

Re: Susie

by MikeOxon, 01-Jan-14 11:37 AM GMT

so, which 14 are you going to miss out? 😊

Re: Susie

by David M, 01-Jan-14 12:07 PM GMT

Why not go for 45, Susie, to eclipse last year's excellent total?

Re: Susie

by Susie, 01-Jan-14 02:10 PM GMT

"David M" wrote:

Why not go for 45, Susie, to eclipse last year's excellent total?

Because I won't be 45 this year, David 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 01-Jan-14 02:10 PM GMT

"MikeOxon" wrote:

so, which 14 are you going to miss out? 😊

The tricky ones!

Re: Susie

by David M, 01-Jan-14 02:43 PM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

"David M" wrote:

Why not go for 45, Susie, to eclipse last year's excellent total?

Because I won't be 45 this year, David 😊

Aah, I understand now.

What are you going to do when you're 60? 😊

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 01-Jan-14 09:56 PM GMT

I reckon that you are certainly up to the challenge, with the Downs and woods in Sussex you should be able to get them all on home turf 😊 Best of luck! 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 02-Jan-14 08:47 PM GMT

When I'm 60 I'll take up sky diving instead 😊

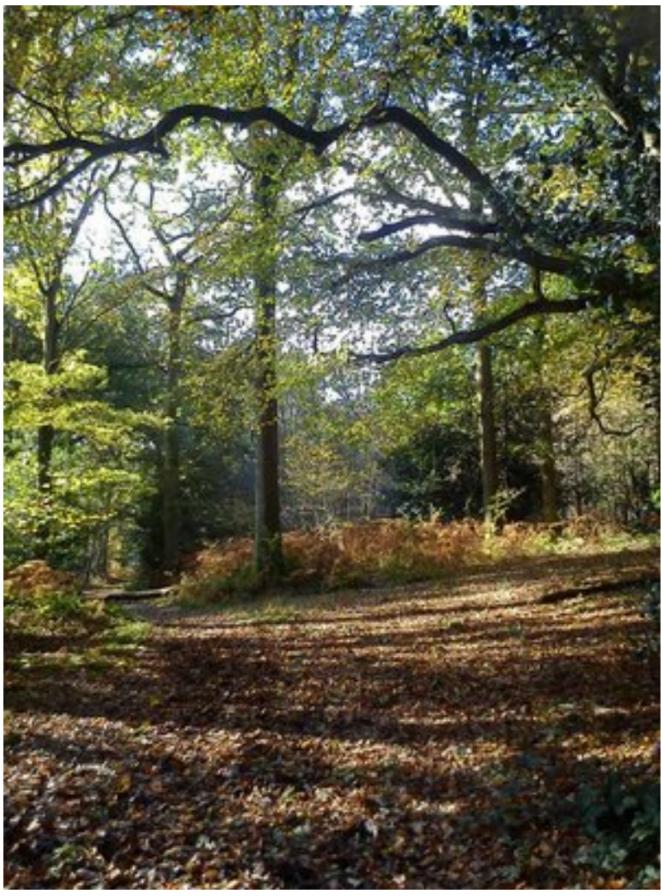
Thanks wurzel 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 04-Jan-14 11:42 AM GMT

Wind. Rain. Storms. Floods. Meh! Had enough of this weather.

Back in October the woods were full of fungi and I had some lovely walks.













Re: Susie

by NickMorgan, 04-Jan-14 12:34 PM GMT

What a fantastic array of fungi. 2013 did seem to be particularly good for them.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 04-Jan-14 02:35 PM GMT

Those were mainly taken on one day in one patch of woodland. It seems particularly good for fungi and I am looking forward to going back this coming autumn. I don't know a lot about fungi and was surprised that they only last for a very short time and then that's it. Gone for another year. Very much like butterflies really.

I revisited the woods after some rain and cannibalism had set in 🤪



Re: Susie

by MikeOxon, 04-Jan-14 05:19 PM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

Meh! Had enough of this weather.

Indeed! It's been really dark and wet all day today.

I really enjoyed browsing through your fungi photos – a spectacular collection 😊

Mie.

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 04-Jan-14 10:02 PM GMT

Me too, a great array of Fungi 😊 The last shot is a cracker – a decomposer being decomposed by another decomposer, waste not want not I suppose is the natural way 😊 I read 'The Mushroom Miscellany' recently and it had some fascinating information in there.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Jan-14 02:03 PM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

Me too, a great array of Fungi 😊 The last shot is a cracker – a decomposer being decomposed by another decomposer, waste not want not I suppose is the natural way 😊 I read 'The Mushroom Miscellany' recently and it had some fascinating information in there.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Sounds like a good book, wurzel 😊

From autumn to spring – there have been snow drops in my garden for about five days now 😊 I think they're scared of drowning!

Re: Susie

by P.J.Underwood, 05-Jan-14 04:09 PM GMT

Susie,

The grotty weather has come! I have just noticed your pictures of fungi and also that you have not identified them. Without wishing to be presumptuous I will give you my initial observations. It is always difficult without the real thing in front of you as smell, taste, feel and underside are all important. But here goes:

- 1....Ramaria gracilis
- 2....ditto
- 3...Pleurotus dryinus
- 4...Amanita muscaria
- 5...Ganoderma australe
- 6...Amanita excelsa
- 7...Ditto
- 8Russula spp (turci?)
- 9...Lactarius spp
- 10....Russula spp
- 11...Piptoporus betulinus
- 12...Armillaria astroye
- 13....Bjerkandera adusta
- 14...Trametes versicolor
- 15...A mycena
- 16...Calocera viscosa
- 17...Hypholoma fasciculare.

Perhaps others might have other opinions! Fungal identification is often open to discussion.

Philip

Re: Susie

by Susie, 11-Jan-14 08:20 PM GMT

Thanks Philip.

Today was a beautiful day. Mild and sunny so a great day to get out in the garden before a trip to the seaside 😊 I decided to shift one of the log piles (not a small task!) as it was covering up bulbs which are emerging. In the process I found a hibernating peacock and managed to relocate it to a new purpose built log pile so it can over winter safely. I tried not to disturb it too much so it wouldn't waste energy and apart from it's antenna lifting a little it didn't even open it's wings so I think I was successful.



It's great to have my butterfly challenge off to a flying start already, months before I had hoped to see a butterfly! I can't wait for the months to come and hope to be able to get out and see those species I missed last year. Fingers crossed 2014 is going to be a good year! 😊

Butterfly challenge

1. Peacock

Re: Susie

by William, 12-Jan-14 11:24 AM GMT

Lovely shot of the Peacock Susie, it's always great when butterflies take advantage of something you've made for them, like a log pile 😊 . Good luck with your butterfly challenge for this year 😊 !

Re: Susie

by Susie, 12-Jan-14 08:25 PM GMT

Thanks William 😊

I do have a log pile for inverts unfortunately butterflies keep turning up in the logs that are fire wood!

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 12-Jan-14 09:45 PM GMT

A cracking start Susie 😊 , only a few more to go now 😊 😊

Have a goodun
Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Pete Eeles, 17-Jan-14 04:55 PM GMT

Happy Birthday Susie - nearly forgot! You must be at least 24 by now 😊

Cheers,
- Pete

Re: Susie

by Mark Colvin, 17-Jan-14 05:37 PM GMT

Likewise ...

Have a super birthday, Susie 😊 😊 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 17-Jan-14 05:59 PM GMT

Thank you Pete and Mark. You are both lovely to wish me a happy birthday. 😊 I'm an old bag now, well into middle age! 😊

It has certainly been a memorable day. I had booked a day off work and planned a lovely walk with my husband and the dog followed by a pub lunch. All last night wind and rain lashed the house and we woke up to severe flooding around the area where we live (fortunately not affecting our house).

Checking the weather forecast a couple of hours of dry weather was predicted from 11am so we set off. I drove through three deep areas of flood water to get to Petworth Park, the views were quite spectacular on the way and I wish I'd stopped to take photos with the landscape thrown into sharp relief with the sun shining brightly and a very ominous dark grey sky behind and then the rain began ... we're English so we didn't do the sensible thing and go straight to the pub but carried on and went for a walk in a variety of weather (drizzle, rain, heavy rain, torrential rain, stair rods, sleet and hail) before finally going to the pub soaking wet and freezing cold. Still, it was nice to get out (I think! 😊) Once at the pub I walloped my head on one of the beams and ended up seeing stars but the wine made up for that and the meal was the best veggie meal I've ever had out so, all in all, a lovely day 😊



Flood water on the road (not my pic)

Deer at Petworth Park.



Re: Susie

by Vince Massimo, 17-Jan-14 06:06 PM GMT

A very happy birthday Susie 😊

Sorry, I nearly forgot, I've been decorating. I'll paint a door in your honour 😊

Good luck with the quest for 2014. I reckon you should have no problem.

Best wishes,

Vince

Re: Susie

by Susie, 17-Jan-14 06:52 PM GMT

Thanks Vince, most kind 😊

Re: Susie

by Nick Broomer, 17-Jan-14 07:06 PM GMT

And many happy returns of the day from me too. 😊

All the best, Nick.

Re: Susie

by Neil Hulme, 17-Jan-14 07:09 PM GMT

Happy Birthday from me too. If you run up against problems reaching your target, just give me a call. 44 of the Sussex 45 should be reasonably straightforward, but SPBF might be tricky if you miss one of the others.

BWs, Neil

Re: Susie

by David M, 17-Jan-14 07:43 PM GMT

Joyeux anniversaire, Susie.

Re: Susie

by Padfield, 17-Jan-14 07:53 PM GMT

Happy birthday, Susie!

By an accident of fate, I find myself sitting in a bar in Ollon, waiting for a bus, with a foaming beer in front of me, so as I click 'send' I will take a swig and send you greetings from Switzerland.

Guy

Re: Susie

by Susie, 17-Jan-14 08:00 PM GMT

Thank you Nick , Neil, David and Guy 😊

Safe journey Guy.

Re: Susie

by Neil Freeman, 17-Jan-14 08:13 PM GMT

Hi Susie,

Happy Birthday, hope you had a good one 😊

Cheers,

Neil F.

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 17-Jan-14 09:25 PM GMT

Many happy returns 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Colin Knight, 17-Jan-14 10:41 PM GMT

Happy Birthday Susie, you'll start feeling younger from now on...

Re: Susie

by Butterflysaurus rex, 17-Jan-14 11:07 PM GMT

Happy Birthday Susie, I hope you see more butterflies than ever before this year 😊

Re: Susie

by Lee Hurrell, 18-Jan-14 12:09 AM GMT

Darn, just missed it. Happy birthday Susie. A G&T to you.

Best wishes,

Lee

Re: Susie

by Susie, 18-Jan-14 04:52 PM GMT

Thank you all for your birthday wishes 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 19-Jan-14 03:13 PM GMT

"Sussex Kipper" wrote:

Happy Birthday from me too. If you run up against problems reaching your target, just give me a call. 44 of the Sussex 45 should be reasonably straightforward, but SPBF might be tricky if you miss one of the others.

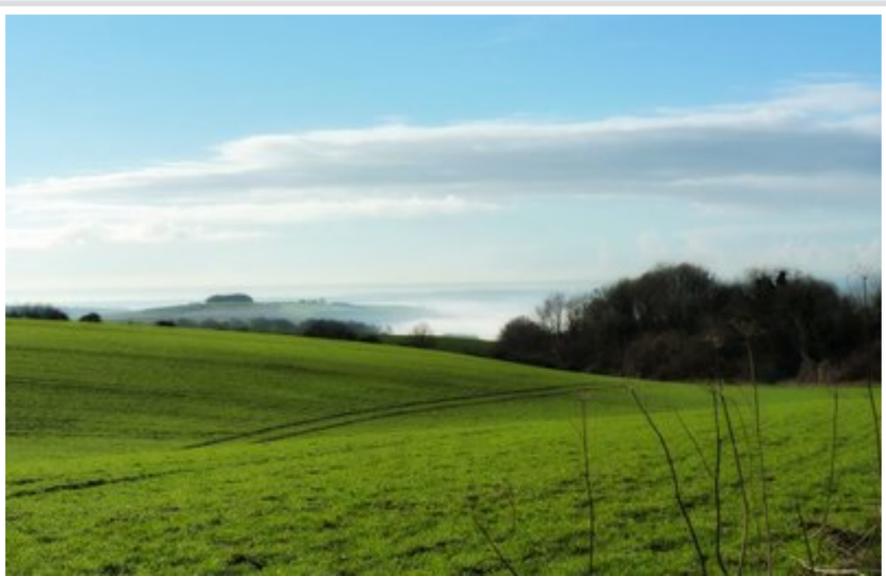
BWs, Neil

I've not seen small pearl before so that's definitely on my list.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 20-Jan-14 04:05 PM GMT

Today I planned to go to Wisley to photograph the butterflies but it was such a lovely day and pup gave me such a wistful look as I left the house I couldn't bear the thought of him being stuck indoors when the sun was shining so I reversed my car out of the drive to go to Wisley .. and then drove back in again. Wisley can wait for another day! I got the dog and off we went to Kithurst Hill for a lovely walk along the south downs way 😊 It took a while for the mist to burn away at lower levels but when it did the flooding around Amberley is really bad at the moment and it was quite something to look at.



View towards the sea



View towards the village and castle

Several skylarks were singing along the route [https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10 ... 6516512567](https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10...6516512567)

Re: Susie

by Susie, 27-Jan-14 05:34 PM GMT

Went to Wisley to see the butterflies today. Same old stuff as usual. Nice to see some sunshine and feel a bit of warmth though.

