

## Bugboys mission

by bugboy, 01-Dec-14 08:47 PM GMT

Hello all fellow butterfly lovers. This is my first post here, only signed up today.

So what's my mission you must all be clammering to find out! Well this summer after getting back into macro photography I decided to set myself a challenge: to photograph every UK species in the next 5 years. I already had 24 of the list ticked of, the usual suspects found in London where I live (plus the Large Blue through a handy contact a few years ago). A few trips to Box Hill in Surry gave me a few more, my very first Silver Spotted Skipper and also Adonis and Chalkhill Blues, Silver Washed and Dark Green Fritillaries and a trip to Chobham Common got me the Grayling and some very old looking Silver Studded Blues. I shall be returning to these sights in the spring to catch some of the early fliegers that apparently occur there.

But the real mission comes when I'm after the really local species, having lived in London my whole life I don't drive so getting to some of these sites could prove to be quite a mission.

So what is my aim for 2015? Well Heath Fritillary in South Essex, White Admiral, Purple Emperor, Dingy & Grizzled Skippers in Box Hill and hopefully a trip to the limestone wilds north of Morcambe.

When I work out how to put photo's up I shall start adding a few.

Hopefully someone will find this diary of interest although entries may well be few and far between until the spring arrives.

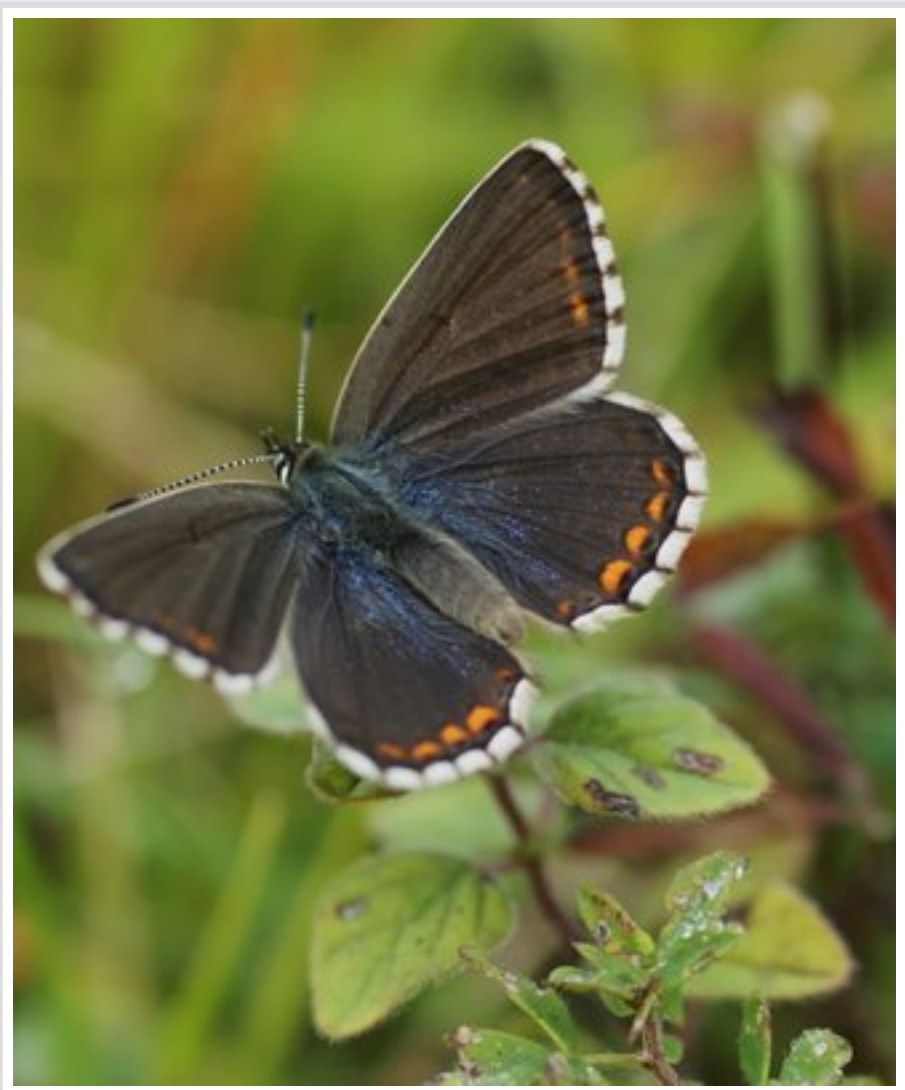
## Re: Bugboys mission

by bugboy, 02-Dec-14 04:14 PM GMT

A few pics from Box hill in August this year.



*Freshly emerged male who was very eager to drink from my sweaty finger!*





### Re: Bugboys mission

by MikeOxon, 02-Dec-14 06:05 PM GMT

#### "bugboy" wrote:

I decided to set myself a challenge: to photograph every UK species in the next 5 years.

