

**Re: Gary.N**

by Gary.N, 25-Mar-16 09:18 PM GMT

Yesterday, Bob took me out on a nice but cloudy and cool day to show me the Wall Larvae. And he found 3 for me and a Speckled Wood Larva. Thankyou Bob 😊😊😊.

[attachment=0]Wall Larva.jpg[/attachment][attachment=1]Speckled Wood Larva.jpg[/attachment]

I could not miss today weather. Bright blue sunshine. Makes a change from the last couple of months. And it was a good chance to use my new camera len. So I went Brown Hairstreak Egg Hunting, which was a first for me. I found two within an hour, without having to look to hard.

[attachment=3]Brown Streak Egg.jpg[/attachment]

Then on my way home I stop off to look for PBF Caterpillars and someone had already found one (She know who she is).

[attachment=2]PBF Cat.jpg[/attachment]

**Re: Gary.N**

by trevor, 25-Mar-16 09:29 PM GMT

That's some lens Gary, the detail in that egg !.  
Any Large Tortoiseshell hunts on the horizon ?.

See you around,  
Trevor.

**Re: Gary.N**

by Gary.N, 25-Mar-16 09:42 PM GMT

Haven't had chance to look for them yet. But I start my transect next week so who knows I may get lucky again.

**Re: Gary.N**

by badgerbob, 26-Mar-16 11:26 AM GMT

Glad we found some Wall larva for you Gary. Like the BH ova and the PBF larva. Will have to look harder for these!!

**Re: Gary.N**

by Gary.N, 01-May-16 10:00 PM GMT

I had a really nice sunny day at Abbot's today.  
I saw my first butterflies just after 11am. 2 Orange-tips. One a female and she was laying eggs.  
I spent an hour or so taking pictures of the eggs and the moved on to a different part of the wood.  
That when I found some fellow butterfliers and they had in there sights a couple PBFs.  
Then to finish the day the was a nice Green Hairstreak.

[attachment=4]Orange-tip Female.jpg[/attachment] [attachment=5]Orange-tip egg.jpg[/attachment] [attachment=0]PBF.jpg[/attachment]  
[attachment=1]PBF CloseUp.jpg[/attachment] [attachment=2]PBF Bluebells.jpg[/attachment] [attachment=3]Pair PBFs.jpg[/attachment]  
[attachment=6]Green Hairstreak.jpg[/attachment] [attachment=7]Green Hairstreak CloseUp.jpg[/attachment]

**Re: Gary.N**

by bugboy, 01-May-16 10:34 PM GMT

A fine set of imagies Gary, a trip to Abbots wood definately beckons for me in the coming weeks!

**Re: Gary.N**

by trevor, 01-May-16 10:40 PM GMT

Lovely stuff Gary, I certainly left too early.

**Re: Gary.N**

by Gary.N, 15-May-16 04:29 PM GMT

A late afternoon trip on Saturday to Abbot's. The sun was trying its best to brighten up the end of the day and it warmed it up enough to bring out a few friends. A number of Grizzled Skippers and a very good number of Pearls. [attachment=5]IH9A7841-Edit.jpg[/attachment]  
[attachment=4]IH9A7914-Edit.jpg[/attachment] [attachment=0]IH9A8181-Edit.jpg[/attachment] [attachment=3]IH9A8071-Edit.jpg[/attachment]  
[attachment=2]IH9A8181-Edit-Edit.jpg[/attachment] [attachment=1]IH9A8274-Edit-Edit.jpg[/attachment]

**Re: Gary.N**

by bugboy, 15-May-16 05:41 PM GMT

That looks like the same Grizzled Skipper I found a few days ago, you had much better weather than I did though. Those Pearls are putting on a very good show this year aren't they 😊

### Re: Gary.N

by Gary.N, 30-May-16 11:19 PM GMT

I have just found time to write a post for my diary and process my photos, so I will start with last weekend.

On my way up to do my transect on Sunday the 22nd I saw my first Small Blue of the Season. It was just out of the car park on the chalk path up the hill to Friston where I have never seen one before.

[\[attachment=9\]Small Blue.jpg\[/attachment\]](#)

The next Friday I had got to the start of the transect when I saw my first Common Blue of the season.

[\[attachment=8\]Common Blue.jpg\[/attachment\]](#)

On my way back I saw a Red Admiral laying eggs but the light wasn't good enough at that point to take a photo of the egg. So I marked the nettle with a Buttercup so I could find it again.

I started my way up to find the egg the next day on the Gallops when I saw my first Large Skipper of the season. Sitting on a nice Bumble leaf.

[\[attachment=7\]Large Skipper.jpg\[/attachment\]](#)

When I finally found the nettle with the Buttercup tied to it. I found that the egg had gone. So I started to head back to the Gallops and I saw a Speckled Wood. I have failed to get a single shot all year of one, so I made it my mission to get a shot.

