

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 04-Jan-18 04:02 PM GMT

Today's gale promised some spectacular seas.
The following images were taken at Tide Mills, looking towards Newhaven harbour arm.
Is there a Butterfly connection ?, well yes, at a more favourable time of year Clouded Yellows fly exactly where I was standing !. Incidentally all images were taken in colour.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 04-Jan-18 08:57 PM GMT

Some excellent stormy seascapes, there Trevor. 😊 It's been some years since I lived in Dover, but I still miss the sea when I see views like these.

Happy New Year, by the way!

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 09-Jan-18 10:02 AM GMT

Just trying to catch up Trevor, Happy New Year! Wow! great shots of the Storm you were brave to be out in that weather. Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 10-Jan-18 07:45 AM GMT

Great shots Trevor, spectacular stuff. 😊
Cheers

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Jan-18 03:35 PM GMT

This morning a party of three, lead by Neil Hulme, descended on Park Corner Heath for a tree felling session, in what can only be described as perfect weather for January. The sky was blue, the sun shone and it was mild with no breeze.

Work was concentrated near the visitors hut, with Neil and his chain saw felling the larger trees, while we used loppers and handsaws on the smaller saplings.

The hard work involved dragging the sawn up trees to a nearby heap.
No burning took place today.

As if to emphasise the Spring like weather today, some Snowdrops were out in my garden !.

Trevor.



Going, going.....



Gone !.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 10-Jan-18 07:19 PM GMT

Ah, a trio of you engaged in this worthwhile activity, Trevor.

That would be tree fellers then...

Dave
(sorry...)

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 10-Jan-18 11:35 PM GMT

As I read through I was thinking 'Tree fellers', 'Tree Fellers' but Dave beat me to it 😊 of which I'm sure is a case of great minds... 😊 Sterling work there Trevor et al 😊
Snowdrops already 😊 Next thing it'll be Daffs...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 11-Jan-18 11:23 AM GMT

Good stuff, Trevor. I'm sure all this work is doing your mind AND body a world of good!

Nice to see the early snowdrops too. A sure sign spring is round the corner.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-Jan-18 12:02 PM GMT

Many thanks Dave, Wurzel and David M.

The work carried out over this winter, with both the contractors and their machines, and volunteers, have transformed the whole area. New wide rides and inroads into some of the Birch scrub should provide a suitable environment for the growth of Dog Violets leading to a healthy, thriving population of Small Pearl Bordered Fritillaries. I am sure many other Butterfly species will benefit from this site management once the newly worked land has had time to re-establish and mature.

As for early flowers, besides the Snowdrops, I have several Primroses in flower and a Camelia about to bloom. None of these should be out before mid February.

Besides these the Daffodils in a local car park are out.

Does this point to another early Butterfly season ?.

Tree Fellers.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-Jan-18 09:21 PM GMT

Roll on Summer !.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 15-Jan-18 09:46 PM GMT

Seconded, Trevor!

Halfway round to Emperor-time now... 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-Jan-18 10:39 PM GMT

I should have said that Dave. That's what I was thinking when I posted. Hopefully there will be some exciting moments before late June, early July !.

All the best,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Feb-18 07:47 AM GMT

One of the trickiest Butterflies to approach on our trip to the French Pyrenees was the Brassy Ringlet. The day the images below were taken there was an additional challenge. We were just about above cloud level, in brilliant sunshine, but within seconds a thick mist would descend which would then lift just as quickly, allowing the hot sunshine to return. During the misty spells any Butterflies in the area would instantly settle, and this allowed my best chance of getting close to a Brassy Ringlet. Unfortunately the mist was so dense that photography was impossible,

but I waited by my chosen Brassy. In almost an instant the sun returned and several quick shots were obtained before the Ringlet was off. At least the three grabbed shots were enough to show the rainbow like iridescence on the left hand forewing.

I later found a mating pair of Brassy Ringlets which were too engrossed to make a quick escape.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 01-Feb-18 09:46 AM GMT

It can't come quickly enough Trevor 😊

Great set of shots of the Brassy Ringlets – they certainly live up to their name, stunning colours 🤩😊🌈🌈

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 01-Feb-18 07:35 PM GMT

Just like looking at a live rainbow Trevor, lovely 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 02-Feb-18 02:23 PM GMT

Beautiful, must look amazing in motion. 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 02-Feb-18 10:07 PM GMT

Many thanks for making me even more desperate to get back to France, Trevor!!!

These species can be quite common on the near continent and I yearn for the weeks to come when I'll be back amongst them!

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 03-Feb-18 07:01 PM GMT

The brassy ringlets are lovely group, and you've captured the iridescence beautifully in your images, Trevor. They are not easy to photograph either, especially with their wings open, so you've done well there too. I love the way they flash blue silver when they fly.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-Feb-18 06:05 PM GMT

WE'RE OFF ! (or at least it's a tentative start).

On Thursday 15th Feb. I was driving along a single track lane near Midhurst, West Sussex, when in the distance I spotted a white Butterfly. As I neared this female Brimstone, she thoughtfully landed on a wild Rhododendron bush right by somewhere I could pull in off the road, better still my camera was in a bag on the front seat !.

All very fortunate and convenient 😊. Added to this these were the earliest Butterfly images I'd ever taken, by two days.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 18-Feb-18 06:34 PM GMT

Nice one Trevor, not long to wait until they're all over the place again 😊

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 19-Feb-18 02:54 PM GMT

It begins.. Well done Trevor. 😊

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 19-Feb-18 07:02 PM GMT

Great news Trevor, you've cheered me up no end 😊 lovely shot as well Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 19-Feb-18 10:50 PM GMT

Cracking stuff Trevor, good to see you tearing out of the starting blocks 😊🏁

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 19-Feb-18 11:14 PM GMT

Many thanks everyone. The first Butterfly of the year is always special. The Spring like weather we enjoyed here in the South East brought out several of the hibernators in the latter half of last week. Unfortunately our friends in the East are sending over an icy blast for us to enjoy, so more Spring like weather has been put on hold for a while. 🙄

Re: Trevor

by David M, 20-Feb-18 08:00 PM GMT

What a wonderful start to the year for you, Trevor, and yes, the anticipated cold weather means it may be a while before the rest of us enjoy a similar uplifting experience! To be honest, I don't mind cold weather in late winter, because in previous years this has often led to a good general butterfly season. Let's hope the same is true this year!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-Feb-18 11:05 AM GMT

I totally agree David. The experts all seem to say that a good Butterfly season needs to be preceded by a ' real Winter '. Even here in the South East we've had quite a few frosts and some snow (with more to come ?). Some parts of the country have had something approaching a severe Winter, so let's hope this is to the benefit of our Butterflies.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Feb-18 09:50 AM GMT

Violets are blue, and they are also a damn nuisance .

Some years ago I foolishly ignored a Dog Violet plant in my garden. Blissfully unaware of their exploding seed pods, and the amount of seed per pod, this one plant has been responsible for many seedlings, hence a healthy, unwanted population in my garden.

On one of Neil Hulme's work parties at Rowland Wood, a chance conversation with Gary Norman revealed that he and Theresa were looking after some Pearl Bordered Fritillary caterpillars, which at the time were in hibernation, but would soon be active again and very hungry. So I arranged with Gary that I would pot up some of my Dog Violets and put them to good use !. In this case VERY good use. Hopefully an unwanted weed will help to produce some beautiful Pearls this coming Spring.

Trevor



As Gary put it, a salad bar for Pearls.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 26-Feb-18 10:24 AM GMT

That sounds like you've mastered modern day Alchemy Trevor 😊 Violets turned into Pearls, sounds like a magnificent usage of weeds 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 26-Feb-18 10:27 PM GMT

Good work, Trevor! There's a use for everything, and you are putting this seemingly surplus plant to very GOOD use.

Let's hope it does indeed turn into a 'salad bar'! 😊

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 27-Feb-18 09:43 AM GMT

That's great Trevor. 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-Mar-18 02:50 PM GMT

Many thanks all, those PBF cats should now resume munching, after the arctic blast of last week.

For my second Butterfly of 2018 I had to look no further than my garden this afternoon. I just happened to notice a Red Admiral swoop over a boundary hedge, and then watched it flutter around the garden. Fortunately it seemed attracted to the sweet perfume of my Daphne Odora and nectared on some of the few flowers to survive last weeks weather. I have a Skimia next to the Daphne, and this was chosen for basking.

Fortunately my camera was handy !.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 07-Mar-18 09:42 PM GMT

Brilliant, Trevor. That one did well to survive last week. 😊

Not a squeak round here yet.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 08-Mar-18 10:09 AM GMT

Awful weather here today Trevor, Snow and sleet, glad some ones seeing Butterflies , no chance here for a while. 😞 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 08-Mar-18 12:21 PM GMT

Great stuff Trevor 😊 Where was that one hiding last week then 🤔

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 08-Mar-18 07:08 PM GMT

Hi Dave, Goldie & Wurzel,

That Red Admiral was a very welcome sight, tatty yes, but still good for the spirits !. It shouldn't be too long before Butterflies are being seen up and down the country. Remember my Orange Tip sighting at the end of March last year ?.

Good luck,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 11-Mar-18 10:11 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

For my second Butterfly of 2018 I had to look no further than my garden this afternoon. I just happened to notice a Red Admiral swoop over a boundary hedge, and then watched it flutter around the garden. Fortunately it seemed attracted to the sweet perfume of my Daphne Odora and nectared on some of the few flowers to survive last weeks weather. I have a Skimia next to the Daphne, and this was chosen for basking.

Heartwarming stuff to see a butterfly so soon after that Siberian blast, Trevor. Sadly, we now seem to have something equally irritating in the form of a low pressure system stuck to the south west to contend with.

Just **one** nice day in March would be nice, though even if we get several I fear Orange Tips prior to April are out of the question. 😞

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-Mar-18 02:30 PM GMT

A Large Tortoiseshell spotted and photographed at Woods mill, West Sussex. See BC Sussex, sightings page.

Nothing seen in Wiltshire yesterday, despite some warm sunshine.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 17-Mar-18 07:38 PM GMT

The Large Tort is a bit of a drive for me Trevor but cheers for the heads up 😊 I see that you're becoming familiar with the weather bubble that exists over Wiltshire 😞😞 I saw a measly single Peacock yesterday – is spring going to happen this year or are we going to go straight into summer?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-Mar-18 08:52 AM GMT

Primroses putting on a brave face this morning.



Re: Trevor

by David M, 19-Mar-18 11:21 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

Primroses putting on a brave face this morning.

LOL! 😄 There are loads of primroses in bloom on the Gower right now, but I'm betting they wish they'd have left it a couple of weeks! At the moment, even the daffodils are waving the white flag. It's not just the cold and the snow, it's the strength of the wind that's causing chaos.

Let's hope things take a turn for the better very soon.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 19-Mar-18 11:36 PM GMT

I hope this is the final ' arctic blast ' David, this weather is getting very tedious.
I can't really complain too much, we've had very little snow compared to other areas.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Mar-18 12:47 PM GMT

Almost perfect weather this morning was enough to tempt a visit to the old railway.
The air was rather cool on arrival, so I decided on a breakfast, and shopping, to give things time to warm up.
First on the scene was a patrolling male Brimstone (the first of two seen). Unfortunately neither landed, too busy searching for females.
The find of the morning was an immaculate Peacock, taking moisture in a ditch, this allowed my third Butterfly image of the year.

Trevor.

**Re: Trevor**

by trevor, 26-Mar-18 04:51 PM GMT

After lunch I went out again, this time to Abbots wood. It was a bit of a squelch fest over there so my wellies were essential. Having picked my way through the mud I was rewarded with two more Peacocks and my first Comma of the year.
Around here I think we had the finest weather of the year so far.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 26-Mar-18 04:55 PM GMT

You too made the most of this mornings sun. lovely pristine Peacock, Trevor.

Mike

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 26-Mar-18 07:54 PM GMT

Good result Trevor 😊, a pristine Peacock and that Comma is non too shabby either.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 26-Mar-18 10:48 PM GMT

Nice Peacocks there Trevor. 😊 Just the beginning of good things to come I hope.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 27-Mar-18 07:41 AM GMT

Great to see Trevor. 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 27-Mar-18 12:47 PM GMT

You're well up and running now Trevor, lovely pristine Peacocks 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 27-Mar-18 05:26 PM GMT

Lovely Peacocks Trevor, nothing in Blean Woods yet Goldie 😊🌱

Re: Trevor

by David M, 28-Mar-18 09:18 PM GMT

Great start to the season for you, Trevor. Actually, I'm quite envious as I have seen two Peacocks thus far in 2018 but neither have settled for an image so you have trumped me on that!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 30-Mar-18 07:58 PM GMT

If anyone cares to look a page 25 of my diary, they will see how well Good Friday can perform.

Fat chance of that today !.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 30-Mar-18 08:16 PM GMT

I checked out page 25 but that was from December 😊 Found your 'very Good Friday' on page 29 – and I definitely see what you mean 😊😊 I also recall a March one year with OTs, Grizzlies and Greenstreaks all emerged 😊 This year I reckon we'll be lucky to see anything much before May 😊 Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 30-Mar-18 08:48 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

If anyone cares to look a page 25 of my diary, they will see how well Good Friday can perform.

Fat chance of that today !.

Trevor.

Yes, Trevor, it's been grey and miserable by me too, and things look set to stay that way for the foreseeable future. 😞

Last year, we had glorious weather at the end of March and there were all kinds of early emergees. I suppose the upside will be that August doesn't wither on the vine prematurely like it did in 2017.

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 30-Mar-18 09:52 PM GMT

Shows what a difference a year can make. March is normally actually one of the drier months of the year, incredible as it seems at the moment! Although this miserable, cold weather is very frustrating, it's not actually a disaster. A few sunny days in April would soon get things going, as the sun is now quite strong. We are just going to have to be a bit more patient this year.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 31-Mar-18 07:37 AM GMT

Many thanks everyone.

I found yesterday particularly frustrating. Instead of going out with the camera, I was at home nursing a toothache with the rain pouring down outside. Unfortunately my dentist can't find anything wrong with the offending tooth.

Looking forward to the next fine day! 😊

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 02-Apr-18 10:43 PM GMT

That next 'fine day' will come, Trevor. We're all eagerly awaiting it, and it is very much overdue.

In many ways, this will make it so much more enjoyable.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-Apr-18 03:55 PM GMT

A fairly successful day today.

The promised sunshine duly materialised but was tempered by very cool air.

As in previous visits to the old railway this year, it was necessary to go in to town for a bacon roll and coffee to give things time to warm up, before a serious Butterfly hunt.

First on the scene was the unmistakable flight of a Comma, which later landed high up in a Sallow.

The prize of the morning was a newly emerged Small White, which I initially mistook for GVW, which are usually more common along the old line.

The day's final total was three Commas, the White, and two flyby Peacocks. I had the feeling that today would have been brilliant if the air had been warmer.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 05-Apr-18 05:18 PM GMT

Great find Trevor, should be warmer tomorrow 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 05-Apr-18 06:28 PM GMT

Good stuff, Trevor. It's been painfully slow going so far this year but the emergence of Pierids is definitely something to look forward to. Maybe Orange Tips are only a week or so away?

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 05-Apr-18 08:57 PM GMT

That Small White is very lightly marked indeed, Trevor. I agree – a bit more warmth and there would have been more around. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Apr-18 03:27 PM GMT

The breeze this morning was stronger than yesterday and the sunshine was diluted by high cloud. For this reason I left it to after lunch before venturing out. By this time the sun was beginning to win over the breeze. My reward was four Commas and two Peacocks. The second Peacock (the one I missed) had very bright colours and was in pristine condition, but unfortunately was obscured by foliage, and when it took off, was not seen again.

Things seem to be picking up, fingers crossed.
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 06-Apr-18 06:29 PM GMT

Nice Small White yesterday, Trevor and lightly marked as Dave says. I agree that the wind was stronger today, which made it difficult out there, but you still managed to find a few 😊

Mike

Re: Trevor

by Gary.N, 06-Apr-18 06:41 PM GMT

That Peacock looks good to me, Trevor. 😊 I hope things are starting to pickup. May just see a Pearl at the end of month if things continue to improve.

Gary

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 06-Apr-18 06:49 PM GMT

Looks like spring is finally starting to win the battle with winter eh Trevor. Doesn't look like too much sun in the coming days but as long as the temperature stays good we should start having a flurry of activity in the coming weeks 😊

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 06-Apr-18 07:21 PM GMT

Nice shots there Trevor 😊

It sounds like you had similar weather today to us, weak sunshine through high level cloud and a bit breezy but overall a bit warmer than yesterday. Unfortunately I was tied up today and didn't manage to get out.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 06-Apr-18 11:23 PM GMT

It's definitely picking up, Trevor. 😊 Nice to see a few Commas – they are slow to appear in my part of the world so far.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 07-Apr-18 11:14 AM GMT

Not seen any Comma's in Canterbury yet Trevor, last day has well, I'll have to make do with your good shots of them 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-Apr-18 04:50 PM GMT

More of the same today, still a welcome sight though.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 07-Apr-18 08:18 PM GMT

Great stuff Trevor 😊 I was wondering a couple of days ago when the first of the Small Whites would arrive on the scene 😊 If you're after some Small Torts there's plenty over this way 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Apr-18 04:46 PM GMT

Some unexpected sunshine, together with warmth (18c) brought out my first Speckled Wood of the year, although it played ' hard to get ' never landing anywhere near ground level. It was quite lively in the heat (yes it was warm !). Also two, worn, Red Admirals were seen. All found along the old railway in Hailsham.

Off to Wiltshire tomorrow, any surprises in the Church yard or Pub grounds welcome. Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 10-Apr-18 06:10 PM GMT

Great find Trevor 😊👍 and great news as it won't be that long til they start showing up over this neck of the woods 😊 As we're between one and two weeks behind you guys and gals in the East we're still on Small Torts, Commas and Peacocks though a Small White was seen the other day 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Apr-18 06:24 PM GMT

Thanks for that Wurzel, I will keep a keen eye out. A Small Tort. will do fine, I've not seen one yet. I will thoroughly search the Church rubbish heap, remember last year ?.

All the best,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 10-Apr-18 07:32 PM GMT

Ah! a Speckle 😊 soon be time for them to start appearing in my garden...if we ever get a break in this grey and gloomy weather we have had here for days now.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 10-Apr-18 08:24 PM GMT

That's great Trevor, a Speckie , next week the weather should be better may be a Wall next 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 10-Apr-18 08:45 PM GMT

Good to see a Speckled Wood out, Trevor 😊 – no chance over my way as the cloud refused to give any ground all day...

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 12-Apr-18 07:03 PM GMT

Good luck with the rubbish dump checking Trevor 😊 hopefully there will still be some butterflies about in the gloom that has sat over us for the last week, fingers crossed Saturday is as the BBC Weather app predicts 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-Apr-18 03:29 PM GMT

Since I arrived in Wiltshire on Wednesday we have had wall to wall grey gloom until this morning.

Frustrated that there was more chance of winning the lottery than seeing any Butterflies I took the camera to the nearby railway to photograph the high speed trains, which at 40 years old, are due to be phased out very soon.

Whilst waiting for some action, a Sparrow Hawk landed in a tree not far away, and I was able to grab two (half reasonable) shots of it. A little later an immaculate Fox was seen crossing the railway line.

Today, however the Sun finally broke through the gloom, so it was off to the local Church yard, where there was a reasonable showing of Butterflies, including my first Small Tortoiseshells of the year. Also seen, several Brimstones, a Peacock and a fleeting glimpse of a Holly blue.

Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 14-Apr-18 05:37 PM GMT

Great stuff Trevor especially the Brimstone, lovely shot that 😊 I'm glad the church produced the Small Tort goods and a Holly Blue 🦋🌿

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 16-Apr-18 11:48 AM GMT

Well done on the Torts Trevor, like the Sparrow Hawk as well. 😊

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 16-Apr-18 01:14 PM GMT

Lovely shots of the Small Torts Trevor, sorry you didn't manage a shot of the Holly Blue, the first shots are always difficult to get I find 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-Apr-18 06:24 PM GMT

Many thanks all. Was I last person in the UK to find some Small Tortoiseshells ?.

Today was slow going at the old railway, but at least my first Orange Tip, and second Speckled Wood of the new season put in an appearance. Also seen were two Peacocks and a very tatty Comma.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-Apr-18 03:54 PM GMT

The old railway was a little livelier today than yesterday. One thing that was obvious was the building numbers of Speckled Wood, with seven seen. One in particular was a boldly marked female. I also obtained a favourite Springtime scene of mine, a Peacock on Blackthorn blossom, not with a blue sky background, but it will do.(for now).

The day's tally was seven Specklies, three Peacocks and three Commas.
If the forecast weather is as good as they say I would think Green Veined Whites,
Holly Blues and more Orange Tips will grace the old railway by the weekend. (hope so)

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 17-Apr-18 05:11 PM GMT

Still no Specklies round my way, Trevor, but it can't be long. That female is beautifully marked – after the late summer ones, the spring brood is much brighter.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 17-Apr-18 05:29 PM GMT

That second Speckie, looks really unusual, it's marking's really flower like, Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 17-Apr-18 08:42 PM GMT

You nipped off home in good time Trevor – it's been dire to not great here so far this week 😞 Great set of reports and I see what you mean about that female Specklie, she really does stand out, very well marked 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

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

Remarkably pale Speckled Wood is that, Trevor. Well done for spotting her. Good to see another join 2018's Orange Tip club too! 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-Apr-18 07:18 PM GMT

Many thanks for the interest in the Speckled Woods.

However Speckled Woods were not the stars of the show today. It was the Large White.

On Monday and Tuesday, no Large Whites appeared at all along the old railway, but today they seemed to be everywhere, I counted eight but I'm sure there were more.

Another notable was a male Holly Blue, my first Sussex sighting.

As for Orange Tips, it was a day to watch them, the three I saw never stopped, an added bonus was a fourth OT. which flew across my garden this afternoon.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by ernie f, 19-Apr-18 08:20 AM GMT

Hi Trevor

I've been looking at your recent pics. You seem to have a great location at your "Old Railway Line".

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 19-Apr-18 09:09 AM GMT

Great shots Trevor! Love the Speckles, seems like this week has really delivered the goods. 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 19-Apr-18 01:42 PM GMT

I'm still on Small Tortoiseshells and Peacocks over this way Trevor! 🤩🤩🤩 Lovely set of Large White shots – they're difficult to get without bleaching 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 19-Apr-18 03:38 PM GMT

Cheers Andrew & Wurzel.

For Ernie f. I have enclosed a view of part of the old line, taken last year.

The site really is 5* luxury Butterflying. There is a free 23 hour car park at the entrance, and a tar-mac path runs the whole length, with luxuriant vegetation, at this time of year, on either side of the path. Plus there is a Pub and coffee shops nearby.

Today I only had a short time at the old railway, and found my first Green veined White of the season. The warm sun kept most species non stop in the air, and Speckled Woods provided some closed wing opportunities in the sunshine.

Happy days,
Trevor.



Spring 2017.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 19-Apr-18 04:52 PM GMT

Wow Trevor! your certainly on a roll 🍷🍷 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Art Frames, 19-Apr-18 05:17 PM GMT

Hi Trevor.

I am glad to be able to report similar progress in Northants. Two Orange Tips and a Holly Blue today (no pictures), and Large White and Green-veined yesterday. 😊 I have pictures of a few other things that would stay still for me, but would need a drone for the fast ones. Glad to see you are enjoying good weather and hope it continues....

peter

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 19-Apr-18 10:32 PM GMT

Lovely GVWhite Trevor 😊 The Old Railway looks like a great site, a handy Local Site 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 20-Apr-18 01:14 PM GMT

Very nice, Trevor, especially the context image with the Orange Tip in the foreground. Looks like there has been a Pierid explosion round your way! 😊

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 20-Apr-18 04:05 PM GMT

More great stuff Trevor. 😊 Do you head north or south, or bit of both ?