Pic taken last week of the flooding at Pulborough.



Re: Susie

by ChrisC, 27-Jan-14 07:30 PM GMT

that's a stunning shot!

Re: Susie

by Neil Freeman, 27-Jan-14 08:13 PM GMT

Beautiful image Susie, I can really feel the atmosphere in that photo 😊

Cheers,

Neil F.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 27-Jan-14 08:26 PM GMT

Thanks Neil 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 28-Jan-14 05:34 PM GMT

A couple of pics from yesterday.



In anticipation of the coming butterfly season today was the first day of pup's whistle training. Being a mongrel we didn't know what personality traits he would exhibit but he seems more retriever than border collie in temperament and although it's early days he's a bright boy and is doing well. He's still on the waiting list for agility classes but he's not a fast runner but he's a demon retriever and has recently discovered a love of swimming so agility may not be his thing. He's often mistaken for a flatcoat retriever and although he isn't he seems to act just like one and he has the sweetest personality and dotes on his mum 😊. Hopefully by the time he starts accompanying me on my butterfly walks he'll be able to sit still on command where ever he is (he does do this to a degree already but it's not 100%) and not scare off (or eat!) the butterflies. 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 29-Jan-14 07:55 PM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

Thanks Neil 😊

And Chris. Sorry Chris 😊

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 30-Jan-14 11:13 PM GMT

I tried to leave a comment on the 'flood scene' the other day but my iPod decided to have a wobble, so a belated 'cracking shot' 😊 The Morpho is pretty cracking too 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 31-Jan-14 08:44 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 04-Feb-14 07:45 PM GMT

Found my first brown hairstreak egg of the year this morning 😊

Re: Susie

by Maximus, 04-Feb-14 07:57 PM GMT

Great stuff Susie, it certainly brings a smile to one's face finding the first of the year 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 04-Feb-14 08:22 PM GMT

It does that 😊

The habitat is now quite unsuitable. Its overgrown, old and covered with lichen so I was very fortunate.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 14-Feb-14 08:08 PM GMT

Blackthorn now starting to bloom, daffodils in flower, if it wasn't blowing a gale and toshing down with rain I'd say it was starting to feel spring like on the birds' wedding day!

Re: Susie

by Susie, 16-Feb-14 08:13 PM GMT

Driving along today I saw a glimpse of something in a garden that could have been a brimstone. Too tentative a sighting to count though 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 18-Feb-14 03:27 PM GMT



Frogspawn in my pond! Two big blobs of it which makes me think they started laying on Sunday night, which after the lovely day on Sunday would make sense 😊

Looking back at my diary the frogspawn arrived around 8 March last year and 4 March the year before so this year it's early.

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 18-Feb-14 11:38 PM GMT

Spring is definitely starting to sprung 😊 I'd count the Brimstone too – they're definitely about I 'm sure I saw one on the local news the other day flying just behind the presenters head when he was reporting form a flooded Winchester 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 22-Feb-14 09:51 PM GMT

Thanks wurzel 😊

No butterflies today but a big fat humble bumblebee buzzing around the garden in the sunshine 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Mar-14 08:41 PM GMT

Took pup to st Leonard's forest this morning for a walk before I went to work. The first butterfly we saw was a red admiral which Billy the butterfly hound disturbed from it's basking. It must have still been pretty sleepy as it took to the air and glided more than flew up and away into a thicket. In the sunshine it was approaching warm but in the shade it was still nippy so I decided to walk back along the edge of the wood where it borders a golf course to maximise my chance of seeing another butterfly at the sunny woodland edge (I didn't actually expect to see anything) but I was so surprised to see a yellow butterfly zipping along the hedge line I actually exclaimed "BRIMSTONE!" out loud to the not inconsiderable surprise of the nearby golfers 😊

So two butterflies and both before 11am.

Butterfly challenge

1. Peacock
2. Red admiral
3. Brimstone

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 05-Mar-14 11:45 PM GMT

You're doing great on your challenge Susie but you might want to consider upping the 1 butterfly a month average 😊😊 I'm just jealous as I'm still stuck on two...maybe this weekend.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 08-Mar-14 08:48 PM GMT

It was a beautiful day and a shame I had to spend part of it indoors but at least I saw two brimstones while driving to Kent.

Re: Susie

by Maximus, 08-Mar-14 09:22 PM GMT

Tomorrows the day Susie, you have every chance of getting up to five 😊

Mike

Re: Susie

by Susie, 08-Mar-14 09:28 PM GMT

Yep! Desperately hoping for small tort and comma tomorrow 😊

It's just a dilemma about where to go! Possibly Buchan cp or cissbury ring, I don't know which is likely to be better.

Re: Susie

by Butterflysaurus rex, 08-Mar-14 09:38 PM GMT

Even better weather forecast for tomorrow Susie I'm sure you'll be successful.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 08-Mar-14 09:46 PM GMT

Thank you 😊

I just hope I don't draw a blank and then end up kicking myself when I look on here and the Sussex bc sightings page and see all the wonderful butterflies I could have seen if only I'd made a better judgement call 😊

Re: Susie

by Butterflysaurus rex, 08-Mar-14 09:51 PM GMT

Well that's happened to us all 😊 I saw quite a few Commas today and several Small Tortoiseshells on Thursday so I think your chances are very good

indeed 😊

Re: Susie

by Pauline, 09-Mar-14 06:57 PM GMT

Hi Susie, hope you found you Comma. Very envious of your frogspawn – this is the 1st year my pond hasn't had any. I am thinking it is probably the (39) cats round here which have taken all the frogs 😞

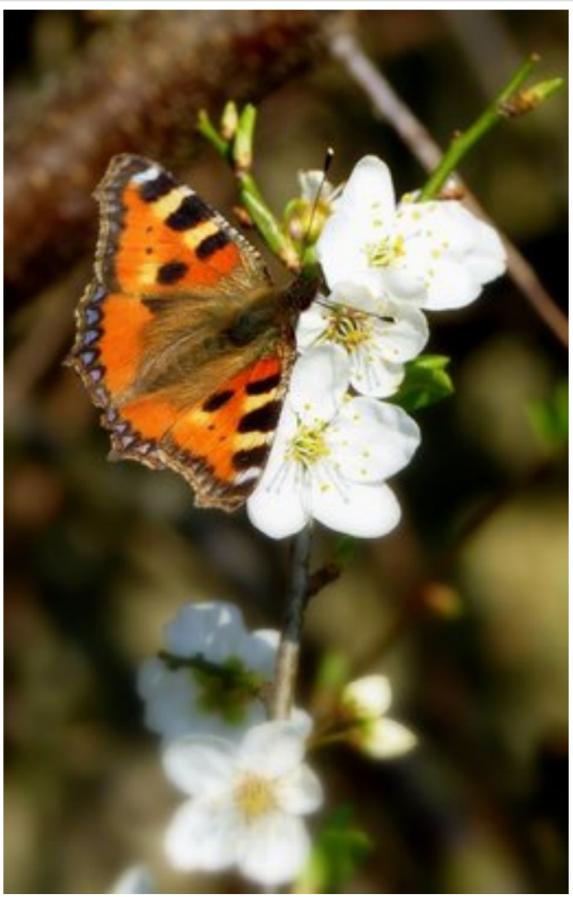
Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Mar-14 07:24 PM GMT

Thank you to everyone for your good wishes 😊

I started out early with the pup for a long walk to all the likely spots around here where I thought I might find small tortoiseshell and comma. I wasn't too concerned if I didn't see anything as I planned to make another butterfly trip in the afternoon. After an hour and a half I still hadn't found anything bar a potential largish butterfly which was put up from basking by Billy but which was too far away to tell what it could be. We'd had a lovely walk despite drawing a blank and I decided to try my luck and rather go directly home take a slightly longer route and walk along the drainage ditch by the edge of the bypass... JACKPOT! 😊 Immediately there were five small tortoiseshells and two comma in a very small area. 😊

An hour or so later I popped back with the camera as it seemed my afternoon butterfly trip was increasingly unlikely and there were a dozen or more small tortoiseshell (probably 20+ but I couldn't be absolutely sure as they were sparring and flying very fast in groups of twos and threes), two comma, a peacock and two male brimstone again all in a very small area.





Butterfly challenge

1. Peacock
2. Red admiral
3. Brimstone
4. Small tortoiseshell
5. Comma

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 09-Mar-14 11:25 PM GMT

Looks like you made the right choice on where to go Susie 😊 Great amorous Small Torts and the Peacock looks like right battler.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 10-Mar-14 06:48 PM GMT

Thanks wurzel. The symmetrical wedges missing from the peacocks hind wings makes me think someone took a bite when it had it's wings closed.

Took woofers to marlpast woods today. Wild daffodils were everywhere and very beautiful. Two more peacocks seen there.



Driving back I saw plenty of cuckoo flower in bloom. Orange tips will be along any day now if they haven't been seen already.

Also seen this morning was a Shetland pony in the back of a ford focus!

Re: Susie

by Susie, 15-Mar-14 07:41 PM GMT

It's amazing how a couple of weeks can make such a difference; two weeks ago I would have been thrilled to see any butterfly. Today I ended up thoroughly fed up with my lack of success to see any whites (large, small or orange tip – or even a brimstone would have done). The day started out well with a walk with the pup turning up a couple of small tortoiseshells and a peacock. My plans for the rest of the day were thwarted by teenagers and their fickle tendencies which meant my trip to Ferring Rife was again postponed and I ended up gardening at home for the best part of the afternoon. Finally, I managed to go out and thought I'd try my luck at Five Oaks. Five commas and a couple of peacocks were about but none posing for photos. I then moved on to Itchingfield/Barns Green but the sun had gone in at this point and it was quite late in the afternoon and I only saw one comma. The flowers are coming on well though Celandine, wood anemone, cuckoo flower, greater stitchwort and dandelions all in bloom and the first of the bluebell flowers starting to appear already 😬

Arriving home and feeling grumpy nursing a cup of coffee in the garden I started watching the bees and began to cheer up. Can't beat a hairy footed flower bee to put a smile on your face. Their buzzing is bonkers! 😄 There must be three or four varieties of bumble in the garden as well as the solitary bees and the bee flies are out too. Sitting in the sun catching a few rays I felt much happier, I'll find the whites another day. 😊

Re: Susie

by P.J.Underwood, 15-Mar-14 10:30 PM GMT

Susie,
Here we are flooded out with Brimstones!
Philip

Re: Susie

by Susie, 15-Mar-14 10:33 PM GMT

Lucky thing! 😊

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 16-Mar-14 12:57 AM GMT

Bees are a good substitute for butterflies Susie – plus if it's warm enough for bees to be flying butterflies shouldn't be far behind 😊 Brimstones are getting me down too as they're just too difficult to photograph at this time of year as they won't let you get close. 😬

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 16-Mar-14 08:24 PM GMT

Two brimstone, a few commas, about half a dozen peacocks and so many small torts I've lost count at various sites around here today but nothing new yet. 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 17-Mar-14 08:47 PM GMT

This afternoon I had a lovely walk along the wey and arun canal at loxwood. Despite it being warm enough to not need a jumper I didn't see a single butterfly which was really very surprising as the habitat is ideal.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 30-Mar-14 06:33 PM GMT

Not done much butterflying lately but saw a small white feeding on pansies in the middle of Horsham today. Another one for the list.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 01-Apr-14 05:35 PM GMT

As the fog burned off this morning I realised that it was going to be hot later! Hurrah! After dancing in the morning I headed off with the hound to a spot I know is good for orange tips in the early afternoon. As I headed nearer to the place I saw two small whites (or possibly green veined given the location but I won't count them yet) and I became more hopeful. I was thrilled to see the unmistakeable flash of orange as another butterfly streaked along the lane near to where I was due to park. Despite several more sightings where I followed him along the lane on foot he never stopped long enough for a picture and eventually disappeared over the hedge. Really good numbers of peacocks and brimstones around too and a few small tortoiseshell.



I then headed to a local bluebell woods and had a wander around with the hound. He was far too hot with his thick black coat and made a beeline for the nearest muddy pond to wallow in and cool down. The bluebells are just coming out in a few sunny spots and the wood anemone, celandines and cuckoo flower made a really pretty display. The lanes around Itchingfield and Barns Green are full of flowers and so I was surprised not to see any whites flying along here yet. It won't be long before they will be out in good numbers.

Butterfly challenge

1. Peacock
2. Red admiral
3. Brimstone
4. Small tortoiseshell
5. Comma
6. Small white
7. Orange tip

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 01-Apr-14 11:04 PM GMT

Congrats on the Orange-tip 😊 still none in my neck of the woods 😞 Your cracking shot of the Peacock seems to show or with a rectangular chunk missing from the hind wing—is that a bird strike?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Apr-14 10:11 AM GMT



Beautiful male orange tip sitting in the cuckoo flower by my pond this morning. Looked like he had recently emerged so probably home grown 😊

Re: Susie

by Butterflysaurus rex, 05-Apr-14 01:19 PM GMT

That is a wonderful photo Susie. I wish I got fresh Orange tips in my garden, I'm lucky if I even see one passing through.

ATB

B'saurus

Re: Susie

by Susie, 06-Apr-14 09:28 AM GMT

Hi wurzel, yes I think you are right that the peacock had survived a bird strike.

Re: Susie

by Goldie M, 06-Apr-14 03:12 PM GMT

No Orange Tips here yet Susie and with the weather we've got at present not likely to be, having said that I think their always abit later coming out in the north, your photo is lovely, I'm Green 🍀 Goldie 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Apr-14 12:05 PM GMT

Holly blue and speckled wood spotted this morning and plenty of orange tips in the garden.

