

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 01-Jan-16 10:12 PM GMT

Loving your sunset shots Goldie 😊 Happy New Year!

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 02-Jan-16 03:25 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, Happy New Year to you too, 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 02-Jan-16 05:57 PM GMT

Good to see you having a go at the moon, Goldie. Half moon is a good time to take photos, because the sun is shining across the surface at an angle, which brings out a lot more shadow detail than when it is lit 'flat on' at full moon. I think a 300mm lens is good for moon photos but you need to take more care over making sure that the focus is exactly right.

I suspect that the circular black mark is due to a speck of dust on the front or back surface of you lens. Try setting a small aperture (large number – e.g. f/22) and taking a photo of a plain sky. This should make any dust spots show up clearly and then you can use a blower-brush to get rid of them.

If it happens with different lenses on the camera, then it can be dust on the sensor. The camera's self-cleaning mechanism should deal with it but, otherwise, a blower-brush directed into the front of the camera but not touching the sensor is the safest way to deal with the problem. You need to find how to raise the camera mirror to do this – look in the instruction book. Hopefully, though, the dirt is on the lens, which is easier to deal with.

Happy New Year!

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 03-Jan-16 04:37 PM GMT

Hi! Mike and a Happy New Year, I was hoping you'd pick up on my Moon shots 😊 I'll try what you suggest with f/22 it's going to have to be much better weather though before I try again 😊 It's poured down all day today and it looks set in for the week again with further flood warnings.

I found how to clean the sensor but I've no brush so I'll have to sort that out, it looks like it will have to be done manual according to the Menu. I couldn't understand why the shadow behind the Moon shots moved with each shot I took, never gave a speck of dust a thought 😊😊 You live and learn 😊 How often do you have to clean the sensor Mike 🤔 I cleaned the lens a lot but mostly in Summer, with the weather we've had, it's not been good enough to take photos outside at all, (until I saw the clear sky's that morning) Any way keep the advice coming, I believe I've learnt a lot in the last few years about photography and I've still a lot to learn all the beat for the New Year Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 03-Jan-16 10:48 PM GMT

Hi Goldie. From the look of the dust spot (very blurred) I'd check the lens first and make sure that bot the front and back are clean. If it's dust on the sensor the mark will appear with all your lenses.

My current cameras have built-in ultrasonic cleaners for the sensor and I have never had to clean one manually. My older Nikon D70 did need to be cleaned manually and tended to need it about once a year. If you are in the habit of changing lenses on a sandy beach with the wind blowing (Southport?) then you are more likely to have the problem.

I wrote an article about how I cleaned my D70 on my website at <http://home.btconnect.com/mike.flemming/sensor.htm> several years ago. Your Canon and other modern cameras usually have a fluoride coating on the sensor, which should not need more than a blower to remove dust.

Lets hope that the rain stops sometime before the end of 2016 😊

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 04-Jan-16 01:37 PM GMT

I've just read your article Mike and I've tried it, so hope fully it will be okay, from now on I'll keep the camera out of sight whilst in the Sand Dunes until I'm ready for a shot 😊 Hope fully when the sky is clear, it's rainy again this afternoon, Thanks again Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 06-Jan-16 07:26 PM GMT

I've just been going through my photos of Small Heath photos I took on the 23rd May in Southport Dunes and I noticed in this one photo the Butterfly

has two spots in the Black spot on the wing in fact it looks like it's got two Black spots is this Butterfly an ab ? I've checked the species section and I'm not sure , I took photos of two different Butterflies on the same day and they are very different. Goldie 😊



Small Heath 23rd May GM



Small Heath 23rd May GM

### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 06-Jan-16 07:38 PM GMT

It's definitely not 'normal', Goldie. I certainly haven't seen one like that before.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-Jan-16 07:58 PM GMT

Thanks for your input David I thought it looked different, it pays to go through your photos after the seasons finished Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 07-Jan-16 10:17 PM GMT

That's a definite second distinct pupil so a definite ab. I had a look on the Cockayne collection but couldn't see any other butterflies that looked like that but it must be an ab, nice find 🍷 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 08-Jan-16 02:07 PM GMT

Sorry David and Wurzel, I made a boob with this shot, call it the one that didn't get deleted 😞 😞 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 08-Jan-16 09:15 PM GMT

Well done for having the courage to admit it, Goldie! No wonder I'd never seen anything like it! 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 08-Jan-16 10:44 PM GMT

**David M wrote:**

Well done for having the courage to admit it, Goldie! No wonder I'd never seen anything like it! 😊

i agree with David. Perhaps you could edit out the errant pic from your post so that others may not be misled in the future?

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 10-Jan-16 01:50 PM GMT

Thanks David, it was a genuine mistake that's why I admitted It was wrongly posted, we all make mistakes I'd no intension of deceiving anybody that's why I put an extra posting in( Ident) in the first place thinking some one could. I don't feel courageous (Just Stupid) 😊

Thanks again for your posting Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 10-Jan-16 06:06 PM GMT

Oh well it was a cracking find for a short while 😊 That's one of the many, many great things about this forum you don't have to feel bad about making errors, it all adds to life's rich tapestry 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 11-Jan-16 10:09 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, I agree about the forum 😊 My life's tapestry is getting longer and longer memory wise 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 15-Jan-16 02:20 PM GMT

We got the first snow of 2016 yesterday on the west Pennine Moors, I went to my cousins over the Moors into Rossendale and just the tops of the moors had snow but it looked great after all the miserable rain we'd been having over the last two months, They've forecast more for today and -5 below for tonight, looks like Winter has defiantly arrived. Goldie 😊



*View of Holcombe Tower*



West Pennine Moor

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Jan-16 10:35 AM GMT

Woke up this morning early to a blanket of Snow outside, it was a pleasant surprise but now it's shovel time 😊 I just caught sight of a Robin in the back garden and a Coal Tit also Blackbirds, all waiting for breakfast, I just managed to get a Quick shot of the Robin, I expect we'll get more visitors later today 😊 Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 17-Jan-16 12:53 PM GMT

Wow, that's some fall there, Goldie. Couldn't be more different here on the Gower – it's grey and miserable with no white stuff whatsoever. 😞

**Re: Goldie M**

by Paul Harfield, 17-Jan-16 09:46 PM GMT

Hi Goldie

Nice to see a snowy winter scene 😊. Your garden looks a little different now compared to those images of Red Admirals from last October. As David says, nothing resembling snow down here so far.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 17-Jan-16 09:57 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Nice bit of snow you have there. We have had a few sprinklings down here in the midlands but nothing like as heavy as you have had.

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 17-Jan-16 10:17 PM GMT

A lovely Christmas scene there Goldie 😊 Hopefully the cold will knock the pathogens and parasites on the head so you'll have a great next season. 😊  
Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 18-Jan-16 12:34 PM GMT

Hi! David, the Snow didn't linger very long, woke up this morning and a thaw had set in, roll on Spring 😊  
Hi! Jack, yes my Garden is certainly different 😊 I'll soon be getting in there hope fully readying for Spring 😊  
The Snow hasn't lasted that long Neil but the cold wind is back with us worse luck and the low temperatures. 😊  
I hope your right about the cold weather killing off the bugs Wurzel, I was a bit worried about the mild weather. 😊

Nothing much happening here, but I've looked forward towards the Summer and got my first week's holiday booked, I'm ready for off now, Roll on 😊  
Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 20-Jan-16 06:56 PM GMT

Today the weather was just like Spring, no wind and Sunshine all day long, so we decided a long walk at Rivington would be good ,it was still cold but not too cold 5c.

When we got to Rivington we weren't surprised when we saw the amount of cars there, luckily there's loads of parking. Has we walked a long we spotted this little bird, I saw the same bird last year but couldn't get a shot of it, so I was pleased when it stayed on the Tree, It was climbing gradually from the bottom of the Tree to the top. I think last year I was told it could be a Tree Creeper.

Unfortunately, I only had my small camera lens with me so I couldn't really do the photos much clearer, plus between me and the tree there was quite a lot of mud, the mud won, I took some shots from a distance. Goldie 😊



*Rivington Jan 20th 2016*



*Tree Creeper Rivington*



*Tree Creeper*



*Tree Creeper*

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 24-Jan-16 09:43 PM GMT

Indeed it is a Treecreeper Goldie, they're cracking little birds I love watching them as they'll fly to the base of a tree, creep up it, get to the top and then fly to the base of a new tree and so on and so on. 😊 saw my first Bumble Bee this morning so not much longer now...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 25-Jan-16 11:52 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, it's the first time I'd seen one up close, like you say they're great to watch. Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

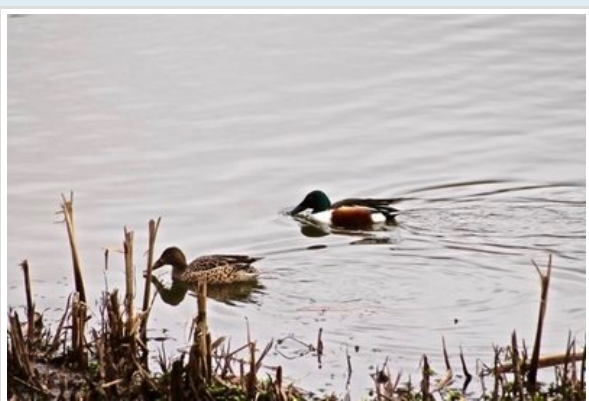
by Goldie M, 29-Jan-16 02:05 PM GMT

Yesterday morning was a lovely morning but rain was threatened for about 2pm, we decided we'd have a trip to Pennington Flash it was quite a while since we'd visited, the Winter being so wild here.

