

## Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 03-Jun-15 08:18 PM GMT

This is my first personal diary entry, I hope you enjoy the adventures and observations I share with you ....

Back on the 27th May 2015 I found a Meadow Brown larva in the back garden -



*Found playing dead at the top of the garden steps.*



*Soon after I relocated the larva into a clump of grass nearby.*



*It soon became active and was on the move.*



*View from above.*



*View from the side.*



*The Habitat.*



*A better shot from above, it started to move down towards the house, moving from a clump of grass growing on a brick wall to another.*



*Head shot.*

**Re: Jamie Burston**

by Pauline, 03-Jun-15 09:37 PM GMT

Nice find Jamie and well done with the rescue. Look forward to seeing more of your postings.

**Re: Jamie Burston**

by Jamie Burston, 03-Jun-15 10:11 PM GMT

Many thanks Pauline, it's fantastic to finally join this amazing community.

**Re: Jamie Burston**

by Maximus, 03-Jun-15 10:26 PM GMT

Nice start to your diary Jamie, I look forward to more postings. I didn't manage to get a better shot of the PH pupa.

Mike

**Re: Jamie Burston**



by Jamie Burston, 04-Jun-15 12:46 AM GMT

**"Maximus" wrote:**

Nice start to your diary Jamie, I look forward to more postings. I didn't manage to get a better shot of the PH pupa.Mike

Thanks Mike. How is the pupa, any change in colouration ?

**Re: Jamie Burston**

by Wurzel, 04-Jun-15 06:03 AM GMT

Nice shots of the cat Jamie, keep em coming 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Jamie Burston**

by Maximus, 07-Jun-15 07:31 AM GMT

It's beginning to darken a bit now Jamie.

Mike

**Re: Jamie Burston**

by Jamie Burston, 21-Aug-15 04:20 AM GMT

It's been a while, I finally have something of interest to share with you 😊

On the 16th August 2015 I came across this female White-letter Hairstreak nectaring on Common Ragwort, Hollingbury, Brighton. -



The following day (17th August 2015) It was seen again in the same location.

Dingy Skipper seen on the 15th August 2015 at Wild Park in Brighton -



Great abundance of Chalk Hill Blues (70 male and 31 female = 101) again on the 15th August 2015 at Wild Park in Brighton –



Additionally on the 15th August 2015 at Wild Park in Brighton I observed two female Silver-spotted Skippers egg laying, here is one of them –



Here is a photo showing two Silver-spotted Skipper eggs, one freshly laid and another which was laid previously –



**Re: Jamie Burston**

by Jamie Burston, 21-Aug-15 04:28 AM GMT

Silver-spotted Skipper eggs, shown in greater context within habitat -



**Re: Jamie Burston**

by Maximus, 21-Aug-15 05:14 AM GMT

Good to see you posting again Jamie, nice shots too. You were correct the PH was a female but I only took one shot of her in the breeding cage before releasing her. Will try to find the shot 😊

Mike

**Re: Jamie Burston**

by Goldie M, 21-Aug-15 08:46 PM GMT

I envy your WLH Jamie, 🍷🍷 they've alluded me up to now Goldie 😊

**Re: Jamie Burston**

by Pete Eeles, 22-Aug-15 02:44 AM GMT

Excellent stuff all round, Jamie. I'm a sucker for the immature stages, so well done on making the most of them 😊

Cheers,

– Pete

**Re: Jamie Burston**

by Jamie Burston, 22-Aug-15 06:35 AM GMT

Thanks Mike, I'm pleased to have something to show you. I'm surprised I got the sex of it right 😊 but it was an educated guess based on visual indicators seen on the adult butterfly, looking at the shape and form of the sexes thorax. That would be great to see, thanks for searching it out!

Hi Goldie, I was rather pleased to find this one so late in the season, I think they are generally coming to an end here in Brighton. They have had their best year here for quite some time, so pleasing to see. I'll post photos of a male and female taken at the 'famous' Hollinbury Park, that reminds me, I had a great observation of some interesting behaviour between to males.

It was sad however to find my first case of Dutch Elm Disease this year in an area at Hollingbury Park and I believe a few more had been cut down earlier in the year as the woodland edge seems to retreat! I hope you see some 😊

Thank you Pete! The Silver-spotted Skippers caught me off guard, but really pleased to have been able to documented it. Did you receive my reply email concerning the removed Purple Hairstreak film ? I'd very much like to have a copy.

