

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Janet Turnbull, 06-Feb-18 03:55 PM GMT

No sign of any overwintering butterflies yet.

I took part in the Big Garden Birdwatch and saw two bluetits and a blackbird, which was a very disappointing total. Next morning there were bluetits, coal tits, great tits, a robin, a dunnock and a pair of blackbirds, but I had already sent my result in.

Delighted to discover yesterday that the long-tailed tits have returned, and I managed this shot of one of them.

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Wurzel, 06-Feb-18 06:41 PM GMT

That's always the way isn't it Janet - hardly any birds on the Garden Birdwatch and then the next day bucket loads 😊 Great Long-tailed Tit shot 😊 Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by David M, 06-Feb-18 11:38 PM GMT

I too am seeing lots of Long Tailed Tits, Janet. They're beautiful birds, with a captivating and delicate squeaking call, almost mouse-like.

They are present in numbers by my workplace though I rarely see them in the garden areas of my estate.

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by essexbuzzard, 07-Feb-18 10:53 PM GMT

Murphy's law, Janet! You did well with your long tailed tit picture, though, as they rarely sit still for long.

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by bugboy, 07-Feb-18 11:20 PM GMT

Looks like it's Long-tailed Tit season at the moment!

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Goldie M, 10-Feb-18 09:27 AM GMT

I agree, loads of Long Tailed Tits in my Garden at present. Goldie 😊

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Janet Turnbull, 20-Mar-18 07:18 PM GMT

Still no butterflies. I wonder if this cold weather will mean a late season for them, or will it have killed them off? I fancied I saw a yellow butterfly - could only have been a Brimstone - flit across the end of the garden the other day but it had vanished by the time I got as far as the window.

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by David M, 22-Mar-18 02:42 PM GMT

Fear not, Janet, this cold weather won't kill the butterflies off, but it will retard emergences somewhat, just like it did in 2013, and look what a good season we had from May onwards in that year! It was easily the best since I moved to south Wales in 2008 so give things a week or two and I think you'll see normal service resumed.

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Janet Turnbull, 23-Mar-18 09:20 AM GMT

That's very heartening, David! Let's hope that will be the case.

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Goldie M, 23-Mar-18 10:26 AM GMT

Hi! Janet, if the Butterflies came out now there wouldn't be many flowers for them, so like David say's they may be late but the cold weather will stop them coming out, looking back over the last few years at the Winter's we've had I saw my first Small Tort, on March the 5th in 2016 but I didn't see my first in 2017 until March 23rd, looks like it could be even later this year but they will arrive when the weather goes milder 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Janet Turnbull, 23-Mar-18 11:47 AM GMT

What worried me is those two spells of springlike weather – a friend says he saw two orangetips in early February just before the Beast from the East hit us!

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Goldie M, 23-Mar-18 04:58 PM GMT

Seems a bit soon for Orange Tips Janet but I could be wrong, I've only seen them in April and May a round here, so they should be okay for then, they like the Garlic Flowers and they don't usually arrive until April/May, Roll On! 😊

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by David M, 24-Mar-18 11:01 PM GMT

**Janet Turnbull wrote:**

What worried me is those two spells of springlike weather – a friend says he saw two orangetips in early February just before the Beast from the East hit us!

The first Orange Tip in the UK in 2018 is yet to be reported:

<https://butterfly-conservation.org/52/first-butterfly-sightings-2018.html>

An early February sighting would be extraordinary even in the warmest years, Janet.

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Janet Turnbull, 09-Apr-18 09:16 PM GMT

My first butterflies of 2018! I was delighted that the first one was a Brimstone – it's supposed to herald a good year, so we'll see.

After the mist lifted this morning, the day got out sunny. Gren and I took ourselves to Rixton Clay Pits to look for the Nuthatches I'd previously seen building a nest and although they had made themselves scarce a Robin posed happily for us. However we immediately spotted two Brimstones so we gave chase along unfamiliar footpaths and because I'd left my trusty GPS phone at home, got lost. Eventually we found ourselves at the extreme edge of the reserve by an apparently disused rangers' shed – all closed up but with a map pinned to the outside. It showed a PFA site – pulverised fuel ash – on the far side which has also become a nature reserve. We eventually found it and it will be worth keeping an eye on.

After all the recent rain the paths were exceptionally muddy but the butterflies didn't seem to mind. Altogether we saw 7 Brimstones, a Comma, and six Peacocks. The Brimstones were very lively and I didn't get a photo of any of them – the one chance I had when one actually landed on a primrose in front of me was scuppered by the camera battery giving up at that moment! I had a spare but it was too late.



**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Wurzel, 09-Apr-18 10:37 PM GMT

Great stuff Janet, some lovely fresh Peacocks 😊 I too have experienced the pain of the 'flat battery' at least you had the fore-sight to carry a spare unlike me 😊😊 Still lesson learnt 😊 if only the butterflies were a little bit more understanding and hung around while we sorted ourselves out 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by essexbuzzard, 09-Apr-18 10:45 PM GMT

At least you're seeing butterflies, Janet. Nothing down south except cold and rain! Those pesky Brimstones are hard to photograph in spring, but keep trying, one day you'll get lucky.

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by millerd, 09-Apr-18 10:55 PM GMT

Good start, Janet! As EB says, it was cold grey and wet down here in the South today.

The first Peacock you posted is notable as it has extra hindwing spots – not a particularly common variety.

Dave

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Andrew555, 10-Apr-18 08:51 AM GMT

Well done Janet! Lovely stuff. 😊

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Janet Turnbull, 10-Apr-18 11:48 AM GMT

**millerd wrote:**

The first Peacock you posted is notable as it has extra hindwing spots – not a particularly common variety.

I hadn't noticed that, Dave – I should have taken photos of each one instead of saying 'Oh, another Peacock!'

Thank you Wurzel! Flat batteries aside, at least I know a good place to go back to.

essexbuzzard – Your rain has reached us today but I'll get back to Rixton as soon as it brightens up and hopefully the Brimstones will still be there!

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Goldie M, 10-Apr-18 02:16 PM GMT

Nice Peacocks Janet, at least you've made a start 😊 I see There's a day set a side at Gait Barrows in August for the Brown Hair Streak, i'm going to try for that, didn't know if you knew about it. Goldie 😊

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by David M, 10-Apr-18 09:54 PM GMT

Good for you, Janet! Nice to see you've made a start (and in my old stomping ground of Sale, Cheshire too!)

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Janet Turnbull, 15-Apr-18 12:11 AM GMT

A return visit to Rixton Clay Pits and finally caught the Brimstone when it came to nectar on the primroses. Just the one today though. A flash of orange which settled on a dead leaf turned out to be a Comma. Apart from those, it wasn't a very fruitful day so I went back home to Banky Meadow and immediately startled a Peacock which flew up and was joined by another, and the pair spiralled up together before one zoomed back down to the ground. Another Peacock arrived and all three went up, whilst yet another stayed grounded until one of the three came back down and upset it. I noticed two Peacocks each harassing Small Torts, which eventually managed to escape and settled down long enough for me to take a photo. A pair fluttered away together but I could not be sure if was the same ones.



A pair of Buzzards circled gracefully overhead



**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Goldie M, 15-Apr-18 10:38 AM GMT

Love the Brimstone on the Primrose Janet, they match colour for colour 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Wurzel, 15-Apr-18 04:57 PM GMT

Great set of shots Janet 😊 especially and agreeing with Goldie lovely Brimstone shot 😊🌿

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by bugboy, 15-Apr-18 08:38 PM GMT

Good to see you're off the mark Janet, lets hope winters grip has ended for another season 😊

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by David M, 17-Apr-18 07:10 PM GMT

Looks like the north has caught up! Nice Brimstone image, Janet. They **do** seem to like primroses, yet strangely I've never seen a female nectaring from them.

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Janet Turnbull, 18-Apr-18 10:45 PM GMT

Goldie, Wurzel, Bugboy and David M - Thank you! Yes, finally the North is catching up! 😊😊

A sunny day was promised today so G and I went to Moore NR, near Warrington. We saw at least 19 species of bird and heard several more, but the promised sun didn't appear until after noon. Then the Brimstone made its first appearance, followed by a Peacock. As the afternoon grew warmer, we saw a total of at least 11 Peacocks and several Brimstones but lost count of them. At the end of the day as we were on the way back to the car having walked 6 and a half miles and visited all 12 of the bird hides, a single Orange-tip fluttered by and disappeared over the railway bank. I didn't get any even half-decent photos today except for one Peacock who really wanted to have his picture taken, and a pair of Great Crested Grebes who were really too far out for my zoom.



### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 19-Apr-18 01:33 PM GMT

Great shot of the Grebes Janet 😊 I have yet to see an OT 🍷 but if they're round your way hopefully it won't be too long...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Goldie M, 19-Apr-18 05:03 PM GMT

Hi! Janet. nice shot of the Grebe's, I'm off to to Brockholes tomorrow hope fully to see Orange Tips, I'll let you know if I see any.Goldie 😊

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 20-Apr-18 10:35 AM GMT

Good luck with the Orange-tip hunt, Goldie!

Alan and I spent the hottest April day since 1949 at Fernilee Reservoir in the Peak District. We did not see a single butterfly – but interestingly, there were no flowers, not even dandelions.

My friend who stayed local saw Peacocks, OTs, Commas, Brimstones, Holly Blue and Speckled Wood. Gah!

I did, however, get my best shot to date of a treecreeper:

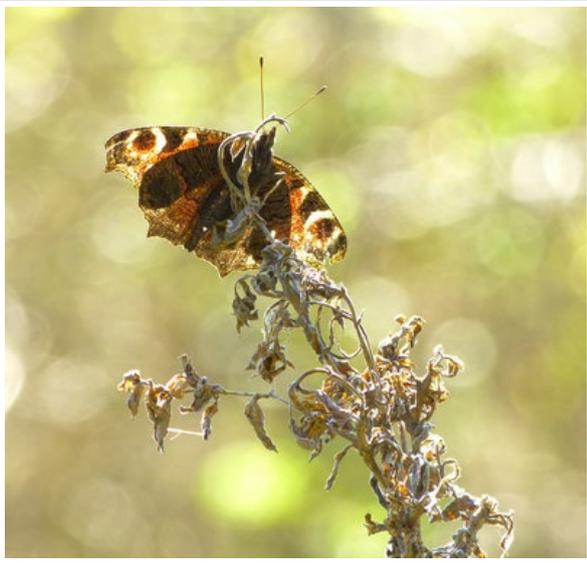


### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 20-Apr-18 08:59 PM GMT

Envious of Gren's success yesterday, Alan and I followed his route along the canal this afternoon when the sun came out. Almost immediately a Holly Blue fluttered down and gave me time to get down on hands and knees on the towpath, to Alan's embarrassment and the amusement of passers-by 😊

We discovered new habitats just off the canal and got hissed at and chased by a Canada Goose who thought we were too near its nest 😊 . Several Brimstones – both male and female – were on the wing but did not settle where I could get at them; a pair of Small Tortoiseshells and several Peacocks, a solo male Orange-tip and a solo Comma.





**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Goldie M, 21-Apr-18 04:31 PM GMT

Hi! Janet, no Holly Blues for me yet but if you want lots of Butterflies, Brockholes is the place, although there was no HB's there yet, plenty of Orange Tips though. Goldie 😊

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Janet Turnbull, 21-Apr-18 11:11 PM GMT

Orange-tips have surfaced in Sale now Goldie! 😊 I must make a trip to Brockholes soon though.

Wandered round my local patch today to see if anything was happening. The place which was alive with Commas last year was bereft today but I wonder whether the Himalayan Balsam which absolutely swamped the banks of the Mersey and the surrounding flood plains could have prevented any egg-laying. Also I noticed that along the river bank the hedges have been flayed, as they had been encroaching on the footpath. The banks were mowed last autumn, too, to chop down some of the balsam.

Maybe I set out too early – it was 10.30am and the temperature was 14 degrees, but thunder storms were forecast for the afternoon. By noon, the temperature had risen considerably and the Orange-tip showed up in the horse field, the footpath round which has a good display of dandelions. A Comma preceded me along the path, landing on the ground every few yards and taking off whenever I focused the camera on it. A female Brimstone nectared on a dandelion too – there wasn't any alternative – and eventually a male Brimstone caught up with her but she brushed him off. A white butterfly teased me for ages fluttering backwards and forwards along the bank of dandelions trying to find the right one but after half an hour I gave up and decided to go home. A Peacock shot up and zoomed off to perched high up in a tree but apart from these there was nothing. The thunderstorm didn't arrive and I spent the afternoon trying to create a space to plant a Buckthorn which I have ordered – a bigger job than I anticipated..



### Re: Janet Turnbull

by bugboy, 22-Apr-18 12:16 PM GMT

That Orange-tip image is a corker Janet, still not found a settled male yet 🍷

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 23-Apr-18 12:00 AM GMT

Thanks, BB – hoping to find a female next time the sun shines!

I'll be up at Drumadrochit 10–16 May. Anybody know if there's any chance of seeing Pearl Bordered frits?

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Andrew555, 23-Apr-18 10:42 AM GMT

Nice shots Janet. The back lit Peacock is great, and of course the Orange-tip. 😊

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Goldie M, 23-Apr-18 10:49 AM GMT

Hi! Janet, that's a belting OT photo, well worth waiting for 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by David M, 23-Apr-18 10:40 PM GMT

You've had a joyous last few days, Janet, and I'm sure you will find PBFs in the region of Scotland you intend to visit in mid-May.

I don't know any sites personally, but hopefully one or more of our northern members will be able to provide more specific advice.

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Janet Turnbull, 26-Apr-18 07:47 PM GMT

Volunteering day today with The Conservation Volunteers. They don't do things specifically for butterflies but it's good that any part of our natural world gets some conservation attention. Anyway today it was local, at Sale Water Park and there was only me and the project manager so we had a quiet day tidying up the overhanging brambles near the entrance. It was sunny and sheltered from the wind where we were working and this lovely male Orange tip settled for me.



On a sunny spot on the wall this ladybird had an unexpected delivery – I'm sure she would have tried to make it to a leaf to deliver her eggs!



And a hoverfly was taking a rest from hovering



I got a funny look when I asked if I could dig up some nettles to take home 😊 they have now been planted in a pot. Hope they survive! I have also potted up a self-setting buddleia and I'm awaiting delivery of a buckthorn whip – I realise I should have ordered three, but never mind.

