

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 28-Jan-16 04:42 PM GMT

Well; we weren't really expecting to see a Butterfly, let alone photograph one, until probably late-February or early-March.

So it came as a super pleasant surprise whilst walking around the Gardens at Hall Place in Bexley to both see a Butterfly (a **Small Tortoiseshell**) and after chasing it around for a while, to be able to photograph it when it settled in the Sunshine on a large boulder viz.



Re: Mike Robinson

by trevor, 29-Jan-16 07:48 AM GMT

Hi Mike,
Good to hear from you again. Your Small Tortoiseshell is quite a find for January.
Superb shot too !

All the best,
Trevor .

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 29-Jan-16 05:08 PM GMT

Trevor,

Thanks.

It was actually quite weird. The Butterfly looked very much like an old dried leaf that had come to life! If anything, it reminded me of a Comma Butterfly.

I chased after it and thankfully it settled for long enough to be photographed.

Kind regards ~ Mike ...

Re: Mike Robinson

by Neil Freeman, 29-Jan-16 08:56 PM GMT

Hi Mike,

A cracking Small Tortoiseshell to kick your season off...that certainly brightened up my evening as I listen to the rain lashing down again outside.

Cheers,

Neil

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 31-Jan-16 10:59 AM GMT

Neil,

Thanks for noticing this.

So far I'm having great fun with the local birds this year including seeing yesterday, our long-staying Black Redstart, a Rock Pipit and a Mediterranean Gull but I'm really looking forward to getting to grips with the Butterflies again this year.

I can only hope I will be as lucky this year as I was last year.

Kind regards ~ Mike ...

Re: Mike Robinson

by Wurzel, 31-Jan-16 10:19 PM GMT

A great find Mike and what a cracking specimen – those margins are in really great nick 😊 Good luck for the rest of the year! 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 01-Feb-16 12:40 PM GMT

Dear Wurzel,

Thanks.

And hoping for the best of luck for you too for the coming year.

Mike ...

Re: Mike Robinson

by Goldie M, 02-Feb-16 07:11 PM GMT

Well done with the Butterfly Mike it's lovely, Snow forecast here, UGH! Goldie 😊😊

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 04-Feb-16 10:28 AM GMT

Goldie,

Thanks.

I don't like snow. I remember we woke up to some snow one morning a couple of weeks ago but it went pretty quickly. I hope that if you have some it will be gone super-quick.

Kind regards ~ Mike ...

Re: Mike Robinson

by Goldie M, 05-Feb-16 07:00 PM GMT

Hi! Mike , glad to say it missed us and we managed a nice day out. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 06-Feb-16 03:59 PM GMT

Goldie: pleased to hear it. Mike ...

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 07-Mar-16 11:12 AM GMT

We have now seen two Butterflies this year; in addition to a **Small Tortoiseshell** Butterfly seen during late-January, we came across a **Speckled Wood** Butterfly yesterday in the Garden at Home viz.



However, although it is nice to see some Butterflies again we worry that some probable cold weather until Spring really gets going, hopefully sooner rather than later, will put paid to them. Perhaps this might not be the case and individual Butterflies are more resilient than we imagine? We can only hope so.

Re: Mike Robinson

by David M, 07-Mar-16 03:37 PM GMT

Wow! A Speckled Wood. One hell of a sighting for early March, Mike.

Re: Mike Robinson

by Goldie M, 07-Mar-16 06:16 PM GMT

Looks like things are definitely on the move now Mike, great find Goldie 😊

Re: Mike Robinson

by trevor, 07-Mar-16 09:26 PM GMT

Hi Mike,

That's a very early Speckled Wood, well found.
This year your challenge is to better that Peacock duet you captured last year!.

Good to hear from you again,
Trevor.

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 08-Mar-16 09:55 AM GMT

For David M, Goldie M and Trevor,

Dear all,

Thanks very much for noticing this. You are all very kind.

Trevor ~ Wow; what a memory.

Kind regards ~ Mike ...

Re: Mike Robinson

by Wurzel, 08-Mar-16 11:21 PM GMT

That's a nice early Speckle Mike – it might just be because I haven't seen this species for 4 months now but it looks quite lightly marked on the fore wing? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 09-Mar-16 08:44 AM GMT

Dear Wurzel,

Thanks for noticing this. Would light markings be of significance please? I don't know too much about Butterflies.

Here is another (not very good alas) picture of the Butterfly.



Kind regards ~ Mike ...

Re: Mike Robinson

by Goldie M, 09-Mar-16 10:10 AM GMT

It looks a really nice Butterfly Mike, the colours stand out with having the White back ground , usually they're in a much darker setting with Tree's etc, don't know too much about the markings though but the others may know. Goldie 😊

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 09-Mar-16 12:55 PM GMT

Goldie M; thanks ...