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 20-Apr-18 07:37 PM GMT

Great reports and photos of some lovely spring butterflies 😊

I particularly like the last photo of the Speckled Wood from Tuesday 17th – a nice female. Spring brood are usually brighter than the later broods with females usually being brighter than males and yours is a lovely example 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 20-Apr-18 08:49 PM GMT

Now I have an idea what the Old Railway looks like! It seems like a cracking spot. Some lovely spring views there too. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-Apr-18 05:09 PM GMT

Many thanks everyone. Good to hear from you Peter, glad Spring has caught up with you.

I hope I might be permitted a little indulgence. Some Primroses from my garden.

When I'm Prime Minister the Primrose will become our national flower.

Sadly they will soon fade away for another year 😊 .

But will be replaced by carpets of Bluebells 😊 .

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-Apr-18 05:48 PM GMT

Today, at the old railway line can only be described as brilliant.

Holly Blues (all males that I could make out) are now in good numbers,

And there are enough male Orange Tips around for me to witness a short chase consisting of three together.

Speckled Woods must be approaching peak numbers, there are now enough holding territory and launching at each other (and any other passing species). One in particular gave me a hard time this morning as I was trying to photograph some Holly Blues. Every time a Holly Blue looked as though it might land the resident Specklie launched an attack. Long lasting Specklie duels were commonplace (why does it take them so long to find out that they are not right for each other !).

Happy days,

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 22-Apr-18 05:20 PM GMT

Great shots Trevor, love the Holly Blue. 😊
I popped by for a short time this afternoon, after my days outing.
Half a dozen butterflies in the first couple of minutes, including 3 male OT's.
A great site indeed!

Cheers

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 22-Apr-18 08:22 PM GMT

The Old Railway Line sounds like a fantastic place Trevor 😊 That is a mighty fine Holly Blue 🇬🇧🇬🇧

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 22-Apr-18 10:32 PM GMT

Speaking as a connoisseur... that is indeed a lovely Holly Blue, Trevor. It looks much softer than many of the quite harsh shiny ones I see. More like a Common Blue even. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Art Frames, 23-Apr-18 05:57 PM GMT

Hi Trevor

Lovely Holly Blues. I am glad you are seeing so many butterflies. I have a couple of ex-railway lines I must get to. I tend to go to the same old spots and may be missing similar fruitful spots.

We have Bluebells already, and primroses. And I narrowly missed the Orange Tip on Bluebell shot 😞

I have responded to your Tesco comment... 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-Apr-18 07:37 PM GMT

I don't ever recall having such an experience in Tesco's fish dept., but I do recall your reaction to the Tesco joke. 😊

Glad you enjoyed the old railway, Andrew, it was fabulous today.

Cheers Wurzel & Dave. (Wurzel, took the family into Salisbury's Waitrose, it's vast.)

Today I visited the old railway specifically for Orange Tips. Although there were many Butterflies to photograph, it took five hours to obtain images of three male OT's. This was still easier and more productive than in the bright sun and heat of last week. No females seen today.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-Apr-18 07:57 PM GMT

Those Orange Tips were so hard won, I thought they deserved a posting of their own.

The other prize for today's efforts was the opportunity to photograph male and female Green vein Whites, both open wing.

A real surprise came in the form of two Red Admirals, the second of which was very fresh. Holly Blue males were everywhere, a few were ground searching, others were harassed by Speckled Woods. Other species on the wing were many 'Whites' and a single Comma.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 23-Apr-18 09:31 PM GMT

I think you must have had more sunshine than I did, Trevor – though the mix was the same, the numbers weren't around today. Another fresh Red Admiral – I wonder if they are newly arrived or newly hatched?

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 24-Apr-18 08:41 AM GMT

Fantastic set of whites and OTs Trevor 😊🍵 The Waitrose in Salisbury is great isn't it but soon they'll be stopping their free 'nice' coffees 😞🍵

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 24-Apr-18 02:47 PM GMT

Fantastic Orange Tip shots Trevor, still waiting to see the rest except for Red Admiral which I saw in March in Kent in Clowes Wood, I wondered at the time if they had arrived too soon because the weather was cool down there at the time. Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 24-Apr-18 07:44 PM GMT

You're have a bit of a purple patch down there Trevor, I'm still struggling with Orange-tips... and the weather!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 25-Apr-18 03:59 PM GMT

A CELEBRATION OF THE ORANGE TIP.

This morning the weather was just perfect for an Orange Tip hunt. There were just enough fluffy white clouds in an otherwise clear blue sky to ensure regular landings when the sun went in. I arrived on site at about 9.30 and the OT's were already up and about and presenting opportunity after opportunity for the camera.

Fortunately the old railway cutting provided total protection from the strong wind.

Hope you enjoy.
Trevor.









Re: Trevor

by Art Frames, 25-Apr-18 05:05 PM GMT

Lovely set, Trevor. You must be pleased.

Of course it may just be one butterfly which you moved from plant to plant. Well it would have to have been here! But no, clearly you have a few more in the sunshine than we do in the Midlands today in the showers and cold wind 🇬🇧 😊

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 25-Apr-18 05:44 PM GMT

🇬🇧 🇬🇧 🇬🇧 I'm still waiting for a chance to get an open winged OT. I'm just having zero luck with the weather at the moment!

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 25-Apr-18 08:29 PM GMT

Cracking set of images Trevor, I checked out three sites today but all I got was a distant Small White in someone's garden 🇬🇧 🇬🇧

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 25-Apr-18 10:01 PM GMT

Lovely Orange Tips, Trevor. 😊 None of the few I saw today were hanging around for anything.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 26-Apr-18 11:56 AM GMT

Fantastic stuff Trevor. And your GVW's are great too. 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Apr-18 05:20 PM GMT

Many thanks everyone, that was a magical morning with the Orange Tips.

Today, however was a totally experience to yesterday.

At 9.30 am yesterday I was greeted with plenty of action, all species present were up and about in good numbers.

Today it was not until just before mid-day before things got going, Yet the weather, to me, seemed almost identical to that of yesterday.

The prize of the day was a close encounter with a very docile and fresh Large White. which spent ages nectaring on a dandelion. Holly Blues (all males) did not seem to mind the apparent change in the weather and flew in good numbers all morning.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 27-Apr-18 03:50 PM GMT

Simply lovely Butterflies Trevor, 🍷🍷 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 27-Apr-18 06:57 PM GMT

Hi Trevor, a great selection of photos from your recent trips out, especially the Orange-tips 😊

Cheers,

Neil

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 27-Apr-18 07:31 PM GMT

Great Orange Tips, Trevor. I too have had a great time with them this week, luckily they fly along a ditch behind my house.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 27-Apr-18 11:19 PM GMT

Great shot of the Large White Trevor 😊🍷 That's a hard thing to capture at this time of year when they're so flighty 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 28-Apr-18 05:43 PM GMT

Must say I'm quite envious of that Large White shot, Trevor. By the end of April I've normally seen quite a few but so far this year it's two at best, with it very much more likely that the same male was seen twice, so it's only actually **one**. 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-May-18 06:16 PM GMT

Many thanks everyone, more whites today.

After yesterdays atrocious weather (possibly the worst I've known for a Spring day), today was the calm after the storm.

I went out early this morning with a temperature of only 8c and the Holly Blues were already flying.

As time progressed all the usual whites came out to play, together with several male Orange tips, which are beginning to show signs of wear. Still no females OT's appeared.

After yesterdays battering it was pleasing to see so many Butterflies out today.

Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 01-May-18 06:26 PM GMT

The second Small White is particularly nice Trevor 😊 Won't be long until the Pearls are out – mind you still no Grizzlies in Wiltshire 🙄😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 01-May-18 09:30 PM GMT

Your day resembled mine, Trevor – white, orange and blue! A very nice selection. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 02-May-18 10:14 AM GMT

Lovely selection Trevor, 🍷 still waiting for GVW's ,Speckies here hope fully next week 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-May-18 11:32 AM GMT

The Pearl Bordered Fritillary should be with us any day now, if only the weather would settle down. Still the bank holiday forecast doesn't look too bad (at the moment).

Here is an image from April last year, to cheer me up !.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 02-May-18 11:34 AM GMT

I saw the image, my heart skipped a beat 😊 ...and then I read the text 😊 You got me 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 02-May-18 05:52 PM GMT

Don't do that to us, Trevor!! 😊

The brain translates images much quicker than it does text!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-May-18 07:32 PM GMT

Sorry if I shocked you, Wurzel & David. 😊
Hopefully I can furnish you both with some 2018 PBF images very soon.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 02-May-18 10:10 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

Hopefully I can furnish you both with some 2018 PBF images very soon.

I trust that will happen this Bank Holiday weekend, Trevor? They can't hold back much longer, surely?

Same goes for Dingy Skippers, Small Blues, Wall Browns and Small Heaths.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-May-18 05:16 PM GMT

Considering the fine weather today, Butterflies were thin on the ground. I started off at High and Over, probably too early, and all that was seen was a Red Admiral, and a very fresh female Speckled Wood. Next stop Abbots Wood, and here it was deathly quiet. I met Dave Cook during the morning and all we saw was a few Speckle Yellow Moths, a Green Hairstreak and a few ' whites '. The best encounter was to come when I arrived back at the car. I was ready to move off

when I spotted a female Orange Tip fluttering around some Cow Parsley. Passing traffic sent her up several times until she finally settled on the flower head of a Garlic Mustard plant, apparently just to rest, no sign of any attempt to deposit eggs.

A quiet, but rewarding day.
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 03-May-18 09:14 PM GMT

I see you got your female OT at last, now you'll start seeing them everyday 😊 you can have a 🍷 for the Hairstreak, still waiting to find one this year!

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 04-May-18 08:16 AM GMT

Lovely Greenstreak Trevor - I'm hoping for one this weekend 😊 The Hill has kicked into action - Greenstreaks and (finally) Grizzlies - a few more weeks and the Marshies will be out 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 04-May-18 02:47 PM GMT

I went to two ' special ' sites today, both some distance from home, and both devoid of Butterflies. I did see a couple of Brimstones, a male and female but little else. Arrived home early afternoon and popped along to the old railway, here it was teeming with supercharged Butterflies (all the usual's). I was lucky to obtain a ' stained glass ' image of a Green veined White.

Have a fruitful Bank Holiday everyone.
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by David M, 05-May-18 07:18 AM GMT

trevor wrote:

I went to two ' special ' sites today, both some distance from home, and both devoid of Butterflies.

That's worrying, Trevor. I'm just hoping this long weekend will see a major recovery. The last warm blast we had was followed by a spell of atrocious weather and this must have had an effect on butterfly numbers. There's no such problem this time, with conditions for the entire week looking fairly benign.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 05-May-18 09:00 AM GMT

Hopefully that'll be a sign that things haven't quite caught up with the improvement in the weather Trevor 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 05-May-18 02:25 PM GMT

Fingers crossed the "special" sites explode into life over the weekend, Trevor... 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-May-18 02:57 PM GMT

Thanks David, Wurzel & Dave,

I am sure it was me being a little over eager, and forgetting that last year was early.
This season is a bit behind, but having said that the first PBF was spotted in Abbots wood yesterday.

Sussex Dukes soon !
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-May-18 07:47 PM GMT

I went out early this morning in order to photograph the Butterflies before the day warmed up.
This did provide an opportunity to find some species posing nicely as they soaked up the early sun.

Later in the morning, in full sunshine, a male Orange Tip settled on a Cow Parsley flower head, in exactly the same way that they settle when the sun is obscured by cloud, it remained there for a couple of minutes. I've seen patrolling male OT's briefly pause to bask or nectar, but have never witnessed the dash for cover in full sun behaviour before. That unexpected moment allowed a decent photo opportunity however.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 05-May-18 08:07 PM GMT

Seems too hot now Trevor for Butterflies, you did okay though 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 06-May-18 12:17 AM GMT

I'm envious now, Trevor. I've not seen a Comma for a fortnight but they're still popping up on your patch!

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 06-May-18 07:52 AM GMT

Good to see some old timers hanging on in there Trevor – I mean the Comma 😊 Good technique with the OT I love the underside of the males particularly the tips of the forewing where there's a hint of orange just below the continuation of the cryptic patterning 😊

Have a goodun
Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 07-May-18 07:50 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

...I've seen patrolling male OT's briefly pause to bask or nectar, but have never witnessed the dash for cover in full sun behaviour before...Trevor.

Hi Trevor, I too have witnessed this behavior for the first time over the past couple of days, no doubt due to the high temperature we are having.

Great photo as well 😊

Cheers,

Neil

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-May-18 09:44 PM GMT

Many thanks everyone. The OT behaviour we've both seen, Neil, could be down to the heat. It is not usually that hot when the OT's fly.

Very early this morning I set off for Abbots wood in the hope of finding a few Pearl Bordered Fritillaries in the process of warming up, rather than warmed up !. (they had warmed up by 9.00 when I left). My first Pearl was found basking on a Birch sapling, before I was able to approach it, it flew down onto some bluebells. For a while, in the building heat, it seemed as though there were Pearls everywhere, but my images suggest only two were present at my first location. Two more high speed Pearls were spotted on the way back to the car, in a different area.

An added bonus came in the form of a mating pair of Speckled Yellow Moths, and a female Speckled wood searching for somewhere to deposit her eggs.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 07-May-18 09:56 PM GMT

Good to see the Pearls are out Trevor, at long last. 😊 Now we need the heat to ease off a bit to make them a bit more sluggish! 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 07-May-18 10:47 PM GMT

Great news Trevor 😊 – that means the Bentley ones should be out next weekend 😊 You did brilliantly to capture them on film in this heat 😊📹

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 08-May-18 09:49 AM GMT

Great shots of the Pearls Trevor, on Blue Bells has well great!! Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 08-May-18 04:44 PM GMT

On my way to get a haircut this morning, I was very fortunate to find a pair of Beautiful Demoiselle's soaking up the Sun.

After the barbers, I drove up to High and Over. Obviously the Wall Browns were supercharged by the time I arrived, but I found two a rest, for about 3 seconds !, one of these already showing battle scars.

I counted eight males in total.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by ernie f, 08-May-18 07:14 PM GMT

Oh, Wow – Wall Browns! Great shots.

Where are they located? Which part of the country?

I have to admit I only have one pic of a Wall Brown and that was the only time I ever saw one. It was when I was more into Birds than Butterflies many years ago. I nabbed it at Keyhaven when I lived in the New Forest.

Cheers

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 08-May-18 07:31 PM GMT

Hi Ernie,

The Wall Browns can be found at High and Over in East Sussex.
High and Over is between Alfriston and Seaford, on the road that can be accessed from the A27, at the Drucilas zoo roundabout.
The (free) car park is at the top of a long steep hill. The Walls can usually be found basking on the steps at the view point, and along the hedge in the field beyond the steps.

Hope this helps,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by ernie f, 08-May-18 08:14 PM GMT

Thanks, Trevor.

Would you believe it I actually had a short-break at Alfriston a few years ago and didn't know they were there!

Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 08-May-18 08:25 PM GMT

Lovely images in your last post Trevor. It's hard to believe that not so long ago Wall Brown's were relatively common in my area and now seem to be in decline at Lyminster – still, a good excuse for a trip to IOW 😊😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 09-May-18 11:18 AM GMT

Great Wall shots Trevor – hopefully they'll be out and about in the Churchyard when you next visit, or at The Hill, no reports yet though 😊

Have a goodun
Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 09-May-18 11:53 AM GMT

Well done with the PBFs and the Walls, Trevor. Hopefully I'll catch up with these two in the next few days as it's clear numbers are building.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 09-May-18 04:20 PM GMT

Great find those Wall's Trevor, i don't think they're out here yet. I was at Southport last week and got the shock of my life, in the marsh where there were heaps of sand etc, (i think used to be a cement works) they'd completely flattened it leaving just a small hill, Wall's could always be found there, I just hope when i go back again some will be seen but I've got doubts about that now. Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-May-18 07:17 PM GMT

Many thanks everyone for your comments on the Wall Browns.
I am visiting my Daughter in Wiltshire from Sunday until Wednesday, next week.
so hopefully I will find some Spring brood Walls in the Church grounds there.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-May-18 09:22 PM GMT

Today I was in the company of Dave (millerd) and Bugboy who had travelled down to East Sussex from the London area.
We firstly walked from my house to the old railway, which was much quieter than on some of my more recent visits. I think Dave felt quite at home when some Holly Blues were spotted.
Building cloud cover had also sent an Orange Tip to rest on Cow Parsley.

We then went over to Abbots wood for the Pearl Bordered Fritillary, several friends with the same idea were also present. Unfortunately by the time we arrived it was too late for photography as the temperature had risen to the point where the Pearls were flying at high speed.

After a stop for coffee we headed for High and Over for the Wall Brown, but none were seen as it was fairly breezy up there. Bugboys keen eye spotted a single Orange Tip egg on Garlic Mustard, And later on another OT was spotted in the process of selecting somewhere to roost.

A further late afternoon visit to Abbots wood coincided with some light cloud cover.
This afforded us with some great photo opportunities.

So ended a great day in good company, good to see you both.

Trevor.





Single Orange Tip egg, spotted by Bugboy.



Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 09-May-18 10:03 PM GMT

Superb Pearl photos Trevor! 🍷🍷🍷

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 10-May-18 08:01 AM GMT

Lovely PBF's Trevor, good to see the Walls back as well. 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 10-May-18 06:39 PM GMT

Great stuff Trevor 🍷🍷 I'm itching to get over to Bentley even though last weekend was too early, seeing these shots and knowing that we're a week

behind has filled me with hope 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-May-18 08:02 PM GMT

Many thanks Katrina, Andrew & Wurzel. I hope you will also enjoy the fruits of today's expedition.

Weather, ideal for a further afield Butterfly trip, greeted me early this morning. ie, A lovely blue sky with plenty of fluffy white cloud and a reasonable temperature. Hoping to find several new species for this season, I set off for Kithurst flower meadow. As I arrived so did a large party, led by Neil Hulme. My immediate thought was that things might be a little cosy, but all had a fabulous time, with some seeing a Duke of Burgundy for the first time.

Both the Duke and Duchess were present in small numbers, and all were fresh. As the morning wore on the number of Dinghy Skippers seemed to build, and later still a magnificent female Green Hairstreak was seen searching Dogwood flower buds. After much flitting about she finally selected a suitable cluster of buds, and kept mine and Neils camera very busy, as she deposited her eggs.

With some time to spare I the headed over to Chiddingfold forest, having heard that the Wood Whites were out. Unfortunately timber extraction work is taking place, and parking in Fisher lane, by the two entrances is suspended. Parking sensibly I risked a very quick visit and having located one Wood White ,dashed back to my car.

So ended a very satisfactory day.
Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 10-May-18 08:16 PM GMT

I did indeed enjoy the fruits Trevor especially the cherry on top - the Wood White 🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by ernie f, 10-May-18 08:18 PM GMT

First it was Wall Browns, then it was Pearl BFs and now its Wood Whites – and all within the space of a couple of days!

Trevor, you are the envy of us all.

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 11-May-18 07:42 AM GMT

Great stuff Trevor, Wood Whites now! Thanks for the guided tour Wednesday, shame the old railway line was a bit sleepy but at least things improved in the afternoon 😊. I might get round to sorting out my images sometime next month 😊

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 11-May-18 08:34 AM GMT

Enjoyment confirmed. 😊 Well done with the Wood White. 😊

Goes for me as well Bugboy! I continue to have trouble keeping up with sorting pics, but I don't know what to do about it. Take less, but higher quality shots maybe? Easier said than done! 😊 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 11-May-18 11:48 AM GMT

[quote]... So ended a very satisfactory day.

Quite an understatement if I might say so, Trevor. That was a 'boot filling' day...and some more. Well done with the Wood White capture. First I've seen on here this year and let's hope there are plenty more!

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 11-May-18 07:34 PM GMT

Andrew555 wrote:

... I continue to have trouble keeping up with sorting pics, but I don't know what to do about it. Take less, but higher quality shots maybe? Easier said than done! 😊 😊

I hear this...but when we can take so many photos of such beautiful subjects it seems rude not to 😊

Great reports and photos again recently, particularly that Green Hairstreak 🍷 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 11-May-18 08:24 PM GMT

Well done on the wood white, Trev! We understand your concern about the car, but fortune favours the brave- he who dares, wins!

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 11-May-18 09:03 PM GMT

Nice to see that Wood White and to know they are out and about. I shall have to stray down to Chiddingfold myself soon...

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 12-May-18 02:39 PM GMT

My thoughts exactly Dave! Some nice shots there Trevor 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-May-18 02:01 PM GMT

Many thanks everyone for your response to my last day out, seems you enjoyed it as much as I did !.

I am currently in Wiltshire for a few days. Early this morning I went over to the grassland site at Tilshead. None of the three Blues found there are out yet, but Dingy and Grizzled were around in small numbers. The morning did, however belong to the Green Hairstreak, with a good number spotted. Back at the car a Green veined White was found nectaring on Bugle.

No Wall Browns in the local Church yard yet.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by David M, 14-May-18 10:46 PM GMT

That's a fantastic Dingy shot, Trevor. I don't think I've ever seen the colours so vivid in a photograph.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 14-May-18 10:48 PM GMT

Yes, a lovely new Dingy Skipper, Trevor. On new ones like that the marginal spots look almost blue... 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 15-May-18 09:33 AM GMT

I don't think it looks Dingy at all Trevor, I wonder who named it in the first place 🙄 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-May-18 04:53 PM GMT

A morning visit to 'The hill' resulted in plenty of Green Hairstreaks, plus Grizzled and Dingy Skippers. Very little else was on the wing except for some 'Whites' and a patrolling male Orange Tip. I would guess the Marsh Fritillary is still about a week to 10 days away.

Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by John W, 15-May-18 05:52 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

A morning visit to 'The hill' resulted in plenty of Green Hairstreaks, plus Grizzled and Dingy Skippers. Very little else was on the wing except for some 'Whites' and a patrolling male Orange Tip. I would guess the Marsh Fritillary is still about a week to 10 days away.

Hi Trevor,

Someone on the Wiltshire BC web site reported seeing them at Battlesbury Hill today which is only a few miles away so I would expect them to be flying at Cotley Hill any day now.

<https://www.wiltshire-butterflies.org.uk/sightings/>

Cheers
John

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-May-18 07:33 PM GMT

A couple more shots from today, including a hillside covered in Red Campion, with part of Salisbury Plain in the distance.





Click on image twice, what a spectacle !.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 15-May-18 10:45 PM GMT

Alright Trevor 😊 Great set of shots from the Hill and the Plain 😊 I was about to let you know that the Marshies have started emerging, the first was on the 11th at West Yatton Down and three were seen today at Battlesbury – check out the latest sightings on Wiltshire Butterfly Conservation and there's a Grid Ref 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 16-May-18 10:45 PM GMT

I did what you said, Trevor, and clicked twice, and what a joy! Is that a field of campion flowers before my eyes?

Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 16-May-18 11:25 PM GMT

That is one attractive field! 😊

Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 17-May-18 06:18 AM GMT

I never thought that I'd ever be commenting on a field Trevor but that is certainly a spectacular sight/site 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-May-18 08:37 PM GMT

I am pleased that some enjoyed the Red Campion shot, though the camera could hardly do justice to the scene. Usually Campion grows in ones and twos along the road verge, not en-masse on a hillside.

This evening Doug and myself popped over to Abbots wood for a late session with the PBF. it was a difficult evening for photography, the strong sunshine keeping the Pearls active right up until roosting time. I watched at least three head for the trees after 6.30pm.



Re: Trevor

by Art Frames, 17-May-18 09:19 PM GMT

Its lovely to see you having a great season, I am checking out some of your sites as you mention them unfortunately they all seem to be about 3-4 hours away. But I will make it at some stage. Its no good you having all of the fun....

Send my regards to Doug. You should get him to post here too. 😊

Re: Trevor

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

Great shots of the Pearls Trevor – I still haven't seen one yet this season! Fingers crossed for this weekend. Also 25 Marshies at Battlesbury today which means the Hill should be producing as well 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-May-18 09:28 PM GMT

My time and the weather had, until today, not coincided for a Wall Brown hunt.

With a lighter breeze today, the Walls responded to the warm sunshine, and weren't blown around too much. My first Wall sighting was of a female, but she kept her wings tight shut while grounded then promptly took off.