A good mission 😊 My son set it for me when he was about 13 years old though, fortunately he didn't set a time limit. We completed it in in 2007, during a trip to Scotland for the Chequered Skipper. By then he was old enough to share a bottle of Champagne.

Mike

### Re: Bugboys mission

by Neil Freeman, 02-Dec-14 08:04 PM GMT

Good luck with the mission, I look forward to seeing your further photos.

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Bugboys mission

by bugboy, 03-Dec-14 07:59 PM GMT

Thanks for the welcomes 😊

Well since this is a diary of sorts I guess it's a bit silly not to make regular entries in the quiet season so I shall fill the empty winter days up with pics from species I have photographed over the past 10 or 15 years, 1 species per entry in no particular order. Today the lovely little Small Copper:





*Hampstead Heath, 22/7/07*



*Walthamstow marshes, 21/9/14*



*Hampstead Heath, 22/7/07*

## **Re: Bugboys mission**

by Wurzel, 03-Dec-14 11:35 PM GMT

Welcome Bugboy – some great stuff so far – looking forward to some more 😊 Good luck with your mission, if you need a hand with Marshies or Lulworths then give me a PM.

Have a goodun



## Re: Bugboys mission

by bugboy, 04-Dec-14 05:33 PM GMT

Today feels like a Red Admiral day!

For those that are interested in such things I used a Canon EOS 400D with a sigma 50mm macro up until this summer when I upgraded to a 700D.



*Hampstead Heath, 22/7/07*



*Dollis Valley, Finchley, North London, 8/7/07*



*Box Hill, 13/8/14 (taken with my phone!)*





*Box Hill, 13/8/14*

**Re: Bugboys mission**

by bugboy, 05-Dec-14 07:32 PM GMT

Some Large Skippers today! 😊



*Hampstead Heath 29/6/07*

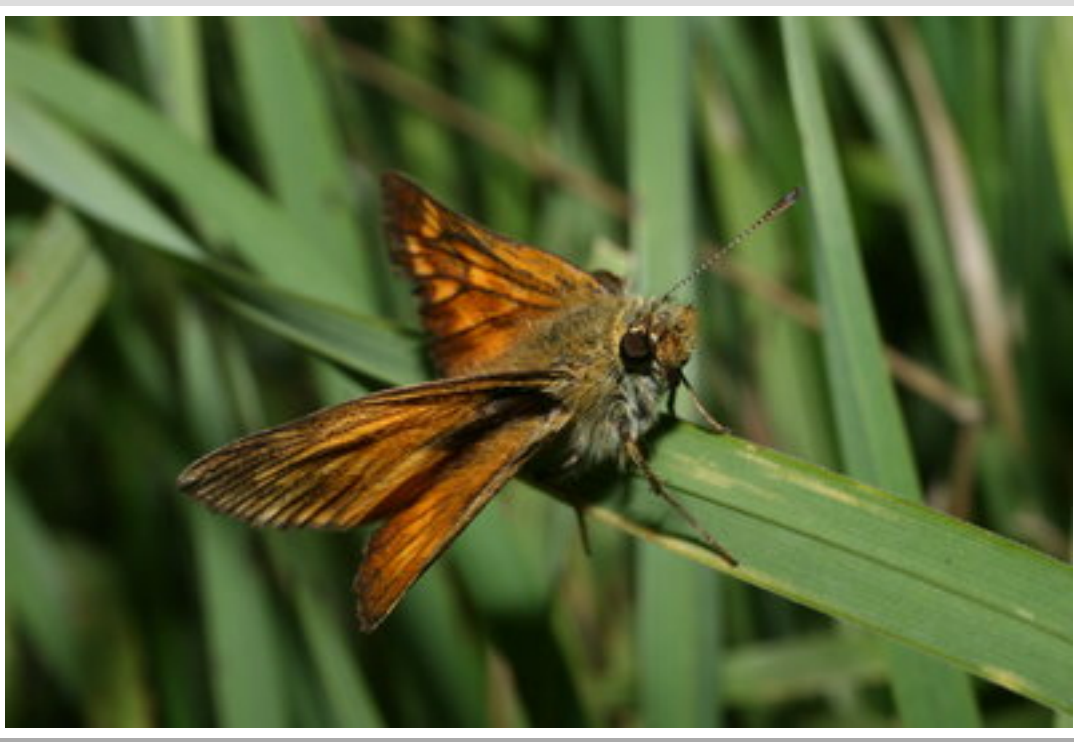


*Dollis Valley, Finchley, 5/6/07*



*Hampstead Heath, 13/7/08*





*Hampstead Heath, 22/7/07*

## **Re: Bugboys mission**

by bugboy, 06-Dec-14 11:50 PM GMT

Since the sun was out today I thought I'd get a breath of fresh air and have a wander in my local patch. Been fighting a recurring bought of tonsilitis recently so not been out as much as I'd like. Mainly out for a bit of casual twitching but took a few pics of the area of the Brown hairstreak sighting which I'll post in that thread for those that are interested to peruse and maybe cast an expert eye over.