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 18-Mar-16 12:29 AM GMT

A Sunny Day with some Wind although nothing like as chilly and relentless as on the previous day.

Walking down a fairly sheltered Public Footpath in the Belvedere area (close to the Crossness Nature Reserve) we were fortunate enough to both see and photograph our first **Comma** Butterfly of 2016 viz.



A **Brimstone** Butterfly (our first of 2016) whooshed towards us and past us; a few minutes later a **Brimstone** Butterfly passed us from behind. Although it would be nice to think we had seen two **Brimstone** Butterflies it seems reasonable to assume it was the same Butterfly, which after having reached the end of the Footpath, turned round and came back!

Thus our tally of locally seen Butterflies for 2016 rises to five; namely single **Brimstone**, **Comma**, **Peacock**, **Small Tortoiseshell** and **Speckled Wood** Butterflies.

That being said, although it was nice to have seen the **Brimstone** and **Comma** Butterflies and photographed the **Comma** Butterfly, we were also super-pleased to see and photograph a rather dear looking, **Bee Fly** (possibly *Bombylius major*, per the dark edges to the wings) viz.



And we also heard and then saw our first **Skylark** of the year on the Crossness Nature Reserve. Although it's probable we won't hear or see many more if (or more probably when) proposed building work goes ahead on the fields on which they breed.

Re: Mike Robinson

by Goldie M, 18-Mar-16 11:16 AM GMT

Hi! Mike, looks like Spring is taking off now, 😊 It's ages since we heard a Sky Lark round our way they seem to have vanished, I used to love hearing them high in the sky on a Summer's day, I don't know why or what's happened to them but the Summer's not the same without them. Goldie 😞

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 18-Mar-16 04:53 PM GMT

Goldie: howdy. If proposed construction developments take place and I see no reason for them not to (I can't imagine the local Council being too interested in our Objections) we will probably lose our few Skylarks for ever.

Re: Mike Robinson

by trevor, 18-Mar-16 11:06 PM GMT

Hi Mike,
Well done with the Comma. I totally agree with you about the lull in that biting east wind yesterday.
As soon as it eased the Small Tortoiseshells came out to play, giving me the choice of eleven to chase with my camera !.

Have a great season,
Trevor.

Re: Mike Robinson

by Wurzel, 19-Mar-16 10:18 PM GMT

You're doing exceedingly well Mike with plenty of early sightings including the great looking Bee Fly 🐝 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 20-Mar-16 11:10 AM GMT

Dear Trevor and Wurzel:

Thanks for noticing the Butterfly and Bee Fly. You are both very kind ...

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 24-Mar-16 10:41 AM GMT

I read these Personal Diaries and find myself thinking Wow; these people **know** so much about Butterflies. For my part, not knowing much about Butterflies &c., I have always felt somewhat self-conscious about contributing but since I have always been made to feel welcome I shall bash on! Thank you.

The forecast for tomorrow looks promising; as it did for last Monday which turned out to be something of a washout here in SE London. Dreary most of the day. The forecast for Tuesday was initially for dreariness but it suddenly changed to Bright and Sunny and Bright and Sunny it was. Almost a 'no cardigan day' to boot.

So we toddled down to the Crossness Nature Reserve to see what we could see.

We first spotted a white Butterfly in a Paddock area of the Reserve and decided to climb over a Gate to get a better view. With our knees we should have known better! After finally getting ourselves over the gate the Butterfly annoyingly moved off so remained unidentified. Climbing back over the Gate we got temporarily stuck; thankfully no-one else was around! Not something we shall try again in a hurry.

We subsequently saw a **Brimstone** Butterfly, 3 **Peacock** Butterflies and a **Small Tortoiseshell** Butterfly; managing a few pictures including:





Walking down a nearby Public Footpath close to the Crossness Nature Reserve where we had seen a **Comma** Butterfly a few days earlier, we came across this character:



We imagine it was probably the Butterfly seen previously.

We then moved on to look around the Grounds of the Church of St John the Baptist in Erith, with the hopes of seeing some flowering **Early Dog-Violets** and were not disappointed viz.



And we were super-pleased to find a **Peacock Butterfly** visiting one of the many **Primroses** that brighten up the Church' Grounds at this time of year viz.



Postscript: down on the nearby Thames' Foreshore we spotted an **Oystercatcher** seemingly preparing to take a lunge at an unsuspecting **Ringed Plover** viz.



Thankfully appearances were deceptive and the **Oystercatcher** quietly passed the **Ringed Plover** by. Phew.

