

Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 25-Mar-16 06:13 PM GMT

Good Friday 25th March 2016

Target Hill,Crawley

First chance of some sun and a quick peek at the Small Tortoiseshells on one of my local spots,getting my first fix of the year.



Target Hill Small Tortoiseshell



Target Hill Small Tortoiseshells 2

About half a dozen frolicking around,1 Peacock,2 male Brimstones and 2 Commas also noted.No snakes or Speckled Woods yet.



Target Hill Comma

I wonder what 2016 will bring?

Cheers

Re: Buchan Boy

by trevor, 26-Mar-16 11:07 AM GMT

Hi Dave ,

I am not the only one to have witnessed a Small Tortoiseshell pairing yesterday. I noticed that they always landed in a nose to tail formation, just like yours. At no time was there any attempt at mating. Perhaps someone with more knowledge could explain what this behaviour signifies. To me it suggests an eager male, and a female not yet ready.

Any thoughts ?
Trevor.

Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 19-Apr-16 07:11 PM GMT

17th April 2016

[Devils Dyke/Newtimber Hill,Sussex](#)

Tough going at the moment,the Green Hairstreak colonies on the downs are always a good indicator as to the state of play.

Got to about 14 degrees today and felt pretty good,spent a couple of hours at the bottom of Devils Dyke,hoping for some Hairstreak action.....nope.

Actually this will be the first year in a long while where my prediction has been wrong.

A female Kestrel kept good company!



Devils Dyke Kestrel

After a fruitless search I wandered back up the hill to see if there was anything happening at the bottom of Saddlescombe quarry(was rather hoping for a Dingy or maybe a Grizzled),but once again noooo.

Ho well,you have to know these things,saved by a Small Tortoiseshell loitering around one of the young nettle beds at the base of the quarry.



Saddlescombe Quarry Small Tortoiseshell

A morel



Morel, I think!



Devils Dyke
Another week passes by.....
Oh and some Greenfinch's in Crawley



Crawley Greenfinch
Tata
Dunno why it does that!



Devils Dyke

Re: Buchan Boy

by Goldie M, 19-Apr-16 07:36 PM GMT

Lovely shot of the Kestrel Dave and the Tortoiseshell Goldie 😊

Re: Buchan Boy

by David M, 21-Apr-16 10:12 PM GMT

Those morels are worth money, BB. One of the most sought after fungi in Europe!

Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 01-May-16 08:26 AM GMT

29th April 2016

Gossops Green Millpond,Crawley

Some Mandarin Ducks have appeared on one of my local lakes,imagine seeing these 30 years ago!



Mandarin Duck Male



Mandarin Duck Male 2
Not many butterflies around at the moment.....

Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 02-May-16 05:27 PM GMT

Saturday 30th April 2016

Sussex

Got down to Castle Hill NNR quite early today still with frost in some of the more sheltered spots. The sun rose quickly and through the morning I suspected first Dingy's or Grizzled's may be around.

Checking the Early Spider orchids and given the slow spring they are quite small at the moment, some flowering at about 3-4 cm's. But some a bit taller.



Castle Hill Early Spider Orchid



Castle Hill Early Spider Orchid 2

No Early Purples here yet, probably about two weeks behind the ones in woodland.

The Wart-Biters are in their first instars and are absolutely minuscule at around 3-4 mm long.



Castle Hill Wart Biter nymph

A good hunt could locate no butterflies through the morning but it was lovely to watch the stonechats pairing up.

Around midday I did manage to locate my first Dingy Skippers of the year, keeping very low to the ground and resting quick as soon as the sun went behind clouds.



Castle Hill Dingy Skipper



Castle Hill Dingy Skipper 2

I popped into Staplefield on the way home to see if the Green-Winged Orchids were up yet and they were. Once again the colonies on the downs are way behind.



Staplefield Green-winged Orchid



Staplefield Green-winged Orchid 2
Good to get going again.



Castle Hill NNR
Thanks

Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 06-May-16 08:33 PM GMT

Wednesday 4th May 2016

Newtimber Hill and Devils Dyke

A few firsts for 2016 today



Devils Dyke Small Heath



Devils Dyke Green Hairstreak



Devils Dyke Holly Blue

The Green Hairstreak colony has a present tally of two...this will now build significantly...glad to have got there just as emergence begins, normally miss it!

Over the road to Newtimber and the first Dingys are enjoying life in the microclimate at the base of the, very well sheltered, quarry.