Butterfly challenge

1. Peacock
2. Red admiral
3. Brimstone
4. Small tortoiseshell
5. Comma
6. Small white
7. Orange tip
8. Holly blue
9. Speckled wood

Re: Susie

by maverick, 09-Apr-14 12:16 PM GMT

im feed up apart from the butterflies ive seen on my hols , i only spotted about 6 tortoiseshells its still cold in the north west 😞

Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Apr-14 12:46 PM GMT

That's probably as frustrating as ne now at work and knowing there are butterflies outside 😞

Re: Susie

by David M, 09-Apr-14 04:36 PM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

That's probably as frustrating as ne now at work and knowing there are butterflies outside 😊

I feel your pain, believe me I do 😞

Re: Susie

by maverick, 09-Apr-14 05:17 PM GMT

I have to take back what I said earlier

I've been out this afternoon and can now say I've got six different butterflies

Torts x 20

Peacock x 12

Brimstone

Speckledwood

Large white

And a scruffy comma

All walking distance at the back of my house,I can safely say the the northwest has finally woken

Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Apr-14 08:29 PM GMT

Congratulations maverick! I am really pleased for you 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 10-Apr-14 07:53 PM GMT

I just had a look at the cuckoo flower by the pond. Nearly every plant has an orange tip egg already 😊

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 10-Apr-14 07:55 PM GMT

Hey leave some Orange-tip action for us Susie 😳 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 10-Apr-14 08:25 PM GMT

I hope something is left for me to see at the weekend. So far I've missed most of it!

Re: Susie

by Susie, 12-Apr-14 03:29 PM GMT

As Neil has found skippers at mill hill I thought I'd try my luck at denbies. Denbies is always a bit behind mill hill and I didnt see anything apart from a female brim and a couple of tatty small tortoiseshells.

I did see a parakeet flying over Capel on the way back, which is the furthest south I've seen one.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 13-Apr-14 06:29 PM GMT

What glorious day! I was up just after 4am this morning to drive eldest daughter to furthest Kent as she has a couple of weeks work lambing and watching the spring lambs bounce around in the early morning light was joyful. 😊

A walk round Sumner Ponds in Barns Green with the family didn't turn up much in the way of butterflies as I had hope (although the pup did manage to catch a vole – he released it unharmed) but a later trip around Five Oaks, Barns Green, Itchingfield and the surrounding areas turned up good numbers of orange tips, a few other whites including brimstones, a speckled wood and some peacocks. At home there were orange tips in the garden and holly blues.

I went to the bluebell woods and saw a green veined white and also a peacock that decided to hide behind a wheat stalk and pretend to be a monster 😊





Butterfly challenge

1. Peacock
2. Red admiral
3. Brimstone
4. Small tortoiseshell
5. Comma
6. Small white
7. Orange tip
8. Holly blue
9. Speckled wood
10. Green veined white

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 13-Apr-14 09:52 PM GMT

Lovely Holly Blue shot 😊👍 – but that Peacock isn't fooling anyone 😊😂

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 14-Apr-14 09:30 PM GMT

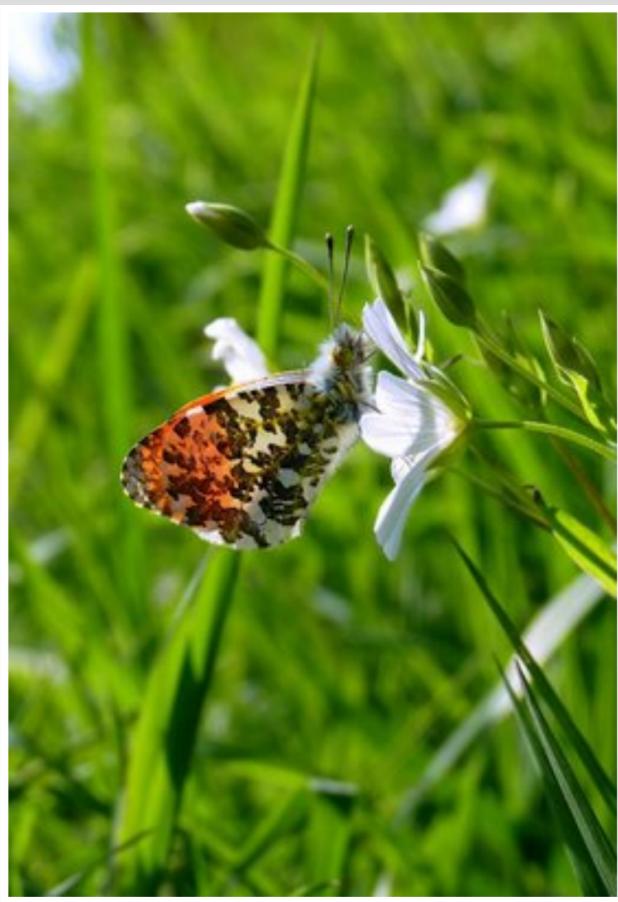
Thanks Wurzel 😊

Another lovely day. 😊

Saw a speckled wood this morning, then more orange tips, small whites and small tortoiseshells this afternoon.

One orange tip male was flying around and then settled as the sun went in. I ran home and got the camera and managed to fire off a couple of shots before the sun came out again. One wing was slightly damaged which gave a better view of the orange but he was still able to fly without difficulty.





Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 14-Apr-14 09:34 PM GMT

Lovely shots Susie 😊👍 I'm really struggling with OT's this year, I hope they're not my 2014 nemesis 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by David M, 14-Apr-14 09:43 PM GMT

Another Holly Blue!! Well done, Susie.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 15-Apr-14 05:19 PM GMT

I went to heyshott this afternoon with my daughter and the hound. There wasn't much flying, we only saw green veined whites and brimstones, but this a beautiful site and all the more impressive for the work undertaken over the winter. It was good just to have a wander and enjoy the views. We also bumped into Mark Colvin and it was nice to have a quick catch up. I haven't seen any butterfly friends since last year and it will be nice to spend time with some familiar faces again. 😊

I'll be back in a week or so to try again. 😊



Re: Susie

by Susie, 18-Apr-14 07:02 PM GMT

There were a few orange tips flying about in the garden of the Sussex oak this afternoon but by the time I arrived at rewell wood to look for pearls they'd all gone to roost and I lucked out.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 20-Apr-14 09:29 AM GMT

Happy Easter everyone 😊

Re: Susie

by Neil Freeman, 20-Apr-14 09:57 AM GMT

Happy Easter Susie 😊

Neil.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 21-Apr-14 06:10 PM GMT

Thanks Neil, I hope you enjoyed Easter too.

I checked the weather forecast for today for various sites I wanted to visit and cloud and rain was forecast to the south of me so I decided to head north to Denbies as the forecast was predicting sunshine there. As I left the sunshine of home the skies grew darker and the rain began to fall 😂 s*ds law for sure! I arrived at Denbies to cool cloudy conditions but at least it wasn't raining. A search of the site produced a peacock and that was it. I was quite disappointed. I thought I'd give it another go and found one dingy skipper. Hurrah! Then the sun came out but still there didn't seem to be much about. I saw a peacock again and a brimstone and that was it. In the area where I had expected to see green hairstreaks there were dozens of crab spiders, all a strong yellow. I hope when the green hairstreaks do arrive these spiders have moved on, but they were very impressive beasties and the biggest I have seen so I had to admire them.





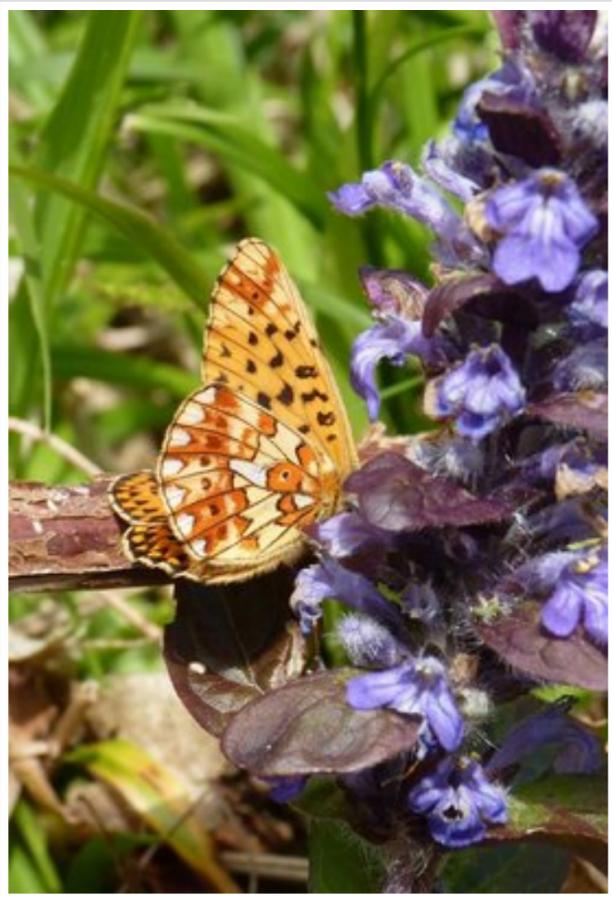
Butterfly challenge

1. Peacock
2. Red admiral
3. Brimstone
4. Small tortoiseshell
5. Comma
6. Small white
7. Orange tip
8. Holly blue
9. Speckled wood
10. Green veined white
11. Dingy skipper

Re: Susie

by Susie, 22-Apr-14 06:17 PM GMT

I took the hound to Houghton Forest this afternoon. We saw a speckled wood, some green veined whites and that was about it. We moved on to Rewell Wood and briefly saw a pearl bordered fritillary, long enough to fire off a couple of record shots before it flew into the trees, a peacock, lots of brimstones and a couple of whites.





Butterfly challenge

1. Peacock
2. Red admiral
3. Brimstone
4. Small tortoiseshell
5. Comma
6. Small white
7. Orange tip
8. Holly blue
9. Speckled wood
10. Green veined white
11. Dingy skipper
12. Pearl Bordered Fritillary

Re: Susie

by Susie, 24-Apr-14 07:33 PM GMT

Yesterday morning I went to Heyshott with the hound. Walking up towards the downs there were orange tips, green veined whites and brimstones on the wing and I was delighted to see a red admiral; only my second RA this year.

Pup notified me that there was someone ahead and I was pleased to meet Katrina for the first time before pup and I headed off up the hill. Several dingy skippers were about but it took me a while to see my first duke which was flying ahead of me and off out of my eye line. A peacock came to investigate us. I was fortunate to locate a second Duke which was sitting nicely for a while before too flying off and hunkering down. By now the weather had turned slightly unpleasant so we decided to head home and were pleased that we bumped into Neil on the way back.



Butterfly challenge

1. Peacock
2. Red admiral
3. Brimstone
4. Small tortoiseshell
5. Comma
6. Small white
7. Orange tip
8. Holly blue

- 9. Speckled wood
- 10. Green veined white
- 11. Dingy skipper
- 12. Pearl Bordered Fritillary
- 13. Duke of Burgundy

Re: Susie

by Katrina, 24-Apr-14 08:25 PM GMT

Beautiful photo Susie!

Re: Susie

by Susie, 26-Apr-14 05:09 PM GMT

Thank you, Katrina. I am pleased with it but it's not a patch on your duke on the cowslip 😊

The weather looked a bit dodgy today so I thought I'd go to Botany Bay for wood white. I briefly saw two.



Butterfly challenge

- 1. Peacock – 11/01/14
- 2. Red admiral – 05/03/14
- 3. Brimstone – 05/03/14
- 4. Small tortoiseshell – 09/03/14
- 5. Comma – 09/03/14
- 6. Small white – 01/04/14
- 7. Orange tip – 01/04/14
- 8. Holly blue – 09/04/14
- 9. Speckled wood – 09/04/14
- 10. Green veined white – 13/04/14
- 11. Dingy skipper – 21/04/14
- 12. Pearl Bordered Fritillary – 22/04/14
- 13. Duke of Burgundy – 24/04/14
- 14. Wood white – 26/04/14

Re: Susie

by Susie, 26-Apr-14 06:02 PM GMT

Think I saw a painted lady flying down Cranleigh High Street on Thursday.

Re: Susie

by Maximus, 26-Apr-14 08:58 PM GMT

Lovely Duke shot from Heyshott Suzie, also glad you got to see the Wood Whites at Chiddingfold in difficult conditions 😊

Mike

Re: Susie

by Susie, 28-Apr-14 04:22 PM GMT

Thanks Mike 😊

The weather forecast didn't look too good this afternoon so I thought I'd take the hound to Cissbury Ring and popped my camera in my bag just in case there was a butterfly or two 😊

We had a lovely walk and I was so pleased the weather stayed fair until we got home (torrential rain now!). Billy met his double while out (we don't meet many black retriever crosses) and had a lovely race around with a saluki; with his little spaniel legs he had no chance of keeping up. While out we saw

brimstones, orange tips, green veined whites, loads of peacocks, dingy skippers and also grizzled skippers, small coppers and a single wall. Three more to add to my list! 😊



Butterfly challenge

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2. Red admiral – 05/03/14
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12. Pearl Bordered Fritillary – 22/04/14
13. Duke of Burgundy – 24/04/14
14. Wood white – 26/04/14
15. Grizzled skipper – 28/04/14
16. Small copper – 28/04/14
17. Wall brown – 28/04/14

Re: Susie

by Pauline, 28-Apr-14 04:33 PM GMT

Just catching up Susie – smashing Duke shot but especially well done with the Wood White which have been really quite difficult to track down just recently.

