

Re: Susie

by Susie, 27-Feb-15 09:19 PM GMT

Finally something to report.

My butterfly season kicked off for me a short while ago with a small tortoiseshell flying in sunshine down Cranleigh High Street in Surrey.

The frogs started spawning in my pond at home on Tuesday so spring is in the air 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 02-Mar-15 04:42 AM GMT

A small tort flew round my garden this morning and at lunchtime I saw a brimstone in Petworth.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 11-May-15 05:29 AM GMT

A walk led by Neil Hulme is virtually guaranteed to be splendid and this morning's walk at Rewell Wood was no exception. Over the course of the morning he magicked a selection of pearl bordered fritillaries out of the chestnut coppices and the grand finale was a brace of plump females posing prettily enabling everyone who wanted to to take photos.

The surprise of the morning was a tiny roe deer kid.



Re: Susie

by John W, 11-May-15 08:35 AM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

The surprise of the morning was a tiny roe deer kid.

Hi Susie, I sent Neil a picture of the baby deer and he said it was a Fallow deer.

Here's a picture of you and some of the other people at Rewell this morning...



Best wishes
John

Re: Susie

by Pauline, 11-May-15 01:47 PM GMT

Lovely shot of the fawn Susie 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 11-May-15 04:25 PM GMT

Thanks John and Pauline.

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 13-May-15 06:26 AM GMT

Great to see you back in action and great shot of the Pearl 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 14-May-15 05:58 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, I've only managed to get out butterflying four times so far this year, including my fruitless trip to Pulborough for the elusive scarce (so scarce as to be not there) yellow legged tortoiseshell.

Note to self: must try harder!

Re: Susie

by Susie, 27-May-15 05:03 PM GMT

A lovely long weekend in Dorset enabled me to go to Lulworth Cove on Saturday. Unfortunately Lulworth Skippers still elude me but I hope to get them later in the year.



Yesterday afternoon I made a visit to Denbies. I'm so fond of that place and it's the first time I've been back this year so it felt great to see the butterflies flying over the long grass. There didn't seem to be big numbers of anything but I did see some common and Adonis blues, brown argus, grizzled skippers, small heaths, and brimstones.

The butterfly hound hasn't quite got his paw in butterflying this year and tried either to sit on my lap or stick his nose in the lense when ever I tried to take a photo hence no pictures. Good job I'm a patient person!

Re: Susie

by Willow, 27-May-15 11:00 PM GMT

The butterfly hound will learn (and help!) with time Susie, hope you get lots more time out now and preferably with lots of sunshine to enjoy too 😊

Regards,

Bill 😊

"When in doubt - venture out"

Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Jun-15 01:19 AM GMT

My butterfly failure year continues 😞

Today I went to Hutchinson Bank, Croydon, looking for Glanville Fritillary but although they had been seen earlier in the day the cloud meant there wasn't much flying while I was there.

I did see some small blue, common blue, dingy skipper, speckled wood and brimstone though.

Wonder what I can miss out on next?! 😊

Re: Susie

by Pete Eeles, 09-Jun-15 01:27 AM GMT

Chin up Sooz 😊

I must admit, I was thinking of you when I (finally) managed to find Lulworth Skipper at Corfe Castle and felt somewhat guilty that I'd found them! But you do epitomise those who "go out and try whatever", rather than those who don't. So don't give up - your just rewards are just around the corner 😊

Cheers,

- Pete

Re: Susie

by MrSp0ck, 09-Jun-15 01:30 AM GMT

Hi Susie

Sorry you missed out on the Glanvilles, but they are reported from Wrecclesham again on the Surrey BC website, with pictures, so if you can get into the site you may see them there.

I think you had a Swallowtail last year over your garden, so you may have used up most of your Brownie points with that

Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Jun-15 01:45 AM GMT

"Pete Eeles" wrote:

Chin up Sooz 😊

I must admit, I was thinking of you when I (finally) managed to find Lulworth Skipper at Corfe Castle and felt somewhat guilty that I'd found them! But you do epitomise those who "go out and try whatever", rather than those who don't. So don't give up - your just rewards are just around the corner 😊

Cheers,

- Pete

Schadenfreude is a wonderful thing 😊 I don't begrudge you your butterflies, Pete, you put a damn sight more effort in than I do! 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Jun-15 01:48 AM GMT

"MrSp0ck" wrote:

Hi Susie

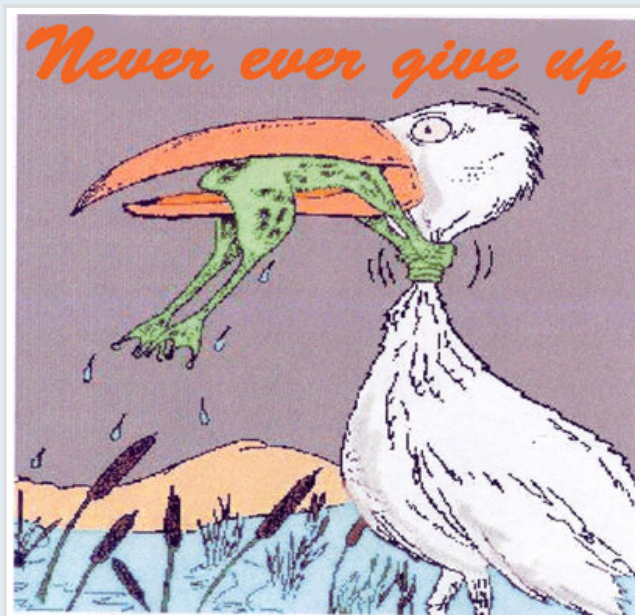
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I think you had a Swallowtail last year over your garden, so you may have used up most of your Brownie points with that

I may as well give up now as I think I had a lifetime's luck with that swallowtail 😊

Re: Susie

by MikeOxon, 09-Jun-15 02:59 AM GMT



Re: Susie

by MrSp0ck, 09-Jun-15 03:12 AM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

I may as well give up now as I think I had a lifetime's luck with that swallowtail 😊

You never know what lucky discovery is next, I had that "Swallowtail" moment last year, when i had a Surrey Chalk Grayling on White Downs, the first since 1962. It was on a BC walk, Gomshall to Dorking, the Great Railway Journey West, a very good walk that can have 30 Species.

I think Clouded Yellows will be around in good numbers this summer.



Surrey Chalk Grayling White Downs 9 Aug 2014

Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Jun-15 04:59 AM GMT

White Down is just up from Denbies I think? Now a grayling there is something I'd love to see 😊

I'm still hoping for a great painted lady year and I'd like this to be the year I see large blue for the first time but who knows ...

Re: Susie

by Susie, 10-Jun-15 01:11 AM GMT

I went to Kithurst Hill this afternoon and apparently there was a meadow brown there earlier; I didn't see it.

Re: Susie

by bugboy, 11-Jun-15 03:58 AM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

I went to Kithurst Hill this afternoon and apparently there was a meadow brown there earlier; I didn't see it.

Saw a male Meadow Brown at Denbies today 😊. Couldn't get a pic, he was getting blown all over the place poor bugger!

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 11-Jun-15 06:31 AM GMT

I reckon all these near misses are actually a good thing Susie, you're getting all the bad karma over and done with and then you'll be into the Good Karma 😊 Camberwell Beauty? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 18-Jun-15 04:59 AM GMT

Wouldn't a camberwell beauty be a welcome visitor, Wurzel!

Reading Matthew Oates' book encouraged me to go to Southwater woods over the past couple of days with the dog. It's very early yet for the main contenders but we still saw skippers, meadow Browns, speckled woods, a small tort and a painted lady. There wasn't so much flying this morning but we did find a writhing mass of peacock caterpillars.

I am curious as to whether the book will encourage more butterflyers to come back to these woods again. Over the past few years numbers of butterflies and subsequently people have fallen away (perhaps the latter lured to Knepp?) and I've rather enjoyed having the place to myself.

**Re: Susie**

by David M, 18-Jun-15 06:49 AM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

I am curious as to whether the book will encourage more butterflyers to come back to these woods again. Over the past few years numbers of butterflies and subsequently people have fallen away (perhaps the latter lured to Knepp?) and I've rather enjoyed having the place to myself.

I doubt whether anyone other than those keenly interested in butterflies will read Matthew's book.

Thus far, I've found it rather sad as I am up to page 90 which has covered the complete decline of Pearl Bordered Fritillary & Duke of Burgundy in some of these woodlands.

The place will probably remain largely deserted, Susie (no bad thing if you want a bit of peace and tranquility). I doubt there are too many younger people out there who connect with nature in the same way as the almost default mode of the 1970s.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 24-Jun-15 05:37 AM GMT

Yesterday I braved the showers to go to Iping in search of silver studded blues. As I arrived the rain stopped and the butterflies opened their wings to bask in the first sunshine of the day. Incredibly quickly the males were skimming over the foliage in search of females of whom I only saw two and with the flowers they made a lovely sight. I also saw a single marbled white, large skipper and meadow Browns before the rain came in again and I headed for home.

