to roll in. I stopped to admire a fresh mass of Bluebells , one of the most distant flowers had what looked to be a bird dropping on top of it, but closer inspection revealed it to be a roosting Orange Tip. In this state the Butterfly was in no hurry to fly off , so I made the most of the opportunity and went a bit OT taking image after image.

Also I found two beautifully marked , fresh Speckled Woods





Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 25-Apr-15 01:22 AM GMT

You can never have too many Orange Tip pictures! I had a similar encounter on wednesday 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 27-Apr-15 09:59 PM GMT

THE PEARLS ARE OUT !

A day of highs and a low.

This morning i visited a local Pearl Bordered Fritillary site, the weather was cool and sunny with building cloud. The area i went to has it's own micro climate in the form of a hedge which is in full sun, this is on the side of a large clearing. A total of about six Pearls were seen, including three in the air together. Conditions were ideal for photography as the Butterflies go to ground when a cloud obscures the sun, being very active as soon as it reappears.

Thats the high.

Now the low.

Despite having only recently emerged (none last Wednesday) i found a dead Pearl near some Bluebells.
There was some wing damage, some sort of attack possible.
Also seen , a very nice Large White on a Bluebell. TREVOR.





The dead Pearl.



Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 27-Apr-15 11:03 PM GMT

Lovely Photos Trevor of the PBF, it's on my to get list with the Duke for next week all being well Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-Apr-15 10:03 PM GMT



A return visit to the Pearl Bordered Fritillary site today proved to be a more fruitful day than yesterday. As well as nine to ten PBF's seen i also saw my first Grizzled Skipper of this year, plus a bonus Micro Moth which i am told is a ' Green Longhorn ', anyway i'm not familiar with this species so i would welcome the input of any experts out there!. What did impress me about this Moth were the gold markings that shimmered just like real gold.

All the best,
TREVOR.



GREEN LONGHORN ? MICRO MOTH



COURTING PEARLS ?



FIRST GRIZZLED FOR ME THIS YEAR, PITY ABOUT THE GRASS BLADE.

Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 28-Apr-15 11:41 PM GMT

Careful Trevor, it's easy to get sucked into the world of moths (and cats)! 😊 There are some really spectacular ones. Great Pearl shots by the way.

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 28-Apr-15 11:54 PM GMT

Ahh the wonderful world of micros! I'm not going to claim to be an expert but that looks a lot like a male *Adela reaumurella*, females have shorter antennae. Quoting from my book "single brooded, mid April-June. Often seen dancing in sunshine in small swarms around Oaks and Hazel. **Hab.** Woodlands, heathland, fens, marshes, scrub. **Fp** Foodplant and early larval stage unknown, later on dead leaves on the ground"

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 29-Apr-15 06:18 AM GMT

Great Pearl shots Trevor 😊 It always surprsies me how robust and hardy the Pearls are and how little sun they need before they start flying 😊
Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 29-Apr-15 07:36 AM GMT

Hi Wurzel,

Thanks for the complement . The text books have you believe that PBF's only fly at 16c or above, it was certainly less than that the last two days, and a cold wind too.

Best wishes,
TREVOR.

Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 30-Apr-15 05:29 AM GMT

Great Pearls, Trevor 😊 along with all the other early season butterfly shots 😊

Mike

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-May-15 12:42 AM GMT



Distant Small White.

Today turned out to be a ' White ' day.

All of the images taken today were shot beside the old railway that runs through the middle of Hailsham, and until 1965 , served it.

The weather seemed to suit the Butterflies , sheltered from the wind by the railway cutting and with intermittent sunshine with some hazy cloud. These conditions were certainly to the Orange Tips liking , one Female posed perfectly, open winged . then when the sun went in promptly closed them for underside shots, i was pleased when a Large White landed on a Dandelion nearby, allowing a rare close-up image. Later a Male Orange Tip settled on Cow Parsley as the sun went in.

Speckled Woods were in abundance , too many to count, and a flyby Holly Blue was seen.

All this just yards from a Tesco Superstore !. 🙄

TREVOR.



Male Orange Tip



Female Orange Tip



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-May-15 01:00 AM GMT

PS. TO THE ABOVE POSTING.

The Female OT. in the image below the text appears to be ovipositing, i only noticed this after i looked more closely.

Regards,
TREVOR.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 02-May-15 03:57 AM GMT

Lovely photos Trevor the females aren't out here yet, some thing to look forward to. I must try the old railway lines in Rossendale maybe I'll find some there. Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Butterflysaurus rex, 02-May-15 04:35 AM GMT

It's good to see the Orange Tips are on the increase Trevor, there we're not very many around when we last met.

All the best

James

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 02-May-15 05:59 AM GMT

That is a cracking shot of the ovi-osing Orange-tip Trevor 🍷 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 04-May-15 05:00 AM GMT

Hi All,

Further to my report on Friday , I took two images of the ovipositing Orange Tip. Although the second image is very similar to the one posted on Friday I thought it was worth showing for it's interest value.

All the best
TREVOR.



FEMALE ORANGE TIP, HAILSHAM 1.5 15

Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 04-May-15 02:54 PM GMT

I've seen loads of OT eggs Trevor but never actually seen them being laid - well spotted 🍷

Re: Trevor

by kevlng, 04-May-15 05:45 PM GMT

Trevor,

Nice Orange Tip photos. I saw my first eggs last year on garlic Mustard, but haven't seen one being laid yet (In fact I'm struggling to see Orange Tips at all so far this spring 😞)

Regards Kev

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-May-15 01:30 AM GMT



This morning I left home early hoping to catch the Pearl Bordered Fritillaries before they warmed up. For a change there was a mild breeze to complement the sunshine , so the Pearls were fairly active when I arrived . Several Males were showing signs of wear, one was very tatty, but a very fresh Female posed patiently for her portrait. All told I observed about ten possible mates for her during my visit.

Hope you all had a successful Bank Holiday,
TREVOR.



FRESH FEMALE PBF .



Re: Trevor

by Nick Broomer, 05-May-15 01:41 AM GMT

Lovely photos of the Pearls, Trevor. Well worth the early morning.

All the best, Nick.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-May-15 01:01 AM GMT



When I got up this morning the lashing rain had almost stopped, but an almost storm force wind was blowing. These conditions put any thoughts of a day with the Butterflies out of my mind. But later in the morning the sun came out and it turned quite warm. So I risked a trip to the same location as Friday, the old railway. What a surprise!!!, Orange Tips, and a Holly Blue on the wing (wind!). All told I obtained images of three Male Orange Tips and a Male Holly Blue with open wings.

Glad i didn't write the Day off 😊 .
TREVOR







Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 06-May-15 04:01 AM GMT

Lovely Orange tip and Pearl photos Trevor, I was up at Gait Barrow yesterday no sign of the PBF yet but plenty of OT's Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 06-May-15 06:39 AM GMT

Cracking Pearls and OTs Trevor 😊 - no Dukes for me yet but should be by next weekend if the weather plays fair.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-May-15 12:57 AM GMT



Another trip to see the Pearl Bordered Fritillaries revealed almost certain extinction from one of the initial release sites in Abbots Wood. The particular site concerned is one I've frequented many times in past years. The last good year was 2012, 2011 being exceptional. Today this site is in good condition ie. open, sunny with plenty of Bugle and Dog Violets but no Pearls. So it is fortunate that the main site still holds a population, which so far this year are in about the same numbers as 2014. I feel that the cold Spring of 2013, when most Spring Butterflies were about a month late, did not help matters.

Today there were more Females on the wing since my last visit.

TREVOR.



WEAR OR LACK OF PIGMENT ?.

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 09-May-15 03:32 AM GMT

Hi Trevor,

Just catching up on your diary, some great reports and photos recently 😊

I have seen a couple of examples of PBFs like the one in your last photo with the pale patch in previous years at the Wyre forest. Not sure what causes it but the ones I saw were not worn or faded so they emerged like it, possibly as a result of sudden temperature change in the pupa or something like that.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 09-May-15 05:56 AM GMT

More great Pearls Trevor 😊 Aren't the paler patches caused by pathogenic action 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-May-15 08:09 PM GMT



As the weather was looking rather unsettled this morning I decided not to venture too far. This turned out to be one of my better decisions because a Female Holly Blue was spotted by complete chance sheltering, low down, from the wind. I spent about 20 mins. hoping for the sun to appear, which it did briefly, and she obligingly opened her wings, revealing the most stunning blue on an almost perfect specimen. Without a doubt this was the best encounter I have ever had with a Holly Blue, 😊

TREVOR.





Re: Trevor

by keving, 09-May-15 11:04 PM GMT

Great Holly Blue shots Trevor. They are not always the easiest to photo open winged and I was happy when I got some myself a couple of weeks ago. Good stuff.

Regards Kev

Re: Trevor

by Pete Eeles, 10-May-15 05:20 AM GMT

Excellent shots of a spring female Holly Blue! Nice one!

Cheers,

- Pete

Re: Trevor

by David M, 10-May-15 06:26 AM GMT

Boy oh boy, that's an encounter to die for, Trevor.

She's posing beautifully.

You did really well.

Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 10-May-15 08:54 PM GMT

That's a lovely Holly Blue trevor 😊 superb Pearls too 😊

Mike

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 11-May-15 01:39 AM GMT

Fantastic open winged shots Trevor 🍷🍷 simply lovely Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 11-May-15 05:00 AM GMT

Hi Trevor - wonderful female Holly Blue. Beautiful deep colour and a superb pose - they don't come any more open or balanced than that. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Nick Broomer, 11-May-15 05:35 AM GMT

Hi Trevor,

great photos of the Holly Blue. Well done.

All the best, Nick.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-May-15 05:44 AM GMT

Hi Everyone,

Many thanks for the kind messages concerning the Holly Blue images. For me it was almost like one of those Purple moments.

Today I witnessed wings of a different kind, when a Hurricane flew over Horsted Keynes. With the VE day anniversary celebrations recently, I thought it appropriate to post some images of the flypast .

Best wishes,
TREVOR.



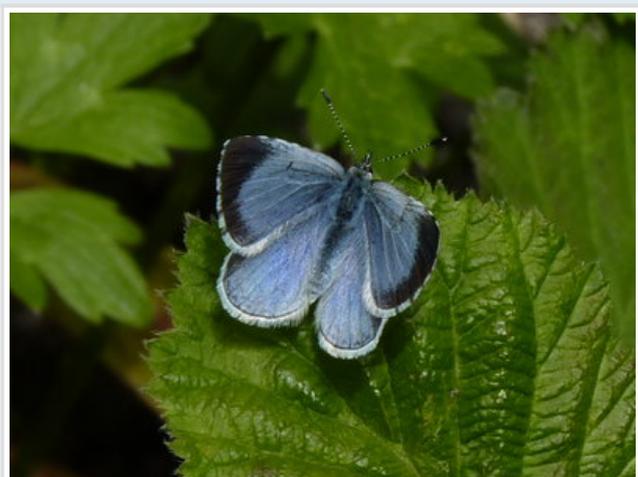
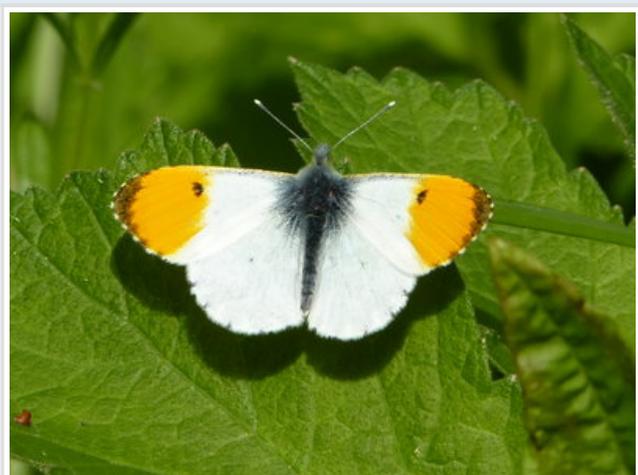
Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-May-15 08:57 PM GMT



With the forecast for a warm day, I set out early to the old railway cutting. On arrival all was quiet, just the odd Speckled Wood for the first hour or so. But then the Orange Tips began to put on a show. But the grand finale, as i was heading back to the car, another Female Holly Blue landed near by. Close inspection revealed a beautiful specimen, and she was almost as obliging as the one the other day !.

TREVOR.





Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 12-May-15 03:48 AM GMT

I'll join in the praise for those Holly Blues, stunning pics 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 12-May-15 10:10 PM GMT



THE OLD RAILWAY, HAILSHAM, THERE'S A FREE CAR PARK BEHIND THE CAMERA.

Some images from the old railway in Hailsham, including a view of the site.

Lots of Holly Blues today, and some welcome Green Veined Whites.

TREVOR.





Re: Trevor

by Willow, 13-May-15 12:06 AM GMT

I'm in awe of your wonderful open-winged posing **Holly Blue Trevor**...great stuff 😊

Regards,

Bill 😊

"When in doubt - venture out"

Re: Trevor

by badgerbob, 13-May-15 01:13 AM GMT

Great Holly Blue shots Trevor. Not an easy butterfly to get!!!!

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 13-May-15 06:28 AM GMT

Fantastic Holly Blue shots Trevor 🍷🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 13-May-15 02:29 PM GMT

You have certainly mastered the art of getting great shots of Holly Blues Trevor. Some great images there which I have never managed to achieve with this species.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-May-15 05:20 AM GMT



MY FIRST DINGY SKIPPER OF 2015

I was on a Butterfly high today!

With no fewer than four new species, for this year, in one day! First on the scene was a skirmish between a Duke and a Green Hairstreak. When they broke off I managed an image of both of them. Next a Duke disturbed a Dingy Skipper, and despite several chases the Dingy Skipper always returned to the same perch.

Later in the day I managed an image of my first Small Heath of the year.

In short, weather fabulous, Butterflies fabulous 😊.

TREVOR.





TWINS !

Re: Trevor

by Butterflysaurus rex, 15-May-15 06:17 AM GMT

You're doing very well this spring Trevor! I like how the lower Green Hairstreak is looking up at the higher one. I suspect a duel is imminent. 😊

Best Wishes

James

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 15-May-15 06:18 AM GMT

Great to see that you got your Dukes Trevor 😊 I need to get mine now 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-May-15 09:57 PM GMT



Pearl Bordered Fritillary AB?

A further visit to Abbots Wood today for Pearl Bordered Fritillaries ,found them very active. The cloudy conditions when i left home, had given way to strong sunshine by the time i arrived on site. Among those seen was one that could qualify as an ab. with extra, dark markings. I also found my first Small Copper of the year,sampling wild Strawberry flowers. Unfortunately this specimen was quite worn but very welcome .

All the best ,
TREVOR.







Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 17-May-15 03:53 AM GMT

Glad you found your first Small Copper Trevor, i envy you your Pearl's , 🍷 nice photos as well Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 17-May-15 05:12 AM GMT

Hi Trevor, glad you got your Dukes and that first Green hairstreak is a stunner. That Pearl-bordered Fritillary must be an *ab* 😊

Mike

Re: Trevor

by Willow, 17-May-15 06:06 AM GMT

"Maximus" wrote:

That Pearl-bordered Fritillary must be an *ab* 😊

Certainly is Trevor...excellent find (and pic!).