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 28-Apr-14 11:30 PM GMT

Lovely Small Copper Susie and the Wood White is dreamy 😊 We're about a fortnight behind in Wiltshire so hopefully the Pearls will be out soon I expect that you'll have a Common Blue or Brown Argus by then.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 02-May-14 08:34 PM GMT

On Tuesday, with rain forecast to the north and south of me I decided to go somewhere in the middle – kithurst hill – and it was a great choice. I was hoping to see small blue and had no luck there but other butterflies were on the wing enjoying the warm sunshine in good numbers while thunder crashed to the north of us 😊

We couldn't go to the meadow (no dogs allowed) but followed the south downs way towards amberley and discovered a little bit of butterfly heaven in the form of a path that led to the south. I love wandering off the usual path and discovering these hidden gems. 😊 field pansy were flowering all along the route; just need a lost queen of Spain full of eggs to make another memorable summer 😊

Saw my first large red damselfly of the year.

Peacocks and brimstones were flying in good numbers, orange tips and green veined whites also. A few dingy skipper, speckled woods and a pair of perfect red admirals were in fighting good form; newly emerged or continental visitors I wonder?

With a cuckoo calling it was a perfect spring afternoon 😊

Re: Susie

by Neil Freeman, 02-May-14 09:21 PM GMT

Hi Susie,

Sounds like a great day. I know what you mean about just wandering down a footpath somewhere and finding new places, been doing bit of that myself and found some cracking spots within a few miles of my home.

All the best,

Neil.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 03-May-14 08:56 PM GMT

Went back to kithurst hill this afternoon but a little too late in the day for most butterflies. Still managed to see brimstones, peacocks, green veined whites and a dingy skipper.

Still no photos as having problems with home pc 😞

Re: Susie

by Susie, 04-May-14 04:56 PM GMT

I've sorted out my photo problem so here are a few from the last week







Re: Susie

by Katrina, 04-May-14 08:08 PM GMT

Lovely Brimstone on cowslip photo! I find it very hard to find them sitting still long enough for a photo

Re: Susie

by Susie, 04-May-14 08:41 PM GMT

Thank you Katrina. I must admit I put it there myself, which shows how chilly it was as it was quite obliging. I was pleased I was able to spot it in the first place as it wasn't flying 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 06-May-14 10:09 PM GMT



Ramsoms

Re: Susie

by NickMorgan, 06-May-14 10:28 PM GMT

Wow, 17 species already. I am only on 8!! I have seen a Large White, though! 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 07-May-14 03:29 PM GMT

I bet you catch me up soon enough, Nick! 😊

Today I went to Heyshott to have another look at the dukes and hopefully find a green hairstreak. Lucked out on the green hairstreak again! 😊

I saw about 12+ Dukes, plenty of dingy skippers and not a lot else, until I found a PBF. I lost it briefly before finding it again and getting some photos. Leaving the site I bumped into Paul (hello Paul 😊) and saw a small heath – another first for this year. 😊

After Heyshott I went to Kithurst Hill but the weather had broken and with rain falling down I decided to cut the visit short and head for home.

Butterfly challenge

1. Peacock – 11/01/14
2. Red admiral – 05/03/14
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13. Duke of Burgundy – 24/04/14
14. Wood white – 26/04/14
15. Grizzled skipper – 28/04/14
16. Small copper – 28/04/14
17. Wall brown – 28/04/14
18. Small heath – 07/05/14



Re: Susie

by Susie, 10-May-14 08:06 PM GMT

Despite the weather I went to Kithurst Hill this afternoon. I wanted to see small blue but still no luck. I couldn't go into the meadow because of the dog but was lucky enough to bump into Mark Colvin and Katrina. I took pup for a walk and when I returned Mark and Katrina hadn't found any small blue but had found three dukes and a brown argus roosting in the meadow. I was green with envy as I haven't seen a brown argus so far this year. Mark was kind enough to explain that the brown argus was just the other side of the fence and so with us staying roadside and Mark meadow side he took us to the spot and pointed out where it was roosting and I am able to add another tick to my list 😊 thanks Mark!

19. Brown argus. 10.05.14

Re: Susie

by Neil Hulme, 10-May-14 10:31 PM GMT

Hi Susie,
I'm not sure whether someone has told you that you can't take the Butterfly Hound into the meadow, but this certainly isn't the case! The local National Park ranger and I have put up a notice on the gate explaining the ecological importance of the meadow, and asking that dog owners prevent their pets

from fouling the field and adjacent area, as the cumulative build-up of nutrients is a problem when the flora and fauna depends on a nutrient-poor soil. But dogs are more than welcome (here and everywhere else) when owners clear up after the inevitable poop. The problem is exacerbated by the small size of the site, which supports the highest diversity of butterflies per hectare in the UK.
BWs, Neil

Re: Susie

by Susie, 10-May-14 10:57 PM GMT

Oh! Thanks Neil. I must have misread the sign on the gate which I thought said dogs were prohibited. I am very pleased that isn't the case 😊

It is such a special little place and a real credit to those who work so hard to preserve it (and expand it). 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 11-May-14 08:48 PM GMT

Looking at the weather forecast for the weekend last Friday I felt pretty depressed; rain, rain and more rain, and a fair bit of wind too was forecast. We certainly had plenty of rain and it blew up a hooley at times but overall the weekend has been much better than I expected. 😊

This afternoon I took a trip to Denbies (without the hound, we had taken him to the Cowpie show earlier in the day and worn him out!), it was quite late in the day and to be honest I wasn't expecting much but I was still hoping for a green hairstreak. No chance! 😊 I walked to the bottom of the hill, to a spot which was protected to the east and west by tall trees from the gusty wind, and was delighted to see a flash of blue, and then another; adonis blue in fact 😊 I managed to get some photos, then I saw common blue too, and brown argus – and then female Adonis blue. In total there must have been four or five Adonis blue, about the same numbers of common blue, one female Adonis, two brown argus, a couple of small heath, loads of dingy skippers and a couple of grizzled skippers and one brimstone and one speckled wood. I am sure that over the coming week if the weather hots up this place is going to explode with butterflies – maybe even a few green hairstreaks 😊

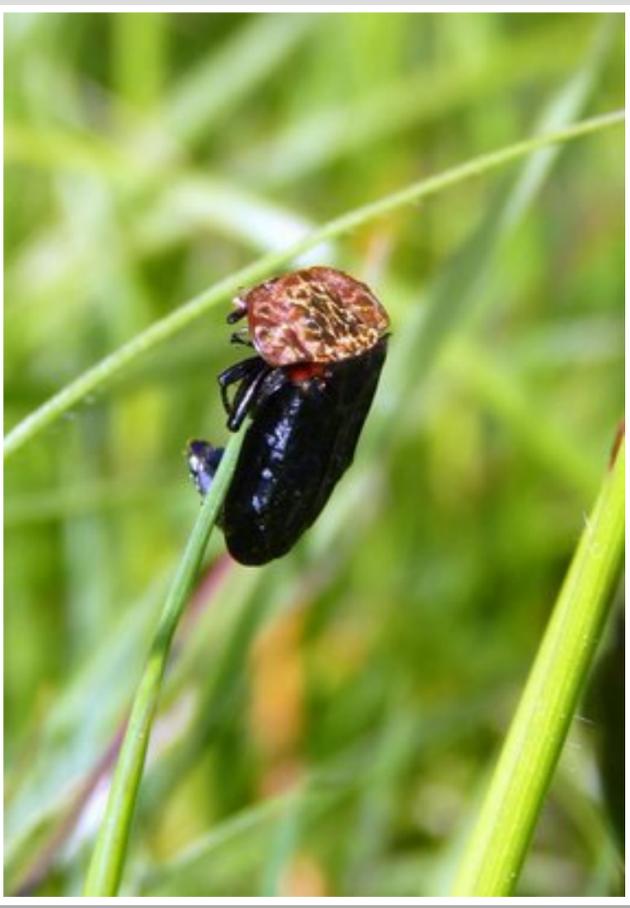




Butterfly challenge

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17. Wall brown - 28/04/14
18. Small heath - 07/05/14
19. Brown argus - 10/05/14
20. Adonis blue - 11/05/14
21. Common blue - 11/05/14

I also found this little critter; don't know what it is so I'll have to look it up 😊



Re: Susie

by Lee Hurrell, 11-May-14 10:08 PM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

In total there must have been four or five Adonis blue, about the same numbers of common blue, one female Adonis, two brown argus, a couple of small heath... I am sure that over the coming week if the weather hots up this place is going to explode with butterflies

That's my next trip out sorted then! 😊

Lovely photos Susie.

Best wishes,

Lee

Re: Susie

by millerd, 11-May-14 10:30 PM GMT

Lovely to see those, Susie! And to think that a few miles further north, the weather was so grey, cloudy and chilly that I abandoned all thought of a trip to Denbies... I should have known better! Later this week, perhaps.

Dave

Re: Susie

by Goldie M, 12-May-14 12:19 PM GMT

Hi! Susie lovely Photo's, it will take me into August to capture an Adonis, that's if I'm in Kent then 🍷

I also love your Landscape photo's they remind me of Constable's scene's. Goldie 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 12-May-14 01:32 PM GMT

Thanks Lee, Dave and Goldie 😊

Another visit to Kithurst Hill was in order this morning. As I arrived down came the rain ...

I met up with Colin Knight and Neil Hulme and it wasn't long before Colin found a small blue and with the weather being showery interspersed with brief periods of better weather it wasn't going anywhere far. After a while it started to nod off, and you can see it's antenna have drooped.

So that's me at the half way mark 😊



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18. Small heath – 07/05/14
19. Brown argus – 10/05/14
20. Adonis blue – 11/05/14
21. Common blue – 11/05/14
22. Small blue – 12/05/14

Re: Susie

by Hoggers, 12-May-14 03:56 PM GMT

Hi Susie, I'm following your Butterfly Challenge with interest (and envy!!) Good Luck with it.

I know you do a lot of butterflying with your hound alongside. He must be a lot better behaved than mine! Every time I spot a butterfly and I've wriggled along on my belly to get a nice Padfield-esque close-up photograph (I can dream!) my Spaniel comes charging in with his tail thrashing about and knocks everything flying (literally!)

But he's not all bad. Sometimes as I'm stalking my butterfly and can see the dog in the corner of my eye heading towards me at speed I manage to stop him by calling out "Wait! Waaaaait!!" and he'll stand there within inches of the butterfly, containing his energy like a bomb just about to go off, until I've taken my photo.

Great fun!

Best Wishes,

Hoggers.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 12-May-14 04:05 PM GMT

lol! I know what you mean – my hound is part springer spaniel (I got him DNA tested) and can bounce like a tigger when excited! To be honest I don't stand much chance of taking photos other than record shots with him around but that's okay I guess as we do have fun and he's good company. I rarely do more than record shots anyway. If I want to do any serious photography in future I'll have to leave him behind.

It's a bit of a challenge when trying to take a photo as he tends to come and see what I'm doing, then walks off and swishes his big fluffy tail either in my face or the butterfly 😊😂 I am more concerned about him disturbing other photographers and so always pop him on his lead when I see other people.

Thank you for the good wishes, they are much appreciated. I've done pretty well so far but that's the easy bit. It'll get harder as I have to travel to see the more unusual stuff which isn't local to me.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 12-May-14 08:49 PM GMT

One from Denbies I missed off yesterday.



and another one



and one of the hound from a few weeks back when we were looking for orange tips



Re: Susie

by Lee Hurrell, 13-May-14 09:36 PM GMT

Good to hear the dog tales. I hope to one day have a canine butterfly companion.