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Goldie M, 27-Apr-18 09:54 AM GMT

At least you saw a Butterfly Janet!! and a lovely one too, nothing here and too cold to venture forth in that wind UGH1

Green Hair Streaks have been seen at Foulshaw Moss though in the Lakes. Goldie 😊

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 27-Apr-18 01:55 PM GMT

#### Goldie M wrote:

Green Hair Streaks have been seen at Foulshaw Moss though in the Lakes. Goldie 😊

We called in at Foulshaw at the beginning of April and although it was too early for GH we did see the Ospreys! They had just arrived 😊😊  
It's clearly time to make a trip to Cut Thorn Hill for the Green Hairstreaks!

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 27-Apr-18 11:14 PM GMT

Lovely shots of the Orange-tips Janet, especially the one from two posts back 😊 Also I really like the composition of the Peacock on the bullrush 😊🌿

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 28-Apr-18 05:39 PM GMT

Orange Tips are just irresistible aren't they, Janet? 😊

That's an interesting shot of the ovipositing ladybird too. I've never seen this myself and like you, am wondering why she's laying her eggs on the stone rather than on plants.

### Saturday 28th April

by Janet Turnbull, 28-Apr-18 09:32 PM GMT

Trying to improve my fieldcraft I went out to Banky Meadow even though it was cloudy, hoping to discover some roosting butterflies. Ofcourse I didn't find any at all, so I continued to the river and walked along towards Stretford from the footbridge and soon spotted a Lacewing roosting on some cow parsley. Further on were some Green Dock Beetles – the bodies of the pregnant females were greatly distended but it didn't stop the randy males.



### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 29-Apr-18 10:37 AM GMT

You really caught the colours on the Dock Beetles, beautiful in appearance if not in nature, you'd think the male might have realized he was a bit late 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Monday 30th April

by Janet Turnbull, 30-Apr-18 11:33 PM GMT

Sunny but breezy so I wandered around the sheltered inflow between the Mersey and the lake at Sale Water Park, hoping to see the kingfisher as well as butterflies but the bird kept himself well hidden. A few male Orange-tips fluttered around the hedge mustard, and a couple of large, lazy Alder flies. A pair of Wagtails hunted for food by the flood gate. I explored the meadows, which appeared to be totally bereft of butterflies and then went to look at the area where last year we coppiced the willows to improve the habitat for willow tits. There were no willow tits that I could see but a flash of orange caught my attention, and sure enough it was a Comma sunning himself on the dock leaves. A couple more Orange-tips came by, and then my first Green Veined White appeared and settled among the hedge mustard.



Part of the coppiced area



### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Goldie M, 01-May-18 09:29 AM GMT

Hi! Janet, if you do venture to Brockholes try the walk by the River as well as the Woods, I was there yesterday and OT's were every where, I was only told about the River Walk when I was leaving but it seems lots of different BF's are there 😊 I'll go back there this weekend hope fully. 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Andrew555, 01-May-18 01:27 PM GMT

Great shots Janet, I like the variety. 😊

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 01-May-18 05:44 PM GMT

Lovely shots of the alert Comma Janet 😊 Interesting way of coppicing. Down here we cut to about 6-8 inches and then cover the remaining stool with some of the shorter twigs to protect it, the method shown in your shot looks a lot more manageable and keeps the ground clear for flowering plants 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 01-May-18 10:26 PM GMT

#### Wurzel wrote:

Lovely shots of the alert Comma Janet 😊 Interesting way of coppicing. Down here we cut to about 6-8 inches and then cover the remaining stool with some of the shorter twigs to protect it, the method shown in your shot looks a lot more manageable and keeps the ground clear for flowering plants 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Maybe what we did was more like pollarding, Wurzel. What you describe is proper coppicing. I'm afraid I just wielded the loppers like everyone else as per instructions - I will ask the project managers about it next time I see them. 😊

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by essexbuzzard, 01-May-18 10:55 PM GMT

One of the advantages of pollarding over coppicing is that it leaves the regrowth higher up, beyond the reach of browsing deer. Maybe this is the reason in your case, Janet?

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 01-May-18 11:22 PM GMT

#### essexbuzzard wrote:

One of the advantages of pollarding over coppicing is that it leaves the regrowth higher up, beyond the reach of browsing

deer. Maybe this is the reason in your case, Janet?

I don't think so in this case, essexbuzzard – there are no deer around here, it's far too urban. But if there were deer, they could easily reach this regrowth as they are only about 4 feet high!

### Re: Monday 7th May

by Janet Turnbull, 08-May-18 09:23 AM GMT

Discovered too late that there was a butterfly walk at Llanymynech Rocks on Sunday but had planned to anyway with Gren – and it had to be yesterday on account of the weather threatening rain as from today. So we did the trip hoping to see PBFs but it seems we were just a tad too early. Our other target species were Small Copper, Grizzled Skipper and Green Hairstreak and we found them all within a 100 square yards near the quarry, at a spot where we had decided to have our sandwiches. The Coppers were very active and would not let us get near them, but I noticed there was a particular strawberry flower that one of them seemed fond of so I knelt there until it came and settled 😊. The GH were much more amenable and let me get up close, posing and turning to catch the light and present their best side 😊. The Grizzlies were hard to track, visually, but did present good photo opportunities which failed when the camera focused on a blade of grass I hadn't seen 😊.

We met several people from BC out butterflying and it was great to chat with them.

At one point we tried to take the path that led over Asterley Rock (couldn't help thinking of Game of Thrones!) but discovered the way was blocked by a fence. As we turned back I saw a pair of large orangey butterflies gliding higher up the hillside and looking through the binos at one which settled I felt sure they were PBFs... No photo possible, though, so I'll never know for certain.

The day was so warm I feared we were in for sunstroke and it was a relief to go down into the valley where the paths led through dappled woodland.

Here I was pleased to see my first Speckled Woods of the year and it must have been their day as they were everywhere.

We called it a day at 5pm and set off for home – in spite of the M56 crawling at 20mph for 15 minutes the journey was blessedly free from major holdups which can be the curse of Bank Holiday travelling.



A not-very-good one but my best effort of the Grizzled Skipper



And an intriguing fly



### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Goldie M, 08-May-18 09:30 AM GMT

Great shots Janet, I wouldn't bother if I'd got a shot of a Grizzle what it looked like 😊🇬🇧 I've yet to see one, sounds like you went to Wales, is that right?  
? Goldie 😊

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 08-May-18 05:48 PM GMT

Delighted to see you got your quarry, Janet....by visiting a quarry! Nice to see some Small Coppers away from Dungeness!

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 08-May-18 08:33 PM GMT

#### Goldie M wrote:

Great shots Janet, I wouldn't bother if I'd got a shot of a Grizzle what it looked like 😊🇬🇧 I've yet to see one, sounds like you went to Wales, is that right?  
? Goldie 😊

Yes Goldie – Lanymynech Rocks is on the border of Shropshire and Montgomeryshire. I really was hoping to see PBFs but maybe if it's not too cold in Scotland next week I'll see them there!

Thanks David – even though I didn't see the PBFs I was thrilled with the Small coppers and Grizzlies!

#### Tuesday 8th May

Today's shot was taken whilst on my transect walk along the Bridgewater Canal in Sale. I saw several Holly Blues and a couple of Whites which didn't stop but I'm fairly sure they were Large.  
Just as well I went when I did – it turned to rain, just as forecast, this afternoon! Had some retail therapy instead and bought a couple of Bowles Mauve wallflowers that Goldie mentioned in her diary.



### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 09-May-18 11:21 AM GMT

Lovely Coppers Janet 😊 One of my butterflying tricks that you've independently hit upon is to stop, pour a coffee or eat lunch and then that's when the butterflies arrive 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Goldie M, 09-May-18 04:54 PM GMT

Hi! Janet, thanks for that info, I wondered if you knew PBF's have been seen at Warton Craig in the Lakes, if you've not been there it's worth a visit but much too steep for me 😊 Lovely shot of the HB Goldie 😊

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Andrew555, 10-May-18 03:19 PM GMT

Very nice shots Janet, sounds and looks like a great day. 😊

Good tactics for the Small Copper, and we have all cursed those stray blades of grass! 😡  
Your fly is a Scorpion Fly I believe.

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 10-May-18 11:26 PM GMT

That female Holly Blue image has escaped me this spring, Janet! I've seen plenty of males but haven't yet had the privilege of a female descending for me. Probably not much time for that to change now, so it's good to see such delights in other people's diaries.

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 25-May-18 04:10 PM GMT

After 3 weeks of being away from the laptop I'm just catching up with everyone!

#### Goldie M wrote:

Hi! Janet, thanks for that info, I wondered if you knew PBF's have been seen at Warton Craig in the Lakes, if you've not been there it's worth a visit but much too steep for me 😊 Lovely shot of the HB Goldie 😊

I wonder if it's too late to see them now, Goldie. Although I see BC Lancs are arranging a field trip to Whitbarrow in June.

#### David M wrote:

That female Holly Blue image has escaped me this spring, Janet! I've seen plenty of males but haven't yet had the privilege of a female descending for me. Probably not much time for that to change now, so it's good to see such delights in other people's diaries.

And I hadn't even realised it was a female, David - I was just so pleased to have got a nice shot! I hope you've managed to see one by now. In London last week I counted 23 HBs on a walk round the marshes.

**Andrew555 wrote:**

Your fly is a Scorpion Fly I believe.

Thank you Andrew – I looked it up and was relieved to see they don't sting, but I see how it got its name! 😊

## 10–15 May: Scotland

by Janet Turnbull, 25–May–18 05:29 PM GMT

I have never seen Pearl Bordered Fritillaries and had great plans to find them this year. A surprise holiday in Scotland was set up by our son and his wife to include the two sets of parents, at a lovely place overlooking Urquart Castle on Loch Ness. Eagerly anticipating the possibility of seeing PBFs I contacted BC Highlands and got some excellent information – but of the two places I had earmarked, one had been cleared by the Forestry Commission and the second I just missed an email inviting me to join a hunt 😞. On a woodland walk near the cottage we found some colonies of Speckled Woods and we were visited by one which came to the garden.



A very long shot of a white butterfly turned out to be a female Orange tip but the photo was only good enough for ID purposes.

The day before leaving for home we were all up at dawn to watch the sunrise – quite magical, and the first time I have heard the dawn chorus from the beginning! A delightful walk around Inverness (love those windows in the cathedral!) followed by a visit to the nature reserve at Nairn provided a nice Mayfly but no butterflies.



The weather was glorious for the whole stay, so we decided to drive home via Fort William in the hope of seeing Chequered Skippers and PBFs in that wonderful place Bugbo and I found last year. But... it was cloudy with a hint of rain – and three weeks too early. By way of a consolation prize I did get a Large Red Damselfly munching a terrified-looking Cranefly:



and a Greater Spotted Woodpecker pecked happily up and down a dead tree trunk just across the river from where I stood – just far enough away for a poor photo



### 17th May – a day at home

by Janet Turnbull, 25-May-18 05:47 PM GMT

So there was one day at home in which to tidy the garden. Cutting the privet hedge disturbed this big moth which Maurice Bailey identified as an Angle Shades. (Thanks Maurice!) It looks like I shaved some of his hair too 😊



### Re: Janet Turnbull

by bailey1409, 25-May-18 06:22 PM GMT

Hi Janet

Your moth is an Angle Shades.

Cheers

Maurice

## 18–22 May: London

by Janet Turnbull, 25-May-18 06:36 PM GMT

Disappointed at not managing to get tickets for the Manchester performance of The Armed Man last autumn, as soon as I saw it advertised I booked tickets for the RAH on Sunday. There was an amazing 1500-strong choir who nearly outnumbered the audience and it was a fabulous performance. Being in London with wonderful weather just had to produce some butterflies so I texted Bugboy for advice. He very charitably didn't tell me I should have been following his PD to find out where to go! He suggested Walthamstow Wetlands and it was a truly lovely day we spent wandering round it. We counted 23 Holly Blues, two pairs of Brimstones, a number of Orange tips, a Comma, and several Whites which were reluctant to settle. And not a single photo to show for them!

Next day I found Railway Fields, a small but lovely reserve in Harringay and although there were dozens of primary school children pond dipping, I did manage to get photos of a Speckled Wood and a Blackcap.



Further along in Finsbury Park I was enchanted by Canada Goose chicks stepping out and cocking a snoot at their frantic parents who couldn't get past the railings, and a family of Greylag Geese auditioning for Swan Lake.



## 23 May: Longdendale

by Janet Turnbull, 25-May-18 08:28 PM GMT

Our 'Midweek Meander' – designed for older members of the rambling club and basically a long walk to a pub for lunch – was at Longdendale. Gren and I have managed to enthuse several fellow walkers about butterflies but I can see we might have to be careful about making everyone wait for ages while we take pictures.. 😊

However I could not contain my excitement at spotting an Orange-tip egg beneath a lady's-mock flower and my husband informed the others that I had reached 4th Dan in Lepidoptery 😊

The top photo was taken on a Canon 600D with a macro lens; the second with just my phone.



There did not seem to be many Orange-tips about but Green-veined Whites were putting on a good show.



## 24 May: Llanymynech Rocks

by Janet Turnbull, 25-May-18 08:57 PM GMT

With the weather about to change, fellow lepi Gren and I decided to go to Llanymynech NR to try our luck with the PBFs. Setting off under perfectly blue skies with the wind at a mere 7kph we were full of optimism until about 10 miles short of Llanymynech when light clouds started to appear, and grew denser as we neared our destination. The sun failed to show and we struggled to find any butterflies – no PBFs visible but we managed to disturb a fresh-looking but disgruntled male Common Blue which woke up a flew away after being handled for a few minutes, and several similarly sleepy Small Heaths. Both firsts for this year.



Several Speckled Yellow moths were in evidence, and a solitary Cinnabar moth.



We also spotted a Mint moth but Gren scared it off before I could take a photo, so this is his picture:



Calling it a day we were about to turn for home, when a man out with his dog told us, 'You should have been here yesterday, it was alive with butterflies! Common Blues, Pearl Bordered, Wall Browns...'

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by bugboy, 25-May-18 10:07 PM GMT

You've been a busy lady recently. Shame you couldn't get your pearls and were too early for the Chequered Skippers, still give it a few years and you may not have to go all the way to Scotland to see them!

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 25-May-18 10:48 PM GMT

#### bugboy wrote:

... give it a few years and you may not have to go all the way to Scotland to see them!

