

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 01-Jan-17 06:28 PM GMT

More great images Trevor – especially the Walls and the White Admiral both species that I saw but didn't photograph this year 🍷

Happy New Year!

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-Jan-17 11:19 AM GMT

Some strange cloud formations overhead this morning.
No doubt formed of ice crystals, Images taken at 10.50 am.
Never seen anything like it before.

Hope you enjoy.
Trevor.



Hailsham, East Sussex.



Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 02-Jan-17 04:16 PM GMT

I thought at first they were shots of the top of Mountains Trevor, 😊 lovely photos, Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-Jan-17 02:20 PM GMT

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-Jan-17 02:39 PM GMT

This week, Doug Neve and myself have been assisting Neil Hulme with scrub clearance work at Butterfly Conservation's reserve at Park Corner Heath, in East Sussex.

A large area of bracken and saplings have been cleared.

Hopefully the site will soon be more welcoming for this seasons Butterflies.

Today I continued burning the large pile debris from this weeks work, on what was a most idyllic Winters day, no wind, a clear blue sky with a covering of white from last nights frost.



A large area of bracken has been cleared.



A sunny glade being created.



And of course, a therapeutic bonfire !.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 05-Jan-17 10:20 PM GMT

Sterling work Trevor - I bet you were glad of the fire in the cold 😊
Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 06-Jan-17 08:01 PM GMT

Fair play, Trevor, you have put the hard yards in at the worst time of year which proves how committed you are.

With any luck, you'll be able to go back to this site and be rewarded with a superb day during the main flight season. Please keep us updated on this place.

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 06-Jan-17 08:46 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

...on what was a most idyllic Winters day, no wind, a clear blue sky with a covering of white from last nights frost...

I love nice crisp frosty mornings like that 😊

Well done Trevor, here's to you enjoying the fruits of your labour in the coming season.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Jan-17 09:09 PM GMT

Many thanks Wurzel, David and Neil,

I have been a volunteer on a regular basis since the 1970's, but this was my first time for Butterfly conservation. Previously I was involved with rebuilding old, historic railway carriages. But let Butterflies into your life, and they take over !. There is still a great deal to do at Park Corner, and I hope to do more.

Happy new year,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-Jan-17 06:32 PM GMT

With a bitterly cold wind blowing today, my Cat had the best idea !.

Roll on Spring.
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 13-Jan-17 11:32 PM GMT

Cats always have the best ideas Trevor 😊 If in doubt just go back to sleep! 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-Jan-17 12:22 PM GMT

Cheers Wurzel, considering his size and weight, an attempt at tree climbing was not one of his better ideas this morning. A clumsy effort.

Incidentally the tree he has climbed is a Chinese Elm, White Letter Hairstreaks one day ?.



Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 14-Jan-17 01:16 PM GMT

Pretty Cat Trevor, looks like he likes his photo taking too. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 27-Jan-17 04:42 PM GMT

Doug Neve and myself returned to Park Corner Heath yesterday to continue burning brash left over from Neil Hulme's last clearance session. With the temperature at 0c we were glad of the fire.

However we did not achieve as much as we would have liked in the time available.

Trevor



Re: Trevor

by NickMorgan, 29-Jan-17 05:42 PM GMT

Hi Trevor,
Those are lovely pictures of the butterflies you have seen in 2016. Good effort with the scrub clearance, too.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 30-Jan-17 09:16 AM GMT

Many thanks, Nick. I am very fortunate to have so many species within easy travelling distance.

However, the Northern Brown Argus, which you have captured to perfection, is not a species I will get to see easily. Perhaps one day !.
Most of the species I have yet to see are either found in the North, or over the Border.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 31-Jan-17 12:27 PM GMT

I thought I might share this Tiger Moth image. It was found during one of our lunch stops on our tour of the Cevennes, hiding in the overhang of a stone wall.
It was also the only Moth of any consequence that was seen all week.

Hope you enjoy,
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Allan.W., 31-Jan-17 04:24 PM GMT

Hello Trevor,
Looks like a Cream Spot Tiger , Nice one ! Regards Allan.W.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-Feb-17 10:33 AM GMT

SOME FANTASTIC VIDEOS TO VIEW.

Go to species specific forum, find Camberwell Beauty where Vince Massimo has posted a link. There is a whole series of Butterfly life cycle films.
Of particular interest, Marsh Fritillary, Brown Hairsreak, Large Tortoiseshell.
Videos by FILMING VAR WILD.

Turn off the TV and enjoy !.
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 08-Feb-17 03:14 PM GMT

A sure sign that Spring is on the way !.
This clump of Daffodils started to bloom about two weeks ago,
very early, but not as early as last year.



South road car park, Hailsham, 8/2/17.

Re: Trevor

by SimonC69, 08-Feb-17 04:06 PM GMT

I do hope spring is on its way! My hands are so numb with cold at the moment, it feels like someone else is typing this 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 08-Feb-17 07:10 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

A sure sign that Spring is on the way !.
This clump of Daffodils started to bloom about two weeks ago,
very early, but not as early as last year.

Lovely, uplifting image, Trevor.

We've a few out here and there in Swansea, but I haven't seen anything like that clump just yet. With cold weather set to strike tomorrow, I fear it'll be a couple of weeks away. 😞

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Feb-17 02:11 PM GMT

I thought those Daffodils would cheer things up, Simon and David.
Although the daylight hours are improving, the temperature is not.
Bitter wind and grey skies here, and the chance of snow.
Just to think that I have called off some Butterfly hunts in the past, because it was too hot !.

Best wishes,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 10-Feb-17 10:39 PM GMT

The daffs certainly brightened my day up – no sign of any over my way although the Snowdrops and Aconites are making a good showing. Looking good from Tuesday next week – a massive 8 degrees and sunny intervals – maybe the first Small Tort? Hope things are going well your way – a UKBer called Simon is looking to make some trips over this way so I was going to recommend your daughters' pub – The Bell Inn at Great Cheverell is that right ? – I'm like a regular trip advisor 😊
Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Feb-17 11:16 PM GMT

Glad the Daffodils cheered you up Wurzel.
I hope the Bell Inn will prove to be a good base for exploring Wiltshires Butterflies.
Certainly 'the hill' is not far from there, but I have yet to spend a Summer in Great Cheverell.
Anyone wishing to stay at the Bell should contact my Daughter, Lorna on 01380 813277.
I am very much looking forward to exploring Wiltshire this coming season, and what is more I pass some good Butterfly sites on my commute from Sussex, including Iping Common.

All the best,

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-Feb-17 10:44 AM GMT

Another sign of Spring approaching.
The scene from my tiny woodland garden this morning.
The warm sunshine today is enough to entice the odd Butterfly.
But with the bitter east wind, perhaps not 😞.

Not too long now,
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 15-Feb-17 10:43 PM GMT

Well if the Snowdrops are out the butterflies aren't far behind 😊 I risked a run out on Monday – it was okay at Five Rivers but no butterflies – not quite warm enough – maybe tomorrow afternoon – it's supposed to reach 11degrees 😊 So its back to shorts and T-shirt tomorrow 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 15-Feb-17 11:53 PM GMT

Surely the time is nigh, Trevor? This imminent mild spell should give us all a chance of breaking our yearly ducks.

We aren't far away.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-Feb-17 08:02 AM GMT

I share your building optimism, Wurzel & David.
At the moment I am giving my right hand index finger a rigorous workout so that it is nice and supple, and will be able to react quickly on the camera 'shoot' button. 😊
Seriously, my earliest Butterfly since joining UKB was in 2015, on Feb 17th.

Re: Trevor

by SimonC69, 16-Feb-17 10:29 AM GMT

trevor wrote:

.....At the moment I am giving my right hand index finger a rigorous workout so that it is nice and supple, and will be able to react quickly on the camera 'shoot' button. 😊

Thumb and forefinger for me, as I'm determined to get into the habit of using "back button focus". Anything to increase my chances of sharp shots 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-Feb-17 12:16 PM GMT

Thumb and forefinger for me, as I'm determined to get into the habit of using "back button focus". Anything to increase my chances of sharp shots 😊
[/quote]

Thumb and forefinger !, I think you may be in danger of over doing it Simon,
all things in moderation.

Re: Trevor

by SimonC69, 16-Feb-17 12:34 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

Thumb and forefinger !, I think you may be in danger of over doing it Simon,
all things in moderation.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-Feb-17 02:18 PM GMT

The good news is that I have just seen my first Butterfly of 2017.
No photo unfortunately, or positive identification but most probably a Red Admiral or Peacock.

Things are looking up,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by SimonC69, 16-Feb-17 02:19 PM GMT

Nice one. You and bugboy both. I really thought I'd get one today but no dice

Re: Trevor

by David M, 16-Feb-17 05:09 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

The good news is that I have just seen my first Butterfly of 2017.

Didn't I tell you, Trevor? 😊

Well done.

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 16-Feb-17 06:08 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

The good news is that I have just seen my first Butterfly of 2017.
No photo unfortunately, or positive identification but most probably a Red Admiral or Peacock.

Things are looking up,
Trevor.

Today was the day it would seem, a RA at work this morning for me 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 16-Feb-17 11:22 PM GMT

I'm glad my forecast worked out Trevor 😊 Unfortunately I was let down by the Met forecast as at Five Rivers it was cool, breezy and cloudy with brief sunny intervals and not the sunny day 11 degrees as promised. Oh well it won't be the last time they get it wrong this year...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 19-Feb-17 04:36 PM GMT

I have been to Wiltshire for the weekend, no Butterflies unfortunately, but I was blown away by the sheer number of Snowdrops growing wild by the roadside.
In Little Cheverell and Great Cheverell the Snowdrops are growing in their hundreds of thousands.

Hope you enjoy the resulting images,
Trevor.



This image shows only a small part of this roadside bank.



Re: Trevor

by Padfield, 19-Feb-17 04:43 PM GMT

What a wonderful sight, Trevor – a carpet of snowdrops with catkins in the trees.

Soon bluebells and wild garlic ... and orange tips (or am I getting ahead of myself?).

Guy

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 19-Feb-17 05:19 PM GMT

Slightly ahead of yourself Guy, but I'm with you all the way. Bring it on !.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-Feb-17 04:29 PM GMT

A brief visit to Abbots Wood this afternoon did not produce the hoped for early Butterfly. However I did find several colonies of Wood Ants warming up in the sunshine, each a writhing black mass. No sign of them building their ' compost heap ' type nests yet though.



Re: Trevor

by David M, 20-Feb-17 08:26 PM GMT

That's an amazing shot, Trevor. I had no idea ants were active in such swarms at this time of year!

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 21-Feb-17 10:44 PM GMT

Those Snowdrops make a cracking sight Trevor - I'm going to take the girls out to look for a similar sight this weekend 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-Feb-17 01:11 PM GMT

DORIS LIFTING HER SKIRT !

This morning I went over to Tide Mills to enjoy the wild weather. I chose that particular location hoping the waves would be crashing over the Newhaven harbour arm. Indeed the spectacular seas were breaking right over the lighthouse, completely obscuring it at times.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-Mar-17 09:51 PM GMT

I stopped off for lunch in Pirbright, Surrey , today and was pleased to see two male Brimstones patrolling along a garden hedge. The weather was a perfect 17c. in full sunshine.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 09-Mar-17 09:55 PM GMT

I think temperatures have been grossly understated in the forecast for today. We reached 14c in Swansea so I'm fairly confident that somewhere in the UK was 18 or even 19 degrees this afternoon.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 09-Mar-17 10:55 PM GMT

Nice to hear the bringer of Spring has visited your garden Trevor 😊. Fingers crossed for the weekend, little L has been practicing her Beano pranks ready 😁😁

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-Mar-17 04:09 PM GMT

This afternoon I spent a couple of hours with our very own Wurzel. After lunch we took a wander up to Great Cheverell church yard, where three very active Small Tortoiseshells were spotted. Fortunately a few brief landings allowed some photography. Earlier in the day three male Brimstones were seen in the locality .

My new season has started !.

Trevor.

PS. Good to catch up with you Wurzel .





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 12-Mar-17 09:51 AM GMT

Great stuff Trevor - those butterflies do look familiar 😊 Good to meet up yesterday the girls had a blast, the burger was one of the best I've had in a long time and we got some Small Torts 😊 The local graveyard and Lane look like really good 'away from home so not quite so local Patches' 😊 We'll need to be sorting out a trip to the Marshie site before you know it 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-Mar-17 03:09 PM GMT

The bright sunshine this morning was enough to lure me out of the house to look for some more hibernators. My destination was the old railway in Hailsham. I walked the entire length of the path, up until the old railway formation disappears into a housing estate, and not a single Butterfly was seen.

The sun was very bright, but the air chilly.

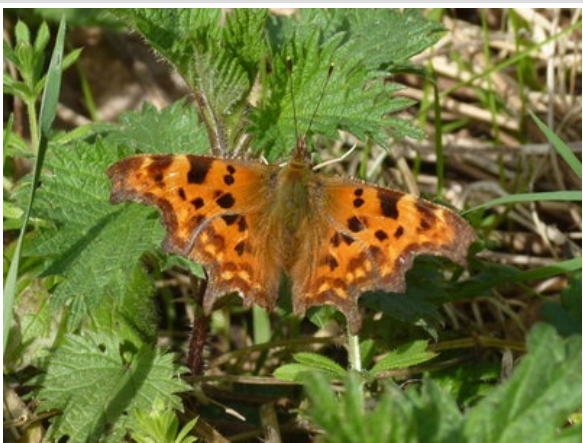
I was about to move on when I spotted a Red Admiral basking on a bramble leaf, then within minutes the unmistakable sight of a gliding Comma came into view, and this Butterfly was most obliging for the camera.

Quite by chance I then noticed a Peacock high up on a Blackthorn, where I was able to grab a distant shot.

This Butterfly later descended onto an eye level bramble leaf for a better shot.

Also seen were two flyby Brimstones, another Comma, and a second, less colourful Peacock.

Four out of five hibernators in one morning isn't bad going for this stage in March.







Re: Trevor

by Art Frames, 14-Mar-17 03:22 PM GMT

Trevor,

I have catching up with other folks diaries and have begun realising this forum will push me hard! You had an excellent start to the year and some great shots. I will get my duck shifted shortly. Off to White Cross Green Wood in Oxfordshire tomorrow, so have high hopes.

Peter

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 14-Mar-17 11:56 PM GMT

You did alright there Trevor didn't you 😊🍀 I still need to try and get shots of Peacocks and Red Admirals 🍀. I don't know what it is about me and early Red Admirals but I always struggle with them 😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 15-Mar-17 12:18 AM GMT

What a feast of colour in these early spring days, Trevor!

These are precious times so early in spring so to get this many opportunities to get out and observe such delights is extremely satisfying.

Let's hope it doesn't go pear-shaped over the next month or so. 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-Mar-17 12:47 AM GMT

Many thanks Peter, Wurzel and David.

Unfortunately there is still plenty of time for things to go pear shaped.

March 27th 2012, deep snow all day in London, I well remember the bus sliding it's way up\to Alexandra Palace that day.

Still here and now we have Butterflies to delight, and the new season looks promising.

Best wishes,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 15-Mar-17 06:05 PM GMT

Great shots Trevor, still waiting to see just one around here, Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-Mar-17 07:55 PM GMT

The weather this morning looked so promising that all thoughts of chores and shopping went out of the window !.

In fact I went out twice, the old railway in the morning and Abbots wood in the afternoon.

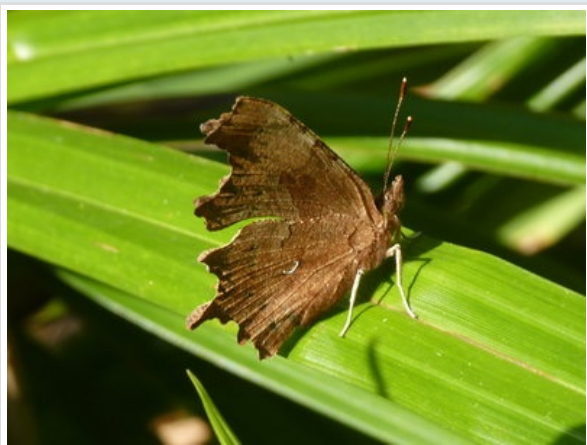
The old railway soon came alive when several Commas and a Peacock put in an appearance, indeed the Peacock looked particularly colourful nectaring on Celandine . The first Comma found was high up in a tree, and to the

naked eye looked like a dead leaf , but a zoomed image on the camera revealed a basking Comma.

The afternoon visit to Abbots wood revealed yet more Commas, with about twelve seen, and again two Peacocks were present. A figure appeared from the far end of the ride I was walking along, and it turned out to be Badger Bob, who later found a Small Tortoiseshell. When we went to relocate the Small Tort all we saw was a tussle in the air with a Peacock, never to be seen again.

I am sure you'll soon see some Butterflies where you are Goldie.

Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-Mar-17 04:55 PM GMT

Of the five hibernating species, the Comma would seem to have come through the winter very successfully, at least here in East Sussex. I must have seen about fifty in the four days since Monday. Peacocks have been seen in good numbers, but no where near as many as the Comma. So far in this part of the World I have seen one Red Admiral, but no Small Tortoiseshell yet. (I did see three in Wiltshire on Saturday though). And the Brimstones I have encountered have all been too busy to stop !.

The new season seems to be full of promise,(fingers crossed).
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 16-Mar-17 06:43 PM GMT

You've had a very productive few days Trevor, it's nice to see a bit of variety in with the glut of Comma pictures this year. I'm itching to get out for a proper day chasing them but my days off just aren't falling right.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 16-Mar-17 10:46 PM GMT

Splendid Commas, Trevor. They are doing well everywhere, but notching up fifty in four days is terrific going - and we're only halfway through March.



Dave

Re: Trevor

by NickMorgan, 16-Mar-17 10:52 PM GMT

Great to see you are doing so well with the butterflies already. Hopefully things will start to improve up here, although the forecast doesn't look too good over the next few days.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 16-Mar-17 11:05 PM GMT

Great stuff Trevor 😊 I too was slightly worried by the lack of Small Torts until the three we saw last weekend, then I saw 7 during 20 minutes on Monday and yesterday there were 13 at the same place 😊😊 Reports will follow in due course 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-Mar-17 03:41 PM GMT

Many thanks Nick and Dave,
I think the Commas are being seen in concentration because they have yet to disperse from their hibernation site. Last year, on a farm in Halnaker, West Sussex about 30 to 40 Small Tortoiseshells emerged from the various farm buildings one fine warm day, they were everywhere. The next week there were none, even though there were more Dandelions flowering than the previous week. Only a theory of course.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-Mar-17 04:24 PM GMT

During a brief visit to Abbots Wood this afternoon I was a little surprised, given the cold wind, to see a single Comma flitting about. It initially disappeared behind some Gorse bushes, but returned to bask on some leaf litter.

My only Butterfly this week I fear !. 😞

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 23-Mar-17 12:22 AM GMT

One's better than none Trevor 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 23-Mar-17 11:32 PM GMT

We've been feeling that cold wind too Trevor 😞 I've only seen one butterfly all week as well, hopefully the weekend will be a bit warmer and brighter...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

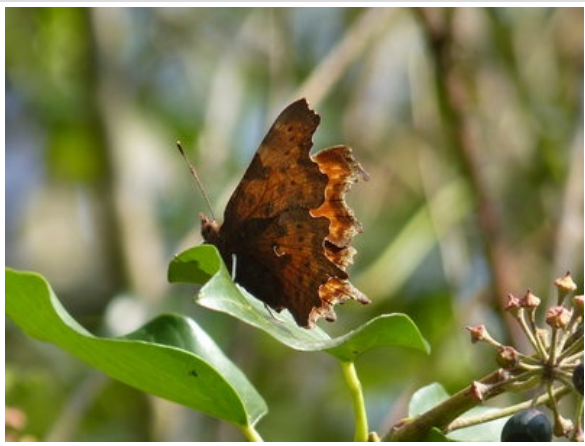
Re: Trevor

by trevor, 24-Mar-17 05:18 PM GMT

At lunchtime today I saw my first Bee Fly of the year, systematically visiting each flower of a Primrose in my garden. It then settled on the concrete base of a fence, just giving me enough time to grab my camera. I then thought that a Butterfly hunt might be worthwhile, as the warmth of the sun was just about ahead of the cool breeze.

On arrival at the old railway I spotted Comma quite high up, the first of three seen. The prize of the afternoon was however a very brief glimpse of my first Speckled Wood of the year, I saw just enough of it for identification purposes, but then it was lost.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 25-Mar-17 12:40 AM GMT

You're racing ahead there Trevor 😊 A Specklie already and Beeflies as well 🐝 I'm pinning my hopes on this weekend 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Mar-17 07:45 PM GMT

NO COMMAS TODAY !.

Today I was on the farm in Halnaker, West Sussex, ' working '.

Fortunately I had a job using quick drying paint, and thixotropic adhesive, each needing a little time ' to go off ', before the next stage.

This meant quite a few short visits to a nearby meadow. At exactly 10.40 (09.40 yesterday!) two Small Tortoiseshells were up and about braving the very chilly breeze, and many more appeared as the day wore on, as did two Peacocks and a Red Admiral.

About 11.00 my first ever March Orange Tip flew in from behind me, and spent sometime patrolling the

perimeter hedge of the meadow, not stopping once !. Not long after, the first of two Small Whites, teased, as they hopped from one Dandelion to another. But I managed a shot of one of them. Two non-stop Brimstones were also seen.

A very good day indeed !.
Trevor.



Favoured Small Tort Winter dormitory, the farm has many like this.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 26-Mar-17 09:46 PM GMT

I am seriously envious of the Orange Tip, Trevor. The first glimpse of one of them is one of the special moments of the year. 🍷 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 26-Mar-17 09:49 PM GMT

Sounds like a cracking day Trevor (apart from the painting) – the last Small Tort is really well marked and a March Orange-tip is a great sighting – it's all kicking off now so we just need the weather to hold 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Mar-17 10:05 PM GMT

Many thanks Dave and Wurzel,

It was both a shock and a surprise to see the Orange Tip, never seen one in March before. Although several have been reported in Sussex already. It is worthwhile keeping an eye on the Sussex BC sightings page for early appearances .

PS. The painting wasn't too distracting, I was getting paid for it.(The boss is quite understanding).

All the best,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 27-Mar-17 06:54 AM GMT

trevor wrote:

It was both a shock and a surprise to see the Orange Tip, never seen one in March before.

Must admit, when I saw how much cuckoo flower there was in bloom in Abergavenny on Saturday, I guessed that someone, somewhere would see an Orange Tip over the weekend.

I reckon most of us should encounter them next weekend if conditions are fine.

Re: Trevor

by Art Frames, 27-Mar-17 01:21 PM GMT

Congrats on seeing the Orange Tip. On your tip I shall be visiting my best local site, but, I suspect we are a bit colder and slower up here. All of my Small Tortois have been seen in Church so far. But every day is showing more promise. And we had a bee fly in the garden yesterday, no camera with me... 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 27-Mar-17 06:04 PM GMT

The Butterfly population along the old railway continues to build. Last week I had a brief glimpse of a Speckled Wood at this location, today I had one patiently pose for me. Also a patrolling Brimstone suddenly landed and stayed put for some minutes. Peacocks outnumbered Commas for once, although both were frequently seen. Two other species seen in the air were a lone Holly Blue, and Small White. The new season really has got off to a great start, considering we are still in March.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 27-Mar-17 07:06 PM GMT

I love that Peacock shot Trevor, I've still to get a single shot of one yet. I hope all these species appearing before we enter April bode well for the year, some people could be into double figures before the 1st!

Re: Trevor

by David M, 27-Mar-17 08:31 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

The new season really has got off to a great start, considering we are still in March.

It sure has, Trevor, and things don't look like deteriorating like they did in April 2012.

I've prayed for a benign March followed by a sunny April for several years, and I sincerely hope this year is the one where it is delivered!

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 27-Mar-17 10:48 PM GMT

Great stuff with the Speckle Treble – I better start searching them out now as now would be the time – we're about a fortnight behind the east side of the country over here 😊 . Fingers crossed the weather holds...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-Mar-17 08:05 AM GMT

Many thanks Buggy, David ,Wurzel and Peter,

It seems an age ago since I took my first Butterfly image of 2017, on March 11th. So far the weather has largely been favourable, with only the odd blip, and the Butterflies have responded. Almost every day produces a season' first'.

Let's hope the weather holds, there's still time for Winter to reassert itself.

PS. Having just written about the weather, a cold sea mist has just rolled in, and it's turned chilly 😞 .

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 28-Mar-17 10:48 AM GMT

Fantastic Peacock shot Trevor, it shouts Spring arriving 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-Mar-17 03:37 PM GMT

At sunrise it looked promising for another fine day, unfortunately a sea mist rolled in and the temperature plummeted. As the sea mist lifted into low cloud there was a brief spell of sun, but it was too brief to warm up the Butterflies, and later in the morning the cloud cover was extensive.

All told I saw one Comma, a Speckled Wood, and quite a few Bee Flies.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 29-Mar-17 06:39 PM GMT

Even if 'it was a bad one' you've still gotten one more Specklie than me 🍷 Great shot too 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 30-Mar-17 03:20 PM GMT

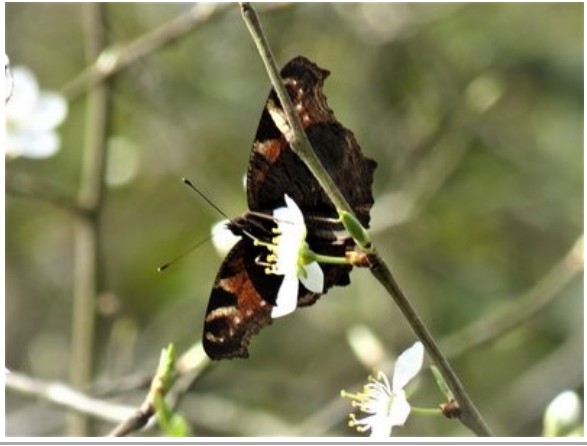


Today was the day of the Peacock in Hailsham, with over thirty seen. In contrast only one Comma was spotted. Speckled Woods were seen in several locations, with sightings of four definite individuals. There will probably be more after the very warm weather this morning. Two or three Small Whites were flying but only one stopped briefly. And a solitary male Brimstone refused to stop.

I also had a funny feeling I was being watched, from the cover of the undergrowth !.

In all a fabulous morning,
Trevor.







Re: Trevor

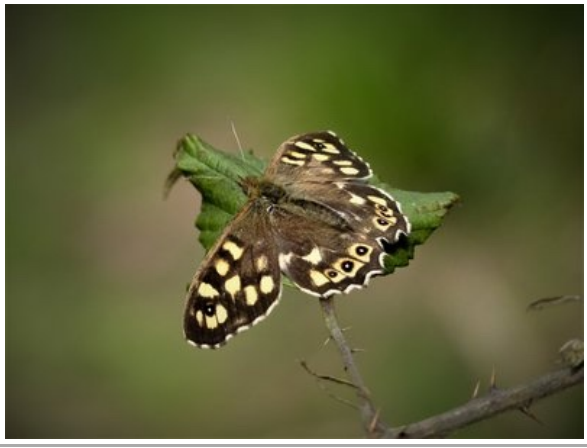
by trevor, 31-Mar-17 04:04 PM GMT

This morning the weather was largely cloudy, with a brief sunny spell at lunchtime. So I risked a trip to the old railway, unfortunately there was also a brisk breeze. Consequently not much was flying, except for Speckled Woods, whose numbers must be building as several spiralling duels, typical of the species, were observed.

After lunch I went over to Arlington reservoir, again not much action except for several fast flying Peacocks and a particularly brightly coloured Comma, which although fidgety, did allow several shots.

And so March closes, and I think we'll all agree it's been a remarkable month.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Art Frames, 31-Mar-17 06:28 PM GMT

Hi Trevor, nicely marked Comma there. Stands out beautifully. 😊

You have had rather a good March. Hope you do well in April.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 31-Mar-17 08:30 PM GMT

That first shot in particular is a real gem Trevor 😊👍 Here's hoping that April is as good as March, although to be honest I'm hoping for it to be a bit better as we've kinda missed out over here in the West...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Apr-17 07:14 PM GMT

A cool breeze and 50/50 sun/cloud was never going to make for a good Butterfly day. But the weather did not stop the Speckled Woods from flying. A nice surprise came in the form of a male Holly Blue, which happily landed nearby on a bramble. Unfortunately it was at head height, restricting photography to side on shots only.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 01-Apr-17 09:09 PM GMT

Nice Holly Blue there. Still none for me but then their foodplants near me are still a week or two away from being usable so it's probably a good thing.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 01-Apr-17 10:21 PM GMT

Likewise still no Holly Blue for me thought reports have started to come in for them, the Specklies have started emerging now as well 😊 Lovely shots Trevor, that second is so tantalisingly close to opening up 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Apr-17 11:17 PM GMT

Many thanks Buggy & Wurzel,

Only my second Holly Blue sighting. As far as food/breeding plants are concerned, the old railway has yet to produce an Orange Tip, although this site is generally good for them. I have noted that there is nothing there yet to tempt them, no preferred nectaring plants or Garlic Mustard showing. Although this Spring has so far been fantastic, we must remember that it is still early days for most things. An open wing Holly Blue is high on my agenda when things really get going.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 01-Apr-17 11:27 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

...a male Holly Blue, which happily landed nearby on a bramble.
Unfortunately it was at head height, restricting photography to side on shots only.

I share your frustration, Trevor. 😞

Clearly though, the second phase of spring is now well underway. Large/Green Veined Whites and Small Coppers are surely only a few days away.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-Apr-17 06:58 PM GMT

Last Sunday my weekly visit to Halnaker was rewarded with many Small Tortoiseshells. Today all had dispersed except for one, which was duelling with a Peacock, and both were then lost. The frustration of the day, however, was having to watch helplessly as three male Orange Tips patrolled the meadow perimeter, all looking as though they might land at any time, but never actually doing so 😞

Eventually my luck changed when I spotted a female Brimstone nectaring on Dandelions, my first female of this Spring. A little later I saw a male Brimstone occasionally pausing on the Dandelions and actually got close enough for a couple of shots.