Whilst watching for flying Walls my attention was drawn to some wing flapping in the grass, I was fortunate enough to witness a female rejecting the advances of a male, who soon took the hint. Another find was a male with twin forewing eye spots.

Despite the tricky nature of the Walls I did manage to come home with some images.

Trevor.



Female rejecting the advances of the male.





Double forewing eyespots.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 18-May-18 09:48 PM GMT

Good stuff, Trevor – they really are tricky little blighters at this time of year. 😊 Are these from High & Over? They look a lot more worn than the ones up at Mill Hill a few days ago.

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 19-May-18 09:05 AM GMT

One for the Moth experts.
Found resting on my terracotta planter this morning.



Re: Trevor

by bailey1409, 19-May-18 01:54 PM GMT

Hi Trevor

The moth is a Common Swift. Common around these parts.

Cheers

Maurice

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 19-May-18 08:58 PM GMT

A taste of things to come.....



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 19-May-18 09:09 PM GMT

That's a glorious Adonis, Trevor! 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 19-May-18 10:40 PM GMT

That's a great Trailer Trevor 😊😄 Interesting to see the double eyed Wall, is that a 'bipupilla'?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-May-18 07:18 AM GMT

I was intending to leave my sessions with the Adonis Blue until my next visit to Wiltshire. But having seen images, which can only be described as stunning, from Mill Hill in West Sussex, this location acted like a magnetic draw for me last evening.

On arrival, surprisingly, there was only one other person on site, our very own Sussex BC chair. Nigel Symington. As we chatted another, distant, figure was seen approaching, this turned out to be Katrina.

Katrina's company was to turn out to be mutually beneficial, as many more photo opps. were created by two pairs of keen eyes.

Keen eyes were not required for spotting male Adonis Blues, particularly as they began to settle down in the weakening evening sun. There was also a very good showing of female Adonis, with possibly more seen than previous reports would suggest.

Mill Hill, PART 1. THE BLUES.



Common Blues seemed to be in the minority.



One of several mating pairs.





Re: Trevor

by ernie f, 20-May-18 08:32 AM GMT

I tried and failed to see some spring brood Adonis Blues in Hampshire the other day. I still haven't seen one yet this year. Glad to see you are having better luck than me. I'm not envious...

...OK, yes I am.

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 20-May-18 05:02 PM GMT

Cracking Blues Trevor. 🍷

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-May-18 09:41 PM GMT

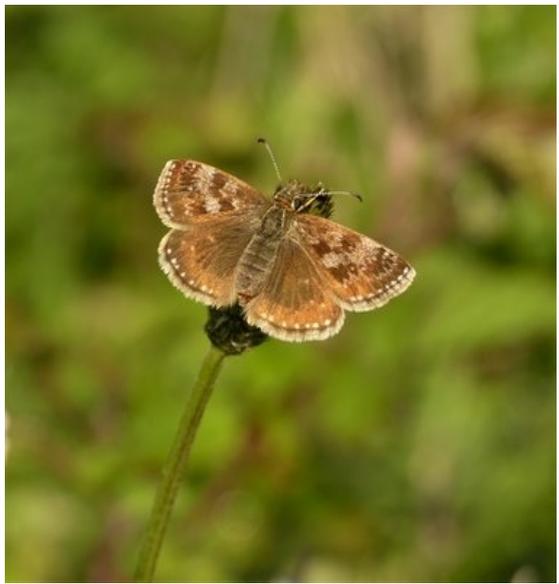
Many thanks Ernie & Andrew.

Mill Hill Saturday 19th May, PART TWO.

When Katrina and myself really got in the swing of things, the photo opportunities just kept coming. Especially as the Butterflies really started to settle down for the night. Some of the highlights were provided by Dingy and Grizzled Skippers. Katrina was particularly good at spotting resting Grizzled Skippers, with their wings tightly closed. I could have easily walked past them all !.

I also visited Mill Hill again this evening, but this time I was passing close by on my way home. More of that tomorrow.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 20-May-18 10:01 PM GMT

Excellent atmospheric shots from Mill Hill, Trevor. Early evening is clearly a cracking time of day to see these butterflies settling down. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-May-18 08:22 AM GMT

Yesterday, Sunday, I revisited Mill Hill. This time I was on my way home from my restoration job at Halnaker, near Chichester. Who could resist !.

On arrival it was good to meet Sussex BC web master Jonathan Crawford, and Mark (Essex Buzzard).

The Butterflies seemed to take a little longer to settle down, compared to Saturday. But once again good photo opportunities occurred one after the other.

Mark found the real surprise of the evening, a solitary Small Blue, apparently not a species usually found at Mill Hill.

Trevor.



The Mill Hill Small Blue.





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 21-May-18 08:39 AM GMT

Catching up on my posts ,fantastic shots of the Butterflies Trevor, love the ones of the Wall, I only managed one at the week-end 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-May-18 08:22 PM GMT

Many thanks Goldie. Those Wall Browns were hard won, they are very quick.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 21-May-18 08:46 PM GMT

Fantastic set of Adonis Trevor, the range in colours is crazy when you consider that it's all down to simple refraction, love the really electric blue male 🤩👍👍👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 21-May-18 10:26 PM GMT

You promised me good evening Trevor, and you certainly delivered! Mill Hill is a great site, you are so lucky to have it on your doorstep!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-May-18 06:48 PM GMT

I am currently in Wiltshire for a three day stay.

Arrival at ' The Hill ' was just before 9.30am. I was welcomed by a very fresh male Wall Brown, then all was quiet.

The weak sun was not strong enough to get things going. this was an advantage for two easy sessions with a Small Blue, and a Brown Argus.

The Marsh Fritillaries began to appear on the hillside once the thin cloud cover dispersed, rough counting was hopeless, with the Marshies seen whizzing around the hillside in two's and three, and becoming involved in chases with other species. Two other hopefuls enjoyed the morning in the shape of Dave Cook and Andrew555, although Dave had to leave early, and only saw one Marshie before he left.

Anyway I'm back there tomorrow for another fix.
Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 22-May-18 08:54 PM GMT

Great to see you and Dave today Trevor. And absolutely fantastic to see Marshies for the first time. 🍷
Many thanks for your previous advice. Great shots from today, and from Mill Hill. 😊

Cheers

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 22-May-18 09:24 PM GMT

Good to see you were able to meet up with the Marshies, Trevor – I envy you your second bite too. 😊 That Small Blue is a better specimen than any I saw too. 🍷

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 23-May-18 08:35 AM GMT

Lovely Marshie shots Trevor, 🍷 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-May-18 08:09 PM GMT

Many thanks Dave, Andrew & Goldie.

Wiltshire day two.

I arrived on site even earlier this morning, and was able to find some Butterflies warming up. The first two that I came across, a Marsh Fritillary and a sparkling Small Blue were so calm that I had the rare opportunity to compose shots rather than the normal point and shoot,

It was also pleasing to get some Marsh Frit underside images.
As the morning wore on more visitors arrived including for a second time in several days,
Mark (essexbuzzard) who I think had a good time.







Re: Trevor

by David M, 23-May-18 09:07 PM GMT

Aah, late spring in the UK is in rude health right now by the look of things, Trevor.

Fill your boots with those Marsh Frits.....in a fortnight's time they'll be all but done down south. 😞

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 23-May-18 10:37 PM GMT

Great to see the Hill doing it's thing. There were only few about last weekend – how are the numbers now? The first Marshie shot is a cracker! 😊🇬🇧

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 26-May-18 07:20 PM GMT

Very nice Trevor, lovely Small Blue. 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-May-18 08:06 PM GMT

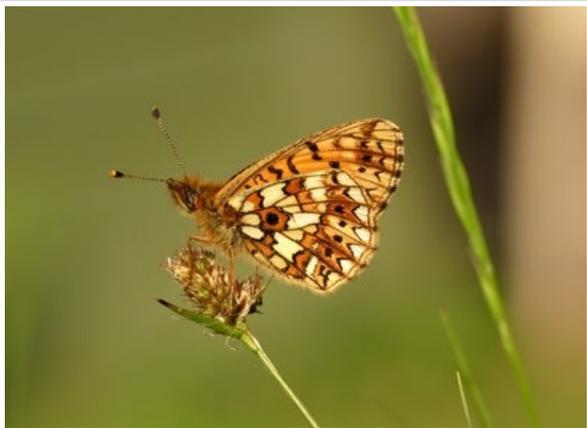
This evening I went over to Rowland Wood and PCH. between 6 and 7pm.

In Rowland Wood at least five Common Blues were seen roosting, unfortunately one of these became alert and saw off my first Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary.

Bad language over, I then carried on, eventually ending up in Park Corner, here my second SPBF rose up from the foliage and settled nearby for both open and closed wing shots.

Later I found an SPBF right near the hut, but is it number three or number two again, I have a hunch it's the same one. Never mind a thoroughly enjoyable evening was had.

With thanks to Gary, Theresa and Mike,
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 26-May-18 08:37 PM GMT

Good to see those Small Pearls, Trevor, and great shots too. 😊 That's obviously the time to find them sitting prettily!

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Janet Turnbull, 27-May-18 12:28 AM GMT

Fabulous pics of the Small Pearls, Trevor. Hope they will soon be around further north too!

Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 27-May-18 06:06 AM GMT

Very nice shots of those Small Pearl Trevor – crisp and well composed. I actually prefer this butterfly to the PBF, possibly because there is more contrast in the colour making it look more vibrant. 😊

Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 27-May-18 12:42 PM GMT

Gorgeous photos Trevor, made me wish I had gon out instead of watching the Champions League Final 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 27-May-18 09:43 PM GMT

Many thanks Ladies and Dave, I'm glad you enjoyed the wild, East Sussex SPBF. I also hope you enjoyed the sheet lightning show last night, it was spectacular here. No rain, very little thunder, just constant flurescing clouds, I sat out on my patio in awe of it.

This afternoon, at Halnaker, whilst we were having our tea break outside, the behaviour of a distant white Butterfly drew my attention by repeatedly fluttering around the same plant and frequently landing on it. Curiosity got the better of me and I went to investigate. It turned out to be a female Orange Tip, and the plant was Garlic Mustard, but no eggs. All the images I took show she was just nectaring on it. As the Butterfly was in bright sunshine photography was extreemly difficult, so I have selected a back lit shot.

I called in at Mill Hill on the way home.....

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 27-May-18 09:59 PM GMT

MILL HILL 6 until gone 8pm.

Including my first Small Copper of the year.





Nine Adonis Blues enjoying something nasty.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 27-May-18 11:01 PM GMT

It was quite a storm here last night, Trevor, but today was another lovely day.

Lovely evening images from Mill Hill – the light really sets the butterflies off nicely. However, the classic multi-butterfly shot can't really be considered attractive – I always wish they'd find something less noxious to pose on... 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 27-May-18 11:17 PM GMT

That was quite an evening with the Small Pearls Trevor some cracking shots 🤩🇧🇧 The air was blue today at Bentley 😊😊 Also a cracking set of evening shots from Mill Hill, the evening does give everything such a beautiful golden edge 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Janet Turnbull, 27-May-18 11:43 PM GMT

All those Blues were having quite a party, Trevor! I love your Small Copper shot.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 28-May-18 09:08 AM GMT

Lovely evening shots Trevor, love the shots of the Adonis 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 28-May-18 04:22 PM GMT

Beautiful SPBF images, Trevor....almost sepia-like.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-May-18 10:38 PM GMT

This evening I returned to Park Corner Heath, basically on the strength of Katrina's report from yesterday. This suggested that more Small Pearls had emerged since my Saturday visit. I arrived at the same time as James (B.Saurus rex), good to see you James. I was delighted when my first find, on the lower part of the site, turned out to be my first female SPBF. As I returned up to the main part of the site, I was delighted to see Katrina again, and I must admit that most of the subsequent Butterflies found were down to her, including an immaculate Painted Lady. Our last find was in Rowland Wood, down to Katrina again, my last image of the evening was taken at 8.32 !.

A great evening in lovely company.
Trevor.

OT







Re: Trevor

by millerd, 28-May-18 10:41 PM GMT

Beautiful photos of those evening Small Pearls, Trevor. 🍷 😊

You can really see here how different the males and females are in the species too.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 29-May-18 10:22 PM GMT

Another cracking evening Trevor those are brilliant shots of the Small Pearl, especially the last one 😊 🍷 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

p.s. I haven't been able to make it over to the Church yet hopefully later in the week...

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 31-May-18 09:54 AM GMT

I have had some problems loading images this morning (reported it to Pete).
And my text was wiped. So I will be brief in case it happens again !.

Yesterday I went to the Isle of Wight (by public transport, won't do that again !)
for the Glanville Fritillary, no sun, but gloom and sea mist.
Later, near Bonchurch, the sun appeared for exactly four mins, and five Glanvilles appeared.

I'll let the images tell the rest,
Trevor.



The scene that greeted me at Wheelers Bay.





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 31-May-18 10:57 AM GMT

You got some great shots Trevor so your journey was worth it 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 31-May-18 02:54 PM GMT

It' just sods law, Trevor, your first shot says it all 😊 But at least four minutes is better than none and you got the great shots you deserved 😊

Mike

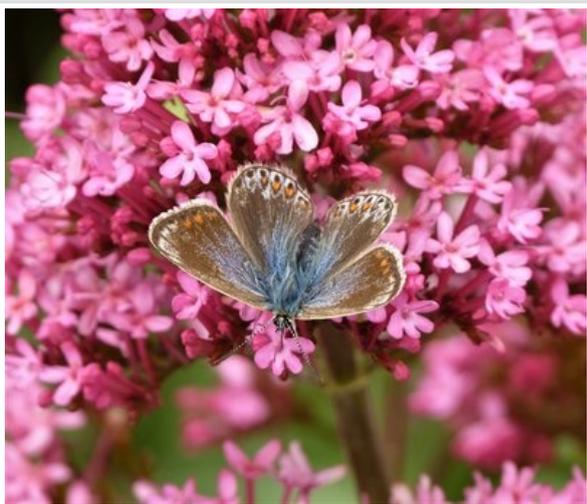
Re: Trevor

by trevor, 31-May-18 03:24 PM GMT

It was your images, Mike, that spurred me on to visit the Island yesterday morning. Coupled with the BBC South weather forecaster saying the south coast would brighten up later. The day did get worse !. When I got back to Portsmouth Harbour station, all direct trains to Brighton had been cancelled, and passengers were left to work out for themselves how to get home !. All this for just over £50. I later found out driver shortages were to blame.

Still five Glanvilles were better than none, I might return to the IOW by car.

Here's three other images of the day.





Three Bee Orchids, were growing at the base of the cliffs.



A bit macabre, still that's nature.

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 31-May-18 03:59 PM GMT

At least you saw some Glanvilles Trevor, fab pictures too 🍷 . As for the trains, well welcome to my world 😞 driver shortages 🤔🤔🤔

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 01-Jun-18 12:43 PM GMT

£10 a Glanville is a bit steep Trevor 😬 but at least you got onto some 🍷 . Also that Bee Orchid looks interesting as the flower that is still developing appears to be an albino form 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-Jun-18 09:02 PM GMT

After the grey gloom of the last few days, it was a relief to get out with the camera, on what can only be described as a near perfect evening.

My destination had to be Park Corner Heath, to make the most of the Small Pearls.

The first find was a female, but she was in an awkward position for a decent shot. Next came a male, which I was able to follow to roost. By the hut I met Dick, from Seaford, who had found another male, after many shots I decided to try for any more roosting SPBF,

and promptly found two together on the same grass stem.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 02-Jun-18 09:08 PM GMT

That was an interesting daytrip to the I.o.W., Trevor – it paid dividends in the end though! 😊 The car might be more convenient but you'll need to sit down to see what they charge... 😊😊 Lovely Small Pearls in the evening light too. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 02-Jun-18 11:12 PM GMT

Another great set of Small Pearls Trevor 😊🇮🇪 I managed to get my fair share at Bentley so my envy meter is set slightly lower now but still cracking images 😊🇮🇪🇮🇪 Soon be time for Large Blues 😊 where is the year disappearing too?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-Jun-18 11:42 PM GMT

Cheers Dave, I have used Wightlink many times before. Their Day return fare for a car has varied from £36 to £90 !. By the balls is I think the correct term. Try getting from Wheelers bay to Compton bay by bus (on a day visit).

The climax of my Butterfly year is but 3 or so weeks away, Wurzel. (watch out for my spoof advert). Just after the longest day, then it's the long gentle slide to Christmas.

Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 03-Jun-18 05:50 AM GMT

I heard recently on the grapevine that Neil H had predicted 18 June for earliest emergence Trevor so you may not even have that long to wait 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-Jun-18 07:05 PM GMT

Thanks Pauline, I think Matthew Oates is predicting a similar date. I'm raring to go, it's just down to the weather and I hope the forestry work has not been . too detrimental for this season.

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 04-Jun-18 09:55 AM GMT

Lovely evening shots Trevor. 😊 Fantastic that you caught those Glanville's. 🍷

Re: Trevor

by kevlings, 04-Jun-18 08:00 PM GMT

Trevor,

I've been enjoying your SPBF photos. What a difference the early evening light makes, they are stunning. I saw my first one for several years last week in Snowdonia. It made my holiday!

Kind Regards
Kev

Re: Trevor

by David M, 05-Jun-18 12:00 AM GMT

Such a joy to see SPBFs thriving in the south-east of the UK, Trevor. Lots of hard work has gone into making this possible so one hopes that the venture will prove a self-sustaining success going forward.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-Jun-18 06:48 AM GMT

Many thanks, Andrew & Kev. I've only recently discovered the delights of the low evening sun, preferring early morning for 'quiet' Butterflies. I must say the golden quality of the setting sun does add another dimension to images that full daylight lacks. Look as though I'll be out early and late in future !.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-Jun-18 06:55 AM GMT

IT'S ALMOST TIME TO PREPARE YOUR CHOSEN FRAGRANCE.....



PARFUM POUR HOMME

Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 05-Jun-18 08:22 AM GMT



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 05-Jun-18 08:36 AM GMT

Classy stuff Trevor 🤪😂, hopefully you'll be beating them off with a stick 🤪😂

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 05-Jun-18 12:20 PM GMT

July approaches and the unexpected smell of the sea wafts over leafy Surrey... Yep, it's Trevor OHMS... 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by David M, 06-Jun-18 12:12 AM GMT

trevor wrote:

IT'S ALMOST TIME TO PREPARE YOUR CHOSEN FRAGRANCE.....

I see you're primed and ready to go, Trevor! 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Jun-18 10:14 PM GMT

Isle of Wight visit 6/6 2018, more tomorrow, I'm a bit knackered after a long drive.



The weather was a vast improvement over last week.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 06-Jun-18 11:26 PM GMT

Looking forward to the next set of posts, at least I think I am? 😊 🍷 🍷

Have a goodun
Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-Jun-18 10:43 AM GMT

Travel arrangements for the trip to the Isle of Wight yesterday went like clockwork.

I was even able to recall my mental map of the island's roads, so no wasted time getting lost.

Wheeler's Bay was the first destination, and there was Butterfly action from the start.

After half an hour or so it became clear that finding Glanvilles in good condition was going to be difficult.

Indeed all that were in good condition were the females, most males were severely worn. This was the case at all three sites visited.

The next stop was Shepherd's Chine, here I witnessed chases that would have been impossible when the Glanvilles first emerged several weeks ago. ie, Glanville and Large Skipper/ Meadow Brown and Small Heath. This demonstrated the transitional period we are now in.

On to Compton Bay, where even more land has slipped into the sea, since my last visit. As it was now mid afternoon and quite hot, attempts at photography was useless, so it was over to the ice cream van !.

Anyone thinking of visiting the IOW for Glanvilles, perhaps next year would be a better bet.
Trevor.







Poor old chap !.



The crumbling cliffs of Compton Bay.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 07-Jun-18 12:15 PM GMT

Glad you got your Glannies Trevor 😊🍷 Also like the way that as the sequence progresses they get more and more aged 😊 Interestingly a couple have been seen at nearby Battlesbury Hill – obvious releases but who knows, they might just take 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 08-Jun-18 06:02 PM GMT

I started out very early this morning to Park Corner Heath and Rowland wood.
The Small Pearls were hard to find, but before home time five were found, two were basking, and the other three were very lively, despite the early hour.
The next find was five Large Skippers, all were easy to approach.
The best discovery of the morning, and a new species for me this year, was a very fresh male Meadow Brown. This Butterfly was significant because it not only allowed close approach, but opened right up before my eyes. Normally Meadow Browns can be quite tricky, (at least I find them difficult at times).

I was back home at 10.15 in time for morning coffee !

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 08-Jun-18 08:21 PM GMT

Greta set of shots Trevor 😊 I know what you mean about Meadow Browns, I think it was DavidM that pointed that they only seem to open up much later in the season when they're worn or tatty, this time of year when they're resplendent with an oily sheen they sit there wings tightly shut. What a bunch of Primadonnas, it's only a Brown afterall 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 08-Jun-18 08:34 PM GMT

It's good to see that the Small Pearls seem to be doing well down there Trevor, I remember your comments when I have seen them further north and in Cornwall lamenting the fact that they had vanished down your way.

Great report from the IoW as well, the recent spells of hot weather certainly seem to have brought things on somewhat from what was a late spring to what seems to be a slightly advanced early summer.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-Jun-18 07:29 PM GMT

Many thanks Wurzel and Neil. Fingers crossed for the Small Pearls future. A mid afternoon visit to the Cuckoo trail, in Hailsham, found many squabbling Speckled Woods, which for once proved useful, by sending up a Meadow Brown which was in an impossible position for a shot, and it landed in an ideal position, and better still, opened it's wings fully. A single Large Skipper was also present.

Trevor.





by Wurzel, 09-Jun-18 09:03 PM GMT

Have you been getting tips on butterfly whispering from Dave Trevor? 😊 Great stuff 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 10-Jun-18 01:08 PM GMT

It's tricky getting open wing shots of Meadow Browns early in the season so well done there, Trevor. Nice to see a female Large Skipper too. They're far less often observed than the males.

Good effort with the Glanvilles too. That must have made you happy.

God alone knows what that sixth one in your sequence had been up to during its life...it must have fought every passing insect to look as bedraggled as that!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Jun-18 08:56 PM GMT

I've just had a phone call (20.50) informing me that the first Purple Emperor has been seen at Bookham Common.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 10-Jun-18 09:51 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

I've just had a phone call (20.50) informing me that the first Purple Emperor has been seen at Bookham Common.

Trevor.

Early again like last year. I do hope they're willing to settle on the ground like last year too!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Jun-18 10:03 PM GMT

You had better get a season ticket, Paul.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-Jun-18 03:35 PM GMT

There is some truly sensational news from Sussex, about to break.

Either this evening or in the next day or so.

I was invited along, and was completely blown away.

I will post images after the announcement has been made.

I imagine the Sussex BC sightings page is something to keep an eye on.

Today's more mundane sightings.....



Mating Large Skippers.

Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 11-Jun-18 04:08 PM GMT

Real nice shot of the mating pair Trevor – didn't have time to wait to see if my ones would get there 😊

PS. BTW, you're such a tease 😊😊

Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 11-Jun-18 08:20 PM GMT

C'mon Trevor, news is out 😊 Where's the shots?

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-Jun-18 09:36 PM GMT

Neil has said it all in his excellent piece.

But my story began last evening with a phone call from Dave Cook.

He asked me if I had any plans for today (Monday).I had nothing special on.

' Meet you at Ditchling common car park at 10.00 ', what for I asked?, ' you'll see ' he said.

This left me wondering what could be so special. A rare migrant was my first thought, but surely it would have flown by morning.

I duly met Dave, and a little later Badger Bob. As we walked with Dave leading, a small Butterfly was observed flying into a Hawthorn tree,' thats what we have come to see ' remarked Dave, the Black Hairstreak. Yes here in Sussex !!!.

I was ill prepared for this, a species always associated with locations off the M40 here in Sussex !. When we began to search, or rather they appeared while we were searching, posing beautifully on the Bracken fronds.

