

Re: ChrisC

by Susie, 19-Jul-14 09:01 AM GMT

Happy birthday. How the years fly by!

Re: ChrisC

by ChrisC, 19-Jul-14 11:16 AM GMT

thank you susie 😊 4 more til the half century...

Re: ChrisC

by Wurzel, 20-Jul-14 11:11 PM GMT

Happy belated B'Day Chris 😊

Have a goodun (I hope you did)

Wurzel

Re: ChrisC

by ChrisC, 27-Jul-14 02:51 PM GMT

thanks Wurzel, sorry i missed your post.

I have been decidedly slacking in my diary this year, mainly due to not really getting out and about, but today prompted me to. so the story of the front garden.

The front garden was never a bowling green like many of the lawns down my road and every year i always had a couple of grasshoppers in the unkempt borders. so as well as continued efforts in the back garden i decided the front was really a wasted space. a plan was hatched when 2 years ago I found that Dorset Wildlife Trust did a wildlife garden plaque. I applied immediately and filled many of the criteria required without having to do anything. What i wanted though was the plaque. It arrived and was immediately screwed into an old piece of log and put on display out the front.



here it is with grasshopper.

so now all i had to do was wait, as the grass grew more grasshoppers survived, craneflies, grass moths, meadow ant hills. a veritable wonderland. 2 years later here is the result.



this year i saw a single meadow brown emerge wings partially inflated, and i suspected 2 small skippers but couldn't confirm. but what has happened just this week and i spend very little time out there so this must just be a snippet of what actually goes on. at least 2 skippers egg laying and today my day was made by a common blue.





I know many will consider it a mess but it is one of the most rewarding things i have ever done with regards to gardening for wildlife. and thanks to DWT scheme and plaque any passersby will know that it isn't my being lazy. It will all get cut by hand grass shears in october, harder work than any strimming and mowing but the rewards are worth it.

Chris

Re: ChrisC

by David M, 27-Jul-14 10:14 PM GMT

It ain't a mess to the majority of us on here, Chris.

'Tidiness' is probably the keyword responsible for the deaths of more butterflies than any other.

I'd love to have a huge garden, 50% of which I could devote to managing for butterflies. Naturally, this would mean that it would look, to the casual observer at least, unkempt.

Who cares though? Certainly not me. That plaque should explain it all.

Re: ChrisC

by Wurzel, 31-Jul-14 09:39 PM GMT

That is absolutely brill Chris – congrats 😊😎 I want one of those now, but I'd have to get a garden first 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