Bill 😊

"When in doubt - venture out"

Re: Trevor

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

Interesting *Ab* there Trevor, very nicely/heavily marked 😊 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-May-15 12:46 AM GMT



A visit to Abbots Wood this morning, in almost perfect weather, revealed only three maybe four, Pearl Bordered Fritillaries. Most welcome was my second Grizzled Skipper of the year, and a perfect Green Hairstreak which was a bright turquoise in colour, but unfortunately, despite having been seen twice, did not hang around for the camera.

Another Insect I saw is I think a Clearwing Moth, hopefully someone can give a positive ID. Something about the atmosphere today told me that the 'June gap' is not too far away. But after that we can look forward to the spectaculars in July!
Tomorrow I'm looking for Dukes, and Friday Marsh Fritillaries.

Best wishes,
TREVOR.





CLEARWING ?

Re: Trevor

by Willow, 21-May-15 05:15 AM GMT

Some nice images, Trevor 😊

Your 'clearwing' is actually a Scorpion Fly *Panorpa germanica*

Regards,

Bill 😊

"When in doubt -venture out"

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 21-May-15 05:16 AM GMT

Thats a female Scorpionfly Trevor, *Panorpa* sp. cool little critters, one of my favourite non lepi insects 😊. Got some male pics today which I shall post in my PD shortly.

'Edit' dammit Bill you got there first!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-May-15 06:50 AM GMT

Thanks for the ID., Bill and Buggy. I had never seen one before, but the general shape plus antennae suggested a Moth. I live and learn.

Best wishes,
TREVOR.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-May-15 04:19 AM GMT



An early start today meant 2 hours Butterflying before heading for work. I could never have predicted the action packed morning that lay ahead. I arrived on site about 8am and straight away spotted a Duke

of Burgundy warming up on a leaf (still there when i left). About 8.15 the Dingy Skippers started to stir together with the Green Hairstreaks and both were soon whizzing around everywhere.

Until today i had never seen a Green Hairstreak nectaring, only posing on leaves, but several were seen taking nectar from Hawthorn blossom, making for some nice images.

Also seen, a Large White and Common Blue. All images taken between 8am and 9.30am !.

TREVOR



LOVELY NEW DUCHESS.







Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 22-May-15 05:43 AM GMT

Fantastic photos of the Hair Streaks Trevor, I've never seen them either on flowers before they look even greener 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 22-May-15 06:16 AM GMT

Lovely Hairstreaks, my first ever Green Hairstreak was nectaring on a daisy, since then though I've only ever seen them basking or attempting to lay eggs.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 22-May-15 06:16 AM GMT

Cracking Duke and Greenstreak shots Trevor 🍷 I'm going to my Duke site for the fourth time this weekend, I have heard that they've started emerging there (finally) so fingers crossed.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-May-15 12:54 AM GMT



A BUTTERFLY UTTERLY SUITED TO THE DAY.....DINGY!

A planned trip to Wiltshire today, for Marsh Fritillaries, went horribly wrong!

I left home at dawn under clear skies, in the Portsmouth area i drove into cloud, and by Salisbury

it was raining. At my destination low cloud, mist and drizzle welcomed me 🌧️

After an hour i headed back to Sussex, stopping off on the way to visit a site known for Blues.

Here i found Small Blue, Holly Blue, Common Blue and Brown Argus all singletons as by this time the cloud cover had reached Sussex.

TREVOR.



SMALL BLUE



COMMON BLUE



BROWN ARGUS



SMALL BLUE



COMMON BLUE



Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 23-May-15 02:46 AM GMT

Hi Trevor,

That is some great early morning action the other day 😊

Cheers,

Neil

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 23-May-15 03:14 AM GMT

Love the Blues Trevor, not out here yet Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 25-May-15 07:16 PM GMT

A quick visit to the Downs this morning produced a couple of very fresh Common Blues.

TREVOR.





Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 25-May-15 07:35 PM GMT

Lovely recent photos Trevor, great Green Hairstreaks and Dukes/Duchess 😊

Mike

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 25-May-15 11:55 PM GMT

Nice blues Trevor, at last I saw some as well 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 26-May-15 05:39 AM GMT

Nice selection of blues Trevor 😊 I'm sorry the Marsh Frit site didn't work out – blooming weather spoiling the best laid plans 😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-May-15 09:35 PM GMT

A trip this morning to see Adonis Blue failed. But i did find my first Wall Browns of the year , and as a bonus i managed images of both Male and Female ! The zoom on my camera came in very handy ! 😊

TREVOR.





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 26-May-15 09:54 PM GMT

Very nice Wall's Trevor sorry about the Adonis Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Willrow, 27-May-15 11:37 PM GMT

I'm 🇩🇪 Trevor, not seen a single Wall this year...(butterfly that is... 😊).

Regards,

Bill 😊

"When in doubt - venture out"

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-May-15 01:41 AM GMT

I finally tracked down my first Adonis Blues today, with four Males seen altogether. In the strong sunshine they weren't for hanging about!, nor were the Wall Browns, with two's three's and more spiralling around at high speed then separating and landing briefly. Once again the zoom on my camera came in handy , close approach would have been impossible. Today's images are not the best but in the circumstances i think they are worth sharing.

TREVOR.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-May-15 09:52 PM GMT

A return visit to the South Downs this morning, for Adonis Blues, was somewhat frustrated by a stiff breeze. With most Butterflies sheltering right down in the grass it came as great surprise to find a Female Adonis, my first this year, opening her wings almost for the first time.

TREVOR.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 29-May-15 12:46 AM GMT



After lunch, I thought a further visit to the old railway cutting, in Hailsham was overdue. What a difference a few days can make at this time of year! Gone are the Orange Tips, and no Holly Blues seen. Some new residents have moved in, at least six Red Admirals were seen. Some, but not all, were in good condition, I guess these might be immigrants. The only thing that has remained constant at this site since my last visit is the number of Speckled Woods, which were in good numbers.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 31-May-15 03:34 AM GMT



I took a quick break from my journey this morning, stopping off at a meadow to see what was about. To my surprise, at 8.30am and only 13c., there were many Common Blues warming up, and some were quite lively. Only Males were seen, and most in pristine condition. Also three Dingy Skippers put in an appearance and were showing signs of age. In all a very productive half an hour!

TREVOR.





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 31-May-15 09:07 PM GMT

Just catching up on postings Trevor, the Adonis Blue photos look great also the Red Admiral and Common Blue shots, we'll have to wait a while for RA up here the weathers been so bad Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Willow, 01-Jun-15 12:04 AM GMT

Good to see someone is getting Red Admiral they are conspicuous by their absence at present, at least in my patch 😊 Nice posts Trevor 😊

Regards,

Bill 😊

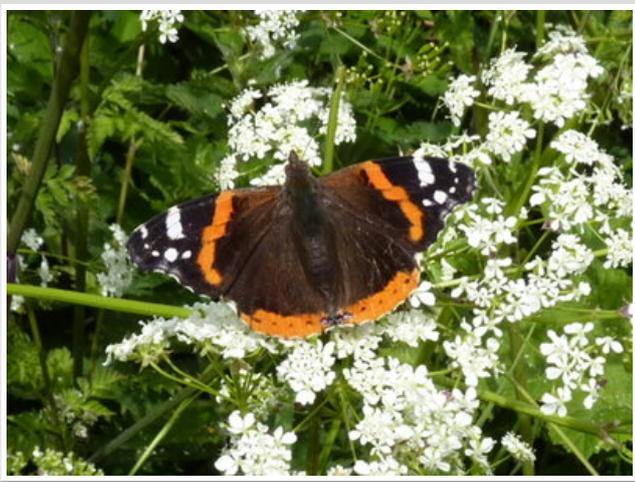
"When in doubt - venture out"

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-Jun-15 05:21 AM GMT

With an awful weather forecast for today i did'n't venture far (at 21.15 it has still not rained here !).
But i did find some Red Admirals, two of which posed for the camera.

TREVOR.



Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 02-Jun-15 05:30 AM GMT

Nice that Red Ad's are beginning to show again.

Mike

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 02-Jun-15 07:38 AM GMT

I agree with Mike Trevor – it's great to see teh Red Admirals coming back – great shots too! 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 04-Jun-15 12:49 AM GMT

With the 'June gap' now upon us, as far as woodland species are concerned, there wasn't much flying today apart from two Holly Blues, a Large White and some very fresh looking Speckled Woods.

TREVOR.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 04-Jun-15 06:06 AM GMT

Great Specklies Trevor, especially the final shot – you can always rely on them to see you through the lean times 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 04-Jun-15 07:20 AM GMT

Not a bad way to get though the June gap Trevor, very nice Specklies 😊

Mike

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 04-Jun-15 10:10 PM GMT



This morning i paid a visit to Friston Forest, more particularly to an area known as the Gallops. This is a vast area of both long and short grassland , and nearly every species one might expect to see in such habitat was present !.

I will let the images obtained speak for themselves.

Let every session be as good as this one ! 😊 .

TREVOR.





THE SMALL COPPER ON THE RIGHT, RAPIDLY VIBRATING WINGS.



MYSTERY OF THE DAY! LARGE OR SMALL SKIPPER?.



IMAGE OUT OF FOCUS, DIDN'T GET A SECOND CHANCE !.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 05-Jun-15 06:33 AM GMT

I'd go for Large Skipper on the mystrey skipper Trevor 😊 Cracking Smalls too (Copper and Blue) 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Jun-15 10:04 PM GMT



Hi Everyone,
Another trip to the Gallops at Friston Forest this morning , this time arriving on site at 8am. Four very worthwhile hours ensued, Two extra species appeared since my previous visit, a Large Skipper and (very rare for me this year) a Brown Argus with wings open. Small Blues were in very good numbers, the most i have ever seen in one day.

I thought of a little rhyme to help us through the June gap..... here goes!.

WHEN THE SPRING SPECIES BEGIN TO FADE,
GO AND FIND AN OPEN GLADE 😊 .

All the best ,
TREVOR.







Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Jun-15 10:11 PM GMT

Sorry, forgot the Brown Argus ! 😞



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 08-Jun-15 05:24 AM GMT

Great stuff Trevor – I followed your rhyme and it paid off – my first Large Skipper of the year today 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 08-Jun-15 03:52 PM GMT

Hi Wurzel,

Never mind the first Large Skipper of the year, it's now a matter of days for first WA, SWF,DGF,Ringlet, and of course His Majesty !.

Exciting times ahead 😊 (Weather permitting).
TREVOR.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-Jun-15 05:57 AM GMT

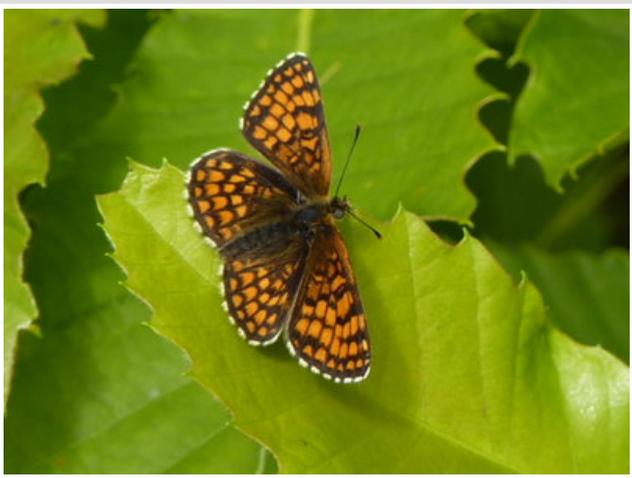
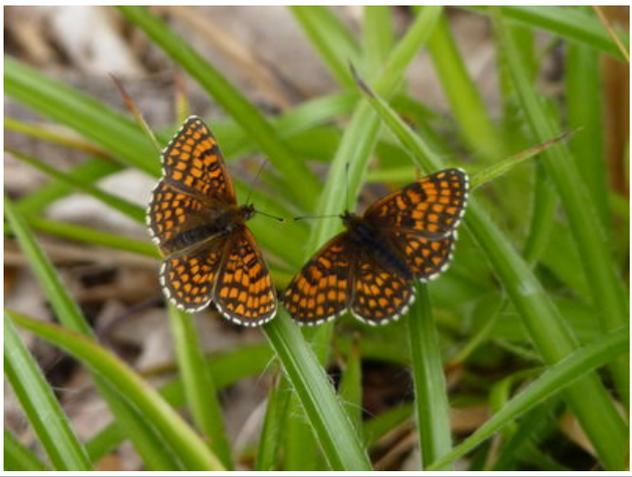


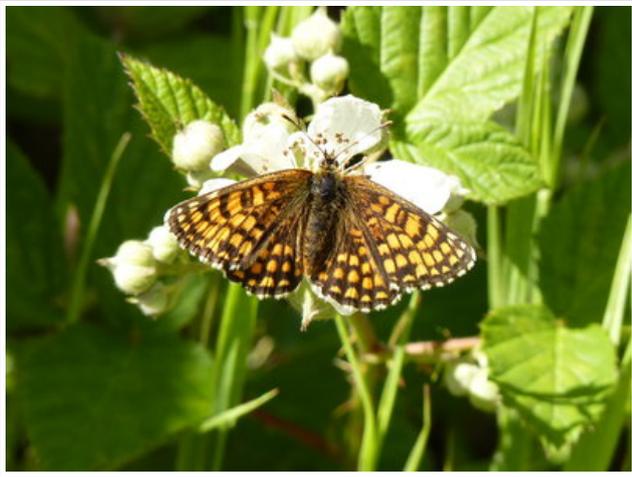
Doug.and myself had a very successful trip to East Blean woods today to see the Heath Fritillary. On arrival we were surprised to find the traditional car park area, where this Butterfly was abundant on my last visit in 2013, very overgrown. But with a little exploration we found an area of coppiced Sweet Chestnut with plentiful Cow Wheat and many Heath Fritillaries flying. We estimated about 40 were seen.

We also had the good fortune of meeting a very keen Dragon Fly enthusiast, who kindly pointed out a very rare Norfolk Hawker. I have included an image in this posting of this Male specimen.

TREVOR.







NORFOLK HAWKER.

Re: Trevor

by Willow, 09-Jun-15 11:22 PM GMT

Nice report Trevor and good images of the wonderful **Heath Fritillary** – I'm very envious of your Norfolk Hawker as a keen dragonfly enthusiast too 😊

Regards,

Bill 😊

"When in doubt – venture out"

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Jun-15 02:02 AM GMT

Hi Bill,

We had a great day with the Heath Fritillary.

I can't claim to have found the Norfolk Hawker, it was pointed out to me. In Butterfly terms it sounded as rare as finding a Camberwell Beauty in Kent.

Keep up the good work,
TREVOR.

Re: Trevor

by kevlng, 10-Jun-15 02:23 AM GMT

Trevor,

Beautiful shots of the Heath Frits. I'm hoping to visit the Essex colonies soon, as they are now starting to emerge.

Well done with the rare Norfolk Hawker. i was hoping to see one last weekend at Strumpshaw fen, when I saw the Swallowtails. I did manage a Four Spotted Chaser and several damselflies though.

Regards Kev

Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 10-Jun-15 04:00 AM GMT

Lovely photos of the Heath Fritillaries Trevor 😊 and a great first pic 😊 a butterfly i've not seen for a couple of years.

Mike

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-Jun-15 12:12 AM GMT

A big surprise in my garden this morning , a pair of Bullfinches investigating the trees and shrubs.

I can honestly say that i have not seen a Bullfinch for many, many years. I don't know if they are now rare, but there is no mistaking the beautiful pink Male. They were once considered a pest by fruit farmers for pecking off blossom buds. They can use my garden any time !.

