

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by selbypaul, 01-Jan-16 01:11 PM GMT

Agree that its almost certainly Green Hairstreak

Good luck with the Capercaillie hunt. I've not seen one either, despite four trips to Scotland!

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by trevor, 01-Jan-16 07:17 PM GMT

I too have always wanted to see the Aurora. A few years back the TV weather forecaster said that there was a chance of seeing the Aurora from high ground here in the south. So I went up to Beachy Head, and despite a clear sky I shivered for several hours for nothing!

Never mind,  
Happy new year,  
Trevor.

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Chris Jackson, 03-Jan-16 06:04 PM GMT

**Jack Harrison wrote:**

Any idea what the so-called specialised butterfly might be?

Jack

Could the elephant in the room be that it might in fact be a ..... moth ?  
Back to the specialists. 😊

Chris

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by bugboy, 03-Jan-16 09:39 PM GMT

**Chris Jackson wrote:**

**Jack Harrison wrote:**

Any idea what the so-called specialised butterfly might be?

Jack

Could the elephant in the room be that it might in fact be a ..... moth ?  
Back to the specialists. 😊

Chris

Lets not forget that the Wikipedia article isn't UK-centric...

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 04-Jan-16 12:37 PM GMT

**New Year 2016**

No butterflies but local birds in numbers. Clips 60 and 50 seconds. My silly commentary. Best in HD.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cimrLk0zCPw>

<https://youtu.be/JXLYM8f0IIE>

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 20-Jan-16 05:44 AM GMT

Some photos from trip to S.England (still on way north - currently Carlisle)

A few goodies 18 January.

**Long-tailed Tit**



Nuthatch



Marsh Tit



All taken from car (as hide) - Lumix FZ150

On the road again shortly heading further north via the foggy [Scotland] Central Belt

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by David M, 20-Jan-16 05:28 PM GMT

Nice array of birdlife, Jack, especially the Marsh Tit. Haven't seen Marshies round my way but the other two are common enough.

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 20-Jan-16 06:23 PM GMT

Apparently in the Ramsbury (Wilts) area (where I have been) House Sparrows are scarce. I didn't see any there nor any Chaffinches. But now back home in Scotland, House Sparrows in their dozens on the feeders this afternoon.

Decent sunrise over the Wiltshire downs on Tuesday morning.



Lots of aircraft trails. They will not have left or arrived at one of the London airports – couldn't be high enough in such a short distance after take off or before landing to trail – but are overflying at height in many cases between mainland Europe and North America.

You can follow the action at:

<http://www.flightradar24.com/>

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by David M, 20-Jan-16 10:51 PM GMT

Jack Harrison wrote:

<http://www.flightradar24.com/>

That's a cracking online resource, Jack. I was transfixed by all the activity and have saved it to my favourites.

### Re: Jack Harrison

by bugboy, 21-Jan-16 01:08 PM GMT

David M wrote:

Jack Harrison wrote:

<http://www.flightradar24.com/>

That's a cracking online resource, Jack. I was transfixed by all the activity and have saved it to my favourites.

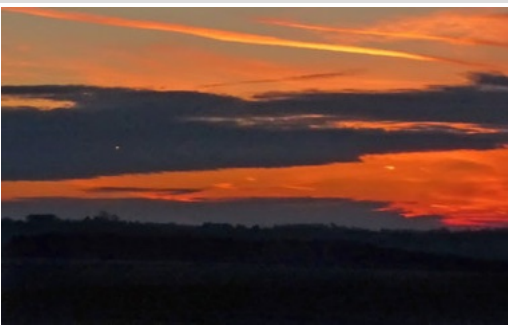
Looks like carnage over heathrow unless you zoom right in!

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 21-Jan-16 01:26 PM GMT

As I stressed before, the trails have nothing to do with Heathrow: they wouldn't be high enough to leave trails that close to the airport.

However, this [\[head\]](#)light against cloud (it was moving) shows a probable climb out from Heathrow.



Zoom in to see more clearly.

Pictures taken from near Lambourn, West Berkshire.

Jack (*most will know but some might not that I am a retired airline pilot so do have some inside knowledge*).

### Re: Jack Harrison

by trevor, 21-Jan-16 05:47 PM GMT

THANKS JACK !!!

That bloody website you posted a link to is addictive. I'm talking about the 'Flight tracker 24' site. I've been watching aircraft approaching Eastbourne from the English channel, and when it looks as though they are going to pass close to my house, nipping out in the garden to see them pass over. It works everytime.

Worse still is the fascination in finding out where the flight originated.  
No Butterflying this year I think as i'll be glued to the computer !.

Trevor.

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by MikeOxon, 21-Jan-16 08:23 PM GMT

With all that tracking going on, how do flights 'disappear'?

I was interested to see that my Singapore Airlines flight home from Singapore followed a route well north of the Caspian Sea and all the current trouble spots, whereas I spotted a BA flight on a much more southerly route. It was also interesting to see that the traffic density over Europe is similar to the Eastern US and far greater than anywhere else in the world.