Today I went to Cissbury Ring primarily in search of dark green fritillary. I did see some but they were moving very rapidly. Also around were common blues, marbled whites, small heaths, large and small skippers and meadow Browns. I popped back to southwater woods on the way back as the dog was very hot and he loves a paddle in the stream. No sign of any silver washed fritillary or white admiral yet.



Billy is learning patience.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 30-Jun-15 06:08 AM GMT

I had a little bit of time this afternoon and so I went to Iping again. The silver studded Blues were still flying but starting to look quite worn. I do like Iping, especially in the hot sunshine with the gorse popping and dragonflies swooping around.

I arrived home at mid afternoon and was in the garden for a minute when I saw a butterfly flying around which I couldn't quite categorise as one of the usual suspects I get. Eventually it settled and it was a very faded green hairstreak 😊 I was chuffed to bits as I don't know of any sites nearby. I rushed to get my camera but when I got back it was gone. Something to watch out for now though.

Re: Susie

by Neil Hulme, 30-Jun-15 06:20 AM GMT

Hi Susie,
SWF now flying at Southwater Woods, including the first female.
BWs, Neil

Re: Susie

by Susie, 01-Jul-15 12:31 AM GMT



Hi Neil,

Thanks for the heads up. 😊

Funnily enough I just got back from there very excited at seeing my first silver washed fritillary, white admiral and purple hairstreak only to get home and check the Sussex sightings page to see they were sighted there yesterday and read your post. I was hoping mine would be the first of the year 😊 still fabulous to see with clouds of meadow Browns flying up in the meadow, marbled whites and large skippers skimming the long grass and knapweed. It's just my idea of heaven 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 01-Jul-15 12:37 AM GMT

Btw, I don't suppose I will bump into anyone at Southwater during the purple season as most people are now lured elsewhere but I have ordered myself some marvellous headwear for butterfly hunting inspired by a steampunk extravaganza I saw at the weekend so if you see a nutter in a hat in the woods steer well clear as it's probably me! 😊

Re: Susie

by trevor, 01-Jul-15 12:50 AM GMT

Hi Susie,
Why not go the whole way!, put some smelly stuff on your headgear, keep the people away and attract an Emperor. Hope that is of some help 😊 .

Best wishes,
TREVOR.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 01-Jul-15 03:23 PM GMT

What a good idea, Trevor. I'll have to incorporate some sort of receptacle to hold shrimp paste 😊

Re: Susie

by John W, 01-Jul-15 04:31 PM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

Btw, I don't suppose I will bump into anyone at Southwater during the purple season as most people are now lured elsewhere

Hi Susie, you might bump into me as it's still my go to place for SWF and WA. It's good to hear that there are Marbled Whites in the meadow. I was there at the weekend but didn't see any.

Cheers
John

Re: Susie

by Susie, 02-Jul-15 02:45 AM GMT

It will be nice to see you again, John.

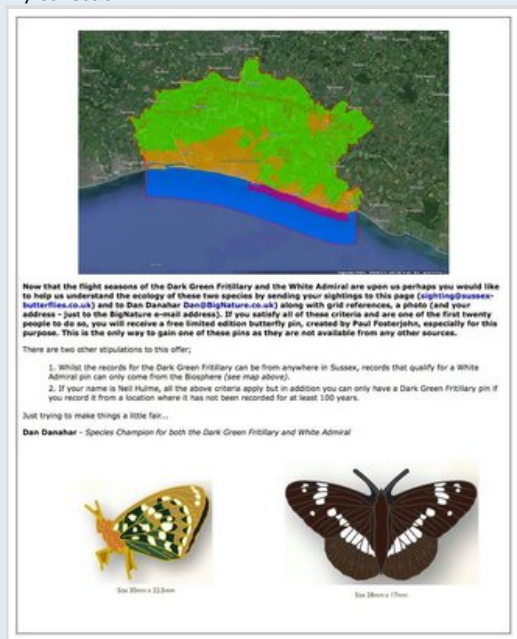
This morning before work I went to Cissbury Ring. It was a bit of a yomp but I managed to see dark green fritillary, red admiral, painted lady, large and marbled white, large skipper, small Heath, meadow brown, speckled wood and, I think, ringlet.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Jul-15 05:38 AM GMT