Newtimber Dingy Skipper



Newtimber Dingy Skipper 2

A few tiny Early Purple Orchids around



Devils Dyke Early Purple Orchids



Nice

Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 06-May-16 08:52 PM GMT

Friday 6th May 2016

Deep Dene and Abbots Wood

Plan to spend some time at Deep Dene studying the Orthoptera this year, an early reccy was in order.

Some lively Hairstreaks around. Nice and fresh.



Deep Dene Green Hairstreak

I love that smell that floats around the hillside when the gorse is in flower, coconuttu wiff!



Deep Dene Green Hairstreak2

As well as plenty of Dingy Skippers and Small Heaths around my first Grizzled Skippers of this year were also noted, this one with the big white blob on the hind wings.



Deep Dene Grizzled Skipper

Of course whilst down this way, at this time of year, a wander into Abbots Wood is almost a necessary requirement. Numbers beginning to build.



Abbots Wood Pearl Bordered Fritillary



Abbots Wood Pearl Bordered Fritillary 2

And whilst the Early Purples on the hills are all scrawny and small this year some roadside verge populations are thriving with some impressive spikes!



Alciston Road Verge

Orchid hunting by car in action... 😊

Re: Buchan Boy

by Goldie M, 07-May-16 11:47 AM GMT

Lovely shots Dave, especially the Pearls 🍷 Goldie 😊

Re: Buchan Boy

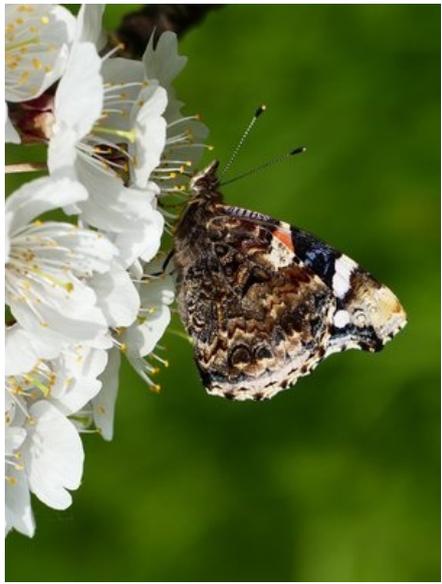
by Buchan Boy, 07-May-16 08:44 PM GMT

Saturday 7th May 2016

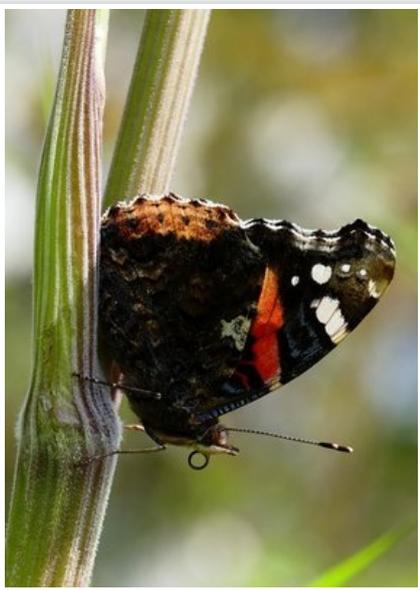
Upper Beeding, Sussex

After photographing Green-Winged Orchids on the downs the footpath that took me off the hills met the main road with a large cherry tree in full spring splendour.

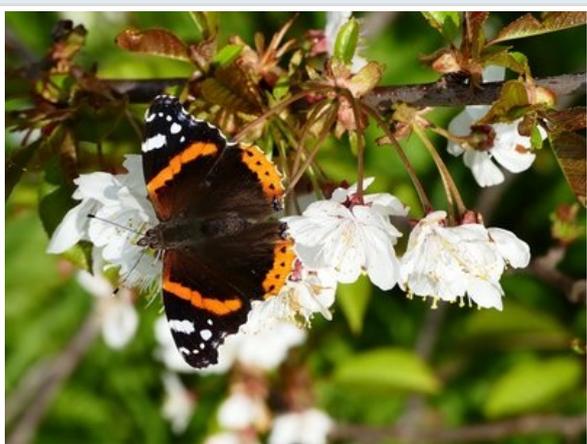
Noting a bunch of Red Admirals also enjoying the blossom, whilst trying to outdo each other for territory, my evening dissapeared.....