We walked to the first Hide where we saw lots of small birds, but it was at the second hide that we saw the Nuthatch, Long Tailed Tit, Coal Tit, and Reed Bunting's plus lots more Dunnock, Chaffinch, Robin and so on, it was great watching them 😊

Then at Hide number three we saw out in the middle on a small Island some Goosander and Shovel Ducks, I may have got the names wrong so if I have feel free to re name 😊

We also saw Teal, Gadwall? and Heron at the fourth , It was between the third and fourth Hides they'd placed an uncovered hide more like a fence , (some one passing said it was because a Bittern had settled in the Reeds) . We didn't see the Bittern but far in the distance we saw what looks like an Heron in the tree's also a bird which I don't recognise and I'm afraid it was too far a way for really good shots but I've posted it in case anyone knows what it might be. Goldie 😊



*Shovlers*



*Heron*







*Teal*



*Gadwall*



*Gosander/Shovler*



*Chaffinch Female*



*Nuthatch*



*Long Tail Tit*



*Green Finch Penn Flash*

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 31-Jan-16 09:43 PM GMT

A lovely collection of birds, Goldie – I especially like the Nuthatch in a very characteristic feeding pose. Those ducks are usually called Shovellers but I think your name of Shovel Duck describes their extraordinary shovel-like beak perfectly 😊

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 31-Jan-16 10:26 PM GMT

Great stuff Goldie – I keep meaning to get out and do some birding so you're serving as my impetus now 😊 Love the Goosanders out of the water 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 01-Feb-16 11:28 AM GMT

Thanks Mike and Wurzel, I plan to go back to Penn Flash as soon as the weather gets better, not too sure when that will be we've got Storm Henry at present . When we got to Penn Flash at the first Hide we just missed a King Fisher, so it's a must to go back 😊

This morning I was in the kitchen when I looked out and saw this Bird on the roof across the back garden, I took some shots of it before it flew a way but I noticed it had a tag on it's leg, the Wood Pigeon's were giving it some funny looks 😊 If it's a pigeon it's rare being all White.Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 01-Feb-16 10:39 PM GMT

Interesting shots Goldie. I reckon the ring on the legs and the different stance/shape make this a racing Pigeon/Dove and unfortunately not an albino Wood Pigeon 😊 When you go back to the Flash try to get a shot of the Kingfisher on a 'No Fishing' sign it's one of those must have shots 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 02-Feb-16 02:11 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, If only that kind of shot was possible 😊 Still you never know 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Pauline, 02-Feb-16 02:43 PM GMT

Hi Goldie

I hope you don't mind me invading your diary but your bird is exactly the same as the ones in my aviary which are ringed with my phone no. You haven't been encouraging them to fly up your way, have you 😊 😊 If you have, I have several dozen more which you might like too! 😊



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I never managed a Kingfisher shot but thought you might like to see this one which I took some while ago:



class="postimage" />

Now I'll stop cluttering up your diary and get outa here!

### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 02-Feb-16 05:17 PM GMT

That image brought a smile to my face, Pauline. 😊

Goldie, since we've had our own pigeons, we have occasionally 'inherited' birds from elsewhere, including two lovely white specimens like the one in your picture.

They're free to go at any time, but they clearly like their new abode and don't seem to be in any wish to vacate!

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 02-Feb-16 06:50 PM GMT

Hi! Pauline and David, I wonder where the Pigeon came from I've had all sorts of thoughts about that, maybe your right and it's one of yours Pauline. 😊 You sound to have loads of different animals and Birds Pauline, your own Zoo I think 😊 Wurzel will appreciate that photo Pauline of the Heron on the sign post. 😊

David, sounds like the birds have a lot of sense, good food, freedom, warmth, Great! why would they want to fly a way. Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 05-Feb-16 02:41 PM GMT

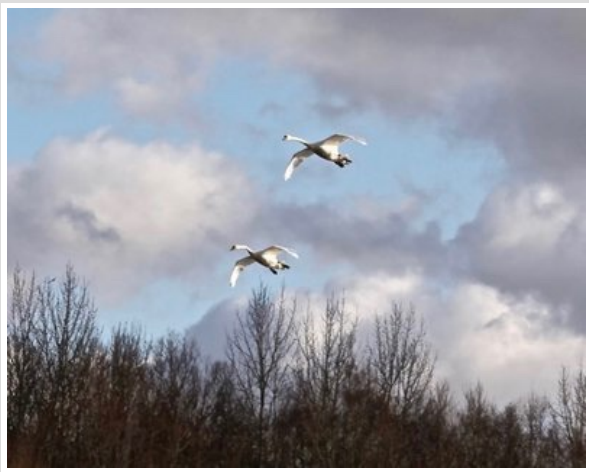
On Wednesday we went back to Pennington Flash, no Kingfishers I'm afraid but we did see a Moor hen and lots of Heron's and some Tufted Ducks but the main attraction were the Swans.

We found an hide which was more sheltered from a bitter cold wind, even there my hands were frozen sorting the camera out. Nothing much was happening at first then these lovely swans flew in, they looked so regal in flight, they landed on the pond we were watching which was great and then swam in the to the Reeds near by.

Very nice we thought, then we saw another pair of Swans coming from another direction, these were swimming, not flying in, to every ones amazement in the hide the Swans in the reeds came out and head down wings thrown back they headed towards the other pair, it was amazing to see, so amazing

I've tried in my photos to catch a few moments of what happened next.

The Swan seemed to walk on water at times , neck out stretched it sped towards the other pair and has we watched tried to make the other pair fly off the pond, my Husband said it was all about territory , to our relief it was all sorted out with out incident but the ones that flew in moved out eventually to another pond just next to this one. Mean while everyone in our hide was smiling and enjoying what we'd just witnessed It was fantastic. Goldie 😊



*Pennington Flash GM*









### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 05-Feb-16 03:09 PM GMT

My other photos taken at Penn Flash on the same day, include the other pair of Swans just coming around the bend passed the Heron and the Male swan ( I assume ) setting off to meet the challenge, mean while the Heron's on the bank were watching intently just before has an Heron flew down to join them, the last photo I included was taken of small bird that caught my attention has I was filming the Swan, I swung my camera quickly a round but the shot's not too clear and I'm not sure what the bird is, Goldie 😊







*Herons, Swans swimming into view*



*Swan Tufted Duck*



*Bull Finch*



*Moor Hen GM*

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 05-Feb-16 03:20 PM GMT

I've just taken a 30 second break from staring at spreadsheets of data 😊 great Swan shots 😊 I's say that your little bird was a Goldcrest Goldie 😊  
Better get back to the analysis...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 05-Feb-16 03:28 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, that's another new one to chalk up, glad you like the Swan shots Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Pauline, 05-Feb-16 03:45 PM GMT

Fantastic Swan shots Goldie – captured the moment perfectly. Not sure that's a Goldcrest tho willing to be corrected?

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 05-Feb-16 05:59 PM GMT

Looks good for Goldcrest to me – I posted one recently in my diary at <http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/viewtopic.php?f=29&t=7459&start=520#p106965> The eye-ring shows in your photo quite clearly.

Swans having a spat can make good photos – I especially like the ones with the foreground bird getting out of the way, sharpish! Nice colour in your Bullfinch too.

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 05-Feb-16 06:46 PM GMT

Thanks very much for your posts, Pauline and Mike, glad you like the Swan Pic's.

I've put Gold Crest Pauline on my Photos because I didn't know what it was and Wurzel and Mike seem to be quite knowledgeable I think I've seen one in my own garden but it was so small and so quick I didn't get a shot but the one I saw definitely had the gold crest on the front of it's head, by the time I got my camera from the house it'd gone 😊

Thanks once again Mike, for once I checked the weather before I went and altered the camera to suit the weather, I altered the shutter speed and ISO to suit the birds also the aperture and I was really pleased when the photos came out like they did, I hope more concentration when the Spring comes gets me some more good results, still learning 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Pauline, 05-Feb-16 08:02 PM GMT

Ah, yes, I can see that now 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 05-Feb-16 08:06 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Great couple of sequences of Swan photos, I particularly like the very first one with the pair against the sky.

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 06-Feb-16 11:53 AM GMT

Hi! Neil, I must admit that's a favourite of mine as well, it was a great day. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 06-Feb-16 03:29 PM GMT

This bird was in my Garden about a couple of hours ago, is it a Siskin I wonder, 🤔 I've been through my bird book and it looks very much like one, it was on the Nuts with a Coal Tit at one point, grateful if anyone knows , I took the shot's through the window so not too good I'm afraid Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 06-Feb-16 04:20 PM GMT

That is indeed a Siskin Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 06-Feb-16 10:11 PM GMT

Great Siskin Goldie 😊 If you're lucky you might get a few Redpoll at the feeder as well – keep your eyes open for them 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 07-Feb-16 10:50 AM GMT

Great News Bugboy and Wurzel, I'd not seen one before but know there at Penn flash, so I was excited to see it in my Garden, couldn't get the bird book out quick enough, thanks for verifying it 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 08-Feb-16 03:10 PM GMT

Nice sighting, Goldie. I haven't seen a siskin for years!

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 08-Feb-16 07:09 PM GMT

Hi! David, I was wondering if they are early, I don't remember hearing about them at Penn Flash until about March. I must go to Hall-Lee-Brook ( weather permitting) I think the Nature Reserve being so near to us maybe encouraging them to come here, I hope so 😊 Goldie 😊 Roll on Spring 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 16-Feb-16 04:42 PM GMT

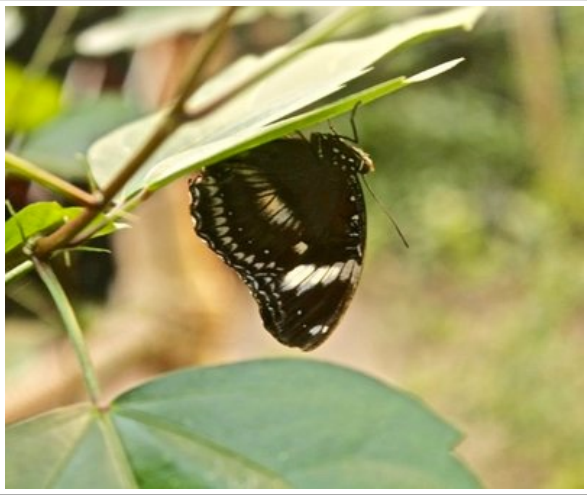
We had great weather over the Week-end, very cold but much better than all the awful rain we've had.