Re: Mike Robinson

by Pauline, 24-Mar-16 12:33 PM GMT

A lovely selection of Spring butterflies there Mike 🍷 In fact, looking at your photos with the sun shining and the blossom and spring flowers, anyone

could be forgiven for thinking it is actually Spring! 😊 Here in Liphook we are still in the depths of Winter – it is freezing! 😞

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 24-Mar-16 05:49 PM GMT

Pauline: Thanks for noticing this &c. Tuesday was totally unexpected. No Sun either yesterday or today although the Forecast suggests tomorrow might be Sunny with Saturday and the following days Rainy. With some super-strong Winds over Saturday, Sunday and Monday. I don't much care for the idea of that!

Re: Mike Robinson

by bugboy, 24-Mar-16 08:50 PM GMT

You did much better than I did on Tuesday Mike. I too was surprised by the amount of sun compared with the Monday and Wednesday but all I got from a 5 hour stroll was a couple of fleeting glances of Commas. Looking at the weekend forecast I'm almost glad I'm working through it....almost!

Re: Mike Robinson

by trevor, 24-Mar-16 10:26 PM GMT

That's a very impressive haul Mike. Spring has certainly arrived in your area. I think Tuesday was the best day of the year so far for bright, warm sunshine.

All the best,
Trevor.

Re: Mike Robinson

by David M, 24-Mar-16 11:27 PM GMT

Good effort, Mike. All the adult hibernators should now be out in force. All we need is a bit of sunshine and warmth to coax them into action.

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 25-Mar-16 09:44 AM GMT

bugboy, trevor and David M: thanks very much for your kind encouragement &c. A blue sky this morning and hopefully at least, a 'one cardigan day'; but the forecast for the next few days doesn't look too encouraging with strong winds forecast. Kind regards ~ Mike ...

Re: Mike Robinson

by Wurzel, 26-Mar-16 10:48 PM GMT

A great haul and some lovely shots Mike 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 31-Mar-16 09:10 AM GMT

One of the joys, for us at least, of photographing Butterflies, is that they are often seen visiting/resting on pretty flowers. For my part I really like to see a Butterfly on a Bluebell so was super-pleased yesterday to spot this **Comma** Butterfly on a Bluebell beside one of our local Public Footpaths viz.



We were subsequently super-fortunate to notice a **Small White** Butterfly on a Dandelion viz.



And then, after photographing both a dear fluffy **Bee Fly** viz.



and a **Red-Tailed Bumblebee** visiting a Red Dead-Nettle viz.



we went shopping!

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 31-Mar-16 04:51 PM GMT

Dear Wurzel, Thanks for noticing the pictures &c. dated 24 March. Sorry for not thanking you before ...

Re: Mike Robinson

by Neil Freeman, 31-Mar-16 10:08 PM GMT

Hi Mike,

Great reports and photos, it looks like you are doing better down there than I am up here in the midlands.

Cheers,

Neil

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 01-Apr-16 07:39 PM GMT

Neil, Thanks. Mike ...

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 05-Apr-16 09:01 PM GMT

A 'one cardigan day' with intermittant Sunshine and some Wind.

A day of three parts; we started out beside the Upper Bedon Stream (previously visited a few days earlier).

Once again, our luck was in; seeing **Comma**, **Peacock** and **Small Tortoiseshell** Butterflies viz.



Also a Small White Butterfly (alas no picture).

Moving onto the nearby Holly Hill Open Space for our first visit of 2016 we almost immediately chanced upon a **Small White** Butterfly visiting a Common Daisy viz.



We then came across some **Small Tortoiseshell** Butterflies visiting Spring Blossom viz.



Also some **Peacock** Butterflies (alas no pictures).

And another **Small White** Butterfly, this time visiting Purple Archangel (aka Red Dead-Nettle) viz.



Moving on to our third Port of Call, the Erith Marshes (aka the Crossness Nature Reserve and Surrounding area) we first spotted a **Hummingbird Fly** (aka **Bee Fly**) viz.



We focused our Butterfly spotting activity on the Public Footpath that connects the Reserve to Belvedere Road; seeing **Comma**, **Green-Veined White**, **Peacock**, **Small Tortoiseshell** and **Small White** Butterflies viz.





Also, a **Brimstone** Butterfly which whooshed past with no sign of settling, so no picture.

And then it was time to do a spot of shopping and go home.

Re: Mike Robinson

by NickMorgan, 05-Apr-16 09:23 PM GMT

Great that you managed to see so many butterflies today. It has rained all day here!

Re: Mike Robinson

by essexbuzzard, 05-Apr-16 10:13 PM GMT

When you see a green-veined white, you know that orange tips are just around the corner.

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 07-Apr-16 02:47 PM GMT

NickMorgan: thanks for noticing these; it was dreary both yesterday and today here with some rain (and fairly strong wind yesterday) It would be nice to

see the Sun again sometime!

essexbuzzard: thanks for noticing these; we are hopeful of an Orange-Tip sometime soon. Some sun would be nice too!

