

Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 13-Mar-17 01:42 PM GMT

11th March 2017

Buchan Park Crawley

A few Commas and Peacocks around as we got to 15C today...very nice.



Buchan Park Peacock



Buchan Park Comma

Also enjoying the sun with us were some Common Lizards and Common Toads



Buchan Park Toad



Buchan Park Common Lizard

Glad its nearly spring,no snakes noted yet,and no Small Torts yet.

Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 30-Mar-17 07:19 PM GMT

25/26 March 2017

Stoborough Heath Dorset

Trying to spend a lot of time in Dorset this year,its needs my full attention!

Actually down here to photograph the Sand Lizards that are just emerging.

One Butterfly,a Peacock!



Stoborough Heath Peacock

About those Sand Lizards,proper little dinosaurs.



Stoborough Heath Sand Lizard



Stoborough Heath Sand Lizard 2



Stoborough Heath Sand Lizard 3



Stoborough Heath Sand Lizard 4

30 years of walking Dorsets heaths to finally come across one of the jewels in British Coleoptera.

Carabus nitens



Stoborough Heath Carabus Nitens

A good start, looking forward to the Silver Studded's



Stoborough Heath

Re: Buchan Boy

by Wurzel, 31-Mar-17 07:38 PM GMT

Glad that you're going to be visiting the best county in England Buchan Boy 😊😊 I didn't realise that Sand Lizards emerged as early as this, for some reason I had it in my mind that they had a massive lie-in until the summer 😊 Looking forward to the delights from Dorset, that particular area you've visited does have Small Pearls...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Buchan Boy

by David M, 31-Mar-17 10:35 PM GMT

That sure is a stunning beetle, BB. Well worth a patient search.

PS - the lizard is pretty impressive too.

Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 17-Apr-17 08:38 PM GMT

Cheers guys, those Small Pearls are on my list Wurzel, spoke to Alan Thornbury about them in the New Forest and he said they'd been doing terribly there in the last few years. 😞

Sat 15th Mon 17th April 2017

The Warren, Folkestone

Just a couple of hours each day to have a sniff around, looking for the Wall Lizards (failed) but, a very good colony of Dingys, some look like they've been around a while. Actually pretty chilly, but when the sun broke through all was good.



Another Warren Dingy Skipper



A Warren Dingy Skipper
x 2 Small Coppers



A Warren Small Copper
x 1 Speckled Wood



A Warren Speckled Wood
A female Holly Blue egg-laying



A Warren Holly Blue
A male Holly Blue sunbathing.



Another Warren Holly Blue
I'd noted a Wall Brown nectaring on the Dandelions on the Saturday, finally caught up with it on the Monday, remarkably well behaved as well.



A Warren Wall Brown
One of those crab spiders on a Dandelion Head waiting to pounce, *Misumena vatia*.



A Warren Crab Spider
Shakespeare Cliff, between Folkestone and Dover, The Warren LNR on the left.



The Warren
Some immense clifftop walking here as well.
Cool
Dave

Re: Buchan Boy

by Wurzel, 17-Apr-17 09:06 PM GMT

Cracking stuff Buchan – you must have two firsts for 2017 there – I can't recall seeing Walls or Dingy's mentioned anywhere else this year? 😊🇬🇧
Small Pearls have not been doing terribly well in Hampshire or Wiltshire but there were some records from the Isle of Purbeck last year, from near the Golf Course...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Buchan Boy

by Buchan Boy, 27-May-17 08:31 AM GMT

Sun 21st May – Thurs 25th 2017

North Devon

I managed to locate, eventually, a couple of good colonies of Small Pearl-bordered Frits on the North Devon coast. The weather was murky going on blazing summer at any moment! Just out of the woodlands at Watersmeet towards the eastern side near Barna Barrow and Holden Head. Superb place, by the last, hot day, I realised that this was probably one colony, I lost count really, but it was fairly substantial in numbers.



Holden Head towards Watersmeet

The first cloudy day was perfect, but only managed to locate a handful of individuals, at the bottom of the valley between Holden Head and the Wilsham Farm hill.



Holden Head Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary



Holden Head Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary (2)

Back up there on the Wednesday after a couple of cool days with cloud, sun was now blasting through and it was getting hot, found a small meadow at the top of the Wilsham side of the valley and wow, butterflies everywhere, very hot though.



Holden Head Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary (3)



Holden Head Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary (4)
Stunning numbers of Green Hairstreaks as well.



Holden Head Green Hairstreak (1)



Holden Head Green Hairstreak (2)

I tried to hang around to see what time the SPBF's went down for roost but by 5 pm, family were calling me for dinner and the butterflies were still manic, had to go.
The last day was special, it was going to be hot so I was on the butterflies by 7 am, they were all over the ferns just warming up for the day, never seen anything like it in this country, orange dots on green ferns all up the hill-side, as it ended up I had 45 mad minutes to get the shots.



Holden Head Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary (5)



Holden Head Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary (6)



Holden Head Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary (7)

First butterfly photographed at 0720, last photographed 0805 before they became unapproachable, amazing. I counted 30 around me, in 10 metre radius at one point.



Holden Head



Holden Head Valley

The coast here is special, should've gone after the Heath Frits as well, but really i was all made up with the Small Pearls.