Only the images from a truely fantastic, thoroughly enjoyable, morning, can do justice to today.

More of the story later.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 11-Jun-18 10:09 PM GMT

Astonishing stuff, Trevor and some brilliant images as well. 😊 Obviously the Sussex version hasn't heard about staying high up and causing neck ache like their M40 relatives... 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 12-Jun-18 03:57 PM GMT

Nice one Trevor, you didn't bank on that when the season started did You! I wonder how many other colonies are tucked away in the wilds of Sussex?

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 12-Jun-18 07:06 PM GMT

Many thanks Dave & Paul. One thing I've learned in life is you can never say never !.

What better way to celebrate page 100 of my diary, than with lots of Black Hairstreak images, and a new species ticked off the list. It is also great to have a species that was hitherto distant, now on my doorstep (24 miles).

Ditchling common DAY 2.

Carrying on from yesterday, where the Black Hairstreaks almost found the visitors, today was cloudy, cooler and breezier, consequently searching was slow going. About ten BHS were eventually found, and all were in good condition and fairly easy going.

It was also a pleasure to meet so many familiar faces in one location and have a catch up.







The orange spots on the upper side of the hind wing can just be made out.

Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 12-Jun-18 07:31 PM GMT

What a stunning series of shots, Trevor, and they're posing brilliantly for you, and in Sussex 🤩

Mike

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 12-Jun-18 10:53 PM GMT

Fantastic shots Trevor 😊👍👍 But how did they get there?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 13-Jun-18 08:36 AM GMT

That's absolutely brilliant Trevor. 👍😊

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 13-Jun-18 10:02 AM GMT

It's certainly great to hear that another species only found in one place for so long can now be found some where else at last, lovely shots Trevor 👍👍
😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

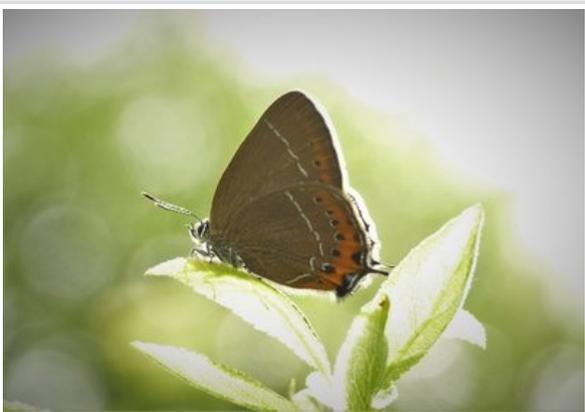
by trevor, 13-Jun-18 09:48 PM GMT

Today was my third day at Ditchling common, but I originally intended to spend the morning at Horseshoe plantation, near Birling Gap, in order to bag a few Marbled Whites and Dark Green Fritillaries. I arrived early, and searched the whole site. It soon became clear that neither species had emerged there yet, so what to do with the rest of the day, at just after 8.am.

Ditchling common beckoned for a third time. I arrived to an unusually full car park. The word was well and truly out, and many more enthusiasts arrived as the day wore on. Photographers huddles were witnessed all over the site. I kept well and truly out of the way so the Black Hairstreak virgins, and there were many, could get their images.

Over the three days I met many UKB'ers, including Neil Hulme, Pauline, Katrina, Vince, Dave (millerd), Martin (Mr Spock), Badgerbob, James (B.Saurus), and finally Mike (Maximus) for the first time.

Great to meet you all,
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 13-Jun-18 10:08 PM GMT

Marvellous shots Trevor, particularly the dreamy last one!

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 13-Jun-18 10:28 PM GMT

Some good ones, there, Trevor. 😊 It was quite a party today down in Sussex, and great to see you and everyone else. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 13-Jun-18 11:05 PM GMT

More great stuff Trevor 😊🍷🍷 Any chance you could persuade few of the Blackstreaks to start trekking to the Salisbury area 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 14-Jun-18 11:00 AM GMT

It was nice to finally meet you yesterday at Ditchling, Trevor 😊 your lovely images of Black Hairstreaks taken over the past few days inspired us to pay Ditchling a visit.

Mike

Re: Trevor

by David M, 14-Jun-18 10:02 PM GMT

Who needs a winter social when you can all meet up like this!!!

Seriously, this has been a wonderful and surprising development and I just hope that now the colony has been found, efforts can be made to conserve it so that the species can consolidate at this location, which is far removed from its historic range in the UK.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-Jun-18 06:19 PM GMT

A taste of things to come.....



Re: Trevor

by Janet Turnbull, 16-Jun-18 11:46 AM GMT

Off to Norfolk, Trevor? Good hunting! 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 16-Jun-18 07:57 PM GMT

That is a cracking shot Trevor – but is it an ab? It seems to have very pronounced black markings and doesn't seem to have the 'eyes'? or the blue markings 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 17-Jun-18 09:40 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

A taste of things to come.....

That's quite a Swallowtail, Trevor. I hope you have a few more images of this?

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-Jun-18 09:04 PM GMT

Many thanks Janet, Wurzel & David.

Wurzel, I'm afraid that Swallowtail is not an ab., it has some wing loss.

Strumpshaw Fen.

We left Eastbourne at 6am for the four hour journey to Strumpshaw Fen. At just after 10am we were in the RSPB building asking for directions to the best spots for Swallowtails. The information gained was a little vague, it was suggested that we took the next road on the left to the doctors garden. We passed a track but carried on for some distance looking for a road !. Time wasted, we eventually found the doctors garden and the Sweet Williams, but no Swallowtails.

We ventured on to a large area of low growing Sallow and wild flowers. By now it was hot, so I sat down under an Oak , and waited for Doug to catch up. Behind the Oak I noticed a steep drop down to a low, very green area. By chance I saw a Swallowtail flying in this low lying meadow. Further investigation revealed another Swallowtail had found the first one and a chase was in progress. When they broke off, one Swallowtail landed on the tip of a Ragwort for the first of many shots. Throughout the morning three Swallowtails were found, and all three landed in a perfect position for photography and gave us several hours of pure entertainment. Unfortunately all three had sustained some wear and damage, never the less it was great to be among them for the first time. The rest of the long weekend was a write off owing to extensive cloud cover.

Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 19-Jun-18 08:25 PM GMT

Great shots Trevor 😊 I see the damage now - it's like someone has given it a trim slicing the eyes off 😬 Still they're cracking looking butterflies even when in less than perfect condition 😊🌿🌿

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 19-Jun-18 11:02 PM GMT

Cheers Wurzel, even damaged they were worth the trip.

June gap, what June gap !. This month has been manic. Two lifetime firsts and today two new species for the year !. And that's without His Majesty, who has kindly bestowed an early appearance upon us this year in Sussex. Today it was the White Admiral and the Ringlet that kept me on my toes.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 19-Jun-18 11:08 PM GMT

More great stuff Trevor 🤔👍 I know what you mean as everything seems to be happening at once 😄😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 20-Jun-18 08:50 AM GMT

Love the Swallowtails Trevor, 🍷 I'm definitely going next year! 😄

Nice shots of the WA and Ringlet.

Cheers

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-Jun-18 08:48 PM GMT

This morning I thought I might risk a trip to Knepp. I left home under grey skies, and arrived under grey skies. A real treat awaited me in one of the meadows, an absolutely fresh Marbled White in a near perfect pose, and gave me the best image I've ever obtained of this species. A little later a female Meadow Brown was found basking.

About lunch time, the Sun began to break through, as it did Neil Hulme arrived, followed by a Purple Emperor flying low, and obviously searching for something nasty. It found what it was looking for under a large leaved plant, and was almost hidden away. Neils request for two sticks to move the Butterfly to a more photogenic position, almost succeeded but failed at the last moment. This particular specimen, did however, fly onto foliage for some distant shots, and later spent nearly an hour on the most disgusting Cow pat, laced Neils patent liquid attractant.

Later Simon, from Southsea, who was also visiting, found another grounded Emperor further along. This one was indulging on a Cow pat located in a ditch. In between all this excitement, it was great to watch the Emperors flying among the Oaks. I was fortunate to witness three in a chase.

I must thank Neil and Simon for a fabulous afternoon.
Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 20-Jun-18 10:45 PM GMT

How did Tesco's finest compare to Hulme's Special Sauce Trevor? 😊 Very jealous of your early Emperor 🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 20-Jun-18 11:56 PM GMT

At last, Trevor! The Emperor action has begun.

I feel there are going to be plenty more images over the forthcoming few days! 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-Jun-18 06:35 AM GMT

Cheers Wurzel & David.

It was an unfair competition as far as bait was concerned. The Knepp Emperors seem to have developed a taste for Cow pats, rather than a sophisticated brew. I hope to obtain many more, and better images when I have an Emperor all to myself.

Re: Trevor

by ernie f, 21-Jun-18 08:24 AM GMT

Hooray. Purple Pics. Love them all Trevor but the one I like the most is the distance shot of him perched high up scanning the horizon.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-Jun-18 07:46 PM GMT

Thanks Ernie, much more purple to come, hopefully !.

Today's local expedition was to search for White Admirals, in all I found three. The first one was very flighty, and later was involved in a chase with a Red Admiral. My second WA was very fresh, but had suffered severe wing loss. It was, however capable of the elegant flight typical of the species. A certain law, which worked in my favour, says that when it's time to call it a day, and the camera is switched off, the best photo opportunity of the day presents itself. Today it was a fresh WA that I happened to notice land on a bracken frond some distance away, to my surprise this gorgeous butterfly stayed put for several shots.

The surprise of the morning was a tiny Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary, a male, and in very good condition. For size comparison, see the image of the Small Pearl nectaring on a bramble blossom.

An interesting morning.
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 21-Jun-18 08:29 PM GMT

Good that you got to see some Swallowtails and get some nice images of them too, Trevor 😊 and it's great to see your shots of the Purple Emperor, I

guess you're just warming up 😊 That's also a lovely looking White Admiral 😊

Mike

Re: Trevor

by David M, 21-Jun-18 11:17 PM GMT

That second White Admiral looks to have had an interesting life....I'd usually only expect that level of wing damage in mid-July!

Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 22-Jun-18 06:41 AM GMT

Real nice shots of the Swallowtail back there Trevor and let's hope that PE is just the start of things to come 😊 See you at BB shortly!

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 22-Jun-18 06:58 PM GMT

Great to see you got your Swallowtails Trevor...and closely followed by Purple Emperor too 🍷 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Jun-18 09:22 PM GMT

A DAY WITH THE EMPEROR AND ADMIRAL.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 22-Jun-18 11:11 PM GMT

I recognise those butterflies, Trevor... 😊😊 Good to see the magic formula bearing dividends again. I saw another couple on my wander back to the car too. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 23-Jun-18 06:44 AM GMT

Fantastic shots Trevor of all your Butterflies, 🍷🍷 Hope there still there when I come South in a fortnight 😊
The Swallow tails are really outstanding photos Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-Jun-18 07:38 AM GMT

Cheers Goldie & Dave. It was all go after 11.00 yesterday wasn't it Dave !.
Yes my bait was effective, but I couldn't help noticing the number of Emperors which touched down briefly and kept doing so in a very unsettled manner.
Maybe they were moisture seeking on the parched ground. Next time I will take a bottle of rain water to sprinkle on the ground as an experiment.

On the way home yesterday, I called in at Hollingbury park for the White Letter Hairstreak.
About eight were found, varying from very worn to fair condition, none were fresh.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 23-Jun-18 10:32 PM GMT

Nice hairstreaks to finish off the day, Trevor. 😊 Judging by that little selection, those tails really do work... 😊 I went and found a few myself in Essex today.

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 23-Jun-18 10:56 PM GMT

Cricky Trevor - what a few days you're having 🤪😄🍀🍀 Cracking PE and then Whitters as well 🍀

Have a goodun (looks like you already are 😊)

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-Jun-18 11:14 PM GMT

Cheers Dave. And yes I'm having a ball Wurzel.

It was a very early ' beat the heat ' mission this morning, to my very local Abbots wood. In just over an hour I found a good nine White Admirals and a few extremely fresh Silver Washed Fritillaries, among hundreds of Meadow Browns.

Mission accomplished I headed to the nearby tea garden for a huge bacon sandwich !.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 25-Jun-18 05:02 PM GMT

Another trip to Chiddingfold forest this morning.

This time I took a friend who had not seen a Purple Emperor for some years. Even at 8 am, it was still, sunny and warm. With these conditions I was sure things would kick-off early, but His Majesty was not for hurrying today, and it was gone 10.00 before the action started.

As the heat built most grounded Emperors kept their wings tight shut, all preferring their traditional fayre as opposed to the treats and potions supplied by their human admirers.

The real highlight of the morning was the discovery of an ab. This was found by Jan Wilczur, who kindly allowed me and a couple of others some shots.

As Jan only had a video camera, I agreed to post my images around the net, and credit the find to him. (his surname is pronounced ' Wiltshire ').

Good to see Dave (millerd) and some of the annual regulars again.

Trevor.



ab. Underside



ab. Underside



Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 25-Jun-18 06:25 PM GMT

Oh Wow! What a find 🍷 I would have been there today Trevor, Dave but I have the painters in and can only 'escape' for short periods.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 25-Jun-18 09:59 PM GMT

That really is a splendid butterfly, Trevor. It looks really washed out on top and underneath as well. I wonder if it has a name... It was another great day in the woods one way and another - they were flying all the way back to the car again. 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Jun-18 05:56 PM GMT

His Majesty kept his subjects waiting again today, despite the very fine weather. At least I could enjoy a sit down and a quiet coffee in the cool of the early morning before the action started, and have the place to myself for an hour or two.

Just after 10.00 we saw a few fly pasts, and soon after our first grounding. This magnificent male chose the very same spot as yesterday's ab. and kept Pauline and myself waiting for ages with it's wings closed. Camera poised and aching trigger finger, this fine specimen granted us a few flashes of exquisite purple, but only on the Butterfly's right hand side. Like several later sightings, this Emperor took to the vegetation to relax between bouts of mineral/salts seeking.

An excellent morning with some very good company.

Good to see you again Phillip, Pauline and Dave.
Trevor.



Click on this image twice, the light and shadow has picked out the wing texture nicely.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 26-Jun-18 11:06 PM GMT

That is a really cracking ab Trevor 🤔👍 Seeing the Emperors seems so easy over at Chiddingfold 😬 They do ground at Bentley but it can be a bit of a wait 😊 Hopefully the weather will hold until Sunday lunch time 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 27-Jun-18 08:09 PM GMT

Another day, another ab !.

Emperor action today was the slowest so far at Chiddingfold forest.

Was it to do with the heat, or have groundings peaked there.

I spent part of the morning with Katrina, as we walked towards the ' high point ' two Emperors flew up from the track. One later returned, but was clearly not approachable, so keeping our distance and using some zoom we managed some shots and some purple.

Later I found another Emperor down, and a group of us managed some shots, before it flew up into a tree. We waited patiently, and the Butterfly eventually returned to the ground. It was at this point that Andrew555 noticed that this one was different to the rest. A good look at the Emperor at ground level revealed it to be the second ab. of the week !.

Unfortunately this ab.was reluctant to open up, the only upperside shot I managed was taken when the Butterfly quickly flicked its wings open then shut again.

Great to spend the morning with Katrina, Andrew555, Fred and the other enthusiasts present.

Trevor



ab. open wing, the best I could manage



ab. underside



ab. underside



ab. admirers !.

Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 27-Jun-18 08:15 PM GMT

Hi Trevor – great shots as per 😊 . Your post has answered my questions 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 27-Jun-18 11:33 PM GMT

More great shots Trevor and another ab 🤖🤖🤖 Looks like you get some dodgy characters over your way as well Trevor 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by P.J.Underwood, 28-Jun-18 06:50 AM GMT

Trevor,

As we discussed the P.E.'s have been behaving in an unusual way this year at Chiddingfold. I think the new surface on the rides has a lot to do with this. Firstly, the P.E.'s seemed to appear and go to ground once it was really hot. Then many of them used their proboscis's (or probosci?) to extract minerals directly from the stones or the hard drive substance between. This took a long time, so they remained with wings closed even up to an hour. They generally seemed to ignore baited areas or dog poo's. I think as things have hotted up the drive surface—like scalplings or railway track aggregate—has given off a vapour that has attracted the P.E.'s in larger numbers than usual.

What do you think?

P.J.U.

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 28-Jun-18 07:10 AM GMT

Looks like I've been missing a lot of purple action whilst I've been off butterflying further afield! So many diaries to catch up on and so little time.....

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 28-Jun-18 07:58 AM GMT

A thoroughly enjoyable time Trevor. 😊 I see what you mean about your texture shot, the light has caught it just right, very nice. 😊

Cheers

Re: Trevor

by ernie f, 28-Jun-18 08:16 AM GMT

Trevor – I have just been playing "spot the difference" between your two Purple open-wing shots of the 25th, the first being the ab and the second the standard. With just a small scroll up and down repeatedly you can see all the nuances of difference. Its good fun.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 28-Jun-18 09:38 AM GMT

WoW Trevor, 🤖🤖 what else can be said, cracking Emperors 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 28-Jun-18 10:13 AM GMT

Looks like I missed another good day in the Forest, Trevor! 😊 Another ab. too, very similar to the first, so perhaps a common cause at work. Great shots, too, as ever. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 29-Jun-18 06:32 AM GMT

Many thanks everyone.

I think some of the more unusual Emperor behaviour this year was caused, partially by the heat, Phillip. The new ride surface of Granite may contain some attractive minerals. One exact spot attracted several individuals over several days, including Mondays ab., so was it to do with the minerals on a particular stone or did that tiny area contain something like dried urine. The experts, will no doubt, have their theories.

Yesterday Doug and myself went over to Knepp. It was to be a morning of diverse species. On arrival I found two, low down, Purple Hairstreaks, one of which, a female, partially opened up before taking off.

Paul Fosterjohn found a grounded Emperor, otherwise PE sightings were

in the trees, or in the air.

The most spectacular event took place at lunchtime as we got into our cars. A male chasing a female at high speed along the road, it was obviously a rejection flight as there was a brief 'face off' on the tarmac, then onto the grass verge where the male took the hint, leaving the female upside down in the grass !.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 29-Jun-18 10:15 PM GMT

Great shots Trevor, that Purp is a beaut, you seem to have a persuasive way with that species 🤔🇧🇪🇧🇪

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 30-Jun-18 10:03 AM GMT

A great selection of photos in your recent reports Trevor, particularly your PE abs. and that shot showing the texture on the underside of the PE.

Great stuff 🇧🇪 😊

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 30-Jun-18 10:57 AM GMT

My ambition this morning was to find some Purple Hairstreaks in Abbots wood. I arrived just before 6am, and soon found four PH. warming up.

The real prize, however, was another ab. This time a White Admiral with no white markings on the upper side at all. My initial thought, which was quickly dismissed, was that I was looking at an extra large Ringlet, as several were bobbing around the same patch of Brambles at the same time.

My attempts to obtain an underside shot were in vein, as it always landed with wings open and was otherwise very obliging.

What a week !,

Trevor.



White Admiral ab.



White Admiral ab. and friend !.





Re: Trevor

by ernie f, 30-Jun-18 12:35 PM GMT

Amazing White Admiral ab, Trevor. Maybe you should call it a Black Admiral?

The Purple Hairstreak upper wing shots are very fine too.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 30-Jun-18 02:47 PM GMT

Here are two more images of this mornings White Admiral ab.
I've had a search round to find the best match for this ab. and *ab. nigrina* seems to suit.
It would seem that none of this type of ab. have been reported in recent years.
As this is my third ab. in under a week, there could be many more out there in this
1976 type weather.





Re: Trevor

by Allan.W., 30-Jun-18 06:51 PM GMT

What a great find Trevor ! Nice one. I found an AB;Nigritina in Orlestone forest Kent in 1985 ,and with the exception of one possible ,in the same wood last year (but I was hassled by two Alsatians.....so had to give it up !) it remains my only one . Once again Great find (and in cracking nick !)
Regards Allan.W.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 30-Jun-18 10:19 PM GMT

Woah that is awesome, I didn't know what it was at first glance, for a moment I thought "oh an off colour, spotless Ringlet, and then I looked again at the wing shape it it became much more impressive a find 😊🍷🍷

Have a goound

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 30-Jun-18 10:25 PM GMT

Nice find Trevor 🍷, some nice Purple Hairstreaks as well, another species who's having a fabulous season.

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 04-Jul-18 09:21 AM GMT

Great find Trevor! 🍷 Like the Purple Hairstreaks as well. 😊

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 04-Jul-18 09:27 AM GMT

Wow! Trevor, what a great find, never heard of a an Admiral like that before, that's some thing else to look out for 😊 I don't think I'd have spotted that, 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-Jul-18 01:40 PM GMT

Offline for a while, laptop in for repair. Back soon 😊

Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 09-Jul-18 08:28 PM GMT

Good to see you back Trevor - hope that means the pc has been repaired?

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-Jul-18 09:32 PM GMT

Many thanks Pauline, yes I'm almost back to normal.

The main problem with my laptop was a failure with the charger. There was also a problem with my camera. I lost my close up lens, probably in Abbots wood. After an attempt to obtain a replacement from Hong Kong, which clearly stated for FZ 38, what arrived was the wrong size. In desperation I called at The Camera Centre, in Hailsham. Here I was once told that they don't stock Panasonic products. This time however the owner served me, and was able to show me a whole range of close up lenses intended for film cameras, and had thus been in stock for years. I purchased three for £4 each !. I have to say that the result with the new lens is superb. 😊

For now, here is an image taken in an early morning ' beat the heat ' visit to Abbots wood.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-Jul-18 10:11 PM GMT

This morning I called at the Knepp estate to see what was about. After about an hour I happened to notice a lot of Purple Emperor action around one particular Oak. Straining my eyes, I could just make out that the Emperors were paying particular attention to one small area of the tree, very high up. Using full zoom (sorry about the quality) I could make out two Emperors, and a Red Admiral enjoying a sap run.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 10-Jul-18 11:08 AM GMT

Good to see you up and running again Trevor after your technological blip. I must say that male Purple Hairstreak is very crisp!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Jul-18 11:17 AM GMT

This morning I went on, what has now become a regular, 'beat the heat', early morning visit to Abbots wood, principally for Purple Hairstreaks.

I have found a spot where they regularly come down to bask in the early morning, as long as the weather is to their liking. This morning I hit the jackpot, it was one of those occasions where you think it can't get any better, then it does !.

First on the scene was a female PH. basking open wing, followed by another a few minutes later. Better still I noticed a third PH. land in the grass, this time a male. This Butterfly was clearly seeking moisture, I could see the proboscis searching as it walked through the low vegetation. Then utopia ! when this PH flew onto a patch of bare earth for some closed wing shots, and later opened right up !. Had I managed full purple it would have been champagne and dancing girls, but I was quite content, with a camera full of open wing Purple Hairstreaks.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Art Frames, 10-Jul-18 01:47 PM GMT

Hi Trevor

Brilliant Purplestreaks 🍷🍷🍷

I have been out 4 times now and all I can get are closed wings, which are nice but... 🍷🍷

So congrats and if I were you I'd open the fizz and bring on the girls anyway. You know you deserve it!

BTW were you wearing your tuna oil aftershave?

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Jul-18 04:34 PM GMT

Cheers Peter. No the Tesco Tuna has been put away for another year.

It should be even better by the next Emperor season.

If you want an open wing Purple Hairstreak you will have to rise from your slumber nice and early, in clear bright sunshine. The hours between 06.30 till about 08.30 seem to be best.

Today, bright sun awakened them, then some cloud cover calmed them down.

Good hunting,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Art Frames, 10-Jul-18 06:47 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

If you want an open wing Purple Hairstreak you will have to rise from your slumber nice and early, in clear bright sunshine. The hours between 06.30 till about 08.30 seem to be best.

Today, bright sun awakened them, then some cloud cover calmed them down.

Good hunting,
Trevor.

Yes I am trying that, but today it was overcast and chilly. I saw three but they all stayed at 6-10 feet and kept closed! But I will keep trying 😊

Meanwhile, I had a fantastic day with Chalkhills, so its not all bad.

