

Pretty Butterflies Diary

by prettybutterfly, 08-May-16 10:34 AM GMT

Hello everybody and welcome to my new diary. I like looking at all of the different species in UK and on holiday with my family. At this time of year I like watching Orange Tips mating and looking for their eggs. They are one of my favourite butterflies.

Yesterday, I went on a walk with my Dad near where we live and I had my first close up view of Green Hairstreaks. We were lucky to find a mating pair. I hope you like them.

Emma



Re: Pretty Butterflies Diary

by Padfield, 08-May-16 11:13 AM GMT

Morning Emma!

I think you might be the only person in the world to have a selfie with mating green hairstreaks in the background. 😊 OK – I expect your Dad took the picture, but it's pretty special!

We look forward to more of your entries.

Guy

Re: Pretty Butterflies Diary

by Pauline, 08-May-16 05:28 PM GMT

Hi Emma

Welcome to the forum. What a fantastic way to start your diary. I have been wanting to see a pair of Green Hairstreaks mating for several years now, so as Guy says, a very special memory for you. Well done. Looking forward to seeing more of your finds.

Re: Pretty Butterflies Diary

by bugboy, 08-May-16 06:16 PM GMT

Well I thought I had a good day with Green Hairstreaks the other day but I think you trumped me there with one picture!

Also good to see the next generation of butterflyers out there following the passion 😊

Re: Pretty Butterflies Diary

by Jack Harrison, 08-May-16 06:21 PM GMT

All those years of butterflying ahead of you! I wish I had been keeping a diary 70+ years ago (yes 70+) when i started butterflying. By the time you reach my age, you will have some marvellous memories to look back on.

But you will be hard pressed to beat the memory of those Green Hairstreaks. I hope you will recall this thread in 2186 with a happy smile on your face 😊

jack

Re: Pretty Butterflies Diary

by MikeOxon, 08-May-16 06:38 PM GMT

As others have written, that's a great start to your diary. I look forward to seeing more. Many years ago, my son persuaded me that we should set out to photograph all the British species. Until then, I had just photographed local species, not on any systematic basis but simply because they make pretty photos.

It took us several years to complete our plan – sometimes one of us got ahead and then the other. The Chequered Skipper was our final challenge and, by then, my son was old enough for us to celebrate with a bottle of Champagne!

Mike

Re: Pretty Butterflies Diary

by Jack Harrison, 08-May-16 06:57 PM GMT

{quote}... celebrate with a bottle of Champagne!Mustn't give the young lady ideas Mike!

My advice is that Tesco's or Sainsbury's *Cava* is *almost* as good as Champers and a great deal cheaper.

Jack

Re: Pretty Butterflies Diary

by MikeOxon, 08-May-16 07:13 PM GMT

You're quite right, Jack – it's just that Champagne has become a metaphor for celebration.

Re: Pretty Butterflies Diary

by jonhd, 08-May-16 09:05 PM GMT

Jack Harrison wrote:

I hope you will recall this thread in 2186 with a happy smile on your face 😊

jack

My rudimentary grasp of arithmetic tells me that you might need to change the battery in your calculator, Jack. (2186, indeed.)

Great shots Emma – particularly impressed with the portrait one.

Best, Jon

Re: Pretty Butterflies Diary

by David M, 08-May-16 10:16 PM GMT

I've been looking for years but have only once ever stumbled across mating Green Hairstreaks.

How about flagging up mating Red Admirals as your next challenge! 😊

Re: Pretty Butterflies Diary

by Jack Harrison, 09-May-16 07:33 AM GMT

~~[quote]~~My rudimentary grasp of arithmetic tells me that you might need to change the battery in your calculator, Jack. (2186, indeed.) More likely, I might need a new left hand typing finger 😊

It's reassuring that people *actually read* the rubbish that I write.

Jack

Re: Pretty Butterflies Diary

by Jack Harrison, 09-May-16 07:39 AM GMT

Actually, that couldn't have been a typo. The 1 and the 0 keys are activated by opposite hands. Oh dear. Pass.

Jack

Re: Pretty Butterflies Diary

by Neil Freeman, 09-May-16 06:42 PM GMT

Hi Emma,

I can only echo what others have said...that is a cracking first post in your new personal diary with some great photos of the Green Hairstreak pair 😊

Neil.

