

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 01-Jan-17 11:38 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU HAS WELL. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 11-Jan-17 03:41 PM GMT

I was looking out over the front garden this morning when I noticed a large Bird in a tree across the road, I thought at first it was another Sparrow Hawk so I dashed for my camera but on looking through the lens I saw it was a Mistle Thrush, I then got my bird book out and decided it could also be a Meadow Pipit, my book doesn't give dimensions so I'm not sure.

The Mistle Thrush seems a bit darker than the Meadow Pipit and this bird was very light in colour, the wind was very strong and blowing the birds feathers about 😊 My Neighbour feeds the Black Bird Grapes so it looks like this bird joins in because my neighbour says he's seen it there for the last few days. 😊 Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 11-Jan-17 05:50 PM GMT

Definitely a thrush Goldie, Meadow Pipits are sparrow sized and the underparts are more streaked than spotted 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 11-Jan-17 06:49 PM GMT

Thanks Bugboy, My bird book put me right off track. 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by jenks, 11-Jan-17 08:04 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

yep, defo a Mistle Thrush. Looks like it`s sitting in a bush containing berries. They get very territorial and chase off any other birds which come to feed on the berries. This behaviour was noted in Brecon town centre last week when a party of Waxwings arrived. 1 Mistle Thrush versus 17 Waxwings, no contest ! The Waxwings had to fly off and find another berry supply in a different part of town, and frustrate the birders who`d come to "twitch" them ( me included ) !

Jenks.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 12-Jan-17 01:40 PM GMT

Hi! jenks, Yes the tree has berries and underneath the tree there`s an hedge where the Black Birds visit every day and in Spring build their nests there. I watched yesterday when my Neighbour threw grapes onto the lawn for the Black Birds and they popped out of the hedge very quickly took some Grapes and shot back into the hedge 😊 the MT also got some grapes and flew a way 😊 I think the Black Bird may have an advantage over the Thrush by being in the hedge, it`s certainly funny watching them 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 12-Jan-17 02:07 PM GMT

I remember, many years ago, we had a Cotoneaster growing on the side wall of our garage. Our resident Blackbird was treating this as his winter food store until, one day, a flock of winter thrushes (in my case, they were Redwings) arrived and cleared the lot in a matter of minutes! The look on 'our' Blackbird's face said it all 😊

Your problem over Pipits and Thrushes demonstrates the short-comings of book illustrations. There`s so much more to identifying a bird than 'looks'. When you actually see these birds, they are 'chalk and cheese', with completely different behaviours. Most of us can recognise a Robin at a glance, from its behaviour - no need to see the red breast or much else! Some really expert birders seem to be able to do that with a great variety of species - they leave me gasping with admiration.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 13-Jan-17 10:28 AM GMT

Hi! Mike, me too, I can recognise the song of the Robin and the Thrush but that`s my limit 😊

I've only recently, say in the last few years been interested in looking for unusual birds, I must say mostly in my Garden or at Penn Flash/Hall-lee-Brook, both places get their fair share of unusual birds so when the weather permits we like to visit these places starting from January until March when, of course, the Butterflies take over 😊 I've managed to keep adding to my bird album each year, I must say it does help when they land on your fence like the Sparrow Hawk did. 😊

I'm looking forward to going to the new sight at Brockholes nr Preston where they've made two large lakes, very impressive, it's a sight where you can cover both, Butterflies and Birds because wild flowers have also been planted, not today though it's bitter cold and we'd snow last night, roll on a nice Spring. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 13-Jan-17 08:40 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Nice Mistle Thrush. I can the difference between these and Meadow Pipits easily enough having seen both in the flesh...it is Mistle Thrush and Song Thrush I struggle with 😊 .

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 13-Jan-17 11:30 PM GMT

Nice shots of the Mistle Thrush Goldie 😊 They always look a little bit mournful to me 😊 - though granted that's not the most useful identification feature 😊 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 14-Jan-17 01:11 PM GMT

I know what you mean Neil, 😊 I was told the Song Thrush was smaller but I still get mixed up. 😊  
The last time I heard the Song Thrush it was at Hall-Lee-Brook CP, trouble is I couldn't see it or I may have got a photo. 😊

Thank's Wurzel, I've not got a lot of Bird shots so far this Winter, they fly in and quickly fly out of the Garden again and the Snow hasn't stayed long enough to entice them to stay longer, we've had more cold weather than mild up to now though so it does look like it could be better for BF's this year. Fingers crossed . 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 22-Jan-17 03:46 PM GMT

Well it's the 22nd Jan and so far I've not had too much to report, I was going to have a ride to Penn Flash today but it started to Snow , the snow really didn't take off but you never know a round here and I've been caught out before so I thought I'd do a bit of baking and keep one eye on the back garden 😊

I was glad I did because later looking through the kitchen window I caught sight of Gold Finch, Starling's, Robin's, Black Birds, and various Tit's but what a surprise I got when I saw this little red/rust coloured head, once again it was back to the bird book 😊 I think it could be a Female Black Cap and would once again like confirmation please has I've never seen one before.

According to my bird book it's a Summer visitor although some seem to have wintered further North lately, I wondered if it could be a Warbler of some kind but it does seem to have a definite Cap. Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by maverick, 22-Jan-17 04:08 PM GMT

Looks like a female blackcap to me Goldie  
I've had a male in my garden the last three winter's, but not this year

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 22-Jan-17 06:33 PM GMT

Mavericks defo correct Goldie – a female Blackcap (often called a Redcap by birders just to confuse things) 😊 Great set of shots especially the penultimate 🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 23-Jan-17 03:06 PM GMT

Thanks Guys, that's great , another one to add to my list 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by maverick, 23-Jan-17 09:50 PM GMT

Keep the food going Goldie and you will get rewarded, in my garden this afternoon I had the great spotted woodpecker here every winter now also the willow tits is now a winter regular not to mention the jays and I spotted a tree creeper on the oak tree at the bottom of the garden also. It costs a bit in food but it's worth it

**Re: Goldie M**

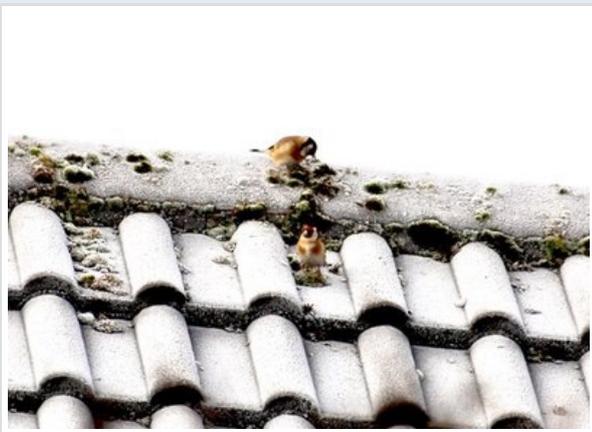
by Goldie M, 24-Jan-17 03:53 PM GMT

Hi! Maverick, my Husband feeds the birds he gives them some cheese every day, also pellets, suet ball's, etc  
😊 So it's no wonder we've so many visit us. 😊

Today we'd the Female Black Cap, Long Tailed Tit's and Gold Finch, also Chaffinch and Coal Tit, plus Great Tit, Starlings and of course Robin's my

favourite . 😊

I couldn't resist putting a photo of the LTT and the small gathering of GF before they finally flew down from the roof of the Bungalow opposite. It was a cold morning for them up and that roof and they seemed to be eating the moss, 😊 but were probably just scratching at it to see what was underneath. Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 27-Jan-17 03:10 PM GMT

Lots of interesting creatures live in moss, including possibly the most fascinating of all – the Tardigrade, sometimes known as the 'moss piglet' My son has made videos of them and you can see some of these, together with a description of these amazing creatures, at <http://www.sciencefriday.com/videos/ behold-the-mighty-water-bear-4/>.

Mike

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 27-Jan-17 04:23 PM GMT

Hi! Mike you learn some thing every day, I'd never heard of them before, they sound like they've survived almost every thing that's been thrown at them, ice, etc., may be, we could learn a thing or two from them 😊

I was just reading about half an hour ago when I looked up and saw the Sparrow Hawk on my fence in the back Garden , he suddenly dived down into

next door's garden but must have missed out on what he was looking at, because he suddenly flew up onto their huge edge which, thank fully is at the bottom of their garden and from there waited patiently and then flew down again into their garden, I think he was unlucky again because he landed on the fence once more spotted me and flew off.

The weather is cold and dull so the shots I took from the window don't do the SH justice. Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 27-Jan-17 05:18 PM GMT

Your sparrowhawk looks to be wearing a robber's mask – keep a close eye on her 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 29-Jan-17 06:31 PM GMT

Great shot of the Charm of Goldfinches Goldie 😊 Looks like the Sparrowhawk has block booked a table for dinner in your garden 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 30-Jan-17 09:52 AM GMT

Hi! Mike and Wurzel, I've seen the Sparrow Hawk twice this January already, your right it 's using the garden for lunch but I've yet to see it catch any thing thank goodness.

I thought I'd post a shot of the Black Cap again taken 24th Jan, it's a lovely bird but keeps getting chased by the Black Birds who think they own the garden so hope fully it'll still keep coming. Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 01-Feb-17 09:50 PM GMT

Good to see the array of birds you have visiting, Goldie. With any luck the next images you get will be of butterflies....not long to go now. 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 05-Feb-17 09:57 AM GMT

Hi! David. I'm cheering myself up with the sight of Snow Drops in my Garden 😊 Roll on Spring Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 07-Feb-17 06:25 PM GMT

#### Goldie M wrote:

Hi! David. I'm cheering myself up with the sight of Snow Drops in my Garden 😊 Roll on Spring Goldie 😊

Saw my first daffs last weekend, Goldie, so spring is surely round the corner... 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 08-Feb-17 09:36 AM GMT

Yesterday I went to Penn Flash, ( At Last ) 😊 The weather was lovely, the Sun shining and no cold wind for a change, a very enjoyable day. I expected to see the Heron and wasn't disappointed, from one Hide we saw six of them, the Swan's also were numerous and busy pruning themselves but it was interesting when we saw so many Lap Wings on the shore of the Lake and they suddenly took off giving us quite a display before settling down again on the shore side. They reminded me of the Starlings that visit our garden in large numbers 😊 My book say's the Lap Wing's can do this when the mating season is about to start and during the mating season, they certainly looked spectacular what ever the reason. 😊 Also amongst them was some Golden Eye, they were all rather far a way a long the shore line but I did my best to take a few shots with my Sigma 70-300 mm lens of all the shore line. Spring is certainly around the corner 😊 Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by NickMorgan, 08-Feb-17 10:04 AM GMT

Love the Bullfinch. They look so striking, but I have never managed to catch a picture of one!

**Re: Goldie M**

by essexbuzzard, 10-Feb-17 06:13 PM GMT

Seconded. They are not easy to photograph, so well done!

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 10-Feb-17 10:43 PM GMT

Thirded. A cracking image of a secretive bird, very nervous and so difficult to approach 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 10-Feb-17 11:08 PM GMT

You did well to get such a clear and unobstructed image of the Bullfinch, Goldie. There are quite a few round where I live but they rarely pose like that one!

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 11-Feb-17 10:05 AM GMT

Thank's everybody, that's the best about Pennington Flash, this particular Hide is set right in the tree's and bush's where the the Birds fly in and out for the seeds. the branches are just in front of you so when the Bull Finch flew onto one I was ready for a quick shot having watched him land a few times on the seeds then quickly fly off again.

I'm waiting for Spring now, hope fully I'll get some shots of birds returning and hope fully some Butterfly shots 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 28-Feb-17 10:42 AM GMT

Not had too much to post lately, I seem to have set my sights on the Spring arriving but judging by the weather today I've still got quite a wait 😞 I took these shots this morning of a group of Gold Finch and my poor Camellia who like me thought Spring was arriving only to find it was the Snow UGH! It's snowing quite heavily at present, still it's better snowing now than in April like last year. Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 28-Feb-17 11:58 PM GMT

A charming Charm Goldie 😊 Hopefully when this cold weather finally abates we'll have a decent spring- we're about due one 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 01-Mar-17 11:54 AM GMT

Quite right, Goldie. Let's get the bad stuff out of they way BEFORE the season starts properly.

We wouldn't want a repeat of April 2012. 😞

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 01-Mar-17 04:41 PM GMT

Yesterday after the Snow had disappeared I was watching the Starlings in the Garden when this particular Starling decided on a different approach to get the Suet pellets by going into the cage head first, I was really pleased to have my Camera ready 😊 Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 02-Mar-17 08:16 PM GMT

That's certainly a novel, if dangerous, way to go about getting your scran 🤪🤪

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 03-Mar-17 02:45 PM GMT

I expected it to get stuck Wurzel 😊 My Husband's going to put some tin foil over the the top of the feeder he 's bothered the bird could injure it's self, it's been back a few times and done the same thing, we think it's the same bird , none of the others try it. 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by essexbuzzard, 05-Mar-17 08:19 PM GMT

Please be careful, Goldie. I remember having to rescue a green finch once from a feeder like that. If I hadn't found it it would have died and I would have been heartbroken.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 06-Mar-17 09:43 AM GMT

Thanks for that info essex, I think it's best we get a new container and quick because the the Starlings arrive every day for feeds and I've noticed the silver foil has disappeared already. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 06-Mar-17 03:13 PM GMT

I'm pleased that others have alerted you to the risk of your Starling getting stuck – a new feeder does seem to be needed. I'm reminded of an extraordinary incident in our garden, some years ago. A young Blackbird had got stuck behind some netting attached to One of our boundary fences.

The mother Blackbird came to our patio door, calling loudly until we went to see what the trouble was. She then led us across the garden to where her youngster was trapped, so that we could free it. She became concerned when we spent a few moments examining the bird for possible injury but was then highly relieved when we returned it to her.

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 06-Mar-17 03:49 PM GMT

Hi! Mike you'll be pleased to know that the bird food container has a lid. 😊 I save various small jars and bottles I've finished with to put any oil in left over from cooking and when I went out into the garden today I saw my Husband had used the lid from one which fitted perfectly 😊 It's even added colour to the garden with the lid having a strawberry on it 😊

It was amazing what you said about the Black Bird, I love to watch them bathing, they always use the same Bird bath although I've three 😊 I must admit to spoiling them a bit , each morning I feed them Grapes, only a few but they wait on the patio for them each day. 😊 My neighbour a cross the road got me into feeding them the grapes, her BB's have competition with the Thrushes, who can get there first. 😊

It's been a lovely day today and we've managed to sort out the back Garden, Spring is definitely here. 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 06-Mar-17 11:10 PM GMT

That's great, Goldie! I can see you spoil the local birds, I'm sure they appreciate it. I'm glad you've had a nice day there, we deserve a bit of sunshine, don't we?

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 08-Mar-17 10:19 AM GMT

Definitely essex, Some nice weather forecast for us for the next couple of days, Unfortunately I've promised to go to the shops tomorrow with my cousin, wouldn't you just know it. Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 15-Mar-17 06:25 PM GMT

Beautiful day today, I set off to Brockholes NR with high hopes of seeing some Butterflies, nothing! There was very little wind and the temp was 15c so it was very disappointing, still it's the first day we've had that's been truly warm so may be things will start to move now.

I did see a new born Calf, not too sure what kind of Cow the Mother was but she'd a fair pair of Horns 😊 I assumed may be Highland bred.

I also saw a small frog, a very horny frog, could be a young Toad 🤔  
We also watched the Reed Buntings building their nests , loads of them so the day wasn't bad, Spring was definitely in the air even if the Butterflies weren't there. Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by maverick, 15-Mar-17 08:59 PM GMT

You were right the second time Goldie it's a toad

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 16-Mar-17 10:52 PM GMT

I'm sure the butterflies will reach you soon Goldie 😊 Your cow intrigued me, unusual looking horns which reminded me of a breed I'd seen years ago. There was a TV documentary about rare breeds and how they were introducing an ancient breed of cattle and it looked like yours so I think it was the original Longhorn 😊 Hope that helps 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 16-Mar-17 10:59 PM GMT

I do like the toad, Goldie. I see them a fair amount round here – sometimes pretty large ones, too. I'm glad to say they like slugs. 😊 Your first butterflies cannot be far away now! 😊

Dave

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Mar-17 02:36 PM GMT

Thanks Millard, glad you like the Toad, I thought it looked more Toad than Frog, I've seen large ones at Hall-Lee-Brook in the ponds there and boy were they noisy 😊 I just heard them and went to see what the noise was all about, of course they were mating. 😊

Hi! Wurzel, we were fascinated with the cow and there was a small herd of them , people were all around' especially with there being a young calf. The Mother was in the enclosure on her own with the Calf the other's were in an adjoining field , they were a really lovely colour too, (unusual) but those horns were super 😊 no wonder the cow was kept separate from the rest, if they annoyed her I can image what would happen. 😊

Brockholes is unusual because it's on the banks of the River Ribble, which is a flood area so they're building it gradually, it covers quite a large area, with cycling tracks, lovely walks and a large area for Children also areas for bird watching, so I'll definitely be going back there again, ( I saw my Orange Tips there last year) 😊

Not forgetting the floating Restaurant which I've mentioned before.

Thanks for that maverick, the weather here is awful at present, windy, wet, miserable, ideal only for Toads and Frogs 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 21-Mar-17 08:59 PM GMT

I'd love to report I'd seen a Butterfly here but nothing yet and Snow's been forecast for over night especially in Cumbria so the Butterflies will definitely be late here, better now than in the middle of Spring though. Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Janet Turnbull, 23-Mar-17 10:43 AM GMT

You were lucky to see the Reed Buntings, Goldie!

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 23-Mar-17 11:45 AM GMT

Hi! Janet, we see lots of Reed Buntings especially at Penn Flash but if you get the chance to visit Brockholes when we get some decent weather ( I went in May and June last year) you'll find lots of Butterflies as well as Unusual birds. Brockholes is the first turning for Preston off the M6. Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 23-Mar-17 03:27 PM GMT

I've just come back from Hall-Lee-Brook and I knew before I went there that it was unlikely to see Butterflies today. The weather is Sunny and shady the Sun popping in and out between very dark clouds but the wind is from the East and quite strong and cold, even the Birds are keeping a low profile 😞

I took this shot of a Bee in the corner of a pane of glass waiting for the Sun to emerge and sheltering from the Wind. 😊 The site of my garden beginning to come to life is always cheering though 😊 The forecast is good for the rest of the week, I just hope the cold wind drops. Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 23-Mar-17 11:34 PM GMT

I think that's a Drone Fly Goldie, but whatever it's a good sign as when I start seeing bees I know that the butterflies aren't far behind 😊 Your garden certainly looks like it's ready to host some butterflies 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 24-Mar-17 10:37 AM GMT

If it was a fly it was a big one Wurzel 😊 Yes I'm ready for the butterflies when they arrive 😊 The weather looks great for the weekend 17c , trouble is I've only got Sunday free so I'm hoping they'll come to the Garden I can't go looking but it's great to actually get some warmth, fingers crossed I'll get my first shot. Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 24-Mar-17 11:08 AM GMT

Yup Wurzel is correct, that is a Dronefly, *Eristalis tenax* from the looks of things. A type of Hoverfly that mimics Honeybees 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 24-Mar-17 08:32 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

If you think that Drone Fly is big, wait til you see a Hornet Mimic Hoverfly <http://www.naturespot.org.uk/species/volucella-zonaria> these are slowly spreading north, I have seen them down south before and had a couple in my garden last year for the first time.

Good luck for the weekend, finally had my first butterfly this afternoon, a Comma.

Cheers,

Neil

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 25-Mar-17 06:00 PM GMT

Hi! Neil. I'm learning fast that what I thought was Bumble Bee's are mimic HF 😊

I've saved your post so if I see any of these I can distinguish them from real Bee's, my garden is usually full of both, infact the Butterflies are disturbed quite a lot with them .( when they arrive that is 😊 )

I'm still waiting to see my first Butterfly, I was too busy today and the weather was perfect 17c but family duties took priority 😊

Tomorrow looks good so hope fully I'll see some thing then 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 26-Mar-17 04:54 PM GMT

At Last!! I went back to my local site today HLB and before 15mins was up I'd seen a Small White a Small Tortioseshell and a Comma 😊

In all has I wandered round I saw 3 Comma's managed a couple of shots, 4 Small Tort's, 2 on the wing, 3 Small White and I managed some shots of all of them.

I think the Comma's were pretty new, only because they kept flicking their wings, the Small Tort just wanted to Sun bathe 😊, the other Torts I saw or rather missed, just flew off the dandelion's before I could get my shot, it was the Small Whites that were more active but always seemed to land in the Briars , luckily I managed shots but from a distance. Quite honestly I was so pleased

to see the Butterflies I didn't worry too much about the shots 😊 Hope fully this weather will keep up so I can see a Peacock and a Brimstone, maybe even a Holly Blue, seemly some one has seen one locally already. Goldie 😊







**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 26-Mar-17 05:58 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Glad to see you got your butterflies, I can almost feel your excitement and pleasure 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 26-Mar-17 07:50 PM GMT

**Neil Freeman wrote:**

...I can almost feel your excitement and pleasure

Me too. It's palpable!

Well done, Goldie....and a non-adult overwinterer to boot! Worth waiting for.

**Re: Goldie M**

by maverick, 26-Mar-17 07:59 PM GMT

Glad for you Goldie

No stopping you now

In my Warrington garden today, brimstone, small torts and my first red admiral

**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 26-Mar-17 09:38 PM GMT

Well done, Goldie - you've seen a Small White as well, something that hasn't appeared near me yet. 🍷 😊

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 26-Mar-17 09:55 PM GMT

Hoorah the duck has been broken. See butterflies are like buses... 😊 And the multiple sightings of Small White isn't to be sneezed at, I saw my first yesterday and only got a record shot 🍷 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 28-Mar-17 09:35 AM GMT

Many thanks everybody, it was a great day 😊 I'm still excited 😊

I thought yesterday with the weather staying so nice and not yet seeing a Peacock Butterfly that we might have a run to Mere Sands Woods near Southport , so we Packed some Sandwiches and off we went.

On arriving we found the small shop there closed which was unusual for the time of year I thought and when we tried the car park machine ,putting the car number in etc, we couldn't get the darned machine to take our money, 2 pounds for the day, this had happened to us once before and we'd received a bill from the council, I mention this because I wondered if this had happened to any one ?

On a brighter note has we walked towards the meadow we saw the Peacocks soaring high in the sky really enjoying the Sun and life', fantastic sight every Spring 😊 We decided to go and see The Great Crested Glebe first on the lake hoping the Peacocks would settle down when we went back and this is just what happened and I got my shots of my first Peacock 😊

I'm back over to HLB this morning before the rain comes later to see if I can find a Brimstone, fingers crossed. 😊 Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by Art Frames, 28-Mar-17 03:30 PM GMT

You have done well in those peacock shots. I especially like the second just showing two eyes. It is great coming here and sharing in all of the joy in seeing butterflies.

peter

**Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 28-Mar-17 03:46 PM GMT

The Butterflies have reached you at last Goldie, lovely Peacock.  
You'll soon be able to tease us southerners with some northern species we don't get down here !.

Best wishes,  
Trevor.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 29-Mar-17 09:00 AM GMT

Thanks for your posts Peter and Trevor, rain here today but at least I've got started 4 species 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 29-Mar-17 06:12 PM GMT

Great stuff with the Peacock Goldie 😊 I hope your luck held for a Brimstone 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 30-Mar-17 08:21 PM GMT

No luck there Wurzel, the weather broke down and it's rained since, plenty of time though now, April on Saturday 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 31-Mar-17 07:53 PM GMT

Great stuff Goldie, your'e racking them up now...I am still on 2 species down here.

Neil.

### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 31-Mar-17 10:34 PM GMT

Keep your diary free this Sunday, Goldie. Looks like most of the UK will enjoy a near perfect early April day! 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 01-Apr-17 12:53 PM GMT

Thanks for your post Neil and David, I think this Sunday we should all get some Butterfly shots like you've said David and that will take your count up Neil 😊

My Daughter is coming to visit and she likes Brockholes NR, ( I think she likes the floating Cafe there 😊 ) so I'm hoping to see an Orange Tip (hope fully) Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 01-Apr-17 11:37 PM GMT

I wish you luck, Goldie. I wouldn't be at all surprised if Orange Tips were about up your way. Fingers crossed that you have a good day.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 04-Apr-17 09:43 AM GMT

Thanks for your post David, no Orange Tips here yet though, I think we're a week or so behind here the weather's been great but a bit cold out of the Sun and we've had lots of cloud. 😊

Our Daughter arrived on Saturday, so we were out Sunday and Monday traveling round, first stop on Sunday was Brockholes NR , I was sure we'd see Butterflies there but the Sun refused to stay out for long periods and the wind was chilly, not a single Butterfly was spotted but we did see this Goose (not sure what it's called looked it up in my bird book) it looks like a Barnacle Goose.

We decided to call at HLB NR before going home and I found some more Small Tortoiseshell and Commas enjoying the sheltered part of the field on the Dandelions but the Tort's still kept their wings closed a lot of the time.

Monday we drove to Fleetwood to Wyre CP, weather again pretty much the same but again only STS and Comma's and the Tort's were well worn, I did see this little bird, (again looked it up in the Bird book) I think it's a Chiffchaff but I'm guessing. It's been great just getting out with our Daughter and the weather although cool was great, Our Daughter though is used to the weather in the South now and was pretty cold

huddled up in her coat. 🥰 Goldie 🥰



**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 04-Apr-17 11:12 AM GMT

Lovely Comma Goldie 😊.

Your Geese are Canada Geese. Barnacles have a white face rather than just a throat and its probably a bit late in the year for them now, most having migrated back to their breeding grounds in the northern tundra.

The little bird is most likely a Chiffchaff, relatively easy to identify at this time of year since it's the only greenish Warbler to overwinter in the UK. It's close relative and 'identical twin' the Willow Warbler should be here any day now though (I've not heard any as yet). They can only reliably be told apart by the song with the Chiffchaff living up to it's name, an incessant chiff-chiff-chaff-chiff-chaff.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 04-Apr-17 11:58 AM GMT

Thanks Bugboy, I like to find out these bird names so I can had them to my Album 😊 When I saw the little bird with it's feathers all fluffy I thought at first it was a young one then I realised it was much too soon, I'd never seen one before and this one didn't stay put for long 😊 Glad you like my Comma, that's all I keep seeing here, it must be a good season for them and the the small Tort's, great find you had with the Large Tort, you deserve seeing it with all the journeys you take 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 04-Apr-17 08:13 PM GMT

It's a good time to try and photograph a Chiffchaff. Once the trees are in leaf, it becomes almost impossible, unless you are very lucky. I usually recognise these birds by their call, which is very welcome in early Spring and then becomes monotonous as the year progresses. You are not always behind the South, up on the West Coast, since the milder sea air often encourages early species.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 04-Apr-17 10:19 PM GMT

Cracking shot of the Chiff Chaff Goldie and that Comma is a beaut! 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 05-Apr-17 07:02 AM GMT

I agree it's frustrating when the weather doesn't play ball, Goldie, but you'll get those Orange Tips soon...probably at the same time as me, i.e. this coming weekend, when I'm sure they'll be on the wing in my neck of the woods.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 05-Apr-17 03:30 PM GMT

Many thanks Mike, Wurzel and David for your comments, my daughter just rang me to say she'd arrived home safely, ( you never know with all the rail strikes) she said it was lovely and warm in Kent, 😊 It's a bitter cold wind here and cloudy, wind direction NE UGH!