All the best,  
Jamie

**Re: Jamie Burston**

by Jamie Burston, 22-Aug-15 06:49 AM GMT

Male White-letter Hairstreak, Hollingbury Park, 9th July 2015 –

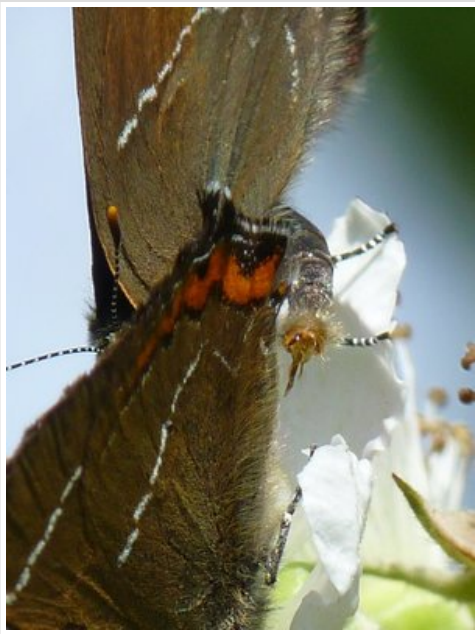


Female White-letter Hairstreak, Hollingbury Park, 9th July 2015 –





9th July 2015, Hollingbury Park – At the low down hotspot during the course of my visit I had a total of 5 different male White-letter Hairstreaks, confirmed by closely analysing photos. Additionally I saw a single female, this being the first individual I saw down low, on Creeping Thistle. She was in an area well away from the lads, so to be left in peace, I don't blame her! As for the males, it was remarkable for the small area they would all continuously come back to, nectaring on brambles. The Main event however was when two of the males (included in the total males seen) started to dog fight at head height, right in front of us – (Douglas Neve and John was with me at the time). Suddenly one of the males broke off and landed on a bramble, the other male was hovering in flight, facing directly towards it and away from me. This meant for around 5 long seconds I could get a good look at its deep, rich coloured upperside, stunning! The other male then took place on the same flower, they then walked over the flower head together, always walking in parallel, with one just behind. The whole event was over in a minute, however looking at the photos I took, there was some pushing going on. The male being behind was also pushing and curving its abdomen around and towards the back of the individual in front, to me it looked like courtship and aggression! Looking at that photo (below), no wonder the females are elusive, it's a harpoon!



Both male, White-letter Hairstreaks close up!





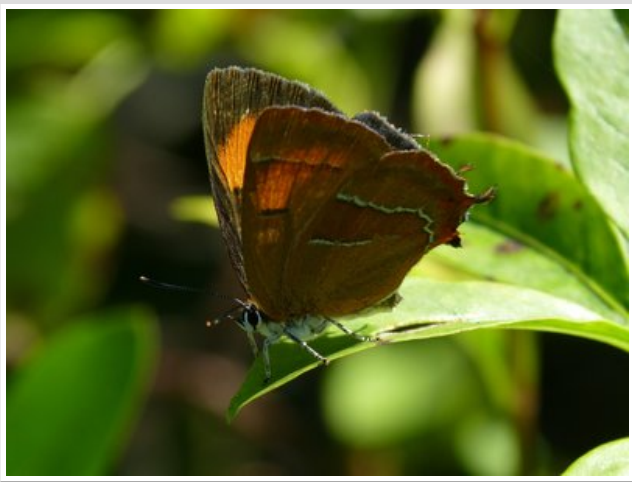
Wider view, two males showing what appeared to be aggression and courtship!

### Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 23-Aug-15 05:37 AM GMT

Today I went to my local Brown Hairstreak site and saw two females.