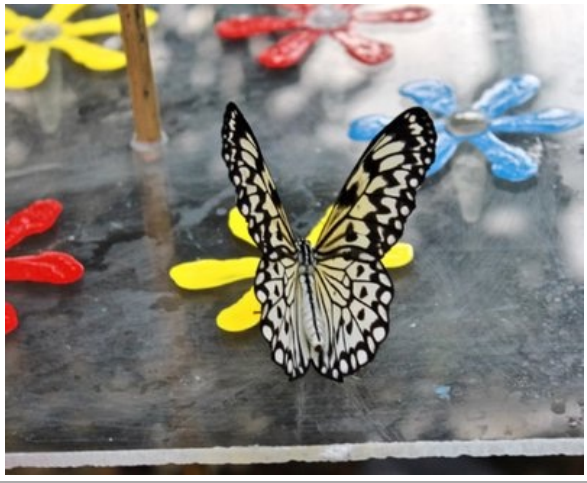
My daughter was visiting so she got us out in the fresh air 😊 We went to Penn Flash again and this time we saw the the Kingfisher, trouble is he saw us first so no photos 😊 still it was great to him/her.

On Sunday we visited Chester Zoo, the Safari boat is great, it's pulled by cord or chain under the water so you don't actually see it, it was so cold we didn't see many animals outside either but one Orangutang made us laugh out loud, it'd covered itself with an old sack which it carried about like a shawl 😊

The Butterfly house was nothing like Wisley BH which was disappointing , I only saw a few different species, there was a lot of Chrysalis though and some were on the verge of emerging.

There was a great new Summer house with various, Spiders, Snakes, crocodile, and many different Birds so all told a great day out 😊 Goldie 😊







*Sloth Chester Zoo*

### **Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 16-Feb-16 11:02 PM GMT

Great shots Goldie, especially the Orang 😊 I watched one at Dudley Zoo years ago and all of a sudden it disappeared out to the other side of it's enclosure and started waving it's arms about and clapping its hands over its head. As the keeper came round the corner with a barrow full of fruit I realised he 'encouraging' the keeper to get a move on as he wanted his grub 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### **Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 17-Feb-16 10:19 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, the Lions were walking about doing the same thing, waiting for their keeper and food 😊

I took a couple of shots again of Heron whilst at Penn Flash, I've never seen so many, also a Bittern had been sighted twice so I must go back and and take another look ( weather permitting ).

I've included some photos of the Birds we saw at Chester Zoo Goldie 😊



*Heron's Penn Flash*





*Heron Penn Flash*



*Vulture CZ*



*Flamingo's CZ*



*Kookaburra CZ Cockabora Kookaburra CZ*



Crown Victoria Pigeon CZ

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 21-Feb-16 08:50 AM GMT

Great flight shot of the Heron Goldie 😊 I'm not too sure about your Kookaburra – looks more like type of Hornbill 😊 Can you imagine what would happen if one of those Crown Pigeons got out and met some of the local pigeons – it would be the butt of a lot of mickey taking, the Woodpigeons would be doing the bird equivalent of rolling around creasing up! 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 21-Feb-16 12:50 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, I should have taken a photo of the sign 😊 I asked my daughter what it was because I'd forgotten, so I'll blame her if I'm wrong 😊 I'd never seen one like it before, I thought it had three Beaks at first 😊

Glad you like the shot of the heron, I've been lucky lately, they just seem to take off when I'm there and ready to shoot 😊

I want to go back to Penn Flash to see if I can find the Bittern, (hope fully I can shake my cold off first.)

The Pigeon had lovely colouring Wurzel, I didn't do it justice, I loved it's copycat Peacock feathers though, I think the other pigeons would be jealous 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by jenks, 21-Feb-16 02:27 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Liked the photos. The bird, by the way, is a Great Hornbill (Buceros bicornis), fairly common in northern India and the Himalayas. They are huge and have a strongly undulating flight, almost as if they are so heavy they need to pause between wing beats !

Jenks.

### Re: Goldie M

by Hoggers, 21-Feb-16 05:11 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, those Flamingos look gorgeous! Beautiful colour– I wish they lived in our countryside !

Best wishes

Hoggers

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 22-Feb-16 03:34 PM GMT

Hi! Jenks and Hogger's, glad you liked the birds 😊

I realise the bird is an Hornbill now Jenks, my fault for not taking a shot of the name 😊 I saw so many birds and animals i got things mixed up and had to ask, they were as wise has I was 😊 There's so much to see there Spider's, Snakes , even a Crocodile 😊

Hogger's, the Flamingoes took my breathe away, their lovely colour was outstanding more so because there was so many of them clustered together, it would be great if we had them here like you said.

It looks more like Spring outside at present the Daffodils are coming through and the grass needs mowing, even though it's still February the grass doesn't seem to have stopped growing all through the Winter and is quite high, maybe in the next week or two we'll see the first BF's (hope fully) Goldie 😊

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 23-Feb-16 04:24 PM GMT

Today was a beautiful day, the Sun was shining and for once no breeze to blow you off your feet 😊 We decided to go to Penn Flash again to look for the Bittern, no luck with that but as we walked to the different Hides every person we passed seemed to be in a good mood, all wishing us a good morning which made a big change from, "hoods up, quick to the next hide out of the cold" 😊

In the very first Hide some one pointed out a Buzzard in the far distance, the lady next to me had a huge lens on her camera and the photograph she took was fantastic, I took a number of shots with my camera but the photo is nothing to shout home about, needless to say I must look for a long distance lens 😊 Money, money, !  
It always raises it's ugly head! 😊

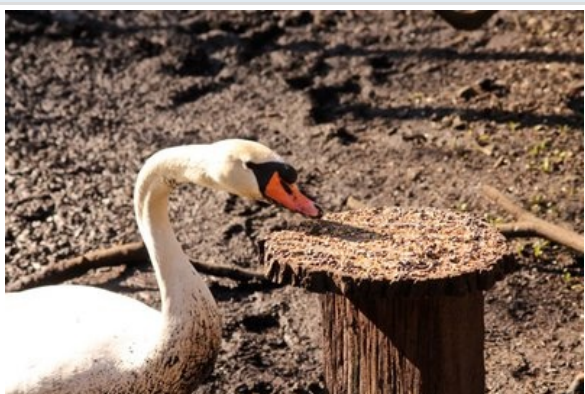
After that at the very last Hide this Woodpecker made our day as it flew down on to the hanging Peanuts, then two Swans arrived out of the Reeds and enjoyed themselves at the Bird Tables 😊 They were lovely and white when they arrived but after wading through the mud they didn't look quite so bright in the end, I must say I've never seen Swans at Bird tables before 😊 Anyway, the morning turned out to be very enjoyable. Goldie 😊



Long tailed Tit



Buzzard Penn Flash



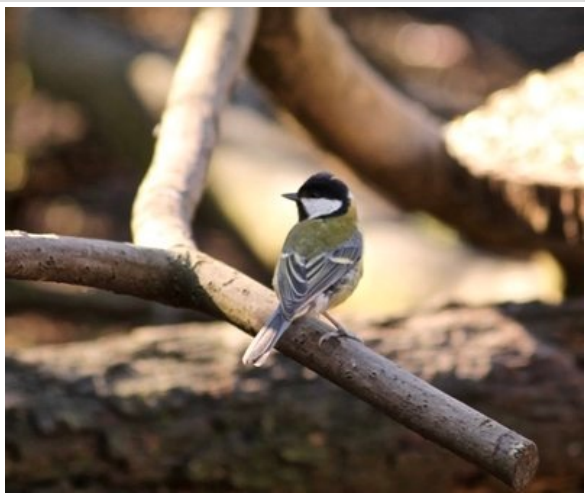
Swans PF



Swans PF



Woodpecker



Coal Tit PF

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 24-Feb-16 09:32 PM GMT

Great bird shots Goldie, especially the Woodpecker 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 26-Feb-16 03:42 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, I wish I'd been nearer though to the Buzzard, I'd never seen one before and would love to have had a closer view of it 😊

I went to hang some clothes out this afternoon in the hope they'd dry and I couldn't help but take a photo of some Crocus in the Rockery, it's still very cold but not freezing cold, just the wind when it hits you, the Sun though is lovely and warm, feels like Spring is just around the corner now. 😊 Yesterday we went to Southport, got some Fish and Chips had a walk round the shops with my Cousin and on the way back came Blackburn Old Road way, I took a photo of the West Pennine Moor, (Cousin lives in Rossendale) still rather bleak and some snow still around but I've heard a great walk round the Reservoir (Which is hidden by Fir Tree's) because last year some one counted between 20/30 Green Hair Streak along there, sounds like a Must for

this year 😊 Goldie 😊



*Crocus in Rockery*



*West Pennine Moor*

### Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 27-Feb-16 12:54 PM GMT

I've been enjoying your bird photos, Goldie. One of the (many) highlights of my Borneo trip last year was seeing Hornbills in the wild – they were quite common in some places but always extraordinary! You can see photos of various species on my website in the <http://home.btconnect.com/mike.flemming/Sabah2015/Sabah-Birds-2/birds2.html> collection. I think yours is the Rhinoceros Hornbill.

Regarding long lenses, console yourself with the fact that, not only are they very expensive but also very heavy! You have to be dedicated to want to lug one of these things around. My Nikon 300mm f/4 was heavy enough to put me off carrying it, as I get older, and that is nothing compared with the monsters many of my birding friends use. One friend uses a shopping trolley to cart his around. Some people say that the best photos are always obtained by field craft and no more than a 300mm lens, which can be used without a tripod for capturing birds in flight.

I hope your cold is abating – mine is being very persistent.

Mike

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 28-Feb-16 08:34 PM GMT

Thanks Mike for the name of the Hornbill, I'll add it's title to my collection 😊 Mike I've got a 70/300mm Lens and I went out with it today to Mere Sands.

I've also been practising with my Camera on different aspects, for instance today at Mere Sands, the weather whilst dull at times and very cloudy did have it's very bright moments. I decided to try the different ISO on the camera to see what results I'd get, also the f factor I've not played about with much Keeping it mostly at f8 and ISO 200 in the Summer and using the 70–300 lens most of the time.

I found though when taking photos of Butterflies in my garden last year that my 18–55mm lens was great and the shots seemed much sharper but taking shots of Butterflies from a distance with 70–300mm lens was also good but a steady hand was needed. 😊 I didn't need to get to close up with this lens but could take shots that would probably have scared the Butterflies off if I'd been too near them.