Yes – it's exciting news, Bugboy!

### Re: 26 May: Near and far: St Werbergh's and Edale

by Janet Turnbull, 27-May-18 12:14 AM GMT

I took the tram to St Werbergh's which is two stops towards Manchester from Sale Water Park, and examined the bank along the station platform. There

were dozens of Burnet moth pupae on the grass stalks and two Common Blues came to life as the sun broke through. I found one dead CB which had either not managed to get out of its pupa case, or had gone straight into a web. Further along I was delighted to see my first Large Skipper of the year.



Burnet moth caterpillar beginning to pupate





Common Blues





Caught in a web



Large Skipper



This afternoon I needed to check out a route near Edale for next Saturday's ramble. Started from Nether Booth in the Hope Valley and made my way up to Ringing Roger. There were a lot of bilberry bushes and I kept an eye out for Green Hairstreaks, but I didn't see any. When the bilberries gave way to heather I began to see small brown moths flitting low over the heather, which turned out to be (I think) Common Heath.



On the lower slopes there were several Orange-tips and a very battered Peacock which still managed to fly strongly despite her shredded wings



## 27th May Warton Crag

by Janet Turnbull, 28-May-18 12:19 AM GMT

We went up to Warton Crag today hoping it would be third time lucky for seeing Pearl Bordered. It was overcast when we got to the car park and there wasn't much butterfly activity so we switched to Plan B and reced a walk for the rambling club. Of course the sun came out and so did the butterflies – and we discovered you can either go for a walk or you can play with the butterflies but it's really hard to do both!

The main purpose of the visit was to see PBFs but the first major hit for us was a male Wall high up on the terrace. On a level just below the trig point we saw a couple of PhD students from Lancaster Uni who were tracking the PBFs and it would have been a good idea to follow them around 😊. Eventually we found our first frits and I was sure they would be PBs but later on checking our pics against the ID pics they turned out to be SPBFs. Still a score though! 😄😄

Some brilliant male Common Blues popped out of the vegetation and also several Small Heaths, with the Specklies in the shadier parts of the route.



## Re: Janet Turnbull

by Pauline, 28-May-18 05:54 AM GMT

Lovely shots of the Wall Brown Janet – a butterfly I haven't seen for way too long!

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Goldie M, 28-May-18 08:34 AM GMT

Well done with the Wall shots Janet, I think I must be going to the wrong part of Warton Crag 😊 We went up there two weeks ago to look for Pearls and I ended up with the bad back and never saw a thing, 😞 Which part of the Crag did you go to 🤔  
My Husbands refused to go again 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 28-May-18 09:48 AM GMT

We followed the trail up towards the trig point Goldie – did it the hard way (up) and kept meeting a man with 2 tiny dogs who took the longer easy paths. I think we were on the first level of terrace which can be quite easy to reach.

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 28-May-18 11:58 PM GMT

#### Goldie M wrote:

Which part of the Crag did you go to 🤔  
My Husbands refused to go again 😊 Goldie 😊

There's a pile of rocks that looks like a neolithic burial chamber on the terrace, Goldie – that's where we saw the Wall 😊

### 28 May: Staying local

by Janet Turnbull, 29-May-18 12:24 AM GMT

Ththunder was forecast for today but in fact it was a scorcher here in south Manchester. I considered going back to Warton Crag but I suspected the butterflies would be over-excited! But it was really too hot to want to travel far so I opted to go round Banky fields and Stretford Meadows. Banky fields are normally quite boggy but the run of hot weather has dried it out considerably. I made my way slowly round the perimeter and found a Large Skipper on the young brambles. It was not very compliant and kept closing its wings but eventually opened them sufficiently for me to see it was a Large. A solitary battered Peacock was nectaring there too – the only one remaining from the many I saw there a few weeks ago. Two male Common Blues squabbled over a patch of birdsfoot trefoil until a female appeared and one of the males chased after her and they disappeared over the trees.

I was surprised to find a couple of Burnet Companion moths – I have not seen them round here before. Although it is sometimes a very damp meadow it is not at all chalky. I disturbed a Bloodvein moth which I managed to snap before it hid back in the undergrowth. I then went to Stretford Meadows but did not see any butterflies there at all.





### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Goldie M, 29-May-18 09:55 AM GMT

Thanks for the info Janet but Jim won't change his mind 😊 He says we're better off going to Arnside Knott the fritillaries are usually see there in good numbers, also think the Dukes are declining at GB Janet which is a shame although I think tree were seen Sunday. That's a nice shot of the Skipper I must go to Brockholes again to look for them now you've spotted one 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Andrew555, 29-May-18 02:51 PM GMT

Wow you've seen a lot recently Janet! A great selection, good to see the return of the Large Skipper. 😊

### 29 May: Return to Warton Crag

by Janet Turnbull, 29-May-18 09:23 PM GMT

With the sun still shining and no thunder materialising I decided to make the trip up to Warton Crag again in a last-ditch effort to see the Pearls. After climbing slowly up the crag, using the easier paths this time, I found myself on the terrace below the trig point, where on Sunday we had seen the SPBFs. I managed a few shots of frits as they nectared with wings open. They all looked fresh and energetic and indeed they all turned out to be SPBFs but I was very pleased to see them.





There were many Small Heath around which did their best to distract me from my quarry; I watched a pair fluttering together for a good ten minutes before evidently deciding they were incompatible and parted company.



Several moths came to my notice: Mother Shipton (smaller than I expected), Speckled Yellow, Brown Silver-line, Silver Y.





The Wall butterfly as very active and although it kept landing on the stones it never let me get on its 'sunny' side. Just as I decided to call it a day, my first female Common Blue of the year arrived, fluttering low over the vegetation.



### Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 30-May-18 03:04 PM GMT

You've sure been busy lately, Janet! Nice array of both butterflies and moths and if Large Skippers are out in May in the north of England, then clearly it has been a warm late spring.

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 30-May-18 05:04 PM GMT

#### David M wrote:

You've sure been busy lately, Janet! Nice array of both butterflies and moths and if Large Skippers are out in May in the north of England, then clearly it has been a warm late spring.

We've escaped most of the rain so far David - until today it's been very warm and sunny to encourage the Skippers 😊

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Goldie M, 30-May-18 07:22 PM GMT

Lovely shot's of the SPBF's Janet 🍷🍷 I hope to try again next week but not at Warton 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 30-May-18 08:19 PM GMT

Great set of reports recently Janet 😊 Really like the shot of the Speckle from there posts back, it's throwing a great pose 😊🍷 Also nice to see you get a double spot Small Heath in amongst the Large Skippers (not seen one yet myself this year) 🍷 and Small Pearls 😊🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by millerd, 30-May-18 08:28 PM GMT

Great Small Pearls, Janet. I forget it's sometimes better to go North to see things than South... 😊

Dave

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 30-May-18 09:10 PM GMT

[quote="Wurzel" Also nice to see you get a double spot Small Heath in amongst the Large Skippers (not seen one yet myself this year) 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel[/quote]

And I had not even noticed the double spot, Wurzel! 😊😊 But now that I look again, does my Wall also have an unusual eye spot, or is that normal?  
Janet

### 31 May: wood Whites at Blakeridge Forest

by Janet Turnbull, 01-Jun-18 12:41 AM GMT

Rhona from BC West Midlands branch arranged a Wood White walk in Blakeridge Forest today. I drove down, wondering how accurate the forecast would be seeing as the walk was apparently sandwiched between two thunder showers. In the event we enjoyed sunshine all afternoon and counted at least 23 Wood Whites – a thrill for me as I have never seen them before. Some of them had red dots on their wings, from monitoring; one of the red-dot Wood Whites laid a couple of eggs which pleased Rhona.



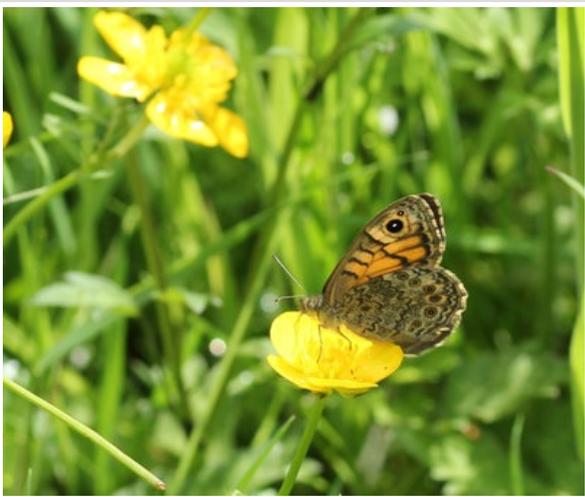


I watched a male dating a female for about five minutes but unfortunately I got too close and they flew off – I felt really bad about that 😞😞





Other butterflies to make an appearance were GV White, Large White, Wall (which made Rhona's day!), Common Blue, Large Skipper, Speckled Wood, and finally a Red Admiral, my first for the year although it was too busy egg laying on inaccessible nettles to pose for me.





**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by trevor, 01-Jun-18 08:49 AM GMT

You were fortunate to see so many Wood Whites, a rare and very localised species. And you managed to capture their classic head to head posturing.

Great stuff,  
Trevor.

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by David M, 03-Jun-18 12:06 AM GMT

That must have been a real thrill for you, Janet. I note that there has been a 'mark and capture' scheme in operation, but all the better that one of these individuals was seen ovipositing.

This is a rare and localised insect and one hopes that it will attract some conservation attention in the near future as it is highly vulnerable.

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Andrew555, 04-Jun-18 02:13 PM GMT

That's great Janet. 😊 And a very nice selection of other butterflies as well. 😊

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Goldie M, 04-Jun-18 06:59 PM GMT

You sound like you'd a fantastic day out Janet, lovely Wood White shots and great shots of the Wall on the flowers 🍷🍷 Goldie 😊

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Janet Turnbull, 04-Jun-18 11:07 PM GMT

**David M wrote:**

That must have been a real thrill for you, Janet. I note that there has been a 'mark and capture' scheme in operation, but all the better that one of these individuals was seen ovipositing.

This is a rare and localised insect and one hopes that it will attract some conservation attention in the near future as it is highly vulnerable.

Yes David – Rhona Goddard is the Wood White Officer & West Mids Regional Officer for Butterfly Conservation and they have been doing a mark and capture. They have joined forces with the Forestry Commission and a lot of habitat work has gone on, and WW butterflies from Bury Ditches which is close by have been introduced to the site.

Goldie M, Andrew555 and Trevor – Thank you 😊 it was indeed a thrill as I have never before seen Wood Whites! 😊

**2nd June: Ringing Roger (Edale, Peak District)**

by Janet Turnbull, 04-Jun-18 11:17 PM GMT

Ramble day, so less time for butterfly watching when you're leading a group of walkers! However I did spot this Common Heath, camouflaged as it was against the rocks as we made our way up the hill to the rocky summit



There were a lot of bilberries but I searched in vain for Green Hairstreaks.

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Wurzel, 04-Jun-18 11:41 PM GMT

A cracking sequence of Wood Whites Janet 😊 They are one of the more confiding butterfly species when you can get to one of the locations 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**4th June: Staying local again**

by Janet Turnbull, 05-Jun-18 12:11 AM GMT

As it was rather overcast I decided to try Banky Meadows for moths; I found a Burnet Companion the other day and I hoped to find a Mother Shipton. As soon as I arrived there were five Specklies in a mad circular chase at the start of the track. Once in the meadow I counted 15 Large Skippers and another Specklie as I made my way round. The LS were mostly on the southern side of the meadow where there were legumes growing.



Moving on to Stretford Meadows alongside the Carrington Spur I saw a lone Specklie, some alder beetle eggs/larvae/pregnant beetles and in the meadows a further 4 LS, one of which nectared on a wild orchid.



A Lacewing moth appeared to be ovipositing but I couldn't find the egg – too scared of the nettles!



and a small moth which I could not identify but CallumMac has found it for me: a *Grapholita lunulana*.



Following this I drove to the metrolink station at Sale Water Park and took the tram to St Werbergh's where once again I didn't even have to leave the platform. I counted at least 12 Common Blues including a gorgeous female, several Large Skippers, a Large White who didn't stop for a portrait and a GVW. Also spotted was a Comma caterpillar which froze as I approached and stayed like that apparently forever!



A single Harlequin Ladybird larva – but I'm sure there will be more:



And finally, back at home, a mint moth



### Re: Janet Turnbull

by CallumMac, 05-Jun-18 08:43 AM GMT

Hi Janet, I think your moth might be *Grapholita lunulana* – quite a nice record as it's local up north and completely absent in the south!  
<https://www.ukmoths.org.uk/species/grapholita-lunulana/>

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by millerd, 05-Jun-18 12:16 PM GMT

That's a very attractive female Common Blue, Janet – there seem to be a lot of blue females this spring, and the variety in markings is endless.

Dave

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 05-Jun-18 10:30 PM GMT

#### CallumMac wrote:

Hi Janet, I think your moth might be *Grapholita lunulana* – quite a nice record as it's local up north and completely absent in the south! <https://www.ukmoths.org.uk/species/grapholita-lunulana/>

Thank you, Callum – that's definitely the one!

### 5th June: Whitbarrow and Farrer's Allotment

by Janet Turnbull, 05-Jun-18 11:28 PM GMT

Chris Winnick planned this walk to find Pearls, Small Pearls and Dukes but in the event the extraordinary spell of warm weather had brought everything on so quickly that the Pearls and Dukes had all but finished. However we were able to see the habitat management which has been going on over the past winters and also the cowslip plantings done in February/March this year to encourage the Dukes. We were lucky to see a solitary Duke wondering where all its friends had gone – it looked lonely and was much smaller than I had imagined it to be.



The first fritillary I managed to snap looked like a Pearl – I so wanted it to be – but on close examination of the photo later I was disappointed to find that it was a Small Pearl. However, later on a real Pearl was netted and when it was finally released it flew a short distance and then sat stunned on the ground long enough to be photographed before recovering its senses and flying away.



There were plenty of Small Pearls – one count was of fifteen and another estimate was of 16 or 17... but they were very elusive. This was my best shot



Out on the open ground were several Small Heaths, a few Northern Brown Argus



and some Dinky Skippers, some more dingy than others and quite tattered, but this one was in better repair than most



There was a multitude of moths and I captured a Clouded Buff and a Silver Y, along with two dragonflies: a broad bodied chaser and a four-spotted chaser



and a Mottled Umber *Erannis defoliaria* caterpillar which CallumMac identified for me.