Female Brown Hairstreak, laden with eggs –



Here is one of the eggs (mother pictured above)

You get a great sense of scale when the egg is compared to the Springtail which also features in shot –



**Re: Jamie Burston**

by Susie, 23-Aug-15 05:42 AM GMT

Lovely photos, Jamie 😊

**Re: Jamie Burston**

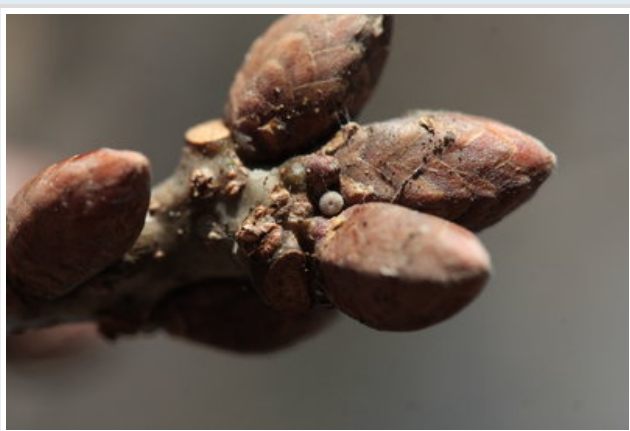
by Jamie Burston, 23-Aug-15 05:49 AM GMT

Following on with the Hairstreak egg theme, here are a few photos of a Purple Hairstreak egg I found at the beginning of the year, sadly it failed to hatch due to natural causes.

Purple Hairstreak egg, sense of scale –



Returning with my Macro lens I captured the following –



**Re: Jamie Burston**

by Jamie Burston, 23-Aug-15 05:56 AM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

Lovely photos, Jamie 😊

Thank you, much appreciated 😊 Do you think you make a repeat visit to Beeding cement works this year to look for Long-tailed Blue ?

**Re: Jamie Burston**

by Wurzel, 23-Aug-15 07:10 AM GMT

Great Brostrak and Whitters Jamie 🍷 I've not had much luck with Whitters – they always seem to stay up too high for me 😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Jamie Burston**

by Jamie Burston, 31-Aug-15 08:13 PM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

Great Brostrak and Whitters Jamie 🍷 I've not had much luck with Whitters – they always seem to stay up too high for me 😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Thanks Wurzel! Sorry to hear, Hollingbury Park (Brighton) is a strange site in the sense that you're almost guaranteed to see a White-letter Hairstreak low down, if it's sunny and there is a weak breeze you have a very strong chance. Preferable no wind at all!

All the best, Jamie

**Re: Jamie Burston**

by Jamie Burston, 31-Aug-15 08:53 PM GMT

I went back to photograph the same Brown Hairstreak egg.  
This time using my canon and macro lens, this was the best result –



**Re: Jamie Burston**

by Jamie Burston, 13-Oct-15 10:05 PM GMT

I wasn't sure where to post this comment, so I chose here on my personal diary . Regarding Notes and Views, Issue 4 – May to August 2015, concerning the topic –

"Possible Purple Hairstreak (*Favonius quercus*) Courtship  
02 August 2015 (Source)

Michael Skelton pointed out an item from the Natura Mediterraneo forums which appears to document possible Purple Hairstreak (*Favonius quercus*) courtship."

Based on my understanding and knowledge of seeing multiple photos and a video sequence (Paul Wetton DVD) showing this kind of interaction between two Purple Hairstreaks, (I've seen female, male and male, male combinations). I feel this is aggression and confrontational behaviour, always seen when a source of sustenance e.g. Acorns is involved. They will push and actively try to remove the other from the plant.



## Re: Jamie Burston

by Neil Freeman, 14-Oct-15 04:40 AM GMT

### "Jamie Burston" wrote:

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Hi Jamie,

That sounds similar to some behaviour that I watched and photographed at Bernwood Meadows in 2014 which I reported on page 56 of my Personal Diary.

[viewtopic.php?f=29&t=5424&start=1100](http://viewtopic.php?f=29&t=5424&start=1100)

Cheers,

Neil

## Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 14-Oct-15 09:20 PM GMT

Hi Neil, It would sound similar, as that very observation of yours is one of the references I was referring to! 😊😊

To further my point here are two photos illustrating this behaviour around acorns – [www.flickr.com/photos/99372752@N04/20355779280/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/99372752@N04/20355779280/) & [www.flickr.com/photos/nickpix2008/20317996221/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/nickpix2008/20317996221/) . The females don't put up with it, I can recall a case where the female has won by pushing the male out of the oak. 😊

## Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 09-Nov-15 09:08 PM GMT

My 2015 highlight –

30th June, Preston Twins, Brighton –

"The Preston Twins, Preston Park, Coronation Garden near the Manor House. These two trees measure 6.8m in girth circumference (hence the name Preston Twins) and are as much as 400 years old. They may have been part of a hedgerow, but now stand as singular pollarded trees. They are the world's largest specimens of their kind. They are English elm (*Ulmus minor* var. *vulgaris*)."