Mike

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 21-Jan-16 08:38 PM GMT

Mike asked:~~[quote]~~With all that tracking going on, how do flights 'disappear'? Tracking is only possible in areas of radar coverage. Look at the middle of Africa for example – apparently no aircraft so although there are very few, there will be some. There will be little radar cover in places like Niger or Democratic Republic of the Congo to show what is in the air in those regions.

I'm not really sure how Flight Radar 24 works but I believe it relies on some sort of "crowd sourcing" so it needs technically competent amateurs on the ground. I guess there are not many of those in the Southern Indian Ocean.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 31-Jan-16 02:59 PM GMT

Still waiting for a butterfly....

....although Peacock reported last Sunday not far away.

This though makes up for the lack:



4 cms of the white stuff overnight.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by bugboy, 31-Jan-16 03:49 PM GMT

Thats a gorgeous picture Jack!

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 06-Feb-16 02:03 PM GMT

Unusual sightings N.Scotland Nairn 6th Feb

Unidentified species



and a vagrant from Loch Ness



Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by trevor, 06-Feb-16 04:23 PM GMT

Hi Jack,

I don't know what's likely to hatch from that boat, but if had added some eyes and fangs to that piece of driftwood, you could have made a fortune.

Best wishes,  
Trevor.

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 07-Feb-16 05:36 PM GMT

Moth Trapping

I gave mothing a go in 2009 (Cambridgeshire) and have just got a new actinic Sknner trap – similar to the type used successfully before.

Around what date should I start using it? It's certainly far too cold here at the moment. Beginning of March perhaps?

Previous results: <http://www.weatherjackwx.co.uk/snapper/Moths/Moths-2009-%281%29April&May.html>

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Chris Jackson, 07-Feb-16 06:36 PM GMT

I love your Blue Tit shot higher up, Jack, although I have not experienced frosts like that for a few years now. 😊  
Chris

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 07-Feb-16 06:49 PM GMT

Chris: {quote}...frosts like that...I have certainly seen frost that looks like like that but if fact picture was taken was after a light (but settling) snowfall.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 10-Feb-16 02:40 PM GMT

**Chrysalis – surprise hatching of Redshanks**

Reference my previous post:





And another – benign this time – beastie on Nairn beach.



PS. Nairn Dunes is listed on ukb as a Dingy Skipper spot. Anyone seen them there?

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 15-Feb-16 05:32 PM GMT

N.Scotland 15th February. Still no butterflies and the ten day forecast gives warmest (warmest? strange terminology) of +7C.

But the fighting on the bird feeders has been fun (photo technical – struggling with getting short enough exposure to freeze frenetic action unless I bump ISO really high and then other issues)



"I was here first so push off you little whippersnapper."



"Just you wait!"



Action totally invisible to the naked eye. Pictures from 12 frames/second burst mode.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by David M, 15-Feb-16 06:55 PM GMT



That's a beautiful array of colouring on the Greenfinch in the middle image, Jack. Like you say, we don't generally see these poses as the birds only adopt them very briefly.

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 26-Feb-16 04:54 PM GMT

**Banning the hungry caterpillar**

This link has probably been posted elsewhere on ukb

<http://southendnewsnetwork.com/news/nursery-bans-hungry-caterpillar/>

and now this:

<http://southendnewsnetwork.com/news/southend-airport-flight-delays-after-guinea-pig-escapes-from-local-house/>

It isn't 1st April but these would be good ones.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by MrSp0ck, 26-Feb-16 05:19 PM GMT

**Jack Harrison wrote:  
Banning the hungry caterpillar**

Jack

With the massive error in the book it should be corrected or banned.

for those who dont know it.

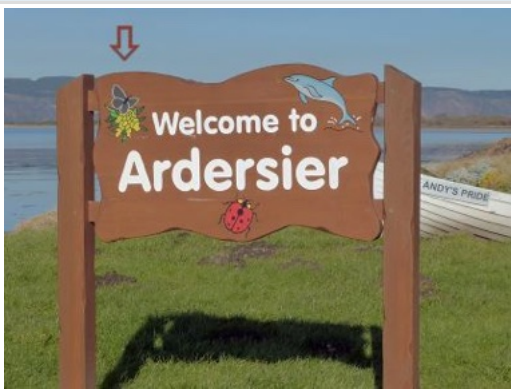
who ever heard of a beautiful butterfly hatching from a moth cocoon the caterpillar had spun. The Book should end that a drab brown moth with very few markings hatched from the beautiful caterpillar.

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 26-Feb-16 05:42 PM GMT

All my kids loved the 'Hungry Caterpillar'.  
And what was the other similar one? The 'Enormous Crocodile' (or something like that)

Today



Coastal strip is supposedly a Small Blue (and Dingy Skipper) locality but the habitat I looked at today bears no resemblance to those where I have found the butterflies in England.

Jack



**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 08-Mar-16 07:55 AM GMT

Still no butterflies but this is a nice combination.