I wish I could see some mild sea air at present Mike, it's freezing here, 😊

I was pleased to see a Comma Wurzel it was pleasant finding that after seeing nothing at Brockholes 😊

I hope I see a Orange Tip David, this coming Weekend is supposed to have a high of 16c on Sunday, so finger's crossed 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 09-Apr-17 03:31 PM GMT

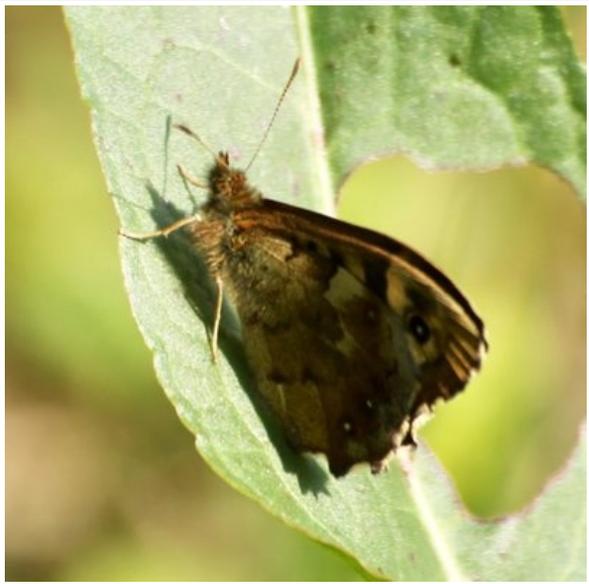
Well the weather's been great but no Orange Tip yet 😊 I did get my first Brimstone and Speckle though so I can't moan 😊

The Butterflies seem to be coming in odd numbers here, I went to Hall-Lee=Brook yesterday and saw the Brimstone, 3 in fact but only one posed for me. 😊 then this morning, again at HLB I found the Speckie's, only 2 but it's a start, they weren't very active, one was clinging to a leaf with it's wings closed at first then gradually started to open them, looking at the shot afterwards I wondered if it had some thing wrong with it's wing or was it just the way the Sun was shining on it's wing 😊

The other one was a little more active. Of course they could be newly emerged.

I also saw a Tortoiseshell yesterday but only one and no Comma's at all, things are certainly funny here, when the weather is so nice you'd expect more Butterflies to be about, I think they know the forecast isn't too good for next few days , much cooler here,

( So what's new ) Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 12-Apr-17 05:29 PM GMT

Hopefully they'll stay bedded down until the weather improves. As I'm on Easter break you can expect the weather to get better from about 23rd April and until then we'll have grey, cool and windy weather sorry 😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 12-Apr-17 07:15 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, it's cold here at present but last year round about this time we had Snow so it's an improvement on that. 😊  
We've booked to go South on the 12th May I'm looking for the Grizzled Skipper, it would take my count to 50 if I find it, I try to see two new species every year whether I get a shot of them or not it's just great to see them. 😊  
I've taken a look at the previous years butterflies and I saw the OT's mostly in May so fingers crossed for good weather then, hope you enjoy your break.  
Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 15-Apr-17 09:35 AM GMT

The weather here has been awful but this morning we got the Sun back although still pretty cold. I was in the kitchen brewing a cup of tea and looking out through the window into the garden to see what the birds were getting up to when I noticed what I thought was a tree Creeper going up the tree at the bottom of the garden.

I thought it's too quick to be a Bird, then I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw it was this tiny mouse, I quickly got my camera and changed the setting to sport, ( taking a leaf from Wurzel's book ) I managed to catch it on camera, I'm not seeing Butterflies at present so thought I'd just share this for a laugh, it's certainly made me laugh. Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 15-Apr-17 11:22 AM GMT

Just received two photos of Butterflies from my Nephew who's working in Hong Kong , he knows I'm a fanatic with BF's 😊 Does any one know what this one"s called? He was on a walk when he saw it, I've told my Nephew I've started an Album and I'll let him know it's name. Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by Padfield, 15-Apr-17 01:46 PM GMT

Hi Goldie. I'm separated from my books at the moment (until Tuesday) but from a quick internet check would suggest *Athyma nefte* (the colour sergeant) for the first one (*Athyma*, certainly) and *Faunis eumeus* (the large faun) for the second. If no one else confirms or corrects I can do so myself when I get back to the books!

Guy

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 16-Apr-17 08:17 AM GMT

Good to see you're working on the next generation Goldie 😊😊 I would go with Guy for the first one but haven't a clue on the second one a Google wasn't that helpful there 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 16-Apr-17 08:55 AM GMT

That's one brave little mouse on your bird feeder, Pauline. Hard to see how such a creature could be more exposed to predators. I hope he/she managed to find safety and enjoy the boldly obtained reward.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 16-Apr-17 10:41 AM GMT

Thanks Guy and Wurzel, I'll send him these names , if you find they're different I can always let him know.

I also get photos from my Grandson Wurzel, 😊 he's interested to know what the Butterflies are called, he sends the photos when he see's them when in Brighton. I know most of those though 😊

Hi! David, it certainly was a brave little mouse because I saw the Sparrow Hawk only the day before. 😊 not only that but it made quite a few trips up the tree. I was fascinated with it's colour though, it had a very cream under belly and a milk chocolate brown body , usually when I've seen them in the garden or else where they've been dark in colour but as you can see in the photo this mouse was different. Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 16-Apr-17 10:54 AM GMT

Butterfly ID becomes a very different game, once one wanders into the tropics, Goldie! When I visited Sabah, a couple of years ago, I read that almost 1,000 species have been recorded from Borneo, with around 625 at the Kinabalu National Park alone! It took me several weeks after I returned (and some valuable help from Guy Padfield) to identify the relatively small number of species that I photographed. Having said that, the 'Colour Sergeant' is one of the easier ones and I know that it is present in Hong Kong. I remember seeing several butterflies along the path from the top of the Peak Tramway, when I was there in 2009, but I didn't have a suitable camera with me for collecting photos.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 16-Apr-17 11:13 AM GMT

Thanks for that Mike, I'm looking forward to more photos from Hong kong and will need more help I'm sure with them. 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 16-Apr-17 01:55 PM GMT

I've just checked the Internet and I think my mouse is a Dore Mouse, it's colouring seems to check out cream under belly and Chocolate Brown, any think I'm right !!!!! Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Pauline, 16-Apr-17 02:05 PM GMT

Looking at the ears and tail Goldie my guess would be a little Wood mouse. Px

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 16-Apr-17 06:30 PM GMT

Hi! Pauline , more wishful thinking on my part 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 16-Apr-17 06:37 PM GMT

Sadly, Goldie, Dormouse is nowadays very unlikely, being a rare and endangered species, largely confined to a few areas in Southern England. I agree with Pauline that yours is most likely to be a Wood Mouse. They are regular visitors to the feeders in my garden and can be quite bold in daylight. They sometimes come quite close, when we are eating in the garden on warm days.

I snapped this confrontation between Mouse and Robin in our garden back in 2010. (feel free to delete my intrusion into your personal diary)



Abingdon, Oxon - 12th December 2010 Nikon D300s with 300mm lens - 1/45s@f/5.6 ISO 1250  
Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 16-Apr-17 06:54 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, as Pauline and Mike say, yours is certainly a Wood Mouse. Can be told apart from the common House Mouse by larger eyes and ears and a longer tail. Also most mice seen outdoors are likely to be Wood Mice.

Great photos though, I have never seen one up on a hanging bird feeder before although I do have seen them scavenging food from under mine.

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 17-Apr-17 09:21 AM GMT

Thanks Mike and Neil, I realised Dore Mice were scarce but I didn't know they were confined to the South.

I'll keep your photo Mike , it's so cute 😊 the Robin looks most indignant 😊

I couldn't believe it myself Neil when I first saw the Mouse going up the tree, I couldn't get the camera out quick enough 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Padfield, 18-Apr-17 09:34 PM GMT

Hi Goldie. Just to confirm the IDs of those Hong Kong butterflies, as I said I would. The only thing to add is that if you look *Athyma nefte* up on the web you will see quite a variety of forms, especially in the female. Your friend's is a male of the subspecies *seitzii*.

And I can't resist the temptation, if you will forgive me, to post a picture on your page of the dormouse that came into my kitchen last year. This is a different, much larger species than you get in the UK, but you can easily see that they are not really very mouse like, with a furry tail rather than a scaly one.



Guy

### Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 18-Apr-17 10:02 PM GMT

#### Padfield wrote:

...And I can't resist the temptation, if you will forgive me, to post a picture on your page of the dormouse that came into my kitchen last year. This is a different, much larger species than you get in the UK, but you can easily see that they are not really very mouse like, with a furry tail rather than a scaly one...

I think the larger species is probably a *Glis glis* – known as the edible dormouse, because it was considered a delicacy by the Romans. Was this example entering your kitchen because it was emulating the dish in "The Restaurant at the End of the Universe"? [Douglas Adams] 😊

As a result of an escape from the Rothschild collection at Tring, there is a British population around the Chiltern Hills, near Aylesbury.

### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 18-Apr-17 10:16 PM GMT

That dormouse of yours, Guy, is almost a chipmunk or even a squirrel!

What did you do with it? Did you let it eat from the table or did you shoo it out?

### Re: Goldie M

by Padfield, 18-Apr-17 10:17 PM GMT

#### MikeOxon wrote:

Was this example entering your kitchen because it was emulating the dish in "The Restaurant at the End of the Universe"? [Douglas Adams] 😊

It's more likely it came for a tea party [Lewis Carroll]! 😊

I closed the door, turned the light out and opened the window, David (not in that order). It realised there was no tea and moved on, out into the night.

Sorry to invade your space, Goldie. Just ask and I can delete posts from your diary. 😊

Guy

### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 18-Apr-17 10:21 PM GMT

I'm sure Goldie will enjoy this little 'aside', Guy. We all love to see these animals, but few of us get to have them as visitors at our dining tables!!!

I shall bear your tutorial in mind should I ever receive similar 'guests'! 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 19-Apr-17 11:04 AM GMT

Hi! Guy, It's so cute, lovely bushy tail too, I don't think I'd want it in my kitchen though. 😊

I'll keep the photo in my animals album, I love shots of unusual Birds and Animals.

I'll tell my nephew about the Butterfly and get him to look it up I'm sure he'll be interested.

Talking of Birds, I went to Yarrow Valley CP yesterday having first visited Hall-Lee-Brook CP, the difference in the two parks was stark ; at HLB I saw one Butterfly a Small White, there were no Blue Bells out, no Garlic Flowers out by the stream it was all together disappointing, that's why we decided to visit YVCP.

We didn't know what to expect but compared to HLB it was like walking into a different world , Garlic flowers every where, loads of Blue bells and flying passed my head my very first sight of an Orange Tip 😊

Has the day warmed up I saw two more OT's but couldn't get any shots, I'd put a couple sandwiches up and a flask so after having lunch we set off once more.

By this time I was tired so we sat down on a bench for a rest and would you believe it this OT landed to the side of me opened it's wings has much say "well I'm here get your shot" 😊 (which I did) and off it flew. 😊

On our way back to the car park I caught sight of a PC BF and this Gray Wagtail ,(hope I've got it's name right) what a great day we had after such horrible weather. Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Pauline, 19-Apr-17 01:33 PM GMT

Smashing shot of the OT Goldie – quite like the little Wagtail too 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 19-Apr-17 07:03 PM GMT

Thanks Pauline, how lucky can you get when the BF joins you. 😊 The wagtail was very busy and a joy to watch, paddling a way in the stream 😊

Some one has purposely set fire to Heysham Moss, in 2014 the Large heath was reintroduced back there, Chester Zoo helped with it's introduction and now the heath has been destroyed over two or three nights in an arson attack, police are looking for the culprits, I felt really sorry for the men who'd worked so hard they were on news from the North tonight and they looked dejected. Goldie 😞

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 19-Apr-17 07:45 PM GMT

Glad you got your Orange-tip Goldie, nice photo too 😊

I remember reading about the Large Heath re-introduction at Heysham Moss a few years ago. Sorry to hear about the fire, that is terrible news.

Cheers,

Neil

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 19-Apr-17 09:37 PM GMT

At last! Well done, Goldie. The first Orange Tip of the year is always a special moment.

**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 20-Apr-17 08:27 PM GMT

That's a nice Orange Tip, Goldie. I hope you see a few more over the next few weeks. As they've been slow to appear in your area, they'll probably carry

on longer too! 😊

Dave

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 20-Apr-17 08:42 PM GMT

Thanks Neil and David. It was great just to see the Orange Tip, to get a decent shot after seeing them fly passed a few times was best. 😊

It was a real disaster at Heysham Moss Neil, like the Ranger said, the plants they need will grow back but the Large Heath was in Chrysalis form and even if some were caterpillar's there's no plants for them, I just hope they catch who ever did it, it was done over two to three nights so obviously deliberate. 😊

Thanks Dave, the weather doesn't seem too good next week, I'll have to try to get out this weekend and try for the GHS next 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 21-Apr-17 06:49 PM GMT

Great shots of the Grey Wagtail Goldie and you got your OT 😊😊 Make the most of it though as the MET are forecasting heavy wintry showers over the Bank Holiday weekend 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 22-Apr-17 07:48 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, I'm not looking forward to the weather next week but today I'd a good day Butterflying ,so can afford to relax and let the weather do it's worst for a week. 😊

I decided because I'd seen the OT at Yarrow Valley I'd go there, the flowers were great but no OT's so I thought I'd go back to Hall-Lee-Brook, the weather had warmed up and there was less cloud after lunch so back we went, I'd only just got through the gate and we spotted an Holly Blue, (fantastic) I'd to chase it round a bit to get a shot but when it went puddling( or so I thought) I managed one or two. 😊

We carried on looking round and when I saw a flash of White I tried to get through some briers without much success, so I'd to be content with wings and no head 😊 My first Green Veined White ( at least I saw one) 😊

Further round the field we came across a Small Tort, so that was another one chalked up 😊

After that we saw four or five Speckies soaring high and when they landed I managed another shot of one 😊

The best was to come though has we got back to the gate this very small Butterfly came along and I couldn't believe it when I saw it was a Female Orange Tip 😊 What a difference a day can make 😊 Goldie 😊







**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 22-Apr-17 08:26 PM GMT

A good range of spring species there Goldie 😊. Like the Grey Wagtail earlier as well

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 23-Apr-17 06:49 PM GMT

Thanks Bugboy,, it looks like they're finally making a move now, just hope they don't get caught in any bad weather next week. 😊

We decided to go back to Hall-Lee-Brook today, my thought is that it could be too soon to go to Gait Barrow because the weather here has been so cold, hope fully things will brighten up and be warmer at the start of May, having said that today was another lovely day, we'd a cold start but by lunch time things got going.

My haul today, was one Small White, ten or so Speckies two of which were mating, I couldn't make my mind up if the Lady was willing 😊 and two or three GVW's which I was eager to get a shot of, my last being Rubbish 😊 Also a HB which looks like it's got some dark colouring on it's wings, I thought at first it was just the outer wing until the Butterfly flew onto a branch and slightly opened it's wing and I could see the colour was also on the outside , that's what I think any way, it was an okay day because I actually saw a Male Orange Tip as well but I didn't get a photo, he was off and a way, first time I've wished for cloud cover. 😊 I know now there 's still hope to capture one on camera 😊 Goldie 😊







**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 23-Apr-17 07:29 PM GMT

I'm quite enjoying the cooler weather – it means I can have a bit of a lie-in before butterflying 😊 Great behaviour shots of the Holly blues Goldie 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Butterflysaurus rex, 23-Apr-17 10:19 PM GMT

Very well captured Speckled Wood courting behaviour sequence there Goldie. It's fascinating to watch, it always looks so dramatic, especially when the females appear to faint in a attempt to get rid of an unwanted male.

You're doing much better than me with the Holly Blues, my only attempt at photographing one failed terribly. Maybe one day this year. 😊

Best wishes

James

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 23-Apr-17 10:40 PM GMT

I've only ever seen Speckled Woods engaging in courtship behaviour a handful of times, Goldie, so well done in capturing those images.

Looks like your Holly Blue has come into contact with something artificial at some point. So long as it doesn't hamper him, it's not an issue.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 24-Apr-17 10:13 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, the weather here is cool but the Sun is shining so it's not too bad as long as the Snow keeps off 😊 Next week they've forecast 17c towards the end of the week, that's a good start for May ( IF IT HAPPENS ) Goldie 😊

Hi! James, I've caught the sequence of the Speckies before when the Female actually played dead 😊 This one just seemed to play hard to get. 😊 I've been lucky this year with Hollies, only the first time I've ever managed to see two and get shots of them at HLB, both were puddling. I didn't get an Holly Blue last year while August so there's lots of time yet for you. 😊

Hi! David, I thought at first the Holly Blue had got some of the mud from the puddles on him, when he flew into the tree I knew he was okay. 😊 The Speckies were down near the stream in an hollow where the Sun was shining, they were all over the place what a chase that Female gave him. 😊

A brisk wind today but may be I'll pay another visit to HLB. 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Pauline, 26-Apr-17 06:51 AM GMT

As others have said, great find with the Speckled Wood courtship behavior Goldie and some very nice shots too. Well done 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 26-Apr-17 08:32 PM GMT

A nice selection, Goldie and you've done much better with the Small White than I've done so far. 😊 I've also never seen Specklies behaving like that, and there are lots round here! Looking forward to what you find further afield. 😊

Dave

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 27-Apr-17 10:14 AM GMT

Thank You Pauline and Dave, The weather being so cold has sent every thing for cover, when I went to HLB on Monday the only thing flying were the Speckies and even they were seeking the under growth, thank fully next week looks like being much better and you never know what's waiting for you when your out with your camera, ( Roll On ) 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 03-May-17 10:17 AM GMT

It's over a week since I posted but at last I've something to post 😊 On Monday I decided to go to Hall-Lee-Brook once again and I got another first for the year a Large White, also there were quite a few Whites, you could call it a White day. 😊

Yesterday the weather forecast was once again a good one so we decided to go to Gait Barrow, much too soon as it turned out the only sitings being Peacocks ( great to see them has I've not seen too many) a couple of Brimstone, a Orange tip that flashed past in a hurry and a Comma, which I was very surprised to see not having seen one since March, no Green Hair Streaks, or Dukes yet although the Primroses were lovely and ready waiting for them to appear, I don't think we'll see them for a couple of weeks yet the vegetation around the site (except for the PR's was very late,) infact we saw a notice saying the Slipper Orchids would have an opening day on the 13th and 14th of May so I went to look for them and found just the beginnings of three that had Jars over them to protect them, I'll be very surprised if there ready then, But! I'm no expert.

We decided to call at Warton Craig on our way back the Sun was at it's best and very little wind so the Butterflies like the GWW were there and I spotted a Holly Blue which had it's Antenna down most of the time, I've cut down on my photos but couldn't resist the LW and the cute HB Goldie 😊 PS No trouble posting today! 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 03-May-17 08:24 PM GMT

Great shot of the Holly Blues Goldie and to get an open winged Large White is no mean feat either 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 03-May-17 08:40 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Nice Large White and Holly Blues 😊

I saw a photo on Twitter yesterday of a Pearl-bordered Fritillary that was taken at Warton Crag so it looks like they are starting to fly up there.

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 03-May-17 08:55 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, I was really pleased to see it after the cold weather we've had, it was very still just soaking up the Sun, which helped with the shot. 😊  
I went back to HLB today, it was very breezy but quite warm in the sheltered area's, I managed a few more shots of Small White's and Green Veined White's one Comma and just caught a Speckie before it flew a way, hope fully before the Sun disappears once more I'll manage

another Orange Tip shot. 😊

Just got your post Neil, thank you for your comment's, I was at the Craig yesterday briefly because I choose to go to GB first, looks like the Pearls will have to wait until I get back off my Holiday worse luck, I'm a way on the 12th but a lot of gardening to do before then, I didn't see any thing last year until the 22nd of May and then the Duke, the Pearl Bordered/Small PB were all out, so hope fully the same will happen again. 😊 Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 05-May-17 09:17 AM GMT

Lovely day again yesterday but very windy, we went to Fleetwood for the day with my cousin and of course I took my camera just in case 😊 We went to Wyre CP and kept to the sheltered part of the field a way from the wind which felt Gale Force when we came across a patch of Blue Bells and hanging from one to my surprise was a Male Orange Tip I quickly got my camera working bothered the Butterfly would fly off 😊 Not the best of shot's but I was still happy. 😊

Further along the path I spotted another OT, loads of White's one rather tatty STS , lots of SW's but all too busy searching for mates to stop long enough for shots. Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 05-May-17 09:51 AM GMT

Great stuff Goldie – OTs on Bluebells are one of those 'must have' shots 😊 I can never work out which side of the OT I prefer – the glaring and vivid orange and white topside or the cryptic, fractal undersides – what a dilemma to have 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 05-May-17 12:19 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, I couldn't believe my luck. 😊 After so slow a start things are moving a little quicker now thanks to the Sun we've been getting, hope it gets better down there after the twelfth . Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 05-May-17 08:09 PM GMT

This afternoon I made a quick journey to Hall-Lee-Brook after shopping, I saw lots of Holly Blues which were all reluctant to fly down from their tree 😊 so no shots but there was plenty of Green Veined White's which is much better than last year. I happened onto this mating pair only after a GVW landed at the same place and drew my attention to them, they were way back in the greenery so I did my best changing places many times to try for a decent shot. Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 05-May-17 08:21 PM GMT

Nice to find those GVW, Goldie. 😊 I forgot to comment earlier on your Holly Blue with his antennae pointing downwards – they do this when they are sucking up moisture or honeydew. If you look closely he has his proboscis out and is sucking something from the surface of the leaf.

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 05-May-17 10:40 PM GMT

Hi! Dave, I never noticed that, I've looked closely at my other shots and I can see what you mean that much better with this particular shot. I was lucky finding the GVW's I just wished I could have got a bit closer to them. Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 08-May-17 05:12 PM GMT

I made a quick visit today to Hall-Lee-Brook, with going on holiday this Friday every thing is rushed 😊  
The weather here has been lovely but no water for a couple of weeks and very dry winds with hot Sun in-between is making it difficult for the Butterflies who take minerals from the mud, (I'm not complaining 😊) the Holly Blues how ever have never been easier to find because of this.  
Three out of 4 ponds at HLB have dried up, the fourth is still damp if no water and it's there in the tree's that the HB's are during the day. I went to the stream first thinking I was sure I'd see one there and I was right for once, I noticed this little blue flash which landed next to a damp log and waited patiently for it to settle some where which it did, opening it's wings for us which was great 😊 I noticed this Holly Blue had dark spots on the edge of it's wings which I'd not seen before on an HB, my book shows a second brood HB with these marking's so I'm supposing I'm right in thinking this is second brood HB.

On my way back I caught sight of two or three more and quickly took some shots, it was an Holly Blue day today 😊 Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 08-May-17 06:47 PM GMT

That's a nice female Holly Blue, Goldie – unusual to see a female down on the mud, as it's usually the males that do this. 😊 This is actually still a first brood example – the black spots in the margins are there on first brood females (though the males don't have them at all), but it's certainly true the second brood have quite a lot more black on them. However, there hasn't been time yet for a second brood to be fitted in yet – they probably won't be around for at least another six weeks or so.

Dave

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 08-May-17 10:56 PM GMT

That is a great shot of the female Holly Blue Goldie 😊 I hope so too about the 12th as the Marshies have started emerging 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 09-May-17 06:59 PM GMT

Thanks very much Wurzel and Dave, I didn't know Dave that the female's didn't look for mud, this one was looking for moisture I think, we've had to water the Garden's here and some rivers are dry that could account for what she was doing, glad you told me about the markings, it's the first time I've seen them on a Holly Blue, I think all my shots have been Male up to now. 😊

Thanks Wurzel for your comments they're always welcome, you say the Marsh Frit's are out down there, up here the Duke's are coming out also the Pearl's and the Hair Streaks, so today I've gone mad and done two days cleaning in one 😊 So hope fully I'll get to Gait Barrow tomorrow, a bit close to going a way so let's hope it's worth it. 😊

I was doing some gardening today and hanging the washing out when my Husband spotted a small White Butterfly, it's the first that's actually stopped in the Garden to my Knowledge this year, I grabbed my camera stuck my head between the washing and just managed a shot before it flew off, to my surprise it was an Orange Tip Female, I didn't do it justice but at last some thing in the garden and an OT at that ! Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 09-May-17 10:19 PM GMT

Good luck for tomorrow Goldie - the weather looks to be good. And it doesn't look so bad down here at the weekend either if you're heading south.

Yes, it's worth checking all white butterflies at the moment; lots seem to be female Orange Tips! 😊

Dave

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 11-May-17 02:59 PM GMT

Hi! Dave, looks like my trip down South is off, I seem to have picked up a Bug of some kind, either that or I did too much walking at Gait Barrow yesterday, confined to the house today and it's 20c outside, 😊 I'm not taking the chance on traveling tomorrow, if anybody knows of any Grizzled Skipper near us for when I get better please let me know, I've heard they were in North Wales I'm wondering if they still are.

Has I said yesterday I went to Gait Barrow and when I saw the Barrier a round the Duke site knew they were out for sure, the only trouble is they never seem to land in front of you and always stay far a way so most of my shots are taken quite a distance from them, having said that it didn't take long for three or four men that were there to climb under the barrier to take their shots, I'm afraid I'm old fashioned and if things are put there to protect , I was brought up to respect that. So I'm the only one that suffered the long shots, ( besides which my Husband would not have been pleased if I'd gone under the Barrier, he's old fashioned has well 😊 )

I found a Green Hair Streak that was letting people get shots, me included, then went on to find the Dingy Skipper, which was enjoying nectar with two more which flew a way has we approached leaving me to get my shots,

We also walked quite a way looking for the Pearls, we didn't find them, I know they're at Warton Craig so when I recover I'll go there Next. Goldie 😊







**Re: Goldie M**

by Padfield, 11-May-17 05:00 PM GMT

Hi Goldie. Get well soon – what a shame you had to call your trip off.

You are not old-fashioned, unless simple respect for a landowner's/manager's wishes is now out of date. Good on you for staying on the right side of the barrier.