Re: Mike Robinson

by Wurzel, 10-Apr-16 08:01 PM GMT

That looks like a cracking day – five species in one sitting 🤩🍀 Looking forward to your imminent Orange-tip shots 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Mike Robinson

by Goldie M, 11-Apr-16 07:21 PM GMT

Lovely shots Mike, hope we see more Butterflies up our way soon, only two species seen up to now. Goldie 😊

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 12-Apr-16 08:58 AM GMT

Dear Wurzel and Goldie M: Thanks for noticing the pictures &c. Hopefully the Weather will improve and we get some more Sun (in short supply recently) so we can all see lots of Butterflies &c. Including some Orange-Tips!

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 12-Apr-16 03:42 PM GMT

We wondered if we had tempted fate by hoping to see some **Orange-Tip** Butterflies. Thankfully not.

With the Sun starting to shine we trotted down to the fairly sheltered Public Footpath in the Belvedere area (close to the Crossness Nature Reserve) where we have seen quite a few Butterflies already this year.

And Yippee; our luck was in and we spotted a couple of **Orange-Tip** Butterflies viz.





Other Butterflies seen during our Outing, both on this Footpath and on the neighbouring Crossness Nature Reserve were: **Brimstones, Commas, Green-Veined Whites, Peacocks, Small Tortoiseshells, Small Whites** and a **Speckled Wood**.

Re: Mike Robinson

by Wurzel, 13-Apr-16 10:19 PM GMT

Cracking shots and a female to boot Mike, they're normally a good way behind the males – hopefully I'll get one soon 🍀

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Mike Robinson

by David M, 13-Apr-16 11:37 PM GMT

You lucky boy, Mike! That's the first image of a female I've seen thus far in 2016 (beating Neil Hulme by a day!!)

Re: Mike Robinson

by Goldie M, 14-Apr-16 01:14 PM GMT

Fantastic find Mike, looks like the OT's are really on the way now, love your photo's Goldie 😊

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 14-Apr-16 04:53 PM GMT

Wurzel: My fingers are crossed for you; and hopefully you'll see an Orange-Tip Butterfly soon. But some super pictures of the Osprey; well done ...

David M and **Goldie:** thanks ...

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 16-Apr-16 09:10 AM GMT

If I have learned anything about Butterflies during the short time I have been looking for them, chasing after them &c., I think it is that there is no such thing as an 'Ugly Duckling' in the Butterfly World.

I was recently fortunate enough to come across a couple of **Orange-Tip** Butterflies; they are of course, super-attractive.

Not something I would necessarily have said about some species viz. **Green-Veined White** and **Speckled Wood**; and yet it has come as something of an eye-opener to me to find that they are actually no less attractive viz.



Re: Mike Robinson

by Goldie M, 16-Apr-16 09:47 AM GMT

I think Mike that your photos are great, I love how the GVT stands out in the back ground of Blue and how the Green looks fantastic has a back ground for the Speckie, it just proves given the right surroundings every Butterfly can look good. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 16-Apr-16 12:55 PM GMT

Goldie M: thanks. I was surprised, particularly with the Speckled Wood although I think they look more attractive side-ways on ...

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 18-Apr-16 09:24 AM GMT

We are currently enjoying something of a love affair with **Green-Veined White** Butterflies although since we are rather fickle, it may not be long before we move on to something else!

With yesterday being warmer than we had either expected or hoped for, we again trotted down to the fairly sheltered Public Footpath in the Belvedere area (close to the Crossness Nature Reserve) and saw a couple of Butterflies, one visiting a **Dove's-Foot Crane's-Bill** and the other **Bluebells** viz.





And as we walked through the small wooded area of the Nature Reserve on the way back to the car, we spotted another **Green-Veined White** Butterfly, in the company of an assumed **Greenfly**, on a **Buttercup** viz.



Other Butterflies seen included **Peacocks** and **Small Whites**.

Re: Mike Robinson

by Goldie M, 18-Apr-16 09:46 AM GMT

Great shots Mike, no sign of the GVT here yet it's been too cold but hope fully they'll soon arrive Goldie 😊

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 18-Apr-16 12:58 PM GMT

Goldie M; I hope it warms up and you have better luck soon ...

Re: Mike Robinson

by Goldie M, 18-Apr-16 04:08 PM GMT

So do I Mike, Goldie 😊

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 10-Jul-16 09:18 AM GMT

I'm probably being over-fanciful but has occurred to me that the face of the Large Skipper Butterfly bears an uncanny resemblance to the face of an American Bison!



Re: Mike Robinson

by Jack Harrison, 10-Jul-16 12:45 PM GMT

Looking at the picture full size I can just about make out what you are getting at.

Presumably photo taken at Bison Hill near Whipsnade? 😊

Jack