My 18–55mm lens only seems to get f/5.6 , it will go higher but seemingly not lower.

The 70–300 will start from f/4 so I've been trying out the different variations 😊 also ISO and speed.

I hope you can understand me, I'm hope less at explaining 😊

I like to use my camera with the 70–300mm at 200 ISO if it's bright and 400 if dull, I like a fast speed 1000 if not more for birds etc, but I don't seem to vary much with the f/ keeping it at mostly f/8 , anyway today I took this lens and thought I'd have a go . 😊 I've put some shots on with the different positions.

Any way, I can't see me carrying large lens about if they're so heavy, this one is heavy enough. I bet your having a good laugh at my explanations , I'm

least I'm still learning 🤔 Goldie 😊



*Long Tailed Tit ISO 400 f/9*



*Cormorants ISO 400 F/7.1*



*Cormorant ISO 250 f/7.1*



Robin ISO 100 f/5.6



Long Tailed Tit ISO 400 F/10

### Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 28-Feb-16 10:25 PM GMT

Goldie, I would never dream of laughing at someone who is clearly keen to learn 😊 I think it is great that you are experimenting with different settings. Digital cameras are really good for learning, because you can try all sorts of things without it costing anything!!! – you just throw away the duds ... but do make sure you learn why they are duds.

For very many years, I didn't even try to photograph birds, because they are so difficult. A digital camera, auto-focus, and image stabilisation made all the difference. Don't be afraid to use a higher ISO if you need a faster shutter speed – I find that up to ISO 1000 is fine for most DSLR's. When using a 300 mm lens, I like to steady it with a monopod. It's much more flexible than a tripod but still takes out a lot of wobble, and you can use it even while you are following a bird in flight.

With butterflies, nothing beats a good close-up shot but, especially in Spring, when they are always very flighty, I find it is better to use a longer lens – better to get a shot from further away than scare them off 😊

Mike

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 29-Feb-16 11:07 AM GMT

Hi! Mike, I've not tried Manual photography yet, I did a couple of times but felt it bit over my head at the time, so decided to get used to the settings first.

On my camera it gives an Aperture priority as ( AV ) and for Speed ( TV ) then ( P ) for Program so when I set the Speed and Aperture , I use the ( P ) to combine both and take my photos with this ( P ) program.

My Camera only gives me ISO 100/200 for daylight, ISO 400 for shade and the rest 800/1600/ etc are for mostly dark scenes. I can of course change daylight etc.

For Speed the camera starts at 60 up to 4000 and gives the faster speeds for fast moving objects and the slower for motion blur.

I've been using the faster speeds when needed only up to 1200 up to now, with the ISO between 100/200 for brightness and between 400/800 ISO for shade and darker scenes ( when I've remembered ) 😊 which I didn't on a couple of occasions .

I will try Manual this year some time to see if I can improve even more, I value your advice and wished I had more people around that was interested in photography like me, I feel like the blind leading the blind some times 😊 Goldie 😊

## Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 29-Feb-16 05:18 PM GMT

Goldie, The sometimes controversial <http://www.kenrockwell.com/tech.htm> calls P mode 'Professional' mode because it is what professional photographers use most of the time. So long as you keep an eye on the shutter speed and aperture that the camera is choosing, then it is fine for most things.

When you need to think for yourself is if you want to make the subject stand out from the background, by opening the aperture for less depth of field, or if you want to 'stop' a moving subject, by setting a faster shutter speed. That's where the A and S modes become useful. There's another time when you might want to over-rule the camera and that's when a subject is back-lit – like a bird against the sky. Very few cameras can deal with that situation automatically and the bird will come out too dark, unless you 'compensate' the exposure – usually by opening the aperture of the lens to give more exposure to the bird.

Actually, when I'm after birds (or butterflies) in flight and simply want the camera to choose the fastest possible speed in the light conditions, I select the A setting and make sure the lens is wide open (smallest aperture number). That way, the camera will set the fastest shutter speed for correct exposure with that lens. Try it for yourself and watch how the camera sets the speed in the viewfinder display.

Mike

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 01-Mar-16 10:36 AM GMT

Hi! Mike, I'll have to get my head round these different things you mention, it all sounds interesting and I'll try it ( when the weather is better ) 😊

I didn't know the P position was popular with pro's. I've been thinking back though to how I came to use it,

It was when I was at HLB one day and I got talking to a man who said he'd just moved here. He was interested in what I was doing and said there wasn't any special species of Butterfly round HLB and carried on to tell me he'd been all over the world taking photos of Butterflies. I thought at the time he was a bit of a know all. 😊

He told me to use the P mode but he didn't say anything else about it, I found out though that I could do different things with it like I've explained so I more or less stuck with it.

I do want the subject to stand out more from the back ground so I'll have to try opening the aperture more

I don't think I've got an S mode on my camera just M for Manual, TV, A, P.

I'm not sure I can back light with my camera, I've read posts where people have mentioned this but I've not really got the know how.

My other computer had all the soft wear on it for my camera but it broke down and my Husband bought me a new Lap Top which is great but it doesn't take disks so I'll have to check that out 😊

I can't wait to try out these things you've mentioned Mike roll on Spring and the Butterflies and a big thank you for all your help. Goldie 😊

## Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 01-Mar-16 02:52 PM GMT

Tv is the same as S – it means you set the shutter speed and the camera matches it with an appropriate aperture for correct exposure. Canon still uses the term Tv but I suspect it confuses some people, who think it is a special mode for taking shots of the television 😊

I don't know the details of your camera but, if there is an exposure compensation dial, try setting about +1 EV when taking back-lit subjects.

Mike

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 01-Mar-16 07:06 PM GMT

Hi! Mike I've got an exposure comp which I usually set at – 1 are just above for a darker picture when the Sun is really bright, I don't change it much unless taking shots in the shade when I up it slightly. I must admit I've never tried the + at all. I found my camera worked best in very bright Sun light on the minus it was much too bright on the 0 so just below this was good.

I don't take many night shots , I'll certainly give the back lighting a go, I was thinking when I took the photo of the Robin (it was dark in the wood ) maybe that would have back lit the bird good.

I must admit when I got the camera at first I thought TV meant TV 😊

Any way we've just had the forecast for Snow so it looks like a late Spring in the North for us. 😊 Goldie 😊

## Re: Goldie M



by Goldie M, 04-Mar-16 10:26 AM GMT

Woke up this morning to a lovely scene! 😊 No Butterflies here for quite a while, wellies on now and shovels to hand it looks lovely, isn't it grand, I thought it was Spring, I was waiting for birds to sing, but it's back into "Hibernation" again . Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 04-Mar-16 01:45 PM GMT

Ah, the North-South divide – it's brilliant sunshine here 😊 From the EXIF data, I see you are trying out 'aperture priority' mode. Results look good.

Mike

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 04-Mar-16 02:14 PM GMT

That's right Mike, I thought with the Snow it would be a good time to try it. 😊 It's started raining now so hope fully it will all disappear pretty soon. 😊 By the way I hope your feeling Better, it's taken me a couple of weeks to really shake this cold off, at least we'll be ready when the better weather finally arrives. 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 07-Mar-16 03:07 PM GMT

I couldn't believe my eyes when I went out into the garden this morning and spotted a Small Tart 😊 My husband saw it first and came in to tell me but by the time I got out it had gone, I shot back in the house and put my coat on grabbed the camera and ran out again and after waiting patiently it came back, ( I say it, it could have been another one) Any way it landed on my White Heather in the side garden rockery, I'm so pleased, I don't care what the photos look like( I'd just changed my lens) it's my first BF of the year and after all the Snow, and -3 Temps, very unexpected. 😊 Last year I saw my first about the end of March so it looks like I was wrong and may be their coming out earlier this year in the North, I can't wait to go to Hall-Lee-Brook now and check a round there 😊 Also in the Garden was Cyriel Squirrel enjoying a piece of Apple, and my Gold Finch were back, it's all happening at once 😊 We're back to -5 tonight but the Sun has been lovely and warm these passed few days, hope the Butterflies can find shelter. Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 07-Mar-16 03:33 PM GMT

Well done, Goldie! It's a great feeling, isn't it? Still not seen a Tortie myself yet even though I'm 100 miles further south!

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 07-Mar-16 06:27 PM GMT

Hi! Dave, it was so unexpected and after the rubbish weather we've had it looked unbelievable 😊

Looks like the weather has to pick up at the weekend, we've had three lovely Sunny days, roll on the warmer weather 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 07-Mar-16 09:35 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

I'll have to come up north, it's still very quiet down here.

Lovely Small Tortoiseshell.

Trevor.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 08-Mar-16 02:39 PM GMT

Hi! Trevor, Don't come North today the weather's back to normal, ( sleet ) but hope fully things should be warmer by Thursday.

A Small Tart was also seen in Southport the 6th March, so at least things aren't as bad as we thought they would be up here,

last year being so wet and windy. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Mike Robinson, 08-Mar-16 07:12 PM GMT

Goldie M: no snow here yet; I have to say yet, since I don't want to tempt fate. Nice to see the Small Tortoiseshell and lucky you for having a Goldfinch in the Garden.

Kind regards ~ Mike ...

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 08-Mar-16 11:24 PM GMT

Another one of the blocks 🇮🇪 I still haven't seen a butterfly and just when I was thinking that I might start taking my camera to work gales and rain hit us once again 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 09-Mar-16 10:00 AM GMT

Hi! Mike, We had the Gold Finch all last year then they seem to disappear so it was great to see them back again 😊 Yesterday was back to square one weather wise, this morning it seems to be clearing up nicely.

Hi! Wurzel, Nobody more surprised than us to see a BF, When my Husband came in after feeding the birds and said he'd seen one I thought he was Joking 😊 I grabbed the Camera, thought I'd changed every thing to get a good shot then found out after wards I was still on Cloudy instead of Sunny 😊 Just not used to seeing the Sun and lovely Blue sky in the morning. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 11-Mar-16 06:35 PM GMT

Beautiful day today which we spent gardening 😊 Surprisingly we didn't see one Butterfly, the weather was much warmer has well than when I saw the STS on Monday, hope fully they'll be back soon.