I had such a fabulous day today I don't know where to begin 😊

The day kicked off with my prize (for finding a dark green fritillary at Cissbury ring earlier in the week) arriving in the post – a shiny new pin badge for my collection. 😊



Then I went on the Knepp Estate purple emperor safari which was led by Matthew Oates and our very own Neil Hulme. It's not the cheapest day out but I got a bonus from work for being fabulous and thought I'd use a little of it to treat myself. 😊

Even though Knepp is very close to where I live I got a little lost on the way the way there (never trust a sat nav) and arrived a few minutes late but fortunately before the group of about a dozen people took to the hoof and went off to explore. I won't bore you with details but incredibly quickly his imperial majesty was sighted. Sightings came thick and fast after that ending in a total of several hundred*

I can't praise Matthew Oates and Neil Hulme highly enough. Neil I know is always great at leading a walk and making it entertaining as well as educational but although I have met Matthew before I've never spent any quality time in his company. Today I found him to be fabulous and finally got to see the side of him that others talk about. He kindly signed my copy of his book and I hope to meet him again in the future. It's not often at my age someone recites poetry to me.

Some of the many highlights of the day were watching emperors dog fighting over head for ages, Matthew finding white letter hairstreaks for me, and being served lunch by the owners of Knepp and the very interesting discussion that followed.

My visit to Knepp ended in buying a special Knepp Safari pin badge for my ever increasing collection. 😊

* okay, so that's a fib, but we saw around 45 which was more than I've ever seen before

The safaris run next weekend too if anyone is interested in going along, I would thoroughly recommend it.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Jul-15 05:45 AM GMT

By the end of the day we were seeing butterflies where ever we looked.



Re: Susie

by bugboy, 05-Jul-15 06:23 AM GMT

Sounds like a glorious way to spend a day 😊. I love the second stipulation on how to receive the pin badge 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 05-Jul-15 09:48 PM GMT

Well he does have an unfair advantage being a butterflying Demi-God!

Re: Susie

by Susie, 06-Jul-15 01:14 AM GMT

I've just returned from a dog walk at Southwater woods. Plenty of meadow brown about but only a few of other species; large skipper, ringlet, large white, silver washed fritillary, white admiral and a single purple emperor sitting in an ash tree surveying his empire. Rounded off with Pimms at the Cafe by the Lake at Barns Green. Very nice 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 06-Jul-15 01:26 AM GMT

I thought I'd show you the hat that out hatted Matthew Oates 😊



it's surprisingly comfortable.

Re: Susie

by Goldie M, 06-Jul-15 09:53 PM GMT

Fantastic hat Susie, love it. Goldie 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 07-Jul-15 04:05 AM GMT

Thank you. I am going back to Knepp on Saturday for another safari so I may wear it again! 😊

Re: Susie

by Mark Tutton, 07-Jul-15 04:37 AM GMT

Hi Susie

I looked at that log pile numerous times whilst eating my lunch in the car park and knew there was a pattern but just couldn't pick it out - as soon as I looked at your picture - boom - it was there - thanks for putting me out of my misery 😊

kind regards

Mark

Re: Susie

by Susie, 07-Jul-15 05:18 AM GMT

You're welcome, it must be the lighting.

Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 08-Jul-15 06:17 AM GMT

That is a cracking hat Susie, very Steam Punk, Robert Rankin would be proud 🤩👑

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Jul-15 04:54 AM GMT

It could do with some cogs 🤩

Re: Susie

by Susie, 12-Jul-15 02:16 AM GMT

WOW. 🤩 just one word, wow!!!

Re: Susie

by Susie, 12-Jul-15 05:46 PM GMT

Now I've got over the shock of a perfectly purple day the like of which I have never experienced before and may never again (although I hope to and will be back next year!) I can write a little more.

Yesterday I again went on the Knepp Pruple Emperor safari thanks to the generosity of someone at Knepp to whom I will be forever indebted as it was as golden as it was purple.

The morning was glorious and the group eager to get going, after a brief briefing and collection of the first aid kit (as the Emperors here are particularly vicious!) we set off. What a splendid start then when within 20 odd yards of leaving the building we were buzzed by an emperor! From there the day kept getting better and better as although we didn't see any males on the ground we had a couple of audiences with females sat in sallow (one stunning female incredibly spotted by an eagle eyed member of the group) and we rarely went for more than 10 minutes without a sighting.