Decided to put some moths up today, a couple of Longhorn micro moths:



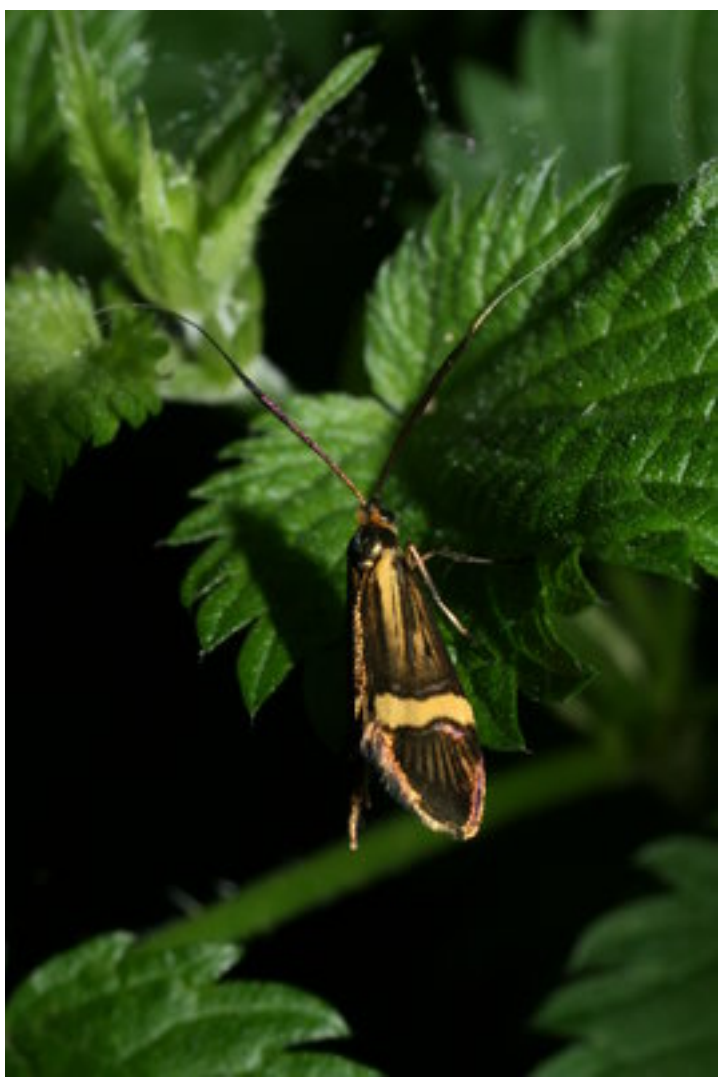
*Adela reaumurella, Dollis valley, Finchley, 28/4/07*



*Female Nemophora degeerella, Dollis Valley, Finchley, 5/6/07*



*Adela reaumurella*, Dollis valley, Finchley, 15/4/07



*Female Nemophora degeerella*, Dollis Valley, Finchley, 5/6/07

### **Re: Bugboys mission**

by bugboy, 09-Dec-14 08:01 PM GMT

Green Veined white Tuesday:



*Dollis Valley, Finchley, London, 16/7/07*





*Wormley Wood, Herts. 18/7/14*



*Tottenham Marshes, London, 21/7/14*

## **Re: Bugboys mission**

by bugboy, 10-Dec-14 11:22 PM GMT

Hadn't noticed before but going through my pictures for this it seems I took loads in 2007 and this year and very little inbetween. I guess I was excited about my new Digital technology, have hundreds of slides going back into the mid 90's but need to find a good service to digitize them. Anyway, tonight it's the turn of the Peacock:



*Wormley Wood, Herts. 18/7/14*





*Hatch Forest (Epping Forest), 26/7/14*



*April 2002, scan of a slide.*



*ovipositing, Hampstead Heath, 7/5/08*

### **Re: Bugboys mission**

by bugboy, 11-Dec-14 10:01 PM GMT

The Common Blue:





*Walthamstow Marshes, 27/7/14*



*Walthamstow Marshes, 21/9/14*



*Walthamstow Marshes, 21/9/14*





Walthamstow Marshes, 19/7/10



Dollis Valley walk, Finchley, 10/6/07

### Re: Bugboys mission

by Maximus, 11-Dec-14 11:37 PM GMT

Some great shots Bugboy, especially considering that some of them are taken just off the A406 😊

### Re: Bugboys mission

by bugboy, 12-Dec-14 12:03 AM GMT

#### "Maximus" wrote:

Some great shots Bugboy, especially considering that some of them are taken just off the A406 😊

Haha, closer to the A104 😊

### Re: Bugboys mission

by bugboy, 12-Dec-14 09:06 PM GMT

A couple of shots of the Purple Hairstreak tonight. Not the best conditioned individual but I do love the headon shot 😊





*Hampstead Heath 1/8/07*



*Hampstead Heath 1/8/07*



*Hampstead Heath 1/8/07*

**Re: Bugboys mission**

by Wurzel, 12-Dec-14 09:12 PM GMT

Cracking first Purple Hairstreak shot – I didn't have any luck with them this year 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Bugboys mission**

by David M, 12-Dec-14 09:50 PM GMT

We'll forgive you for the scruffiness of the individual – any open wing Purple Hairstreak shot is noteworthy. Well done.



