

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Jan-15 12:10 AM GMT

It's quite a while since I posted in my diary, the weathers been so bad, rain, hail, snow showers, it's the first time I've missed taking at least a few photo's of birds at this time of year but even they have kept a low profile, (the wind has been so strong they've struggled to fly), any way i've had time a look back over my photos and I feel really pleased that I finally got to see the Silver Washed Fritillary and get some reasonable shots last Summer, before that I'd only seen one that was in Denge Woods Kent a few years ago and it was quite tatty so when I saw them in Bently Wood it was a real treat.



I've posted a few photos, not too long to wait now before Spring arrives Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 18-Jan-15 07:24 AM GMT

Great "Ginger Beasties" Goldie – they certainly brighten up a cold winters day 😊 I drove past the turn off to Bentley today and stared longingly at it, until my wife pointed out that I was almost in the car in fronts boot 😳😳😳

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

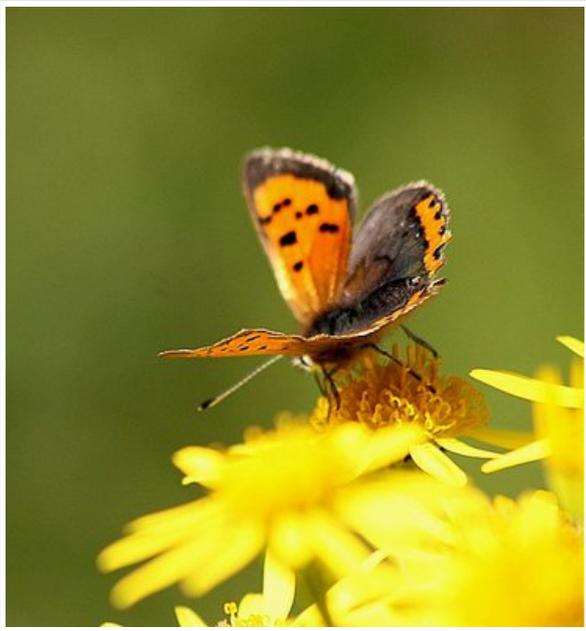
by Goldie M, 18-Jan-15 10:31 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, Snow here today, roll on Spring Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 18-Jan-15 11:10 PM GMT

I've been looking back over some of my Small Copper photo's and remembered I took one of a SC that looked to have eyes looking back at me 😊 ( strong colour) although it also seemed paler with age so this may have caused it , I do look to have one with Blue Spots also, so may be I've got a Blue Badge Wurzel 😊 Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 19-Jan-15 03:16 AM GMT

Looks like you've got the Blue Spot to me. Take care - Pauline will be awfully jealous 😊

Mike

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 19-Jan-15 11:33 PM GMT

Hi! Mike, thanks for the confirmation It's always good to get some thing a bit different, we seem to get a lot of variations a round here, at Hall-Lee-Brook where I took these photo's I've had quite a few even in my back garden I've had the Red Admiral with the extra spot, I've put it down to the weather up here in the north 😊

We've still got snow here, I decided to walk into town this morning and there was so much ice it was bad walking,( I needed the fresh air) I thought to take some shots but it was too cold to mess with the camera. I was told it might be good for Butterflies to have some cold conditions, don't know if that's so, if it is they should do well round here this year so far 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 23-Jan-15 05:56 AM GMT

Sorry I didn't get back and confirm your Blue Badge Goldie but work has been more hectic than normal 😊 Congrats though as you have a Blue Badge Small Copper a caeruleopunctata 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 25-Jan-15 08:48 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, we seem to get a lot of aberrations round here I'm beginning to think may be it's much colder and causes these changes like the very cold weather we had a few years ago when I saw the white Small Pearl Bord/Frit at Gaits Barrow, they said that was caused by severe weather changes.?

Talking about weather, I went to visit my cousin in Rossendale on Thursday, we'd had the snow and our avenue was very icy but when I saw the Moors they looked lovely, not quite on a parr with Guy's photo's 😊 but still like a post card 😊

I took this shot of some Gold Finch in the back Garden with the Starling . My husband fixed the tray so more of the Gold Finch could feed, their certainly tucking in. 😊

The Snow's gone now but was here nearly all week on and off, still soon be Spring 😊 Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 26-Jan-15 04:02 AM GMT

Wow, you've really had a fair snowfall there, Goldie.

Makes me quite envious tbh. Down here in Swansea, we've seen only 2 proper frosts and no white stuff whatsoever.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 27-Jan-15 02:45 AM GMT

Hi! David, yes we had a lot of snow and according to tonights weather forecast we've got alot more to come later on in the week, needless to say no Butterflies on the wing here. 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 27-Jan-15 04:22 AM GMT

I too have seen the forecast. Potentially a fortnight of cold conditions.

Bring it on!

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 29-Jan-15 11:00 PM GMT

I thought the forecast for snow maybe wrong, not so, this morning we had Blizzard conditions, snow's have stopped now but more forecast for tonight, let's hope the Butterflies will fair well this Spring.

Before the snow arrived we managed a walk at Rivington, this would be Monday the weather wasn't too bad, my attention was taken by a small bird, it landed on this tree, I say landed because it flew very low across the ground and didn't fly onto a branch but onto the side of the tree where it climbed up the side stopping every now and again to peck, the bird was very tiny and very quick, too quick for me to take any shots of it (worse luck)

I know some birds eat the algae on trees but I'd never seen one like this before, any Idea's? Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 29-Jan-15 11:54 PM GMT

I've seen the reports of snow in the north of England, Goldie. It must have been bad for Manchester Airport to shut down for 4 hours!

As for your bird, could it be a Nuthatch? They are famous for creeping up and down tree trunks and are pretty small in size.

**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 30-Jan-15 01:35 AM GMT

Only some sleaty rain today in London, cold wind though.

The bird could be a Nuthatch like David says but my money would be on a Treecreeper, looking for hibernating invertebrates in the bark crevices.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Padfield, 30-Jan-15 03:58 AM GMT

Treecreepers fly to the bottom of trees and work their way up – they cannot go down a tree. Nuthatches can go up or down, so don't so often fly to the bottom of a tree and work their way up (though they can do that if they want to).

From your description, Goldie, I'd suggest treecreeper.

Guy

EDIT – sorry – I didn't notice Bugboy had already suggested treecreeper. Great minds &c.!

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 30-Jan-15 11:29 PM GMT

Thanks for the info, David, Bug boy and Guy, The way you've described the bird Guy and Bug boy is exactly what it was doing flying to the base of the tree and climbing up the tree, I don't think it was a Nut Thatch David , I've seen one of those at Penn Flash, but I'll go to Rivington again has soon as the weather gets better and try to take a photo of it.

The weather was bad here but it's quickly thawing in the sun although they've forecast more for us for the weekend. I took a couple of photo's when I got up this morning of the front and back Garden, a lot of snow has melted since then, but for people getting their cars out first thing it's been awful, they never grit the side roads here at all, any way it's February on Sun we're not far off Spring now 😊 Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 31-Jan-15 06:22 AM GMT

Lovely winter scenes Goldie, just think of all the good it's doing the butterflies 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 31-Jan-15 07:14 PM GMT

Believe it are not Wurzel, the snow's all gone now, it melted a way as quickly has it came, the Suns shining and although the wind's keeping it cold I'm wrapping up and ready for off 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 31-Jan-15 10:25 PM GMT

You sent the snow down here, Goldie 😊 I was very surprised, when I opened the curtains this morning, to see the whiteness outside. It was enough to bring Reed Buntings to our garden feeders but it soon melted, through the morning.

Mike

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 01-Feb-15 07:22 PM GMT

Hi! Mike, our snow did the same this time, it was gone by mid afternoon, I'm pleased to say though that it was still light at 5pm tea time so things are moving in the right direction 😊 I thought the snow and frost would kill my Snow Drops but their has bright as ever and the daffodil bulbs are well on their way so Nature is pointing fingers in the right direction 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 04-Feb-15 07:16 PM GMT

Lovely weather yesterday, cold but the Sun was great to see 😊 The day set off to a good start with the sight of our garden Robin sitting at the top of our Cherry Tree We decided to go for a ride to Lytham, in the park there we saw a thrush following these Squirrels and enjoying bits of food they were dropping 😊

We drove up the coast road after that through Blackpool to Fleetwood, where I took some photo's of the Lake District hills snow topped they looked superb in the distance, also Morecambe Bay looked vast, it was great to think in the next few weeks I'd be up there in the Lakes looking for the Dukes 😊 Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 06-Feb-15 10:51 PM GMT

I for got to mention in my last posting that I'd taken a photo of a Great Tit but I wasn't sure what the bird at the same eating place was (this was while I was at Fleetwood) I've looked some birds up but it doesn't seem to be in my book, the photo's not too great, I didn't realise the bird was there, it was in the shadows and I was fixed on the GT, I just don't recognise it Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by Padfield, 07-Feb-15 12:27 AM GMT

It looks to me like a cheeky house sparrow, Goldie.

By the way, I love that first shot with the Lake District hills in the distance – magical.

Guy

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 07-Feb-15 12:46 AM GMT

Thanks Guy, I didn't recognise it at all, glad you like the landscape, the Lake District is beautiful, more so with the snow on the hills, I can't wait for Spring, Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 07-Feb-15 03:35 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

The new season is not that far away now, if its mild and sunny at the end of this month,who knows the odd Brimstone, Peacock or Red Admiral may appear !. Then it's kick off!! 😊

all the best ,  
TREVOR.

**Re: Goldie M**

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

Great stuff Golide especially the Song Thrush – they're great birds – one of these years I'm determined to find one workign at it's anvil 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 07-Feb-15 09:53 PM GMT

I was thinking back to last year and what was my most interesting observation, I remembered the Orange Tips and how they touched each other in Flight, which was great and the Brimstones three flying together (two Males one Female) the Males so engrossed in vying for the Females attention they didn't notice her fly off and leave them to it 😊

There was also a Green Veined White Female who bent her body in an invitation to mate while again two Males vied for her, this time unlike the Brimstone one of them won the day 😊

I think though my most interesting moment was the Speckled Wood playing dead, no matter how much the Male prodded her she wouldn't mate and when she suddenly lay on her side she even convinced me she was dead 😊 To be able to catch this on my camera had to be the best for last year for me Goldie 😊









**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 08-Feb-15 12:19 AM GMT

Some fab courtship pictures there Goldies 😊, very interesting Speckled Wood behaviour.

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 08-Feb-15 01:38 AM GMT

Some cracking action shots there, Goldie. I particularly like the last of the Brimstone images.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 08-Feb-15 03:44 AM GMT

Thanks David and Bugboy, It's great looking back on the best parts of your year, well the most memorable bits any way 😊 Roll on Spring then we can all start again Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 08-Feb-15 04:08 AM GMT

Cracking flight shots Goldie 😊👍 It is getting close to kick off time 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 08-Feb-15 04:56 AM GMT

Super shots, Goldie. I really enjoyed looking at these, especially the three brimstones!

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 08-Feb-15 07:54 PM GMT

Thanks for your kind comments Wurzel and Mike I hope this year throws up some thing really good for us to photograph 😊

I've mentioned my high points of last year but I also had low points, my first was on visits I made to Gaits Barrow. Over a period of five months starting with April I went there at least a dozen times and I was disappointed in the amount of Butterflies I saw there in comparison with other years . I know a dozen doesn't seem a lot but as you know with Butterflies you get to know their flight times and try to coincide your visits with these times.

In 2013 a lot of coppicing was done at Gaits Barrow bushes, etc, the part where the Duke of Burgundy is situated looked quite bare, I thought at the time if this is going to help them in any way it's a good thing, last year to my surprise I saw very few Dukes and people remarked that the coppicing had been too rigorous the previous year , that was a real down for me I can only hope they've recovered this year.

I'm all for making the environment better for Butterflies but I'm of the opinion now that this can also hinder.

My next low was at East Blean Woods in Kent, coppicing had been done there in a previous year and this time I saw one Heath Fritillary, I was amazed, in early July? again some one said their caterpillar food plant had been over run by weeds etc. So instead of being greeted last year with dozens in the car

park I saw one.

I know last year the Butterflies were earlier than usual but in EBW they usually fly late June to early August so I don't think that was an hinderance, I just hope when I visit Kent this year I'll see them all back to normal until then I'll stay rather doubtful about coppicing and what it entails. Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 11-Feb-15 11:59 PM GMT

Yesterday we went to Pennington Flash, the weather over the last few days has been really poor, Grey sky's every day and Sunday we had freezing fog not the sort of weather to go walking, yesterday however wasn't as cold so we decided to wrap up warm and brave the cold 😊

When we got there we went to the first hide where we were told (must be a few weeks ago now) that a Water Rail had been spotted, no WR but loads of long Tailed Tits, after spending some time watching them we moved on to the second hide, I was surprised to see lots of bushes had been coppiced and we could see the lake with the various ducks swimming which was a great improvement on what it was like before. The space has opened up the area to more birds and this was proved when the Water Rail I was seeking suddenly walked out of the reeds by the side of the Lake and we all got our photos. 😊

My thoughts after this were more possitive towards coppicing, if it does for the Butterflies in the long run like it's done for the birds it can only be good for them, hope fully this year will prove more positive for the Dukes at Gaits Barrow.

We also saw Nut Thatch, Reed Buntings, Bull Finch, it was a good day 😊 Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 12-Feb-15 03:32 AM GMT

What a stroke of luck, Goldie. I've never seen one myself.

Hopefully the sun will re-emerge soon in your part of England.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Padfield, 12-Feb-15 03:56 AM GMT

Amazing! I've never had views like that of water rail, wandering around so close. You certainly have a lucky streak, Goldie (or is it pure skill?)! Guy

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 12-Feb-15 10:30 PM GMT

I think it's more luck Guy than skill 😊 All the same I won't be modest I'll claim both 😊

David the Sun's not shining yet but at least it's not as cold.

I took a few more shots whilst at Penn Flash and with having no Butterfly encounters yet 😞 I'll post a few Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 16-Feb-15 03:06 AM GMT

Cracking Water Rail Golide 😊 It takes me back years as it reminds me of my first ever one at Radipole Lake – it was running around the outside of the main building separated by a distance of only double glazing 😊 Lovely Reed Buntings too 😊 I too am still butterfly-less but I'm hoping that will change by the end of the week 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Feb-15 08:12 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, It was my first Water Rail as well, It was different that's what struck me right a way, when I got home I read my book to make sure. 😊 Hope you see butterflies soon Wurzel 😊

It's cold here to day, the birds water bowls were all frozen but at least the Sun is out, it's been Quite a nice few day's really and I noticed whilst at Penn Flash that the Ducks had started to pair off already, I always look for various signs with Birds and Animals they seem to know what's what with the weather so hope fully this is a good sign. Thought I'd just put a couple of orange Tip photos in (things to come) 😊 Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 17-Feb-15 11:56 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

That's something to put right this year!.Remember what they said about Fermyn, more purple than you could shake a stick at 😊 .

All the best,  
TREVOR.

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 18-Feb-15 05:52 AM GMT

Lovely reminder, Goldie.

This species is only 6-7 weeks away from reappearing and that should make us all thoroughly glad!

**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 18-Feb-15 06:35 AM GMT

**"David M" wrote:**

Lovely reminder, Goldie.

This species is only 6-7 weeks away from reappearing and that should make us all thoroughly glad!

Yes indeed, my favourite native. Can't wait to see them flying relentlessly up and down the hedgrows again.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 19-Feb-15 04:08 AM GMT

Yes everybody as you all say, just a few weeks to go now roll on. 😊

Trevor, Im still working out the best time to go to Fermyn Woods, I don't want to miss the his highness 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 19-Feb-15 04:52 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Don't fret about Fermyn, but do keep an eye on UKB personal diaries from about the last week of June. I am sure we will all know about it when the first Emperor is seen there!!. People tend not to be able to keep quiet about their Emperor sightings 😊 .

Best wishes,

TREVOR.

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 19-Feb-15 06:12 AM GMT

**"Goldie M" wrote:**

Im still working out the best time to go to Fermyn Woods, I don't want to miss the his highness 😊 Goldie 😊

Just devote a week to being ready at the drop of a hat, Goldie.

No-one can predict the emergence date as it will depend on weather conditions generally from here through to late June.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 20-Feb-15 12:35 AM GMT

Hi! Trevor and David, pouring with rain here at present UGH! I'm going to look forward to the last week in June, and take it from there, I want the Brown Hair Streak as well,(late July for that one) hope fully 😊 That's another journey( Steyning) I think all being well, I'll take your advice though and look for postings 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 20-Feb-15 01:45 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Late July is a little early for the Brown Hairstreak, normally they are seen into August. Again keep an eye on UKB around that time, and choose a sunny day,very important.

Best wishes .  
TREVOR.

**Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 20-Feb-15 01:46 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Late July is a little early for the Brown Hairstreak, normally they are seen into August. Again keep an eye on UKB around that time, and choose a sunny day,very important.

Best wishes .  
TREVOR.

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 20-Feb-15 05:13 AM GMT

Alner's Gorse is an excellent spot for Brown Hairstreaks, Goldie, and it's straight down the M6 then the M5.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 20-Feb-15 07:16 AM GMT

Lovely OT's Goldie, can it really be only 6-7 weeks until their emergence it will feel like forever 😊 If you're after Brown Hairstreak then I recommend Shipton Bellinger later in the season but if you're after early ones then try your luck at Alners Gorse as David M recommends - you can also get White-letter and Purple Hairstreak there too.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 20-Feb-15 09:07 PM GMT

Thanks everybody for your information, I'll look Alner's Gorse up Wurzel and David because I also want the Purple Hair Streak and the White Hair Streak, it would be great if I could get all four this year. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 22-Feb-15 09:39 PM GMT

Both Purple and White Letter Hairstreak can be found at Alner's Gorse, Goldie. If you timed it just right I wouldn't rule out seeing Brown too although the better bet is to leave BH till August.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 22-Feb-15 09:49 PM GMT

We've got the snow again, It started about 11 30am and was blizzard like at first but has eased off since, every thing in the garden is covered with snow now and no birds have been to feed yet so it looks like we've more to come, I'm cheering myself up looking at photo's I took in past years of Butterflies and eating cream scones 😊 Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 25-Feb-15 06:33 AM GMT

Lovely Green-veined White Goldie 😊 This seasons butterflies could be a few more weeks yet, everytime I think things could be happening a cold front sweeps in with rain and snow 😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 28-Feb-15 07:25 PM GMT

I know just what you mean Wurzel, the weather here has been the same, I did manage some gardening yesterday, thought if I didn't sort the early Wall Flowers out I wouldn't see too many Butterflies this Spring , nothing yet, Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

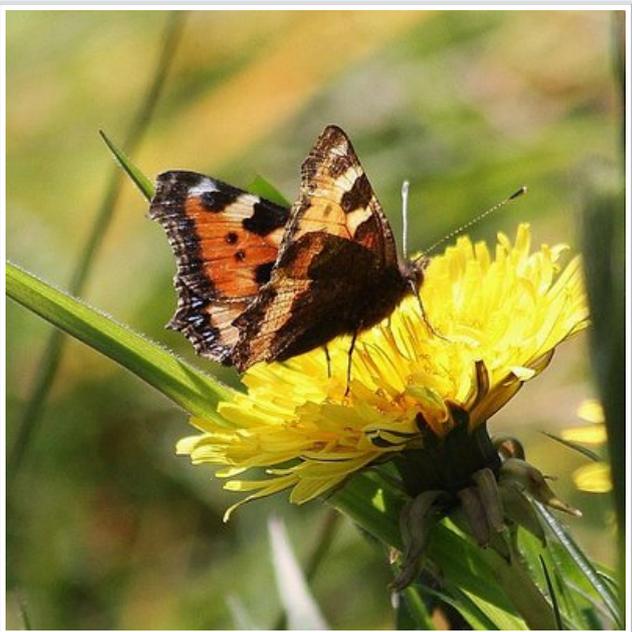
by Goldie M, 13-Mar-15 10:12 PM GMT

No sign of any Butterflies yet, I caught a brief sighting of one last week but it's been so cold here this last week I've not even ventured to Hall-Lee-Brook, last week when I was there I saw 3 Dandelions, the only flowers I saw at all besides a few daisies so I'm not expecting any real change for at least another week are two.

I've sent for my permit for Gaits Barrow and it seems they had Snow there last week so it looks like things will be much later this year unless we get some warmer temperatures.

Lancashire Butterflies say Myer's Allotment is a good place to visit now, lots of wild life and Butterflies, High Brown Fritillary and Pearl BF, also Small PBF so that's on my schedule for this year 😊

It looks like I'll have to keep happy with the some of my STS photo's taken last year on April 1st of all days at Hall- Lee-Brook 🤔 Roll on the warmer weather Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 17-Mar-15 06:41 AM GMT

Nice stained glass effect on the last shot Goldie 😊 Can't be too long now surely...I just wish Spring would get on with it 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 17-Mar-15 11:11 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, nothing here yet it's been too cold and grey but I keep looking Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 20-Mar-15 12:45 AM GMT

At last! today I've seen about 8 Small Tortoiseshell's no photo's yet they were all too busy looking for mates I think 😊

I saw five that buzzed the garden whilst I was busy tidying it up ( I missed one that landed on a crocus but then shot off disinterested) The other three I saw at Hall-Lee-Brook , at least they're on the move, if this weather keeps up I'll get some shots soon. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 20-Mar-15 03:44 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

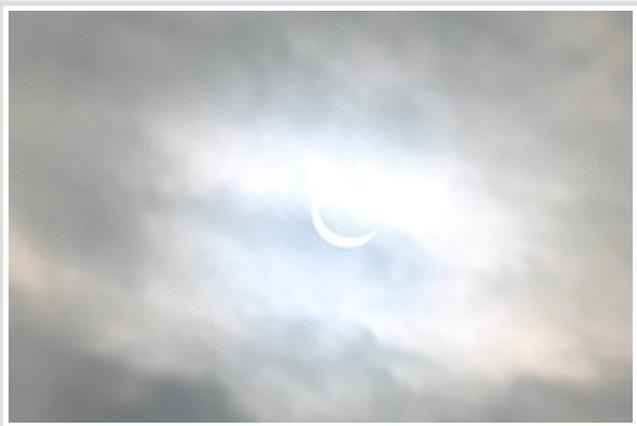
It must have been your turn for some decent weather today, all those Small Torts!. Down here we've had grey gloom and a cold wind.

Best wishes ,  
TREVOR.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 20-Mar-15 10:19 PM GMT

Hi! Trevor, Well we're back to square one here with the weather but thanks to the cloud I did manage some shots of the Eclipse, I took them from my kitchen window because I'd do it quickly while the clouds, just for a few moments thinned Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 21-Mar-15 12:58 AM GMT

I'm pleased you saw the eclipse, Goldie, and got some nice shots. I think that the cloud actually made it easier to watch and to photograph. It went quite a lot cooler here, and the birds were twittering a lot, as though they were not sure what was happening 😊

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 21-Mar-15 06:58 PM GMT

Hi! Mike I was struck with the fact we didn't see any birds until after the Eclipse, my husband feeds them every morning but none appeared until afterwards your right about seeing it ,what an experience , I'd given up, thinking the clouds were too thick and then they thinned out and acted like a screen which was great.

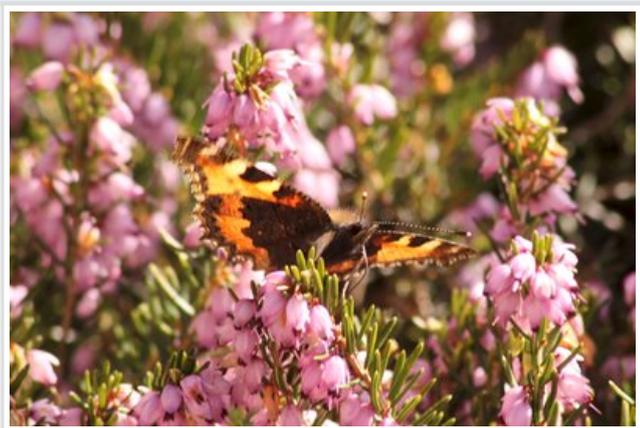
I love your Comma shots, the Suns shining here although it's cold so I may take a chance and visit HLB later today hope fully I'll see some Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 22-Mar-15 12:24 AM GMT

At last, in my back Garden this afternoon I finally got some shots of the Small Tortoiseshell, my first this year, the weather although there was a cold wind was hot in the Sun and has my garden faces South West was just what the Butterfly needed 😊

I got some photo's where they flew and settled on my Heather and daffs, even a Crocus all in the space of a couple of hours, I decided to go to Hall-Lee-Brook just in case other species were flying and although I got another shot at a Tortoiseshell nothing else was flying, at least I've made a start Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 22-Mar-15 01:54 AM GMT

Glad to see you've got your first shots of the year, Goldie. No chance here, today, as it's gone back to cold and grey 😞 after a beautiful day yesterday.  
Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 22-Mar-15 06:30 AM GMT

Good to see you're off the mark Goldie 😊 Waching the ecclipse was a fascinating experience; light levels dropped from 2500 to 773 Lux, the temp dropped enough so that I could see my breath and the birds stopped singing 🤪 Hopefully spring will get on with it now.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 22-Mar-15 06:34 AM GMT

Well done, Goldie. Nice to see you off the mark.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 26-Mar-15 01:15 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, Mike and David for your comments, I went back to Hall-Lee -Brook on the 22nd and I got a few more shots of the STS. The weather's still very cold although the Sun's shining also very cloudy, the last two mornings we've had a frost the bird's water dishes were frozen and the birds were all late coming to the garden this morning, I waited today for the cloud to lift and went back to HLB, I saw just one STS on a Dandelion but has I approached it flew off, the only good thing about the weather so far is the fact it's drying my washing 😊 lets hope it gets warmer for Easter.

Also had this little Robin following us a round today at HLB and the birds were singing it did feel like Spring even if it was chilly Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 26-Mar-15 06:51 AM GMT

Great shot of the Robin Goldie and the last shot of the Small Tirt is a cracker, the blue triangles on the wing margins really show up 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 27-Mar-15 08:07 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel for your comments, at least the Small TS are up and about but not in large numbers just an odd one are two.

Yesterday I went to my cousins,( every Thursday we go out for a run some where,) she lives in Rossendale Valley and if there's going to be any snow around the Valley usually gets it. I was amazed, the moor's were covered in snow, luckily the roads although full of slush where the snow had melted were okay, my first thought was for the newly emerged Butterflies, this March so far as not been Ideal for them and the forecast for wind and rain runs into next week , to put it bluntly, It's been a long Winter Goldie 😞

**Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 04-Apr-15 02:55 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

The sun is quite strong now , so if that wind gives it a rest or stops coming from the north, we might start seeing some Butterflies! 😊 .

Atleast my ' new ' FZ38 camera is starting to get some exercise. 😊

All the best,  
TREVOR.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 07-Apr-15 02:22 AM GMT

Hi! Trevor, you were right about the weather it's been fantastic, if any one had said you'll be sitting outside shortly I wouldn't have believed them. 😊

Yesterday we went to Hall-Lee-Brook where I added a Comma to my list, the day before I added a Peacock it arrived in my garden when I was enjoying a cup of tea, 😊 I'd seen them the day before but they were too intent looking for partners they didn't stay long this one enjoyed my Grape Hyacinth for a while giving me time to put my cup down and creep up on it:D

The Small Tortoiseshells were also out in force and I managed to get more shots, a couple of them together before they flew off( photo's not too good I'm afraid as they moved about too much) Any way it's a start ,Green Veined Whites next! then Orange Tips, I've not got any shots of Brimstones yet but I did see one at HLB yesterday so hope fully I'll get one before too long Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 07-Apr-15 02:33 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

That Comma image is worth a few points ! 😊 . Yes, looking forward to the Orange Tips.

Best wishes,  
TREVOR.

### Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 07-Apr-15 04:26 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Good to see you have had the nice weather too. No Whites or Orange-tips yet for me either, maybe this week if the weather holds up, fingers crossed.

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 07-Apr-15 06:19 AM GMT

I'm glad the Easter Bunny brought you teh eggs AND butterflies Goldie 😊😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Mike Robinson, 08-Apr-15 02:57 AM GMT

A nice haul yesterday and some lovely pictures.

I'm envious of your Comma. I think I might have seen one today whooshing past but couldn't be sure. Still; there's always tomorrow.

### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 08-Apr-15 05:48 AM GMT

At least things are now moving up there, Goldie.

Won't be long before the Pierids invade your 'patch'.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 12-Apr-15 08:58 PM GMT

Just late reading my postings, thanks everyone for your input I've been taking it easy for the last few days ,seems I've to have an op on my other eye now 😊 So with the weather being so great (exception being today, gale force winds) I've been in my garden sunning myself 😊 Thursday was a really lovely day, in the garden we had visits from STS and Peacocks, not to mention Comma's the only things that haven't shown up yet are the Whites, I did see a Brimstone but didn't manage a photo I've posted what I thought really show that Spring is here, I'm looking forward to seeing the Orange Tips and hope fully I'll be sorted out by then, at present it's a case of shoot and hope for the best 😊 I want to pay a couple more visits to HLB so I hope the weather gets better Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Hoggers, 13-Apr-15 01:14 AM GMT

Hi Goldie lovely photos as usual and I think we must shop at the same garden centre because I've got the same flowers in my garden!

Best wishes

Hoggers

**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 13-Apr-15 03:18 AM GMT

Your garden looks very springlike Goldie 😊, makes me wish I had a garden 😞

Sorry to hear about your eye op, hope it goes well.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 13-Apr-15 06:12 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Nice photos from your garden. Hope all goes well with your eye.

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 13-Apr-15 06:13 AM GMT

Great to see you up and running proper Goldie – that is a great sot of the Peacock 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 13-Apr-15 11:29 PM GMT

Hi! Hogger's ,glad you like my photos, it's obvious we have great taste in garden plants 😊  
Bugboy, you've really surprised me, ( no garden ) yet you've such great photos I'd hate to be without mine 😊

Thanks Neil, it will all be over with by Friday, then all systems go, when the Orange Tips get going around here I hope to be has well 😊

Glad you like the photos Wurzel, my favourite is the Peacock I like the way he seems to be hanging onto the flower, I'd only planted the Violas a couple of days before, the Peacock BF seems to like them a lot quite a few enjoyed them last week 😊

Today has been another cold day but tomorrow promises to be warmer so hope fully I may see some thing Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 14-Apr-15 12:58 AM GMT

#### "Goldie M" wrote:

Bugboy, you've really surprised me, ( no garden ) yet you've such great photos I'd hate to be without mine 😊

Thats London life sadly. I'm lucky my local patch is only a 10 minute walk away and is also a SSSI site 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 14-Apr-15 02:23 AM GMT

That explains it Buggy 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 15-Apr-15 05:26 PM GMT

Great surprise yesterday, I went to Yarrow Valley Park the weather was lovely yet I didn't see but one Butterfly, a Peacock, so I came back to Hall-Lee=Brook in Westhoughton expecting to see (are rather hoping) a white of some kind, again nothing but Peacocks and Tortoiseshell's, although I love to see them and I took loads more pictures I was disappointed 😊

I came back home thinking," that's it for a while" and I started doing things in the garden, my neighbour who lives across the drive from me came over and while we were nattering I saw a flash of blue in her edge, I told her to keep her eye on the spot where it had landed and shot in the house for my camera, to my delight has I had thought it was a Holly Blue 😊

I was in a rush to take as many shots has I could before it took off again which it did quite frequently so I was in quite a hurry 😊  
I found out in the conversation afterwards that my neighbours had never seen a HB before and were has delighted as I was. I also found out that hidden from view behind their hedge was a holly bush 😊 They've promised to look after it and not cut it too much so hope fully I may even get more shots before this season ends. I've even got them interested in growing more things for Butterflies which can't be bad 😊 Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 15-Apr-15 06:29 PM GMT

So pleased it was still there when you got your camera! I've not seen Holly Blues yet in my garden but it can't be long now. Good that you have enthused your neighbour as well 😊

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 16-Apr-15 05:27 AM GMT

I'm very jealous of your Holly Blue pictures Goldie, I've seen 2 now and all I've managed are quick distance underside snaps. Glad to hear you're

encouraging your neighbours into important matters 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Nick Broomer, 16-Apr-15 05:39 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

lovely photos of the male Holly Blue. Even though i have seen a male myself, a few days ago, the Holly Blue is quite rare where i live. So getting a photo of this beautiful insect will prove rather difficult. So well done, and thank you for sharing your good fortune with us.