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 10-Jul-18 07:33 PM GMT

Like your tactics Trevor, well rewarded. 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 10-Jul-18 10:51 PM GMT

That is a cracking Purple Hairstreak Trevor 😊🍷 And thanks for the tip-off too, unfortunately early mornings and children don't seem to be a winning combination in the Wurzel household at the moment 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Jul-18 11:17 PM GMT

Here are some of the other species seen this morning.

Does anyone have any views on the female Gate Keeper, with the extra dark stripe on the right hand forewing ?.



Note the RH forewing.



Female SWF. playing hard to get.



Re: Trevor

by ernie f, 11-Jul-18 08:04 AM GMT

Trevor - I just assumed the dark mark on the Gatekeeper wing was a shadow cast by the sun but you were there and know it was not. How odd that its only on one wing and not the other. Does that rule out aberration? Perhaps others with more knowledge than me would know. It could be a scorch mark but it has a feathered appearance when you use zoom mode to look closer.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-Jul-18 09:11 PM GMT

Many thanks Ernie. Wurzel is a bit of an authority on Gate Keepers, it'll be good to have his opinion.

This evening I went up onto the Downs to find roosting Chalk Hill Blues.
The number of males found was matched by the variation in lighting conditions .





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 11-Jul-18 09:29 PM GMT

Only just catching up, Trevor... That Black Admiral is a splendid beast and those are terrific shots of such a great rarity. Congratulations! 😊 Then you follow it with some amazing Purple Hairstreaks... I can't imagine what you'll come across next. 😊😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 11-Jul-18 11:06 PM GMT

Cracking Chalkhills Trevor 😊👍 As for the Hedge Brown I'm at a loss as to me it looks like the shadow of a Bracken frond 😊 Failing that it could be a scorch mark or a smudge? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 11-Jul-18 11:14 PM GMT

I too thought it was a shadow cast by an errant Bracken frond 🤔 I need to get out and see some Chalkhills now!

Re: Trevor

by David M, 11-Jul-18 11:19 PM GMT

Lovely Purple Hairstreaks, Trevor, but even they are eclipsed by that magnificent *camilla* aberration. A quite stunning insect!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 12-Jul-18 06:44 AM GMT

Many thanks folks. The extra mark on the Gate Keeper was definitely not a shadow. When I found the Butterfly it was resting with wings closed, as I was about to leave it the Sun appeared and it opened up. My first thought was of a male, but the brown stripe is in the wrong place. There was nothing in front of this Butterfly to cause a shadow.

One of those mysteries !.
Many thanks again,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 12-Jul-18 03:46 PM GMT

I have long been convinced that East Sussex is one of this country's top Butterfly hot-spots. This proved to be true this morning, starting off with Purple Hairstreaks, and ending with Wall Browns and Chalkhill Blues, all within a short drive.

My first stop off was at Abbots wood where two Purple Hairstreaks were found basking, this time, and more appropriately, on Oak leaves. Many other Butterflies were present, but it was a fairly fresh female Silver Washed Fritillary that had my attention.

I then took a short drive up to High and Over, for Wall Browns. Here it was very warm and the three Walls seen were very active and busy seeing off themselves and any Gate Keepers that got in the way. Only an underside shot was possible, as they closed up on landing. On the North facing slope of High and Over, Chalkhill Blues can usually be found, and were found in abundance this morning. They seem to be able to detect Human presence from ten paces away, and fly off before the chance of selecting one to photograph !.

Trevor.







This massive, fresh, Large White was notable.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 12-Jul-18 10:21 PM GMT

That's a laudable variety of species in a day, Trevor. I particularly like the Chalkhills, although their arrival is tinged with trepidation as it means summer has but a few weeks left in it! 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 12-Jul-18 10:35 PM GMT

Great set of Chalkhills Trevor and even more Purple Hairstreak 🤩 😊 🍀

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-Jul-18 08:00 PM GMT

Early this morning I went, with Doug Neve , to Abbots wood, hoping to find him a Purple Hairstreak in an area where they have reliably been found basking in recent days. Although the sun remained stubbornly behind high cloud, one female PH flew down to a low level branch to be admired. We later travelled over to the Knepp estate, the highlight being the sight of three Purple Emperors with enough energy left to give a great flying display.

A surprise find was a fresh male Holy Blue searching for moisture/minerals by a stream. All other sightings were mostly of Gate Keepers and Meadow Browns, of which several were either posing nicely or so fresh that they deserved some attention. At least three very fast, fresh, Peacocks were also seen.

A great day,
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by ernie f, 14-Jul-18 08:07 AM GMT

Trevor - Going back to the odd mark on your Gatekeeper from a few days ago. I met a guy butterflying in Alice Holt and he mentioned that he had taken a picture of a Gatekeeper with one forewing marked in a strange way. I have never met you in person so thought it might be you talking about your picture. But no, it transpired it was someone else with a similar experience to you. It was a complete coincidence. It was even the same forewing but in his case the flaw in the wing was white rather than black as yours is. He said he had read somewhere that such marks can be due to problems in the pupa stage that then manifest as blemishes on the butterfly. I am not qualified to comment but thought I would relay the info anyway.

Cheers

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 14-Jul-18 08:10 AM GMT

Great set of shots Trevor especially the lightly marked Meadow Brown 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-Jul-18 02:36 PM GMT

Many thanks Ernie. I'm glad you established that your conversation was not with me. I haven't been to Straits for several years. We used to visit there for Emperors but never had much luck with them there. I've had a good year for abs. and Butterflies with odd markings.

Keep up the good work !
Trevor.

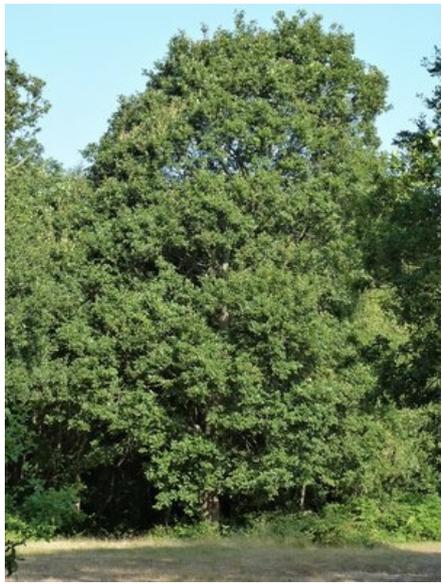
Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-Jul-18 07:46 PM GMT

This mornings session with the Purple Hairstreaks was the best yet. One Butterfly in particular posed perfectly for the camera.

I have also included an image of the Oak, from which most of my recent PH's have originated. On the way back to the car I spotted a female Silver Washed Fritillary nectaring on Ragwort, who could resist !.





The 'Master' Oak.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 15-Jul-18 05:52 PM GMT

Have you been taking lessons and adapting them from Dave Miller Trevor? 😊 It seems that you have the way of the Purple Hairstreak 🍷 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 15-Jul-18 07:05 PM GMT

Great selections Trevor, some lovely specimens. 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 16-Jul-18 11:27 PM GMT

Hedge Browns (with a particularly stunning female), Purple Hairstreaks & Silver Washed Fritillaries.....all this points to summer being past its peak.
Let's hope we've a few good weeks left before autumn comes a calling.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-Jul-18 06:38 PM GMT

On my way home from Wiltshire this morning, I made a detour via Chiddingfold forest. This seemed the sensible thing to do, as it was only 15 miles out of my way, whereas a return journey from home is 108 miles. The reason for the visit was for second brood Wood Whites. I was in luck for two reasons, 1) I found about a dozen, and 2) it was quite cloudy by then. The cloud does not stop them from flying but it does make them likely to land more often and is better for photography.

This visit was also tinged with a little melancholy. It was only about three weeks ago that everyone was there enjoying the Purple Emperors. today the place was deserted save for a female jogger with her dog.

The party is over for another year 😞 ,

Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 17-Jul-18 07:08 PM GMT

Lovely set of Wood Whites Trevor 🤔🌱 How did you get on in Wiltshire – did you manage to find any Walls?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-Jul-18 07:23 PM GMT

Hi Wurzel,

A thorough search of the grave stones revealed no Walls.
However checking last years images, they were taken in August.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 17-Jul-18 11:16 PM GMT

I must have missed you somehow at Chiddingfold on Tuesday, Trevor! I was admiring the Wood Whites there from 0930 to 1230. There was a valesina amongst all the SWF in the little clearing as well (though it didn't hang around very long!). A report will follow in about a week's time... 😊

Incidentally, I can't charm Purple Hairstreaks the way you seem to, so Wurzel will have to try another theory. Eau de Tuna, perhaps? Great shots, by the way. 🌱

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by David M, 18-Jul-18 12:05 AM GMT

Great to see second brood Wood Whites, Trevor. That's not a common occurrence in the UK.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 19-Jul-18 11:01 AM GMT

Many thanks Dave & David. The Wood Whites are always a joy to see, and once I was amongst them it was difficult to comprehend that this population is the only one for miles around. Especially as I was viewing 4, 5 and 6 individuals fluttering around in the grass together. Anoyingly most chose to land in the most difficult places for photography.

I wouldn't dream of enticing Purple Hairsreaks with my Tuna brew, Dave, it would most likely send them higher up in the Oaks, out of sight !.

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 19-Jul-18 11:18 AM GMT

David M wrote:

Great to see second brood Wood Whites, Trevor. That's not a common occurrence in the UK.

I think it's pretty normal down in the southern woodlands David, certainly these days. Indeed the second brood can be significantly more numerous than the spring brood.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-Jul-18 04:32 PM GMT

As rain stopped play today (Yes we've had light rain all day !), I though I would take another look at the Purple Emperor ab. from 27th June.
The lighting conditions were poor, very bright, harsh sunshine and dark shade and the Butterfly was in partial shade.
I don't usually play around with images, apart from cropping, but I have brightened up the ab. shots for better detail, and included one not seen before.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 20-Jul-18 07:26 PM GMT

bugboy wrote:

David M wrote:

Great to see second brood Wood Whites, Trevor. That's not a common occurrence in the UK.

I think it's pretty normal down in the southern woodlands David, certainly these days. Indeed the second brood can be significantly more numerous than the spring brood.

Yes, I believe that second brood is normal down south and the past few years have seen regular second broods in the midlands too.

That Purple Emperor ab. is well worth another look Trevor 🍷😄

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 20-Jul-18 08:33 PM GMT

I concur with the others about the Wood Whites 2nd brood.

I also totally agree with Neil about revisiting the the aberrant Purple Emperor 😄 Stunning still! 😄🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-Jul-18 11:15 PM GMT

It is not correct to use woodlands in the plural for the Wood Whites.
As far as I know they are still confined to the Chiddingfold forest complex.

Parts of the forest are identified by name, eg. Tugley wood, Botany Bay, Oaken wood etc.
This may give the impression that the Wood Whites are more widely scattered than they actually are.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 21-Jul-18 08:11 AM GMT

Yes, great to see that ab. again. A splendid creature, Trevor. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 21-Jul-18 03:01 PM GMT

Lovely Wood Whites Trevor. Love the ab, and the whole Chiddingfold experience. 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-Jul-18 08:23 PM GMT

Many thanks everyone for your comments.

This morning I went over to Knepp. No sooner had I arrived when a Purple Hairstreak flew down from an Oak and landed low down on a nearby Sallow.

Later on in the morning I met Simon Withers, a true Emperor enthusiast, we last met when the Emperors were at their best about a month ago.

The last thing I expected to see today was a Purple Emperor, but as Simon and myself chatted we became aware of a large Empress flying nearby. This very worn, tired old Lady gave us a very fine, but slightly feeble by Emperor standards, flying display.

Swooping high and low and around us, she occasionally disappeared into the Sallows then returned to us and touched down several times, finally posing nicely in a Sallow.

A very memorable morning.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 21-Jul-18 11:21 PM GMT

That Empress is a great unexpected sighting, Trevor. 🍷 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 22-Jul-18 08:16 AM GMT

Nice Empress Trevor 😊 🍷 You're getting as bad as Dave Miller Trevor, he always 'smuggles' in a Holly Blue but for you it's Purple Hairstreaks 🍷 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 22-Jul-18 10:41 AM GMT

Hi! Trevor, great you saw an Empress and she doesn't look too worn, I wouldn't care about that if I spotted one 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-Jul-18 03:08 PM GMT

Very early this morning I made the long trek up to Windover hill, to beat the heat. Fortunately the early morning mist and a breeze made the climb as pleasant as possible. The main reason for the visit was to see the Graylings, more on those later. There were many distractions on the way to the Grayling's hillside, including Chalk Hill Blues in their thousands, male Wall Browns, Small Coppers, Common Blues, a single Small Blue, and a few Silver Spotted Skippers. Mental indigestion was gauranteed !.

I have also included a view from half way up Windover of the early morning mist. Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-Jul-18 08:05 PM GMT

Eventually, after so much of interest on the way, I found myself on the hillside where the Graylings are usually found. I followed the narrow grass path just below the cut back Gorse at the top of the valley. Unfortunately the Sun was directly in front of me, making searching difficult. Just as I was about to retrace my steps, with the Sun now behind me, a pair of Graylings took off and disappeared off into the distance, later the same thing happened again further along the path. In all I saw ten Graylings, the other six posing for the camera. For the first time ever at this site I managed several images with no grass blades in the way.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 23-Jul-18 09:57 PM GMT

Beautiful shot of the view and well done for finding the Graylings!

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 23-Jul-18 10:21 PM GMT

Cracking set of images from this and the last post Trevor of the late summer fare 🤔👍 That penultimate Grayling shot could almost be a Banded Grayling the white stripe is so bold 😄😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 23-Jul-18 11:10 PM GMT

Not many species left to emerge and give us renewed motivation, Trevor!!

Beautiful camouflage on those Graylings (as ever). One day I need to spend several hours amongst them to truly appreciate them.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Jul-18 02:41 PM GMT

Many thanks Katrina, Wurzel and David.

Owing to the heat, which I am not particularly a fan of, I have not ventured far since my visit to Windover hill on Monday. I did however pop along to the old railway this morning, as it is quite shady there. Apart from a Comma and a Holly Blue, only Whites and Speckled Woods were around in any numbers. One Speckle did, to me, sum up the heatwave by perching on a withered seed head.

I have also included a couple more images of the views from Windover hill, and some more shots of the many Chalkhill Blues that were present.





Another misty view on the way to the top



The Dieppe ferry, and the White Horse at High and Over



The full panorama once the mist had cleared

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 26-Jul-18 10:35 PM GMT

I recognise that last shot, Trev-I was there last Wednesday!

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 26-Jul-18 10:52 PM GMT

Lovely set of Chalkhills Trevor 🤔🌳 I saw a fresh Wall today so next time you're down this way you might want to check the graveyard 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 26-Jul-18 11:55 PM GMT

Chalkhills are putting on quite a show, Trevor, but where are all the Holly Blues after such a strong spring emergence?

There have been hardly any this summer and I wonder whether their parasitic cycle is beginning to suppress their numbers?

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 27-Jul-18 05:44 AM GMT

Cheers Mark. Yes, fabulous views and lots of Butterflies.

Wurzel, I will be in Wilts from Aug.5th, for about a week, I'll PM you if I find any.

David, There are Holly Blues around here, I get almost daily fly-pasts over my garden.

Hope you are all keeping cool, fireworks this evening apparently.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 27-Jul-18 02:21 PM GMT

I set out very early again this morning, this time for the gentler climb to Malling Down.

My target species was the Silver Spotted Skipper.

Whilst driving over to Lewes I realised that I had miscalculated the rising Sun on a west facing slope, sure enough this hillside remained in shade for over an hour after arrival 😞.

The first SSS did not appear until 07.45, and the few that followed chose to warm up on the ground.

I was after some shots of them on Scabious, and by the time they started to search for nectar,

it was getting too hot for yours truly. The Silver Spots were not found in large numbers, but several eventually obliged for the camera.

Fortunately I parked the car in the shade,

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 27-Jul-18 11:05 PM GMT

Great set of Silver-spots Trevor 😊 Parking in the shade is a great idea 😊 Hoping for a PM 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 31-Jul-18 07:10 PM GMT

I met Dave Cook in Burgess Hill this morning for a Brown Hairstreak hunt. Two females were seen, I only caught sight of one, neither were keen to pose for the camera. Several Ash trees contained both Purple and Brown Hairstreaks but none came down low. We were rewarded with several, fresh, Brown Argus which were willing to pose.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 31-Jul-18 07:51 PM GMT

Sorry to hear of the Brostreaks acting all prima donna like 😊 Are those two shots of the same butterfly Trevor as the second, closed wing shot shows a Common Blue? 😊 Cracking shots both 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-Aug-18 10:10 PM GMT

This evening I went over to Rowland wood and Park Corner Heath. I met Gary Norman relaxing in the low evening Sun, who told me of several Small Pearls he'd seen earlier. But for me they proved elusive, but I did find a surprisingly large number of roosting Common Blues.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 02-Aug-18 10:20 PM GMT

Love the second shot Trevor 😊, she looks a bit left out 😞
Good luck with the next Small pearl foray 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 02-Aug-18 10:29 PM GMT

A shame you missed out on the second round of Sussex Small Pearls, Trevor. I wondered if there would be a few after the good first showing. Will you try again?

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-Aug-18 06:44 AM GMT

Cheers Wurzel & Dave,

Yes I will try again, the site is very local.
Next time I will make sure there is a memory card in the camera 😊.
Fortunately the camera's internal memory coped last evening.

Trevor.

PS. Gary Norman photographed a pristine Clouded Yellow there yesterday.

Re: Trevor

by ernie f, 03-Aug-18 07:47 AM GMT

Lovely SS Blue pics, Trevor. I have only managed one shot of this species so far this year and that was only luck. They really do love that Scabious don't they?

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 03-Aug-18 10:06 AM GMT

Wow Trevor! lovely shots, I hope you find those Pearls, I didn't know they were able to have a second brood. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 04-Aug-18 06:09 PM GMT

LUCKY WITH THE LADIES !.

This afternoon we had some thin high cloud, which didn't reduce the heat much, but I thought might help to obtain some ' softer ' Butterfly images.

I drove over to Rowland wood, then walked over to the large patch of Fleabane.

This area has been excellent in past years as a feeding station for Clouded Yellows, and any species passing through, as well as the local residents.

Today a magnificent, lone, Painted Lady was taking advantage of the plentiful nectar. She was absolutely fresh and scale perfect, and reasonably accomodating , by that I mean it took half an hour to get twenty shots !, better that than one shot and gone !.

Hope you enjoy.
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 04-Aug-18 08:08 PM GMT

Fantastic shots Trevor 😊 Their numbers have been picking up over recent days, fingers crossed that some of their distantly related yellow cousins will come with them 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Aug-18 06:53 PM GMT

This morning I walked up to St. Peters Church, in Great Cheverell, Wilts to look for Wall Browns. My first two Butterflies were a Red Admiral, and a brand new Speckled Wood, both warming up in the early morning Sun.

My fears that Walls were now absent from this site were dispelled when a lone male was spotted on the Church wall. More males appeared as if from nowhere as the Sun gained strength.

Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 06-Aug-18 08:38 PM GMT

Fantastic stuff Trevor 😊🍷 Unfortunately I can't make it over this week as plans have been made for me 😞😞 Hopefully they'll still be around in a week or two 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 06-Aug-18 08:39 PM GMT

Glad to see those Walls are back again, Trevor! Will you see a female this time – I'm sure I remember you saying they were all males last year... 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-Aug-18 09:36 PM GMT

I went along to St Peters Church grounds even earlier this morning. Already a Painted Lady was found basking on a headstone, and later another (or possibly the same one) Was seen on another grave.

The real prize of the morning was the discovery of two female Wall Browns, the first I've ever found at this site. Both were fresh but one had already suffered extensive wing loss, and this one was later found rejecting the advances of a male, so was presumably already mated.

A rewarding morning.
Trevor.





Female Wall.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 07-Aug-18 10:21 PM GMT

Very nice Walls and a splendid Painted Lady, Trevor. 😊 That bird aimed pretty accurately at the eyespot on that Wall – I suppose that's what they're for! 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 07-Aug-18 11:04 PM GMT

Great to know that the females are round and about for sure Trevor 😊😊 Brill Painted Lady as well 😊🍷 I had to take the girls and my nieces out so wasn't able to make it to the Church today 😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by ernie f, 08-Aug-18 07:34 AM GMT

Trevor – Pics of Walls and Painted Ladies on headstones – now that is different!

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 08-Aug-18 09:32 AM GMT

Lovely Painted Lady shots recently Trevor, and I always like a Wall. 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 08-Aug-18 06:49 PM GMT

Must admit, Trevor, I find many of my Wall Browns in the cemetery at Port Tennant. I'm always intrigued by how they're strongly attracted to those gravestones that most closely match the colour of their underside hindwing.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-Aug-18 09:40 PM GMT

The first Wall Brown on the scene yesterday was a female. Incredibly I was able to track and follow her for a good 30 mins. During this time I was able to observe no fewer than three males having their advances rejected. One persistent male was in a dire state, with severe wing loss. Unfortunately the third rejection ritual took place in long grass, thus no photo's.

The following images follow the adventures of just one female Wall Brown in a Wiltshire Cemetery.



The first male tries his luck.



The approach.



The stand off.





Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 09-Aug-18 10:05 PM GMT

Great shots Trevor. By complete coincidence I'm just sorting through pictures for my next post and have a set of images along a similar vein 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 09-Aug-18 10:44 PM GMT

Great set of shots Trevor 😊🍷 I hope she eventually mates with one of them so there are some Walls there next year 😊😊 Is the Wall feeding on the Thistle a female because if it is then there are two females in the Church (the one turning the males down has two pupils)? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Aug-18 06:05 AM GMT

Many thanks everyone for the comments above, and previous post. Wurzel, when I discovered those Walls last year, about the same time of year, most males were fresh, but no females. This year no really fresh males found, but females were seen on every visit. This all points to a slightly earlier brood this Summer. The timing of the Church colony sits between the second and (any) third Sussex brood it would seem.

Here are some more images from Wednesday, including a lovely, bright, fresh Common Blue, which was found among a few worn ones, in the long grass at the far end of the grave yard.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 10-Aug-18 06:27 AM GMT

Some nice shots there of the Wall Brown Trevor 😊 . The last time I saw one was May 2015 😞

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 10-Aug-18 01:39 PM GMT

That last male Wall is a great shot – as we all know they are not easy to get close to! 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 10-Aug-18 01:50 PM GMT

Great shot of the Wall Trevor 🦋 I was at Southport yesterday and scared two off before I could get a shot 😊 I second Dave, they really are hard to get shots of. Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 10-Aug-18 07:34 PM GMT

Great shots again Trevor especially that male Wall – he looks in great nick 😊🦋 I don;t think I'll be able to get over there as the next couple of days are going to be really hectic 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 11-Aug-18 01:32 PM GMT

Lovely stuff, Trevor. Hard to believe how common this butterfly was just 35 years ago compared to its relative rarity today (especially inland).

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-Aug-18 08:39 PM GMT

This morning the weather looked suitable for a trip to Steyning, for the Brown Hairstreak.
Not long after I arrived I saw Neil Hulme, who had found two female BH in a Blackthorn thicket.
Two in such a short space of time bode well for the day.
It was not long before several more Steyning regulars turned up, Gary, James, John W and Tom.
With all these experienced eyes searching the site it was not surprising that the day's final tally was sixteen female Brown Hairstreaks. Of those, yours truly found three, one of which was in mint condition.

A personal milestone was also achieved today.
I have photographed all five UK Hairstreak species this season, and all of them in Sussex.

Trevor.









Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 11-Aug-18 10:29 PM GMT

Fantastic set of shots Trevor 😊 It seems that the return to near normal weather has returned the Brostreaks to normal behaviour 😊 Hopefully they'll keep going for a while yet – or at least another week until I can get out to see them again 😊 Congrats on the 5 Hairstreaks as well 😊🍀

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 11-Aug-18 11:32 PM GMT

Very nice hairstreaks there Trevor – I wondered if Steyning would come up trumps as it has in the past. As Wurzel says, maybe they are back on track now. Well done on getting the full set in Sussex too. 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by David M, 12-Aug-18 12:31 PM GMT

Stunning, Trevor! It's taken a while but it finally looks as though female Brown Hairstreaks are ready to lay.

