

Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 02-Apr-17 05:22 PM GMT

2/4/17

Finally found the time for my first butterfly walk of the year today at my local patch in Ipswich (Belstead Meadow). I was rewarded with good numbers and eight species.

1 x Orange Tip (M) – earliest recorded personal sighting
1 x Holly Blue – earliest recorded personal sighting
10 x Peacock
8 x Comma
1 x Small Tortoiseshell
1 x Brimstone
2 x White (unidentified as some distance away)
1 x Speckled Wood

Hopefully a good omen for the year ahead.

Regards Kev

Re: Kev Ling

by David M, 02-Apr-17 09:55 PM GMT

That's one hell of a return for a first butterfly walk of the year, Kev.

As you say, hopefully it's a portent for what's to come.

Re: Kev Ling

by Wurzel, 02-Apr-17 11:37 PM GMT

As David said a hell of a return 🍀 I've been seeing butterflies since February and I'm only just at that number of species 🍀
Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 13-Apr-17 08:26 PM GMT

13/4/17

A break from the office and a lunchtime walk under cloudy skies, produced a couple of unexpected bonuses today. Both taken with my phone, but happy with the results.





Regards Kev

Re: Kev Ling

by Wurzel, 13-Apr-17 09:50 PM GMT

Mighty fine phone shots Kev 😊👍 Cloudy days can be quite productive so long as there is a little brightness 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Kev Ling

by David M, 13-Apr-17 10:07 PM GMT

Always pays to take some kind of camera, Kev. Occasionally, good things will come to those who are unprepared, so I'm glad you had your phone handy to record those moments.

Re: Kev Ling

by kevlings, 30-Apr-17 04:06 PM GMT

Despite the cooler temperatures in the East, I have still been enjoying the spring butterflies at my local patch (Spring Wood, Ipswich). Adding a touch of colour are the beautiful bluebells.



Yesterday's offerings were Green Hairstreak, Orange Tip, Brimstone, Speckled Wood, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Holly Blue and a variety of whites.





Also saw this lovely Orange Tip on a lunchtime walk earlier in the week. Once again taken with my mobile phone (pleased with the result. Perhaps I should sell my camera and stick with the mobile 😊).



Regards Kev

Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 21-May-17 09:09 PM GMT

2017 has produced some of my earliest sightings of certain species. My first March Orange Tip and Holly Blue and today my earliest sighting of Common Blue at my local park in Ipswich.

This first example seemed different to any Common Blue I've seen before, with unusual black markings on the forewings. Could it be an *abb*? What would explain these markings?

The final image was the more traditional example.



Kind Regards
Kev

Re: Kev Ling

by millerd, 21-May-17 10:01 PM GMT

There is a bit of a crumple on the left wing, Kev, and so the butterfly has been damaged, possibly on emergence. This might account for the black marks.

Dave

Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 06-Jun-17 10:24 PM GMT

[Peak District 31/5/17](#)

Just back from a family break to the Peak District. One of our walks was along the ridge from Mam Tor to Losehill. A Small Copper greeted us as we left the car and I hoped this may be a good sign given the lovely weather conditions.

At the Summit of Mam Tor I spotted a pair of butterflies in the distance performing an aerial routine. As they settled, I inched towards the cliff edge for closer inspection. To my surprise, I had stumbled across a pair of Wall Browns (my first sighting in the UK for eight years). The 3km walk across the

ridge produced a further 5 examples. These were a most unexpected sighting, given that I was unaware of the colony at this location.

Location of the Wall Browns (View from Mam Tor to Losehill)





The ridge walk also produced good numbers of Red Admirals, a species that seems in far greater abundance than at this time last year





Regards Kev

Re: Kev Ling

by Wurzel, 06-Jun-17 10:28 PM GMT

Fantastic Orange-tip from a while back Kev - I've never seen them adopt that pose before 🤪😄👍 Good to see so many Wall Browns - and inland as well 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Kev Ling

by David M, 07-Jun-17 11:28 PM GMT

An inland Wall Brown is a rare sight indeed these days, Kev. Nice to see they are thriving somewhere far removed from the coast.

I suspect the elevation helps them.