So a sort of rewarding day, and work went well too !.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 02-Apr-17 08:31 PM GMT

That's a lovely pair of Brimstones, Trevor. 😊 Orange Tips are a real pain, sometimes. It's almost better to stay in one spot and wait for them, praying for the sun to go in at the right moment.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-Apr-17 08:54 PM GMT

Thanks Dave. Unfortunately there is nothing along the old railway (my local patch !) or at Halnaker to interest Orange Tips at the moment. The Garlic Mustard is not very advanced, and Herb Robert, for instance, is some way from flowering. Neither site has any Cuckoo flower. I'll have to search further afield, or be patient.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 02-Apr-17 11:36 PM GMT

Great set of Brimstone shots Trevor 😊 That's the trouble with OTs most times the shots come down to just being lucky 😊
Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 03-Apr-17 07:56 PM GMT

hi Trevor,

You are certainly having a great start to the season down there, a bit behind you here but things are starting to kick of now.

I particularly like your photos of the fresh Speckled Woods 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

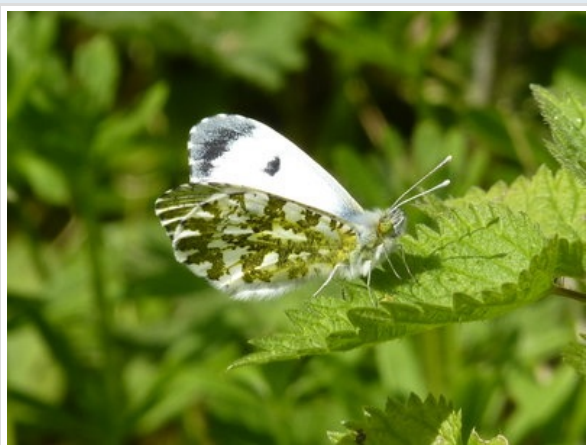
Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-Apr-17 04:29 PM GMT

At about 10.30 this morning I noticed a white Butterfly land in the grounds of the Bell inn at Great Cheverell, I quickly grabbed my camera and was just in time to obtain two shots of a female Orange Tip. My first Orange Tip image of this season.

Last year my first OT. was a female. The one today must be one of the first females of this season.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 06-Apr-17 08:37 PM GMT

Great stuff Trevor - I'm glad The Bell Inn is producing the butterfly goods 😊 I'm going to check out my Duke site this weekend fingers crossed for Grizzlies and if I find any I'll let you know 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 06-Apr-17 11:20 PM GMT

Good find, Trevor. I've only just seen my first males of the season, so your neck of the woods is definitely somewhat ahead of mine.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-Apr-17 09:48 AM GMT

Many thanks Wurzel & David,

Wurzel is right about the West being slower than the East, and of course you are even further West, David. Orange Tips are now 'old hat' in Sussex, but still a novelty in Wiltshire. Seen recently around Great Cheverell, one Brimstone, two Holly Blues, Three Specklies and four Orange Tips. Despite strong sunshine, the air has been very cool, and it's been around lunchtime before things got going.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-Apr-17 02:36 PM GMT

The warm sunshine today dictated that I would be observing Butterflies, rather than photographing them !. Earlier on this morning I was lucky enough to find a basking Small Tortoiseshell, and several nicely marked Speckled Woods.

Later on it became apparent that a group of tall Holly trees held a large population of Holly Blues, with many chases taking place, all being too active for any photo's.

All the above activity was in the grounds of Great Cheverell church, where a great many naturally hybridised Primroses are to be found.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 07-Apr-17 07:52 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

...Wurzel is right about the West being slower than the East, and of course you are even further West, David...

Trevor.

And here in the midlands I am usually slower to get going than all of you...often a good two weeks or more behind the south-east 🇬🇧

Some more great reports and photos Trevor, oh! to be able to get out during the week...roll on retirement.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

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

Many thanks Neil. Back to Sussex next week, it'll be interesting to see how things have moved on. Grizzled Skippers showing, and Pearls not too far away.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 07-Apr-17 10:19 PM GMT

Lovely Small Tort and Speckle Trevor and good to see those Primroses still going strong 😊 Good luck next week in Sussex but don't stay away too long as things are building nicely over this way 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 08-Apr-17 07:54 PM GMT

A planned early start this morning was thwarted by extremely cold air.

By about 10.30 I started to find a few Holly Blues taking in the sunshine, at ground level. As things started to warm up I went over to the church yard, where the best of today's activity took place.

I was pleased to find a male Holly Blue basking with wings fully open, almost straight away.

The best was yet to come, as I spotted a female Orange Tip avidly fluttering around, what turned out to be, the only Garlic Mustard plant on the entire bank. She gave my camera a very busy 20 mins. including a shot where she had just deposited an egg. (click on image twice)

Later in the afternoon a male OT landed in the pub grounds, but never once opened up.

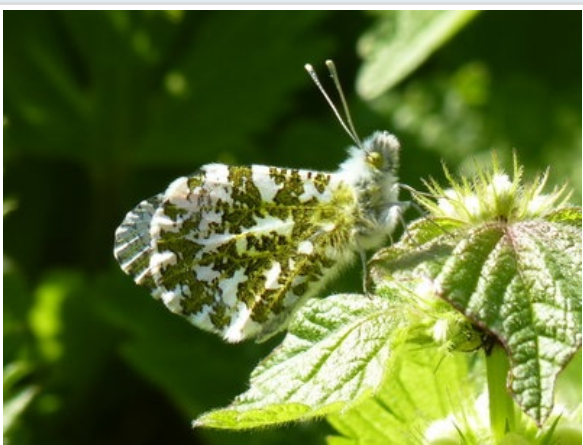
I wish all days were as good as this one turned out to be !.

Trevor.





Note the egg, just to the right of the abdomen.



Male OT

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 08-Apr-17 10:04 PM GMT

Some nice Holly Blues, there, Trevor, and catching the OT laying too. I've never seen that. 🍷🍷

Dave

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 08-Apr-17 10:33 PM GMT

I agree, that ovipositing Orange-tip is a peach of a picture 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 08-Apr-17 11:49 PM GMT

Cracking shots Trevor 🍷🍷 That OT is really getting her abdomen right in there 😲 No luck with the Grizzlies today but I'll keep you posted...

Have a goodun

Wutzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 08-Apr-17 11:57 PM GMT

Great effort with the female Orange Tip, Trevor.

Is it just me or are Holly Blues having a peach of a year? They're everywhere.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-Apr-17 06:44 PM GMT

Many thanks everyone. The ovipositing Orange Tip shot was pure luck, but very pleasing. As for Holly Blues, as David M says, they are everywhere at the moment. This morning before returning to East Sussex I nipped up to the church grounds, where there is a favourite Holly Blue warming up spot, a patch of S/E facing brambles. It was not long before a stunning female HB landed, and gradually opened up, to reveal an absolutely pristine specimen.

Trevor.



Female Holly Blue



Male Holly Blue

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 10-Apr-17 12:18 PM GMT

Every where but here Trevor 😊 But I'm living on hope and enjoying your shot's 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Apr-17 03:57 PM GMT

I paid my first visit, for over a week, to the old railway, in Hailsham, this morning. By the end of the morning the place was teeming with Butterflies, and it has yet to reach it's peak. Things were slow to get going, but I was very early, the only action was from some Specklies. In this situation the only thing for it is to pop into town for a bacon roll and a coffee. Upon my return I came across three fairly lethargic male Orange Tips, which were warm enough to fly, but to cool to patrol and thus making frequent stops to bask. Being probably the last person on UKB to obtain an open wing OT shot, I made up for it today in style !.

Another highlight was in the form of two huge, pristine Large Whites, and both settled with wings open. Holly Blues were everywhere, as were Speckled Woods, and these are becoming a pain by seeing off any passing Butterfly and sending up the one lined up in the view finder !. A final treat for the day was the discovery of a female Orange Tip resting on a spent Daffodil head in my garden.

Other species seen.....

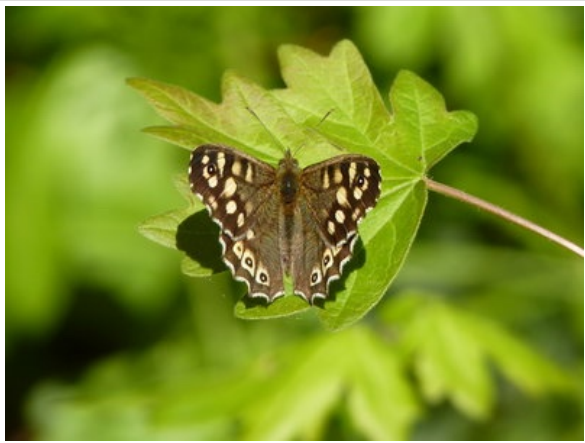
Peacock.
Red Admiral.
Small White
Comma.

A very satisfactory day!
Trevor.



Female OT, my garden.





Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 10-Apr-17 08:17 PM GMT

Nice Orange-tips Trevor, that third one looks very well marked, perhaps an *ab. crassipuncta*?

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Apr-17 08:40 PM GMT

bugboy wrote:

Nice Orange-tips Trevor, that third one looks very well marked, perhaps an *ab. crassipuncta*?

Not sure, Paul. Maybe others might have an opinion.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 10-Apr-17 09:09 PM GMT

Great Orange Tips, Trevor, but for me the standout butterfly is that perfect Large White male. They so rarely open that much and are often a bit ragged. Terrific shot in my book. 🍷 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Apr-17 09:26 PM GMT

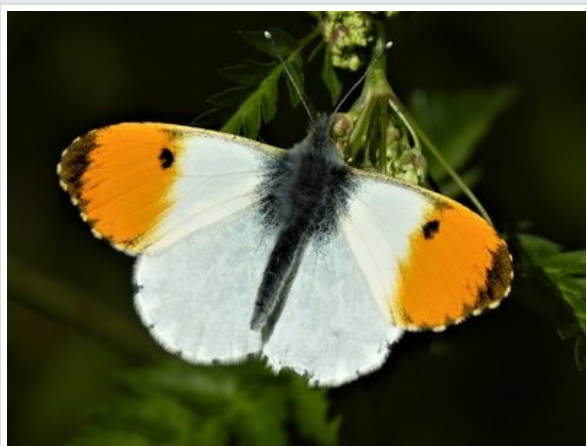
Just for you Dave, here is the other Large White from this morning.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-Apr-17 02:32 PM GMT

Same place, same time, again this morning.



With milky sunshine and a cooler breeze than yesterday it was not surprising to find fewer Butterflies on the wing today.

First to appear were Speckled Woods, right from the start they were found basking, and later quarrelling .

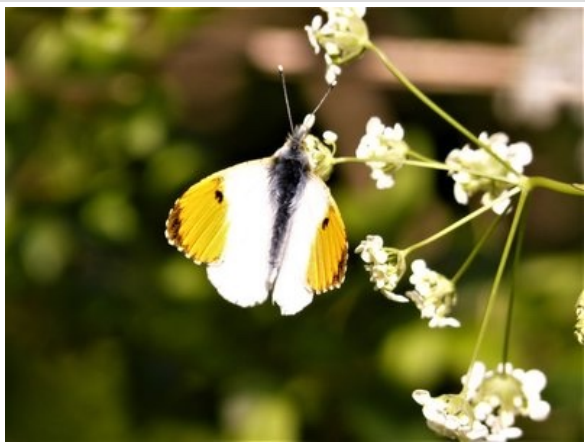
A few early Holly Blues came down onto the low foliage, and opened up, including a nice female

Several more flew just as I had them lined up. 😊

Male Orange Tips were much more lethargic than yesterday, and were approached much more easily.

I have yet to find any female OTs. along the old railway. Even the patrolling males failed to locate any.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by David M, 11-Apr-17 05:34 PM GMT

Nicely marked Orange Tip, Trevor, and a beautiful female Holly Blue. I'm still waiting for an opportunity this spring to get so close to the fairer sex of this species but I'm sure I won't be able to top yours!

Re: Trevor

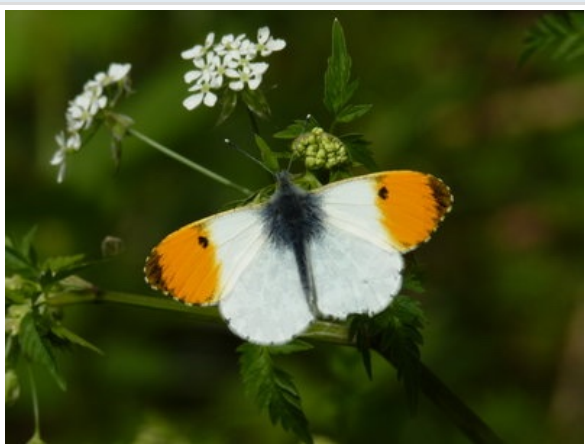
by trevor, 12-Apr-17 04:37 PM GMT

The temperature this morning was almost cold enough for the central heating, and together with the grey sky and breeze I abandoned all hope of going out today. Salvation came after lunch, when there were enough holes in the cloud for an afternoon visit to the old railway. I soon found a male Orange Tip, such was the ratio of sun and cloud it was only a matter of time before I would have a perfectly behaved Butterfly. One thing I have noticed with Orange Tips is that nearly always choose the flower head of Cow Parsley to rest on when the sun goes in, and this was the case today.



The main path along the old line, with London road bridge in the background.

Neil Hulme raised the question 'Can you ever have too many Orange Tips', the answer is an emphatic NO !. Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 12-Apr-17 05:01 PM GMT

Now for a real mystery.

I noticed this female Holly Blue land on a Celandine flower, she then seemed to go through the motions of depositing an egg,



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 12-Apr-17 06:28 PM GMT

A stunning set of shots Trevor 🤩👍👍 - I've been away for a bit dealing with car probs and I'm still in shock after Legoland else I'd have a commented before...that OT looks like an aberrant to me as the black spot is very large and there is the dark marking along the fore wing margin? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 12-Apr-17 09:58 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

Now for a real mystery.

I noticed this female Holly Blue land on a Celandine flower,
she then seemed to go through the motions of depositing an egg,

This happens quite a lot, Trevor.

I took multiple images of male Holly Blues nectaring on blackthorn blossom last weekend and in some of them, the abdomen was 'bent' as if the insect was ovipositing. I presume they sometimes do this merely for reasons of balance.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 12-Apr-17 10:25 PM GMT

That's a good explanation, David, something I shall look out for.
As you said the other day, Holly Blues are having a bumper Spring.
,

Re: Trevor

by Butterflysaurus rex, 12-Apr-17 10:32 PM GMT

David M wrote:

trevor wrote:

Now for a real mystery.

I noticed this female Holly Blue land on a Celandine flower,
she then seemed to go through the motions of depositing an egg,

This happens quite a lot, Trevor.

I took multiple images of male Holly Blues nectaring on blackthorn blossom last weekend and in some of them, the abdomen was 'bent' as if the insect was ovipositing. I presume they sometimes do this merely for reasons of balance.

I've seen this happen quite a few times, usually on Ivy. I always thought the female was testing for suitable sites. I've also noticed Small Tortoiseshell's doing this, I watch the female curl her abdomen under the nettle as if she's laying eggs and when I check under the leaf nothing.

James

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-Apr-17 08:27 PM GMT

I only had a short time out today, I was quite pleased to find an Orange Tip on (Spanish) Bluebells which made for a colourful combination. Unfortunately the camera focussed on the background rather than the subject. I was quite amazed when two sparring Holly Blues suddenly landed on the same leaf.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 13-Apr-17 09:48 PM GMT

Now you've got Holly Blues falling at your feet 🍷🍷😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

p.s. first Grizzlies seen at Cotley a few days back...but it's been a fair bit cooler since

Re: Trevor

by David M, 13-Apr-17 10:09 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

I was quite amazed when two sparring Holly Blues suddenly landed on the same leaf.

Me too! These butterflies are usually only seen in pairs when courting.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-Apr-17 08:23 PM GMT

The weather here today was much better than forecast, in the morning we had a mixture sun and cloud, just the right conditions for resting Holly Blues to open up. I located two males, then the waiting game. Right on cue both opened their wings as the sun appeared. Then a new species for the season, my first Green veined White of the year. Better late than never. Also seen at the old railway, many Speckled Woods, two male Orange Tips and a fresh looking Red Admiral.

After lunch I went over to Abbots Wood in the vein hope of an early Pearl, whilst searching and scanning the surroundings I noticed a small rapidly flying Butterfly in the distance. When it went down I walked over to it's approximate position, and utopia!, a fresh Green Hairstreak perched on a Bluebell, an ideal colour combination. Some minutes later another GH landed on a Birch leaf, upon looking at the images it would seem that the same Hairstreak was seen twice.

Another feature of Abbots today was the large number of Peacocks basking on bare earth. Also a female Orange Tip was found hanging from a Bluebell.

In all a superb day,
Trevor.









Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 16-Apr-17 08:06 AM GMT

Great colour combination indeed Trevor 😊🍷 When I get a mo I'm going to investigate the Greenstreak aberrants as you have a nice'two spotter' there 🍷
Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 16-Apr-17 11:19 AM GMT

Lovely Butterflies Trevor, especially the Green Hair Streaks, hope it's an ab 🍷 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 16-Apr-17 07:01 PM GMT

Great reports recently Trevor with some cracking photos, I am particularly liking your Green Hairstreak on Bluebell shots and those open wing Holly Blues 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-Apr-17 08:01 PM GMT

Many thanks Wurzel, Goldie and Neil.

That was a magic moment finding a Green Hairstreak perching on a Bluebell, one of those occasions where everything was right.

Today however was in stark contrast to Friday, with only one male Orange Tip putting in an appearance. I was watching the OT patrolling, until the Sun went in, it then immediately landed on a Cow Parsley flower head, which seems to be a favourite perch for OTs awaiting the return of the Sun.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 16-Apr-17 09:06 PM GMT

I reckon it's because it closely matches the cryptic patterning on their under wings – I always scan across Cow Parsley hopefully 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 18-Apr-17 11:48 AM GMT

Well done, Trevor. You can't beat a Green Hairstreak on a bluebell.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-Apr-17 04:10 PM GMT

I agree David. I had to search the area where I saw the GH. roughly go down. And it was certainly a 'yippee' moment when I found it on the Bluebell.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-Apr-17 04:47 PM GMT

TWO PEARLS AND A CUCKOO.

Today I had a day out with Dave Cook (thanks for driving Dave) , Considering the very chilly breeze we could not have had a better day. First on the scene was a male Holly Blue which landed close by and promptly opened up fully. Next a patrolling male Orange Tip was seen to briefly pause on Herb Robert, then carried on patrolling. Rather than chase it we waited by the flowering Herb Robert for it's return. Sure enough when it came back it stopped on said plant for a couple of shots. Next as the sun went in a Small White landed in an ideal spot for a couple of shots.

But the best was yet to come as two Pearl Bordered Fritillaries came into view. The cool conditions ensured that they weren't too lively, and better still we were able to photograph them to the backdrop of a distant Cuckoo.

One of the more satisfying days,
Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by Art Frames, 18-Apr-17 05:03 PM GMT

Trevor you had a lovely day today with the selection of sightings and more so last week with the green hairstreak, glad to see all of the trips out and what is flying in your part of the world. Unfortunately not as good up here but I'm sure weather will improve. best wishes peter

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 18-Apr-17 07:22 PM GMT

Lovely Pearls Trevor 😊 and you are doing really well with open wing Holly Blues too 🍷 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 18-Apr-17 07:46 PM GMT

I agree with Neil. That's a really nice shot of the Holly Blue Trevor 😊

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 18-Apr-17 08:26 PM GMT

Very nice Holly Blues, and some Pearls as well now – lovely shots, Trevor.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 18-Apr-17 08:46 PM GMT

Great shots, Trevor, first a Green Hairstreak on a Bluebell and now a Pearl 😊 Lovely open wing shots of the Holly Blues, they never do that for me 😊 It's always nice to hear your first Cuckoo of the spring too.

Mike

Re: Trevor

by David M, 18-Apr-17 10:26 PM GMT

PBFs already!! Trevor, you are upping the ante somewhat here.

I wasn't preparing myself for this species till the middle of next week at least!!!

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 18-Apr-17 11:25 PM GMT

That is a mighty fine find Trevor 😊🍀 At which site were those PBFs? If it was one in the South East then I need to get over to Bentley for the first ones there in about a fortnight 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 19-Apr-17 04:10 PM GMT

Firstly, many thanks everyone for your comments, smilies and mrgreens.

This morning I decided to spend another day with the Pearls. I had only been on site for a short while, when I met James (B Suarus Rex) who had similar ideas.

The first Pearl sighting was along one of the rides, and provided a good omen for the day.

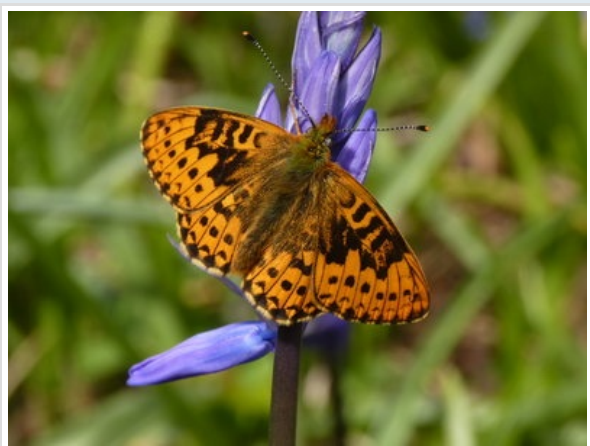
Next to arrive was Mark Cadey, by this time the sun was beginning to win over the cold breeze, and the Pearls responded. The best sighting was of three males sparring in the air together.

We later discovered an interesting specimen, where the dark upper side markings had almost fused.

This Butterfly was afforded a lot of attention, and could well be an ab. We decided that the total for the day was about six or seven, although we only explored a relatively small area.

Other species seen, female Orange Tip, Green veined Whites and several Peacocks.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 19-Apr-17 07:09 PM GMT

Great shots Trevor , Pearl's already looks like I'll have to make the journey soon to Gait Barrow. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 19-Apr-17 08:00 PM GMT

More great Pearls Trevor...and that is a lovely marked ab. 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 19-Apr-17 08:46 PM GMT

Looks like a morning well spent Trevor 🍷 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 19-Apr-17 09:33 PM GMT

What a wonderful introduction to early season PBFs that ab. is, Trevor.

Nice find for what is barely late April!

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 20-Apr-17 08:36 PM GMT

Spring is well and truly underway with those PBF shots, Trevor. It's a nice ab. too, and in combination with the bluebells – stunning. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-Apr-17 05:47 PM GMT

The extensive cloud cover this morning ensured that things would be slow going. When the sun did appear several 'white' Butterflies appeared. Best of these was a fresh Green veined White, spoilt by a small tear in the left forewing.

A male Orange Tip became less active once the cloud reestablished, and later put down on Cow Parsley.

Not the best morning, but worth the trip.

Trevor.

PS. Many thanks for all your comments this week.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Apr-17 05:28 PM GMT

The weather was perfect early this morning, so much so, I decided to go out straight away. The car was reading 11c, there was no chilly breeze and not a cloud in the sky. Everything was perfect for a visit to find some Pearl Bordered Fritillaries. I arrived on site just before 8 am, and immediately saw Pearl fly up in front of me. They were quite lively even at that hour, but made frequent stops to bask. The Pearl hunt was interrupted several times by a couple of Green Hairstreaks, which insisted on posing in a photogenic manner on Bluebells. Hard to resist, and very welcome. Among the dozen or so Pearls seen was my first female of the season, found warming up on a Bluebell. When she later flew onto the ground several males approached her but she was not receptive and each one quickly took the hint. (already mated perhaps). Gary Norman paid a visit and bought with him a bank of cloud, which spelt the end of proceedings. He did however earn 10 points for spotting a Pearl resting in a tree, awaiting the return of the sun, which was not going to happen any time soon.

All images (except the Pearl in the tree) were taken between 8 and 9 am.

Trevor.





Female PBF





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 22-Apr-17 08:01 PM GMT

Simply lovely viewing Trevor, Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 22-Apr-17 08:24 PM GMT

Love that roosting one, those pearls positively glow! Hope they can find somewhere sheltered to get through the coming arctic blast 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 22-Apr-17 09:53 PM GMT

Early starts can be useful for photographing butterflies....and one tends to have the place all to oneself as well; an additional bonus!

Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 22-Apr-17 10:37 PM GMT

Beautiful roosting Pearl!

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 23-Apr-17 07:07 PM GMT

Great stuff Trevor, great shots 😊👍 You inspired me so I too a gamble and visited Bentley Wood today and got my first Pearl 😊

Have a goodun

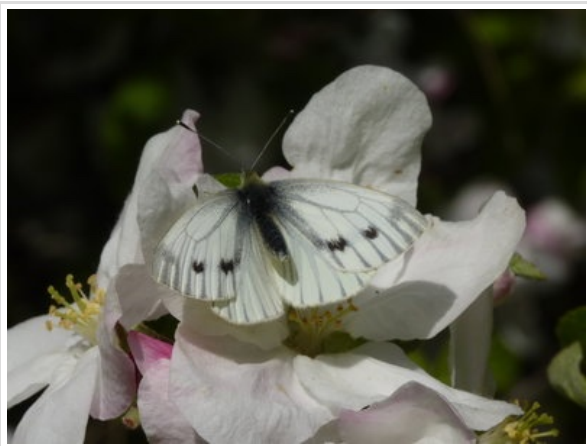
Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-Apr-17 08:59 PM GMT

Many thanks folks for all your encouragement. That really was a special morning yesterday. Today I have returned to Wiltshire. Later this afternoon I popped along to Wurzel's hill. But it was a case of no sun, no Butterflies ,until I had almost reached the car to return home. By chance I noticed a female Orange Tip resting on Cow Parsley. Better still, right by the main road I found a mating pair of Green Veined Whites, a species I have not had much luck with so far this season.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 23-Apr-17 09:49 PM GMT

That's a lovely Green-veined White shot Trevor 😊 I'm surprised there wasn't much about as reports from that site have been pretty good recently – only a few more weeks and then it will really be pumping at The Hill 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 23-Apr-17 11:50 PM GMT

That's a beautiful image of the female GFW on the white flower, Trevor. The mating pair is pretty good too. I've still only seen low numbers of this species so far in 2017. Hopefully, that will change soon.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 24-Apr-17 03:19 PM GMT

Lovely shot's again Trevor, great GVW's, Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

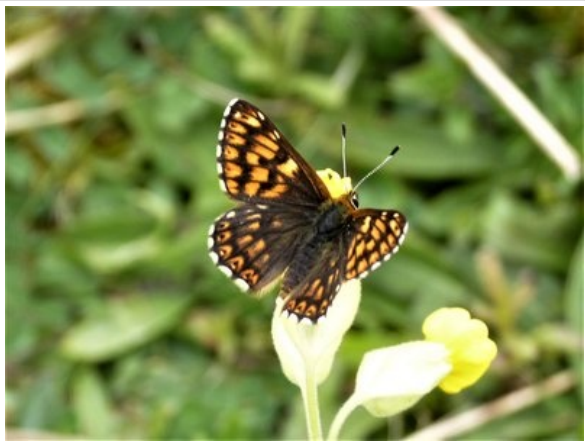
by trevor, 24-Apr-17 03:42 PM GMT

Returning home this morning from Wiltshire, under grey skies, I noticed a band of brighter sky in the far distance, this was while travelling over Salisbury Plain. It would be another 80 miles before I caught this brighter sky up !. As I was near Storrington by now, the improved weather was ideal for a Duke of Burgundy hunt.

When I arrived on site Dave Cook, Rolf Farrel and Gary Philpot had beat me to it, and had located a resting Dingy Skipper. I was told of the earlier sunshine, which had produced a few Dukes, but the cloud had now caught up. We did, however, have one or two cloud breaks and the Dukes responded, with three spotted in the air together. I also saw a Dingy/Duke dispute. Photography was fairly easy as the conditions made the Dukes rather lethargic.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 25-Apr-17 12:20 PM GMT

ARCTIC PEARLS

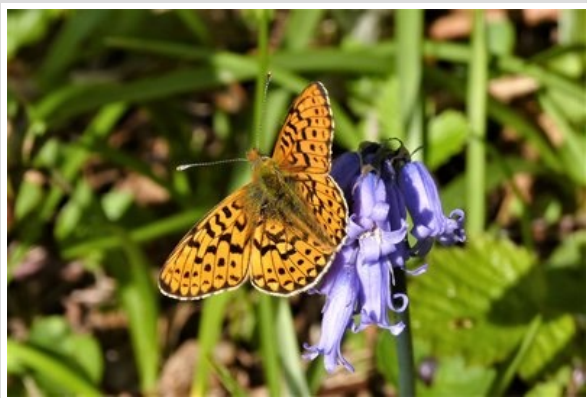
Although the air was freezing this morning, the sun was very strong. With these conditions in mind I thought that if I could find a sheltered, sunny spot I might be in luck.

I had such a spot in mind so I headed for Abbots Wood. When I arrived it seemed that I may have pushed my luck too far. Nothing at all flying, and it was chillier than I had hoped for.

After about 30 mins. a solitary pearl appeared, which raised my hopes somewhat, and better still this Pearl rose up to another flying Pearl.

Over a period of about an hour about ten Pearls were seen, and as things turned out the morning was not a lot quieter than normal. Unsurprisingly no other species were seen.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 26-Apr-17 08:45 PM GMT

Great Dukes, and then the Pearls braving the Arctic blast. 😊 It just shows that sunshine is more important than temperature. A lot of variation in the markings too, with one at least quite heavily marked. I wonder if the cold will affect any still in the chrysalis.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Apr-17 08:56 PM GMT

Many thanks, Dave. I hope there are still many more Pearls to emerge on this site. If not there will be very few. I have yet to see more than about ten to twelve on recent visits. Of course we are not in May yet, so there's a bit more time.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 27-Apr-17 10:36 AM GMT

Your seeing quite a good mixture of Butterflies Trevor inspite of the cold weather , great shots of the Pearl's Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 27-Apr-17 12:01 PM GMT

Pearls are great value for money Trevor 😊 I've been out in 9 degrees and thick grey cloud and the slightest bright spell and they were on the wing 😊 Hopefully this cooler snap won't be too detrimental 😊 Though butterflies are often hardier than we give them credit for.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 27-Apr-17 03:49 PM GMT

Many thanks Goldie and Wurzel.

Since this cold snap started my part of Sussex had escaped anything really nasty, until yesterday.

We had a hail shower in the early afternoon, then a really heavy one about 6.30 pm.

Then early this morning a hard frost, even my sheltered back garden was partially white.

I was keen to find out how the Pearl Bordered Fritillaries had coped with the weather.