As the forecast was for a better day,i drove over to Beckley woods, here i found the ' June gap ' in full swing. But i did find my first Painted Lady of the year, plus three very worn Common Blues.

When i arrived back in Hailsham i paid a quick visit to the old railway cutting and found four very fresh Red Admirals and many Speckled Woods harassing them.

I am going to watch this site very closely in the coming weeks because it looks a good environment for White Admirals

TREVOR.

PS. I also found a pure white Spotted Orchid amongst hundreds of normal ones at Beckley.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 11-Jun-15 06:28 AM GMT

Lovely Red Admirals Trevor and I can't remember the name for the white variant of Spotted Orchid but it's a beaut. I'm most envious of the Heaths though 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Willow, 13-Jun-15 07:00 PM GMT

Glad you enjoyed the Bullfinch visit Trevor, they're not rare but like so many other British birds nowhere near as common as previously.

Nice images with your recent PD entries 😊

Regards,

Bill 😊

"When in doubt - venture out"

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-Jun-15 01:22 AM GMT

Once the cloud cover cleared this afternoon i went to Birling Gap to try my luck. But despite the sunshine it was another day of a strong cool breeze, making photography almost impossible. I did however find my first two Meadow Browns of the year, also a Small White , Large Skipper and many Common Blues.

TREVOR.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 16-Jun-15 07:04 AM GMT

Great shot of the Meadow Brown Trevor 😊 – they never normally show their open wings until they're all battered and torn 😞 Cheers for the offer of info for the Heaths, Philzoid and I winged it in the end and it turned out brill 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-Jun-15 10:01 PM GMT

I popped over to Abbots Wood for an hour this morning, where i found another Meadow Brown. But more exciting was the opportunity to see and photograph my first ever sighting of what i think is a Beautiful Damoiselle. In flight it was the most gorgeous royal blue. How common are they ?. If i had seen one previously its something i would remember ! Comments welcome.

TREVOR.



Re: Trevor

by kevlng, 17-Jun-15 04:28 AM GMT

Trevor,

Very nice picture of the Beautiful Damoiselle and a good find. This species is less widespread than the Banded Damoiselle in that it is more restricted to South West England, Wales and Southern Ireland (very rare/isolated to the East of the country where I am). It's breeding habit is more akin to flowing streams and rivers, but it is also commonly found in farmland and woodland too.

Regards Kev

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 17-Jun-15 04:52 AM GMT

That Demoiselle really lives up to it's name, never seen one myself. Like Kevling says, much more localised than it's banded cousin which is a bit more catholic in it's preferred habitats, but it is found as far east as parts of Kent in the south so Abbots Wood fits with its current UK distribution 😊

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 18-Jun-15 04:13 AM GMT

Hi! Trevor, still catching up on my postings, your shots of the Heath Frits are great and also your news that they're doing well, when I went last year they were few and far between so that's great news Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-Jun-15 05:14 AM GMT

I do not intentionally go out looking for Dragonflies, but recently they have found me ! Today's offering is a Broad Bodied Chaser that landed very close to where i was standing.

TREVOR.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 19-Jun-15 12:47 AM GMT

A short visit to abbots Wood produced my first Small Skipper of the year. Also today i noticed that the Meadow Brown numbers are building, only Males were seen. AND another species of Damsel Fly landed on a leaf just above my head. It must be my aftershave ! 😊 .

TREVOR.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 20-Jun-15 06:47 AM GMT

Great Samll Skipper Trevor 😊 I'd like to get some shots of the Beautiful Demioselle 🍷 so what aftershave do you use Trevor? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Willow, 20-Jun-15 07:38 PM GMT

Very good Trevor, your recently discovered interest in dragonflies can only enrich your countryside and natural history interests.

Regarding you PM: male Beautiful Demoiselle do have on close observation dark brown-black wings, they appear under certain light conditions (as your image indicates) to be far more blue than they actually are, its almost impossible to do justice to the incredible colours of either demoiselle species in words. Whatever, we have to reach some agreement for ID purposes and generally both of the major British fieldguides describe the male Beautiful Demoiselle as having 'dark brown-black' wings, I would advise you to check out the Books section on my website (see link below) and then invest in the one that appeals to you the most, both are exceptionally good and you will find them a massive help in the field...and especially with 'general' colour descriptions which is a real minefield compared to our butterflies 😊😊

Hope this helps a little.

Kind Regards,

Bill 😊

"When in doubt - venture out"

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-Jun-15 09:41 PM GMT



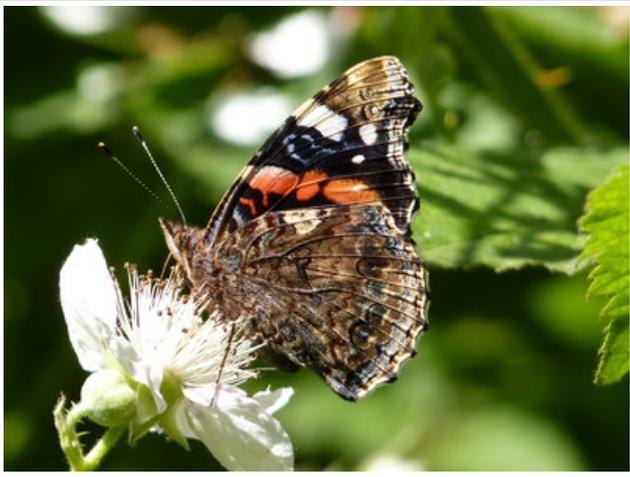
This morning, in bright sunshine, i drove over to Birling Gap with two species in mind. When i arrived the cloud was building and any gaps of blue sky were filling in, resulting in largely overcast conditions. When the sun briefly appeared, later on, i caught sight of my first quarry, a beautiful, fresh, male, Dark Green Fritillary (one of two seen) then within a few minutes the other species i was after a Marbled White. There were more of these. but they only flew during the very brief spell of sun. I also found a roosting Common Blue, and some Meadow Browns.

Things are getting livelier 1 😊
TREVOR.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 24-Jun-15 09:13 PM GMT



A couple of local sites were visited today, principally to look for White Admiral and Silver Washed Fritillary. I don't think either species are on the wing just yet here in East Sussex, but it can only be a matter of days before they appear.

The species i did find could, for the time being, be considered ' the regulars ' ie. Meadow Browns, Skippers etc. Surprise of the day was a fresh Small Tortoiseshell imbibing in something unpleasant and also a Stinging Nettle top covered in what i think are freshly emerged Peacock Larvae.

Bonus of the day for me was the opportunity to obtain my best ever Red Admiral underside image.

Happy Butterflying,
TREVOR.





Re: Trevor

by Willow, 25-Jun-15 05:09 AM GMT

"trevor" wrote:

A couple of local sites were visited today, principally to look for White Admiral and Silver Washed Fritillary. I don't think either species are on the wing just yet here in East Sussex

I believe WA is just out in Wiltshire Trevor...so you don't have long to wait 😊

Bill 😊

"When in doubt - venture out"

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 25-Jun-15 05:43 AM GMT

Hi Trevor,

Although I did not see it myself a White Admiral was apparently seen in Whitecross Green Wood this morning by at least two different people when I was there.

Cheers,

Neil

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 25-Jun-15 06:12 AM GMT

Many thanks Bill and Neil, i will be keeping a lookout for WA's. Tomorrow i hope to visit a site near Chichester which looks good for WA and SWF. It's good to know that they are being seen.

Best wishes to you both,
TREVOR.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Jun-15 04:05 AM GMT

Hi All.

As the Purple Emperor season is now close, i will be calling in on Eartham Woods every Thursday on my way to work. I called in this morning, arriving at about 8.15, but there was not much going on. Until i saw a large Butterfly swoop down from the trees, flying in a spiraling and zig~zag motion before landing on the track, once down it started walking, opening and closing its wings at the same time. Unfortunately i was 50 to 60ft away from this Butterfly,and with a shaft of sunlight between me and it, positive ID was impossible (by now you should have guessed what species i was hoping to see!), But when i got closer, this is what it turned out to be.....



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 26-Jun-15 05:46 AM GMT

I'd still be chuffed with a Red Admiral shot like that Trevor 🍷 I've only seen four so far this year and not a single one has stopped 😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

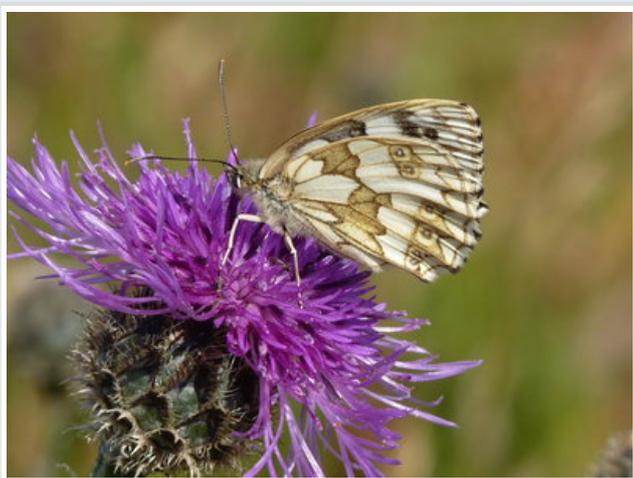
by millerd, 26-Jun-15 05:58 AM GMT

Yes, that's a lovely one, Trevor! 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 29-Jun-15 11:58 PM GMT



With the weather forecasters promising a hot day, i set out early this morning and visited three fairly local sites. My first stop off was Birling Gap, here , despite the early hour the Marbled Whites were up and about, literally hundreds were seen during my visit. Including two newly emerged females, which posed patiently for the camera. My main target here was for Dark Green Fritillaries, but only seven were seen.

Although there is plenty of Red Clover, the Knapweed is mostly still in bud.
My next stop was Abbots Wood, still no WA or SWF, but i was rewarded with a basking Meadow Brown with wings fully open. My final visit was to the old railway cutting, where a very fresh Comma put in an appearance.

TREVOR.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 30-Jun-15 03:18 AM GMT

Further to my report earlier today, i had a rare visit to my garden by a Meadow Brown this afternoon. My Cat also showed some interest in this Butterfly, probably viewing it as a quick snack !.

All the best,
TREVOR.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Jul-15 12:40 AM GMT

Very early this morning i set off for Beckley Woods, but in three hours i saw mostly Meadow Browns and little else of note.

But i did manage a shot or two of another Dragon Fly species. I have looked at various identification sites and if this one had been there i would have spotted it. Maybe only one sex was illustrated and my image is of the other. Answers on a postcard please !.

All the best,
TREVOR.

PS. To fully appreciate it's subtle colours, click on the image twice.



Re: Trevor

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 01-Jul-15 01:37 AM GMT

Looks like a fresh female Emperor to me Trevor, not an easy dragon to approach, well done.

James

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Jul-15 03:04 AM GMT

Thanks James, iv'e had no problem charming Dragon Flies this year, it's the Butterflies that can be difficult.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 01-Jul-15 04:31 AM GMT

Trevor love the cat, 😊 Your having more luck with the Butterflies than I am, I hope I can get some photos of the Marble White before they disappear, yours are great. Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Jul-15 09:03 PM GMT

Hi Everyone,

The old railway cutting, in Hailsham, continues to amaze. Giving me today, the biggest surprise of my Butterflying career to date. I took my camera with me on what was primarily a trip to the supermarket, but all thoughts of shopping were quickly dispelled when i spotted my first Gatekeeper of the year. This was joined by another small brown Butterfly, which after a short skirmish, landed close to the ground in front of me . A WHITE LETTER HAIRSTREAK !. Only my second ever sighting of one, and that was in Brighton.

Panic set in !, as it started ' walking ' on the foliage,only milliseconds to get the camera ready, several duff shots later it flew a few yards and landed in an almost perfect position for a decent shot. Now the mystery. I am not aware of any Elm trees nearby, indeed there are now rare in the area.

I hope it was a wild specimen and not a release of a captive bred one.

Shocks and surprises don't get any better than this! 😊

TREVOR.



Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 02-Jul-15 03:22 AM GMT

Thats what I call lucky Trevor and a great shot too, I'm hoping to see one this season, hope fully I'll have the same luck Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 02-Jul-15 06:03 AM GMT

Fantastic stuff Trevor 🍴😊 I just hope that you aren't too hungry now having forgotten the shopping 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-Jul-15 03:27 AM GMT



I paid my weekly visit to Eartham Woods today .I was not expecting to see HIM , and i didn't. Maybe next week i can visit with some expectation !.

Eartham Woods is home to some very beautiful Red Admirals, and somehow their colours seemed more vibrant than usual. I also had the opportunity to get my first Ringlet shots of the year, two of which allowed open and closed wing images.

TREVOR.





Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 03-Jul-15 04:37 AM GMT

What a fantastic find in the White-letter Hairstreak Trevor, brilliant photo too 😊 In fact brilliant photos throughout 😊

Mike

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-Jul-15 09:27 PM GMT

After the excitement earlier in the week with the White Letter Hairstreak, the old railway cutting in Hailsham could only offer some of the more common species that thrive there. Meadow Browns are frequently seen, but not in epidemic quantities, so one basking with open wings could not be resisted. Also a very fresh Comma was in a nice position for a decent shot. Numbers of 'Whites' seem to be on the increase with many seen. Next week i hope most of my time will be spent in search of Purple Emperor, weather permitting, the odd sightings of HIM. are now being reported from various parts of the south.

Happy hunting,
TREVOR.





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 04-Jul-15 02:28 AM GMT

Hi! Trevor great shots, I love your WLH, 🍀 I've not seen one yet but I'm going to go to an old Railway siding tomorrow so hope fully I'll have your luck 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 04-Jul-15 05:21 PM GMT



I set out very early this morning specifically to photograph some lethargic Marbled Whites. I arrived on site about 6.15, welcomed by hazy sunshine. Even at this early hour they were quite active. But misty cloud soon obscured the sun and some relaxed photography was possible. I have learned my lesson with this species, go when they have warmed up, see lots of Butterflies, but not many pictures. All images taken between 6.10 and 7.50 am.(when it started to rain).

TREVOR.





Re: Trevor

by Willow, 04-Jul-15 06:37 PM GMT

Some smashing recent reports Trevor 😊

Only wish I could find **White-letter Hairstreak** on the way to my local supermarket, I'd probably end up volunteering to do all the shopping 😂

Bill 😊

"When in doubt - venture out"

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 04-Jul-15 11:41 PM GMT

Later this morning i managed a shot of what i think is a summer generation G.V.White female.

TREVOR.



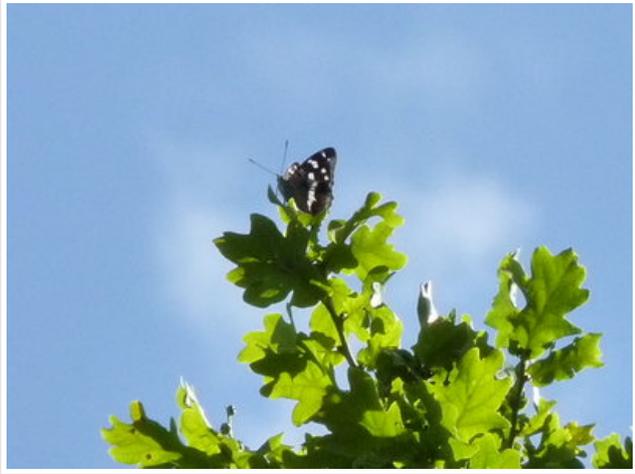
Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-Jul-15 06:06 PM GMT

Hi All,

A problem i cannot identify has wiped three attempts to post a report from yesterday, so i will only post the images taken and hope they upload.