All the best, Nick.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 16-Apr-15 06:35 AM GMT

Great stuff Goldie, lovely shots of a very awkward butterfly, more of a Hairstreak than a Blue 😊🇩🇪

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 17-Apr-15 03:41 AM GMT

Thanks Mike, Nick, Bugboy and Wurzel, I sent the photo's to my neighbours and they were really pleased sent me an e-mail back saying their on the look out each day now for it 😊

I'll have to wait while next week now before I get out again, but if the weather picks up like it did today I just might see the Holly Blue again, my neighbours are going to signal me 🙄 Orange Tips next I hope Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Maximus, 17-Apr-15 05:32 AM GMT

Lovely Holly Blue photos, Goldie 😊 Not an easy subject at all 🙄

**Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 17-Apr-15 03:05 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Back to the cool wind down here . If you click on the Large White image the Butterflies will be easier to make out , I did not have time to get closer.

Best wishes,  
TREVOR.

**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 19-Apr-15 10:32 PM GMT

Yes, well done with that Holly Blue, Goldie. I've found that you just have to be patient – they quite often fly off for a while but come back to the same place they started from. 😊

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 19-Apr-15 11:14 PM GMT

Thanks Millerd,Trevor and Maximus, for your postings, I'm sat here at present and for the next couple of days I've to take things easy, I had my eye operation on Friday and it must have gone well because when I looked in the mirror this morning I shrieked at the sight of the wrinkles 😊 The Sun has come out now and my husbands nearly had to tie me down to stop me going out 😊

They've forecast nice weather for next week so I'll have to be patient, but when I've seen all the great photo's today I can't wait 😊  
Now I'm having the computer taken off me so I better finish off, next time I post I hope to have some thing to show, ( hope fully)  
Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Butterflysaurus rex, 20-Apr-15 06:39 AM GMT

Lovely Holly Blue photos Goldie, I'm still waiting to get a photo I'm happy with, I've not even seen one yet this year. Great stuff 😊

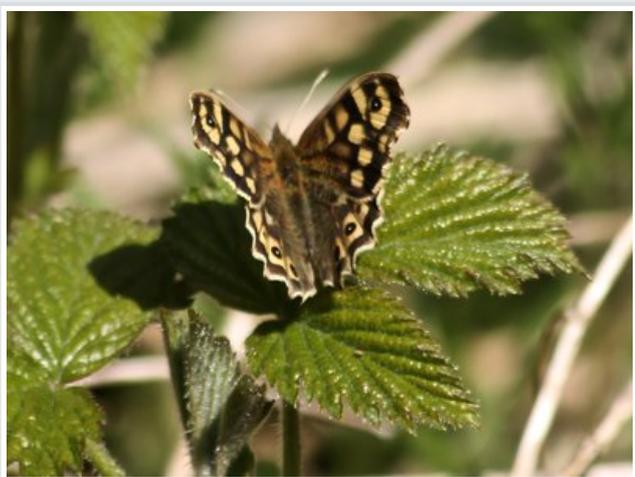
## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 22-Apr-15 06:06 AM GMT

Thank you Butterflysaurus, this weather should start to bring them out now for you, hope you get some photos soon. 😊

With the weather being so nice and I was okay I just had to venture out. 😊 so I went to Hall-Lee-Brook for a quick look round yesterday and again today, I was only there for a short time but I'm glad to say I finally got to see the Orange tip, 4 in all but no photos yet they had other things on their mind 😊 I did manage my first Brimstone also a Large White and a Speckled Wood so things are happening here at last 😊

The Speckled Wood, looked like it's wing was stuck on one side so may be it hadn't been out long, it was great to see them. Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 22-Apr-15 06:21 AM GMT

Great to see things really moving up there now Goldie – you'll soon be out looking for Dukes 😊 Great Large White shot – they were something of a rarity last year.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 22-Apr-15 06:26 AM GMT

You're gradually catching up, Goldie – you've trumped me with your female Large White – I've yet to see this delightful specimen thus far in 2015!

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 22-Apr-15 06:34 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel and David, I couldn't believe it either when I saw the LW, you usually see the Small White or the Green Veined before them so I was pleasantly surprised 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 22-Apr-15 06:37 AM GMT

**"Goldie M" wrote:**

Thanks Wurzel and David, I couldn't believe it either when I saw the LW, you usually see the Small White or the Green Veined before them so I was pleasantly surprised 😊 Goldie 😊

Seems like Large Whites may be enjoying a renaissance in 2015 after last year's virtual no show.

Good to see they're putting in an appearance further north too!

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 27-Apr-15 04:45 AM GMT

Not posted for a few days, still wearing the eye patch 😊 Today though was cold but lovely in the Sunshine so I decided to go to Hall-Lee-Brook and look in the sheltered places and at last I got my Orange Tip 😊 not just that but a Green Veined White has well, I couldn't wait to put my OT in my post so I'll have to Finnish my postings to everyone tomorrow I've to get some work done now 😊 Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 27-Apr-15 05:08 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

I love your Orange Tip image, mine so far were taken on a very windy day , so much so that they couldn't open their wings flat.

Perhaps another day,  
TREVOR.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 27-Apr-15 05:34 AM GMT

That is a great OT shot Goldie and beats my efforts so far this year hands down 🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 27-Apr-15 05:56 AM GMT

Good things come to those who wait, Goldie.

Well done. 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Nick Broomer, 27-Apr-15 06:11 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

nice to see you get your first Orange-tip, and a lovely photo as well.

I hope everything is well with your eye, that the operation was a success, and that you can soon loose the eye-patch.

All the best, Nick.

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 27-Apr-15 06:21 PM GMT

Thanks Nick, I've a few hiccups with the eye but it's much better thank you. 😊

Hi ! Wurzel, your bound to get better shots soon if the weather mellows a bit 😊

Your right David good things do happen if you wait long enough, trouble is having the Patience 😊 I was lucky Trevor, I went to the less windy places and this one landed right in front of me 😊

I thought I'd put a few more photos in has I was in a hurry last night , it's suppose to rain later today , this morning all the bird baths were frozen and my tulips had all bowed their heads nearly to the ground, but the Sun is out again and things are back to normal thank fully. Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 28-Apr-15 12:10 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Hope you get to see some Pearls. Here's a little tip for you, if the day you go is sunny with some cloud, watch them flying in the sunshine, and where they land. if it then clouds over you can approach them quite easily. If it's a hot day forget it!. They don't usually fly when it's dull.

Best wishes ,  
TREVOR.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 28-Apr-15 12:27 AM GMT

I'll do that Trevor, can't wait to see them Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 28-Apr-15 03:55 AM GMT

Hi Goldie, glad you got your Orange-tip, nice photo 😊

It was a bit nippy here again this morning, the car windscreen had a thin layer of ice on it when I went to work.

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 28-Apr-15 06:57 AM GMT

Lovely selection Goldie, looks like you're getting your butterfly fix on a regular basis now 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 29-Apr-15 11:50 PM GMT

Thanks bugboy it's been ever so cold here over the last few days, I've decided to wait for the the wind to drop abit, Friday looks a good day so I'll venture forth then. 😊

Hi! Neil, it's been too cold with wind and rain even snow on high ground so I was lucky to get a shot of the Orange Tip when I did glad you liked itGoldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Maximus, 30-Apr-15 05:46 AM GMT

Nice selection of shots recently, Gloldie 😊 you're doing very well 😊

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 02-May-15 03:51 AM GMT

Thanks Mike, eye patch off today 😊

The weather today was a big improvement on the last few days, much less wind and NO rain 😊 The Sun was shining in the morning but by the time I got to Hall-Lee-Brook had disappeared in a haze and it felt cold. I decided not to give up and after walking round slowly for about an hour my patience was rewarded with the Sun reappearing also the Butterflies 😊

The first to appear was a Small Tortoiseshell, then a rather ragged Peacock, but at last I saw a flash of white land in the grass and I saw my first Small White of the year(least I hope it is) 😊 then the Orange Tips appeared, the May flowers they enjoy are still few and far between at HLB so I went to where I knew a few were growing and waited, I was rewarded when one appeared and settled on the May flowers, I tried to catch him going from flower to flower .( didn't always work 😊 )

Any way with luck may be the weather will warm up a bit over the weekend and we'll all get more shots 😊 Goldie 😊







**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 03-May-15 08:53 PM GMT

Horrid weather here, rain and cold winds so I've consoled myself by posting a photo I took on Friday of a speckled Wood 😊 hope fully tomorrow will be a better day Goldie 😊



*Speckled Wood GM*

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 04-May-15 05:43 AM GMT

Great OTs Goldie 😊 Hopefully the weather will cheer up a bit soon...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 04-May-15 05:53 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

After a cold and gloomy Saturday and a grotty morning today, this afternoon brightened up considerably around here, albeit there were still a few showers. Tomorrow is looking quite good for most of the country so hope you have it decent up your way.

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 06-May-15 03:45 AM GMT

Once again I start my post which was some how lost to me after I'd spent ages doing it, as this happened to any one else 🤔 😊

I began by thanking you Wurzel and Neil for your posts which are always welcome 😊

I did have a great day yesterday, we checked the weather in the morning and the forecast said sunny at SilverDale so we got a packed lunch and off we went.

I'll cut my post shorter by saying we found the Duke also the Green Hair Streaks but only after the cold wind had dropped and the temperatures picked up, so much so we took the heavier coats off. 😊

There was about 4 Dukes in all that we saw, I don't think they'd been out long because we actually got to photograph them without too much activity on their part 😊 They did go into darker areas at time which was awkward but at least we saw them and got some shots. 😊 What a treat 😊

We went back to the GHS site which we'd visited before we went to the Dukes, there'd been nothing there then, this time how ever we saw a flash of emerald and two appeared I don't need to tell you that made my day 😊 I just couldn't believe the colour, at first they were in the grass, which made taking photos hope less, then they flew to near by bushes and I was able to get some shots, I don't know if it's the same one I got all the time are not I just found them then they'd fly off and then come back again 😊😊 I just hope I've given their colouring Justice Goldie 😊



*Green Hair Streak GM*



*Green Hair Streak GM*



*Green Hair Streak GM*



*Green Hair Streak GM*



*Green Hair Streak GM*



*Duke-Of-Burgandy GM*



Duke-Of-Burgandy GM



Duke-Of-Burgandy GM



Duke-Of-Burgandy GM

**Re: Goldie M**

by nomad, 06-May-15 04:16 AM GMT

I am pleased you found his grace. 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 06-May-15 04:28 AM GMT

Thanks nomad, it was quite a day Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 06-May-15 05:09 AM GMT

Glad you got an audience with the Dukes, Goldie. You've got one up on me there!

**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 06-May-15 05:27 AM GMT

Yes, Goldie, I've had carefully written posts just vanish into thin air too – technology still has surprises sometimes 😞  
Lovely hairstreaks – you're right, it's hard to believe just how green they are, and how it varies with the light. And really good to find those Dukes too.  
😊 That area is amazing for different species considering how far north it is.

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 06-May-15 05:58 AM GMT

I'm envious of your finding Dukes, as I've had no luck, locally. That last shot has great character! Nice to see the GreenH showing off their colours –

again, the last of your series shows the colours best.

Mike

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 06-May-15 06:50 AM GMT

Great to see that you got some Dukes Goldie, I am still bereft of them but hopefully will pick up one or two next weekend 🍀 I have lost a number of posts into the ether (sometimes in the short space of time taken to pour a drink 🍷) so now I always write my longer posts in Word and then copy and paste them in. If my computer or the server decides to have a Paddy I can always paste it in again once it's calmed down 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-May-15 07:24 PM GMT

Hi! David, I was suprised as well because the weather up there as been really bad, their site though is quite sheltered so that's a plus for them, hope you get them soon. 😊

I'm glad it's not just me that the text disappears on Millard 😊 I thought I might see some PBF their usually out when the Dukes are but no sign of them, your right about Gait Barrow it's a Butterfly haven 😊

Hi! Mike, your like me I like the the last of the Duke pic's best, also the last of the Hair Streak pic's, the Dukes were hard to get amongst all the dead leaves which they choose to land on 😊 and the Hair streaks liked the grass more than the bushes. 😊 I had to take all the shots from a distance which didn't help, in fact there were quite a few people taking pictures, one man had a huge camera which he said he couldn't use because they were too far a way which I thought was strange if you'd come to take shots of the Duke in the first place 😊

Hi! Wurzel, Hope you get the Dukes soon , Im sure you will , sounds a good Idea of yours writing it out and pasting it in I'll have to try that 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 06-May-15 08:16 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

I've yet to see any Green Hairstreaks or Dukes, so well found, hope you get your Pearls soon.

Best wishes ,  
TREVOR.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-May-15 11:47 PM GMT

Thanks Trevor, we could do with some warmer weather again and less rain, may be next week hope fully 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 11-May-15 01:02 AM GMT

Last Friday morning I decided to go to Hall Lee Brook before the rain came in the afternoon and I'm glad I did the Orange Tips were flying, (no Ladies yet though) I only saw two Green Veined White's one flew off before I could get a photo the other one settled on a branch so I managed a shot, when I got home and looked at the photo I saw this white object on it's back not sure what it is.

The Orange Tips were in and out of the grass then on to the new buds on the trees, I think the lack of May Flowers and the fact they were searching for females made them seem a bit erratic 😊

Since then the weather has been very cold but tomorrow hope fully will be better , I've included a photograph of Hall Lee Brook wherel saw the Orange Tips Goldie 😊



*Orange Tip HLB 8th May 2015 GM*



*Orange Tips HLB 8th May 2015 GM*



*Orange Tip HLB 8th May 2015 GM*



Green Veined White HLB 8th May 2015 GM



Orange Tip HLB 8th May 2015 GM

### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 11-May-15 06:42 AM GMT

Good luck for tomorrow, Goldie! Most of the decent weather down here in south Wales has come during the working week, meaning I've quite a bit of ground to make up.

I wish I had the opportunity to indulge myself during these next couple of (forecast) warm days.

Fill your boots!

### Re: Goldie M

by Willow, 12-May-15 04:35 AM GMT

Some of your recent butterflying adventures have proved very rewarding Goldie...I'm envious 🍷

Best Wishes,

Bill 😊

"When in doubt - venture out"

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 13-May-15 01:57 AM GMT

Thanks David, it was a total failure yesterday as far as PBF were concerned, the weather at Gait Barrows was very windy we didn't see any Butterflies flying at all until we went to see how the Dukes were doing and we found just one and he ( I assume it's an male) never moved hardly, people were able to photograph him for over half an hour. 😞

My Butterflying adventures weren't so lucky yesterday Willow but at least I got some more shots of the Duke. 😊  
I TRIED is the word for yesterday, 😊 We went to Warton Craig first and nearly got blown off it 😊 Gusts were up to 50 miles an hour, ridiculous really .  
The only things flying were the leaves, the weather man had said it would be Breezy, that was an understatement 😊

We went on to Gaits Barrow we thought it would be more sheltered, nothing at all until we found the Duke at least I got some thing to take home 😊 I'll wait now I think before I go there again until these winds drop we've had them for weeks now on and off I'll have to look for the female OT's here and hope they appear soon 😊 Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by Padfield, 13-May-15 02:28 AM GMT

Hi Goldie. I've really been enjoying your recent pictures – and sorry to hear about the wind. I know exactly what it's like when every time you go out the wind blasts everything away ... 😊

Your duke is a duchess, and a very fine one at that.

Guy

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 13-May-15 04:01 AM GMT

Thanks for telling me it's a female Guy, I can't tell the difference 😊 I just went off the fact it didn't move about a lot, I'd heard it was the Female's who wandered about and the Males defended their territory , so I assumed it was Male 😊

I'm glad you've enjoyed the pictures, coming from you that's great 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 13-May-15 05:01 AM GMT

Lovely Duchess Goldie 😊

Having been to Warton Crag a couple of times I can imagine that it would be a bit dodgy up there in the wind, especially on that path above the car park 😬

Here's hoping that the wind dies down for you, it has been a bit breezy around here lately too, even during the past couple of days which have been nice and sunny.

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 13-May-15 06:39 AM GMT

Dukes and Duchess's everywhere and not a single one for Wurzel 😞🍷 Like the closed wing shots 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

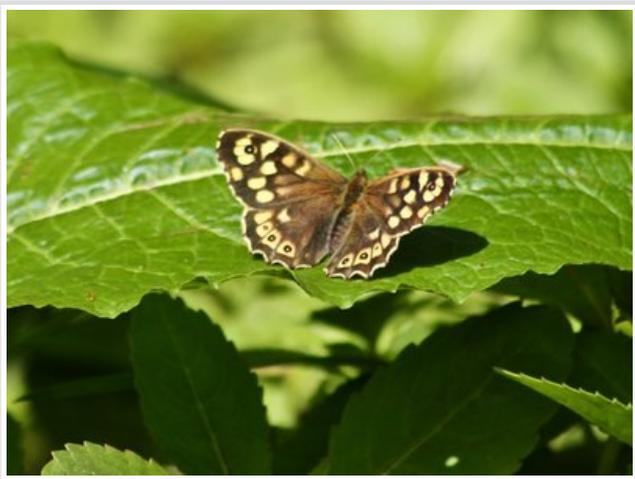
by Goldie M, 17-May-15 02:15 AM GMT

You'll get your Duke shots before long Wurzel, I just hope to get the PBF now , the weather is really cold here, although it was lovely here last Wednesday It's the cold wind again today 😞

I went to Gait Barrow too soon this last week I should have gone on the Wednesday , a bit impossible to go twice in the same week so I missed out on the PBF I don't think next week will be much better cold winds all week forecast, any way I went to Hall Lee Brook instead and took a few more shots of the Orange Tip, (still no female OT) also the GVW and I actually saw Holly Blue which were not very obliging, staying way up in the trees I did my best to get one are two shots.

I was quite pleased to see a Peacock also a Small Tortoiseshell and a couple of Comma's flying about, loads of Speckled Woods, so all in all it was a nice day and a nice haul 😊

I was leaving when some thing caught my eye, a Heron had landed on the roof of a house opposite , he looked quite pleased with himself so I suppose he'd raided a few ponds 😊 Goldie 😊









**Re: Goldie M**

by Pauline, 17-May-15 02:43 AM GMT

Hi Goldie, you're posting of the 12th made me chuckle. Growing up in the NE it ALWAYS seemed to be windy, so windy you could actually lean onto it and it would hold you up - you know what I mean 😊 How you guys get any shots at all amazes me. Great job with the Heron - you must have been quick to get it as it flew off. 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 17-May-15 03:24 AM GMT

Hi! Pauline, we never seem to be free from the wind, the odd day then we're back into it again but you know the saying " Carry on regardless bonnie lass" 😊 ( I added the bonnie lass bit 😊 ) that's all you can do. 😊 I've included another photo to make you smile also taken at Hall Lee Brook Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

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

Well done getting your lovely Duchess Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Willow, 17-May-15 06:12 AM GMT

Yes Goldie, these winds make our butterflying hard work sometimes, but well done in managing some lovely shots under such conditions 😊

Kind Regards,

Bill 😊

**"When in doubt - venture out"**

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 17-May-15 06:36 AM GMT

Like the heron shots Goldie and I wouldn't mind the stained glass Holly Blue for my collection 😊🍀 Giod luck with the Pearls 😊

Havel a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 17-May-15 06:38 AM GMT

I share your pain, Goldie.

Like you, I'm utterly sick of 12c temperatures and cool winds that belong in March.

Surely we must receive some payback soon?

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 17-May-15 07:27 PM GMT

Thanks everyone for your input,

David i'm fed up with the wind as well, I tend to wait until I think it's dropped a bit before I can go out, the op I had on my eye as limited me , I can't stand the wind in it, my eye patch which I thought I'd dispensed with is back again. 😞

Glad you like the HB Wurzel and I've given up on the PB for next week the forecast is the same all week windy and 12c 😊

Thanks Bill, it's been quite a chore even going to look for them recently but worth it when you find some thing that isn't hiding in the edges 😊

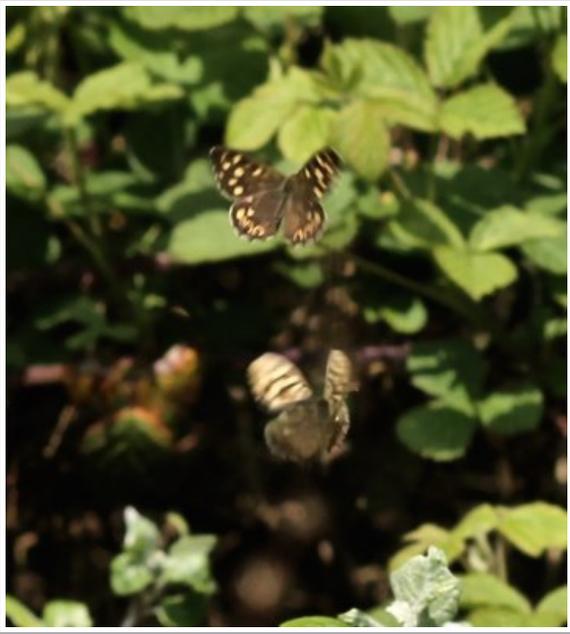
Thanks Maximus, she does look regal doesn't she 😊

Whilst at Hall-Lee-Brook I took some shots of the Speckled Woods chasing around , I'm not sure if they were seeing off the opposition are trying to mate 😊 I've included a couple of shots of the HLB and Spring Wood at Whalley where I thought I might find some Butterflies last week but it was so cold nothing, not even an OT was visible .

The first shot of HLB is of the meadow where this time last year it was covered in May flowers and OTS, this year the OT's were in the second shot which is sheltered but void of May flowers which are basically few and far between in the meadow, although Blue Bells and Garlic flowers can be found down by the stream, I'll take a shot of that next time I'm there.

Spring Wood are my second and third shots unmistakable really 😊 Roll on the warmer weather Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 17-May-15 11:41 PM GMT

Great in-flight shots of specklies Goldie 😊.

I agree with this persistent wind this season, it really is becoming a bit of a menace! Hope your eye continues to get better though 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 18-May-15 01:45 AM GMT

Nice to see you trying in-flight shots, Goldie. You need a bit faster shutter speed. When I had a go last year, I set aperture priority, with the lens wide open. This meant that the camera chose the fastest possible shutter speed for the lighting conditions. I think mine were taken at around 1/2,000 sec. (ISO 800)

I once came home from a photography trip, to see a Heron on a neighbour's roof. I thought it was some sort of plastic bird-scarer at first and then it moved! As I had the camera in the car with me, I took several photos. It's not as strange as another story :- last year, someone phoned the local County Bird Recorder to say that they had a Bittern on their shed roof. Very incredulous, the Recorder drove round and saw ... a Bittern on the man's shed roof!!!

Mike

### Re: Goldie M

by Hoggers, 18-May-15 01:51 AM GMT

Hi Goldie, sorry to hear that the weather's not good where you are - as David says, I'm sure you will be compensated in the weeks to come.

I really enjoyed the Speckled Woods in flight- great shots!

Best wishes,

Hoggers.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 18-May-15 07:42 PM GMT

Thanks Bug Boy and Hogger's glad you liked my adventure into flight 😊

The weather forecast is not too bad for Wednesday so may be I'll get some thing then. ( raining right now) 😊

Hi! Mike, yes I thought I'd just have a go because they were flying like that all a round me. I'll try your suggestion next time at Hall Lee Brook, hope fully the lady OT's might be out . I'm still all fingers and thumbs at photography so any thing can Happen!! 😊 Goldie

A Bittern on the roof of a shed must have been a real sight, I hope they took some photos 😊

They're trying to get them to settle at Penn Flash, I've not seen them there yet but I got a glimpse of one at Mere Sands near Southport a couple of years since, their incredible to look at 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

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

Lovely woodland shots Goldie, I visited my local Bluebell wood this weekend and they're coming to an end down here 😊 Interesting flight shots, something I'd like to look into a bit more.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 19-May-15 06:41 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzal, I'm just sat at present having a coffee and watching the Hail stones banging about outside, so much for Sunny periods. 😊 Yes! it would be interesting if when out Butterflyflying you saw some Butterflies flying and knew how to take proper shots of them, I'm going to try what Mike advised and see what Happens.

Yesterday I had a situation, my Husband saw a Wood Pigeon that had been attacked in our garden, it's poor back was quite gauged, I rang three different Vets only to be told they couldn't help, in the end I rang the RSPCA and they put me on to a wild bird hospital, who asked us to bring the bird (which by now was just sitting there looking so hurt it really upset me) in to their hospital, easier said than done.

They told us to throw a towel over it, so out we went (box ready to go) and to our amazement it took off and flew quite strongly away, it had lost so many feathers we didn't think it was possible , we've not seen it since so hope fully it will recover, what a day though!!! I do hope the bird is okay. 😊

I'm so fed up with the wind and rain I've decided to cheer myself with some shots I took earlier in the year of a rather lovely Peacock Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 20-May-15 04:12 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

I like those Peacock shots against the sky 😊

I know what you mean about the weather, we have had some pretty nasty hailstorms around here today as well 🙄 Here's hoping that it picks up a bit soon .

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Willrow, 21-May-15 05:49 AM GMT

Improvements on the weather front for the next few days Goldie...hope you get the shots you want 😊

Best Wishes,

Bill 😊

"When in doubt – venture out"

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 22-May-15 05:34 AM GMT

You were right about the weather Willow, we took a chance yesterday and after a morning of showers we took off for Gait Barrow after a promise of fine weather in the afternoon. 😊

Thanks Neil, glad you liked the Peacock shots, I hope you got some of the nice weather we enjoyed yesterday afternoon 😊

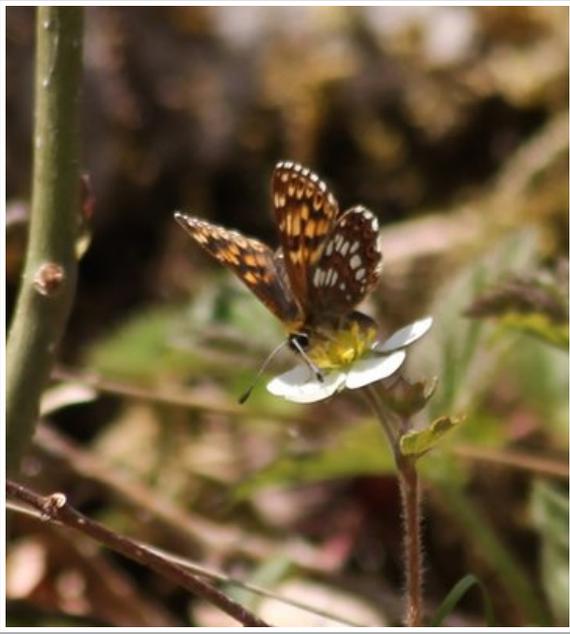
When we arrived at GB the weather was already improving, so we went to the place where last year we saw the PBF, not a sign of them, we waited around for ages, the Sun finally came out and the temperature really soared still no PBF but the Dukes came out in force 😊 and although I'd got lots of photos of them before I couldn't resist the extra shots, I was delighted when they started flower hopping on the wild Strawberry plants, I'd no photos before of them on flowers so that was a bonus 😊

We looked for the Green Hair Streaks but none were seen, so I went back to the Dukes and as I watched them this bright Green caught my eye and there was a GHS 😊 It landed on one of the flowers, I got a quick shot before it flew off has quickly as it had arrived 😊 Still no PBF 😊

We walked round for another hour or so then decided to call it a day, as we were walking down the path this little BF landed in front of us, my first Dingy Skipper of the year, so I wasn't too disappointed with the day and I can always go back in the next week or two when I think the PB will be out for sure 😊 I've enclosed a shot of Gait Barrow also one of Warton Craig and a view of Morecambe Bay from Warton Craig Goldie 😊







**Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 22-May-15 06:02 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,  
Your last Duke image is a beauty, i only saw three today. Tomorrow i am hoping to see some Marsh Fritillaries, fingers crossed!. Hope the weather where you are is improving.

Best wishes ,  
TREVOR.

**Re: Goldie M**

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

Cracking Dukes Goldie 🍀 Fingers crossed that you get Pearls and I get Dukes this weekend – or failing that we could 'tick' each others 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 22-May-15 06:38 AM GMT

Thanks Trevor, glad you like the photo, I hope you get some Marsh Frit's tomorrow our nearest site is top end of Cumberland just that bit to far a way for a days journey. Goldie 😊

Hi! Wurzel, hope we don't have to start swopping 😊 we'll press on regardless 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Pauline, 22-May-15 11:58 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, I follow your diary closely but can't always reply when I should. I was interested in your Wood Pigeon injury; it was so good of you to try to help. I find usually that the RSPCA are stretched and do not have the resources to deal with such events (despite the TV programmes) and Wildlife hospitals are few and far between with limited resources too. The trouble is with birds they hide their illnesses well and because they can fly, sometimes it is only when they are 'on their last legs' so to speak that one is able to catch them, by which time it is usually too late. If it is a cat attack undoubtedly infection will set in and the bird will become weaker and debilitated which may enable you to catch it eventually but it may well be too late. If you can find a wildlife friendly vet in your area that would be an asset. Good luck.

## Re: Goldie M

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

Hi! Pauline, we had a wild life Vet all set to go when the bird flew off 😞 (there's a wild Bird hospital at Bury )but we can't catch the bird it's been back since with it's mate standing guard to eat in the garden but as soon as we appear they disappear so we're hope full that it will be okay, we're keeping a look out for it each day, if it lets it's guard down once we'll grab it 😊  
I can't bear to see animals in pain, I watch the wild life programs but if they show animals being attacked by other animals I switch off or, go in kitchen 😞 I'm hope less Goldie 😊

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 25-May-15 03:15 AM GMT

Cracking day yesterday 😊 , We went to Southport Dunes the weather was fantastic, I didn't know what to expect, i'd been to Hall-Lee- Brook in the morning and all we saw were two GWW, 3 OT'S, ( no females) 1 Peacock, I've never known it so bad for Butterflies.

We decided to carry on to Southport and I'm certainly glad we did, I saw four first's of the year for me 😊

Looks like if these four are out the PBF will soon follow so that's my next move Hope fully.

When we approached the Dunes a Common Blue flew past us, on entering I then immediately spotted a Small Heath which flew off straight a way , this I didn't bother about because I knew if one was present there 'd be others (hope fully), we carried on up the Dunes to a sheltered spot I knew they liked and there they were accompanied with Small Copper and Common Blue, for about 30 mins I'd a ball 😊

We decided to move further down the coast past Birkdale to Ainsdale Dunes. I was surprised when we got there at the lack of Butterflies, these Dunes are separated in parts by wooden walkways because in the Winter Months it can get quite flooded.

On one side where it was still damp (No Butterflies) on the other side much drier I found one or two Blues nothing like where I'd been previously . I decided to look nearer to the Edge of the dune which acted as a steep wall separating the Dune from the coast rd and that was my first sighting of a wall, two in fact, they'd obviously just mated ( i just missed that worse luck) but at least I got some shots of both even if the female was hiding in the grass 😊

I also got a photo of a very Dark female Common Blue at the first site so all in all I was quite happy with my day 😊 Goldie 😊









**Re: Goldie M**

by Hoggers, 25-May-15 03:36 AM GMT

Hi Goldie I'm glad you had such a great day especially after the rotten weather you've had. I love the Small Copper on the sand – looks like he's on his holidays!

Best wishes

Hoggers

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 25-May-15 06:09 AM GMT

Salvation at last!

It's been a long time coming, Goldie, but perhaps all the more satisfying as a consequence.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 25-May-15 11:39 PM GMT

Thank you Hoggers, glad you like the SC I agree 😊 all he needed was a bucket and spade 😊  
Yes David, salvation at last 😊 I was certainly glad to see those Butterflies, now for the Pearls I hope 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 26-May-15 05:31 AM GMT

Great shots of the Common Blue and the Wall Goldie 😊 I got my Duke so I reckon you'll be on for the Pearls now 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 26-May-15 05:40 AM GMT

Hi Goldie, I am glad that the weather finally turned for you and you got to see some butterflies 😊 Hope you get your Pearls soon.

It has been my turn to be under miserable grey skies for the past few days but its looking a bit better for tomorrow so planning on going to the Wyre Forest for some Pearls myself.