Upper Beeding Red Admiral



Upper Beeding Red Admiral 2



Upper Beeding Red Admiral 3
The lilac form is lovely



Green Winged Orchid
Dave

Re: Buchan Boy

by Wurzel, 07-May-16 10:06 PM GMT

Fantastic shots recently Buchan, just catching up and somehow missed them up until now 😞 Great Pearls and something of a rarity – a Red Admiral – well bit of a rarity do far this year that is 🍀

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 15-May-16 07:52 PM GMT

Sunday 8th May 2016

Brockham Quarry

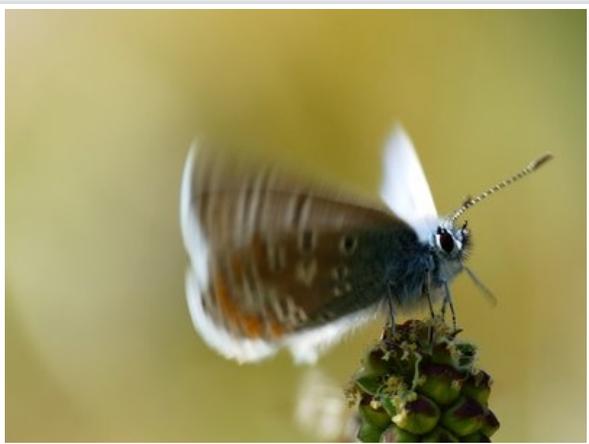
First jaunt to the North Downs of 2016 and the quarry was a buzz, first Common Blues of the season for me.



Brockham Quarry Common Blue



Brockham Quarry Common Blue 2
A rather fortunate shot of the moment of lift-off!



Brockham Quarry Common Blue 3
Also Grizzled Skippers just starting to appear here.



Brockham Quarry Grizzled Skipper
Stars of the Spring afternoon show were the Green Hairstreaks on one of the young Beech Trees here, although just out of reach, I managed to brighten an underside shot.
Between 8-10 vying for space on the lower branch's, quite a spectacle.



Brockham Quarry Green Hairstreak
Beech Tree in foreground home to many Green Hairstreaks.



Brockham Quarry.
I'd seen some Holly Blues in the trees around the base of the quarry, it took a little wait but one did eventually hit the deck and probe for salts.



Brockham Quarry Holly Blue
There's not many better ways to spend a glorious spring afternoon.
Dave

Re: Buchan Boy

by Goldie M, 16-May-16 05:06 PM GMT

A Nice selection there, not seen the Common Blue here yet in the North Goldie 😊

Re: Buchan Boy

by kevlings, 16-May-16 05:51 PM GMT

The Brockham Quarry Grizzled Skipper is a fine shot Buchan Boy. This is a new site to me, looks good.

Regards Kev

Re: Buchan Boy

by David M, 16-May-16 10:05 PM GMT

Great images, Dave. I hope to see Common Blues very soon in my neck of the woods. 🍷

Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 29-May-16 02:48 PM GMT

22nd May 2016

Isle Of Wight

Had a family holiday on the Isle Of Wight coinciding with the Glanville Fritillary emergence, hopefully! 😊

Although I had planned to try and cover as much of the Southern Coast as possible in the week,once I'd located the colonies on the South Western side of the island I became trapped in the beauty of it all.

I started at the Hanover Point car park and walked North,that was it.Stayed there for three days,occasionally seeing my family for dinner etc. 😊

I also enjoyed all the other wildlife along these cliffs as well. Ravens always seem bigger the closer you get.



Compton Bay Raven

Good numbers of Stonechats buzzing around the gorse here,getting more agitated the closer I got.



Compton Bay Female Stonechat



Compton Bay Male Stonechat

The sun was already fairly high and I'd seen the butterflies but they were rather flighty, I left it until later afternoon before gaining my first shots, and these were quite a bit further on from where I eventually found the biggest congregation in the next few days, nonetheless good to get some photographs in the bag.



Compton Bay Glanville Fritillary



Compton Bay Glanville Fritillary
Also worth noting Common Blues.



Compton Bay Common Blue

The Glanvilles were extremely fresh and hadn't been out for long, couple of days at most. Good start.

Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 29-May-16 06:36 PM GMT

23rd May 2016

Isle Of Wight



Compton Bay

Arrived back at the cliffs to a fully sunny dawn and by 7.30 butterflies were seen, a fairly stiff breeze was keeping them low and in the more sheltered little hollows, but there were good numbers for various species, except a solitary Wall Brown, my only one of the trip.