Guy

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 11-May-17 08:03 PM GMT

Thanks for that Guy, I thought it awful what they were doing at the time, it started with just one man then of course it escalated I was abit disgusted and after my shots I walked a way looking further along the site, when I got back four or five men were inside the barrier and were coming back to the path, needless to say the Dukes had stopped flying because of all the disturbance, it's the first time iv'e witnessed this at GB, I expect it won't be the last time. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 11-May-17 10:39 PM GMT

Glad you got your Dukes Goldie...and the right way too 😊 Get well soon 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 12-May-17 09:35 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, I'm still feeling sorry for myself on missing the holiday and the Grizzles but my Husband say's when the weather picks up (it's going to rain I think) and I'm feeling better we'll go hunt the Pearl's. 😊

Being has I'm stuck here I thought to cheer myself up with another few shots from GB Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 12-May-17 05:54 PM GMT

Great Dingy Goldie 😊 The butterflies will wait and the anticipation will make them all the more sweeter when you do get out 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 12-May-17 06:49 PM GMT

Many thanks Wurzel, I could do with some decent shots of GHS now 😊 There was people there shooting so I didn't like being too pushy 😊 Also the Hair Streak was on the ground amongst the mosses I'd sooner see them in the bush's easier to shoot and usually in line with your Camera 😊

I'm feeling much better today another day hope fully will do it ,if not like you say when I do see them it will be sweeter. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 12-May-17 07:26 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Sorry to hear you have been ill...hope you are feeling better now.

I see that you have seen the dukes at Gait barrow, I saw reports that they were out and wondered if you had been to see them yet. I also see that the Pearls are flying at Warton Crag so good luck if you go there.

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 12-May-17 10:00 PM GMT

It's a shame you had to postpone your trip south, Goldie. I hope you're on the mend now. You found some great butterflies up there though! Dukes and Dingies and Green Hairstreaks... Not to be sneezed at (if that's not the wrong thing to say!).

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 12-May-17 10:15 PM GMT

Yes, get well soon Goldie, like Millerd says, you are still seeing some nice species 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 13-May-17 11:30 AM GMT

Thank's every one for your kind comments, I think it was a 24hr Bug I caught, seems there's a lot of people with it round here, it's just unfortunate I got it at the wrong time, I'm feeling better now and ready to go but there's no place like home if your not feeling to good.

Yes Neil, I'm going to Warton Craig if possible and the Boss agree's 😊 I'll have to wait and see what the weather's like in the next few days, I won't be going up the Craig though, I spoke to some one at GB who'd been there that morning and he said they were at the lower slopes which would suit me fine and he'd counted 10 so fingers crossed 😊

Gate Barrow is a great place for Butterflies Dave if you hit it at the right time, I was only up there a week or two before and there was no sign of them, If I leave it bit longer the Northern Brown Argus should join them and may be more Pearls will be out there, last year I hit it right both species of Pearls were out Dukes, Hair Streaks and some lovely Moths. 😊

Thanks Bugboy, your doing very well with the Species ,I always look for what you've seen I see you've posted 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 14-May-17 08:22 PM GMT

Feeling much better today and the forecast was good for Gait Barrow, so we set off determined not to do too much just take another look at the Dukes and see if I couldn't get a photo nearer to the edge of the corded off area and just maybe we'd be lucky to see a Pearl BF.

The first part was good I managed shots of a mating pair near the corded area but sadly no Pearls, still time for them, we didn't want to walk a lot so we just went to see the Slipper Orchids then home, still we enjoyed the nice weather and I found my feet again Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Butterflysaurus rex, 14-May-17 08:52 PM GMT

Lovely Dukes Goldie, I'm going to miss them again this year, now the 4th year running! Hopefully next year I'll be reunited with these lovely little butterflies.

ATB

James

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 14-May-17 10:16 PM GMT

Cracking find Goldie – a sight I have still to witness 😊👍 Glad you found your feet again 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 14-May-17 10:32 PM GMT

Well done, Goldie – not something you see every day. 😊 And those slipper orchids look amazing! 😊 I'm glad you're over the bug, too.

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 14-May-17 10:33 PM GMT

a few of these 🍷🍷🍷 for those mating Dukes!

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 14-May-17 10:54 PM GMT

Nice to see the slipper orchids, Goldie....and maybe even better to see the Dukes! Time is running out for me to gain an audience with this species in the UK in 2017. It's next weekend or bust, basically! 😞

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 15-May-17 10:41 AM GMT

Many thanks everyone, it was a great surprise to the Dukes so near the edge and they stayed there for ages loads of people got shots of them which was great. It was also good that at least a few Slipper Orchids were out, quite a lot still had protective jars over them, the rain in the last few days ( Sunday being the exception) has helped them but they've struggled this year. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 19-May-17 09:37 AM GMT

After three days of catching up with house work etc, we decided with the weather being forecast as good for Thursday we'd venture out to Southport. We picked my cousin up and the three of us on arrival went to the Chippy in Banks , ( we go there some times and the lady there cooks the fish whilst you wait, she also knows we take the food to the Marine Drive in Southport and eat them at Marshside, so she wraps them up even in the cartons we receive) 😊

After we'd eaten my Husband and I set off to look for Wall's, I'd seen them before at Marshside so I was hoping this visit would be more fruitful than our last. (my cousin's not interested in BF's I'm sorry to say so she stayed in the car) I wasn't going to miss an opportunity. 😊

We walked down the path and right a way we spotted one which of course took off right a way, after this we saw about three which did the same thing ( mind you it could have been the same one) 😊 we were about to give up and go , feeling guilty we'd been there for about an hour when one finally settled so I could get a shot at last 😊

Also there were Common Blue's, most of them a bit worn but because they were my first of the season I took shots of them 😊

We then moved further down Marine drive to Birkdale Dunes, I saw a Wall right a way but it took off and we never saw it again, the CB's here were very different to the one's at Marshside, two females were lovely their colours out standing, one was resting on a seed head and I just managed a couple of shots before she shot off. Also there there were Small Heath, and one was resting on some very dry Dog Poo! 😊 We noticed there was very few flowers for the Butterflies the Dunes not really at their best yet.

Any way I'd enjoyed my spell there and went to the shops with my Cousin after wards on Lord ST , my Husband content to read his book in the car 😊  
Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 19-May-17 10:06 AM GMT

Pretty envious of you Wall Goldie, a species that I'm still trying to find this year 🍷 Great 'blue' female blue as well 😊  
I had to reread part of your PD a second time as I was rushing the first and I read the phrase "After we'd eaten my husband..." 🤪🤪

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 19-May-17 01:18 PM GMT

Yes, I have to agree that is a lovely blue female Blue, Goldie.  
As for eating your husband, I saw a sign the other day , outside a shop claiming they were ' family butchers ', did I go in ?, no fear!.

Best wishes,  
Trevor.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 19-May-17 05:43 PM GMT

Hi! Trevor and Wurzel, I never thought of that when I posted 😊 I told my Husband and he laughed saying, " you've always had a huge appetite", 😊  
Glad you both liked the Blue Lady, there's some thing about the Common Blue Female Butterfly that's most uncommon 😊 there I go again 😊  
I was pleased to find the Wall, last year the only photo I took of a Wall BF was one with part of it's wing missing, you'll probably find one soon Wurzel,  
I'm going back there when I can because I saw more than one and they looked really good , they did seem darker than usual though and smaller than I remembered, must try for the Pearl's first though.Thanks again , Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 19-May-17 08:24 PM GMT

Yes, that is a very fine female Common Blue, hopefully they'll have a better year than last.

As for eating people, I think I'll stick to my sandwiches when I'm out and about!

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 20-May-17 09:25 AM GMT

I think sticking to your sandwiches is wise Bugboy, you can get really bad indigestion with people 😊  
In Birkdale Dunes the CB's always do well, it's one of those places you know you'll see them for sure but it's the first time I've seen the Females look in such good condition, I must have gone just at the right time, thank you for your comment. 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 25-May-17 09:28 AM GMT

We went to Gait Barrow on Tuesday and was surprised at the lack of Butterflies, It's the first time ever that I've been up there and not got a shot of at least one Butterfly, no Dukes, GHS's etc, I thought the SPBF would be out but nothing! Looks like another trip up in the nice weather is called for, maybe it'll bring more out.

I did get a shot of a Speckled Yellow Moth which was bit tricky swinging on the grass stalks 😊  
We decided to call at Brockholes on the way back and I managed a shot of a Common Blue also a pair of Whites which I thought at the time was a single Butterfly 😊 it was quite a distance a way 😊 it turned out to be a mating pair, of what I'm not quite sure 😊  
there was lots of GVW's there so I'm thinking those. 😊

At this time of year at Brockholes there's always loads of Damsel Flies, every where we went we seemed to just miss standing on them, it turned out to be a really pleasant day for us ,even if the week started out bad with the news from Manchester that gave us a great shock.Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 25-May-17 10:24 PM GMT

Those Speckled Yellow Moths are right little buggers, I swear they can hear the mechanics in the camera so you did great to get it 😊 I reckon your air of whites are Small Whites as I can't make out any streaking on the underside and the 'spot' on the wing looks quite small.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 26-May-17 09:37 AM GMT

Thanks for that Wurzel, I couldn't think what species they were, with the Sun shining on them and the distance it didn't make for good ID's 😊 I'm pleased because I've seen a lot of Mating pairs this Spring from the Dukes to GVW's, so I can add these to the list now. 😊

We've not been out in the hot weather this weekend. I find I Can't go walking in the hot Sun these days, also I've found the Butterflies also seem to come out later when the weather has cooled down, ( i'm just judging the ones in the North 😊 ) i believe the SPBF are out at Warton so we've decided to wait for June to arrive before we venture forth again to see if we can find them at Gait Barrow, I find it's much easier to walk there ( not too many hard slopes to climb 😊 ) Call it an age thing 😊

In the garden yesterday after the Ice Cream and Shandies 😊 I suddenly saw a flash of Blue, I was pleased to find a Holly Blue had landed on my bushes, grabbing the camera I managed a quick shot before it flew off next door, after that I'd a series of flash flights by other Butterflies which I couldn't identify ( they didn't land ) but looked coloured so I'll be out later tonight to see if I can find them at Hall-Lee-Brook. Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 26-May-17 09:58 AM GMT

Sitting in the garden, ice cream and shandies and then a Holly Blue coming to you – sounds like a butterfly's paradise 😊🍷

Have a goodun

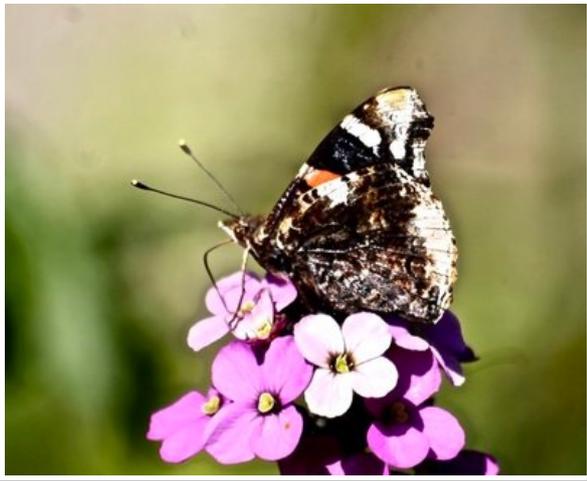
Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 26-May-17 07:38 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, I didn't get a chance to visit HLB until today and except for the walk that's all the exercise we got , we saw one white Butterfly 😊 I wasn't too bothered though because in the garden this morning I had a visit from my first of the season Red Admiral, I think it came for a shandy 😊 It must have been the one I saw the day before in the garden but this time it stopped! It wasn't in tip top condition,( a bit faded ) but who cares at last they're finding the garden.

My front Garden faces East so I get the morning Sun, in the afternoon it's full of shade so when I went looking on the front garden this afternoon, I wasn't surprised to see this rather large Frog,( don't think it's a Toad, ) taking cover on the lawn. i just hope it's not after the Butterflies 😊 Goldie 😊



## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 29-May-17 10:48 AM GMT

After the lovely hot weather of Thursday and Friday Saturday was rather cooler but still sunny and dry, then came the Thunder storm which didn't last too long but gave the garden a good soak which was needed.

Sunday dawned much cooler and cloudier but after doing nothing much for three days we decided to go to Southport and look in the Dunes, it was a walk even if we didn't see anything 😊

When we arrived the temp's was about 16c but with no breeze was much better to cope with and felt warm in the Dunes, there was no Sun so I set the camera to cloudy but forgot to change the ISO 😊 not to worry, you live and learn!

We went firstly to Marshside NNR, no sign of the Wall but I found two fresh Red Admiral's which were just sitting in the shelter of some leaves, I was pleased knowing I'd probably find other Butterflies now 😊

Marshside covers two sides of the Marine Drive so we went to the other side and discovered a lovely Female CB and a Painted Lady which looked like it had been on a long journey 😊 also there were numerous Whites, Large, Small, GV.

After this we carried on to the newly names Jubilee Trail which is further down Marine Drive, still cloudy but much brighter, we counted lot's of Small Heath and CB's also a Cinnabar Moth which was too quick for us 😊 On o 😊 ur way home the Sun came out, better late than never 😊 Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 29-May-17 09:56 PM GMT

Good find that Painted Lady Goldie, I'm still hunting for one of those this season 🍀 I've just got back from a long weekend camping on the Isle of Purbeck but I only saw three butterflies of three species the whole time I was there 😞 Oh well you've got to have some bad luck so that you can have the good 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 30-May-17 10:02 AM GMT

I was pleased to find the Painted Lady Wurzel, It's been a strange year so far, after years of seeing loads of Butterflies, Small Tort's, Peacock's in my Garden and over at my local NR" Hall-Lee-Brook" in Spring, this year I've seen none in my garden and with the exception of a handful of ST's at HLB, they seem to have disappeared which is worrying .

Added to that list also is the OT, I took no shot's at all at HLB and saw two the whole time I went there and then to my surprise I found an Orange Tip in my Garden,( once ) It seems certain area's have been hit badly this year ( no Butterflies) where as some places are seeing more, I've had to travel to different places to get shots of species I used to take for granted were plentiful, so the fact you only saw three species on your holiday doesn't surprise me. 😊 Goldie

**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 30-May-17 09:42 PM GMT

I'm also envious of your Painted Lady, Goldie, and I like the female Common Blue. 😊 Another "blue" female – almost all I've seen have been like this in 2017.

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

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

Hi! Dave, I know what you mean about these Female Common Blues, when I visited Southport ( twice Now in 2017) I've seen lots of these colourful Females, they really are unusual and a pleasure to see, the first one I took a shot of was a much brighter blue than the last one I took a shot of which was much darker, I've always thought it strange how the Female's change their colour's and the Male's don't. Goldie 😊

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 02-Jun-17 09:46 AM GMT

Turned out to be much better than I thought yesterday weather wise, we had a ride to Fleetwood, rain had been forecast for Cumbria and with the sky being dull and cloudy here, decided not to go too far. Firstly we called at Wyre CP but with the cloudy skies nothing was seen except one Red Admiral, the Sun started to appear as we made our way to Fleetwood so after lunch we decided to have a walk along the front in the shelter of the Dunes which are not very big at Fleetwood 😊 The tide was coming in and across the bay you could see Morecambe and the Lakes, the tide comes in very Quickly in the bay so it's very dangerous and people were coming off the beaches. The path was full of yellow flowers which the Bee's were really enjoying as were the Butterflies with the Large Whites every where and to numerous to count. By this time the Sun had disappeared again, in spite of this the LW's were still flying and we saw just a couple of Common Blues, it was a very nice day until we hit the traffic on the way home, which was awful and instead of the usual 3/4 hour trip, it took us 2hrs UGH! Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 03-Jun-17 07:47 PM GMT

It must have been great seeing lots of Large Whites - last year (or was it the year before that?) they had a bad one so it's good that they've made a recovery 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 03-Jun-17 08:31 PM GMT

Is that Heysham power station in the distance, Goldie?

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 04-Jun-17 03:12 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, Yes the Large Whites were every where, so many I couldn't count them, strange though, we used to get a lot in the garden and you'd see the odd ones at the sea side now the opposite is happening, like you say though at least they've made a recovery. 😊

Hi! David, yes it's the power station, we always call it the Morecambe Bay PS so I'd to ask my Husband to make sure 😊

Yesterday Saturday we had a ride to Southport, in the Dunes the Small Heath were every where how ever there wasn't has many Common Blues and we saw no Large Whites like we'd seen at Fleetwood. Small day flying Moths were plentiful but hard to get photo's of, I did manage a shot of a Silver Y and a quick shot of a Cinnabar ( I think) which wouldn't pose for the camera 😊 It was a nice day out, the weather was good with not too much breeze. Goldie 😊



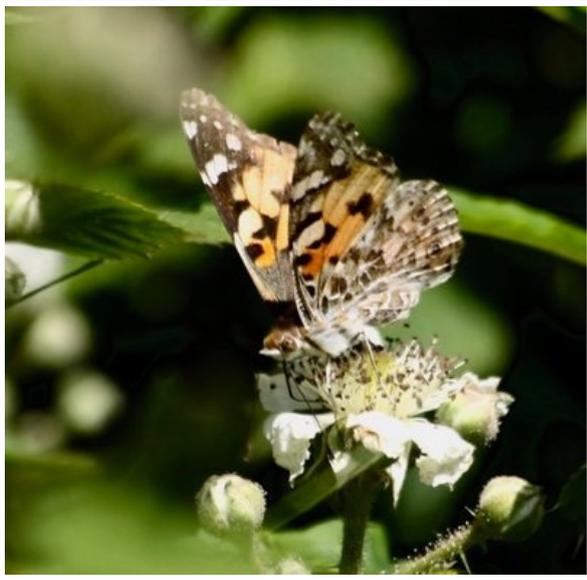
## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 10-Jun-17 11:59 AM GMT

Very wet and windy here over the last six days with the exception of yesterday when it was Sunny but quite windy, we decided to have a look at Hall-Lee-Brook to see if any Large Skipper's were about, just lately I've been a bit under the weather still from it seems early May, if I do go out I'm feeling shattered when I get back 😊 A bit more Sun would help I'm sure! 😊

We didn't see any LS but we did see a Painted Lady, it's the first I've ever seen at HLB ,also just caught a Large White has it was taking off, quite a nice one in good condition.

When I got back home a Large White was in the back garden on a Fox Glove and fluttering round my Boules Mauve, for the first time it felt like Summer had arrived 😊 today we're back in the wind and rain UGH! Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Pauline, 10-Jun-17 01:58 PM GMT

Nice shots of the Painted Lady Goldie and that Silver-y moth is not bad either 😊😄 – a difficult moth to photograph for sure. Hope you're feeling a bit fitter now.

**Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 10-Jun-17 02:51 PM GMT

A very fine Large White, Goldie, and Painted Ladies up your way already.

Trevor.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 10-Jun-17 09:53 PM GMT

Spot on with the Cinnabar ID Goldie 😊 Great Painted Lady but the star of the show this time has to be the female Large White, lush 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 10-Jun-17 10:45 PM GMT

Well done with the Painted Lady, Goldie. I've yet to see one of those in the UK so far this year.

**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 10-Jun-17 11:53 PM GMT

That's a great Large White shot, Goldie – it's almost impossible to see one so fully open as that. I like the one where it has its nose up inside the foxglove too. 😊

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 11-Jun-17 01:07 PM GMT

Thank you Pauline, I keep getting these tired spells, I go out full of beans then I take two days to get over it, hope fully when we get more Sun this will pass. 😊 ( or I'll get worse for trying 😊 )

Glad you liked the Large White Trevor, thank you, I was amazed to see the Painted Lady at Hall-Lee-Brook, I'd even seen it at Southport Dunes a couple of weeks earlier so there must be quite a number of them arriving . 😊

Thanks Wurzel, I was amazed when I saw the shot of the Large White myself only because I was stood in a field full of Buttercups and I'd followed the Butterfly but every time I tried a shot it flew off 😊 I gave up in the end so when I got home and saw I'd caught it on take off I was chuffed 😊

Hi! David, I'm sure you'll see a Painted Lady before very long it seems to be a good year for them, that's if they don't get washed away with all the rain we're having 😊

Thank's Dave, I'm pleased you liked the Fox Glove shot it was my favourite shot, although you can't see the LW fully I liked the shot because there's also a bee in there and it seemed to typify Summer to me. 😊

Thanks again everybody lets hope we get more Sun Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 11-Jun-17 09:54 PM GMT

**Goldie M wrote:**

... I'd even seen it at Southport Dunes a couple of weeks earlier so there must be quite a number of them arriving . 😊

Hi Goldie,

They were arriving in off the sea in good numbers in Cornwall when I was down there recently so I am not surprised they have found there way up to you.

The weather has been quite rough here recently as well, not just dull and wet but blustery winds a lot of the time. Lets hope it picks up soon.

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 12-Jun-17 09:02 AM GMT

Hi! Neil, the weather here has also been awful, it's been March and April with wind and rain in June, I see the forecast for the South in the next few days is much better but I can't see a lot of change for us yet, the only bit of good news comes from Gait Barrow where BHS larva has been found 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 14-Jun-17 07:44 PM GMT

Today was hot but very little Sun appeared we'd more cloud which was high in the sky so much better for walking about. We considered going to Gait Barrow but the forecast there was for a rain shower so once again we put off that journey, has LS and MB had been seen at Brockholes we decided to go there instead.

it was very dull when we arrived but the fields around were full of flowers and lightened our mood, at first nothing appeared and then I saw a flash of Orange which landed just in front of me, my first large Skipper for this year 😊 because the weather was dull he wasn't flitting from flower to flower but stayed on a leaf for quite a while. 😊

After this I saw Common Blue and one strange looking Fly or moth, I'm not sure what ?

Six Spotted Burnetts were every where I've never seen so many at one time, that goes for the Damsel Fly's as well, I just had to take a few shots of both. 😊

A Bus had brought quite a lot of Children and they had net's so I supposed they were doing a nature exercise, they were very active in the large field so I hoped they'd send a few Butterflies my way, which they did 😊 A Meadow brown which like the the LS's just settled on a leaf and more Blue's.

Has we returned to the car I saw this Wag Tail which was very friendly and posed for a photo. 😊 Goldie 😊





*Unnamed*





### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 14-Jun-17 11:17 PM GMT

You live in a part of the UK that is beautiful, but very unpredictable weatherwise, Goldie. 😞

From what I've seen of the forecast, you should get good opportunities to get out this weekend! Make the most of it – Mountain Ringlets at Irton Fell perhaps?

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 16-Jun-17 08:55 AM GMT

Hi! David, Your right about the beauty of where I live 😊 Like you say though weather wise it's wet, wet, wet,, an awful lot more than other parts of the country, 😞 We do try to go when the the weather is predicted to be good, trouble is the Butterflies have become few and far between up here, I check Lancashire BFC and Cumbria to see what's been seen locally and we've traveled to the Lakes as soon as we could but some times like this year for instance we've not been lucky enough to see any Fritillaries .

It's very disappointing when you go up three or four times and don't see these lovely Butterflies, we're going up again this weekend ten to one it'll be too hot for Butterflies 😞 Oh! the joys of Butterflying 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 16-Jun-17 08:27 PM GMT

Is your unamed a Scorpion Fly from underneath Goldie? 😊 Good luck with your foray this weekend 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 18-Jun-17 08:35 AM GMT

I don't know Wurzel, I'm not too well up on Fly's or Moths come to that but if I see one I'm not sure of I take a shot of it. 😊

Yesterday was a great day, with the weather being so nice we set off early for the Lakes and decided to try Foulshaw Marsh, which is on the A590 to Barrow, it's site is near Meathop Marsh, my mind was set on seeing the Large Heath which i thought might be there with the weather being so good, last year had been awful with the LH's diving for cover and the year before I'd caught them in flight and not really got a good shot of any of them.

We met the Ranger and he said a LH had been seen which got me really excited 😊 First though we took a look at the nesting Osprey through a telescope, we saw them but it was like looking through a mist with the heat being so intense only their out line was seen, we hope to go back and see them in a couple of weeks when their young will be bigger.

We set off along the board walk and it wasn't very long before we spotted them, just like before though they did short flights and disappeared 😊 later as the morning got nearer to lunch time more came out and I managed to get some shots, it was my first clear view of them and I was grateful for the longer lens that brought them nearer for me 😊

The Ranger had a picture of a moth and was asking if any one had seen it, I'd taken a shot of a Moth (not very good because of the grass etc) but I wondered if it was the same one?

We went to GB next but we saw very little, a couple of CB's and a Brimstone,

I thought the Female was a Northern Brown at first 😊

Finally we called at Warton and I got my first Ringlet of this year. Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 18-Jun-17 10:16 AM GMT

A few mrgreens for those Large Heaths, Goldie, 🍃🍃  
Not a species I will get to see easily.

Trevor.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Maximus, 18-Jun-17 10:26 AM GMT

Lovely shots of the Large Heaths, Goldie 🍷 a species that I'd love to see 😊  
Mike

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 18-Jun-17 11:57 AM GMT

Great stuff with the Large Heath Goldie 🍷🍷 A species I've still to see...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 18-Jun-17 12:35 PM GMT

Nice to see those Large Heaths, Goldie - like the others have said, not one I've seen yet. 🍷 😊

Dave

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 18-Jun-17 03:39 PM GMT

Thanks everyone, it was a fantastic day, I'd tried for ages to get some shots of the Large Heath and finally did it 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 19-Jun-17 09:44 AM GMT

Yup, the Large Heath still stubbornly remain on my hit list! 🍷

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 20-Jun-17 11:22 AM GMT

Hi! Bugboy, the Large Heath's are out in force at present and should be out for quite awhile if you can make it up there I think some one counted 40 at Foulshaw Moss yesterday, also at Arnside Knott Graylings and Northern Brown Argus are out I'm hoping to visit there this weekend all being well sooner if possible 😊 I'll be taking cousins and sister-in-laws for a day out 😊 😊

Yesterday we went to Ainsdale Dunes Southport I wanted to see the Dark Green Fritillary there, , it seems because of the heat they didn't come out until evening so we missed them but we did see the Small Skipper's which are out early for the North of England.  
Also there were Meadow Brown, Small Heath's and just a few Common Blues . Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by SimonC69, 20-Jun-17 12:36 PM GMT

To echo everybody else: well done on the LHs. One of those I can't see me getting for a while. 🍀  
Plus the "butterfly on Orchid" photo is another on my wishlist, so definitely deserves another of these: 🍀

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 20-Jun-17 02:42 PM GMT

Many thanks Simon, it's been great weather here as in the South but looks like it may end tomorrow so I'm so glad I was able to get the LH's before the storm we're supposed to get, hope you get the chance to see the LH's before very long. 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 20-Jun-17 10:13 PM GMT

Great effort with the Large Heath, Goldie. It's a difficult species at the best of times!

