

Re: Andy Brown

by andy brown, 01-Jan-17 02:00 PM GMT

Happy new year everyone and lets hope the weather helps the insects this year.

Just updated my moth blog with the summary of 2016 catch for those interested in moths and the first moth for 2017 info can be found at:

<https://hortonheathmoths.wordpress.com/>

BW

Andy

Re: Andy Brown

by FISHiEE, 01-Jan-17 02:19 PM GMT

Happy new year to you too Andy! Hope your eye is recovering. The owls have been on form lately. Kestrels too!!

Re: Andy Brown

by andy brown, 31-Mar-17 01:23 PM GMT

I went out on Sunday with Pauline to find some Purple Hairstreak Ovum, whilst it took longer than we thought we did find 4 or 5 individuals. I have loaded image un-cropped then cropped so those of you not accustomed to this side of butterfly images can get an idea of the size.





Cheers

Andy

Re: Andy Brown

by Pauline, 31-Mar-17 08:09 PM GMT

Your shots came out good A despite all your grumbling about the wind 😊😄 Think we should make it clear that these shots of the eggs were taken whilst they were on the tree thanks to the stunted nature of the Oaks at Browndown. Reckon I'll get round to posting mine about July 😊

Re: Andy Brown

by David M, 31-Mar-17 10:18 PM GMT

Stunning images, Andy, and I truly admire your patience in looking for these ova. They're far harder to find than those of the Brown Hairstreak.

Re: Andy Brown

by andy brown, 15-Apr-17 11:56 AM GMT

Thanks for your comments Pauline and David,

Here are a few snaps from my travels over the last couple of weeks,

Green Tiger Beetle and Adder





Large Red Damselfly – Pyrrhosoma nymphula



Orange-tip – Anthocharis cardamines – Fresh Ovum 1



Orange-tip – Anthocharis cardamines – Fresh Ovum 1 cropped



Orange-tip – Anthocharis cardamines – Ovum



Orange-tip – Anthocharis cardamines



Small Copper – Lycaena phlaeas



Small Copper – Lycaena phlaeas



Speckled Wood – *Pararge aegeria*

Cheers

Andy

Re: Andy Brown

by Wurzel, 16-Apr-17 08:09 AM GMT

Great set of shots Andy especially the second Adder one 😊 I almost trod on one last weekend 🙄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andy Brown

by Goldie M, 16-Apr-17 11:06 AM GMT

Hi! Andy great shot of the Adder, I've never seen one , hope I don't trip over one this Summer 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Andy Brown

by David M, 17-Apr-17 11:41 AM GMT

Whilst my main reason for being a UKB member is butterflies, what I also like is to see images of other wildlife and those adder shots are extremely welcome, Andy. I happen upon these creatures several times every year and I become more fascinated every time I see them.

Many thanks for sharing.

Re: Andy Brown

by andy brown, 02-May-17 02:59 PM GMT

Thanks, Wurzel, Goldie & David,

As most of you who know my work I have not been on here as much and am more into the Moths and their recording but always take an interest in general nature I will always be just as keen with the butterflies so here is the first post a series of general stuff including the moths and butterflies, just conscious now of the space/server issues as well that Pete is so kindly trying to address.

So for the mothers fist here is a recent selection

72.022 [BF 2063] Muslin Moth (*Diaphora mendica*)



16.024 [BF 0445] *Ocnerosstoma friesei*



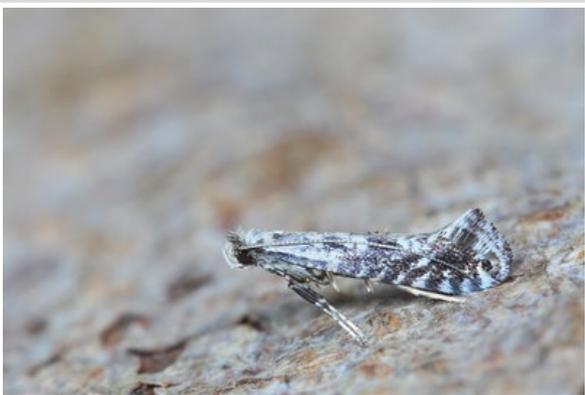
15.063 [BF 0341] *Phyllonorycter maestingella*



28.019 [BF 0649] *Esperia sulphurella*



Parornix species, this would need dissecting to establish the exact species which I am only just getting into



by andy brown, 03-May-17 08:08 AM GMT

Morning all,

And here is the best of the rest!