Compton Bay Wall

The Glanvilles were basking on the more open areas, due to the wind on the plants methinks. Good for pictures.



Compton Bay Glanville Fritillary

But with a few species congregating in small areas it was getting rather hectic at times especially with the feisty Small Coppers policing territory.



Compton Bay Small Copper

Good numbers of Small Heaths, Dingy Skippers and Common Blues. Also my first Cream spot Tiger in years. Crud shot though.



Compton Bay Cream Spot Tiger

Thrift and Forgetmenot were the prominent nectar sources for most of the butterfly species on these sunken cliffs.



Compton Bay Sea Pink or Thrift

I waited until late afternoon, when the breeze had eased for an opportunity for more shots of the Glanvilles. I also found the hot-spot where in the late

afternoon sun upwards of 30 Fritillaries were together on one of the small plateau meadows and starting to settle down for overnighiting.



Compton Bay Glanville Fritillary



Compton Bay Glanville Fritillary
Also plenty of young Orthoptera in this habitat.



Compton Bay Great Green Bush Cricket Nymph
I watched the sun set from St Catherines Hill, a really lovely day in a really lovely place.



South West Isle Of Wight
Thanks

Re: Buchan Boy

by Neil Freeman, 29-May-16 09:13 PM GMT

Great couple of reports from the IOW BB with some superb photos to go with them. Love the Glanvilles and great to see them in their proper home, not that I have anything against the introduced colonies but there is just something right about seeing them on the IOW. And that sunset is gorgeous 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Buchan Boy

by Wurzel, 29-May-16 10:01 PM GMT

Great reports Buchan Boy, cracking shot of the Wall 😊🇬🇧

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 29-May-16 10:03 PM GMT

Thanks Neil, got the timing spot on...

24th May 2016

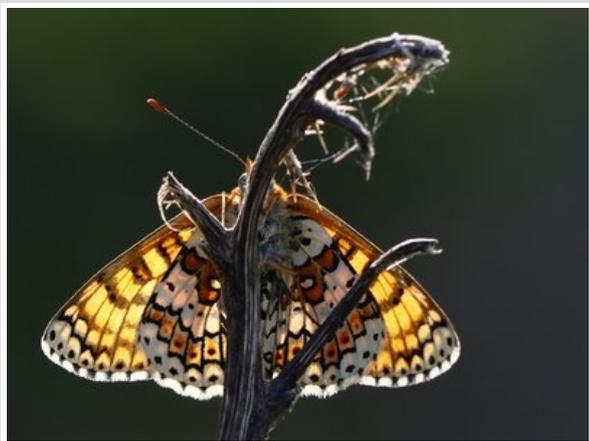
Isle Of Wight

As with the Marsh Fritillaries in Dorset last year I was lucky enough to be at emergence or within a couple of days, I suspect the numbers here are still rising now.

A few more shots just wrap up a marvellous few days at Compton Bay.



Compton Bay Glanville Fritillary



Compton Bay Glanville Fritillary 2



Compton Bay Glanville Fritillary 3

Finished by mid-morning with the butterflies all on the cliff-top around the path, quite a sight. Whilst here I've also been looking for the Cliff Tiger Beetle, that also enjoys this habitat, but I think I may have been too early in the season. A record from St Catherines point sent me there to look for it but none were located, however there were also a few Glanvilles present and Brown Argus's.



St Catherines Point Brown Argus

Temperature was now reaching its peak for the day and the butterflies were now unapproachable so I went to Ventnor to see how the Glanville colonies were at Wheelers and Horseshoe Bay.

No problem, plenty on the move here as well, all at the base of the cliff as you walk along the promenade thing. Actually a lot less effort to photograph them here if clambering up and down cliffs isn't your thing! 😊

Also plenty of Wall Lizards along this bit as well, the lovely North Italian green and yellow dotted form.



Ventnor Wall Lizard



Wheeler's Bay, Glanvilles at the bottom.

Dave

Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 13-Jun-16 11:48 AM GMT

Friday 10th June 2016 Buckland, North Downs

Looking for newly sprung orchids.....

First Large skipper of the year.



Buckland Large Skipper



Buckland Large Skipper 2

Also first Meadow Brown's

But the Orchids stole today's show.