**Re: Bugboys mission**

by bugboy, 12-Dec-14 10:31 PM GMT

Thanks guys. In all my time this is the only individual that has ever posed for me. All my other sightings are little silver dots flitting around the tops of oak trees!

**Re: Bugboys mission**

by Wurzel, 14-Dec-14 10:15 PM GMT

Just a quicky to say I'm not ignoring your PM - I'll try and get back to you this side of Xmas I'm just trying to get work done before the festivities 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Bugboys mission**

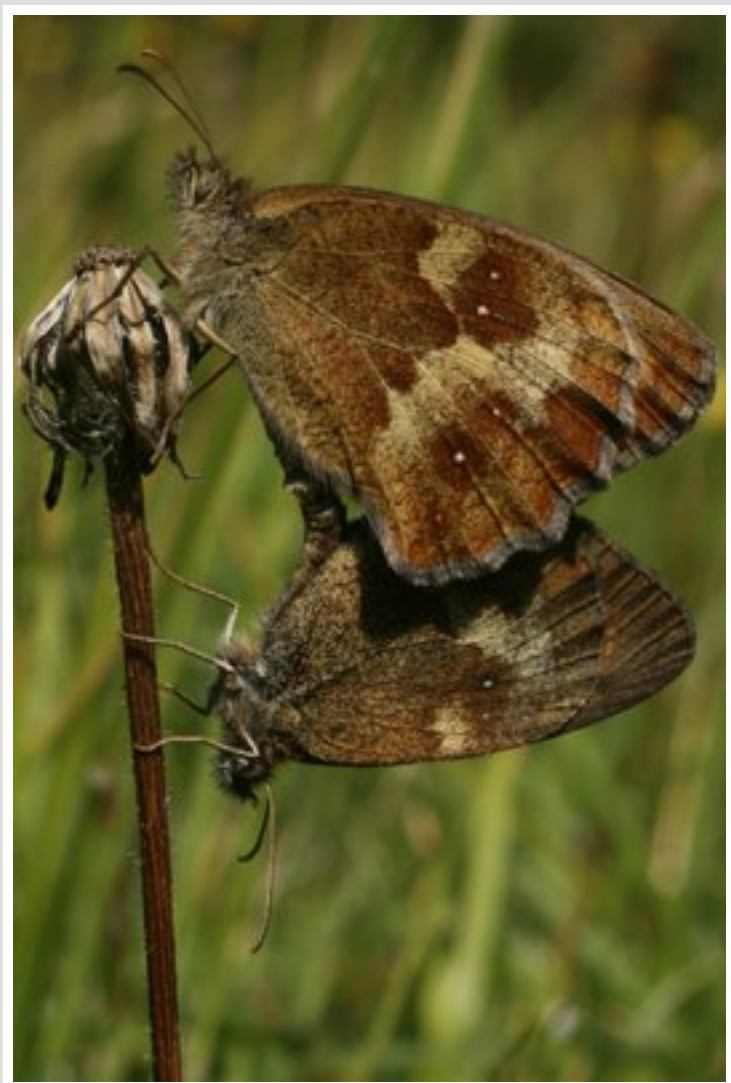
by bugboy, 14-Dec-14 10:37 PM GMT

No worries Wurzel, plenty of time 😊

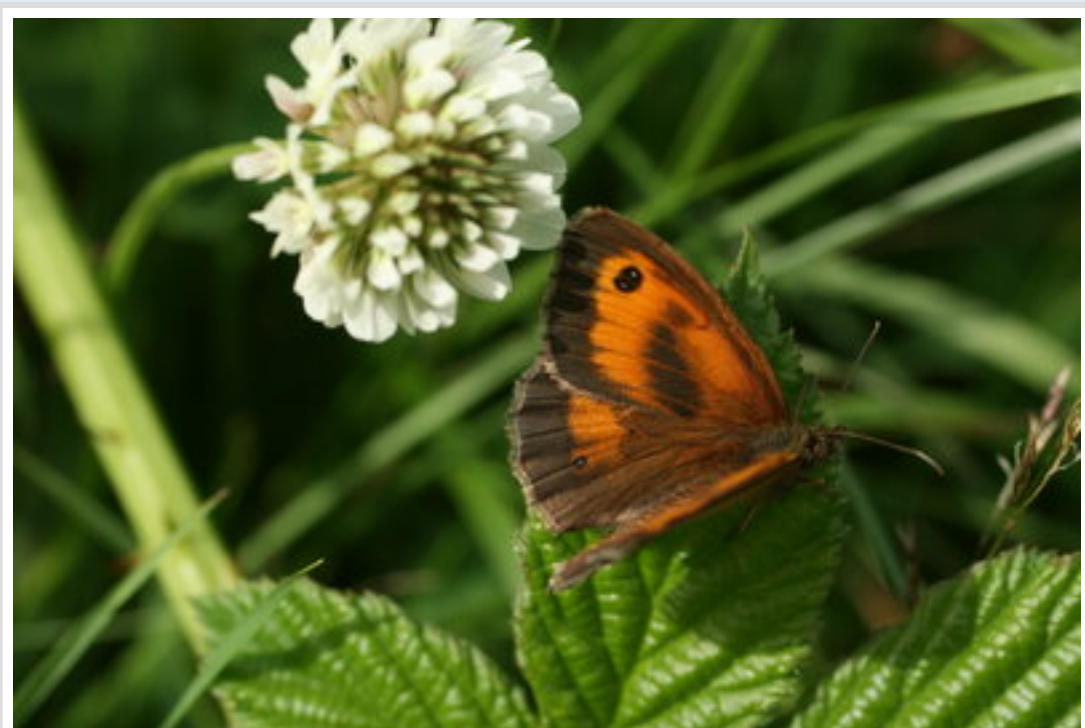
**Re: Bugboys mission**

by bugboy, 16-Dec-14 05:10 PM GMT

The Keepers of the Gate!



*Box Hill, 22/7/14*



*Dollis Valley walk, 16/7/07*





*Dollis Valley walk, 16/7/07*



*Walthamstow Marshes, 20/7/14*



*Barnes Wetland Center, 21/7/10*

### **Re: Bugboys mission**

by Chris Jackson, 16-Dec-14 06:42 PM GMT

Hello Bugboy,  
Following your thread with interest. Not much happening down my way at the moment in Marseilles. Keep the photos coming.  
Chris



## Re: Bugboys mission

by bugboy, 16-Dec-14 06:56 PM GMT

Glad I'm keeping people entertained in these dark months 😊