Mandarin Ducks, Sand Lizards with a few Pearls for good measure 😊



Male Sand Lizard with common lizard



Male & Female sand lizard



And the rather aggressive courtship behaviour of the male



and last but not least the pearls





Re: Andy Brown

by sonomoha, 03-May-17 09:33 AM GMT

wonderful shot for the Pearl.
whereabouts do you see these ?

cheers.

Re: Andy Brown

by andy brown, 04-May-17 10:11 AM GMT

Thanks for the comment sonomoha, unfortunately the site for the pearls is a bit sensitive at the moment, its not near Bristol though.

Regards

Andy

Re: Andy Brown

by Wurzel, 04-May-17 10:02 PM GMT

Great set of shots from the Lizards through to Mandarin all topped off with some cracking Pearls Andy 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andy Brown

by David M, 05-May-17 12:30 PM GMT

I can't quite decide which is more beautiful – the lizard or the Pearl Bordered Fritillary.

Re: Andy Brown

by Goldie M, 05-May-17 12:31 PM GMT

I love the Pearls Andy, Goldie 😊

Re: Andy Brown

by andy brown, 09-May-17 02:43 PM GMT

Thanks you all for your comments on the recent batch of photos.

Decided on Magdalene Hill this morning as I had not been there for a year of 2, silly really as its only 20 minutes away. Anyway I Walked a full circuit of the site from about 8:30 so very Cool wind and variable amount of sun I found a couple of larvae early on with the odd day flying moth & Butterfly, it wasn't until I go around to the large patch of Hedge Mustard that I noticed any qty of Butterflies. Below are a few snaps in rough order of finding them from the trip, sorry for quality of some as it was breezy.

Butterfly Count from around the site:

Small Blue – 4
Common Blue – 1
Dingy Skipper – 2
Grizzled Skipper – 6+
Orange Tip – 3 (Male)
Large White – 1
Small White – 1
Green Hairstreak – 10+
Brown Argus – 6+
Peacock – 1
Red Admiral – 1
Small Heath – 1

72.012 [BF 2029] Brown-tail (*Euproctis chrysorrhoea*)



Common Buzzard, not to bad from 200+ yards away with a macro lens



61.018 [BF 1574] Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus*)



07.015 [BF 0140] *Nematopogon swammerdamella*. Pretty sure anyway



07.006 [BF 0150] *Adela reamuraella*



72.013 [BF 2030] Yellow-tail (*Euproctis similis*)



49.354 [BF 1251] *Grapholita jungiella*



70.061 [BF 1738] Common Carpet (*Epirrhoe alternata*)



Golden-Bloomed Grey Longhorn Beetle



57.002 [BF 1534] Grizzled Skipper (*Pyrgus malvae*)



61.010 [BF 1569] Small Blue (*Cupido minimus*)



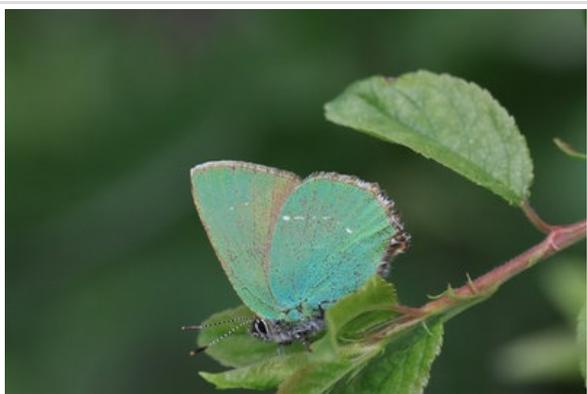
Eurydema oleracea – Brassica Shieldbug



61.015 [B&F 1572] Brown Argus (*Aricia agestis*)



61.005 [BF 1555] Green Hairstreak (*Callophrys rubi*)



I may pop back tomorrow and as my old school teacher said try harder and get some better pictures

Cheers

Andy

Re: Andy Brown

by Goldie M, 09-May-17 07:56 PM GMT

I don't think you could get better shots Andy if you go back 😊 I envy you the Grizzle and Small Blue ,1st one I've not seen yet 2 some I've not seen for ages. Goldie 😊