Cheers,

Neil

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 26-May-15 10:28 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel I was thrilled to get them,( glad you got your Dukes) 😊  
Looks like we may be back into the bad weather again Neil for the next few days UGH! Goldie 😊

## Re: Goldie M

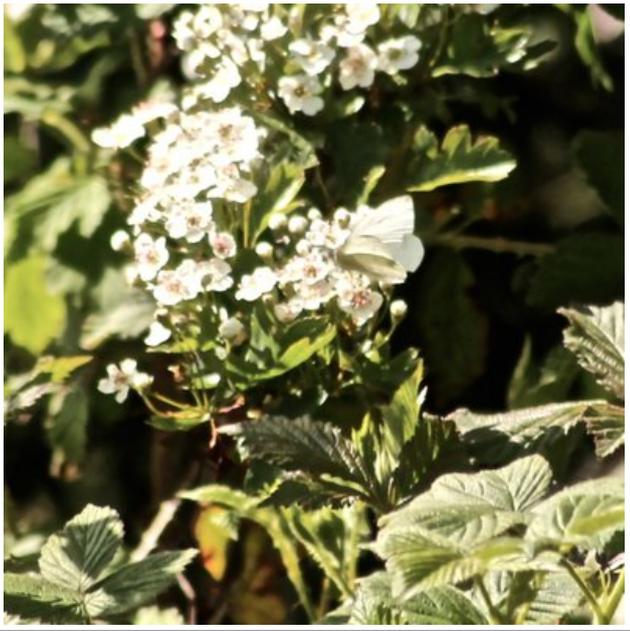
by Goldie M, 27-May-15 03:57 AM GMT

I went to Hall-Lee-Brook this afternoon the weather was cold and cloudy but the Sun did come out about 3pm, I didn't want to give up on the Female OT'S so I hoped they'd be there, needless to say I saw two Butterflies only, a Speckled Wood and a Small White, the SW was in the distance quite a way over the Brambles but when it landed on the blossom I had to take a chance and take a shot 📷

I also took a shot of a Bee I saw, I don't know much about Bee's but this one was a lovely honey colour and looked great on the flower I turned the photo of the flower so I could see the Bee better 🐝

We decided to go down to the stream for a walk and I was surprised at the amount of Garlic Flowers and Blue Bells that were down there, last time I went there it looked quite barren it's surprising what a few weeks rain can do, no Orange Tips there at all, I just hope next year we see them again because this year as been awful for them, I've not seen one Female, I took photos of the walk. Goldie 😊







### Re: Goldie M

by Willow, 27-May-15 11:11 PM GMT

Great stuff Goldie, your habitat photos add lots to your reports...hope you get lots more sunshine...and butterflies too 😊

Regards,

Bill 😊

"When in doubt - venture out"

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 31-May-15 07:20 PM GMT

Thanks Willow for your comments 😊 I also think habitat photos are good too 😊

Yesterday I went back to Gait Barrow hoping to see the Pearls, no luck, I spoke to lots of people who were visiting just to see the Slipper Orchards and no one had seen them. One person even said he'd been to see the Dukes and they'd gone no sign of them.

I was surprised at this and being as the last two years I'd seen the Pearls there we decided to go and take a look any way, at this point the Sun was fully out and the dark clouds had disappeared and knowing the Dukes (if there) come out when the Sun shines also the Pearls we decided to look there as a last resort, by this time we'd been a long the white trail and come back along the Purple trail and were feeling the fact in our legs 😊

The Purple trail had been very fruitful for me because I saw a female Orange Tip my first of this year, and also three moths, ( I've yet to look up their names but I think last year I saw one of them and should have this some where.)

Back to the Dukes, I was right about them, we saw two and one came near enough for a photo, 😊 still no Pearls, 😞

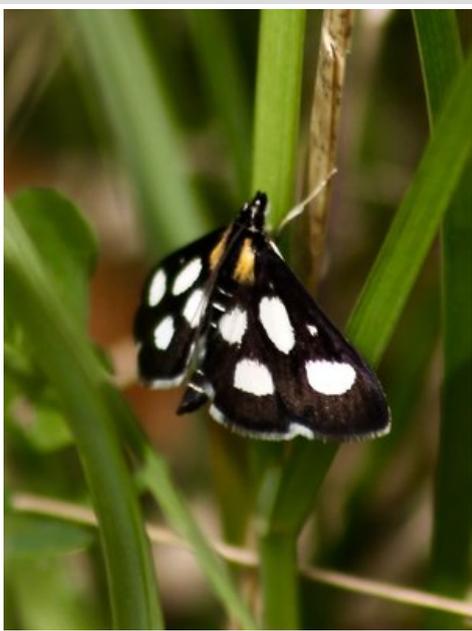
When we headed back home we decided to call at Warton Craig, I took a photo of the Dukes site before we left and though at Warton the story was the same, no Pearls ,I just had to take a Photo of the flowers there, a cold wind was blowing and the temperature was only 14c so no Butterflies, it felt more like March than late May, any way looks like I may have to wait for the SPB now. I'm off for a week in the Broads next weekend and I've to get things ready for that Goldie 😊



Warton Craig



*Mint Moth*



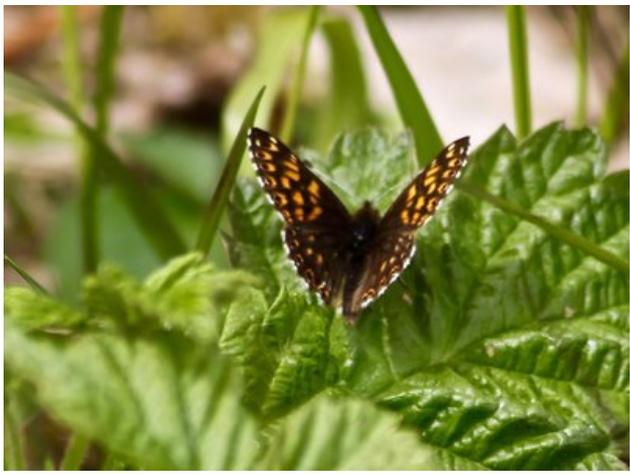
*White Spotted Sable Moth*



*Slipper Orchid*



*Duke Site*





### Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 31-May-15 09:28 PM GMT

It's good to see that the Lady's Slipper Orchids are thriving again. It's been the result of extensive work by Kew, to understand how to propagate these plants after the British population had dwindled to just one single specimen!

I never believe what other people say when visiting a site – it's important to understand the behaviour of the different butterfly species, in order to find some of the rarer ones. Your habitat shots are very useful in learning where to look.

A pity about the pearls – I hope that they are successfully lurking somewhere. They can be very elusive unless the weather conditions are right.

Mike

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 31-May-15 11:52 PM GMT

Hi! Mike, I'm getting things wrong today in a big way with my posting so hope this one is okay 😊

Your right about the Slipper Orchids being so rare, loads of people come to see them at Gait Barrow each year, you'd think though that people would take more care when visiting them, one man yesterday had his dog off the lead whilst taking a photo of them, people were giving him strange looks, luckily the dog was well behaved, that's in spite of the posters saying dogs must be kept on a lead because of the wild life and rare plants, my Husband's comments ( " may be he can't read, or he's just a moron," ) 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Willow, 31-May-15 11:53 PM GMT

Your having lots of fun Goldie regardless of the vagaries of the Great British weather, bet you'll bring loads of good images back from your hols 😊

Regards,

Bill 😊

"When in doubt – venture out"

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 01-Jun-15 12:00 AM GMT

Hi! Willow, I do hope so, I want some good shots hope fully of the Swallow Tail, it's a few years since I was there and my photos then with a very small hand camera were not very good so, fingers crossed and clement weather I'll hope for better. Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Willow, 01-Jun-15 12:32 AM GMT

Good luck Goldie...enjoy 😊

Bill 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 01-Jun-15 02:18 AM GMT

I look forward to seeing your pictures of the Swallowtail Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Pauline, 01-Jun-15 11:10 PM GMT

I'm looking forward to seeing some Swallowtail shots Goldie – I have wanted to get there for 4 years now! 😊 Nearly made it last year but stuff got in the way 😞. Good luck and enjoy 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 02-Jun-15 01:02 AM GMT

Thanks Willow, Bugboy and Pauline, with all your good wishes and( hope fully) good Weather I hope to get lucky, it will be great just to see them again. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 02-Jun-15 07:32 AM GMT

Hope you have a great holiday and get some more cracking shots Goldie. 😊  
Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Maximus, 02-Jun-15 11:06 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, looks like you may well get some good weather during your Swallowtail hols 😊 Look forward to seeing some pics.

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 15-Jun-15 02:58 AM GMT

We'll get back safe and sound in spite of the thunder showers Saturday 😊 We had a great time and I was overhauled by the Swallow Tails 😊  
On the Saturday we got there we walked round the Holiday Bungalows to stretch our legs (the journey took 6 hours) and the first Butterfly I saw was a Holly Blue, I was thrilled thinking this was a good start.  
On Sunday I decided on How Hill has the place to go but when we got there no sign of any Butterflies never mind ST. The wind was so cold I realised, no way would they be there, it seemed too open. A lady was eating her sandwich and heard me say this and she said to go to Hickling Nature reserve (Broad) as she was there the day before and saw loads. So we had our sandwich and set off for there.  
When we arrived we'd £4 to pay before we could get onto the reserve (going to a good cause I thought) but we'd not been going a long the path for very long before I saw the Swallow Tails, the first was a bit tatty and the second just a bit better but finally one came along that was absolutely fantastic, we stayed rather longer than planned but it was the best £4 I'd ever spent 😊

During the week we visited again and got more shots ( I'm greedy) 😊 I must say there was also dozens of Painted Ladies there on both days, it was great.

Back at the Bungalow on our walks we found two lovely flower Meadows and on the Friday, I took photos of Red Admiral, Large Skipper, Brown Argus, Large White, Common Blue and to my surprise a Meadow Brown, so all in all it was well worth the long trip. I've included some photo's of Hickling Broad where I saw the Swallow Tails Goldie 😊



*Red Admiral GM*



*Hickling Broad GM*



*Painted Lady GM*



*Hickling Broad GM*



*Meadow Brown GM*



*Brown Argus GM*



*Large Skipper GM*



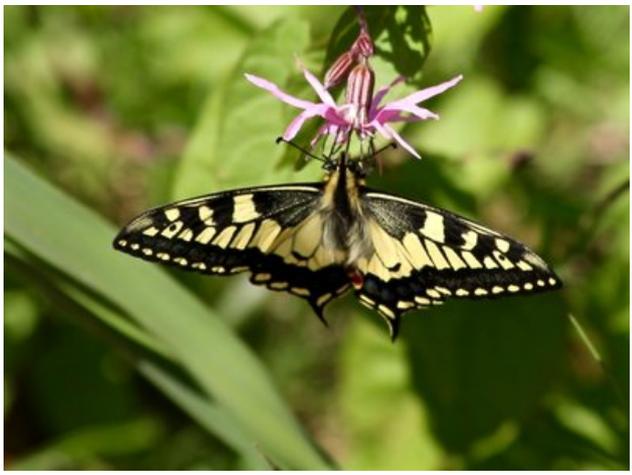
*Swallow Tail GM*



*Swallow Tail GM*



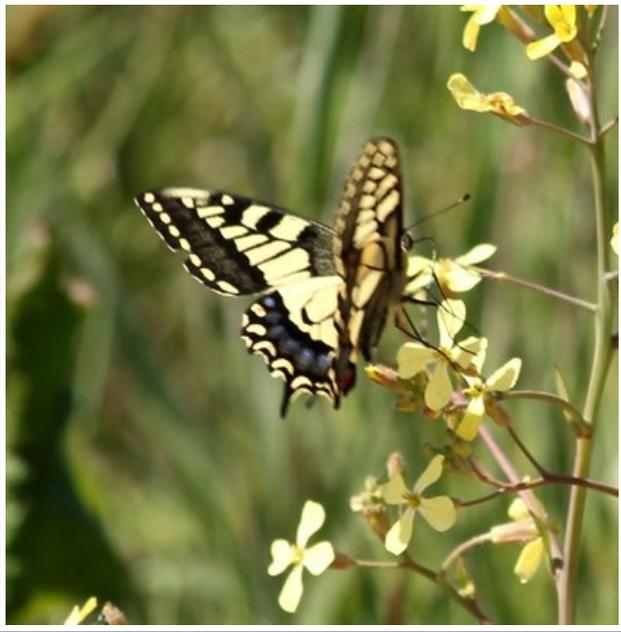
*Swallow Tail GM*



*Swallow Tail GM*



Swallow Tail GM



Swallow Tail GM

**Re: Goldie M**

by Hoggers, 15-Jun-15 04:29 AM GMT

Fantastic Goldie! A real treat to see Swallowtails on wildflowers- beautiful!

Best wishes

Hoggers

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 15-Jun-15 05:12 AM GMT

I agree with Hoggers, great to see Swallowtails in more natural settings on native wildflowers 😊

I haven't seen any for a few years now, I really must visit Norfolk again in the next year or two.

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 15-Jun-15 05:15 AM GMT

**"Goldie M" wrote:**

During the week we visited again and got more shots ( I'm greedy) 😊 I must say there was also dozens of Painted Ladies there on both days, it was great.

If it was me I'd have gone there every single day of my stay 😊

Brilliant shots Goldie, so Jealous,yet to see any myself 🍷

**Re: Goldie M**

by Maximus, 15-Jun-15 05:17 AM GMT

Lovely Swallowtails Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

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

I am really envious, Goldie. I haven't been to see the Swallowtails for years - those are lovely photos too! 😊 🍷

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 15-Jun-15 06:19 AM GMT

So glad you got to see this magnificent butterfly, Goldie.

Looks like you had a great few days.

**Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 15-Jun-15 07:41 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

What a treat you had, seeing those Swallowtails. In all a good Butterfly holiday i think.  
( And a camera full of images too ! )

Best wishes,  
TREVOR.

PS. Don't forget , it's nearly PURPLE time ! 😊 .

**Re: Goldie M**

by Pauline, 15-Jun-15 06:12 PM GMT

I am so pleased you got to see the Swallowtail Goldie. I can just imagine how exciting it must have been 🍷 Sounds like you had a great time 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 15-Jun-15 08:05 PM GMT

Looks as though you had a brilliant trip, Goldie. I'm pleased you had such good views of Swallowtails, since you were looking forward to it so much 😊  
Makes me feel that I must make a return trip, sometime soon.

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Butterfysaurus rex, 16-Jun-15 05:42 AM GMT

Wow Goldie! Fantastic Swallowtail!! You lucky thing you 😊 I hope to take my daughter to see some when she's a bit older. Glad you had a nice time there.

BW's

James

**Re: Goldie M**

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

Great stuff Goldie – you certainly got the goods from your holiday 😊 The stained glass one is in my "I wish I'd taken that" category 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Willrow, 17-Jun-15 09:05 PM GMT

Looks like you cracked those **Swallowtail** Goldie – some very natural looking pics, I'm 🍷 with envy I've yet to see those lovely butterflies 😊

Regards,

Bill 😊

"When in doubt – venture out"

**Re: Goldie M**

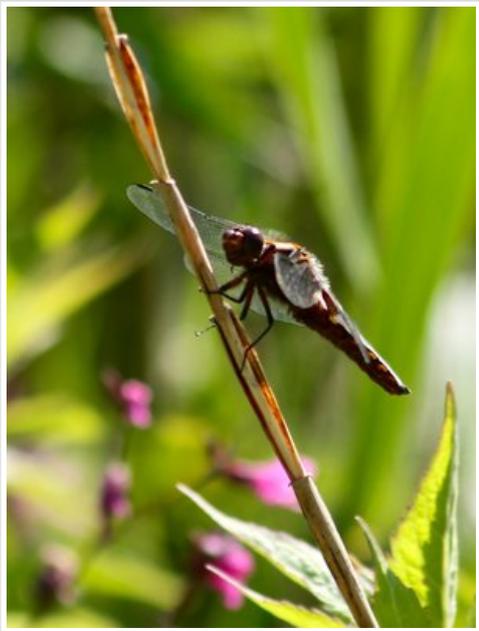
by Goldie M, 18-Jun-15 12:55 AM GMT

Thanks everybody for your comments, it was a great trip, the Broads are great, we tried to fit in as much as we could, my Husband wanted to see the

Marsh Harrier so we also visited Strumpshaw Fen, I was looking for more Swallow Tails (has you do) 😊 but none were to be seen there, the Painted Lady's were also at Strumpshaw, everybody we spoke to was disappointed about not seeing the Swallow Tails, so I told them where I'd seen them, hope fully they went there and got some shots.

I also saw Dragon Fly's they were every where I managed to get a shot of one which I've posted also a Silver Y moth, I'm not too well up on Dragon Fly's though so I don't know it's name 😊

Monday I finished all the ironing so we could pop up to Gait Barrow, that's the only trouble when coming back after holiday's you've to sort the Garden out and get the clothes sorted 😊 I was hoping to get a shot of a Pearl, I did see one as it shot passed us but that was it, talking to other people there and they'd had no luck either, it's been a very bad season up there so far this year, one can only hope the weather picks up. I did see lots of Moths, Cinnabar, Brown Silver Line, Speckled Yellow, and the rare Sable moth, also loads of Brimstone up to their usual antics, 😊 and for the first time at this time of year Painted Ladies. Also there were CB and DSkipper, so the trip wasn't too bad 😊 Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 18-Jun-15 02:33 AM GMT

Sounds like a lovely holiday with some very photogenic critters Goldie 😊. Your Dragonflies are a Broad Bodied Chaser in the first image and a female Black tailed Skimmer in the second 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 18-Jun-15 03:02 AM GMT

Thanks Bugboy, I like to put names to my photos so that's great, we did see some great things, it was a bit of a let down to come home and find nothing much here although I've seen a Red Admiral and Large Skipper at Hall Lee Brook since. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 20-Jun-15 06:43 AM GMT

Cracking Brimstones Goldie and great Dragonflies - I'd like to see those Black-tailed Skimmers 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 21-Jun-15 10:57 PM GMT

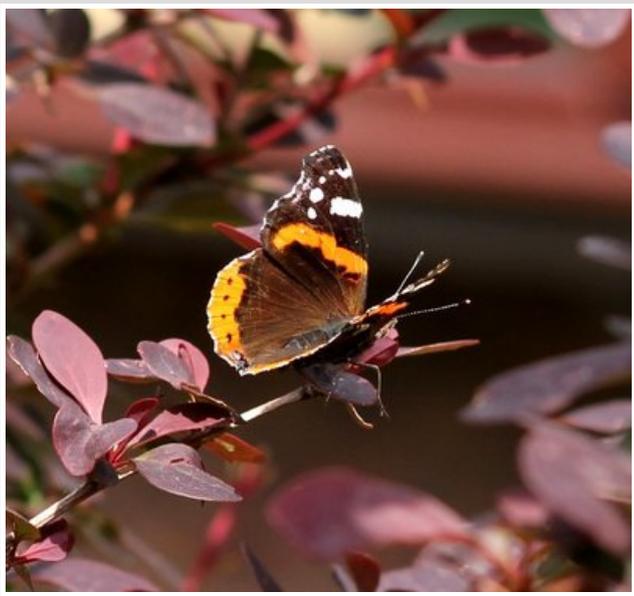
Hi! Wurzel, glad you liked the Brimstones 😊 It seems every time I go to Gait Barrow I drop in in on their courtships 😊 ( this time of year any way). I don't know too much about Dragon Fly's but they were every where at Hickling Broad but even more so at Strumpshaw Fen for anybody interested in them. 😊

When I came back from holiday I went to Hall-Lee-Brook we walked round on all the paths and I was pleased to see a large Skipper and a Red Admiral, the RA was a bit of a surprise, we don't see many of them until August or September up here and it was also ab biabata which I did see quite a few of last year it looks like I'll have to keep my eyes open at HLB it seems to throw up quite a lot of Abs. No sign of the Orange Tips male or female, I just hope their back next year, I didn't see any females there this year which was a surprise after seeing so many last year.

The weather here has been awful, windy again and cold with it, yesterday it rained all day we tried to sort the garden out in between showers, I keep checking the weather out but it's not been good for the Lakes. We plan on going to Meathop moss for the Large Heath, it's one I've not seen yet and I believe they fly even when it's very cloudy so if we can just get one nice fine day we'll be off and if any one sees a Purple E please let me know and we'll be off to Corby 😊 Goldie 😊



*Large Skipper Hall Lee Brook GM*



*Red Admiral ab biabata Hall Lee Brook GM*

### Re: Goldie M

by Willow, 22-Jun-15 12:57 AM GMT

Nice report Goldie...and good luck with **Large Heath** I'm planning on seeing the species myself pretty soon 😊

Bill 😊

"When in doubt - venture out"

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 01-Jul-15 03:55 AM GMT

It's been quite a while since I posted, I've not been out and about much,(only locally) I did go back to Gait Barrow once and I saw Small PBF but they were not landing on any thing, the weather was cloudy and usually when the Sun appears they fly, they did, straight into the long grass and hedges 😊 The day carried on like that, so that's why I've not been out and about much. I decided to wait hoping they were just late coming out before I ventured too far again.

I spoke to the Ranger at Gait Barrow and he was saying what a bad season it's been so far , I can agree with that , we've had no Butterflies to speak of in the gardens around here and at Hall-Lee-Brook the only Butterflies I've seen so far are the ones I posted last. No Whites Small/Large/or Green Veined since I posted my last ones 😊 Not good news!

Today I thought great weather, nearly July we can visit Meathop Moss and see if the Large Heath are out yet, I'd never seen them so I was looking forward to the visit. I didn't take into account the temperatures 😞  
We set off 9.30am M61, then onto M6 at Exit 36 we moved onto the A590 towards Barrow and at the round about we took a left down the road,( if anybody goes that way don't, do what we did 😞 we should have turned left at the cycle route but kept straight on. 😞  
Any way we arrived finally and found the Path rather over grown, apart from that the LH's were flying and that's all they did they no sooner landed then they took off again 😊 so my photo's are very hit and miss, it was a case of trying to get a photo has they flashed passed us, I know the photos are not so good but it's the first time I've seen the LH so I'm still going to keep them until I can get back there to take better ones 😊  
The weather was very humid and there wasn't a breath of air so we had to retreat to the car and the air conditioning and Home.Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by Pauline, 01-Jul-15 04:08 AM GMT

It's great that you got to see them Goldie, not something I have ever achieved, and yes, you should keep those shots of their aerial acrobatics 😊. Good to hear from you again 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 01-Jul-15 04:09 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

I've never seen a Large Heath, but I have seen many images of them on here. I like your in flight images, you have managed to freeze them in the air. Beautiful and unusual!. Don't forget Fermyn Woods, time for PE is imminent.

Best wishes,  
TREVOR.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 01-Jul-15 04:27 AM GMT

Thanks Pauline, I'm posting to you at the same time, 😊 I hope you get to see them some time, mean time lovely shots your posting 😊

Hi! Trevor, thanks for your input, it was very hot today I didn't stay at the Moss as long as I wanted to, but the humidity got to me and my husband who's very chesty so we left but I plan going back there some time in July 😊 Meantime I can't wait to see the PE at Corby, as soon as it's seen we're going to go for three nights Hope fully so if you hear anything please let me know. Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 01-Jul-15 04:44 AM GMT

It's many years since I've been to Meathop Moss and I do remember driving round in circles until we found the entrance on the Eastern side!

It was very tricky getting photos, as there was only a narrow board-walk and it needed a lot of luck for one to stop near enough for a photo. I think your in-flight shots have captured the 'atmosphere' very well and, after all, if we want a highly detailed view we can always turn to a reference book!

My more recent visits for Large Heath have been to Whixall Moss in Shropshire and Cors Caron (Tregaron) in Wales, where I found that they seemed to settle down for photos in the late afternoon. I think that it's always best to avoid the heat of the day, both for your own comfort 😊 and because the butterflies tend to be hyper-active in the hot sunshine.

Mike

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 01-Jul-15 05:09 AM GMT

You've hit the nail on the head with your comments Mike, we went too early but I'd planned on going to Whitbarrow as well, too hot!

we left about 2pm and we were both exhausted but I was glad I'd seen them and surprised the way they were flying that I'd got anything 😊

I've you to thank for that, your input about speed on the camera was great and I've sorted the camera so that I can take quick shots if the Butterflies slow down at all, which they tend to do if they find another one to mate with, just a pity they weren't a bit clearer, still it's another first for me Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 02-Jul-15 04:14 AM GMT

You should definitely keep those shots of the Large Heath, they are souvenirs of a lifer 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 02-Jul-15 04:53 AM GMT

Hi Goldie, great news that you got to see your Large Heaths. I like those in flight photos, particularly the middle one. Also it's not often you get to see the topside of a Large Heath so well done.

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 02-Jul-15 06:10 AM GMT

I agree with Bugboy, always keep a lifer shot...until you can get a better one, which I'm sure you will now that you've seen one, the next time you go looking there'll be hundreds 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 02-Jul-15 07:17 PM GMT

Thanks everyone now I don't feel so disappointed about the shots 😊 I hope to go back there again some time in July hope fully Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Willow, 04-Jul-15 05:42 AM GMT

That's the attitude Goldie 😊 and when you go back as Wurz says there'll be hundreds of em' just waiting for you 😊

Regards,

Bill 😊

"When in doubt - venture out"

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 04-Jul-15 08:04 PM GMT

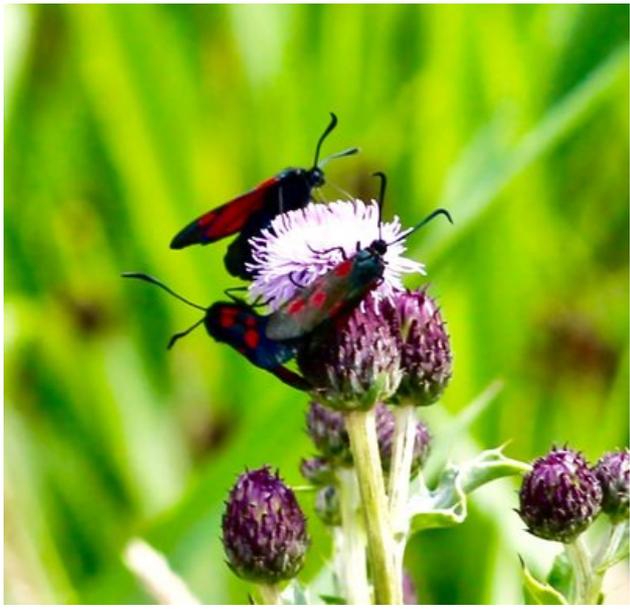
I hope so Bill, at least I now know my way there now 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 06-Jul-15 10:51 PM GMT

Nothing too much to report on here at present, I did see Burnett's for the first time at Hall-Lee-Brook which is good, Meadow Brown's have also put in an appearance there, no Small Skippers yet are Gate Keeper's but a few more Red Admiral's have appeared also a Small Tortoiseshell and a really fresh looking Comma, we don't get much more up here so when I see every ones postings I long to move South 😊 Plus I'm stuck in for a week now ( some thing I've eaten) so I'm fed up, looking on the bright side I've still got my Kent break to come. Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 07-Jul-15 12:41 AM GMT

**"Goldie M" wrote:**

we don't get much more up here so when I see every ones postings I long to move South. Plus I'm stuck in for a week now ( some thing I've eaten) so I'm fed up, ....

Further South, we long for Northern Brown Argus, Mountain Ringlet, Scotch Argus.... grass is always greener..... 😊

Sorry you're stuck at present and hope better soon – at least the weather isn't up to much either.

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 07-Jul-15 09:55 PM GMT

Hi! Mike, Your right about the Butterflies up here but you've got to admit there's far more variety in the South 😊

I feel much better now, you can tell by my last posting I was pretty fed up at the time 😊 Now I'm planning to see the PE, hope fully next week , We'll have to book a couple of nights though so I'm hoping their out when we go . Goldie M 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 08-Jul-15 06:59 AM GMT

Good luck with the Purple One Goldie, I've only had two very fleeting encounters so far and still no piccies 😊

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 12-Jul-15 01:41 AM GMT

I saw my first of the year Small Skipper yesterday at Hall-Lee-Brook that was a relief 😊 No Gate Keepers yet but no doubt they'll be along shortly. Loads of Meadow Brown's though 😊

last time I was at HLB I saw a couple of Tortoise shells, yesterday , they were every where and very busy hunting down a mate, I tried lots of shots to catch them but had to settle for the one I posted, they all seemed to like the long grass 😊

The Large Skippers were also there many more than before, no Peacocks yet, but I don't think they'll be long now either(hope fully)

I saw one Large White, which made me hope I'd see some more but that was it, this years been a very bad one for them also the Small Whites and even the Green Veined were very few and far between here, I don't know if it's been the same all over the country are not.

Any way I'm hoping to catch a few more shots next week of some Butterflies we don't see lots of in the North, I know we get Ringlets at Gait Barrow, but some one on Lanc's Butterfly has reported them at a site in Rochdale for the first time, so maybe we may get some different ones locally before long.Goldie 😊



*Meadow Brown*



*Small Tortoiseshells Mating*



*Large Skipper*



*Small Skipper*



*Small Skipper*

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 13-Jul-15 12:49 AM GMT

Great Small Skippers Goldie. 😊 Hope you get lucky with the butterflies 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 13-Jul-15 10:00 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, I've just cancelled going to Corby this week, the weather forecast is worse there than here,( which is unusual) it's a long way to go if the weathers not good so it looks like the Lakes for us Ha! Ha! may be I'll get to see an High Brown instead.Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 14-Jul-15 03:57 AM GMT

Hi Goldie, glad to see you are seeing some butterflies up there. It looks like you are running a bit behind this year like us here in the midlands, most things seem to be a week or so later than usual around my local patch. No Peacocks yet for me either but should be soon based on the timings of everything else around here.

Cheers,

Neil

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 14-Jul-15 04:58 AM GMT

Sorry you've had to cancel your PE trip – the weather always goes downhill once the school holidays start 😞

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 14-Jul-15 05:33 AM GMT

That's a shame, Goldie. The forecast for here (Heathrow) looks pretty reasonable from about Wednesday onwards – but I don't know how far north that spreads... 😞 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/7284876>

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 14-Jul-15 06:47 AM GMT

Sorry to hear about your trip cancellation 😞 Hopefully you'll get some HBFs as compensation 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 15-Jul-15 04:10 AM GMT

Thanks everyone, hope fully I'll get to see some thing tomorrow 😊

Today I got a real shock, I'd finished doing the Garden( the weather was great in the afternoon) and after we'd had a cuppa we decided to pay HLB a visit, has we approached I could hear the sound of a mower, to my absolute horror I saw the meadow where I'd only the day before seen loads of the Meadow Browns being cut. 😞

I'm afraid I lost it, like a mad women I ran up to the tractor ( which was not for stopping) to ask him who on earth had said to cut it.

The man was furious with me and I got some abuse at first, but I'm afraid I didn't care, I looked around and could see the Meadow Browns scrambling in every direction and I could have hit him 😞

When we'd both calmed down he apologised and my Husband said (which was perfectly true) that the man was only doing his job.

All the same I was upset, he said the people in the surrounding houses had complained about the length of the grass and he'd been told to cut it, also other people had told him off it seems and that's why he was short with me.

(To cut along story short) I took a photo of the Meadow and managed to see a couple of MB take to the Hedge of the field where he'd said he'd not cut it which did make me feel better, but I'll report it to Lanc's Conservation has HLB is a Nature Reserve (not that I think I'll get any where but it will make me

feel Better 😊 Meantime, I took a few shots for the Diary.Goldie 😊







*The field after it was cut*

**Re: Goldie M**

by Hoggers, 15-Jul-15 05:07 AM GMT

Good for you,,Goldie!

Best wishes

Hoggers

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 15-Jul-15 05:23 AM GMT

I think I'd probably have done the same as you, Goldie.

What point is there in 'tidiness' when it transforms what was hitherto a wildlife oasis into a useless green field?

Put your complaint in. The likelihood is that nothing will be done, but if you don't, then it's **certain** nothing will be done.

Good for you for expressing your frustration the way you did. I support you 100%.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Nick Broomer, 15-Jul-15 05:36 AM GMT

Good for you Goldie. I hope someone takes note and, that the meadow is left to nature in future, and you..... 😊

All the best, Nick.

**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 15-Jul-15 06:28 AM GMT

Well done, Goldie. Maybe someone will take note. A great piece of meadow close to me was mown flat a few weeks back – with it being so dry, it has

barely come back since and is just a yellow, dusty bit of field. It was full of flowers and butterflies I'd not seen there before, too. 😞 They'd even kept paths mown round the edges earlier, so why did it have to be cut at all?

Dave

### Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 15-Jul-15 07:14 AM GMT

Well done Goldie, someones got to stand up to this kind off madness!

### Re: Goldie M

by Butterflysaurus rex, 16-Jul-15 05:47 AM GMT

I share your dismay Goldie, sadly I've seen this kind of thing happen all too often. It's hard not to take it personally when you care so much about the flora and fauna that we all feel such a strong connection towards.

So much of this destruction is needless and unwarranted, but ignorance of the natural world abounds making the world a poorer place for all of us.

When you complained you did so on behalf of many others besides yourself.