## Re: Bugboys mission

by David M, 16-Dec-14 10:32 PM GMT

"bugboy" wrote:

Glad I'm keeping people entertained in these dark months 😊

You sure are. Makes winter easier to bear by being reminded of what's in store in 2015!

## Re: Bugboys mission

by bugboy, 17-Dec-14 09:10 PM GMT

Tonights star of my Diary is the little golden gem we call the Small Skipper:



*Dollis Valley walk, 28/6/07*



*Slide scan, early '00s*





*Dollis Valley walk, 28/6/07*



*Dollis Valley walk, 28/6/07*



*Walthamstow Marshes, 24/6/11*



*Dollis Valley walk, 16/7/07*



## Re: Bugboys mission

by kevlng, 18-Dec-14 12:46 PM GMT

Hi Bugboy,

Enjoying your diary so far. Nice shots of the Purple Hairstreak. Having only ever seen a couple at distant before, I was walking in the Yorkshire Moors in August when I noticed one fly onto the path in front of me. It promptly took off and came to rest on my young daughters hand (pics in my PD). Got to be a once in a lifetime encounter I'm sure.

Good luck with your mission. On the Heath Fritillary front, I have found the best place to be Starvelarks Wood near Southend, with c100 seen in 2012. I returned in 2014 but I think I was a week or two late, as only a handful were seen.

