

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 09-Jan-17 08:59 PM GMT

Thanks, Matsukaze, happy to stand corrected.

Best wishes,

Lee

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 09-Jan-17 10:17 PM GMT

26th July 2014 – Sheepleas

Another high summer trip to the Sheepleas complex, which was fast becoming a favourite location.

This female Meadow Brown had become dinner.



Meadow Brown, female, Sheepleas, Surrey, 26th July 2014

These were in a thankfully healthier state, busy making new Meadow Browns.



Meadow Brown, mating pair with second male, Sheepleas, Surrey, 26th July 2014



Meadow Brown, female, Sheepshead, Surrey, 26th July 2014



Meadow Brown, female, Sheepshead, Surrey, 26th July 2014



Meadow Brown, male, Sheepshead, Surrey, 26th July 2014
However, it wasn't only Meadow Browns in the meadow.



Gatekeeper, female, Sheepleas, Surrey, 26th July 2014



Comma, Sheepleas, Surrey, 26th July 2014

Each meadow within the complex is slightly different. The Nettle Meadow is lovely, while the adjacent Cowslip Meadow has a more calcareous feel to it, with lots of wild thyme. It is also home to Chalk Hill Blues.



Cowslip Meadow, Sheepleas, Surrey, 26th July 2014



Cowslip Meadow, Sheepleas, Surrey, 26th July 2014



Mating Six-Spot Burnets, Cowslip Meadow, Sheeples, Surrey, 26th July 2014

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 12-Jan-17 10:57 PM GMT

1st August 2014 - An evening with the Blues

A return to Denbies for some roosting Chalkhills.



Chalk Hill Blues, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 1st August 2014



Chalk Hill Blue, male, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 1st August 2014



Chalk Hill Blue, female, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 1st August 2014



Chalk Hill Blue, male (front), female (back), Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 1st August 2014



Chalk Hill Blue, female, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 1st August 2014



Chalk Hill Blue, male, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 1st August 2014
It wasn't only Chalk Hills, Common Blues were there too.



Common Blue, male, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 1st August 2014



Common Blue, male, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 1st August 2014

Another spider dinner; this time a Marbled White. I'm not sure the spider got its colour disguise right 😊



Marbled White, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 1st August 2014

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Goldie M, 13-Jan-17 10:31 AM GMT

Lovely shots Lee, they take me back to the Summer and Sunshine, bitter cold day here with Snow. Goldie 😊

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Wurzel, 13-Jan-17 11:21 PM GMT

I agree with Goldie – lovely warming shots! 😊 The female Chalkhill is beaut – I'm sure she's an aberrant as I'm convinced that I can see white/blue spots in her marginal spots – a bit like a Silver Studded Blue's sometime look? 😊

Have a goodun
Wurzel

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 29-Jan-17 07:32 PM GMT

Wurzel wrote:

I agree with Goldie – lovely warming shots! 😊 The female Chalkhill is beaut – I'm sure she's an aberrant as I'm convinced that I can see white/blue spots in her marginal spots – a bit like a Silver Studded Blue's sometime look?

Thanks, Goldie and Wurzel.

I agree with you on the Chalk Hill Blue, although I think I have seen that spotting before. They are such a variable species.

Best wishes,

Lee

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 20-Feb-17 10:05 PM GMT

3rd August 2014 – High Summer at Howell Hill

A beautiful early evening of browns, blues, umbellifers and skiescapes 😊

The fields around the reserve are beautiful.



Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 3rd August 2014
Browns



Gatekeeper, female, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 3rd August 2014



Gatekeeper, female, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 3rd August 2014
I had fun with the emerging flower heads.



Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 3rd August 2014



Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 3rd August 2014



Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 3rd August 2014



Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 3rd August 2014



Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 3rd August 2014



Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 3rd August 2014
Blues



Common Blue, female, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 3rd August 2014



Common Blue, female, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 3rd August 2014



Common Blue, female, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 3rd August 2014



Common Blue, male, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 3rd August 2014



Common Blue, male, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 3rd August 2014



Common Blue, male, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 3rd August 2014
Just as beautiful on the way home.



Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 3rd August 2014

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 21-Feb-17 09:44 PM GMT

Glastonbury – 22nd/23rd August 2014

This was the town rather than the festival and what a delight it was. Small Tortoiseshells were everywhere!



Small Tortoiseshell, Glastonbury, Somerset, 22nd August 2014



Small Tortoiseshells, Glastonbury, Somerset, 22nd August 2014



Small Tortoiseshell, Glastonbury, Somerset, 22nd August 2014



Small Tortoiseshell, Glastonbury, Somerset, 22nd August 2014



Red Admiral, Glastonbury, Somerset, 23rd August 2014
Glastonbury Tor



St Michael's Tower, Glastonbury Tor, Somerset, 23rd August 2014



St Michael's Tower, Glastonbury Tor, Somerset, 23rd August 2014



St Michael's Tower, Glastonbury Tor, Somerset, 23rd August 2014
England's green and pleasant land; The Vale of Avalon.