Sorry,
TREVOR.









Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 07-Jul-15 10:09 PM GMT

Hi! Trevor, that's happened to me a few times with my postings and other's as well I believe. Great shots any way, lovely photos, where did you take them? Goldie M 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 08-Jul-15 06:23 AM GMT

It's happened to me too Trevor, generally just as I'm uploading the final photo – I think it might have something to do with lots of people all trying to do a posting at once? Mind you your photos tell a fantastic story by themselves 😊🌿

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

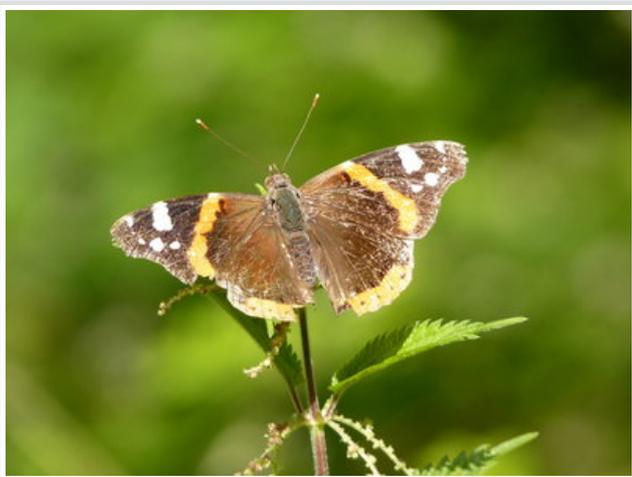
by Maximus, 08-Jul-15 08:04 AM GMT

It's also happened to me Trevor, usually after spending ages on the text, and like Wurzel just as I'm uploading the final photo 😊🌿 I agree that your photos tell the story of a great day, without any need for text 😊🌿

Mike

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-Jul-15 04:40 AM GMT



THE OLDER GENERATION !

My weekly visit to Eartham Wood was brought forward by one day. The early morning session was not possible owing to the weather, but by the evening things had improved and some of the more common Butterfly species were flying, or in the case of the Comma's sunning themselves. I also obtained my first images of a Gatekeeper for this season. No sign of him though.

TREVOR.





Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 09-Jul-15 04:51 AM GMT

Hi Trevor, great photos 😊

After having lost a few posts at the point of posting every so often, I am now in the habit of writing them in Word and then copy and pasting before adding the photos to post. At least then if it disappears into the ether I still have the original to try again.

Cheers,

Neil

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 09-Jul-15 05:20 AM GMT

Nice selection of shots Trevor 😊 I'm sure He will trun up when you least expect it or just as you're leaving to head home, I swear they watch and wait 🙄😏

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-Jul-15 05:32 AM GMT

Many thanks Goldie, Wurzel, Maximus and Neil.

The problem i occurred when i went to post the report. When i pressed ' submit ' log in kept repeating , of course i had logged in to get that far in the first place !.

Many thanks for your help,
TREVOR.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Jul-15 06:16 AM GMT

Some images from today, suffice to say, the Butterflies were magnificent, and plentiful.
(My more comprehensive report was wiped again !)

TREVOR.







Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 10-Jul-15 01:23 PM GMT

Great to catch up with you yesterday and great Purple Emperor photos!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-Jul-15 12:39 AM GMT

This week i have been to Botany Bay on three occasions, Monday, Thursday and today (Friday) principally for the Purple Emperor. The first two days saw several down on the ground, but either with closed wings or in a bad position for photography. I only witnessed several in the air today, but a group of others had an adventurous individual who landed on hats, hair, feet and permitted being positioned for some sensible photography. Well done to them!

Throughout the three days many White Admirals and Silver Washed Fritillaries were seen , both it would seem having a very good year. Today i saw two second generation male Holly Blues before reluctantly having to leave.

Also i would like to offer my congratulations to those who have managed to photograph the Monarch in Brighton. I've seen your lovely images.

TREVOR.

**Re: Trevor**

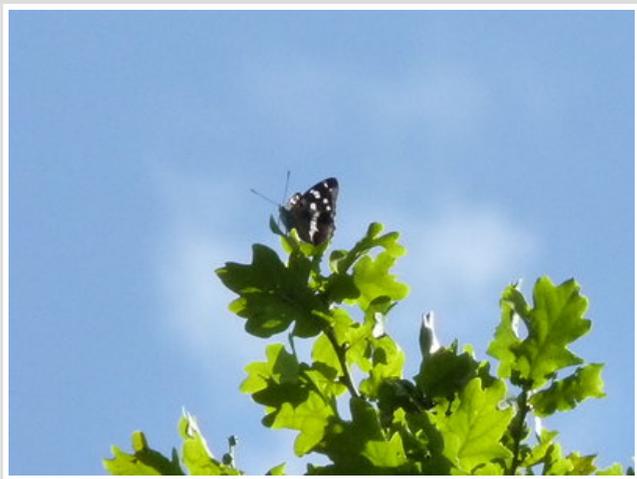
by trevor, 11-Jul-15 04:09 AM GMT

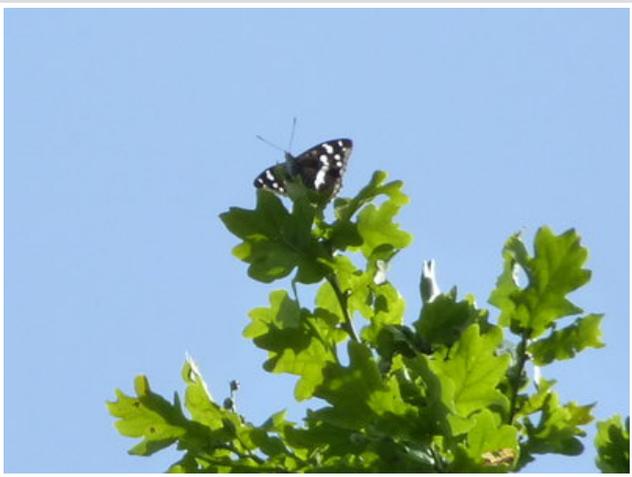


PETER FARRANT LOOKS TO THE HEAVENS

On Monday evening we witnessed some tree top action from H.I.M.
The fun bit was trying to locate the Emperors once they had landed back in the trees

TREVOR.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-Jul-15 11:56 PM GMT

Hi All,

This morning i went to the Knepp Estate in West Sussex to see some Purple Emperor action. In this respect Knepp is as good as it's cracked up to be, with multiple Emperors in the air at any one time, flying around the Oaks, and from the Oaks to the Sallows, and of course the occasional dog fight. I would estimate that about 25 were seen in the first hour. Photography, without expensive cameras and specialist lenses, is a bit of a challenge at this site because the Butterflies never seem to settle low down, and often stay on the wing. I did manage one shot when an individual perched in a Hazel for a short while. I also managed a shot of one of Knepp's wild Pigs, which roam free.

TREVOR



KNEPP GREEN VEINED WHITE AND FRIEND.



Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 12-Jul-15 03:40 AM GMT

Great shots Trevor, 🍷🍷 I hope I catch sight of the PE next week Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 13-Jul-15 12:54 AM GMT

Some great shots of the PEs, I like the "top of the tree ones" as they express the behaviour and character of Him, so aloof 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

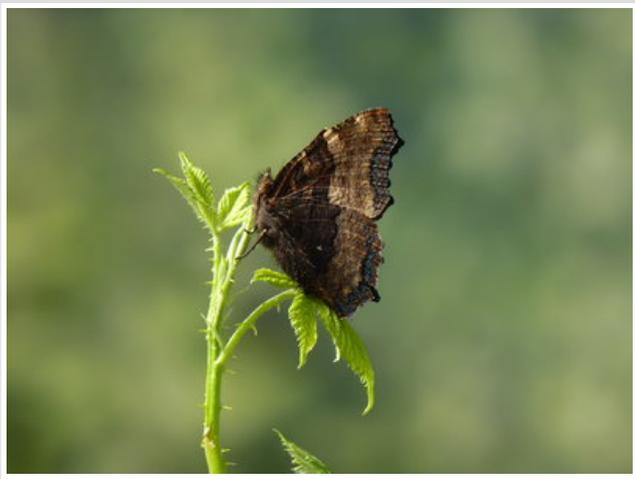
Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-Jul-15 02:14 AM GMT

After two days of relentless grey gloom, a few clear patches of blue sky this morning was all the encouragement i needed to get out with the camera. I initially set out to look for White Letter Hairstreaks. There are a few Elms i have seen from the car with Thistles and Brambles beneath that looked promising. But either there is no population or the cloudy conditions meant no show. None of the trees i looked at were at known sites.

At the last location i looked at i was pleased to find several Small Tortoiseshells, a Red Admiral, some Gate Keepers and a Green Veined White with creamy/yellow underside colouration, all Butterflies were very fresh.

TREVOR.







Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-Jul-15 02:01 AM GMT



WHITE LETTER DAY !

After yesterday's failure to locate the White Letter Hairstreak i thought i would have another try today. This time i went to a reliable site in Brighton, where i saw some in 2013. For the first hour the weather was not good, with very few breaks in the cloud, but the temperature was ok at 20c. With a short spell of sunshine my first Butterfly came down to nectar on a Thistle, and stayed for about 40 mins. I then saw two other Guys with cameras photographing another specimen further along the site. It was then a case of you show me yours and i'll show you mine !. With two WLH in the bag i was very pleased, but by now we were in full sunshine and the Butterflies kept coming 😊 . In all i would estimate about twelve WLH were seen, some newly minted and some with wear and tails missing. In all a very rewarding day.

TREVOR.









Re: Trevor

by William, 16-Jul-15 03:03 AM GMT

Superb photos of the White-Letter Hairstreaks and Purple Emperors, I'm very envious. Interestingly, your first photo from July the 14th looks like a Large Tortoiseshell – a very notable sighting!

Elms are one of their foodplants...

BWs,

William

Re: Trevor

by David M, 16-Jul-15 05:15 AM GMT

Great WLH images, Trevor. I dream of recording sequences like that!

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 16-Jul-15 05:20 AM GMT

Trevor – I thought it looked like a Large Tortoiseshell as well – compare the photo of the underside on the species page... It is near enough identical.

We need an expert Nymphalophile! 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Butterflysaurus rex, 16-Jul-15 05:28 AM GMT

Really nice WLH photos Trevor, seek and ye shall find. 😊

All the best

James

Re: Trevor

by Neil Hulme, 16-Jul-15 06:11 AM GMT

That's a Large OK! It looks very fresh too, despite the minor tear. Brilliant find. I sent you a PM earlier Trevor.
BWs, Neil

Re: Trevor

by Padfield, 16-Jul-15 06:17 AM GMT

😄😄 Casually chucking in a large tortoiseshell like that ... You've joined an elite club, Trevor!

Guy

Re: Trevor

by David M, 16-Jul-15 06:24 AM GMT

This critter doesn't have yellow legs either!!

Interesting that it should be seen when searching for fellow elm-dwelling White Letter Hairstreaks.

You could have started something here.

Re: Trevor

by Neil Hulme, 16-Jul-15 06:30 AM GMT

I'm not sure Trevor knows yet! He's going to have one hell of a nice surprise when he logs on next. In the meantime ... quick - let's all enjoy his LT before he gets back. 😄 Well spotted William. I must confess to not even having seen the image until I saw your comment and scrolled back.
BWs, Neil

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 16-Jul-15 06:44 AM GMT

You lucky bugger Trever! 🍷

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 16-Jul-15 07:08 AM GMT

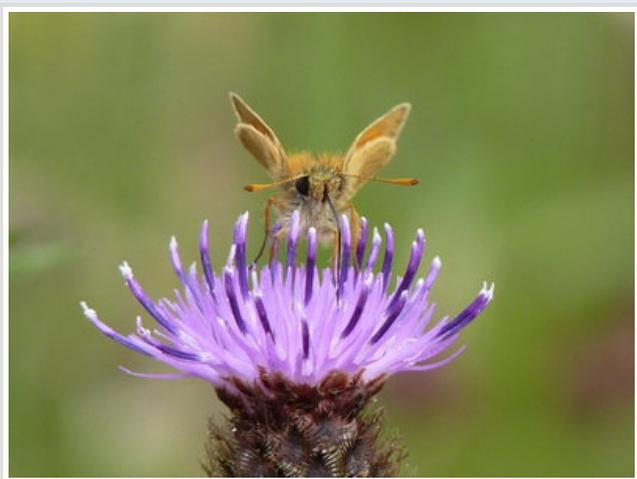
What a jammy geezer! 🍷 Mind you in the bird world if you didn't ID it then it doesn't count, do the same rules apply here 😄😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-Jul-15 06:18 AM GMT



Firstly many thanks for all your kind and enthusiastic comments on the Large Tortoiseshell and my White Letter Hairstreak images, the former was a fluke, the latter hard won after much searching (and a sunburnt forehead), and for me produced the most satisfaction.. I had not seen any WLH. since 2013. I do hope however that LTs. can make a comeback if Dutch Elm disease can be kept under some sort of control, if it's not WLH may become just as rare.

Today, on arrival at work i was met by an excited car salesman, who has a showroom next to the workshop i use. Yesterday he had a Purple Emperor land by one of his cars briefly, it then landed on the door of my workshop for a few seconds. No photo but a perfect description of the Butterfly was given. So add Halnaker, West Sussex to the purple map !. 😊
Halnaker is only 2.5 miles by road from Eartham Woods, a known Emperor site. But no sightings for me today, but i did see many Silver Washed Fritillaries, Commas and Skippers .

TREVOR



Note two eyespots on one wing, three on the other!



Re: Trevor

by Padfield, 17-Jul-15 06:26 AM GMT

Hi Trevor. It's not just the eyespots. On the side with two double-pupilled ocelli the wing venation is all wrong. It looks as if a whole bit of wing has grown twice.

Guy

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 17-Jul-15 06:31 AM GMT

I have a thing for Hedge Browns Trevor and that one is by far the most envy inducing shot that I've seen, in fact I reckon that it's even more envy inducing than a Large Tort 🍷🍷😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 17-Jul-15 07:16 AM GMT

I'm in agreement with Guy, I'd say at some point in it's development that right forwing started growing twice and was then merged into one wing. Or perhaps late on it tried to split into two? Whatever happened it's very interesting to see.

Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 17-Jul-15 11:41 PM GMT

Blimey Trevor, what a year you're having 😄 First, those fabulous PE shots (which were well deserved after all the time you put in), then the smashing WLH sequence and then a Large Tort 🍷🍷 Tell me this, how on earth can you be so casual about it?? Amazing find, and then you go on to find more stuff 🍷🍷 Well done you!!

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 17-Jul-15 11:54 PM GMT

I agree with Pauline Trevor what a year your having, very envious of your WLH 🍷🍷🍷 Goldie 😄

Re: Trevor

by Willow, 18-Jul-15 12:36 AM GMT

Send me a portion of your magic asap Trevor 😄 Fantastic 😄

BW's

Bill 😄

"When in doubt - venture out"

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-Jul-15 01:02 AM GMT

Two of our three visits today were spoilt by the weather, heavy cloud and a stiff breeze kept the Butterflies from flying. But at Southwater Woods we found a sheltered spot, and with some sun we at last saw some action. Several fresh looking White Admirals and summer brood Peacocks made for a good show, but the Silver Washed Fritillaries were supercharged and not for stopping.