Kind Regards

Kev

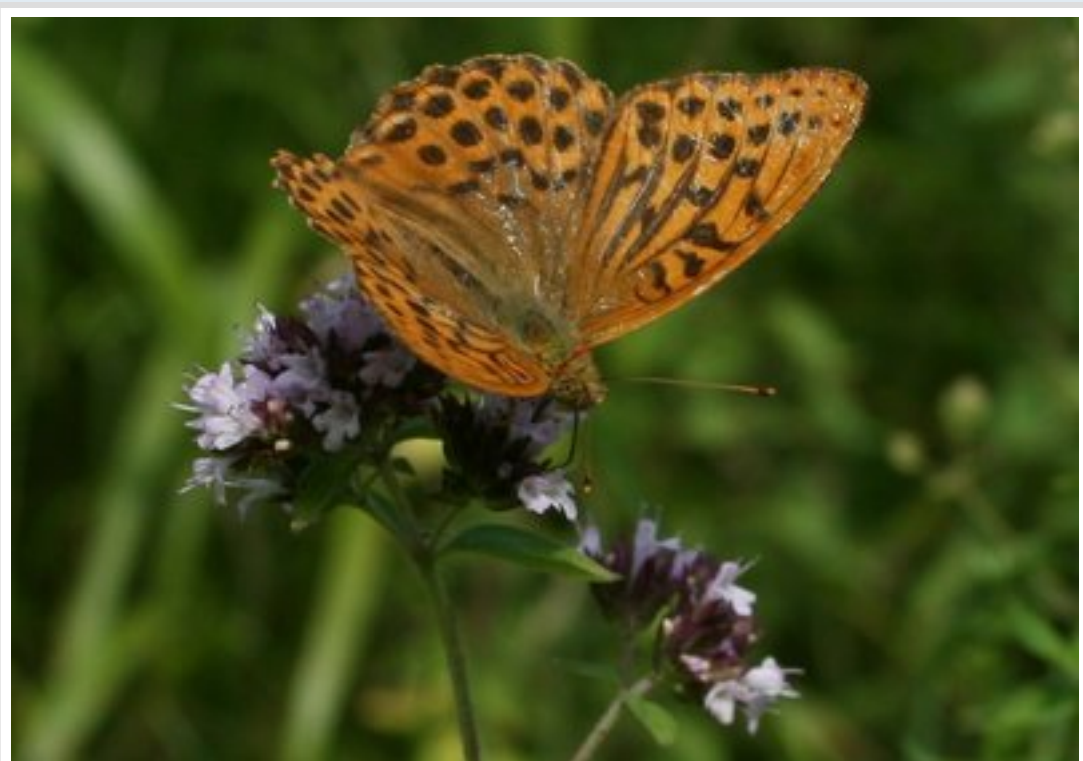
## Re: Bugboys mission

by bugboy, 20-Dec-14 07:30 PM GMT

This year I got my first pictures of Silver Washed Fritillaries, on Box Hill. It was the middle of the season so they are looking a little worse for wear but I did enjoy watching the small group of males soaring around the sunny glade over a large clump of hemp agrimony for an hour or so. Went back a month later and got a rather battered female in the same place. Return trips in late June 2015 are already in the diary!



*Box Hill, 22/7/14*



*Box Hill, 22/7/14*





*Box Hill, 22/7/14*



*Box Hill, 20/8/14*



*Box Hill, 20/8/14*

### **Re: Bugboys mission**

by bugboy, 22-Dec-14 06:58 PM GMT

Well now we've past the halfway point in winter here's one of the early springtime risers we will see in a couple of months hopefully.





*Box Hill, 20/8/14*



*Hampstead Heath, 5/6/13*



*Hampstead Heath, 5/6/13*



*Hampstead Heath, 5/6/13*

**Re: Bugboys mission**

by Wurzel, 22-Dec-14 10:35 PM GMT

Really enjoying your catch up on the year Bugboy, keep em coming! 😊



Have a goodun (Christmas and New Year that is 😊)

Wurzel

## Re: Bugboys mission

by bugboy, 24-Dec-14 08:46 PM GMT

Today's star is the one that got me hooked on butterflies when I caught one as a kid (6 or 7) in the back garden. My parents bought me the Observers guide and I successfully identified the Small Tortoiseshell that was stuck in a jam jar in front of me, and so began an obsession:



*Hillingdon, 8/95, slide scan*

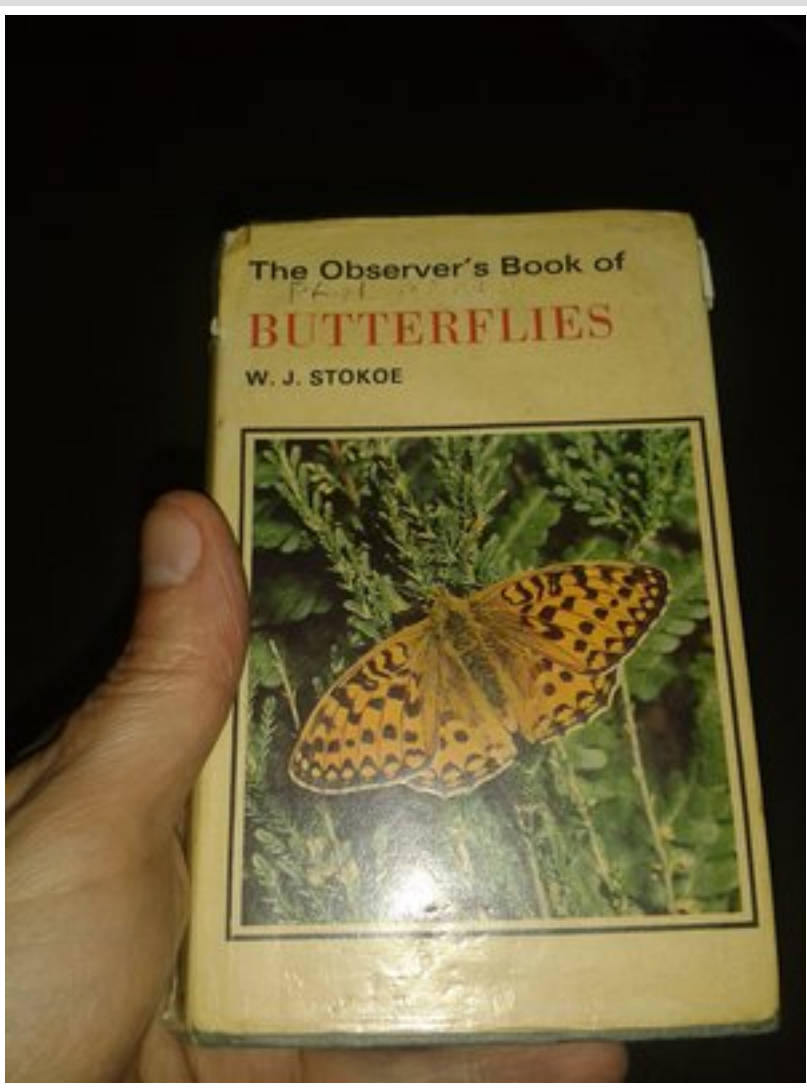


*Dollis valley walk, 5/04, slide scan.*



*Epping Forest, 12/8/14*





'69 edition, '77 reprint, the book that sparked the obsession!

### Re: Bugboys mission

by bugboy, 24-Dec-14 08:48 PM GMT

Also, seasons greetings to you all! 😊

### Re: Bugboys mission

by bugboy, 27-Dec-14 08:53 PM GMT

Today I met up with some fellow butterflyers for a Brown Hairstreak egg hunt, it was ultimately unsuccessful but it was good to meet some fellow peeps. The site is apparently ideal for Brown Hairstreaks so there may still be a colony present 😊

This is the thread which lead up to the egg hunt if you haven't already seen it: [viewtopic.php?f=43&t=8079](http://viewtopic.php?f=43&t=8079)

Anyway tonight we have some pics of the Small Heath:



Dollis Valley walk, 10/6/07



Box Hill, 20/8/14





Chobham Common, 30/7/14



Chobham Common, 30/7/14 (same individual with flash)

## Re: Bugboys mission

by bugboy, 28-Dec-14 09:38 PM GMT

Today I went for an afternoon stroll around a place called Abney Park, an old cemetery which is now maintained as a nature reserve. Despite it being only a 40 minute walk from where I have lived for the past 5 years I only happened across it this summer. It's a very beautiful and surprisingly tranquil place considering it's only a few miles from central London, jam packed with old grave stones and a maze of paths. The main reason for today's visit was to locate some Elm trees as there is apparently a healthy colony of White Letter Hairstreaks here. I found several clumps of large suckers, 25 or 30 feet tall so should be large enough to support the colony. Also had a quick look for eggs but like yesterday's Brown Hairstreak egg hunt I was unsuccessful. This will be a new regular patch next year and hopefully I can tick WL Hairstreak off on my list, speaking of which here is my list! (I'm a bloke and we like to make lists!)

	A	B	C
1	Chequered Skipper	Small Copper*	High Brown Fritillary
2	Small Skipper*	Long-tailed Blue	Dark Green Fritillary*
3	Essex Skipper*	Short-tailed Blue	Silver Washed Fritillary*
4	Lulworth Skipper	Small Blue	Marsh fritillary
5	Silver Spotted Skipper*	Silver-studded Blue*	Glanville Fritillary
6	Large Skipper*	Brown Argus*	Heath fritillary
7	Dingy Skipper	Northern Brown Argus	Speckled Wood*
8	Grizzled Skipper	Common Blue*	Wall
9	Swallowtail ( <i>britannicus</i> )	Chalkhill Blue*	Mountain Ringlet
10	Swallowtail ( <i>garganus</i> )	Adonis Blue*	Scotch Argus
11	Wood White	Holly Blue*	Marbled White*
12	Cryptic Wood White	Large Blue*	Grayling*
13	Black-veined White	Duke of Burgundy	Gatekeeper*
14	Clouded Yellow*	White Admiral	Meadow Brown*
15	Pale Clouded yellow	Purple Emperor	Ringlet*
16	Berger's Clouded yellow	Red Admiral*	Small Heath*
17	Brimstone*	Painted Lady*	Large Heath
18	Large White*	Small Tortoiseshell*	Monarch
19	Small White*	Large Tortoiseshell	37 out of 70 seen
20	Green-veined White*	Yellow Legged Tortoiseshell	*33 out of 70 photographed
21	Orange-tip*	Camberwell Beauty	
22	Green Hairstreak	Peacock*	
23	Brown Hairstreak	Comma*	
24	Purple hairstreak*	Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	
25	White-letter Hairstreak	Pearl Bordered Fritillary	
26	Black Hairstreak	Queen Of Spain Fritillary	
27			

If anyone's interested here's the website <http://www.abneypark.org/> and now for some butterfly pictures, Comma's.