It was a brilliant day and I was thrilled to have seen three more of the ten I missed last year!

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by ernie f, 06-Jun-18 07:58 AM GMT

Janet - I've just been going back through some of your recent posts. I love the range of pics of things you have seen. I can't work out which I like the most but that Skipper on an Orchid takes some beating.

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 07-Jun-18 11:04 PM GMT

Great to see a female Large Skipper so early in the season Janet, and yes, your female Common Blue is a nailed-on stunner!

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by CallumMac, 07-Jun-18 11:33 PM GMT

What a range of species from Whitbarrow! Really like your shot of the Northern Brown Argus, in particular. I'm pretty sure your caterpillar is Mottled Umber *Erannis defoliaria* 😊

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 08-Jun-18 08:12 PM GMT

That was a lovely female Blue Janet 😊 Also loving the Large Skipper on the Orchid 😊 Great report from Whitbarrow, mind you I'd have traded in all the other butterflies for a NBA 😊🌱

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 09-Jun-18 12:39 AM GMT

Thank you Ernie - I was willing it to choose that orchid!

We seem to have had a lot of Skippers David, but I didn't realise til now that the males were the first to arrive.

They're just out, Wurzel - but apparently don't come much further south than Warton Crag!

Thank you for the ID, Callum - 'defoliaria' sounds like a hazard to plants!

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Goldie M, 09-Jun-18 11:05 AM GMT

Hi! Janet, some great shots lately, I see you got a Northern Brown 😊 I don't know if your interested or not but a Mountain Ringlet has been seen at Grey Knotts Fell in Honister, It's one I've not got yet so I may try for that if Possible. Goldie 😊

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 09-Jun-18 08:37 PM GMT

#### Goldie M wrote:

Hi! Janet, some great shots lately, I see you got a Northern Brown 😊 I don't know if your interested or not but a Mountain Ringlet has been seen at Grey Knotts Fell in Honister, It's one I've not got yet so I may try for that if Possible. Goldie 😊

Thanks, Goldie - I'll have to see if I can fit in a visit to the Honister Youth Hostel! There are not enough days to do everything when the butterflies are calling! 😊

### 8-9 June - Watergrove reservoir, Rochdale

by Janet Turnbull, 09-Jun-18 09:37 PM GMT

A walk with a friend on the hills surrounding the reservoir yesterday - she is more than happy to learn about butterflies! Although it was not full sun, the Small Heath were much in evidence as we ploughed through the long moor grass. They were the only ones we saw apart from an indeterminate white butterfly in the distance.



Today I took the tram to St Werbergh's and walked up the Fallowfield Loop to the stretch that runs by the brook, to see if the Meadow Browns had started to emerge. They have not, and I saw only three Large Skippers although on the way I managed a snap of a Small White.



Back on the station platform there were dozens of Six-spot Burnets nectaring, a single male Common Blue and a single, very fresh, female CB.



### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 09-Jun-18 10:46 PM GMT

That's a cracking place to get a cracking shot Janet, whilst waiting at the station 🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### 10th June: Foulshaw Moss

by Janet Turnbull, 11-Jun-18 10:17 AM GMT

So I'd heard the Large Heaths were out at Foulshaw Moss and went up there to investigate. I called in at Lancaster Services and bought a takeaway coffee, which was much too hot, so I put it in the cup well of the car intending to drink it on arrival at the Moss. I found I didn't want it just then, so I set

out along the boardwalk looking out for the butterflies. They were hyper active with it being so hot and it was difficult to catch one near enough to the boardwalk to photograph. I wandered round twice and saw hundreds of four-spot chasers and blue and red damselflies, and was just about able to see the osprey through the telescope – I was told it was acting as a sunshade for its chicks but the heat haze meant a lot of imagination had to be used. There were a few Large Skippers and a couple of GVWs, and a Common Heath moth



I was delighted to catch sight of a reed bunting and was naively surprised to see it quite high in a tree 😊! although that particular shot didn't turn out too well. Eventually I managed to get some good shots of the Large Heath as it turned obligingly to catch the light.



A lizard ran across the boardwalk and peeped out at me from the safety of a crack



and you could tell which were the butterfly hunters because they had their backs to the osprey nest which is currently the main attraction at the Moss



(and here is one that was made earlier)



Returning to the car some three and a half hours later, I drank the coffee which was still quite hot, having been parked in the full sun!

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 11-Jun-18 10:24 AM GMT

Great stuff again Janet, loving the four Damselflies shot 😄 And Large Heaths, it's definitely the turn of us Southerners to feel some envy 😄🌍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Goldie M, 11-Jun-18 07:00 PM GMT

Well done Janet! 😄 you didn't go across the road to see the NB then at Latterbarrow 🤔😄 Goldie 😄

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 11-Jun-18 08:34 PM GMT

#### Goldie M wrote:

Well done Janet! 😄 you didn't go across the road to see the NB then at Latterbarrow 🤔😄 Goldie 😄

No – wasn't thinking straight Goldie! Actually I should have gone on to Irton Fell to see if the Mountain Ringlets were there (it's easier than Grey Knott) seeing as I was already halfway there 😄

### 11th June: Butterfly eggs

by Janet Turnbull, 11-Jun-18 08:42 PM GMT

Found only one butterfly on my transect today – a female Large Skipper – maybe the rain took its toll yesterday. Back home in the garden a Large White fluttered into a bush and rested there. Passing the window box of nasturtiums I noticed a little batch of eggs.. I guess people are not generally so excited to see 'cabbage white' eggs on their plants!



and the butterfly resting after her labours



### Re: 10th June: Foulshaw Moss

by David M, 12-Jun-18 11:31 PM GMT

#### Janet Turnbull wrote:

So I'd heard the Large Heaths were out at Foulshaw Moss and went up there to investigate...

That's a new one for me, Janet? Where exactly is Foulshaw Moss?

Well done on getting any kind of image of this most difficult butterfly. If only the weather would remain decent I'd get out and have a try for them myself this weekend!

### Re: 10th June: Foulshaw Moss

by Janet Turnbull, 12-Jun-18 11:50 PM GMT

[quote="David M" That's a new one for me, Janet? Where exactly is Foulshaw Moss?

Well done on getting any kind of image of this most difficult butterfly. If only the weather would remain decent I'd get out and have a try for them myself this weekend![/quote]

From the M6, Foulshaw Moss in Cumbria is to the left off the A590, David, just before the turn for Witherslack, which is on the right. It's currently famous for the ospreys nesting there.

### 12 June: Eyam, Stoney Middleton and Coombs Dale

by Janet Turnbull, 13-Jun-18 12:28 AM GMT

A 7 mile walk with butterflying possibilities! BC Cheshire gives Coombs Dale as a place to see Dark Green Frits so we headed there in hope. I also found this walk from Eyam which takes in Coombs Dale, and we sat and had our sandwiches in the very place described as the best place to look... and didn't realise it. The hillside was awash with birdsfoot trefoil and rock rose and the butterflies came to us each time the sun appeared and I was thrilled to get this lovely Brown Argus and a very Dingy Skipper. Earlier we came upon a colony of Chimney Sweeper moths and a Yellow Shell.



Small Heaths were present most of the way round the walk, but in the lane at the bottom of the lunch-spot hill was a colony of what I think are *Cistus* Forester moths – a first for me and a delight to behold.





A few Large Skippers were nectaring at the edge of the lane and a Brimstone, who seemed to be on a very important mission, decided to return and landed on a red campion, while a Clouded Border flew across the path into the she shady side and slapped itself on a leaf, looking like a bird dropping.





Finally returning to Eyam (and realising what a gold mine we had almost missed) I went searching for the plague stone marked on the OS map and which largely seems to be ignored as it is less famous than the boundary stone where the villagers left money in vinegar for the food which was brought for them. In the recently mown hayfield where the stone is located, I found a very tired Small Tortoiseshell with shredded wings – could it possibly be an overwinterer still?



Back at the car I noticed a tiny green and black bug with long antennae on my boot – but I cannot identify it.



But we did not see any DGFs – probably too early.

## Re: Janet Turnbull

by ernie f, 13-Jun-18 07:05 AM GMT

Janet – What a great location you have there. I visited Eyam once years ago on holiday. A pretty and interesting village. You found quite a variety while there. I particularly like the Chimney Sweeper moth. Its smart isn't it? I have only ever seen these once – on the Isle of Mull! For ages I thought it was a moth only to be found in more northerly parts but after your pics I decided to look it up and found it is in fact able to

be found nationwide. I cannot understand why I have never seen any down here.

Best Regards

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Goldie M, 13-Jun-18 10:46 AM GMT

Hi! Janet, DGF's have been seen at Arnside Knott, if you go, try up the slopes near the small gate which leads into the field .Goldie 😊

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by CallumMac, 13-Jun-18 11:16 AM GMT

Great pics, Janet. I'm always amazed by how long some of the vanessids can cling on, and that Small Tortoiseshell must be heading for an old-age record!

Ernie – Chimney-sweeper is far, far more common and widespread up north. I've seen it at three sites in the last week (two in Cumbria – one in my PD! – and one in York), without actively looking for it at any of them. I think down south you'd probably have to go to a known site or get quite lucky.

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 13-Jun-18 06:52 PM GMT

Great to see the the Small Tort hanging on in there Janet 😊 And great work with the Chimney Sweeper – they can be a right pain to approach 😊🚗

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 14-Jun-18 11:16 AM GMT

Thanks for the information regarding Foulshaw, Janet. Yes, I know the area and I believe there are a few similar sites in the vicinity.

Strange that Large Heaths are out and about but you've seen no DGFs. Perhaps they just happened to escape your gaze that particular day?

### 13 June: Prees Heath and Whixall Moss

by Janet Turnbull, 14-Jun-18 05:43 PM GMT

I saw that the first Silver Studded Blues had been recorded at Prees Heath so G and I took a trip down there. The first SSBs we saw were a pair in cop, oblivious to the rest of the world. There was a major emergence and we were in danger of stepping on the little jewels anywhere off the main paths. Several other enthusiasts were there with cameras and all were equally excited to share their finds, especially the one who had found newly emerged SSBs being 'cleaned up' by ants. It is my failing that I forget to swap names – who knows which luminaries we may have met!





Small Heaths, together with the Blues were harassing the Cinnabar moths, and a couple of fresh Small Coppers caught our attention. A Lacewing was ovipositing on the underside of a leaf, making it difficult to get a photo but here are my best efforts.



One man told us he had come across from Whixall Moss where he had seen Large Heaths so after enjoying our fill of SSBs we went there – I just love that drawbridge over the canal! It seemed quiet at first but out on the moss we started to see flutterings, and it was not long before the LHs availed themselves for portraits. It was a rich area for other species too and we saw a few each of Brimstones, Large Skippers, Small Coppers, a Green Hairstreak which perched on young birch (no bilberries in sight), and there were a number of Brown Silver-line moths playing hard-to-get.



We explored the ponds and to my delight I accidentally caught a photo of the rare White-faced Darter which settled momentarily on the ground in front of me, but despite searching we could not find any more although there were dozens of Four-spot Chasers and damsel flies, and something small which bit my hand.



Along the wooded track near the Manor House car park we disturbed a number of newly emerged Meadow Browns which were my first of the year apart from a suspected one which I'd glimpsed at Coombs Dale the day before. A lovely bright Red Admiral was showing its delight in life and landed on C's hat! A Speckled Wood hovered in the bushes and an indeterminate White did a fly-by.





### Re: Janet Turnbull

by jenks, 14-Jun-18 07:37 PM GMT

Hi Janet,

If you were the lady returning to a white car with a company advert along the side then I am the man (but certainly not a luminary !) who told you he had previously been to Whixall Moss. Like you I forget, or am reluctant, to ask people I meet whether they post on UK butterflies. I made the long trip up to Whixall having met another enthusiast and keen photographer whilst walking alongside the River Wye at Dixton, Monmouth, on Monday. There I saw 6 or 7 Common Club-tail Dragonflies along with the commoner damselflies (hundreds of Beautiful, Banded and Common Blue) plus Emperor Dragonfly, Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood, Small Heath and Red Admiral. The guy I talked to had recently visited Whixall and enthused about it saying it was easy to see White faced Darter and Large Heath so I decided to go. Saw both, WFD being a "lifer" for me. I even managed to get 4 photos on my small digital Panasonic by crawling on hands and knees to get close to those sitting on the path. Didn't manage to photograph any LH though as they were too active and flighty. I also saw Green Hairstreak, Small Copper, Meadow Brown, Brimstone (3 males), and Small Heath. Four spotted Chaser, Broad bodied Chaser, Common Blue and Large Red Damselflies made up the Odonata contingent. The Silver studded Blues must have recently emerged at Prees Heath as I counted 60 to 70 without thinking I was duplicating any.

Nice to have met you and good to see your visit to the moss was successful.  
Jenks.

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 14-Jun-18 10:42 PM GMT

Lovely set of Silver-studs Janet 😊🇧🇪 I can't remember if those are considered a separate subspecies or not but the females certainly have more blue on them than I'm used to seeing 😊🇧🇪 Cracking blue badge Copper and Large Heaths as well 😊🇧🇪

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 16-Jun-18 11:17 AM GMT

Hi Jenks - no, that wasn't me but I'm sure it was you who gave me the tip about Whixall that day - and I'm so grateful, it was so fruitful!

#### Wurzel wrote:

... Cracking blue badge Copper and Large Heaths as well 😊🇧🇪

Wurzel

Wurzel - Thanks for pointing out the caeruleopunctata - (I had to look that up) I had not realised it was special. I shot another Copper at Whixall which did not have the blue spots. Do you suppose there is a connection with the SSBs?

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 16-Jun-18 10:23 PM GMT

It's a handy 'double header' isn't it, Janet? Prees Heath & Whixhall Moss. That *davus* race is particularly striking although they are probably the hardest of all UK butterflies to photograph.

On the other hand, Silver Studded Blues are amongst the easiest so you go from one extreme to the other!

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Neil Freeman, 17-Jun-18 10:47 AM GMT

Hi Janet,

Great reports and photos from Prees Heath and Whixall Moss 😊 Those are another two sites I have not visited to for a few years now, I really must try

and get up there again.

It can make for a great day out combining the two sites but I don't think I will be able to squeeze them in this year now.