[\[attachment=6\]Speckled Wood.jpg\[/attachment\]](#)

I had just left the Speckled Wood when I saw another Red Admiral laying eggs (it could have been the same one). So I got my shot in the end. 📷

[\[attachment=5\]Red Admiral Oval.jpg\[/attachment\]](#)

On Sunday morning as the Gallops and Friston Forest had been so good to me the past few days I paid another visit.

[\[attachment=4\]Large Skipper 2.jpg\[/attachment\]](#) [\[attachment=3\]Grizzled Skipper.jpg\[/attachment\]](#) [\[attachment=2\]Common Blue Female.jpg\[/attachment\]](#) [\[attachment=1\]Common Blue Female - No grass.jpg\[/attachment\]](#)

Finally, when I got home I had found a Large White had laid eggs on my Brassica.

[\[attachment=0\]Large White Oval.jpg\[/attachment\]](#)

### Re: Gary.N

by Katrina, 31-May-16 09:22 PM GMT

Great report. The stacked egg photo is beautiful!

### Re: Gary.N

by Goldie M, 01-Jun-16 10:15 AM GMT

There seems to be a lot more Large Whites this year Gary, love the egg shot Goldie 😊

### Re: Gary.N

by Gary.N, 01-Jun-16 05:54 PM GMT

I have to make a correction. The large white egg is actually a small White Egg.

Thank you for your kind comment Katrina and Goldie. 😊😊😊

### Re: Gary.N

by Gary.N, 05-Jun-16 11:18 PM GMT

My morning started with my first Painted Lady of the year in the garden just after I had locked the door to go to Rowland's Wood.

[\[attachment=2\]Painted Lady.png\[/attachment\]](#)

Rowland's Wood was not a good call today. I was hoping for some Large Skippers, but I got a nice shot of a Small Heath.

[\[attachment=1\]Small Heath.png\[/attachment\]](#)

I went home a bit disappointed, so I saw that there were still eggs on my Brassica. So I set up the camera for some close-up shots.

[\[attachment=0\]Small White oval.png\[/attachment\]](#)

While taking the shots I noticed something move within the egg. So I put the camera on to movie settings and recorded this video with manual focus and zero depth of field.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_CvSWMnLLs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_CvSWMnLLs)[/video]

**Re: Gary.N**

by Katrina, 05-Jun-16 11:35 PM GMT

Brilliant video – really interesting!

**Re: Gary.N**

by Vince Massimo, 05-Jun-16 11:37 PM GMT

An absolutely magnificent sequence there Gary 😊  
Very well done.

Vince

**Re: Gary.N**

by Pauline, 07-Jun-16 07:42 AM GMT

Incredible video Gary. I hope everyone takes the opportunity to view it as it has to be one of the most interesting things I've ever seen on this site!

**Re: Gary.N**

by Sonam Dorji, 07-Jun-16 09:03 AM GMT

Hi Gary,

Great "Macro Video". May I know the type of lens used?

rgds,  
Sonam

**Re: Gary.N**

by Gary.N, 07-Jun-16 05:59 PM GMT

Thankyou for asking Sonam,

The len I uses is canon MP-E 65mm with a canon Extender EF 2x iii. This gives me 10x zoom. But the len is a fixed focus len, so I use a Noveflex Castel-L Macro rail to focus on the subject.  
I hope this answers your question.

Gary

**Re: Gary.N**

by kevlings, 07-Jun-16 06:07 PM GMT

Gary,

Lovely video of the emerging Small White. A great 25 minutes viewing.

Regards Kev

**Re: Gary.N**

by Gary.N, 10-Jun-16 08:57 PM GMT

Firstly, thankyou to all those who have commented on the Small White Egg Hatching Video. Your comments are appreciated. 😊😊😊

Today I did my transect. On my way to and from I got a number of photos, despite the cloud. One of which was my first Meadow Brown of the year.  
[attachment=3]Meadow Brown.jpg[/attachment] [attachment=2]Meadow Brown Closeup.jpg[/attachment] [attachment=1]Small Heath.jpg[/attachment]  
[attachment=0]Large Skipper.jpg[/attachment]

**Re: Gary.N**

by Gary.N, 11-Jun-16 08:47 PM GMT

I looked at the weather forecast this morning and it said it was only going to be bright for a little while. So I dashed off the the Gallops. 5 hours later I got back home as the cloud moved in. So much for weather forecast. At least I was on the right side of the weather for a change. 😊😊😊

I saw a number of different Butterflies up there today. Meadow Brown, Large Skippers, small Blues, common Blues, A single female Adonis Blue, a freshly hatched Tortoiseshell, 2 Grizzled Skippers (One of which was laying eggs) and a Painted Lady (also laying eggs).