Yesterday we decided to go for a drive and we drove to Thornton, near Fleetwood, there's a country park by the River Wyre the river is tidal and in Spring with the high tides it floods onto mud flats, all kinds of Sea birds gather there and it's good for long walks.

The back ground of the Mountains in the Lake District still with Snow on adds to the pleasure of the walk 😊

I spotted a Shelduck, and a group of birds which continued to fly up and down the River, landing then taking off again, I'm not sure what they're called but it was a nice day out. Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 11-Mar-16 11:14 PM GMT

I love that view across to the Lake District mountains, Goldie. Your flock of birds are Oystercatchers, recognised by their long rather blunt-looking orange-red bills and prominent white wing-bar when flying. They feed off cockles, which are plentiful in Morecambe Bay.

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 12-Mar-16 12:05 PM GMT

Thanks for the info Mike, I'd not seen the River so flooded before but it seems it does it every year, so I'll be going there more often Feb/March from now on.

The Lake District mountains really look fantastic with the Snow on them, we usually go up there this time of year but they're building a new road which when finished will by pass Lancaster and be easier to travel to Morecambe, there was a bad accident last week on the M6 at this Junction, they closed the Motor way for a while and had to resurface it, so we decided to give it miss. Hope fully things will be back to normal for the Spring and traveling to Gait Barrow.Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 12-Mar-16 10:32 PM GMT

Cracking scenic shot Goldie 😊 We've had some warm weather the last couple of days and so I'm finally off the mark 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

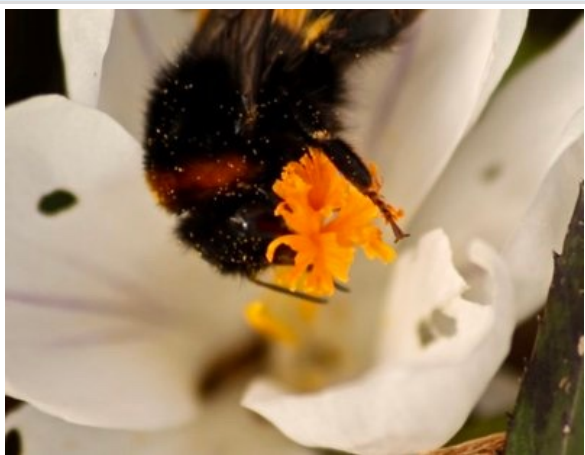
by Goldie M, 16-Mar-16 05:31 PM GMT

Sorry I've not answered sooner Wurzel, I'd picked up a bug and felt a bit under the weather, okay now though, the weather has been dry here but we've had a bitter cold wind all the time. Glad you liked the view.

I ventured to Hall-Lee-Brook today the Sun was lovely and warm we've still got the breeze though but in sheltered area's it's lovely and warm, even sat out for a while 😊

Whilst at HLB I spotted my first Comma but it was along way off in amongst the Blackberry bushes, I couldn't get any where near it but I managed some far a way shots not too good though, still it's the first Comma of the year for me.

We seemed to have a lot of large Bee's lately, they don't mind the wind and are really enjoying the Crocus in the back garden hope fully the weather will get warmer, I've seen two more STS but they didn't settle so no shots Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 16-Mar-16 09:12 PM GMT

Good for you, Goldie. That must have made you feel a whole lot better?!

Saw my first 2016 Comma today myself, and I derived just as much satisfaction. 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Mar-16 05:49 PM GMT

Thanks David, glad you saw your first Comma it's great when you start to see the Butterflies I agree 😊

Today was a fantastic day weather wise, for once there was no wind and the temperature went way up, Sunshine all day 😊 I went back to Hall-Lee-Brook to see if I could get some more shots of the the Comma I saw, it was not near the stream like before but near the path, obviously a different Comma 😊 (which I nearly tripped over) 😊 Glad to say the photos are better than yesterday 😊

I went to the meadow next, there were very few Dandelions but a Small Tortoiseshell was there on one of the flowers so that made my day, altogether I saw three Torts, one Peacock which I couldn't photograph ( too quick for me) and the Comma. I'll have to go back weather permitting to see if I can get a shot of the Peacock. It looks like things are off to a good start here in the North. Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 18-Mar-16 12:04 AM GMT

Looks like the weather has gone from the ridiculous to the sublime Goldie 🍀 Nice Comma I can't wait to see my first.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 18-Mar-16 11:27 AM GMT

Cheer's Wurzel, I've been lucky this year so far, it was 21st of March last year before I saw my first Butterfly, I've gone out later in the day this time because the mornings have been to cold which the Butterflies don't like. Hope you see the Comma's soon Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Mike Robinson, 18-Mar-16 05:08 PM GMT

Nice pictures; the deep yellow of the Dandelion flower provides a nice background for the butterflies.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 18-Mar-16 09:56 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, great to see you are seeing butterflies 😊 Still nothing for me but then again I have not been out looking yet.

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 19-Mar-16 02:07 PM GMT

Thanks Neil, back in the cold here Worse luck. Goldie 😞

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 11-Apr-16 03:36 PM GMT

It seems ages since I posted but at least I've managed to sort my garden out and my green house which is now full of Begonias ready for pot planting, in-between I've had company again, got a sickness Bug ( got sick with the weather as well,) 😞

I've been over a few times to Hall-Lee-Brook, nothing until yesterday when I saw a couple of Comma's again, one was in the same place I'd seen it on the 16th March. I thought back in March that the Butterflies were really starting to come out because I'd seen a Comma the day afterwards on the 17th also Small Tort's , since then nothing until yesterday, that makes 24 days between my first sightings and the couple of Comma's, I saw yesterday, the strange thing is last year I saw nothing until late March but from then on in early April I was seeing Orange tips, SW's SW, Peacock, ST. Of course the weather has a lot to do with it, I'll have to put my trip to Gait Barrow this year later than last, the end of April and not the middle like last year.

Today the temperature is 15c but the wind speed must be about 30miles an hour I think 😞 The Sun is hazy, I've been back to HLB today nothing again, it does make you wonder about the Butterflies and hope they're Okay. Goldie 😞



### Re: Goldie M

by maverick, 11-Apr-16 08:14 PM GMT

There all OK Goldie

Sunday at the Sankey vally Warrington I spotted my first Brimstone's of the year also two peacocks. Also on the bird front I spotted two swallows and a chif chaf

Summer is just around the corner



**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 11-Apr-16 09:48 PM GMT

Hope you're fully on the recovery trail, Goldie.

15c trumps anything I've seen in south Wales so far this year. I daresay you'll be seeing Orange Tips very soon.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 12-Apr-16 09:51 AM GMT

Thanks for that Maverick, let's hope we see some thing soon, rain so far this morning, UGH!  
You sound like you live in the North West as well so you'll know all about the awful weather we've had.

Hi! David, thank's I'm feeling much better now just waiting for the better weather 😊 I just wish they'd sort the forecast out, yesterday was supposed to be 15c but I think they forgot to say the wind chill would take it down to 9c 😞 Stroll on ! Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by maverick, 12-Apr-16 10:59 AM GMT

Warrington Goldie not far from you  
I've also had a look around Hall Lee Brook

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 12-Apr-16 03:12 PM GMT

Hi! Maverick, at HLB did you go to the other side of the High School ?  
HLB spreads over to Park RD , if I see the Orange Tips before you I'll let you know, I don't know much about the Warrington area coming from Rossendale,so not sure where the place is you spoke about. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 13-Apr-16 10:17 PM GMT

Hope recovery is almost over and you're out and about and making the most of the reasonable weather Goldie. 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 14-Apr-16 02:18 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, I was definitely out and about yesterday, best day we've had yet this year, 14c no wind, and Sunshine all day fantastic.  
We set off yesterday to Hall-Lee-Brook, I felt sure with the weather being so nice that we'd see some thing, ( nothing was flying ) I only went half way a round because usually when going through the small gate entrance you can usually see some thing if the BF's are about, not wanting to waste the lovely day we decided to go to Southport and try our luck there.  
We decided to stop first at Mere Sands, I'm so glad we did I managed to see my first Brimstone's and Peacock's of the year 😊 there was Peacocks every where flying high, landing quickly and taking off almost instantly, after not seeing any BF's for so long, I'd almost given up on Spring, I just stood there taking it all in and watching them, it was the tonic I needed 😊  
I managed a quick shot as one landed and when the Brimstone's arrived, that, was icing on my cake. I couldn't say for sure how many Peacocks we saw, there was so many but there were about 3 or 4 Brimstone and I was lucky that one landed onto a Dandelion near where I standing. That was yesterday , now we're back to square one with the weather, yellow warning for rain UGH! At least my count is now four 😊 Goldie 😊



Peacock Mere Sands



*Peacock's*



*Brimstone*

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 14-Apr-16 02:43 PM GMT

Great to see the Peacocks flying high Goldie 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 14-Apr-16 05:48 PM GMT

Salvation at last, Goldie! Love the aerial shot of the Peacocks.

**Re: Goldie M**

by maverick, 14-Apr-16 06:37 PM GMT

No stopping you now

**Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 14-Apr-16 06:57 PM GMT

Great aerial shot !. Spring may be a bit slow up there. but soon you'll be able to see Northern species not seen down here. Lots of Peacocks here too.

Trevor

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 14-Apr-16 07:24 PM GMT

Thanks everyone, isn't it just great when the Butterflies finally arrive in force, weather permitting I may try to get to Gait Barrow next week, I think it's to be nice mid week, Green Hair Streaks have been spotted at Meathop Moss, I know where to find them if their at GB ,it's either that or wait a bit longer for the Dukes, mean time back at HLB I'll be looking for the OT's, not sure what to find this year because last year I only saw one female. This time last year I'd seen my first HB at HLB nothing yet not even a Speckie. Ah! well at least things are moving. Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 16-Apr-16 03:37 PM GMT

Today there was a cold wind and although it was cloudy at times in the Sunshine it was quite warm, trouble was the Sun didn't stay out long enough for many Butterflies.