Reflecting on the year I've had it's clear to me that seeing one of my favourite species, the White-letter Hairstreak in great abundance (counted 14 in one go) was the most rewarding and memorable events this year, the closest I've got to a real spectacle!

The typical silhouette "triangle" –



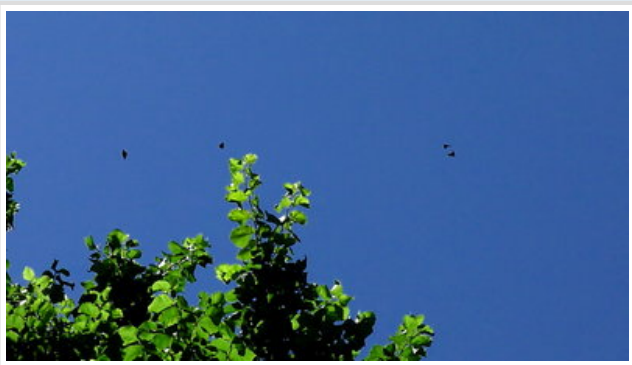
Who's watching who ?



On this occasion I chose to film their flight around the elm canopy.  
Video still –



The males were incredibly active, and dog fighting was extremely common.  
Video still –



If you haven't already seen my footage, please watch it here – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k4bXXQ9iR5o> Best viewed in HD, click on the cog symbol and change the quality to 720p HD. Playing the video at normal speed will give you a real sense of their speed, but if you want to appreciate their agility watch the video playing at a much slower pace, that way you can take in what's happening! Again click on the cog symbol, but change the speed to 0.25, it will take longer to watch with some gaps of no activity, but the flight is fascinating to watch. So much so that I equally enjoy seeing both White-letter Hairstreak and Purple Hairstreak flying around the canopy as I do seeing them low down. 😊 What a joy to see.

### Re: Jamie Burston

by David M, 10-Nov-15 02:21 AM GMT

Lovely to see not only such an ancient pair of elms but a thriving colony of White Letter Hairstreaks using them as their home.

### Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 10-Nov-15 06:38 AM GMT

**"David M" wrote:**

Lovely to see not only such an ancient pair of elms but a thriving colony of White Letter Hairstreaks using them as their home.

The ancestral use of the tree does add a special feel to the experience, I would love to know how far back they've been recorded there, sadly I doubt I'll get very far in researching it, the best I could do was the 15 June 2007 from the Sussex BC website. They do very well, the best count someone had that I'm aware of said they had around 30 on one day around the Preston Twins.

**Re: Jamie Burston**

by David M, 10-Nov-15 06:41 AM GMT

Thanks for the info, Jamie. You have obviously done your research.

More of you on this forum would be most welcome! 😊

**Re: Jamie Burston**

by Paul Harfield, 10-Nov-15 06:57 AM GMT

Hi Jamie

I am a regular visitor to the Brighton & Hove area for work. I was aware of the Preston Twins, but I am always amazed by the number of Elms in Brighton. Almost every street seems to be lined with them. I am curious about whether the area is equally as densely populated with White Letter Hairstreak. You are certainly living in the right place if this species is one of your favourites.

Hampshire seems to be entirely different when it comes decent Elm trees, similarly White Letter Hairstreaks are a bit thin on the ground here. I carry a notebook with me at all times to record the whereabouts of decent Elms in my neck of the woods. I will probably never get around to checking them all out, but I will do my best.

I have also been trying to grow Elm from cuttings over the last couple of years without much success. The best success I have had so far is from trees in the grounds of Cardinal Newman School in Hove. I am hoping these, which seemed to do ok this year, will sprout leaves again next season.

**Re: Jamie Burston**

by Jamie Burston, 12-Nov-15 07:12 PM GMT

**"David M" wrote:**

Thanks for the info, Jamie. You have obviously done your research.

More of you on this forum would be most welcome! 😊

Hi David,

Thank you for your very kind words! I look forward to contributing more in the future, I still have more information to write up regarding my White-letter Hairstreak observations this year. I'll post this probably around the time of my species champion report for Sussex BC which comes out in the coming spring.