Buckland Bee Orchid



Buckland Greater Butterfly Orchid



Buckland Man Orchid

This young female was oblivious to me hiding, until I fired the shutter!



Buckland Roe deer female.
Then was gone.

Dave

Re: Buchan Boy

by trevor, 13-Jun-16 02:55 PM GMT

Hi Dave'

I've been a bit slow ! and only just seen your Glanville images .The top one (24th May) does it for me. Gorgeous, what a background. Nice Orchids too.

All the best,
Trevor.

Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 19-Jun-16 08:28 PM GMT

Sunday 19th June 2016

[Iping/Stedham Commons](#)

Some sun first thing had me driving across Sussex to see if the Silver-studded's were on the wing,and they were.



Stedham Common Silver-studded Blue male



Stedham Common Silver-studded Blue male2



Iping Common Silver-studded Blue female



Iping Common Silver-studded Blue female2
Slowly starting to emerge...

Dave

Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 03-Jul-16 09:02 PM GMT

Sunday 3rd July 2016

Castle Hill NNR

Spent the afternoon with between 10–15 Dark Green Fritillaries on the South Downs. Some very fresh Marbled Whites



Castle Hill NNR Dark Green Fritillary



Castle Hill NNR Dark Green Fritillary 2



Castle Hill NNR Dark Green Fritillary 3



Castle Hill NNR Marbled White
Bit windy but whos complaining!

Thanks

Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 18-Jul-16 12:32 PM GMT

Thurs/Fri 14th-15th July 2016

Southwater Wds

Spent a couple of days wandering round Marlpost and Madgeland woods in Sussex, hoping for some woodland butterflies.

Bumped into a female Silver Washed taking in the first rays of the morning, this was the last of the "sitters", it all went rather manic after about 10 o'clock.



Southwater Silver Washed Fritillary female

Then about 20 yards down the track a White Admiral was doing that fluttering just above the ground searching out minerals and suchlike, quite a battered individual, but a White Admiral nonetheless.

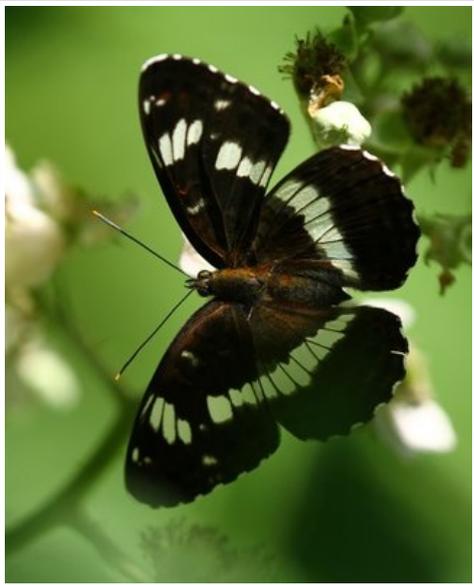


Southwater White Admiral



Southwater White Admiral 2

I only noted 3 of these in the two days I spent here, last year there seemed to be a riot of these going on at this time of year. This one was quite a bit fresher but the photo was rubbish....also a bit later on in the morning nectaring on the bramble flowers.



Southwater White Admiral 3



Southwater White Admiral 4

So key to getting close to Silver Washed Fritillaries.....find a big bank of bramble in bloom and be quick of the mark with the camera, perseverance is the key here!



Southwater Silver Washed Fritillary Male 2



Southwater Silver Washed Fritillary 3

Also worth noting that Commas seem to faring rather well this year,beating up anything that comes close to their bramble perch!



Southwater Comma



Southwater Comma 2

Also plenty of Large, Small and Essex Skippers, Large Whites some woodland Marbled Whites, Purple Hairstreaks in the Oaks with Binoculars and one Purple Emperor at height. Not sure how their season is going here, I'll have another go next weekend.



Sussex Woodland sunny glades.

But the Silver Washed are always worth spending a few days with.



Southwater Silver Washed Fritillary Male

Dave

Re: Buchan Boy

by Wurzel, 18-Jul-16 11:33 PM GMT

Lovely sequence of shots Buchan Boy, especially the White Admirals – I can never get them closed wing like that 📷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 01-Aug-16 12:55 PM GMT

Saturday 30th July 2016

Castle Hill NNR

It rained but was rather humid and with no wind fancied my chances. Chalkhill Blues today.