I went to Hall-Lee-Brook, ( forever the optimist ) immediately I got there the Sun vanished but I did catch sight of a comma disappearing into the distance and as I went further down towards the stream a very cold looking Tortoiseshell was hiding in the nettles and bracken, we soon went back to the car out of the cold wind, hope fully tomorrow may be better although Snow and frost have been forecast I'm hoping it's just for the hills. I was pleased to see the S Tort, it was the first time I'd seen one at HLB since the middle of March, strange though when not in the Sun they usually close their wings, this one didn't but left them open, it also seemed to struggle a little with it's balance so I'm assuming it hadn't been out too long. ( either that or it was frozen to the spot 😊 ) Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by Mike Robinson, 17-Apr-16 08:50 AM GMT

Friday and Saturday were pretty much Butterfly Free Days around here; Rainy on Friday and Chilly yesterday. Sunny today but I'm thinking it may not be very Warm; but nothing ventured, nothing gained, I think!

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Apr-16 06:51 PM GMT

You right Mike, if you don't go looking you don't find 😊

Last night was -4 here but the morning was Sunny for once. We decided to have a drive to Whalley, Spring Wood is fantastic in Spring full of Blue Bells and Garlic flowers but this year the BB hadn't opened and they seemed to be smaller, the Garlic flowers were only just peeping through, so all in all it was a disappointment. I thought maybe there was a chance of Orange Tips (the woods are noted for them) but if they arrive in the next week there I'll be surprised, it was so cold.

We made our way back and we called at HLB again, after seeing some snow still on the highest hills as we drove, Westhoughton is a top coat warmer and more to the South so with the Sun shining a lot of the time now I wasn't surprised when going through the gate this Butterfly flew passed us, I followed it and waited until it landed, to my delight it was a Peacock, the first of the year at HLB for me 😊 After that I saw the Comma again way out of reach but where I'd seen it before and in the field was a Small Tortoiseshell, so it looks like things are taking off at last at HLB. 😊 Roll the OT's Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 18-Apr-16 10:36 PM GMT

The weather has certainly been causing hit and miss days down here too Goldie – and unfortunately every good day is usually mid week 😞 Mind you I haven't seen any Cuckoo Flower yet so hopefully there will be plenty of OTs still to come – good luck up there with them!

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 19-Apr-16 07:20 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, I was at Hall-Lee-Brook today and the meadow where the cuckoo flowers grow was being mowed I give up on Hall-Lee-Brook, I don't think the council could organise a tea party if it was all set out for them. 😞

I finally saw a White Butterfly today, I managed a distant photo, not sure if it's a Small White or GVW, I thought from a distance it could be a SW. I also saw a Holly Blue and a Speckled Wood both were too active for photo but I'm so pleased to have seen them I'd just about given up, also saw Comma's Peacock's and STS 😊

I don't know if the Orange Tips will come back now the field as been mowed. (hope so). 😞

Hall-Lee-Brook has some nice birds, this one caught my attention because it looked different, when I got home and checked my computer I saw it had an insect of some kind in it's mouth, I'd like to know what the bird is if any one knows, also the insect please, the insect looks like an Ant but seems too big Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by maverick, 19-Apr-16 08:23 PM GMT

I will give a stab at a chiff chaff

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 19-Apr-16 09:07 PM GMT

I'd say your Pierid was a female Small White, Goldie.

From the look of things, the bird in your images has a bee/wasp in its beak.

**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 19-Apr-16 10:45 PM GMT

I'd agree with Chiffchaff. The legs look dark, although there's a crossover the Willow Warbler usually has flesh coloured legs. Also agree your White is a Small White.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 20-Apr-16 06:16 PM GMT

Thanks very much for the ID's David, Bugboy and Maverick, I was hoping Small White, so that's another first of this season 😊

I was hoping the bird was one I'd not seen before, Chiffchaff, that's another first. 😊

I hope the bird had a wasp David can't stand them. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 20-Apr-16 08:05 PM GMT

Today the weather was fantastic, we went to Hall-Lee-Brook early but I think it was too early, (a bit too cold)

The only Butterfly we saw was a Comma sitting on and taking minerals from, ( you know what 😊 )

We decided to go again to Southport and call once again at Mere Sands and I'm glad we did, I saw my first GVW of the year 😊 slowly but surely I'm getting there 😊 that's six species now 😊

Brimstone's, Peacocks, were also there and so were Speckies, but they' were too active for photos, next time I'll get them. Goldie 😊



*Green Veined White*



*Brimstone*



*Comma*

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 21-Apr-16 10:07 PM GMT

Persistence pays off, Goldie. If it's any comfort, 100 miles further south here in the Swansea area things are developing just as slowly, and with northerly winds forecast for the next few days, I don't expect that to change very much.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 22-Apr-16 10:10 PM GMT

Six species is all I'm on as well Goldie the weather is just as uncondusive for butterflies down here too 😞 Still it can only get better... 😞 oh no its the weekend so it will get worse 😞😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel



## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 23-Apr-16 09:58 AM GMT

After moaning and groaning ,David and Wurzel, over the last few days I was surprised when the weather was great again yesterday, cold wind at first and frost,by 2.0pm though the weather was much warmer so I set off again for HLB 😊

At first glance I thought" Oh No! not again, I was there about 30mins before I saw a Small Tort, then this big White BF flew down in front of me, Large White, couldn't believe it 😊 I decided to walk down by the ponds because they're more sheltered and to my delight there on the Blue bells was my first Orange Tip 😊

I couldn't get near it because of the pond but I was determined to get a shot no matter what 😊

I've done my best with the shots on my computer trying to bring the Butterfly nearer but it's not like being up close like I was with the LW and the next BF I saw the Small White but I'll still claim it has my first 😊

It proved to be a good day and hope fully much more to come it's another nice day todayGoldie 😊

I've been over to Hall-Lee-Brook this lunch time and it was bitter cold only saw one Tort and a couple of Comma's, it wouldn't surprise me if it Snowed tonight. Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 25-Apr-16 01:39 PM GMT

Last week when I visited Hall-Lee-Brook, I was amazed to see the meadow grass being cut so soon, especially in a Nature Reserve, I was hoping they'd let the grass grow for a while because the May flower/Cuckoo flower grows there together with the Buttercups and other wild flowers and was a great place to take shots of the Orange Tips.

Up to now I've sighted only a-few species there  
( one Orange Tip)

I can count the Peacock's on one hand  
Two Small Whites.

One large White

very few Tortoiseshells and the Green Veined White and Brimstone's are non existent up to now. I'd to go to Mere Sands for shots of those . Last Autumn they cut the grass and the Meadow Brown was there at it's best, which I mentioned at the time. I can't understand the Why at all, but I'm sure this as added to the departure of the GVW and SW, also the OT, it will be interesting to see what this Summer will bring. 😞 Goldie 😞



### Re: Goldie M

by David M, 25-Apr-16 05:32 PM GMT

No excuse for this kind of carnage, Goldie. They do it in various places near me and it makes my blood boil.

This obsession with 'tidiness' is partly responsible for the decline in many insect species, especially in and around towns.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 25-Apr-16 07:13 PM GMT

I totally agree with you David, I rang Butterfly Conservation last year but got no where, I even rang the council, to no avail . Can't under stand Butterfly Conservation they're always telling you about the decline of BF, any way we'll see what this Summer brings. Goldie 😞

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 25-Apr-16 10:43 PM GMT

I saw a similar thing on the way home the other day – there was a small back resplendent in Primrose, Blubells etc and there was the Weedeater edging ever closer – why? 😞😞

That being said I think you're doing better on the butterfly front up there than I am down here – still only 6 species seen and no end in sight of this dismal weather 😞 Roll on mid May it has to be better by then surely?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 27-Apr-16 03:43 PM GMT

It's been trying to snow on and off all day here, nothing substantial just the odd shower but the Sun shone brightly in between the showers and the wind wasn't has bad as yesterday so it was an excuse to go out.

I hadn't been out since Saturday to HLB and then I'd just seen one Small Tortoiseshell and that's what I saw today one ST'. 😞

I was also caught in one of the brief showers and had to shelter under the tree's, finally going back to the car until the shower passed it was after this when the Sun came out I was able to take a quick shot of the Small Tort, who, like me was taking it's chances in the freezing weather 😞

I hope the weather is better where you are Wurzel and you get more Butterflies and see less damage to their habitats. Goldie 😞



*Small Tortoiseshell 27th April*



*Small Tortoiseshell 23rd April*

### **Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 29-Apr-16 11:56 AM GMT

In my last posting I thought it was cold but I wasn't quite prepared for this mornings surprise 😊

The snow is melting now and the tulips are looking better , I'm thinking the Butterflies knew what was coming and kept a low profile 😊 ( I hope so any way ) Goldie 😊



*Back Garden*



Front Garden



Back Garden

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 29-Apr-16 08:05 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

We had some more snow here in the midlands this week too...along with hail, sleet, thunder and rain all at various times accompanied by a cold northerly wind. With some sunny spells thrown in on most days it has often felt like all four seasons in a day 🤪

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 29-Apr-16 08:34 PM GMT

Just crazy to see tulips set against a background of snow.

When are we going to receive some recompense for this prolonged spell of cold weather? 🤪

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 29-Apr-16 10:24 PM GMT

The weather has gone mad! Mind you wasn't equally weird in 1976? Definitely an unusual sight as David says.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 30-Apr-16 10:52 AM GMT

Thanks for posting Neil, David, Wurzel, it's supposed to be a nice day today but we've had two snow showers already, nothing is sticking now thank goodness, hope fully it clears this afternoon and I'll get out to check if any thing is moving, Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 05-May-16 11:19 PM GMT

Yesterday was a great day and I suppose everyone must have seen the Butterflies 😊

I went to Hall-lee-Brook and finally saw some movement, my first Speckled Wood's of the season, also the Orange Tip males were on the prowl I saw at least nine or ten, the one I finally managed a shot of was feeding off a Dandelion which is not surprising being as the meadow with the May flowers in it was cut 😊

The OT's were very quick and flew off again practically as soon as they landed which made photography a little on the hard side 😊 Plus the Speckies didn't help much chasing them a way before they could land 😊

I couldn't go back today, we went to Fleetwood instead and I got another surprise, we were in the River Wyre CP and as we walked by the side of the River first one Peacock flew down into the dead grasses of the River followed by another one I couldn't get too close but I got near enough to get some shots which do show the Male with the hairs on his body raised up for the Female, as I watched them (the female stayed mostly in the shade and was difficult to see her actions towards the Male) but I know now why they call them Peacocks 😊 The Hairs on his body were raised and then he bent towards the Female with his wings fanned out just like a Peacock, as he did this he bowed up and down it was like watching a dance 😊 As he bent he touched the Female's antenna with his own, I was fascinated and although I couldn't see much of the Female her shape was visible. It was the best show I've seen for a while. 😊 Goldie 😊  
Tomorrow I'm back to HLB and maybe I'll get to Gait Barrow shortly weather permitting. Goldie







### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-May-16 05:34 PM GMT

I got a great surprise today in my own garden, I'd just got back from HLB and was sitting in the Garden when this small White Butterfly flew in landing on my Wallflower, I'd just put the camera back in the house so I rushed in the house to get it, it'd not changed the lens thinking nothing much was flying, although I'd seen more OT's and one Small White also Speckies once again at HLB but what I'd wanted to see was a female OT.