Re: Kev Ling

by kevlings, 08-Jun-17 07:48 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel 😊 - My new trick is to watch Orange Tips settle as the sun goes in and then get close up shots as they warm themselves up again when the sun re-appears. This one just happened to find the first place it could to settle.

Thanks David 😊 - Some inland Wall Browns were the last thing I expected to see. It's good to see Butterflies when you know where they'll be, but even more exciting when you get an unexpected surprise.

Regards Kev

Re: Kev Ling

by kevlings, 12-Jun-17 09:56 PM GMT

10th June 2017 - Monks Wood, Cambs

My quest to see my first ever Black Hairstreaks finally came good this weekend. A combination of poor weekend weather and a very short flight season had put pay to my plans over the previous two years. I had the pleasure of joining fellow UK Butterfly members Rosalyn, PhilB and Badgerbob (thanks for your company).

The Black Hairstreak is enjoying a bumper year in 2017 and at Monks Wood several were seen in a very short time, in just one spot. After having seen several males patrolling up and down, a female rested for the camera before creeping into the foliage in what looked like ovipositing mode. Despite a hunt with the magnifying glass, no egg could be seen, so it must have been a practice run.

Female



Finally, a male rested at low level for a nice photograph



Regards
Kev

Re: Kev Ling

by Wurzel, 12-Jun-17 10:16 PM GMT

Fantastic Kev 🤔🤔🤔 It's a species that I regret not trying for each year but I'm always conscious that it's one of the hardest to find and so I can never bring myself to cash in the necessary Brownie points in case of failure 😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 13-Jun-17 05:42 PM GMT

Cheers Wurzel 😊 I've had the same dilemma myself about certain species. However this year the Black Hairstreaks have been almost impossible to miss (given reasonable weather of course). It seems it's one of their best years for some time.

As I keep saying about the species in your neck of the woods, "There's always next year" 😊

Regards Kev

Re: Kev Ling

by trevor, 13-Jun-17 07:27 PM GMT

Great 1st image of the Black Hairstreak Kev.
I would have been very pleased to take an image like that home.

All the best,
Trevor.

Re: Kev Ling

by badgerbob, 13-Jun-17 07:34 PM GMT

Great to see you there Kev. A great day was had by all!!

Re: Kev Ling

by David M, 13-Jun-17 10:54 PM GMT

Always a delight to see images of this species. With such a narrow flight timeframe allied to the insects' propensity to settle well away from the photographer's lens, any shots at all are most welcome.

Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 15-Jun-17 08:27 PM GMT

Trevor/Badgerbob/DavidM: Thanks for your kind comments 😊

I was present at my local nature reserve on Sunday doing a bio blitz with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. We found this Comma larvae ending it's feeding frenzy in preparation to pupate.



The pupa looks almost indistinguishable from a dead leaf



Regards Kev

Re: Kev Ling

by Maximus, 15-Jun-17 08:32 PM GMT

Lovely images of the Black Hairstreak, Kev 😊

Mike

Re: Kev Ling

by millerd, 15-Jun-17 09:59 PM GMT

Finding a pupating butterfly in the wild is quite an achievement, whatever species it is, Kev. All those dead leaves to choose from... 😊

Dave

Re: Kev Ling

by Wurzel, 16-Jun-17 08:35 PM GMT

That is awesome camouflage really well captured kev 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Kev Ling

by kevlings, 18-Jun-17 10:15 PM GMT

[Saturday 17th June 2017 - Part 1](#)

It had been a while since my last encounter with Heath Fritillaries, so a trip to South Essex was made with Mrs L and our daughter to soak up the butterflies and the hot sun. A short walk through the woods and we found a coppiced ride with abundant cow wheat. Immediately the Heaths put in an appearance with some fresh examples seen and a couple of mating pairs too.





The Heaths were very obliging for the camera, spending long periods of time basking. As I was taking photos, I felt a tickle on my hand and had been joined by a new friend.





It was lovely to see a good number of these beauties (20+) and a shame that they are now such a rare and isolated species. I hope it's not a case of 'enjoy them whilst you can'.