Re: Trevor

by ernie f, 12-Aug-18 04:40 PM GMT

Trev – Catching up. Love the Wall brown entitled "The Stand Off", plus all those great Brown Hairstreak pics. I am really pleased you got all of the Sussex hairstreaks now just like you said you wanted a few posts back. Great news.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 12-Aug-18 07:34 PM GMT

Many thanks everyone, I'm glad you enjoyed the Brown Hairstreaks.,

Ernie, it would be truer to say 'all of the Hairstreaks in Sussex'.
Before this year it was necessary to travel outside of Sussex for the Black Hairstreak.
I still find it hard to comprehend that there is a colony of them so close to home !.

Whilst searching for Brown Hairstreaks yesterday, I found a female Meadow Brown in good condition, and well marked, plus a very fresh Speckled Wood among many worn ones.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 12-Aug-18 10:34 PM GMT

That is a fresh Specklie Trevor 😊 What brood is that I wonder? 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-Aug-18 06:20 PM GMT

An early morning deluge put all thoughts of a day with the Butterflies out of my mind. But a steady improvement in the weather meant that a local trip was worth risking. My destination was Rowland Wood, and hopefully a Small Pearl or two. As I was searching I heard the unmistakable voice of Dave Cook shout out my name. We joined forces, both hoping for a SPBF, but we drew a blank. Better luck was on our side when we reached Park Corner Heath, when Dave spotted a female Small Pearl on the Heather, near the hut, and I then noticed a male nearby. In a short space of time another male was seen, all worn, but very welcome.

We then retraced our steps back to the large area of Fleabane in Rowland Wood, where a large number of Common Blues were flying. A mating pair was located with just enough time for some shots before another deluge threatened. Indeed the Heavens opened on the drive home !.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 13-Aug-18 06:57 PM GMT

That's a lovely marked Frit Trevor 😊 it's an ab isn't it? Or if not on the way to being one 😊🇮🇪

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-Aug-18 07:05 PM GMT

Although slightly worn, I think that Small Pearl is just a nicely marked female, Wurzel.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 13-Aug-18 09:36 PM GMT

That is a splendid female SPBF, Trevor. Quite a stand-out specimen with those markings. 😊🇮🇪

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-Aug-18 06:20 PM GMT

A LURE ?.

I had a fabulous morning with the Brown Hairstreaks.
But I thought the image below ought to be shown separately.

The way the tail is being displayed is surely intended to ensure that any Bird fancying a Butterfly snack would be attracted to the tail end, allowing the tailless Hairstreak to escape and continue producing next seasons brood. Obviously it would be game over if the head end was more attractive.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 14-Aug-18 06:39 PM GMT

And a little bit of 'wing-rolling' to put the cherry on the cake, just in case any bird is still confused 😊

You're certainly doing well with these guys this year. I've used up most of my time off now so I'm extra jealous of you retired folk 🍷🍷🍷

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-Aug-18 09:39 PM GMT

Leaden skies and occasional bright sunny spells ensured a slow start at Steyning this morning. Indeed it was the final fifty mins. or so that produced most of the sightings, up until the magic 2.15 pm. Such were the weather conditions that most Brown Hairstreaks, once found, rested or basked with wings open for lengthy periods allowing their admirers plenty of photo opportunities. Nine females were spotted in all.

Another great day, in good company

Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by ernie f, 15-Aug-18 10:11 AM GMT

Absolutely fantastic Brown Hairstreak pics, Trevor – especially the one from above showing off the "tails" but not only that, the wings bulge too giving the whole impression of a false-head. Wonderful stuff.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 16-Aug-18 07:49 AM GMT

Great effort with the Brown Hairstreaks, especially the one viewed from above which, as you rightly say, seems to tempt the predator into thinking that the head is at the tail end!

Your SPBF is lovely too. Great to have such a 'bonus' late season species not too far away.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-Aug-18 09:56 AM GMT

Many thanks Ernie & David. The Brown Hairstreak females have shown well this year. The variable weather, on each day so far, has made photography easier than usual.

All the best,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-Aug-18 10:27 AM GMT

ALL FIVE UK. HAIRSTREAK SPECIES FOUND IN SUSSEX THIS YEAR !.

I am not alone in achieving this goal, others have too, thanks to the fantastic re- discovery of the Black Hairstreak colony on Ditchling Common by Dave Cook. This, for Sussex, must be the most exciting discovery of the century so far and maybe for the rest of it too !.

Also the normally elusive Purple Hairstreak has been seen basking at low level in many Sussex locations, including Abbots Wood which is very local to me.

Hopefully all five Hairstreak species will be seen in the years ahead, in Sussex.



Green Hairstreak, Kithurst flower meadow.



Black Hairstreak, Ditchling Common



White Letter Hairstreak, Hollingbury.



Purple Hairstreak, Abbots Wood.



Brown Hairstreak, Steyning.

Re: Trevor

by Old Wolf, 16-Aug-18 12:14 PM GMT

Wow. Congrats on completing the set. I am insanely jealous 😊👍😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-Aug-18 08:07 PM GMT

Many thanks Old Wolf, I'm pleased those Hairstreaks gave some pleasure.

Today I made a return visit to Steyning Rifle Range. After a promising start we encountered a band of heavy grey cloud which was successful in blotting out the Sun, and just kept on coming, worse, blue sky could be seen either side of this long ribbon of cloud. After quite a while several visitors gave up, leaving about six of us.

Around 12.45 blue sky reasserted itself, and the Brown Hairstreaks responded to the warm Sun. Basically things got a bit hectic !, with females showing one after the other, both on an egg laying mission, or basking with wings wide open. One optimist said about sixteen BH were seen, but I would have thought about ten, to be safe. Many of the BH were showing signs of wear, but never the less it was a delight to see them.

Two other sightings of interest, a young Common Lizzard used my bag to soak up the Sun, and a Wasp Spider complete with web was found near the fenced area.

Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 17-Aug-18 08:18 PM GMT

Lovely Brown Hairstreaks, trevor, they wear it well 😊 must get out myself, early next week 😊

Mike

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 18-Aug-18 12:18 PM GMT

Those Steyning Hairstreaks are really doing well this year 🍀

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 19-Aug-18 09:37 PM GMT

Yes, enjoy the Hairstreaks while you can, Mike. They are doing very well this year, Paul.

The grey gloom finally lifted this afternoon, so on my way home I called in at Mill Hill. The hoped for Adonis Blues were found in good numbers, but the evening Sun shining directly on the hillside made it rather hot, which together with a strong breeze made photography rather difficult.

One poor male was not only deformed, but had suffered some damage as well.

It was also noticeable how many Meadow Browns were present, more than I have seen for a while.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 19-Aug-18 09:53 PM GMT

More great Hairstreaks, Trevor, and those Mill Hill Adonis look pretty splendid too. 😊 I think I may have to have a day down in Sussex this week – those two sites are quite close to each other as well, conveniently.

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 19-Aug-18 11:55 PM GMT

Me too, weather permitting. I need a slice of Brown Hairstreaks action!

Re: Trevor

by ernie f, 20-Aug-18 10:25 AM GMT

Love all those open-wing shots of the Brown Hairstreak and your Sussex Hairstreak gallery. What a great achievement that was! Plus that spider...

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-Aug-18 04:52 PM GMT

Many thanks Dave, Mark & Ernie for your comments.
i think others would agree that Steyning has performed very well this year.

The morning weather forecast was for more grey gloom today, with possible sunny intervals. So you can imagine my delight when the cloud melted away at about 10.00. This left it a bit late to travel far, so a I chose Rowland Wood. My second Butterfly sighting was a Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary, found in double quick time of arrival.

There was quite a lot of variety to be seen today, including many worn Common Blues, a respectable, late, Gatekeeper, a pair of mating Small Heaths, two Brimstones and a fresh pair of Small Coppers, male and female. Hope they find one another !. As I was leaving a Large White posed perfectly for the camera.

Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 21-Aug-18 03:36 PM GMT

What a fantastic Brown Hairstreak selection Trevor, love the top down shot. 🍷 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-Aug-18 07:22 PM GMT

I'm glad you enjoyed the Brown Haistreaks, Andrew, so here's some more !.

The forecast cloudy day was actually better than the weather girl suggested. So another trip to Steyning Rifle Range it was !. I was very surprised to find no one else present on arrival. Indeed I had the site to myself for most of the morning, I met a local man who could only spend an hour, and a couple from Hertfordshire who had never seen a BH before, they were later delighted when a worn, egg laying BH was pointed out to them.

The Sun appeared in fits and starts, so it was not surprising the only six female BH were found, of which I spotted four. Fortunately all four were in superb condition.

My visit was cut short when the sky turned completely grey, and some very fine drizzle began to fall.

Trevor.





Off to do her duty !.

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 21-Aug-18 07:40 PM GMT

It really seems like the place to be this year for those guys, Bookham has been very poor this year so far. I feel a trip into deepest Sussex maybe on the cards!

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 22-Aug-18 07:45 PM GMT

Fantastic Brostreaks Trevor 😊 It seems that a change in the weather has actually been a good thing as they've started to open up 🌞🌿

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 22-Aug-18 09:52 PM GMT

Wow! You've been filling your boots with Brown Hairstreaks lately, Trevor. Actually, my favourite is that gleaming Small Copper which sports hindwing spikes which could pass as tails! A lovely specimen.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-Aug-18 08:56 PM GMT

Once the weather had improved this afternoon I went over to Park Corner Heath, particularly to search the patch of Heather by the hut. This is often a good area for both nectaring and resting Small Pearls. None were present, but a lovely Small Copper flew in and busied itself on the Heather.

Wandering over to Rowland Wood many Small Heaths flew up as I walked, and indeed joined the worn Common Blues on the Fleabane. It was here that a female SPBF was found

nectaring, much further on I spotted another female SPBF, OR was it a second specimen ?. Examining my images I am sure it was the first Butterfly that was seen again. If it was the same one it had flown quite a long way between sightings.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 23-Aug-18 10:39 PM GMT

That does look like the same butterfly, Trevor, and what a nice-looking individual it is too. 😊 It seems very odd though to look at images of SPBF at the tail end of August... A definite bonus. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 23-Aug-18 11:45 PM GMT

I reckon (along with Dave) that your first instinct is spot on Trevor – how far had it flown between sightings? 🤔 Great to see that you can get two cracks at the SPBF whip 😊🇮🇪

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 24-Aug-18 12:21 AM GMT

Almost certainly the same SPBF, Trevor, but to see one at this stage of the year is quite something.

Excellent find!

Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 24-Aug-18 01:24 PM GMT

It is amazing to see a SPBF at this time of the year, well found, Trevor 😊

Mike

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 24-Aug-18 02:05 PM GMT

treavor wrote:

I'm glad you enjoyed the Brown Haistreaks, Andrew, so here's some more !.

Nice! 😊

I went to Steyning last w/e, hoping that the sketchy weather forecast might be wrong. Not this time and nowt was seen. 😞

But it was my first time there and it was still good to suss out the lay of the land. Good to see the SPBF. 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 24-Aug-18 03:44 PM GMT

Many thanks for your input everyone, so it is the same female SPBF.

This morning I explored a narrow country lane very close to my home. For the first time ever I took a public footpath off the lane, which although well sign posted, fizzled out over some fields. The styles are in a dangerous condition, and one was even topped off with barbed wire !.

This gave a spooky atmosphere to the right of way, as though the landowner might not welcome visitors walking across the fields.

But the walk did reveal a male and female Small Copper, and a very patient Small Heath. And lots of flighty Speckled Woods.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 24-Aug-18 05:47 PM GMT

Lovely shots of the Small Copper Trevor 😊 That is a typical trick of some landowners that don't want you using the public right of way; let the styles and the path fall into disrepair 😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 25-Aug-18 08:35 AM GMT

Beautiful Coppers, Trevor. I'm hoping we'll all see another brood of these over the next few weeks.

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 25-Aug-18 08:43 AM GMT

That female Copper is a particularly handsome lady, doesn't look more than a day old 😊

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 25-Aug-18 10:56 AM GMT

Catching up on all the posts these days the weather here has been really bad so not too many Butterflies, so it's a pleasure to see your's Trevor, 😊
Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 25-Aug-18 05:41 PM GMT

Many thanks everyone, hope you enjoy today's finds as well !.

Nothing could have prepared me for today.

In order to be ahead of the holiday traffic I set out for Wiltshire just before 6.30 this morning.

I had a brilliant journey, and was well ahead of time passing through Tilshead, Wilts.

It was far too early to call at my Daughters, so I paid a visit to the military site near Tilshead to see what was about.

This a very large area of tall grass land which has performed in the past.
To say that the area was heaving with Adonis Blues is an understatement, they were every where.
Many had been out for sometime, but many fresh ones were found as well, particularly females.
Common Blues were in the minority and Brown Argus were showing well too.

A fantastic morning, and it got better.....
Trevor.





Two males, one Lady !







Re: Trevor

by millerd, 25-Aug-18 07:48 PM GMT

Lovely new female Adonis there, Trevor – tricky to find in such good condition. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Old Wolf, 25-Aug-18 07:54 PM GMT

Hello Trevor, what a great haul you have had of late and some great shots to show it. My favorite of you last batch is definately the female Adonis. I have never seen one personally but I love all the subtle colours which remind me very much of an 'oily' marble 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 25-Aug-18 07:56 PM GMT

Absolutely lush Adonis Trevor, great to see Tilshead come up trumps again! 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Aug-18 08:51 AM GMT

Many thanks Dave, Old Wolf & Wurzel.

Among the numerous Adonis Blues, it was not difficult to find some fresh ones. I only explored a small area of the vast Grassland yesterday, but judging by what I saw, the site could give Mill Hill a run for it's money as far as Adonis Blues are concerned.

When I arrived at my Daughters yesterday, I went straight up to the Church grounds and was surprised to find some male Wall Browns still in good condition. The weather is a write off today (Sunday), but when it improves I shall pop up there again.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 26-Aug-18 09:13 AM GMT

That's great to hear Trevor 😊🇩🇪 I might be able to get over that way on Tuesday - just depends how quickly I can get my winter wood stored 😊
There's always something getting in the way of butterflying 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 26-Aug-18 09:27 AM GMT

Lovely Adonis Trevor, you've really brought out their lovely Blue colour 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 26-Aug-18 12:58 PM GMT

Fabulous Adonis Blues again, Trevor, particularly the female who is gleaming.

Great to see the Wall Browns still about too. I wonder if they'll pack in an additional brood this year?

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 27-Aug-18 05:46 PM GMT

A largely cloudy, blustery day with few sunny breaks was ideal for obtaining under side shots of Wall Browns, resting on the headstones of graves. The few sunny spells were enough to encourage a few Walls to search for nectar. Like Saturday only males were found this afternoon. A surprise find was a Red Admiral ab. bialbata.

Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by millerd, 27-Aug-18 07:15 PM GMT

This bright cloudy weather certainly makes those Walls more manageable, Trevor – a great set of shots from the graveyard. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 27-Aug-18 07:19 PM GMT

Great shots of the Wall's Trevor 🍷 I think I'll switch from Sand Dunes to Grave Yards 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 27-Aug-18 08:25 PM GMT

Great shots there Trevor – sometimes the dull, cloudy weather is just perfect for some species 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-Aug-18 08:57 PM GMT

This morning I arranged to meet Wurzel at the Bell Inn, Great Cheverell, in order to visit St.Peters Church to look for Wall Browns in the grounds of the Church. Unfortunately grey skies made this mission impossible. None were seen.

As time was limited we headed over to Tilshead. Here the Adonis Blues did not disappoint, there were not as many showing compared to Saturday, but there were more than enough to keep our cameras busy. Fresh males and females were still to be found along with some

faded at worn specimens. Brown Argus numbers came a close second to the Adonis but were mostly faded.

In all we had a great, if short session at Tilshead and I think Wurzel went away quietly impressed with what the site had to offer.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 28-Aug-18 09:10 PM GMT

Shame about the Walls, Trevor, but at least the Adonis are not so choosy about the weather. That first female is amazingly fresh with that iridescent sheen! Stunning. 😊🍀

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-Aug-18 09:39 PM GMT

Thanks Dave, there were many fresh females, it was sometimes difficult to know where to point the camera next.

A bonus Butterfly, a fresh Green Veined White, was found nectaring in the pub garden. this afternoon.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Art Frames, 29-Aug-18 05:21 PM GMT

Hi Trevor, thanks for stopping by to see my diary. You will want to see some of the pictures I'll be adding in the next few days. 😊

I have kept up with your diary through the summer and shared with gritted teeth your moments with hairstreaks and especially the Browns 🇩🇪🇩🇪 I have seen all of them this year as well, but I think my brown was a touch less pristine than yours... 😊 I think 3 wings on my hairstreak (to the tune of 3 wheels on my wagon) is appropriate, but the white-letters made up for it (not yet posted).

I shall not dwell on the other treats (Adonis, Walls and Emperors) but it is good to see you have had a few good trips out too. 😊

Shame I'd need to navigate the M25 to join you but it may be next year I make a safari. I do hope next year is as good for weather and butterflies.

best wishes

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 29-Aug-18 06:46 PM GMT

A great set of shots Trevor, they passed the 'what it looks like on the computer' test with flying colours 🇩🇪🇩🇪 And I would say 'mighty impressed' with that site - a brilliant find so thank you for sharing 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 29-Aug-18 07:10 PM GMT

My pleasure Wurzel. You now have a new site to add to your 'stop off' itinerary. Do visit next Spring.

Trevor

Re: Trevor

by David M, 29-Aug-18 08:28 PM GMT

Love those Wall undersides, Trevor. Surely one of the most attractive of all UK species.

The Adonis images are none too shabby either, and your female Green Veined White is as clearly marked as I would expect at this time of year.

Still a bit of life left in the season. I hope you make the most of it.

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 30-Aug-18 10:25 AM GMT

Some stunners from your Tilshead reports Trevor. 🍷 😊
Great Wall and GVV as well. 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 30-Aug-18 07:38 PM GMT

Many thanks all !. I've had some good sessions lately. Glad you've enjoyed the fruits.

Today I decided to visit Burgess Hill for a Brown Hairstreak hunt and a change of scene. My attempt to track down BH was severely hampered by the number of fresh, glowing, Small Coppers vying for my attention. Nearly every Ragwort had it's own nectaring SC. It was interesting to note that where there was a choice between Fleabane and Ragwort, Ragwort was usually chosen. Among all the Small Coppers was my finest ever ' Blue Badge ' specimen, what a beauty !.

As for Brown Hairstreaks, I saw two females, one high in an Ash (spot the Hairstreak) and a second one which landed very close to where I was standing.



Lovely ' Blue Badge ' specimen.









Spot the Hairstreak.

Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 30-Aug-18 07:59 PM GMT

Nice shots of some lovely looking Small Coppers, Trevor, that 'Blue Badge' individual was a great find. I wonder why they mainly choose the Ragwort? It's great playing spot the Hairstreak 😊

Mike

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 30-Aug-18 08:26 PM GMT

Cracking set of Copper shots Trevor 😊 – you're giving Hoggers a run for his money there 😊😊 The females are still looking in pretty good nick despite their long running season 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 31-Aug-18 07:55 AM GMT

A couple more shots from yesterday, not from Burgess Hill, but the roadside near Arlington. Lovely fresh Whites.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by David M, 31-Aug-18 12:18 PM GMT

There seems to have been a Small White explosion near me, Trevor, yet strangely there are hardly any Large or Green Veined.

I must get round to taking a decent image of a female like the one you've posted above.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 31-Aug-18 07:25 PM GMT

To mark the end of meteorological Summer I thought it would be appropriate to spend the morning with the last Summer Butterfly species to emerge. So it was off to Steyning for a final Brown Hairstreak session for this year. Three females were found, two on the foliage, and a third on the wing. Unfortunately, once again, large clouds blotted out the Sun for long periods, with blue sky all around except overhead. This was probably the reason for such a low count. Two other enthusiasts enjoyed their first ever encounter with a BH, indeed one of them found the first specimen, later after everyone had gone I found another BH resting on Bullace.

What a Hairstreak season it has been! 😊
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 31-Aug-18 07:48 PM GMT

Great shots Trevor, they're on my first list for next year 🤔🇮🇪 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 31-Aug-18 08:59 PM GMT

That's a decent final burst, Trevor! You're right – I think I've seen more of all five species this year than ever before, and in a greater variety of locations too. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 31-Aug-18 10:03 PM GMT

Cracking shots Trevor, especially like the open wing shot, the way she's holding her antennae gives her a somewhat quizzical look 🤔🇮🇪 I would love to see all 5 Hairstreaks in one year, but am I right in thinking that you got all five in one county 🤔🇮🇪🇮🇪

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by ernie f, 01-Sep-18 07:54 AM GMT

Trevor – thanks for reminding me the Brostreaks are still flying. Lovely shots too.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 01-Sep-18 09:27 AM GMT

Well done, Trevor. Patience paid off for you, in spite of your frustrations regarding the lack of sunshine.

That situation is probably the most aggravating of all, when blue skies extend in seemingly every direction but overhead remains resolutely grey! 😞

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 02-Sep-18 01:52 PM GMT

You really are doing well with those Brown Hairstreaks Trevor 😊, the Bookham lot are really making us work for it, plus work is getting in the way once again!

Re: Trevor

by Old Wolf, 02-Sep-18 09:51 PM GMT

Hello Trevor,

Great BHS shots with the first one being a real beauty 😊

With all the talk of all five HS in one year I would love to make do with just seeing all five full stop 😊 Still got to see the PHS properly, GHS, BHS and Brostreak. In fact I still need four for the set 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-Sep-18 04:02 PM GMT

Many thanks every one, as I said the Brown Hairstreak was my last Summer Butterfly.

So today I went to look for what I consider to be an Autumn species, at least that's the time of year when I find most if not all of them (and in good condition).

So far this year I have not seen a single Clouded Yellow, so today I found a new species for this season.

Once again Shoreham Harbour came up trumps, producing a minimum of three Cloudies.

None of them were very fresh, but were in good condition. All three were very frisky in the warm sunshine, and proved a bit of a challenge, that's when this hobby could be termed as a sport. 😊

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 03-Sep-18 07:13 PM GMT

Nice Cloudie shots, Trevor, at least they keep us fit 😊

Mike

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 03-Sep-18 08:10 PM GMT

At last a few Cloudies have arrived, with you ready to intercept them, Trevor. Great shots too. 😊 They seem to be females – if the weather holds there could be some offspring late October... 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 03-Sep-18 08:34 PM GMT

Great stuff Trevor 😊👍👍 Looks like the 3 points go to Trevor 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 05-Sep-18 09:47 AM GMT

Excellent, Trevor. I sincerely hope a few will turn up on the south Wales coast some time soon.

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 06-Sep-18 01:12 PM GMT

Lovely Small Coppers Trevor, great to see the Cloudy. 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Sep-18 05:00 PM GMT

I'm glad the Clouded Yellows were enjoyed, Gentlemen, expect more !.

Today I paid an overdue visit to High and over, principally to see if any third brood Walls have appeared yet. The answer is I couldn't find any, but I did find one remaining male from the Summer brood. I met Badgerbob, who asked if I had found any Walls, I told him that three had been seen. But on examining my images it looks as though I had only found one three times, in the hour or so of searching.

Other Butterflies, apart from Small Heaths, were a little thin on the ground, but I did find a very placid female Meadow Brown, a Small Copper and about the last of the Adonis Blues still hanging on.

Trevor.







Wild Chicory.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 06-Sep-18 07:41 PM GMT

I was wondering whether the next round of Walls would be out at High & Over, Trevor – it was about this time last year (7th September in fact) that we met up there and saw a few fresh ones. Odd that they should be later this year than last... 😊 I may hold you to the promise of more Cloudies as well! 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 06-Sep-18 08:09 PM GMT

Hi! Trevor, your Wall's are much better than the one I saw yesterday at Southport 😊 At least I saw one 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 06-Sep-18 10:18 PM GMT

Great shots of the Wall Trevor 😊👍 That's an interesting Meadow Brown as well – in good condition and with odd 'eyes' 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 07-Sep-18 08:47 AM GMT

Lovely to see Wall Browns again, Trevor...not to mention Small Heath, which I personally haven't seen since June! 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-Sep-18 07:40 PM GMT

Cheers Goldie, David & Wurzel. Here's some more Cloudies, Dave.