Again the knowledge of our guides were second to none and the banter between them extremely entertaining. Whenever we didn't see anything for a short while Matthew would reconsider the weather conditions and take us off to the nearest likely spot. The best places yesterday were sometimes different to the best places the previous Saturday which is why it was so great to have such experienced guided.

Middy we again broke for a lovely lunch in a wooded glade which was washed down with a tipple. Most appreciated in the midday heat. Even seated we were still spotting emperors, purple hairstreaks and other butterflies flying near us.



By the time we reached the end of the walk we'd clocked up a tally of 104 Purple Emperors. I believe even more were seen later that day.

I now consider myself part of an elite group of people who have seen in excess of 100 purple emperors in one day 🤩 (even if only by merit of tagging along and letting others do all the work).

I think I'll have to product something to commemorate it!

Re: Susie

by Susie, 13-Jul-15 04:49 PM GMT



Matthew Oates celebrating reaching 100 purple emperors on Saturday.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 15-Jul-15 05:27 AM GMT

Sussex Butterfly Conservation ran an event today in my village and as I was unexpectedly available I was able to go along. David Bridges did a very good presentation for people who are new to butterflying and also spoke a little about a project he is running in the area which is rewilding a couple of fields and turning them into a butterfly haven. This project at Tilletts Fields is really coming on with some great looking habitat, after the talk the attendees went to the fields to put their new found butterfly identification skills into practice.

I could not resist uploading a little snippet from last Saturday's walk. I still haven't got over the excitement! https://www.facebook.com/susie.milbank/..._182311972/

Re: Susie

by Susie, 21-Jul-15 01:42 AM GMT

I popped along to Denbies Hillside on late Saturday afternoon. It was overcast and breezy with a hint of rain in the air and the butterflies had already gone to roost. I found a good number of male chalkhills but only two females so it must still be early days for them I didn't see any abs at all which was rather disappointing. Also around were some worn marbled whites, meadow Browns, small Heath and the odd small skipper.





Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 21-Jul-15 06:05 AM GMT

Carcking shots of the Chalkhills and underside of the Marbled White Susie 😊 Congrats to on becoming a member of such an exclusive club; 100 PE's in a visit 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Goldie M, 21-Jul-15 08:47 PM GMT

Love the underside of the Marble White Susie great shot, I hope they're still around in Kent next week Goldie 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 22-Jul-15 01:38 AM GMT

Thanks Goldie and Wurzel. Marbled whites do seem to be a bit passed their best now but still about so you should be lucky.

I went to Southwater woods today and there were still a few marbled whites about there.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 11-Aug-15 12:50 AM GMT

I popped along to Denbies yesterday, the chalkhills are starting to show their age but there were quite a few abs around. Conditions were not ideal for photographs but I managed a few snaps.



It was nice to meet our forum member Bugboy for the first time too.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 23-Aug-15 05:44 AM GMT

Glad to say that finally the brown hairstreaks are starting to arrive with one in the garden yesterday and one seen while walking locally today.

Re: Susie

by bugboy, 23-Aug-15 06:08 AM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

brown hairstreaks are starting to arrive with one in the garden.....

Well thats just showing off basically! 🙄

Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Sep-15 04:49 AM GMT

Due to various difficulties that I won't bore you with I'm still having difficulties getting photos up loaded but I thought I'd update my diary anyway before I forget and hopefully a few photos will follow soon.

My couple of weeks off work during August was a wash out with my few butterflying forays scuppered by the dismal weather and my trips to steyning and other places returned nothing of interest except blackberries.

My local patch for brown hairstreak seemed to have dried up this year with very few sightings in the area.

On Saturday morning I again cancelled my plans to go to steyning due to the weather but by the afternoon the forecast was looking more favourable so I went to Denbies to walk the hound and to see if anything was hanging on there butterfly wise. Trusty camera slung in back pack off we trundled. I was quite dismayed to see cows in the lower field but they seemed placid. It was lovely to bump into Bugboy and I was grateful to be informed that there were indeed butterflies still about and some pretty new. It wasn't long before the hound and me were finding butterflies of our own with fresh Adonis, chalk hill and silver spotted skippers being about. Once the sun came out it was wonderful as the butterflies opened their wings and the grass became studded with the most wonderful blues. 😊

Back at home there have been some beautiful fresh painted ladies in the garden lately as well as red admiral, small torts, and it's been a bumper year for holly blue.