Re: Andy Brown

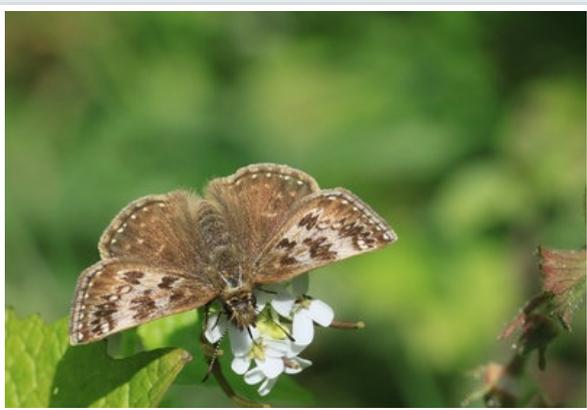
by andy brown, 10-May-17 04:01 PM GMT

Thanks Goldie, I did pop back to MHD as I could not miss the chance with the weather due to change down here and I think I did get a couple of better shots along with some photo's of other butterflies this time along with a couple of beetles from yesterday but much better one of the Golden-Bloomed Grey Longhorn Beetle. I might make Long horn beetles my target group next year as I plan to retire in April (not counting) 😊 . Anyway here goes and apologies for the amount of Common Blue but it was a stunning fresh example I hope I did it justice.









Cheers

Andy

Re: Andy Brown

by andy brown, 22-May-17 03:57 PM GMT

Here are a few pictures from my wanderings in Wiltshire predominately with John (FISHIEE), an eclectic mix as usual as the weather was much more windy that forecast which meant butterfly photography was nigh on impossible.

Adonis Blue



1.49.210 [BF 1125] *Ancylis unculana* This moth is Nationally scarce (Nb) and the first I have seen



Yellow Hammer



Marsh Fritillary



Burnt-tip Orchid



66.003 [BF 1634] Lackey (*Malacosoma neustria*)



Abia sericea (male)



66.010 [BF 1640] Drinker (*Euthrix potatoria*)



Broad-bodied Chaser—*Libellula depressa* Female



49.115 [BF 0942] *Aethes piercei* this moth is also Nationally scarce (Nb) and fortunately is find them in the same spot each year and saw at least 4 yesterday



Of for wood whites on Wednesday assuming they are not to past it and will post my findings

Re: Andy Brown

by millerd, 22-May-17 09:33 PM GMT

A fascinating and esoteric selection, Andy. Very attractive orchids in particular. 😊

Dave

Re: Andy Brown

by David M, 22-May-17 09:53 PM GMT

Yes, that's a phenomenally eclectic range, Andy, and thanks for sharing it.

Those Burnt Tip Orchids are especially beautiful.

Re: Andy Brown

by andy brown, 24-May-17 04:26 PM GMT

Thanks for your comments guys, Decided on a trip out to Tugley wood for mainly wood whites, got there early in the vain hope of finding roosting specimens as I had to be back to walk the dog for lunch time. Anyway no roosting butterflies were found but it started of warm and got incredibly hot in the rides with no or little wind but became unbearable by 10:30. In total I saw approx. 8 individuals with 2 female's egg laying the first of which was about 9:30 which I managed to take a picture or 2 of the results. Loads of Common spotted orchids on display and a couple of other items of interest thrown in (It wouldn't be me otherwise). Sorry for the grainy images it was not until later I realised I had the camera on ISO 500 (schoolboy error), may have to go back on Friday and try again.

49.214 [BF 1126] *Ancylis badiana*



Wood White



Courting



Wood White ovum



Common Spotted Orchid





Bagworm or Case Bearer



Pine Weevil (*Hylobius abietis*)



Spiderlings



Cheers

Andy

Re: Andy Brown

by andy brown, 04-Jun-17 11:16 AM GMT

Popped over to Bramshott common for the Silver Studded Blues with the plan to meet FISHiEE for 5am, so a ridiculously early start which meant the alarm going off at 3:45. Anyway found plenty of our target species straight away with a majority being very fresh examples. I got absolutely soaked through with the damp grass but I am happy with the results except the dew covered ones I just cannot get to grips with. A few past it Common Blues were found amongst a selection of other insects. Getting a Canon 80d next month so may be on here asking for some advice on any specific settings needed from the macro perspective. I was home by 9am so here are a few pics from this morning.









Any help with this one appreciated



Cheers

Andy

Re: Andy Brown

by Goldie M, 04-Jun-17 03:24 PM GMT

Absolutely beautiful shots Andy, (are you selling your old camera) 😊 If I could take shots like that I'd be very happy, if I meet you again this summer may be you could give me some pointers 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Andy Brown

by FISHIEE, 05-Jun-17 08:03 AM GMT

They all look pretty damn good to me!! 😊

Re: Andy Brown

by andy brown, 06-Jun-17 07:46 AM GMT

Thanks for you comments Goldie & John, here is a selection of moths from the last weeks or so with a couple new for garden and one Nationally scarce (Nb), I have added length in MM's for a couple to give you an idea if the size.