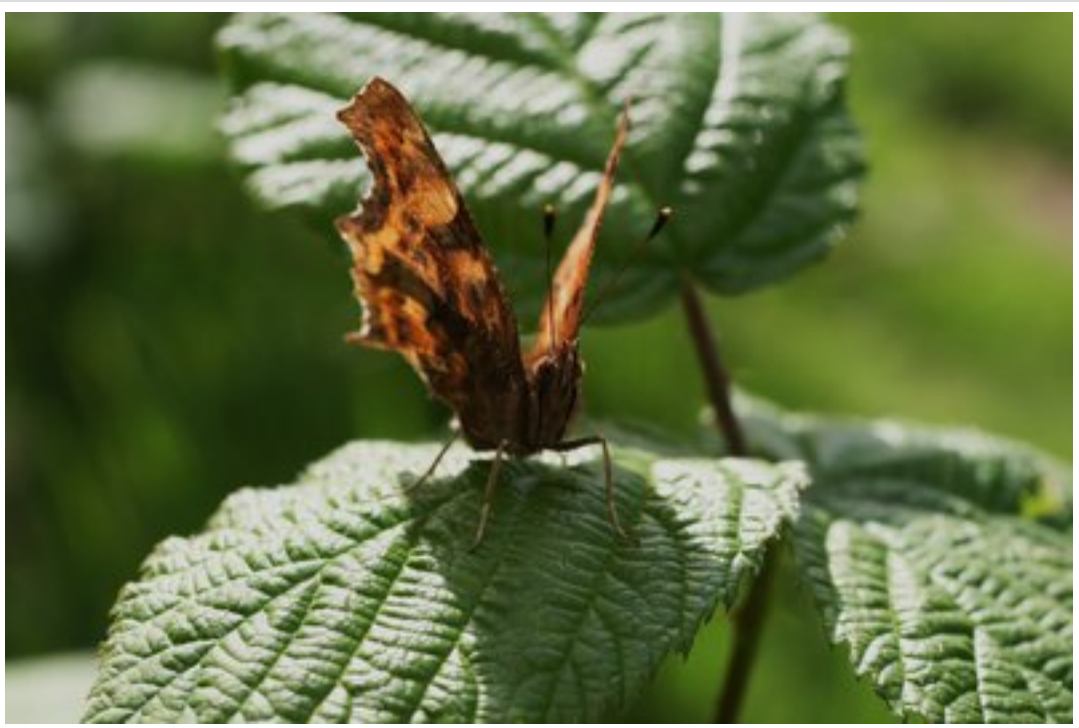




*Roosting, London Zoo, 12/7/09*



*Hampstead Heath, 13/6/07*



*Dollis Valley walk, 28/6/07*





Burford Meadow, Box Hill, 22/7/14

### Re: Bugboys mission

by keving, 29-Dec-14 12:22 PM GMT

The observers Book of Butterflies. It still holds pride of place on my bookshelf and is the very book that sparked my interest in Butterflies back in the late 70s.

Nice memories.

Regards Kev

### Re: Bugboys mission

by Paul Harfield, 29-Dec-14 05:05 PM GMT

#### "bugboy" wrote:

Today I went for an afternoon stroll around a place called Abney Park, an old cemetery which is now maintained as a nature reserve. Despite it being only a 40 minute walk from where I have lived for the past 5 years I only happened across it this summer. It's a very beautiful and surprisingly tranquil place considering it's only a few miles from central London, jam packed with old grave stones and a maze of paths. The main reason for todays visit was to locate some Elm trees as there is apparently a healthy colony of White Letter Hairstreaks here. I found several clumps of large suckers, 25 or 30 feet tall so should be large enough to support the colony. Also had a quick look for eggs but like yesterdays Brown Hairstreak egg hunt I was unsuccessful. This will be a new regular patch next year and hopefully I can tick WL Hairstreak off on my list, speaking of which here is my list! (I'm a bloke and we like to make lists!)

Hi Bugboy

Just enjoying your diary, it is always good to see a new one and yes what would we do without lists 😊

Like you the Observers Book of British Butterflies was a key foundation of my interest. Mine was a very old battered copy given to me by my nan. All the pages detached themselves many years ago but I can not bear to part with it 😊

Good luck with your White Letter Hairstreaks, like you I have yet to see one at any stage. They are top of the list for 2015

Keep up the good work

### Re: Bugboys mission

by bugboy, 31-Dec-14 05:51 PM GMT

I think I shall say goodbye to 2014 with the Brown Argus, A species I only discovered on my local patch this year:



*Walthamstow Marshes, 20/7/14*



*Walthamstow Marshes, 20/7/14*



*Box Hill, 3/9/14*

Watched this pair court and mate, although courtship involved the male briefly chasing the female into the long grass and lasted about 30 seconds!





*Walthamstow Marshes, 20/7/14*