Regards Kev

Re: Kev Ling

by Wurzel, 18-Jun-17 10:51 PM GMT

Cracking shots Kev 😊 If the numbers at East Blean were anything to go by they'll be around for a while yet – they were all over the place 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Kev Ling

by kevlings, 20-Jun-17 09:21 PM GMT

[Saturday 17th June \(Part 2\)](#)

After my success with Heath Fritillaries, I made my way over to Hadleigh Country Park near Southend. In the blistering heat, Butterflies were out on their hundreds. Despite trying there turned out to be too many Meadow Brown, Ringlet and Skippers to count. It was nice to see good numbers of Holly Blue (25+). A small number of Marbled White put in an appearance too.

I then took the long walk down the hill towards Benfleet Downs for my next target species, White Letter Hairstreak. I stopped at the same place I had visited three years ago and straight away they were seen, with a total of eight seen on and around a single patch of Bramble below some Elm.





This location is a firm summer favourite and never fails to disappoint.

Regards Kev

Re: Kev Ling

by trevor, 20-Jun-17 11:19 PM GMT

Great White Letter images. The beauty of Thistles is that they are kept occupied for a long time. Sometimes Brambles are preferred, but they then flit about more often.

Would like to see more,
Trevor.

Re: Kev Ling

by Wurzel, 21-Jun-17 06:48 PM GMT

Fantastic Whitters Kev 😊🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Kev Ling

by David M, 21-Jun-17 11:09 PM GMT

Love those White Letter Hairstreaks, Kev. I wish I could fond a colony near me. They're delightful butterflies.

Re: Kev Ling

by keving, 22-Jun-17 09:21 PM GMT

David, Trevor, Wurzel: Thanks for the comments as usual 😊

Incidentally, the photos of the WLH were mostly all taken on my mobile phone, such was their tolerance of me. At one point I had one on the tip of my finger. I certainly wasn't expecting that of a WLH. Perhaps the best moment of the year so far.

Regards Kev

Re: Kev Ling

by David M, 22-Jun-17 10:59 PM GMT

That's the reward you get with White Letter Hairstreaks, Kev. They're tricky to locate, but the payback is an abnormally tame butterfly, similarly disposed to humans as Brown Hairstreak.

Re: Kev Ling

by Goldie M, 23-Jun-17 01:03 PM GMT

Lovely shots Kev 📷 I'm still waiting to see my first WLH Goldie 😊

Re: Kev Ling

by kevling, 25-Jun-17 08:03 PM GMT

My local nature reserve is abundant with Comma at the moment. An area of just a few hundred yards this weekend yielded 17+. They are one of my favourite Butterflies and when freshly hatched their colours are magnificent.

Here are a selection of my most recent photos.

Final Instar Larva



Preparation for Pupation



Pupa



Freshly Hatched



Adult



Regards Kev

Re: Kev Ling

by Janet Turnbull, 25-Jun-17 08:14 PM GMT

That's a lovely series of photos, Kev - and doesn't it accentuate how well disguised the pupae are! 😊 And I'm totally envious of your WLH - I have yet to see one! 🍷

Janet

Re: Kev Ling

by Wurzel, 25-Jun-17 09:59 PM GMT

Indeed a fine sequence Kev, and a fine specimen at the end 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Kev Ling

by kevlings, 29-Jun-17 08:44 PM GMT

My local nature reserve is alive with butterflies at the moment. A late afternoon stroll this week produced over 500+, including 26 Comma, 215 Ringlet and 234 skippers. Whilst there are perhaps more favourable species to be searching for in June, I love my mid summer fix of Skippers. It's great to see so many of them in such a small area. Here are a few of my favourites.





Regards Kev

Re: Kev Ling

by kevlings, 01-Jul-17 07:56 PM GMT

Saturday 1st July 2017

I took a walk through a couple of local woods today in search of my first Purple Hairstreak of the year. A total of six were seen, but of course they stayed up in the oaks. I did manage to zoom in at a distance for some record shots though.





Other notable firsts for 2017 were 2 White Admiral (no photos yet 😊), Gatekeeper and 15 Silver Washed Fritillary.