07.014 [BF 0143] *Nematopogon metaxella*



20.007 [BF 0409b] Cypress Tip Moth (*Argyresthia cupressella*) 4-5 mm



65.005 [BF 1648] Pebble Hook-tip (*Drepana falcataria*)



70.144 [BF 1860] Green Pug (*Pasiphila rectangularata*)



73.012 [BF 2434] Burnished Brass (*Diachrysis chrysis*)



16.014 [BF 0436] *Pseudoswammerdamia combinella* 7mm



49.166 [BF 1076] *Celypha lacunana*



49.254 [BF 1133] *Epinotia bilunana*



62.010 [BF 1449] *Elegia similella* - Nationally scarce (Nb)



73.114 [BF 2305] Small Angle Shades (*Euplexia lucipara*)



20.018 [BF 0417] *Argyresthia spinosella* 5mm



69.016 [BF 1991] Elephant Hawk-moth (*Deilephila elpenor*)



BW

Andy

Re: Andy Brown

by Neil Freeman, 06-Jun-17 07:37 PM GMT

Hi Andy,

A stunning series of Silver-studded Blue images and that is a great selection of moths 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Andy Brown

by FISHIEE, 06-Jun-17 07:53 PM GMT

Impressive shots of the moths Andy. I'm tempted to dig out the trap and have a go at some of the micro ones myself but not sure my light would attract them quite so well as yours!

I'm wondering if the Wasp looking thing might be some kind of sawfly but not nerr any books to look them up...

Re: Andy Brown

by Wurzel, 06-Jun-17 10:12 PM GMT

Those Silver Studs are gorgeous Andy, a cracking sequence from jewel bedecked through to brilliantly sharp fresh individuals 🤔👍👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andy Brown

by Katrina, 06-Jun-17 10:18 PM GMT

Beautiful SSB pictures 😊 The open wing shot is stunning!

Re: Andy Brown

by andy brown, 08-Aug-17 04:20 PM GMT

Thanks for your comments everyone, Missed most of the butterflies again this year as I am concentrating on the moths no excuse really, but anyway managed to get out the weekend and here are a few pictures from the day.

First site not much around but we did find this lovely fresh Female Chalkhill



Then onto shipton Bellinger which was the most packed I had ever seen and what with the rifle range then the quad bikes going up and down was not the most peaceful day out. We did find our quarry and you had to get some quick picks before you were swamped with people barging in I don't think I shall at the weekend in the future we did find a lovely female away from the main area which meant we were undisturbed allowing us to get some nice shots. First a couple of Brimstones which were in tip top condition followed but the Brown Hairstreaks.







We did find a couple of males but these were really quite worn and I think fresh females were in the significant majority, also lots of fresh Red Admiral apparently a Dingy Skipper was seen Small Blues and the other usual suspects for this time of year.

Get my new camera tomorrow so really need to get out this weekend to try it out Canon 5DS R so if any of you have used one for macro and have any tips/settings preferences please let me know.

Cheers

Andy

Re: Andy Brown

by Allan.W., 08-Aug-17 05:03 PM GMT

Hello Andy,

Just noticed your unidentified Bee / Wasp from early June ,don,t know if you,ve already had an id,and hoping I,m not telling you something you already know , anyway I believe your insect is a Bee-Wolf species(Philanthus) ,which as the name implies they prey on Bee's and suchlike, not sure which one

I,m happy to be corrected. Some superb images by the way !

Regards Allan.W.

Re: Andy Brown

by Wurzel, 08-Aug-17 09:56 PM GMT

Great set of shots Andy 😊 I was at Shipton on Saturday and I know what you mean, I found myself in a queue at one point 😊 and just as I was going to get an great angle on an open wing female someone got a bit over eager and off she went (mind you it's better behaviour than any 'twitch' I've attended). It was better away from the 'pack' and I found a fresh Dingy so I can confirm that species report 😊 I'll ask around next time I'm out in case you are to 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andy Brown

by David M, 09-Aug-17 07:47 AM GMT

Brimstones and Brown Hairstreaks. What a combination. Looks like you had a rewarding day in spite of the noise pollution!

Re: Andy Brown

by kevling, 09-Aug-17 01:42 PM GMT

Andy,

Nice Hairstreaks and Brimstones. I doesn't look like you need a new camera, those are cracking!

Regards Kev

Re: Andy Brown

by andy brown, 12-Aug-17 05:42 PM GMT

Hi, and thanks all. Allan got as far as I could with the Wasp but need more specific photo to fully ID, kev camera has arrived and been out in the garden today trying it out with the Larvae etc. on the nasturtium. Larvae are Large White, Single egg is Small White and group of eggs is Moth ovum but need to look up unless one of you good people know. It was really quite windy but very pleased none the less.