On arrival at Abbots Wood the conditions were similar to Tuesday, a clear sky, and the sun

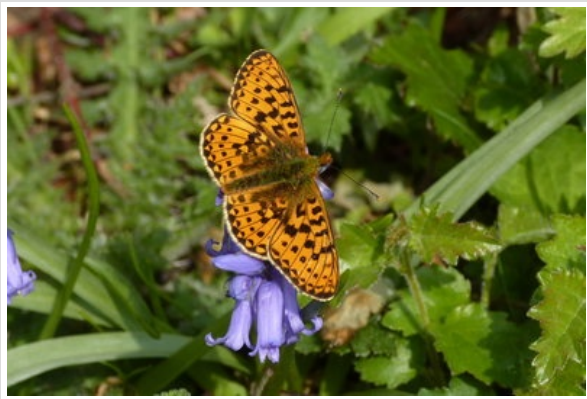
warming up the same sheltered spot visited on Tuesday. But, over a two hour period

only three Pearls were seen, and these were flying quite normally, until the building cloud

finally obliterated the sun. Just before I left the site a Pearl which had been basking on the

ground, flew up into the shelter of a bush, allowing another underside shot.

Trevor.





This one's for Katrina !.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 27-Apr-17 10:12 PM GMT

Those PBF images are making me desperate to get my own 'fix', Trevor. If only we in south Wales could better rely on the weather.....it might be a few days before the opportunity presents itself. 😞

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-Apr-17 07:08 AM GMT

Hopefully your local Pearl colony will emerge in better weather conditions than those at Abbots Wood. Judging by the numbers I've seen, this cold snap may have delayed more from emerging early. Good luck David.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 28-Apr-17 11:27 AM GMT

The only good things about the cooler snap is that it might slow things down a bit so they don't burn out so quickly and hopefully a little rain might be delivered 😊 I'm not normally a fan of rain during the butterfly season but things are quite dry round our way 😊 Some more great shots by the way 📷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

ps About the Hill...I'll look back over my records but the date you mention might produce the goods, just not in any numbers as they'll only just be starting

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-Apr-17 12:15 PM GMT

Thanks for that Wurzel !. A few will do, and there's bound to be other species to enjoy. Hope your wish for rain doesn't materialise that day !.

All the best,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-Apr-17 07:27 PM GMT

A moments sunshine this morning soon disappeared once I had arrived on site. Only two Butterflies were found, a Green Veined White blending with Cow Parsley, and a Small White, which was a little more active.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by keving, 29-Apr-17 01:35 PM GMT

Trevor,

Enjoying your photos of the PBF. They look stunning when fresh.

Regards Kev

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 29-Apr-17 08:06 PM GMT

Lovely looking GVW Trevor 🥰🍷 Good too to see that there are some Small Whites out there they've been so thin on the ground this season so far 😊
Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-May-17 03:38 PM GMT

Keep the camera handy at all times, something I rarely do at home.

At lunch time I noticed a male Orange Tip posing perfectly in my garden, Where's the camera ?, in the car.

Kick off shoes, they were wet !, rush to car, get camera, shoes back on, Orange Tip is still there 😊 .

OT then decides to flutter around the garden before the camera is ready, Finally landing on one of my native Bluebells for a rubbish shot!, the only one before it flew over the hedge an out of sight 😞 .

Must be better organised.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-May-17 02:18 PM GMT

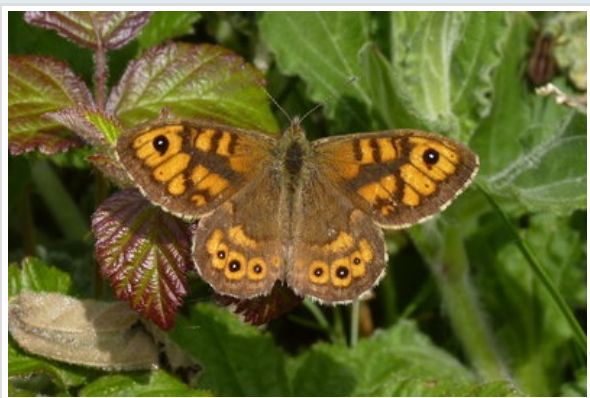
After yesterday's missed opportunity with the Orange Tip, this morning came good with some careful planning and an awful lot of luck.

First on my list was an early morning visit to High and Over for some Wall Browns, with seven males in residence, spread out across the whole area. Unfortunately most had been out for a while and were showing signs of wear. Whilst watching a Wall, a female Holly Blue landed and partially opened up. Several tatty Red Admirals were found warming up, but the bonus for me was one of the freshest Red Admirals I have ever seen, fluttering and landing in quick succession on one of the paths, a joy to behold !.

On my way home I popped into Abbots Wood. The big surprise here was a faded, but very active Painted Lady making the most of the Bluebells. Also seen, a single Small Copper, Brimstone, Peacock, three Orange Tips, and only nine Pearl Bordered Fritillaries, which considering the beautiful weather, was rather disappointing.

A very enjoyable and productive morning.

Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 02-May-17 02:35 PM GMT

Nice shots of the Wall Brown Trevor 😊 – not the easiest of butterflies to photograph (and it's a few years since I've had any practice 😞)

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 02-May-17 07:25 PM GMT

I must agree with Pauline on the Walls, Trevor. Really tricky to get decent shots (or any at all when they are at such a distance away from here!). The Red Admiral is terrific too – I wonder whether it's a local specimen or has just hopped the channel (as your Painted Lady must have done)? Great selection. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 02-May-17 08:33 PM GMT

Well done with the Wall Browns Trevor, sadly a once thriving colony close to home appears to have gone. Looks like I'm going to have to go a bit further away to see these beauties from now on.

All the best

James

Re: Trevor

by kevlng, 02-May-17 08:57 PM GMT

Trevor, Nice Wall Browns. It's been a long time since I saw one in the UK. Reading your reports, I think I'd better fill my boots at the weekend and drive down from Suffolk.

Regards Kev

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-May-17 07:24 PM GMT

Many thanks Pauline, Dave, James & Kev.

I am very pleased that my morning with the Wall Browns was appreciated.

I thought that a few more images from yesterday may be worth sharing. One big surprise of the morning was to find a Wall, most unusually, perched on the tip, at head height, on a stem of last years Rosebay Willowherb. Getting close enough without disturbing the Wall was difficult, but successful. I had only taken two images when this Wall rose up to see off a passing Holly Blue. Thinking that was it, I was most surprised when the Butterfly returned to a neighbouring stem for several more shots.

Trevor.



On original perch.



Returned to second perch, having seen off a Holly blue.



Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 03-May-17 07:36 PM GMT

Lovely shots of the Walls, Trevor 😊 and on perches high off the ground 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 03-May-17 08:36 PM GMT

Cracking set of Wall Browns Trevor – I don't think I've ever seen that many in one outing 🤩🍀

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Gary.N, 03-May-17 09:51 PM GMT

Hi Trevor,

You have great shots of the Pearls this year and the shot of the Holly Blue I am jealous of. I never get close to Holly Blues. I have more and better shots of Purple Hairstreaks than of Holly's. 😊 Thanks for the offer of Violets, we are just coping at the moment. But it's good to have a supply close by when we need it. 😊

Gary

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 03-May-17 11:18 PM GMT

🍀 for your Walls! I'll have to take a trip to the seaside to chase some around endlessly! Oh the insanity of having to travel that far for what was once such a common widespread species!

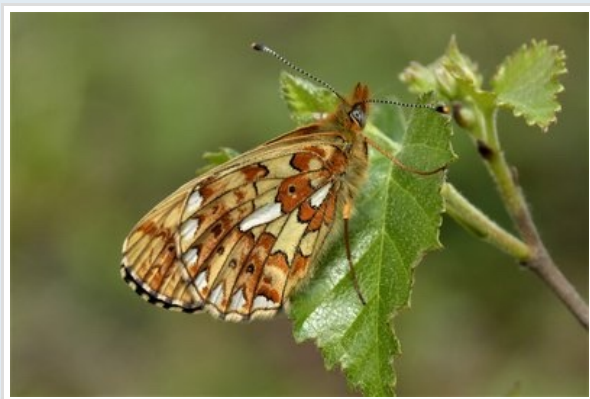
Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-May-17 04:42 PM GMT

Many thanks, Mike, Gary, Wurzel and Buggy.

Today's expedition was even more of a challenge than that with the Walls. The relentless grey gloom and strong breeze temporarily gave in a little this morning, with a few sunny spells. There were enough cloud breaks to make a trip to Abbots wood worth risking. Far from ideal conditions greeted me, and after a short while I nearly gave up. When the Sun did appear, very briefly, a Pearl appeared from nowhere but was quickly lost in the breeze. Looking at the sky it was clear that a longer spell of sunshine was not too far away. When it arrived the Pearls responded, with a possible six seen, both basking and in flight. When the cloud returned I was lucky enough to find two Pearls resting with wings closed. Photography was made extremely difficult owing to the strong breeze.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 05-May-17 08:55 PM GMT

Hi Trevor,

It has been very windy here too for the past few days. Well done on those PBF undersides, I know how difficult they can be when they are bobbing around on the end of thin stems.

Nice Wall Brown photos too 😊

Cheers,

Neil

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-May-17 07:51 PM GMT

Reading Dave's (millerd) report this morning, and his encounter with the Wood Whites yesterday, I felt a trip to Chiddingfold forest would be more worthwhile than my original plans for today.

So I set off under clearing skies, and on arrival hazy sunshine welcomed me.

My first Wood White was located in a ditch (thank goodness for all this dry weather !).

After several more sightings I found a pair on a seed head, incredibly whilst photographing this pair

I was serenaded by not only a nearby Nightingale, but a purring Turtle Dove as well !.

I would estimate about fifteen Wood Whites were seen, as well as many Brimstones, one female and three male Orange Tips. Many other 'white' Butterflies were present too.

On the way home (after a stop for Fish and chips) I called in at Mill Hill, where a fresh male Wall Brown

paused for a snatch shot, also a male Orange Tip posed as did a Brimstone.

A wonderful day,
Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-May-17 07:26 PM GMT

I had every intention of popping in to see the Dukes this morning on my way to my part time job. Despite some lovely blue sky out to sea, the dark grey cloud lingered in land, so I drove straight past the turning. On the way home, however, it was bright, sunny and warm, so I called in. But as it was around 4pm, all was quiet. Except for one Duke and my first, fresh Common Blue since last November.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 07-May-17 10:46 PM GMT

Lovely Duke and Wood Whites Trevor 😊🇮🇪 Finally got my Duke this afternoon 😊 I didn't get to the Hill but over the last few days it's had Brown Argus, Wall, Duke and the Marshis have arrived - 5 there today, soon they will be everywhere 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 08-May-17 09:11 AM GMT

Many thanks for the info, Wurzel.

I am travelling down on Wednesday, seems like a detour is called for !.

According to the weather forecast Weds. is going to be the best day this week.

I'm also intending to visit on Sat & Sun. Better get several more memory cards !.

Hope to have a good'un,
Trevor

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 08-May-17 06:55 PM GMT

Those Wood Whites were well worth a visit, Trevor - I'm glad they appeared for you. You have now made me envious with the first Common Blue. 🇮🇪
Let's hope they have a good year. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 08-May-17 08:15 PM GMT

Thanks Dave,

Your visit on Friday, confirming that the Wood Whites were on the wing, provided the reason for my visit.

Not that I need a reason to visit Chiddingfold forest, my favourite location by a mile.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 09-May-17 07:16 AM GMT

Great spring selection there, Trevor, including a couple of rarities. Nice to see Common Blues have emerged too - hopefully they'll be round my neck of the woods in a day or two.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-May-17 12:32 PM GMT

Early this morning I went over to Friston Gallops, a good site for Down land species.

The only species flying in any number were many Small Heaths, the first for me this year.

The prize of the morning was the discovery of a mating pair, not something I've seen before.

As has become the norm recently, a cloudless sky quickly became cloud covered sky, putting a premature end to proceedings.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 09-May-17 08:06 PM GMT

I think your shot of the Wood Whites on the seed head is really unusual Trevor, it's stunning, has is your first shot of the Small Heath's Goldie 🍷 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-May-17 08:10 AM GMT

Many thanks Goldie, I'm glad things have started to liven up in your area.

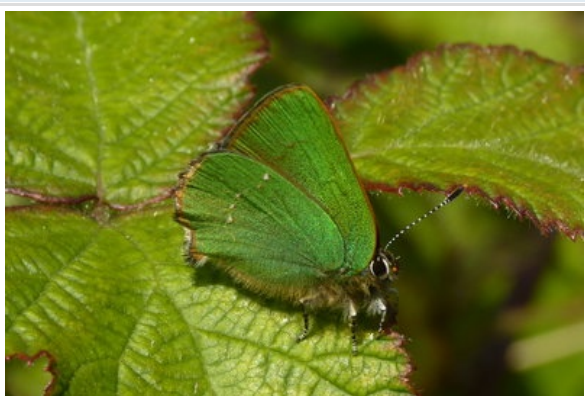
Yesterday I found myself deep in Wurzel country, along with several UKB'ers, and other hopefuls, The hoped for Marsh Fritillary did not materialise, at least in the area I was in, but I understand that two were seen by others.

However, I very quickly found my first Grizzled Skipper of the season, not far from the road, these along with Dingy Skippers and Green Hairstreaks were found in good numbers.

It was also great to meet Dave (millerd) once again, whom I hope found his journey worthwhile.

Might go back today for another try, Trevor.





Note, only one antennae.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-May-17 07:23 PM GMT

PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF

This morning I returned to the same site as yesterday, and had the place to myself.

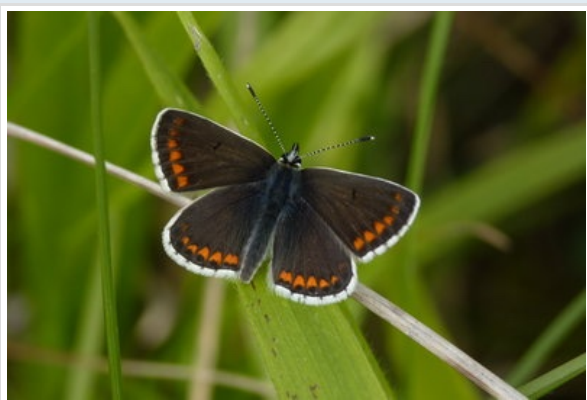
The hunt for the Marsh Fritillary was resumed, after over an hour of careful searching, it was a casual glance that secured the one and only specimen found, and what a beauty !. I was so delighted with the very fine markings, I have made this specimen my Butterfly of the season so far.

The other species of note were several very fresh Brown Argus.

On the return journey I stopped off beside some military land, near Tilshead. This large area could be a great site,

as a quick visit revealed a Small Blue, a Green Hairstreak and many Dingy Skippers, but the land was dry and parched.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by kevlng, 11-May-17 07:53 PM GMT

Trevor,

Love those fresh Marshies and Brown Argus. I saw my first ones their last year and those fond memories remain.

Regards Kev

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 11-May-17 10:31 PM GMT

That's a lovely new Marshie, Trevor, and definitely not the one Katrina and I saw on Wednesday. 😊 Hopefully numbers will build over the next week or so.

As we discussed yesterday, the military-owned tracts of land across Salisbury Plain are probably home to countless butterflies. Whatever is accessible certainly seems very productive.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 11-May-17 10:56 PM GMT

Great find Trevor, glad the Hill paid up. I reckon a visit again in a week, week and a half could see the numbers nearing peak 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 12-May-17 08:11 AM GMT

CAMERA EYE PIECE SURROUND FOR A NIKON FOUND AT THE MARSHIE SITE YESTERDAY.

If it belongs to you please PM me.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by bailey1409, 12-May-17 08:40 AM GMT

Hi Trevor

I've sent you a PM.

Cheers

Maurice

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 12-May-17 12:23 PM GMT

Lovely shots again Trevor 📷 Goldie 😊

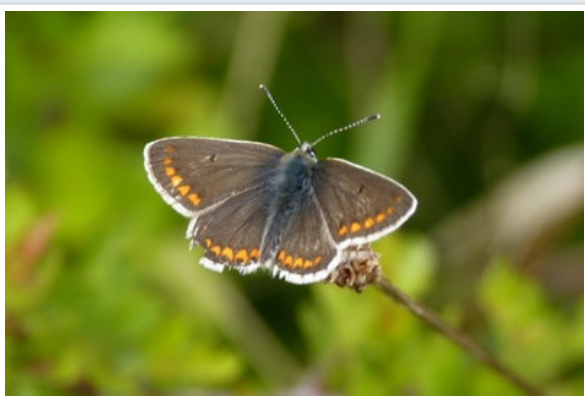
Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-May-17 07:39 PM GMT

A further visit to the Marshie site, found no Marsh Fritillaries, but many Brown Argus were present. A most surprising find was in the form of a Burnet Moth with it's wings erect, whether they hold them like that when newly emerged, I don't know, never seen this posture before.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-May-17 07:52 AM GMT

Through the medium of UKB I have reunited a lost camera part with it's owner.

Great stuff,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 14-May-17 10:07 PM GMT

I'm seriously hoping that things pick up there Trevor 😊 Interesting view of the Burnet Moth you rarely get to see that view 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 14-May-17 11:24 PM GMT

Lovely, fresh Brown Argus, Trevor. 😊

One of my favourite butterflies.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 15-May-17 10:05 AM GMT

Lovely shots of the BA Trevor, Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-May-17 05:38 PM GMT

Yesterday I tried once again to find the, so far, elusive Marsh Fritillary. Again without success. This may have been down to the weather, which was breezy and quite cloudy. However, this did not stop the many Brown Argus from showing, together with a few Grizzled Skippers.

The view of the Burnet Moth is the one I originally intended to post the other day as it shows part of the upper wing as well. and is I think a better image.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by John W, 15-May-17 08:27 PM GMT

{quote}Yesterday I tried once again to find the, so far, elusive Marsh Fritillary. Hi Trevor,

Where have you been looking for the Marsh Fritillary? Is it Cotley Hill?

Cheers
John

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 15-May-17 10:40 PM GMT

If you're not having muck luck at the Hill Trevor check out the Wiltshire Branch site as there have been sightings in better numbers from some surrounding hills...or you could give Martin Down ago – the Hampshire Branch have had some good numbers from there recently.

Have a goodun

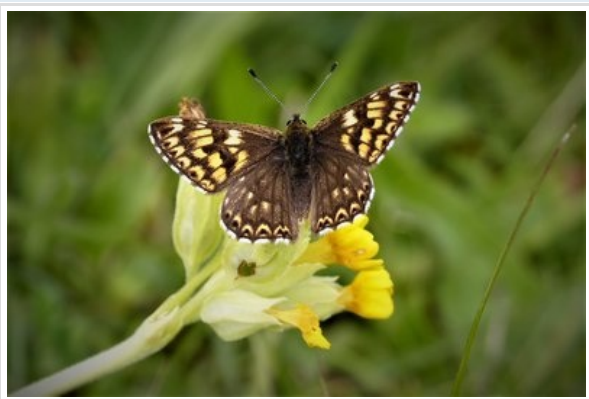
Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-May-17 07:29 PM GMT

On my way back home to Sussex, I called in to see the Duke and Duchess of Kithurst. I must say that I was most graciously received, with the Dukes posing perfectly. With very warm sunshine for most of my visit, most Butterflies were supercharged, so I saw many more than I was able to photograph. The Brown Argus was flying in good numbers, and from what I have seen over the past few days, this species seems to be having a very good season. The other species seen in multiples for the first time was the Common Blue. Just one Small Blue was found.

Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-May-17 08:39 PM GMT

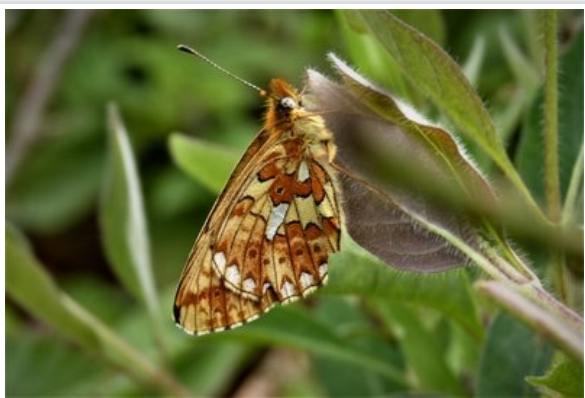
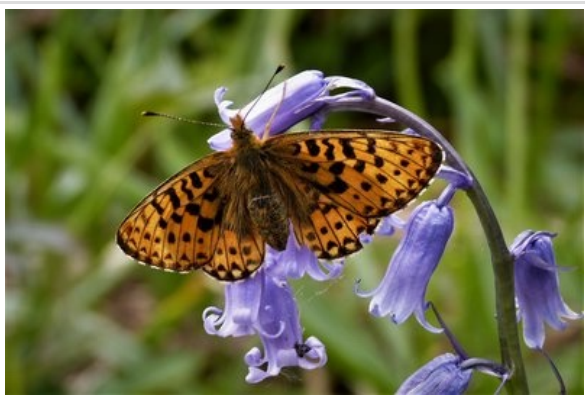
A further visit to Abbots Wood found the Pearl Bordered Fritillary flying in the two areas of the Wood visited.

Not much sun today, but the air was very warm, and the Pearls varied from manic to easy to approach. Most, if not all, were showing signs of wear, which is not surprising at this stage in their lives.

One particularly bulbous female looked as though she had her contribution to next year's population on board !.

Talking of easy to approach, I was most surprised when a Yellow Speckled Moth stayed put for several shots.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-May-17 07:59 PM GMT

ELECTRIC BLUE.

The Adonis Blue almost escaped my attention last year, indeed I only managed to photograph one specimen in the whole of 2016.

So this morning, after the rush hour had eased, I headed off to Mill Hill in West Sussex. On arrival it was cloudy with the promise of some distant blue sky, which in the event remained distant. Once I had located a few Adonis it became clear that the weather conditions favoured the photographer, the Butterflies were still lively, with many giving me the slip, but others were content with basking.

On the precarious descent to the bottom of this very steep hill, I found the first of two mating pairs, the second pair were on the wing with the male towing his wife !. Right at the base of the hill the Adonis were found in large numbers, the vast majority being male, but several lovely females were also found among the flora.

Without doubt this was the best session I've ever had with this species.







Re: Trevor

by David M, 18-May-17 10:03 PM GMT

What a mouth-watering array of *bellargus* you have presented there, Trevor. I feel a little trip to do justice to them myself coming on! 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-May-17 10:29 PM GMT

Do it soon David, they don't stay pristine for very long.
I shall remember the many flashes of 'electric' blue among the ground cover for a long time.

Best wishes,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 18-May-17 10:31 PM GMT

Lovely Adonis Trevor, that first female is beautifully marked and that final open wing shot 🤔👍👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Butterfysaurus rex, 20-May-17 08:55 PM GMT

I remember when I introduced you to our local Adonis Blues quite a few years back Trevor. I said I call their amazing shade of blue "electric blue" you certainly never tire of seeing it, it's a once seen never forgotten thing.

Best wishes

James

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 20-May-17 09:09 PM GMT

That first female really does stand out, Trevor. Beautifully marked. 😊 I haven't seen a female yet this year.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-May-17 07:47 PM GMT

Many thanks Wurzel, James & Dave.

Yes James I do remember you guiding Doug and myself to the Adonis site. Last year I could not find even one there, and that was for both broods. A site near Eastbourne, which had also been reliable was deserted. Thank goodness for Mill Hill.

On my way to Chichester this morning, I popped up to Kithurst hill, at a ridiculously early hour. Weak sun and very wet grass greeted me. I soon located two roosting male Common Blues, and later, about 08.45, two worn Dukes. The main reason for my visit was the Small Blue of which just one was seen. I could have stayed all day, but time was against me. I'd rather have a cup of coffee waiting at my destination than a crack of a whip. (I was only a little late for work).

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-May-17 09:31 PM GMT

Another early start again this morning, this time to Friston Gallops.

The purpose of the visit was to track down the Small Blue, one was found, unfortunately it had extensive wing damage. But two nice surprises presented themselves, one in the form of a surprisingly fresh looking Green Hairstreak, then as I was about to head home I spotted an unfamiliar, large, copper coloured 'Butterfly' clumsily fly past me and land on some wild Raspberry canes, it turned out to be a pair of mating Small Coppers. Several Dingy Skippers posed well for the camera and ended a very enjoyable morning.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 22-May-17 09:37 PM GMT

That's a nice selection, Trevor. I can never get myself up that early! A particularly fresh Green Hairstreak too. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by David M, 22-May-17 09:49 PM GMT

millerd wrote:

That's a nice selection, Trevor. I can never get myself up that early! A particularly fresh Green Hairstreak too.

Indeed, and a mating pair of Small Coppers isn't too shabby either!

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 22-May-17 10:08 PM GMT

That is a fresh Greenstreak Trevor, they're getting towards the tail end of their flight over our way, pretty envious of your Small Coppers in flagrante delicto, that's a Species I've yet to add to my 'In Cop' book. 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-May-17 10:28 PM GMT

Many thanks gentlemen. The mating Small Coppers must go down as an extreme Hoggers moment !.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-May-17 01:27 PM GMT

The surprises keep coming !. Whilst out this morning I found another two reasonably fresh Green Hairstreaks, the second one was a very bright specimen.

A little later a very beautiful, fresh Painted Lady came into view, and proved to be very skittish. Even though this Butterfly has a tiny nick in the right hand forewing it is hard to believe that it could have flown in from the Continent and still be in near mint condition.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 23-May-17 02:11 PM GMT

Nice shots of the Painted Lady Trevor 😊😊

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 24-May-17 12:48 PM GMT

Lovely Painted Lady, I saw a few down on the south coast yesterday. Shaping up for a good year for them if reports from the continent come to fruition 😊

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 24-May-17 09:23 PM GMT

A very nice Painted Lady, Trevor. Hopefully the current warm winds will waft a few over from France if they feel the urge to migrate, and they can be persuaded to go further than Sussex! 😊 Lovely fresh Hairstreaks too: probably the female of the species.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 25-May-17 10:15 PM GMT

A cracking Painted Lady Trevor 😊 Hope the Hill is producing the goods 😊 I'm off to Dorset for a few days tomorrow so hopefully pick a Painted Lady up there, fingers crossed...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-May-17 02:40 PM GMT

Hi Everyone,

I haven't been able to post anything since Tuesday 23rd May, owing to a real cock up.

I didn't take my lap top to Wiltshire, only to find that my Daughters was out of action! 😞😞

Anyway just arrived home, so when I've got my head together you'll see lots of Marshies, and images from an exciting new site.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-May-17 06:11 PM GMT

WEDNESDAY 24th MAY.

Starting out on my journey to Wiltshire, I had enjoyed full sunshine until just after Petersfield when a thick, early morning mist descended completely blocking out the sun.

On arrival at the Marsh Fritillary site, the mist had lifted into low cloud, with little sun.

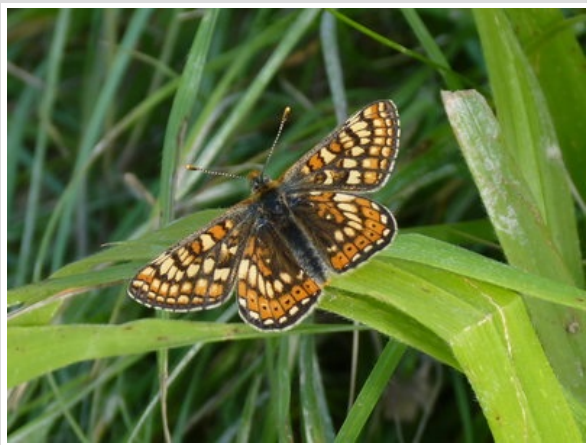
However I spotted my first Marsh Fritillary immediately on arrival, but it would be a full 30 mins before a second was seen. Baring in mind I had only seen one over four days in a previous visit, I began to think they were in for a bad year.

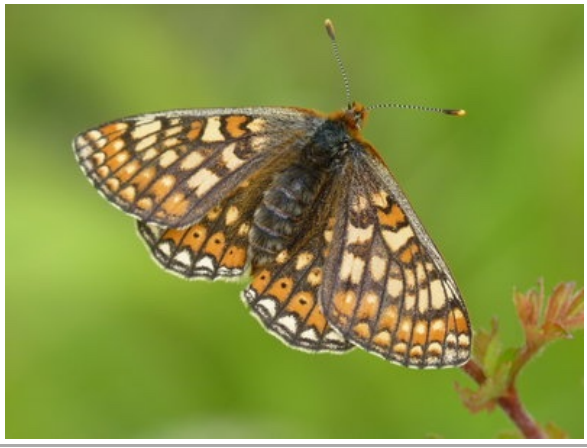
Worries were dispelled when the sun suddenly burned through the low cloud, and as if by the flick of a switch Butterflies erupted from the grass and shrubbery in all directions, there were Marshies everywhere !.

I soon realised that any photography would have to be accomplished quickly as the Butterflies responded to the increasing heat and more and more chases were taking place, and basking Butterflies were few and far between. By 10.30 I had a camera full of images, and enough of the heat.

So I moved on to Tilshead, more of which in the next report.

Trevor.







Also flying in large numbers, were Burnet Moths

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 28-May-17 06:39 PM GMT

A lovely selection of Marsh Fritillaries, Trevor – they show such variety and every one is a gem. 😊
Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-May-17 08:40 PM GMT

On May 11th, I reported visiting a strip of military land near the Wiltshire village of Tilshead, which looked very promising. I paid a further visit after my morning with the Marsh Fritillary. By the time of my visit, it was mid morning and very hot, no good for photography, but there were Butterflies everywhere, mainly Adonis, Common and Small Blues, with some Brown Argus, plus Dingy and Grizzled Skippers.

As my Daughter is busy running a pub I offered to take the children to school during my stay, but this posed a problem in getting over to Tilshead early enough on what was forecast to be a very hot day. So the solution was a very early start, the next day, in order to pick up the Kiddies at 8.45. I arrived on site just before 7am, to find hundreds of Adonis and Common Blues warming up, mainly face down on Grass stems, they were everywhere. The visit also produced several Grizzled and Dingy Skippers and my first UK Forester Moth.

I don't think this site is on any Butterflies radar, but holds huge potential for ' Blue ' species.

More photos to follow
Trevor.



A view over the Tilshead site



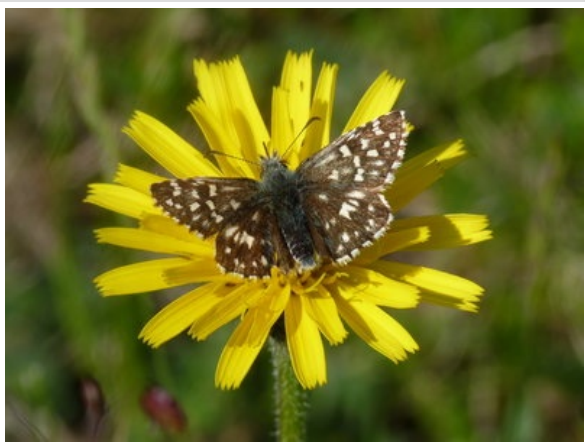




Re: Trevor

by trevor, 29-May-17 04:04 PM GMT

Tilshhead PART TWO.







Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 29-May-17 10:17 PM GMT

Cracking set of Marshies from the Hill Trevor, I'm glad it finally started paying out 😊 The Tilshead site looks like it could be a bit of gem, I'll have to try and pop over there at some point 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 30-May-17 08:59 AM GMT

Many thanks Wurzel.

Yes, the Hill was fabulous, every bit as good as previous years.

The Tilshead site is worth a prompt visit (how are the brownie points!) as the Adonis are getting a little worn. It is one of the best Adonis sites I've ever seen.

All the best,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 30-May-17 04:49 PM GMT

If you have bought a pot of Parsley imported from France, do check it over before cooking with it !.

See the Sussex BC sightings page.
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 30-May-17 09:17 PM GMT

That new site looks interesting, too far for me to travel too (unless perhaps a Camberwell Beauty turns up 😊), but I look forward to further posts from there 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 31-May-17 09:18 AM GMT

Many thanks, Paul. The whole area around there needs exploring.

There are various types of habitat nearby that look promising, some of the nearby land is regularly used for military exercises and is out of bounds.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 31-May-17 10:30 AM GMT

Catching up Trevor, superb shots of all your Butterflies, looks like you've found a Butterfly paradise 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 01-Jun-17 12:17 AM GMT

Your perseverance really paid off with the Marsh Fritillaries, Trevor, brilliant shots, great stuff 😊📷

Re: Trevor

by Art Frames, 02-Jun-17 05:32 PM GMT

I think you are spoiled Trevor. You should do your trips in my neck of the woods..but you do get some lovely pictures of butterflies I never see. 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-Jun-17 08:05 PM GMT

Many thanks folks for your comments.

For the first time I went over to Tide Mills for a summer visit, to see what migrants might have made it over from the Continent. Usually this location is a good bet in the Autumn, with regular sightings of late Clouded Yellows, and if one is lucky a Long tailed Blue or two.

Today this site produced about six, fresh Small Tortoiseshells and a similar number of Painted Ladies, some very worn. A large clump of Red Valerian proved to be a magnet for Butterflies and included a brief visit from a fresh Large White. I also had a quick glimpse of a male Wall Brown.

As well as Butterflies the extensive shingle is home to many coastal plants. I have posted an image of the fairly scarce Yellow Horned Poppy, which is at home next to the sea.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 02-Jun-17 08:38 PM GMT

That takes me back to childhood holidays, Trevor – shingle, shells and horned poppies (and the smell of oil of eucalyptus to get the inevitable tar off my hands and clothes!). That valerian really is a butterfly magnet – nice photos. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 02-Jun-17 08:45 PM GMT

Some great photos Trevor, I particularly like the Small Tortoiseshell shots.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-Jun-17 11:11 PM GMT

Many thanks Dave & Katrina,
I'm glad that you both enjoyed today's images. I'm afraid that they were all snatch shots as the Butterflies were hyperactive in the heat. There was no opportunity to compose a shot in the viewfinder.
if you wish to see the Horned Poppies, there are plenty to be seen near the beach.

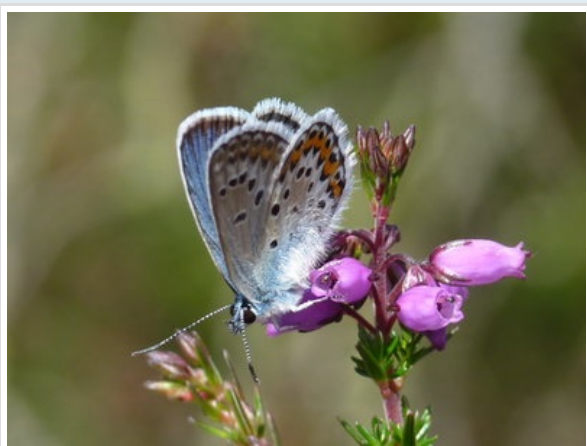
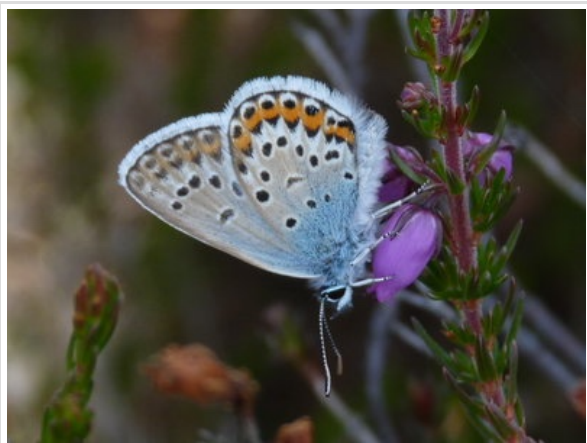
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-Jun-17 07:28 PM GMT

Katrina provided the inspiration for today's visit to Iping common, with her image of a Silver Studded Blue from last weekend. I was hoping that numbers would have built in the ensuing seven days.
On arrival I quickly spotted a surprisingly worn SSB, but most of the twelve seen were fresh.
However no females were found.
Back at the car park I found my first Large Skipper of the season.

Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 03-Jun-17 08:01 PM GMT

Great couple of recent posts Trevor – it's hard to keep up with where you're at and where you'll be next 😊😄👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 03-Jun-17 08:32 PM GMT

Your turn with the SSB, Trevor! 😊 Nice shots. That one is surprisingly worn as you say – definitely out several days.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by David M, 04-Jun-17 09:27 AM GMT

Amazing to see SSBs so early, Trevor. I may have to bring forward my own trip to see them which was originally scheduled for midsummer!!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-Jun-17 10:41 AM GMT

Many thanks Wurzel, Dave & David M.

The SSB's are early this year, and are certainly out at four scattered locations in the South East, and look to be in for a good year.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 05-Jun-17 08:09 PM GMT

Hi Trevor,

Just catching up on your recent posts...a fantastic and varied selection 😊

I saw SSBs last week in Cornwall where they regularly emerge earlier on the dunes than on the inland sites but am surprised to see they are also out already on the heaths in the south-east. A strange season this one...some things early, some not, and it seems a great deal of variation between different parts of the country.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-Jun-17 06:44 PM GMT

This morning I went for a walk around Chiddingfold forest, a place where I will soon be spending some time.

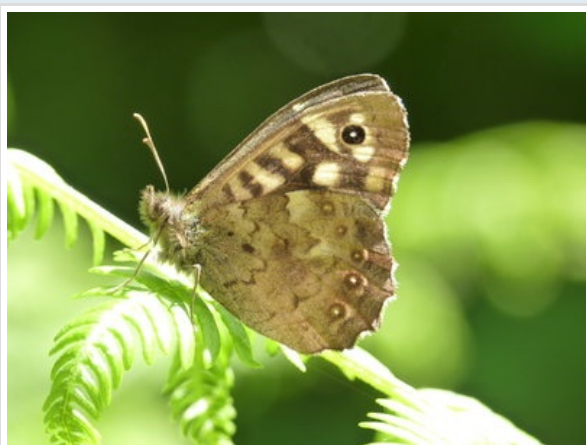
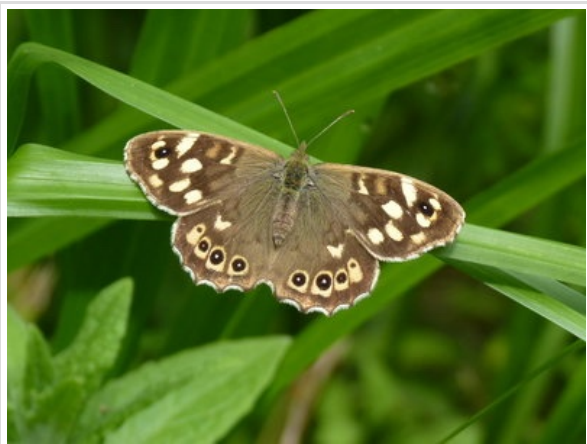
Fully aware that we are now in the 'June gap' I was not expecting non stop action today.

In a few weeks time, as the Summer species start to build, this place will come alive, a magical location.

Today, many Speckled Woods were seen throughout the forest, together with three male Brimstones, three Large Skippers, two Meadow Browns and a very fast Red Admiral.

More unexpected was the sighting of three female Broad Bodied Chaser Dragonflies, one of which posed for several shots.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 07-Jun-17 06:49 PM GMT

The calm before the storm, Trevor. It's a lovely place even without full on butterfly action (if that is an appropriate way of putting it!) 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 08-Jun-17 08:55 AM GMT

Lovely shots of the Brimstones Trevor and that Chaser is a great way to 'mind the gap' 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 08-Jun-17 12:11 PM GMT

Wonderful to see three elderly yellow gentlemen enjoying the twilight days of their lives. I'm sure things will pick up within a week or so....if the weather settles down a bit.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 08-Jun-17 10:00 PM GMT

INVEST IN THE FUTURE !

Today I made what I believe to be a shrewd investment. What is more I hope to get a quick return on my money, in two or three weeks time.



Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 10-Jun-17 12:04 PM GMT

Hi! Trevor, that's some thing to look forward to. I've saved a tin has well, 😊 I didn't need it last year people were pointing them out and the dog's had helped with the one I shot. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Art Frames, 10-Jun-17 12:44 PM GMT

trevor wrote:
INVEST IN THE FUTURE !

Today I made what I believe to be a shrewd investment. What is more I hope to get a quick return on my money, in two or three weeks time.

Are you making sandwiches then? 😊

Hope you have a good time making odd smells in the woods. 😊 I will take a fly swat to keep the butterflies down in Hungary. 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Jun-17 02:47 PM GMT

Your tin should be nice and ripe by now, Goldie, if it's a year old !. Best of luck.

I wouldn't risk making sandwiches with this stuff, Peter. As it seems so attractive to H.I.M, God knows what's in it !. Last year I poured the Tuna liquid on the track on the Monday, and had one down, by Thursday it smelt pretty offensive (to our unrefined nose) and five came down.

Every little helps ! 😊
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Jun-17 07:14 PM GMT

This morning I visited two locations, and not a Butterfly in sight. 40 miles later, but less than a mile from home I had a walk along the old railway, in Hailsham. Here it was a case of ' June gap, what June gap '.

Seen altogether; two worn Holly Blues, a Red Admiral, a fresh Large White, lots of Speckled Woods, and best of all a good number of Meadow Browns. The heat made the Meadow Browns difficult to get near, but their presence was re- assuring that the High Summer season can't be far away.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 10-Jun-17 10:20 PM GMT

Nice shots of the Meadow Browns Trevor 😊 – they're right tricky little gits at this time of the season. Then when they're well past their best they are wonderfully accommodating 😊😊 Thanks for the reminder, better stop-off at Tescos tomorrow and stock up 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 10-Jun-17 10:47 PM GMT

Good luck with the fish paste, Trevor. Won't be long now before the Emperors come out to tease us! 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Jun-17 11:32 PM GMT

Many thanks, Wurzel & David,
You read it here first, the word is out now, so buy your Tesco Tuna in brine while stocks last!. They've pulled a sneaky one this year, and are offering Tuna in spring water, as much good as a chocolate teapot, I suspect. What is more the tin looks identical to the real thing. Don't be fooled into buying Waitrose or M&S as their offering probably contains a less pungent aroma.

Maybe we need to do a brand test comparison.

Remember, every little helps. 😊
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 10-Jun-17 11:49 PM GMT

Good to see you are getting prepared, Trevor. When I head down to Chiddingfold this year I shall seek you out by smell... And hopefully the cloud of circling Emperors zoning in! 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-Jun-17 07:21 AM GMT

When you say you will ' seek me out by smell ', Dave, are you suggesting that I stop having a bath ?. Now there's a thought.....

Re: Trevor

by peterc, 11-Jun-17 08:55 AM GMT

Trevor, good luck with the tuna brine experiment 😊

I was given a very large tin (1.26 kg drained weight) of Princes Tuna Chunks in Brine as a birthday present from my nephews in 2014 – I am crazy on tuna and lettuce sandwiches 😊 . As it is still unopened and obviously not now safe to eat I will dish out the contents in the local woods in a few weeks and see what happens ...

ATB

Peter

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 11-Jun-17 01:28 PM GMT

No Meadow Brown's here yet Trevor, hope fully They'll arrive soon. Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-Jun-17 07:49 PM GMT

Your tin of Tuna sounds perfect, Peter. Just pierce the tin, then give the Cat a treat with the meat.

Won't be long now, Goldie.

Good luck to all,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 12-Jun-17 06:02 AM GMT

I can feel the excitement and anticipation growing Trevor 😊 Have you bought your tent yet? 😊 I know how much time and effort you put in at this time of the year so I am sure you will achieve some excellent images which I am looking forward to seeing 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 12-Jun-17 02:07 PM GMT

Many thanks Pauline,
One has been seen at Bookham Common. I won't be able to play until the 19th June, as I will be staying at my Daughters. I would think H.I.M will be showing well by then. According to the experts it's going to be a very early emergence this year. And yes I will be using my home as hotel when I get back.

Weather obliging !! 😊
Trevor.

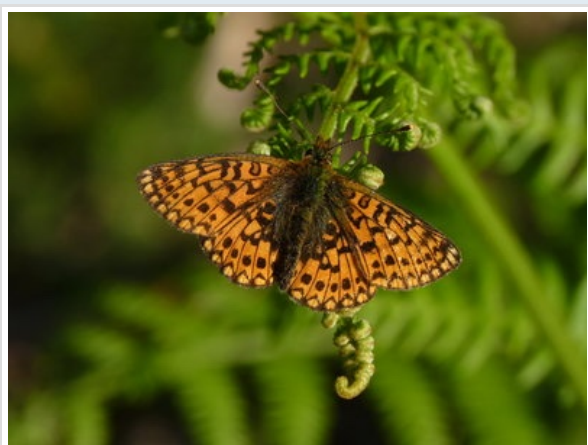
Re: Trevor

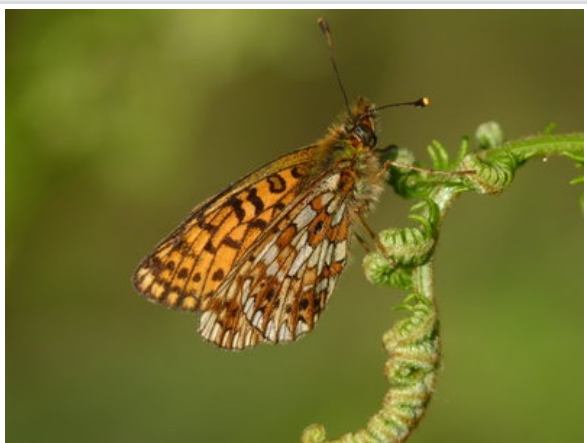
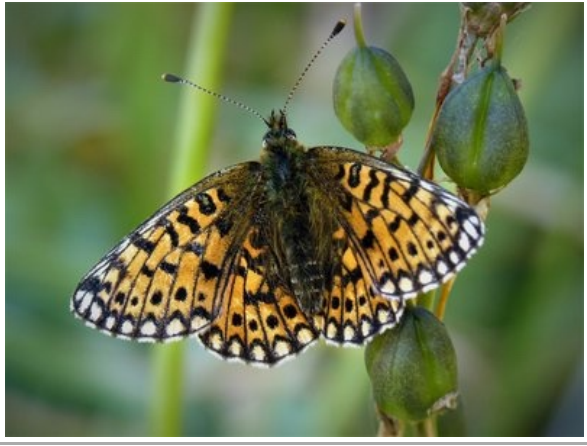
by trevor, 12-Jun-17 07:46 PM GMT

THE RETURN OF THE EAST SUSSEX SMALL PEARL BORDERED FRITILLARIES.

On the 22nd of May Doug Neve and myself went for a very agreeable lunch in East Hoathly. This was not supposed to be a Butterfly trip, but to discuss a forthcoming holiday. On the way home it was suggested that we pop in to Park Corner Heath to see how the area cleared in the past Winter, was coming along. Shortly after arrival we spotted the unmistakable sight of a Small Pearl scooting across the site. My initial thought was that maybe we were seeing a wild survivor, from perhaps a small, resident colony that had gone unseen. The truth was however that a release of reared Butterflies had taken place a few days before our visit. Never the less it was a fantastic sight, and I felt compelled to nip home and grab my camera.

A big thank you to all involved with the project,
Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by trevor, 12-Jun-17 07:56 PM GMT

PS. To the above posting.

It was agreed that the release of images of the reintroduced SPBF, should be delayed in case the site was invaded by too many visitors, and consequent excessive trampling. Hence the late posting.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 12-Jun-17 10:03 PM GMT

Great shots Trevor 😊 Sensible idea releasing the photos after the fact to give the butterflies a head start as it were, something that I often do (unintentionally 😊, 😊, 😊)

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 12-Jun-17 10:52 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

When you say you will ' seek me out by smell ', Dave, are you suggesting that I stop having a bath ?. Now there's a thought.....

I believe it is an established technique with regard to enticing down butterflies of a Purple persuasion... However, I was of course referring to the fact that you will have soaked yourself in tuna juice for the coming festivities. 😊 I am currently trying to move booked leave from the wrongly anticipated first week of July, particularly as the weather for the next fortnight looks pretty good – I hope to see you down there before long.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by David M, 13-Jun-17 11:22 PM GMT

It's always pleasing to see SPBFs in the east of the country. One hopes if more work is done then reintroductions can help to bring this butterfly back to the levels it was at 40 years ago.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-Jun-17 07:41 PM GMT

Today, I went over to Collard Hill for my first ever encounter with the Large blue,
On arrival I was met by one of the site wardens, Gabrielle, who kindly offered to show me around the hill.
Later we met Peter and his father, from Lincolnshire, who had just photographed a Large Blue nectaring on Thyme.
A little later someone spotted a mating pair, and I obtained several shots of this pairing.

But the best was yet to come, when a fresh individual was spotted nectaring. A little later it flew onto a grass stem, and by pure luck I managed some shots of another Large Blue approach and instantly mate.

I will let the following images tell the rest !.

Trevor.



Large Blue gathering.



The first mating pair



Soon to be mated.



The approach.



Getting to know you !



Conquest

Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 15-Jun-17 07:46 PM GMT

Brilliant images Trevor 🍷 You must be thrilled with those 😊 Perhaps a return visit is long overdue for me!

Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 15-Jun-17 08:27 PM GMT

Fantastic shots, Trevor 🍷🍷 not bad for a first encounter 😊

Mike

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 15-Jun-17 09:18 PM GMT

Nice one Trevor, I'm probably not going to be able to see them this year so 🍷🍷 from me! That open winged one looks very heavily marked, could be an ab. 🍷

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 15-Jun-17 09:55 PM GMT

Excellent stuff, Trevor. 😊 Not much of a courtship there, certainly!

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-Jun-17 10:48 AM GMT

Many thanks folks for your interest and comments, I shall wear your mrgreens with pride.

The image titled ' approach ' was complete luck, I only discovered the incoming Butterfly when I reviewed the images of the day.

A tip for anyone visiting Collard Hill, from one of the rangers. The best place to see them is along the path at the base of the hill. All of my shots were taken there.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 16-Jun-17 08:31 PM GMT

Fantastic shots Trevor – they certainly don't hang about, none of this flowers, fine wines and romance malarkey 🤪😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-Jun-17 03:47 PM GMT

This morning I revisited the site at Tilshead, Wiltshire, at a very early hour.

It was clear that the spring species seen on my last visit, had given way to those of Summer.

The only exception was a 'blue' female Common Blue.

As the site has many acres of tall grassland I was hoping for my first Marbled White of the year.

Just two were seen, but the conditions suggest a hot spot for this species later on.

The images below give an indication of what's on offer at Tilshead, plus an extra shot of a Small Tortoiseshell on a French Marigold in the pub garden, just how I remember them when I was a small boy.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by David M, 17-Jun-17 09:11 PM GMT

Nice to see Small Tortoiseshells back out, Trevor. I saw three of them today myself and it lifted my spirits!

Re: Trevor

by kevlng, 18-Jun-17 07:59 AM GMT

Trevor,

I know what mean about child hood memories. That Small Tort on the Marigold is lovely. Gone are the days when my Dad's buddleia would have a dozen of them on it at any time.

Regards
Kev

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 18-Jun-17 11:55 AM GMT

Lovely Ringlet Trevor 😊 It seems you came West while I headed East 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 18-Jun-17 03:42 PM GMT

I love the shot of the Tortoiseshell Trevor, I keep hoping they'll arrive here soon, no luck yet though. Goldie 😊

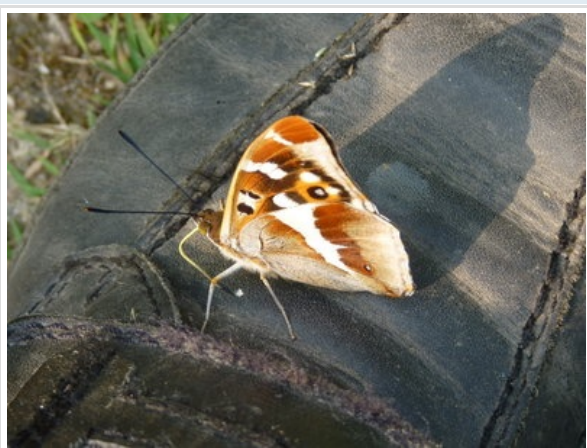
Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-Jun-17 03:07 PM GMT

BEFORE THE MAIN EVENT WE'LL TAKE A SHORT COMMERCIAL BREAK.



TESCO TUNA IN BRINE, NOW AVAILABLE AS 4 PACK..... ONLY£3.00..... EVERY LITTLE HELPS



BLACK LEATHER SHOES FROM PAVERS £39

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-Jun-17 07:55 PM GMT

I was out of the house very early this morning to beat the heat. On arrival, for another Emperor search, the air felt better than yesterday, and I was more optimistic of some good sightings, whereas the previous day the air was oppressive and I only saw a little tree top action.

The morning was a little slow to get going, but it was still early. Later PJ Underwood arrived, and as we stood chatting he spotted a grounded Emperor some distance away. Well spotted PJ. Just as we began to photograph this Butterfly, Dave (millerd) appeared over the horizon, just in time, and we all obtained some nice images.

A second PE chose my bait to indulge in, and made several return visits, throughout the morning. The first PE also kept returning to his favourite spot and on one occasion, landed on my shoe !.

Despite quite a few sightings of Emperor flypasts we all agreed that only two grounded.

An excellent morning.
Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 20-Jun-17 08:42 PM GMT

Lovely images again Trevor 🍷 Can you please send one or two this way – preferably to the Oaks in my garden as I'm not getting much further than that at the moment 😊

Re: Trevor

by kevling, 20-Jun-17 08:55 PM GMT

Beautiful photos of the Emperors Trevor. Don't you just love summer

Regards Kev

Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 21-Jun-17 12:25 AM GMT

Great shots of HIM,Trevor 🍷🍷 summer's (definitely) here again 😊

Mike

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 21-Jun-17 06:49 PM GMT

Fantastic stuff Trevor 🍷🍷 Oh to be able to take a day off 😊🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

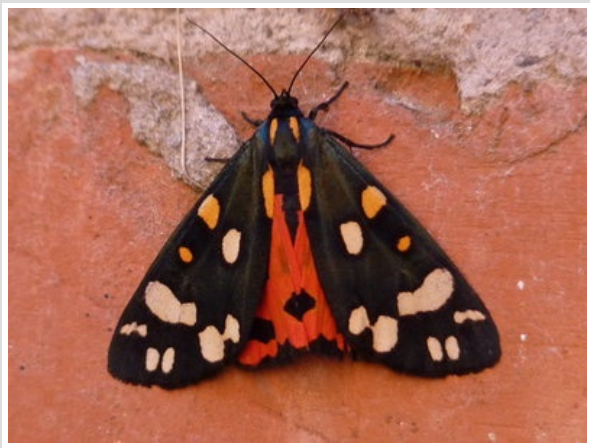
by trevor, 21-Jun-17 07:38 PM GMT

Many thanks for all your comments, and I hope you enjoyed the joke commercials.

A surprise visitor to the Bell Inn, Great Cheverell, this afternoon was this gorgeous Scarlet Tiger Moth

After flying around the bar, it flew outside and settled on a wall. The first one I've seen for many years.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Jun-17 04:05 PM GMT

DINNER FOR TWO.

How the weather can make a big difference to Butterfly behaviour !.

Nothing yesterday, far too hot, and manic today,

Highlights include; Two male Emperors on my well baited log, it's been festering for over a week, and another male PE and a White Admiral indulging in something even nastier.

THE NEXT INSTALLMENT..... DINING ALONE.



Re: Trevor

by David M, 22-Jun-17 05:25 PM GMT

Superb, Trevor. Preparation pays dividends!

Great effort to get *camilla* and *iris* in the same shot! 😊

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 22-Jun-17 08:17 PM GMT

Impressive stuff Trevor, your festering log is certainly pulling in the local talent 😊

Re: Trevor

by P.J.Underwood, 22-Jun-17 09:15 PM GMT

Yes Trevor, it went mad after 10.45am when the sun came out. They were on your log, down the track to the bridge and round the corner. They just kept bombing from side to side. How many, I am not sure - 4+++?
Philip

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Jun-17 09:38 PM GMT

DINING ALONE.

Today at least four species were taking salts/minerals from, usually, Bird or Animal droppings. The one exception was a Comma, which spent ages on my baited log. A first for me was a Silver Washed Fritillary imbibing on Horse dung, unfortunately about a quarter of its right hand forewing was missing.

The Purple Emperors seen today all behaved differently to previous days, by being very skittish. Even the period of grace between the Butterfly landing and stealthy approach did not work, and they took off at the slightest movement. This behaviour was noticed by another visitor. Was this to do with the weather or, some other change in their development?





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Jun-17 09:46 PM GMT

I must have just missed you, Philip, and yes it was going mad as I arrived. My log proved extremely popular, with two Emperors on it at the same time. Might see you tomorrow.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 22-Jun-17 10:00 PM GMT

More success, Trevor! 😊 and a bit of 🍀 Amazing to see so many species down on the ground like that. I found a Red Admiral doing this on my way back on Wednesday but no others – must be the dry weather.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by David M, 22-Jun-17 10:57 PM GMT

An enviable selection of woodland species there, Trevor.

Who can explain Purple Emperor behaviour? I'm sure even Neil Hulme and Matthew Oates are perplexed at times.

Just be grateful that they're at a place near you and occasionally give you an audience!

Re: Trevor

by peterc, 23-Jun-17 07:24 AM GMT

What a spectacle, Trevor.

I posted on here the two (we now know it's two 😊) male PEs which were seen in Hatfield Forest on Wednesday. Someone suggested that these individuals were attracted by dog pee partly because they were about a foot above the ground on the post and on the pine tree. Does anyone have any thoughts on this?

ATB

Peter

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 23-Jun-17 01:00 PM GMT

Fantastic shots Trevor, I want to go to Fermyn Wood but no ones mentioned seeing them there yet, I'm ready with my tin of Tuna 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-Jun-17 08:20 PM GMT

Doug Neve and myself had a marvellous time with the Woodland Butterflies today.

We also enjoyed the company of P.J.Underwood and Dave Cook, and our cameras were kept busy.

During our morning stay we had two grounded Purple Emperors, and a few less manic (compared to recent days)

Silver Washed Fritillaries and White Admirals.

A surprise later in the day, a fresh, lone, Small Copper.

Summer at it's best,
Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by P.J.Underwood, 23-Jun-17 09:00 PM GMT

I thought they might appear in that 2 hr sunny window.I note you are now on 3/4 purple!
A shade more to go.
Philip

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 23-Jun-17 10:06 PM GMT



Being stuck in work, jobs planned all weekend etc makes your post is slightly unbearable Trevor 🍋🍋🍋

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 23-Jun-17 11:24 PM GMT

My envy is directed mainly to the absence of the magnificent Purple Emperor within reasonable travelling distance of my home. 😞

It must be such a delight to be able to nip into local woodland to enjoy such a spectacle.

Enjoy it while it lasts.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 24-Jun-17 11:53 AM GMT

Many thanks Philip, Wurzel and David.

Wurzel : Having ' jobs to do ' in the Emperor season is inexcusable, apply a well used teacher's phrase ' must do better '.

I wish there was a local woods with Emperors, David, my favourite spot is 54 miles from home, but worth it.

Re: Trevor

by P.J.Underwood, 24-Jun-17 07:01 PM GMT

I have no excuse for missing out.I live 7 mins away!
Philip

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 24-Jun-17 09:16 PM GMT

Hi Trevor,

Just catching up on your recent excursions, great reports and photos of the Purple Emperors and the other summer butterflies...great stuff 🍋🍋

Cheers,

Neil

Re: Trevor

by P.J.Underwood, 26-Jun-17 01:49 PM GMT

Just letting you know I had four down today,about 10.30am when the sun came out.
Philip

Re: Trevor

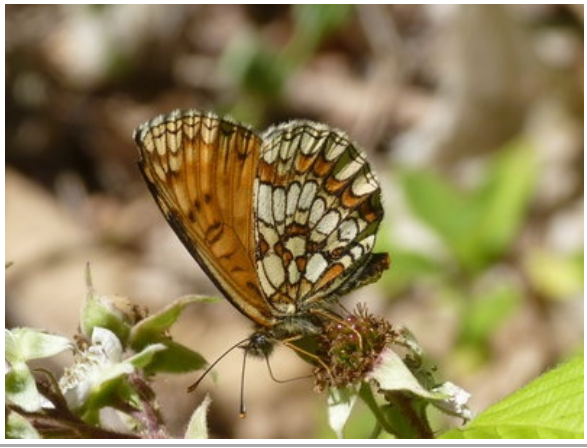
by trevor, 26-Jun-17 08:03 PM GMT

Many thanks Neil and Philip,

With Doug Neve in the driving seat we headed over to East Blean woods for the Heath Fritillary. Unfortunately we were rather late with this species, and most of those seen were rather worn. Any in reasonable condition were quite willing to pose despite the strong sunshine and warmth. Doug and I later split up for about 20 mins. When we met up again he pointed out an image he had recently taken, and was a little unsure what the Butterfly was. I immediately identified it for him.

Just to say that after seeing that image the day was to get a whole lot more exciting, and the Heath Fritillaries suddenly became yesterdays news.....