This is one butterfly these southerners lack, so it's always good to get an audience with them, whilst they tease us with their Purple Emperors, Chalkhill Blues, Silver Spotted Skippers, et al! 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 21-Jun-17 04:30 PM GMT

Thank's David, it was great to see the LH and when one landed near the board walk I couldn't believe my Luck. 😊  
I want to go back up there for a NBA, it's another one I've not really got a good shot of,( one with the white spot on the wing,) so far mine have all been without the spot and the shots not very good, hope the rain doesn't last too long, it's gone dark now so looks like the storm is about to arrive. 😊 😊

Last night we were watching the tele which had a program on about Hedge Hogs, when we looked up and saw one in the garden it's the first time for ages since we've seen one in the garden, I took a quick shot of it, not exactly a Butterfly none the less a welcome sight. Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 21-Jun-17 06:56 PM GMT

Nice shot of a cheeky Hedgehog Goldie and good to see the golden skippers emerging up your way 😊 Good luck with the Northern Brown Argus 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 23-Jun-17 12:09 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, I went up to Arnside Knott yesterday I didn't see a Northern Brown however I managed a DGF 😊

The forecast wasn't very good for the lakes in the morning but when it said it would be better in the afternoon we decided to venture forth 😊 On arrival in Arnside we thought we'd made a mistake, it was cold and miserable, so the first thing we did was have lunch hoping things would change. After lunch the weather was brighter the dark clouds giving way briefly to some sunshine, we went to the flower meadow but only a few Meadow Brown's and Ringlet's were about so we decided on the slopes where in previous years we'd seen the Scotch Argus, I was hoping to see a Northern Brown, as the Sun got brighter still I saw a flash of Orange and to my delight saw a Dark Green Fritillary, 😊 after a few shots it flew off and another one landed on a flower, this one seemed smaller, again I took some shots after that I saw a Small Skipper but although we waited for a while nothing else appeared, I would liked to have stayed and walked further but we'd my Cousin with us so felt obliged to leave. 😊 She's not mad on BF's like me) 😊

On our way home we called at Warton Craig and as soon as I got out of the car I saw another flash of orange, I took some shots but saw nothing else. I've called all my shots DGF's I think Male and Female but I've stared at them so long I'm confused 😊

If I'm wrong feel free to put me right. 😊 I didn't see any NBA so will have to wait for another day. Goldie 😊





*Taken at WC*





**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 24-Jun-17 12:05 AM GMT

Well done with the DGF's, Goldie.

Interesting that Small Skippers are out your way. I haven't seen any yet myself in spite of the recent perfect conditions. 😞

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 24-Jun-17 08:52 AM GMT

Thanks David, I was lucky to see the DGF with the weather having changed so much. The first time I saw the Small Skipper was at Southport last week, I was amazed because there wasn't a Large Skipper any where, since then I've seen them all over the place, for more than last year a round here, I hope you see some soon. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 24-Jun-17 09:44 AM GMT

Love your Skipper on Orchid, what a combination. You also have a problem up there we don't have in Sussex, having to make sure your Dark Green Frits are Dark Green Frits. No problem with confusion down here. 😊

Best wishes,  
Trevor.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 24-Jun-17 10:39 AM GMT

Thank you Trevor, your right about ID's for the Fritillaries, I've always to check there's no High Brown's in there 😊 I've still not seen any Pearl's yet though like you've got down there, I'm still trying but I could be too late this year. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 24-Jun-17 05:59 PM GMT

Rain was forecast for today but this afternoon the Sun came out intermittently so I made a quick trip to Hall-Lee-Brook my local NR, I'd been there a few times in the last few weeks with nothing much flying, so today it was a nice surprise to see a really nice dark Meadow Brown and a large Skipper, looks like some at least escaped the grass cutting. 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 24-Jun-17 09:14 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

I see you caught up with the Large Heath this year...well done 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 25-Jun-17 09:29 AM GMT

Thanks Neil, it was a real treat to see them and for once in fantastic weather 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 25-Jun-17 09:42 PM GMT

Greta set of DGFs Goldie 🍷 I've still t find some round my way, the weather isn't helping at the moment either 😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 26-Jun-17 09:05 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, it was great finding them, the weather hadn't been too good and it was cold up there but when the Sun came out, so did they. 😊

The weather was supposed to be bad today but it turned out really nice so we went to Hall-Lee-Brook and I was surprised to find more Butterflies than last time, Small Tort's, and Comma's, great, besides more Meadow B's than before and loads of LS's.

The Comma's were diferent one much lighter than the other, I think one was an Hutchinsoni ( I think that's what it's called)

I didn't get a good shot of the Small Tort, it landed too far a way in the Blackberry bush so I just got a silhouette 😊

The Meadow Brown were diferent one light one dark and one with it's head hidden by leaves looked really different, I tried to get a better shot but it took off before I could.

Also got a shot of the Burnett's mating , I'd seen loads on thistles before but not mating, not a bad day.Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 26-Jun-17 10:16 PM GMT

Lovely glowing Commas, Goldie. They're beautiful when fresh like that. 😊

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 26-Jun-17 10:21 PM GMT

I agree with Dave about those Commas Goldie, and the markings are really strident on the Meadow Browns too 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 26-Jun-17 11:02 PM GMT

Seen a few Commas myself today, Goldie. They're always welcome, and let's hope their numbers reflect those during their spring flight period.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 27-Jun-17 09:40 AM GMT

Many thanks Dave, it was really great to see them after going over there so many times and not seeing any thing. 😊

Thanks very much Wurzel , we did have a bit of a surprise though, after finding the Comma's so lovely we came across one on the path that didn't move at all, I moved closer bent down and picked it up, It still didn't move , It looked just like the other two I'd seen, fresh, when it still didn't move I placed it on a leaf in the shade and left it thinking maybe it would revive, it's a bit strange though I just hope no ones been round with a spray or any thing, but when the weather picks up I'm going to check HLB again. 😊

Hi! Dave, Yes, it was great to see them but like I said to Wurzel it was a bit of a surprise finding one in so good a condition dead, lets hope we don't find any more. Goldie 😊

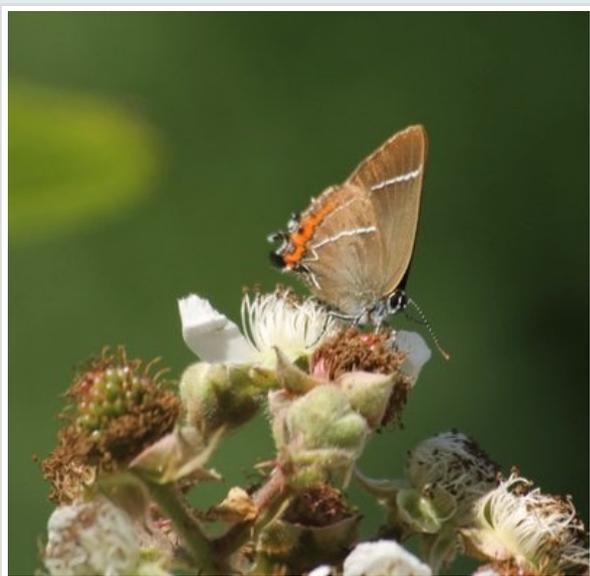
**Re: Goldie M**

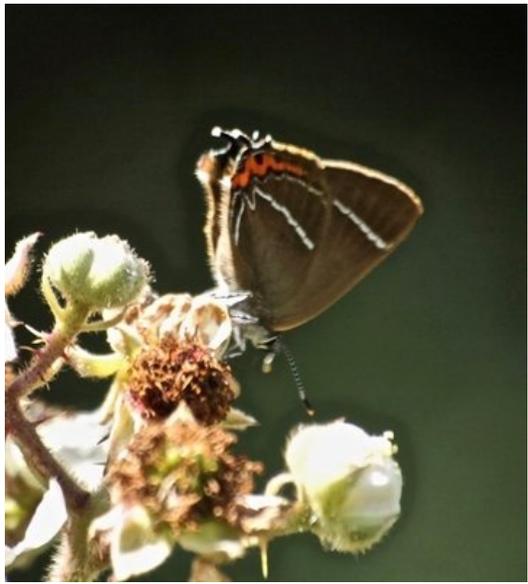
by Goldie M, 04-Jul-17 10:43 AM GMT

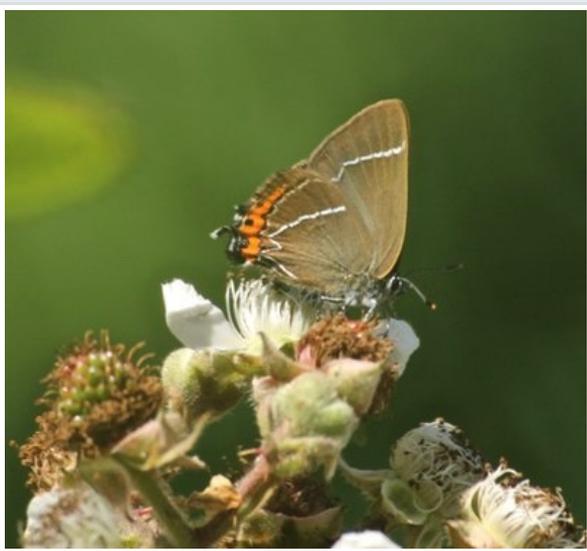
After a very active week-end family wise we found Sunday afternoon fairly free so we decided Brockholes was the nearest place to go and look for the WLHS and being has I'd never yet seen it I couldn't wait to go 😊 It turned out to be the wrong time of day and after waiting for a couple of hours we went for lunch on the floating Restaurant, we decided the weekend had tired us a lot and called it a day.

Yesterday the weather was again lovely so we went back to BH's this time at 4-30 pm and has we approached the clump of Blackberry bushes where we knew the WLHS flew down we were astounded at the amount of Butterflies there, RA's, Comma's, MB's, Small Tort's were every where, I went through a passage that some one had cut through the briar's , so many Butterflies and Bee's were flying I couldn't concentrate 😊 Then I saw a tiny flutter which landed just above me, I couldn't believe it, my very first WLHS 😊

I'll let my photos speak for me 😊 I Didn't care what I took I just clicked a way. 😊 Goldie 😊







**Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 04-Jul-17 11:07 AM GMT

Smashing White Letters, Goldie. You seem to have hit the jack-pot !.

Trevor.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Pauline, 04-Jul-17 01:50 PM GMT

So pleased for you Goldie. That was a moment you will never forget! Your very first WLH – and shots of it too. 😊😊😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 04-Jul-17 02:47 PM GMT

Well done Goldie 😊 great shots as well 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 04-Jul-17 07:02 PM GMT

Thanks very much Trevor, I was so pleased to finally see and photograph one after searching for so long. 😊

Your so right Pauline, i'm still reliving it. 😊

Thanks so much Bugboy, has I said to Pauline, I'm still on a High. 😊

I also saw this lovely Meadow Brown on my travels, it's the best I've ever come across, they're usually hidden by grass or dull so this one must be really

fresh. Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 04-Jul-17 07:09 PM GMT

Yes, a lovely fresh female, Goldie. Interestingly marked as well, with double eyespots and a wide pale hindwing border. 😊 If only they all opened up like this – we'd probably find every one is different! 😊

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 04-Jul-17 07:21 PM GMT

Thanks Dave, I thought that wide band unusual also the double eye spots so I was really pleased to find it. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Janet Turnbull, 04-Jul-17 08:49 PM GMT

Just seen your fantastic pictures of the WLHs Goldie! What a thrill. I am going hunting for them tomorrow near Northwich but if I don't have any luck I'll be off to Brockholes!

Good luck at Fermyn next week – hope you get to see the Emperors 😊

Janet

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 05-Jul-17 08:43 AM GMT

Thank you very much Janet much appreciated, hope you get lucky, if not I've sent you where to see them at Brockholes. I hope I get to see the PE's at Fermyn if I don't, I'll be happy with the WLHs 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 05-Jul-17 06:01 PM GMT

I've been catching up on your splendid WLH photos. It's always been a 'special' butterfly for me, ever since I first encountered some in a small wood near Clifden Hampden, a village on the River Thames not far from home. Since then, I've found them popping up in various unexpected places including a local garden centre!

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 05-Jul-17 08:01 PM GMT

Thanks very much Mike, there's always a great thrill I think when you see a Butterfly you've searched for when you actually find it and see it for the first time. 😊 Thanks to Lancs Butterflies and their recorders who pointed me in the right Direction 😊

I can understand why it's a big favourite with you, I think the Hair Streaks are also my favourites, I've got two of them to see yet the Brown and Black, the Brown HS is at Gait Barrow now and hope fully I'll get to see it in August, Thanks again Mike, 😊

I took a shot of a Gate Keeper at Southport today and I think it's an excess I could be wrong, looking at the Gate Keeper ab's there seems to be so many with different names and have the two extra spots. Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-Jul-17 03:28 PM GMT

Decided to go local today with the weather being so hot and the threat of ThunderStorms so we went to Hall-Lee-Brook my local haunt 😊 there were loads of Comma's one in particular soaking up the minerals, 😊 None of them opened their wings for very long but I enjoyed their lovely colours, and the Meadow Brown's are doing very well in spite of the Grass being cut in one Meadow, I just hope they don't cut the other meadow yet. Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 06-Jul-17 04:14 PM GMT

Your Comma has found a splendid perch 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 06-Jul-17 06:57 PM GMT

He really enjoyed his perch too Mike 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 06-Jul-17 09:52 PM GMT

Really interesting Meadow Brown from a few posts back Goldie 😊 And great to see an excessa Gatekeeper 🍷 my favourite butterfly has emerged 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 07-Jul-17 12:31 PM GMT

I was lucky with the Gate Keeper Wurzel, it was the only one I got a full shot of and it happened to be an excessa , 😊  
If it's the Meadow Brown I took at Blackpool Wurzel my Husband drew my attention to it, I've not seen one so fresh before. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 10-Jul-17 01:26 PM GMT

It's been a funny year for me so far, I've tried to see so many Butterflies but weather and set backs have some what curtailed my adventures to more local spots , I did get a first with my WLH's shots and some decent shots of the Large Heath's , but no PB or PBF for me this year. I had to go to Southport ( local again ) for Graylings but to my surprise none were there inspite of the lovely weather 😊  
This week-end was nice again but once again we couldn't set off, my Husbands Gout was the problem this time 😊 In spite of this we'd to laugh ( good job we've a sense of humour) 😊 We don't want to cancel another holiday so decided to take it easy 😊

The Butterflies must have felt sorry for us because we'd a visit from a Comma a Small Tort(it was great to see it) a Red admiral, lots of GVW's and even a small Skipper, I was amazed and kept busy with my Camera 😊  
I drove the car to HLB and saw lots more butterflies so the weather had brought them out at last. so the week-end wasn't a total loss. Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 11-Jul-17 09:05 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

I have just seen your White-letter Hairstreaks, great stuff 😊

That is one species I have very few photos of and it looks like I will miss it again this year.

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 11-Jul-17 10:49 PM GMT

Good to see you keeping your hand in despite the set-backs Goldie 😊 This year has been a funny one – it started and then stopped and then started again and went hell for leather, I just hope there's some butterflies left by August 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 12-Jul-17 05:38 PM GMT

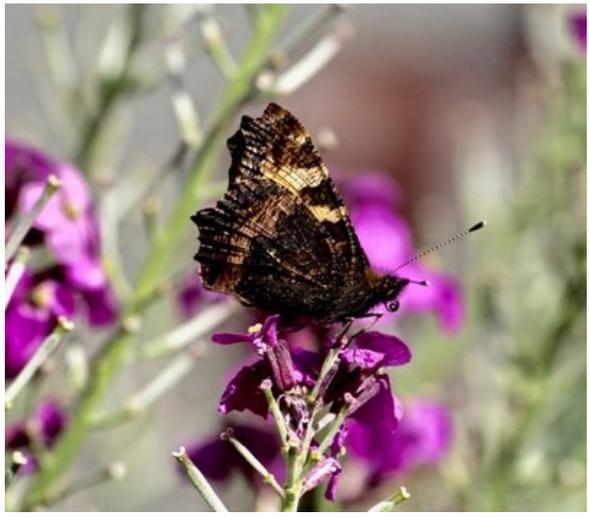
Sorry you missed the WLH's Neil, I was lucky there it took me two days to get them and I couldn't believe my eye's when I finally did. I'd been told about Brockholes, but the first day I went too early, so the next day I went back at tea time and there they were.

I think they're still on the move here, they've been sited at two new places in Rossendale my old home town 😊 So I'll know next year where to go. 😊

We're off this week-end all being well Wurzel to Kent, I do hope there's some Butterflies there, I've not seen a Gate Keeper at HLB yet so I'm hoping they'll be here when I get back or hope fully in Blean Wood, My Husbands much better so we may call at Fermyn on the way down, you never know. 😊

Today once again after two day's of rain the Sun was out, in my Garden the Tortoiseshell paid us another visit and at HLB in spite of them once again

cutting the grass the Meadow Brown's were still about, no Peacocks yet!  
They left the grass in one meadow which was full of thistle's so the shots i took were mostly from a distance. Goldie 😊



*Front Garden*



*Front Garden*



*HLB*



HLB



HLB

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 13-Jul-17 11:10 PM GMT

Good luck on your travels Goldie 😊 As everything is so early you might get a Brostreak 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Jul-17 11:39 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, it looks like I'm off to a flying start, 😊

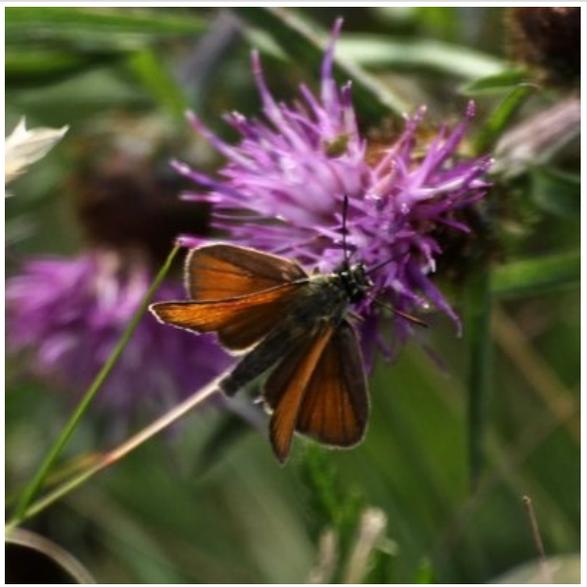
I can't put every thing down so far that I've seen, I'll have to do a Wurzel on this holiday 😊 But i've got questions on some of the Butterflies 😊 I was watching my Grand Son's playing Cricket yesterday and of course I'd to do a wander round the field which was left at the edges full of Thistles and I took these shots.

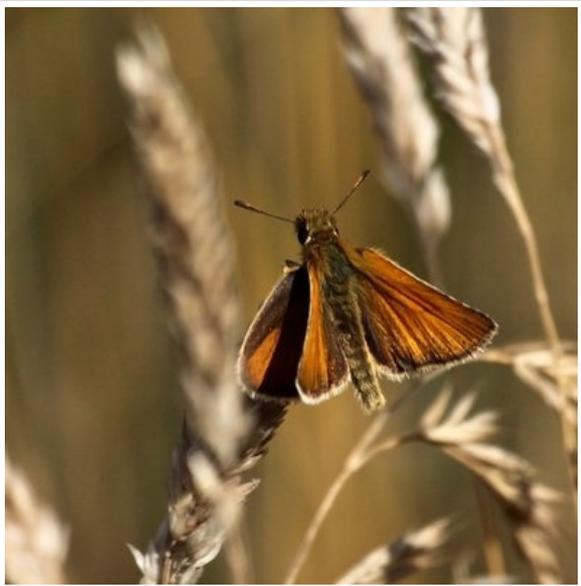
I'm not much good at sorting the Essex Skipper's out from the Small so I wonder if any of these are Essex?

I also saw this White Butterfly which flew off has I approched it but I did get a quick shot, it seems to have some green on the wings? Is it some kind of day Moth? For some reason I can't get my shot of the white Butterfly in ?

Then to my surprise I saw this lovely Copper but it was so dark brown I thought ( but for it's size) it was a Meadow Brown 😊 is it an ab i wonder. Goldie 😊







### Re: Goldie M

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

Doing a Wurzel - I like it 😊😊 Your third Skipper shot shows a definite Essex, you can see the ink dabs on the antennae 😊 Looking forward to more, eventual 😊 reports 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 17-Jul-17 01:02 PM GMT

That's a lovely Copper 😊 . I'd say Essex for all those skippers. All males from the looks of things but no obvious 'Small' scent patch. 😊

Looking forward to see what else you see 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 17-Jul-17 07:48 PM GMT

Hello Goldie,

That's a lovely Copper ,Goldie ,maybe AB; Fuscae or Fuscata (have a look on Cockayne ), these dusky individuals turn up quite often at Dungeness ( or have in most years !),but as Hoggers has mentioned ,the numbers there this year seem well down ,around this date last year I counted 150 + on a couple of occasions ,but struggled to find 8 a few days back,that said it would probably still be my first stop for a Small Copper! I believe you,re down in Kent at the moment ,another good place for Coppers is Hothfield Common (or heathlands ) near Ashford ,in particular the "old football field" at tq 971461 keep your eyes on the ragwort, I found 9 in about 20 minutes a few days back ,its also very good out on the Common itself. Also if you visit Lydden/ Temple Ewell down ,you often see Small Coppers there too . Good hunting !! Regards Allan.W.  
PS ; lydden,s also a good site for Clouded Yellows.

### Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 17-Jul-17 10:54 PM GMT

I'm very envious of your Kent excursion, Goldie. 🍷 The hills around Dover are full of interest as I'm sure you know. I never made the most of the years I lived there. Have a great time! Your Small Copper is very dark – a splendid find. 😊

Dave

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 18-Jul-17 11:01 AM GMT

Hi! folks, Thanks Bugboy for the ID 😊 I'd only got a shot of one before so I'm really pleased.

Thanks Wurzel, I've seen so much on the way here and whilst here, so I thought of you, I can't get every thing in at once, makes sense to do it gradually, another reason, weather's too nice for sitting in. 😊

Hi! Alan thank you very much for that ID, I thought it looked different 😊 I saw the ab Copper at Bossingham on the small Cricket feild there, it's worth a ride but quite narrow roads there.

I was at Temple Ewell yesterday and the Butterflies were every where CHB, MW's, BA, and many other's I'll definitely be going back there to look for Clouded Yellow 😊

Many thanks Millerd, I'm really enjoying my trip, we'd cream tea's yesterday on the Cliffs after our trip to TE. 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Janet Turnbull, 18-Jul-17 11:01 PM GMT

That's an amazing Copper you've got there Goldie! Envious of your Kent trip – it's a long way to go for a weekend but well worth it I'm sure! 😊 Janet

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 19-Jul-17 10:24 AM GMT

Hi! Janet, thank you, I'm lucky I get to visit every year in summer for a couple of weeks it's great. Goldie 😊

I'm off out again shortly shopping for food then off out again but I thought I'd just put a few more shots in my posts.

Monday Night we went to East Blean Wood to look for Purple Hair Streak, we got there about 4.30pm and in the Oak tree's I was delighted see them flying about.

Also went Yesterday to Samphon Oh! I think thats spelt right! and saw the Ranger there bent down on the path taking photos.

Caterpillars were every where, on the sea walls and paths, he said it was twenty years since the Oh! was opened to the day and that's the last time he'd seen these moths until now and to the day, I took a few shots of the cat's they were lot's of different colours. He said the Moth was called Bordered Sallow.

Afterwards we went to the Battle of Britain Memorial and in the grounds I saw this Skipper, I think is a large Skipper but I'm not sure. Off now I'm being called 😊😊 Goldie 😊









### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 19-Jul-17 10:18 PM GMT

Great that you got a Purple Hairstreak Goldie 😊 And that is a very tired looking Large Skipper I've not seen one in almost a week now, looking forward to the next installment 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 19-Jul-17 10:56 PM GMT

Good effort with the Purple Hairstreaks, Goldie – it's a notoriously difficult species.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 20-Jul-17 10:49 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel and David, we went back there yesterday but although we saw some they quickly hid, the wind was very strong and blowing the trees all over the place. Goldie 😊

Last Friday the 14th July we set off for Fermyn Wood, the idea was to stay over night in a motel giving ourselves some breathing space before setting off on the Saturday for Kent.

When we arrived it was lunch time so we decided on a short walk into the woods before we had our picnic, as we walked along this small brown butterfly flew up from the path and landed down again near to us, I was so surprised to find it was a White Letter Hair Streak 😊 Irony really when you think just how long it took me to get a shot of until last month. 😊

Further along the path in a clearing I was startled by this White Admiral that missed me by inches but delighted when it landed on a flower in front of me 😊 After that we went back to the car for lunch.

After lunch I set off leaving my husband who was still feeling the effects of his gout in the car. I walked back to where we'd seen the Admiral and in the same glade clearing I spotted a Silver Washed Fritillary in not too good a condition but I realised it was a female so had to take a shot 😊 After that a much fresher one came into sight and even that was slightly worn but I really didn't care it was such a great feeling to see them again 😊

I walked further along and up high in the trees I saw his highness flying about unfortunately he didn't land for a photo 😊 but at least I'd seen him 😊 After that I saw lots of other BF, considering the weather had been mostly clouded I'd had a good day. Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Janet Turnbull, 20-Jul-17 02:55 PM GMT

Glad you had a good day at Fermyn, Goldie! And you even got a WLH ! 🍷  
Janet

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 20-Jul-17 07:59 PM GMT

Thank's Janet, I was really pleased with the Hair Streak, it's just a pity i couldn't get to Fermyn earlier because a lot of the Butterflies were not really at their best but at least I saw them. Goldie 😊

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 21-Jul-17 11:35 AM GMT

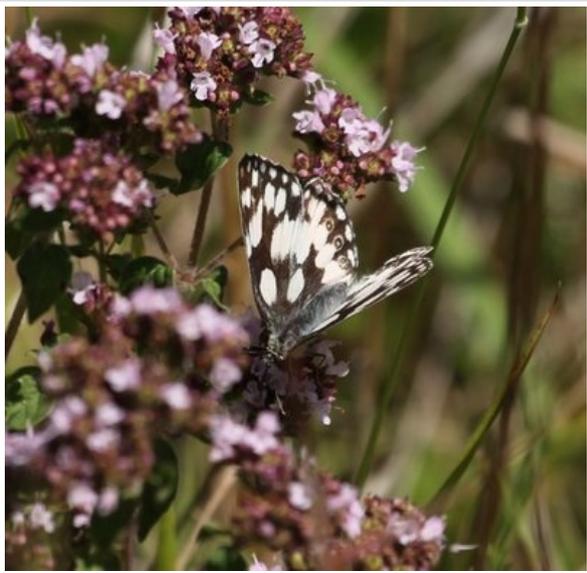
Monday was a great day, lovely weather and lots of Butterflies 😊

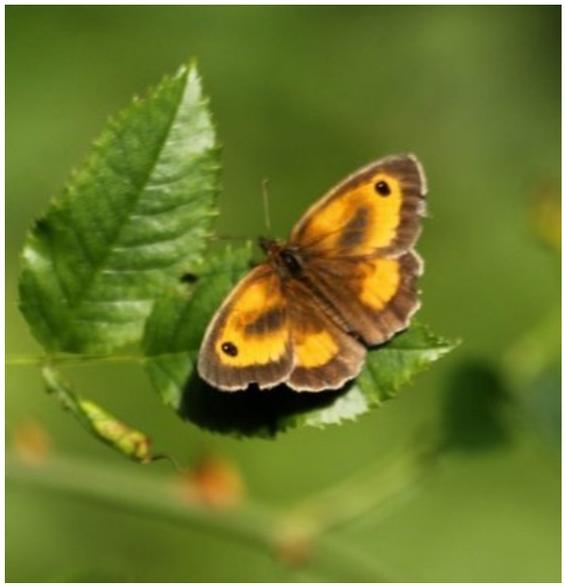
We went to Temple Ewell NR and I couldn't believe the amount of Butterflies there, MW's LW's GK's BA and Chalkhill Blues etc.