The Vale of Avalon, Glastonbury, Somerset, 23rd August 2014

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Wurzel, 25-Feb-17 09:53 PM GMT

Lovely sequence of shots Lee 😊 Looks like you'll soon be into 2015 – wasn't that the 'wet' year 😞 better make the most of 2014 while you're still posting it 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 22-Mar-17 11:07 PM GMT

Thanks, Wurzel. The last couple of years haven't been all that, have they. A fair bit more to come!

Best wishes,

Lee

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 22-Mar-17 11:20 PM GMT

14th September 2014

Probably the last trip of the year to Howell Hill and still a few delights to be found.



Speckled Wood, female, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 14th September, 2014



Oak Gall Wasp Larval Gall, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 14th September, 2014



Brown Argus, male, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 14th September, 2014



Brown Argus, male, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 14th September, 2014

Warren Farm is another site not far away and I have found a lovely little colony of Small Coppers here.



Small Copper, male, Warren Farm, Ewell, Surrey, 14th September, 2014



Small Copper, female, Warren Farm, Ewell, Surrey, 14th September, 2014



Small Copper, female, Warren Farm, Ewell, Surrey, 14th September, 2014

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 22-Mar-17 11:40 PM GMT

28th September 2014

The highlights of this trip to Denbies were a pair of Clouded Yellows. 2014 was a good late summer for them, in Surrey at least.



Speckled Wood, female, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 28th September, 2014



Speckled Wood, male, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 28th September, 2014



Small Copper, female, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 28th September, 2014

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 29-Mar-17 11:07 PM GMT

Spain, October 2014

A visit to Spain to see my family and some late autumn sunshine 😊



Swallowtail, along Rio Segura, near Quesada, 3rd October 2014



Swallowtail, along Rio Segura, near Quesada, 3rd October 2014

While not a great photo, I like this one as it shows my father and stepmother waiting for me patiently in the background as I follow Swallowtails along the riverbank. 😊

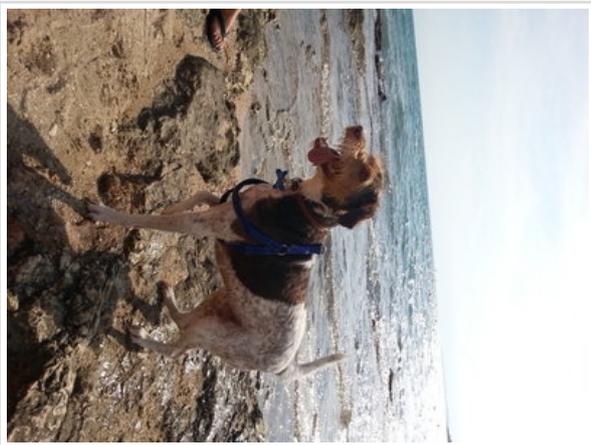


Swallowtail, along Rio Segura, near Quesada, 3rd October 2014



Lang's Short Tailed Blue, Ciudad Quesada, 3rd October 2014

Finally, it's been a few years since I posted a photo of Spanish Mikki, but here he is, waiting for the next pebble.



Mikki, Torrevieja, 4th October, 2014

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 29-Mar-17 11:15 PM GMT

Howell Hill once more

It turned out that Howell Hill had one last surprise in store for 2014. 😊



Clouded Yellow, male, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 11th October 2014

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Wurzel, 31-Mar-17 07:35 PM GMT

Cracking Clouded Yellow Lee, and if I remember correctly 2014 wasn't a great Cloudy year (although it was some time ago so I might be wrong 😊). Cracking Swallowtails as well, I like the one trying to hide behind the foliage, as if that was going to work 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 31-Mar-17 11:02 PM GMT

Thanks, Wurzel. The end of 2014 was quite good for Clouded Yellows, at least in Surrey. I saw them all through October.

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 31-Mar-17 11:09 PM GMT

Rounding off 2014

31st October 2014; as well as seeing 2 Clouded Yellows, I took this shot, which is probably my favourite view taken from Denbies.



Re: Lee Hurrell

by David M, 01-Apr-17 12:21 AM GMT

You've a bit of catching up to do, Lee, but with images like that last one of Denbies, I'm sure there will be plenty more to keep us enthused over the coming weeks.

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 21-Apr-17 10:52 PM GMT

Thanks, David. I'm working on it!

2015 coming up 😊

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 21-Apr-17 11:07 PM GMT

2015 – First Sightings

First sightings of a Brimstone, Red Admiral and Peacock in Epsom on 7th March 2015, followed by Small Tortoiseshell on the 8th and Comma on the 12th.