Susie, I'm four species behind you, which should be put right by a trip to Denbies this weekend. But I do have Green Hairstreak 😊

Lee

Re: Susie

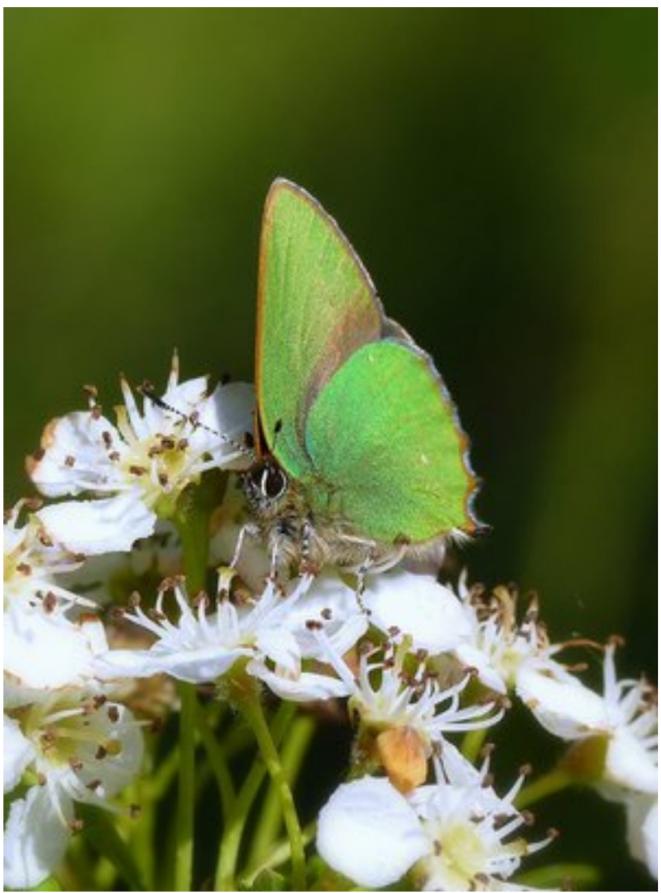
by Susie, 14-May-14 11:53 AM GMT

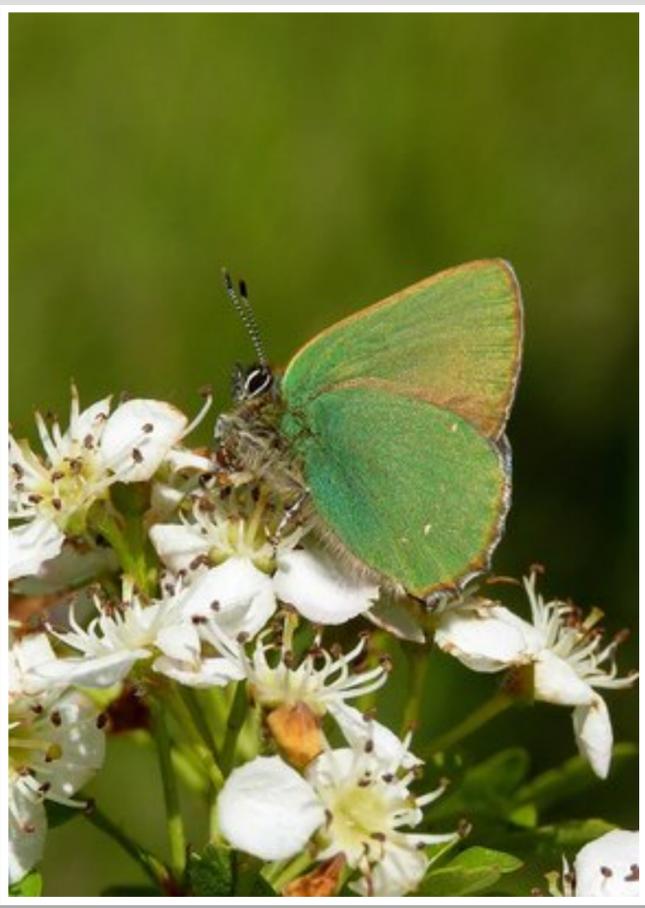
And so do I now, Lee! 😊

The forecast was for a beautiful day but I'm due at work this afternoon, despite that and in the short time slot I had available I set off early with the hound to Denbies; green hairstreak was the target and I really didn't want to miss out this time.

As soon as I arrive and went to the lower field a butterfly flew past, could it be? It settled in the grass and yep, a green hairstreak! Hurrah. Unfortunately the hound disturbed it. It didn't take me long to find four others having fisticuffs over a hawthorn bush. Eventually some of the them settled, many were very worn with big chunks missing from their wings but one was in pretty good nick. 😊

Also seen; brimstone, green veined and orange tip, Adonis blue, common blue and brown argus, small heath, dingy skipper.





Butterfly challenge

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19. Brown argus – 10/05/14
20. Adonis blue – 11/05/14
21. Common blue – 11/05/14
22. Small blue – 12/05/14
23. Green hairstreak – 14/05/14

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 14-May-14 02:28 PM GMT

That last Greenstreak is a beaut 😊 You're flying ahead with the tally now 🍀 Good luck with the Marshies 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 19-May-14 07:27 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel 😊

Unfortunately due to a rather unpleasant bug that struck yesterday afternoon I didn't think I was going to be well enough to travel the two hours each way that it would take to reach the marshies today, but by mid-morning I was starting to go stir crazy and even though I didn't feel great I headed off to see if I could find a Glanville fritillary at Hutchinson's Bank. Other butterflies were out in good numbers (brimstone, orange tip and small white, speckled wood, small heath, peacock, common blue, small blue and brown argus, and green hairstreak) but no glanvilles. 😞

So, a sort of wasted journey, but that was better than staying at home and wondering what I might have seen 😊

I did see some sheep sporting some rather interesting hairstyles however.

I wonder if this one was the butt of some joke 😊



Re: Susie

by Susie, 20-May-14 06:57 PM GMT

Long story short, after a head's up from a very kind UKB member I headed to Wiltshire for Marsh fritillary. Despite the weather I was not disappointed.

If anyone finds a tatty red dog lead up there it belongs to the hound! 😊

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19. Brown argus – 10/05/14
20. Adonis blue – 11/05/14
21. Common blue – 11/05/14
22. Small blue – 12/05/14
23. Green hairstreak – 14/05/14
24. Marsh fritillary – 20/05/14

Re: Susie

by William, 20-May-14 07:19 PM GMT

Glad you got them Susie, beautiful butterflies when seen en masse – look forward to seeing some photos 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 20-May-14 09:04 PM GMT

Butterflies seen today:

Green veined white, orange tip, small blue, common blue and Adonis blue, brown argus, small heath, marsh fritillary, green hairstreak and dingy skipper.

The Marshies were very friendly, this one wanted to hitch a ride on my trouser leg. This is only the second time I have seen marsh fritillary, other than a brief glimpse at Magdalene Hill Down on a UK Butterflies photographic forum meeting some years ago. Next on my hit list is either small pearl bordered fritillary or home grown Sussex Swallowtail, both of which I have not seen before. Not sure how lucky I will be with them! 😊



Re: Susie

by Lee Hurrell, 20-May-14 09:14 PM GMT

Very nice Susie, lovely photos. 😊

Best wishes,

Lee

Re: Susie

by David M, 20-May-14 09:42 PM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

Butterfly challenge

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17. Wall brown – 28/04/14
18. Small heath – 07/05/14
19. Brown argus – 10/05/14
20. Adonis blue – 11/05/14
21. Common blue – 11/05/14
22. Small blue – 12/05/14
23. Green hairstreak – 14/05/14
24. Marsh fritillary – 20/05/14

Susie, have you missed Large White off your list?

I find it hard to believe you haven't yet spotted one in 2014. 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 20-May-14 10:03 PM GMT

Thanks Lee 😊

I am afraid that I haven't had a definite sighting of a large white yet, as surprising as it may sound. I have seen some butterflies in the distance that could have been a large white but until I am absolutely sure I would rather not count them. They'll be in my garden soon enough after the nasturtiums I plant for them every year. 😊

Re: Susie

by David M, 20-May-14 10:18 PM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

They'll be in my garden soon enough after the nasturtiums I plant for them every year.

I'm sure you'll be proved correct on that count, Susie.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 21-May-14 11:31 AM GMT

A couple more marshies from yesterday



and I couldn't resist one of my favourite butterflies



Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 21-May-14 02:16 PM GMT

Fantastic photos Susie, especially those on the Dandelion clocks 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Neil Freeman, 21-May-14 08:56 PM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

I am afraid that I haven't had a definite sighting of a large white yet, as surprising as it may sound. I have seen some butterflies in the distance that could have been a large white but until I am absolutely sure I would rather not count them.

Hi Susie,

I have only seen a couple of definite Large Whites so far this year and those were in the past week. All the other possibles that came close enough to ID proved to be female Brimstones.

Great Marsh Fritillary photos, they were a first for me last year, don't think I will get a chance to see them again this year before they finish.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Susie

by Katrina, 22-May-14 07:17 AM GMT

I love the hitchhiker shot – impressed you managed to get it in focus while on you!

Re: Susie

by Susie, 22-May-14 09:34 PM GMT

Thank you Wurzel, and thanks for your help without which I may not have been so successful 😊

Thanks Neil, the Marsh Frits I saw were in good condition, I don't know how long they last but I imagine they will be around for a while yet.

Thanks Katrina, good job I have long arms! 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 22-May-14 09:45 PM GMT



This butterfly caught my notice the other day because she seemed particularly dark. On comparing her to others online I don't think she's anything unusual but looking at her abdomen it seems to be positively fit to burst. I wonder if that can just be eggs or perhaps there is a parasitoid in there?

Re: Susie

by millerd, 22-May-14 10:22 PM GMT

It's probably just eggs – they can lay 300 or so and sometimes cannot fly properly because of the weight! This is a female from Hod Hill a few years back looking ready to explode... 😊



Dave

Re: Susie

by Maximus, 23-May-14 08:53 AM GMT

As Dave says it's just eggs Suzie. This female at Hod Hill last year was so laden with eggs she found it difficult to fly. We found her on the path so moved her to the safety of a Cowslip leaf.

Lovely photos by the way 😊



Mike

Re: Susie

by Susie, 24-May-14 08:55 AM GMT

Thanks, it is nice to know its nothing nasty 😊

Nice pics 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 25-May-14 12:40 PM GMT

Glanville fritillary seen briefly at Hutchinson's bank this morning.



This brimstone had no idea what danger it was in. When I left the site they were both still sitting there safely. An ant crawled up and over the spider and it didn't move a hair so intent it was on it's bigger prey



Butterfly challenge

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2. Red admiral – 05/03/14
3. Brimstone – 05/03/14
4. Small tortoiseshell – 09/03/14
5. Comma – 09/03/14
6. Small white – 01/04/14
7. Orange tip – 01/04/14
8. Holly blue – 09/04/14
9. Speckled wood – 09/04/14
10. Green veined white – 13/04/14
11. Dingy skipper – 21/04/14
12. Pearl Bordered Fritillary – 22/04/14
13. Duke of Burgundy – 24/04/14
14. Wood white – 26/04/14
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16. Small copper – 28/04/14
17. Wall brown – 28/04/14
18. Small heath – 07/05/14
19. Brown argus – 10/05/14
20. Adonis blue – 11/05/14
21. Common blue – 11/05/14
22. Small blue – 12/05/14
23. Green hairstreak – 14/05/14
24. Marsh fritillary – 20/05/14
25. Glanville fritillary – 25/05/2014

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 25-May-14 10:16 PM GMT

That was a cracking find 🍷 I'm not sure I'm going to get to see that species this year. If you can get to Bentley the Small Pearls are flying well and their numbers are building nicely, probably about 10 in the Eastern Clearing today 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 25-May-14 10:19 PM GMT

Thanks wurzel 😊 Weather permitting I hope to see spf at some point. Not seen them before.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 26-May-14 04:45 PM GMT

All plans for butterflying scuppered today due to non stop horrible rain = one very grumpy Susie. 😡

Re: Susie

by Pauline, 26-May-14 10:24 PM GMT

Great shot of the spider Susie – wouldn't have noticed if you hadn't mentioned. What sort is it?

Re: Susie

by Susie, 29-May-14 04:53 PM GMT

Hi Pauline, I think it is the crab spider *Misumena vatia*, but I don't know a great deal about spiders so I could be wrong. 😊

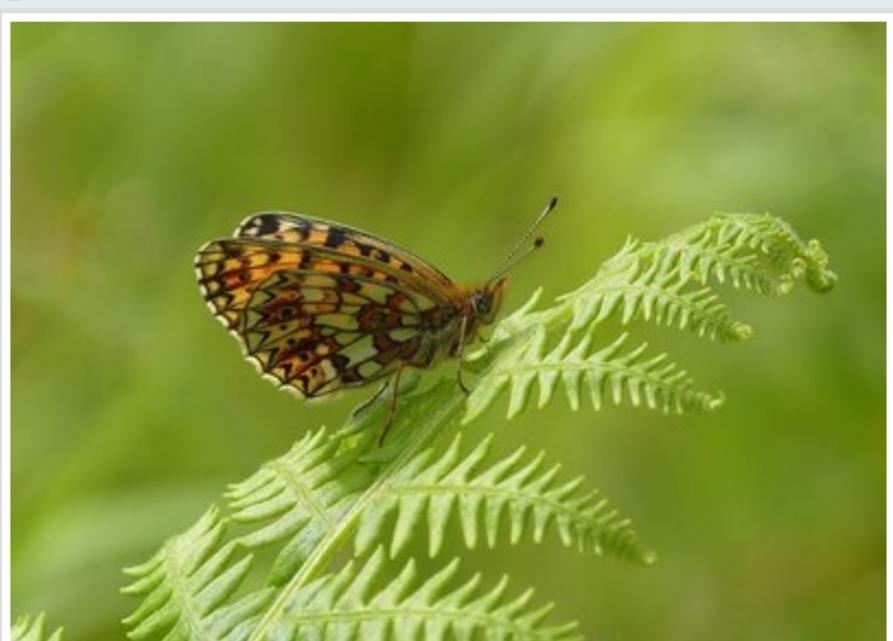
I haven't done any butterflying since last Sunday but out for a walk today I found a May Bug on the path. As the path gets a lot of footfall I moved it to the side and as I left it gave me a wave bye-bye (or it could have been giving me a beetle version of a "V" sign for all I know!) I thought it was cute so took a quick snap on my phone.



Re: Susie

by Susie, 31-May-14 06:06 PM GMT

A trip to Bentley Wood for me this morning and a first sighting ever of Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary. Another one to go on the butterfly challenge list. 😊



Butterfly challenge

1. Peacock – 11/01/14
2. Red admiral – 05/03/14
3. Brimstone – 05/03/14
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7. Orange tip – 01/04/14
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17. Wall brown – 28/04/14
18. Small heath – 07/05/14
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22. Small blue – 12/05/14
23. Green hairstreak – 14/05/14
24. Marsh fritillary – 20/05/14
25. Glanville fritillary – 25/05/2014
26. Small pearl bordered fritillary – 31/05/2014

Re: Susie

by Katrina, 31-May-14 06:35 PM GMT

Good photo Susie!