Having read on the Sussex BC sightings page that more Clouded Yellows had appeared since my visit on Monday, I went along for another look this morning.

A stiff, cool, westerly breeze ensured a slow start, and made photography difficult throughout my visit. Another species that had built in numbers over the week was the Common Blue with a good dozen fresh males, and a 'blue' female seen.

In all about eight Clouded Yellows (allowing for multiple counting) were on the wing, and unlike Monday some were fresh.

Trevor.





This specimen had a distinctly greenish underside.







Re: Trevor

by millerd, 07-Sep-18 09:18 PM GMT

Thank you, Trevor – more Clouded Yellows! 🤔🇮🇪 And the Common Blues are pretty good as well. 😊 I feel a trip down to Shoreham is in order next week when the forecast looks pretty reasonable.

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 07-Sep-18 11:05 PM GMT

Cracking Cloudy's Trevor 🤔🇮🇪 The third shot is brill, a really yellow Clouded Yellow 🤔🤔🇮🇪 That is a late fresh Common Blue too 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 08-Sep-18 11:11 AM GMT

Hi! Trevor, lovely Cloudy shots, love the shots of the ones on the flowers 🤔 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 08-Sep-18 04:47 PM GMT

Please send some of those Cloudies in my direction if you will, Trevor! 🤔🇮🇪

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 08-Sep-18 05:13 PM GMT

Great Clouded Yellows Trevor, I saw a few in Dorset a few days ago but they wouldn't stop still for me.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 12-Sep-18 07:43 AM GMT

Yesterday's weather was hardly suitable for Butterfly activity, though some longer sunny spells were enough to tempt me out of the house to have a look. I found a spot out of the strong wind, and was rewarded with a sheltering Holly Blue and several Speckled Woods, then extensive cloud cover put an end to any further sightings. Hardly my finest hour !.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 12-Sep-18 09:22 AM GMT

Nice to see a few Clouded Yellows have appeared, Trevor. It will be interesting if they continue into November, like last year.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 12-Sep-18 09:38 AM GMT

I've had a Holly Blue pass through my garden on and off for a few weeks now Trevor but every time I try to get a shot, off it flies 😊 at least you've pinned one down 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 12-Sep-18 10:42 PM GMT

You still did well in the circumstances Trevor 😊 I reckon you've picked up a few 'whispering' tips from Dave 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 13-Sep-18 10:27 AM GMT

If in doubt...venture out! You did and were rewarded with a Holly Blue which is always very welcome.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-Sep-18 07:20 PM GMT

I spent a really fabulous morning at High and Over, with the Wall Browns.

On arrival the Walls were performing on and near the steps, constantly sending one another up and sparring in the air, on two occasions the sparring sessions consisted of five males, which would suddenly break off only to find another male to battle with.

I had not been on site for very long when Dave (millerd) came along to join in the fun !.

Together we were kept entertained by the Wall's antics, good to meet you again Dave.

If we were looking at third brood Walls, it was then surprising to find so many worn and tatty males, along with some fresh specimens. Only one female was found, but she gave us the slip and headed for the bottom of the hill.

Other sightings include a very old Clouded Yellow, Large and Small Whites, a Small Copper and many Small Heaths.

With all the above action with the lively Wall Browns, counting them was near impossible, but we thought a good ten (if not more) were seen.

Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 13-Sep-18 07:53 PM GMT

Sounds like an enjoyable morning, Trevor, lovely wall Browns. That's a great underside shot of the Wall on the fence 😊😄

Mike

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 13-Sep-18 09:32 PM GMT

A very enjoyable couple of hours, Trevor! Good to catch up with you again. You were right – the butterfly on the teasel you mentioned is a cracker. 😊
You'll have to wait a couple of days for my slant on the Wall Brown selection I'm afraid... 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 13-Sep-18 11:19 PM GMT

I echo Dave's (and your) thoughts about the Wall on the Teasel – a right stunner, and a cracking shot 🤔👍👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 14-Sep-18 07:19 AM GMT

Wonderful, Trevor. I wonder whether Wall Browns might make it into October this year?

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-Sep-18 07:28 PM GMT

The weather was cool, largely grey and breezy this morning.
After lunch there was enough of an improvement in the weather to risk a local trip.
So it was High and Over again, but the breeze kept sightings to a minimum.
Of the male Wall Browns that made an appearance all were very fresh, unlike yesterday.
One sighting today that called for a quick reaction, and a lot of luck, was when a Hummingbird Hawk Moth flew in from behind me and began nectaring, it's rapid, darting movements caused many blurred and out of frame shots, but the camera managed to 'freeze' the Moth's body, although the wings are nearly invisible.
One other fresh Butterfly today was a nectaring Large White.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 14-Sep-18 08:21 PM GMT

Definitely better-looking than yesterday's selection, Trevor, and the not-so-sunny weather helped them open out more... 🍷 That's a great shot of the Hummer, too. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 14-Sep-18 09:04 PM GMT

Looks like the light levels were perfect for those Walls Trevor. This season is far from over, I reckon we've got another good 4 weeks yet before we bid everything farewell for another year 😊!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-Sep-18 09:38 PM GMT

Cheers Paul, I hope we can stretch things out for more than the next four weeks. Of course it all depends on the weather. The first half of November was quite good last year, and my final Butterflies for 2017 were a pair of Brimstones on Nov.22nd, my personal latest date ever for a particular year.

Keep up the good work,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 14-Sep-18 10:03 PM GMT

Great Hummingbird shot Trevor 😊 And those Walls are almost perfect, the one in the fourth shot down looks immaculate 🍷 😊 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 14-Sep-18 10:19 PM GMT

Like Small Coppers, Wall Browns seem to be having an excellent time of things right now.

Good to see the Hummingbird Hawk moth too, Trevor. Always a welcome visitor to these shores.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-Sep-18 07:57 PM GMT

I had no idea, given the fine Sunny weather today, that very few Butterflies would be found. Shoreham harbour was my first port of call, and in just under three hours only one distant Clouded Yellow was seen, although the Common Blue showed well there. After some quick lunch I headed up to Mill Hill, and once again it was the Common Blue that predominated. Four male Wall Browns were seen briefly seen in the air, and a Small Copper and a Brown Argus posed nicely for the camera. The day was plagued with a constant cool breeze which could account for the poor results in what was otherwise a warm Sunny day.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 15-Sep-18 10:36 PM GMT

Looks like you still did okay despite the contradictory weather Trevor 😊 Some days just don't seem to pan out 😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 16-Sep-18 02:03 PM GMT

I know what you mean about the weather Trevor, it's been awful here, at least your seeing and getting some good shots still 😊
Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by ernie f, 17-Sep-18 10:56 AM GMT

Trevor. Just catching up with your PD. I had to go back a page to do it properly. I have just been noting other people's Wall Browns and saying I have only ever seen one in my life. I come to your PD and see a whole bunch of very fine pics of them. I am just so envious really. I have little chance of seeing one unless I make a concerted effort to travel well outside my local patch.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-Sep-18 03:43 PM GMT

Many thanks everyone for your comments.
Ernie, try and visit High and Over soon. The third brood Walls are doing really well.
I know it's a bit of a trip from you (about 65 miles) but worth it.

Early this morning I drove up to High and Over, and enjoyed probably one of the best Wall Brown sessions ever at this site. On arrival the low Sun had already warmed them up, near the steps, so it was really a case of watching the action. On one occasion eight males could be seen at the same time, sparring in groups. I also found males in four locations over the hill, including the north side, in a bramble thicket, and one in the car park.
A stunning female Common Blue was the icing on the cake today, but unfortunately always landed in long grass. Grass blade shadows could not be avoided.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 17-Sep-18 08:21 PM GMT

I thought High & Over might be good today, but I was a bit later leaving home and stopped short at Mill Hill. Looks like I missed a Wall Brown fiesta! Nice underside shot especially, Trevor. 😊 That Common Blue female is rather splendid too, shadows and all. 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 17-Sep-18 10:35 PM GMT

Cracking Wall shots Trevor 😊 But that female Blue is a right little beauty, the almost white marking above the orange lunules on the hind wing are stunning 😊🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 17-Sep-18 11:18 PM GMT

You get days like that sometimes, Trevor. Perhaps there WERE other species around but it's just that you didn't stumble upon them?

At least you got the Wall Browns today.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 18-Sep-18 09:41 AM GMT

Great Wall shots Trevor 🍷🍷 love your third shot 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-Sep-18 12:03 PM GMT

Many thanks everyone. I love just watching Wall Browns, and they provide a mixture of frustration and elation when trying to photograph them. I am determined to get an image of a third brood female too !.

One thing I have noticed in that third image down, is that the Butterfly seems to be looking straight at the camera with it's head tilted to one side.

What do you think ?.
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 18-Sep-18 12:45 PM GMT

She definitely seems to be checking you out Trevor 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 19-Sep-18 10:23 AM GMT

Yes, definitely a "Oi, what are you looking at?!" moment... 😊 I like the shot, though!

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 19-Sep-18 01:10 PM GMT

Nice Wall Browns Trevor. Also a lovely female Common Blue, and I like your Hummingbird Hawk moth shot. 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 20-Sep-18 05:00 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

...One thing I have noticed in that third image down, is that the Butterfly seems to be looking straight at the camera with it's head tilted to one side.

What do you think ?

It's definitely striking a pose, Trevor! I agree with your views on this species, its behaviour is a delight to watch with those frisky short flights being interspersed with regular basking.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-Sep-18 04:23 PM GMT

UNE FEMELLE !.

The strong wind this morning was battering the front of my West facing house. So I took a gamble (with reasonable odds) that the East facing hedge at High and Over would offer some shelter for any Butterflies that might be about. In fact the hedge offered almost complete protection from what was a gale, on top of the Downs.

The Wall Browns were up and about, and making frequent stops to bask or nectar. After an hour or so I noticed a comotion in the tall grass, sure enough a female Wall was in the process of telling a male to ' shove off '!. The female was then seen to fly over the hedge, and out of sight. Not much later on a female Wall flew past me and landed nearby, but unfortunately closed her wings, eventually she slowly opened up and utopia !, I was looking at that so far elusive, fresh, third brood female Wall Brown I had been searching for.

Other species were on the wing too, including two fresh Brown Argus, two male Common Blues, some Small Whites, and a fresh Speckled Wood (among some worn ones) and a flyby Painted Lady.

A great morning in adverse conditions !
Trevor.









Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 21-Sep-18 07:20 PM GMT

Loving your recent Wall Brown photos Trevor 🍷😄 Unfortunately this is a species that we no longer see around my patch these days.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 21-Sep-18 07:24 PM GMT

You did amazingly well, Trevor, considering how windy it's been. That hedge is well placed, providing shelter in one direction or another for the Walls. No wonder they like it up there. Well done on getting that female at last too! 😄

Hopefully they will make it through the unpleasant weather forecast this weekend and still be around next week.

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 21-Sep-18 10:34 PM GMT

Great Wall shots Trevor and the female is the best of the bunch, what a little beauty 🍷😄 You've done better than we have weather wise over the last few days - it's been pretty awful over here 😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Sep-18 11:24 AM GMT

Many thanks Neil, Dave and Wurzel.

That female Wall was hard won, and fortunately very fresh,

and possibly only hours old.

My particular pleasure from Butterflying is the thrill of the hunt, each new session is full of anticipation, which is fully satisfied when a Butterfly that has proved elusive is finally tracked down.

I couldn't resist another image of that beauty, Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 22-Sep-18 11:29 AM GMT

If you want to see lovely Wall shots your posts must be the best Trevor to look at 😊👍👍 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 22-Sep-18 10:24 PM GMT

Definitely worth filling yer boots with shots of that female Wall Trevor, a right little beauty 😊👍👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 22-Sep-18 11:51 PM GMT

They sure are attractive when fresh like that, Trevor. I guess they'll still be around for a week or two so keep searching.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 24-Sep-18 07:24 PM GMT

Many thanks, Goldie, and some more Walls for you.
I filled my boots again today, Wurzel !.
There's still life in the Wall Browns yet, David.

Once again it was off to High and Over this morning.
This time three more female Wall Browns were seen, one being chased by two males, and another which was totally uncooperative , then a third which did settle nicely for some shots.
Most males were worn but I did find one fresh specimen. It was also a relief to find a fresh Red Admiral and a Comma which I carelessly disturbed, thus no image.

Another sighting of ' non Butterfly ' interest was the paddle steamer ' Waverley ' cruising near to shore, about four miles from High and Over.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 24-Sep-18 10:56 PM GMT

More great Wall shots Trevor especially the final closed wing shot, cracking stuff 😊👍👍 The Waverley looks a little out of place; it used to sail from Weymouth 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 25-Sep-18 03:41 PM GMT

Cheers Wurzel, The Waverley occasionally visits Eastbourne, I'm not sure if it can berth at the end of the pier or not.

At High and Over this morning, the mainly worn male Wall Browns were patrolling as usual but I did happen to notice one fresh male among them. Responding to a glint in the grass, I found a single Small Copper basking. Among the Speckled Woods battling away in the shade, was a stunning, fresh female Red Admiral, frequently flying in short hops, after many duff shots, I managed one reasonable image, and that was the icing on the cake today !.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 25-Sep-18 05:51 PM GMT

I've seen Waverley at Dover many years ago, and also in the Bristol Channel. A very nostalgic sight, the maritime equivalent of a steam train! Good to see the Red Admirals, Trevor, and hopefully the Walls will hang on a bit longer in case I can make it down there again. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by ernie f, 26-Sep-18 08:27 AM GMT

Trevor - I just love all those shots of The Wall. I only have one pic in my collection so I admit to being a bit envious.

Your pic of the Waverley brings back memories. A few years ago, my wife and I had a trip on this very boat. It was great. of course you have to go and see the engines while its steamed-up and moving. Quite an experience.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Sep-18 07:31 PM GMT

After weeks of photographing ' Brown ' Butterflies, it was great to among the brightly coloured spectaculars for a change, and indeed a rare treat for this season.

I arranged to meet Dave Cook at Mill Hill this morning, also it was pleasure to meet Kirsty Gibb, who had beaten us to the large patch of fresh Hemp Agrimony, on which some very fresh Red Admirals, Peacocks and Painted Ladies were busy nectaring.

I was also shown the now famous Peacock pupae, on the way to the pupae a pure white Helice Clouded Yellow flew past us, what a sight !.

As the morning wore on a small UKB contingent turned up to enjoy the spectacle, including, Katrina (great to see you again), Dave (millerd) and bugboy (Paul).

I know for a fact that everyone had a great time, on a very fine day.

Good to see you all again, 😊
Trevor.







The famous Peacock pupae.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 26-Sep-18 07:37 PM GMT

Great shots Trevor, I really envy your Peacock shot 🍷 I'm still waiting to see one in my Garden this year 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 26-Sep-18 11:06 PM GMT

Fantastic images Trevor 😊 Though I have to save the 🍷🍷 for the Helice as I've still not seen one 🙄🙄🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 27-Sep-18 07:56 AM GMT

Those butterflies all look very familiar 😊. Good to catch up with you again and I hope the cloudies behave themselves today for you!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 27-Sep-18 09:17 PM GMT

I had a very bad start to my journey today. I joined the end of a queue of traffic at Selmeston, on the A27, only to discover that the problem, an accident, was seven miles up the road !. Consequently when I arrived at Shoreham Harbour the Clouded Yellows were supercharged. In all three, all seen in the air together, as well as a possible fourth were found. We then carried on to Lancing Ring, for my first ever visit to this site. This site has recently played host to a large number of third brood Wall Browns, we found quite a few, but again they were supercharged. Later a mating pair was located, unfortunately right down in the long grass, but certainly made the trip worthwhile.

Trevor.

PS. The cloudies were almost non stop today, Bugboy.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 27-Sep-18 10:16 PM GMT

That stretch of the Sussex coast is doing really well for both those species this autumn, Trevor. It's particularly good to see the Walls in such numbers. On a day like today they really aren't going to stop! 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 28-Sep-18 10:06 PM GMT

Great Cloudy shots Trevor 😊 But I had to do a double take of the Walls before I read through your report 🤔😬👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 29-Sep-18 02:36 PM GMT

WoW! Trevor, it's hard enough for me to get shots of a Wall Brown so that mating pair is fantastic 🍷🍷 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by ernie f, 29-Sep-18 04:14 PM GMT

Trevor – A little while back I posted on your PD my enviousness about your Wall Butterfly pics as I have only ever seen one in my life and only got one pic.

Now you give us a pic of a mating pair!!! 😊

You are so lucky.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 30-Sep-18 10:31 AM GMT

You've seen a creditable range of species given October's almost upon us, Trevor. Your Cloudies are welcome but the Wall Browns are the standout...particularly the mating pair.

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 30-Sep-18 06:14 PM GMT

Excellent pictures from Mill Hill, Trevor! Now I just might be tempted to head down there this week, weather permitting...

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Oct-18 06:28 PM GMT

It may be October 1st, but I found two fresh male Wall Browns at High and Over this morning. About ten males were seen in all, including the two fresh specimens. I was also lucky to spot a female Wall just after she had rejected a male, she then briefly settled on a bramble leaf before disappearing into the dense shrubbery. Nearby the first of two fresh Commas nectared on the abundant Ivy blossom.

Trevor.





One of the two fresh males.



Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 01-Oct-18 06:44 PM GMT

Beautiful female Wall Browns, trevor, I know how difficult those shots are to get. Nice to see the Comma too.

Mike

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Oct-18 06:55 PM GMT

A very fine Sunset, this evening.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 01-Oct-18 07:22 PM GMT

They really are doing well up there, Trevor (I was there on Saturday morning!). I didn't get close to a female like that though... 🍷 Lovely shot. 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 01-Oct-18 08:08 PM GMT

Brilliant Walls Trevor – especially the first female, she's gurt lush 😊🍷 The Comma is a bit of a cracker too 😊🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-Oct-18 05:12 PM GMT

The weather forecast for today, rather suggested the day would be better spent in the garden. By about 10.30 the cloud began to break up sufficiently to risk a trip to High and Over. The Wall Browns hardly took advantage of the improving weather, but a female Comma, a Red Admiral, and two reasonably fresh Speckled woods, did. Happy with my haul, I headed for the car when I noticed an unusual Wall Brown sparring session. Closer inspection revealed a mating pair being pursued by a second male trying his luck. Unfortunately the mating pair took refuge in an awkward spot for photography, however a couple of shots were obtained.

Trevor





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 02-Oct-18 05:20 PM GMT

The female in that pairing looks very new, Trevor. They must still be emerging. The nymphalids and the Specklies look pretty fresh as well. Nice photos. 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-Oct-18 06:53 PM GMT

Cheers Dave, I noticed that the female Wall was brand new, forgot to write that into my text. Note, two fresh males yesterday as well. The females don't stay virgins for very long !.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 02-Oct-18 10:27 PM GMT

Great stuff Trevor - those pairing Walls are a great find, their eyes really stand out in the first shot 😊 I'm surprised by how fresh everything still looks 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 03-Oct-18 11:04 AM GMT

Great to see your fresh Walls Trevor, well done with the pairing. 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-Oct-18 05:40 PM GMT

Many thanks everyone, the Walls are still going strong.

The star of the show this morning was yet another fresh male Wall Brown. This time resting on a fence post, as were others today.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-Oct-18 07:32 PM GMT

Yesterday the Wall Browns hardly put in an appearance, despite some sunshine.

Today it was back to normal, except for one thing. Instead of landing on the ground between bouts of patrolling, today the fence posts were favoured.

Two mating pairs were seen, the first pair flew over the side of the hill, onto some chalk, I only managed a shot from a great distance. the second pair was first seen in the air and did not stop.

I was also entertained by the aerobatics of a very fast flying Painted Lady, that later settled on some Ivy blossom.

Another great morning.

Trevor.







Distant mating pair of Walls.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 03-Oct-18 08:23 PM GMT

There are going to be a lot of Wall Brown eggs laid up there in the next week or so, Trevor, with the number of mating pairs you've seen. Generally the forecast is benign for the next 10 days (excepting Saturday maybe), so they'll have plenty of scope to lay. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 03-Oct-18 09:34 PM GMT

More excellent Wall images, Trevor. There were plenty of Walls at Mill Hill today, though I was concentrating on Nymphalids.

Re: Trevor

by Art Frames, 04-Oct-18 07:40 AM GMT

Trevor,

It must be inspiring to have a list of places where you can go and see such fresh and delightful butterflies and relatively late on too. I just wish Northamptonshire had similar. At the moment its all a bit depressing here. So good to see the sun is shining on someone. 😊

regards

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 04-Oct-18 02:51 PM GMT

Many thanks Dave, Mark & Peter.

Peter,

The three locations I visit at this time of year have one thing in common. They are all sun traps and are somewhat sheltered. If you have a hillside or thick, tall hedge that gets maximum sunshine all day, then it might be worth a look.

Happy hunting,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 04-Oct-18 08:23 PM GMT

Great shots Trevor, I had to do a double take again when I saw the mating pair 🤪 they seem to favour positioning themselves at 90 degrees to each other so they look a little like a single, malformed butterfly 🤪🤪

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-Oct-18 06:39 PM GMT

Sussex Cloudies and Wiltshire Walls.

This morning on my way to Wiltshire, I detoured via Southwick.

On arrival all was quiet, eventually I saw a single Clouded Yellow in the air which sent up another. Both were later photographed. The first one to land turned out to be a beautiful Helice, albeit with a tiny nick out of the forewing. The second specimen was very bright and fresh. Both were reasonably approachable.

Once in Wiltshire I popped up to St. Peter's Church, where it was clear that a small population of third brood Wall Browns were present. There was no third brood last year at this site.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 05-Oct-18 06:45 PM GMT

Nice view of that *helice*, Trevor, and the male as well. 🍷 I was up at Mill Hill but ran out of time to pop down there too. Still, next week is looking pretty good after a major blip tomorrow. Interesting that the Walls have gone for a third brood in Wiltshire as well this year – pretty well unheard of I'd think. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 05-Oct-18 07:09 PM GMT

Art Frames wrote:

Trevor,

It must be inspiring to have a list of places where you can go and see such fresh and delightful butterflies and relatively late on too. I just wish Northamptonshire had similar. At the moment its all a bit depressing here. So good to see the sun is shining on someone. 😊

regards

Probably a bit late now, especially with the rain heading in tonight and tomorrow, but I saw reports of a good emergence of clouded Yellows at Sywell Country Park earlier in the week. Would have gone for a look myself if I hadn't been at work.

Great shot of the *helice* Trevor and more cracking Wall Browns 🍷 😊

Cheers,

Neil

Re: Trevor

by Art Frames, 05-Oct-18 09:44 PM GMT

Neil Freeman wrote:

Probably a bit late now, especially with the rain heading in tonight and tomorrow, but I saw reports of a good emergence of clouded Yellows at Sywell Country Park earlier in the week. Would have gone for a look myself if I hadn't been at work.

Great shot of the *helice* Trevor and more cracking Wall Browns 🍷 😊

Cheers,

Neil

I have looked at the reports and only wish I had seen them sooner too! But the rain is a temporary blip, I hope. Thanks for alerting me. 😊

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 05-Oct-18 10:28 PM GMT

Sundays not looking too bad at the moment, I can feel another trip into deepest Sussex brewing...

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 06-Oct-18 10:32 AM GMT

Cracking stuff Trevor - especially good news about the Walls 😊 Star of the show there for me though is the Helice 😊 Still not seen or even had a sniff of one of those 🍷🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 06-Oct-18 02:00 PM GMT

Lovely Butterflies Trevor, nothing being recorded here at present, bet you were pleased with that Helice 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-Oct-18 11:44 AM GMT

Hummingbird Hawk Moth in the garden of The Bell Inn, Great Cheverell, Wiltshire, at 11.08 this morning, just outside of my room !