Easter in Spain

A visit to Spain over Easter and the following were seen: Clouded Yellow, Small White, Large White, Swallowtail, Painted Lady, Lulworth Skipper and Geranium Bronze.



Swallowtail, showing the tails working, Ciudad Quesada, Spain, 5th April 2015

Later on and back home, here is a Peacock enjoying the early evening sun and laurel blossom.



Peacock, Epsom, 21st April 2015

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 21-Apr-17 11:32 PM GMT

May 2015 – Local Patch

When I lived in Epsom, I was lucky to have a huge field behind where I lived. I sought permission to walk it and made regular visits. There was a thriving population of Small Heath among other species.



Epsom, 12th May 2015



Epsom, 12th May 2015



Holly Blue, Epsom, 16th May 2015



Small Heath, Epsom, 16th May 2015



Peacock, Epsom, 16th May 2015

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Wurzel, 21-Apr-17 11:42 PM GMT

Great stuff Lee, that field is a wondrous sight just what the Small Heath ordered 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 21-Apr-17 11:43 PM GMT

May 2015 - Howell Hill

My favourite local site over two weekends in late May. Wonderful 😊



Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 23rd May 2015



Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 23rd May 2015



Brimstone, male, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 23rd May 2015



Small White, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 23rd May 2015



Small Tortoiseshell, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 23rd May 2015



Small Blue, male, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 30th May 2015



Speckled Wood, female, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 30th May 2015



Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 30th May 2015



Common Blue, male, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 30th May 2015



Common Blue, female, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 30th May 2015

Re: Lee Hurrell

by David M, 22-Apr-17 09:08 PM GMT

That's a remarkable Small Blue you've posted there, Lee. I've never seen one so suffused throughout its wings as that one.

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 25-Apr-17 10:18 PM GMT

Thanks, David.

I'm not sure it's that anomalous; it didn't strike me as such. But I will keep an eye out this year.

Best wishes,

Lee

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 25-Apr-17 10:51 PM GMT

6th June 2015 - Fairmile Common

Too early for Silver Studded Blues, but a lovely afternoon visit nonetheless.



Painted Lady, Fairmile Common, Surrey, 6th June 2015



Painted Lady, Fairmile Common, Surrey, 6th June 2015



Rose Chafer, Fairmile Common, Surrey, 6th June 2015



Wild rose, Fairmile Common, Surrey, 6th June 2015



Wild rose, Fairmile Common, Surrey, 6th June 2015



Fairmile Common, Surrey, 6th June 2015



Fairmile Common, Surrey, 6th June 2015

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 25-Apr-17 10:55 PM GMT

Wurzel wrote:

Great stuff Lee, that field is a wondrous sight just what the Small Heath ordered 😊

Thanks, Wurzel. It was great having such a large site on the doorstep!

Best wishes,

Lee

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 25-Apr-17 11:19 PM GMT

7th June 2015 – Epsom, local patch, late afternoon/early evening

In the field behind home, summer was underway. Huge swirling clouds of pollen were caught in the wind and gave me a rash. The last of the hibernators were hanging on while their offspring had started to arrive.

Peacock:



Peacock, Epsom, 7th June 2015



Peacock, Epsom, 7th June 2015



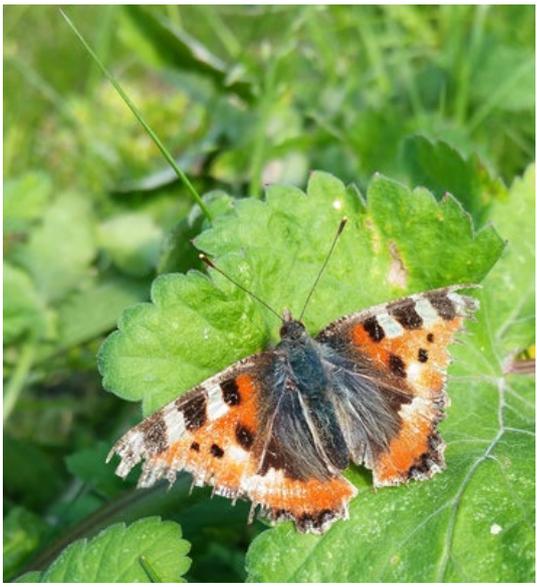
Peacock, Epsom, 7th June 2015
Small Tortoiseshell:



Small Tortoiseshell (new brood), Epsom, 7th June 2015



Small Tortoiseshell (new brood), Epsom, 7th June 2015



Small Tortoiseshell (hibernator), Epsom, 7th June 2015
Small Heath



Small Heath, Epsom, 7th June 2015



Small Heath, Epsom, 7th June 2015
Local patch with pollen clouds:



Epsom, 7th June 2015



Epsom, 7th June 2015

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 25-Apr-17 11:27 PM GMT

21st June 2015 – Fairmile Common

Two weeks later and Silver Studded Blues were on the wing.