Yesterday I finally got to Steyning in the morning and with the sun shining. Huzzah!!!! 😄

Last time I was there I didn't see anything and I lost my brown hairstreak open winged pin badge. Guted 😞 Perhaps it wanted to join it name sakes.

This was much better though. It wasn't long before I bumped into another enthusiast who told me a brown hairstreak had been seen about half an hour before. I was pleased to spot one in the trees nearly straight away, it didn't appear to be coming down to eye level any time soon so I decided to move along and found another hairstreak engaged in a tussle with a speckled wood. When the hairstreak settled we were able to watch her crawl among the blackthorn for quite some time. Further up the slope I saw two more, again one at close quarters and another in the trees.

On my way back I bumped into Neil and the one he had whispered as if by magick to show his guests earlier in the day was a different one to those I had seen. With there being a good number of brownies about this is a site definitely still worth visiting. At this time of year every butterflying day is a bonus taking us nearer to the start of next years season!

Re: Susie

by David M, 09-Sep-15 05:31 AM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

At this time of year every butterflying day is a bonus taking us nearer to the start of next years season!

How true!

In another month's time, we'll ALL be yearning for early March.

Re: Susie

by bugboy, 09-Sep-15 05:41 AM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

On Saturday morning I again cancelled my plans to go to steyning due to the weather but by the afternoon the forecast was looking more favourable so I went to Denbies to walk the hound and to see if anything was hanging on there butterfly wise. Trusty camera slung in back pack off we trundled. I was quite dismayed to see cows in the lower field but they seemed placid. It was lovely to bump into Bugboy and I was grateful to be informed that there were indeed butterflies still about and some pretty new. It wasn't long before the hound and me were finding butterflies of our own with fresh Adonis, chalk hill and silver spotted skippers being about. Once the sun came out it was wonderful as the butterflies opened their wings and the grass became studded with the most wonderful blues. 😊

Glad you got the sun, just wish it had appeared properly an hour sooner for my benefit! 😊, oh and the cows are Belted Galloways 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Sep-15 06:14 AM GMT

Belted Galloways, that was what you said they were, wasn't it? 😊

Re: Susie

by bugboy, 09-Sep-15 06:16 AM GMT

"Susie" wrote:

Belted Galloways, that was what you said they were, wasn't it? 😊

No I said Saddlebacks, knowing full well at the time that was a type of pig 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Sep-15 06:16 AM GMT

"David M" wrote:

"Susie" wrote:

At this time of year every butterflying day is a bonus taking us nearer to the start of next years season!

How true!

In another month's time, we'll ALL be yearning for early March.

Yes indeed, although I'm hoping to see the odd red admiral right up until the end of autumn 😊

Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Sep-15 06:19 AM GMT

"bugboy" wrote:

"Susie" wrote:

Belted Galloways, that was what you said they were, wasn't it? 😊

No I said Saddlebacks, knowing full well at the time that was a type of pig 🤔

I didn't contradict you 😊 I just thought it was a breed I didn't know. Lol. My daughter is the cow expert.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Sep-15 07:38 PM GMT

Finally some photos.



Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Sep-15 07:39 PM GMT

Silver spotted skipper at Denbies.



Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Sep-15 07:43 PM GMT

brownies from Monday.





Re: Susie

by Susie, 09-Sep-15 07:44 PM GMT

Brown hairstreak doing the Hokey Cokey. 'You lift your left leg up, your rear end down ...' Maybe not 😊



Re: Susie

by Wurzel, 10-Sep-15 05:05 AM GMT

Cracking shots and worth the wait Susie 😊 Looking forward to the Social 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Susie

by Susie, 29-Sep-15 05:14 AM GMT

Today I was a bit tired and grumpy (watched the eclipse last night) but a slog up the hill at Kingley Vale lifted my spirits eventually. It was a beautiful day, very reminiscent of summer, but butterflies were quite few between apart from speckled woods which were in good numbers in a few places. There were some brimstones fattening up for winter, a few battered Browns I wasn't able to identify, a red admiral and a painted lady. Not a huge number but not bad for Autumn I guess. The views were spectacular and the yew trees managed to put me in a more relaxed and contemplative frame of mind.

Re: Susie

by Susie, 29-Oct-15 12:48 AM GMT

Hello, yes it's me. Still here!

I've been very envious of the long tailed blues people have been seeing and so have had a couple of (unfortunately unsuccessful) trips to look for them.

However my back garden is still pulling in red admirals so there is something to be grateful for 😊