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Goldie M, 17-Jun-18 11:00 AM GMT

Lovely shots Janet of the SSB's, 📷📷 I've been going to visit Pree's Heath for years and not got there yet, it's time I made the effort 😊  
Goldie 😊

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by bugboy, 17-Jun-18 02:01 PM GMT

Great Large Heath Janet, brings back memories of my 'eventful' trip there last year. Well done with the White-faced Darter too 😊📷

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 17-Jun-18 06:20 PM GMT

It's great having the two places so close together, David, and totally different habitats. Maybe next year then, Neil. I'll certainly be going again!  
It's certainly worth the effort Goldie, it's an amazing place 😊

The forecast gives a glimmer of hope for tomorrow – I'm off to Glapthorn Cow Pasture in search of the Black Hairstreaks everyone has been raving about. I do hope the high winds and heavy rain hasn't finished them. Is anybody else going that I could meet up with or have you all seen them now? It's my last chance for this year as we're going on holiday to Somerset on Tuesday (butterflying of course!)

I was thrilled when a Large White laid a few eggs on the Nasturtium I planted for them but the wind battered it so much the eggs all came off 😞

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Maximus, 17-Jun-18 06:54 PM GMT

Great diary, Janet, full of interest. Very nice SS Blues from Prees Heath, especially the male attended by ants. Those *davus* Large Heaths are also very striking, I'd hoped to see them this year but have probably left it a bit late now. Hope you find your Black Hairstreak 😊

Mike

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Gary.N, 18-Jun-18 07:45 PM GMT

Very nice series of SSB's, Janet. And I love your Large heath shots. 😊 It has been a long time since I saw my last and only Large Heaths.

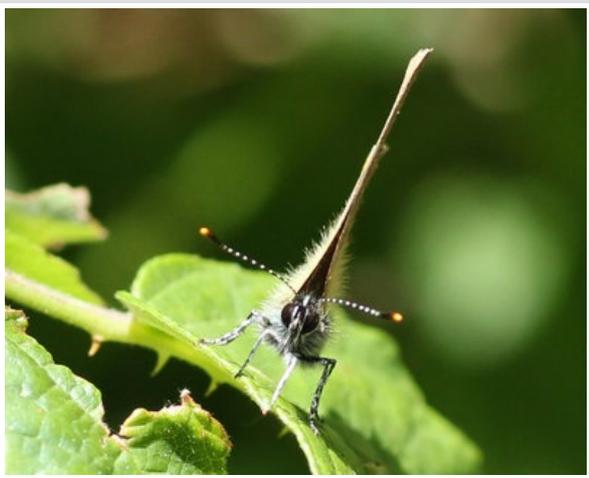
Gary

### 18th June: Black Hairstreaks at Glapthorn Cow Pastures

by Janet Turnbull, 19-Jun-18 12:33 AM GMT

Thank you, Mike and Gary 😊 it was a lucky day for me at Prees Heath! And as you see, I also got lucky with the Black Hairstreaks 😊😊

I set off in dull Manchester weather but as I drove south the skies cleared and by the time I reached Glapthorn it was very sunny and hot. a single Blackstreak greeted me near the gate and before long I found a group of photographers gathered round a bramble bush. There were three or four BHs – nothing like the huge numbers reported last week but considering the rough weekend weather I was glad there were any left at all, and a couple of these were looking rather the worse for wear. There was, however a couple of lovely fresh specimens and one female was ovipositing although I could not capture the actual egg.





Wandering round the woods alone, I had just found my first Ringlet of the year



when I was joined by another lady, Barbara, who lived nearby and we then explored the woods together. Barbara noticed this pair of Buff-tip moths pretending to be twigs – they were quite unconcerned at our presence.



Returning to the Hairstreak bushes, I snapped this enormous fly as it nectared on the brambles and a rather striking fly with very long antennae landed on my phone before crawling onto my old wrinkly hand which Mark Colvin has kindly identified as the ornate Myrid bug *Miris striatus*



As Barbara and I set off back towards the parked cars, we met the warden, Dick Smith, out on his rounds and looking to see if the Silver Washed Fritillaries were flying yet. As we had also looked but not seen any, we went with him to the favoured Frit hunting ground, but although they are expected any day now, they were not there for us. Dick did, however, point out a couple of lizards sunbathing on a tree stump.



Off to Somerset tomorrow! 😊😊

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by essexbuzzard, 19-Jun-18 12:40 AM GMT

I was there last week. Janet. They have a very short flight season—they will probably be gone by next week— so well done for visiting, I'm glad you were rewarded!

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 19-Jun-18 06:58 AM GMT

#### essexbuzzard wrote:

I was there last week. Janet. They have a very short flight season—they will probably be gone by next week— so well done for visiting, I'm glad you were rewarded!

Thanks, EB – it was well worth the effort even though I got caught up in a massive jam on the M6 coming home!

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Maximus, 19-Jun-18 09:21 AM GMT

It was great that you found your Black Hairstreak, 😊 Janet, and in the nick of time too 😊

Mike

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Andrew555, 19-Jun-18 09:35 AM GMT

Great variety in your reports Janet. Lovely SSB's, and well done with the Black Hairstreak. 😊

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 19-Jun-18 08:31 PM GMT

Great Blackstreaks Janet 😊👍 Really like the squadron of flies preparing for a raid 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Mark Colvin, 19-Jun-18 10:08 PM GMT

Hi Janet.

#### Janet Turnbull wrote:

Returning to the Hairstreak bushes, I snapped .... and a rather striking fly with very long antennae landed on my phone before crawling onto my old wrinkly hand..

This is not a fly but the rather ornate Myrid bug *Miris striatus*.

Good hunting.

Kind regards. Mark

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by bugboy, 19-Jun-18 10:41 PM GMT

And your large fly is a type of Hoverfly *Volucella pullucens* 😊

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 19-Jun-18 10:59 PM GMT

#### Mark Colvin wrote:

Hi Janet.

This is not a fly but the rather ornate Myrid bug *Miris striatus*.

Thanks Mark – I was hoping someone could identify it – it's very handsome.

#### bugboy wrote:

And your large fly is a type of Hoverfly *Volucella pullucens* 😊

Thanks, Bugboy – it doesn't look built to lift off, never mind hover! 😊

### 19 June: Somerset

by Janet Turnbull, 19-Jun-18 11:32 PM GMT

After yesterday's drive I glad to be a passenger for the journey today. After being greeted by our hosts – who are former colleagues of mine – and chatted about old times over tea and cakes, Alan and I set out to find the local butterfly hotspot. It was nearly 7pm and most sensible butterflies had gone to bed but there were a few still up and I scored another lifer – but the photo isn't great so I'll wait until hopefully I can do better. However, there were Soldier beetles busy creating armies to take over the world, a Five-spot Burnet, Meadow Brown, Ringlet and my first Marbled White of the year.





## 20th June: Somerton

by Janet Turnbull, 20-Jun-18 10:46 PM GMT

We took a picnic and spent most of the day near Somerton and were rewarded with numerous Large Blues. A particularly fresh specimen stayed put for 15 minutes before taking off





Common Blue, Small Heath, Meadow Brown (one of which had a double eye spot, making me think at first it was a Gatekeeper)





Brown Argus, Small Tortoiseshell. On the higher path there were fewer butterflies but a Painted Lady (first this year) landed on the path in front of us. She was very flighty and I only got one snap and that was only just enough for ID. Later in the lane close to the cottage I found Comma,



Speckled Wood, Green-veined White, Large Skippers, and a very tired-looking Red Admiral. There were several Broad Bodied Chasers, a gorgeous Banded Demoiselle and a large green dragonfly, but the green one would not settle.



A fabulous day – I came back to the cottage totally sated!

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Wurzel, 20-Jun-18 10:53 PM GMT

Brilliant stuff Janet 😊 Lovely Large Blues, I tried for those on Sunday but it was just not sunny enough 🍃 🍃

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by essexbuzzard, 20-Jun-18 11:22 PM GMT

Yes, well done again Janet, especially on the Large Blue open wing picture, which is not always easy to achieve.

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Janet Turnbull, 21-Jun-18 07:20 AM GMT

**Wurzel wrote:**

Brilliant stuff Janet 😊 Lovely Large Blues, I tried for those on Sunday but it was just not sunny enough 🌧️🌧️

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Just luck, isn't it Wurzel! Considering the distance we've come, on a holiday planned for ages, I can't believe how fortunate we've been with the weather.

**essexbuzzard wrote:**

Yes, well done again Janet, especially on the Large Blue open wing picture, which is not always easy to achieve.

Thank you, EB. After sifting through 300 photos just from the day, I was so tired that my account has come out really flat and prosaic and just doesn't convey the thrill and excitement we felt at actually seeing these beautiful creatures.

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by ernie f, 21-Jun-18 08:20 AM GMT

Fantastic Large Blues, Janet. I would have to make a four hour round trip to see them. Not something I can do at the moment. I am even more envious because I have never seen one. I remember when I was a kid I collected wildlife cards from tea packets and for some reason, I don't know why – the picture card of the Large Blue has stuck in my mind all these years (and believe me – that is a LOT of years). 😊

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by David M, 21-Jun-18 11:10 PM GMT

Beautiful Large Blues, Janet, and well done with the Black Hairstreaks at Glapthorn. This is one species that is gone as soon as you realise they are there.

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Janet Turnbull, 22-Jun-18 12:19 AM GMT

**ernie f wrote:**

... I would have to make a four hour round trip to see them. Not something I can do at the moment. ...

Well Ernie, we're on holiday in Somerset, from Manchester, specifically to see them! Couldn't do it in a day, that's for sure!

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by trevor, 22-Jun-18 05:43 AM GMT

Well done with the Large Blue. They wouldn't open their wings for me last year. The gatherings at Collard tend to be people from all over the Country.

Trevor.

**21 June: Haddon Hill for Heath Fritillaries**

by Janet Turnbull, 22-Jun-18 04:13 PM GMT

The weather still held and we parked in the layby on Haddon Hill. ALmost as soon as we started down the hill, a Clouded Buff moth caught Alan's eye (he's the best spotter!) and an almost entirely white moth which may be a Small White Wave. Other strangers to me were the large brown-cased beetles which could be Japanese Beetles – amazing antennae! The slope contained bracken, gorse and brambles but where it thinned out the butterflies were happily nectaring on the bramble flowers. They were so amenable to being photographed although I didn't manage to get close enough to have them on my fingers. So, first, the stars of the day:



There was a solitary Green Hairstreak basking on the young Birch leaves.



And the secondary players: Clouded Buff



Japanese Beetle



Small White Wave?



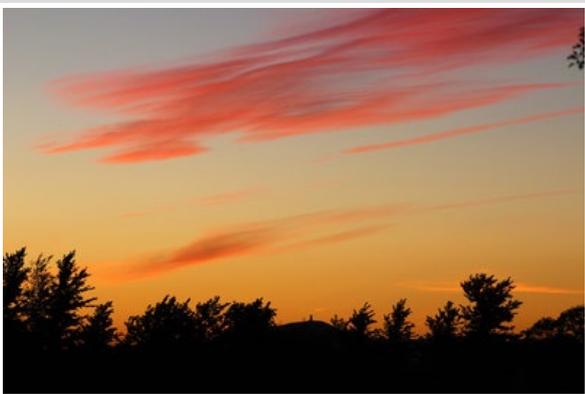
Forester



And a Golden Ring dragonfly which was on the lookout for a mate – he suddenly darted off, grabbed a female and proceeded to dart back and forth with her in tow.



After a wonderful exploration of the steam trains and beaches at Watchet where there was a lovely Scarlet Tiger on the pavement (should have made it open its wings 😊)



## 22 June: Back at the ranch

by Janet Turnbull, 22-Jun-18 04:33 PM GMT

Meanwhile, bedtime back at the cottage last night was disrupted by a large moth which appeared in the bedroom and would not settle. We put the light out and in the morning discovered the moth on the window. Looking in my book I found it to be a Lilac Beauty.

Taken with flash against the light



### Re: Janet Turnbull

by ernie f, 22-Jun-18 04:36 PM GMT

Lovely Heath Frits, Janet and what a beautifully atmospheric pic of Glastonbury Tor!

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Goldie M, 23-Jun-18 07:00 AM GMT

Hi! Janet , I'm just catching up on my posts, I love your shots of the LB, 🍷 It's one I've got to see yet, I thought maybe this year but it looks like it will have to be next year now 😊 your certainly getting out and about 😊 the Heath shots are lovely, not seen them for a few years now so nice to see your shots. 😊 Goldie 😊

### 23 June: Sand Point, Weston

by Janet Turnbull, 23-Jun-18 10:27 PM GMT

We took a trip up to Sand Point, just north of Weston-Super-Mare, and parked up in the NT car park. From there we walked along the coastal track which became more and more bouldery and difficult, until with relief we reached a place quite near the end of the Point where it was possible to scramble up to the top. Once there we could see that most sensible people had taken the top path which led directly to the trig point and then carried on along the path to the end. Even before I'd stopped shaking with exhaustion, several Graylings presented themselves. They seemed to be only at that end of the Point though - I saw only Meadow Browns and Common Blues as we walked back along the top. An airshow over Weston gave us an additional thrill as various display planes flew overhead on their way to the show.

By the time we reached the car park again, Alan had had enough so we purchased ice creams from the van and I set off to look for a ruined priory that was marked on the map. A lovely walk across the downs revealed only Meadow Browns and a single Brown Argus (not that I was looking very hard) and the fact that the old priory is inaccessible on private land.





### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 23-Jun-18 10:30 PM GMT

Great set of Heaths Janet and that Clouded Buff is cracker 😄 Those Grayling seem a bit early 🍷🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 24-Jun-18 02:03 PM GMT

Aah, Sand Point! I remember that site, Janet. There used to be a colony of Glanville Fritillaries there until they died out after that awful winter of 2013. I know exactly which path you are talking about and yes, it's one hell of a slog!

### 24 June: Collard Hill

by Janet Turnbull, 25-Jun-18 12:12 AM GMT

Glad I'm not alone in not enjoying that path, David! Although a lone fisherman made the same trek with all his beach casting gear 🤪

For the final day of our stay in Barton St David, we chose to go to Collard Hill. Previously we'd been to another Large Blue site which isn't advertised by BC as access is very restricted. However, the temperature was high and the butterflies flighty and if they opened their wings it was to fly away. There were quite a few butterfly spotters there but I did not meet anyone whose name I recognised.