Re: Susie

by Susie, 31-May-14 08:15 PM GMT

Thank you! I took loads but they're all basically the same 😊

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 31-May-14 08:20 PM GMT

Cracking shot Susie, really glad that you got your SPBF 😊 Did you see much of Bentley – it's a great place.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Lee Hurrell, 31-May-14 11:51 PM GMT

Glad you got your SPBF. We don't like a grumpy Susie 😊

Lee

Re: Susie

by Susie, 01-Jun-14 07:10 AM GMT

Thanks Lee and wurzel.

I stuck mainly to the eastern clearing yesterday, Wurzel. I have been there once before, years ago on a uk butterflies photographic forum meeting when we had a field trip there and it is a lovely place.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 01-Jun-14 01:25 PM GMT

SWALLOWTAIL!! It was a swallowtail, it's only an F***king swallowtail!! (can you tell I'm a tad excited?)

Just flown over my garden while I was eating my lunch, flew from the south, dipped into the garden and then flew due north. Unmistakeable!

Re: Susie

by Susie, 01-Jun-14 01:26 PM GMT

Butterfly challenge

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7. Orange tip – 01/04/14
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22. Small blue – 12/05/14
23. Green hairstreak – 14/05/14
24. Marsh fritillary – 20/05/14
25. Glanville fritillary – 25/05/2014
26. Small pearl bordered fritillary – 31/05/2014
27. SWALLOWTAIL!! – 01/06/2014

Re: Susie

by William, 01-Jun-14 01:30 PM GMT

"Susie" wrote:
SWALLOWTAIL!!

Congratulations Susie – you've just had the sighting everyone dreams of 😊

Re: Susie

by Lee Hurrell, 02-Jun-14 10:42 PM GMT

"Susie" wrote:
SWALLOWTAIL!! It was a swallowtail, it's only an F***king swallowtail!! (can you tell I'm a tad excited?)

😂😂😂 Dammit, just when I thought we were on the same species... congratulations Susie 😊 BWS
Lee

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 02-Jun-14 11:35 PM GMT

Is a F**king Swallowtail a named aberrant or a vagrant species? 😊😂 Congrats – it's a hell of a garden list species 🏆🏆

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 03-Jun-14 08:46 AM GMT

I would advise everyone to avoid seeing a swallowtail because once you get a glimpse you're going to want more and they're not easy to find!

I spent part of yesterday scouring local areas looking for likely sites but didn't have any more sightings 😞 I really want photographic proof of what I saw.

Re: Susie

by MikeOxon, 03-Jun-14 12:36 PM GMT

This 'photographic proof' thing is becoming a disease – I suffer from it too. Don't worry – I believe you 😊

Mike

Re: Susie

by Susie, 08-Jun-14 03:42 PM GMT

The council has been cutting back (no pun intended) on the amount of grass cutting they do and as a result the grass verge along the by-pass has lovely long grass and lots of wild flowers. A walk along this earlier today turned up two large skippers, lots of fresh small tortoiseshells, a green veined white, a meadow brown and a large white.

So much for the June drop – it feels like we're really in summer now.

Butterfly challenge

1. Peacock – 11/01/14
2. Red admiral – 05/03/14
3. Brimstone – 05/03/14
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24. Marsh fritillary – 20/05/14
25. Glanville fritillary – 25/05/2014
26. Small pearl bordered fritillary – 31/05/2014
27. SWALLOWTAIL!! – 01/06/2014
28. Meadow brown – 08/06/2014
29. Large skipper – 08/06/2014
30. Large white – 08/06/2014

Re: Susie

by Susie, 16-Jun-14 05:05 PM GMT

A visit to Iping this morning in far from ideal conditions turned up about 15 silver studded blues, including one female. Most were very worn, assume they emerged last week and weathered the storm, but there were a few in good condition.

Butterfly challenge

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2. Red admiral – 05/03/14
3. Brimstone – 05/03/14
4. Small tortoiseshell – 09/03/14
5. Comma – 09/03/14
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23. Green hairstreak – 14/05/14
24. Marsh fritillary – 20/05/14

25. Glanville fritillary – 25/05/2014
26. Small pearl bordered fritillary – 31/05/2014
27. SWALLOWTAIL!! – 01/06/2014
28. Meadow brown – 08/06/2014
29. Large skipper – 08/06/2014
30. Large white – 08/06/2014
31. Silver studded blue – 16/06/2014

Re: Susie

by Susie, 17-Jun-14 05:45 PM GMT

Loads of butterflies on the wing at Cissbury Ring this afternoon, including four new ticks for me this year. Dark green fritillary, marbled white, ringlet and a clouded yellow. Unfortunately no photos.

1. Peacock – 11/01/14
2. Red admiral – 05/03/14
3. Brimstone – 05/03/14
4. Small tortoiseshell – 09/03/14
5. Comma – 09/03/14
6. Small white – 01/04/14
7. Orange tip – 01/04/14
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25. Glanville fritillary – 25/05/2014
26. Small pearl bordered fritillary – 31/05/2014
27. SWALLOWTAIL!! – 01/06/2014
28. Meadow brown – 08/06/2014
29. Large skipper – 08/06/2014
30. Large white – 08/06/2014
31. Silver studded blue – 16/06/2014
32. Clouded yellow – 17/06/2014
33. Dark green fritillary – 17/06/2014
34. Marbled white – 17/06/2014

Re: Susie

by Susie, 21-Jun-14 12:54 PM GMT

A walk at Southwater Woods today with the hound turned up some more new butterflies for me, silver washed fritillary, white admiral and purple hairstreak.

The butterflies were very active and not stopping for photos. Good numbers out and about though.

1. Peacock – 11/01/14
2. Red admiral – 05/03/14
3. Brimstone – 05/03/14
4. Small tortoiseshell – 09/03/14
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29. Large skipper – 08/06/2014
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31. Silver studded blue – 16/06/2014
32. Clouded yellow – 17/06/2014
33. Dark green fritillary – 17/06/2014
34. Marbled white – 17/06/2014
35. Silver washed fritillary – 21/06/2014
36. White admiral – 21/06/2014
37. Purple hairstreak – 21/06/2014

Re: Susie

by Susie, 22-Jun-14 10:18 AM GMT

Just walking back from taking the dog out a few minutes ago and something fluttered in the grass in the verge which is next to my house. Picked it up to see what it was and it was a fresh male purple hairstreak 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 24-Jun-14 05:34 PM GMT

I saw my first purple emperor of the year today, unfortunately I can't add it to my challenge list.



Perhaps we could have a UK Butterflies pin badge to raise funds for BC.

Re: Susie

by Willow, 25-Jun-14 08:53 PM GMT

That's a great idea Susie 😊 it would also be a neat way of 'advertising' the fact your a member of this excellent resource 😊😊

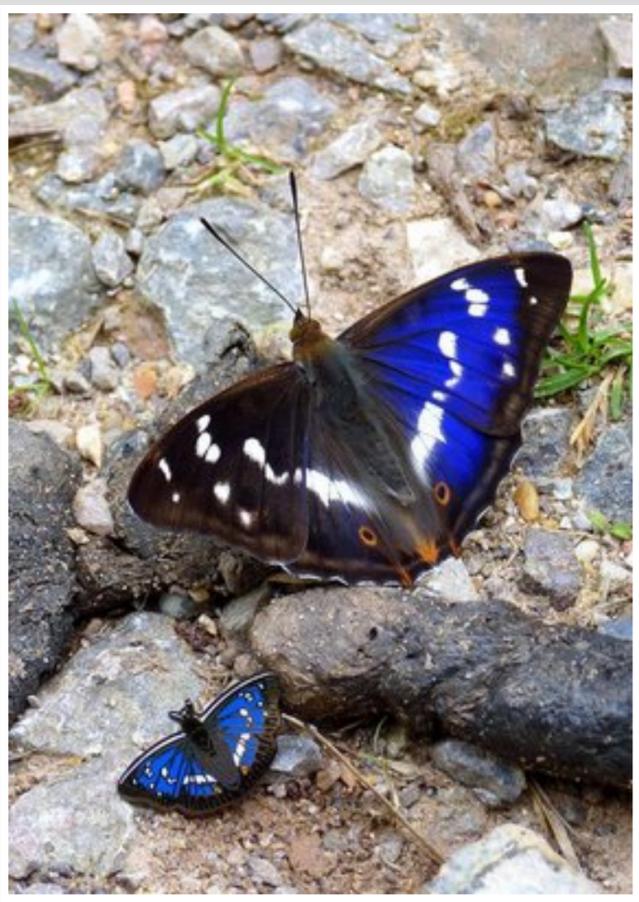
Bill 😊

"When in doubt...venture out"

Re: Susie

by Susie, 30-Jun-14 01:55 PM GMT

A visit to Botany Bay/Chiddingfold turned up the goods this morning. After crossing the concrete bridge I was greeted by His Imperial Majesty coming to greet me. It spent quite a long time in various spots taking minerals from the ground. After locating a rather tasty meal, and with the sun going in, it stayed grounded for quite some time so I thought I would seek the royal seal of approval for the marvellous purple emperor pin badge. I wouldn't expect any less but it is good to see how accurate a reflection it is of real life 😊



It was great to meet up with PJ Underwood again and catch up, it was also lovely to meet BadgerBob. 😊

A second purple emperor was also seen by other people on site. Also on the wing silver washed fritillary, white admiral, red admiral, comma, meadow brown, ringlet, and large skipper.

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32. Clouded yellow – 17/06/2014
33. Dark green fritillary – 17/06/2014
34. Marbled white – 17/06/2014
35. Silver washed fritillary – 21/06/2014
36. White admiral – 21/06/2014
37. Purple hairstreak – 21/06/2014
38. Purple emperor – 30/06/2014

Re: Susie

by Neil Hulme, 30-Jun-14 02:32 PM GMT

Hi Susie,
Wonderful image (one of the best this season) love it! Would it be OK for me to download and post to Purple Empire, unless you would like to do the honours?
BWs, Neil

Re: Susie

by Susie, 30-Jun-14 02:44 PM GMT

Please do. I posted but was pressed for time and couldn't add a photo 😊

Re: Susie

by badgerbob, 30-Jun-14 09:04 PM GMT

Great to meet up with you too Susie and really like the photo!!

Re: Susie

by P.J.Underwood, 30-Jun-14 09:33 PM GMT

I like your photo, Susie. My one lacks the little extra. Also pleased your daughter is now on course for her second year. It gets easier from now onwards. P.J.U.



The same Purple Emperor without his friend.

Re: Susie

by Nick Broomer, 30-Jun-14 09:39 PM GMT

Great photo Susie, and such a fresh beautiful specimen. The best photo of a P.E. I've seen this year. Well done. 😊

All the best, Nick.

Re: Susie

by millerd, 30-Jun-14 09:56 PM GMT

What a glorious Emperor – as shiny and new as they get. 🍷

Brilliant photo, Susie! 😊

(And you have four on your species list I still haven't seen yet this year... 🍷)

Dave

Re: Susie

by Susie, 01-Jul-14 05:22 PM GMT

Thank you for your kind comments, folks 😊

Your photo is pretty darn good too, PJ 😊 We're very proud of Lizzie passing her first year's vet exams and I passed on your message that it will get easier after this. She's very pleased!

Unbeknown to me when I took the photo of the pin badge with the Emperor but there was a competition running on The Purple Empire (an excellent site if anyone here hasn't visited it). I must admit that I hadn't visited for a rather long time (possibly last year?!) but to my surprise when I did it looks as if I have bagged myself a prize. Now that is pure serendipity! <http://apaturairis.blogspot.co.uk/2014/...wards.html>

Re: Susie

by P.J.Underwood, 01-Jul-14 05:51 PM GMT

Susie,

I am really pleased that your prize came from a Botany Bay P.E. as traditionally so many people have had so much fun chasing P.E.'s. A lot of the modern knowledge has come from N.H. and I don't think they had anyone like him in the past, and also dog's were fed on different diets that must have been boring to the butterflies.

Tomorrow looks like a good day!

P.J.U.

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 01-Jul-14 10:33 PM GMT

Fantastic shot of His Nibbs's Susie 😄 Congratulations on the serendipitous prize 😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Maximus, 02-Jul-14 08:35 PM GMT

Stunning photo of a stunning Purple Emperor Suzie, your prize is well deserved 😄

Mike

Re: Susie

by Susie, 04-Jul-14 08:52 PM GMT

"Maximus" wrote:

Stunning photo of a stunning Purple Emperor Suzie, your prize is well deserved 😄

Mike

Thank you, everyone 😄

I think my confidence was ill placed though, there are others in the running 😄

Can't take away the memory of getting up close and personal on my pin badges inaugural trip though.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Jul-14 05:09 PM GMT

Butterflying has been limited today to those seen locally while I've walked the dog. Still plenty of meadow browns around, a few whites, some red admirals and small tortoiseshells and loads of large and small skippers. I'm still hoping to see a painted lady, I thought we were going to be invaded by them but I've yet to see one.