The little fellow is a Tree Sparrow.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by trevor, 08-Mar-16 10:33 AM GMT

Hi Jack,

What an image !, beautifully captured.  
As for Butterflies, not much in the south yet either.

Keep well,  
Trevor.

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 08-Mar-16 12:32 PM GMT

A few minutes ago



Tree Sparrow left, male House Sparrow right.  
The Tree Sparrow is maybe 5% further away, but really is a smaller slimmer bird.  
House Sparrow (male and female different) is much chunkier especially male.  
Other i/d pointers for Tree Sparrow (male and female similar) :  
Brown cap  
Below eye white with prominent dark cheek patch.  
White collar round neck

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by David M, 10-Mar-16 07:36 PM GMT

Great image, Jack. Nice to see a) the difference between these two bird species, and b) how well you look after your local wildlife (they clearly love your feeders).

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 10-Mar-16 08:08 PM GMT

[quote]how well you look after your local wildlife (they clearly love your feeders)In fact, wife Stella is chief feeder. I daren't say it too loudly but she is rapidly developing quite an interest in birds. Only a few minutes ago (now fully dark) she told me that geese were [heard] flying over, Pinkfeet possibly on their way north at the end of winter.

Earlier, a flock of circa 35 Whooper Swans on a loch near Elgin gradually fragmented and they left on flocks of 8 to 10 – for Iceland/Greenland perhaps?



Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by PhilBJohnson, 12-Mar-16 06:04 AM GMT

Dear Jack,

I am still waiting for the Brimstone Butterfly to "blow its cover in Lincolnshire"  
Would you say 15 degrees Celsius is about right in the correct microclimatic conditions?  
"Lincoln Green was and is perfect"

Kind Regards,

Philip

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 12-Mar-16 06:40 AM GMT

15 degrees Celsius is more than warm enough. Brimstones become active at far lower temperatures but in my experience, sunshine is more important. In bright sun, 10C is warm enough.

In broad terms, figures are similar for other hibernators. In cloudy conditions, around 15C is required for activity.

Note: approximate figures and not to be taken as definitive or applicable to all species. Red Admirals for example can be active in sunshine in much lower temperatures *provided it is sunny*.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 15-Mar-16 09:10 AM GMT

Moths Lethen (near Nairn) 15th March

Three in Skinner trap, all different species.

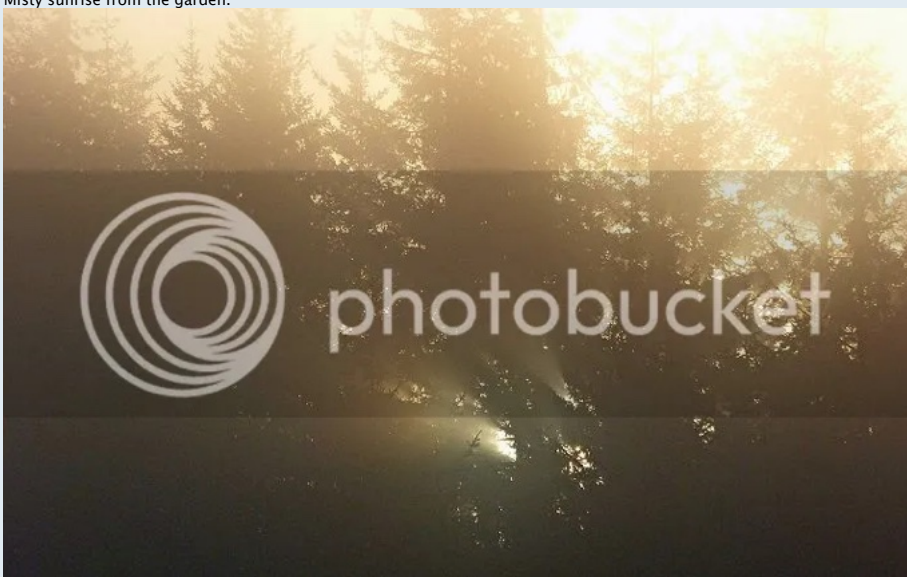
Chestnut (thanks Scott for earlier i/d)

Hebrew Character

and this believed to be Spring Usher but open to correction.



Misty sunrise from the garden.



Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by maverick, 15-Mar-16 09:18 PM GMT

Love the tree sparrows jack. I've always wanted to know the difference between the two as I have probably have seen them but not realised. I'm lucky with the birds in my garden although I do spend a lot on food. Regulars include nuthatch (just loves the black sunflower seed) male and female Bulfinch and a couple of messy goldfinches

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 18-Mar-16 10:28 AM GMT

Lethen near Nairn

Moth i/d please (trapped 18th March)



I might suspect Clouded Drab or Chestnut (size is right) but the guides I have looked at don't show any white dots.



Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by dave brown, 28-Mar-16 04:51 PM GMT

Jack,  
Although the general colour looks a bit odd the white markings strongly suggest Satellite. I know that some moths are darker the further North you go so maybe this is well within range for Satellite.  
Dave

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 28-Mar-16 05:22 PM GMT

Thanks. Another suggestion was Satellite so I go along with that.