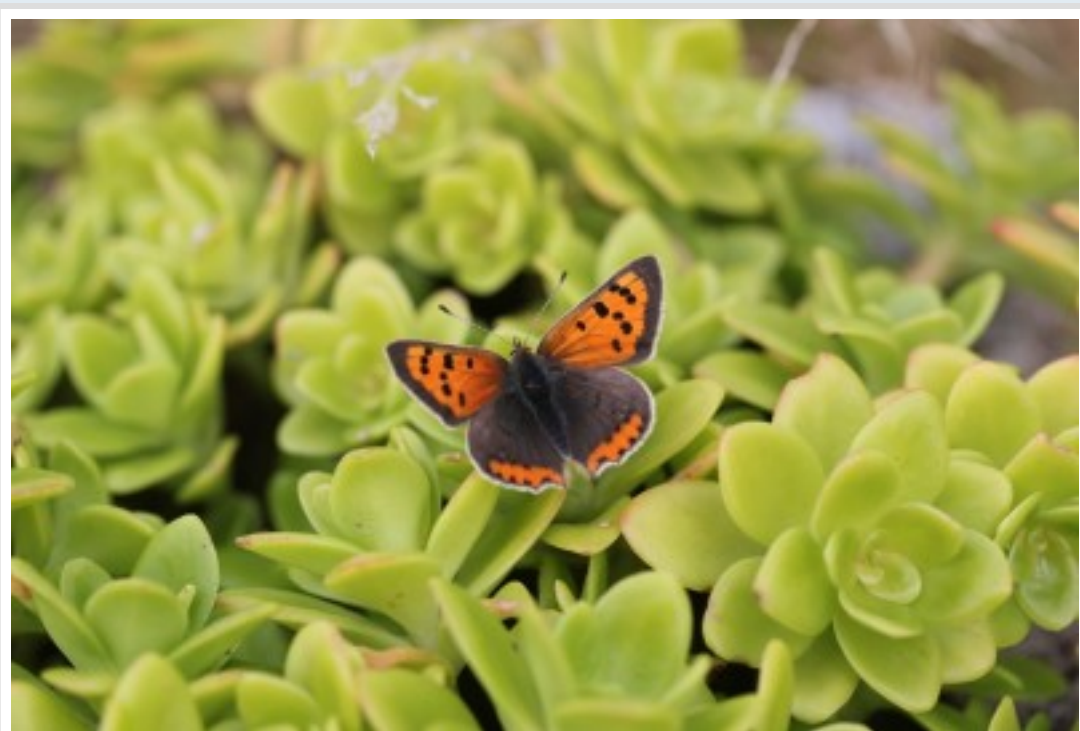
Re: ChrisC

by ChrisC, 14-Sep-14 06:44 PM GMT

well i thought the year for the front garden was pretty much done after the butterflies but little did i know.... when darkness came it was a whole new ball game, the entire lawn was like this.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/60372134@N07/14879599799/>

an today i was checking the craneflies and hoppers when i was treated to.





it has been a brilliant year for the front lawn.

Chris

Re: ChrisC

by Chris Jackson, 14-Sep-14 07:15 PM GMT

Well done for your wild garden Chris C. A good initiative.
Chris J

Re: ChrisC

by Wurzel, 15-Sep-14 10:31 PM GMT

Lovely Small Copper and Common Blue Chris 😊 What's the butterfly total now?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: ChrisC

by ChrisC, 15-Sep-14 11:42 PM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

Lovely Small Copper and Common Blue Chris 😊 What's the butterfly total now?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

for the garden as a whole? 28 species. 😊 but Dingy skipper, brown argus, small heath and green hairstreak have all been singletons that i know of. one possible purple Hair but that isn't included in the total.

Chris

Re: ChrisC

by ChrisC, 17-Sep-14 12:03 PM GMT

the small copper is still loitering for a third day



but the find of the day for me in the front "lawn", the gorgeous wasp spider.....chuffed



Re: ChrisC

by Susie, 17-Sep-14 01:40 PM GMT

Oh! Now I'm envious! She looks full of eggs too.

Re: ChrisC

by Hoggers, 17-Sep-14 05:29 PM GMT

Hi Chris I just love that sign you've got in your garden!

And a Small Copper in your garden too!!

Brilliant!

Best Wishes

Hoggers

Re: ChrisC

by David M, 17-Sep-14 09:09 PM GMT

I don't think I've ever seen a Small Copper in any garden.

Great sighting!

Re: ChrisC

by ChrisC, 17-Sep-14 11:58 PM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

Oh! Now I'm envious! She looks full of eggs too.

hmmm..... it is a dilemma.... my grasshoppers are precious. do i want a garden full of agriope..... oh the joys of wildlife gardening 😊

Re: ChrisC

by ChrisC, 18-Sep-14 12:03 AM GMT

hoggers and David M..... if you plant, they will come, I have had small copper in both gardens that i have had. I have had them every year here so far. no idea where they come from.

Chris

Re: ChrisC

by Wurzel, 18-Sep-14 10:49 PM GMT

Twenty eight is a cracking total for a garden 🤪🍷 I have to make do with the local park now as I have an eight foot square bit of concrete 😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: ChrisC

by ChrisC, 19-Sep-14 06:16 PM GMT

cheers Wurzel, i didn't realise it was so high til i had to count them up 😄 quite pleased..... not sure what to expect to get to my 30...

and overnight waspie was busy..... i saw her spinning the start but the weather and light hampered my attempts to watch.....eggs and case now being guarded.