.....I might even earn a few mrgreens after my next posting !. 😊





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 26-Jun-17 10:11 PM GMT

Great Heaths Trevor 😊 I'm reckoning Camberwell?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 26-Jun-17 10:12 PM GMT

I'm very envious of your opportunities to have daily visits to Chiddingfold, Trevor, and of your trip to Kent. Great photos throughout. 😊 I can't wait for what might be coming next... 😊

PS. I'm with Wurzel on this – know some have been seen...

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Jun-17 10:33 PM GMT

So what was the Butterfly species I was viewing on Doug's camera ?.

Well, it is one of the most elusive and sought after species for most of us.

Certainly I have only managed to get my camera anywhere near one once in my entire life.

Doug. had taken a cracking image of a Purple Hairstreak, resting closed wing, low down on a leaf of a coppiced Sweet Chestnut. Unfortunately his offer to show me where it was failed when we discovered just how much coppiced Chestnut there was to search. My first opportunity of a PH photo had slipped away.

BUT ! about 10 mins. later he spotted another PH further along the path on another coppiced Chestnut leaf. This time I was lucky and obtained a passable closed wing shot, then she suddenly opened up, I could hardly believe my eyes a beautiful female PH showing her purple to perfection.

A little later, as I was watching some Bramble blossom, another PH flew past me and landed just long enough for two bad shots. Altogether between us we found five PH low down.

What a day !



1ST PH



2ND PH.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 26-Jun-17 10:42 PM GMT

Fair play a Camberwell would have been brill but those Purps are something else, the colour is almost dazzling 😊👍👍 Beautiful 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 27-Jun-17 01:32 AM GMT

Great shots of that purple Hairstreak Trevor, but you'll have to wait a week or two to find out why I don't feel the need for any Mr greens.... 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 27-Jun-17 04:59 AM GMT

Superb, Trevor. That second one is particularly enviable.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 27-Jun-17 12:41 PM GMT

Many thanks everyone.

If it had been a Camberwell Beauty, much larger, more magnificent and certainly a lot rarer, I don't think the sense of excitement would have been greater than seeing a displaying Purple Hairstreak in the camera view finder.

If you are going to eclipse my PH, Bugboy, I can only surmise that you are going to use a drone, or hire a cherry picker. 😊

Anyway here is another image of that PH for me to drool over 😊.



Re: Trevor

by Art Frames, 27-Jun-17 01:26 PM GMT

I have been looking for PH in Hungary and at home. But I can only hope to be as lucky as you Trevor – lovely images. Will Doug come and spot for me? 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 27-Jun-17 04:36 PM GMT

Doug certainly came up trumps yesterday, Peter. He has images of two Purple Hairstreaks taken no more than 15 mins. apart !. I later found one with some wing damage, which didn't hang around. Neil Hulme also found a male yesterday, there is a stunning image of it in his diary.

Superb images from Hungary,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 27-Jun-17 05:23 PM GMT

This morning I drove over to Birling Gap early, before the forecast rain set in. The extensive grassland around there is excellent for Marbled Whites. Quite a few were flying despite the strong breeze and lack of sun. They proved difficult to approach, but a lovely fresh female allowed some close up shots.

Many Burnet Moths were also present, including one freshly emerged.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 27-Jun-17 09:41 PM GMT

Splendid Purple Hairstreak, Trevor. Definite 🍷 for you there, especially as I missed one last week at Chiddingfold... 😞

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 30-Jun-17 06:41 PM GMT

A vital piece of self education took place at East Blean, Kent, on Monday.

Noting what a Purple Hairstreak looks like in flight at a low level, as opposed to high up in an Oak.

If I have seen them in the past, I've probably dismissed them as day flying Moths.

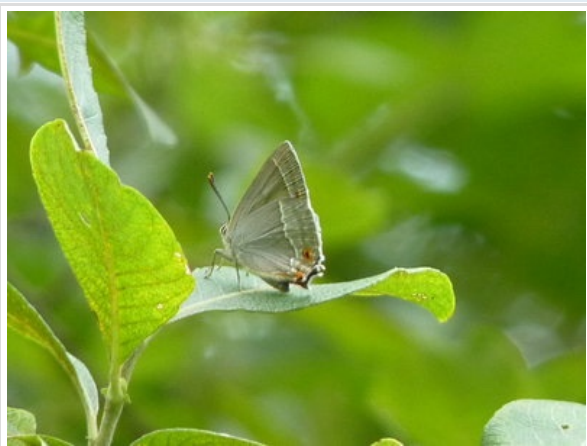
This morning I went over to Abbots wood hoping to find some more low level Purple Hairstreaks.

In all I found two, the first one flew diagonally past me, and I saw exactly where it landed.

Despite a thorough search, it took many seconds to locate it, as this female PH was partially hidden in Blackthorn thicket, the only shot I could obtain was with the Butterfly partially

obscured by leaves.
The second PH was much more straight forward ,as it flew onto a leaf above my head.
The resulting shots were only possible using maximum zoom.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 30-Jun-17 09:40 PM GMT

You're having a real 'Purple Patch' at the moment Trevor 😊🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 30-Jun-17 10:07 PM GMT

Hi Trevor,

Some cracking Purple Hairstreaks recently 🍷🍷🍷 there you go...a few Mr Greens for you.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

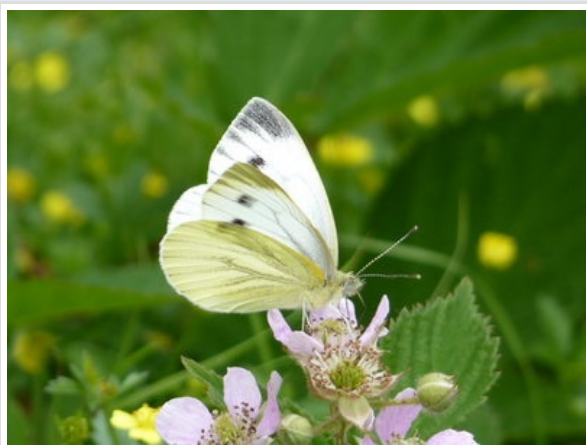
by trevor, 30-Jun-17 11:15 PM GMT

Many thanks for all your mrgreens Wurzel & Neil,

It would seem that the Purple Hairstreak is having an exceptional year, many people are posting images of them at a low level, usually a very rare sight.

Despite the cloud and intermittent drizzle, some species responded to the warmth today. Among those seen today was a very fresh Green Veined White with a buttery yellow underside, and some Meadow Browns posed for once.

After Abbots wood I drove over to Brighton, for the White Letter Hairstreak. On the way I hit a monumental rain storm, such was the deluge I nearly pulled over until it passed, but the wipers just about kept up. On arrival in Brighton a calmer scene welcomed me, but the sun refused to shine and everything was damp. Just one WLH was seen along with a very fresh Ringlet.







Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 30-Jun-17 11:55 PM GMT

From the looks of things Hairstreaks in general seem to be having a good year Trevor – great shots of the Whitters 😊🇩🇪

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Jul-17 07:22 PM GMT

Doug. and myself had a fabulous time today at Chiddingfold forest. More on the Emperors in my next posting. The day started cloudy with a keen breeze, and a temperature of 16c. Distant blue sky and thinner cloud gave cause for optimism. As usual, at the early hour of our arrival, things were slow to get going, only the Ringlets were active.

As the sun warmed, the Silver Washed Fritillaries and White Admirals began to nectar, mainly on Bramble Blossom. Unusually both allowed close approach. Several Marbled Whites were seen nectaring on Thistle, as were some Large Skippers. By late morning the place was a hive of Butterfly activity, confirming Chiddingfold to be my favourite Butterfly location.

A fabulous day, with more to come.
Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by millerd, 01-Jul-17 08:15 PM GMT

You're right about Chiddingfold, Trevor: it can be a wonderful place at any time of year, any time of day. Great shots, but the female SWF especially. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Jul-17 08:21 PM GMT

Many thanks Dave, but the best is yet to come.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Jul-17 08:53 PM GMT

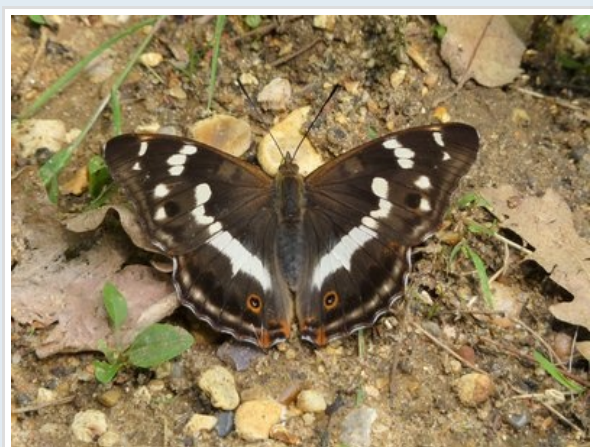
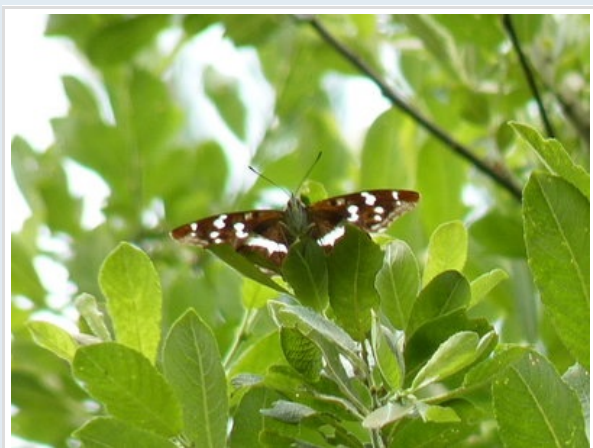
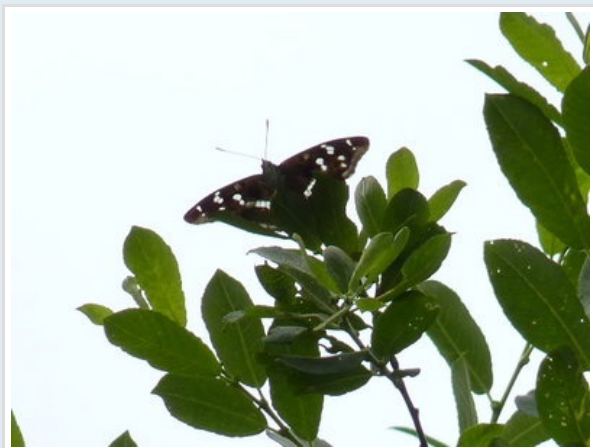
SAVING THE BEST TILL LAST !.

Of course the main reason for our visit to Chiddingfold forest was for the Purple Emperor. Despite a few close flypasts and much treetop action, it became obvious that the grounding

period was coming to a close. Just one male was seen searching for minerals by another party. The first Emperor today was spotted flying high around various trees, eventually landing in a Sallow, posing in the classic ' Oak edging ' posture.

After lunchtime it was agreed that the best was over, so we headed for the car. We had not got very far when an Emperor, flying very fast, flew straight past us. As we turned around we could see this Butterfly zig- zagging along the ride, and heading back towards us. After several false landings, and more rapid flying, it landed close by. We approached the Emperor with extreme caution, as it was clearly restless. As we took our photo's it became clear that no purple could be seen. We were in fact looking at my first grounded Empress !

Many thanks to Mark Colvin for the confirmation.





Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 01-Jul-17 09:23 PM GMT

Wonderful shots of the Empress Trevor. I've only ever seen 2 down (both at the Straits) – and one was on a dead deer!!!!

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 02-Jul-17 10:51 AM GMT

Congratulations on your empress Trevor 🎉

Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 02-Jul-17 06:53 PM GMT

Superb Empress, Trevor 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 02-Jul-17 09:57 PM GMT

Fantastic stuff Trevor 😊👍👍 I would have given you a third 🍷 but I actually saw my yearly Emperor at Bentley today 😊😁

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 04-Jul-17 03:17 PM GMT

The Dark Green Fritillary was my main target early this morning. Fortunately my favourite site for them only involves a short journey. Numbers seem to have recovered from the poor sightings of 2015/16, but are still down on five years ago. From my local observations the DGF really suffered last year. The site near Birling Gap, also hosted just three other species this morning, Small Skipper, Marbled White and Meadow Brown, all seen in large numbers.

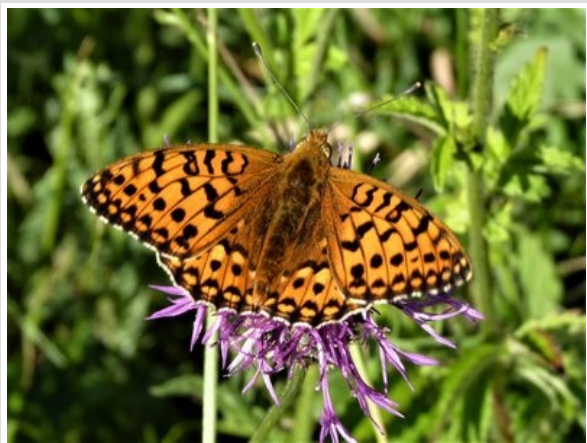
Trevor.



Male DGF



Male DGF



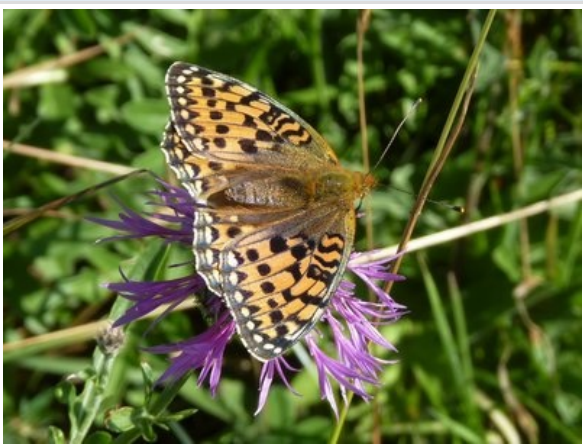
Male DGF



Female DGF



Female DGF



Female DGF

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 04-Jul-17 04:12 PM GMT

Interesting to here about your local population, the ones at Box Hill has been going from strength to strength these past few years according to the recorders I've bumped into whilst out there.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 04-Jul-17 07:27 PM GMT

Really nice DGF Trevor, I was pleased to see them this year at Arnside. Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 04-Jul-17 09:15 PM GMT

Splendid DGF, Trevor – I particularly like the females with their more varied colours. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-Jul-17 12:01 PM GMT

The main pay and display car park at Abbots wood is home to many Oak trees. in the evening this spot is excellent for watching Purple Hairstreak action in the tree tops. The hope this morning was that some may be found low down. This quest failed, but my first male Gatekeepers were seen, surely one of the last new species of the year to emerge. Commas were flying in impressive numbers, and frequently stopped to bask, after visits to Bramble blossom.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 06-Jul-17 09:42 PM GMT

Cracking DGFs Trevor 😊 And a three spot Hedge Brown as well 😊🌱

Have a goodun

Wurzel

ps I'll have a look at AA routefinder to find a likely pull in, won't be long!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-Jul-17 10:59 AM GMT

I have just returned from a holiday in the French Pyrenees.

Not the best Butterfly holiday, it has to be said, but there were some highlights, more of which later.

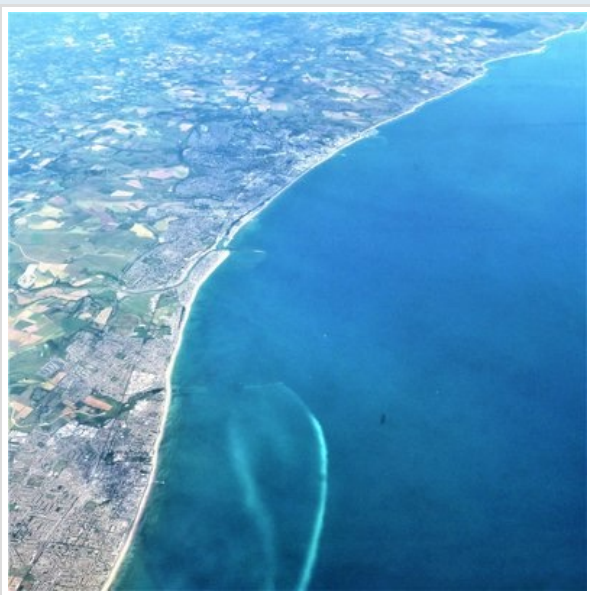
On the flight out from Stansted I had a window seat, and with very fine weather how could my camera stay in the cabin bag ?

As the plane (a Boeing 737- 800) gained height it was possible to pick out some recognisable places and features, including the Sussex coast.

The image below shows Worthing, including pier, at bottom left, then Shoreham harbour towards the middle (home of November Common Blues and Clouded Yellows, last year) with Mill Hill nearby. Further up are Hove and Brighton (pier visible), then Newhaven and Tide Mills (another good Autumn site) and finally Seaford in the top right hand corner.

Click on image twice for greater detail.

Hope you enjoy,
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 15-Jul-17 09:51 PM GMT

Looking forward to the highlights Trevor 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-Jul-17 11:41 PM GMT

On day two of our holiday we were driven to a very misty mountain, where most of the Sunday morning was spent. With little or no Butterfly activity likely I was fuming at a whole morning morning being wasted.

The next day, and another draughty mountain top, with light drizzle I took matters into my own hands, and suggested to our tour leader that I walk down to a lower altitude, to be collected at a point where it was safe for the mini bus to pull over.

This turned out to be a good decision, and many Butterflies were seen, mostly Ringlets, which never seemed to stop. As the sun went in at one point a Fritillary landed near some large rocks, and remained motionless. This turned out to be the shock of the holiday, a high altitude Pearl Bordered Fritillary. Abbots wood is one thing, but a solo Pearl near the top of a mountain ?

Another nice surprise awaited further down the steep mountain road when some lively Large Wall Browns were spotted close to a convenient lay-by. Fortunately I found a very fresh female Large Wall, who had yet to learn the art of escaping the camera lens, and was content to bask.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 16-Jul-17 09:40 PM GMT

Lovely shots of the Large Wall Brown 🤔👍 - are they as flighty as their smaller cousins? Looking forward to the next installment.

Have a goodun

Wuzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-Jul-17 07:49 PM GMT

Yes, Wurzel, The Large Wall has camera escapology down to a fine art.

At last I found my first ever male Brown Hairstreaks today..... 4 of them ! 😊

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-Jul-17 09:26 PM GMT

Having never, to the best of my knowledge, seen a male Brown Hairstreak, this was my main target today.

Reports of male BHS visiting Creeping Thistle flowers at the Knepp estate suggested that a visit might be worthwhile.

On arrival the magnitude of the search became clear, there were probably millions of Thistle flowers to choose from, even in a small area. Needle in a haystack came to mind.

After about an hour I saw a very quick Butterfly land on a Thistle, out of the corner of my eye.

My first male BHS was only a few inches away, perched on a Thistle. After many shots I continued my search, and by early afternoon three more had been photographed.

On the way back to the car I had the pleasure of meeting Matthew Oates, who had successfully tracked down a female Emperor.

I then continued on to Chiddingfold forest.







Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 17-Jul-17 09:40 PM GMT

Lovely Brown Hairstreaks Trevor, well done on getting a male 🐛 although I suspect this crazy season we're having has a lot to do with it!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-Jul-17 10:31 PM GMT

Thanks Bugboy, success at last !.

Before continuing on to Chiddingfold I called in at the Countryman Inn, near Knepp for a well earned pint of shandy.
The reason for visiting Chiddingfold forest was a hunch that the Summer brood Wood Whites may have started. The first Wood White was spotted not far from the road, several more were seen, all widely scattered throughout the forest, and included two' head to head 'pairs. The lovely Small Copper was found very close to my home.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 17-Jul-17 10:37 PM GMT

Nice Wood Whites, Trevor (Chiddingfold beckons again...), and even more 🍷 for the male Brown Hairstreaks. A target for me this year, but I hadn't reckoned on going out before August! 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 19-Jul-17 10:04 PM GMT

Glad that you got your male Brostreaks Trevor – they've not even emerged over here in Wiltshire yet, though maybe next week as things are still running ahead of schedule. Males are great, less showy and more subtle than the females, more honey-fied 😊 I'd forgotten about the 2nd brood Wood Whites 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-Jul-17 08:08 AM GMT

Cheers Dave & Wurzel,

Finding four male BHS in one day was a great thrill, but I will have to return for an open wing shot. Those four males kept their wings tight shut the whole time, perhaps the hot weather had something to do with it.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 20-Jul-17 08:37 PM GMT

I am soooo pleased you eventually found your male Trevor 😊 I am sorry that Straits only delivered females for you last season so it was something of a relief to read your post 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-Jul-17 09:28 PM GMT

Many thanks, Pauline. Four in one day !.

A special sight in the Pyrenees, seen in several locations, was mud puddling. Usually involving a congregation of various Grizzled Skipper types, and Marbled Skippers. These gatherings often gave the appearance of being something of a social event !.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 21-Jul-17 11:45 AM GMT

Catching up on my posts Trevor, fantastic Brown Hair Streaks, 🍷🍷 I've been after just seeing one for ages, Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Art Frames, 21-Jul-17 04:06 PM GMT

Hi Trevor, looking forward to hearing more about France as I might have been on that one! Sounds like you were not best pleased with the trip, but I'll let you give us a few more instalments. Nice large wall, and mud puddling skippers. I'm amazed there wasn't some dung in the picture too!

Congrats on the hairstreaks too. 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-Jul-17 04:29 PM GMT

Hi Peter,
Draughty, misty and drizzly mountains took up almost the equivalent of a day (two sites).
and with only seven days in which to see Butterflies, this was time wasted.
We did visit some fantastic areas, and the hotel was top notch, as was their cuisine (better than last year)
and that was good.
Hope you enjoy the forthcoming Scarce Coppers, when I've sorted through the memory cards.

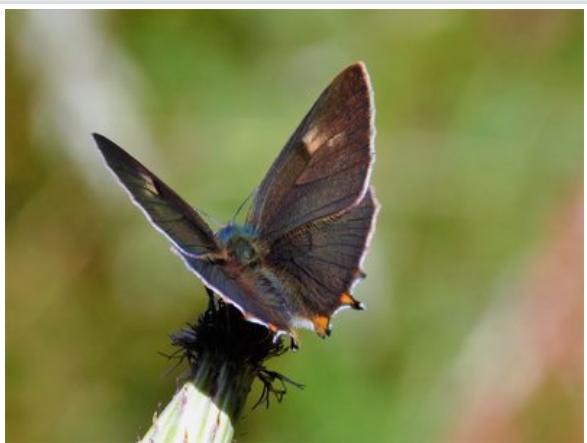
All the best,
Trevor.

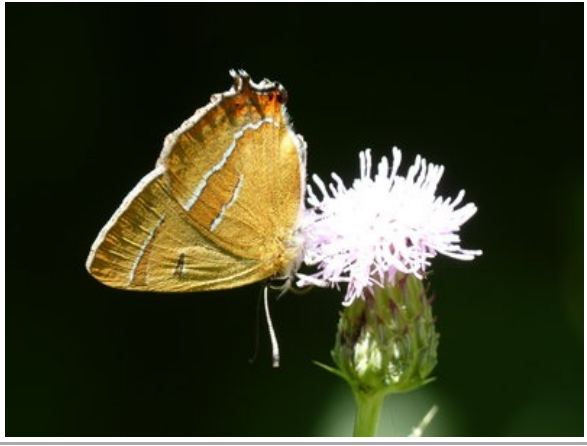
Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-Jul-17 09:03 PM GMT

In a visit of just under four hours, I managed to photograph an incredible 18 male Brown Hairstreaks at the Knepp Estate today, in late morning/early afternoon .
All were nectaring on Creeping Thistle, some later flew onto foliage and opened up a little.
The main reason for my visit was to try for an open wing male, in this I was only partially successful.
Part way through my visit I met Dave Cook and Rolf Farrell, they both had seen plenty of male BHS activity.
Other species seen were plenty of Hedge Browns, Meadow Browns, several Commas and two near death White letter Hairstreaks.

Trevor.





Female Scarce Copper.



Male Scarce Copper





Re: Trevor

by Art Frames, 23-Jul-17 02:43 PM GMT

Excellent pictures Trevor. It is a delightful butterfly and it looks like you were seeing them in perfect condition. Did you see them alongside Large Coppers? I totally agree about the colour - but it is amazing that they can also disappear! It is another one of those butterflies which lift my emotions. 😊😊 keep them coming. I am enjoying your trip... 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 23-Jul-17 08:34 PM GMT

Scarce Coppers 🍷🍷🍷 Brostreaks 🍷🍷 Hopefully they'll start emerging over this way soon 😊 Absolutely cracking shots 🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 24-Jul-17 08:42 AM GMT

I'm very pleased that you enjoyed the Scarce Coppers, Peter & Wurzel. As for the male Brown Hairstreaks, before last Monday (17th) I had never knowingly seen one,

but by the end of the week I had seen twenty two.
Checking the Sussex BC sightings page last night, it looks as though we may be in for another extended season.
Clouded Yellows are being reported in increasing numbers, and a female Long Tailed Blue was photographed in a Hassocks garden, on a Pea plant.

This fantastic year continues to surprise.
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Art Frames, 24-Jul-17 10:46 AM GMT

trevor wrote:

This fantastic year continues to surprise.
Trevor.

It must be lovely down in the South.. 🇬🇧 Would you like some of our cold or rain? 😊

Re: Trevor

by Padfield, 24-Jul-17 11:52 AM GMT

Hi Trevor. Just catching up on posts I missed while I was away – I have been on data roaming for much of the last couple of weeks.

The Pyrenees are like the Alps, in that they are fantastic when the sun shines but can turn very bleak and write off days and days of butterflying when they choose. I think you were lucky to get 5 out of 7 days' worth of sun. The last time I camped in the Spanish Pyrenees it rained torrentially and continuously, so I ended up taking day trips by bus down to the foothills in Aragón – serendipitously discovering the furry blue/anomalous blue site I visited again the week before last. Every cloud has a silver lining (providing you're independent, and not tied to someone else's agenda)...

Your pictures of scarce copper capture perfectly the fiery satin sheen of the species. I'd be interested to see more of what you saw – and to know your diagnosis of the *Pyrgus* skippers puddling with the marbled skippers and turquoise blue. 😊

Guy

Re: Trevor

by David M, 24-Jul-17 06:59 PM GMT

Seems like Scarce Coppers have had a good year in France, Trevor. Like you, I saw significant numbers, to the point where we re-named them 'Plentiful Copper'. You never get tired of them though; they truly are beautiful insects.

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 24-Jul-17 09:13 PM GMT

Hi Trevor,

Some great male Brown Hairstreak images, I particularly like the first one with the two tone green and beige background 🇬🇧 🇬🇧 😊

Those male Scarce Coppers are stunning insects, I must admit that that is one butterfly that might tempt me over the channel one day.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 24-Jul-17 09:24 PM GMT

Neil Freeman wrote:

Those male Scarce Coppers are stunning insects, I must admit that that is one butterfly that might tempt me over the channel one day.

Make it soon, Neil. You won't regret it!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 25-Jul-17 05:50 PM GMT

Many thanks Guy, David, Peter & Neil.

The Scarce Copper was one of the real highlights of the holiday, nothing could prepare one for the sheer brilliance of the orange on the male. Unfortunately my camera did not capture

the bright sheen that could be seen with the naked eye. That was something else !.

There is more to come, Guy, maybe I'll save some for the quiet Winter months.

Wishing you all well,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 25-Jul-17 07:29 PM GMT

It occurred to me last evening that I had neglected the 2nd brood Wall Brown.

I didn't fancy the long slog up to Windover hill, so High and Over was chosen. My first Wall sighting was by one of the wooden seats, which overlooks the very scenic valley, but this male was too busy seeing off anything with wings that went near it.

When I reached the well known (to those seeking Wall Browns) steps, there were seven males on the steps, both basking and using the bare earth as a launch pad for squabbles.

In all about twenty males were seen, and two females, which were too far away for my camera.

In one of the nearby meadows my first Chalkhill Blues of the season were found, including a mating pair. This area was also home to many Common Blues, and a couple more Wall Browns.

Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by millerd, 25-Jul-17 09:08 PM GMT

I know those steps, Trevor – a guaranteed Wall Brown haunt. 😊 By the look of those individuals, they must be well into the second brood, so a third brood there looks very much on the cards.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 30-Jul-17 06:56 PM GMT

In a corner of the yard, opposite my little workshop, at Halnaker is a small immature Buddleia bush. Every time I went over to the main building it was obvious that this bush was proving attractive to several species, and all were in pristine condition. Fortunately my camera was in the car, and despite the wind some shots were obtained. Species seen on the flower spikes were Small Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral, Large White and a Painted Lady. A few of the visitors chose to bask on the stony surface of the yard after visiting the Buddleia.



The popular little Buddleia bush.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 31-Jul-17 07:21 AM GMT

When I am at home I usually leave my patio door open slightly so the Cat can come and go at will. But late last night a surprise visitor came in. A large flying creature crashed into my table lamp, my first thought was that a Bat had flown in, such was the sound of the collision. I was completely surprised to discover that it was in fact a huge Moth , It spent some minutes flying erratically around the room, eventually settling on a piece of wood. It was now possible to identify my visitor, an Oak Eggar Moth. The sheer size of this Moth took me by complete surprise.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 31-Jul-17 09:48 PM GMT

Great Wall shots Trevor 🤔🇩🇪 The little Buddleia looks like a very welcome distraction 😊😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Aug-17 07:49 AM GMT

One of my garden lights always seems to be popular with Red Admirals at this time of year. For the last three years I have seen one basking on this light at the end of July. Yesterday's visitor may qualify as ab. bialbata.



Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 01-Aug-17 07:23 PM GMT

Great shot Trevor, mine got a way today. 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 01-Aug-17 09:58 PM GMT

Looks good for the ab.bialbata Trevor 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-Aug-17 05:55 PM GMT

Following my post above showing a Red Admiral on my Garden light, I have found images of this, almost, annual event from 2015/6, and always on the same light and at the same time of year, within a day or two.



4/8/ 2015



29/7/ 2016

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 02-Aug-17 09:23 PM GMT

Interesting that they choose the same spot year after year. The Red Admiral from the latest shot looks interesting as the red band has almost been dissected by the dark background, not sure if that's a named ab?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 02-Aug-17 10:51 PM GMT

Red Admirals DO seem to be universally attracted by bright metal. I guess they enjoy the extra warmth provided by the surface (particularly during an unseasonably cool spell such as this)?