It was very hot so after a couple of hours wandering about we'd had enough and decided to go to the White Cliffs in Dover for a cream tea 😊

We didn't walk about much after that but enjoyed the breeze and watched the boats, just off the path loads of wild flowers were growing and I enjoyed watching a Painted Lady fluttering about and the Red Admirals landing and seemingly looking for shade.

On the way back we called at East Blean Wood and I've already posted some shots from there. it was a day to remember over the Winter time. Goldie 😊







## Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 21-Jul-17 07:30 PM GMT

Hello Goldie'

Thought you may be interested, just got back from a late afternoon visit to Dungeness ,spent just over an hour there and in this time ,saw only 3 battle worn Coppers,fair numbers of Common Blues including 2 pairs "in-cop" A cracking Painted Lady ,numerous Gatekeepers and one very confiding Clouded Yellow , if you,re thinking of a trip at the weekend (although the weathers not meant to be up to much ),if you don,t mind me suggesting,park by the old lighthouse and follow the power station wall around to the left ,towards the sea ,and then along the front wall ,always a good spot for incoming Cloudies,also good numbers of Common Blue ,and an excellent spot For Hummingbird Hawk ( a pair was photographed in-cop,on the power station fence last week ,see Dungeness Web-site ) ,of course another,and probably better than Dungle for Cloudies ,is Reculver ,a lovely walk ,with lots of good species ! and then of course you have Samphire Ho! which is probably equally as good .  
Good hunting ! ,ll post a pic of todays Cloudie on the July sightings. Regards Allan.W.

**Re: Goldie M**

by dave brown, 21-Jul-17 08:34 PM GMT

Hi Goldie.

Dungeness has been quieter this year for butterflies in general but especially Small Copper. The one exception has been the Small Skipper which has numbered in the hundreds. I agree with Allan that your best chance of Clouded Yellow and Painted Lady is around the Power Station perimeter concrete wall area on the Ragwort and Valerian. There is a Lay By by the large metal gates. Just walk along the wall area. We have seen a few at other locations but they have all been on passage.

You seem to have seen most of the Butterflies that are on the wing at present, ensuring a most enjoyable holiday.

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 21-Jul-17 10:30 PM GMT

Many thanks Alan and Dave, We've got another week yet and the weather seems okay after Tuesday with some breaks Sat so if we do get some breaks tomorrow I think we'll try Reculver it's much nearer to us.

On Wednesday I saw two Cloudies at Seasalter but they didn't stop for very long and yesterday one flew passed me on the road stop at Lydden, so I'm hoping I'll get to see one yet.

If we go to Dungeness next week we'll definitely take your advice Allan Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Allan.W., 22-Jul-17 07:31 AM GMT

Hello again Goldie,

Just a word to the wise ,if you do go to Reculver , get there reasonably early ,because the car park soon fills up !

Another thing you may be interested in ,if you follow the path ,not the towers path ,but the path that takes you around the front of the pub ,and skirts the caravan park,around the outer wall ,the walls are covered in ivy and is always a great place for low perching Holly Blues,in fact if you get it right ,actually the best I know ,you,Il also notice loads of Elm sucker growth,and I,ve always thought this looks good for White -letters (but have never visited at the right time myself !) keep following the path (mind the cyclists !) and you,Il come out below the towers and on the sea wall,keep you,re eyes on the scrub area . Good hunting !! regards Allan.W.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 22-Jul-17 10:38 AM GMT

Thanks Alan, looks like we'll have to wait a day or two for some good weather 😞 we'll take your advice though when we go, I find it's always best to know when other people have been before you, thanks again fingers crossed I'll get my Cloudy! Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 22-Jul-17 11:04 AM GMT

Your trip to the South is certainly paying off, with all the species you are seeing.  
Glad you are having a great time.

Trevor.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 22-Jul-17 07:04 PM GMT

Thanks Trevor, so far I've had great luck with the Butterflies, just hope the weather keeps up. 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 23-Jul-17 05:52 PM GMT

Tuesday, was another good day but very windy, we went to Samphire Oh! and nearly got blown a way but we did see the moth cats already posted, we went on to the Battle Of Britain Memorial afterwards and in the grounds we saw a lovely little Copper, slightly worn but I was pleased to see it.

We still had plenty of time so decided to go back to Temple Ewell, it's my favourite place for Butterflies and there we saw another

Copper, mating pair of Meadow Browns, another Brown Argus, the list goes on Goldie 😊



*Temple Ewell*



*Memorial Gardens*







### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 23-Jul-17 08:44 PM GMT

Looks like the trip South is really paying off Goldie – you're having some cracking successes especially with the Hairstreaks 😊 Looking forward to the next installment 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 24-Jul-17 11:42 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, yes so far things have been good but gradually the weather's deteriorated, since Wednesday I think. 😊

On Wednesday we decided the weather was windy but we'd still try some where different so we went to Seasalter,. When we got there the seeds from the tops of the Thistles were blowing every where, it was a job to tell which were the Butterflies 😊

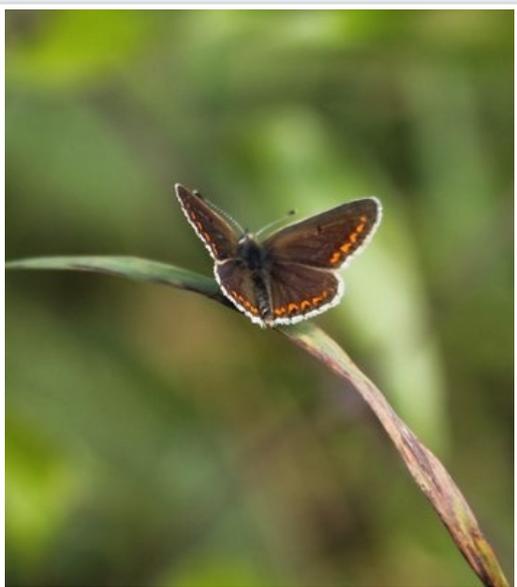
It was very disappointing we only saw a few species and one was a Cloudy which landed briefly and just as I was about to take a shot, flew off 😊 I suppose at least I'd saw one ,may be two as another one passed but didn't stop.

After that we went to East Blean Woods but apart from loads of GK's MB's and a Comma the PHS's stayed well up in the tree's so the day wasn't too exciting BF wise. 😊

Thursday we went back to Temple Ewell, I knew I'd see butterflies there for sure and always some thing happening 😊

We saw lots of Brown Argus, the Chalkhill's and Marbles were still plentiful and on the way there we stopped at the roadside and guess what another Cloudy passed by behind me 😊😊 We also saw Chalkhill's mating. Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 24-Jul-17 11:52 AM GMT

You are making me very envious with your trip to Kent, Goldie, with a great variety of species and especially the Clouded Yellows you've seen. 🍷 I used to go to Seasalter as a child when my grandparents lived near Whitstable, and somewhere round there is where I saw my first ever Clouded Yellow! You

really are bringing the memories back... 😊

Dave

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 24-Jul-17 07:06 PM GMT

I too am pretty envious of your Cloudies as I haven't seen one this year let alone two 😊🍀

Have a goodun

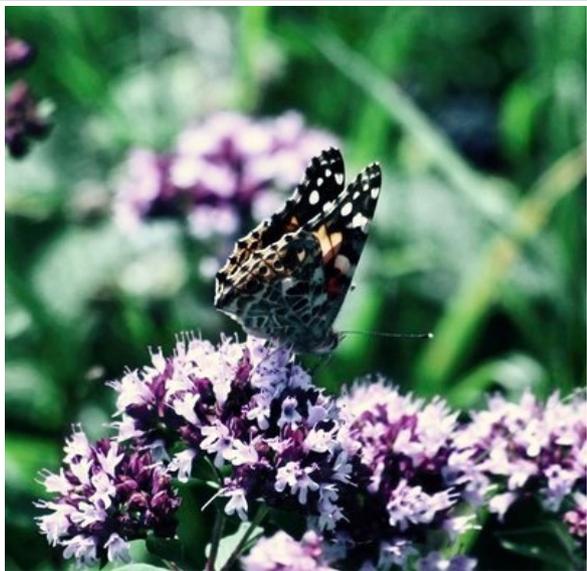
Wurzel

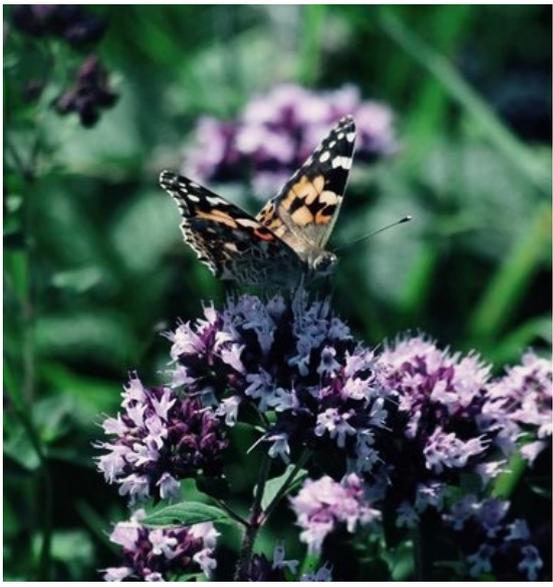
### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 25-Jul-17 10:18 AM GMT

Thanks for your post David and Wurzel, it's been interesting here, I love going out here because you never know just what you'll come across Butterfly wise, I was also pleased when I saw my Daughter's garden, she's changed it all to perennials and I was pleased to see a Comma in there on some Ivy, also a Marble flew in and out yesterday. 😊

On Friday we went to the White Cliffs again, it's then I made a real mess by not changing my camera from indoor to out door lighting,( we were going for a meal the night before ) 😊 Any way I've done the best I could with the shots but still got a faint blue haze 😊 I wanted to put my Painted Lady in my post though because the Butterfly was so lovely. Goldie 😊🍀





**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 25-Jul-17 09:21 PM GMT

That Painted Lady is an absolute beauty, Goldie. I've yet to see a bright new one this year. 🍷

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 25-Jul-17 09:39 PM GMT

Goldie, you've just reminded me that I've seen only two Painted Ladies in the UK so far this year! Let's hope for a few more during August & September.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Sonam Dorji, 26-Jul-17 09:06 AM GMT

The painted lady seems to be a very widespread species. In Bhutan also, you can atleast encounter one of them in your trip.

Sonam

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 26-Jul-17 11:09 AM GMT

Thanks everybody, I've been extremely lucky whilst down in Kent, I've seen the PL quite a few times but could only get this shot they were never still. 😊  
Goldie 😊

I've put Saturday and yesterday (Tuesday's )shots together because the weather has been pretty awful Sunday and Monday but we still enjoyed ourselves, we went to a Cricket match again Sunday which got washed a way but still had a good laugh with our Grandson"s, Monday we went to that new film Dunkirk and it was fantastic, then off for coffee.

Saturday Morning was okay weather wise but with the clouds arriving it was a quick visit to Reculver , it was very windy there but still warm, the only Butterflies we saw though were Whites before the clouds arrived ,I managed a mating pair of Whites which at first I thought were Cloudies because their wings had a lovely yellowish cast. 😊

It was Tuesday that had to be the highlight of our trip, the sky's were cloudy with a bit of sun peeping through now and again so we decided the best place to go would be Temple Ewell having seen nothing really over the last couple of days.

we stopped first at Lydden to look, the slopes there usually have Butterflies, it was there I saw loads of Brown Argus chasing each other and Mating 😊 Then onto Temple Ewell and my best surprise 😊 Because I'd got lots of shots of the other Butterflies there, I went up to the top hill and was taken by surprise when a Wall Brown landed in front of me 😊 Then my Daughter shouted of me and a flash of yellow went passed me up the hill, I lost it and thought not again but I went on over the hill and there it was my first Cloudy for some time and I think an Helis. what more can i say. Goldie 😊









**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 26-Jul-17 09:24 PM GMT

Well done, Goldie - Wall Brown and Cloudie!. I know just how difficult Cloudies can be to photograph.

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 26-Jul-17 09:40 PM GMT

Well done with the Clouded Yellow, Goldie. It almost looks pale enough to be a *helice*.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 27-Jul-17 09:35 AM GMT

Thank you Mike and David, it is an *Helice* David, I took this shot when I saw it at first, I just managed to catch it taking off and I went up the hill after it thinking it had gone and there it was on a flower, I was so excited I just fired a way at it but it kept on flying from flower to Flower, it gave me a right run around Mike, it would have been better if it'd changed the colour of the flower to land on in stead of yellow but when it did it was in the long grass.

😁 Goldie 😁





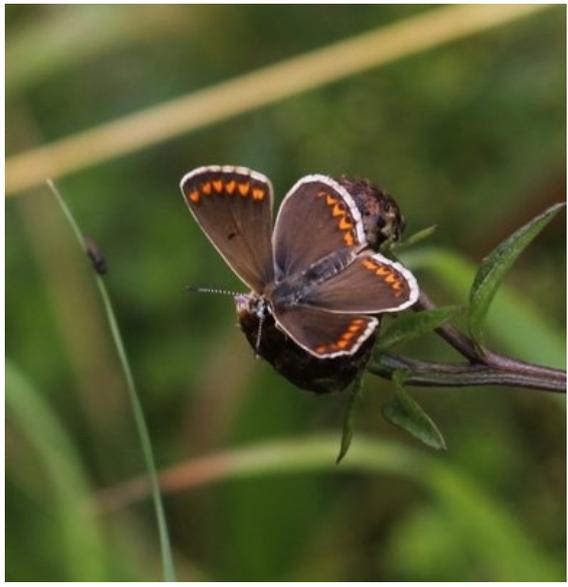
### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 27-Jul-17 10:01 AM GMT

Yesterday was a miserable day weather wise but although the forecast was for rain I think most of it fell during the night, so it was late afternoon when we decided to take a chance and go back to Temple Ewell ( rain coats and all 😊 )

Every thing was in Hiding but we did manage a few shots of the Brown Argus, a Chalkhill in Hiding and I think a Common Blue 😊  
Goldie 😊







**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 27-Jul-17 11:02 AM GMT

**Goldie M wrote:**  
it is an Helice

Your blurred photo shows how even a 'poor' shot can be very useful when it comes to identification! It is clear that your butterfly gave you the "run around" that I expect from this species 😊

The odd thing is that the very first time I saw a Clouded Yellow was at Smardale in Cumbria!

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 27-Jul-17 02:00 PM GMT

Hi! Mike, I did think of getting rid of that photo but decided to keep it because although the shots poor, like you say it's proof of species and first time I'd seen an "Helice" 😊

Cumbria get's the Clouded Yellow mostly I think at Arnside Knott but your very lucky if you see one so you did well that day 😊

I must say Mike I took your advice yesterday the weather was dark and cloudy all day so I decided instead of changing the camera from Sunny to Cloudy I'd try Auto and I was pleased with the shots I took. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Allan.W., 27-Jul-17 04:38 PM GMT

Hello Goldie,  
Well done with the Helice ,a nice find ,but I take it ,no luck with the Silver Spots,i must have just been lucky,did you find the area I mentioned ok ?  
May have another trip up there again at the weekend .....weather permitting ! Regards Allan.W.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 27-Jul-17 06:33 PM GMT

Hi! Allan, we went to Reculver Saturday morning and we did go up by the pub but the only thing flying was the Whites, it was so windy when we left the lane it blew my hat off so we called it a day.

I've been grounded today 😊 and told I needed a rest ( which I Did ) 😊 Hope fully we'll be off again , i want to go back to see if I can see a Skipper, I hope you see a Cloudie, I was in the top meadow on the path and ended up high after chasing after it up the hill



I saw the Wall at the top of the path near the fence, we may see you there 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 27-Jul-17 09:54 PM GMT

Great find with the Cloudie Goldie and the in flight shot makes it look good for a Helice 😊 , a form I've yet to see 🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 27-Jul-17 10:44 PM GMT

If the weather is good enough you should try again, I saw a few Silver Spots at Temple Ewell yesterday, before the drizzle arrived,



### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 28-Jul-17 04:42 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, it was a case of right place right time, I hope you see one before the season ends, it certainly took me by surprise it wasn't even sunny and I'd to chase it a round a bit lucky for me it stopped a few times . 😊

Thanks Essex, funny thing is we went to TEW yesterday and nearly got blown a way 😊 we went in the afternoon, we didn't see the Skipper's though, if weather permits I'll try again in the morning although the forecast looks a bit grim, we're off on Sunday home so can't grumble at the things I've seen so far, we've had a great time. 😊

Today may be the last day for taking shots and with the weather seemingly better here than Dover way we decided on some where more local so we went to Seasalter, again it was very dull and windy whilst we were there, ( it picked up when we left).

We took the path across the top towards the sea and once through the iron gate sharp left down the slope out of the wind.

The path is very sheltered with a good bit of shrubbery and it was on the path we saw the Red Admiral, coming back past the shrubbery I saw some thing Blue and was delighted to see a Holly Blue in perfect condition who posed for some shots. 😊

After that we decided to pay East Blean Woods a last visit but the only Butterflies we saw there were GK's MB's and Large Whit's and Small White's, I was happy though with my Holly Blue. Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 28-Jul-17 06:11 PM GMT

Very characterful HB shots, Goldie. I often see them posed like that in my garden but, usually, too high up to get decent photos 😞

**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 28-Jul-17 06:21 PM GMT

That's a lovely lady you got there Goldie 😊 definitely 'fresh out the box' to use a Wurzelism 🤔

**Re: Goldie M**

by Pauline, 28-Jul-17 06:29 PM GMT

Well Goldie, my favourites are the Whites – showing all that detail against a dark background isn't easy and quite a few folk (including myself) don't always manage it 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 28-Jul-17 11:46 PM GMT

Great set of images from your most recent outing Goldie 😊 The weather – and painting has kept me in this week 😊 so it was nice to see your images 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 29-Jul-17 07:04 PM GMT

Nice female Holly Blue, Goldie. Not easy to get shots of at any time. 😊

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 29-Jul-17 07:13 PM GMT

Thanks everybody, it's been a great two weeks I've seen over 22 different species, even though the weather this last week has been bad at times we've still managed to dodge the showers. 😊

Today we felt tired and decided hills were not on the cards for today, so we went to Reculver instead, we've a long journey tomorrow so taking it easy was the best way to Finnish the holidays. 😊

At Reculver we saw lots of Butterflies, certainly lots of Holly Blues ( you were right about them Allan ) I've just posted a few of the Butterflies we saw, the Whites seemed almost Yellow ,I thought at first they were Cloudies 😊 The Butterflies all seemed very fresh except for the odd Red Admiral which were slightly worn. Goldie 😊









### Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 29-Jul-17 08:58 PM GMT

I'm glad you've had a nice time down here, Goldie. While the weather has been a bit up and down, it looks like you have been to some nice places and seen some great stuff.

### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 29-Jul-17 10:49 PM GMT

That last female Holly Blue has a monumental black band on the forewing, Goldie. I don't think I've ever seen one like that before.

### Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 30-Jul-17 03:12 PM GMT

Hello Goldie,

Hope you had a safe trip home, very pleased that you managed a few Holly Blues at Reculver. I had a couple of hours at Lydden/Temple Ewell this morning, drizzling when I set out, but reasonable on arrival! Hundreds of Chalkhills about all roosting at first, but as the sun showed they took to the wing, all the other usual suspects + a late Marbled White, in fine fettle, and a clouded yellow with four male Chalkhills in hot pursuit! A single Wall on the lower path, and seven Silver Spots, very pleased, also a female Wasp spider. regards Allan.W.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 30-Jul-17 05:58 PM GMT

We got home at about 3pm a long journey but a satisfying one 😊 It took us about five and a half hours so that's pretty good going with all the road works on the M1, now we've got our feet up having a cup of tea and planning our next venture up to the Lakes 😊 I'd like to see the Scotch Argus if possible at Arnside Knott, I'm not sure the Northern Brown and High Brown will be there now but we are a bit behind here compared to the South so you never know, it's raining here at present so it will depend on the weather this next week-end. 😊

Thanks Allan, did you manage a shot of the Clouded Yellow? I hope you did! I would have loved to get a shot of the SSS but we were really whacked, I think the two weeks out every day got to us in the end. 😊

Hi! David, I noticed that blue band has well but I don't know if it's unusual or not, in fact the only Holly Blues I've seen so far all seemed to be Female, most didn't open their wings, she was certainly a lovely Butterfly. 😊

Thanks Essex, we've enjoyed ourselves and we may be back in September for a few days, Train I think next time for a change 😊  
Thanks again every one for your posts Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 31-Jul-17 08:30 PM GMT

No I never managed to get a shot of the Cloudy, Goldie, it was too busy being hassled by the Chalkhills to stop for a photo!! I did manage a few shots of the one at Dungeness, and they're turning up in numbers around and about (including my local woods ie; Orlestone forest) so should be plenty of opportunity yet (I hope!). I'm pleased you had some joy down here in "sunny" Kent!  
Regards Allan.W.

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 31-Jul-17 10:57 PM GMT

That's a great haul for the holiday trip Goldie, great set of shots as well 😊 Good luck with the Scotch Argus 🍀🍀

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 31-Jul-17 11:33 PM GMT

There may be a few Northern Brown Argus hanging on at Arnside, Goldie. It's well worth a visit.

By contrast, Scotch Argus should be right at their peak, so go for it!

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 01-Aug-17 07:16 PM GMT

Hi! Alan, it sounds like you'll have some thing to show us shortly 😊 I may be back there in September, ( may Be ) 😊

Many thanks Wurzel, I want the SA if possible but don't mind if I can get the Brown Hair Streak at Gait Barrow, ( fingers crossed ) 😊

Hi! David, Some ones still seeing High Brown at Arnside Knott has well , it's a cert for SA they seem to be well out now, NBA , I'm not sure , but hope fully I'll see some thing.

We've been busy in the Garden today , two weeks and every thing's gone mad 😊 we've done the front, now we've to start on the back. 😊 It's been a case of dodging the rain, we'd thunder this afternoon and the next few day's look hope less , hope fully Saturday we can get going again up to the Lakes.

I saw Red Admiral's and Small White's in the Garden this morning but no shots , they were busy looking for Partners , I got one shot of the Red that got a way. Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-Aug-17 01:58 PM GMT

After a week of rain it was great to hear we'd actually get some decent weather so we decided to gave Arnside Knott a visit.

When we got there it was about 11.30 just after they'd had a rain shower and the skies were still cloudy, so much for forecasts!

The weather gradually got better but it wasn't encouraging to hear from a couple that they'd seen no Butterflies, any way I knew where the Scotch Argus liked to hide in bad weather so we set off to find them 😊

Find them we diid, 😊 also I was pleased to find Grayling also feasting on Wild Thyme 😊 The Sun by this time had made an appearance so we decided to move down the hill to the Meadow ,once there I was surprised when a Fritillary flew by me then another one landed a way from me on a flower, I was glad I'd got the camera ready just in case with the lens cap off and I took some quick shots 😊 looking at the Fritillaries I was convinced it was an High Brown also that it was weathered a bit because of the shine on it's wings, it made my day any way 😊

Has the Sun really got warmer the Butterflies came out , Brimstone, Meadow Brown , Gate Keeper's all except the NBA 🍀 I couldn't grumble though I'd hoped to see four species and I'd got three. 😊 Goldie 😊









**Re: Goldie M**

by Allan.W., 06-Aug-17 06:22 PM GMT

Hello Goldie,

Thought you may be interested ,we visited Reculver again today ,was lucky with the parking . I was very surprised to see that a lot of the Ivy and the Elm sucker growth had been "tidied"since our last visit ,and this is the first time that I,d not managed to see at least one Holly Blue ! most surprised, along the sea wall (heading towards Margate ) on the lower path I found 6 Clouded Yellows (and one later on my patch....Orlestone Forest ) along with many Common Blues , and a Small tree that held 12 Little Egrets ! Not a bad couple of hours !

Regards Allan.W. PS; Great Scotch Argus Shots ! very envious..... I did see them ,years ago up near Inverness , and never thought to try and get a few shots ,think a visit up country may be in order next year !

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 06-Aug-17 06:43 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Great report and photos from Arnside Knott 😊 That High Brown actually looks familiar 😊

I didn't find any NBA either on my recent visits. To be honest I wasn't really expecting to at this time of year, it really is a bit late for them now, I have only ever once found NBA still flying in early August and that was in 2015 which had apparently been a cool and wet summer up there.

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 06-Aug-17 06:44 PM GMT

Time for you to start making us southerners jealous now Goldie 🍷 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 06-Aug-17 09:50 PM GMT

Indeed Goldie, Bugboy's hit the nail on the head, those Scotch Argus look like a lush species to encounter 😊🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 07-Aug-17 12:40 AM GMT

This is the time of year for those living in your area to make hay, Goldie. High Browns and Scotch Argus is a rare combo in the UK and I'm pleased you managed to 'bag' both in between frequent spells of inclement weather!

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 07-Aug-17 10:16 AM GMT

Many thanks everyone, it was a good day out even though we got a few bites. 😊

Hi! Alan, sorry to hear about the Ivy being trimmed, why they do this at this time of year I can't understand, when I was there I couldn't count the HB's I saw they were every where and Female's too. Glad you got your Cloudies though, sounds like a good place to look for them next time I'm down there. 😊

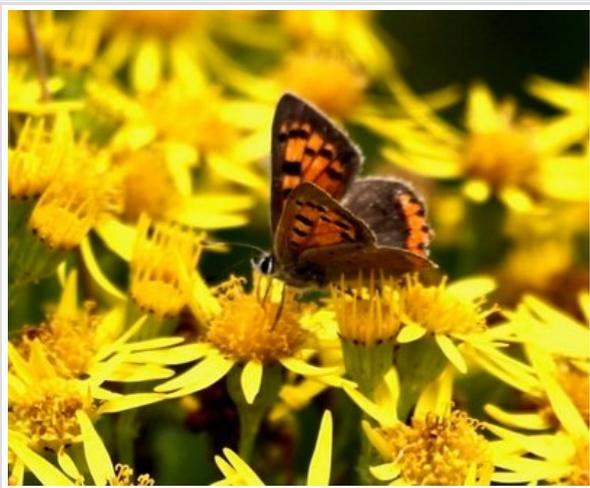
Thanks Neil, I did see one fritillary that was so worn it was a wonder it could fly at all, so I was lucky that one came along in decent condition 😊 I've yet to see a NBA at Arnside I've usually seen them at Gait Barrow near the Barn, unfortunately this year they weren't there, it's been a bit of a topsy turvy year though, but I've been lucky seeing some great Butterflies South as well North. 😊

Hi! Bugboy, it was a lucky day I felt for sure I'd missed the HBF and I was pleased to see the Grayling because I'd not seen it in the Dunes at Southport or at Gait Barrow so I'm very pleased with my bagged species 😊

Hi! Wurzel, they're really very dark and never seem to settle very long before they're off again 😊 To photograph them you need plenty of Sunshine 😊

Hi! David, thank you, I'm waiting now to go on a Brown Hair Streak Hunt 😊 I believe there out up there now but the weather's not too good here at present so I'll have to have patience, fingers crossed I'll get to see them 😊

I went to Hall-Lee-Brook last Friday when we'd a decent day and I was surprised to find a lovely Copper so thought I'd just got to post a shot of it Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 07-Aug-17 10:27 AM GMT

Great to see your High Browns and Scotch Argus, no hope of seeing those down here. But I am told that High Browns were once present in Ashdown forest, 16 miles away.