Best wishes

James

### Re: Goldie M

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

I too feel your frustration Goldie, I've just written a post (from two weeks or so ago 😞) where a similar thing had happened. One minute there are lot's of butterflies, the next none and in their place a tidy 'lawn'. What makes me even more irrate is the people that complained to the farmer in the first place! 😞😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Jul-15 05:57 AM GMT

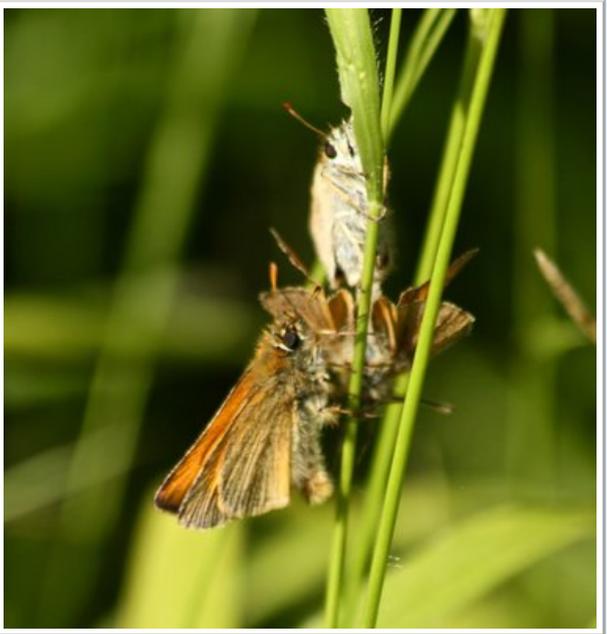
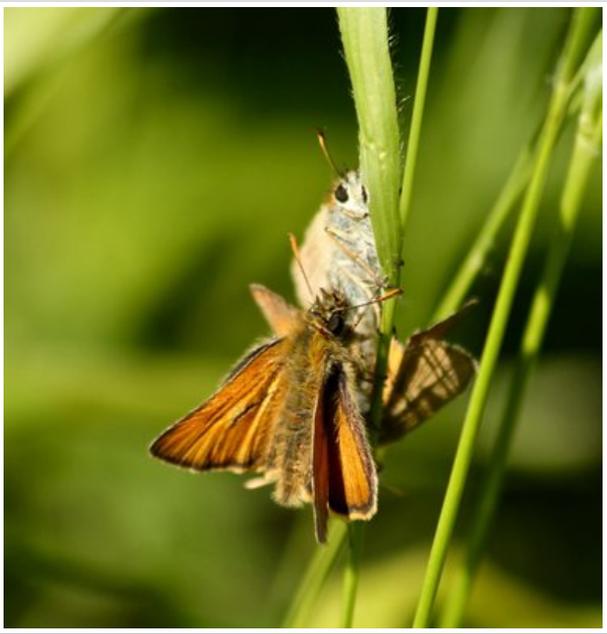
Thanks everyone for your backing, it seems the only positive responses I got was from Butterfly lovers . I reported it to the Council but got very little response back, I will mention to them that if they put a dog warden or some thing to patrol the Nature Reserve they'd make a fortune in fines for dog fouling!!!!

I also reported it to Lanc's BF's and got a response to visit Face Book or Twitter, I'll work that one Shortly 😊

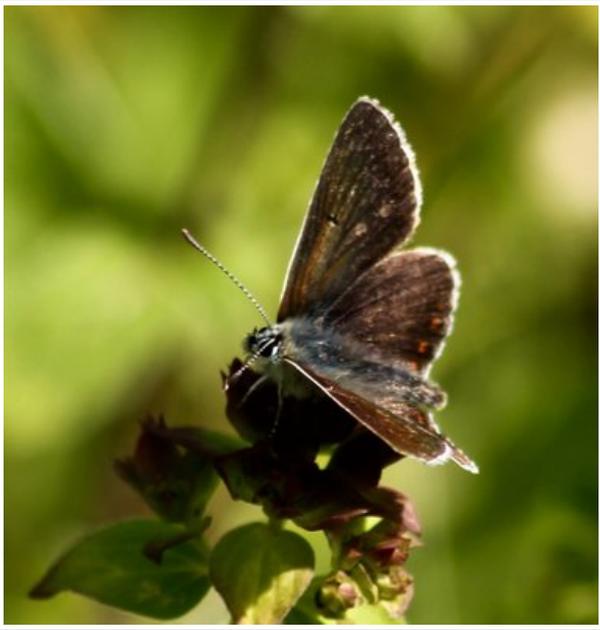
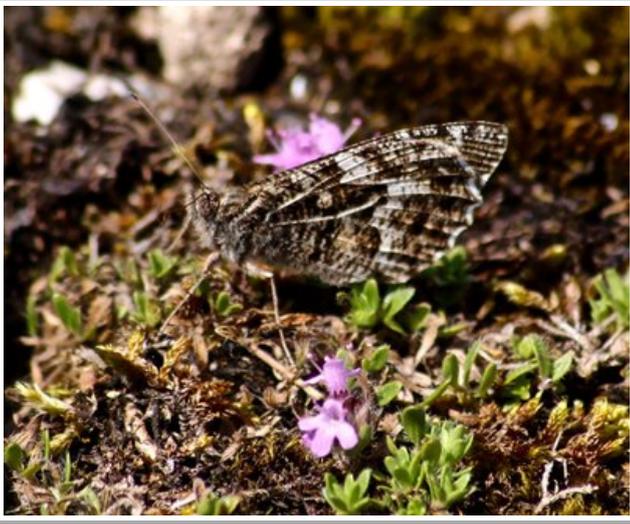
Anyway on a happier note, I went to Gait Barrow yesterday and got 5 firsts for this year, one I'm not sure of, it could be DGF, or HBF, I'm swayed for HBF because in photos I've taken of them before (which was at least 3/4 years ago) I seem to remember the HB's spot on the wing was slightly higher, I'm hoping I'm right but if I'm not I'm happy with the DGF 😊

The other 4 I managed were Northern Brown, Grayling, Gate Keeper, Ringlet.

I also took photos of the Small Skipper's mating it was really funny to watch,( three to one) but the expression on the face of the winner was some thing else . Goldie 😊









### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 17-Jul-15 06:13 AM GMT

Great stuff Goldie – your Hedge Brown is an 'excessa' as it has a couple of extra spots – I haven't seen one of those yet this year 🍀 And based on no experience whatsoever I reckon that you're right to go with HBF (well it's a 50:50 punt 😊) 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Jul-15 06:46 AM GMT

That's great news if it's a HB Wurzel, It was hard to photo it was whizzing about really enjoying being alive 😊 I say it, there were two or three rising up to the trees landing back down on the Ferns, Fantastic to watch 😊 when one landed in front of me I couldn't believe it, I think I took the shots too quickly 😊

Looks like I hit the jackpot, a Hedge Brown, different and unusual, great day, Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 17-Jul-15 06:58 AM GMT

I'd go High Brown for both of those, Goldie. 😊 And I'm very envious of the Northern Brown Argus, which I've never seen. 🍀 I'm hoping to visit Arnside sometime over the next week, so fingers crossed I'll see one there...

Five year ticks in one day – can't be bad... 😊

Dave

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Jul-15 07:29 AM GMT

Hi! Dave, thanks very much that's two of you now going for High Brown so hope fully that's what I'll record. 😊

If you go to Arnside Knot I hope you see the Northern B Dave, at Gait Barrow their always near the Barn, either side of the road that goes down to the main road. I also took shots of them at Warton Craig on the same day. The High Brown were in the Duke's sites if you know where that is at GB, you may even see the Scotch Argus at ASK, the weathers been good up here lately , best of luck Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 17-Jul-15 07:38 AM GMT

I personally have no experience with HBF but the picture showing the underside is definately a HBF, you can see the extra row of diagnostic spots on the hindwing 😊

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Jul-15 10:46 PM GMT

Thanks Buggie, the butterfly is some thing else to watch, it seems to swoop every where (now you see me, now you don't) 😊 I was lucky that it landed just once near me but I'd to be quick to get any shot. 😊 The rest of the shots were from a distance.

A man there had a tripod with his camera , he arrived just as we were leaving so I told him about the Butterfly, I didn't know then that it was an HBF, I hope he got some shots but I don't think he'd get many, if any with the tripod, the BF didn't stop long on any thing. 😊 Goldie 😊

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Jul-15 11:43 PM GMT

The weather is very blustery today, at least it will get the washing dry 😊 but too many dark clouds for Butterflies I think, any way I need a rest 😊

I thought I'd put a few more shots of the Northern Brown and the High Brown Frit in my post today, I took the NBA in my other post at Warton Craig, it seems to have the White Spot if not very distinctive, but the photos I took at Gait Barrow ( included in this post) I don't see the white spot on the Butterfly, so suppose it's the subspecies Salmacis .

I also saw Grayling at Warton Craig I've included that shot in this post also.

The Small Skippers in this post were also taken at Warton Craig , they couldn't make their minds up who got the lady 😊 Quite different to the ones at GB 😊 Goldie 😊



*Small Skipper's Warton Craig GM*



*Small Skipper's Warton Craig GM*



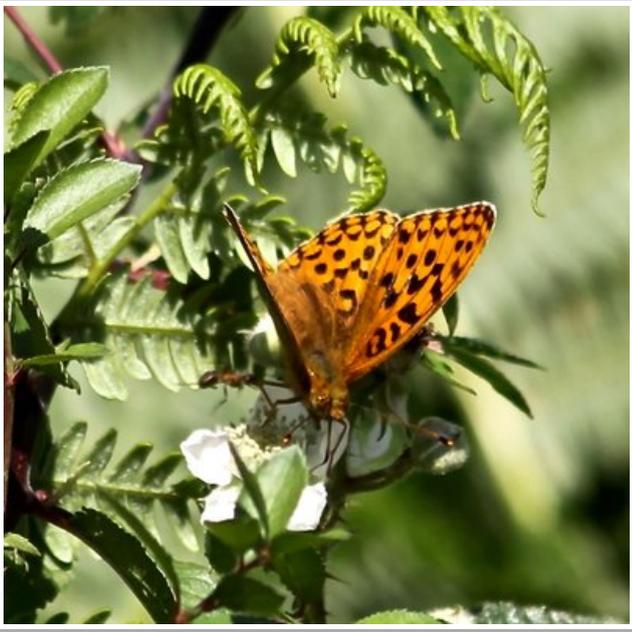
*Northern Brown Argus GB GM*



*Northern Brown Argus GB GM*



*High Brown Fritillary GB GM*



*High Brown Fritillary GB GM*



*Grayling Warton Craig GM*

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 17-Jul-15 11:56 PM GMT

I love the trio of Skippers – they look duskier than their southern cousins. I'm envious of all those northern species you've been photographing 🇬🇧  
Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Pauline, 18-Jul-15 12:03 AM GMT

Well Goldie, this is the 3rd time I've tried to post to you and each time it has disappeared! Hope I haven't sent it to someone else by mistake 😞😞 The gist of the message was to say well done, both with the complaint and the lovely butterflies you have been seeing (and now those 3 Skippers 😊). I have several neighbours who have lovely front lawns, covered in Birds Foot Trefoil, daisies, self heal etc but as soon as it gets to more than an inch high it is cut down to the ground leaving what I can only describe as scorched grey grass 😡 Why do they do it? Is it convention? Do they prefer to look at dead grass rather than coloured wild flowers? I just can't understand their mindset 😞

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 18-Jul-15 12:22 AM GMT

Thanks Mike glad you like the photos, I know it sounds sad 😞 but I can't wait to come South next week to see( hope fully) the Adonis, Chalkhill's, maybe once again I'll catch a glimpse of the Sliver Spotted Skipper and we're stopping on the way down and calling at Fermyn Wood, you never know I

might get a glimpse of the Emperor yet, we should be in Kent for two weeks I hope the weather stays nice for us, all that and seeing our family too should be great Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Willow, 18-Jul-15 12:24 AM GMT

Your a Wildflower Meadow **Champ** now in my eyes Goldie...good on you 😊 Most of us here on UKB's feel the same way about this type of environmental vandalism and we actually have to pay our local authorities to do it 😡😡... rant over...lovely pics and recent reports from you, much enjoyed 😊

Bill 😊

"When in doubt - venture out"

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 18-Jul-15 01:17 AM GMT

Thanks very much, Pauline and Bill for your posts, It's great to know people feel the same way has I do.

You got your post on Pauline ,eventually 😊 My garden Pauline is about the only one with flowers in it, most of the others have stones every where with pots UGH!! I had to smile the other day though when this lorry arrived and knocked some pots over 😡

I was very concerned 😡😡😡 I must admit I like my neighbours we get on well, I keep telling them they'll have to get educated 😊 They'd never heard of the Holly Blue until I pointed one out to them in their garden early in the Spring 😊

Your right about us paying the corporation Bill, that's what annoys me the most, also the fact it 's not just wild flower meadows it's a Nature Reserve they've vandalised . The best bit is Butterfly Conservation asking us to download for the Butterfly count, I got in touch with them about what had happened and was told how busy they were and to go on Face Book or Twitter neither of which I can be bothered with any way,( that's just me of course) any way when I took my latest pics it gave me a boost 😊 I'll go back there and see if the gate Keeper has arrived there yet, nothing I can do now there really, the damage as been done Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 18-Jul-15 03:51 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Sorry to hear about your meadow being cut but well done for standing up to it, there is far too much of this wanton 'tidying up' of the countryside going on.

Your Fritillary is definitely a male High Brown, you can make out the raised sex brands on the forewing veins that differentiate it from a male Dark green Frit.

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 18-Jul-15 08:52 PM GMT

Hi! Neil, Thanks for your post and confirmation that the Butterfly is a Male and High Brown Fritillary, it was a real privilege to see them and when this one came swooping down I couldn't believe my luck 😊 I'm convinced they'd not been out too long because their colour was so out standing, really bright Orange, plus the fact they didn't settle on any thing long before flying high turning and coming back again , looking for mates I thought 😊

I received a response today by e-mail from Lancaster(Butterfly Conservation) they are concerned they said but they can't do any thing about it really and it's basically up to people like me to keep at the Counsel , this I can understand, but what can I do on my own. I'll send them a list (the Counsel) I think with the Butterflies on that the've just mowed up, ( The Butterflies may have escaped) but the eggs etc, could have been destroyed. 😊

They did the very same thing last year at this time in another field belonging to the Nature reserve and this Spring I was shocked at the lack of Orange Tip Females. In Spring of last year the field was full of May flowers, Buttercups, Dandelions etc, also full of Orange Tip Females and Males, this year the males were there but not in such numbers as the year before but I saw no Females so I'm worried the same thing could happen with the Meadow Brown's. The sad thing is this was the best year the MB's have had at Hall-Lee-Brook since it was made into a reserve.

I'll keep going to Hall-Lee-Brook because it was a waste land when I came to live here, I took my dogs there and we all enjoyed the walk round even if it was rough in those days,(incidentally I always cleaned any mess up my dogs made) I started my diary with the Waste Land and I've watched it grow into this nature avon (I thought the BF were safe there) That's what really upset me. I'd better Finnish off now or I'll keep going on about itGoldie 😊😊

### Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 19-Jul-15 06:10 AM GMT

Your mention of Hall-Lee-Brook sent me back to re-read the beginning of your diary. What a transformation! I was also looking back at all your old bird photos and thinking of the difficulties of identification. So much is down to remembering certain key features and, as I get older, that seems to become more difficult!

I was glad that Neil reminded us about the male scent brands on the High Brown Fritillary, as it enabled me to confirm a few more photos from my recent trip to South Wales! I'm glad you found them successfully at Gait Barrows - I must visit again sometime, as it's years since my last visit. Good luck with your trip to the South 😊

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 19-Jul-15 05:45 PM GMT

Hi! Mike, it seems another good spot to see the High Browns is Eave's Wood (my spelling could be wrong) plus quite a few other species, this place is easier to find but the car park is nearly always full, so an early start would be better.

The wood is just on the outskirts of Silverdale traveling towards Arnside, I thought I would mention this because it seems very popular, I'm going to try it myself next year 😊

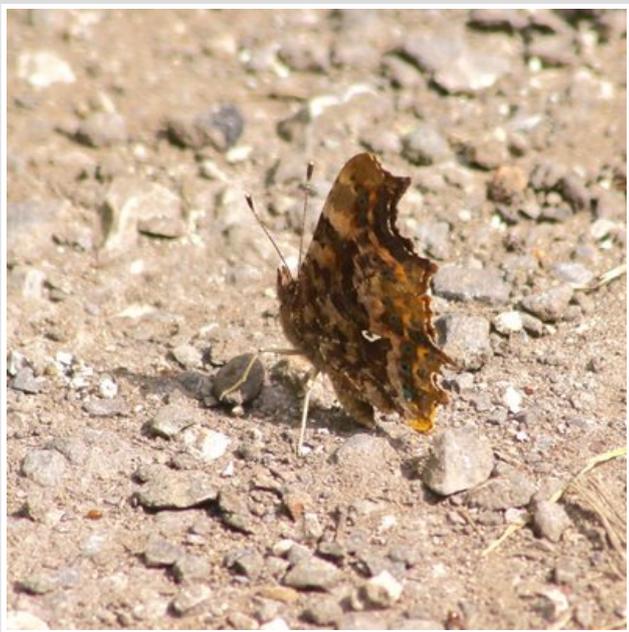
You mention my Diary and the Birds, I mean to add to that list shortly, I don't think it will be until I get back from Kent but I hope to go back to Witherslack which is opposite to Meathop Moss to see the Osprey , I'm sorry I didn't go whilst at Meathop, but the weather got to me and I'd to go home early. They say their fantastic to watch has they fish. 😊

Yesterday I went back to HLB, I did see MB's but in another field , the field they had cut was like Cruft's dog show, also the paths were fouled not only by the Dogs but also by Horses which are supposed to be banned from the Nature Reserve, Ah! well it takes all sorts, the people want some where to play but don't want it clean, ( can't understand that) 😊

Back to the Butterflies, I also saw Red Admiral's, Comma's, one of which I think is of the species Hutchinson and plenty of Small Tort's one of which I'm not sure if it's weathered are just different from the other's , I've put both in to see what others think Goldie 😊



*Red Admiral HLB GM*



*Comma HLB GM*



*Comma HLB GM*



*Small Tortoiseshell HLB GM*



*Small Tortoiseshell HLB GM*

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 20-Jul-15 06:08 AM GMT

Great stuff Goldie 😊 That first Small Tort looks a little unusual with white markings instead of the usual yellow 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 20-Jul-15 11:35 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, I thought the Small Tortoiseshell with the White markings looked different as well but I don't know if it's an ab or not 🤔

I went to Southport yesterday, the weather was very blustery and cloudy at times but when the Sun came out it wasn't too bad.

We went walking in the Dunes, I didn't expect to see much but did find Small Skipper's that were hiding in the bushes together with my second Gate

Keeper of the year 😊 ( none at HLB SAT) Also saw Meadow Brown's and these Colourful Caterpillars which I think are Cinnabar Cat's.

I've included a couple of shots of the beach to show where you can drive directly onto the beach if you want to, some people do, then venture into the Dunes to look for Butterflies, or just to Sunbathe and go in the Sea ( they charge £5 for a car, not bad if your there all day with your Family but for short visits best on road or car park 😊)

My other shot is one I took from the Dunes, it shows how rough the sea was on Saturday Goldie 😊



*Southport Beech GM*



*Southport Beech GM*



*Cinnabar Caterpillar SPD GM*



*Cinnabar Caterpillar Southport Dunes GM*



*Gate Keeper SPD GM*



*Small Skipper SPD GM*



Small Skipper SPD GM

**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 21-Jul-15 02:02 AM GMT

That does look like a rough sea Goldie! Your cats are Cinnabar Moth cats 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 21-Jul-15 02:37 AM GMT

Hi! Buggie, shows how much I know about Cat's 😊😊 I'll see if I can change their Name Goldie 😊 PS Buggie it worked 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 21-Jul-15 04:17 AM GMT

When I lived in Southport, it was considered remarkable to see the sea at all 😊 I first drove a car on the sands!

We always used to call those caterpillars 'rugby jerseys'.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 21-Jul-15 06:10 AM GMT

I missed (somehow – I really can't work out how 😊) the Small Skippers – I didn't know that they did the Conga 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 21-Jul-15 07:58 PM GMT

Hi! Mike and Wurzel,

Mike,, Southport has changed quite a lot, the road that runs along by the beech as all been redone and car parks made along it to a certain point, the road then runs through the Dunes and eventually to Liverpool passing through Formby where the Red Squirrels are.

The Dunes on either side are an haven for Butterflies and if you ride a bike there's a cycle track parallel to the road, it really is great for family's now( and Butterfly enthusiast's 😊) Also in the Dunes there are Lizards, CrackerJack Toads , Dragon Flies, These are near the Pond area's facing Pontin's Holiday Camp where the entrance to the beech is in my photo. I like your name for the Caterpillars it suits them 😊

Wurzel, glad you like the Small Skippers, your description is fitting for them although they didn't move, 😊 I was lucky to spot them, I expected them to move at any minute but they stayed still like that for ages allowing me to get the shot, hope I'm has lucky with the Purple Emperor this coming Sunday 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Willow, 24-Jul-15 08:11 PM GMT

Very interesting report Goldie, my mother worked in Southport as a young woman, although curious I've never personally been there but your report suggests real big changes, perhaps I'll get there one day 😊 ...via Arneside Knott 😊

**"Goldie M" wrote:**

Also in the Dunes there are Lizards, CrackerJack Toads

What a great new name for Natterjacks Goldie 😊😊😊 I love it!!!

BW's

Bill 😊

**"When in doubt – venture out"**

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 24-Jul-15 10:30 PM GMT

Glad you like my name for them Willow, my husband always laughs too but I suppose I should have given them their proper name in my posting but I for got 😊😊 !!!

The name all started with me nearly stepping on one once and my husband saying that it was nearly a CrackerJack toad 🤔🤔

If you go to Southport some day you'll enjoy it I'm sure Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Pauline, 25-Jul-15 04:32 PM GMT

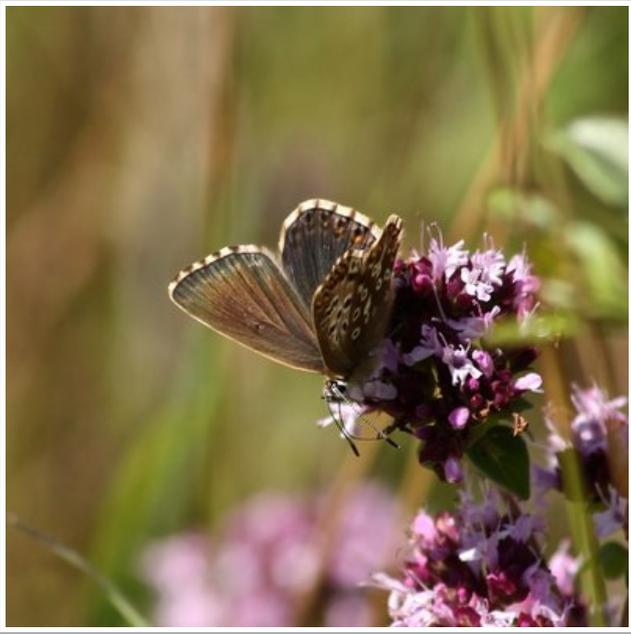
I'm learning a whole new language from this site Goldie 😊 What with Crackerjack toads, rugby jerseys, and wiggle-wobble grass (another one from Mike 😊 ) I can't imagine what will be coming next 😊 Good luck for Sunday!

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 01-Aug-15 05:09 AM GMT

Having a great holiday up to now, got the White Admiral on the Monday has we got here on a very wet Sunday, (Postings later) been to St Margaret's today, nothing much to report except loads of MB's LW'S SW's, did see Painted Ladies and Peacocks, also got my Marble White, however at Temple Ewell, whilst looking for the Adonis and Silver Spotted Skipper , which don't seem to have surfaced yet, I did see the Chalkhill Blues in great Numbers, having said that I'm stuck on the Identification of the CHB Female has I've got two different ones it seems, maybe, just maybe, one of them could be an Adonis Female, could do with help on this, Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 02-Aug-15 06:32 AM GMT

Glad you're having a great holiday Goldie 😊 I reckon those are Chalkhills as the markings on the hind wing between the lunules and the margins are white and not blue. Good luck with the rest of your visits 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 02-Aug-15 06:37 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, I've not been able to post much being too busy here with the family( always some thing to do 😊 ) I'm going back to Temple Ewell, later in the week, hope fully the Adonis may be out also the Silver Spotted Skipper , fingers crossed, thanks again, Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 03-Aug-15 04:30 AM GMT

Hi ,Goldie,

Couldn't help noticing that you're down in Kent at the moment,and believe you may be visiting Dungeness for the Small Coppers,just thought I'd let you know,we were there on Saturday and the second brood is very near its end ,that said we still saw around 20-25 mostly "ghosts" but with one or two still in fine fettle,we found that the short walk,parking by the lighthouse and following the path along the power station fence towards the area known as "the moat" which surrounds a Victorian terrace of houses ,the end one being the bird observatory, walk around the moat,and also around the inner moat parking area,these should give you a fair few! we found the coppers in the best nick were along the power station fence,if you,re feeling more adventurous head out to the trapping area or the desert,if you go into the bid obs ,you,ll find the main warden Dave Walker very helpful. Also about recently a couple of Clouded yellow, we also saw 2 Hummingbird hawks, and wasp spiders are generally to be found in the rough grass area in front of the bird obs,at the base of the brambles Good hunting Regards Allan W,

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 04-Aug-15 03:53 AM GMT

Thanks Allan,I've been very busy here so may not get out to Dungeness but if we do I'll certainly hope to see the Coppers and Clouded Yellow 😊

My daughter took us today to Dene Wood Tunbridge, she'd heard my sad story of missing the Purple Emperor 😊

We were going to call on the way to Kent but the heavy rain put us off, I was resigned to wait a year but she said lets go and take a chance you never know!

We arrived after lunch and has we walked along the path the ferns were quite high but I looked amongst them any way, then to my utter amazement I saw this movement in the shade, I was so excited I nearly dropped the camera 😊 I couldn't keep my hands still enough to do the shots too much justice, irony really when you think I've set off looking for them, then had to cancel twice now 😊

I think this PE is a Female, she was very still on the Fern and I wasn't sure at first if it was a White Admiral, I blew very gently on her and she opened her wings (one reason the shots are not as clear as they could be) I got too close.

I also got a couple of side shots which I think confirm she's a PE, not having seen one before I wasn't sure.

We left her in peace has I'm sure she was egg laying and has we walked further along the path I saw this small Butterfly come down onto the path, I think it's a Purple Hairstreak but the Butterfly seems rather worn, worn are not If it is I'll claim it as another first Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 04-Aug-15 04:15 AM GMT

Congratulations, Goldie! Two Purple firsts in one go! I think the Emperor is an Empress as you suspect as well. Lots of 🍀🍀🍀 for both of those. 😊

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by Butterflysaurus rex, 05-Aug-15 12:10 AM GMT

You hit a real purple patch there Goldie! I would have been extremely pleased to have seen both PE and PHS in one day.

ATB

James

**Re: Goldie M**

by Pauline, 05-Aug-15 02:45 AM GMT

I'm really pleased for you Goldie, what a great find 😊 It's years since I've seen an Empress and to see one on some greenery instead of the ground makes a rare change 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 05-Aug-15 04:10 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Yes, that is an Empress, you've hit the jackpot there as they are more elusive than the males.

Well done,

TREVOR.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 05-Aug-15 04:17 AM GMT

Hi Goldie, I am really pleased you got to see an Empress 😊 it sounds like you are having a great time down south.

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 05-Aug-15 04:28 AM GMT

Thank you Dave , James and Pauline, I'm still in awe of the sight of the Empress, I've so wanted to see these butterflies for quite a while now, when I did I was star struck 😊

Pauline, glad to hear your Fox is doing well, keep us informed, it's always great to hear about wild creatures doing well and people like you are indispensable to their welfare 😊

We're having a great time at our daughters, out every day looking for Butterflies 😊 I'll have to put postings on when I get home, I couldn't wait with PE and PH I was so pleased.

Just read your posts Neil and Trevor, I'm so excited about the Empress, she was so special, I've seen so many Butterflies since I was here in the South my heads spinning, if I can see an Adonis or Silver Spotted Skipper before I go home it will be icing on the cake. 😊

If I don't I can't grumble 😊

When I go home I'll go looking for the Scotch Argus, that's if my husband isn't sick of Butterflying by then 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 06-Aug-15 06:41 AM GMT

Excellent news that you got your Purples Goldie 😊🍀

Have a goodun

Wurzel

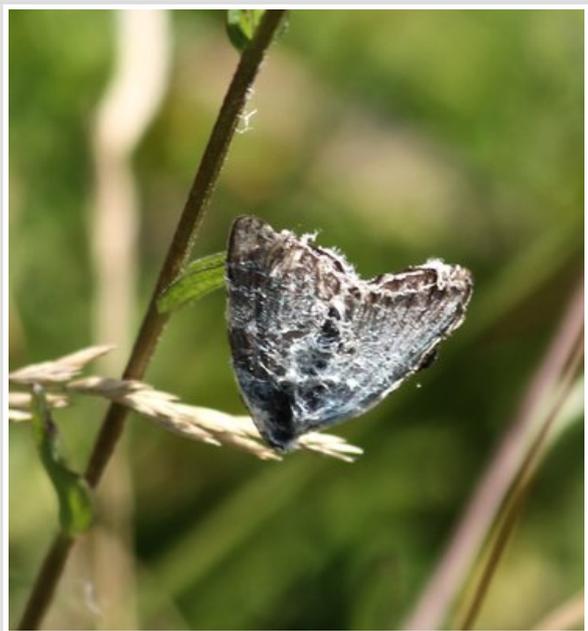
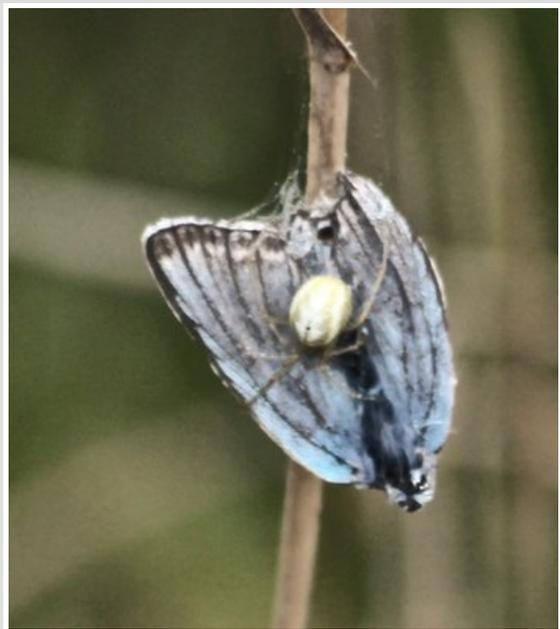
**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 06-Aug-15 05:15 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, very busy at present, went to Sandwich yesterday , Lydden/Temple Ewell the day before to the Nature Reserve then on up to St Margarets

On The Cliff's 😊

Whilst at the Temple Ewell site I saw the unusual sight of this Butterfly a CHB tightly wrapped up in a web of some kind, having payed a previous visit there a day or so before I was curious to know by what , I noticed a couple of Bf's tied the same way on the top field where the grass is shorter and quite a few on the Lower field ,then my husband who had the camera taking a shot of me,turned round and took a shot of the grass, I thought he was taking a shot of another CHB ,he took this pic ,(posted) it's not until I was checking the shots after wards that I noticed he'd caught the culprit on camera, not too clearly but it's doing a lot of damage to Butterflies at TE, mind you the hillside was covered in Chalkhill Blues and nature will have it's way but I can't remember having seen so many in Webs. like this on previous visits through the years and i'm wondering what the Spider is called. Also I'm a bit concerned for the Silver Spotted Skipper and the Adonis they don't seem to have put an appearance in yet, hope fully when they do this fate won't happen to them . Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 06-Aug-15 06:00 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, the offending spider looks like *Enoplognatha ovata*, a quite common and very variable species of spider. It's actually in the same family as the infamous Black Widow spiders but nothing to worry about as far as we are concerned.

It's one of the countless obstacles our little scaled friends face during their life but like you say nature has its way and has an amazing way of keeping everything balanced in (sometimes rather gruesome) harmony. It's only when humans start meddling that things tend to go array!

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-Aug-15 08:09 PM GMT

Thanks Buggy, I wondered if you'd know what it was called because your knowledge of bugs etc is great, it must be your Special field, if I find any more curiosities I'll post them, I'm always interested when I find some thing I can't place or, don't know about 😊

I'm tired today (old age) also giving my husband a chance to catch up on the Test Match ( aren't we doing well! 😊 ) so I thought I'd catch up on myself a

bit and some postings.

When we arrived in Kent over a week ago 26th it was a Sunday and very wet and windy however on the Monday the 27th although cloudy and still very dull with the Sun just creeping through we decided to take a walk in Blean Woods, after we'd walked through the Trees for a short time seeing lots of Gate Keeper's on the way, we came to a patch of Blackberries some of which were still in flower, as we passed, suddenly this Butterfly swooped down and to my surprise it was a White Admiral I quickly took some shots before it flew off into the Trees, that, was my first surprise of the week, glad to say not my last. Tuesday 28th to follow some time in the future. Goldie 😊



*White Admiral Blean Woods GM*



*White Admiral BW GM*



*White Admiral BW GM*



*Ringlet Blean Woods GM*



*Meadow Brown Blean Woods GM*



*Gate Keeper Blean Woods GM*

## **Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 07-Aug-15 01:35 AM GMT

Tuesday the 28th, after yesterdays dull miserable weather Tuesday was lovely but windy, we decided to go to Lydden then to the nature reserve at Temple Ewell, we didn't see much on the roadside NNR at Lydden so went on to TE.