Moving on to Hatch Hill we had no better luck but I did get a very tiny moth which I think is a Mint Moth. A second small moth I could not identify, but possibly a Small Yellow Underwing.



The previous evening I left the lights on upstairs to see what arrived and we were visited by a Bright-line Brown-eye, a Riband Wave and another which again I could not identify.



But back to today's expedition. Returning from Hatch Hill we passed the Hood Monument and entered a wooded path with a patch of brambles bathed in sunshine – and I was brought up sharply by a female Silver Washed Fritillary – my first of the year. She was a lone giant among the Meadow Browns, Ringlets and a GVW and was my prize catch of the day.





Back at the ranch, Alan elected to stay indoors while I went out to explore a local quarry where I found a mating pair of Meadow Browns.



and watched a Buzzard circling overhead



### Re: Janet Turnbull

by ernie f, 25-Jun-18 07:48 AM GMT

Janet - I've just scanned back a little through your posts and see you came across Grayling already. I'm whacked after my trip to see the Large Blues yesterday but now I have to go out again and search for Grayling!!!

Thanks 😊

### 25 June - Time to go home

by Janet Turnbull, 25-Jun-18 10:41 PM GMT

But before we did, I caught a few more moths last night by leaving the landing lights on (yes - I know it's an old joke!)

Alan held a torch steady while I snapped the Common Emerald which was on the ceiling, and on the wall was a Barred Yellow, and a rather gorgeous biggish one with metallic gold on its wings - a Burnished Brass



Fan-foot Moth, *Zanclognatha tarsipennalis* -



and one I still haven't identified



Hopefully someone will help with ID!

So after a week of extraordinarily good holiday weather today was the journey home – via Glastonbury Tor where the last of the midsummer revellers were packing up for another year, and then Wells Cathedral and the gardens of the Bishop's Palace (well worth a visit!) where there were the now-ubiquitous Meadow Browns and Large Whites.

Thank you Somerset – you gave me a huge amount of butterflying pleasure!

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by ernie f, 26-Jun-18 07:04 AM GMT

I don't know a lot about moths Janet so can't really help with ID but I love that golden reflective one.

Also – does the Wells Bishop's Palace still have its "Swan" bell?

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 26-Jun-18 07:54 AM GMT

#### ernie f wrote:

I don't know a lot about moths Janet so can't really help with ID but I love that golden reflective one.

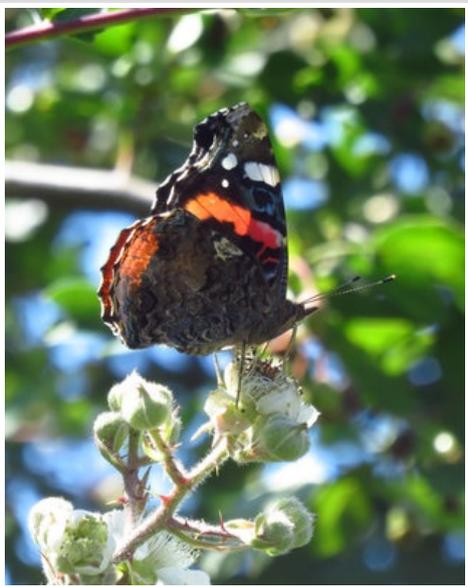
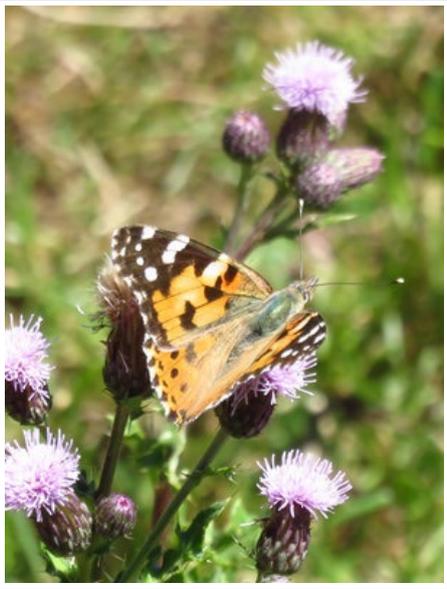
Also – does the Wells Bishop's Palace still have its "Swan" bell?

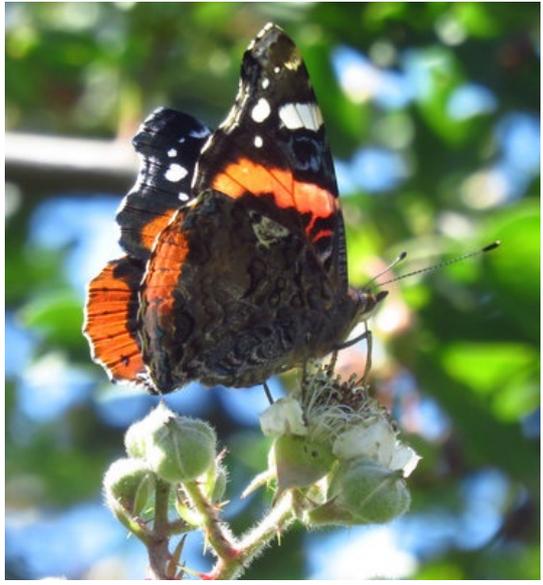
Apparently the swans do still ring the bell but I forgot to look for it – and being a stop on the way home we were rather time limited. We fully intend to go back again next year!

### 27 June: Cheshire

by Janet Turnbull, 27-Jun-18 11:49 PM GMT

We went out with the church ramblers – a meander, (or even just a long walk to a pub!) from Little Moreton Hall near Congleton – and it was great that the other members of the group are getting hooked on butterfly spotting. Some even take photos! A total of 8 species were seen during the course of the walk: Large Skipper, Meadow Brown, Large White, Comma, Small Tort, Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Speckled Wood but in the heat only the PL and RA stopped long enough to snap.





### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 27-Jun-18 11:51 PM GMT

Great set of shots Janet, those Silver-washed are brill 😊 You unknown moth is a Riband Wave of the typical form, your previous Riband was the form *remutata*. 😊 As for the other one...not a clue sorry 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by bugboy, 28-Jun-18 07:43 AM GMT

Hi Janet, busy catching up with a ton of posts after a week away with very little internet access. I see you've been getting around a bit! It's a good thing those Heaths didn't land on your finger as I think they would be causing you to break the law, they one species I believe it's illegal to touch! Your 'Japanese beetle' from a few posts back is a Garden Chafer, they can be exceedingly common in late spring, I see swarms of them when I go Duke hunting in the Chiltons.

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by ernie f, 28-Jun-18 08:43 AM GMT

Great to see you got a Painted Lady on your walk, Janet. I have only managed to see two so far this year so it seems its not one of their larger influx years.

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Goldie M, 28-Jun-18 09:07 AM GMT

Hi! Janet great shots, I've not seen the Red Admiral up here yet , the last one I got a shot of was in Spring in Kent, so your shots are encouraging 😊 Your Grayling shot is great, I find them very hard to get a good shot of they blend in so well with their surroundings 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 28-Jun-18 05:10 PM GMT

#### Wurzel wrote:

Great set of shots Janet, those Silver-washed are brill 😊 You unknown moth is a Riband Wave of the typical form, your previous Riband was the form *remutata*. 😊 As for the other one...not a clue sorry 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Thanks, Wurzel - I've only recently started 'noticing' moths, and am finding the ID-ing quite difficult!

**bugboy wrote:**

Hi Janet, busy catching up with a ton of posts after a week away with very little internet access. I see you've been getting around a bit! It's a good thing those Heaths didn't land on your finger as I think they would be causing you to break the law, they one species I believe it's illegal to touch! Your 'Japanese beetle' from a few posts back is a Garden Chafer, they can be exceedingly common in late spring, I see swarms of them when I go Duke hunting in the Chiltons.

I'd no idea it was illegal to touch the Heaths, Bugboy – and to think I was going to try and tempt them with jam! 😊  
I'm relieved my bug is a common Garden Chafer since Defra seems paranoid about the Japanese Beetle which it closely resembles.

Hi Goldie, I've been lucky with this Grayling – I think all my former shots showed them nestling against rocks! 😊

I agree, Ernie – this was only my second Painted Lady this year and last year was poor, too.

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Andrew555, 29-Jun-18 11:44 AM GMT

Well done with the Large Blues Janet, and a great selection of subjects from a lovely part of the world. 😊  
Some nice moths there as well, I love your female Silver-washed. 😊

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Neil Freeman, 29-Jun-18 07:16 PM GMT

Hi Janet,

Some great reports and photos recently 😊

Your Fan-foot is a Small Fan-foot (*Herminia tarsicrinalis*) and the unidentified one in the previous post (June 24th) is a Fan-foot. Very similar apart from size and the shape of the sub-terminal cross line.

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Janet Turnbull, 29-Jun-18 08:10 PM GMT

**Neil Freeman wrote:**

Hi Janet,

Some great reports and photos recently 😊

Your Fan-foot is a Small Fan-foot (*Herminia tarsicrinalis*) and the unidentified one in the previous post (June 24th) is a Fan-foot. Very similar apart from size and the shape of the sub-terminal cross line.

Cheers,

Neil.

Thanks, Neil – the difference is so subtle, I thought it was the same one. I had to look hard to see what you meant! 😊

**29 June: Fernilee Reservoir**

by Janet Turnbull, 29-Jun-18 11:09 PM GMT

Armed with information from BC Cheshire's website I headed off to Fernilee Reservoir in the Peak District in search of the Dark Green Fritillary. Fernilee was far enough away not to be able to smell the smoke from the fires raging on the moors just 20 miles north.

I began to wonder if Cheshire's information was still current as there was no sign of the DGFs although Meadow Browns and Ringlets abounded. I climbed the hill above the reservoir and found my first Small Skippers of the season, and a moth which might be a Footman.



I wandered back to the patch of ox-eye daisies. A few Meadow Browns fluttered among them and eventually a flash of bright orange caught my attention. Sure enough, it was a DGF – a singleton – and I watched with delight as it examined the thistle heads. It flew out of sight, but returned after a few minutes to entertain me some more.





## 1st July: Fermyn Woods

by Janet Turnbull, 02-Jul-18 11:53 PM GMT

My only chance for the annual pilgrimage to Fermyn. The weather forecast had been predicting showers and possibly a thunderstorm, but then it all faded into another lovely day albeit with a very little light cloud cover.

We parked up by the airfield and as we entered the gate we were greeted by a male Purple Emperor concentrating on some minute bits of dirt which were attached to his tongue. He attracted quite a crowd but refused to open his wings except for one flash when a breeze caused him to overbalance. Someone tried to get him to do it again by blowing gently on him, but he decided enough was enough and flew up into a tree.

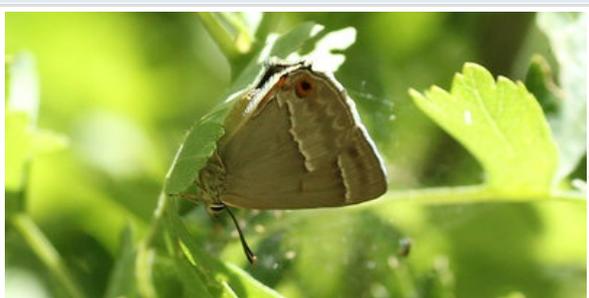
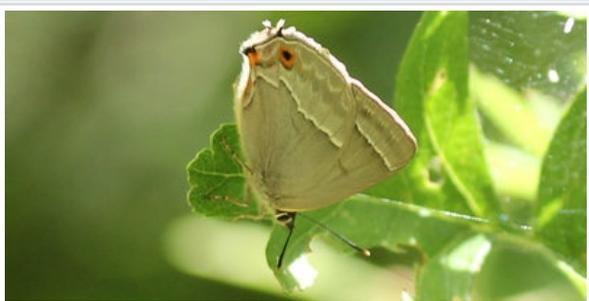




Walking up the newly-widened ride we were impressed with the Forestry Commission's work. Muddy puddles had been created in places which attracted dragonflies and a bevy of Small Whites, at the centre of which was a lone GVW.



There were few other butterflies there though, until we reached the edge before crossing over to Ladywood. Here were half a dozen SWFs which we watched for half an hour before heading for the shade of Ladywood. More SWFs and an unexpected Purple Hairstreak



before meeting a couple who said they had seen White Letter Hairstreaks. We searched for those but did not find any, so we then made for Lyveden where there was another report of WLHs, but again had no success. It was late in the afternoon and we had only 40 minutes there. Right at the end of the hedge by the car park, a pair of GVWs were firmly in cop.



We reckoned it a great day and stopping at Corley services on the way home we added a Comma to the day's total of 13 species.



## 2nd July

by Janet Turnbull, 03-Jul-18 12:00 AM GMT

First of this year's Gatekeepers, along with the first of the new brood of Holly Blue, arrived in the garden!



## Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 03-Jul-18 10:07 PM GMT

Great couple of reports Janet 😊👍 Emperors, Purple Hairstreaks, mud-puddling Whites, a cracking shot of the two SWFs and my personal favourite – theexcessa Hedge Brown 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 04-Jul-18 12:19 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel – I had not realized it was an ab and had to look it up. The wiki wasn't very helpful – I got lots of info about brown hedges but I did eventually find UKB's Aberrations!

Today there were two Gatekeepers in the garden and they were one of each sex but did not seem interested in each other. Here's the female:



Lovely to see the summer butterflies at last.

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by ernie f, 04-Jul-18 06:49 AM GMT

There's been a lot going on in your recent reports, Janet. Great underside shots of the Frits, I like the group of whites, of course the Purple Es and H's, looking up the snout of a Comma, the ab Gatekeeper was quite a find but perhaps my favourite of all was your last pic of a gatekeeper.

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Goldie M, 04-Jul-18 09:54 AM GMT

Hi! Janet , so glad you got so many great Butterflies, 😊 I'm due at Fermyn this coming week-end, I hope I'm has lucky has you. Good luck with the WLHS at Brockholes. Goldie 😊

### 4th July: Brockholes WLH

by Janet Turnbull, 05-Jul-18 07:35 AM GMT

Probably one of my last journeys to see a specific butterfly this year as I feel I should be celebrating our local lads and lassies. We went up to Brockholes and on arrival at the edge of Boilton Wood, met a man with a big camera who pointed out exactly where we should find the WLH. Sure enough, there they were nectaring on the bramble flowers. Out of all the photos I took, only one was reasonably sharp, but here's the best of the bunch. Considering I've never been this close to a WLH before I'm delighted to have got anything at all!