Regards Kev

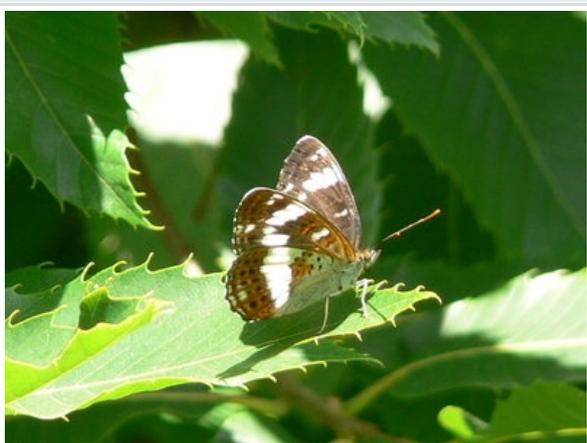
Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 16-Jul-17 06:31 PM GMT

[Stour Wood 1/7/17](#)

A short trip over the border into Essex to try for my first White Admiral photos of the year. One or two had been seen the week before in my local wood, but agonisingly out of reach even for my telephoto. The search didn't take long, with the following taken next to my car as I pulled into the car park.





Loving the woodland butterflies at the moment with White Admirals being seen in new woods close to me too.

Regards Kev

Re: Kev Ling

by Wurzel, 16-Jul-17 10:12 PM GMT

Great shots recently Kev – you've been racking them up – Purple Hairstreak, Silver-washed and White Admirals 😊 It's great when the butterflies are there in the car park to greet you 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Kev Ling

by kevling, 23-Jul-17 07:39 AM GMT

All work and no play this past week, so any Butterfly action has been confined to the garden and the activity on my Buddleia. I have not been disappointed with numbers continuing to grow. I was particularly happy to photograph my first Painted Lady of the summer.





Regards Kev

Re: Kev Ling

by Wurzel, 23-Jul-17 08:32 PM GMT

Crikey that's an 'end of season selection' Kev 😲 The Small Torts blue triangles are practically glowing 😊 and that's a great Painted Lady – it might be an *ab* as it seems to have a white spot in the middle of both fore wings on the orange background – I've not seen that before 😊🇬🇧

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Kev Ling

by Pauline, 23-Jul-17 08:40 PM GMT

That's a great selection of butterflies Kev. I've just been to the garden centre today and bought another couple of buddleia – if I get results like that I'll be well pleased 😊

Re: Kev Ling

by kevlings, 23-Jul-17 09:55 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel: I was drawn to those white spots as I took the photo, but didn't consider that it may be an *ab* until I've just looked at lots of other pictures (none of which show them). Well spotted 😊

Thanks Pauline: We started with one Buddleia a couple of years ago and now have seven. They prefer the purple ones. Apart from a lone Gatekeeper our white variety has been the reserve of the bees only.

Regards Kev

Re: Kev Ling

by David M, 24-Jul-17 12:09 AM GMT

That's not a bad array of garden visitors, Kev. Make the most of it – Peacocks and Brimstones have a tendency to disappear early.

Re: Kev Ling

by kevlings, 29-Jul-17 07:28 AM GMT

Wolves Wood, nr Ipswich

The recent change in the weather has begun the halt of Purple Hairstreak, White Admiral and SWF in my local wood.

But there's still a little love in the air.



Regards Kev

Re: Kev Ling

by Wurzel, 31-Jul-17 09:29 PM GMT

Interesting to see Ringlets still going strong in your neck of the woods 😊 Great shot of the mating Hedge Browns too 📷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Kev Ling

by kevlings, 02-Aug-17 08:23 AM GMT

Cheers Wurzel 😊 It's been a great year for the Gatekeeper considering the decline that has been reported in the last couple of years. Good to see them bounce back.

31st July – Devil's Dyke, Newmarket

With another summer month drawing to a close 😊, my daughter and I visited Devil's Dyke to see Chalkhill Blue.

It had been several years since my last encounter, as we are normally on holiday during their peak.