TREVOR





Re: Trevor

by Butterflysaurus rex, 18-Jul-15 05:24 AM GMT

I'm having a really good look at your photos this time Trevor just so I don't miss the Camberwell Beauty you've sneakily popped in there..... 😊

Really nice White Admiral, I'd love a photo of one that fresh.

James

Re: Trevor

by David M, 18-Jul-15 08:01 AM GMT

"Butterflysaurus rex" wrote:

I'm having a really good look at your photos this time Trevor just so I don't miss the Camberwell Beauty you've sneakily popped in there...

LOL! 😊

Wouldn't surprise me!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Jul-15 09:58 PM GMT



It has been several weeks since my last visit to the old railway cutting in Hailsham. Among the changes that were noted was Bramble blossom giving way to ripening blackberries, in fact the whole Flora and Fauna had transformed in the short time i had been away from the site. This location always seems to come up with some Butterfly treats, and today it was two male Holly Blues that stole the show !. Both were found flying close to the ground, mostly settling on Bird droppings, they also rested for long periods with wings closed as the sun went in. BUT ! , as with that lovely female i photographed back in the Spring with open wings, the two males duly opened up when the sun reappeared, but only briefly before carrying on with their ground searching.

TREVOR.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Jul-15 10:16 PM GMT

Just popped out into the garden and saw this wonderful advert for recycling !.



Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 23-Jul-15 01:39 AM GMT

Very good – I do like a butterfly adorning a sign!
Congratulations on the Large Tortoiseshell too!

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 24-Jul-15 05:47 AM GMT

That's a cracking image Trevor – and an excellent advertisement for recycling 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Willrow, 24-Jul-15 06:55 PM GMT

Hope your taking out copyright on that poster Trev...and paying that lovely posing **Red Admiral** royalties too 😊

BW's

Bill 😊

"When in doubt – venture out"

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Jul-15 01:16 AM GMT



SATURDAY 25TH JULY Part 1.

This morning i thought i might like to repeat Wednesdays success with the Holly Blues.

So i paid a visit to the old railway cutting in Hailsham arriving at about 9.30, it was not long before my first Holly Blue appeared, flying low along the path searching for and finding a Bird dropping. Once engrossed i was able to get some very close up shots. this specimen then flew onto the vegetation and later opened it's wings. About twenty more were seen throughout the morning, and the images here are of three different males.

TREVOR.







Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Jul-15 02:17 AM GMT



SATURDAY 25th JULY Part two.

After my visit to the old railway i drove on to a site near Birling Gap. Here nearly every chalk grassland species can be found. But a stiff breeze hampered photography somewhat, i did however find many more species than i had bargained for. My first Chalkhill Blues of the year were to be found in large numbers, together with dwindling numbers of Dark Green Fritillaries and Marbled Whites. A population explosion of Small Skippers was evident with virtually every flower head containing at least one. But the Silver Spotted Skipper was absent, i was hoping to see some. Burnett Moths were also in large numbers and in varying condition, as were the many Meadow Browns and Gate Keepers. Before i left i could not resist some shots of the posing Commas.







Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 27-Jul-15 04:46 AM GMT

Good to see the Holly Blue technique working Trevor, I'll have to give that a go 😊 Great to see the Chalkhills 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 27-Jul-15 06:03 PM GMT

Whilst having my morning coffee in the garden, this male Holly Blue landed on a Geranium at 9.40. I just had time to grab the camera. This was the first time i have witnessed this species landing in my garden, however there have been many flypasts over the years.

TREVOR.

**Re: Trevor**

by Maximus, 27-Jul-15 08:38 PM GMT

Hi Trevor, loads of great Holly Blue photos recently in your PD, they never seem to stop in our garden. Fabulous White-letter Hairstreak photos earlier in your diary and a Large Tortoiseshell too 😊

Mike

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 29-Jul-15 12:44 AM GMT

With the car booked in for a service today i had no option but to stay local, so i walked to the old railway cutting. Because of the wind and cloud there was not much flying, so i was lucky to find some nicely marked Green Veined Whites plus some Speckled Woods and Holly Blues.

TREVOR.



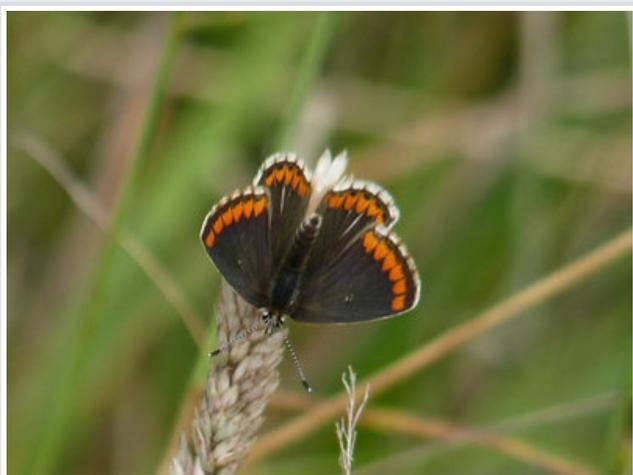
Re: Trevor

by trevor, 29-Jul-15 10:33 PM GMT



Decisions, decisions !. As the morning dawned with a clear blue sky, where do i go today ?. In the end i thought a trip to the South Downs was in order. The location i chose was at the extreme eastern end of the Downs overlooking Eastbourne. This site is somewhat unique in that there is a very large clump of Buddleia (with it's obvious attractions at this time of year), with a rough path running through it. Once past the Buddleia the area opens up into chalk grassland and here i found a Butterfly that i have not seen very often in any quantity, and have never obtained a decent image of. The Brown Argus, and what's more there were plenty of them and most were very fresh.and camera friendly!.This most unexpected find was exceptionally exciting and made my day! Also seen were many Hedge Browns, several Chalkhill Blues, Skippers, and a lovely Painted Lady. At the top of this post i have included an image of the view looking east from the site with part of Eastbourne in the foreground, Hastings on the far left horizon and to the right on the far horizon Dungeness power station, which is a good 45 miles distant!.

TREVOR.







Re: Trevor

by trevor, 29-Jul-15 11:42 PM GMT

PS. To the above post.

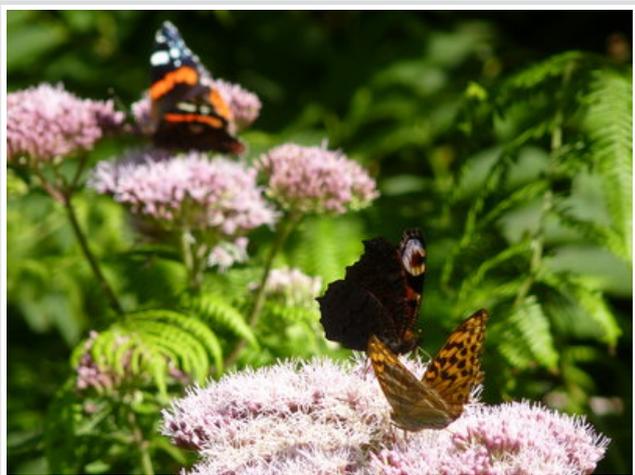
I've examined the images of the Brown Argus more closely and this specimen might qualify as an AB. The spots on the forewing are showing some white (it can't be an NBA.) and the hind wings have a white streak. Comments welcome.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 31-Jul-15 05:17 AM GMT

On the way to work this morning i called in at Earham Woods as usual and even with a temperature of only 14c there were plenty of Butterflies active or sunning themselves. One unusual sight was a badly deformed Red Admiral that otherwise looked quite fresh. I was also lucky enough to obtain a 3 up image of a female Silver Washed Fritillary, Peacock and Red Admiral. Appologies to Dave (millerd) 😊 .



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 31-Jul-15 05:56 AM GMT



After work i travelled on to Botany Bay, arriving about 4.30, mainly to see some Wood Whites. On the walk from the car to my destination within the wood there was an astonishing amount of Butterfly activity, including many, mostly worn, Silver Washed Fritillaries, and some lovely Peacocks, Male Holly Blues, White Admirals. Also seen was a mating pair of Hedge Browns and another pair showing great interest in each other. After a little searching i found about ten Wood Whites and as the time was now about 5.15 they were getting ready to roost.

TREVOR.







Re: Trevor

by David M, 31-Jul-15 06:15 AM GMT

Great images, Trevor. Second brood Wood Whites are something of a rarity in these fair isles. You should be grateful that you have them within decent travelling distance!

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 31-Jul-15 06:30 AM GMT

That is certainly an interesting Brown Argus – as well as the Red Admiral 😊 Great Wood Whites too, I was there the day before and they were great then too 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Aug-15 05:46 AM GMT



Doug and i had pre-arranged a visit to Botany Bay to see some Wood Whites. For me it was the second consecutive day at this site, and what a day it was !. We entered the wood from the Tugley wood entrance and found several Wood Whites on the walk to the triangle. Once at that location we found many fluttering Wood Whites wherever we looked.

One specimen began to open it's wings as i was aiming the camera, the text books say that's something they never do !. This is impossible i thought but the Butterfly opened up even more. I took my camera into the shade to examine these seemingly impossible images and on enlarging one particular shot i noticed a Crab Spider had the Butterfly by the head area. So i returned to the unfortunate Wood White and despatched the spider, but i think it was too late. 😞 .

We also observed several perching pairs among all the activity going on around us.

One Butterfly that attracted my attention was a Brimstone with an orange tint as it flew, i chased it for a short while until it landed keen to have a closer look. It transpired that the top of the forewing was slightly deformed and the upperside in that area was indeed orange, but this does not show on my image unfortunately .In all we had a cracking day!!.

TREVOR.



The 'orange' Brimstone.



Note the Crab Spider.



Re: Trevor

by David M, 01-Aug-15 05:48 AM GMT

Great open wing shots there, Trevor. Looks like you had a fantastic day.

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 01-Aug-15 06:27 AM GMT

What a great run you're having, Trev! Large Tort, WLH and those lovely Wood Whites. And your Holly Blues are not bad, either! They seem to be having a good summer generation this year. Great stuff.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Aug-15 07:25 AM GMT

A selection of normal Brimstones from Botany Bay, all very fresh with numbers building throughout

the day.

TREVOR.



Where's the Brimstone ?



There it is !





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 01-Aug-15 07:51 AM GMT

Great Wood Whites from Botany Bay, Trevor. 😊 I hope to get down there over the weekend sometime – I always overlook the second brood for some reason, and they are reliable on this site. Nice Brimstones, too. And I shall overlook the much flashier threesome you captured... 🍷 Keep looking for that female Holly Blue too – I'm also waiting for the first one here. 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Aug-15 03:03 PM GMT

Many thanks David and EssexB. Yes it is fortunate to have the Wood Whites within travelling distance (53 miles). I can't complain about my luck this year. The only disaster so far was a long journey to see Marsh Frit. only to find drizzle and mist on arrival.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Aug-15 10:29 PM GMT

With a couple of hours to spare this morning i thought that another species specific hunt was in order. My target was the Silver Spotted Skipper, so i drove to Malling Down overlooking Lewes, in E.Sussex (a town that the 1960s planners didn't get their hands on !). Here i found what i was looking for almost immediately, fortunately the temperature was still quite cool so for a while they were quite calm. But very easy to lose once they took off.

TREVOR.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-Aug-15 12:13 AM GMT

I had this welcome guest land on my patio this afternoon.



Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 02-Aug-15 01:14 AM GMT

Hi Trevor, just catching up on your recent excursions, great reports and photos of a good selection of species 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 02-Aug-15 06:47 AM GMT

Great Silver-spots Trevor, I particularly like the shot showing an attempt at mating 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-Aug-15 05:27 AM GMT

I made the briefest of visits to the Downs this morning. I thought the beautiful female Common Blue i found, basking, worth sharing.

TREVOR.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-Aug-15 09:04 PM GMT



Hi All,

This morning i managed to track down some very docile Wall Browns, each allowing me 1 to 2 secs. to obtain an image. It was an all male show with every passing Butterfly challenged and seen off. A tactic i employed to stand a chance of a shot was to find a favourite basking spot to which each Butterfly would invariably return .

Also another ' blue ' female Common Blue made herself available for an image.

TREVOR.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 04-Aug-15 10:54 PM GMT



I set out this morning specifically to look for Grayling. With the weather forecast for sunshine and breeze i was a little surprised that the breeze was verging on a gale, especially on top of the Downs. But the conditions may have been of some assistance. At the top of the long walk from the road there is a thicket of wind blown scrub, which to my surprise was host to at least twenty male Wall Browns warming up and sheltering from the wind, and none of them were in a hurry to escape from my camera! 😊 . The result was the best set of images i have ever managed of this species. Some lovely Small Coppers were found sunning themselves here too, including my first ' blue badge ' specimen of the year 😊 . Chalkhill Blues were found in large numbers all the way from the road, and all over the Downs including many females and a mating pair. After all the above excitement i finally reached the Grayling site, which is on a very exposed, steep, hillside. Here it really was blowing a gale, and it was some 20 mins. before i set eyes on my first Grayling taking off. The difficult bit was keeping track of it in the wind but luckily it landed not too far away. In all i managed shots of about six individuals. Some images have grass blades in the way, but this could not be avoided. TREVOR.



THE MALE WALL'S



THE CHALKHILLS





THE SMALL COPPERS





THE GRAYLINGS





Re: Trevor

by Butterflysaorus rex, 04-Aug-15 11:55 PM GMT

Very nice male Wall Browns there Trevor, I didn't see any when I was up there last week. I notice the strong wind is back 😊 at least it helped you on this occasion.

All the best

James

Re: Trevor

by badgerbob, 05-Aug-15 12:17 AM GMT

Hi Trevor.

Thanks for your PM. Good to see and hear your success with the Wall Brown. I'm sure that will warrant a mention in the Wall Brown Report!! Windover is generally a good area for this species. My count that you mentioned was well down on previous years but it is still quite early in their 2nd brood. I am expecting a much better count in a week or so if I can fit it in although it will probably still be below recent years. With 8 years of growing numbers it is due for a drop!!

Cheers.

Bob.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-Aug-15 12:33 AM GMT

As a postscript to this morning's Butterfly expedition i thought some images of the scenery from Windover Hill may be of interest to those of you who are strangers to East Sussex.

I hope they might provide an incentive to visit this part of the world (and it's Butterflies !).

Click on images twice for full panorama.

Enjoy.

TREVOR.



West towards Firle Beacon.



View towards the sea, Grayling site in foreground.



Looking north towards Arlington Reservoir.



The view looking north.



Harvest time.

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 05-Aug-15 02:30 AM GMT

Hi Trevor, great pics. I was in your neck of the woods this afternoon enjoying the scenery and chasing some Silver Spotted Skippers and Walls, with mixed results. I have to agree with the wind though, breezy my a***, thought I'd inadvertently wandered into the Jet Stream at times!

Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 05-Aug-15 02:57 AM GMT

Gosh Trevor, you've been busy! Lovely shots of the Wall Brown which is a species I struggle to see, mainly because of the distance 🍷🍷. With scenery like that, worth the journey!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Aug-15 04:58 AM GMT

This morning i revisited the spot where exactly a week ago i found some Brown Argus. They were there in slightly larger numbers, with some newly emerged. Whilst others showing signs of scratches to the wings. The specimen photographed last week which i thought might be an AB was still there, unless there was another with similar markings.