I wouldn't guarantee that the colours have reproduced accurately.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by downland boy, 29-Mar-16 09:26 AM GMT

Hi Jack, if there is any lingering doubt about your Satellite, it definitely is a Satellite (*Eupsilia transversa*). The main spot with the two accompanying satellite spots on each forewing is diagnostic. These spots can be variable in colour and intensity but the arrangement is always the same. Only very rarely are they completely absent.  
All the best, db.

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Neil Freeman, 31-Mar-16 09:37 PM GMT

Hi Jack, I am enjoying your recent moth reports having just bought myself a moth trap and looking forward to finding out what I get in my garden.

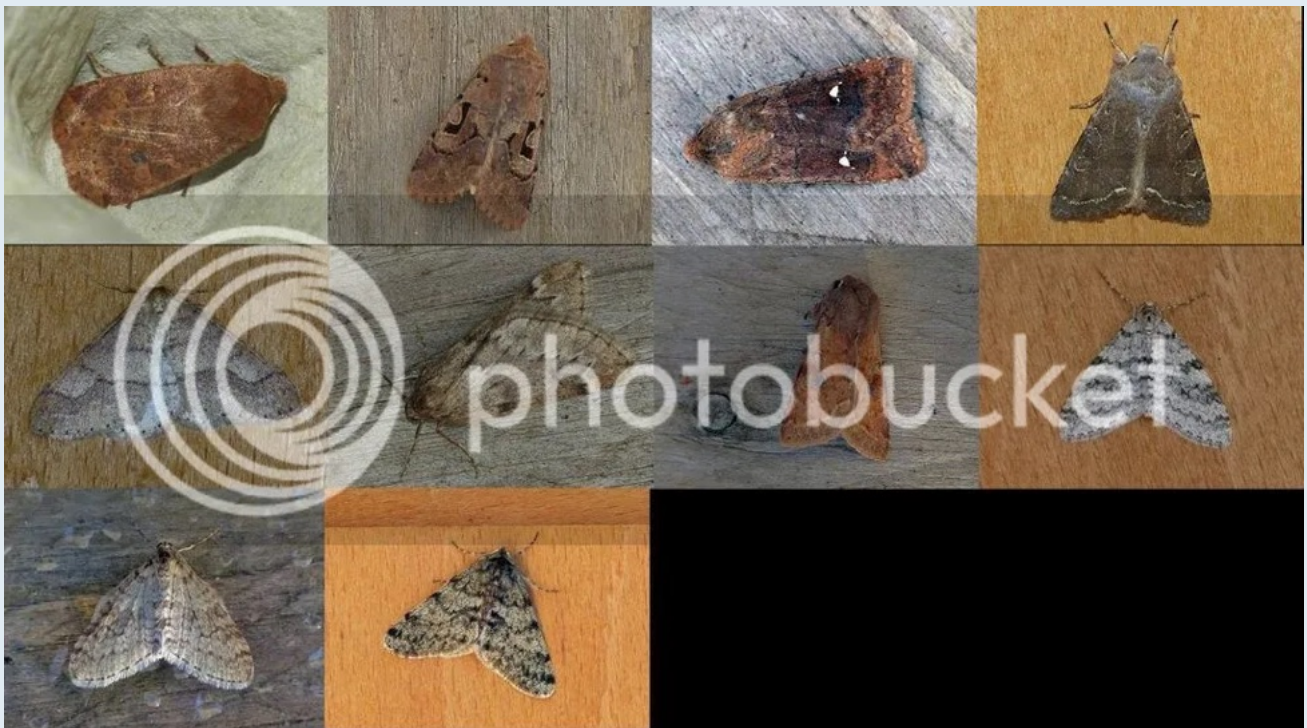
Looking forward to see what else you get up there.

Neil.

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 01-Apr-16 06:49 AM GMT

Here is my list for March. some have already been identified by others but some remain unsure.



Top row left to right (confirmed): Chestnut, Hebrew Character, Satellite, Clouded Drab

Middle row First and second left (confirmed): Dotted Border, March Moth.

Middle third, fourth plus bottom row not sure.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**



by downland boy, 02-Apr-16 09:37 AM GMT

Hi Jack, looking at your last four moths on the grid I would suggest Powdered Quaker (ground colour can be very variable in this species), 2 x Early Tooth-striped and Pale Brindled Beauty (both examples of the last two species are much more heavily marked than I see in my southern garden). No matter how good a photo is and with no scale, it is always easier to id species with the live moth in front of you. From the photo of Pale Brindle Beauty, the ground colour is similar to Brindled Beauty but the moth doesn't look "heavy" enough and the markings are more Pale Brindled Beauty. Hope these suggestions point you in the right direction. All the best, db.

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 02-Apr-16 12:26 PM GMT

Many thanks. As I photograph moths for i/d and record purposes and not for aesthetic reasons, the inclusion of a scale in the picture will no doubt help.