Well you can imagine my surprise when the small white turned out to be a Female OT 😊 It's the first OT I've ever seen in my garden and a Female to boot ,so can imagine me running round to try to photo it before it took off. Goldie 😊







**Re: Goldie M**

by peterc, 06-May-16 06:20 PM GMT

Nice Orange Tip, Goldie. Is the flower *Verbena Bonariensis*? I had a male specimen roosting on such a plant in my back garden last night.

ATB

Peter

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 06-May-16 06:23 PM GMT

I planted some Bowles Mauve in March in an attempt to attract passing Orange Tips. No success as of yet, but it's nice to see them using somebody else's wallflowers!

What a lovely surprise.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 06-May-16 07:24 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Glad to see your seeing Orange-tips up there, I have seen my first ones over the past couple of days too 😊

I tried growing some Bowles Mauve in my garden a couple of years ago but my soil is too really too heavy for it. I am giving it another go this year with a plant in a container and it had both a male and a female Orange-tip stop briefly on it this afternoon 😊

Cheers,

Neil

**Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 06-May-16 07:53 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

That's what I call pleasantly annoying, travel for miles in vein to see a species, then one lands in your garden. lovely photo in the circumstances.

All the best ,  
Trevor.

### Re: Goldie M

by peterc, 07-May-16 07:03 AM GMT

Sorry, Goldie. I should have read your post more closely. The flower does look a little like V. Bonariensis. Good luck for the rest of the season.

ATB

Peter

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 07-May-16 11:27 AM GMT

Hi! Peter, it's a great plant the Bowles Mauve, I planted one in the front Garden and one in the back garden, they attract Butterflies all year round from Spring to Autumn 😊

Hi! David, no worries you'll soon have lots of Butterflies, they attract every species, they're an exceptional plant. 😊

Great news Neil, 😊 I know you'll get many more BF before long on the plant, I prune my plant right down when it gets leggy and it just seems to get more flowers. 😊

Hi! Trevor, it was a lovely surprise, I just wish I'd been more prepared for it. 😊

I've just read the post's on BC Lanc's web site and it looks like the Pearl Border Frit has arrived at Warton Craig, also the Dingy Skipper, so a visit up there is a must now because I missed them last year, hope fully the Dukes have arrived at Gait Barrow but I've not seen any posts on them yet.

A new site has been opened for Birds and other wild life at Brockholes nr Preston , it looks interesting , I spoke to a women when I was at Mere Sands a week ago and she said OT'S were there already, I don't know what other BF's are there yet though. They've even got a floating Restaurant I think 😊 If your traveling up North on the M6 it's at Exit 31 but you do have to pay for parking.

With every one being so interested in the Bowles Mauve I thought I'd include a few shots I took of it last year and this year in the snow in April Goldie 😊



13th October 2015



11th October 2015



27th September



April 2016

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 07-May-16 04:25 PM GMT

This afternoon we went back to Hall-Lee-Brook because the weather forecast was for thunder storms later to day so we didn't want to go too far. I think the Butterflies know when the weather is going to be bad before it actually arrives because the only BF's we saw were just 2 Male OT's and two large White's even the Speckies were hiding but I did manage to get some shots before we got too hot and returned home, now the sky is very murky and we're waiting for the down pour ☹️

I decided to take my other lens which is easier to carry and( Hide )if it rains. The two White's I mentioned were Male and Female and we watched has the Male chased the Female who didn't want to mate and hid under a leaf to the left of him 😊 this confused the Male who flew round the top of a Dandelion, couldn't find her, so undecided as to her where about's was he that he thought he'd take some nectar without landing on the Dandelion, while his back was turned off she flew 😊 It really is enjoyable watching their antics.

I've added a photo of the Blue Bells down by the Stream in HLB, also my Back Garden.Goldie 😊





*Hall-Lee-Brook*



*My Garden*

### **Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 07-May-16 05:27 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,  
I notice that the Bluebells in your garden are of the Spanish variety. Although pretty, they will hybridise with our native species. Garden centres are responsible for their spread in cultivation and often market them as English Bluebells. I got caught like that once, and when I saw the flowers the following spring I dug them up and put them in the green waste bin.

Hope you are enjoying the weather, 😊  
Trevor.

### **Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 07-May-16 08:09 PM GMT

Hi! Trevor I didn't buy the Blue Bells from a garden centre, I was walking my dog in the Woods( she's dead now) when she started messing about chasing a Squirrel, she managed to dig a few BB up in the chase so I just brought the bulbs home and planted them, I didn't know about Spanish BB but if they are I'll still keep them because they remind me of her, I don't think they'll do much harm in my garden . I noticed the OT when it flew in never went near them. 😊 Thank's for telling me, I'll keep them in trim, there mostly in the back garden the ones in the side garden I'll dig out. Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 07-May-16 10:03 PM GMT

Glad the OTs have reached you Goldie and as an extra special bonus you got a garden tick 😊 If you could send some Specklies down that would be much appreciated – there has been a real dearth of them in Wiltshire 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 10-May-16 10:50 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, I expect you've got your Speckie photos by now, I've been too busy out and about lately so sorry I've not answered your post before. 😊

On Sunday the weather was fantastic, I decided to have a rest day (planning on going to Gait Barrow on Monday) It's an age thing now 😊 While I was relaxing in the garden I got another visit from a Female OT , so not a totally wasted day. She seemed to have a half moon shape on her wing instead of the usual spot 😊

Monday turned out to be hot but also very windy. We set off for the Lakes and an hour and a bit later arrived at Gait Barrow, we were met with people with very long faces ( the Dukes weren't out yet) some had seen one which quickly disappeared and wasn't seen again,( Too hot for them I think) also no signs go any Pearl's.

I walked round the site and noticed that the Ferns usually quite tall at this time of year were really very low, too low in fact for much shelter for them what ever the weather. The site hadn't been roped off yet ( next week the Ranger said) also the Primroses were few and far between but still had to open up in most cases so I suppose another week or even two before things do get going there.

Another point was the Blue Flower(Bugle I think it's called ) which the Pearls like had not yet put in an appearance, it's usually growing all a long the paths there, so hope fully next visit I'll see both. 😊

So, when I found the Green Hair Streaks the visit wasn't a total loss, they seemed to be every where , soaring into the sky and competing with one another, my first for 2016 and some seemed greener than others and one a little worn but they made the my day. Goldie 😊







*Green Hair Streak 9th May*







*Orange Tip 8th May Side Garden*

**Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 10-May-16 11:55 AM GMT

Lovely Green Hairstreak images. I hope the Pearls are going to have a good year in the north. They are having a much better season down here. And the Dukes are out as well.

**Re: Goldie M**

by peterc, 10-May-16 03:26 PM GMT

Yes, some nice Green Hairstreak images there, Goldie. Some of these could be ab. *inferopunctata* where there are good white spots on the undersides. Perhaps this aberration is more common in the north where you are.

ATB

Peter

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 10-May-16 07:19 PM GMT

Thank you very much for your Kind comments Trevor and Peter, they're much appreciated 😊

Pearls have been seen at Warton Craig Trevor, not in great numbers but at least they've been seen, we called there yesterday but after walking for a couple of hours in the heat at GB thought it best to leave it for another week especially when we were told how windy it was on the top of the Craig so hope fully I'll get to see them yet.

Thanks Peter for informing me about the ab, I'd seen and photographed one before at Gait Barrow, a few years ago unfortunately the photo wasn't good enough to be included in the Species section and I'd forgotten what the ab was called any way so thank's for naming it for me, 😊 I don't know if it's more common in the North Peter but like I said I've photograph it more than once, it's a very pretty Hair Streak, Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 10-May-16 07:30 PM GMT

Lovely Hairstreaks, Goldie. Yours definitely have more white spots than any I've seen down here – in fact you can hardly see any white at all on most of mine. Nice female Orange Tip as well – such a delicate little creature. 😊

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 10-May-16 07:46 PM GMT

Thanks Dave for your comments, they do seem to have a lot of Spots don't they 😊 more like an added frill 😊

At Warton Craig yesterday i'd never seen so many Orange Tips both Male and Female, boy were they quick never landing on any thing for more than a second so lovely to watch.

I took these photos of Green Hair Streak's back in 2013, also ab *Inferopunctata*. Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M Waste Land

by MikeOxon, 10-May-16 08:30 PM GMT

Hi Goldie. Aberrations are a funny game – I sometimes think one person's aberration is another's 'type' specimen. That chap **Tutt** did seem to like claiming aberrations and wrote excessively long (and, to my mind, rather boring) books about them all.

I don't think your GH are *inferopunctata* because that term describes specimens that have white spots on the hindwings only – whereas yours have white on both wings. I think the white 'hairstreak' lines are the 'type' and it is the ones without white that are aberrant – *ab.caecus*

Having said all that, Northern and, especially, Scottish examples do seem to have better developed white streaks than a lot of the ones I see in the South.

Nice pics, whatever we call them 😊

Mike

### Re: Goldie M Waste Land

by David M, 10-May-16 09:42 PM GMT

That Green Hairstreak is very impressively marked, Goldie.

By the way, what's the reason for the 'Waste Land' change to your diary heading?