Finally this beautiful Red Admiral was found basking on one of my garden lights yesterday afternoon.

Making the most of the remaining season,
TREVOR.





Possible AB ?



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 06-Aug-15 05:19 AM GMT

I'm envious of those Walls, too Trevor. Lovely photos of a butterfly that never keeps still for me. I need to make a trip down to Sussex very soon... 🍷 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 06-Aug-15 07:00 AM GMT

Cracking Walls and Graylings Trevor and that BA loks very good for an Ab 😊 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 06-Aug-15 08:55 PM GMT

Fantastic shots of the Wall Trevor, I'm coming to Sussex next year, was planning on this year but got my plans mixed a bit with the bad weather, the countryside looks superb Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Aug-15 10:27 PM GMT



I paid another visit to Windover Hill this morning, but this time the grey skies were very persistent . I did see one male Wall that was quite approachable as were some Chalkhill Blues and three Graylings. Throughout my visit the sun shone brightly in the distance 🙄

TREVOR.







Re: Trevor

by Butterflysaurus rex, 11-Aug-15 01:52 AM GMT

You went home too early Trevor, the sun came out for about 10 minutes this afternoon! 😊😄

ATB

James

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-Aug-15 03:46 AM GMT

For the last few days the weather and a public enquiry have prevented any Butterflying. But today the sky partially cleared sufficiently enough to risk a Brown Hairstreak hunt, but guess what !, during the 32 mile drive the weather changed to low cloud and, later, fine drizzle. Using the kind of language Ladies would not like, i reluctantly returned to the car. Nearing home the cloud gave way to hot sun (typical !) so i diverted to Rowland Wood. Here i found Brimstone, Common Blue, Small Tortoiseshell, Small Heath, all in reasonable numbers. Plus a very old Ringlet. Gatekeepers were still in high numbers.

Maybe next week for the Brown Hairstreak !.

TREVOR.





O.A.P.



Female Common Blue.



Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 15-Aug-15 09:37 PM GMT

It's rained here very heavily Trevor, you still managed some nice images though, hope you get your BHS nice week Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-Aug-15 09:57 PM GMT

My report from today was wiped (only an hour wasted !).
But here are the images from the South Downs this morning.
TREVOR.



Only my third Clouded Yellow of the year.





Note the slightly deformed R/H forewing.







Re: Trevor

by David M, 18-Aug-15 05:28 AM GMT

"Only" your 3rd Clouded Yellow of the year, Trevor??

That's 3 more than me (and the majority of the rest of us I imagine).

Nice Brimstone spot too, by the way!

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 18-Aug-15 06:29 AM GMT

I wuld love to see a Cloudy let alone three Trevor 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-Aug-15 06:51 AM GMT

Many thanks Wurzel and David, Clouded Yellows are seen in low numbers in most years around here. Unlike 2013, about this time of year,when a bad day was three!. they were everywhere.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 19-Aug-15 11:39 PM GMT

Your Photo's are great Trevor, love the Holly Blues they seem to have done well this yie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-Aug-15 01:00 AM GMT

Another unsuccessful hunt for the very elusive Brown Hairstreak today. But on the bright side i did spot

one in the air, and two were seen by others very briefly, so things are starting to happen !.
The big thrill of the day wasn't even a Butterfly, and i can't even claim to have spotted it.
One eagle eyed observer found a Hummingbird Hawkmoth at rest. This was a first for me, and a very exciting it was too. What is more it stayed long enough for several shots.
A Bird of the feathered variety, a Warbler we thought, was flying among the foliage apparently quite tame, but as my image shows it was blind in it's left eye. It did at least seem quite happy.
Two female Meadow Browns were seen oviposting, resting with open wings between bouts of egg laying.
A few fading Gate keepers, and some Holly Blues were seen,

All in all not a bad day.
TREVOR.



Note the bad eye.





Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 20-Aug-15 03:54 AM GMT

Sorry to hear you didn't get close to any Brownies again, still a few weeks left though 😊. My day was a little better in that respect but I'm not going to gloat on your PD about that..... I have to say I've only ever seen a Hummer from a distance so for that you get a couple 🍷🍷!!!

Based on the wings (although it's a difficult angle) I think your poor little Warbler is a Chiffchaff, sadly having only half it's vision will make it easy pickings for a passing Sparrowhawk.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Aug-15 12:13 AM GMT

A BRILLIANT DAY Part 1.

This morning, the dawn looked good for a sunny day.so i set off early to Windover Hill hoping, at last, to find some female Wall Browns. The males were in the usual place, and again very approachable 😊. Then my first female flew into view, intent on nectaring she allowed fairly close approach. Before i moved on to explore the rest of the site two more females presented themselves for the camera.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Aug-15 12:38 AM GMT

Part 2.

A good motto for this hobby should be ' expect the unexpected '. After my session with the Wall Browns i found a large clump of Hemp Agrimony with two of the freshest Red Admirals nectaring upon it. Among the many Blues also present i spotted a Holly Blue flying alongside the Chalkhills and Common Blues. It settled on the Hemp Agrimony,then later flew onto a leaf. I thought to myself , this is when she is likely to open her wings, and she did !. 😊





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Aug-15 01:29 AM GMT



*THE NEWHAVEN/ DIEPPE FERRY. 10+MILES AWAY.
Part 3.*

Other species present at Windover Hill included many Small Coppers, the Chalkhill Blues present were mainly very worn, so i was very surprised to find a newly emerged male, which i coaxed onto my finger.

Just for your interest i have included a view of the early morning Newhaven to Dieppe ferry sailing, taken from the top of Windover Hill.



THE ONLY PEACOCK OF THE DAY.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Aug-15 02:02 AM GMT

Part 4.

With the day still young i drove on to Steyning. With the weather near perfect i was thinking that the Brown Hairstreak MUST be ready to show by now !. On arrival there were five people on site already. I enquired if any had been seen, and the answer was one down briefly. Number two was seen later but i couldn't get my camera near it. I carried on searching and eventually found a female BH.right by the entrance gate, flying low down near some brambles. But she behaved impeccably for the camera 😊 and kept flying to new very localised shrubbery 😊 , as though to please her admirers 😊 . On the way back to the car i found another female Holly Blue displaying on bramble.

In all a perfect day!.
TREVOR.





Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 22-Aug-15 02:15 AM GMT

Well done Trevor. Some beautiful shots there – you must be ecstatic! I knew you would do it 😊 Next season you'll just have to come to Noar Hill for the males!

Re: Trevor

by jenks, 22-Aug-15 03:00 AM GMT

[quote="trevor"]Part 4.

With the weather near perfect.....

Blimey, it feels like another world here ! The third day of unrelenting rain (Wed through to today) and the forecast for tomorrow and Sunday is for more of the same. I envy you your chance to go in search of butterflies, I`ve been brushing up on my ID skills on ducks.

Seriously, a great report and great photos from you.

Jenks

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 22-Aug-15 03:57 AM GMT

Nice one Trevor, I've discovered in recent weeks just how addictive BH are. Great pics and some lovely Walls and Holly blues as well, a perfect day indeed! 😊

Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 22-Aug-15 05:07 AM GMT

Brilliant Brown Hairstreak photos Trevor, your perseverance paid off big time 😊

Mike

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Aug-15 04:40 PM GMT

Also seen yesterday, these two Dragon Flies. Both taken at Steyning. There is a large pond just behind the Brown Hairstreak site, which probably explains their presence among the Blackthorn.

TREVOR.



Re: Trevor

by jenks, 22-Aug-15 05:40 PM GMT

Your first photo is a male Migrant Hawker, the second photo a female Common Darter. Your photo of the Migrant Hawker shows the yellow "golf tee" on the 2nd segment brilliantly, which is diagnostic.

Jenks

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Aug-15 05:50 PM GMT

Many thanks, Jenks, for the Dragon Fly ID. They are not my subject, but i love to see them.

Sorry to hear that the weather is against you (what part of UK are you from?) we have the opposite today ie. too hot to go out for Butterflies !.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 23-Aug-15 06:56 AM GMT

Cracking stuff Trevor – brill Brostreaks and Holly Blues 😊🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 25-Aug-15 07:10 PM GMT

With further trips to see Brown Hairstreaks put on hold by the weather, and also by the terrible Shoreham airshow disaster. This has had a serious impact on the traffic in the area, as one of the main diversionary routes from the now closed A27 is along the Steyning by-pass. The whole area is worth avoiding.

With bad weather also forecast for later on today i made the most of the early morning with a visit to the South Downs. Here it was cool, windy with a little sun, i was hoping to see some Adonis Blues but only Common Blues put on any kind of show. I did however manage to find, in addition, a Hedge Brown and a Meadow Brown. Quite remarkable given the conditions.

TREVOR.







Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 25-Aug-15 10:37 PM GMT

Just caught up on your BH's and open winged Holly Blues, really lovely Trevor, awful about the air crash, Goldie 😞

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Aug-15 08:23 PM GMT

In pouring rain, i was very surprised to see a Holly Blue flying around my garden this morning. I saw her land on one of my Magnolias, grabbed my camera and got this quick snap. Incredible given the rain !.



Re: Trevor

by Hoggers, 27-Aug-15 12:59 AM GMT

What a welcome piece of Holly Blue sunshine in this rotten weather!

I often wonder how butterflies survive through heavy rain like this

Hoggers

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 29-Aug-15 01:25 AM GMT



A HAIRSTREAK MOMENT !

I had a shall i, shan't i moment this morning. After my early morning bath i heard the good news on the TV that the day should be bright and sunny. I shall i thought, but looking outside it was apparently raining ! 😞. Having been stuck indoors for much of the week by torrential showers i hoped the rain would leave off, which it did but i drove through three more showers on the way to Steyning. My master stroke was to take my coat with me, just in case, this worked as the sun came out and stayed out ! 😊.

Several people were already on site, and more arrived including UKBers B.Saurus Rex, John W, and Neil Hulme. Our luck was in, and about six Brown Hairstreaks were seen, all females, most coming down to egg lay. I was later shown an egg by a chap who had watched it being laid, i managed an average shot of this minute marvel.

An excellent day in excellent company.

TREVOR.







Re: Trevor

by trevor, 29-Aug-15 09:26 PM GMT

This morning i went up on to the Downs above Eastbourne for a couple of hours. Although my last visit was quite recent, it was noticeable that Butterfly numbers are in decline. No Brown Argus and some Common Blues were so worn that the males looked brown in flight.

Prize of the day however must go to the Hummingbird Hawkmoth i spotted enjoying a late flowering Buddleia . i was pleased that my camera at least managed to ' freeze ' the Moth's body. Also a couple of fresh looking Brimstones and a Red Admiral spent some time engrossed on the Buddleia.

I actually went to this site hoping to see some Adonis Blues, none were seen, but if i remember it was well into September last year when i saw them at this site.

TREVOR.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 30-Aug-15 06:30 AM GMT

Great Borstraks and the Hummingbird Hawk moth is fantastic Trevor 😊🍷 Who's who in the photo?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-Sep-15 01:41 AM GMT

Relying on the weather forecast for a reasonable day, i drove over to Steyning, for what may possibly be my final visit of the year. The bright sunshine soon gave way to cloud, but during one bright spell the first of two Brown Hairstreaks seen appeared on a leaf, near where i was sitting. The second was found by Gary, just outside the fenced area. This one was in egg laying mode and disappeared for quite a long period before reappearing, and basking with wings fully open. UKB'er Katrina turned up just too late to catch the best of the sunshine, and unfortunately missed the action.

Other Butterflies of note were some very fresh Speckled Woods which looked beautiful in their autumn livery.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 03-Sep-15 06:07 AM GMT

Great Brostreak shots Trevor 😊 Good to see them still going strong I'm tempted to try and get over to Shipton to see if there are any left over there though I don't know if I have enough Brownie points left 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

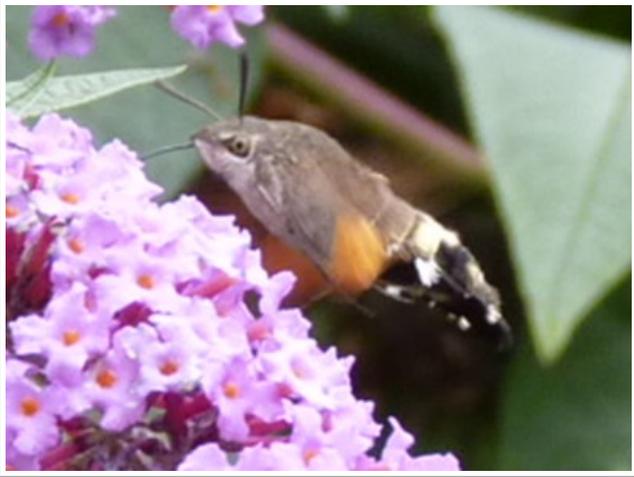
by trevor, 04-Sep-15 09:19 PM GMT

On the eastern flank of the South Downs, above Eastbourne, there is a very large Buddleia bush which is still in full bloom. Unsurprisingly it was host to many insects, including, at least three Hummingbird Hawkmoths, the first time i have ever seen multiples of this species in one place.

The problem with this particular Buddleia is it's position, it is very tall and only accessible from one side, the rest of the bush is in dense undergrowth. This meant that a lovely fresh Painted Lady, Comma and many Red admirals were out of reach. It was also surprising to find a basking female Meadow Brown on this bush.

TREVOR.







Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 05-Sep-15 04:19 AM GMT

Your Red Admiral is an ab bialbata I think it's called, great Humming Bird moth, I've yet to see one Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 05-Sep-15 05:40 AM GMT

Can't help but admire Neils butterfly badge collection from on an earlier post Trevor. Looks like you've had you fair share of Brown Hairstreak moments recently, very nice 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 06-Sep-15 06:30 AM GMT

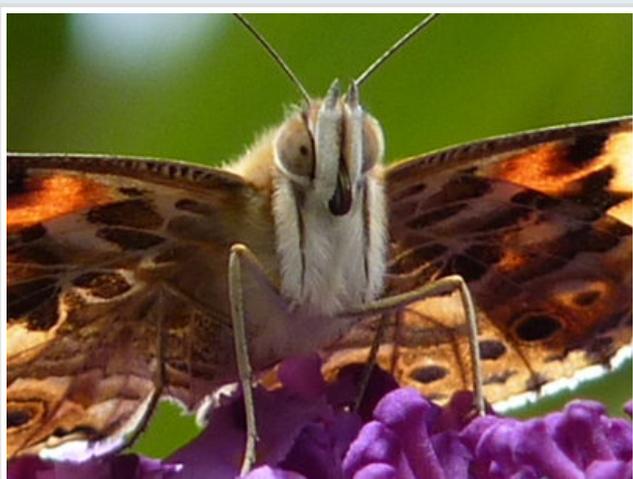
Great Hummingbird Hawk Moths Trevor 😊🍷 Cheers for the pointer on who was who as well, I recognised Neil but it's always good to put faces to usernames 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-Sep-15 01:39 AM GMT



My Father passed away in the early hours of Monday 8th, so with the sadness and all the various procedures to be dealt with i really was in need of some Butterfly therapy today. Fortunately this hobby does provide plenty of places where one can find peace and quiet.

I chose the site with the Buddleia mentioned in my last posting. It turned out to be a good choice with over twenty Red Admirals, a Painted Lady and a Hummingbird Hawk Moth.