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-Aug-17 04:32 PM GMT

The very strong, almost gale force, wind today put paid to my planned Brown Hairstreak hunt. The one place locally that is usually protected from the worst of the wind, is the old railway in Hailsham. The old line is mostly in a cutting, with tall trees on either side, which together act as a wind break. During periods of sunshine there was quite a surprising amount of Butterfly activity, mostly Speckled Woods, which were plentiful. Altogether I saw two Red Admirals, three Holly Blues and many Large and Small Whites.

Today's surprises were in the form of one Banded Demoiselle, and only minutes later a Beautiful Demoiselle.

Not a bad day,
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-Aug-17 03:56 PM GMT

I resumed my Brown Hairstreak hunt this morning, this time at a new location. Local enthusiast, Dave Cook, had kindly posted details of a site in Burgess Hill, West Sussex. I arrived at a small car park and immediately noticed a profusion of Oak, Ash and Blackthorn. For a hour or so the weather was ideal for Brown Hairstreak activity, with much action high up. I was fortunate to see a BH land in an Oak, just above head height and well within the zoom range of my camera, and there this female stayed for a good 30 mins, perched on an acorn.

Also seen, several Purple Hairstreaks (some tantalisingly close), a male BH behind a leaf, two Red Admirals, two Clouded Yellows, several Holly Blues, and of course, many Gate Keepers.

On the way home I drove through a rain and hailstorm of tropical intensity, the A23 was under water at one point. Scary stuff!

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 05-Aug-17 06:18 PM GMT

Smashing shot on the acorn Trevor! Yes, we had the thunder, lightening and torrential rain too 😞 I have the distinct feeling that the season is already nearing its end but I'm determined to squeeze the last bit out of it – once I have my new windows fitted that is!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-Aug-17 07:25 PM GMT

Many thanks Pauline. Some days recently have had a very autumnal feel about them. Last year I squeezed the season out to Nov.18th (a tatty Clouded Yellow). I've just had my windows and soffits replaced. The new soffits are very popular with Red Admirals warming up in the morning. The back of my house faces east.

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 05-Aug-17 08:15 PM GMT

Nice Hairstreak Trevor. I think I may have been in the middle of that rain storm today, no way for me to avoid it and got drenched to the bone...

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 06-Aug-17 01:21 PM GMT

Love the Brown Hair Streak shot Trevor 🍷 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 06-Aug-17 09:40 PM GMT

Great Brostroke Trevor 😊 – if you're over this way in the next week or so Shipton is still producing the goods – although I'm on painting duty all week and then my sister is back from Oz 😞 / 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-Aug-17 07:51 PM GMT

Today I went for a walk with Dave Cook around his local patch, in Burgess Hill, West Sussex. One of our targets was the Brown Hairstreak, but the weather was not quite right, with little sun. In all two were seen, both females. The first one took off as soon as she was spotted, we didn't spook her, it was just one of those things, and the breeze swept her out of sight. Dave spotted the second one nectaring patiently on a Thistle. This one was clearly not fresh, with nicks visible on all wings, when she finally opened up the full scale of the wear became apparent. She could easily carry off the prize for the tattiest specimen of the season so far. Amazingly both tails were intact.

The one Meadow Brown I photographed today was in much better condition.

Many thanks to Dave for his time, and great company.
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 07-Aug-17 09:28 PM GMT

Hi Trevor,

I would settle for a tatty Brown Hairstreak like that one, not sure if and when I will get a chance to see this species this year. Mind you, that is only because I have other plans...can't be everywhere.

That Meadow Brown looks to have extended orange patches on all four wings.... I have been seeing a few like that over the past few years.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 08-Aug-17 09:34 PM GMT

She does look a bit battered Trevor 😞 Mind you that was the sight I was expecting last weekend but luckily it was better than that, I'll feature it in my PM around October 😊😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 09-Aug-17 07:50 AM GMT

That female Brown Hairstreak sure has had a tumultuous life thus far! The important thing is that she can keep laying eggs though for next year's brood.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 09-Aug-17 03:30 PM GMT

I like the Brown Hairstreak on the acorn, Trevor. 😊 However, the second one certainly has had a rough ride – storm damage, perhaps?

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-Aug-17 04:08 PM GMT

Many thanks folks. The underside of that BH could hardly prepare one for the state of the upperside !.

The dire weather forecast for this area meant staying local, and not too far from the car. So a patch of Fleabane that I visit most years, just 8 miles away, was ideal. When Clouded Yellows are reported in Sussex, this site is usually a good bet, but none today. What was really impressive was the number of fresh Brimstones on the wing. When I arrived on site there were two on the Fleabane, when I left over thirty had been seen, including one that had become a meal for a Spider. A very fresh Painted Lady proved very difficult to get near, being very flighty, but a little stealth won the day in the end. Among the ageing Common Blues was one fresh specimen all the others were looking very tired, as was the surprise of the morning, a very tatty male Silver Washed Fritillary. It was in such a state that even it's flight was slow and lethargic.

The heavy rain that was forecast arrived this afternoon.
Trevor.





A sticky end for this Brimstone !.



**Re: Trevor**

by millerd, 09-Aug-17 04:14 PM GMT

Impressive spider, Trevor. 😊 Even allowing for a degree of parcelling up, the butterfly is dwarfed by its predator. At least you must have had a bit of sun – the rain reached here first thing and is still going strong... 😞

Dave

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 09-Aug-17 05:10 PM GMT

You were lucky to get anything today Trevor, it was grey and horrible from the word go for me!

Re: Trevor

by David M, 09-Aug-17 05:58 PM GMT

After watching the forecast last night, I'm surprised anyone in your part of the UK saw butterflies, Trevor. Shame about the Brimstone, but that spider looks a menacing beast.

Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 09-Aug-17 06:24 PM GMT

Some nice shots there Trevor – the spider with butterfly v. interesting but you probably know how I feel about spiders. You have been lucky with the weather – it started here at 8.10 am (as the window fitters arrived) and has been torrential since then!!!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-Aug-17 06:34 PM GMT

Hi Dave, Buggy, David and Pauline.

The bad weather that was forecast did not arrive here until the afternoon. The morning was bright and mostly sunny. We had heavy rain later.

Glad I made the most of the morning !.

Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 09-Aug-17 08:26 PM GMT

Lovely fresh Painted Lady. I was having a window fixed this morning so only managed 45 mins at Southwick before the rain started so your photos are extra appreciated. No LTB seen by me.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Aug-17 08:06 AM GMT

If anyone is interested, the sticky beads, on the web of the Spider with it's Brimstone meal, are visible if the image is enlarged. I was surprised that my camera had captured this. The beads are spaced with almost mathematical precision.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Allan.W., 10-Aug-17 05:13 PM GMT

Great Spider Trevor ! (although not for the Brimstone !) What do you reckon..... Wasp Spider (Argiope Bruennichi)
Regards Allan.W.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 10-Aug-17 10:00 PM GMT

I'd go with Wasp Spider as well they are huge beasts and a Brimstone is a mere snack for them, great set of shots, that Blue glows in the brief sun 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-Aug-17 12:27 PM GMT

Many thanks Alan & Wurzel. That Spider was in a difficult position for identification, I only managed an upside down, rear view of it.

Now for a real surprise.

I am currently staying at the Bell Inn, Great Cheverell in Wiltshire. This morning I discovered two male Wall Browns in the pub grounds. The first one was very worn, and difficult to photograph. As usual it had a favourite basking spot, and returned several times.

The second male was nearly missed as I initially mistook it for the first one when it also chose the same piece of ground on which to bask. but this one was in near pristine condition.

Does anyone know if Wall Browns are known in this part of Wiltshire (Devises area) which is a long way from their usual South Coast haunts.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 11-Aug-17 11:27 PM GMT

That's a good find, Trevor. 😊 As you know, they are around on Wurzel's Hill, so I imagine they may be thinly scattered across Salisbury Plain – it doesn't look far as the crow (or Wall Brown) flies from there to you...

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 12-Aug-17 09:43 AM GMT

Nice Wall Brown's Trevor, they seem paler in colour even the fresh one than the usual WB's it will be great if you've found a new place for them in the Devises area. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 12-Aug-17 08:00 PM GMT

Walls seem to be doing okay on the Plain, there were records of 25 in a day during the first brood from Morgan's Hill which is just to the North East of Devises 😊 That's still a great find Trevor – especially as now you can enjoy a pint and Wall Browns 😊🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 12-Aug-17 08:42 PM GMT

Yesterday's report on the Wall Browns in the pub garden, set me thinking about why they were there, hardly typical habitat.

It later occurred to me that the nearby Church grounds, with all the grave stones, might provide the answer.

So yesterday lunchtime I set out to investigate. I was welcomed, almost immediately by a pair of quarrelling Wall Browns, within a few more minutes it was clear that I had found their headquarters.

It was an all male show, with no females seen yesterday or this afternoon.

I am wondering if these Walls are third Brood, as most were in near pristine condition.

The second brood in Sussex were looking worn several weeks ago.

Here are some more Wall Brown images, all taken in the grounds of St Peters church, Great Cheverell, Wilts.

Trevor.

PS. Thanks Dave, I had forgotten about the Walls at the Marshie site.



View showing proximity of the Bell Inn (with the red roof) to the grave yard.







Re: Trevor

by David M, 12-Aug-17 08:49 PM GMT

Your 'hunch' doesn't surprise me, Trevor. Easily my best local site for Wall Browns is Dan-y-Graig cemetery in Swansea, where, like yours, the Welsh ones like to perch on gravestones.

I think the females appreciate the longer grasses around the graves that remain uncut.

Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 12-Aug-17 08:50 PM GMT

Marvellous set of shots, especially the first one of the Wall! By spooky coincidence I was at a cemetery in Brighton today. More of a slow walk through rather than butterfly search but I certainly didn't see any Walls.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 12-Aug-17 08:54 PM GMT

Those are terrific photos, Trevor! 😊 In particular, the undersides of the fresh butterfly are amazing. You may just have discovered a micro-environment that suits the species... I would think they were second brood still, as the south coast was ahead of the Wiltshire ones for the first brood in May, and the weather has probably held things up a bit. But who knows, with this unusual season? 🤔

Dave

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 12-Aug-17 09:19 PM GMT

Good detective work there Trevor, great shots as well 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 12-Aug-17 10:12 PM GMT

Great shots Trevor and a great again a great find, it'll certainly pay dividends for an easy Wall sighting next season 😊🇬🇧 I remember years ago seeing them around my Granny's rockery and concrete paths, not the same as the graveyard habitat but similar 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-Aug-17 09:12 PM GMT

Many thanks everyone, I'm pleased you all enjoyed the Wall Brown saga.

This morning I went over to Burgess Hill to look for Brown Hairstreaks. Despite perfect weather, the Hairstreaks proved elusive. After searching many areas of Blackthorn, I eventually found a large Ash tree with plenty of my quarry flying around it, and some good Blackthorn beneath.

As it was quite hot by now (25c) I decided to sit in the shade, and watch and wait.

After about half an hour I spotted a female BH on a Blackthorn sucker, unfortunately my camera was not set up properly and all images of this BH were out of focus 😞.

Within two minutes another female BH landed nearby, and I got this one. But a third came down almost immediately, this one flew off without being photographed.

And that was it, all over in about 10 mins. And nothing else for the next three hours !.

Another good find was a Brown Argus, my first this season.
Trevor





Re: Trevor

by kevlng, 14-Aug-17 09:30 PM GMT

Trevor,

Nice shots of the Brown Hairstreak. I had a similar encounter at my local patch this weekend. Lots of searching, followed by brief yet frantic activity with the camera and then nothing again 😞 Those brief moments do make you feel warm inside though.

Regards Kev

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 14-Aug-17 10:39 PM GMT

I can ditto both your and Kev's experience. When I went to Shipton last weekend there was a female on arrival and then over 20-30 minutes I found 2 males and another female and then that was it for the rest of the time I was there 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-Aug-17 07:30 PM GMT

This morning my Butterflying ambitions were nearly cancelled, through no fault of my own. A serious fire at a nearby timber yard, last night, closed one of the main exit routes from Hailsham. On top of that a collision between two lorries closed the main A27. Modifying my original plans, I headed to a hillside near Lewes, for the Silver Spotted Skipper. The place was alive with Butterflies, mostly Meadow Browns, but my main quarry was also present in good numbers.

At one point I sat down in the meadow, after a minute or two a beautiful, fresh, Adonis Blue opened up next to me, it had been there all the time, unnoticed, with it's wings closed. The site was also host to many, mostly worn, Common Blues, I did manage a shot of a fresh Common Blue that had already sustained some wing damage.

To finish the day I drove on to Tide Mills to see if any Clouded Yellows were present. In all I either spotted three, or one three times !, hard to tell. No images unfortunately.

Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by David M, 16-Aug-17 07:48 PM GMT

Adonis Blues, Silver Spotted Skippers & Clouded Yellows....that's pretty good going for a day which started so unpredictably.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 16-Aug-17 07:55 PM GMT

Lovely Adonis Trevor 🍷 I must really make the effort to see them next year. Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 17-Aug-17 10:03 AM GMT

That looks like a cracking day Trevor, lovely female Silver-spots and that Adonis is beaut 😊🍷 Some days things seem to work out when it looked like they weren't 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-Aug-17 04:52 PM GMT

After a foul morning, we did get some sunshine in the early afternoon. Unfortunately the sun was accompanied by a very strong breeze, which made photography difficult. My chosen site, above Willingdon, on the outskirts of Eastbourne, is quite unique in that it starts off through a wooded area (many Speckled Woods today), then an area of Buddleia, with several Red Admirals hanging on the flower spikes for dear life. A little further on there is a large area of open Downland. Here the wind played havoc with the Butterflies, mainly Small Heaths and Common Blues were present, But there were also a few Chalkhill and Adonis Blues.

I shall return on a calmer day !.
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 18-Aug-17 10:13 AM GMT

If the wind over your way was anything like what we had then you were lucky to get those shots 😊 – why is it butterflies always seem to perch on the flimsiest of grasses in the strongest of breezes? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-Aug-17 08:06 PM GMT

An awful day out with few Butterflies !.

I think we are all keen to post stories of wonderful days out observing our Butterflies, and sharing the resulting images on here.

But what if the planned day out goes horribly wrong ? Well it did for me yesterday.

I set out for Shoreham harbour hoping for some Clouded Yellows. I arrived in full warm sunshine and despite a thorough search the only Butterflies on offer were a few Large/Small whites and a couple of worn Common Blues, how different to last year at this time in the season.

Next I planned to drive on to Steyning for the Brown Hairstreak. On arrival the sun was still shining, but cloud was building. John Williams later joined me, and we chatted about the season so far.

I then saw the grey, gloomy cloud approaching that assured us of a good soaking !

The heavens opened, we took shelter under a tree and escaped the worst, but we were both quite damp when the downpour eased.

When the weather improved, I spotted, out of the corner of my eye, something land in a fairly distant Blackthorn sucker. It was an immaculate female Brown Hairstreak, but she was not happy with her choice of this particular piece of Blackthorn and promptly flew up and was lost.

With the prospect of another soaking approaching we gave up, and went home.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 20-Aug-17 08:16 PM GMT

I think there are always days like that, Trevor. For me, Friday was like that, though yesterday was better. It does make the good days seem all the more worthwhile! 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-Aug-17 08:26 PM GMT

I did manage a couple of images yesterday, a lovely fresh Small White at Shoreham, and a basking Dragon fly at Steyning.

The Silver Washed Fritillary was found this morning at Eartham Woods, during a flying visit.

Trevor.





Last of the Summer wine.

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 20-Aug-17 10:40 PM GMT

I feel your pain, Trevor! Like Dave said, no matter how much one checks the forecast, sometimes we inevitably end up disappointed.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 20-Aug-17 10:46 PM GMT

Living in south Wales, I fully empathise, Trevor. Looks like the majority of us are suffering from a dose of October in August. 😞

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-Aug-17 07:42 AM GMT

Many thanks Dave, Mark & David,

On the positive side I must say that days like Saturday, where everything conspired to ruin my day have, so far, been exceedingly rare.

The last time this happened was last year, at Chiddingfold forest. The Sun disappeared on arrival, no Emperors appeared, and I hung around leaving departure until the last moment, despite an approaching storm (which looked as though it might miss my area), but it didn't and the monsoon like rain fell all the way back to the car.

Happy days !
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 21-Aug-17 08:17 PM GMT

Fingers crossed for an Indian summer and all this rain will be but a distant memory 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-Aug-17 09:23 PM GMT

One of the highlights of our holiday in the French Pyrenees was the sight of the Apollo on the wing. Unfortunately they never seemed to land. Our tour leader, however, managed to net one. I was elsewhere when it was caught and subsequently released. On my return I was shown

where it had landed, once freed. It remained for a full 10 mins. on a nearby rock face.



Apollo, 12th July 2017.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 21-Aug-17 10:21 PM GMT

Cloudy weather is all it takes to bring Apollos down to earth, Trevor. Otherwise, keep looking out for females which are far less flighty and will nectar from scabious/knapweed/thistle blooms quite readily.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Aug-17 07:18 PM GMT

This morning I returned to Steyning to search for the Brown Hairstreak. I found the first, of the two seen, quite a distance from the fenced area. It was slightly above head height, but quite accessible. I called (shouted) to the other two hopefuls on site that one had been found. As they arrived, both obtained a quick view before the BH took flight. Fortunately it flew against a dark background which made tracking it easier, and eventually landed on the corner of the fenced area. Some good shots were obtained by those with cameras. Within a couple of minutes another female landed a very short distance away, and for a short while we had two down together. Both Butterflies were worn unfortunately, but none the less it was good to see them. It was also a pleasure to find a BH for a Guy from Norfolk, who had never seen one before.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-Aug-17 05:23 PM GMT

Finding fresh Butterflies is becoming more and more difficult, so you can imagine my delight when I located several fresh Red Admirals, and a brand new Comma this afternoon. The Red Admiral is yet another ab. bialbata, but this time in pristine condition. With luck these two might reappear next Spring.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 24-Aug-17 04:34 PM GMT

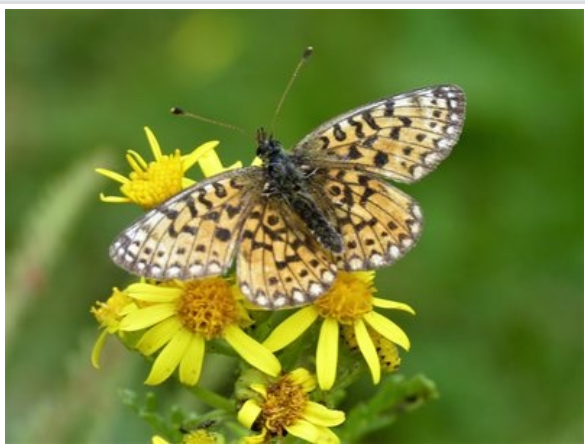
This morning I had my 4th major Butterfly find of this season. I went over to Park Corner Heath & Rowland Wood, not looking for anything specific. After a while I spotted faded, but intact Small Copper nectaring on Ragwort. When I took a step back and turned around, there, hardly visible, was a second brood Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary, again nectaring on Ragwort.

The visitors book in the hut suggested that about four or maybe five SPBF had been seen in recent days.

What is very important about this second brood (and hopefully for next year) is the fact that these Butterflies were bred and born naturally on site.

I would like to dedicate today's SPBF images to those people who made today's sighting possible.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 24-Aug-17 08:45 PM GMT

Hmm, I thought you were one of these people, I seem to remember reading about you working there over Christmas or thereabouts ! Well done to all those involved in anyway!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 24-Aug-17 09:20 PM GMT

Yes that's right, Katrina. But it was a very minor role. Doug and myself acted as Neil Hulme's skivvies, dragging the trees and saplings he felled to a bonfire.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 25-Aug-17 09:57 PM GMT

A fantastic find there Trevor and a very positive omen for the future 😊 Now if only someone could sort out Bentley Wood...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 27-Aug-17 08:13 PM GMT

This weekend I had the opportunity to re-visit the Wall Browns in St. Peters church yard, Great Cheverell, Wiltshire. On Friday afternoon only two were seen, which set me thinking that numbers were on the decline. Saturday dawned fine and sunny, with some high cloud and humidity. So an early morning visit was thought worthwhile. It very soon became clear that numbers of Wall Browns were about the same as a few weeks ago. Amazingly, quite a few more fresh males were seen as well as some showing some wear. Despite a thorough seach, again, no females were found. As September beckons are these fresh Wall's still from the second brood ?.



On a Mole hill.



The only male with wing damage seen.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 27-Aug-17 09:50 PM GMT

A fluke shot from Saturday.

I thought the only Speckled Wood that I tried to photograph, had escaped.
But it would seem that my camera caught it in the earliest stages of escape.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 28-Aug-17 09:48 PM GMT

Great shots of the Walls Trevor, sorry I didn't get to make a visit while you were away as I was too 😊 Heading over there tomorrow so I'll pop in to see if you can come out to play 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 29-Aug-17 11:03 AM GMT

Lovely shots of the Wall's Trevor, I looked for some Wall's in the Southport Dunes yesterday but no luck, not much about at all there. Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 29-Aug-17 07:24 PM GMT

This morning I thought I would try to find the celebrity Queen of Spain Fritillaries at Piddinghoe.
After yesterday's QoS festival at the site, I thought today would be much quieter.
How wrong I was!, on arrival at about 09.45 about twelve hopefuls were already on site.

When Neil Hulme arrived the first and only Queen of Spain appeared at the same time (how does he do it!).
But no one present could have wished for a better behaved Butterfly, which posed for upto about 1 min.
on each landing and frequently flew to new local spots to pose.
There was no need for a photographers huddle either, everyone obtaining some decent shots.

It was good to see so many familiar faces, including Neil Hulme, Dave Cook, Mr Spock and Bugboy, some I only recognised by face.

Finally I would like to thank the farmer Mr. Appleton who allowed the whole thing to happen.

Trevor





**Re: Trevor**

by bugboy, 29-Aug-17 08:26 PM GMT

Great pics of possibly the most well behaved butterfly I've ever seen! A second one did actually turn up later but was swiftly seen off by this this one. Still going through my load of pics...

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 30-Aug-17 12:29 PM GMT

Cracking set of shots of the QoS, glad for you that you could make the trip 😊👍👍 Still no female Wall Browns near The Bell 😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 30-Aug-17 09:37 PM GMT

Many thanks Buggy & Wurzel.

I'm pleased you managed to find the Wall Browns in the church grounds, Wurzel. Hope you have some shots of them to post.

It seems that we all obtained some great shots of the Queen of Spain, Paul.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 30-Aug-17 10:25 PM GMT

I'm glad you got your quarry, Trevor. One is all it takes!

Yes, Mr Hulme does seem to have a 'knack' of making white rabbits appear....most of his lifetime spent in the field whilst we mortals were elsewhere engaged is the very simple explanation for this phenomenon.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 31-Aug-17 04:09 PM GMT

Many thanks David, seeing Q.o.S. in this country is quite surreal, and a real treat.

As the visit of the Queen of Spain Fritillaries, here in East Sussex, is the hot topic at the moment, I thought now might be a good time to post images of those we found in the French Pyrenees. Unlike our visitors, some were found high on mountain above cloud level.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 31-Aug-17 08:20 PM GMT

Great images Trevor 😊👍 The second one in particular shows something I'd not appreciated before – the regularity of the spotting pattern on the hind wing 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 31-Aug-17 10:23 PM GMT

Having had success recently with the Wiltshire Wall Browns, I thought I would take a trip to High and Over to see how they were faring there.

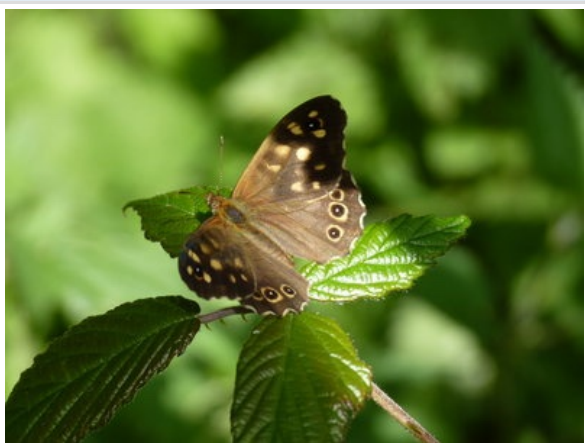
I had only just arrived at ' the steps ' when I met our own Badger Bob. Together we saw four Walls, one of which must have been a female, although we never actually saw her, a male did, and he towed her to several hard to get to places before disappearing over the edge of the hill by the White Horse, complete with his new wife.

Of the other Walls, there was a faded second brood male which was otherwise in good condition, and a fairly fresh male, possibly third brood.

This afternoon I found a fresh Small Copper in my garden, never seen one at home before.

Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 31-Aug-17 10:48 PM GMT

Glad there are some female Wall Browns somewhere 😊 Great set of shots as per usual Trevor especially your garden Copper 🤗🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 31-Aug-17 11:21 PM GMT

Cheers Wurzel, I was pleased with the Small Copper.

(A) It was nice and fresh, and (B) very convenient ! 😊

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 01-Sep-17 09:54 AM GMT

That was unusual Trevor finding a SC in your garden, they don't seem to fancy gardens too much I bet you enjoyed finding it 🤗 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by badgerbob, 01-Sep-17 09:57 AM GMT

The fresh Wall Brown I'm pretty sure is 3rd brood looking at the image Trevor. A couple of tiny nicks out of it so it probably emerged on Monday or Tuesday. I can't imagine one entering the World on Wednesday in all the rain!! It is the first fresh one I've seen for around 2 weeks. With the 2nd brood being 10 days earlier than last year, and the 1st 3rd brood appearing on 13th September last year it was sometime this week when I was expecting to see them. With the weather still warm I wouldn't be surprised if it is quite a large 3rd brood this year in many areas. (Famous last words)!!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Sep-17 09:00 PM GMT

I spent some of this morning at BC's Rowland Wood, hoping for a Clouded Yellow or two.

This was not to be, but I did find another Small Pearl, and this one was in very good condition, and very quick !.

I also came away with a very pleasing image of a Large White. The Butterfly was facing the sun

with wings closed, I was looking at it from the side, the result was some sun and shadow which picked out the intricate wing structure. Best of all this Large White was pristine, and a particularly large specimen.

None of the Whites seen today were particularly flighty, despite the strong sunshine.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 01-Sep-17 09:56 PM GMT

That is a very enviable shot of the Large White 😊🇩🇪

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 01-Sep-17 10:16 PM GMT

And nice shots of the SPBF – not something we're used to seeing posted on here in September! I didn't see any Walls at High & Over a week ago, and probably should have had a look today when I was in the area as they are obviously out again! Nice shots of them as well, Trevor. 🇩🇪

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Gary.N, 02-Sep-17 09:00 PM GMT

Good shots from Rowland's Trevor. The place is finally becoming a really good place to go to see things. 😊

Gary

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 02-Sep-17 09:51 PM GMT

Those are brill shots of the SPBF Trevor 🇩🇪, it seems they're better behaved in the second brood than the first 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Sep-17 07:32 PM GMT

I spent a great deal of today at High and Over. When I was last there Bob Eade was speculating about a third brood of Wall Browns, today's sightings would suggest that a third brood may have started. Altogether five fresh males and one female were found, this was my first female for a very long time.

Unfortunately I was only permitted one shot of the female Wall before she was lost.

The other feature of the day was the very large number of Whites present, and all seemed fresh. Other Butterflies of note were several fresh Red Admirals, Peacocks and a single Comma. In another area a lone female Common Blue was found in the grass.

A very interesting day.
Trevor.





Female Wall Brown.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 06-Sep-17 07:56 PM GMT

Those Walls look nice and fresh, so I suspect you're right and a third brood is underway, Trevor. 😊 All those whites may mean they could be drifting over the Channel like the ones I saw in Kent – or maybe they're the offspring of those that did earlier.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Sep-17 08:09 PM GMT

Thanks Dave, All the Whites were fresh, even those with a few nicks.
To see the Walls, maybe a visit, if we get a fine day, next week. There may be a few more by then.
Strangely, none of today's Walls were found on the steps.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 06-Sep-17 11:08 PM GMT

Great Wall shots Trevor 😊 The Comma's comma looks interesting too...more of a line than the punctuation mark 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-Sep-17 03:44 PM GMT

Tide Mills was to be my ultimate destination today, but as the best route from home takes me past High and Over I thought I would make a quick stop.
As I entered the meadow at the bottom of the steps, two familiar figures , Bob Eade and Dave (millerd) , were already searching for Wall Browns.
I was politely asked not to sit on a Red Admiral, which was waiting patiently on a bench seat for the sun to return. Also, I was sickened to learn of a patient female Wall that had posed for them earlier.
Several male Walls were seen and photographed, then, the prize of the day, a beautiful female stopped several times and a couple of decent shots were obtained.
We enjoyed a period of sunshine, but generally the weather was cloudy with a cool breeze, which made approaching a Peacock and a reasonable Meadow Brown, a little easier.

Any similarity between my images and Dave's is purely coincidental, but quite likely ! 😊 .

Good to spend the morning with you both,
Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by millerd, 07-Sep-17 07:51 PM GMT

Yes, that was rather a good morning Trevor and very good to see you and Bob too. 😊 Hmm – the butterflies do look awfully familiar, but it'll be a little while before I get round to posting my shots, and I don't think they are going to compete... 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 08-Sep-17 12:14 AM GMT

Nice to see those stunning third brood Wall Browns, that you found on your first – and second visit 😊

Mike

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 08-Sep-17 07:14 PM GMT

Great Wall Browns Trevor, I've looked for them here but no luck yet 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 08-Sep-17 10:36 PM GMT

That female Wall certainly seemed like she was worth waiting for 😊🍷 I shall now read Dave's to compare notes as it were 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 09-Sep-17 12:21 AM GMT

Wall Browns seem to be in vogue right now. You have encouraged me to get out and see if I can find any myself on my patch.

Re: Trevor

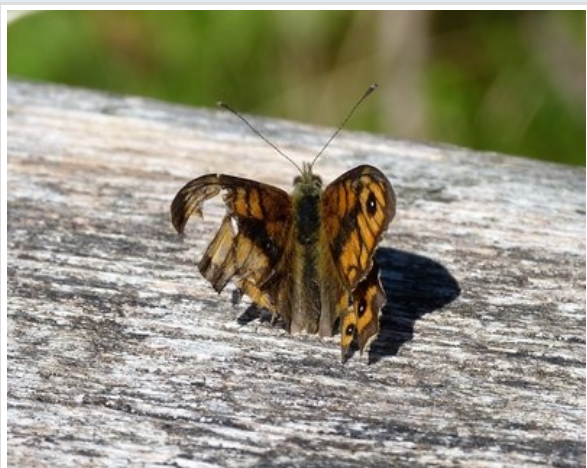
by trevor, 09-Sep-17 06:34 PM GMT

Many thanks everyone. I am glad you have enjoyed my adventures with the Wall Browns.
Now for more of the same.....