[attachment=3]Large Skipper.png[/attachment] [attachment=2]Tortoiseshell.png[/attachment] [attachment=0]Grizzled Skipper Egg.png[/attachment]  
[attachment=1]Painted Lady Egg.png[/attachment]

**Re: Gary.N**

by Pete Eeles, 11-Jun-16 09:04 PM GMT

I love the egg shots, Gary. The Canon MP-E is quite something; still getting used to it myself 😊

Cheers,

- Pete

**Re: Gary.N**

by Gary.N, 13-Jun-16 07:32 PM GMT

Thanks Pete. 😊😊😊

The MP65-E is a really hard and unique len to use, isn't it. Any wind and through the viewfinder it looks like it is blowing a gale. In bright sunshine hardly any light reaches the sensor. Finally, if you get the wrong angle on the subject the len itself shades it. But if you over come all that and you are lucky, you can some really stunning shots.

Gary

**Re: Gary.N**

by David M, 13-Jun-16 10:52 PM GMT

Se great close-ups there, Gary, especially the Painted Lady ovum.

**Re: Gary.N**

by Pete Eeles, 15-Jun-16 10:37 PM GMT

**Gary.N wrote:**

I use a Novoflex Castel-L Macro rail to focus on the subject.

I'd be interested to know how you get on with the macro rail, Gary. My concern is that, with the weight of the camera, the rail doesn't provide the smooth level of focusing needed. I've never tried one - hence the question!

Cheers,

- Pete

**Re: Gary.N**

by Gary.N, 16-Jun-16 10:24 AM GMT

Pete.

I have no problems with the macro rail. I know that with out it I would of really struggled to get the shots I did when stacking images. The video of the Small White egg hatching would have been impossible with out it. As I had to keep adjusting it very time the wind blew a tiny amount to keep that shallow depth of field in focus, at an aperture of 16. The rail I use does provide smooth operation. It has a screw to the side to adjust the amount of friction applied or to lock it in place. The only thing I had trouble with when I started using it was the balance on the small tripod I use, but you quickly learn where on the rail to start to stop this happening.

Gary

**Re: Gary.N**

by Pete Eeles, 16-Jun-16 04:50 PM GMT

Thanks Gary!

Cheers,

- Pete

**Re: Gary.N**

by Gary.N, 20-Jun-16 09:45 PM GMT

I left early for my transect on Sunday morning, as the good weather was not meant to last long. I started up on the Gallop's about 8am and found my first Dark Green of the year by 8:30. The Large Skippers were still going strong up there. On my transect at Lullington Heath I saw 2 more Dark Greens and my first Ringlet of the season, but no Marbled Whites yet. [\[attachment=4\]DG2.png\[/attachment\]](#) [\[attachment=3\]Large Skipper 20062016.png\[/attachment\]](#) [\[attachment=2\]Large Skipper CloseUp.png\[/attachment\]](#) [\[attachment=1\]DG1.png\[/attachment\]](#) [\[attachment=0\]Ringlet.png\[/attachment\]](#)

**Re: Gary.N**

by Gary.N, 05-Jul-16 09:47 PM GMT

I will start with a quick catch up with my trip to Midhurst to see the Silver Studded Blues at Iping Common. It was like every other trip I have taken there in the past. Sunny when I leave home but cloudy with an odd break in the cloud when I get there.

But I still found them sitting around in places. [\[attachment=2\]IH9A0849-Edit.png\[/attachment\]](#) [\[attachment=3\]IH9A0705-Edit.png\[/attachment\]](#)

Today I went to try and find some White Letter Hairstreaks, but I didn't find any in the spots I know. But on my way home I stopped off at Abbot's Wood and I found a nice Silver-Washed Ab. [\[attachment=1\]IH9A3050-Edit.png\[/attachment\]](#) [\[attachment=0\]IH9A3105-Edit.png\[/attachment\]](#)

**Re: Gary.N**

by Gary.N, 25-Sep-16 05:11 PM GMT

I had a really nice surprise yesterday when on my last transect for the year a second brood White Admiral landed right next to me. 😊😊😊

[\[attachment=0\]White Admiral.png\[/attachment\]](#)

**Re: Gary.N**

by Butterflysaurus rex, 25-Sep-16 05:20 PM GMT

Brilliant find Gary! I've never seen a second brood White Admiral myself, glad to see you got a good shot of it, they can be tricky at the best of times.

Best Wishes

James

**Re: Gary.N**

by badgerbob, 25-Sep-16 09:58 PM GMT

Almost unheard of in Sussex??

Brilliant find Gary.

**Re: Gary.N**

by Wurzel, 25-Sep-16 10:30 PM GMT

Lovely Greenish Silver-Washed Gary - and a second brood White Admiral too 😊🍀

Have a goodun

Wurzel