On arriving the wind was quite strong and the Sun intermittent so we looked for sheltered parts, we knew the Butterflies would seek, I was pleased when I saw my first Marble White of 2015 for I thought I'd missed them completely and more delighted to see the Chalkhill Blues and amongst them a few Common Blues were flying which I thought at first were Adonis so i took lots of photos just in case 😊 Goldie 😊



*Common Blue TE GM*



*Marble TE GM*



*Marble White TE GM*



*Marble White TE GM*



*Chalkhill Blue TE GM*



*Chalkhill Blue TE GM*



Chalkhill Blue Temple Ewell GM

**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 07-Aug-15 01:49 AM GMT

Nice couple of posts Goldie, glad you didn't miss out on Marbled Whites and that Gatekeeper on Teasle is lovely 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 07-Aug-15 04:01 AM GMT

You've been mighty busy catching up Goldie 😊👍 Great reports and shots.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 07-Aug-15 05:14 AM GMT

Thanks Buggy and Wurzel, I liked the Gate Keeper too Buggy , he looked so cute 😊

I hope you get loads of First's Wurzel and I'm still trying to catch up. 😊

On the 29th it was so windy we couldn't even walk on the front at Margate, (not with much pleasure any way) the only thing I managed to take that day was a photograph of Minnis Bay 😞

The day afterwards though was totally different sunshine most of the day so it was back to Lydden and Temple Ewell, I've posted a couple of shots of Temple Ewell to give an Idea of the length of the Flower meadows which are slightly over grown with grass but still covered with flowers. The top field I've not taken a shot of yet, this as much shorter grass Ideal for the Silver SS, hope fully I'll see him yet 😊

At Lydden we encountered a Painted Lady, and lots of whites, at Temple Ewell we even saw a Small Heath, In stead of a list I've decided on photos, so here goes, Goldie 😊



Temple Ewell NNR GM



*Temple Ewell NNR GM*



*Common Blue Temple Ewell GM*



*Chalkhill's Gathering Minerals Temple Ewell GM*



*Small Heath Temple Ewell GM*



*Marble White Temple Ewell GM*



*Chalkhill Blue Temple Ewell GM*



*Large White Temple Ewell GM*



*Painted Lady Lydden TE GM*



*Painted Lady Lydden TE GM*

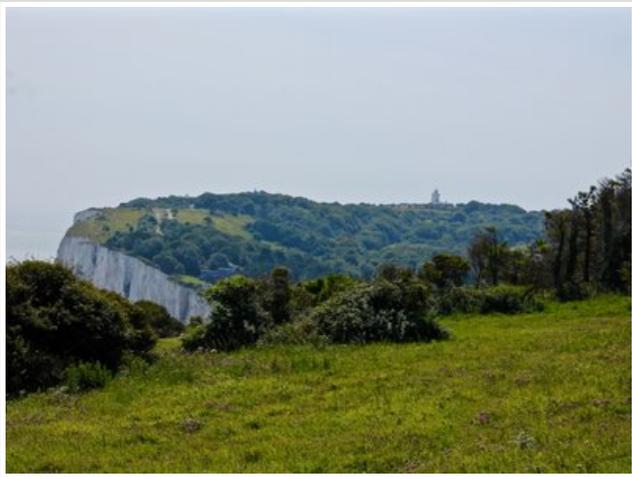


*Minnis Bay GM*

### **Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 08-Aug-15 03:50 AM GMT

On Friday the 31st, we went to St Margarets On The Cliffs, it was a lovely day but a bit disappointing because I thought we'd see loads of different Butterflies there but it seemed to be the perfect day for White's, they were every where 😊 We also saw Comma's, Marbled White's and Painted Ladies a long the Cliff walk and in the field below the Cafe where we had our lunch before continuing on along the path towards the Lighthouse ,( we didn't see any Large 'Tortoiseshells) 😊 Worse luck!!!! Goldie 😊



*View Of Lighthouse From St Margarets On The Cliffs GM*



*Comma ST Margarets GM*



*Peacock ST Margarets GM*



*Painted lady ST Margarets GM*



*Small White ST Margarets GM*



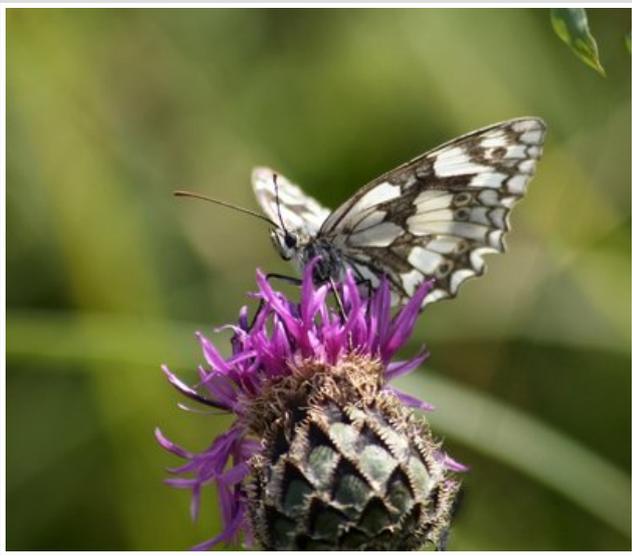
*Small White ST Margarets GM*



*Large White ST Margarets GM*



*Large White ST Margarets GM*



*Marble White ST Margarets GM*

### **Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 09-Aug-15 05:30 AM GMT

Saturday 1st of August, today we went to Seasalter near Hern Bay, usually you can find Clouded Yellow and Common Blue BF's plus many others here but the Grass once again was cut so short there wasn't a flower in sight, we didn't give up right away but went to the Gate where the grass had not been cut and a few thistles were still growing and to our surprise we saw a few Peacocks they seemed desperate for nectar and were swooping in and out of the Thistles , after a few shots we decided to call it a day and I went shopping with my Daughter.

A rather disappointing journey to Seasalter but it was good to see the Peacocks Goldie 😊



*Peacocks Seasalter GM*



*Peacock Seasalter GM*

**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 09-Aug-15 07:15 AM GMT

The names you mention are very nostalgic to me, Goldie. As well as having lived in Dover (River) for 16 years, ages before that as a child I had holidays in a hotel in Minnis Bay, and regular trips to Seasalter! Your recent posts are a lovely wander down a very winding memory lane! 😊 I envy you the trip to Samphire Hoe as well – it didn't exist when I lived down there – and congratulations on your Clouded Yellow! 😊

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by Pauline, 10-Aug-15 01:46 AM GMT

That last Peacock image is lovely Goldie, and the Painted Lady, and the scenery shots. Seems like you've had a cracking time 😊😊😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 11-Aug-15 03:15 AM GMT

Hi! Dave, I'm glad you enjoyed your memory trip to Seasalter and Minnis Bay it's great some times to look back, the small Cafe at Minnis Bay as expanded and is now a restaurant with a wine bar etc but you can still sit outside, which we did with my Daughters dog 😊 Glad you liked my photos of the Peacock and Painted Lady Pauline also the scenes, we had a great time and when we arrived home yesterday what should greet me on my( Budliea not sure how to spell this) but a Painted Lady, 😊 that's the first time since 2009 that ones been in the garden, I hope your pets have got over the shock of loosing the Fox .

Sunday 2nd August was very hot in Canterbury so we decided to have a walk in Blean woods in the Morning and my Husband went to watch our Grandsons play Cricket in the afternoon while i was whisked off to do some shopping(Great) 😊

I did take a few shots whilst in the woods, Gate Keeper, Coma's, Large White and Green Veined, plus a rather cute Large Skipper 😊

I'll mention Monday the 3rd of August although I've already posted my great day in Tonbridge with my first Empress, I took a photo of a bird which I think is a Song Thrush, but I'm not sure also a cute Common Blue ,what a great day that was Goldie 😊



*Common Blue Dene Woods*



*Dene Woods*



*Meadow Brown Blean Woods*



*Gate Keeper Blean Woods*



*Large Skipper Blean Woods*

### Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 11-Aug-15 04:52 AM GMT

I am enjoying reading about your adventures down in Kent Goldie, a part of the country I have not been to for some years. glad you had a good time and saw plenty of butterflies 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 11-Aug-15 05:28 AM GMT

Looks like you've had a great time down in the south Goldie 😊 and you got an Empress to boot!

That is indeed a Song Thrush, the warm brown back as opposed to the colder greyish brown of the larger Mistle Thrush 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 11-Aug-15 11:10 PM GMT

Hi! Neil, yes it was great in Kent, the weather helped it was sunny most of the time after the first two days, glad your enjoying the adventures a few more to come 😊

Yes Buggy the Empress was the High light of my holiday 😊

August 4th Tuesday we went back once more to Temple Ewell, the wind was very strong and every thing seemed to be in Hiding, I took a few shots but even in the sheltered areas it was pretty hopeless, we decided to go to St Margarets on the Cliff for Lunch, I've included a photo of the sea to show the white waves.

It was still very Sunny so when we finished lunch we tried to find some sheltered spots, my Husband and Daughter retreated to the car 😊 I found this Green Veined White which seemed to have turned slightly Blue, we joked afterwards that it was because of the wind 😊

There was also a Large Skipper and a Chalkhill Blue hiding in the sheltered spot and a few Meadow Brown but that was all .

On Weds the 5th of August we had a day out at Sandwich, the Sun was very hot but by the River it was lovely and cool so after a walk and not much luck with Butterflies (except Whites) we decided to go on to Deal, just as we were about to leave I caught this flash of Blue from the corner of my eye, a lovely little Holly Blue.

At Deal, we just had a short walk by then I was a bit tired 😊 I saw this Large White, just as I was taking it's photo it took off but I still Managed to catch it. 😊

The Beech at Deal was all Pebbles not at all what we're use to in the North, (one up for us I'd say 😊 ) I thought it funny to see a Meadow Brown amongst these Pebbles so I just had to take shot , after that we decided enough was enough and headed back another lovely day Goldie 😊



*Meadow Brown Deal GM*



*Large White Deal GM*



*Holly Blue Sandwich GM*



*Sea from White Cliffs*



*Large Skipper ST MOTC GM*



*Green Veined White ST MOTC GM*



*Common Blue Temple Ewell GM*



*Chalk hill Blue Temple Ewell GM*

## **Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 12-Aug-15 11:33 PM GMT

On Friday the 6th of August, we decided to give Temple Ewell another go. It was a lovely hot day and when we arrived the Butterflies were every where, all except the Adonis and SSSkipper, even so it was a great day ,I managed to film the Chalkhill Blues mating, at one point there were 5/6 Males after one Female it was a real frenzy 😊

Common Blues were very plentiful and I chased some down thinking they were Adonis, one in particular was a lovely Blue, then I saw this very fresh looking Brown Argus and quickly got a shot before he flew off. 😊

In my previous post I included a shot of the lower field, Now I've included a couple of the top field where the grass is shorter and usually both Adonis and the SSS can be found, not this time though 😞 I'm just hoping I've got the right names for the Mating pairs, the females all look the same dark Brown but I suppose they could be Common Blue 😊 I saw so many I'm now mesmerised 😊 Goldie 😊



*View Of Temple Ewell GM*



*Temple Ewell Top Field GM*



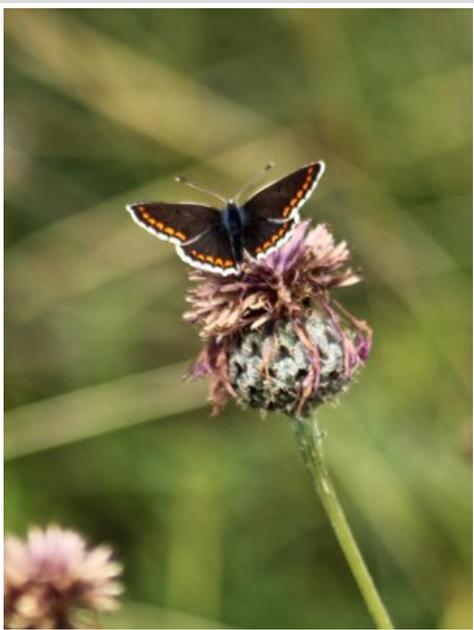
*Top Field TE GM*



*Chalk hill Blue GM*



*Common Blue GM*



*Brown Argus GM*



*Chalkhill's in a Frenzy GM*



*Chalkhill's Mating GM*



*Chalkhill's Mating*

**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 13-Aug-15 05:58 AM GMT

Well done with the mating Chalkhills, something I've not seen yet 🍷

### Re: Goldie M

by Paul Harfield, 13-Aug-15 07:30 AM GMT

Hi Goldie

Just catching up with your diary 😊 Looks like you struck Gold 😊 (or was it Purple) with your first Purple Emperor and Purple Hairstreak 😊

I agree with Pauline, your Peacocks from Seasalter are lovely. That background colour really shows them off well 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 14-Aug-15 09:49 PM GMT

You'll get to see them Buggy, when they decide to mate they don't do it in one to one 😊 Just look for a group of them going round and round, usually the poor Female is already being mated with the others trying to move in 😊

I'm glad you liked the Peacocks Jack, they made my day and I'm still living in a purple cloud has well 😊

Saturday the 7th of August was our last day before setting off for home, the weather was lovely and hot so we'd decided to sit in the Garden and relax because of the long ride back on the Sunday, suddenly I saw a flash of Blue fly into the Bushes next to where I was sitting I jumped up grabbed by Camera, a Lovely Holly Blue was flying from one leaf to another of the Ivy, when it finally settled I took some shots, that was the second one I'd managed to get since being in Kent I was really Pleased 😊

When I checked my Computer later that day I'd received an e-mail from Allan, telling me about Samphire Oh! and the fact he'd seen Clouded Yellow there and Adonis, my daughter said I know where that is and it's not too far, so off we went 😊

On the way there we passed Dover Castle so I took a shot of it from the car, I was amazed when we got to the sign for the Oh! we'd to stop for a traffic light has we'd to go through a narrow Tunnel single line Traffic onto the Oh! it seems that Samphire Oh! is made from all the stone and rubble taken from the Channel Tunnel they've made a great place where people can fish if they want too and loads of paths for walking.

The path which runs along by the railway (you can see the train for France going passed) they've planted loads of Budlia bushes and it was near here where I found( lots ) of Clouded Yellows they were flying every where and when one landed near me I just managed one shot before it took off again and one of another which landed on a flower and took off before I could take it properly 😊 I also managed a Peacock and a Common Blue but sadly no Adonis I can't grumble I finished my Holiday on a High and I've included some Photos taken from the Oh! Goldie 😊



Cruise Ship Dover GM





*Peacock GM*



*Common Blue GM*



*Clouded Yellow GM*



*Clouded Yellow GM*



*Clouded Yellow GM*



*Dover Castle GM*



*Holly Blue GM*

### **Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 15-Aug-15 09:11 PM GMT

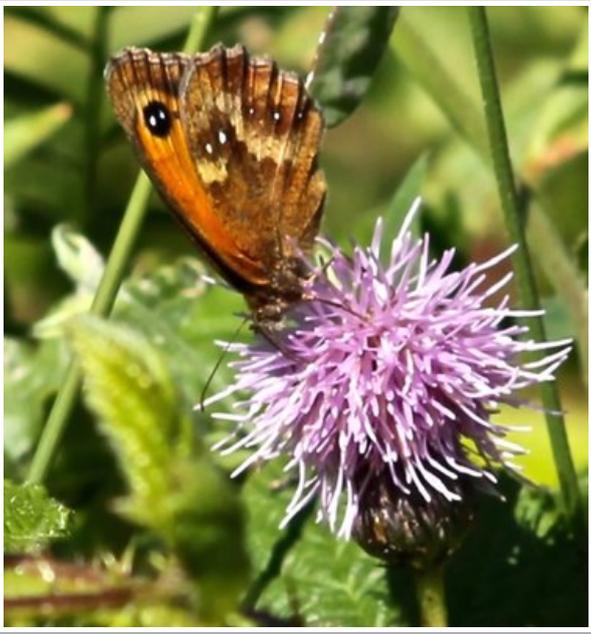
On return from Holiday last Sunday we found a Painted Lady and Small Tortoiseshell in the Back Garden, it's the first PL I've seen there since 2009 so it was great to see it 😊

I went to Hall-Lee-Brook on the Wednesday and saw Gate Keepers at last, I was concerned before I'd left for the hol's that I'd seen none, One of the Gate Keeper's (I took a side view also a front view ) seemed to have an extra spot on it's fore wing also the hind wing, I wondered if this could be an ab?

Also there was a Comma, STS's, CB, SSkipper, (not seen the SS at all in Kent) and Meadow Brown I was very pleased to see them after my encounter with the Mower however I only saw a couple in that meadow the rest were in another, when we returned home a Peacock was in the back garden, my first in the garden since March or April so although it's been raining this week not a bad one so far 😊 Goldie 😊



*Gate Keeper HLB GM*



*Gate Keeper HLB GM*

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 15-Aug-15 10:52 PM GMT

In the back garden, Sunday the 9th of August, Painted Lady, Small Tortoiseshell,

Hall-Lee-Brook Wednesday the 12th of August, Small Skipper, Meadow Brown, Small Tortoiseshell, Common Blue.

Back garden Peacock, also saw this bird in the garden, wondered if it was a fly catcher of some kind it was on the tree but in the shadows Goldie 😊



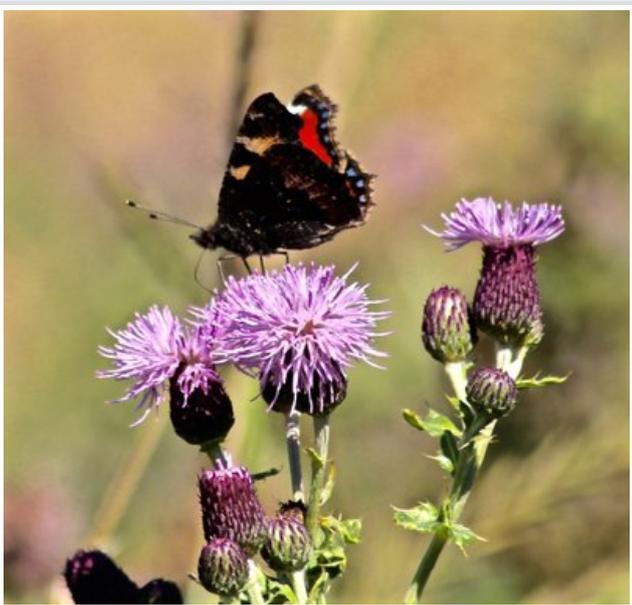
*Spotted Fly Catcher GM*



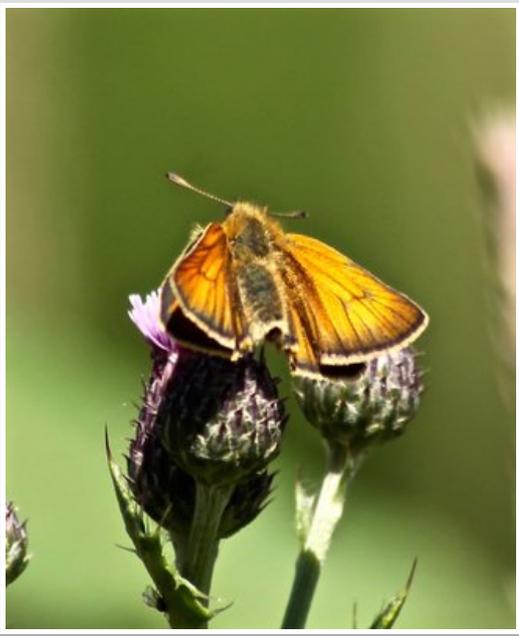
*Peacock Back Garden GM*



*Common Blue HLB GM*



*Small Tortoiseshell HLB GM*



*Small Skipper HLB GM*



*Meadow Brown HLB GM*



*Small Tortoiseshell Back Garden GM*



Painted Lady Back Garden GM

### Re: Goldie M

by Pauline, 16-Aug-15 02:58 PM GMT

I'd be interested to know what that bird is too Goldie? I have had over 60 species in the garden but that is not one I recognise 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 16-Aug-15 05:45 PM GMT

I was hoping someone would be able to ID that bird, doesn't look familiar at all. Don't think it's a Spotted Flycatcher, legs look too long and pale and also the tail seems a bit long. The closest I can get is a young Whitethroat ?

### Re: Goldie M

by Maximus, 18-Aug-15 05:56 AM GMT

Nice photos of all butterfly species Goldie, lovely Clouded Yellows 😊 Your bird looks like a young long-tailed tit?

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 18-Aug-15 06:46 AM GMT

Brill Cloudy shots Goldie 🍷 – it looks like you had a cracking time on your hols 😊 The only bad bit is that they eventually come to an end...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 18-Aug-15 10:55 PM GMT

Hi! Pauline, Buggy and Maximus, I think I've solved the Bird ID 😊

I was in the Garden most of yesterday working, we sat down for a cuppa the weather was quite warm, when this bird landed on the suet balls again and would you believe it, it turned out to be a young Starling that was just getting it's adult feathers, the top half of him was cream and the rest speckled, strange thing was no other Starlings were with it , it was entirely on it's own both times.

Thanks Wurzel, I had a great time which you also seemed to have had 😊

On Sunday we went to Mere Sands near Southport, we were going to Southport originally but the traffic was so heavy we turned back and headed there instead, it was a sunny day with a certain amount of cloud so ideal if we saw any thing.

We went for the meadow walk, which, to me, seems a bit strange when you can only go down a path at the side of the meadow because the gate to the meadow is locked 😊 Flying in how ever from the Meadow were lots of Peacock's one in particular caught my eye because in stead of the bright blue it should have had in the spots on it's lower wings it just had white tiny spots. Also this Dragon fly landed just in the right spot for a photo 😊 Darter I think! I also managed to get a shot of a Brimstone in the field quite a distance a way so not too bad a day 😊

Yesterday has I said I was in the Garden, in between the the trimming etc, these two Small White's flew in and landed in a spot where I could get a shot of them mating, nice surprise, then a Comma landed on the Budllia and from that flew to some Astilbes that I'd just trimmed, it stayed there in the Sun for almost 30mins, I checked where it had been afterwards, no eggs! I also had a PeacockLarge Whites, even a Gate Keeper flew through and when I looked up into the sky this Sparrow Hawk (I think) was soaring round, another good day Goldie 😊



*Sparrow Hawk GM*



*Comma BG GM*



*Peacock BG GM*



*Small White's Mating Back Garden GM*



*Brimstone Mere Sands GM*



*Darter Mere Sands GM*



*Peacock Mere SandsGM*



*Peacock Mere Sands GM*



*Young Starling BG GM*



Young Starling BG GM

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 19-Aug-15 06:17 AM GMT

Glad the bird got ID'd Goldie 😊 Nice view of the Sparrowhawk 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Maximus, 19-Aug-15 08:51 AM GMT

Nice shots Goldie glad the bird has been ID'd 😊 The Sparrowhawk looks really menacing.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 19-Aug-15 11:13 PM GMT

Thanks for your postings Max and Wurzel, that hawk is menacing, there's a pair of them and they live near by in Hall-Lee-Brook , they've killed Collared Doves and lots of small birds a couple of which have been in my garden , even tried to scare one off not long since, nature will run it's course but it's still upsetting when it happens. 😞

Raining today so no adventures sorry to say and yesterday was windy and much colder nothing was flying, hope fully things will pick up again Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 24-Aug-15 11:48 PM GMT

After the rain on Saturday morning the clouds lifted slightly and we got a bit of sun so we went to Hall-Lee-Brook, we found loads of Gate Keepers but these two took my interest because I think their ab's. 🤔  
Also there was a Common Blue, Green Veined White and a Comma.

On Sunday we decided to take a chance and go to Arnside Knot the forecast was for rain later, Saturday night we'd had heavy rain and thunder so we didn't expect much but I thought may be it was the last chance to see a Scotch Argus if they were still about.

The day was warm but very windy and on the Knot things were blowing about quite a lot , I spotted some thing very dark on a flower and shot across to get a shot of it, I was delighted when it turned out to be a SA, we saw two or three but none opened their wings worse luck ( not surprising with the wind ) I was happy I'd seen them and with the clouds gathering again we set off for home.

This morning I was in the garden when I glanced up into my neighbours tree and saw these two Butterflies, I've recognised one as a Small White but the other one is so small I don't know what it is, I've put a pic in of both to show the difference between the two, also tried to get a side view of the Small one, believe me it wasn't easy standing on a step ladder balancing there with a camera 😊 If any one can tell me what it is I'll be pleased, 😊 Goldie 😊



*Gate Keeper GM*



*Gate Keeper GM*



*Scotch Argus GM*



*Scotch Argus GM*



*Scotch Argus GM*





*Small White GM*



**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 25-Aug-15 05:28 AM GMT

Lovely excess a and Scotch Argus Goldie 🍷 I reckon your unknown white could be a very small Small White, a female from the 3rd generation which are often smaller than the first two broods 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 25-Aug-15 05:35 AM GMT

Good to see you managed to spot a few Scotch Argus, Goldie.

I reckon they'll still be about in September this year!

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 25-Aug-15 10:18 PM GMT

Thank you Wurzel, I must say that Small butterfly made me scratch my head, I had it down for a Green Veined White but it didn't seem to have the veins 😊 but it did have the the dark spots going across like the GVW, I've never ever seen a White so small before, so there's a first for every thing, I'll put it down has a SW 😊

Hi! David, the Scotch Argus may go into September, but I don't think they'll look so good, they seem to be fighting the weather up there and were not at their best, I was glad to get a few shots but disappointed at getting no open wing shots and more rain is now forecast as well as wind UGH! Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 26-Aug-15 02:54 AM GMT

I agree with Wurzel, Goldie, you have a male and female Small White there 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 26-Aug-15 04:33 AM GMT

Hi Goldie, glad you got to see the Scotch Argus 😊 .

You certainly seem to have had more than your fair share of bad weather up there this year.

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 26-Aug-15 07:17 AM GMT

Thanks Buggy, it's always good to get confirmation, you learn about some thing new every day on this web site 😊

Thanks Neil, I'm glad has well, half the things I wanted to do and see I've either had to put on hold or do anther time.

I wanted to go back and see the Large Heaths again but the the weather was awful, hope fully another year for that.

I did get to see the Empress though so that was a bonus but try( has I did ,) I was unlucky with the Pearl B and the Small PB.

Also didn't get to see the Dark Green Frit, but was compensated by seeing the High Brown.

I also missed the Adonis and Silver SS, try for them next year , on the other hand I did see the Clouded Yellow so you win some you loose some 😊

Looking back this year although the weather was awful, I did get three firsts and I saw the lovely Swallow Tails, we've still got September to go but no sign of the Small Tortoiseshells now in the garden or the Peacock, it'll be interesting to see what September brings. Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Hoggars, 28-Aug-15 01:36 AM GMT

Hi Goldie, Small Tortoiseshells are scarce in my garden this year ( so far ) even on the warm, sunny days.

I'm hoping there'll be an Indian Summer for them!

Hoggars

### Re: Goldie M

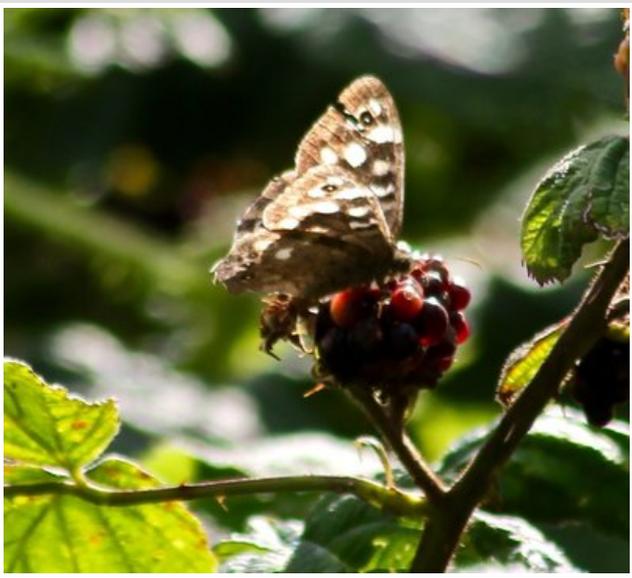
by Goldie M, 28-Aug-15 10:33 PM GMT

Hi! Hogger's, how've you gone on with the plants you bought last year, 🤔 I remember you admiring the Yellow flowers in my photo's (forgotten what their Called 😊) and saying you'd bought some. 😊

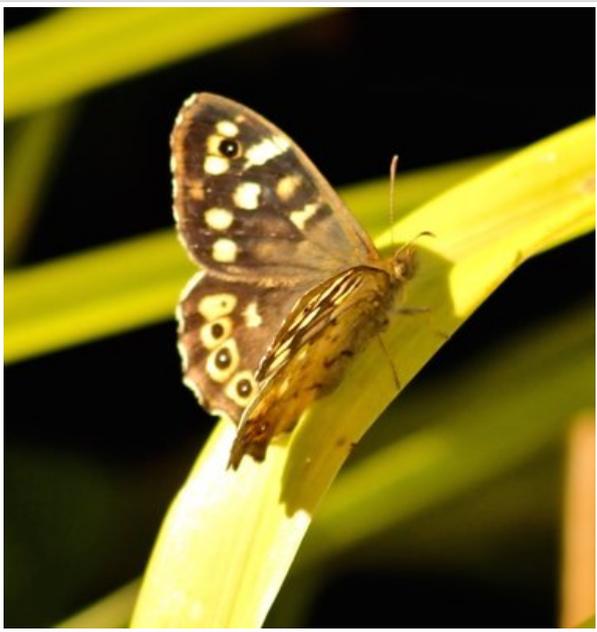
On Wednesday it was quite windy again but at least the sun shone for a while between the clouds, so I went once more to Hall-Lee-Brook, I think the Butterflies have hibernated early, a few Gate Keepers were about,

funnily enough they were the excessa, except for a couple, mind you I did go back to where I'd seen them before so they were probably the same 😊 I wanted a side view of one, I got one before but I was curious if they looked the same as the ordinary GK's.

There were lot's of Speckled Wood, one wasn't in good shape and was quite a distance a way on some Blackberries but I couldn't resist taking a shot because it looked so Autumnal, nearly into it now, maybe we'll get to see some more Peacocks, I'm surprised really that the Red Admirals are not about, last Year I was taking photos right through into October, fingers crossed it'll get better before the Autumn really sets in. Goldie 😊



*Speckled Wood GM*



*Speckled Wood Gm*



*Gate Keeper excessa GM*

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 31-Aug-15 10:32 PM GMT

After scratching around to find Butterflies at HLB and giving up hope of finding many more, I've had a Tortoiseshell in my Garden, but my neighbour who's garden Backs onto mine had loads on her Butterfly bush including a Painted Lady and Peacock so if the weather picks up maybe more will arrive 😊

Yesterday we decided to have a ride to Southport and visit the Dunes, the weather was very overcast so I thought if anything was flying, there was a chance for a shot or two, ( not really expecting much) when we arrived the weather was very dull, has we started out through the Dunes suddenly this Butterfly flew into the air I'd not seen it and nearly trod on it, to my surprise it was a Grayling which then proceeded to land on my Jacket 😊 My Husband took my Camera to take a photo but wasn't used to the setting so it was pretty Blurred, the BF didn't shoot off though but landed back in the sand so I managed to get a couple before it did finally get lost in the Dunes.

I've included some photo's I took of the Dunes which show the wide area I took the photos in.

After that we continued only to stop short when what I thought was another Grayling turned out to be a Wall, was I pleased 😊 It was badly damaged so when another came along with just a bit off the top of his wing I was chuffed.