**Re: Jamie Burston**

by Jamie Burston, 12-Nov-15 07:59 PM GMT

**"jackz432r" wrote:**

Hi Jamie

I am a regular visitor to the Brighton & Hove area for work. I was aware of the Preston Twins, but I am always amazed by the number of Elms in Brighton. Almost every street seems to be lined with them. I am curious about whether the area is equally as densely populated with White Letter Hairstreak. You are certainly living in the right place if this species is one of your favourites.

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Hi Jack,

Yes Elm is a very common street feature. How many = "19,000-strong National Elm Collection in Brighton & Hove"! 😊 I've mainly worked on surveying the local (Hollingbury) roadside elms, mainly of the Wheatley variety and found that everyone I search, whilst being favourable weather conditions had an average of two White-letter Hairstreaks. The list of Elm species they use is growing, it's my believe that there is the potential for at least 50% of the "19,000-strong National Elm Collection in Brighton & Hove" to have a colony of White-letter Hairstreak, this of course is guess work for now and Dutch Elm Disease will be a factor. In the time I had I found 30 different trees being used = colonies local to me, the vast majority on one single roadside.

This is a typical Wheatley Elm they used, white circles indicate the area of activity witnessed -





This gives an idea of proximity of colonies –



My work produced sighting of 59/60 individual White-letter Hairstreaks. (2015)

Here is one of them, male in the canopy of a roadside Wheatley Elm –



Having easy access to this species definitely has contributed, the more you understand a species, the more you appreciate it . 😊

I'm not sure if Hampshire naturally has a thin distribution of Elms but here in Brighton & Hove it definitely helps that it's a controlled Dutch Elm Disease area. That's really great, your notes of the locations of these Elm will not only inform you but others in future, if you can share what you learn to your

local council/BC branch so there is some form of formal record.

That is great, hope it works for you, let me know how it goes in the spring, if they sprout leaves. If I was to try I would personally collect the seeds in spring and try and grow it that way.

All the best,  
Jamie

### Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 12-Nov-15 08:05 PM GMT

If anyone wants to meet and talk to me, who is going to the National BC AGM, ask Neil Hulme or Michael Blencowe to point you in the right direction. 😊

### Re: Jamie Burston

by Pete Eeles, 13-Nov-15 03:32 AM GMT

#### "Jamie Burston" wrote:

If anyone wants to meet and talk to me, who is going to the National BC AGM, ask Neil Hulme or Michael Blencowe to point you in the right direction. 😊

Hi Jamie – you've prompted me to start a new thread ... watch this space (er ... forum!).

Cheers,

– Pete

### Re: Jamie Burston

by Jamie Burston, 25-Nov-15 03:43 AM GMT

My garden butterfly species list (2009–2015) –

Note, from memory:

- 1 ) Small Skipper
- 2 ) Silver-spotted Skipper
- 3 ) Orange-tip
- 4 ) Large White, Larva & Ovum
- 5 ) Small White, Larva & Ovum
- 6 ) Brimstone
- 7 ) Speckled Wood
- 8 ) Small Heath
- 9 ) Ringlet
- 10) Meadow Brown & Larva
- 11) Gatekeeper
- 12) Marbled White
- 13) Silver-washed Fritillary
- 14) Red Admiral
- 15) Painted Lady
- 16) Peacock
- 17) Small Tortoiseshell
- 18) Comma
- 19) White-letter Hairstreak
- 20) Holly Blue
- 21) Brown Argus
- 22) Common Blue

White-letter Hairstreak (female) 10/08/2013 –



Silver-spotted Skipper (male) 10/08/2013 -



**Re: Jamie Burston**

by David M, 25-Nov-15 04:32 AM GMT

A mightily impressive tally there, Jamie.

Numbers 1, 8, 13 and 21 are very notable whilst numbers 2 and 19 are envy-inducing (that's also the first time I've seen SSS and WLH on buddleia).

**Re: Jamie Burston**

by Wurzel, 27-Nov-15 07:15 AM GMT

That is a might garden list - not far behind my Larkhill species list! 🤩🍷 A Silver-spotted Skipper in your garden! 🤩🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Jamie Burston**

by Pete Eeles, 28-Nov-15 04:22 AM GMT

I agree - that's one heck of a garden! Nice work, Jamie!

Cheers,

- Pete

**Re: Jamie Burston**

by Pete Eeles, 28-Nov-15 04:22 AM GMT

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Cheers,

- Pete