Keep up the good work,  
Trevor.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 07-Aug-17 10:35 AM GMT

Thanks Trevor, they're always great to see really regal the way they swoop about when flying, I really thought I'd missed them this year so it was a great bonus to see them. 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Art Frames, 07-Aug-17 11:01 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Many thanks for commenting on my Chalkhills (I replied in my diary), it is a challenge keeping up with everyone here and knowing where to post comments. I have never been to Arnside Knott. You make it sound like a worthwhile place to add to my list. I saw huge numbers of High Browns in Hungary this year but have never seen Scotch Argus, well not still and able to take a picture.

And your small coppers are very nice. I hope to run into one or two soon, hopefully as nice as those. 😊

regards

Peter

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 07-Aug-17 07:54 PM GMT

Hi! Peter, thanks for your comments, Arnside Knott is well known for it's Butterflies having the early Fritillaries( PB/SPB and the later ones DG/HB also the Scotch Argus, apart from the Butterflies the Views are spectacular but pick your days for good weather if you decide to visit. 😊

The Sun shone later in the morning today and while I was hanging out the washing I'd visit's from a few friends 😊

A Small White that looked more like a little Angel than a Butterfly 😊 and a lovely Female Gate Keeper, besides those a rather lovely Large White appeared, they made my day 😊 Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 08-Aug-17 09:31 PM GMT

Little angel indeed – unless you're growing cabbages 😊😬

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 09-Aug-17 09:46 AM GMT

Have I seen so many White's I'm getting them mixed up Wurzel 😬 Mind you I've just been for new Glasses 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 09-Aug-17 02:59 PM GMT

Catching up a bit... The Scotch Argus are splendid, Goldie – and a HBF to boot. 😊 I had hoped to fit in a visit to Arnside en route to York last week, but the weather on the 2nd was just not good enough to risk such a long detour.

Dave

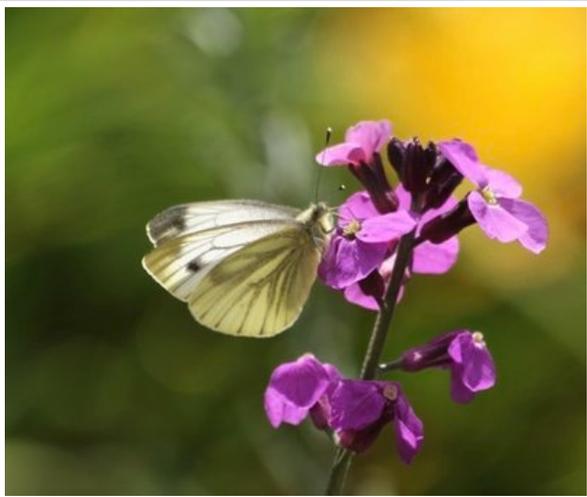
**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 10-Aug-17 09:34 AM GMT

Hi! Dave, sorry the weather stopped your visit it's been quite bad here weather wise on and off a case of check every day then go when you see sunshine 😊 I was surprised to see the HBF but I check Lanc's & Cumbria BF and some one had seen them so I was hope full and as it turned out they were there, rather worn, but who cares. 😊

Yesterday afternoon after the rain the Sun came out and although cloudy at times it was lovely in the Sun and I got my first big surprise 😊 Peacock's first time this year in my back garden 😊 I was thrilled not having seen them for so long I thought we'd lost them a round here, also other Gate Keeper and another BF I'd not seen for a while GVV , followed by LW and SW so it was a good day and hope fully today may be better weather wise. Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 10-Aug-17 09:54 PM GMT

Lovely ethereal shot of the GVW Goldie 😊  
Have a goodun

Wurzel

I hope you went to Specsavers 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 10-Aug-17 10:43 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, I get the new glasses in a fortnight 😊 NO Excuse then 😊

I'd to go to hospital today,( nothing drastic) before I went I was in the back garden, ( never seem to be out of it these day's) 😊  
And once again I'd a visit from a Peacock, this one choose the yellow flowers this time. Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 10-Aug-17 11:40 PM GMT

That Peacock contrasts nicely with the yellow flower Goldie 😊 Good to hear your hospital trip was nothing serious 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 11-Aug-17 10:36 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, the yellow flowers come into their own this time of year and the Butterflies love them, I can't remember what they're called though I've had them so long now. 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by kevlng, 11-Aug-17 09:43 PM GMT

Goldie, that last Peacock on the Yellow flowers is excellent. they make such great photos on any flower, but that is a goodun.

Regards Kev

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 11-Aug-17 10:20 PM GMT

Enjoy those Peacocks while they last, Goldie. In a fortnight's time the vast majority will have gone somewhere to hibernate.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 12-Aug-17 09:31 AM GMT

Thanks Kev, I was thrilled to see the Peacock not having seen it a round here since Spring and the first time this year in the Garden where as before we had them in Spring every year, the same thing as happened with the Tortoiseshell not one in the garden yet since Spring and then only one or two, looks like the weather change won't do them any good either if the forecast bad for next week. 😊

Thanks Dave for your post, I think we're similar weather to you here, it was great to see the Peacock and I hope they come back to the Garden ( weather permitting.) We usually get quite a lot of Butterflies in September here so hope fully they'll be back and bring the the Small Tortoiseshell's with them 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 14-Aug-17 10:06 AM GMT

Saturday and Sunday were funny days here ,it rained in the Morning on Saturday but in the afternoon it was sunny and warm but windy, we'd decided the front and back gardens needed doing again so we started off in the front garden, and moved round to the Back garden on Sunday which was a cloudy day but warm and again Sunny at times, we were visited once again by the Peacock's but this time they were less pristine with pieces taken out of their wings,

Large Whites and Red Admiral's were on the Butterfly bushes at regular intervals and I discovered I was being watched at one point 😊 A Holly Blue flew passed us a few times and passed into the next garden, that's two days on a trot it's done that so I'm now on the look out for it. 😊 Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 14-Aug-17 10:26 PM GMT

You'll have to get some tips from The Holly Blue Whisperer Dave Miller Goldie 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 15-Aug-17 09:57 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, I've still not got a shot of that Holly Blue 😊 I did get a rather nice Peacock shot yesterday though before the rain arrived also another RA shot both out of reach, one in the shade all the time, the other at the top of the Butterfly bush, both were pristine which is good, meaning they've not been affected too much by the weather. Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 16-Aug-17 08:06 AM GMT

Great shot of the Red Admiral – it's like I'm peering through the vegetation to get a glimpse of it 😊

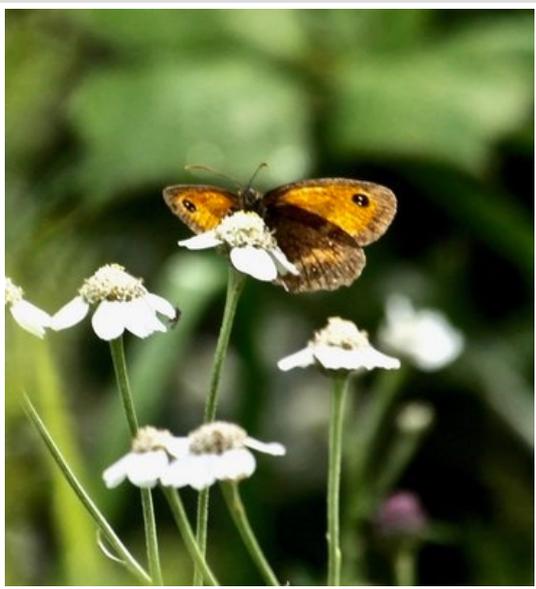
Have a goodun  
Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 16-Aug-17 07:52 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, that's just the way I saw it 😊

Today I ventured to Hall-Lee-Brook, the butterflies in my garden had kept me entertained for a few days now but it was time to venture forth once more , stitches and all, 😊  
When we got there i was amazed how the vegetation had taken over it was like walking through a jungle, no wonder the Butterflies were in the Garden's, needless to say, no Peacocks or RA there, we did see Gate Keeper's whites and Speckie's but that was all , still we'd had a walk before the rain arrived and it was warm and Sunny at times.Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 16-Aug-17 08:03 PM GMT

I really like those shots of the Gatekeeper from underneath, Goldie! 😊 And whatever Wurzel says, getting Holly Blues to settle down is all luck - I saw several near me today and none of them came down close by at all. 😊 However, if you have any bramble with pink flowers out at the moment, it's worth looking at first thing in the morning as Holly Blues seem very partial to this blossom.

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 16-Aug-17 08:22 PM GMT

Hi! Dave thank you, I like the Gate keeper shots too, I took them from a distance and didn't think they'd be much good 😊  
Unfortunately we've no Bramble near us Dave and it seems to rain here more in the mornings than any other time 😞 but I'm not giving up, I inspect the garden each day , it wouldn't be so bad if when I saw it , it wouldn't hover over ever thing get my hopes up , then hop over the fence just as I get it in my sights!! THE JOYS OF BUTTERFLYING 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 17-Aug-17 10:06 AM GMT

I agree with Dave, those are great Hedge Brown shots Goldie 😊 You're doing the right thing WRT the Holly Blues, it's all about perseverance 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 18-Aug-17 09:43 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, glad you liked my shots, yesterday turned out to be a lovely day after thunder storms the night before but due to family arrangements I wasn't out with my camera 😞 this morning we're back into the Sunshine and showers so it looks like things are on hold again and tomorrow's forecast, the same. Even the HB is hiding 😊

I was hoping to pop up to GB but we'd better wait I think for better weather, hope fully the BHS will still be there 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 18-Aug-17 10:15 AM GMT

Good luck with those Brostreaks 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 20-Aug-17 12:19 PM GMT

Chin up, Goldie. The forecast's looking better from Tuesday so hopefully your chance will come.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 22-Aug-17 09:34 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel and David for your posts, sad to say we went to Gait Barrow at the Weekend but saw no Bosstreaks 😞

It was a cloudy day on Sunday but supposedly the best day of the week so we decided to go to GB, when we arrived we found a few people who were also looking for BHS, after trudging round various paths for a couple of hours and visiting various Ash Trees that had Black Thorn growing near them and seeing nothing we called it a day, the Sun did shine through high cloud in the end but we'd had enough and at least we'd found the tree or tree's where the BHS were supposed to be for next year, that satisfied me, I felt i'd had a good year seeing another lifer (WLH) so I could wait to see another lifer or two next year. 😊

We left some people there still hope full of seeing them but I was already planning in my head my journey for next year 😊

I did take some shots of Red Admiral, Peacock and a rather pale looking Speckled Wood together with a much darker Speckie and on a wood pile we saw a small Lizard sunning himself, we didn't see many Gate Keeper's except one or two that were rather worn but still enjoying the flowers which were waist high, I'm not sure what the flowers are called but they covered a large area and it was fantastic just to walk amongst them it was a great closing to probably my last visit to GB for this season, I'm already looking forward to next Spring and the Dukes 😊 Goldie 😊







**Re: Goldie M**

by peterc, 22-Aug-17 10:12 AM GMT

Nice photos, Goldie. I am sure you will get better luck with the Brown Hairstreaks next year at Gait Barrows.

I believe the flowers are Hemp Agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum*.

ATB

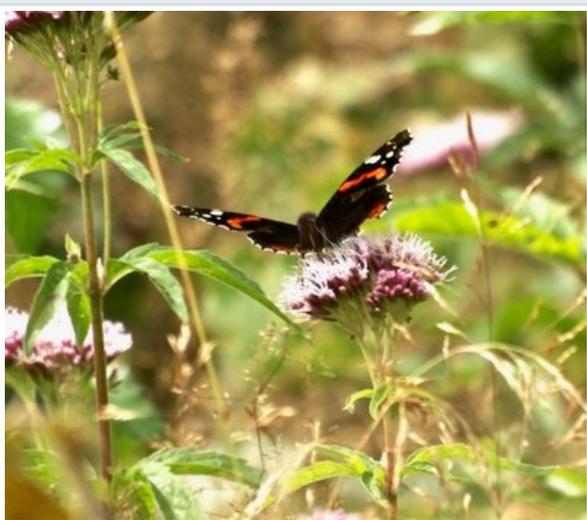
Peter

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 23-Aug-17 09:03 AM GMT

Thanks for that Peter, the flowers were every where it was a lovely day , some times when we're out you come a cross a scene that you remember all through the Winter and this was one.

I couldn't resist posting another couple of shots, Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 23-Aug-17 09:14 AM GMT

And why not, Goldie – you can never have too many Red Admiral photos in my book! 😊😊

Dave

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 25-Aug-17 09:17 AM GMT

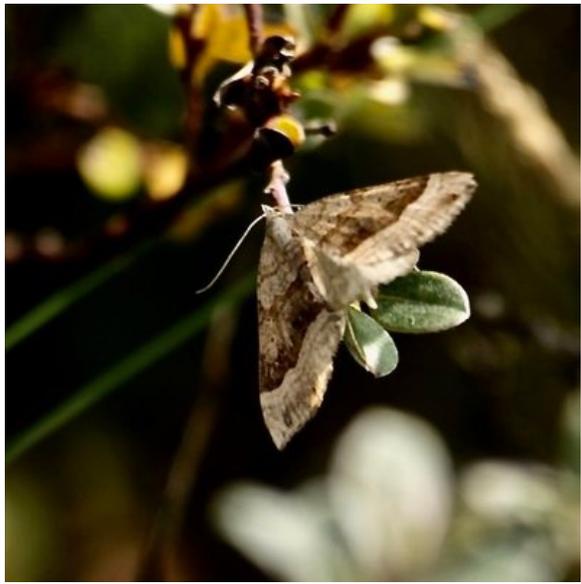
I agree Dave, we still seem to be getting them in the garden so I may have even more. 😊 Goldie 😊

Yesterday we went to Southport, I'd to make quick look in the Dunes because I'd my cousin with me who wanted to look at the shop's, after what I'd seen at GB, ( not too many Butterflies) I didn't really think I'd see any thing much so I was surprised to find Common Blue, Small Heath and even one rather tatty Meadow Brown still there.

Also there was a Moth which I just managed a quick shot of, ( not too good i'm afraid) and I'm not too well up on moth's but I don't think it's a Silver Y 🤔

We took a look near the pond for Natter Jack Toads we didn't see any but we spotted a Dragon Fly which landed briefly for yet another quick shot 😊  
This morning the Sun's shining again so it's quick with the chores and out again 😊 Goldie 😊







### Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 25-Aug-17 09:16 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, is anyone going to try a BH egg count at GB? Eggs are probably easier to find than the adults and, if successful, it would tell you which bushes the females are laying on and, therefore, which bushes give the best chance of adult sightings.

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 25-Aug-17 10:13 PM GMT

Sorry you didn't have much luck with the Brostreaks Goldie but Essex is definitely onto something for next year 😊 Great Red Admirals though which must have been some compensation 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 26-Aug-17 09:17 AM GMT

Hi! essex and Wurzel, yes there's people checking for eggs at GB and I believe some have been found already, I found when we were up there that quite a few tree's where the BHS have been located have Blackthorn bush's some where near them so it looks good for next year. The people I met there say they think the Hair Streaks have been introduced to the area but I don't know and they didn't know for sure if this was so.

When I was a way in Kent Lanc's BF did have a lecture talking about the HS's and showing where they were, Gait Barrow is, has you'll know in Lancashire and the map showed them not too far from the road, however the man we spoke to and had attended the lecture took us to where he thought they were on the map he saw but we saw nothing, it was only when we met some one who'd actually seen them the week before that we got a good indication of their whereabouts , but again nothing, we did have a bad storm the week before which I think could have damaged them. Any way we'll see what next year brings! 😊

I received another photo of a Butterfly from my nephew in Hong Kong, he admits it's not a good a shot, he was on his lunch break at the time and just

spotted it, he described it has very large and black with white and red markings on it's back,( I should think he means wings) any way I've posted it just incase some one knows what it's called, or could it be a moth 🤔 Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 28-Aug-17 07:47 PM GMT

Starting on Saturday with the warm and Sunny weather the Butterflies finally visited my garden, not just the Red Admiral and Peacock but Painted Lady, Comma and Large / Small Whites all over the weekend, we didn't need to travel any where 😊

Today though we took another ride to Southport but in the Dunes we saw a few Common Blue and only one Small Heath, there was quite a lot of Speckled Wood, I'd not seen them on flowers too much before so I couldn't help taking a few shots, I'm glad now we stayed home over the weekend 😊 Goldie 😊



*Small White 28th Aug*



*Small White 27th Aug*



*Small White 27th Aug*



*Speckled Wood 28th Aug*



*Red Admiral/Comma 27th Aug*



*Peacock 27th Aug rather worn*



*Painted Lady 27th Aug*



*Painted Lady 27th Aug*



Comma 27th Aug



Red Admiral Sat 26th Aug

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 28-Aug-17 08:06 PM GMT

Always good when the butterflies come to your own garden – especially on Bank Holiday weekends!

Going back to some earlier posts, your red dragonfly is a male Common Darter (*Sympetrum striolatum*) – the red colour develops quite slowly in males as they mature, while females are a pale fawn colour.

For your Hong Kong butterfly, it's hard to tell from that angle but it is one of the Swallowtails. <http://hongkongwildlifephotoblog.blogspot.co.uk/2011/08/beautiful-swallowtail-butterflies.html> should help your friends to decide which.

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 28-Aug-17 09:58 PM GMT

More nice garden shots Goldie especially the egg laying White 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 28-Aug-17 10:15 PM GMT

Not a bad garden selection, Goldie....and I see your Bowles Mauve wallflower is still going strong!

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 29-Aug-17 09:54 AM GMT

Thanks Mike for your post, I'll tell my nephew to look up Hong Kong Butterflies after all he's living there 😊 I know he'll be interested. Thanks also for the ID of the Dragon Fly, it landed quite close to us that's why I took a shot. I'm not too keen on them since I saw a rather large one at Gait Barrow attacking a High Brown frit, also at the weekend in the garden one attacked a white Butterfly and I chased it off, there's a lot of ponds in gardens near us

Thanks Wurzel, she couldn't seem to settle but kept flying around from one bit of greenery to another, I looked for eggs but I didn't find any. I did find a caterpillar last week, I keep a few nettles right at the back of the garden and a few other wild flower plants as well, I try to control them and it was while doing this that I found the cat, I tend to leave things alone when I see them and let nature take its course. 😊 Unless I see Dragon Flies attacking Butterflies 😊

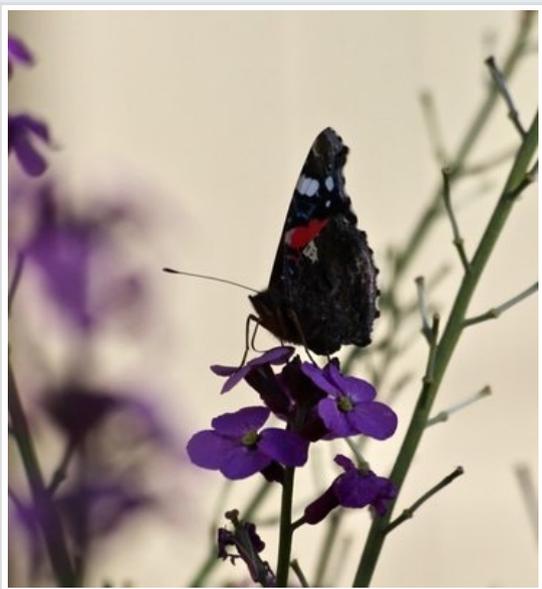
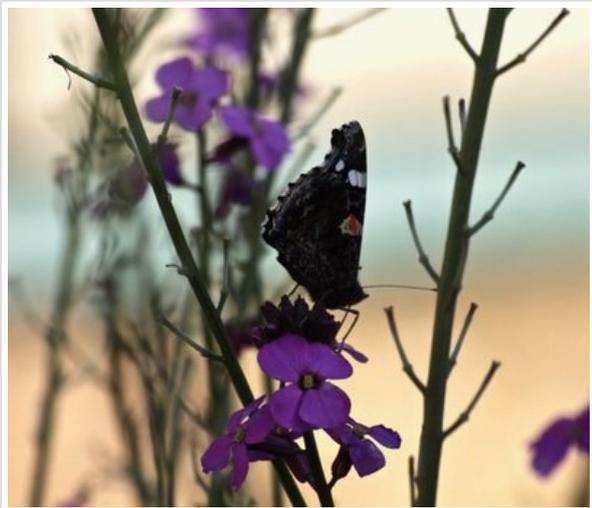
Hi! David, my Bowles Mauve, is a cutting from the original one I bought, I was lucky, I took a few cuttings the year before in September and potted them up in the Green House, over wintered them in there then placed them in pots outside before adding them to the Garden, I kept two after giving the other's a way to the Neighbour's , I was pleased they took and I'll do the same this year because as you know they get very leggy so it's better to make fresh ones. 😊 Goldie 😊

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 30-Aug-17 08:37 PM GMT

Today I was very busy with shopping ,etc, and the weather was cloudy but at lunch time for a spell the Sun came out and I saw a flutter of white in the garden, so I picked up the camera and shot outside, i was surprised to find a Green Veined White, I'd not seen one in the garden for ages, it's under wings were very darkly marked so I was pleased to get a few shots.

Later in the day just as the light was changing in the garden I came across a Red Admiral and although I only got shots of its silhouette I was happy 😊 Not exactly QOSF but the best I can do . 😊 Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 30-Aug-17 09:59 PM GMT

Beautiful Red Admiral shots Goldie 😊🍴 And that's a very well marked Green-veined White 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 30-Aug-17 10:31 PM GMT

That's a cracking Green Veined White you've captured there, Goldie. There seem to be a fair few heavily-marked specimens at the moment. A lovely specimen!

**Re: Goldie M**

by Maximus, 31-Aug-17 01:08 AM GMT

That's a lovely and well marked Green Veined White you found in your garden, Goldie 😊

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 01-Sep-17 04:23 PM GMT

Thank you for your comments Wurzel,David and Mike, they are very much appreciated 😊

I wasn't sure about the Red Admiral shots Wurzel at first thinking them too dark, then I thought but that's a natural shade etc, and that's just how the Admiral appeared, must be okay. 😊

I was surprised David when I saw the GVW, I thought at first it was just another White, then I saw it's deep veined markings, I was ever so pleased, not having seen too many this year 😊

Thanks Mike, I've been surprised at the Butterflies I have seen in the Garden, only one or two have not been pristine I'm still waiting to see if any Small Tort's arrive in the garden that would make my day. 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 01-Sep-17 04:54 PM GMT

I love that tail view of the GvW, Goldie. It shows the markings in a new light. It must be very confusing to a pursuing bird!

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 03-Sep-17 05:28 PM GMT

Hi! Mike, It was a lovely day yesterday, in the garden I'd to chase two Wood Pigeons out of it, they were going to have a go at some white Butterflies that landed near them on the flowers, the woodies are getting a nuisance lately they're here every day, I don't mind but they take over 😊 This morning however they got a shock, I looked through the kitchen window and ran for the Camera, a really lovely Sparrow Hawk was sitting on the fence viewing the Garden, it didn't attack any thing but it did swoop next door into their garden. 😊

At last!! yesterday the sun shone and the Small Tort's arrived, between my neighbour's garden and mine we saw PL, RA, ST's, PC ,LW's/SW's, what a day I was in my garden back into my neighbours garden, it was great. I took the photo's of the Butterflies in their garden and I've just e-mailed them. I'm going to post mostly the ST's because I've waited so long to see them in my Garden, one in particular looks different, it seems to have a smaller black spot than the other's, also posted the Hawk I saw on our fence, it's all happening but today it's raining, wouldn't you know 😊😊 Goldie 😊









### Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 03-Sep-17 07:13 PM GMT

Lovely selection of Small Tortoiseshells, Goldie – the one on the rose is a very unusual perch to choose. That's a lovely fresh-looking Painted Lady too. Splendid sparrowhawk on the fence as well – that might keep your nuisance pigeons away! 😊

Dave

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 03-Sep-17 10:31 PM GMT

Great Sparrowhawk shots Goldie 😊 I agree with Dave the ST on the Rose is a really interesting shot as I've not seen them land on those before 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 04-Sep-17 10:08 AM GMT

Hi! Dave and Wurzel, thanks very much for your posts , I was surprised as well when I saw the Small Tort on the Rose but it wasn't the first time I'd seen this, last year a Red Admiral did the same thing, also another Small Tort much darker than the first had landed on another rose, this time a Pink Rose so they didn't choose the Roses for their colour. 😊

I've posted a few more shots from yesterday of the Rose landings which were all in the front Garden, but also some from the back, of a bird bath landing etc 😊

the weather here is miserable like yesterday only the Hawk was out hunting in the rain yesterday, so I thought a few more shots would brighten the day Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 04-Sep-17 09:45 PM GMT

Really well captured Small Tort and Painted Lady Goldie 😊 and that a interesting pose thrown by the Red Admiral 😊 I was back at work today so unable to get out and your shots birghtened up the day 😊

Have a goodun

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 05-Sep-17 04:06 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, I if brightened your day that's great. 😊 I thought you might like to see the flush of Butterflies I got in the Garden yesterday after the rain. 😊

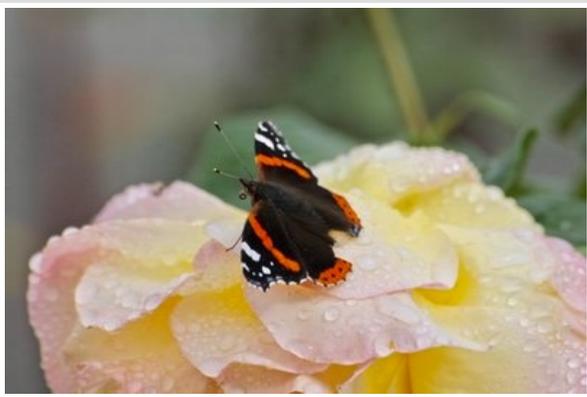
It was raining for much of the morning but then the Sun came out and so did the Butterflies, still the same gang but many more seemed to arrive, two on one flower, then three, it was great. We also had a visit from the Long Tailed Tit's 😊

The Red Admiral's were back on the Roses and even with the rain still on them they landed, I did wonder if one of them had even sheltered from the rain in a rose 😊

Small Whites were every where even on the Anterinum's( Not sure I've spelt that right) which I've never seen them do before.