The day turned out to be a day of nice surprises when I took photos of lovely Common Blue's, Peacock's, Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood"s and a large Caterpillar I'd not seen before (Pic of that not too Great) No Copper's though, I'm not too sure what's happened there I'll just have to hope they arrive and the weather stays warm Goldie 😊



*Southport Dunes GM*



*Southport Dunes GM*



*Southport Dunes GM*



*Wall Brown GM*



*Grayling GM*



*Peacock GM*



*Peacock GM*



*Common Blues GM*



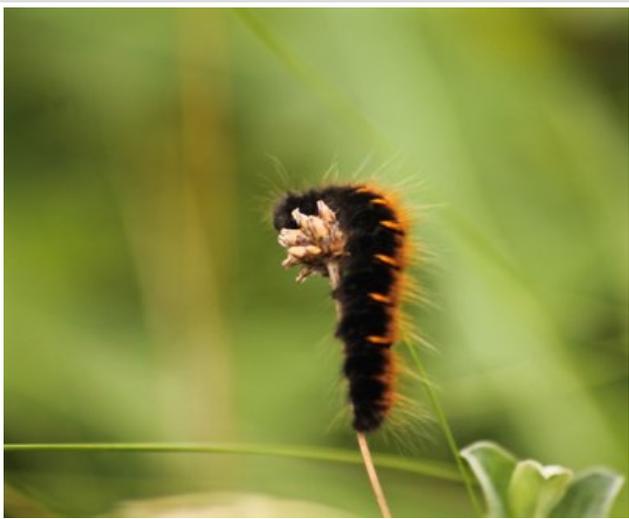
*Common Blue GM*



*Common Blue GM*



*Speckled Wood GM*



*Caterpillar GM*

**Re: Goldie M**

by Allan.W., 01-Sep-15 12:18 AM GMT

Hi,Goldie,

I,m not certain ,but I think your caterpillar could be a Fox moth,they feed on Heather,see them fairly regularly down at Dungeness. regards Allan W.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 01-Sep-15 05:54 AM GMT

Nice selection of female Blues Goldie and a great Wall Brown 😊🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by essexbuzzard, 01-Sep-15 06:42 AM GMT

Loving your reports and pictures recently,Goldie. Particularly your posts from down in Kent a few weeks ago. Sadly you were just too early this year for Silver-spotted Skippers at Lydden Temple Ewell,although last year they would have been out. Even here in the south,it has been cooler and cloudier than last year. But,just for you,here is a lovely Silver-spotted Skipper at Lydden,taken recently,to show what you are missing. If there is a choice,leave it a week or two later next time you are down.

Kind regards,Mark.



**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 01-Sep-15 06:54 AM GMT

You did really well in the dunes there, Goldie, despite the lack of sun. You found a Wall – something I still haven't seen this year... 🍷😊

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 01-Sep-15 11:17 PM GMT

Sunshine and showers today, a house work day 😊

Thanks Allan, I've had a look in UK moths for Fox Moth and I think your right ,so that's what I'll call it 😊

Glad you liked the Blues Wurzel thank you, I've nothing else to show since than so I'll put a few more in. 😊

What can I say Mark, the Skipper is lovely and thank you, glad you enjoyed my trip to Kent ,trouble is when I come to Kent it's by invite so I don't get to choose, last thing we want to do is land ourselves onto our family, this way when we go to Kent it's welcome 😊 I think next year though we'll try Sussex in May or June first, I'd like to see those Grizzled Skipper's and Wood White, I think I'm right in thinking their out about then. :

😊

Hi! millard, sorry you've not seen a Wall this year, looks like they were late coming out up here and I got lucky, I've made a note to go to the Dunes again a bit earlier in August next year because seeing two in the space of just a few mins means there must be quite a few about in good condition a week or so sooner, ( weather permitting of course) I shot them in the same area in May, lucky again. 😊

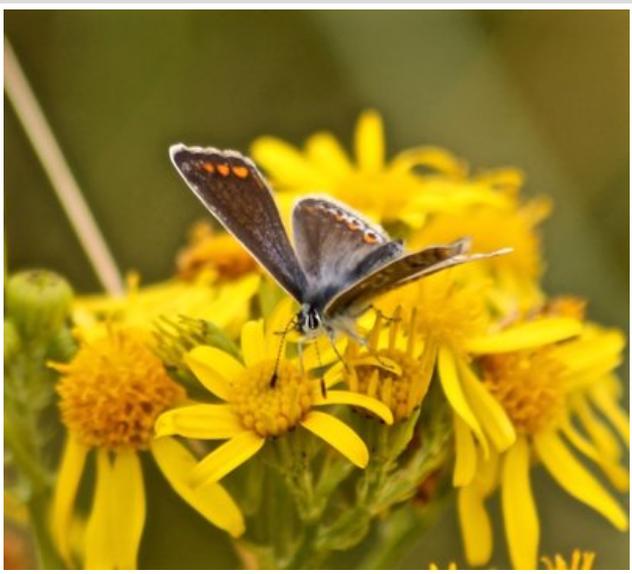
I just wish I'd been so lucky with the PBF and SPBF, but I know where to find them now at Warton Craig so maybe I'll do the double next year. 😊 Goldie 😊



*Common Blue GM*



*Common Blue GM*



*Common Blue GM*



*Common Blue GM*

### **Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 02-Sep-15 06:29 PM GMT

In-between the heavy showers yesterday, the sun was shining and although cooler it didn't stop the Butterflies from coming into my Neighbours garden 😊

I again got my steps out and although they were a distance a way couldn't resist trying for a few shots 😊 It was a treat to see the Red Admiral had returned for the Autumn 😊 also he Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock, I'm hoping for more today 😊 Goldie 😊



*Small Tortoiseshell GM*



*Peacock GM*



*Peacock GM*



*Red Admiral GM*



*Red Admiral GM*

**Re: Goldie M**

by Maximus, 03-Sep-15 05:06 AM GMT

Nice to see some lovely September butterflies in the sunshine, Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 03-Sep-15 06:19 AM GMT

Nice selection of shots Goldie 😊 I think you need to have a word with your neighbour and fit a gate between theirs and yours 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 04-Sep-15 01:49 AM GMT

Seems like you should be planting your own Buddleia 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 05-Sep-15 03:32 AM GMT

Thanks Max, none since then though the weathers been to cloudy and cool, we'll see what the weekend brings Goldie 😊

Hi! Mike and Wurzel, the thing is, I've got two Buddleia's in the back Garden (different Colours) and one in the front Garden, mine face South and gets the Sun all day so don't last as long, my neighbours is more sheltered, so it seems to last longer, it's also been there for years, mine for only three, that also makes a difference.

When I returned from Kent I took these shots of a Painted Lady and Small Tort on my Buddlieas so I've got the best of both worlds 😊 My neighbour and I have a natter while I'm taking shots, I think she thinks I'm strange 😊 Goldie 😊



*Small Tortoiseshell GM*



*Painted Lady GM*



*Small Tortoiseshell GM*



*Painted Lady GM*

### Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 05-Sep-15 04:42 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

I wondered about the Red Admiral, it has an extra white spot on the red 'band'. I've looked at my other RA images, and none have the extra white spot.

If you had been with me today you would have seen three Hummingbird Hawkmoths !.

Keep up the good work,  
TREVOR.

### Re: Goldie M

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

Seems like you've got the best of both worlds then Goldie, your two Buddleias and one in reserve for later 😊🍷 Nice Painted Lady 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 07-Sep-15 01:24 AM GMT

I wish I had been Trevor, I've seen Humming Birds in the West Indies but not the Moth but there's always tomorrow 😊

Thanks Wurzel, I've not seen a Painted Lady since worse Luck 😞

Today I went to Hall-Lee-Brook, having seen a Small White in My Front Garden I thought some thing maybe on the move 😊

The first thing I saw were Speckled Wood's they were every where and really enjoying the Black Berries 😊 Has we walked along the now narrow path (so many thistles all with their seeds blowing every where) I noticed and tried to avoid the Nettles, but then a movement caught my eye and has I looked two Small Caterpillars were gorging themselves in the Nettles, I'd never seen these before so it was only when I got home and looked them up in my book and checked the UK species album that I assumed they are Comma Cats. ( hope I'm right) 😊 I also saw a Small Tortoiseshell and what a think is a Darter DF 😊

Further along the path I saw a Gate Keeper, ( much to my surprise I thought they'd all gone) then another surprise when I saw two Green Veined White's Mating, the Male wasn't in such good shape but was still very active 😊 It just goes to show every time you go Butterflying you can get a surprise Goldie 😊



*Darter Dragon Fly GM*



*Small Tortoiseshell GM*



*Gate Keeper GM*



*Green Veined Whites Mating GM*



*Comma Cat GM*



*Comma Cat GM*



*Comma Cat GM*



*Speckled Wood GM*



*Small Whites GM*



*Small White's Gm*

### **Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 09-Sep-15 05:07 AM GMT

I went back to Southport yesterday, it was cool at first then the Sun came out of the clouds and the weather was perfect.

We thought we'd visit Sandhills NNR first, when we got to the car park though we were stunned to find a charge of £4 being posted for the day on a normally free car park, needless to say we parked some where else. Which meant a rather longer walk.

They don't seem to understand these people that we don't all have young families and want to stay all day on a beech, which is what was happening, the small car park is only a short distance from the beech where they charge £4 for driving onto, it doesn't take a genius to work out what their plan was. 😡

Anyway I took some shots of Grayling, they weren't in very good condition but still going strong, there were still some CB's about. We were going to stay a bit longer but some Gulls were swooping around us and it got quite scary, my Husband suggested we leave, it was only later we found out a couple of Hawks were attacking and had probably caught one near to where we were UGH!

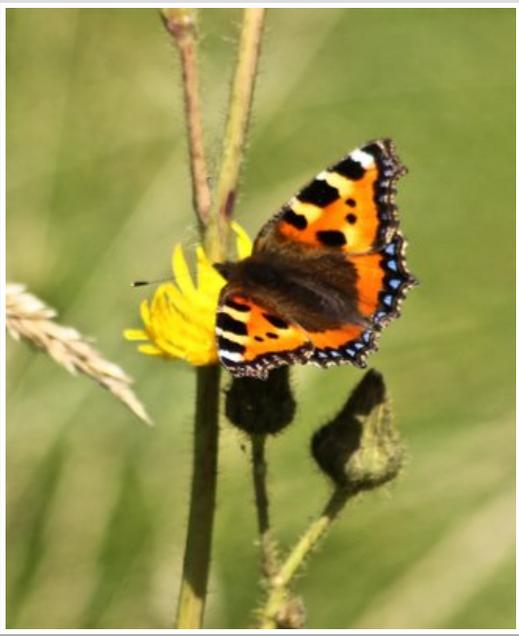
We moved on to Marshside NR which is nearer to Southport, we climbed to the top of a Sand Dune and I took some shots of another Grayling (not very good) I was climbing up at the time and the light was too bright.

I took shots to the left of me and the right and forward to get an idea of the Dunes, when we climbed down I found these two Common Blues mating, I was surprised but it was great to know we'd have a future species next year 😊

Further into the dunes we came across lots of Red Admirals and Tortoiseshells it was a good day out Goldie 😊



*Common Blue GM*



*Small Tortoiseshell GM*



*Red Admiral GM*



*Common Blue's Mating GM*



*Grayling GM*



*RSPB Marshside a View from the Left GM*



*RSPB Marshside A front View GM*



*RSPB Marshside NR A View to the Right GM*



*Sandhills NNR Southport Dunes GM*



*Common Blue GM*



Grayling GM

### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 09-Sep-15 05:28 AM GMT

Bet you were glad to get out, Goldie?

Well done with the Graylings. I've never seen them in September. They are usually done and dusted before the last week in August down here.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 10-Sep-15 03:19 AM GMT

Hi! David, yes it was good to get out in the Sunshine again, I'm glad we did because the last couple of days have been much colder, no Sun today at all.

I think the Graylings are late like every thing else up here at present, still no Copper, which I'd love to see Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 10-Sep-15 03:53 AM GMT

Hi Goldie

Just read your posting for Sept 2nd, and Trevor pointed out that your Red Ad; showed an extra white spot in the red cross band, this is an Aberration known as AB; Bialbata, you do see a fair few. Of the dozen or so, that I saw over the weekend, 2 were Bialbata I posted one on September sightings. Regards Allan .W.

### Re: Goldie M

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

Hi! Allan, I posted an Admiral with extra spot in my Sept 8th posting (not too clear a photo) the posting you refer to Allan, Sept 2nd is Trevor's reply to me after I told him he'd got an ab 😊 It's great to inform people about these things, it's the way we learn, so thank you for taking the trouble to do so 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 14-Sep-15 03:26 AM GMT

I was in my Garden all day today pottering about, the weather was good very little breeze but loads of Sunshine in-between light clouds.

I was grumbling at the lack of Butterflies in the Garden this year and thinking and comparing it to the last few years when Sept you were sure you'd see ST's and lot's of Red Admiral's, together with whites etc. So feeling sorry for myself I brewed a cuppa 😊 it was when I returned to the Garden that I got a glimpse of some thing Brown fluttering about, to my surprise I saw this Speckled Wood, I say surprise because nothing as been in the garden for ages. I rushed in for my camera and got some shots, it didn't fly off though but stayed for quite a while .

I was pleased and when I looked again the Specky had been joined by a lovely Tortoiseshell, I took more shots of the Tort and then a Small White joined the party this continued for quite a while, it made a change from taking long shots of my neighbours Budleia with

Red Admiral's on it 😊

Any way I just had to post some shots and hope fully weather permitting I'll get some more before the season finishes I noticed when in the Garden the large Tree in the back ground it's leaves already changing to gold and red, Autumn is nearly with us Goldie 😊



*Small White GM*



*Small White GM*



*Small Tortoiseshell GM*



*Small Tortoiseshell GM*



*Small Tortoiseshell GM*



*Speckled Wood GM*



Speckled Wood GM

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 14-Sep-15 05:30 AM GMT

Nice to hear you're leaving your neighbour's Buddliea alone for once Goldie 😊😂 Specklies are great value at this time of the year as they don't seem to age as badly as other species 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 15-Sep-15 12:27 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, right now I'm wishing I lived in the South so I could extend my season to look for the unusual Butterflies that arrive down in the South at this time of year, I'll just have to book my next holiday down there in September 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Maximus, 15-Sep-15 03:49 AM GMT

Hi Goldie, it's great that you saw those Small Torts, Small Whites and Speckled Wood in your garden, and got those lovely shots too 😊 Seeing butterflies in our garden always makes us happy 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 16-Sep-15 06:25 PM GMT

Thank you Max, glad you enjoyed my Butterflies 😊

I was visited again Yesterday this time by the Red Admiral 😊

The weather had been very cold for a start then the Sun came out and I was delighted to find the Butterflies in the Garden again. the Speckie didn't stay still for long and was flying back wards and forwards, very unsettled,.

We've started the day well today, although cold this morning the Sun's out and hope fully it'll get warmer if the rain stays on the other side of the Pennines 😊 Goldie 😊



Red Admiral GM



Red Admiral GM

**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 17-Sep-15 03:48 AM GMT

Nice Red Admiral, Goldie – it really stands out against the yellow flower. At least you had sunshine – it was cold and wet and dark in London all day.

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

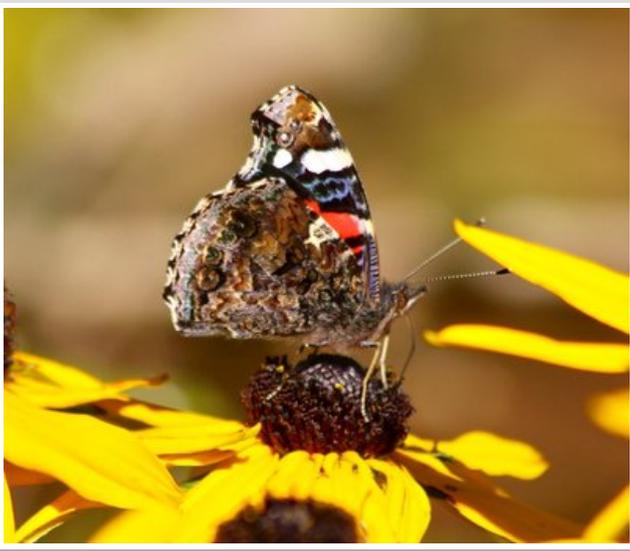
by Goldie M, 18-Sep-15 11:10 PM GMT

Thanks Dave, those flowers do the trick every year, when the Buddliea is nearly finished they come into there own 😊

This morning started off very dark and wet, I was just looking out into garden from the Living room window when I saw the Hawk sitting on the fence, I ran to get my camera still hoping it wouldn't fly off, I didn't think my photos would be very good taken through glass etc, but I still couldn't let the opportunity go to at least try to get some shots 😊

Then to my complete amazement, landing either side of it, these two Magpies flew in( couldn't see the other one from the house) they started to hassle the Sparrow Hawk, ( I assume that's what this is ) they kept flying up over it's head then landing down again, I didn't get all the action I was so surprised 😊 The Hawk didn't like this at all and flew off followed by the Magpies, it was amazing to watch, I didn't think any thing would stand up to a Hawk like they did 😊😊

Yesterday I had the SPEckie back in the Garden, this time it flew onto my glass table 😊 The Red Admiral was also back, I'd taken shots of it with open wings so I decided to take some underwing shots, I didn't realise just how colourful they could look, the Sun is shining again now and when I look outside the Speckie is back once more, I'll hope some thing else arrives 😊 it's all happening at once in the Garden. Goldie 😊



*Red Admiral GM*



*Speckled Wood GM*



*Sparrow Hawk Attack by Magpies GM*



*Sparrow Hawk GM*



*Sparrow hawk Show Down GM*



*Sparrow Hawk Under Attack GM*



Sparrow hawk GM



Sparrow Hawk GM

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 19-Sep-15 01:44 AM GMT

Corvids are notorious for harassing raptors, Goldie. Round my part of the world, Red Kites never get a moment's peace. Crows are constantly chasing them around the skies.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 19-Sep-15 03:02 AM GMT

I never knew that David, I suppose their protecting their territory,( or their food supply ) 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 19-Sep-15 03:37 AM GMT

As David wrote, it's fairly common for crows to mob large raptors when they are flying but I've not seen a confrontation like your photos. I suspect that the Sparrowhawk might be a young bird – it looks a bit non-plussed by all the attention.

A Sprawk used to hide regularly in shrubs in our garden, from where it could make a fast raid on the bird feeders. We stopped it from having things too easy by putting some plastic mesh across the direct run but these birds are masters of the 'smash and grab' raid. It's one of the few birds I've [url=http://home.btconnect.com/mike.flemming/birds6.htm:2sdbav7]photographed with a macro lens[/url:2sdbav7] – the Sprawk was far too intent on its prey to bother about me getting close!

**Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 19-Sep-15 03:57 AM GMT

Hi Goldie;

Well done with that Sparrow Hawk, i particularly like the last image.

Last year my Cat caught a Sparrow Hawk while it was stripping the feathers of a bird it had caught. I just managed to see the Hawk fly off, minus many feathers!. The prey bird didn't fly off though.

All the best,  
Trevor.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 20-Sep-15 06:07 AM GMT

Great Sparrowhawk shot Goldie 😊 Looking out for 'mobbing' is a great way to find raptors, I've been lucky enough to see Montagu's Harriers, Lesser Spotted Eagles and Tawny Owls all by following the crow of angry Crows 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 20-Sep-15 07:55 PM GMT

That's interesting Mike, I don't think I'd fancy getting to close to a Hawk though 😊 I love birds but when they start flying so do I if I'm too close 😞 It looks like these Megpies are going to keep our gardens clear of not only Hawk's, they've got a bit aggressive with other birds , the only one I've seen

stand up to them is a Wood Pigeon .That's only when their feeding though, having said that they killed a young Starling in late Spring when it'd had just started to fly 😊

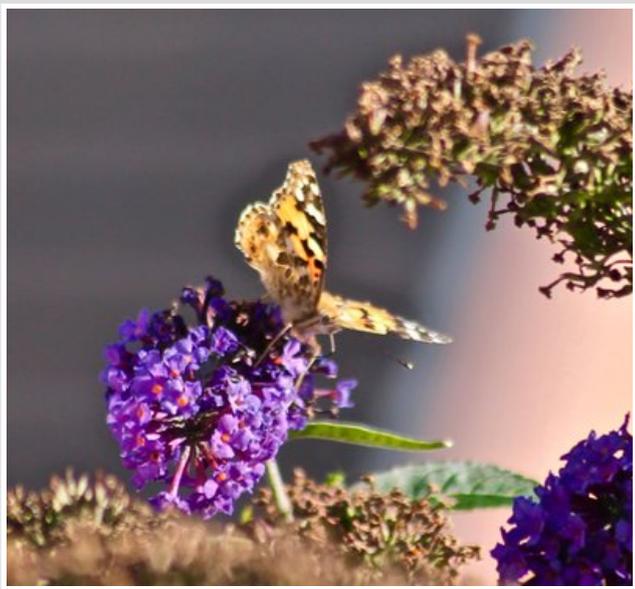
Hi! Trevor, sounds like the Hawk got a taste of it's own medicine, well done Cat, I don't really like to see anything attacked though 😊  
Thanks for your post and I'm pleased you liked the photo 😊

Thanks Wurzel, glad you like the shots, I'll have to follow the crows next time I see a crowd of them as long as the Crow's aren't too close 😊

We've had two lovely days here, cold mornings but lovely sunshine in the afternoons so we've been busy sorting our trees and other things in the garden, we've had visits from quite a few Butterflies, some, I've managed to get shots of, some, in my Neighbours garden I struggled with 😊 I took a photo also of a rather good looking Spider UGH! Goldie 😊



*Painted Lady GM*



*Painted Lady GM*



*Red Admiral GM*



*Speckled Wood GM*



*Spider GM*

### **Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 22-Sep-15 07:56 PM GMT

I love that side on shot of the Red Admiral Goldie 😊

### **Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 24-Sep-15 12:12 AM GMT

Thanks Bugboy for your comment, Your like me then, 😊 I love the unusual 😊

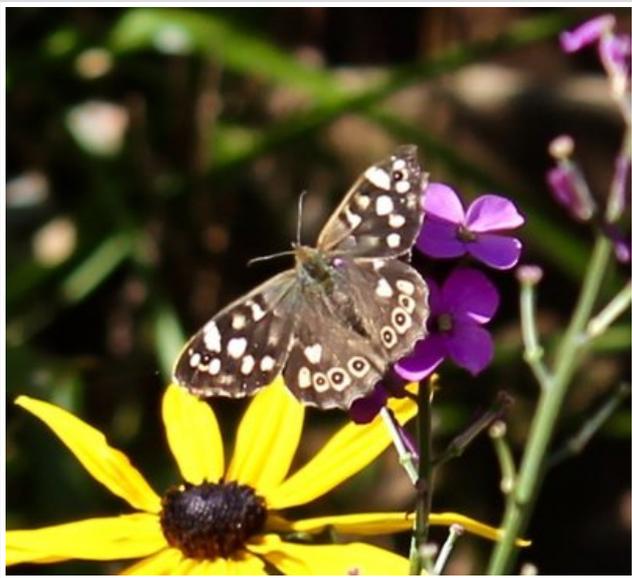
I've been in the Garden for much of the week, it's taken ages it seems and we've still not done, I must admit to neglecting it because of my butterflying 😊 But this time of year we start sorting it out and like other years we always have company, Butterflies ,Bee's and Birds 😊 I've posted a photo of one side of the garden that the Butterflies at this time of year love 😊

Whilst the weather here has been so nice I've sat in the garden quite a lot and yesterday was perfect, hot Sun but every now and then a large cloud so I was able to get quite a few shots of my visitors. Goldie 😊





*Small White GM*



*Speckled Wood GM*



*Small Tortoiseshell GM*



*Small Tortoiseshell GM*



*Red Admiral GM*



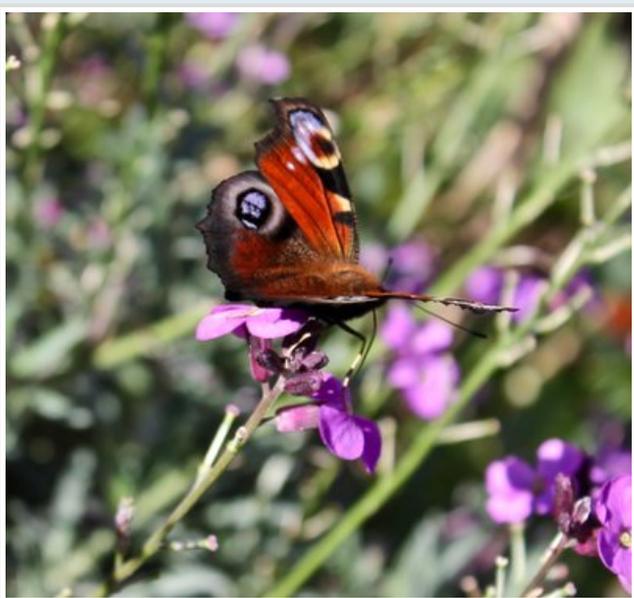
*Red Admiral GM*



*Painted Lady GM*



*Painted Lady GM*



*Peacock GM*



Peacock GM

**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 24-Sep-15 01:07 AM GMT

You've had better weather up there this week again, Goldie – lots of rain and pretty chilly down here near London, though the sun was out this morning. You're also seeing butterflies I've not seen for weeks: Small Tortoiseshells and Peacocks! 😊 The Small White is a good shot too, as they are tricky to get close to at the best of times. 😊 They all love the purple wallflowers, don't they!

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 24-Sep-15 01:19 AM GMT

Thanks Dave for your post, your right the weather's been great here for the passed week and the Butterflies do love those purple flowers, I took the shots with a more close up lens because it was in the garden I could get much closer to the BF's and for some reason they let me get very close ,( they were so busy feeding )Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Paul Harfield, 24-Sep-15 08:10 AM GMT

Hi Goldie

It looks like you have had a great selection of visitors to your garden, you obviously look after them. I have barely seen anything in my garden other than Small Whites for the last few days 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 25-Sep-15 05:57 PM GMT

Hi! Jack, I just hope they keep coming 😊 we've had some heavy rain yesterday and last night so they may not be in such great shape now. I've got three Buddiela bush's in the garden and when they finish my Autumn flowers take over which helps to bring Butterflies into the garden, I just wish it would bring some Coppers in, 😊 but they seem to like open country or Dunes like Southport, you never know though they might just arrive some day. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 26-Sep-15 04:30 AM GMT

Some lovely photos from your garden recently Goldie and I'm glad you have been getting some better weather at last.

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 26-Sep-15 06:11 AM GMT

Looks like we're all in for an extended spell of good weather.

Shame it's taken till the eve of October to receive it! 😞

### Re: Goldie M

by Maximus, 26-Sep-15 06:11 PM GMT

Your garden looks like butterfly heaven, Goldie. Lovely photos of a nice variety of butterflies too 😊 I've not seen a Peacock for some time 😞

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 27-Sep-15 12:42 AM GMT

Thank you Neil, David and Max for your compliments,

I was very surprised Max when I saw the Peacock also the Painted Lady, I've not seen them since though 😞

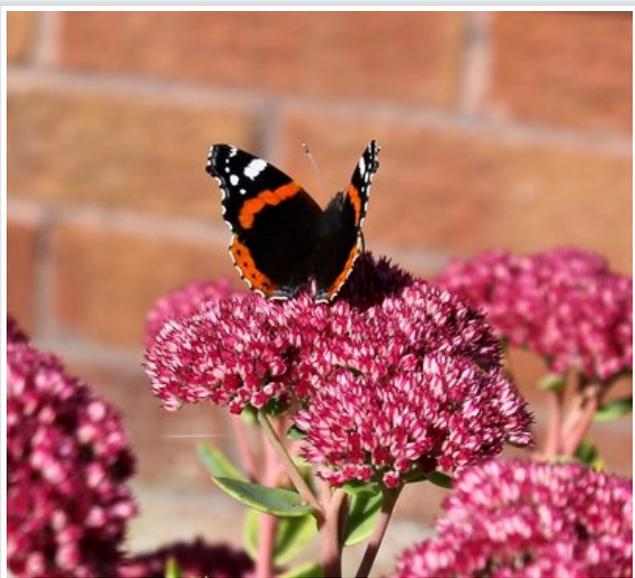
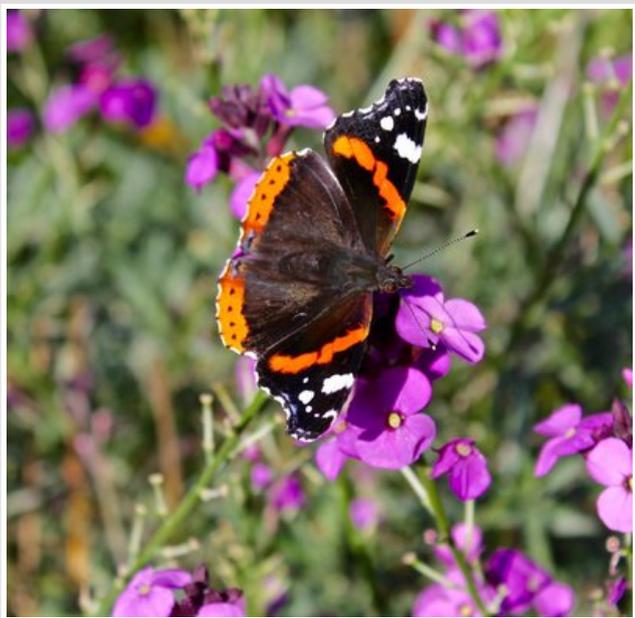
David, I got my Sun shade out this morning, the weather was great then by lunch time the Sun had disappeared, I did get a few more shots though before hand 😊

Glad you enjoyed the photos Neil thank you for the compliment, the Sun disappeared this afternoon, which was very disappointing, we're hoping it's back tomorrow 😊

I did manage to get some shots today and some yesterday( yesterday was a better day for the Sun but windy) still the shots I got today brightened me no ends 😊

I went to Hall-Lee-Brook I think it will be for the last time this year, only the Speckies were there, didn't see any other Butterflies so I assumed they'd all plumed for gardens like mine with plenty of Flowers in , which is okay with me 😊

I'm putting a few more photos in my post, I took them yesterday and this morning , same kind of Butterflies though, still no Coppers I'll be looking for them in the next few days though Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 27-Sep-15 05:38 AM GMT

Mighty fine Red Admirals Goldie 😊 and the Painted a Lady from the previous post looks in very fine fettle, could it be starting the journey back South?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 27-Sep-15 06:46 AM GMT

You have some great, late flowering nectar sources there, Goldie. What is that last one? The flowers look a bit like honesty but the stems are totally different.

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 30-Sep-15 04:52 AM GMT

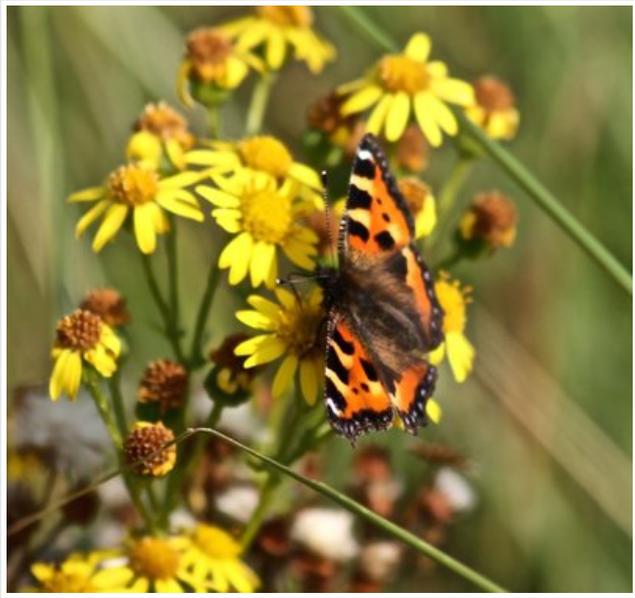
Hi! Wurzel, I've been rather busy lately but nearly back to normal now 😊 Glad you like the photos I think the Painted Lady was ready for take off because I've not seen her since 😊

Hi! David, the plant is a Wall Flower Perennial, I've forgotten it's name but it's quite out standing because it flowers all year, except Winter of course 😊 If you buy one go for the Purple one, when it gets leggy stalks if you trim it right back it re-flowers, I trimmed mine back after Spring flowering and it's fantastic again Goldie 😊

Since my last posting the Butterflies have been very busy feeding in the garden ready for Hibernation I suppose, I've had two new visitors though, a comma and a dragon Fly 😊 Darter I think he very kindly posed for a photo 😊

We also went to Southport Dunes yesterday I was hoping to see a Copper but no such luck, a Peacock, Small White and a Tort were my only tally, I'm actually seeing more Butterflies in the Garden then when I go looking for them now, they've taken to the gardens with the Wild flowers nearly finishing.