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 07-Oct-18 05:39 PM GMT

Flipping heck Trevor I'm loving your style - 'butterflies in bed' must be almost as good a 'breakfast in bed' 😊😊🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 07-Oct-18 08:16 PM GMT

Wonderful photos Trevor, what a bonus to have photo opportunities so close.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 07-Oct-18 11:17 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

Hummingbird Hawk Moth in the garden of The Bell Inn,
Great Cheverell, Wiltshire, at 11.08 this morning, just outside of my room !

Impressive, Trevor. Almost as impressive is that you were armed with your camera at the double to record this notable sighting!

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 08-Oct-18 07:39 PM GMT

Wurzel wrote:

Flipping heck Trevor I'm loving your style - 'butterflies in bed' must be almost as good a 'breakfast in bed' 🤔🤔🤔🤔

Have a goodun
Wurzel

Still in bed at 11.08 🤔...I must be doing something wrong 🤔🤔

Great photos of the HBHM Trevor 🤔🤔

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 08-Oct-18 08:08 PM GMT

Many thanks Katrina, Wurzel, David & Neil,

Time to set the record straight !.

I have never had breakfast in bed, and at 11.08 I had been up for four hours. 😊
That Hummingbird Hawk Moth took me by complete surprise, given the very low air temperature.
Incredibly I had time to grab my camera, complete with close up lens, and grab about six shots.

Incidentally the plant it was feasting on is Salvia ' Hot Lips '.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Art Frames, 08-Oct-18 09:52 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

... in bed, at 11.08 I had been up for four hours next door to ' Hot Lips '.

We can read between the lines. Mop and bucket to room 47 please 🤔

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 08-Oct-18 10:38 PM GMT

Chance would be a fine thing, Peter.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-Oct-18 07:02 PM GMT

Before leaving Wiltshire for home this morning I spent an hour in St. Peter's church grounds looking for third brood Wall Browns. Only two males were seen in near perfect conditions, confirming that only a very small third brood has occurred there.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 09-Oct-18 10:47 PM GMT

A great find trevor 🍷 - it'll be interesting to see how they fare in the spring and whether the third brood will have a positive impact on their numbers 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

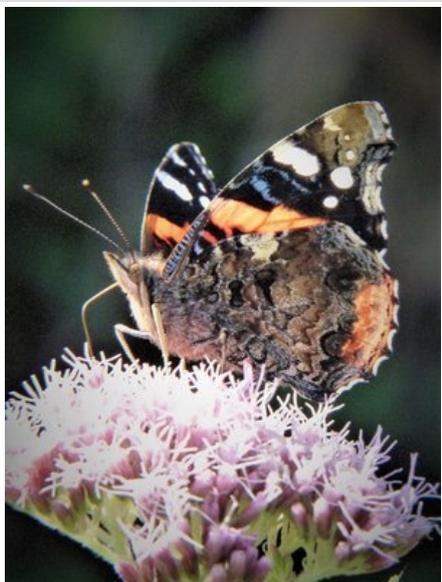
Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Oct-18 07:51 PM GMT

Once the heavy mist had cleared this morning I headed over to Mill Hill. As I negotiated the posts at the car park entrance, a Clouded Yellow flew past. But the morning belonged to the Red Admiral. About ten, very fresh, Red Admirals were nectaring on the much visited Hemp Agrimony, including one ab. Bialbata. The only other visitor, and then only briefly, was a very fresh Comma.

Back at home I had to tread warily to avoid destroying the many Spiders webs that adorn my garden.

Trevor.







The proprietor is not at home !.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 10-Oct-18 09:05 PM GMT

Somehow I missed you today, Trevor – Ben told me you were there: I arrived about 11 and didn't leave till 3. I didn't see that splendid Comma, but I did see the many Admirals and also a welcome newcomer to the hemp agrimony patch... 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Oct-18 09:22 PM GMT

I don't know how we missed each other, Dave. Checking my images the last one was taken at 12.03, but I did not leave until about 1pm.

Hope that wasn't a Wall or Cloudie on the Hemp after I left !! 😊

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 10-Oct-18 10:33 PM GMT

I started by walking along the top and then down the steps near the other car park to the bottom of the slope and that sheltered bit. I was up at the hemp agrimony between one and two by the times the photos were taken, and then again at around half three. This explains why we didn't spot each other! 😊 Nope, not a Wall or a Cloudie (though a Wall wandered past and briefly sat on a bit of ragwort nearby). 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 11-Oct-18 08:34 PM GMT

That Comma is a great nick Trevor 😊 Mind you the Red Admirals aren't too shabby either 😊🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-Oct-18 08:48 PM GMT

I went up to a blustery High and Over this morning. The strong wind was blowing right along the hedge in the field, so no Wall Browns.

Once again the predominant species found was more fresh Red Admirals, and some Speckled Woods in reasonable condition.

The find of the day came later when I spotted a newly emerged male Wall Brown right down in some low undergrowth, so no photo unfortunately.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-Oct-18 07:50 PM GMT

START 'EM OFF YOUNG!.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 14-Oct-18 09:35 PM GMT

The Big Hungry Caterpillar seems to be about to get his just desserts there, Trevor... 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 14-Oct-18 11:03 PM GMT

You're definitely doing things proper Trevor 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-Oct-18 05:37 AM GMT

Many thanks Dave & Wurzel.

He also attends after school ' nature club ', so there's hope yet !. 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-Oct-18 07:29 PM GMT

Because of an early morning deluge around here, it was not until this afternoon that the weather was suitable for a Butterfly trip.

I chose High and Over once again, as the site is local and usually reliable.

A walk along the hedge revealed at least four male Wall Browns, and all were in reasonable condition, and very quick off the mark.

As I returned towards the car I became aware of at least eight Red Admirals indulging in dogfights, usually in pairs, sometimes more were involved. When they landed it was not to bask, but to posture ready for takeoff when another Red Admiral flew over. It was delightful to watch, but difficult to photograph.

Another great session,
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 15-Oct-18 07:51 PM GMT

Sunshine, Trevor? ☀️ We had none of that here today, and it stayed resolutely grey and damp all day. Good to see you still have Walls making the most of it, and the Red Admirals are presumably making a last stop on their way south. 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-Oct-18 03:23 PM GMT

Tidemills, near Newhaven was my destination this morning. The breeze may have tempered activity a little, but it was still a lovely morning. I went there for Clouded Yellows, and saw two. One settled long enough for a couple of shots, and was very fresh indeed. Both disappeared and were never seen again. Some Red Admirals were flying near the beach, possibly plucking up courage for crossing the channel.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 16-Oct-18 10:05 PM GMT

That is a very fresh Cloudy Trevor 😊🍷 Will it be sticking around or heading back to warmer/drier climes?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 17-Oct-18 07:03 AM GMT

Tidemills is a handy site to have at this time of year, Trevor!

Nice Wall Browns again, and the earlier Speckled Woods, Red Admirals and Ivy flowers – you just know it's autumn when you see all those together!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-Oct-18 07:18 PM GMT

I set out this morning for Southwick under clear blue sky. After only a short distance I could see a very distant bank of cloud stretching as far as the eye could see. On arrival at Southwick the cloud had arrived there, and as I descended the steps down from the road, I met a very glum Bugboy!, who was concerned that he had wasted his time. It looked as though a certain law was going to control our day as only a mile or so out to sea was clear blue sky and bright sunshine!. Fortunately the sun did make an appearance and the Butterflies responded. In all we saw five, possibly six fresh Clouded Yellows, a fresh male and female Common Blue, some lively Red Admirals and a very fast flying Painted Lady. Even a Silver Y Moth posed for my camera.

I think Paul went home very satisfied with his haul, after a very doubtful start. Trevor.





Female Common Blue on razor wire !.



Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 17-Oct-18 07:26 PM GMT

Congratulations Trevor. That certainly is a great site to get the very last out of the season. Very few places are still performing now, so I may chance a visit there at the end of October, though only if the weather is reliable.

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 17-Oct-18 09:23 PM GMT

That's a nice looking female Common Blue Trevor, hopefully she'll bump into that fresh male in the next couple of days so her late emergence isn't wasted 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 17-Oct-18 10:59 PM GMT

Cracking Cloudies Trevor 🤩🍷 Some really nice fresh ones there. Love the Common Blue on the Razorwire; a great juxtaposition, almost Beauty and The Beast 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 18-Oct-18 04:23 PM GMT

Great Clouded Yellow shots, Trevor. 😊 As I said to Bugboy, I would have been there too if the weather here hadn't been so bad – I didn't realise it was very different down there! 😊 Current forecast looks encouraging too...

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by David M, 19-Oct-18 07:00 AM GMT

Fabulous haul, Trevor. With another benign weekend to come I suspect there'll still be plenty to see over the next week or so.

Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 19-Oct-18 06:35 PM GMT

Those Clouded Yellows look mighty fresh, Trevor, so do the Common blues, and there's still time for more!

Mike

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Oct-18 07:05 PM GMT

My visit to Southwick today was dictated by the cool northerly breeze at home. The hope was that this south facing site would provide some protection from the wind. Leaving the car I noticed 11c. on the dashboard thermometer. I need not have worried as two Clouded Yellows were found straight away, all told six were found. Very few were fresh, but all were in good condition. The real prize today was a very fresh, placid, Painted Lady, intent on nectaring, this lovely Butterfly just glided and floated between various Knapweed flowers, and allowed very close approach on many occasions. Only one of the many Red Admirals flying around, settled for the camera, this turned out to be a worn ab. bialbata. Surprisingly for Southwick, no Common Blues were found today.

A first class day out.
Trevor.

PS. Many thanks everyone for your comments on my previous post.







Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 22-Oct-18 07:21 PM GMT

Amazing how that tiny strip of green can continue to be such a butterfly magnet!

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 22-Oct-18 08:25 PM GMT

I didn't see any Common Blues there either, but I did see your Painted Lady!

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 23-Oct-18 09:29 AM GMT

Lovely PL Trevor, the same one I saw on Sunday I reckon. 😊 Southwick has been a new site for me this year, with 3 visits so far. What a great place. 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-Oct-18 06:28 PM GMT

Many thanks, Mark & Andrew.
That painted Lady was probably the easiest going Butterfly I've ever met.
Hope it was as well behaved for you both.
Yes, Southwick is a fabulous end of season site.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 23-Oct-18 08:03 PM GMT

Fantastic Cloudy images Trevor 😊👍 And that Painted Lady is a beaut - I've still to find one with the blue ocelli on the hind wings 😊😄👍👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 23-Oct-18 10:07 PM GMT

A very nice Painted Lady, Trevor - and the Cloudies too. It continues to be worth a visit, clearly! 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 24-Oct-18 07:35 PM GMT

I arrived at Southwick much later than I would have liked, a later start and heavy traffic were to blame. Two familiar faces were already on site, Katrina and Bugboy. Paul pointed out a female Clouded Yellow on an egg laying mission. She was certainly very busy, and very active searching out suitable Trefoil on which to lay.

When an egg was located, the challenge to obtain an image of it proved very trying. After Katrina and Paul left for Mill Hill I found another egg and had a little more success with this one.

Quite a few male Cloudies spent the morning patrolling, and rarely settled for more than a few seconds. There seemed to be more around today compared to recent visits. Other species present included Red Admirals, a male Common Blue, several 'Whites', and a surprise Speckled Wood.

An interesting morning, in good company,
Trevor.





A very busy egg laying Clouded Yellow.



The first Clouded Yellow egg, found by Paul. Sorry about image quality.



The second egg.





One of the large vessels to be seen passes close by.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 24-Oct-18 07:43 PM GMT

Southwick continues to impress, Trevor. 😊 I may have to make one more trip, despite the impending end to the warm weather (there will still be sunshine, though, which is perhaps more important). There may well be butterflies into November again at this rate. 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 24-Oct-18 07:59 PM GMT

The way that female was laying eggs that bank must be heaving with them!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 24-Oct-18 08:43 PM GMT

Many thanks, Dave & Paul.

You are probably right Dave, even on a cool sunny day that bank soon heats up. It was unbearable with a long sleeved top on today, which was soon shed !.

Let's hope all that egg laying is not in vain Paul, given the time of year.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 24-Oct-18 08:57 PM GMT

Great stuff Trevor 🍷🍷 What are the chances of those eggs coming to fruition I wonder, a small colony makes it through the winter most years down at Southbourne, fingers crossed for them 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 24-Oct-18 10:11 PM GMT

Enjoy these last few days while they last, Trevor, as the arctic blast, followed by wind and rain next week, could finish things off.

That Southwick site is south facing and sheltered, so if Clouded Yellow immature stages could survive anywhere, this site has surely a good a chance as any.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 25-Oct-18 08:16 AM GMT

That trip out looks to have been first class indeed, Trevor! Great to have Clouded Yellows as regular autumn companions. Right now, there appear to be more of those around that all the vanessids combined!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 25-Oct-18 04:33 PM GMT

Many thanks, Wurzel, David & Mark. I went back for more today !.

The temperature this morning was much cooler than yesterday, and with what is promised for the next few days I thought I would make hay while the sun shines !. So it was back to Southwick, and some less active Clouded Yellows.

There was much more basking and nectaring today, compared to yesterday, when the warmth made them almost hyperactive. Fewer were seen today, suggesting that some have dispersed. One other welcome sight was a reasonably fresh Common Blue.

Keep warm !,
Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by millerd, 25-Oct-18 04:43 PM GMT

Some more decent Cloudies there, Trevor. 😊 More sunshine to come, but a great deal colder with some ground frost. I wonder if the proximity to the sea will be enough to keep the temperatures up down there overnight. It will be interesting to see what survives.

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 25-Oct-18 07:02 PM GMT

Nice to see a Common Blue, Trev!

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 27-Oct-18 03:02 PM GMT

A great selection of Cloudies there Trevor 😊🍷 and a very fine specimen of Common Blue 😊🍷 I wonder how this sudden drop in temperatures will affect them – as it's only for a couple of days maybe they'll be able to hang on? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 27-Oct-18 07:09 PM GMT

Could be the swansong for those Cloudies, Trevor (as well as the Common Blue). You may have caught them on their last true day of carefree activity.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 31-Oct-18 10:58 AM GMT

I found this Clouded Yellow image from October 2016.
I don't think it was posted at the time.

If nothing else the Butterfly really stands out!



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 31-Oct-18 11:04 PM GMT

That is possibly the most yellow Cloudy that I've seen Trevor 🤪😄🌱 Looks like it should be called a Clouded Canary 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 01-Nov-18 10:14 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

I found this Clouded Yellow image from October 2016.

I don't think it was posted at the time.

If nothing else the Butterfly really stands out!.

Something of an understatement, Trevor!!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-Nov-18 05:14 PM GMT

Three Clouded Yellows were found at Southwick this morning, in about an hour.
The only other Butterfly was a possible Small Tortoiseshell, but I only had a brief glimpse.

Bob the Egret was a little less camera shy today !.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 02-Nov-18 08:32 PM GMT

I hope you've recovered from your cold, Trevor. Nothing like a hearty sneeze to disturb a nicely perched Clouded Yellow... 😊

Nice shots and good to see they are still flying by the seaside – not really surprising though in the context of the year. Did you see the report from Southbourne suggesting the possibility of another generation there this year? Extraordinary – it would mean them emerging just in time for Christmas... 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 04-Nov-18 09:12 AM GMT

More great shots Trevor 😊 Good to see Bob being a bit better behaved 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 04-Nov-18 08:52 PM GMT

Bob the egret is fast becoming a star on here, Trevor! Will he be around throughout the winter?

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-Nov-18 06:16 PM GMT

Today's weather forecast was the best one for this month so far (at least for Sussex). Also noticing that yesterday's strong breeze had eased, suggested that a day at Mill Hill might be worthwhile.

Walking from the lower car park, I could make out a distant female enthusiast in the exact area I was heading to. It turned out to be Kirsty Gibbs, who had located a fresh, male Common Blue. As we chatted, my first Clouded Yellow came into view (the first of six, 5m,1f). Kirsty had to leave early for work, but told me that Dave Cook was on his way.

As time wore on the Sun began to warm things up, and the Cloudies responded, but one in particular caught Dave's attention. He called out that a female Cloudie had appeared, when I went over to have a look it was clear that she was on an egg laying mission, with frequent short hops and pauses. We were both fortunate to actually observe an egg being deposited, incredible given the date!.

Sightings for today were: three male Common Blues, a worn female Brown Argus, six Clouded Yellows, and a flyby male Brimstone. Dave also saw a Comma.

Will today be my last Butterfly day out this year?.

Trevor.



Depositing an egg.



Egg laying female



The best image of the egg.







Re: Trevor

by millerd, 14-Nov-18 08:16 PM GMT

That's a splendid selection for mid-November, Trevor. Those Cloudies never give up, do they? 🤔🇮🇪 And Common Blues and Brown Argus too 😊 I nearly joined you, but in the end staying local worked out quite well as it happened. 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 14-Nov-18 10:31 PM GMT

Impressive stuff Trevor, although I'm learning to be unsurprised by findings down in that part of the world now 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 17-Nov-18 03:24 PM GMT

That is a cracking haul for November Trevor – 6 Cloudies and 4–5 species 🤩🇮🇪🇮🇪 The micro-climate must be just right 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 17-Nov-18 07:04 PM GMT

That's a really exceptional find Trevor 🇮🇪😊 Have you found Butterflies so late before in November 🤔 No chance for them here although the weather has been good lately, love the shot of the one in the yellow flower 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 18-Nov-18 11:48 PM GMT

You may as well be in the south of France with those kind of returns, Trevor. How much longer can it go on?

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-Nov-18 02:33 PM GMT

MY HIGHLIGHTS OF 2018.

I think most would agree that 2018 was a brilliant year for Butterflies.
And as in most years, there were a few surprises. This year there were four occasions that stand out.

The first big surprise came after a phone call from Dave Cook, asking if I had any plans for Monday (12th June).
' Meet me in Ditchling Common car park at 10 o'clock ', my request as to why was declined, but I was left with the impression that I would see something quite special. I sincerely thank Dave for the tip-off, but not for a Sunday night of sleepless anticipation!. Of Course that the site was host to the Black Hairstreak is now history,

but what a discovery by Dave, who had found a couple the previous year, on the common. I was kindly invited to the Monday ' preview ' day, after which the discovery was announced to the world. Needless to say on the Wednesday the large car park was overflowing.

The next unexpected find came on 30th June, in Abbots Wood, very close to my home. I thought for a few seconds that I had stumbled on an oversized Ringlet, but soon realised that it was a White Admiral ab. ab. nigrina. Such a find takes one aback with excitement. This ab was to be the first of three in the same week.....

End of part 1.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-Nov-18 03:36 PM GMT

2018 HIGHLIGHTS Part 2.

The Purple Emperor had a great season in Sussex, but it was over the border in Surrey that two more ab's were seen. Both were male Purple Emperors and both were ab. Lugenda. The first one was being videoed. Anyone standing still, aiming a camera in the Emperor season is sure to become a target for curiosity, and so I carefully wandered over, and the gentleman with the video kindly allowed me to take some shots. I very soon realised that I was looking at my first ever ab.

The second ab. Lugenda was found by me four days later. A small group of us, including Katrina and Andrew555, watched as this particular Emperor promptly flew into a nearby bush, we waited patiently hoping it would return to the ground, which it fortunately did. As we clicked away, Andrew said " this one looks different ", but in the heat the Butterfly

was reluctant to open up for a proper look, but some ground level closed wing shots confirmed another ab. This Emperor only flicked it's wings open briefly and we all got some bad shots that confirmed ab. Lugenda.

My last big surprise came back at Abbots Wood. Although I was deliberately looking for Purple Hairstreaks, it was quite a shock to find a couple quickly and easily. Out of eleven early morning visits, Purple Hairstreaks were found low down on eight occasions. Unfortunately it was too late in their flight season for fresh specimens. Something I hope to put right in 2019!



The first ab. Lugenda 25/6/2018.



The first ab. Lugenda.



The second ab. Lugenda. 28/6/2018



Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 29-Nov-18 10:30 AM GMT

Great stuff Trevor. 😊 The Emperors were certainly a huge highlight for me this year, made all the better by seeing them with yourself and others. 😊

Cheers

Re: Trevor

by Benjamin, 29-Nov-18 10:57 AM GMT

Fantastic highlights Trevor – and thanks for keeping us all up to date via your diary – like many others it's a great read and an invaluable resource when it comes to planning trips. Also very nice to bump into you a few times this year – looking forward to repeating that in 2019...

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 29-Nov-18 06:31 PM GMT

Many thanks, Andrew and Ben. It was also great to see you both during the year. It always amazes me how often familiar faces turn up where I happen to be, when there is the whole of the South East to choose from.

Now for what I consider to be my best image of 2018, at least it is the one that pleases me the most. Taken one late May evening, when the Small Pearl Bordered Fritillaries had just started to emerge, at

Park Corner Heath in East Sussex. It was also a lucky shot as the Butterfly was resting on a Bracken frond several yards from the path. The only way to obtain an image was to poke the camera through the Bracken and hope for the best. Any attempt to wade into the vegetation would almost certainly have sent the Butterfly up.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 29-Nov-18 10:35 PM GMT

You're right there, Trevor – that is a terrific shot of the SPBF. It almost seems to be floating above the frond and there is an overall ethereal quality to the photo. It has to qualify for a 🍷😄. You certainly had a bit of a purple patch with those abs as well (if you'll excuse the pun 😊).

Many thanks for being the "local knowledge" on a number of my Sussex trips this year, all of which have been brilliant days out. Looking forward some more in the spring! 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 30-Nov-18 11:50 PM GMT

Fantastic abs, Purps and Blackstreaks Trevor 🤪🍷 Cheers for revealing Tilshead to me in 2018 – looking forward to checking it out in 2019 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 01-Dec-18 07:00 AM GMT

Some very striking images in your last post, Trevor. That Purple Emperor aberration is wonderful, as is the open wing shot of the female Purple Hairstreak.

As for your SPBF..... 🍷🍷

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Dec-18 04:06 PM GMT

Many thanks Dave, Wurzel & David.

I am sure we will bump into each other in 2019, Dave. Maybe a slightly earlier visit to the old railway?.

Wurzel, I'm sure Tilshead will feature in your ' stop off ' itinery, here's a few ' reasons ' for being late home: You had to take detention, road works caused diversion, you forgot something and had to return, etc. We will have to meet at the Bell for a Wall brown fest. in 2019.

Thanks for all your comments this year David, and a mrgreen 🍷 for living so close to the High Brown Fritillary.

PS. A fresh Clouded Yellow, and a Peacock were found by Dave Cook at Mill Hill yesterday!. (30/11)

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 02-Dec-18 11:40 AM GMT

Hi! Trevor, you were certainly lucky last year 😊 I must try to get to your part of England this year, (Coach wise) I've still not seen a Grizzled Skipper I must try for May and may be I'll get lucky , I really fancy Dorset though for the Adonis, looking forward to Spring and the lighter nights now, Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 02-Dec-18 05:59 PM GMT

Some very good ideas there Trevor – cheers for the input 😊😊 Definitely up for a Wall Brown Fest 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 02-Dec-18 06:39 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

...Thanks for all your comments this year David, and a mrgreen 🍷 for living so close to the High Brown Fritillary.

Thanks, Trevor. Sadly, High Browns didn't have a great year at the Welsh site, which is something of a mystery as both Dark Greens and SPBFs were around in encouragingly good numbers.

This species is still very much at risk in the UK. 😞

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-Dec-18 08:16 AM GMT

Wishing everyone on UKB a great Christmas.

And plenty of these in 2019.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 21-Dec-18 10:28 PM GMT

Here's hoping Trevor 😊 I hope you and yours have a very Merry Xmas too! 😊

Have a goodun

Wurze

Re: Trevor

by David M, 25-Dec-18 01:24 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

Wishing everyone on UKB a great Christmas.

And plenty of these in 2019.

Just a handful would be nice, Trevor! This is one species I don't see in the Alps when I'm away.

Merry Christmas to you and all the best for 2019.