Infuriatingly the Painted Lady refused to nectar anywhere near enough to get a good open wing shot, despite frequent flights to various flower spikes. The Red Admirals were much more obliging, some allowing very close approach. I imagine the Red Admirals seen today will be seen again next Spring.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by David M, 09-Sep-15 02:05 AM GMT

My sincere condolences, Trevor. When my mum passed away three years ago, I found butterfly watching particularly therapeutic. I hope all the associated bureaucracy goes as smoothly as possible. These things are never easy to deal with so soon after a loss.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-Sep-15 02:17 AM GMT

Many thanks David.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 09-Sep-15 03:52 AM GMT

So sorry to hear about your loss Trevor, I lost my father when I was in my twenties and it still hurts on reflection, your close up Butterfly is a stunner, I

think you put a lot into that photo close up and it shows Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 09-Sep-15 04:11 AM GMT

Sorry to hear of your loss Trevor. During our times of trouble we have found that being in a peaceful environment surrounded by nature, and in particular butterflies, really made a difference. The close-up of the Painted Lady is a powerful shot.

Mike

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 09-Sep-15 06:01 AM GMT

So sorry to hear about your loss Trevor. I lost my Father a couple of years ago and spending time out in the countryside surrounded by nature helped immensely at the time, as did all the messages of condolences from the very kind people that frequent this great forum.

Best wishes,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 09-Sep-15 06:14 AM GMT

Very sorry for your loss. It's good to have a hobby such as ours to be able to clear our heads in such times.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-Sep-15 07:52 AM GMT

Many thanks Goldie, Neil, Maximus and Buggy for your thoughts. And you are quite right, there's some lovely people on UKB. Long may this site continue!

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Butterflysaurus rex, 09-Sep-15 08:12 AM GMT

I'm really sorry to read that you lost your dad Trevor. You told me how unwell he was when we met the other day. I'm sure your lovely grand kids will soon put a smile back on your face.

My best wishes to you.

James

Re: Trevor

by Neil Hulme, 09-Sep-15 08:49 AM GMT

Hi Trevor,

I'm really sorry to hear the sad news about your father. We all know that such things are inevitable, but that's never going to make things easier. My thoughts are with you. As others have said, I'm sure that the peace and tranquillity provided by the great outdoors, and butterflies in particular, will be a great help.

Best Wishes, Neil

Re: Trevor

by Padfield, 09-Sep-15 03:17 PM GMT

My deepest sympathies for your loss, Trevor. I wish you a peaceful time with nature and your memories.

Guy

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 10-Sep-15 05:04 AM GMT

I offer my condolences Trevor and my thoughts are with you and yours.

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Sep-15 09:18 PM GMT



Firstly, i would like to thank everyone for the messages and PM's regarding my father, they have been a great help. What a great thing these diaries are, reading through them the personality of members often comes over in their posts. Even though i will probably never meet some of you in the flesh it's good to know you on here !.

With the funeral arrangements now made, i have had a free day so i made a return visit to the Buddleia bush on the Downs. All the usual suspects were present, plus, many more fresh Red Admirals, it would seem that they are still emerging. The Painted Lady was also present, and just as difficult. Other species seen were a Holly Blue, Comma, Male Brimstone and a huge Large White.

Many thanks again,
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by David M, 11-Sep-15 05:37 AM GMT

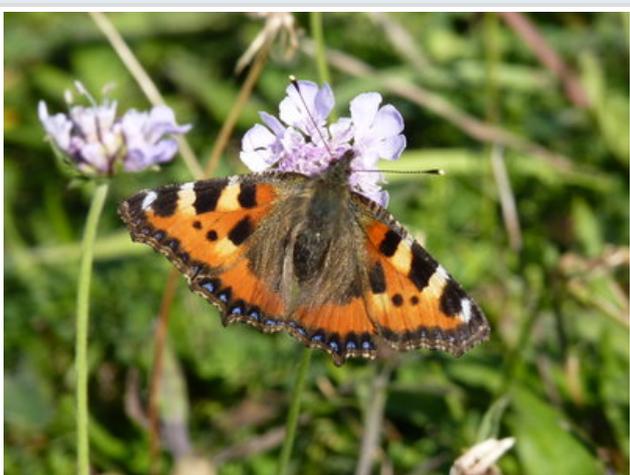
These butterflies must surely provide you with a great lift at this time, Trevor. It's good to know you have this 'escape' available to you in this otherwise stressful period.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-Sep-15 11:42 PM GMT

Yesterday afternoon i had a walk around a wild flower meadow near Alfriston. With the season on the wane it was quite remarkable how many flowers and Butterflies were still about. But two Small Tortoiseshells stole the show, as i had not seen any for quite sometime.

Many thanks to you all once again,
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 12-Sep-15 03:51 AM GMT

Lovely Butterflies Trevor, your in our thoughts Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 14-Sep-15 04:35 AM GMT

Alfriston oh Alfriston,
I can see your butterflies waning...
Glen Campbell was great 😊

It is good to see the Small Torts back I've missed them, the second one in particular is a nice example, I like the pose it's throwing 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 19-Sep-15 12:53 AM GMT



As we are now in the latter half of September, options for good Butterfly sites are becoming fewer. So today i hedged my bets and returned to ' that ' Buddleia bush up on the Downs. And once again there was plenty of action, though the numbers are going down.

I was pleasantly surprised to find some very fresh Red Admirals nectaring, and also basking. The Painted Lady was present, and came a little closer this time. I am sure this is the same specimen i've seen for several weeks, as this Buddleia is the only source of nectar in the area.

I later paid a visit to the old railway, a few Speckled Woods and a Small White were in attendance. Tomorrow i hope to search for Long Tail Blues, but i'm not that optimistic of success.

Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by David M, 19-Sep-15 01:41 AM GMT

"trevor" wrote:

Tomorrow i hope to search for Long Tail Blues, but i'm not that optimistic of success.

One thing's for sure, Trevor, if you don't go you definitely **won't** see any!

Good luck.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-Sep-15 01:26 AM GMT



Yesterday i planned a day out to search for Long Tail Blues, as the weather forecast for today looked ideal, and indeed it was. Whilst having my early morning coffee i pondered on which site to visit, taking into account where the most everlasting Pea is to be found.

By pure luck, as i arrived on site a well known UKB'er was approaching me from behind as i was walking to a well known Pea area. His news was music to my ears, one had been located on this site.

Indeed it had !, and i was soon looking at a pristine Long Tail Blue. This specimen had chosen to nectar and bask right in the middle of a dense Bramble thicket, but later flew to some more camera friendly locations allowing everyone to get some shots.

Finally i have decided not to reveal the location of the LTB so as not to alert the ' men with nets ' that we rightly dislike, and may also browse these diaries.

Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by millerd, 20-Sep-15 02:43 AM GMT

That is a splendid new LTB, Trevor. Your research paid off big time. 😊👍👍👍 Excellent stuff.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 20-Sep-15 04:35 AM GMT

Well Done Trevor, superb find 🍷🍷🍷

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 20-Sep-15 06:11 AM GMT

Fantastic stuff Trevor 😊👍👍👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 20-Sep-15 08:46 PM GMT

Lovely shots Trevor, 🍷 so glad you got your shots at last, they're wish I'd taken them shots Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 20-Sep-15 10:13 PM GMT

Great stuff, Trevor, and well done for not advertising the precise location. It's good to know that the visitors all seemed to be 'proper' butterfly enthusiasts.

Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 21-Sep-15 06:21 AM GMT

Brilliant shots of the LTB'S, Trevor 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-Sep-15 03:45 PM GMT

Many thanks for all your comments on the Long Tail Blue. The find wasn't mine, i just enjoyed the spectacle. Certainly for me a highlight never to be forgotten. 😊😊

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Sep-15 11:24 PM GMT

A few more images of á magical day.





Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 23-Sep-15 02:57 AM GMT

Ok, now you're just rubbing it in a bit! 😊 🍀 🍀 🍀

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 25-Sep-15 11:06 PM GMT

25/9/15. KEYBOARD U/S.





Re: Trevor

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 26-Sep-15 04:18 AM GMT

A MESSAGE FROM TREVOR

Trevor has asked me to convey that he's unable to write any text due to a faulty keyboard on his computer. For the time being he will be posting images only.

ATB

James

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 27-Sep-15 12:32 AM GMT

26/9/2015







Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 27-Sep-15 02:28 AM GMT

Sorry about your key board Trevor, lovely shots all the same,Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 27-Sep-15 05:41 AM GMT

Sorry to hear about the keyboard problems Trevor 😊 Nevermind though as your shots are just as good, if not better, at conveying the info, a "picture painting a thousand words" and all 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 27-Sep-15 06:37 AM GMT

Your first image reminds me of just how few Small Heaths I've seen this year.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 29-Sep-15 01:00 AM GMT

28/9/i5.







Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 01-Oct-15 12:43 AM GMT

Speckled Woods must have a secret for unlike other Butterflies there's so many of them, they're every where
Nice shots Trevor. Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 01-Oct-15 04:47 AM GMT

Overwintering at both larval and pupal stages helps, Goldie. That's why Speckled Woods never seem to be absent irrespective of the time of year. From early April through to late October they're about.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-Oct-15 01:49 AM GMT

8.10.15 BUZZARD.



Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 09-Oct-15 02:47 AM GMT

Great shot Trevor 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-Oct-15 11:33 PM GMT

9.10.15





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 10-Oct-15 07:43 PM GMT

Lovely Coppers Trevor, I can't find any here Goldie 😞

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Oct-15 11:18 PM GMT

10.10.15



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 11-Oct-15 04:27 AM GMT

Great stuff Trevor, especially the first Peacock, great to see something so different 😊🌿

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-Oct-15 04:56 PM GMT

19-10-15



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-Oct-15 09:42 PM GMT

20-10-15 😊 11.00







Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 21-Oct-15 12:10 AM GMT

Hi! Trevor , love the Robin and the Clouded Yellow photos are Great Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-Oct-15 03:29 AM GMT

HI EVERYONE,

It's been a while since I have been able to post any reports or reply to any of the wonderful images posted since September. The reason; I spilt a small drop of water on my computer keyboard. I thought I had got away with it as everything seemed normal, until I went to type a UKB report, I then found out that N and T weren't working and other keys sometimes didn't register.

I think most of my image only postings have been self explanatory, except today's. I went to Tide Mills near Newhaven to look for Clouded Yellows as I had seen some on recent visits but they were always hyperactive. But today I was more fortunate and quickly spotted two in the air at the same time. They both made frequent stops to nectar on any yellow flower available. These two looked very fresh, possibly home bred. One of them may have been Bugboy's AB !. Both fortunately stopped long for enough for some shots. The images are on the previous page of my diary.
I'm typing this report on my Daughters computer, but will replace mine soon!.

There's still a little life left in this season !!.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 21-Oct-15 04:12 AM GMT

Hi Trevor, sorry to hear about your keyboard incident but you are right, the photos speak for themselves.

Lovely fresh looking Clouded Yellows 🍷 Glad to hear that there is a bit of life left in your season down there, it has just about finished now around my part of the midlands 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 21-Oct-15 05:01 AM GMT

Looking forward to when you're properly back online, Trevor.

Don't let a mere keyboard come between you and the glory of the natural world around you!

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 21-Oct-15 05:11 AM GMT

Definitely some home grown Cloudies there Trevor. Others seen that weren't photographed in previous visits were all in tip top condition. Glad my ab is still around, fattening up for the trip across the channel perhaps.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Oct-15 05:25 AM GMT

I can only call the events of the past week, bizarre at the very least !.

On Tuesday I was photographing Clouded Yellows, Saturday I took my little grand daughter out for the afternoon , we called in at a local garden centre which was stacked floor to ceiling with Christmas decorations and other ' festive ' products.

Then today, after the clocks went back, I was viewing a Long Tail Blue !.

The trip to see the LTB was more of a hunch than a plan. I saw Neil Hulme's post on Thursday about the LTB at Beeding cement works, and Katrina confirming that it was still there on Saturday. So today I had to go to Chichester which entailed passing the Beeding site. Luck prevailed as on arrival there was a chap on site who kindly pointed the roosting LTB out to me. She was hunkered down in a large clump of ivy.

As time went on a large crowd had gathered to see, what was by now , a celebrity LTB !.

We all waited for the expert hand of Neil to gently move the Butterfly to a more photogenic location, none of us daring to move it before he arrived in case we lost it. But all turned out well and everyone had their turn with the camera

Unfortunately I had to leave the party and in doing so missed the open wings and the male seen later.

Trevor..



Re: Trevor

by David M, 26-Oct-15 06:15 AM GMT

Good to see you 'properly' back on here, Trevor, after your recent technical issues, and great that you managed to witness an event like this.

There sure must be a fair number of folk who've gone home feeling that they've truly had a day to remember with these LTBs.

At any time of the year in the UK such an occasion is cause for celebration, but for it to come at the back end of October must make it particularly pleasurable?

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 27-Oct-15 10:44 PM GMT

😄😄 ii-00 olok





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 27-Oct-15 11:21 PM GMT

Fantastic Trevor, I only wish I could see the LTB 😞 Goldie 😊 🍷

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 28-Oct-15 02:59 AM GMT

🍷🍷🍷 My computer isn't broken but this is all I could bring myself to type 😂

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 28-Oct-15 03:08 AM GMT

That background scenery looks familiar..... 🍷🍷🍷

Re: Trevor

by David M, 28-Oct-15 03:37 AM GMT

Long Tailed Blue in the fields of England.....doesn't really get much better than that!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-Oct-15 11:50 PM GMT

28-i0-i5



Re: Trevor

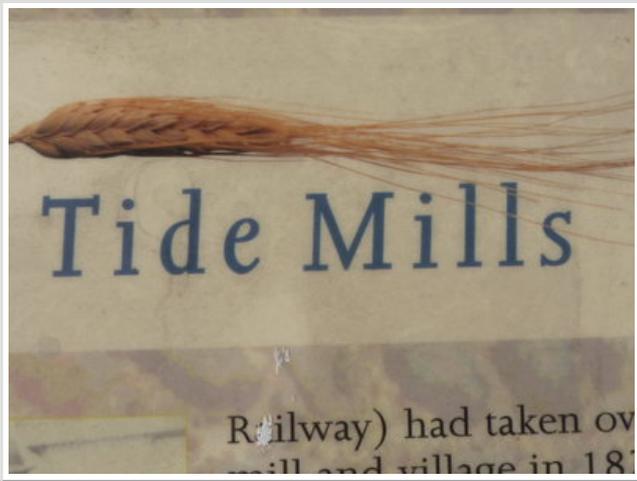
by bugboy, 29-Oct-15 01:50 AM GMT

I recognise that Clouded Yellow! 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-Nov-15 11:57 PM GMT

2-ii-i5 🚫🚫🚫🚫





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-Nov-15 04:01 AM GMT

As today the thick fog gave way to bright sunshine, i thought a trip to Tide Mills might be worthwhile. I suspected that some Clouded Yellows might still be on the wing, and indeed two were found quite easily. They were in the process of warming up making fairly close approach possible.

It is quite remarkable that it is now November and the offspring of two migrant species are still on the wing in Sussex. Now for some more Long Tailed Blues (hopefully) !

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 03-Nov-15 06:40 AM GMT

Lovely Cloudy Trevor I still haven't seen one this year 🍄 and with the weather turning (misty and grey all day here) that could be it 😞
Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 04-Nov-15 05:12 AM GMT

"trevor" wrote:

As today the thick fog gave way to bright sunshine, i thought a trip to Tide Mills might be worthwhile. I suspected that some Clouded Yellows might still be on the wing, and indeed two were found quite easily. They were in the process of warming up making fairly close approach possible.