I'll have to Finnish off now and read the postings tomorrow , cup of tea time Goldie 😊



*Small Tortoiseshell Southport Dunes GM*



*Small White SPD GM*



*Red Admiral Front Garden GM*



*Peacock SPD GM*



*Red Admiral Back Garden GM*



*Red Admiral's Back Garden GM*



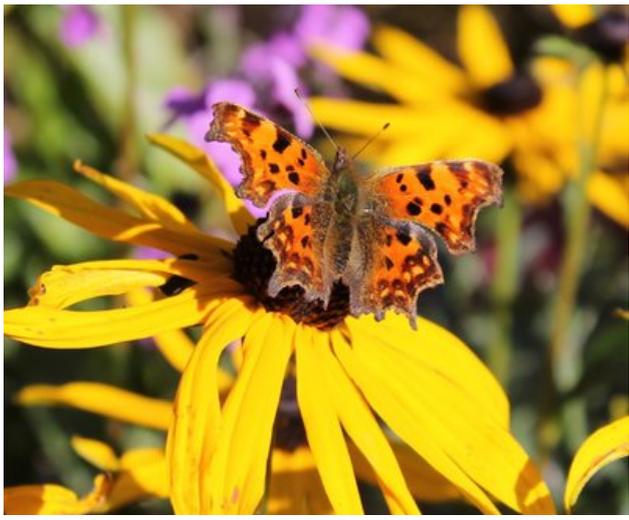
*Large White Red Admiral BG GM*



*Darter BG GM*



*Comma BG GM*



*Comma BG GM*

### Re: Goldie M

by Padfield, 30-Sep-15 05:04 AM GMT

I have to say, Goldie, your pictures are getting better and better. They paint a wonderful picture of life in your garden and further afield. Sitting here in chilly Switzerland, with the snow threatening, it is lovely to see them.

Guy

### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 30-Sep-15 05:14 AM GMT

#### "Goldie M" wrote:

Hi! David, the plant is a Wall Flower Perennial, I've forgotten it's name but it's quite out standing because it flowers all year, except Winter of course

Thanks for the info, Goldie. I see that 'Bowles Mauve erysimum' is the plant in question and I will track some down next year to place in my borders.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 30-Sep-15 07:24 AM GMT

Thank you very much Guy, coming from you that's a real compliment 😊

Chilly or not it's still a fantastic place where you live, I've only flown over Switzerland when I was going to Italy and it looked breathtaking, I love your scenery shots, they remind me of the Rockies, I lived in Calgary for two years and I loved it, I missed the seasons over here and when I got back I was determined to fill my garden with flowers, this I did and that's what got me interested in the Butterflies Goldie 😊

Hi! David, glad you found the name of the plant you won't be disappointed, I usually take cuttings from it just in case it gets too leggy you can always set off new plants then, I do this with the perennial plants, I take the seed heads put them in pots outside and when they reach a certain height put them in the garden, it seems to work and it saves keep buying seeds 😊

I've put a few more shots in one from today of the Small Tortoiseshell just landing on the flowers and one that my little Darter friend enjoys of the water dish plus Butterflies and the Darter making himself invisible on the Autumn Glory 😊 Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 01-Oct-15 05:58 AM GMT

That last shot is great Goldi, I had to do a double take as the first time I looked at it I thought you'd captured a Red Admiral coming into land, then I saw that it was two close together 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 03-Oct-15 07:38 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, it's all happening in the garden at present 😊

We went to Thornton Country Park on Thursday( it's really Wyre CP ) it's near the river Wyre, I hoped to see some Coppers there but no luck, there was Red Admiral's, Small Tortoiseshell, Comma's and I counted 8 Speckled Wood, they were all in the same area a round a walled horse shoe shaped seating area where Autumn Glory was planted all round the top of the wall, it was very impressive full of all these different Butterflies.

I took a few shots but the Butterflies kept bumping one another and flying up, so hard to take in groups, I'd to take individuals more than groups 😊 Whilst taking the shots this Silver Y moth came in, it was more like a Humming Bird Moth because it buzzed about all over the place, I did manage to get a shot but only for a second 😊

Apart from that odd day out it's been the garden at home I've been filming in, mostly the same Butterflies arriving ,the Peacock arrived once again in the front and the back very worn and weary looking, I've not seen it for the last two days so I'm assuming it's hibernating, which brings me to a question, If the butterfly is in such bad shape will survive until next year 🤔

Today is very foggy ,up to now, but if it doesn't clear up we can't grumble, it's been an absolutely great week so far with loads of lovely Butterflies, the exception being the Copper, can't win them all though can we. Goldie 😊



*Back Garden October 2nd 2015*



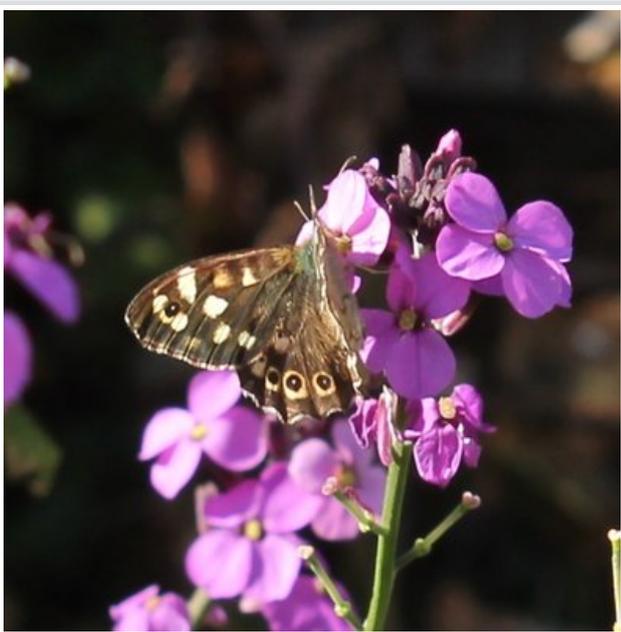
*Red Admiral Front Garden GM*



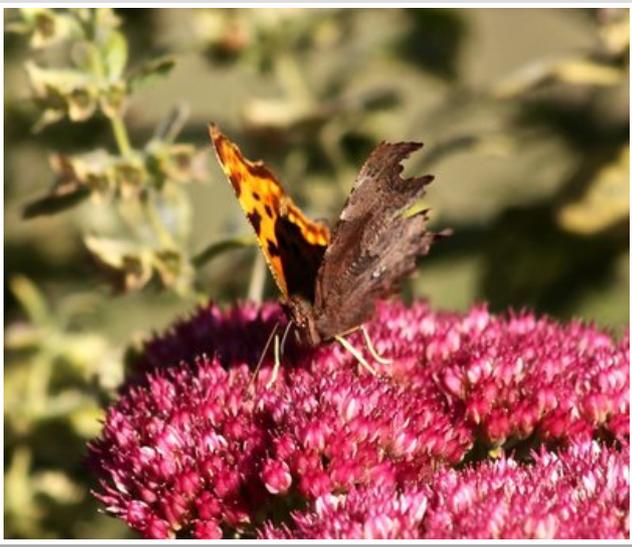
*Great Tit BG GM*



*Red Admiral BG*



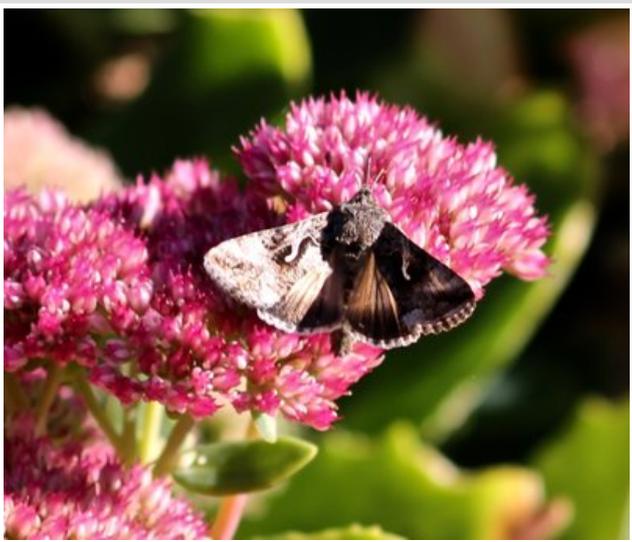
*Speckled Wood BG GM*



*Comma Thornton GM*



*Red Admiral Thornton GM*



*Silver Y Moth Thornton GM*



*Peacock slightly faded BG GM*



*Small Tortoiseshell Front Garden GM*

**Re: Goldie M**

by Hoggers, 03-Oct-15 11:43 PM GMT

Gorgeous photos from your garden, Goldie! What a marvellous sight all those flowers and butterflies make!

Best wishes,

Hoggers

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 04-Oct-15 05:25 PM GMT

Many thanks Hogger's it was a great week, one to remember through the Winter 😊 The weather's changed here now and we're back into heavy cloud, worse luck Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 04-Oct-15 09:41 PM GMT

Wow! Even the Speckled Woods are attracted by that erysimum! Definitely going to plant some next year.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 05-Oct-15 01:32 AM GMT

Hi! David, you won't be disappointed if you do, look at the few shots I took today 😊

I thought today was going to be like yesterday cold and cloudy, it's had it's moments but then the Sun came out and so did the Admiral's, also saw one TSS and one Comma all of which I managed to photo 😊 I think maybe my RA could be the same one, it kept coming and going all day so I'm not sure, it was certainly in good condition and it's making the season much longer seeing and shooting these lovely Butterflies Goldie 😊



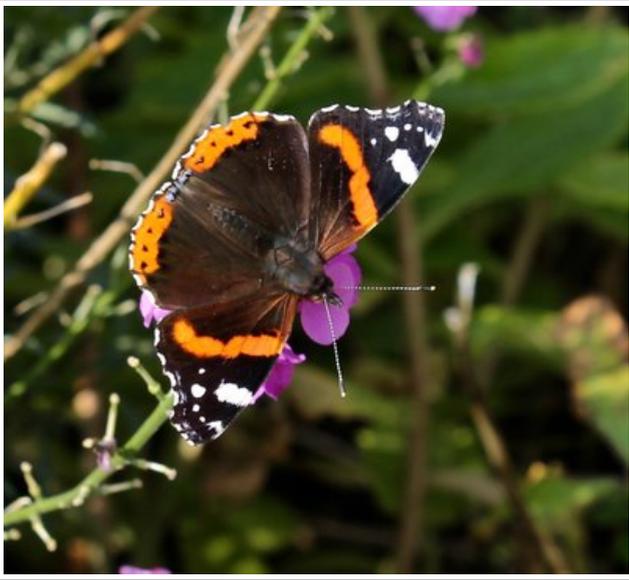
*Small Tortoiseshell GM*



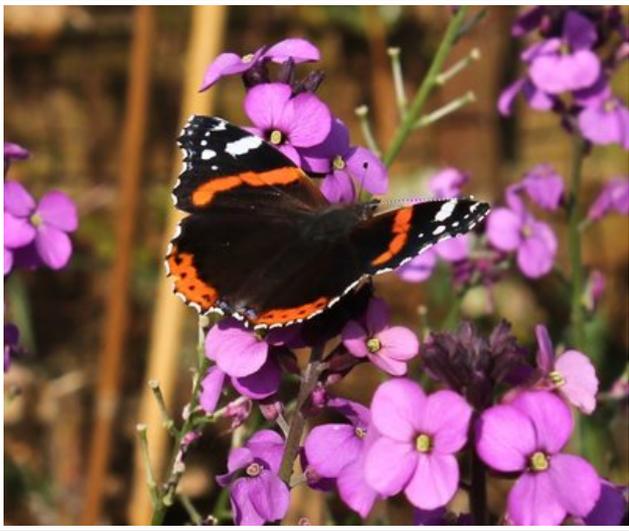
*Comma GM*



*Red Admiral GM*



Red Admiral GM



Red Admiral GM



Red Admiral GM

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 05-Oct-15 04:17 AM GMT

Some lovely photos of your garden butterflies Goldie, you have some great plants for attracting them at this time of year.

I have tried growing *erysimum 'bowles mauve'* myself but it doesn't do well in my heavy soil.

Cheers,  
Neil.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 05-Oct-15 04:55 AM GMT

Cracking Red Admirals Goldie 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 06-Oct-15 02:59 AM GMT

Sorry about your plant disappointment Neil, we've got clay soil around here, it can be heavy but mixed with some topsoil and bone meal that usually does the trick, having said that, I have a friend who lives in Cambridge and she can't grow Camellias are Rhododendron because of the soil, I don't think it's acid enough are some thing 🤔

Thanks Wurzel, I had a great week with the Butterflies, just watching them was enough 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 07-Oct-15 01:18 AM GMT

Your gardens teaming with butterflies at the moment Goldies 😊 makes me wish I had a garden!

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 07-Oct-15 03:19 AM GMT

Hi! Buggy, you'll have a garden some day I'm sure 😊

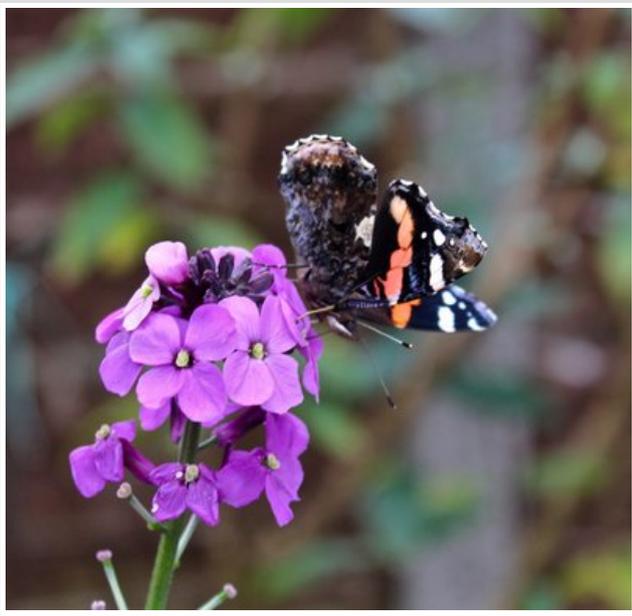
Today was unusual weather wise, Sunny at first and then lots of rain, it didn't deter the Butterflies, whilst the Sun was out I saw Red Admiral's and Tortoiseshells but the surprise of the day was the Red Admiral who braved the rain 😊

It was a beautiful Butterfly has well very colourful, when the darkness came I expected it to fly off, instead it stayed where it was on the flower, it didn't even close it's wings , only when it flew to another flower did it close it's wings and then immediately opened them on regaining it's balance, I just had to go out in the rain and get a shot of it 😊

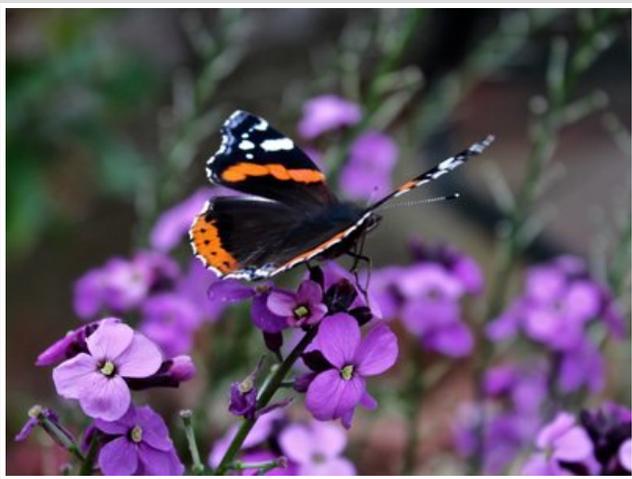
I tried to keep my camera out of the rain which didn't help with my balance and the shots I took, still I noticed the blue on it's wings which made me glad I'd gone out in the rain, I just hope the Butterfly went for cover after that because it poured down later. Goldie 😊



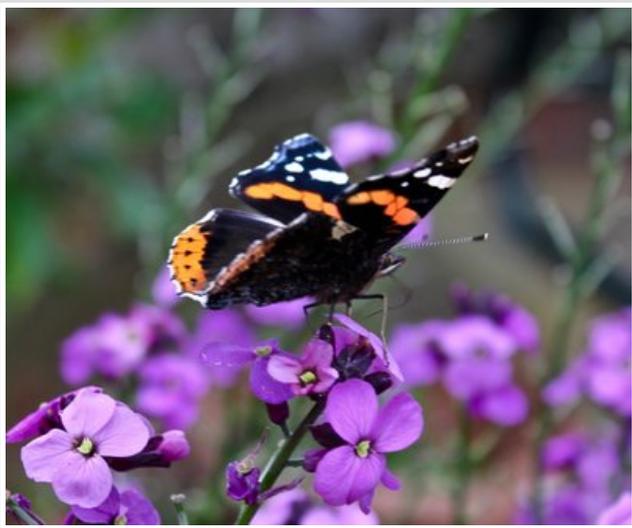
*Red Admiral GM*



*Red Admiral GM*



*Red Admiral GM*



*Red Admiral GM*

**Re: Goldie M**

by essexbuzzard, 07-Oct-15 06:07 AM GMT

Hi Goldie. So that's where all the butterflies have gone—they're all in your garden! Virtually nothing left down here. So enjoy them while they last, great pictures, too!

**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 07-Oct-15 07:16 AM GMT

Lovely Red Admiral – they don't seem to be worried that much by the odd bit of rain, and the ones round here certainly fly in near darkness especially when it's not cold. They're very characterful butterflies. 😊

Dave

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 09-Oct-15 04:02 AM GMT

Thank you Essex for your comments, the Butterflies are still flying in the garden, I look every day for them and it's great to see them.

I didn't know the Admiral's didn't mind the dull weather Dave, they're certainly hardy, they seem to be the last Butterfly other than the Speckie to leave around here, we certainly see loads of them in the North at this time of year which often surprises me, why not earlier, usually you see just the odd one or two in the early months. Goldie 😊

Today we went to Presall Sands Pilling, more for a nice walk than any thing because the weather was great but cloudy at times , I didn't expect to see too much in the way of Butterflies but I took my camera just in case 😊

I did see a bird I can't name and I only had a close up lens , so the computer had to make the shot bigger. 😊

It's a nice walk along the shore of Morcambe Bay to Knott End where you can take a Ferry across to Fleetwood if you want too, it's also good in the Winter for different Birds arriving there so they say.

After wards we went to the Wyre Estuary Country Park, we'd been there the the week before and saw a good number of Butterflies so we hoped we'd see some more, I took some shots of Red Admirals and Small Tortoiseshell but the Butterflies were fewer than last week.

We ate our picnic at the Park and then headed for home. When I got home I went into the garden to be greeted by yet another Red Admiral and a Small White basking in the Sun, it was a very enjoyable day even if I didn't see a Small Copper 😊 Goldie 😊



*Small White Back Garden GM*



*Small White Back Garden GM*



*Red Admiral Back Garden GM*



*Small Tortoiseshell Wyre Estuary GM*



*Speckled Wood Wyre Estuary GM*



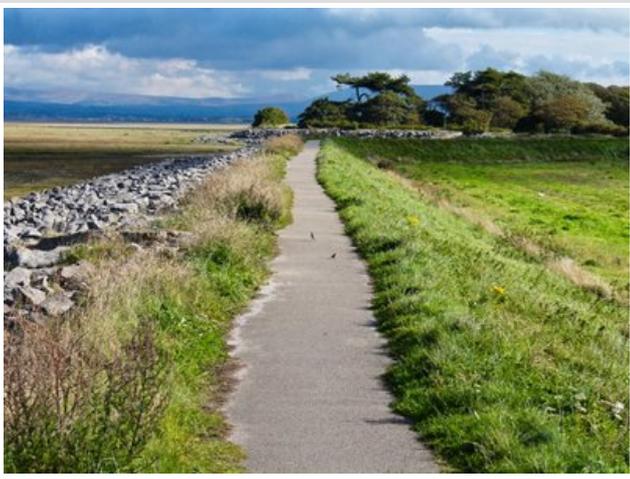
*Red Admiral Wyre Estuary on Berry Tree GM*



*View of Wyre Estuary GM*



*Presall Sands Pilling GM*



*Walkway PSS Pilling GM*



*Bird PS Pilling GM*



*Small Tortoiseshell's Presall Sands Pilling GM*

### **Re: Goldie M**

by dave brown, 10-Oct-15 03:54 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

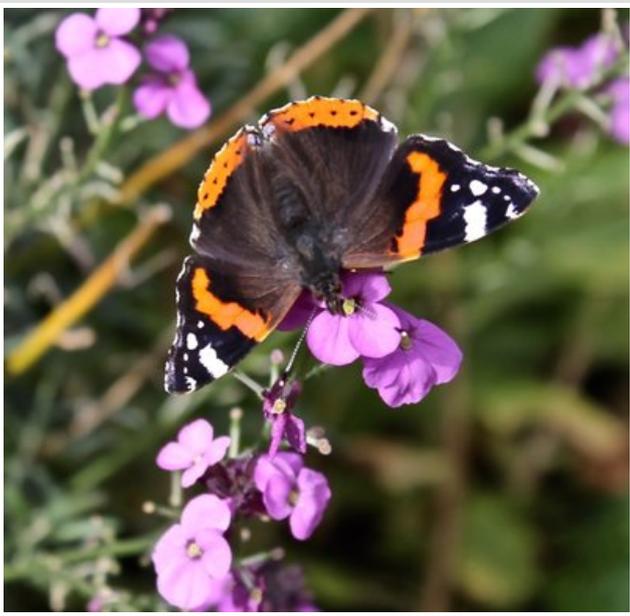
Your bird looks like a 1st Winter (Northern) Wheatear to me. Most books show the adult male and female in summer plumage, which have a lot more Grey on the back. The Northern species is the one that occurs in Britain and Northern Europe.

### **Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 10-Oct-15 06:55 PM GMT

Hi! Dave, thanks for the ID I'll look it up in my book, I think I'll go there again when the weather gets cooler but on a bright Winter's day because it seems they get quite a lot of birds coming in for shelter in the Winter at Presall Sands, Pilling. 😊

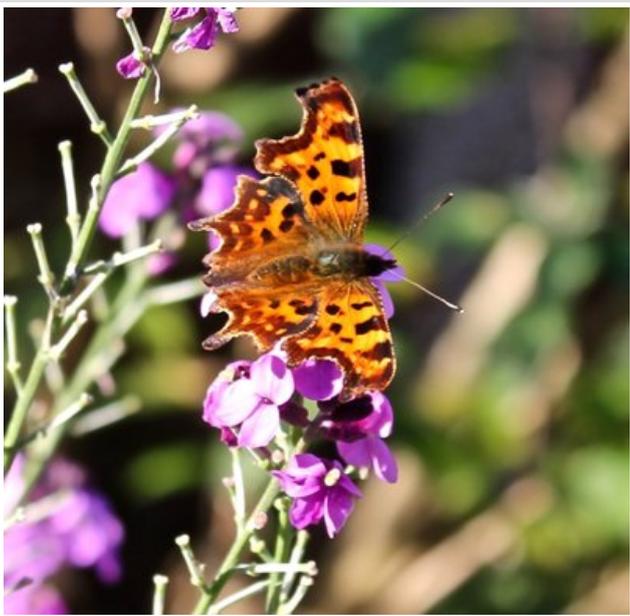
Yesterday I was in the Garden most of the afternoon tidying things up and once again enjoying the Butterflies it was a lovely day and although I've put some photos in before of these Butterflies I couldn't resist including some more 😊 also took a shot which comes up this time of year to me Goldie 😊



*Red Admiral GM*



*Small Tortoiseshell GM*



*Comma GM*



*Comma / Red Admiral GM*



*Speckled Wood's GM*



*Small White GM*



*Small White GM*



*Tree Autumn October 2015 GM*

### **Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 11-Oct-15 04:22 AM GMT

More great stuff Goldie, especially those Specklies 😊 The only problem is that you're making me miss having a garden more and more 😊🌿

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### **Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 11-Oct-15 06:33 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, I didn't know you'd no garden, that's a shame because you love Butterflies so much 😊 Glad you like the Speckies, the flowers are just showing signs of wear now but those purple Wall flowers are still attracting the Butterflies. 😊

Yesterday was a bit cooler the wind had a bite to it, still a Red Admiral turned up also this rather large Bumble Bee, I'd loads of those earlier in the year, this Bee was a surprise yesterday, I kept my distance 😊 Goldie 😊



*Bumble Bee GM*



*Red Admiral GM*

**Re: Goldie M**

by Hoggers, 11-Oct-15 08:28 PM GMT

Your photos just BURST with living colours, Goldie!

You really MUST come down to Dungeness next Summer and photograph the Small Coppers – The colours will be AMAZING!

Marvellous!

Hoggers

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 12-Oct-15 10:55 PM GMT

Thanks for your comments Hogger's, I will be down your way next year and I intend not to be talked out of going to Dungeness Has I was this year, must say though if I hadn't been I may not have seen the Empress 😊 So both places are on my to do list. 😊😊

Yesterday was a lovely day up to about 2pm when the cloud came and it went decidedly cooler, untill this happened I'd been enjoying the Garden with a nice cup of tea and I'd done some washing which I'd just hung out. The Butterflies were out in force and I sat there enjoying watching them after taking a few shots.

Some of the Butterflies this time were the worse for wear whilst other's were pristine, they flew around my seat even landing next to me, one flew on to my Clothes basket another onto the washing I'd hung out, it was a day I won't forget in a hurry and has I write this their back in the Garden again 😊  
Goldie 😊



*Red Admiral / Small Tortoiseshell GM 11the Oct*



*Red Admiral's GM 11th Oct*



*Red Admiral's GM 11th Oct*



Red Admiral GM 11th Oct



Red Admiral GM 11th Oct

**Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 12-Oct-15 11:55 PM GMT



**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 13-Oct-15 01:52 AM GMT

Shame you've had to wait till October up north to see so many butterflies, Goldie! They sure love that garden of yours.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 14-Oct-15 02:51 AM GMT

Thanks Trevor and David, I agree David, it's been a very bad year for Butterflies in the North, it makes me a bit apprehensive as to what next year will bring, for instance, I saw only one Female Orange Tip in the Spring where as last year there was simply loads. Other Butterflies suffered as well, at Gait Barrows, the Pearl and Small PB Fritillaries were also hit, now it's fingers crossed they'll be back for next year. I must say we've certainly seen a lot lately but mostly RA, STS, SW, Comma, the Peacock although seen, as not been plentiful, I've just had a few in the garden, the Whites also have been few and far between. 😞

Yesterday was another lovely day in the Morning and the Butterflies were back this time a Speckie came as well, to day although the wind wasn't too bad it was cold when the Sun went behind the clouds, ( cold enough for coat and gloves) the Butterflies were back, four RA, one STS, but the best was an ab Red Admiral. 😊

We decided to have a walk at Rivington it's a must in the Autumn, my year always starts with a visit to Spring Wood at Whalley in the Spring, Gait Barrow in the Summer, Rivington in Autumn ending in Kent for Christmas 😊 Goldie 😊



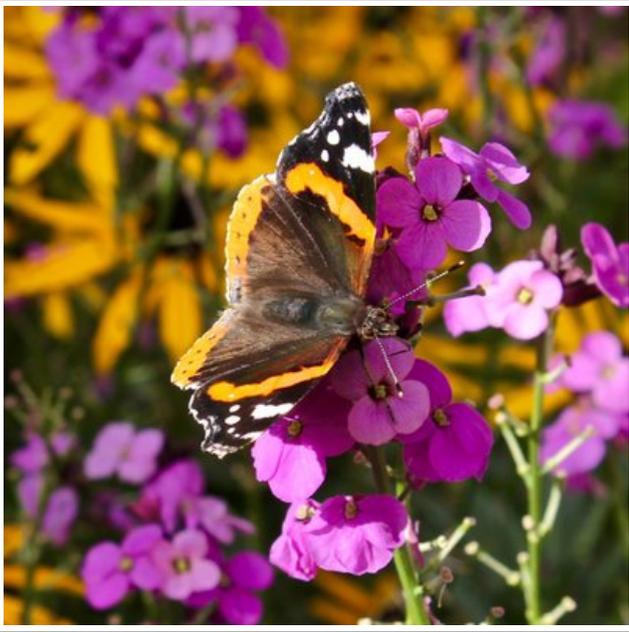
*Small Tortoiseshell GM*



*Red Admiral's GM*



*Red Admiral ab GM*



Red Admiral ab GM



Rivington GM

### Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 14-Oct-15 03:05 AM GMT

Loving the recent reports from your Garden Goldie, some smashing combinations of colour with the butterflies on the flowers 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 14-Oct-15 07:06 PM GMT

Glad you like the reports Neil, thank you, I don't want to bore people with the same Butterflies but I'm counting the days that they're in my garden just to see how long they stay for before they take off South, which the Admirals seem to do round here, at Southport for instance they say you can see them take off from the Dunes in good numbers, I personally have not seen this but trust the reports.

The Small Tortoiseshell keeps returning has well to the garden and the Speckies, I've seen the Speckies in October before but the Tortoiseshell although not seen in the same numbers as RA's is usually gone by now, I can only put it down to the good weather we've had in September and October, hope fully I'll be seeing them for a few days yet. Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 16-Oct-15 06:11 PM GMT

Well! It's the 16th of Oct today and I think may be the Butterflies, if still here, won't be showing themselves because the weather has changed to a dull miserable coldness. 😞

Yesterday I was out all day and the morning although brighter than today was cold, however I did get a glimpse of an Admiral before I went out circling around the flowers I didn't manage a shot but I can say I've seen them solidly now in the garden since the 15th of September until the 15th October and that's just the Admiral's, before they came to the Garden I saw lots of other's which include,

Peacock's

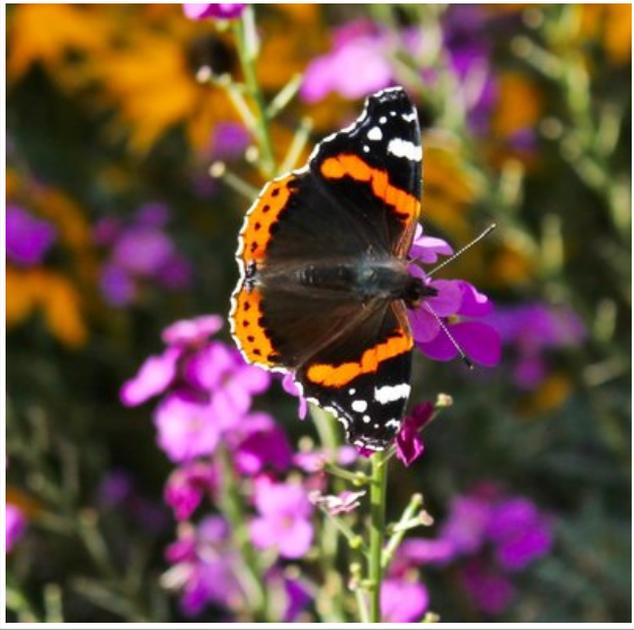
Speckled Woods

Small Tart's

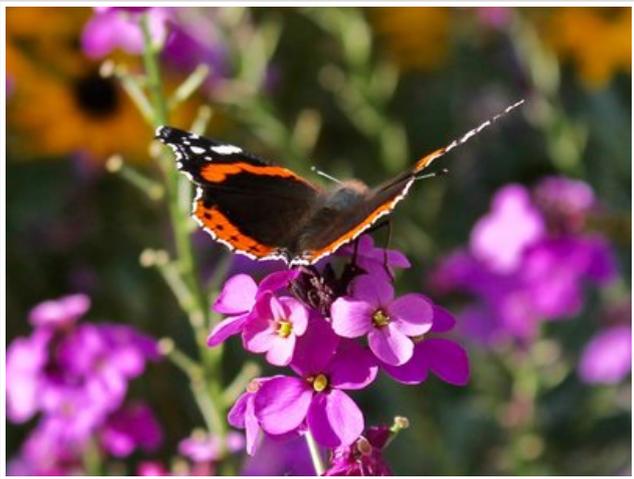
Small White's

Large White  
Painted Ladies  
Comma's

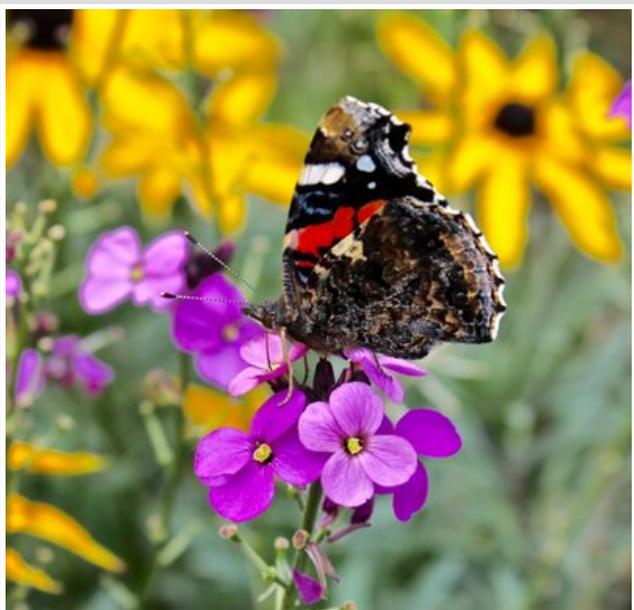
All in all I've enjoyed the Butterflies who have certainly made up for a miserable Spring, the last photo's I took were of just the Admiral on the 14th of Oct ,I hope they're not the last but with the weather going down hill I don't expect much more. Goldie 😊



*Red Admiral GM*



*Red Admiral GM*



*Red Admiral GM still rather chilly*



*Red Admiral peeping, GM*

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 17-Oct-15 06:26 AM GMT

That final Red Admiral shot is a cracker Golide, a real comic gem 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by kevlng, 18-Oct-15 05:34 PM GMT

Love those Red Admiral shots. Just what you need to brighten up a gloomy autumn day.