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35. Silver washed fritillary - 21/06/2014

- 36. White admiral – 21/06/2014
- 37. Purple hairstreak – 21/06/2014
- 38. Purple emperor – 30/06/2014
- 39. Small skipper – 05/07/2014

Re: Susie

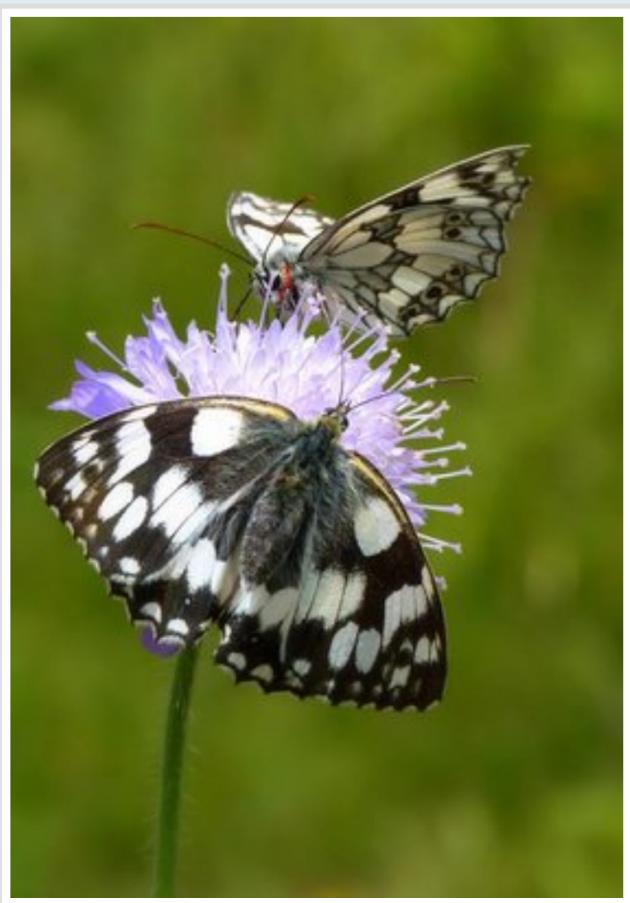
by Susie, 06-Jul-14 06:16 PM GMT

Gatekeeper at box hill today. Another one for the list.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 08-Jul-14 05:13 PM GMT

And Chalk Hill Blue today 😊



Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 08-Jul-14 10:33 PM GMT

Full steam ahead Susie 😎 there can be only a couple more species left now for the challenge (Grayling, Silver Spotted Skipper and Brown Hairstreak?)

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Jul-14 08:18 AM GMT

Hi wurzel, grayling are a bit of a trek from me so I am hoping for Essex skipper, silver spotted skipper, and brown hairstreak to complete my challenge. I may also find painted lady if I'm lucky. I am hoping to go looking for lulworth skipper and white letter hairstreak as extras 😊

Re: Susie

by Neil Hulme, 09-Jul-14 08:22 AM GMT

Hi Susie,

If you go for late Lulworths at Durlston you might not be able to avoid Grayling 😊 .
BWs, Neil

Re: Susie

by Mildheart, 09-Jul-14 05:51 PM GMT

Susie

You missed Ringlet off your list.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Jul-14 06:00 PM GMT

Hello Mildheart,

Thank you, you are absolutely right 😊 I must have forgotten to add them to the list in all the excitement over HIM 😊 Just two more to go then.

Updated list

1. Peacock – 11/01/14
2. Red admiral – 05/03/14
3. Brimstone – 05/03/14
4. Small tortoiseshell – 09/03/14
5. Comma – 09/03/14
6. Small white – 01/04/14
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9. Speckled wood – 09/04/14
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11. Dingy skipper – 21/04/14
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16. Small copper – 28/04/14
17. Wall brown – 28/04/14
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19. Brown argus – 10/05/14
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38. Ringlet – 30/06/2014
39. Purple emperor – 30/06/2014
40. Small skipper – 05/07/2014
41. Gatekeeper – 06/07/2014
42. Chalk hill blue – 08/07/2014

Re: Susie

by Willow, 10-Jul-14 07:21 PM GMT

Thats an impressive list Susie...sign of a great Summer 😊

Bill 😊

"When in doubt...venture out"

Re: Susie

by Susie, 10-Jul-14 08:09 PM GMT

Yes indeed 😊 Everything seems to have flown early this year and I am lucky to have had brief glimpses of many of our lovely butterflies. I'm nearing the end of my challenge for this year already and although I haven't managed to see everything I had hoped to see at the start of the year it has been good. My favourite butterfly experiences of this year have to be three firsts for me. Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary, Marsh Fritillary – and the most surprising – swallowtail.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 12-Jul-14 10:15 PM GMT

A good butterflying day today. Went to Marlpost Woods, Southwater at lunchtime with middle daughter and woofers for a walk. Loads of meadow brown, ringlet, and skippers, flying and a few silver washed frits, red admiral and peacock about too. We watched a lovely courtship display from a pair of silver washed frits. I never tire of watching the male cartwheel around the female. Possibly one Purple Emperor salivating but can't say for sure. The place was deserted apart from us, as it always seems to be now. Long gone are the days when you couldn't move for bumping into another butterflyer.

Late this afternoon I went to Denbies. Again it was good for butterflies. Marbled whites, meadow brown, ringlet, small skippers, dark green fritillary, small heath, red admiral, peacock, a single bright yellow brimstone, but by far the most numerous butterflies were the chalk hill blues. I had hoped to see them go to roost but although some were settled in the grass they weren't settled enough to let me close with my camera and the breeze meant any shots were haphazard. Still they were great to see, and the number of abs are building. I hardly saw any abs on Tuesday, now numbers of butterflies are up over all and I reckon abs are something like one in four in certain places on the hillside. There are so many unusual butterflies at Denbies that I guess they don't really count as they are so common so can't really be called abs as they are nearly mainstream. Ravens and buzzards were showing well too.







After my walk I thought I would treat myself to a well earned ice cream from the ice cream van before heading home (oyster, flake, strawberry sauce – yum!) when I was approach by a very sweet couple who were on a walking holiday and had lost their way. They asked if they could possibly have a lift into Dorking, where they would be staying for the night, as they had walked all the way from Guildford that day and didn't think they could manage much more. They looked plain tuckered out and I was pleased to be able to oblige, dropping them in the road by their B&B. They asked for a charity of my choice so they could make a donation to thank me for my kindness (it was on my way anyway so no trouble but they wouldn't take no for an answer) and so hopefully Butterfly Conservation will be getting a few more quid in its coffers 😊.

Re: Susie

by Katrina, 13-Jul-14 07:44 PM GMT

Triple well done Susie, good photos, good deed and fundraising! 😊

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 13-Jul-14 09:59 PM GMT

Great selection of Chalk Hill abs Susie 😊 Good work on building the BC coffers too 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 14-Jul-14 07:51 PM GMT

Good numbers of small torts, peacock and whites in the garden today. The odd meadow brown too.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 16-Jul-14 06:21 PM GMT

I went to lulworth cove today with daughter and dog in search of lulworth skippers but the further west we drove the worse the weather got. The hot sunshine of home gave way to rain and nothing was flying. Eventually the rain stopped and a few butterflies were about but not the one I wanted 😞

A short stop off at Avon heath reserve on the way back turned up some beautiful small coppers. I haven't seen many of them this year.

Despite the lack of skippers it was a lovely day out.

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 16-Jul-14 09:52 PM GMT

Sorry Lulworth didn't pan out Susie 😞 The good thing about Lulworths though is their long flight period so they'll still be around in a few weeks time and even longer at Durlston if you can wangle a second visit. 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 17-Jul-14 10:01 PM GMT

Hi Wurzel, how long would you expect them to be on the wing for at Durlston? Yesterday was the second time I've been hunting for Lulworths (went to Portland a few years back) and failed to see them. I want to make it third time lucky and soon! 😊

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 17-Jul-14 11:58 PM GMT

If I remember correctly Neil (Nfreem)saw them at Durlston on his holiday either last year or the year before and that was into mid August. I saw them at Lulworth itself last year when I was holiday there which was the first week of August. I think they were early this year but even so they should still be around. If you check the website www.durlston.co.uk they have maps of the reserve and you might be able to phone in advance to ask if there are any Lulworths around. I hope this helps. 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 18-Jul-14 08:48 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel. That's really helpful. Hopefully I'll get another pop at them before it's too late this year.

As I write this the light is yellow and there are rumbles of thunder about. If you enjoyed last night's storm you might find this sight interesting.

<http://www.lightningmaps.org/realtime?lang=en>

Re: Susie

by Neil Freeman, 18-Jul-14 09:21 PM GMT

Hi Susie,

Wurzel is nearly right 😊 I saw them at Durlston both last year and the year before in late early September. They were mostly getting past their best by then but one or two were not too bad, particularly in 2012.

I saw them mostly on the grassy slopes of the gulley which I walked to along the cliff path from the visitor centre. My diary posts with more details are below, scroll down to the Durlston reports.

viewtopic.php?f=29&t=5424&start=680

and

viewtopic.php?f=29&t=5424&start=280

It is also worth checking the daily sightings on the website link that Wurzel posted to see what is about.

All the best,

Neil

Re: Susie

by Susie, 21-Jul-14 10:52 AM GMT

After the possible brown hairstreak I saw locally last week I definitely saw one today just now while walking the dog in my local park. It was a male searching the ash master tree. This is the spot where I usually see them and it's good to have them back. 😊

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6. Small white – 01/04/14
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38. Ringlet – 30/06/2014
39. Purple emperor – 30/06/2014
40. Small skipper – 05/07/2014
41. Gatekeeper – 06/07/2014
42. Chalk hill blue – 08/07/2014
43. Brown hairstreak – 21/07/2014

Re: Susie

by Susie, 26-Jul-14 02:22 PM GMT

Still only the one brown hairstreak flying around the master tree earlier today. Not coming down for photos either.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 28-Jul-14 04:54 PM GMT

There have been good numbers of butterflies in the garden over the past few weeks, last week's glut of peacocks have all but disappeared (gone off to hibernate I assume) but the small tortoiseshells are still around with a good dozen or so being in the garden feeding on the buddleias this afternoon. Large whites, female brimstone, small white, comma, meadow brown, gatekeeper, red admiral and silver washed fritillary too. Unfortunately a lot of the dog violet I had been growing has been weeded by an over zealous helper at the weekend 😞 but I am hopefully that there is still enough for the silver washed fritillaries to breed here. Today's silver washed looked in very good condition, not tatty and travel worn as the ones I usually see in the garden in past years are, so it is even possible that it was home grown or come from somewhere near as there was a female trying to egg lay here last year.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 29-Jul-14 08:18 PM GMT

I went to Windover Hill today, I thought I'd complete my butterfly challenge and see either a grayling, silver spotted skipper or painted lady. Fail! 😞 I am sure they were there but I didn't see 'em. There were thousands of butterflies about though 😊 In the hot windy conditions I only had brief looks at them but there were good numbers of wall which I've only seen in ones and twos before. Also around were chalk hill blue, common blue, marbled white, all the other usual whites including brimstone, peacock, meadow brown, gatekeeper, small heath, dark green fritillary, small skipper (and possibly Essex?) and good numbers of small copper. It was lovely and it's such a beautiful place with wonderful views. The corns ripe and just ready for harvesting. So pretty.



Re: Susie

by David M, 29-Jul-14 09:59 PM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

I thought I'd complete my butterfly challenge and see either a grayling, silver spotted skipper or painted lady.

Susie, Scotch Argus is readily available if you wanted to spend a day 'oop North'.

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 31-Jul-14 09:54 PM GMT

Lovely Small Copper Susie and the shot of the Corn ready for harvest is really evocative 😊 Lulworths are still flying down in Dorset – I saw a few ragged one at Lulworth itself and nice fresher female at Corfe Castle this week gone – you could call in at the heaths (Arne or Middle Beach Studland) on the way and pick up an aged Silver Grayling 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 01-Aug-14 09:14 PM GMT

Thanks David and wurzel.

I think oop north is a bit too ambitious for me this year but I am still hoping to make it to durlston 😊

Re: Susie

by millerd, 01-Aug-14 09:27 PM GMT

You've still got four on your list I haven't seen this year! 🍷

Silver-spotted Skippers at Box Hill *and* Denbies today, and Grayling near Woking. Not too far from you...

Windover sounds a splendid spot – but then the South Downs are an amazing place altogether. The ripe barley pic is so evocative – I can almost smell the beer!

Dave

Re: Susie

by David M, 01-Aug-14 10:30 PM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

Thanks David and wurzel.

I think oop north is a bit too ambitious for me this year but I am still hoping to make it to durlston 😊

Go on, Susie. You know it makes sense 😊

I'm going up there myself early next week and it can't be much more of a journey than yours.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 02-Aug-14 03:22 PM GMT

Good luck with your journey, David 😊

Early this afternoon I went to denbies. I figured that the combination of cloud and chance of rain should make the butterflies a bit easier to photograph, again I was wrong. The strong wind had most things hunkering down in the grass or being whipped along in flight at terrific speed. And it sure was warm there, I swear that when a few spots of rain did fall it evaporated before it hit the ground in a puff of steam! 😊 The chalk hill is like one huge storage heater.

Anyhoo, despite that I saw eight or more silver spotted skipper, plenty of chalkhill blues, common blue, brown argus, small skipper, meadow brown, gatekeeper, small tortoiseshell, marbled white, and one fresh Adonis blue.

The chalkhills are mainly past their best now and today certainly wasn't one of the 'oh wow!' experiences like I've had before there.

If anyone is thinking of going there next weekend it might be an idea to avoid the Sunday as there is a cycle race in the area.





So I guess that's my 44 done for this year. It certainly felt a bit autumnal this afternoon at Denbies despite the heat. I feel rather deflated rather than excited at finishing my challenge. Hey ho, there's always next year! 😊

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- 41. Gatekeeper – 06/07/2014
- 42. Chalk hill blue – 08/07/2014
- 43. Brown hairstreak – 21/07/2014
- 44. Silver spotted skipper – 02/08/2014

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 02-Aug-14 10:53 PM GMT

Congrats on completing the challenge Susie and with some cracking species too 😊 So 45 species next year – you'll have to make it down to Lulworth/Durlston then? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 03-Aug-14 08:58 AM GMT

Thanks wurzel 😊

I still hope to make it to durlston this year. Perhaps I'll get a bonus species or two!