Large White's also were there in good Numbers, and I'm pleased to say my Small Tort with the Small Black spot was back, also with a rather lovely Peacock, it was quite unexpected after the rain we'd had. Goldie 😊









### Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 05-Sep-17 06:21 PM GMT

Another lovely selection of late-season photos, Goldie. I do like that White against the plain grey background – it's a very striking shot.

### Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 05-Sep-17 06:55 PM GMT

All the Butterflies seem to have moved up your way, Goldie. With the grey gloom we've had I'm not surprised. Lovely selection of images.

Best wishes,  
Trevor.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-Sep-17 09:54 AM GMT

Many thanks Mike and Trevor, the weather here as been hit and miss really, the Butterflies taking advantage when the Sun came out, so a lot of the shots were taken in either cloudy or sunny conditions. I was surprised has was my neighbour when we saw so many Butterflies all at once. 😊  
The Large White shot was taken Mike with the grey tarmac road behind it, so I was pleased it didn't show the gritty stones 😊

Yesterday morning was wet, and didn't really get bright even when the rain stopped. My neighbour's next door have had Gold Finch coming back wards and forwards all Summer even making nests in their tree which borders our garden, so it's been great watching them. I took some shots of them through the window yesterday although dark you can make out a few of them in my Buddliea tree, it's nearly ready for chopping down now on the back garden but the Gold Tit's seem to like the dead flower seeds on it so I've been reluctant to do it just yet.

Today is supposed to be the best day of the week and guess what!!!! It's raining! Goldie 😊😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 06-Sep-17 08:08 PM GMT

I just love the Red Admiral sheltering from the rain amidst the rose petals, Goldie. 😊 I saw some some flying in the rain yesterday – it doesn't seem to put them off much. I also saw loads of Goldfinches today, but they were after thistle seeds – I didn't know they liked buddleia as well! 😊

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 06-Sep-17 10:39 PM GMT

You're doing well up there Goldie, A lot better than me in recent days!

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 06-Sep-17 11:27 PM GMT

As Dave said the hiding Red Admiral is a great shot 🤩👍 and I really like the three in one shot 🤩 Again good to see someone is still in the butterflies 👍  
Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 07-Sep-17 03:51 PM GMT

That's a very boldly marked female Large White Goldie. Seems like your neck of the woods is livening up whilst things start to tail off a bit further south.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 08-Sep-17 10:36 AM GMT

Thanks everybody for your feed back, it's always very welcome 😊

Hi! Dave, the Red Admiral's have surprised me a lot this year arriving like they did in big numbers, all in great condition as well and landing on the roses. I did notice though the Roses they landed on were not closed too much , Oh! and thank you for not mentioning the fact that in my post I called them Gold Tit's at one point 😊😊

Hi! Bugboy, we must have been well behind you up here with the Butterflies, because these are in mint condition, infact they looked like some of them were newly emerged taking nectar like they all did and allowing me to get close enough for the shots, you could say I was ignored. 😊

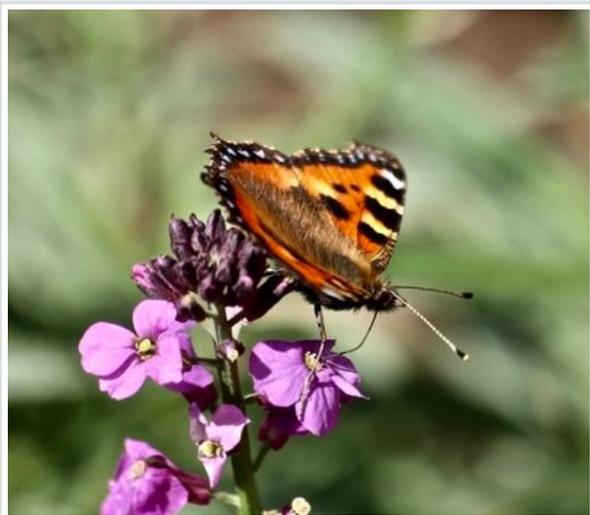
Hi! Wurzel, it makes me wonder about the Admiral's now, 😊 I saw a man from Bolton on the Northern news last night who's garden shed was full of Red Admiral's which he'd raised from Cat's and was going to release more this next week 😊 I'm don't think he's responsible though because the Tort's and PL, plus LW's and SW's were also here but you never know 😊

Hi! Dave, glad you liked the Large White, they've been here has soon as the rain bated even flyite in the gloom, I was surprised at this thinking they only flew when the Sun shone, the Small Whites have done the same. They must be really use to the Northern Climate 😊 I think they're pretty fresh as well that's probably why the LW looks so well marked: we had a lot of rain yesterday and it was much colder so it will be interesting to see if we get some Sun today just what turns up, if any thing. Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 08-Sep-17 07:31 PM GMT

Didn't expect to see any thing today because the weather was wet and wild, in-between the showers though the Butterflies appeared, this was mostly in the morning. It's always good to see them, most of them were Large Whites, with only one Small Tort amongst them and all were fighting the strong breeze. Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 08-Sep-17 10:38 PM GMT

You're having good fortunes with those Whites Goldie 😊 , they rarely open their wings for me like that 🍀

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 09-Sep-17 12:13 AM GMT

Is that the same female Large White returning for seconds, Goldie? She looks strangely familiar.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 10-Sep-17 10:40 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, so far the Whites and RA's plus the SmallTort's have been back every day rain or shine and boy did we have heavy rain yesterday. 😊

Hi! Dave, I don't know if it was the same White or not but one was back again yesterday in-between the heavy showers. 😊

Yesterday was really wild weather wise, we even had to put the heating on at one point in the early morning the house felt so cold. Then later in the morning the rain cleared and we thought great, the Sun was shining it became quite warm, that's when the clouds came back with a vengeance with torrential rain showers which flooded the bottom of the garden 😞  
This went on for the rest of the day, How ever, what really amazed us was the Butterflies reappearing after every shower, ignoring the wetness of the flowers and continuing to nectar 😊

I've posted a shot of the wet flowers, with the Butterfly amongst them 😊

Also a little Robin hiding looking worse for wear and a couple of Admirals trying to dry out one picking an unusual place to do this 😊

The Small Tort's were more careful only arriving when the Sun was out for about an hour or two in the afternoon, that's also when the White's appeared again, quite a day to be in and out with the camera Goldie 😊





*Drying out*





*Caught this one as it started to fly a way*



### **Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 11-Sep-17 04:45 PM GMT

Sadly today was a day when the Sparrow Hawk caught it's prey 😞 I was looking out through the living room window hoping to see an Admiral after the heavy rain and Gale force winds we'd had all day, when I looked at the fence and saw the Hawk who'd caught one of the Gold Finch from the Buddliea Bush, the Sun had been shining for the last hour, sadly nothing we could do, Mother Nature is a tough pill to swallow at times. Goldie 😞





**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 11-Sep-17 07:59 PM GMT

My goodness, he does look pleased with himself, doesn't he! Amazing shots of the sparrowhawk, Goldie. 😊 Nature can indeed be cruel. 😞

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 11-Sep-17 10:33 PM GMT

Great shots of the Sparrowhawk and butterflies Goldie. I bet that Red Admiral was feeling really chuffed right up until the point when he started wondering where all the nectar was 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 11-Sep-17 11:07 PM GMT

I know it's hard to take, but your sparrow hawk is a splendid bird—what a great picture. Just look at those eyes!

### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 11-Sep-17 11:51 PM GMT

Well done for capturing those images of the sparrowhawk, Goldie. It's a shame for the songbirds that get predated, but each rung amid the foodchain has to eat to survive, and it just so happens that sparrowhawks' favoured choice of food is small birds such as goldfinches. 😞

I like your image of the Small White in the earlier post too. It's not often they can be photographed with their wings in such a position so that one can see the black spot on the hindwing!

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 12-Sep-17 08:01 PM GMT

Thanks everybody for your posts,

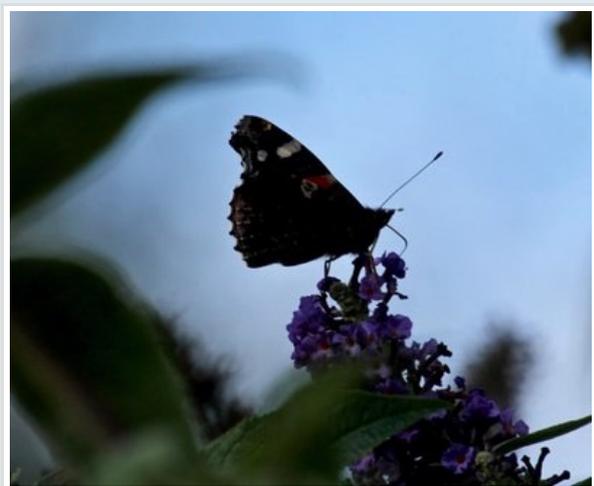
David, the Sparrow Hawk was pleased with his catch, that's what annoyed me 😊 I could have knocked him off the fence, 😊 then I realised how he'd got to eat like all the birds just a pity he choose one of the lovely Goldfinches 😞

Hi! Wurzel, the Red Admirals make my day, there's no telling where they'll land next, 😊 I've put a couple of shots in from today's visit 😊

Hi! essex, that's the second time he's paid us a visit, I don't think it'll be the last either, I tried to get a shot of him flying off with the bird but he was too quick for me. 😞

Hi! Dave, I just managed to get a shot of the white BF before it took off it started to open it's wings just as I clicked the camera, so I was lucky. I was all so lucky with the Sparrow Hawk, I took shots of him from the Living room window which looks out onto the back Garden, the room is ideal for watching the Butterflies come and go because the window opens like a door which is great.

I was busy today, we did the shopping and also the garden, we did some chopping in the garden because of the storm that's expected tomorrow, all though we'd shower's again and it was much colder today the Admiral's were still around, I took one shot has the Admiral landed on yet another rose, this time a climbing rose, has the day got darker I managed another shot ,this one a silhouette. Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 13-Sep-17 08:15 PM GMT

Today was an horrible day, after the strong wind and heavy showers things settled down a bit and the Sun came out and so did the Butterflies again but all were Red Admiral's, there must have been about 8 or 9 flying in the front and back Garden, I wasn't going to post any more until I saw this one Admiral that had a huge white mark, I thought at first that it had touched a paint tin some where 😊 but after I took a closer look at the shots I think it's definitely part of the Butterfly.

It's the first time I've seen it in the garden and I've not seen one like it before so I wondered if any one else had seen one similar, it could have happened when it emerged, It was flying funny round and round in circles and when it did land shaking it's wings, I thought it was because it had got wet, but the other Butterflies weren't flying like that, that's what attracted me to it and then I saw the white blotch, I'd to wait until it landed and I'd to be quick because it would take off again quickly. Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 14-Sep-17 08:42 PM GMT

Strange Red Admiral Goldie – it could have been rain damage although that normally makes the wings look transparent 😊 Perhaps he had a run in with

a paint brush? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 14-Sep-17 09:47 PM GMT

Looks like the butterfly has come into contact with some form of sticky liquid, Goldie. I've seen this kind of thing before but it generally doesn't affect their ability to fly.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 15-Sep-17 09:10 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel. I thought of paint when I first saw the Admiral 😊 It wasn't here today but several others were 😊

Hi! David, I think your right , liquid Paint I think, It wasn't here today so I couldn't check but Comma's and a Peacock were 😊 Pick's to follow 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 16-Sep-17 10:41 AM GMT

Thursday and Friday was quite Sunny here, we did have some heavy showers but the Butterflies amazed me by just closing their wings and sitting it out, how they didn't get blown a way at times in the wind I don't know 😊

Friday was the best day, with the Sun out most of the time and this brought out the first Comma to the Garden since August and a Peacock, also some Tortoiseshell's and of course the Admirals 😊 At one point I counted 10 Admiral's , 4 Tortoiseshell's, just one Comma and Peacock, I'd put the washing out thinking I may have scared the Butterflies off but they used the washing as landing ares from time to time. 😊

The Sun seems reluctant to appear today but hope fully it will !!! Goldie 😊









### Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 16-Sep-17 10:08 PM GMT

I see you managed to squeeze three different species into one shot, there, Goldie! You seem to have generally the same mix as me, but you have more Small Tortoiseshells... 🍷 😊

Dave

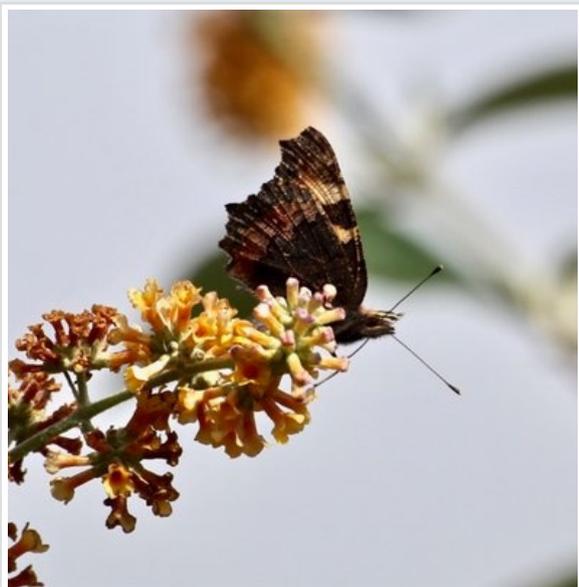
### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Sep-17 11:40 AM GMT

Hi! Dave, I've been lucky with the Small Tort's, after not seeing them for ages they've suddenly appeared in good numbers which was a relief because I thought they'd suffered this year and were down in numbers. 😊

Yesterday after a dull morning the Sun came out and with very little wind, the Butterflies had a good afternoon until 3pm when the weather changed and went cold by that time the Red Admiral's, Small Tort's, Peacock, had had lots of nectar. 😊 no comma showed up but lots of whites put in appearance so if you can imagine a garden full of Butterflies, it was amazing, they even landed on me a couple of times when the Sun was temporarily covered by a cloud 😊

We had three more additions to the Garden with the Small White 's and Large White's also a little Green Veined White which had suffered partial wing loss but still capable of flying, in fact some of the Butterflies were now showing some wear and tare, I'm hoping we see the Sun again this afternoon because it was great sitting with a cup of tea just watching them fly and occasionally taking shots. Goldie 😊





*This one nearly got a way*





**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 17-Sep-17 07:49 PM GMT

More lovely shots Goldie, especially the Small Tort's 😊🇩🇪 Is it that time of year already – they'll soon be tucking themselves up until February/March 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 17-Sep-17 09:37 PM GMT

You're seeing good numbers at this late stage, Goldie, including Peacocks which seem to have disappeared in my neck of the woods.

Make the most of the Whites. By early October I suspect they'll be all but gone. 😞

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 23-Sep-17 12:56 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel and David, sorry for the delay in replying, ( family Needs )

Thanks Wurzel, I really appreciate what you've said. Since I last posted the Butterflies are still in the Garden, the Red Admiral's have been here in good number's . I counted up to twelve on the front to eight on the back, with Small Tort's in smaller numbers. even had a Speckie in on Wednesday 😊

Hi! David, has I said to Wurzel, the Butterflies are still here but some do look a little worse for wear. The rain and bad weather doesn't seem to bother them , I've watched them disappear into the ever green bushes I've got and then reappear when the rain's stopped, the Peacock's I've not seen for a day or two now so it could be they've gone but the RA's are still here. 😊

I've put some shot's in my post's that I took on the 17th Sept, I got a little elephant that lights up at night for the garden and it's been used for Sun bathing during the day 😊 Also one shot I love of a Small Tort that flew into a Marigold in the front Garden. In spite of the bad weather this morning the Red Admiral's are back in the Garden so I'm off to take a few more shots before the rain starts again. Goldie 😊



*22nd Sept*



*22nd Sept*



*Taken 19th Sept*



*Taken 17th Sept*



*Taken 17th sept*



*Taken 19th Sept*



*Taken 22nd Sept*



*Taken 19th Sept*



*Taken 18th Sept*

**Re: Goldie M**

by Maximus, 23-Sep-17 01:33 PM GMT

It's nice to see that you've still got loads of lovely butterflies in your garden, Goldie 😊 and they certainly seem to like your Bowles Mauve. I like the Small Tort on the Elephant too 😊

Mike

### Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 23-Sep-17 09:12 PM GMT

Some great shots recently Goldie, very envious of your Bowles Mauve in your garden shots, mine have done nothing! Lots of Clouded Yellows about now down here in Kent, 2 (at least) today at Dungeness. Regards Allan.W.

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 23-Sep-17 10:52 PM GMT

You're still doing alright for butterflies Goldie 😊 That Small Tortoiseshell has got to be the biggest I've ever seen, it's almost the size of an elephant's head 😄😄 Brilliant 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 24-Sep-17 04:42 PM GMT

That's a nice range of species you've got again, Goldie. Those Tortie shots made me chuckle, especially the one on the elephant ornament....although the Comma looks like it's basking on something artificial too.

### Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 24-Sep-17 09:08 PM GMT

A really nice selection of species, Goldie – some good shots there. I do like the Tortoiseshell in the marigold – it looks as if it's crash-landed there! 😊

Dave

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 25-Sep-17 10:32 AM GMT

Hi! Mike, Thanks Mike, I planted loads of flowers and Buddleia to attract Butterflies and when you see them in such good numbers it makes the hard work of gardening worth while 😊 Glad you liked the shot of the Elephant 😊

Hi! Allan, I've got four Boules Mauve in my Garden and last year I took cutting from them because I thought they were looking a bit dowdy, I overwintered them in my green house and to my surprise the cuttings I took were okay, so I saved two for myself and was able to give a couple away, my two cuttings have done me proud having seen the Butterflies land on them 😊

I did get a shot of a CY whilst I was in Kent Allan only the one Butterfly but it was enough, it turned out to be an "Hellice" 😊

Hi! Wurzel, my Elephant is great 😊 your girls would love it, the trunk lights up and both eyes at night and best of all it's energy comes from the Sun 😊 and it attracts Butterflies 😊

Thanks a lot David for your post, your right about the Comma, it landed on the top of my swing seat, the canvas is really well worn now so I didn't like showing that too much 😊

Hi! Dave, Glad you like the Marigold shot, I must say I like that best, the Small Tort did seem to crash land in it 😊 One sec it was on the B Mauve then to my amazement it landed straight into the flower 😊

I took a few more shots of the Butterflies over the last two days with the Peacock coming back again but in quite a worst state than before and whilst some of the RA's were still in good shape some were worse for wear. The Small Tort had faded slightly but was still quite active, my big surprise was the fact that even though we'd no Sun over the last two days and even had rain the Butterflies still came, a Large White arrived yesterday and was in pretty good condition, the forecast for the next few days is good so I'm wondering what will turn up then. 😊 Goldie 😊



*Taken 23rd Sept on miniature Buddlea*



*Taken 24th Sept*



*Looks like it's showing off!!! 24th Sept*



Taken 24th Sept



Taken 24th Sept

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 27-Sep-17 01:41 PM GMT

Interesting that the butterflies are still coming in less than ideal conditions – perhaps they're behaving like birds/bears and stocking up wherever and whenever prior to either migration or hibernation? Interesting looking Peacock there, from the angle it looks like it's lost it's 'pupils' from the hind wings 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 27-Sep-17 05:41 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, the Butterflies were still here yesterday and today, it's been fine and dry here but no Sun and yet the Admiral's were here 😊 Has soon has the rain stopped yesterday they were back 😊

That Peacock is rather worn now, I think that's why it looks like it's got no colour in its eyes, one or two of the Admiral's are in the same state but some are really fresh looking, I've never known Butterflies to come in darkish conditions before but I've put it down to the weather still being warm. 😊

Yesterday, Comma's were back in the garden but they kept high up on the Buddliea which has only two or three flowers left on it, I've usually chopped them down by now but decided to wait until the Butterflies have gone. RA's arrived first on the front and back gardens, the Comma usually prefer's the Back garden 😊

The shots I took yesterday and today, we'd a bit more Sun after lunch today and this really fresh looking Comma arrived, I was surprised at its condition and managed a few shots before the rain started. Goldie 😊



*Sept 27th*



*Sept 26th*



*Sept 25th*



Find the Comma Sept 26th

**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 27-Sep-17 07:48 PM GMT

Your garden does seem to come alive at this time of year, just when us down south are starting to wain. I love that Comma hiding behind the Buddleja 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 28-Sep-17 08:54 PM GMT

Seems all my area's butterflies have headed north to your garden, Goldie!!

It's been a hideous period lately so it's good to know a few folk have had visitors to their flower beds!

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 28-Sep-17 10:22 PM GMT

That second Red Admiral shot is a cracker Goldie, it should be titled "Incoming..." 🤖🤖

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 29-Sep-17 09:51 AM GMT

Thanks very much for your Comments, Bugboy, David and Wurzel, I was out with my Cousin all day yesterday my Husband doing the driving 😊 We ended up in Southport, the weather was lovely more like a Spring day, very little breeze, full Sun, great, but! only one Butterfly spotted, a White, it looked like a Small White to me. No Wall's !! so it looks like you've got all the Wall's in the South. 😊

Hi! Bugboy, yes the garden seems to come alive in Sept, it used to be great in Spring as well but these last few years a part from the odd Butterfly, nothing much appears now, mind you, after being at SP yesterday and seeing the state of the flowers there (non existent) I'm not surprised the gardens are full of Butterflies. 😊

Hi! David, most of the Butterflies in my garden have been Red Admirals, I've been in touch with Lanc's Butterflies and they say we've had quite a lot of RA recorded and seen here, has for the other BF's , it looks like they were on track in the North, or so I believe. 😊

Hi! Wurzel, I was lucky with that shot 😊 I happened to be taking a shot of the other Admiral, I'd my camera set for three quick shots when this one came along 😊 I was surprised when I saw the shot afterwards 😊 I hope your lucky and get your Cloudy, I'm looking forward to seeing it 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 30-Sep-17 07:15 PM GMT

Lovely Comma in particular, Goldie. Your garden is a real butterfly magnet at this time of year. 😊

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 01-Oct-17 11:40 AM GMT

Thanks Dave, your comments are always appreciated, September is a month I always look forward to in the garden, we always seem to get loads of

Butterflies then, I'm sure they come because there's nothing much left in the fields to nectar on which is a plus for us. 😊

When I went to Southport last Thursday the weather was lovely like I said, I forgot to add a shot of the Tower I took from across the bay from the local Marshside Bird Sanctuary, we didn't manage the Hide but lots of people were going there with their Camera's so some thing was arriving, I'd my cousin with me so that stopped me but I hope to go back there. 😊

On Friday we were lucky with the weather and once again my usual Butterflies arrived all except for the Small Torts, I say all because this time there were three Comma's not just one 😊 One landed on the side of the bird bath waiting for the Sun to come out from behind a cloud, whilst the other fancied the flowers and joined in with the RA's who were constantly shaking drops of water from the flowers which were still wet from the rain we had the night before from their wings 😊 and the third which circled me and then landed on my shoulder 😊 I could have stood there all day 😊

It was one of those day's I can look back on and remember in the Winter 😊

Saturday was awful it rained all day and today doesn't look much better but if the rain stop's I'll be out in the garden again looking for the Butterflies 😊 Goldie 😊



*Blackpool from Marshside*





### Re: Goldie M

by Butterflysaurs rex, 01-Oct-17 09:37 PM GMT

That's a very smart Comma Goldie, the white comma really stands out from the dark underside. I think you might be in luck, there appears to be a window of decent weather this coming week.

Best wishes

James

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 02-Oct-17 10:54 PM GMT

Indeed I agree with Rex, the comma really stands out on Comma 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

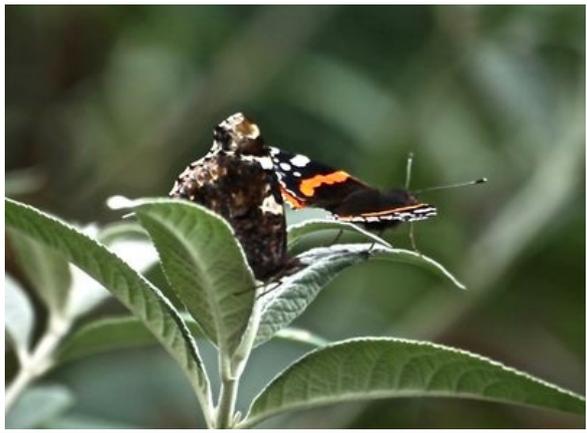
### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 03-Oct-17 08:56 AM GMT

Thanks James and Wurzel for your posts, it was a pleasure to see those Comma's before the weather turned nasty once again.

I must admit after the flooding some people have had since the weekend with gale force winds etc, it was amazing to see a couple of RA's Butterflies back again on Monday. 😊

Monday was awful, indeed we've had heavy rain and gale force winds for the last few days but when I looked out onto the front garden I was amazed to see these two Butterflies hanging in there even in the rain, i managed a couple of shots before the two finally disappeared and thats been it , the weather was so windy yesterday you didn't need to close your car door the wind did it for you. 😊 If any Butterflies appear today I'll be surprised !!! Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 03-Oct-17 10:21 AM GMT

Interesting that they're sharing the same space and there doesn't seem to be any source of nectar around – could this have been a courtship?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 03-Oct-17 10:32 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, I thought the very same thing but I walked all round the bush examining it to see if I could see any thing, it's possible they'd mated and I'd missed it, it's more than likely though that they were sheltering from the rain which had started up again, it was strange though that no flower was near them.

While I've been posting I've just checked outside to keep an eye on my washing ( rain threatened again ) and I've spotted a Comma and a Red Admiral 😊  
So I'm off out to get some shot's 😊 ( Hope fully )Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 03-Oct-17 11:23 PM GMT

I've felt sorry for you for the greater part of 2017, Goldie, but right now I'd love to swap places with you. You are seeing butterflies daily whereas I'm lucky if I see one at all in a week. 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 04-Oct-17 09:58 AM GMT

Hi! David, with the weather we've had lately nobody is more surprised than I am that I'm still seeing so many Butterflies and in my garden. I'd hoped all year to see some in the garden but these butterflies seemed to have come at the wrong time of year some how, I mean in quantity , also in quality , most have been in mint condition.