There were Gatekeepers in abundance along with tired-looking Meadow Browns; this pair have just met and are having a preliminary conversation.





Altogether 8 species were seen: the other were Small Tort, (not my best photo but typical of many)



Meanwhile back at home in the garden we were visited by a Comma, Gatekeepers, various whites and a Holly Blue, while into the hedge fluttered a Common Emerald moth which promptly went to sleep.

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Andrew555, 05-Jul-18 10:37 AM GMT

A very nice selection Janet. Well done with the WLH, I like the puddling Whites and your Hedge Brown ab. 😊

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Goldie M, 05-Jul-18 11:37 AM GMT

Hi! Janet, so glad you got the HS, It's great at Brockholes Isn't it!! In Spring the Orange Tips were all over the entrance to BW, packing now for off and wondering how to fit watching the Match in 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 05-Jul-18 10:54 PM GMT

Great to see the Whitters Janet 😊 And it's nice to see the Meadow Browns having a bit of a chin wag 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: 6th July: Mulmshorn, Germany

by Janet Turnbull, 08-Jul-18 12:39 PM GMT

Staying overnight at the Jaegermeister Hotel we went for an early evening walk before dinner. There is a wildlife walk from the hotel! We saw a total of 10 species: in the hotel garden was a Holly Blue



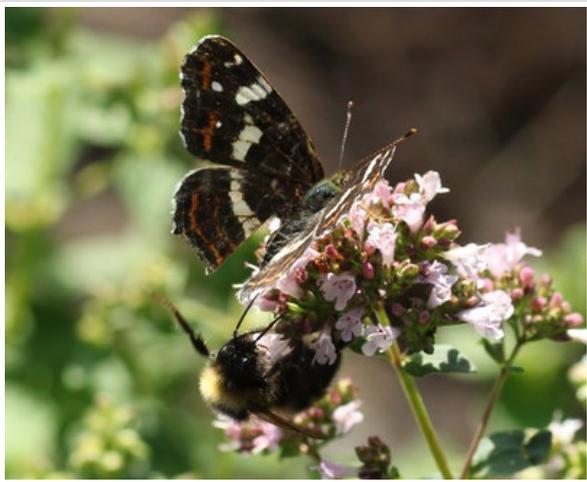
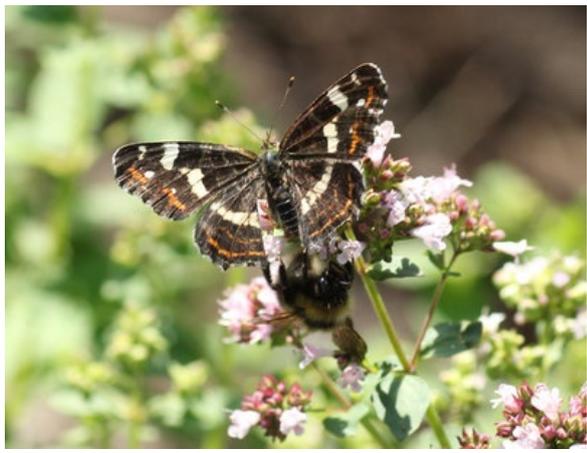
Small Skippers



The path then turned a corner and became a little more breezy and with the sun in my eyes I did not see many more other than whites which flew across the path and some more Meadow Browns.

The following morning we were to continue on to Denmark but first we walked up to where we'd seen the LCSs the day before. There were several on the purple flowers and quite docile although they would not come onto my hand.

Another 'find' was a dark brown butterfly with white and orange markings I could not ID – can anyone help, please?





And a hare!



### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Pauline, 08-Jul-18 01:02 PM GMT

That's a first brood Map Janet – I was lucky enough to photograph them in Dorset a few years ago.

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by dave brown, 08-Jul-18 05:22 PM GMT

Hi Janet. Your Blue Damselfly (05/07) is the Common Blue Damselfly . Nice photo.

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Padfield, 08-Jul-18 08:47 PM GMT

Just because it's such an interesting butterfly, I'll correct Pauline's typo and point out that the map is second brood. This is a strikingly dimorphic species, the first brood resembling a fritillary and the second a white admiral. It's very unclear to me as to why this should be.

The common blue damselfly is also interesting. The thorax definitely looks like *Enallagma* (common blue) but the second abdominal segment really doesn't!

Guy

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Pauline, 08-Jul-18 09:16 PM GMT

You're very diplomatic Guy. I'm afraid it wasn't a typo - I think this heat is frying my brain 😊 Apologies Janet - I didn't intend to cause you further confusion. Of course I knew it was second brood as I saw them in August but my fingers are working faster than my recall 😊

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 08-Jul-18 10:02 PM GMT

Pauline, Guy, Dave: Thank you all for your input here! I wondered if it was a Map but it didn't fit the pictures of the upperwings, and it seems my common blue damselfly might be a shade less than common!

### 8th July: Around Horsens

by Janet Turnbull, 08-Jul-18 10:23 PM GMT

I took myself off for a walk along the local lanes and noted that the barley fields looked ready for harvest. There were clouds of white butterflies flying low over them which made me think they were organically farmed. In a field edge I came across some Small Coppers which, when I checked the photos, turned out to be Scarce Coppers.





A Brimstone flew purposefully by, then another examined the flowers for nectar.



Returning to base via a main road I noticed there were no butterflies flying over the adjacent grain fields and there were a great number of sad white butterfly bodies lying along the roadside.

Back at the house I chased down a tiny Brown Argus which doesn't have as many markings on its underwing as the British version





and trying to look inconspicuous in the grass was an attractive moth



**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Wurzel, 09-Jul-18 12:55 PM GMT

Brilliant shots of the Chequered, Map and Scarce Coppers Janet 🤩👍 Your Brown Argus is mighty fine, is it an aberrant or the local race? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by bugboy, 09-Jul-18 10:29 PM GMT

I agree with Guy about your Blue Damselfly, a guess we can put it down as an ab. That's a very interesting Argus and your final moth is a Clouded Magpie *Abraxas sylvata*. and to finish a few 👍👍👍 for those gorgeous Coppers!

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 11-Jul-18 06:54 AM GMT

Some nice continental species there, Janet. Although I'm currently surrounded by 100 or so different types of butterfly, two that I won't see are Map and Large Chequered Skipper, so I'm highly envious of those.

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by ernie f, 11-Jul-18 07:50 AM GMT

Janet – Your Maps and Scarce Coppers are fantastic. I have never seen these butterflies and would like to of course. The Map is obviously a stunning butterfly so why am I more drawn to the Scarce Copper?

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 11-Jul-18 09:55 PM GMT

#### ernie f wrote:

...The Map is obviously a stunning butterfly so why am I more drawn to the Scarce Copper?

Because it's like a jewel, ernie! I never tire of it no matter how many I see. There's something about iridescent copper which is unambiguously attractive to the eye.

### 17th July Time to go home

by Janet Turnbull, 17-Jul-18 10:31 PM GMT

Late nights and full days either butterflying, taming the jungle of a garden or playing with the grandchildren has meant I haven't been on here for nearly a week! I'll try to catch up with all the PDs eventually.

There are ash and elm trees in Jeni's garden, and I could see small dark flutterings at the top of one of the ashes. I really hoped they would turn out to be early Brostreaks but in fact they were WLHs which also ventured out to the front hedge and nectared on the bank of flowers there. But what were they doing in the ash tree? 😊

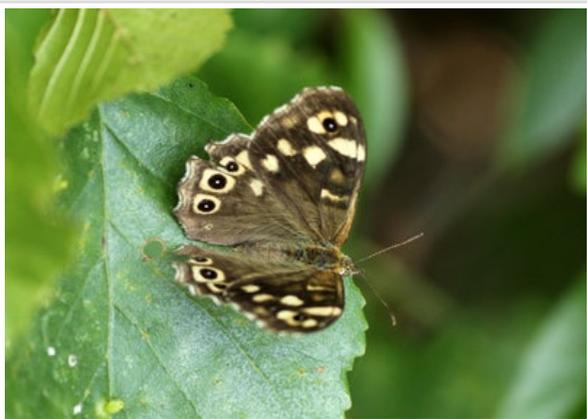


Holly Blues began making an appearance on the marjoram and a pair of B. Arguses never quite got it together, although he tried so hard to get her interested. Red Admirals and Peacocks abounded on the buddleia and were joined by Meadow Browns.





Speckled Woods fluttered along the path in the woods



The children were startled by a Garden Tiger which flew into the porch and it patiently allowed us all to play with it.



Today I went for a final walk along the lane and met one of the neighbours who showed me round her farm – and when I told her I was interested in butterflies she took me into her garden where there were some lavender bushes. Here I received one of the biggest bonuses of the holiday – there were two Queen of Spain fritillaries nectaring there – and when I got back to Jeni's house there was another on the buddleia.



The Brown Arguses which I have taken since the first day all seem to be fairly normal by British standards so that very early one which had so few markings must have been an ab, not the local race. I noticed that many butterflies seemed much smaller than usual, which I put down to the heat and lack of nectar. The grain crops are small too!

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by David M, 17-Jul-18 10:38 PM GMT

Those are beautiful shots of Queen of Spain Fritillary, Janet. I'm used to these coming down on a stony track, giving no opportunity to capture their exquisite undersides.

Great that you got one on a raised flower so you could capture that stunning array of pearly white spots. 🍷

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Goldie M, 17-Jul-18 11:11 PM GMT

Hi! Janet, you sound to be having a great holiday has well, lovely QOSF, Goldie 😊

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Wurzel, 17-Jul-18 11:14 PM GMT

Fantastic shots of the Whitters and that Queen of Spain is stunning 🤩 😊 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Janet Turnbull, 20-Jul-18 11:25 PM GMT

**David M wrote:**

Those are beautiful shots of Queen of Spain Fritillary, Janet. I'm used to these coming down on a stony track, giving no opportunity to capture their exquisite undersides.

Great that you got one on a raised flower so you could capture that stunning array of pearly white spots. 🍷

Hi David – I see you are based in S.Wales – do you get the QOS frits there?

**18th July: Final surprise from Denmark**

by Janet Turnbull, 20-Jul-18 11:52 PM GMT

That walk up the road in the sweltering heat – and I came across another Copper. I didn't include it in the previous post as it is rather the worse for wear, but having looked more carefully I do believe it is a Large Copper.





And in the bedroom we discovered a Ruby Tiger – not great photos but enough to identify.



**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by ernie f, 21-Jul-18 07:54 AM GMT

Janet – Fantastic shots of the QoS Frit and the frayed Copper. Also, I have seen hairstreaks use the "wrong" tree too. For example Purple Hairstreaks congregating on an Ash and Brown Hairstreaks on a Beech.

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by David M, 21-Jul-18 05:10 PM GMT

In response to your earlier question, Janet, no, I've never known QoS recorded in Wales.

As for your Copper, it's hard to judge given the ragged nature of the wings (especially the hindwings). I presume it wasn't taken at altitude meaning that it's likely to be a Large Copper, although an underside would be definitive.

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Janet Turnbull, 23-Jul-18 11:00 PM GMT

David M wrote:

In response to your earlier question, Janet, no, I've never known QoS recorded in Wales.

As for your Copper, it's hard to judge given the ragged nature of the wings (especially the hindwings). I presume it wasn't taken at altitude meaning that it's likely to be a Large Copper, although an underside would be definitive.

No, it wasn't at altitude, David. And I didn't register that you are currently somewhere on the Continent and not in S.Wales!

### 23 July: Peak District

by Janet Turnbull, 23-Jul-18 11:19 PM GMT

Yesterday I captured a Mint moth and an uncooperative Small White in the garden so here's a photo of each:



Today A and I reced a walk for our rambling group, along the Curbar and White Edges in the Peaks. (No sign of wild fires, fortunately). I used the iRecord app and recorded 7 species but later discovered the location details had not been entered properly so the whole record is useless. However I did get photos with my phone for some of the butterflies – having deliberately left the SLR at home and regretted it – so we have Gatekeeper, Peacock, Small Copper and Ringlet.



The Meadow Brown, Small Heath and Speckled Wood would not let me get close enough, and although there were dozens of white butterflies nothing settled long enough to determine what they were but probably there were representatives of all three likely candidates. Under a fern frond was a moth which I can't identify – anybody know what it is?



### Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 24-Jul-18 07:14 AM GMT

**Janet Turnbull wrote:**

No, it wasn't at altitude, David. And I didn't register that you are currently somewhere on the Continent and not in S.Wales!

Large Copper it surely is then!

I'm back in south Wales now, Janet (although with temperatures as they are it still feels as if I'm in France!)

## 27th July

by Janet Turnbull, 08-Aug-18 10:08 PM GMT

I'm pleased to see the new buddleia bush and purple wallflowers are attracting the butterflies, even if it's only Whites!  
Meanwhile the marjoram has a colony of Mint Moths – I've never seen so many.



On the bathroom windowsill was another small moth which Neil F. reckons is an *Acrobasis advenella*. Thanks, Neil!



## 31 July Still at home

by Janet Turnbull, 08-Aug-18 10:17 PM GMT

It seems we're getting less of the butterflies and more of the moths. I left the bathroom light on and three moths appeared: Neil Freeman offers that the first one is a Yellow-barred Brindle; the second appears to be a Common Carpets, while the third seems to be a Riband Wave.





## 2 August Rixton Clay Pits

by Janet Turnbull, 08-Aug-18 10:45 PM GMT

I'm playing catch-up here – it's been a while since I've had the energy to sit at the computer so photos have been piling up a bit. I haven't been to Rixton Clay Pits for a while – the last time I tried, I couldn't get over the Ship Canal toll bridge for the traffic jams. The little toll booth was burnt down by frustrated motorists a few weeks back and the traffic had since been flowing nicely – but the day I tried to cross, the booth had been replaced and nobody was expecting it or had the right money to hand (it's an unbelievable 12p each way or 25p return – yes, you read it right) so I didn't bother.

Anyway, I went last Thursday (only had to pay to come back as they were not taking the money to go out) and was astounded at the loveliness of the meadows. They should be wet meadows but currently dry as a bone with the long hot summer with no rain.

Holly Blues were the first to greet me, followed by a GVW. A couple of Peacocks and Red Admirals were zooming about but would not settle, then I snapped a pair of Meadow Browns, one of which had a double eye spot.



Moving to the next field, I was thrilled to see a lovely fresh Painted Lady – there have been so very few round here this year.