And yes, 45 next year. Shouldn't be too difficult but will necessitate increased effort as the years tick passed.

Re: Susie

by MikeOxon, 03-Aug-14 02:13 PM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

will necessitate increased effort as the years tick passed.

Once you get towards my age, you could start adding counts for earlier life stages 😊

Mike

Re: Susie

by Pauline, 03-Aug-14 07:22 PM GMT

Lovely shot of the Adonis Susie 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 04-Aug-14 04:49 PM GMT

"MikeOxon" wrote:

"Susie" wrote:

will necessitate increased effort as the years tick passed.

Once you get towards my age, you could start adding counts for earlier life stages 😊

Mike

When I get to the stage where I can't see enough butterflies in the UK I hope to be in a position to be able to go butterflying abroad 😊

Thanks Pauline 😊

Today there was a very welcome guest in the back garden. There is a small patch of birds foot trefoil (which fortunately didn't get weeded!) and today a tiny common blue female visited and laid eggs 😊



Re: Susie

by P.J.Underwood, 04-Aug-14 06:04 PM GMT

Susie,

As I have told you,after a few years the challenge of the rest of Europe becomes too great,as one finds there are several hundred new species not too far away.For me this year has thrown up Cleopatras,Cardinals,Large Copper,Large Tortoiseshell,Poplar Admiral,Arran Brown,Woodland Brown,Chequered Skipper,Chequered Blue,Balkan Zephyr Blue,Green underside Blue,Hungarian Glider,Common Glider,Twin spot fritillaries,Lesser Heath Fritillaries,Lesser Marbled fritillaries,Assmans fritillaries,Black hairstreaks,Sloe hairstreak,Chestnut heath,Pearly heath,Clouded Apollo,and many others I am still working through.This is as well as the Purple Emperors at Botany Bay.

It is a joy going to these ex-communist countries.I hope you can make it one day.

P.J.U.

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 04-Aug-14 11:27 PM GMT

Great news about the Common Blue ova Susie 😊 Good luck with your charges 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Aug-14 01:35 PM GMT



Just had this little beauty in the garden 😊





Re: Susie

by CJB, 05-Aug-14 05:25 PM GMT

Hi Susie,

And I thought my garden was productive?!? 🍷

I have had 20 species in the garden but if my memory serves me right you also had a European Swallowtail!?

Amazing.

Flutter on!

CJB

Re: Susie

by badgerbob, 05-Aug-14 05:30 PM GMT

We would all love to have those 2 as garden ticks!! Fantastic stuff!!

Re: Susie

by Neil Hulme, 05-Aug-14 05:36 PM GMT

Hi Susie,

I see the Common or Garden Hairstreak has returned. 😊

BWs, Neil

Re: Susie

by MikeOxon, 05-Aug-14 05:58 PM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

When I get to the stage where I can't see enough butterflies in the UK I hope to be in a position to be able to go butterflying abroad 😊

With around 20,000 species in the world, may you live long and prosper 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Aug-14 08:41 PM GMT

"Neil Hulme" wrote:

Hi Susie,

I see the Common or Garden Hairstreak has returned. 😊

BWs, Neil

Yeah, pesky things eat my blackthorn. I must get the insecticide out 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Aug-14 08:42 PM GMT

"MikeOxon" wrote:

"Susie" wrote:

When I get to the stage where I can't see enough butterflies in the UK I hope to be in a position to be able to go butterflying abroad 😊

With around 20,000 species in the world, may you live long and prosper 😊

I plan on sticking around for quite some time, but I think that's a tad on the optimistic side, Mike 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Aug-14 08:44 PM GMT

Thanks Badgerbob 😊

"CJB" wrote:

Hi Susie,

And I thought my garden was productive!?!? 🍷

I have had 20 species in the garden but if my memory serves me right you also had a European Swallowtail!?

Amazing.

Flutter on!

CJB

Yes, you are right. Unfortunately the Swallowtail flew over, never to be seen again (so far!). I have plenty of fennel in the garden just in case ... now wouldn't that be amazing to add to the list of breeding butterflies in the garden.

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 05-Aug-14 11:35 PM GMT

Oh for a garden tick like that 🍷 Mind you I'd just like a garden to start with 😊😊 Great shots BTW 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 06-Aug-14 08:18 PM GMT

Two brown hairstreaks flying around the canopy of my local master tree this morning.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 08-Aug-14 10:56 PM GMT

I've been trying to think of all the butterflies I have seen in my garden and put together a list. I think this is the lot but may add to it if I remember more. I've put an asterisk by the ones I know breed here or have bred here in the past.

Garden list:

Orange tip*

Green veined white*

small white*

large white*

brimstone*

Small skipper

large skipper

Comma

meadow brown

gate keeper

speckled wood

small copper

common blue*

holly blue*

painted lady

Small tortoiseshell

red admiral

peacock

silver washed fritillary(*possibly!)

purple hairstreak*

brown hairstreak*

Continental swallowtail (it may have only flown over – but I'm counting it!)

Re: Susie

by ChrisC, 08-Aug-14 11:24 PM GMT

no comma?

cracking list, both breeding and non-breeding.....

Re: Susie

by MikeOxon, 08-Aug-14 11:34 PM GMT

A list that would be quite creditable for a large country estate – perhaps that's what you have?

Mike

Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Aug-14 08:31 AM GMT

"ChrisC" wrote:

no Comma?

cracking list, both breeding and non-breeding.....

Well spotted. I have edited the list to include comma. 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Aug-14 08:39 AM GMT

"MikeOxon" wrote:

A list that would be quite creditable for a large country estate – perhaps that's what you have?

Mike

Unfortunately not! Just a smallish garden with too many plants 😊

There is a busy road nearby which makes it noisy so I don't spend as much time there as I might otherwise and probably miss a lot as a result.

I don't get many butterflies, but I am pleased by the variety of that list.

I know of people a mile away from me to the north and the south who have both had purple emperor in the garden. Now that would be a garden tick to be proud of but I think I live just that bit too far from woodland to ever be that lucky.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Aug-14 05:46 PM GMT

I had a brief trip to Steyning late this afternoon. Unfortunately it was overcast there and there was very little flying. I saw a few meadow brown, a small heath, a common blue, and a few red admirals. Can't win 'em all. 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 10-Aug-14 09:07 AM GMT

Bertha is here. I wonder how many butterflies will be around after she's gone 😊

Re: Susie

by Neil Freeman, 10-Aug-14 12:03 PM GMT

Hi Susie,

Not sure what it is like down your way but we have had a morning of heavy rain here in the midlands but it seems to be easing off now. I can even see a bit of blue sky, only a bit but just about enough to make a sailor a pair of trousers 😊

By the way, congratulations on completing your challenge.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 10-Aug-14 01:40 PM GMT

Thank you.

It's been a tad wet and windy here too but dry now and the sun's come out 😊

I can even see a bit of blue sky, only a bit but just about enough to make a sailor a pair of trousers 😊

I love that, never heard that expression before! 😊

Re: Susie

by millerd, 10-Aug-14 02:43 PM GMT

You're far too young, Susie 😊

(oops, sorry, Neil 😊)

Dave

Re: Susie

by Susie, 16-Aug-14 12:12 PM GMT

<http://youtu.be/cjfsflPQKVg>

I'm not a fan of people breeding butterflies at home generally but this is really cute. Not sure if the boy will end up a fan of butterflies or scarred for life though! 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 02-Sep-14 08:33 PM GMT

This afternoon summer came back for a while. At my local patch I've not seen a brown hairstreak since Saturday although there are loads of eggs. I took the hound to Southwater Country Park thinking that he'd be allowed to walk free but saw that dogs have to be kept on lead until the end of the month and he does love to swim so took him to the area of fields adjacent to the overflow carpark where a stream gives him the opportunity to have a splash about. I hit hairstreak gold here 😊 within the first few minutes I had seen three brown hairstreaks, more than any other single species I saw while there 😊 I am sure that brown hairstreak are hugely under recorded in the area, everywhere seems to have blackthorn hedges and ash trees and is perfect habitat.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 16-Sep-14 01:28 PM GMT

The red admirals are still showing really well in the garden. Dead heading the buddleias earlier in the summer has paid off and most are having a second flowering 😊

Brown hairstreak seen just now flying the length of the football pitch near the master tree.

Re: Susie

by David M, 16-Sep-14 09:26 PM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

The red admirals are still showing really well in the garden. Dead heading the buddleias earlier in the summer has paid off and most are having a second flowering

Interesting, Susie.

I must try that myself next year.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 21-Sep-14 01:18 AM GMT

I'm down in Bognor this weekend enjoying a soul weekender and during a stroll along the prom in lovely sunshine today saw quite a few red admirals flying along the sea edge. They didn't seem to be flying out to sea or in from the sea, just along.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 23-Sep-14 04:58 PM GMT

Yesterday I took the pup to Cissbury Ring and was surprised by how many butterflies were around so this morning, finding I had some time on my

hands, I went back with my camera. I didn't see any clouded yellows as I did on Monday but there were still small copper, common blue, brown argus, small heath, speckled wood, red admiral, meadow brown and wall – quite a respectable tally for this time of year!

Re: Susie

by Susie, 23-Sep-14 05:00 PM GMT



Re: Susie

by Goldie M, 24-Sep-14 11:29 AM GMT

Susie I'm 🙄 with envy, your photo is lovely of the CB but for you to see so many different Butterflies, Well! it's amazing 🙄 I bet you were very pleased Goldie 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 11-Oct-14 07:40 AM GMT

Rather a belated post but last Saturday 4 October I saw a brown hairstreak flying strongly while I was out walking the dog. It is probably the last I'll see this year and has made for a very long season for them.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 21-Oct-14 10:05 PM GMT

I saw a wall yesterday at pitch hill in Surrey and a red admiral today close to home. Butterflies are still about but not for too much longer I think.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 27-Oct-14 06:16 PM GMT

Red admiral and small white in the village this morning.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Nov-14 07:41 PM GMT

Red admirals still on the wing 😊 I think leaving some fruit on the pear tree helps when there isn't much nectar about.

Re: Susie

by Padfield, 09-Nov-14 09:23 PM GMT

I'm sure you're right, Susie. Round here, windfall apples are undoubtedly the main draw for red admirals and I see them around the apple trees (which seem to grow wild in the meadows) on my early morning dog walks even when the temperature has barely crept above zero.

Guy

Re: Susie

by NickMorgan, 10-Nov-14 01:41 PM GMT

Yes, any old fruit seems to be an attraction to Red Admirals and other insects. My father had loads of Red Admirals coming to the fallen Yew berries in

his garden in the Scottish Borders. They even came on quite cool, overcast days!

Re: Susie

by Susie, 10-Nov-14 08:59 PM GMT

Definitely fruit trees seems to be something worth having to provide them with a food source (as well as ourselves). Saw more red admirals today.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 25-Dec-14 11:16 PM GMT

On Monday I went to Stonehenge to see the solstice celebrations. It's the first time I've been and it certainly was an interesting experience! Does anyone know what the site is like for butterflies in the summer?

Happy Christmas to you all and best wishes for 2015.



Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 26-Dec-14 07:53 AM GMT

My Larkhill stop off is about 30 seconds drive away so it's pretty good with good numbers of skippers, browns, whites and blues. I had my first Larkhill Greenstreak this year and a Purple Emperor was recorded at the Larkhill camp. Some of the areas of the surrounding Plain have huger numbers of Dark Gren Frits and Marshies and there are sites nearby where you can pick up Adonis and Chalkhills plus Shipton Bellinger is about 20 minutes away as is my Duke site 😊

I know what you mean about the Solstice I took the girls the year it snowed and it was weird, odd, magical and awe inspiring all at the same time. We managed to get right into the circle and my older daughter kept pointing out the 'wizards'. I found it was the closest I've ever come to a spiritual sensation 😊

I hope you had a great Xmas and the rest of the festivities will be cracking too 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 26-Dec-14 02:52 PM GMT

Thanks wurzel! Sounds like a great area 😊

Stonehenge certainly was interesting, you weren't anyone if you weren't wearing a cloak and funny head gear seemed compulsory too 😊 I loved every minute of it, although there were too many people there for it to feel spiritual for an introvert like me. Give me a site like Kingley Vale any day. It certainly is special though. I can't wait to go back.

Have a wonderful Christmas too 😊

Re: Susie

by ChrisC, 26-Dec-14 11:23 PM GMT

Kingley Vale..... now there's a place, in among the ancient yews..now that is an experience...

Re: Susie

by Susie, 27-Dec-14 01:06 PM GMT

I'd have never thought of you as spiritual, Chris. Perhaps you found your inner druid 😊

Some of the characters from Stonehenge



Re: Susie

by Susie, 30-Dec-14 08:43 PM GMT

I hope everyone is having a lovely Christmas 😊

I went to Petworth Park this afternoon for a bracing walk with the family. The hound found something by one of the large ant hills and he made a sharpish exit after giving it a sniff so I went in to investigate. Click on the short video if you want to see what it was

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=10...6205880133>

Re: Susie

by David M, 30-Dec-14 09:27 PM GMT

I'm surprised that reptile is still active in these cold conditions. I trust the pooch came out unscathed?

Re: Susie

by Susie, 30-Dec-14 09:52 PM GMT

Thank you for asking, David. Yes, Billy is fine. He is a very bright dog and gave it plenty of space once he realised what it was. He's wise beyond his years at times.

