

ChrisC

by ChrisC, 17-May-10 05:46 AM GMT

Well i thought it was time to bite the bullet and join in the fun. probably won't be many photo's or if there are they will off my phone as still not taken the expensive dive into buying a camera yet. so if you view you won't be greeted with brilliant photo's like the other diaries on here. By the way all other diary writers keep up the great work the pictures are great to see. i also warn you there may be quite a bit not butterfly related as they are just one of my many interests. so here goes

Sunday 16th May

the day started off ok. a couple of new wildflowers around the forest the garden backs on to. they came in the shape of Lousewort and Heath Milkwort never seen either before. Back to the garden and after seeing Pete's Orange Tip egg pics I thought i Should check out my garlic Mustard (not that i have seen an adult in the garden yet this year) and sure enough at least 3 eggs (one had hatched by this afternoon) i also noticed quite a few tiny wasps (similar size to the aphid parasitic wasps) around the plants, not sure if they will have any bearing on proceedings but i'll keep an eye on them.

Another nice sight greeted me as i was sitting out on the patio, my 3rd glow worm larvae sighting of the year.



an afternoon walk over Stour Valley Local Nature Resrve lifted spirits in the gloom. (walking by water always does that for me) and watched a dozen Black headed Gulls acting like swallows flying back and forth picking flies off the surface which i had never seen before. There was also 3 nice chub of about 4lb wallowing in the shallows in the relative safety of the fishing close season. thanks for dropping in .

Re: ChrisC

by ChrisC, 18-May-10 03:22 AM GMT

not much to report today. first cream spot ladybird, berberis sawfly and a mottled umber caterpillar all on a birch outside work. so thought i'd take a bit of time and show any viewers the garden. a work in progress i hasten to add.



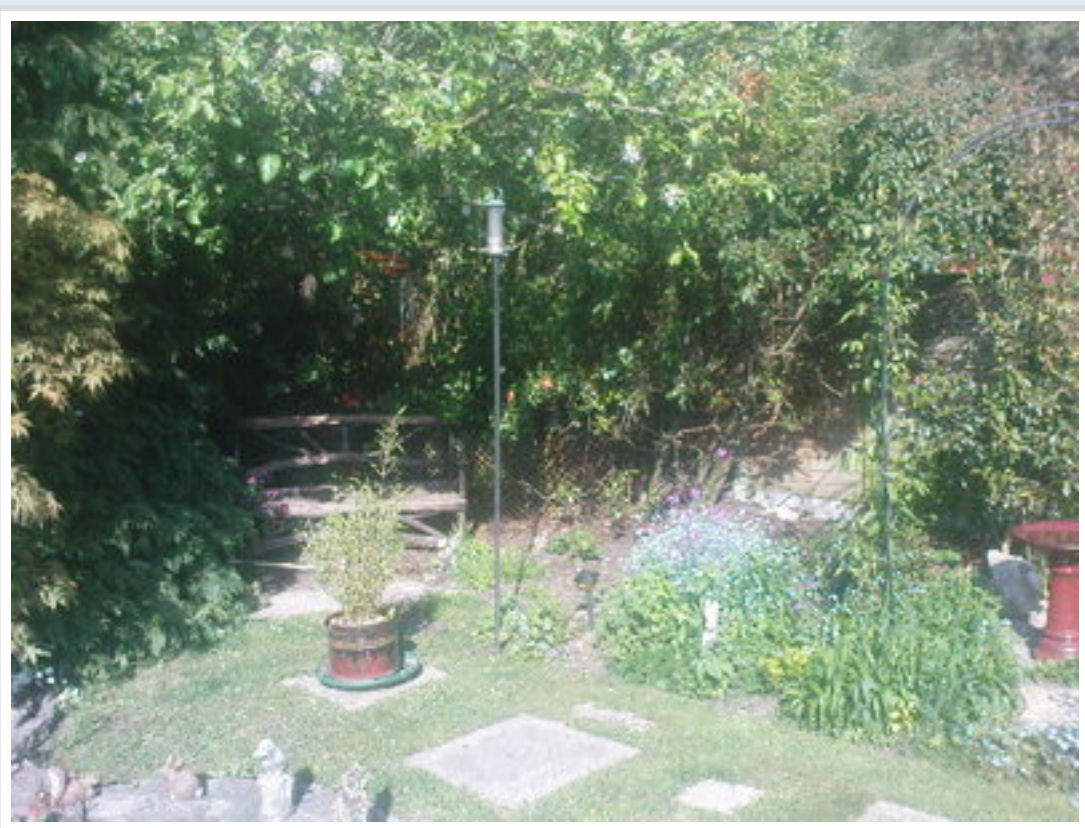
this border is definitely a work in progress, i'm fighting a battle in this one with ground elder, once i win that there will be more plants going in. there are plants in there including Verbena bonariensis, asters, tansy, lots of self set honesty, solidago and at the back of course are the mandatory buddlieas.



this one shows the gate into the forest, with my "weed patch" to the right, in there is sorrel, garlic mustard, red campion, marjoram, common and red valerian knapweeds, hedge woundwort, evening primrose, mulliens, upright hedge parsley, hemp agrimony to name but a few, will look better in June hopefully.