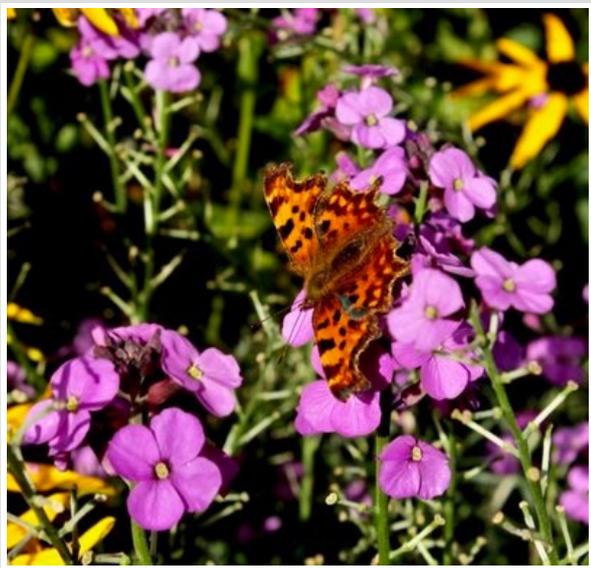
I always thought that the Butterflies in Spring laid the eggs for the ones later in the year, when we didn't see many at all in Spring it didn't bode well for the later emergence , when we didn't see many again in July and August ,I was sure I was right, then all at once in September they appeared , Red Admirals first, then one I'd not seen all year in the garden the Peacock, quickly followed by the Small Tort etc., it's been the a mount that arrived that's astounded both me and my neighbour's, for instance on one day alone I counted 16 RA's in total on the back and front garden's and they've been here every day since ,not in the same numbers, but I'm still seeing them. 😊

I was Writing a post yesterday when I spotted a Butterfly outside near my washing which I'd just hung outside, so I grabbed my camera hoping for a shot before it flew off, the weather was wild once again but it was still very sunny with rain forecast for later so I'd not expected to see Butterflies 😊

I was pleased when I saw the butterfly was a Comma and right at the top of one of my four Buddliea's was an Admiral swaying about and hanging on in the wind, 😊 I'd to wait for the wind to ease a bit before I could get a shot but I managed some shots of both. 😊 When later the weather changed and rain looked like arriving I was bringing in the washing when I noticed an Admiral on my sweater which was on the line, I didn't want to move the sweater so I put my finger out for the Admiral to climb onto which it did before flying off, another unusual event to remember this Winter! 😊 Goldie 😊



*Last of the Summer wine*



**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 04-Oct-17 11:20 AM GMT

That is a lovely shot of the Red Admiral Goldie, I love the symmetrical nature 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 04-Oct-17 07:14 PM GMT

Thank's Wurzel, the Comma was in really good condition and very busy on the nectar, I made a close up shot of it but I still like the distant shot best. 😊 Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 04-Oct-17 10:07 PM GMT

I like the contrasting colours of the Comma against the mauve, Goldie – makes a nice change from the green background mine always seem to have. 😊

Dave

### Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 05-Oct-17 11:30 AM GMT

I agree with Wurzel about that Red Admiral pic. It makes a very 'artistic' composition, with the almost symmetrical effect, broken by the presence of the butterfly.

As Winter takes over, I often look through my photos and try 'improving' them, with a little Photoshop work, including re-framing. I was looking at your Comma shots and thinking a vertical crop might help, since you could show the whole flower spire, while keeping the butterfly 'centre stage'. I've taken the liberty of showing what I mean:



### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 07-Oct-17 10:21 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, I seem to be getting my Comma's mixed up with my Red Admiral comments 😊😊 I'm glad you liked the RA shot! 😊 I'd to wait quite a while to get that shot the Buddleia was blowing about all over the place 😊 Put my comments down to the fact we've started to decorate our living room and I've been in a bit of a fluster 😊

Hi! Dave, thank you for your comments, I think the Boules Mauve makes a great background for Butterflies, I'm lucky in the fact they come into the Garden other wise like you I'd be having green back grounds. 😊

Hi! Mike, your input is always welcome, I don't have Photo Shop, I just mess about with them for shape etc, I must admit I've taken so many shots of the Comma that I thought one shot with out messing with it was a change 😊 however I saw some Comma's yesterday in the garden and I've taken some effort with the shots again. 😊 Glad you liked the Admiral shot, it's surprising you can focus in on things and then just get a shot off hand, this is what

happened yesterday, but it's back to decorating now, I'm being bullied 😊 Goldie 😊

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 07-Oct-17 08:15 PM GMT

It's nice to sit down for more than ten min's, we've been busy painting and I'm finding it hard work 😊 hope fully the living room will look brighter when finished. Compared to today's weather, ( we've had rain all day.) 😊

I was going to buy paint yesterday when I decided to go into the garden, I'd seen the Comma's arrive also the RA's and even though I've loads of shots of them I couldn't resist even more. 😊 it's then I saw this lovely large White Butterfly fly over the fence, then, I realised it was a Female Brimstone, I was so excited 😊 It's the second time only I've had a Brimstone in the garden and this year I'd only got shot's of two, I waited patiently for it to land and when it did to my surprise it didn't land on the flowers but onto the side of an old plastic container, another surprise was the fact it looked exhausted and didn't move for over ten mins from there doing absolutely nothing but just resting.

I was hoping it would fly onto a flower before I had to go, it did finally fly onto the Boules Mauve but only for a quick shot, then it did an unusual thing by landing on the Red Flowers ( i don't know what they're called I was given them by my neighbour ) but I'd not seen one Butterfly land on them until then 😊

After taking nectar for a while it again rested in the middle of the flower with it's head seeming touching the petals, I've not seen this happen before, I was beginning to wonder if it was alright has once again it stayed like that for over 15mins this time 😊 I had to go then and it had started to rain, when I got back it had gone.

Also in the garden were two Comma's and four Admiral's which I took shots of whilst waiting for the Brimstone to move, I was pleased to get a couple of open winged shots of the Brimstone which gives you the Idea of just how laid back the Butterfly was, great for me, 😊 She was just a bit tatty on the edge of her wing but still looked lovely in the opened wing shot. 😊 Goldie 😊







### Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 07-Oct-17 08:29 PM GMT

That's quite an unusual sighting for the time of year, Goldie. Normally Brimstones have tucked themselves away into hibernation by now. However, what's even more unusual is getting a shot of one with its wings open! 🤔 Did it open up for long, or did you just take the shots at the right moment. They are not normally open for more than a split second when resting - if at all. Great photograph, whatever happened. 😊

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 07-Oct-17 08:36 PM GMT

Hi! Dave, I'd my Camera set for three quick shots and it so happened we both moved at the same time, thank you for comments and glad you liked the shots 😊 I was also amazed to see it especially since I'd chased them all year and just got a couple of shots 😊 this one looked like it was ready for hibernation to me and that's how I got the shots. 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 07-Oct-17 08:51 PM GMT

Definitely 10 points and a few mrgreens for capturing that open wing Brimstone, Goldie.  
Your camera has frozen the action to perfection. 🍷🍷  
Like Dave say's most Brimstones have tucked themselves up for the Winter by now.

I can't pronounce the name of those pink flowers even though I had some once.

Trevor.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Allan.W., 07-Oct-17 09:01 PM GMT

Goldie, brilliantly composed Brimstone shots !! the open wing shot is quite stunning !! Nice One .  
Regards Allan.W.

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 07-Oct-17 09:59 PM GMT

Hi Goldie. Those open-wing shots of the female Brimstone on the red flower are absolutely stunning 😊 I'm certainly not going to presume to suggest any improvements!

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 08-Oct-17 06:14 PM GMT

A brill set of images Goldie especially the open wing Brimstone 😊🍷 I know what you mean about the painting, I seemed to spend most of the summer painting walls, ceilings and skirting boards 😊 Still all done now...for a few years at least 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 08-Oct-17 11:22 PM GMT

Image number 6 is probably the best image I've ever seen of an open-winged female Brimstone, Goldie. Well done for having the patience to capture it.

Superb!

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 09-Oct-17 09:51 PM GMT

Sorry it's taken so long to reply to your posts , I've been busy decorating the living room and it's been very active, we're still at it 😊

Many thanks everybody for your posts , I appreciate all your comments and I'm glad you liked my shots , I must say the Brimstone was very co-operative, it seemed like she was ready for hibernation, not dashing from flower to flower like they usually do but taking her time with each flower, which was great!! 😊

The last two days have been very active, also the weather has been atrocious, ( nothing but rain ) today however the Sun was out intermittently , although I was busy, when I saw a flutter in the Garden I was out with my camera 😊  
One or two Admirals were flying and a single Comma, things or definitely slowing down now and with Wurzel starting Favourite Photo's Autumn is definitely here. 😊 Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 09-Oct-17 10:33 PM GMT

Great set of shots again Goldie 😊 Do you think that if I started the 'Favourite thread' later next year it could extend the season? definitely worth a try 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 12-Oct-17 05:51 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, Why Not! 😊 Thank's again for your comments 😊

I'm still seeing the Butterflies. 😊 Just when I thought things were tailing off, Tuesday was sunny and warm and brought them once more to the garden, although I was busy I still put down the paint brush to take more shots 😊 I was surprised to see a Tortoiseshell arrive I thought they'd definately hibernated, may be with the weather being so warm and sunny they decided on more nectar 😊

The Comma took time off to catch the Sun on my washing, 😊 My biggest surprise though was the reappearance of the Brimstone, I'm sure it's the same one as well, because this one had a slightly damaged tip of the wing like the other one and choose the same flowers, no luck this time with the open wing shot, the Brimstone was more active going from flower to flower like they usually do.

The Red Admiral's were back has well, that made four species , I managed shots of them all before it was back to the painting 😊

Wednesday was an awful day with really torrential rain, but we got on well with the decorating, this morning (Thursday ) set off lovely and Sunny and I got shot's of a Comma and yet anther Admiral, the days seem to be going quicker, it will be interesting to see just how long the Butterflies keep coming to the garden. 😊 Goldie 😊



*10th October*



*10th October*



*10th October*



*12th October*



*10th October*



*12th October*

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 12-Oct-17 07:36 PM GMT

Great late season stuff again, Goldie (particularly the returning Brimstone – lovely to keep seeing her). Is there ever a time when your Bowles Mauve is not in flower? 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 12-Oct-17 09:27 PM GMT

Lovely shots, Goldie – nice to see your Brimstone back again, and a Small Tortoiseshell as well. 😊 No sign of them round here today, despite lovely weather.

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 13-Oct-17 07:50 PM GMT

Great selection from your garden Goldie and that open wing brimstone shot in your previous post is a stunner 🍷 😊

Unfortunately, at this time of the year most of my garden is in shadow by the time I get in from work.

Cheers,

Neil.

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 13-Oct-17 08:46 PM GMT

Hi! David, thanks for your Comments, My Bowles Mauve seems to be great all the time, it's getting leggy now though but I can't give it a trim just yet, I took cuttings last year and started two more BM, it's the new one in the Rockery that's attracting them at present. 😊 It's in the Sun most of the time and my back garden faces South West which is another plus. 😊

Thanks Millard, I was really chuffed when I saw the Small Tort again and the Brimstone 😊 The Brimstone doesn't go on the Boules Mauve as much as the other Butterflies, it seems to be attracted to the red Flowers. 😊

Hi! Neil, thank you, I was pleased to get that shot 😊 I tried again when the Brimstone returned but she was too quick for me this time 😊 My front garden is in the shade now like yours so I'm getting most of my latest shots from the back. 😊

The rain was very heavy over night and didn't get much brighter all day how ever the Comma arrived back briefly to take nectar but was quickly off again, I did manage a couple of shots though before it flew a way. Goldie 😊



13th October



13th October

## Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 13-Oct-17 11:14 PM GMT

Great nectaring shots and a real pleasure to see a Brimstone at this time of year 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

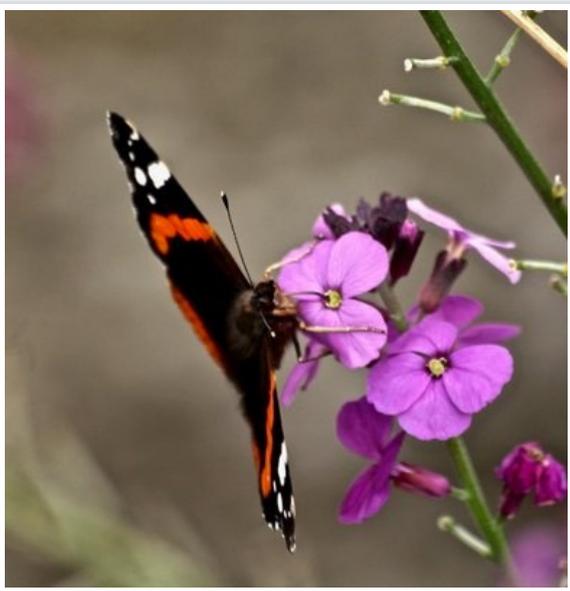
## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 16-Oct-17 02:59 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, thanks very much for your comments, the Butterflies are still coming I took some shots Sat/Sun, we've finished the painting and with the Hurricane coming this way we decided to cut the Butterfly bushes down , it didn't put the BF's off, they were on the Boules Mauve instead 😊 Goldie 😊  
PS Just seen a Comma outside on the BM, no rain here yet but strong wind's, I couldn't believe my eyes 😊



*15th Oct*



*14th Oct*



*15th Oct*



14th Oct

### Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 17-Oct-17 01:36 PM GMT

It looks as though Southern England butterflies are moving North, while the English Channel presents a barrier against more southerly species moving here!

I hope we don't get left in a 'butterfly vacuum' here 😊

Mike

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 17-Oct-17 11:03 PM GMT

"with the Hurricane coming this way we decided to cut the Butterfly bushes down , it didn't put the BF's off, they were on the Boules Mauve instead " - you can't keep a good butterfly down 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 18-Oct-17 09:08 AM GMT

Hi! Mike, I wish the Purple Emperor would move North 😊 It's in the Midlands so why not a bit further North like the Forest of Bowland 😊 Goldie 😊

Hi! Wurzel, sorry to say I think the winds have kept the Butterflies down 😞 the wind's ripped through my Canvas cover which was over my swinging bench on the patio ripping it to shreds, we had the strong winds for two days but we were lucky, others had fences down, tree's etc, I looked out yesterday in the Garden for them and although it was windy, it was Sunny nothing appeared.

The weather's good today so hope fully if they don't appear they've finally Hibernated!! Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 31-Oct-17 03:06 PM GMT

I've just come in from the Garden and having not seen any Butterflies for ages ( one's that land ) we decided to cut every thing down and tidy up. We'd a frost yesterday but today was much warmer, we were out for a couple of hours and nearly filled the bin when the Sun decided to peep out and then we saw a flutter in my neighbours garden on her Mahona, ( I think that's what it's called, not sure about the spelling though 😊 ) and to my surprise, saw it was a Red Admiral, I rushed inside for my camera and back outside took some quick shots which I hoped would look all right through the hazy sun, no time to a just to any thing, I was so pleased to see it , it brightened my day 😊 Goldie 😊



*Red Admiral 31st Oct*



*Red Admiral 31st Oct*



*Red Admiral 31st Oct*



*Red Admiral 31st Oct*

### **Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 31-Oct-17 10:24 PM GMT

Red Admirals love Mahonia, Goldie! Great shots. 😊 A few years ago I got some shots of a few nectaring on Mahonia in a neighbour's front garden on 30th November – the latest I've ever seen a butterfly. It's a good plant to grow for them as it generally flowers between now and Christmas.

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 01-Nov-17 10:16 AM GMT

Hi! Dave, I used to have the same plant at the Bottom of the garden but for some reason it died, I didn't plant another one since my Neighbours is practically out side my door 😊 I just grumble when I've to keep sweeping the flowers up when they drop 😊 I'll not grumble a gain if it brings me Butterflies 😊 I've not seen them before on the flowers but it was mild yesterday and doesn't seem too bad today so I'll be on the look out for it. 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 01-Nov-17 11:11 AM GMT

It's definitely getting to that time in the season when every butterfly shot counts as who knows it cold be the last until next year. Always keep your camera handy 😊 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 01-Nov-17 06:50 PM GMT

There's still life in the season, Goldie. Until the first proper frosts and cold days arrive I expect Red Admirals to remain active and eager to imbibe on any suitable nectar source. Keep your eyes peeled!

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 01-Nov-17 08:23 PM GMT

Will Do ! Wurzel and David, I'm even taking my camera to the Garden Centre 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Andrew555, 02-Nov-17 12:59 PM GMT

Very nice Goldie 😊 more than I've seen recently!

Cheers

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 03-Nov-17 03:27 PM GMT

Thanks for your post Andrew, nothing here since my last post and the weathers getting colder, real November now. Goldie 😊

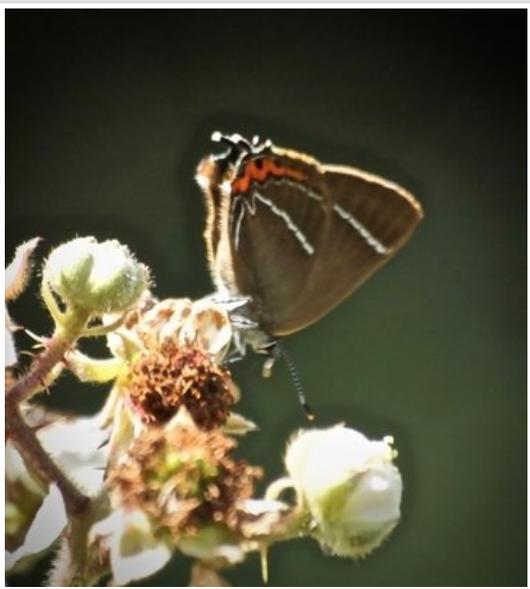
**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 15-Nov-17 09:50 AM GMT

Looking back over the year I had lots of high lights but the one I remember most was my first sight of the White Letter Hair Streak. I'd been the day before to Bolton Woods firstly entering Brockholes CP and making our way to the entrance of the Woods, we were there a couple of hours searching round, this was in the afternoon, giving up we decided to go back ( not living too far a way) the following day but make it tea time instead. This proved to be a great move, we settled down near the Black Berry Bush where they'd been seen before and waited, we didn't have to wait too long.

Inspite of the fact the Butterfly had to compete with Comma's, large and Small Whites , Red Admiral's and Bee's it held it's own unperturbed and I got my shots 😊

I'm not sure of the sex of the HS it being my first encounter but the following shots I took could mean it was Female, on the other hand it could just be desiccating 😊 what ever!! it made my year 😊 Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Andrew555, 16-Nov-17 03:50 PM GMT

That's great Goldie 😊 well done, love these special moments.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 17-Nov-17 11:12 AM GMT

Hi! Andrew, thanks for your post 😊 That's the only good thing about Winter, we can look back on the photos we took in the Spring and Summer and really enjoy the moments they bring to mind even the moments we for get 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 17-Nov-17 12:56 PM GMT

Great set of shots and a prime example of persistence paying off 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 17-Nov-17 06:44 PM GMT

Getting close to nectaring White Letter Hairstreaks is always a notable moment, Goldie. I'm not surprised it proved to be such a highlight for you.

### Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 17-Nov-17 07:55 PM GMT

Well done with the White-letter Hairstreak shots Goldie. That is one species that I have very few photos of and missed seeing altogether in 2017.

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Goldie M

by Paul Harfield, 18-Nov-17 12:51 PM GMT

Hi Goldie

As others have said well done with the White Letter Hairstreaks, a moment to cherish 😊.

Great to see your garden overflowing with butterflies as always, I must get myself some of that Bowles Mauve.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 18-Nov-17 01:42 PM GMT

Many Thanks Wurzel, I was so determined to see the WLH having looked for them for the last few years 😊 I hope I'm has lucky with the Brown next year, 😊 I went to Gait Barrow twice but no luck, so fingers crossed for next year. 😊

Thanks David, it was so exciting to watch it, I took so many photos of it, I just couldn't believe it 😊 I'm still living the moment and the various colours showing were amazing when the Sun shone on it, roll on next year I'll be back to Brockholes again. 😊

Thanks Neil, you'll have to visit Brockholes 😊 the wild flowers there are great, I wasn't the only Butterfly enthusiast there either lots of people turned up going along the edge of the woods, I stayed near the Blackberry Bush having been told that was the place they'd been seen the most and I got lucky. 😊

Thanks Paul, the Boules Mauve is a treasure for Butterflies, when they arrive in Spring and Summer the Butterflies go straight for it if you buy it next Spring you'll know what I mean and you can take cutting's for when it gets a bit out of shape ( they grow like mad because they're a perennial Wall Flower and get a bit stroppy) so you'll always have plants to put in your garden. 😊

Thanks again every one for your posts, they've cheered me up no end, I can't go out at present I'd an argument with our Garage door and ended up with two black eyes and a visit to the Hospital, really silly thing I did and I'm really mad at myself 😊

These things are sent to try us 😊 So I'll be going back over the year for a while on the puter:D Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 19-Nov-17 09:52 PM GMT

Great WLH, Goldie - I struggle to get a sighting of these every year, so it's good to see others having success (though I was more lucky in 2017 truth be told 😊)

Dave

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 20-Nov-17 09:13 AM GMT

Many thanks Dave, It was my first time seeing them so I was pleased to get close to one instead of looking up into the tree tops for them 😊 What was even more of an Irony was the fact that later in the year whilst I was in Fermyn Woods One landed on the ground in front of me after years of looking for them 😊 ( couldn't resist posting another shot, this one from Fermyn ) Goldie 😊



Fermyn Woods 14th July

**Re: Goldie M**

by Andrew555, 20-Nov-17 11:55 AM GMT

Not seen one myself yet Goldie, fingers crossed for next year. 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 20-Nov-17 04:10 PM GMT

I always think Hairstreaks are 'butterflyers' butterflies! - they usually have to be looked for. I remember, though, that my first encounter with the White-letter was a complete surprise. I was walking in a wood near home and saw these little brown butterflies nectaring on Knapweed. It took me several moments to realise what they were 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 20-Nov-17 06:06 PM GMT

Hi! Andrew, I hope you see one next year, persistence pays off in the end 😊 next year I'll be looking for the Brown HS 😊

Hi! Mike, I bet you thought it was your Birthday! 😊 Did you take any shots 🤔 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 20-Nov-17 07:48 PM GMT

**Goldie M wrote:**

..... Hi! Mike, I bet you thought it was your Birthday! 😊 Did you take any shots 🤔 😊 Goldie 😊

It was a long time ago, Goldie (27 years!) but there's still a photo <http://home.btconnect.com/mike.flemming/copper.htm> of my website

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 20-Nov-17 10:32 PM GMT

That's always the way Goldie - hard work to find the first and then they pop up all over the place 😊 😊 Mind you better that way round than a happy chance and then years of nowt 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 21-Nov-17 10:43 AM GMT

Hi! Mike, those are fantastic shots of all the Hair Streaks, they remind me that I've still two to go and hope fully I'll get to see them if not next year, I'll persist until I do, trouble is AGE! 😊

Hi! Wurzel, I thought this year was great for the Brown HS with them being seen at Gait Barrow, I think they're looking for eggs up there now, I'll check them out again next year but I also want to pay a visit to the South again in August, ( A bird in the hand ) 😊

At least I know they're there for sure. 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 21-Nov-17 07:26 PM GMT

That's an interesting shot of the WLH on the ground, Goldie. I've only ever see that happen overseas; never in the UK.

It must have given you quite a shock seeing that getting them down to even head level is quite a challenge!!

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 22-Nov-17 09:27 AM GMT

Hi! David, It was a shock 😊 It seems at Fermyn the WLH landing ground level is no surprise, ( so I was told ) last year I saw The PE and the PHS also on the ground at Fermyn, so it looks like Fermyn is the definite place to go for these species.

The WLH I saw at Bolton Woods was definitely at eye level on the Blackberry Bush, I'd been told previously about their habit of coming down at a round 4pm so made sure I was there at that time, I also did this when I went to East Blean Woods in Kent when I was looking for the PHS this year, I'd been told by the Ranger to go at Tea Time and sure enough they were down at eye level but didn't open their wings much. I'd a good year but still missed out on the Brown HS, next year I'll try again for that one also at Tea Time 😊 Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by Andrew555, 22-Nov-17 01:20 PM GMT

I don't think I've done any observing after mid-afternoon Goldie, I shall have to try Tea Time! 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 23-Nov-17 02:49 PM GMT

Hi! Andrew, it certainly paid off for me , I'll be visiting again at the same time next year 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 24-Nov-17 08:03 PM GMT

Nice shot of the Purp Goldie 😊 I'd heard that early evening was good for seeing Purps but I didn't know that that was when they were more likely to come down...I'll have to try and make some evening visits next season, cheers for the tip off 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 27-Nov-17 10:48 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, it works for me , 😊 I'm hoping it works with the Brown Hair Streak next year 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 27-Nov-17 12:03 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

I can confirm that it has worked for me, too. I once photographed a PH on the ground, towards the end of a day's butterflying in Bernwood Forest, as recorded in my <http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/viewtopic.php?f=29&t=7459&start=400#p100980>.

We were returning to the car-park and, as I recall, I had already put my camera away, when I spotted a small dark butterfly on the surface of the ride.

Never found the same for Brown Hairstreak, though.

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 27-Nov-17 05:28 PM GMT

Hi! Mike, looks like I'll have to go to Sussex again but this time in August 😊 if I do it'll be Kent first for a couple of weeks then carry on and have a week-end in Sussex looking for BH's, 😊 that should give me time to look in the evening and the day time, can't do the evening at Gait Barrow, we usually go there Morning time and return afternoon. what ever happens it's the Brown Hair streak on my to get list for next year 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 27-Nov-17 07:18 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, unlike Purple Hairstreak, which peak in activity in the evenings, Brown Hairstreaks are Britains laziest butterflies, and are usually inactive after 3pm, even on warm days!

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 27-Nov-17 07:57 PM GMT

Thanks for that essex, it will save me loads of time and may be Gait Barrow will be the place to visit in the mornings after all to find them 😊 I'll still try for that week-end in the South though but now I know not to bother after 3pm 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 30-Nov-17 06:20 PM GMT

At my local site, Goldie, I find the bulk of females between 11.30am and 2pm, with a particular preference for midday to 1pm. The earliest I've ever seen one is 9.45am and I don't think I've ever seen one after 3pm!!

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 01-Dec-17 10:47 AM GMT

Hi! David, it looks like Morning is definitely the best time then, I'm very glad to find this out from you and essex, it helps to to know the habits of the Butterflies your looking for.

I've usually arrived at Gait Barrow about 11am some times a bit later, I'll have to try to get there for about 10am, it all depends on the traffic has well, the M61 which I start out on goes to two lanes only when going onto the the M6 this causes a bottle neck in the Summer, fingers crossed I see them next year. I'll still try the South though as well 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 19-Dec-17 03:32 PM GMT

It's been quite a while since I posted in my Diary but a lot of things have been happening some good some not so good 😊

But I'd just like to say A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL IN UKB and add a couple of shots I took from my Garden this Summer,

When I look outside now it's an UGH! DAY! but we're off to Kent tomorrow for Christmas, I'm looking forward to Marsh mellows and Hot Chocolate, So has Wurzel says HAVE A GOODUN! 😊 GOLDIE 😊







**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 21-Dec-17 08:38 PM GMT

Cheers Goldie 😊 Happy Solstice and have a fantastic Christmas 😊

Have a goodun 😊

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 21-Dec-17 10:01 PM GMT

Merry Christmas to you too, Goldie, and keep the images coming. We need all the visual 'dopamine' we can get in these bereft winter months!

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 22-Dec-17 07:56 PM GMT

Merry Christmas to you too Goldie, here's looking forward to a fruitful season next year 😊

Cheers,

Neil.