We started nr Stetchworth and walked along the dyke for 1.5 km towards the July racecourse. The clear skies had given way to partial cloud and at 09.30 the breeze was quite cool. As a result the CHB were taking shelter down in the grass. However as we passed, good numbers took to the wing and our count along this stretch of the dyke rose to c160. I believe there were probably 2–3 times that number hidden down the banks out of the breeze. The male to female ratio in this first part was 20:1.

After an early lunch we moved over to the stretch of Dyke that runs parallel to the July Racecourse. With the sun putting in a more sustained appearance and the temperature rising, what a difference!!

There was an explosion of CHB. So many that I simply couldn't take an accurate count (but well in the hundreds). So I gave up trying and just enjoyed the spectacle. In one spot, you had to take great care where you were walking, for fear of treading on some unsuspecting CHB. There were far more females in his section too, with the ratio being more like 10:1 in favour of the males.

This was the sort of butterflying day that makes you glad to be alive.

Anyway on with some photos taking during the day. Hope you enjoy.





Regards Kev

Re: Kev Ling

by Wurzel, 02-Aug-17 09:08 PM GMT

Great set of shots Kev 😊 It's great when there are so many butterflies around that you just stop counting 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Kev Ling

by David M, 02-Aug-17 10:46 PM GMT

Thanks for posting those images, Kev. It's been a grim last week or so weatherwise here in south Wales and they have cheered me up no end.

I only wish I didn't have to travel so far to see them myself! 😊

Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 12-Aug-17 10:49 AM GMT

David/Wurzel, thank for your kind comments as always.

11/8/17

Having read everyone's posts regarding Brown Hairstreaks, I was getting a little envious. Not being able to make a long journey for them, I have been waiting patiently to catch sight of one in Ipswich where some small colonies now exist.

I set out to the banks of the River Orwell and began the search. It was a warm sunny morning and the first notable sightings were Common Blues, in larger numbers than I had seen all summer (c30). Including this female



Next notable sightings were three Clouded Yellows, but all too flighty for photographing I'm afraid. Nevertheless very nice to see. After a couple of hours of scouring what seemed every flower head and branch in the reserve, I finally came across this female Brown Hairstreak.





A nice end to a very enjoyable morning and for the first time, I have seen all the British Hairstreak species in one year.

Regards Kev

Re: Kev Ling

by Pauline, 12-Aug-17 12:52 PM GMT

Those BH shots were worth waiting for Kev, especially the first one. Smashing! 😊

Re: Kev Ling

by Wurzel, 12-Aug-17 08:10 PM GMT

Great stuff Kev especially the last shot, it's really contextually rich, love it 😊🌍 I know what you mean about the envious sitting and waiting and watching reports of various species roll in, over my way we're often a fortnight behind in emergencies 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Kev Ling

by David M, 12-Aug-17 08:42 PM GMT

Well done, Kev, with the Brown Hairstreaks. The Cloudies were merely an incidental bonus.

Re: Kev Ling

by trevor, 13-Aug-17 07:24 AM GMT

Good to read of a Brown Hairstreak colony so far from Sussex, Kev. Finding them is always a magical experience. Nice shots too.

Trevor.

Re: Kev Ling

by keving, 03-Sep-17 04:46 PM GMT

There's still plenty to see on Suffolk's Heaths at the moment and I have been milking every bit of late summer sun I can before Autumn sets in. I've been a little late catching up with Grayling this year, but made up for it with several seen, including this duelling pair.



Looking through my albums, there's a distinct shortage of Small Heath photos. I just can't seem to get close to them. This one was very kind and allowed me a close up view.





There were still some nice looking Small Coppers too



Regards Kev

Re: Kev Ling

by Wurzel, 03-Sep-17 10:25 PM GMT

Great stuff Kev 😊 Small Heaths are right pains; not only do they spook other butterflies when you're trying for a shot but when you try and get a shot of them they're almost totally unapproachable 😞😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Kev Ling

by David M, 05-Sep-17 08:14 AM GMT

Small Heaths are easier when they're feeding (which they don't seem to do too often). When they're on the ground they are very difficult to approach (almost as bad as Large Heaths).

Re: Kev Ling

by Goldie M, 05-Sep-17 04:39 PM GMT

I agree, the Small Heath's are very hard to get shots of but you seem to have done alright 😊 Goldie 😊