this is to the left of the gate, with 3 more buddleias, marjoram, buttercups, dog rose, a bit of uncut grass with a few logs in there. beyond the sun dial. there is privet, hawthorn, blackthorn, buckthorn, alder buckthorn, hogweed (yes i plant hogweed 😊) and various other shrubs and the new shoots of a pear tree that had to come down when the fence was replaced. in the border to the left, another buddleia, lavender, a couple of varieties of mondarda, more V. bonariensis, salvias, echinacea, verbascum again i shalln't list them all. just giving an idea of what's in there. all new in so it'll be interesting to see how this gets on.



another patch under a rather tasty dessert apple tree that i have plans for once the ground elder war is won. in behind the bench is a magnolia, mahonia, viburnum tinnus with herb robert and dusky cranesbill among the plants planted under there.



this is the view from the right hand corner. in the pond i have various pots and baskets. ragged robin, purple loosestrife, yellow flag iris, meadow sweet, marsh marigold some more hemp agrimony, not sure if the fleabane and yellow loosestrife made it after i re did the baskets last autumn.

Anyway i think i have bored you all enough for now, that's my back garden.
Chris

Re: ChrisC

by Susie, 18-May-10 03:39 AM GMT

Great stuff 😊

I don't get bored looking at photos of wildlife friendly gardens. I am looking forwards to following it's progress.

Re: ChrisC

by Lee Hurrell, 18-May-10 04:35 AM GMT

Wow, what a garden Chris!

Wishing you lots of insect action this year, keep us informed!

Cheers

Lee

Re: ChrisC

by ChrisC, 19-May-10 04:38 AM GMT

thanks Susie and Lee, for todays installment.....

I had the light out briefly last night and the second moth in was this female emperor who started laying eggs almost immediately, a moth i have always wanted to see. the eggs have gone to a very experienced home to be bred through parasite and predator free.



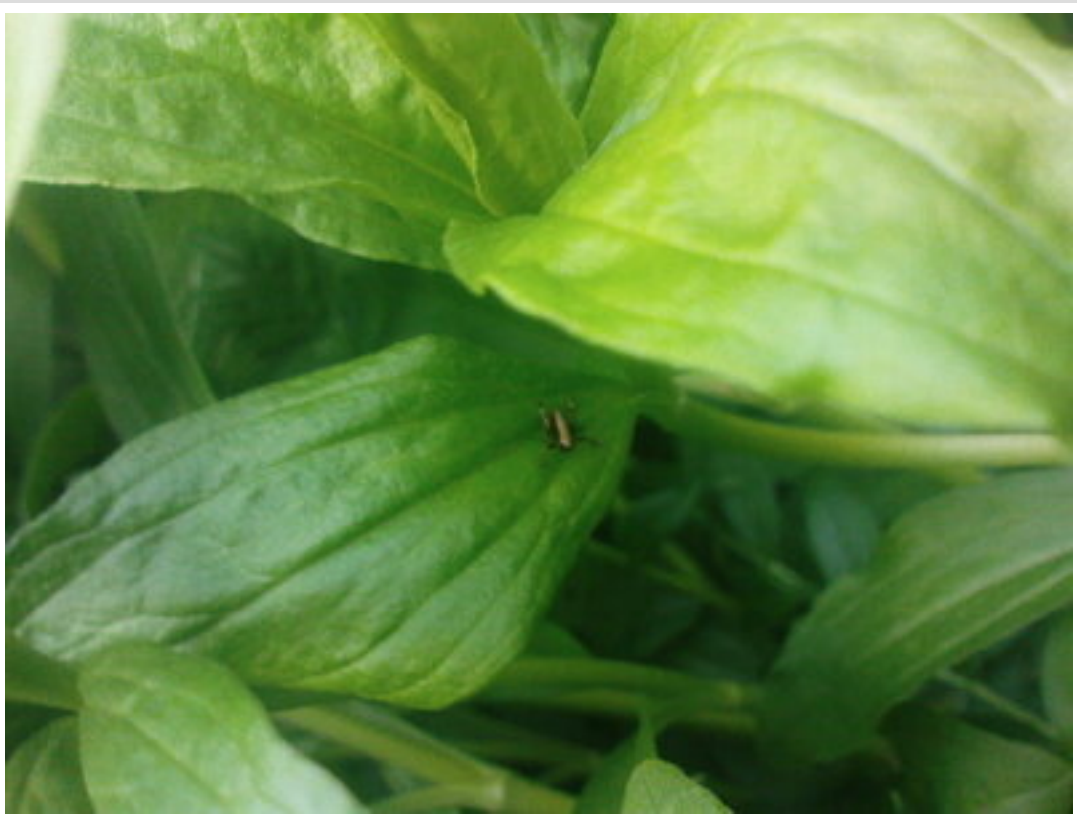
life and death dramas on the dog rose has recommenced as the wasp on the end eyes up it's next victim to lay eggs in/on



the knapweed is proving popular with tortoise beetles (i think) several pairs doing anything but knap (bad pun, i apologise) 😊



Last but not least my first dark bush cricket nymph of the year. quite pleased with this as first year here none, 2nd year 1 and last year 3 calling at night.



again apologies for poor quality images but it is just a phone after all. 😊