This morning I had Tide Mills in my sights, but again stopping off at High and Over on the way. I arrived under a cloudless sky, with a temperature of 16c. Once in the meadow at the bottom of the steps I was sheltered from the persistent cool breeze, and the direct sun soon made it uncomfortably hot !. The warmth of the sun had already made the Wall Browns very active, and I was soon joining in with their chases.
Only males were on the wing, including one poor specimen, well past his prime.

I later returned to the car to resume my journey to Tide Mills and the temperature was still 16c according to the reading on my info screen.
Tide Mills was very quiet, with only a few Whites on the wing. By now the constant breeze was becoming stronger, keeping any Clouded Yellows present, in hiding.

Trevor.



This male doesn't look very old, but has clearly had a nasty incident. Spiders web maybe.





Re: Trevor

by Allan.W., 09-Sep-17 07:12 PM GMT

Some excellent Wall images today(and recently) Trevor, good numbers over the border in Kent too ,I,m pleased to say !. Any late Brown Hairstreaks hanging on at Steyning ,would you happen to know ? Staying down in the Arundel area for a few days so been doing a bit of homework ! Regards Allan.W.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-Sep-17 07:36 PM GMT

Hi Allan.

Steyning is certainly worth a look. BH have been seen at this stage in September in previous years. But, if any are found they will be past their best.

Good luck,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Allan.W., 09-Sep-17 07:43 PM GMT

Thanks for that Trevor ,may well give it a go !! Regards Allan.W.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 10-Sep-17 11:04 AM GMT

Great shots of the Wall again Trevor, It's amazing how when so badly worn they still fly. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-Sep-17 01:15 PM GMT

Had things turned out differently today I would have been posting another Wall Brown report. I am currently in Wiltshire, so this morning I popped up to St. Peters church to see if any Wall Browns were present. None were seen, but there was a gale force wind blowing. However I did find four species in about an hour, three fresh Commas, including one with very strong markings, A fresh Red Admiral, two fresh Speckled Woods and a Large White.

Not bad for a day of wind and sharp showers.

Trevor.





Note the completely different wing markings.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 11-Sep-17 08:07 PM GMT

Another splendid set of Walls, Trevor – it must be worth another trip if the wind eases off, but unfortunately it may actually get worse for a few days. Your Wiltshire selection look familiar – it's moving towards the time when that's all we'll have left to look at... 🙄🙄

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 11-Sep-17 10:38 PM GMT

Really nice dark final Comma Trevor, lovely markings 😊 It seems that the end of the season is fast approaching and it could be early doors this year 😊 fingers crossed for a final summer flourish 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 12-Sep-17 07:19 AM GMT

That last Comma is noticeably different, Trevor, particularly around the margins of the hindwing. Nice find!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 12-Sep-17 02:50 PM GMT

Many thanks Dave, David m, & Wurzel.

A visit to the grounds of St. Peters church, Great Cheverell, found at least six fresh Commas and two Red Admirals, indulging on over ripe Blackberries.

Once again no Wall Browns appeared to be present.

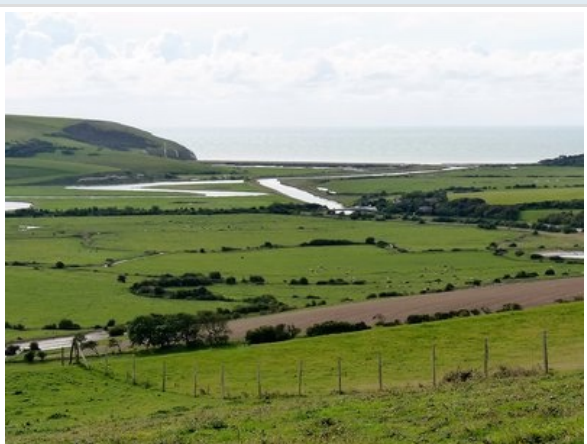
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-Sep-17 03:10 PM GMT



It is easy to forget, that you have your back to this view when searching for Wall Browns.

At High and Over this morning, there was a strong breeze blowing from the west, and it was chilly.

The walk from the car park, was uncomfortable to say the least.

I met a Lady walking back to her car, and seeing my camera, she said that she had seen one Wall Brown in the meadow beyond the steps.

This was my destination. Once again the hedge along the meadow provided almost total protection from the cold wind, and the weak sun, poking through the high cloud, began to warm the site.

It soon became clear that the third brood of Walls this year, is at least as good as 2016.

I managed to photograph a total of eight males, minor nicks (or the lack of them) aided identification. Unfortunately no females appeared, despite watching patrolling males to see if they could send one up.

A brilliant morning.

Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by millerd, 14-Sep-17 03:44 PM GMT

Another splendid selection of male Walls, Trevor – it's amazing that such an exposed spot can provide such a good bit of shelter for them. 😊 They certainly take advantage of it. I wonder where all the females have gone since that one we saw last week?

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 14-Sep-17 08:59 PM GMT

Cracking set of Walls Trevor, especially the fourth from the end – he really stands out almost as if someone's gone round the brown background colour with an outlining pencil 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 14-Sep-17 09:38 PM GMT

Well done, Trevor. In many ways, these 'borderline' times of the year when weather conditions are often marginal see butterflies retreat to their most favoured, sheltered areas, making their presence there more predictable.

That said, seeing any Wall Browns these days is notable, so you can be proud of your efforts!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-Sep-17 07:28 PM GMT

Many thanks for your comments everyone.

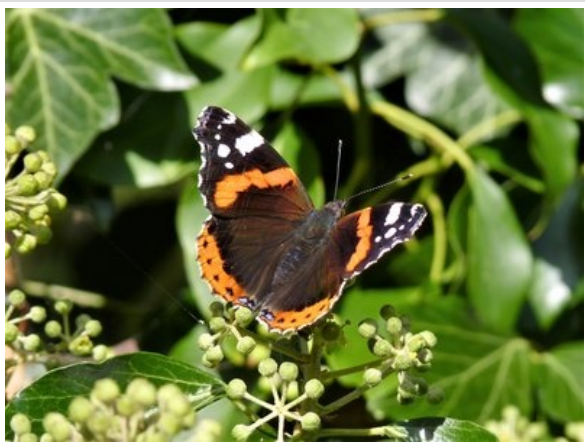
Another visit to High and Over early this morning was not so much for the third brood Walls, but to see some of the other species noted yesterday.

I used my close up lens for all of yesterdays images, which meant that some of the other species seen would have been out of reach for photography. As it takes too many seconds to remove the lens and re-programme the camera (giving the intended subject time to escape) I decided not to use it today, allowing a better chance with some of the more distant subjects.

It was a treat to find some very fresh Red Admirals, several Peacocks, and best of all a brand new Large White with wings open.

Of course I could not completely ignore the Wall Browns, especially one resting on a Bindweed flower. Other species seen, a solitary Small Copper, and a Small Heath.

Another superb morning.
Trevor.









Re: Trevor

by Allan.W., 15-Sep-17 07:48 PM GMT

Great Wall shots Trevor ! just noticed your last Peacock shot is similar to the couple I,ve posted from this afternoon .showing the extra small blue spot . I visited Steyning and managed to find a single Brown Hair,so well pleased !!
Regards Allan.W.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-Sep-17 07:54 PM GMT

A bright sunny, but very cool morning ensured a fairly late start, and a visit to a local site, the Downs above Willingdon, on the outskirts of Eastbourne.
Only a few Butterflies were seen, these included two fresh Common Blues, and two very fresh Peacocks. A few Meadow Browns were still hanging on.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 16-Sep-17 10:00 PM GMT

The sudden flush of Peacocks (which I've seen too) in indifferent weather some time after their main emergence in July seems to point to a second brood - what do you think? The Walls do seem to be doing well (nice shots of them too! 😊) Ask them to hang on for a few more days, please! 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 17-Sep-17 07:39 PM GMT

The Peacocks have yet reach a second brood over this way Trevor - it's Red Admirals all over the place though 😊 Interesting to see such a fresh Common Blue in amongst all those Walls 😊🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 17-Sep-17 09:41 PM GMT

Amazing to see such fresh Common Blues at this time of year, Trevor.

You are definitely living in a good spot for butterflies.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-Sep-17 09:59 PM GMT

Many thanks for the comments Chaps.

I did not choose where I live for Butterflies David, but I could not have done better if I had ! It really is a brilliant area, with many different habitats nearby.

For today it was yet another trip to High and Over, and the sun trap hedge in the meadow. This site produced two nice surprises this morning, a very fresh and placid Painted Lady and, in the meadow a fresh male Common Blue.

The only Butterflies that were fewer in number than previous visits were ' the Whites '.

The male Wall Browns are still doing fine !.

All images below were taken in about two hours this morning.
Trevor.









Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 18-Sep-17 10:18 PM GMT

Those Walls are doing exceptionally well there, if I get up early enough tomorrow I may well venture that far myself 😊

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 18-Sep-17 10:23 PM GMT

Keep those Walls going, Trevor – I also hope to get down there later this week. That's a good selection of other species as well. I wonder if the Painted Lady is on its way south?

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 19-Sep-17 04:47 PM GMT

Buggy and Dave, I took a Wall image today, just one, would you like to see it.

For a change of scene, I drove over to Mill Hill in West Sussex, principally for Clouded Yellows, this morning. Unfortunately I came home with the booby prize. Of the five CL's seen four were fresh, and one was beyond tatty, almost derelict. You will see the one I got !.

Talking of tatty, the big surprise of the day was a female Brown Hairstreak who was doing her best to find a suitable place to egg lay. She twice came down to the ground to bask.

Several fresh Small Coppers were spread over the slopes, including a ' blue badge '.

The real treat for me was locating a beautiful ' blue ' female Common Blue, fresh and very finely marked.

Male Common Blues varied from tatty to fresh third brood, with quite a number seen.

Even the few Meadow Browns around were in good condition.

Here are a selection of today's finds.

Trevor.





This Brown Argus was the smallest Butterfly I have ever seen.



Of course the day would not be complete without a Wall!.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 19-Sep-17 08:49 PM GMT

That female Common Blue is an absolute cracker, Trevor. The Wall is none to shabby, either... 😊 The Brown Hairstreak must have come as a bit of a surprise, though – it's getting quite late for them and I'd forgotten they popped up at Mill Hill at all. Bad luck with getting only the ghost of a Clouded Yellow – it's astonishing it could fly at all, though they do seem quite resilient and must fly a long way in their lifetimes (they certainly don't settle much when the sun's out! 😊).

Dave

Re: Trevor

by David M, 19-Sep-17 09:23 PM GMT

I wouldn't complain too much about that tatty Clouded Yellow, Trevor. You've seen a notable range of species for a late September day and your female Common Blue is probably the pick...although a Brown Hairstreak at any time is highly desirable!

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 20-Sep-17 10:00 AM GMT

Cracking Blue badger in amongst the the other butterflies – but with that brill Blue, Clouded Yellow and a Brown Hairstreak it almost got lost... 😊😊 I think you just edged the 'Battle of the Blues' Trevor due to the freshness of your example 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Sep-17 04:09 PM GMT

Having seen recent images of female Wall Browns from Mill Hill and High and Over I thought I would try my luck, with a fantastic weather forecast for today.

On arrival at High and Over, I was soon amazed at the number of Walls active at such an early hour.

Walking through the meadow, my attention was drawn to a Wall flying very clumsily, with another in pursuit. They eventually landed in the wet grass, and upon inspection it became clear that I had seen a mating pair in flight with a second male trying to get in on the act, he soon took the hint and left the coupled pair alone. After a few of shots I too left them alone.

Later on, after failing to find a lone female, I went through the gate towards the steps,

and found a fresh female nectaring. Unfortunately she was not in a good position for a shot, and my attempt to get closer sent her up, I saw her fly over into the meadow. In the few seconds it took me to return to the meadow, a male had found her and they had paired up, a second mating pair in less than two hours !. This pair took several flights before finding a suitable bramble on which to complete their act. Interestingly when both mating pairs took flight, it was the female that took the lead, and the male was towed through the air with wings closed. In all in excess of twenty males and four females were seen this morning.



1st mating pair.



2nd mating pair.





Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 22-Sep-17 07:25 PM GMT

Nice one Trevor. Both Bob and James said they didn't think the third brood had peaked yet and with females still emerging it looks like they are right!

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 22-Sep-17 08:45 PM GMT

Wow, I'm well jealous. Not only of your fantastic Wall sightings and images, but also that you had today off! I will be checking some Essex Wall sites on Sunday, if the weather is suitable.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Sep-17 11:10 PM GMT

Many thanks Paul and Mark.
Judging by the number of Wall Browns seen today their peak can't be far off.
The near perfect weather this morning was just right for Wall action.

If you fancy a trip down to Sussex, Mark, PM me for directions.
Strike while the iron's hot!.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 23-Sep-17 12:41 AM GMT

Very nice photos of the Wall Browns, Trevor, especially the mating pairs, not that I'm 🍷 😊

Mike

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-Sep-17 08:22 PM GMT

The weather this morning at High and Over, was in total contrast to that of yesterday. A constant cool breeze was blowing in from the sea, accompanied by high cloud. When the sun did manage to shine only a few Wall Browns took advantage of it. Fortunately my quest to find some female Walls was partially satisfied, with two found, although neither female landed in a good position for photography.

I will return !.
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 23-Sep-17 08:45 PM GMT

Still a nice selection there, Trev. If I'm as successful as that in south Essex tomorrow, I'll be happy!

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 23-Sep-17 10:49 PM GMT

You're certainly filling your boots/memory card with Walls this year Trevor 😊😄 After missing out on the females you made up for it recently along with a mating pair as well 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 24-Sep-17 09:20 PM GMT

Another great selection of Walls, Trevor and much 🍷 indeed for the mating pairs. Excellent shots. 😊 This third brood seems very strong and hopefully is early enough to get the next generation well underway before winter closes in. It certainly wasn't a bit wintry down there today...

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 24-Sep-17 09:38 PM GMT

Many thanks Mark. Wurzel & Dave,

This evening, as an experiment, I enlarged a section of a Wall Brown underwing. The texture of the wing could suggest a piece of woven fabric, it's certainly intricate.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 24-Sep-17 10:38 PM GMT

The markings are stunning on the underside of Walls when you get really close up 😊 The best one I've seen had the name 'Ed' in copperplate on it, at least that's what it looked like to me 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 24-Sep-17 11:40 PM GMT

Great sightings of the mating pairs of Wall Browns, Trevor. You must have been delighted. Interesting that you noted the female took the lead in flight. That's what I found in May when I observed a coupling pair. I often wonder whether this is species dependent, as in some butterflies, it is seemingly the male who carries the female.

As an aside, that last image of the Wall Brown underside in close up is exactly what you state - like woven fabric.

I'm sure there's a niche in the market for anyone who can recreate the wonderful natural shades and patterns of a butterfly's wings into a household product!

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 25-Sep-17 10:52 AM GMT

Hi! Trevor, great shot of the Graylings wing , I noticed that the shots before that one showed the Graylings to be more faded , we're getting to the end of the season now ,it's great your still finding them, none seen here at all. Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Sep-17 04:56 PM GMT

This morning we had wall to wall cloud and mirk, so I reluctantly had to postpone activities until after lunch, only then did we get some hazy sun. I think today was the first time ever that I have set out so late.

High and Over was my destination once again, and it turned out to be a worthwhile visit. After only a few minutes I spotted some Wall Brown ' courtship ', not the usual male and male spiralling dispute, but two Walls flying low and occasionally pausing for a sort of face off. It was during one pause that I identified male and female. The last time they stopped they had coupled. But I then lost this mating pair when they flew high over the hedge. However I did manage several shots of a second mating pair, down in the grass. There were still some fresh males to be seen, but not as many as last Friday.

Other species seen, one each of Common Blue, Red Admiral and Comma. Then it was home before the rush hour.

Trevor.

PS. I wish that was a Grayling, Goldie, as I havn't seen one this year. It was a Wall Brown.

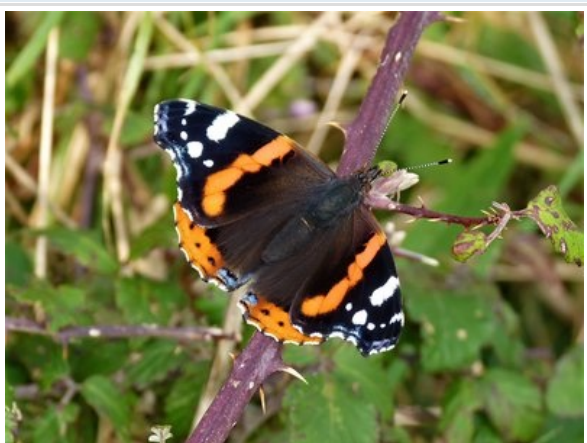


The second mating pair of the afternoon.



A reasonable solo female, at last.







Re: Trevor

by David M, 26-Sep-17 05:48 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

This morning we had wall to wall cloud....

Is that a deliberate pun, Trevor, given the numbers of *mege* you saw? 😊

Good to see more mating pairs. One can only hope that the larvae can feed up and successfully overwinter.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 27-Sep-17 01:46 PM GMT

Those Walls just keep on coming Trevor 😊👍 Great looking Red Admiral as well, the blue on the hind wing seems to carry on right up towards the abdomen, they are spectacular when fresh 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 27-Sep-17 04:45 PM GMT

WOOP's! 😊 But it down to an age thing Trevor 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 27-Sep-17 08:14 PM GMT

David M wrote:

trevor wrote:

This morning we had wall to wall cloud....

Is that a deliberate pun, Trevor, given the numbers of *mege* you saw? 😊

Good to see more mating pairs. One can only hope that the larvae can feed up and successfully overwinter.

Yea, when I was there is was wall to wall Wall!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 27-Sep-17 09:29 PM GMT

No pun intended, David. But I've seen so many this year I must have them on the brain !.

For a change of scene today I went over to Mill Hill.

The weather never seemed to sort itself out, with a lot of high cloud, and a constant gentle breeze.

It was a question of observing Butterflies rather than photographing them. A good selection of species

were present, including Clouded Yellow, male Wall, Peacock, Red Admiral, Small tortoiseshell, Painted Lady, Common Blue, Meadow Brown, Small Copper and Large & Small White.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by David M, 27-Sep-17 10:27 PM GMT

To hit double figure numbers of species so close to October is notable, Trevor. Looks like this weekend will be a washout, so I suspect these statistics will not be achieved again until next April sadly. 😞

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-Sep-17 07:58 PM GMT

It's important to 'make hay whilst the sun shines', David. Around this way things should carry on until the first frost or two.

One Butterfly species has, for me, been difficult to track down this season. The Clouded Yellow. They have either been absent from what I have considered to be their usual hot spots, or flying fast and not landing. I saw quite a few at Mill Hill recently, but none within camera range.

So this morning I set off for Shoreham Harbour, a location that was brilliant for them last year. It did not take very long to find a patrolling Cloudie, then 'heaven', one nectaring and not in a hurry. In all about eight were seen, and some landed just long enough for a few shots. The warm, sunny weather meant that most were supercharged, making the Wall Brown seem quite placid.

Other species seen were quite a few Common Blues, fresh and faded, a fresh Brown Argus, and three new Red Admirals.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 28-Sep-17 10:14 PM GMT

I'm very pleased to see you found some obliging Cloudies at Shoreham, Trevor, after they've been giving you the run round elsewhere. 😊 Some of them look pretty fresh (as do some at Mill Hill) so are probably local grown – there could be more to come anywhere where they were seen in early August. Will we have November butterflies down there again?

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 28-Sep-17 10:26 PM GMT

Cricky so many obliging Cloudies and I still haven't seen one this year 🤔🤔🤔 That third one is particularly yellow 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 29-Sep-17 09:30 PM GMT

Cloudie nirvana 🍄🍄🍄

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 29-Sep-17 10:03 PM GMT

Looks like I'm going to have to make a trek south in October– if the sun eventually shines on my day off! Those Clouded Yellows cannot be missed...

Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 29-Sep-17 11:02 PM GMT

Your Peacock from the 15th September also looks like an ab. diopthalmica.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 29-Sep-17 11:13 PM GMT

I've just looked at that Peacock, Katrina, and it does have those tiny extra blue spots. I have to say the spots aren't immediately obvious.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 30-Sep-17 06:42 PM GMT

I thought there might be some appreciation for those Cloudies, slippery devils at the best of times !. Many thanks everyone.

Today we had a short window (very short!) of decent weather, so I headed for High and Over. The cool breeze was blowing along the hedge in the meadow, but never the less this where most Butterflies were seen. About eight male Wall Browns were flying, but no fresh ones today. Another Painted Lady was found basking at the base of the hedge, and a newly emerged Red Admiral took advantage of a fence post to shelter from the wind.

Not a bad haul for a decidedly dodgy day.

It was also a pleasure to acquaint Andrew, from Sevenoaks with the best spots for Walls at H&O.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 30-Sep-17 07:08 PM GMT

Good to see the Walls persisting in less than ideal conditions, and a nice shot of one of each sex there, Trevor. I suspect the Lady and the Admiral were having a last feed before heading southwards... 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 30-Sep-17 07:46 PM GMT

A Painted Lady at any time of year is always a welcome sight Trevor 😊 and topped off with a few Walls definitely makes it a good haul 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 30-Sep-17 10:41 PM GMT

Still firmly rooted along that top hedgerow I see Trevor 😊. I was in your neck of the woods again today, you'll have to wait till tomorrow to see what I saw though 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 30-Sep-17 11:07 PM GMT

I'm highly envious of that variety of species you've seen lately, Trevor. Saw a Cloudie myself at the back end of August but I'm sure the Welsh ones have all been rained into submission in recent weeks! 😊

Re: Trevor

by Butterflysaurus rex, 01-Oct-17 09:28 PM GMT

Glad to see you enjoying the last of this seasons butterflies Trevor. I think my season is pretty much over for this year. Overall it's been great, see you out there again somewhere next year.

BW's

James

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-Oct-17 11:03 PM GMT

Despite the blustery wind this morning, I could not resist another trip to Shoreham, and on the way home a quick visit to High and Over.

Here are some of the species seen.









Re: Trevor

by David M, 02-Oct-17 11:29 PM GMT

Very impressive, Trevor. Me....I just wish the opportunity would present itself so that I can get out at all! 😞

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 03-Oct-17 09:06 AM GMT

Wow!!! you've certainly been blessed with Cloudy's Trevor, lovely shot's too 📷 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 03-Oct-17 10:23 AM GMT

I think at this rate Trevor I'm going to have to get the MrGreen gif changed to Mr Yellow to represent my envy of all you Cloudies 📷 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-Oct-17 06:22 PM GMT

The start of the Wall Brown third brood at High and Over was first noticed by badgerbob and myself on Aug. 31st, and today there is still plenty of activity. Yesterday I found two fresh females, and today a fresh male was seen flying among older examples. I met badgerbob on site this morning, he had counted eleven males, and I found another some distance from the others. Also seen there this morning, a very fresh Large White (with some wing damage) and two fresh Small Coppers. Towards the car park several Speckled Woods danced in the semi shade.

I later moved on to Tide Mills, which was very quiet except for a few Common Blues.

Trevor.

PS. Many thanks David, Goldie & Wurzel.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 03-Oct-17 09:46 PM GMT

Those Walls are doing really well down there, Trevor, especially if some of them are relatively fresh. 😊 Do you know how long-lived they are? Nice to see Blues and Coppers too. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by David M, 03-Oct-17 11:17 PM GMT

You keep coming up with the goods, fair play Trevor.

I wonder how much longer you'll be seeing such a range of species, and particularly Wall Browns.

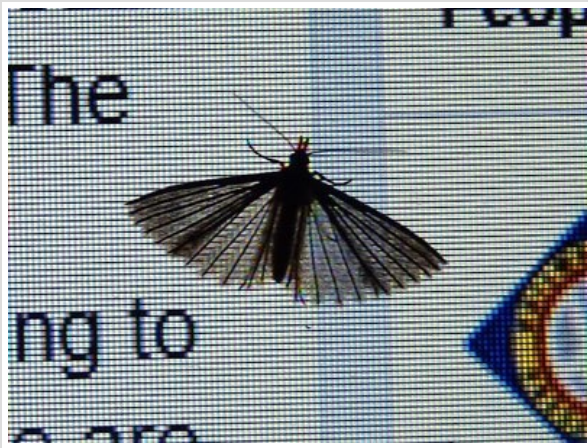
Enjoy it while it lasts.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 04-Oct-17 09:09 AM GMT

This tiny, but very elegant little Moth landed on my laptop screen last evening.

Has anyone any ideas ?.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 04-Oct-17 09:27 AM GMT

Interesting shot of a Twenty-plume Moth (*Alucita hexadactyla*) Trevor it shows of the '20 Plumes' really well 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 04-Oct-17 10:17 AM GMT

That moth could be a Ladies Fan Trevor, it's lovely. Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 04-Oct-17 06:12 PM GMT

Many thanks for the Moth ID, Wurzel. I thought it looked like fan as well, Goldie.

This morning, whilst having my humanising coffee in the garden, I noticed the strong breeze was coming from the West, this wrote off several locations I had in mind. But the hedge at High and Over offers almost total protection from a westerly, so that was my destination.

Walking from the car, I spooked a Painted Lady, basking on the path. Little did I know that another five would be found in the meadow later on. Along the fence line a considerable number of Red Admirals were on the Ivy flowers and on the fence posts waiting for the sun to reappear.

I also realised a recent ambition, and found a lovely fresh female Wall Brown which allowed close approach.

A surprisingly bountiful morning.

Trevor.





What a fabulous Butterfly.







Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 04-Oct-17 06:52 PM GMT

Lovely Butterflies Trevor, Painted Ladies so late has well! Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Art Frames, 05-Oct-17 09:48 AM GMT

Wonderful Painted Lady shot and the sunshine lifts it, just want to clone away your barbed wire...seems to be too intrusive to me. But the butterfly is a beauty 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-Oct-17 01:43 PM GMT

Glad you enjoyed the Painted Ladies, Goldie. A great surprise to find six.

That fence is a problem, Peter. The sun tends to warm up the area under the hedge in the morning, consequently the Butterflies like to find the warmest place which happens to be the wire fence and the fence posts.

Other than that I was quite thrilled with the freshness and brilliance of that Painted Lady, and the photogenic pose. The image below shows part of the hedge (and fence) where the Butterflies congregate.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 05-Oct-17 10:37 PM GMT

That familiar hedgerow, Trevor! 😊 More splendid Wall shots too, and some great Painted Ladies. 😊 They will no doubt be on their way south along with the Red Admirals, just making sure they've fuelled up before the hop across the channel. Interesting that they appear to be gathering together before making the trip.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Oct-17 08:05 PM GMT

Cheers Dave, but a day with the Butterflies doesn't get any better than today !.

Last evening Dave Cook posted an image of a very heavily marked Clouded Yellow on the Sussex BC sightings page, (worth a look, bottom L/H image of the six posted).

We agreed to meet up today to try and relocate it. But, in this we failed.

On arrival at Shoreham at 10.00 my car was reading 12c, and the breeze was very cool. I walked the entire site and found very little of note. As I returned to the starting point Dave was just arriving, and we soon located our first Cloudie, as we were passing the area of the fuel storage tanks a Helice flew past me and was immediately identified. But this Butterfly really did give us the run around, spending much time nectaring on Wild Asters the other side of a steel security fence about 60ft away. The image below was the best I could get.

Dave called out to say that the Helice was now out of the compound and he had found it again, but on inspection it was in fact Helice No 2, much creamier than the first one.

We were now very pleased with our day, when a mating pair in an accessible spot for photography was found. Many images were taken of this pair.

As the afternoon wore on we made our way back to the fuel storage area, when a 3rd Helice was spotted high up on the bank flying between Honeysuckle flowers, we waited patiently for a closer look and eventually she came within camera range, and stayed put for a considerable time.

Neil Hulme turned up and we were able to relocate this Helice for him.





Helice No.1



Helice No.2



Helice No.2



Helice No.2



Helice No.3



Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 06-Oct-17 08:56 PM GMT

The one you describe as 'creamier' than the others, could it possibly have been the very rare ab *aubuissoni*? which is an intermediate between normal and *helice*. I found one at Tidemills two years ago:



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Oct-17 09:08 PM GMT

Make up your own mind Paul. The 'creamier' one is No.2.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 06-Oct-17 09:15 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

Make up your own mind Paul. The 'creamier' one is No.2.

Trevor.

Can't really tell from the underside. My one looked relatively normal until it took flight.

Re: Trevor

by Allan.W., 06-Oct-17 09:43 PM GMT

Hello Trevor ,

Some cracking finds there Trevor ! particularly the pair, something I've always wanted to find ,and blimey 3 Helice !! I'd settle for one, seen them in the past but can never seem to get near them ! managed 15 (normal Cloudies) myself today ,11 at Dungeness and 4 "over the border" at Winchelsea beach , still live in hopes of finding a Helice myself ,before the seasons out .

Regards Allan.W.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 06-Oct-17 09:54 PM GMT

I wondered why no *helice* Cloudies had been reported this year, and then you go and find three of them. 😊👍 Excellent stuff, Trevor. I assume these butterflies are likely to be locally grown? It looks like I may have to stray south one more time this year...

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 06-Oct-17 10:19 PM GMT

Woah I might run out of Mr Greens here 😊👍 I've still not seen a Cloudy this year, let alone ever seeing a mating pair or a Helice and you bag both, the later in a wonderful triplet 🍷🍷🍷 xseveral hundred

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 06-Oct-17 10:24 PM GMT

Yes, a few Mr Greens from me too 🍷🍷🍷

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Oct-17 11:03 PM GMT

Many thanks everyone, I'd hoped today's autumn spree would be appreciated !.

Wurzel, Now's the time to cash in those brownie points, and even go into debit. But go along to Shoreham. I guess it's about 75 miles from you.

Katrina, You live on the doorstep, make the most of it. It was brilliant today.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Oct-17 11:18 PM GMT

SHOREHAM HARBOUR Part 2.

The Clouded Yellows have overshadowed the other sightings of today.

There were quite a few Fresh Common Blues to be found, both male and female, plus several Small Coppers, a worn Copper sitting in the middle of an oxeye daisy couldn't be resisted. Red Admirals and Large & Small Whites completed the scene.



Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 06-Oct-17 11:51 PM GMT

Wow Trev, what a great haul! Just hoping for a bit of sunshine on Sunday, so I can get a bit of the action myself...