I would look at you idents and then modify by image caption. Bit busy at the moment though.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by downland boy, 02-Apr-16 02:17 PM GMT

Hi Jack, I'm starting to doubt my suggestion of Powdered Quaker. If you have the Manley guide, the highland form of Clouded Drab looks a good fit. Plenty for you to scratch your head over. db

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 02-Apr-16 02:47 PM GMT

Quaker/Powdered Quaker/??? Larger image by clicking.



Little processing except slight increase in contrast to show features to aid i/d. Aren't butterflies easy by comparison?

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 03-Apr-16 03:13 PM GMT

March 2016. Try this and offer corrections please.

March 2016. Lehten near Nairn Highland



Chestnut



Hebrew Character



Satellite



Clouded Drab



Dotted Border



March Moth



Common Quaker?



Early tooth-striped



Pale Brindled Beauty

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by dave brown, 03-Apr-16 08:07 PM GMT

Jack,

I stand to be corrected but I think the bottom left is Clouded Drab. As mentioned previously some Northern/ Scottish moths are darker than the Southern versions, others are just variable. One thing I have learnt over the years is that identifying moths is not always easy. Some I leave unidentified whilst others I ask for confirmation. Fascinating but at times frustrating subject.

Dave

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 03-Apr-16 08:08 PM GMT

Still only two butterflies seen up here this year, a Tortoiseshell and a Peacock.

But this was a nice "bedroom window" tick this morning – in the back garden.



Yellow Bunting aka Yellowhammer.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 03-Apr-16 08:19 PM GMT

Dave Brown made a good comment[quote]One thing I have learnt over the years is that identifying moths is not always easy. Some I leave unidentified...Quite! When i get a Magpie moth or an Elephaant Hawk then I won't need to ask for help. But these little brown jobs.....

Won't be running the trap tonight. Clear skies and cold. And in any case, the egg boxes are still damp.

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Neil Freeman, 03-Apr-16 08:45 PM GMT

#### dave brown wrote:

Jack,

I stand to be corrected but I think the bottom left is Clouded Drab. As mentioned previously some Northern/ Scottish moths are darker than the Southern versions, others are just variable. One thing I have learnt over the years is that identifying moths is not always easy. Some I leave unidentified whilst others I ask for confirmation.

Fascinating but at times frustrating subject.

Dave

I would go for Clouded Drab as well. With this being only one of the four species I have so far had in my recently bought moth trap I have been looking at lots of photos of these. I can see myself posting lots of ID questions of my own as the season progresses.

Cheers,

Neil

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 06-Jun-16 05:21 PM GMT

**6th June Ardersier** (just north of Inverness airport)

The target was Dingy Skipper. But first I had to wait for the low cloud to disperse. I was checking the reports from the airport and when I saw the improving trend I set off. It reminded me of similar waits in the past when I was driving not a car but an airliner. Happy memories (almost 18 years since I retired). When the cloud did finally break, it was then clear blue skies.

I thought I had found a Dingy as I stepped out of the car. It turned out to be an absurdly worn clipped-wing Tortoiseshell. A distant white was not identified

Quite surprised to find this Painted Lady, albeit well worn, by the stony beach.



I suspect given the recent run of north easterly winds that it is an immigrant from Scandinavia or the Baltic rather than the usual (in south England) origin being France or the near continent.

A fresh Small Copper eluded the camera. Dingy Skippers were not to be seen until I wandered away from the beach into a little hollow.





The sea is on the left.

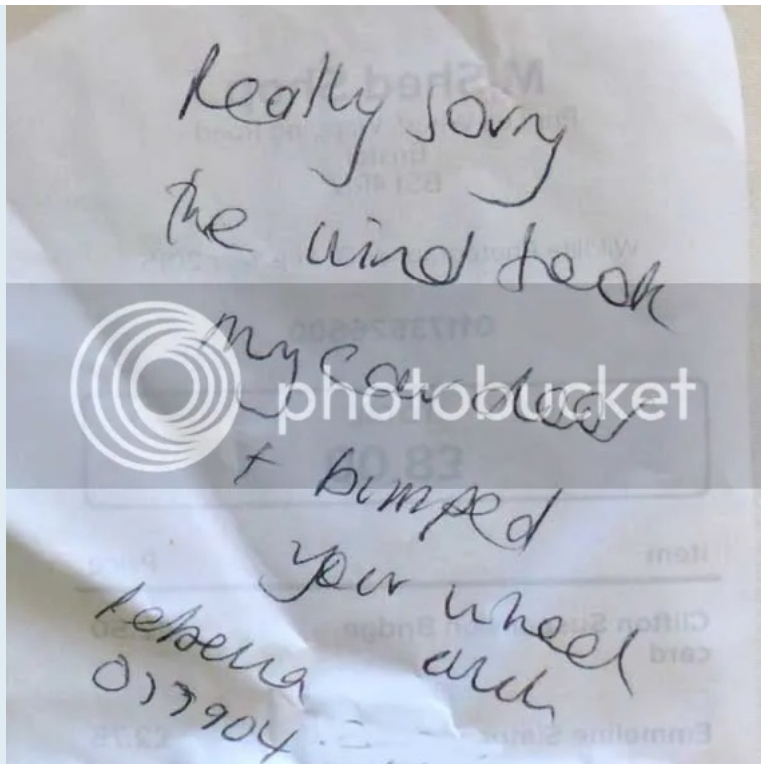
My goodness, they were real devils to follow. Certainly two (see sparring) but who knows how many. It took a good 40 minutes to get this shot.