Off out to Old Winchester Hill first thing tomorrow and with little wind will hopefully get some nice roosting shots.





Cheers

Andy

Re: Andy Brown

by Pauline, 12-Aug-17 06:08 PM GMT

I can see why you're pleased A. – some nice detail there ... but OWH and no wind??? Good luck with that 😊 . Looking forward to more shots 😊

Re: Andy Brown

by andy brown, 12-Aug-17 07:17 PM GMT

Thanks Pauline, not sure what you mean about the forecast as it is never wrong. Not!!!! Also it will be before 6am I suspect
Andy

Re: Andy Brown

by Wurzel, 12-Aug-17 08:18 PM GMT

Great shots Andy especially the penultimate one, almost a before and after shot 😊 Have a cracker tomorrow, hopefully it'll be more relaxed than at Shipton 😊

Have a goodun

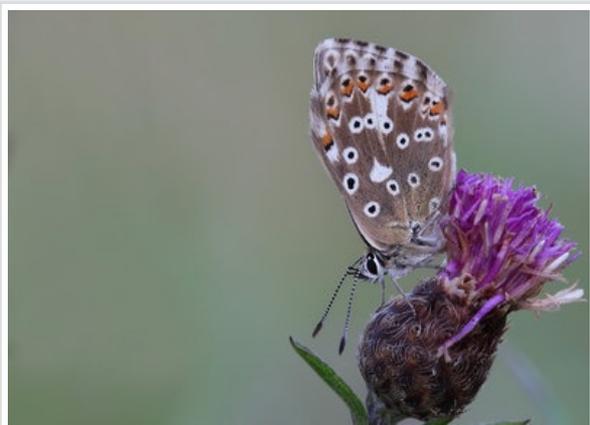
Wurzel

Re: Andy Brown

by andy brown, 14-Aug-17 02:28 PM GMT

Hi,

Here are a few from Sunday wanderings on Old Winchester Hill for a few hours Common and Chalkhill blues were abundant in various condition and came across a couple of larvae as well probably found 5–6 Comma all a pale form without really looking to hard also found a Clouded yell which with all re rain over the last week meant it was a bit past it but nice to see non the less. Windy despite the forecast saying 3mph but was still able to get some reasonable pictures. I think the new camera is going to take some getting used to as it is 50.6 megapixels so any movement exacerbates any out of focusing I might need a more sturdy tripod. Even some moths that remain static and flat against the bark have come out blurred and I think that is just down to camera shake. I have some moth pictures which I will post later or tomorrow.







Cheers

Andy

Re: Andy Brown

by Wurzel, 14-Aug-17 10:28 PM GMT

Great stuff Andy 😊 Particularly envious of your Cloudy and 'Silver-studded Chalkhill' what a cracker 😊🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andy Brown

by andy brown, 15-Aug-17 01:37 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel,

Here are a few more pictures taken over the last few days just still playing with the camera and getting used to settings but really pleased so far with the images it can take, especially the really micro stuff which is what I really wanted it for. So just need to find some more micro moths and ovum to practice on.

Common Blue



Dark Sword-grass (*Agrotis ipsilon*)



Carcina quercana



Common White Wave (*Cabera pusaria*)



Light Emerald (*Campaea margaritaria*)



Sill to identify moth ovum (Better picture this time)



Large White





Mesembrina meridian



Cheers

Andy

Re: Andy Brown

by David M, 15-Aug-17 10:58 PM GMT

That new equipment is paying dividends already, Andy. Superb images there.

Re: Andy Brown

by Wurzel, 16-Aug-17 08:24 AM GMT

Fantastic close up of the Large White cat Andy 😊😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andy Brown

by Goldie M, 16-Aug-17 08:44 PM GMT

Lovely shots Andy, your new Camera is doing you proud, Goldie 😊

Re: Andy Brown

by andy brown, 20-Aug-17 02:35 PM GMT

Thanks Goldie,David & Wurzel,

A few more pictures from the garden as I have not been out this weekend as I had to pick up the in-laws from Hull to bring them down for their cruise, packed them of now so may pop out during the week for some other species. Large whites from Ovum through to Chrysalis and the moth larvae are hatching. Unfortunately most of the small larvae are being predated by wasps so lets hope the moth larvae make it or I may try to rear them through.





Cheers

Andy

Re: Andy Brown

by andy brown, 29-Aug-17 04:15 PM GMT

Had a quick play with photo stacking using photo shop this is the combined picture of 10 photo's using manual focus of Large White ovum and quite pleased with the results



Cheers

Andy