Silver Studded Blue, female, Fairmile Common, 21st June 2015



Silver Studded Blue, male, Fairmile Common, 21st June 2015



Silver Studded Blue, male, Fairmile Common, 21st June 2015



Silver Studded Blue, male, Fairmile Common, 21st June 2015

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 25-Apr-17 11:34 PM GMT

At this point in 2015, I reached a watershed moment.

Following the demise of my old Canon 10D, all photos for the previous year, perhaps longer, had been taken with my mobile phone.

However, all that changed with the arrival of a Canon 7D and a Canon 100mm macro lens 😊

Its first mission was a holiday in Cyprus and initial results showed a lot of promise 😊😊😊



Full report to follow.

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Wurzel, 27-Apr-17 11:51 AM GMT

A cracking set of Silver-studs, even better when you reminded me that they were taken on a phone 😊 Looking forward to the next installment 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 05-May-17 09:32 PM GMT

Thanks, Wurzel - I'm getting there 😊

Best wishes,

Lee

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 06-May-17 12:33 AM GMT

June/July 2015 – Cyprus; part 1

My first trip to Cyprus was a delight. The climate of the island is similar to southern Spain; very hot and dry in the summer. There are several endemic species and races of butterflies to be found, although Tolman tends to omit these, and despite the country being part of Europe, has precious little information on Cypriot species.

I found the following website to be invaluable: <http://www.cyprusbutterflies.co.uk/index.html> and its owner, Eddie Johns, a friendly and informative source.

I was staying in Limassol but travelled all over the (south) of the island. The highlight for me was the Troodos mountains, which give some relief from the heat, being cooler, greener, and with fresh mountain air. Consequently, it is also better for butterflies.

There was a small park near to where I was staying, in which were several bushes of Plumbago, which Lang's Short-tailed Blue use as a host plant. This allowed for some great photo opportunities. I would see 40-50 in a one-hour visit to this small area.



Lang's Short-tailed Blue, female, Limassol, Cyprus, 9th July 2015



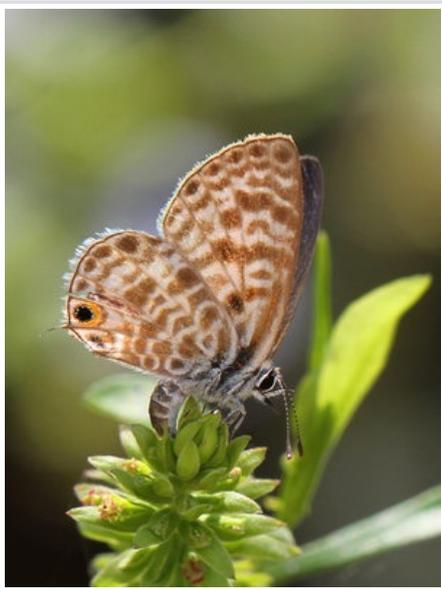
Lang's Short-tailed Blue, male, Limassol, Cyprus, 9th July 2015



Lang's Short-tailed Blue, female, Limassol, Cyprus, 10th July 2015



Lang's Short-tailed Blue, female, Limassol, Cyprus, 10th July 2015
There was a lot of this going on.



Lang's Short-tailed Blue, female, Limassol, Cyprus, 9th July 2015



Lang's Short-tailed Blue, female, Limassol, Cyprus, 10th July 2015
And quite a lot of this.



Lang's Short-tailed Blue, female (top), male (bottom), Limassol, Cyprus, 7th July 2015
The males have solid blue uppersides.



Lang's Short-tailed Blue, male, Limassol, Cyprus, 11th July 2015



Lang's Short-tailed Blue, male, Limassol, Cyprus, 11th July 2015
While the females are mottled.



Lang's Short-tailed Blue, female, Limassol, Cyprus, 10th July 2015



Lang's Short-tailed Blue, female, Limassol, Cyprus, 10th July 2015
Lang's Short-tailed Blue habitat – the light blue flowers are Plumbago.



Lang's Short-tailed Blue habitat, Limassol, Cyprus, 7th July 2015

Re: Lee Hurrell

by David M, 09-May-17 07:17 AM GMT

Beautiful images of the Lang's STB, Lee. I've still only ever seen a handful, and have never had the opportunity to study them as closely as you have on that trip. The undersides are especially attractive.

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Wurzel, 09-May-17 07:46 AM GMT

Those are great images of LSTBs Lee 😊👍 – I saw my first this year in Lisbon and they were a right pain, the heat made them zip about all over the place 😞

Have a goodun