Hard to tell from a photo and although the butterflies seemed fresh and not worn, they did give the impression of being paler than Southern English ones.

On return to the car, I found this little note.





I have to say it was difficult to locate the damage. It was trivial. But thank you Rebecca for being so honest.

On the drive back, the huge storm clouds well inland to the south west looked impressive (had been forecast).



Perhaps 60 kilometres away - Fort Augustus area?

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 19-Jun-16 08:09 PM GMT

19th June Lethen near Nairn

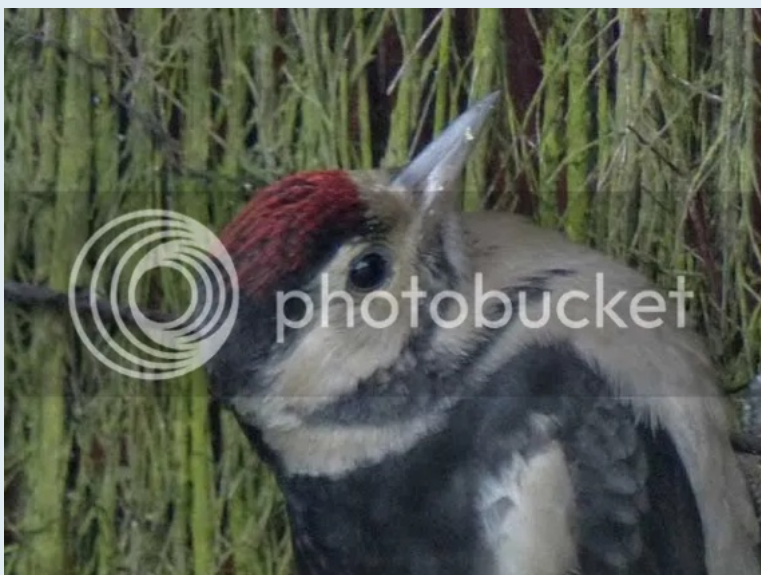
I've been living here for almost a year. Some might recall that I said that my front and back gardens had been neglected for many years previously so I decided to attempt to create wild mini-meadows. I collected wild seed locally and was sent some Yellow Rattle from one of our members, Reverdin.

Here we are today.



The plan is to leave most of the garden to grow quite long (some low cut winding paths) with a major cut planned for mid-August. Many more flowers in bud although surprisingly, several expecting plants, eg Cow Parsley (abundant locally) have simply not appeared. Very few thistles either. However the overall result so far is better than I dared hope for by this stage.

Not strictly a result of the "wilding" of the garden, but nice to see a juvenile G.S. Woodpecker on the fence.



Mum had been feeding it but unfortunately didn't manage to get a photo.

My wife Stella confidently identified a Small Copper in the garden a week or so ago. There is plenty of Sheep's Sorrel so you never know.

Jack



**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 23-Jun-16 05:14 PM GMT

**Wild garden**

I scattered various *native* seeds last autumn and more again in the spring. Some nice surprises appearing.



Corncockle. The first of [hopefully] many more to flower. First time I have ever seen Corncockle – quite gorgeous.

I presume it needs tall grass (in old days, tall corn) to support. I won't cut down the surrounds until it seeds but plan a bare area nearby in the hope this annual will spread.

But where are the Cornflowers I also sowed at the same time? Have some in pots but that's a cheat. Another lovely native flower.

Do any moths use these plants?

In the trap, I get two forms of White Ermine moth – the usual vanilla white form and this buff version.



I am sure it's not a Buff Ermine, merely one of the Scottish forms of White Ermine.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by selbypaul, 23-Jun-16 07:03 PM GMT

Hi Jack

In terms of your meadow, you need to decide which type of meadow you want. Do you want an Annual Meadow, or a Perennial Meadow?

I've had my own meadow 10 metre by 8 metre meadow in my garden for seven years now, and its not possible to easily grow both perennial wildflowers and annual wildflowers in the same meadow, unless you compartmentalise it into sections.

Basically flowers such as Corncockle need the ground completely disturbing in the spring. Whereas the perennial wildflowers need to remain undisturbed. The Yellow Rattle annual requires undisturbed ground in the spring too, together with grasses (as yellow rattle is a semi parasite). The grasses usually outcompete the other annuals!

Hope this helps  
Paul

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by David M, 23-Jun-16 10:19 PM GMT

Aah! Corncockle! What a wonderful flower, sadly all but absent from the UK these days.