A Common Blue female was crawling around the grass looking for suitable places to lay eggs and a bright male settled long enough for me to snap.





A ranger was busy re-profiling the dried-up ponds for when the newts returned – Rixton has a large number of Great Crested Newts – and he told me there were White-letter and Purple Hairstreaks to be seen. He also said the Browns should be out any day now, which I took to mean Brostreaks – I must keep an eye on the place if that is the case. I didn't see any 'streaks while I was there that day

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 08-Aug-18 10:48 PM GMT

Interesting set of moth images Janet 😊 I reckon your first Common Carpet is something different...though unfortunately I can't be much more help than that 😊😊😊

Great shot of the Hedge and Meadow Brown together 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 08-Aug-18 11:18 PM GMT

[quote="Wurzel"

Great shot of the Hedge and Meadow Brown together 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel[/quote]

Ah, thanks Wurzel – that explains why one of the MBs had a double eye spot. Will have to go to Specsavers! 😊😊

### Re: 27th July

by Neil Freeman, 09-Aug-18 06:59 PM GMT

#### Janet Turnbull wrote:

...On the bathroom windowsill was another small moth but try as I might I can't ID it. IMG\_0273 moth1.jpg

Hi Janet,

I think that one is *Acrobasis advenella*, a micro.

The first one of the next trio is a Yellow-barred Brindle. These are more green when fresh but fade to a yellowish colour.

Cheers,

Neil

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by bugboy, 09-Aug-18 08:19 PM GMT

That's a lovely home grown Painted Lady, there's a good few turning up now. I think the Thistles have coped better than other plants during this dry summer and clearly the Painted Ladies aren't bothered by the heat 😊

### Re: 27th July

by Janet Turnbull, 09-Aug-18 09:13 PM GMT

**Neil Freeman wrote:**

Hi Janet,

I think that one is *Acrobasis advenella*, a micro.

The first one of the next trio is a Yellow-barred Brindle. These are more green when fresh but fade to a yellowish colour.

Cheers,

Neil

Thank you for those, Neil. I tried to lighten the photo of the Yellow Barred Brindle and got this result –



**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by David M, 09-Aug-18 11:07 PM GMT

Beautiful Painted Lady images, Janet. In spite of the abnormally hot summer, I've still seen fewer than 20 this year in the UK.

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Goldie M, 10-Aug-18 02:13 PM GMT

Hi! Janet, lovely Painted Lady, You mentioned in one post , to seeing a Brown Argus in your Garden but it flew a way, I think you live in Wigan 🤔 If I'm right and you did, it would I think have been a Northern BA. Goldie 😊

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Janet Turnbull, 12-Aug-18 04:11 PM GMT

**Goldie M wrote:**

Hi! Janet, lovely Painted Lady, You mentioned in one post , to seeing a Brown Argus in your Garden but it flew a way, I think you live in Wigan 🤔 If I'm right and you did, it would I think have been a Northern BA. Goldie 😊

I do wish I'd managed a photo, Goldie! It was definitely a Brown Argus and may well have been a NBA because although we live in Sale, South Manchester, it's still NW of the line between Dorset and East Yorks. It settled on a flower and closed its wings so I could see the underwing, but it didn't open up for me.

Thank you Bugboy – the thistles do seem to have fared well, and they're attracting the goldfinches.

**12 August Rixton Clay Pits**

by Janet Turnbull, 12-Aug-18 04:40 PM GMT

I paid another visit to Rixton Clay Pits yesterday and there has been some rain since the previous visit. There was no sign of the Painted Lady this time and I thought the Blues were looking more tired.



There were several Speckled Woods, some looking fresher than others,



and a Comma fluttered among the fleabane. I did manage to get my first photos this year of Meadow Browns of both sexes basking with their wings open – until now it has been so hot they have kept them tightly closed.





The most striking subjects yesterday were the dragonflies, which I think were Common Darters, and a tiny toadlet.



**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by ernie f, 12-Aug-18 05:27 PM GMT

Janet - Your tiny toadlet is really cute!

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Wurzel, 12-Aug-18 05:59 PM GMT

The Toadlet looks like it's on a mission, possibly to find a Motorcar "Poop Poop!" 😊 Meadow Browns seem to love keeping their wings closed when fresh and then when they're starting to look a little past their best all of a sudden they start opening up 😊 Your female though is still looking good 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Janet Turnbull, 12-Aug-18 06:19 PM GMT

Thank you Ernie - he was really tiny!

😊 Wurzel - I'm glad someone else remembers The Wind in the Willows!

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by David M, 13-Aug-18 10:31 PM GMT

Things looking a bit tired now, Janet, but that's to be expected in mid-August.

Thanks for the toad image. I bet he/she was glad to see some rain!

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Andrew555, 22-Aug-18 01:57 PM GMT

Your continental butterflies are lovely Janet. Very nice moths as well. 😊

**25 August: Rixton**

by Janet Turnbull, 28-Aug-18 12:39 PM GMT

Interested to see how the pond reprofiling had been successful, I paid a visit to Rixton (free pass each way over the Ship Canal – nobody on duty today!) The dried-out boggy places were still relatively dry and thick with summer wildflower growth. I found a lone Holly Blue going round the Hemp Agrimony



and a very tired-looking Common Blue on the fleabane.



and then I met a dragonfly enthusiast showed me all the best places to find Southern Hawkers and Migrants.

The ranger I met last time I was there said something that made me think he was expecting to see Brown Hairstreaks, but although I have looked out for them I haven't seen any.

## 27th August: Hartlepool

by Janet Turnbull, 28-Aug-18 12:48 PM GMT

On our way back home after a trip to Durham we decided to call at Hartlepool, a place never previously visited. Not knowing where to head for we found ourselves on the beach at Blackhall Rocks. On the path from the car park my friend spotted two blue butterflies – both male Common Blues and one of them still pumping up his wings. Of course I didn't have the right camera but with him being so fresh and docile I managed two good shots with my phone.



### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Maximus, 28-Aug-18 03:08 PM GMT

Hi Janet, i've just caught up on your diary, you've been really busy 😊 I missed your continental posts during July as we were away too. Lovely shots of the Map, Scarce Coppers and the Queen of Spain Fritillary, plus all your UK stuff 😊

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 28-Aug-18 06:18 PM GMT

Great images of the fresh out of the box Common Blue Janet 😊 I've not seen them pumping up their wings before 🇹🇲

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 28-Aug-18 10:24 PM GMT

What a contrast between those ragged specimens in your first post and that pristine Common Blue in your second.

I'm still hopeful we'll get additional broods this year, especially as the weather forecast for the next week or so looks to be on a warmer trend.

### 30th August: Gait Barrows

by Janet Turnbull, 30-Aug-18 10:46 PM GMT

I took a trip up to Gait Barrows in the hope of seeing one of the last Brown Hairstreaks. It was a little overcast when I arrived and Keith, another butterfly hunter, was standing in the hot-spot waiting for the sun to appear. I wandered off, got onto a trail that took me on the limestone walk, ended up walking 5.6 miles and chasing dragonflies and eventually arrived back at the car park at the same time as Keith - who had managed good shots of two Brostreaks. He took me back to where he had seen them but they were long gone. I hung about but to no avail. Lesson learnt - wait for the sun. I did get an Impressionist shot of two Speckled Woods scrapping for air space, and a lovely fresh Red Admiral who kept asking me to take her photo.



Migrant Hawker



**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Andrew555, 31-Aug-18 10:49 AM GMT

Lovely Common Blue there Janet, and a very nice RA. 😊

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Wurzel, 31-Aug-18 12:19 PM GMT

Great stuff Janet – really like the 'dance of the Specklies' 😊 There's nothing worse than trying out somewhere while someone else waits and gets the

butterfly 🦋

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by trevor, 31-Aug-18 06:59 PM GMT

That's the freshest Red Admiral I've seen for ages.  
There should more around soon, as the Ivy blossom opens.

Best wishes Trevor.

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by ernie f, 01-Sep-18 07:51 AM GMT

Janet - Love that pic of the Specklies sparring. Its something you see time and again but I never think of trying to capture it. You have done a fine job.

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by David M, 01-Sep-18 09:24 AM GMT

Nice to see those Specklies cavorting - brings back happy memories of spring where they seem to do it constantly.

I agree that's a beautiful Red Admiral. I hope we'll all see a few more soon because up to now, there have been noticeably few on the wing.

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by millerd, 01-Sep-18 10:09 AM GMT

That is indeed a splendid Red Admiral, Janet, and your fresh Common Blue is a lovely insect as well! 😊

Dave

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Goldie M, 01-Sep-18 04:10 PM GMT

Love the Speckies Janet, that shot must have been hard to get 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Old Wolf, 13-Sep-18 03:48 PM GMT

Hello Janet, I am trying to catch up on diaries and have just seen your photos from your recent trip. Lovely pictures of the Map. I confess I know nothing about butterflies from the continent so I really enjoy seeing pictures of butterflies I have never seen before (not even in books because mine are UK).

That really is a lovely Red Admiral. I have hardly seen any this year and the few that I have seen have been nowhere near as pristine as the one you photographed. Gotta love a toadlet 😊

**Re: Janet Turnbull**

by Janet Turnbull, 16-Sep-18 12:06 AM GMT

Andrew, Wurzel, Trevor, Ernie, David, Millerd, Goldie and Old Wolf - thank you all for your comments! Sorry I have not been keeping an eye on you all lately - I've been trying to put my butterfly photo year book together, which has taken rather longer than expected.

There have been mostly whites around here lately together with the occasional fast-flying dark brown but on Wednesday Alan and I ventured into deepest Staffordshire to recce a walk for our rambles, and we were delighted to be accompanied along one of the tracks by three or four of these delightful little jewels, looking very smart and fresh.



On Thursday I called in at Rixton Clay Pits and discovered that although the flower meadow had been cut down there were still good numbers of Speckled Woods around.



### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Goldie M, 16-Sep-18 01:56 PM GMT

Nice shots Janet of the Butterflies 😊 if you want to get more shots of SC, RA, Peacock I believe they've all been seen at Brockholes, I've planned on going but the weather has put me off, you need good weather to go there it's so open. Goldie 😊

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 16-Sep-18 02:56 PM GMT

Thanks Goldie 😊 The weather is a bit unpredictable now isn't it. I think I missed my chance with the Brown Hairstreaks for this year too – I wonder if there are any still about.

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 16-Sep-18 06:57 PM GMT

That is a great looking Small Copper Janet, perfectly described as a jewel! 🌟🌿

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 16-Sep-18 10:21 PM GMT

Seems like Small Coppers are everywhere right now, Janet. I suspect they'll be with us into October such are their numbers.

Make the most of it. Next year we'll probably be lucky to see a dozen in the entire year! 😊

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by ernie f, 17-Sep-18 10:25 AM GMT

Another lovely Small Copper image, Janet.

I know what you mean when you say it takes a long time to put your year-book together. I have taken so many butterfly pics this year that my PC has just warned me I am nearing full capacity on my back-up drive!!!

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 24-Oct-18 11:09 PM GMT

#### ernie f wrote:

Another lovely Small Copper image, Janet.

I know what you mean when you say it takes a long time to put your year-book together. I have taken so many butterfly pics this year that my PC has just warned me I am nearing full capacity on my back-up drive!!!

My photobook came back and it was lovely – and it felt like the end of the season. I am seeing the occasional flutterby even now, but just haven't recorded them although I know I should.

I have just come back from a week's walking on the Lighthouse Way in north-west Spain – not quite the Camino de Santiago de Compostela but a little off the beaten track. There were a few butterflies that I managed to capture on camera, and I was pleased to add another Copper to my collection – a Sooty Copper on the first evening.



There were plenty of Speckled Woods, all much warmer looking than ours, being brown and yellow rather than brown and white



and there was a lovely Green veined White spinning round like a weather vane in the wind



Hubby spotted the Grayling, which I prodded until it displayed a bit of its underwing



and then there was a female CVW refusing the advances of a suitor



A Wall Brown and a Brimstone posed for me





At the end of the week the weather turned sunny once more and we were greeted by a Clouded Yellow as we reached the end of our trek. Too excited to go after it just then, I went back to where we'd seen it whilst my companions soaked in the showers and found there was a colony of CYs which proved very hard to capture. A couple of Red Admirals were much more accommodating.



Non-butterflies spotted along the way were Redstarts, Stonechats and what I am sure were bluetits although they were different from ours.



and a very unafraid Green Woodpecker



### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 24-Oct-18 11:44 PM GMT

Great report Janet – Sooty Coppers are a great butterfly aren't they? 😊 And so common on the continent 🇪🇺 The Specklies are a different subspecies to ours hence the more 'marmalade and chocolate' colouring 😊 I reckon that first bird that you've captured is a Cirl Bunting though its been a few years since I've seen one 😊 🇪🇺

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 25-Oct-18 12:04 AM GMT

#### Wurzel wrote:

I reckon that first bird that you've captured is a Cirl Bunting though its been a few years since I've seen one 😊 🇪🇺

Have a goodun

Wurzel

So that's what it is, Wurzel – no wonder I couldn't quite make a bluetit out of it! Thanks for the ID.  
Janet

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 27-Oct-18 07:10 PM GMT

NW Spain at this time of year sounds wonderful, Janet. So glad you caught a range of desirable butterflies (as well as birds). Those Sooty Coppers are lovely, aren't they? I so wish we had them in the UK.

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 09-Dec-18 03:25 PM GMT

I'm hibernating. Just occasionally I emerge. Was going through my butterfly photos and rediscovered this Peacock which I posted back in April. Looking at it again, I couldn't help wondering why it appears so brown instead of orange. So after posting this I had a look at the Species page and got my answer – it's a female – and the very first I have knowingly seen. None of my other peacock photos are of females. Are they shy?



### Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 09-Dec-18 06:25 PM GMT

I didn't know that Janet so now I need to go back through my photos and check to see 😊😊 I don't know if the females are more shy (though it would make sense I guess) but I did notice that you have captured an ab. diophthalmica – it's got a tiny blue spot on each of the hind wings 😊🌍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 11-Dec-18 06:28 PM GMT

#### Janet Turnbull wrote:

...None of my other peacock photos are of females. Are they shy?

Female butterflies are generally less frequently seen than males, Janet. Once mated, it is not in their interests to be conspicuous, although they will make an exception when they are laying eggs in earnest, whereupon they can be extremely approachable.