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 07-Oct-17 11:41 AM GMT

A big thanks to you Trevor for showing me the ropes at High and Over last w/e, and also for pointing out this website. And great job on all the sightings you have been getting. Hope to see you out there again.

Cheers

Andrew

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-Oct-17 01:54 PM GMT

My pleasure Andrew. I'm pleased you got to see the Wall Browns. Sussex is one of the best counties for late Butterflies, several sites are still performing well. Hope you will join UKB, the more the merrier.

Best wishes,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 07-Oct-17 08:23 PM GMT

Fantastic shots of the Helice Trevor, I saw one at Temple Ewell on my visit to Kent, (my first ever) I was so pleased to get a shot ,then you go and get three 📷📷📷 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 08-Oct-17 06:09 PM GMT

Some lovely Blues Trevor 😊 Unfortunately I haven't been able to cash in the Brownie points this weekend but with a break looming I might be suggest a walk along the coast...which would just happen to be at Southbourne where there is a wintering population of Cloudies 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 09-Oct-17 12:08 AM GMT

Mating Clouded Yellows plus a *helice*!!

What are you going to hit us with next, Trevor? 📷

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 09-Oct-17 07:02 PM GMT

Agreed. Sensational stuff! If fact so good, I went there myself on Sunday for a slice of the Clouded Yellow action! 😊

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 09-Oct-17 07:46 PM GMT

If the weather holds (and the weekend is, as I type, looking good) I may well pay your spot another visit!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Oct-17 05:52 PM GMT

Many thanks everyone.
I'm a little stuck for time, as I have a birthday celebration to go to at the Solstice park. Three Wiltshire Butterflies for you, all from St Peters church grounds, Great Cheverell.



What a beauty .



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 10-Oct-17 08:57 PM GMT

A splendid Peacock, Trevor. 😊 Another second brood one do you think?

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 12-Oct-17 05:50 PM GMT

Two more Butterflies from Wiltshire, both taken on 11th Oct.
The Red Admiral was so fresh that forewings have an almost purple sheen.

On the way back to East Sussex today I called in at Shoreham harbour, did I find any Cloudies ?.



Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 12-Oct-17 05:55 PM GMT

Hi! Trevor, that's a lovely looking peacock and Admiral, Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

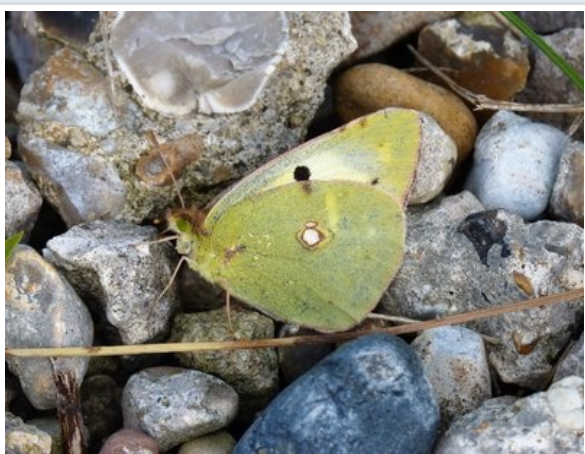
by trevor, 12-Oct-17 07:46 PM GMT

As my route from Wiltshire to home came within a couple of miles of Shoreham harbour, I thought it would be rude not to pop in.

I am glad I did !. The first find was a Peacock, nectaring on Ragwort, then the first of about six Clouded Yellow was seen. One of these was a *helice* and by comparing images this particular specimen was photographed by myself last Friday, Oct 6th, and by Mark (Essex buzzard) on Sunday 8th. The last CL found just before heading for home was a very bright lemon yellow, and almost brand new.

Two very fresh male Common Blues were also present, along with several worn examples.

Trevor.



First seen on Oct. 6th.



A particularly bright yellow specimen.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 12-Oct-17 09:22 PM GMT

Glad to see Shoreham is still producing, Trevor. Nice Cloudies! 😊 The two days I might have got down there were resolutely cloudy in the other sense, but maybe next Monday?

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 13-Oct-17 07:58 PM GMT

A great selection of butterflies in your recent posts Trevor 🍷 😊

It is at this time of year that I always feel a little jealous of the extended season that can be enjoyed down south, apart from a few Speckled Woods and Red Admirals things have just about wound down for the year around my local patch.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 13-Oct-17 08:23 PM GMT

Well done with your Cloudies again, Trevor, particularly the *helice*. With warm, southerly winds blowing this weekend there may be a few more before November casts its evil shroud.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 13-Oct-17 11:12 PM GMT

As I've never seen a *Helice* it's definitely worth a few of these bad boys 🍷 🍷 😊 Good to see the butterflies still out and about in Wiltshire, I've seen a few fluttering over the roads but never when I've been stopped, still maybe this weekend... 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-Oct-17 07:19 PM GMT

Many thanks everyone for your comments, lets hope we can squeeze a little more out of the season.

This morning I left home for High and Over in sunshine, but arrived under cloud, with a southerly breeze. A couple of sparring Wall Browns, seen near the steps, were blown over the hillside by the wind and were not seen again.

After finding nothing else for about 30 mins., a casual glance located a very fresh Clouded Yellow sheltering from the cool breeze, my first one from this site.

It was a morning of quality not quantity.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 14-Oct-17 10:10 PM GMT

That's a lovely pose on the rosehip, Trevor. 😊 There must still be home-grown Cloudies emerging along the south coast - I imagine that given a bit of sunshine and no frost, this will continue to some extent.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 15-Oct-17 06:12 PM GMT

That first shot is a real cracker Trevor, so sharp 📸📸📸 Still no Cloudy for me and today I made the mistake of believing the weather report...not doing that again in a hurry 😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 16-Oct-17 03:42 PM GMT

That's a great shot Trevor, you've had some really good ones lately 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-Oct-17 07:11 PM GMT

Many thanks Dave, Wurzel & Goldie. That Clouded Yellow was easy to photograph, as it was too cold to fly.

Today, however, it was very warm. Even at 10.00 this morning it was 21c. and very breezy. This posed the problem of where to go. I opted for the north side of High and Over, as the strong breeze was coming from the south. In the sheltered spots I found several Speckled Woods and Red Admirals. Also, most unusually for the time of year a female Brimstone was found fluttering around some Ivy, then a male Brimstone flew past me, and a second female was seen from the car on the way home. I imagine the very warm conditions had interrupted their hibernation.

No Wall Browns today.
Trevor.





A very boldly marked Speckly. more like a spring specimen.

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 16-Oct-17 09:02 PM GMT

That sparkling fresh Speckled Wood is a surprise, Trev. As were your Brimstone sightings!

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 17-Oct-17 10:57 PM GMT

I saw a Brimstone on Monday afternoon as well Trevor, there must have been something in the air that day - smoke from Portugal? 😊 That is a lovely marked Specklie especially at this time of year 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 18-Oct-17 09:18 AM GMT

Hi! Trevor, glad your seeing Brimstones has well, mine's not been back after two visits, no wonder with the weather we've just had. Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 20-Oct-17 08:31 AM GMT

Good work Trevor, I especially like the Clouded Yellows, was pleased to see a couple in north Kent this year. I was unaware of the different varieties, think I unknowingly took some pics of a Helice last year. I'll put some up at some point.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 21-Oct-17 01:56 PM GMT

Love the Specklie on the wooden background, Trevor and well done with the Brimstone. They're usually tucked-up for the winter by now.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 27-Oct-17 09:55 PM GMT

Today was the first occasion, courtesy of the weather, that I have been able to go out Butterflying since the 16th of Oct. The chosen location today was Mill Hill, where yesterday, Butterflying buddy Dave Cook found an amazing array of species for the time of year.

Today was not quite so fruitful but we did see about six Clouded Yellows, and quite a few Red Admirals, plus singles of Small Tortoiseshell, Wall, Peacock + two each of Speckled Wood and Comma.

I almost had to pinch myself as a reminder that we were seeing all this the day before the clocks go back !. Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Chris Jackson, 27-Oct-17 10:12 PM GMT

A good haul Trevor, you're doing better than the South of France.
Chris

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 27-Oct-17 10:35 PM GMT

Those Cloudies go on forever down there, Trevor – great to see them. 😊 🇫🇷 🇫🇷

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 27-Oct-17 11:34 PM GMT

A great haul Trevor– especially those Cloudies – and one ever so close to revealing the fore wings 😊 🇫🇷 🇫🇷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 27-Oct-17 11:45 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

I almost had to pinch myself as a reminder that we were seeing all this the day before the clocks go back..

I'm pinching myself as I read this, Trevor. That's a notable array of butterflies for late October and those Cloudies could well continue until after the first frost so keep persevering.

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 28-Oct-17 11:40 AM GMT

Good to know they are still around Trevor.

I've been looking back at your diary posts for this year (it's been a quiet week at work 😊)

And wow what an amazing array of species seen and sights visited!

Loved the pics from France, that Scarce Copper was absolutely stunning.

And your Purple Emperor encounters were amazing!, I've only ever seen some in the air and have no photos.

This must be rectified next year!

Cheers

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 28-Oct-17 05:29 PM GMT

Fantastic to still be seeing so many species Trevor 😊 keep them coming they're making the year seem longer 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-Oct-17 08:31 PM GMT

Many thanks everyone for your enthusiastic response.

After Mill Hill yesterday it was my original intention to call in at Shoreham Harbour on the way home.

As this would at best have been flying visit, I thought a dedicated visit today would be better.

I left home with a temperature of 9c, this had risen to 13c on arrival.

Upon descending the steps from the main road down to water level, three Clouded Yellows were flying together.

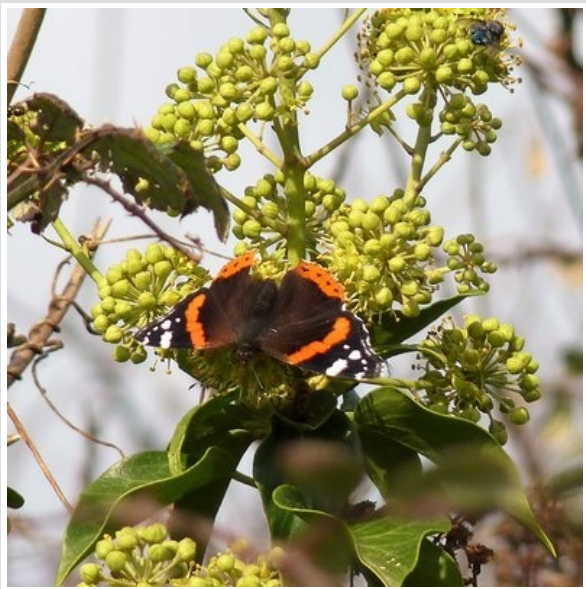
Two of these kept together for many minutes and landed several times a few inches apart. I thought a pairing might take place, but this was not to be.

I was now very optimistic of a great day, three Cloudies on arrival. In the three hours or so of my visit about eight Cloudies were seen, including one fresh specimen.

Despite a thorough search not a single Common Blue was found, indeed the only other species present , with three seen, was the Red Admiral .

Not a bad day for the last day of British Summertime.

Trevor.









Re: Trevor

by millerd, 28-Oct-17 10:16 PM GMT

Splendid stuff, Trevor. Those Clouded Yellows look in pretty good condition, and as long as there's some more sunshine could well be November butterflies. I would hope that their location would have some shelter from the impending chilly blast. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 28-Oct-17 10:29 PM GMT

That's why I haven't seen a Cloudy this year Trevor – you're hogging them over your way 😊👍👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-Oct-17 10:57 PM GMT

Cheers Dave, my last Butterfly of 2016 was a Cloudie, on Nov. 18th.

Wurzel, you'd better head off to Bournemouth before it's too late !.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 29-Oct-17 12:16 AM GMT

It must be wonderful to have these Cloudies to literally brighten the tail end of your season, Trevor?

It's such a delight to see them on other people's PDs, even if they're absent from my patch.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 29-Oct-17 10:34 AM GMT

Lovely Butterflies Trevor, also lovely weather down there, absolutely horrible here yesterday, hope you keep seeing them. Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 30-Oct-17 08:15 PM GMT

Hi Trevor,

It always amazes me at this time of year how long the season extends for down there, much longer than my patch here in the midlands. Good to see you are making the most of it 🍷😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 30-Oct-17 08:36 PM GMT

Many thanks David, Goldie & Neil,

It is amazing to me that the offspring of a warmth loving migrant, the Clouded Yellow, can be found into November, near the coast, here in Sussex.

However there were just three Red Admirals for me today, two at High and Over, and one on the trunk of an Oak at the bottom of my garden. The two at High and Over were seen with a temperature of only 7c, it was draughty up there !.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 01-Nov-17 10:25 AM GMT

I'll try Trevor – but it's persuading the family/girls that a trip to the seaside in November is a good idea 😊😌 Good to see the Red Admirals still hanging about though for how much longer I'm sure...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Nov-17 09:19 PM GMT

The quandary I was in, this morning of promising weather, was where to go on November 1st. I settled for Shoreham Harbour, as other regular sites are now dwindling, and Shoreham has come up with the goods, at this time of year, in the past.

My first Butterfly, a Clouded Yellow, was found after about 20 mins. After several shots, a couple of other hopefuls came over to see the basking Clouded Yellow.

It turned out that I was chatting to our very own Essex Buzzard and his good Lady, who had travelled over from Kent. Good to meet you both, and I know you had a great day.

Later Dave Cook turned up, along with a second Clouded Yellow, and a Small Tortoiseshell.

At least four Red Admirals were seen on some Ivy which was still in blossom.

The big surprise came in the afternoon (after Mark had left for Mill Hill) in the form of a male Holly Blue, the first one I've seen at this site.

A Comma was seen but was too quick for my camera. We also found a Silver Y Moth, and saw a flyby 'White'

Trevor.



A view from Shoreham Harbour, looking towards Brighton.







Re: Trevor

by millerd, 01-Nov-17 09:57 PM GMT

That's great set of species from down on the south coast, Trevor. Long may the Clouded Yellows continue! Good to see that there are still Holly Blues to be found in spots away from round my back yard as well. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 01-Nov-17 10:10 PM GMT

The Holly Blue was a great find, something to look out for in the future there!

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 01-Nov-17 10:58 PM GMT

Hmmm, looks like the place was chock full of sleeping butterflies yesterday 🦋. I think you should start up a transect on that little stretch of greenery Trevor, it would certainly be one of the easiest transects to do, one 10 minute straight line!

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 02-Nov-17 12:32 AM GMT

A fantastic November haul Trevor 😊🦋 And with that Holly Blue it could almost have been a 'Millerd posting 😊'

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 02-Nov-17 01:28 AM GMT

Holly Blues and Clouded Yellows in November! This year is seemingly intent on saving the best till last!

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 02-Nov-17 12:13 PM GMT

You're still delivering Trevor 😊
Great stuff.

Cheers

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-Nov-17 09:34 PM GMT

Many thanks for all your comments folks.

More November Butterflies.

Early this afternoon I popped up to High and Over. Very near the car park I found a basking Red Admiral, which was sent up several times by a lively Speckled Wood, but always returned to the same favoured basking spot.

A full 30 mins. later I discovered the freshest, and very large Painted Lady seeking the few

nectar sources on offer. This was one of the largest Butterflies I have ever seen !.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 03-Nov-17 12:33 AM GMT

That Painted Lady is a great find – do you think she emerged in the sunshine of the last couple of days? It must have been sheltered – they are very susceptible to cold. Time to head south... 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-Nov-17 08:32 AM GMT

Hi Dave,
I think there is every chance of that Painted Lady being a November Butterfly.
If you click on the image to enlarge it, you will see that the wing fringe hair is virtually intact.
Hopefully if it is warm enough today, it will head south.

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 03-Nov-17 09:17 AM GMT

We did indeed have a great November day, Trevor! Nice to meet you, and thanks for showing us the first Clouded Yellow. And wow, a Holly Blue? That earns you a 🍀

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Nov-17 02:17 PM GMT

After a heavy overnight frost, the morning dawned bright and clear.
The Moon at 08,15 was particularly clear, here in Wiltshire.
The grounds of the Bell Inn provided the first of six Red Admirals, as the sun gained strength.
This one was found, taking a great interest in a patch of Stinging nettles.
I then went up to the Church yard, where two more Red Admirals used some grave stones for basking, these being in direct sunshine.
The other three Red Admirals spotted were in flight and non stop.

Trevor.





A reminder of the time of year fast approaching.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 06-Nov-17 06:52 PM GMT

I think Red Admirals must be immune to frost, Trevor. They go on forever. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 06-Nov-17 08:17 PM GMT

Funnily enough, I think butterflies are immune to frost. Think of those species which fly in April and early May – Orange Tip for example–when temperatures often drop below freezing.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 08-Nov-17 07:22 PM GMT

Some great stuff recently Trevor – it's been hard to keep up (as work is a little bit hectic) which is something I wouldn't have expected in November 😊
🇬🇧 Good to see the Church still providing the goods.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 09-Nov-17 05:33 PM GMT

I'd love to know where these Red Admirals spend the night. What kind of tolerance do they have for low overnight temperatures?

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Nov-17 08:05 PM GMT

The weather forecast for today mentioned sunshine and a possible 14c. Not a day to stay at home !. With few sites still performing, my choice was somewhat confined, so I chose Shoreham harbour and Mill Hill.

At Shoreham it was sunny with some threatening cloud, and quite breezy. In all five Red Admirals were found, all showing wear. One unexpected sighting was of a Humming Bird Hawk Moth flitting between some Honeysuckle flowers.

In a two hour visit no Clouded Yellows were seen, it looks as though they have finished at Shoreham.

On to Mill Hill, where I met Dave Cook. Here it really was breezy, with not a lot about, except for a real surprise, my first ever November Meadow Brown, and not in bad condition.

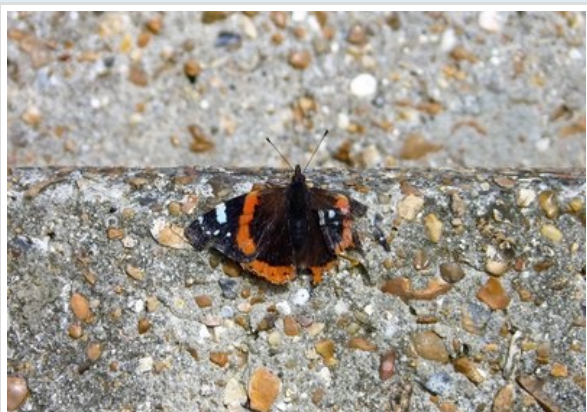
Trevor.



A view of the harbour looking west, the huge chimney is a dominant landmark, and can be seen for miles around.



This Egret made a fine sight.





Re: Trevor

by Allan.W., 10-Nov-17 08:40 PM GMT

Blimey Trevor !! A November Meadow Brown ,and fresh at thatAmazing, great find .
Regards Allan.W.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 10-Nov-17 08:55 PM GMT

That Meadow Brown is an extraordinary find, Trevor. 😊

It looks fresh enough to have emerged this month, and I really cannot see how this can still be part of the same single generation that started back in May. Surely this has to be a second brood – otherwise this individual was a caterpillar throughout last winter, pupating at some point between spring and just a few weeks ago, therefore spending pretty well a whole year over these two stages of its life. Maybe that is what has happened, but it does seem unlikely.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 10-Nov-17 08:59 PM GMT

Impressive Meadow Brown sighting 🍷 . I wonder how many of those Red Admirals I saw the other day, almost certainly the same gang!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Nov-17 10:37 PM GMT

I said that the Meadow Brown was a surprise, it was actually more of a shock.
Almost certainly a one off oddity. Last year at this time it was fresh male Common Blues.
The natural world never fails to surprise.

Re: Trevor

by John W, 11-Nov-17 12:39 AM GMT

trevor wrote:

On to Mill Hill, where I met Dave Cook. Here it really was breezy, with not a lot about, except for a real surprise, my first ever November Meadow Brown, and not in bad condition.

I have seen a nice fresh one in late October before (23/10/2011) but never as late as November!



Cheers
John

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 11-Nov-17 09:48 PM GMT

Wow, a fresh Meadow Brown in November is staggering! It certainly trumps my October sighting!

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 12-Nov-17 05:45 PM GMT

That is a very notable find Trevor 😊👍👍 It looks so fresh as well it must have just emerged, you're spot on about the natural world.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-Nov-17 02:57 PM GMT

THE FAT LADY SINGS.

That Meadow Brown was hardly a typical end of season Butterfly (I am pleased it brought some enjoyment). Indeed it could possibly have been my last Butterfly of the year. The weather and shorter days are making Butterfly trips less and less worthwhile. If we do get a few mild, sunny days in the next week or two, then I may make a local trip out.

For me at least 2017 has turned out to be a great year, everything I set out to see was seen.

Remarkably, I had four ' firsts ' this year, two new species and two of the ' other sex ' which have eluded me over the years.

In date order are my four ' firsts .

15/6 Large Blue , Collard Hill. (New species).

26/6 Purple Hairstreak (female) East Blean woods, Kent (First decent photo opp).

1/7 Female Purple Emperor. Chiddingfold forest, (First grounded female).

21/7 Male Brown Hairstreak. Knepp estate (First male Brown Hairstreak).

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 13-Nov-17 11:02 PM GMT

Some mouthwatering shots there Trevor- 2017 was certainly kind to you 🍷🍷 Here's hoping 2018 is just as fruitful 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 13-Nov-17 11:31 PM GMT

That Purple Hairstreak is to die for, Trevor. What a superb moment that must have been for you.

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 14-Nov-17 09:11 AM GMT

Magical stuff Trevor 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷😊

Cheers

Re: Trevor

by David M, 14-Nov-17 06:04 PM GMT

Andrew555 wrote:

Magical stuff Trevor

Isn't it just, Andrew? Probably my favourite image of the year!

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 14-Nov-17 07:01 PM GMT

I would walk over hot coals to get a Purple Hairstreak picture like that! 🍷🍷 and 🍷

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 14-Nov-17 09:00 PM GMT

The Purple Hairstreak inspires the most 🍷 in me too, Trevor. I disturbed no less than three grounded PH this year without seeing them first... 😞 - but that's a great shot. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-Nov-17 11:38 PM GMT

Many thanks everyone, I am glad the Purple Hairstreak has brought some enjoyment, and many mrgreens. This was one of the stranger occurrences of 2017. That day we found several PH low down, and a few days later I found a few more in Abbots wood, close to home. At the time I thought I had something exclusive in the bag, but within a week or so many people were publishing images of PH low down, something rarely seen. I briefly met Matthew Oates at Knepp, and I asked him why so many PH were being reported low down as opposed to their more usual haunts high up in an Oak. His answer was quite simple. The dry weather meant that there was very little honeydew on the Oak leaves, and this had forced feeding PH to seek sustenance elsewhere.

Trevor.

PS. Dave, you will have to tread more carefully next year! 😊.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 15-Nov-17 09:13 AM GMT

Hi! Trevor, fantastic shots you've got there 🍷🍷😊 I was in East Blean Woods myself this year and also saw the Purple Hair Streak but my shots were all closed wings 😞 I've been there for a few years now and it was the very first time I've seen them in the woods there, so it was a lucky year for me as well in that respect. Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-Nov-17 11:23 AM GMT

I have found three more images of that female Purple Hairstreak.

The first one is the only closed wing shot from that day. After taking it I moved to one side to allow Doug to get some shots, While waiting for him to finish she opened up !. I could hardly believe my eyes, a displaying, pristine PH only two ft. away.

The other two shots, taken at a slight angle, perhaps show the purple sheen better than the square on image.

I shall be looking down rather than up for them next season !. 😊

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 15-Nov-17 12:11 PM GMT

Fantastic shots Trevor – that second one in particular is dazzling 🤩👍👍👍👍👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 15-Nov-17 04:32 PM GMT

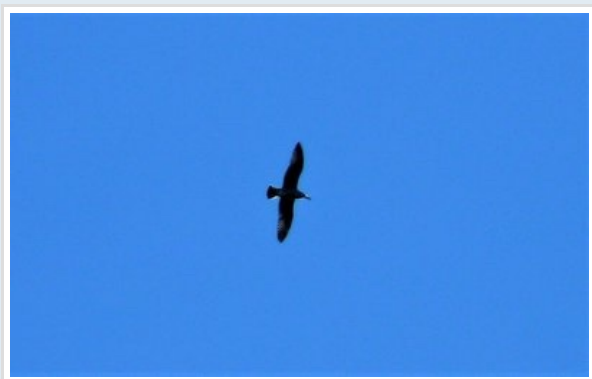
Again, lovely shots Trevor, bringing back Great memories of Summer 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-Nov-17 02:23 PM GMT

I am wondering if someone can identify these Birds for me.
They were circling high up rather in the manner of Buzzards, about five of them.
It occurred to me that they could be Gulls, but their behaviour was such that I had to in and grab the camera.

Thanks in advance,
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Allan.W., 17-Nov-17 03:59 PM GMT

Hello Trevor ,
Look like Herring Gulls to me ,watched several acting similarly to yours this lunch time ,they all got rather agitated (and vocal !) when a Buzzard flew through. Regards Allan.W.

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 17-Nov-17 08:04 PM GMT

Beautiful photos of the Purple Hairstreak Trevor 😊

Although I saw a few high up around the tree tops as usual this year, there did not see to be so many sightings low down around my part of the midlands.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 19-Nov-17 08:33 AM GMT

I'd go for Herring Gull over the other species of large gull (Great or Less Black-backed or Common – which is actually anything but). The second shot shows the immature one which is a dirty grey colour. Distant and high birds are tricky but buzzards have a more 'chubby' silhouette and are less pointed if that makes sense? 😊 Hope this helped 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

ps. are you coming to the Social next weekend?

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-Nov-17 07:00 PM GMT

In common with Neil Freeman's area of the UK, we in East Sussex had a spectacular sunrise this morning. The full glory only lasted for a couple of minutes, I was lucky to witness it. Unfortunately there was no clear view from my garden, so enjoy the trees as well ! 😊



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Nov-17 07:12 PM GMT

Today, Doug Neve and myself assisted Neil Hulme with clearance work in Rowland wood. Before starting Neil kindly took the time to show us the work performed by the heavy machinery operating on the site. New rides are being created and others widened and cleared of scrub. This work will link up formerly isolated areas of the wood, hopefully for the benefit of the Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary, allowing them to spread into new areas.

It should be noted that for the time being Rowland wood is CLOSED TO CASUAL VISITORS.

Also the almost perfect weather today brought out three Red Admirals and three Brimstones of both sexes. I managed a bad shot of a male and a passable shot of a female Brimstone. Also these Butterflies have broken my personal record for a last of season Butterfly by four days.

Trevor.



A November 22nd female Brimstone.



Evasive male Brimstone.



One of the newly created rides.



surveying the scene



A chainsaw wielding Neil Hulme.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 22-Nov-17 08:36 PM GMT

Very late Brimstones, Trevor. 🍷 You were lucky with the sunshine – barely a second of it here today. Keep up the good work in the woods! 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Nov-17 09:07 PM GMT

That's amazing Dave, we had a clear blue sky all day and it was very mild, though breezy. I think it was the warmth that woke the Brimstones up !.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 24-Nov-17 08:01 PM GMT

Great work there Trevor 😊 I reckon the Brimstone was Nature's way of rewarding your sterling efforts 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 24-Nov-17 10:52 PM GMT

Good on you, Trevor. It's always good to give a bit back after the months of enjoyment the butterflies give us.

That Brimstone was merely a reminder that there are more rewards on the way in 2018!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-Nov-17 10:40 PM GMT

Today I helped out at Rowland wood again. This time Neil Hulme had a small army of volunteers to assist (over twenty people). Much tidying and burning was achieved with three bonfires on the go. A huge mulching machine was in action, this being one of the last tasks for the contractors on the site.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by David M, 30-Nov-17 06:18 PM GMT

Nothing like a good bonfire on a cold, crisp winter's day, Trevor. Well done again for helping out. I'm sure your labours will bear fruit next year.

Re: Trevor

by Paul Harfield, 01-Dec-17 12:49 PM GMT

Hi Trevor

Well done on those late Brimstones. Maybe they had come out to thank you for all that work you are putting in 😊 . Keep up the good work.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-Dec-17 07:37 PM GMT

Among the images obtained in the French Pyrenees, was my best, to date, image of a Dark Green Fritillary underside. This one was taking minerals from damp, ground up rock.

A few days earlier I managed a closed wing shot of first ever Niobe Fritillary. This was found very near to the Scarce Coppers I posted some while back.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 17-Dec-17 06:47 PM GMT

Great Niobe Trevor 🍷🇨🇪 Try as I might I never managed to turn any of my High Browns from Czech Republic into a Niobe 😊😂

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 17-Dec-17 09:38 PM GMT

Aah, the joys of butterflying on the continent!

Species are so commonplace that one only needs to spend a little time in the field to obtain images that would be practically impossible in the UK.

Fill your boots, Trevor. For a Brit, a little time spent near the Med is cathartic!

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 18-Dec-17 08:05 AM GMT

Great shots Trevor, always interesting to see what's about in other countries. 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-Dec-17 11:48 AM GMT

Wishing everyone on UKB a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a year full of Butterflies in 2018.

The shortest day today, so at least the hours of daylight improve from now on 😊😂.

Best wishes to all,

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by John W, 21-Dec-17 08:09 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

Wishing everyone on UKB a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a year full of Butterflies in 2018.

Merry Christmas to you too Trevor 😊 Look forward to seeing you at some point...

Cheers
John W

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 21-Dec-17 08:44 PM GMT

Happy Solstice Trevor 😊 It only going to get better from now on 😊

Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a cracking New Year! 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 27-Dec-17 06:38 PM GMT

Today I saw a festive, end of year Small Tortoiseshell !.
It was on a bedroom carpet at the Bell Inn. I first thought it was dead,
but as I picked it up it fluttered back to the carpet. My Daughter said she
often finds one or two Butterflies upstairs in the pub. Being an old building (1740)
I imagine there are plenty of nooks and crannies for hibernating Butterflies.

Happy New Year to all on UKB, 😊
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 30-Dec-17 03:27 PM GMT

Sounds like there could be a few more hanging around - worth a check - you could always note where they are and then at 1 minute past midnight log them on UKB - first butterflies of 2018 😊😊

Have a very Happy and butterfly filled New Year!

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 31-Dec-17 09:48 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

Today I saw a festive, end of year Small Tortoiseshell !.
It was on a bedroom carpet at the Bell Inn. I first thought it was dead,
but as I picked it up it fluttered back to the carpet.

I'm sure there are many thousands seen in just such a situation, Trevor. Butterflies must find houses and outbuildings irresistible from late autumn onwards.

Wishing you all the best for 2018.