Nice to see it making a comeback in one esteemed man's garden at least! 😊

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 24-Jun-16 01:51 PM GMT

Paul[quote]....not possible to easily grow both perennial wildflowers and annual wildflowers in the same meadow, unless you compartmentalise it into sections. That is more or less what I have been planning without actually realising it. I need to minimise the maintenance so it will basically be a perennial meadow but with some areas sown annually. The big success this first year is Yellow Rattle which was just broadcast onto lightly scraped parts of the existing rough grass. Perhaps larger scraped areas for seeding in the autumn this year would be a good idea.

Two areas, front and rear each around 8 x 10 metres.

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by selbypaul, 24-Jun-16 05:25 PM GMT

Sounds good Jack.

I scarify my meadow in mid September, just after its annual mow. I then scatter new Yellow Rattle seed each year into the scarified patches. I've no idea whether I do need to re-seed each year, but the profusion of yellow rattle does keep the grass in check!

Paul

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 02-Jul-16 04:26 PM GMT

**2nd July Nairn east beach dunes**



Quite a surprise to find Ringlet in this habitat.



I had hoped for Small Blue but no luck despite masses of Kidney Vetch.

There was very little wind so I thought that distant shower to the west wouldn't move my way. It didn't but to my significant annoyance, it merely built up sideways directly over ME.

Now somebody (not going to seek a divorce over the matter) had left the passenger car window open. Fortunately with that lack of wind, the rain didn't blow in and the effect was minimal.

Jack



**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 06-Jul-16 01:52 PM GMT

**Mini-Meadow**

My wild garden here in the north of Scotland is producing results: male Ringlet this morning 6th July. Hopefully Scotch Argus in a few weeks' time.

Wife had what seems to have been a reliable sighting of a Small Copper in June. Certainly, plenty of Sheep's Sorrel.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by selbypaul, 06-Jul-16 09:04 PM GMT

Scotch Argus in the garden really would be VERY impressive if it happens!

Best of luck Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 06-Jul-16 09:25 PM GMT

Ringlet is apparently a recent colonist in this part of Scotland. However, Scotch Argus is widespread and common. Last year, the nearest sighting of Scotch Argus was just across the road so I would have anticipated that a garden Scotch Argus would be more likely than a Ringlet.

Southerners (and I used to be one) dream of Scotch Argus. But here and my previous residence of Mull, it's nothing special. But Comma, hardly a rarity in the south, would be exciting. Given its recent spread, it *will* occur this far north before too long. It's already been reported in the upper Spey Valley.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 07-Jul-16 05:18 PM GMT

**Thursday 7th July**

Tracked down a good Ringlet colony about 500 metres from where I live ( Lethen, Nairn NH942517 )



Males [newly emerged] only so far. Quite pale and perhaps less brown than the more familiar English forms.



Habitat is roadside and nearby rough ground. Approx one seen per minute in cloudy weather so and doubt many were missed as the ones I did see remained settled for long periods. Perfect for photography.

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Goldie M, 07-Jul-16 09:28 PM GMT

I seemed to somehow have missed your post Jack which you placed in Mike's post and I've just been checking out on his post's again and found it 😊 My apologies, I've found it very interesting and descriptive but I'm still in wonder at all the different points it gives, I think I've got my wires crossed because I will have to listen to it all a few times, it's not going in at present 😊 I get mixed up with shutter speeds etc, it's happen as well the weathers not too good here it will give me a chance to go through it all and get it to sink in before I use the camera again, thanks again Goldie 😊

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 08-Jul-16 05:27 AM GMT

Try this Goldie:

<http://digital-photography-school.com/learning-exposure-in-digital-photography/>

One bit of jargon that often confuses is aperture also known as F/stop or F number. A smaller aperture lets in less light – that's pretty obvious. However (for perfectly good technical reasons) a smaller aperture has a higher F/stop number. So – and as I say, the technicalities are in fact logical – F/8 is a smaller aperture than F/2. So despite intuition, F/8 lets in less light than f/2.

Another source of confusion can be shutter speed. 1/250 second is a shorter shutter speed (so lets in less light) than 1/30 second – but that is pretty obvious really.

So you can see that if you alter one parameter, eg F number, then shutter speed would need to be altered to achieve correct exposure. In automatic mode with modern cameras, this is all done for you.

ISO – the sensitivity of the "film" (nowadays the sensor in digital) does at least seem logical. ISO 200 is more sensitive than ISO 100

Again, if you change ISO, then shutter speed and/or F number also needs altering. This is the so-called exposure triangle where shutter speed, aperture and ISO are all inter-related.

Depth of field seems to have been a source of confusion. D of F is simply the distance between the nearest object that is rendered sharp to the most distant object that is sharp.

All other things being equal, a smaller aperture (and as already explained, a bigger F number) gives a greater depth of field. You might not want a large D of F as this could mean the background is annoyingly sharp. So many photographers deliberately restrict D of F to produce a nicely blurred non-distracting background: they would use a large aperture (small F number).