Regards Kev

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 18-Oct-15 06:33 PM GMT

Thanks Kev and Wurzel, they certainly brightened up my days Kev 😊

I agree Wurzel, when I saw the RA , it seemed to be peeping at me, I was certainly sneaking up on it 😊

I thought in my last posting that the weather would stop the Butterflies arriving, ( How Wrong Can You Be ) 😊 On Friday the Sun came out for about a couple of hours before reverting back through the cloud, that was enough though for a Comma and two RA's 😊

One Admiral was in bad shape, the other one however was pristine. The Comma was very small and very dark but also in good condition, it landed on the garden fence to warm it's self up before flying onto the flowers.

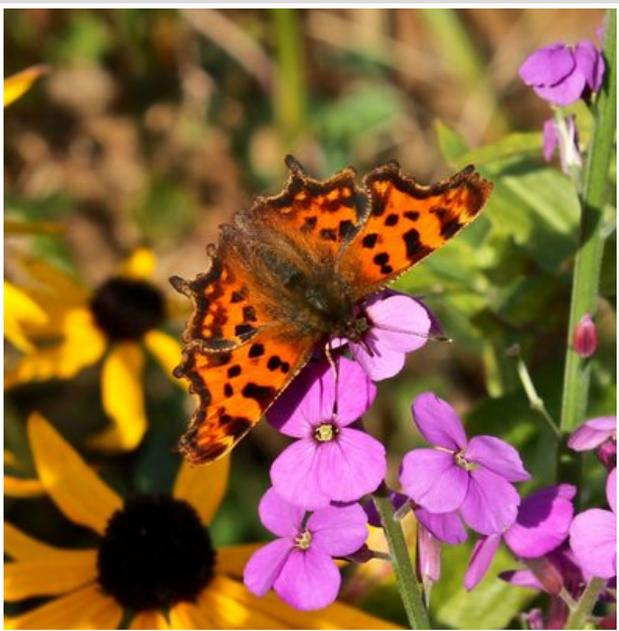
The Admiral that was in poor condition stayed around even when the other's had flown off, the weather or rather the wind was very cold, I'll be surprised if this one could fly very far over a long distance. I keep hoping the Sun will arrive again I've still got some more tidying up in the garden to do and hope fully I'll see still more Butterflies before the flowers start to fade. Goldie 😊



*Red Admiral GM*



*Red Admiral GM*



*Comma GM*



*Comma GM*

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 19-Oct-15 04:04 AM GMT

Lovely dark Comma Goldie 😊 I haven't seen a butterfly for almost a week now 😞 Hopefully the high pressure on Thursday will produce a final flurry 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 19-Oct-15 10:45 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, the Sun came out today and I got some more shots of the Butterflies which I've yet to take off Camera , hope you got some more shots Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 20-Oct-15 03:24 AM GMT

You really are ending the season on a high up there Goldie. It's drab grey days down here since my last visit to Newhaven, haven't even tried to go butterflying!

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 21-Oct-15 12:00 AM GMT

Hi! Bugboy, I think we were late getting started up here, we had some awful weather , April , May , only towards the end of June did it pick up when we had that very hot period, we certainly had to pick our days 😞 My daughter who lives in Kent kept saying how nice it was down there, whilst we were stuck with rain and cold winds, it's making up for it now though, the weather has been great all September and Oct up to now, I think it's about to change though, so the forecaster's say. 😊

Yesterday and today was once again great day's for Butterflies, I say great because the Sun was shining and what Butterflies were out I think paid us a visit 😊

Yesterday I was convinced the two Comma's I saw were Different, one small and dark where as the other one seemed lighter in colour, today I was proved right , because whilst I was taking a photo of a Comma the other one kindly flew in and I got a twosome 😊

My yellow flowers are fading a bit now but the purple Wall flowers are still going strong and still attracting the butterflies, I've put three in from yesterday(the photos are a bit different I thought) and three from today which I like Goldie 😊



*Red Admiral about to take off 19th Oct 2015 BG GM*



*Comma 19th Oct 2015 BG GM*



*Small Tortoiseshell 19th Oct 2015 BG GM*



*Comma 20th Oct 2015 BG GM*



*Comma;s 20th Oct 2015 GM BG*



*Red Admiral 20th Oct Back Garden GM*

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 21-Oct-15 04:03 AM GMT

More great photos from your garden Goldie, you are certainly having a great end to the season up there 😊

It has gone proper autumn now in my garden with the leaves steadily falling from the trees and the weather over the next few days looking like it may finish off the last couple of Specklies that have been hanging in there.

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 21-Oct-15 04:51 AM GMT

Possibly the worst time of the year for me.

It's nice to see a few of the adult overwinterers before they go into diapause, but all other species are now on their last legs, and with the clocks set to go back this coming Sunday, we're all going to feel a little bereft before January shakes us out of our pessimism.

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 23-Oct-15 01:59 AM GMT

Nice to see the variation in the Commas in the shot with the two together 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 23-Oct-15 03:16 AM GMT

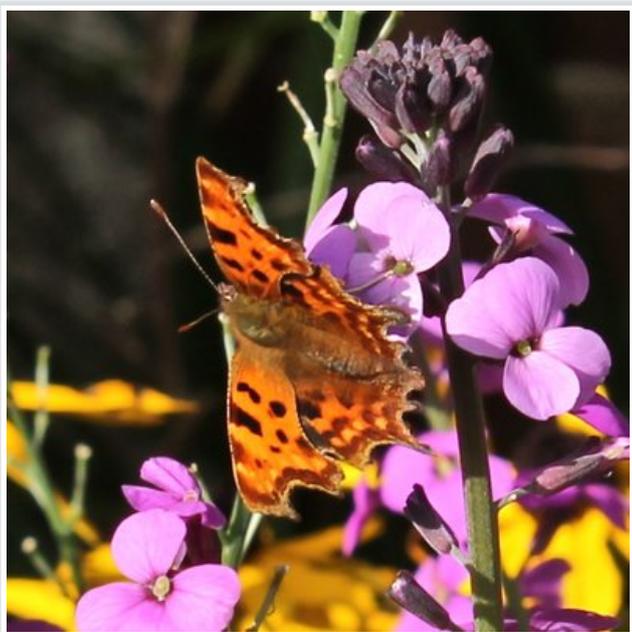
Thanks everybody very much I appreciate your posts 😊

Wurzel, glad you noticed the difference between the Comma's, I think both are living in next door's bushes 😊 They cleared off in that direction every time the Sun went in. 😊

Hi! David, I don't see any more species other than the four, C's, RA, SW, StS, the rest have long since gone, today I only saw the Comma's briefly and I was amazed to see them 😊

Hi! Neil, I'm still amazed that I keep seeing the Comma's, glad to, they're still in good condition has well 😊

I keep thinking I won't see any more Butterflies, the weather was awful yesterday and today, this morning was atrocious, heavy rain and very windy, I heard the weather man say it would be fine in the afternoon, it seemed, unbelievable, 😊 But the Sun came out every thing dried up quickly and although the wind was bad I was amazed to see the Comma's once again, the same two, as one was small and dark and the other one bigger and brighter, The darker one I managed to get a shot of but the shot is dark too, the other one was easier to photo, I'm wondering just how long I'll keep seeing them. Goldie 😊



*Comma was nearly blown off the flower 22nd Oct 2015 GM*



*Comma upside down blown by the wind 22nd Oct 2015 GM*



*Comma flying off 22nd Oct 2015 GM*



*Comma 22nd Oct 2015 GM*



Comma 22nd Oct 2015 GM



Comma 22nd Oct 2015 GM

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 23-Oct-15 05:15 AM GMT

**"Goldie M" wrote:**

I'm wondering just how long I'll keep seeing them.

Goldie, whilst your Bowles Mauve is in flower, I suspect you'll be seeing them practically whenever the sun comes out. 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 24-Oct-15 05:18 PM GMT

I hope so David, not today though the rain and wind have taken over, Goldie 😞😞

**Re: Goldie M**

by Paul Harfield, 25-Oct-15 06:18 AM GMT

Hi Goldie

Sorry to here the weather has turned 😞 It has been pretty miserable here today as well, raining most of the afternoon.

I have been impressed with the amount of butterfly activity in your garden over the last couple of weeks. It has looked like a vision of summer there 😊  
My garden is a bit Spartan at present, I must take some lessons from you and stock my garden with lots of late flowering plants.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 26-Oct-15 04:58 PM GMT

Thanks Jack, yes it's the best year yet in my garden for late Butterflies and I don't think it's all down to the flowers though 😊

I think the rubbish weather we had earlier in the year helped to delay them and when they have appeared it was to a lack of flowers around here, most of the gardens here are now made of stone (you know what i mean pebbles every where) so my garden is a kind of oasis for them, it does help me to

see them, so I'm not bothered 😊

Saturday was a rubbish day here wind and rain most of the day, so on Sunday when the weather was really nice we decided to have a run to Formby Point to see the Red Squirrel's. It was a typical Autumn day crisp and bright, when we arrived it seemed all of Liverpool had decided on the same Idea 😊 luckily, although the road is narrow to the point there's plenty of parking near the point.

We finally (after a short walk ) reached the Squirrel walk and were pleased to see quite a few scampering about, I must say their colour was rich gold to me and matched the Autumn leaves which did make them hard to see at times, plus the fact when they did come down from the trees they raced across the ground 😊 I did manage some shots so thought I'd share them even if some seem slightly blurred, I couldn't help that they were so quick 😊 Goldie 😊



*Red Squirrel 25th Oct 2015 Formby Point GM*





## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 27-Oct-15 11:12 PM GMT

Yesterday morning brought a nice surprise, my Red Admiral was back in the garden 😊 I say my, because it was back again today, I think it was the same one, those Wall Flowers certainly keep the Butterflies happy as well has me 😊 The weather was so nice I actually sat in the garden watching it for a while .

I know the Admiral isn't a Long Tailed Blue but it's keeping me happy just seeing it in the garden for so long, 😊 I hope the LTB comes out in Kent when I'm down there next year. 😊

Yesterday we went to Fleetwood then on to St Anne's we visited Ditchfield Glass, which was fantastic, on the way home I took a shot of the Bay and the Sky I love cloud shots 😊 Goldie 😊



*Clouds on the way home 27th Oct GM*

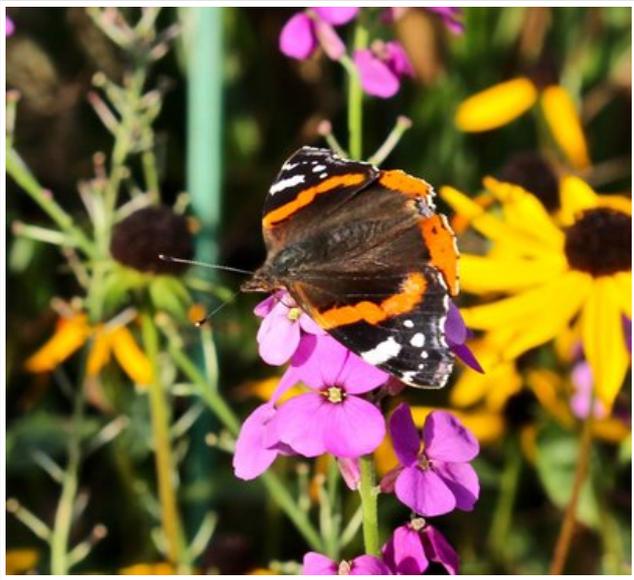


*Bay between St Anne's & Southport GM 27th Oct*

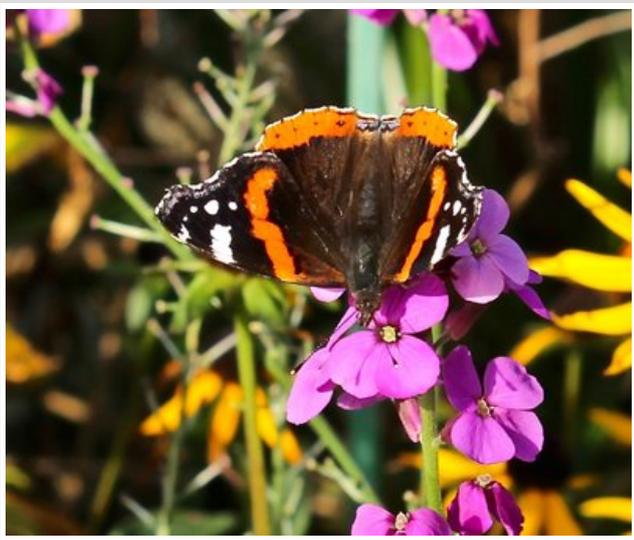


*Ditchfeild Glass GM 27th Oct*

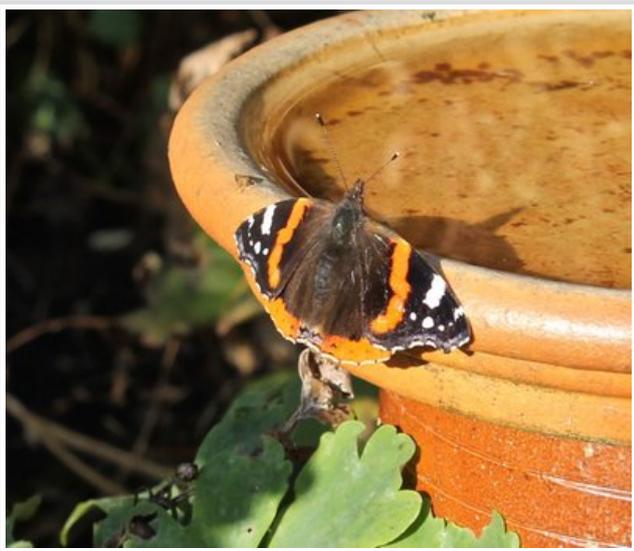




*Red Admiral 27th Oct 2015 GM*



*Red Admiral 27th Oct 2015 GM*



*Red Admiral 26th Oct 2015 GM*



Red Admiral 26th Oct 2015 GM

### Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 28-Oct-15 12:24 AM GMT

Great to see the Red Squirrels are doing well at Formby. Last time I was there, they had been decimated by the pox and I failed to see any. It's always nice to see you photos of places I knew well in childhood.

We went to our local Arboretum at Nuneham Courtenay for the splendid Autumn colours and, as you found at Formby, it seemed that everyone else had the same idea! Fortunately, it was fairly easy to lose everyone else among the trees 😊

I'm still working through photos taken on our recent trip to Borneo and Singapore, but hope to post some 'exotic' butterflies in my diary before too long.

Mike

### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 28-Oct-15 01:41 AM GMT

#### "MikeOxon" wrote:

I'm still working through photos taken on our recent trip to Borneo and Singapore, but hope to post some 'exotic' butterflies in my diary before too long.

That's something I shall look forward to seeing, Mike.

I bet you saw thousands in that part of the world?

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 28-Oct-15 03:01 AM GMT

Greta shots Goldie, I especially like the potter butterfly 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 28-Oct-15 06:38 PM GMT

Hi! Mike, always good to hear from you, I thought about you when I was at Formby so I'm glad you like the Squirrels, the last time I went there I saw none either so it's great they've survived that pox, their certainly looking well and there's loads of them 😊

I'm looking for ward to seeing your photos Mike I bet there fantastic has usual Goldie 😊

Glad you like my little Butterfly on the pot Wurzel 😊 I made the pot into a small water dish from an old water pipe I found tossed a way when I was on holiday a couple of years ago, the Butterflies seem to love it and land on it quite a lot, I keep it near the flowers and have actually seen them in the dish when the water is nearly dried out on hot days 😊

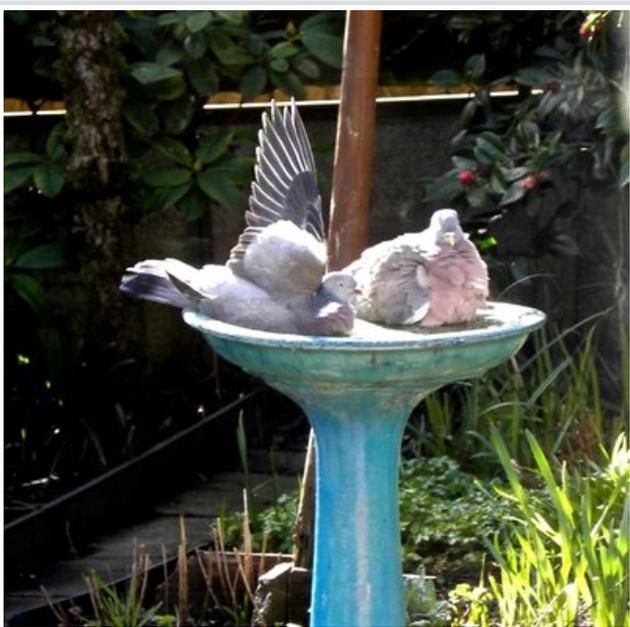
I've posted a shot I took in the Spring of my Woodies just because it's raining outside and I'm getting nostalgic Goldie 😊



*Woody Family 23rd March 2015 GM*



*Woody Family 23rd march 2015 GM*



*Woody Family 23rd March 2015 GM*

## Re: Goldie M

by David M, 29-Oct-15 04:52 AM GMT

Doves/pigeons love water, Goldie.

We have a dozen or so relatively domesticated pigeons in our gardens and they spend vast amounts of time on the pond fountains we've built for the fish.

The wild Collared Doves seem to like it too!

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 31-Oct-15 08:04 PM GMT

Hi! David, I think we've definitely got domesticated Wood Pigeons they're here every day and like you say they love the water, I've got a small fountain that's run by the Sun and their for ever landing on top of it stoping it from working, what with them and a Grey Squirrel trying to dig my bulbs up they keep me busy Goldie 😊

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 08-Nov-15 10:00 PM GMT

Well! all the Butterflies seem to have gone now and since November came in the weather although mild has been wet, so I decided to look back on some photos I took of Moths this year for a change.

It's been a disappointing year for me in some things, for instance the weather up here in May and June was awful only picking up at the end of June, it meant that instead of the usual Fritillaries I usually see in those months I saw none, no , PB, are PBF , the PBF usually come out when the Dukes are about, this year nothing at Gaits Barrow to photograph the exception being the Dukes who took the glory this year with the photographers, however in July I did manage to get shots of the High Brown Fritillary which was a Bonus but it turned out to be the only fritillary shot I got this year 😞

On the up side I got three lifers , Purple Empress, Purple Hair Streak and the Large Heath, But! Was disappointed with my photos, for instance with the PE, I was so excited at seeing her just sitting there not moving I got the wrong settings I forgot to change the settings on the camera to allow for the shade, I thought the Butterfly would fly off 😞 With the PH, I nearly trod on it only getting two quick shots before it flew off 😊 Onto the LH which was not co-operating at all by landing too far a way from me , even with a good len's for far a way shots, it just never stopped long enough so all my shots were mostly arial 😞 still at least I got some thing 😊

Other than that I enjoyed seeing the Swallow Tails again in early June and the White Admiral I'd not seen for a couple of years in Blean Woods in July also my one and only shot of a Clouded Yellow 😊

To sum up the year all the other Butterflies seemed quite plentiful, the Painted lady for instance was in my garden for the first time for years and the Red Admirals and Tortoiseshells also , my aim next year is to get better shots of the three lifers and see if I can add some Hair Streaks I've not yet got.

😊 Goldie 😊



*Brown Silver Line*



**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 08-Nov-15 10:23 PM GMT

Lovely moths photos 😊, especially the last two micro-moths, which are *Pyrausta purpuralis* and *Anania funebris* respectively. The micros often cause confusion, since they are not included in many identification guides, but there are some beautiful day-flying species amongst them.

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 08-Nov-15 11:44 PM GMT

Thanks Mike, I took quite a few shots of moths this year, I like their bright colours and their variations Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 09-Nov-15 04:51 AM GMT

Where did you see *funebria*, Goldie? This moth is not at all common.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 09-Nov-15 06:28 AM GMT

Some great Moths Goldie especially the last one, that is quite an unusual species, not common at all if I remember correctly 😊🍷 I'd look at the 'Waves' for the second moth 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 09-Nov-15 11:02 PM GMT

Hi! David and Wurzel glad you like the Moths, I usually only put the names in I'm familiar with for moths, at the time I posted the Moths I got side tracked and when I got back to posting I forgot and submitted them without enough information 😊

I saw the White Spotted Sable, Mint Moth, Cream Wave on the 30th May at Gait Barrow  
On the 16th of June I saw the Cream Wave also at Gait Barrow, I also saw a Cinnabar, and Speckled Yellow same day I thought I'd post them as well in this post 😊 together with a Silver Y I took a shot of whilst taking photos of the Swallow Tail in Norfolk on the 10th June Goldie 😊



*Speckled Yellow moth*



*Cinnabar Moth*



Silver Y Moth

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 10-Nov-15 05:26 AM GMT

I'd guessed that your Sable (*funbris*) moth was probably at Gait Barrows. That limestone belt at the Southern edge of the Lake District seems to be their stronghold. Certainly not easy to find 'down South' 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 10-Nov-15 06:39 PM GMT

Hi! Mike, yes I've seen it quite a few times at Gait Barrow mostly just past the monument, but it fly's usually straight to the underside of leaves, this time I was lucky and caught it before it disappeared. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 11-Nov-15 04:10 AM GMT

Hi Goldie, nice moth shots 😊

I have seen *funbris* myself at Gait Barrow a couple of times but never managed a decent photo...like you say, they have that annoying habit of settling upside down on the underside of leaves, as do a number of moths.

Cheers,

Neil

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 12-Nov-15 12:44 AM GMT

Hi! Neil, that's one thing about Gait Barrow you can rely on, If you can't find the Butterflies you want there's always an abundance of Moth's to photograph, which makes it very worth while visiting there, also the Slipper Orchid can be found there in late Spring . Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 13-Nov-15 06:39 AM GMT

Great shot of a Speckled Yellow Goldie 🍷🍷 They never see to land let along settle 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 14-Nov-15 07:29 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, I've tried loads of times to get a decent shot of the moth before, this time I managed a shot of the SY and the rarer Sable Moth which was pleasing 😊 Goldie 😊

## Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 14-Nov-15 08:25 PM GMT

I always remember the Speckled Yellow because it puzzled me the first time I saw one – very many years ago! I couldn't find it in my Observers' Book of Butterflies and so learned that there are brightly-coloured day-flying moths as well 😊

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 16-Nov-15 09:55 PM GMT

Hi! Mike, I did exactly the same, I used to put Moths down to the fact they just hate your cloths 😊 Now if I get the chance I'll get a shot of them 😊 Goldie 😊

The weather here has been awful, we came back from my cousins on Thursday and the water on the motor way was horrendous , cars were stopped on the verges of the motor way, mostly petrol cars luckily for us ours was diesel( flooded) My Husband said it was to do with their carburettor's. We've just heard now there's another storm on the way 😊 at least the Sun shined for a while this morning and we got a walk in.

I needed a boost from earlier in the year to remind me there's a light at the end of the Tunnel, 😊 so I've posted some shots from my visit to Norfolk.

I was surprised at the time at the many various flowers the Swallow Tails enjoyed so I've just put these shots on, I've yet to find out what the Yellow flower is called, but I recognise the Yellow Iris which i didn't think they were interested in. Goldie 😊



*Swallow Tail 10th June Hickling Broad*



*Swallow Tail*



*Swallow Tail*



*Swallow Tail*



*Swallow Tail*

**Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 17-Nov-15 02:17 AM GMT



**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 17-Nov-15 02:46 AM GMT

At the risk of causing a 'domestic', I think it's electrics rather than carburettor that stops petrol cars. They need a high voltage spark that is easily lost in the wet. I used to have an old Mini, which were notorious because all the electrics were immediately behind the grille at the front, so the car stopped in every rainstorm!!!

Love the Swallowtails – must put Norfolk on my list for another visit next season 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 17-Nov-15 06:10 AM GMT

A nice and welcome diversion during this prolonged stormy spell, Goldie.

Hopefully, in six months time when Swallowtails return conditions will be far more benign!

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 17-Nov-15 05:58 PM GMT

Thank you Trevor 😊

Mike, no risks of domestic's at our house 😊 We always discuss 😊

My Husband did say some thing about sparks being doused by the rain , so I put my hands up for that , hope you get to Norfolk next year, if you do try Hicking Broad NNR they really cater there for you to see the ST with all the different Wild flowers there.

David , glad you enjoyed the ST shots they do lighten up a miserable day. 😊

We're getting ready for the next storm to arrive, batten down the hatches is not in it .Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 18-Nov-15 04:44 AM GMT

**"Goldie M" wrote:**

We're getting ready for the next storm to arrive, batten down the hatches is not in it

This one's a real tempest, Goldie. 60mph+ winds and the place feels like it's about to fold!

Roll on some cold but calm weather!

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 18-Nov-15 05:55 AM GMT

Fantastic Swallowtails Goldie – I need to decide which new species to go for next year...that one is very tempting! 🍷🍷 Hope your hatches are battened down it's horrible outside at the moment! 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 18-Nov-15 09:54 PM GMT

Hi! David and Wurzel, thanks for your comments Wurzel their much appreciated , have you not seen the Swallow Tails Wurzel ?

I'm sure you must have! if you haven't nows the time 😊

The weather here David has been awful, we've put off shopping today because of the winds, it's not raining now but we've still got a weather warning 😊

Some trees are down and the roof's gone on a property in Wigan and they've said we could have Snow over the weekend , Great! 😊

Ah! well, time for coffee and scones 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 19-Nov-15 04:27 AM GMT

**"Goldie M" wrote:**

The weather here David has been awful, we've put off shopping today because of the winds, it's not raining now but we've still got a weather warning

Tell me about it, Goldie!! It's been equally shocking here too.

Normally, I get chance to hunt down a few late November butterflies but these storms are wiping that opportunity out. 😊

Unless things change real soon, it'll be 3 months before my next sighting.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 19-Nov-15 04:52 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Great Swallowtail photos, they are giving me ideas for next year...decisions, decisions 😊

Horrendous weather here too, gales and torrential rain and a roof was blown off a house just a couple of miles away from us the other night 😲

Cheers,

Neil

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 20-Nov-15 01:24 AM GMT

Hi! David, not seen Butterflies here since late October, they must have known about the storms, 😊 they said today wasn't going to be too bad weather wise, we got caught in a real down pour and had to change our clothes, that's after putting the shopping off for a day,( Lord knows what the weekend will bring ) 😊

Hi! Neil, glad I've given you food for thought 😊 The Swallow Tails are a sight to be hold and I'm really glad we went to see them.

I want to go and look for the Purple Emperor's at Corby we put it off last year because of the weather, hope fully next year we'll get there 😊

I also fancy Sussex for the Brown Hair Streak in August but I'm not sure how to fit it in with my visits to Kent also in August, has you say decisions ! decisions !

😊 Mean time, I'm cheering myself up with some fun shots from this year taken at Gait Barrow, I'm not sure who was chasing who though 😊 Goldie 😊



*Brimstones 16th June 2015 Gait Barrow GM*





**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 21-Nov-15 05:55 AM GMT

Great sequence of shots Goldie, really interesting behaviour documented as well 🤔🌿 I'm still not sure about the UK Swallowtails - I'm sure Mrs Wurzel will have the deciding vote 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 21-Nov-15 05:58 AM GMT

Roll on more Brimstones next spring...that's all I can say!

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 21-Nov-15 09:47 PM GMT

I agree David, it makes you long for Spring 😊

Hi! Wurzel, your wife sounds bit like me 😊 glad you like my little Brimstones, Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 01-Dec-15 06:55 PM GMT

I've not had very much to report about lately the weather has been so bad here , on Sunday the winds were really scary but apart from a garden chair being blown into our fence we were pretty lucky.

My biggest disappointment so far this year( Garden Wise) has been my' Magnolia Tree' which seems to have died which is a real shame because the birds and Butterflies used to love it,( more the birds than Butterflies) it was lovely up to and even into May than when the leaves started to come through they suddenly began to die off going quite brown and crispy and this horrid looking green algae started to creep over the branches ,I'd be glad of any opinions about this.

(The Speckled Woods seemed to like the Tree more than the other Butterflies.) I've kept hoping the flower Buds would show which they usually do this time of year but so far nothing. so it looks like a lost cause which makes me sad 😞 I won't do any thing until Spring now and hope some thing shows.

On a brighter note I've put my Christmas Tree up and we're ready to take off for Kent in a couple of weeks time . Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 02-Dec-15 04:39 AM GMT

#### "Goldie M" wrote:

...On a brighter note I've put my Christmas Tree up and we're ready to take off for Kent in a couple of weeks time . Goldie 😊

My daughter put her Christmas Tree up last weekend 😊 but I stubbornly refuse to get ours out of the loft for at least another week 😊

And I don't blame you flying south, my brother up in Newcastle has already had a good dumping of snow last week and we have had a few flurries around here during the night.

Cheers,

Neil

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 02-Dec-15 06:11 AM GMT

Christmas tree up already! 🤖 Mind you they've been selling Christmas decorations since October so why not 😊 Have a great time down in Kent, I hope you can catch up with a hibernator 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 03-Dec-15 11:15 PM GMT

Hi! Neil sounds like your daughter has the right Idea 😊 No snow yet but lots of rain 😊 roll on Spring 😊

Hi! Wurzel, the only thing I'll be catching up on in Kent is Hot Chocolate when shopping with my family preferably filled on top with Cream 😊 followed at night with Mince pies and a glass or two of wine 😊 Roll On Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 05-Dec-15 10:24 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

You said ' roll on spring ', maybe it's here. These Primroses are out in my garden this afternoon !.

Trevor.



### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 06-Dec-15 07:14 AM GMT

Enjoy the hot chocolate, make sure that you make it a luxury one! 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-Dec-15 09:07 PM GMT

What a breathe of Spring that photo is Trevor, it's cheered me up no end 😊

Wurzel I'm even going to have marshmallows in that Hot Chocolate 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 12-Dec-15 09:07 PM GMT

Hi! everybody, I've not posted much lately simply because the weather here has been too bad to go any where, we've not had any floods locally but have been advised not to travel too much because towns near us have been hit badly so when we got a glimpse of the Sun the other day when we were doing a bit of cleaning up in the Garden (dead leaves and branches etc) I just had to post my Rainbow 😊 It would have been a better shot if I'd considered the Cherry Tree in the way, then I thought perhaps it shows the winter time to more of a degree (tree without leaves) 😊 Goldie 😊

I've cut the size of the Photo down because of the web site trouble , hope this is small enough Pete Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 12-Dec-15 09:14 PM GMT

I only wish the Swansea area could see sufficient sunshine to generate a rainbow! 🌈

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 14-Dec-15 06:02 PM GMT

Hi! David sounds like your having your share of the rain down there 😞 It's suppose to be fine here today, I'll believe it when I see it 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 21-Dec-15 12:21 AM GMT

Just arrived in Kent for Christmas and I'd like to wish every one on UKB's a very Merry Christmas and a great New Year. Goldie



**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 21-Dec-15 05:48 AM GMT

All the best, Goldie. Hope the weather's a bit kinder to you in 2016 than it was this year!

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 22-Dec-15 02:15 AM GMT

Thanks David, I think the weather followed us down 😊 It was bit wild today, still managed my Hot Chocolate with cream and Marsh Mellow's though, 😊 all the best to you has well for the New Year Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 29-Dec-15 11:13 PM GMT

We'd a great Christmas in Kent and although the weather was a bit rough at times we still managed to get out and I got a few shots, it was great to see a lovely Sunset for once 😊

It took us seven and a half hours to get home though, traffic was awful, it was nothing compared to the floods all a round us when we reached

Lancashire, lucky for us we don't live near any River's , so apart from a pretty wet Garden we were lucky. Could I just wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope the weathers not been too disrupting for our Butterflies Goldie 😊



*Sunset Tankerton*



*Sunset Boxing Day taken from the car*

### **Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 31-Dec-15 10:53 PM GMT

This morning about 9-20am I was looking outside and thinking , great the Sun is out and drying things up nicely when I noticed the Moon was still visible , with nothing else to photograph over the last few days and with it being the end of the old year, I thought why not get a shot of it for the album 😊

Funny thing is when I looked at the photos on computer, there seems to be another shadow of some think round like a planet Top left of the Moon, what ever it was it was moving with each shot I took . I don't know anything about these things so I'm wondering if it's the Moon's shadow reflecting back. If anyone has any idea's I'd like to know please 😊

My photos are the best by the way I could get with the lens I've got Goldie 😊





*Morning Moon*