It is quite remarkable that it is now November and the offspring of two migrant species are still on the wing in Sussex. Now for some more Long Tailed Blues (hopefully) !

Trevor.

Hope your keyboard issues are now behind you, Trevor. I look forward to more of your reports very soon.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-Nov-15 12:28 AM GMT

Hi Everyone, i'm back !,

I've just bought a shiny new laptop, so hopefully normal service is resumed.

I think my Butterfly season came to a close on Nov.2nd. The images of the two Clouded Yellows I posted that day were of the last Butterflies seen this year by me. Since then the weather has not been good around here.

Still, I can't complain what with the Long Tailed Blues, and the Clouded Yellows extending the season, here in Sussex, by at least a month. It does seem strange though that it was two warmth loving migrant species that were still being seen at the end of Oct./ early Nov.

The Clouded Yellows I could find for myself, but it was down to the skill of Neil Hulme and Mark Colvin that the LTB. was able to be seen by so many enthusiasts. Many thanks to them.

I do hope everyone will post their 2015 highlights/favourite images over the Winter months, there's nothing better than looking at the best of Summer on a cold, dark January evening!.

All the best,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 18-Nov-15 04:41 AM GMT

"trevor" wrote:

Hi Everyone, i'm back !,

I've just bought a shiny new laptop, so hopefully normal service is resumed.

Not before time, Trevor! 😊

Hope to see you using your new laptop to good effect in the coming weeks/months!

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 18-Nov-15 05:52 AM GMT

Looking forward to your reports now that you are all Tech-ed out Trevor 😊 Check out the Species Favourite Shots threads if you're after some reminiscing to get you through the winter. 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 18-Nov-15 10:05 PM GMT

Hi! Trevor, it will be nice to talk to you instead of the many faces 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 20-Nov-15 05:37 AM GMT

"Goldie M" wrote:

Hi! Trevor, it will be nice to talk to you instead of the many faces 😊 Goldie 😊

Indeed! It'll be a bit of a culture shock at first. 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 24-Nov-15 12:37 AM GMT

I thought I would start my retrospective look at 2015 with one of the more memorable events.

Back in July I paid several visits to Chiddingfold forest, mainly for Purple Emperor. After an early start I arrived, one morning at 07.50. Although the sun had been out for several hours it was still quite cool and the taller trees cast many shadows across the track. In the brighter spots the Butterflies were quite active despite the early hour. As i continued my walk i noticed in one very shady area a large triangular shape, that from a distance could have been a stone, as i got closer I could see that it was a completely motionless Butterfly. I was quite shocked to find that it was a PE!, A PE, on the ground, in the shade at 08.05 !.

As I took my photo's I became convinced that it had been there all night, and there was some wing damage, so maybe a Bird had attacked it whilst it was at roost the evening before. I later moved it into the sun hoping for an open wing shot but it took flight without opening up!.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 25-Nov-15 03:08 AM GMT

That really is a great shot Trevor for early morning, did you manage to see any more PE through the season after that ? Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 25-Nov-15 04:47 AM GMT

A grounded Emperor all to yourself – does it get any better in the UK?

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 25-Nov-15 05:19 PM GMT

Hi David and Goldie;

The whole idea of arriving so early was simply to have a relaxed start to the day, and yes I did have that PE. to myself. Others were seen over the week, but not as many as last year.

All the best;
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Jack Harrison, 26-Nov-15 03:48 PM GMT

Some five or six years ago there was the usual scrum around the parking area at Fermyn Wood early one Saturday. Many people were quite blasé about the anticipation of seeing yet MORE Purple Emperors.

"You should have been here five minutes ago" some wit announced. "We just had a superb view of a newly emerged Purple **Hairstreak** over there on the grass."

That's always the way: "You should have been here five minutes ago".

And yes, plenty of Emperors but I had missed the big prize 😞

Jack

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 27-Nov-15 07:22 AM GMT

Did you really mean 'some wit' Jack? 😊

That must have been a fantastic experience Trevor, a Purple Emperor all to yourself. I've looked and looked but never had any real joy in 'discovering ' my own PE 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 30-Nov-15 05:54 PM GMT

Another highlight of 2015 was a trip to East Blean woods to see the Heath Fritillary.

We chose June 8th for our visit, and this turned out to be a good choice, as the weather was perfect, and after a little exploration we found a spot, which for us, was a new area that we had not found previously where many Heath Fritillaries were flying.

I have chosen some different images of the day to those I posted at the time of our visit. The other memory of that day, despite spending several hours at East Blean, we did not find any other Butterfly species at all!

Hope you enjoy,
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 30-Nov-15 08:20 PM GMT

Lovely shots Trevor, I missed out on the Heath F this year sadly by going to Kent in August but you can't be every where, so your shots are very welcome Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 02-Dec-15 06:02 AM GMT

Some great shots there Trevor 😊 When I made my first pilgrimage there this year we only managed three species all day – singles of Meadow Brown and Red Admiral and 100+ Heath Fritillary 🤩

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 02-Dec-15 06:50 AM GMT

I had a similar range during my visit, singles of meadow Brown and Holly blue but who cares when you have oodles of Heath Fritillary fluttering around your feet! Great memories

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 04-Dec-15 02:59 AM GMT

I am lucky that the Pearl Bordered Fritillary can be found close to home, in Abbots Wood. Although numbers have declined in the last three years my unscientific count this year was about the same as 2014. So hopefully numbers will start to build.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Jack Harrison, 04-Dec-15 03:07 AM GMT

That first one must be a named aberration.

Jack

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 04-Dec-15 10:59 PM GMT

One species that did me proud in 2015 was the humble Holly Blue.

This is a species that I am very guilty of ignoring in previous years. I was getting sick to death of awarding Dave (millerd) mrgreens for his stunning open wing shots of Holly Blues. I had only ever seen them perching closed wing and walked on by.... Big mistake!!

Determined to get some open wing shots I thought I would take time to look more closely at their behaviour. It became clear after nectaring or with newly emerged males ground searching for (usually) bird droppings, they then very often fly onto nearby vegetation to bask, this I found is when they are most likely to open up, usually very briefly before flying off.

The best shots I obtained this year were taken on days of broken cloud, the brief sunny spells producing results!

I'll be back for more next year.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 05-Dec-15 08:08 PM GMT

Lovely open winged Holly Blue shots Trevor, roll on Spring Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

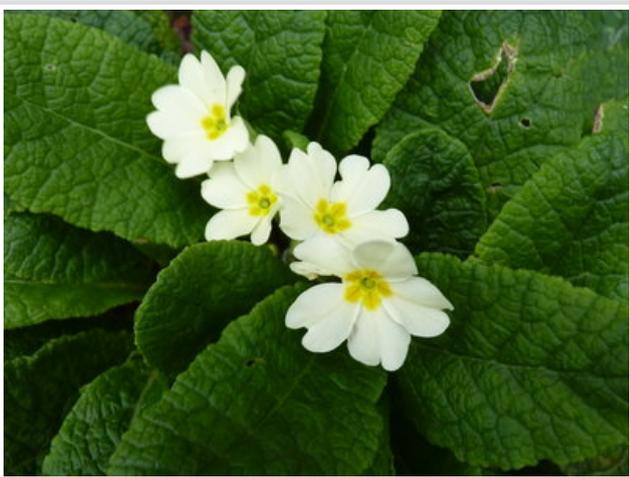
by David M, 05-Dec-15 08:49 PM GMT

Some lovely images there, Trevor. That PBF ab is a cracker and, thankfully, I think we all got to see a few more Holly Blues than usual in 2015. 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Dec-15 12:37 AM GMT

An image from my garden this afternoon..... 😊



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 06-Dec-15 12:42 AM GMT

Those Holly Blues are terrific, Trevor. 🍷🍷😄 They are well worth the patience watching them and spotting when they are going to ease those wings open.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 06-Dec-15 07:17 AM GMT

Those open winged Holly Blues deserve some 🍷🍷 as I can never get them to open up any more, I must be wearing the wrong cologne 😄😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-Dec-15 02:18 AM GMT

It's time for a little revenge. 😄

I'm still 🍷 over Wurzel's open wing male Brown Hairstreak images from this summer, so just for him here are some more open wing Holly blues! 😄



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 07-Dec-15 06:58 AM GMT

Fair play they're great shots Trevor 😄🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 08-Dec-15 02:09 AM GMT

Primroses already, Trevor? If things carry on as they are, I'm sure the daffs won't be far behind. 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 08-Dec-15 07:20 PM GMT

Back in early May I stumbled across a healthy colony of Green Hairstreaks. There were so many that I had plenty of time to experiment with various settings on my camera, in order to get some reasonable images. I have always found this little Butterfly most difficult to photograph. In sunlight the wings seem to act as a light reflector, a setting on the camera which would normally take a reasonable image of any other species just ends up as a white blob!

I still find that beautiful, variable, green sheen hard to capture. I will take up the challenge they offer again next year.

Trevor.

PS. Any hints and tips welcome !





Re: Trevor

by Jack Harrison, 08-Dec-15 10:26 PM GMT

I would say that those photos are more than adequate. But to give best chance of getting exposure correct, why not bracket? Most camera have this facility.

Jack

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 12-Dec-15 06:17 AM GMT

Great shots of the Green One Trevor 😊 I too struggle to get that 'green sheen look', so if you work out how to do it let me know please. I too will be having a try at it next season and so can reciprocate if I get there first, mind you I'm still amazed that I can get any shots of a Greenstreak after several years of them giving me the run around! 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 12-Dec-15 08:06 PM GMT

I have visited many local(ish) sites for Orange Tips with varying degrees of success . Always a fairly tricky Butterfly to capture, until I discovered the delights of the old railway cutting in Hailsham. Here the Orange Tip population is confined to what is a linear, quite narrow site. In practice this leave the Butterflies no option but to fly up and down, and indeed are quite captive! 😊 .

With many favoured nectaring sources also present, frequent opportunities for a decent shot are possible.



Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 12-Dec-15 08:15 PM GMT

Lovely photo's Trevor, they make you long for Spring Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-Dec-15 12:32 AM GMT

One of my favourite images of 2015 is of this male Marbled White, taken on July 6th at 08.40. Whilst awaiting an audience with HM. PE. I went for a wander to see what was on offer, when I noticed this pristine Marbled White on some foliage, at the bottom of a ditch !. The stealthy(ish) approach with my camera ready, was totally unnecessary because the Butterfly remained motionless as I took shot after shot. But it's perfect pose gave me the best image I have ever achieved of this species.



MARBLED WHITE, POSING PERFECTLY!

Re: Trevor

by David M, 17-Dec-15 01:37 AM GMT

Looks like he'd just emerged, Trevor, which explains why he wasn't skittish like this species often is.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-Dec-15 04:55 AM GMT

CRAZY WEATHER.....

For several weeks now, here in the south east we have had very few days of single figure temperatures. Recently 12 to 14c has been the norm.

My question is, how will this affect next years Butterflies.? Surely the hibernators will find it too warm to fully hibernate, if any do wake up too early a sudden cold snap could be fatal.

Species that spend the winter in other life stages may also be disrupted by the unseasonal warmth.

In my opinion the natural world in this country is geared up for cold winters which go hand in hand with short daylight hours.

If any UKB diarists have an opinion on this subject, I would welcome their comments.

Best wishes,

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 17-Dec-15 07:39 AM GMT

Current temperature here near Heathrow at around 2330 is 14 degrees. I have no heating on in the house at all and am sitting comfortably in a t-shirt. Could be June outside. As you say, Trevor, goodness knows what hibernating butterflies make of it. Luckily, there has also been no sunshine to speak of since the start of November, and it is often that aspect of weather that triggers hibernators to become restless, so maybe they are safe.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 17-Dec-15 07:58 AM GMT

Although these warm temperatures are a tad on the unseasonally extreme side, I think hibernating adults are more able to cope than juvenile stages. It's just my gut feeling but I'd be more worried about egg's, larvae and pupae surviving this winter than adults. I suspect there would be a higher than normal percentage to be killed by bacteria, fungal and viral pathogens than normal due to these very damp and warm conditions.

Re: Trevor

by Jack Harrison, 17-Dec-15 10:48 AM GMT

Although it's been sunny here in the Moray area and mild with 13C yesterday, haven't seen any butterflies.....

.....except for the Tortoiseshell in its container the fridge at 4C where it remains perfectly happy.

Jack

Re: Trevor

by peterc, 17-Dec-15 03:55 PM GMT

According to the Met Office stats, for England as a whole, November and December 1994 were very mild and quite wet in December too. We all know what a great summer it was in 1995 so there is hope yet for 2016 😊

ATB

Peter

Re: Trevor

by David M, 18-Dec-15 01:19 AM GMT

The worst thing that could happen would be for early emergences to then run into cold conditions which, if I remember rightly, is what happened in 2012 when March was positively balmy but was followed by a cold and washed-out April.

As has already been mentioned, warm, moist conditions will encourage mould as well as failing to kill off the usual number of butterfly predators.

I'd happily pay £100 to guarantee a two-week freezing cold snap in January. That should get things back to normal.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-Dec-15 09:53 PM GMT

SEASONAL AND UNSEASONAL GREETINGS FROM HAILSHAM

All images taken today, am.





Re: Trevor

by David M, 24-Dec-15 12:57 AM GMT

I've seen snowdrops round my part of Wales but to have daffodils in full bloom prior to Christmas is just plain wrong!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 24-Dec-15 06:09 AM GMT

"David M" wrote:

I've seen snowdrops round my part of Wales but to have daffodils in full bloom prior to Christmas is just plain wrong!

Bizarre as it may be David, there are other Daffodils in bloom locally. I just photographed the largest clump I had seen!.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 24-Dec-15 07:33 AM GMT

That doesn't amaze me in the slightest, Trevor. I saw some myself on Christmas Day last year when conditions hadn't been anything like so mild, so it's no surprise that there are plenty about right now.

The way things are going, we could have lambs being born in January, which could be potentially disastrous.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Dec-15 07:23 AM GMT

I could not resist a shot of the full Moon on this Christmas evening. Apparently quite a rare event.



Re: Trevor

by Jack Harrison, 26-Dec-15 10:13 AM GMT

...Full Moon on this Christmas evening. Apparently quite a rare event.

Full moons repeat approximately every 29.5 days. So *on average*, a full moon will occur on Christmas Day every 30 years or so.

However clear skies on 25th December probably happen only – for sake of argument – one year in three. So, to *observe* a full moon on Christmas Day is indeed a pretty rare event.

I saw a full moon on a Christmas Day some 70 years ago but missed this latest one due to cloud cover. QED a "rare event" in this context = once in a lifetime.

In 2016, the full moon nearest to Christmas is on 14th December.

Jack

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Dec-15 04:51 PM GMT

Many thanks Jack, in other words i'm unlikely to see another one ! 😊 .

Re: Trevor

by Jack Harrison, 26-Dec-15 05:48 PM GMT

I had no need to stretch my brain like that. It's all here:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstop...lipse.html>

At least I wasn't too far out.

Jack

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Jan-16 01:26 AM GMT



WISHING YOU ALL PLENTY OF THESE IN 2016! 😊 .

Happy new year to all on UKB 😊 .

Best wishes,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 01-Jan-16 01:47 AM GMT

Happy New Year to you, Trevor....and yes, an Emperor or two wouldn't go amiss in 2016! 😊