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Goldie M, 08-Jul-16 12:54 PM GMT

Hi! Jack, I think having watched and read the video and what you've said I've not been far out with what I've done ( practise makes perfect ) 😊 Except, I've been setting speed , ISO and f no, according to the triangle I really don't need to do this, if I set the right f no with the right ISO the camera should take care of the speed, and vice versa .

My camera tells me when I go into the ISO that 100/200 is for daylight so that's what I've used, the camera also explains when you go into the f numbers that the smaller the f no the background is Blurred so I've used the f4 to f5/6 which I thought was right but I've set the speed which I don't think I needed to do?

These setting for ISO and the f 5/6 seem to be okay on my 18–55mm lens because I can take shots really close up but on the 70–300mm lens it's very changeable , I can take shots from a distance and bring the BF up really close with out disturbing the BF, this seems to be where I've got confused into what to use.

Also with this lens you can't get too close or the camera just won't take the shot, so I've been trying different f no's with this lens and speeds, I think with this lens I should use the same ISO and maybe f8 instead for this lens, what do think? Goldie 😊

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 12-Jul-16 07:38 PM GMT

[quote]Goldie: 18–55mm lens because I can take shots really close up but on the 70–300mm lens it's very changeable , I can take shots from a distance and bring the BF up really close with out disturbing the BF, this seems to be where I've got confused into what to use. I can't really help a lot here as I don't use a SLR with interchangeable lenses. Mike Oxon does and he will know more about minimum focussing distance, etc. with SLR lenses.

My own observations here in north Scotland: Ringlet is becoming quite a regular in my wild garden. Ringlets happily fly in cloudy weather so long as temperature is above around 14C: clearly well adapted to northern climates.

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by MikeOxon, 12-Jul-16 09:43 PM GMT

My suggestion to Goldie, and anyone else trying to understand what different lenses can do, is to practice on something easier than butterflies! Flowers in the garden are a good subject and, with these, you can try different lenses at different distances and try various settings, until you find what works best for you.

One of the things that I found difficult to get used to, when using a Lumix FZ200, was that the closest focus distance varied with the zoom setting. Most (not all) SLR lenses have the same closest focus whatever the focal length setting so that's one thing less to think about.

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Goldie M, 12-Jul-16 11:12 PM GMT

Thanks for your help Guys, I tried out different settings today just to see what differences there was in the different shots, I'll keep doing this till I hit on what I think is best for me, it was just great to get out and enjoy the Sun for once, thanks again, Goldie 😊

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 16-Sep-16 06:31 PM GMT

16th September 2016

We in north Scotland have escaped the searing heat of the south. Indeed, it has been a very pleasant summer.

Today in the garden several Peacock (they have had a good season – and bear in mind that distribution maps show that 40 years ago Peacock did not even occur in this area), one Tortoiseshell (most no doubt are already hibernating) and this superb Painted Lady.







Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by trevor, 16-Sep-16 10:12 PM GMT

Stunning Painted Lady, Jack. Fine camera work.

Trevor.

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Katrina, 16-Sep-16 10:14 PM GMT

Gorgeous photos!

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by bugboy, 16-Sep-16 11:30 PM GMT

A very accommodating Lady you have there!

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by MikeOxon, 17-Sep-16 09:34 AM GMT

She flew a long way for her portrait but she was worth it - very nice pics 😊

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 17-Sep-16 10:41 AM GMT

~~quote~~She flew a long way for her portrait! saw a couple of tatty Painted Ladies in May after a spell of easterly winds. These might have originated in the Baltic region - don't know - but the few fresh ones I have seen in the past few weeks are undoubtedly the offspring of May immigrants.

When I began butterflying circa 1945, Mum would name locations where we would go for butterfly walks : Charlie's Lane, Humph's Hut. One was "Painted Lady lane" where we saw the butterflies by some cottages(\*\*). Sadly today, "Painted Lady lane" has vanished under an industrial complex (Great Yarmouth).

(\*\*) Gapton Hall cottages where a family of about 12 to 14 lived - bred like rabbits.

I remember as an eight-year old being very confused as one of the children had an aunt younger than herself. Work out that one!

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 17-Sep-16 06:46 PM GMT

17th September

More Painted Ladies today in Cawdor Castle gardens mixing with more numerous Peacocks and one Speckled Wood. I still hold out hopes for Comma (today's weather was ideal) but nothing yet.

Also saw what I believe to be the Thain of Cawdor - well there's a guy who looks the part in kilt, etc who hangs around the castle.

*On a ferry a few years ago, a group dressed in kilts were on their way to some "do" in Mull.*

*We all wonder what Scotsmen wear under their kilts. It was quite windy on the ferry and all was revealed: tartan underpants 😊*

Back at home, Silver Y moth joined in the fun in our garden.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by David M, 18-Sep-16 09:04 PM GMT

Good to see you're getting a few species this late in the season, Jack. Love the Painted Lady images. They get everywhere, don't they?

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 22-Sep-16 05:22 PM GMT

Do you mind if I join you?



Jack