Re: Pretty Butterflies Diary

by Butterflysaurus rex, 09-May-16 06:50 PM GMT

For your first close up view of Green Hairstreaks it doesn't get any better than that Emma! A great start to your diary. 😊

James

Re: Pretty Butterflies Diary

by kevlng, 10-May-16 07:16 PM GMT

Thank you to everyone for your kind comments on my first diary. I hope to have some more things to share soon.

Emma

Re: Pretty Butterflies Diary

by Jack Harrison, 10-May-16 07:23 PM GMT

If you are still around in 2186 (my erroneous date entry) then you will certainly have seen a lot by then 😊

You might have realised that 70 years down the road, (see May sightings), I still get a huge kick from seeing a solitary Orange Tip.

Butterflies are a wonderful obsession perhaps only equalled by birds. Smart Phones (and the like) will come and go. Butterflies are forever. Enjoy.

Jack

Re: Pretty Butterflies Diary

by Pete Eeles, 10-May-16 08:16 PM GMT

And a welcome to the forums from me too, Emma. That really is a fantastic shot – well done!

Cheers,

– Pete

Re: Pretty Butterflies Diary

by essexbuzzard, 10-May-16 08:49 PM GMT

A very warm welcome from me too- and what a great first picture! I also have seen mating Green Hairstreaks only once, near Polperro in Cornwall. I hope that photographing and, especially, observing butterflies and wildlife gives you many years of pleasure,as it does me.

Re: Pretty Butterflies Diary

by prettybutterfly, 14-May-16 08:52 PM GMT

We've had Holly Blues in our garden for the last week.They flutter round our hedge and land letting me take pictures.

Last year we planted Garlic Mustard in our garden and the last week I saw a female Orange Tip fly down near the Garlic Mustard thinking it just wants nectar but this week we found six Orange Tip eggs.

Below are pictures of what I saw,I hope you like them.





From Emma.

Re: Pretty Butterflies Diary

by MikeOxon, 14-May-16 11:56 PM GMT

Plenty of Holly Blues in my garden, too, but they wont stop for photos 😞

Good to spot the Orange Tip eggs – they stand out rather well in that bright orange colour.

I was looking at the EXIF data on your photos, which show the exposure details, and notice that you appear to be using a short (4.5mm) focal length setting. I think you might get better results by using the zoom on your SX610, so that you don't have to get so close, and you will get a larger image. Even so, you have some nice photos but it's always worth experimenting with different settings on your camera.

Mike

Re: Pretty Butterflies Diary

by Goldie M, 15-May-16 12:47 PM GMT

Hi! Emma, I can't be left out of the welcoming gang 😊 All the best Goldie 😊

Re: Pretty Butterflies Diary

by Wurzel, 15-May-16 10:29 PM GMT

Cracking Greenies and Holly blue Emma 😊 A belated welcome from me, but better late than never.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Pretty Butterflies Diary

by prettybutterfly, 21-May-16 06:27 PM GMT

On 21st May, me and my family went to Holywells Park, Ipswich to look for butterflies and we walked into a whirlwind of different species. I saw female Orange Tips and males too, also I saw Holly Blues females and males. Amazingly I saw a Brimstone but it wouldn't stop and land, we managed to see a female Orange Tip lay an egg.

What a stunning day, here are the pictures.





From Emma

Re: Pretty Butterflies Diary

by Jack Harrison, 21-May-16 06:40 PM GMT

I will jump in with advice before others do so.

With white and pale butterflies (eg Holly Blue) it is beneficial to under-expose by at least 1 EF (1 stop) to avoid washing out the pale colours. I routinely set -1.3 EF and that - combined with bracketting - usually ensure a decent result from at least one of the photos.

Jack.

Re: Pretty Butterflies Diary

by prettybutterfly, 22-May-16 06:32 PM GMT

The first Orange Tip caterpillar has hatched on the Garlic Mustard in our garden - how exciting.



I also saw a Female Orange Tip visiting us once more.



On our Pyracantha, we have also found some Holly Blue eggs and Brown tailed Moth caterpillars.





Hope you like them.

From Emma

Re: Pretty Butterflies Diary

by bugboy, 22-May-16 08:01 PM GMT

Lovely Photos and great shots of those hatchling Orange-tips. You probably are well aware but be careful of those Brown-tail cats, their hairs can give you a very nasty rash.

Re: Pretty Butterflies Diary

by Jack Harrison, 22-May-16 08:53 PM GMT

Those macro shots are very good indeed.

Yes, endorse the earning about Brown-tailed moth.

Jack