Castle Hill Chalkhill Blue Male



Castle Hill Chalkhill Blue Female



Castle Hill Chalkhill Blue Male

Quite surprising how many were on the wing considering the rain
Also a solitary Brown Argus



Castle Hill Brown Argus
And cowering, wet Marbled Whites...



Castle Hill Marble White



Under leaden skies
Dave

Re: Buchan Boy

by David M, 02-Aug-16 09:00 PM GMT

Amazing you're still seeing Marbled Whites!

They're practically gone even here in cool and wet south Wales!

Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 06-Aug-16 08:54 AM GMT

Friday 5th August 2016

Salfords, Surrey

Big lens, footbridge through oak tree canopy and a couple of hours, Purple Hairstreak, faded female, good, 😊

Note to self: get here earlier in the year next year!



Salfords Purple Hairstreak
Dave

Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 14-Aug-16 06:38 PM GMT

Sunday 14th August 2016

Newdigate Old Brickworks,Surrey.

I'd always struggled to actually see any Brown Hairstreaks at this site although I'd spent many days here I'd never located them at a low level.

Today, jackpot,managed to locate around 4 in the young Blackthorn sapplings that had sprung up in front of the main bank with the Ash trees behind it.

All in full midday sunshine taking it easy,wandering round the young bushes.Shots below are of two of them.



Newdigate Brown Hairstreak



Newdigate Brown Hairstreak 2
Ash trees,Blackthorn Bank,Young Blackthorn,Meadow...succession...



Newdigate BH site
Also a Clouded Yellow that was worth chasing around!



Newdigate Clouded Yellow



Newdigate Clouded Yellow 2



Newdigate Clouded Yellow 3



Teasel



Agrimony

Also noted a Purple Hairstreak, a few Common Blues, good numbers of Gatekeepers and Meadow Browns and 1 very tatty Brown Argus.

Good site this.

Thanks

Re: Buchan Boy

by Pauline, 14-Aug-16 08:56 PM GMT

Oh, Wow! Where is Newdigate Brickworks?! Smashing!! Just love those shots 🍷🍷

Re: Buchan Boy

by David M, 14-Aug-16 09:17 PM GMT

Sounds like a great day, Dave. I notice south-easterlies are to prevail for a couple of days this coming week. Hopefully they'll carry a few more Cloudies over to us.

Re: Buchan Boy

by Katrina, 14-Aug-16 09:19 PM GMT

The second hairstreak shot is gorgeous!

Re: Buchan Boy

by trevor, 14-Aug-16 09:20 PM GMT

Hi Dave,

Your second Brown Hairstreak image has caused extreme envy 🍷 . And a Clouded Yellow, can't be bad !.

All the best,
Trevor.

Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 15-Aug-16 12:25 PM GMT

Aw thanks people,actually checking back later through the evening,I think I prefer these two shots,either way best I've ever managed! 😊



Newdigate Brown Hairstreak



Newdigate Brown Hairstreak 2

Dave

Re: Buchan Boy

by Pauline, 15-Aug-16 02:05 PM GMT

Now you're just showing off 🍷🍷 You can go off folk, y'know 😊😂

Re: Buchan Boy

by trevor, 15-Aug-16 06:56 PM GMT

With images like those you can show off a bit if you like !
I had some success with the Purple Emperor this year, and found it necessary to rub it in somewhat.

Trevor.

Re: Buchan Boy

by David M, 18-Aug-16 10:17 PM GMT

Number 2 Brown Hairstreak is, indeed, exceptionally beautiful.

Re: Buchan Boy

by Katrina, 18-Aug-16 10:56 PM GMT

Outrageously good bonus photos 🍷 : 🍷

Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 01-Sep-16 09:49 PM GMT

29th August 2016

[Brockham/Betchworth North Downs](#)

Last lookout for Silver spotted's on the Surrey Downs, not a patch on last years extravaganza.



Brockham Silver spotted Skipper

Also,one of the last grasshoppers of the year to fully mature,the Rufous,I'd forgotten how beautiful the male of the species can be,the white tipped clubbed antenna is diagnostic of the species.



Brockham Male Rufous Grasshopper

And always searching for potential sites of Birds Nest Orchids under Beech trees,good to study the fruit of said trees.



Beech Nut

Came back later looking for Glow worms,but none around.
Thanks

Re: Buchan Boy

by Wurzel, 01-Sep-16 09:56 PM GMT

I think the Brostreaks are always worth showing off about 😊
Have a goodun