### Re: Goldie M Waste Land

by Wurzel, 10-May-16 10:20 PM GMT

Still no photos of a Speckle for me Goldie – although I have seen a couple now. Great Greenstreaks but I was wondering if your female OT was an aberrant as well due t the massive, crescent moon shaped spot on the fore wing?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 11-May-16 10:04 AM GMT

Hi! Mike, I've given up on ab's 😊 there's so many of them and even if I look them up I'm still in a quandary 😊 So if some one say's I've got an ab now I put it in my special section on ab's and trust their Judgement 😊

Thank's for your comment on the Hair Streaks, I always value your input 😊

Thank's Dave, I appreciate your comments on the HS's, as for the Heading in my Dairy, I haven't a clue why it's changed, I don't remember doing any thing to change it, so I don't know what's happened . 😊

I know I started my Dairy with Goldie M Waste Land , which at the time it was, now it's called Hall-Lee-Brook having been taken over and turned into a Nature Reserve which I talk about and visit a lot but I can't see why this would change my Heading, perhaps it's another of my many Hick! cups! 😊

Hi! Wurzel, sorry to hear you've not got shots of a Speckie yet, that's unusual for you because you can usually pin most things down 😊

I expect the weather has some thing to do with it, we've gone from winter straight into Summer with the Butterflies either hiding because it's too cold or too hot, Crazy ! 😊

I don't know if the OT is an ab or not Wurzel, like I said to Mike, " unless I'm told I don't bother about them now, I will look it up though so thanks for mentioning it. Goldie 😊

I've looked in the Species section for both Butterflies and I'm no wiser 😊 They both could be ab's but what their called for sure 🤔 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M Waste Land

by MikeOxon, 11-May-16 01:10 PM GMT

I found myself thinking of the famous line from T.S.Eliot's poem 'The Waste Land' : "*April is the cruellest month*". It seems to have been particularly true this year.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 11-May-16 03:55 PM GMT

Hi! Mike, You couldn't be more right, that's really appropriate 😊 I've taken out the Waste Land from this heading ( hope fully) it will disappear now 😊 It's rained for two days here, finally looks like it's drying up now, I'm off to Southport tomorrow, thought about you when I planned it you said how much you'd like to visit it again. Last time I went it was totally deserted, no flower's in the Dunes and not one Butterfly, I'm hoping it's different tomorrow. Goldie 😊

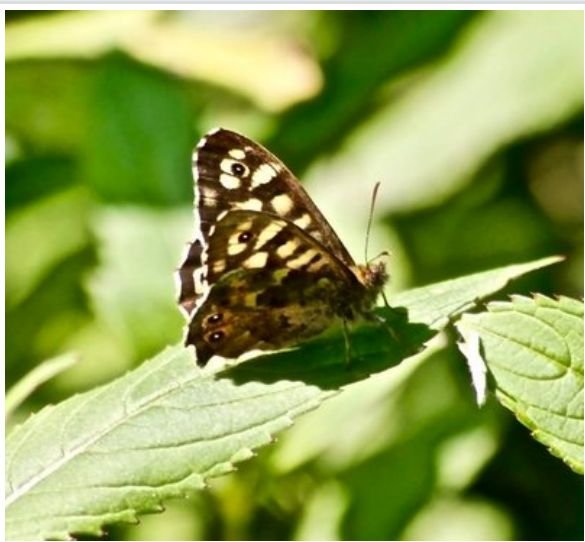
### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 13-May-16 06:50 PM GMT

I went to Southport yesterday but my visit to the Dunes turned nothing at all up, I saw a couple of Whites and that was it, so disappointing, but the weather was great so you can't have every thing, looks like it'll take another couple of weeks before things move there, no flowers to speak of, it looked more like March than May 😊

Today I visited HLB again, the weather was cool at first but soon warmed up, There was quite a lot of Large Whites and Speckled Woods but I didn't see one Orange Tip and still no Holly Blues to photograph, with the weather turning cool it doesn't look too good for the next few days.

Two Speckled Woods were together in the grass, not sure if the Female was quite ready for him 😊 Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 13-May-16 10:26 PM GMT

Still not got any photos of a Speckle Goldie 🍷 Nice sequence of behavioural shots – and Large White is another one of my 'seen but not photographed' this year too 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 15-May-16 10:33 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, I'm the same with Holly Blues but I did manage one shot yesterday from a distance before the BF took off so I'll claim it for a first of the season 😊

Having heard so much about Brockholes Nature Reserve which is only 20 mins a way from where we live, we decided to go yesterday. It turned out to be very enjoyable with the weather warming up after a cold start.

I was impressed with the loads of facilities for Children, play area's and bike rides, what I really enjoyed though was the floating Restaurant, you could have a coffee whilst watching the wild fowl. it felt like being on a boat especially as you could feel a slight move meant 😊 I've included a few shots taken from the window of the Restaurant .( One bird I've looked up but I'm still not sure what it is) this shot was taken from a large look out they've made over just one of the lakes.

There was also lots of walks and as we went down one of the walks we found these two lovely OT's which had just mated, sadly I just missed that but was able to take a few shots of them resting together, before the Male flew off, the male looked to have two spots instead of the usual one. Also I managed a shot of this rather worn Peacock.

On the way home we decided to give Hall-Lee-Brook a quick look although it was turned 3pm and at last I got a quick shot of a Holly Blue, If you can find it 😊 Goldie 😊







*Heron*





*Lap Wing*



*Reed Lake*



*Brockholes Floating Restaurant*

**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 15-May-16 11:21 AM GMT

Nice Orange-tips Goldie, especially like the male and female together, something I've still never managed to capture! That bird you can't ID is a Common Sandpiper 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 15-May-16 12:01 PM GMT

Thank's Buggy, that's another one to name and Chalk up, 😊 Glad you like the Ot's , a second or two earlier and I would have seen them mating, Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Maximus, 15-May-16 12:06 PM GMT

Nice Orange -tips, Goldie, especially the pair 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 15-May-16 12:07 PM GMT

Good to see M & F Orange Tips together. that floating restaurant looks interesting – like somewhere in the Far East!

The quick key to recognising a Common Sandpiper is to note the white 'armpits' up in front of the wings. It also bobs up and down constantly.

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 15-May-16 01:02 PM GMT

Thank's Max and Mike, I was really pleased when they posed for me, it was thanks to a cloud that suddenly appeared over us. 😊

Yes Mike, it's supposed to be the only floating Restaurant in England, you'd love it,( sat there drinking coffee whilst watching the wild life ,) 😊 we certainly did.

There trying to build the Reed Beds up to attract the Bittern and other birds, it's also on the banks of the River Ribble and contains three or more small lakes, they're also going under the other side of the M6 to complete further lakes, so when it's finished it'll be huge. The children seem to love the facilities and I think it will attract loads of Butterflies. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 15-May-16 05:16 PM GMT

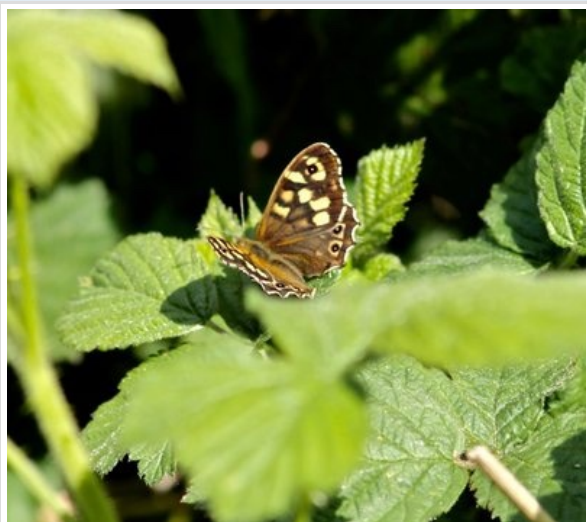
I didn't manage to get to Gait Barrow today, so had to settle for Hall-Lee-Brook, I did see the Holly Blue a teasing mile up into the trees it seemed where it shot from branch to branch ,way too far up for a shot, still I know the tree it likes now so watch out Holly I'll get you yet 😊

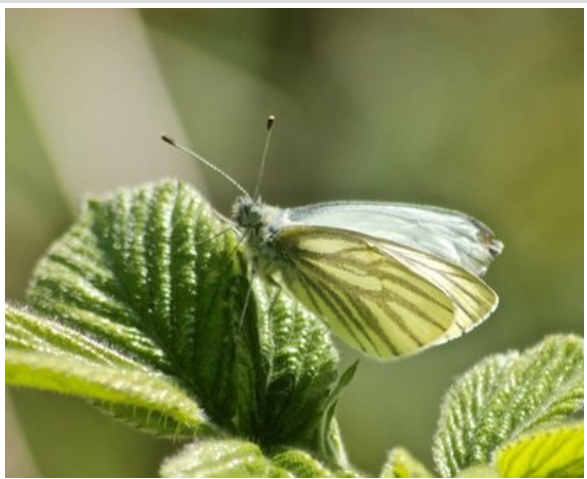
I did see only my second Green Veined White at HLB,(I wonder if this is a sign of more to come 🙄)

Also worth a shot was this lovely Chocolate coloured Speckie, it was quite a rich looking colour. Other then the Speckies and Large White Who, weren't stopping for any one, that's all I saw there, still the CVW was worth the visit. Goldie 😊



*Large White the one that got a way*







**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 15-May-16 05:37 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, loving the photo of the Orange-tip pair together 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 15-May-16 10:05 PM GMT

Great Speckle and a fairly typical Large White shot Goldie ie blink and it's gone 😞😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 16-May-16 04:58 PM GMT

Thank You Neil and Wurzel, I'm still hoping to get some Pearl shot's but the weather's taken a turn for the worst even had the heating on for a spell today, we'll see what tomorrow brings. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 16-May-16 10:08 PM GMT

Such a shame that the weather's on the turn, Goldie, just as things seemed to be hotting up in NW England.

Keep persevering though. Your reward will come!

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 18-May-16 04:08 PM GMT

Hi! David, the weather was nice yesterday and we went to Gait Barrow, no Dukes, no Butterflies to speak of except for Speckies 😊 A few whites which didn't stop so I'm not sure what's happening up there. 😞 I think the weather played a big part in all this because when we just had rain in April and a covering of snow they had heavy snow up there. Being patient though I'm finding hard 😊

The Bugle flower is out now but still no Pearls and I believe the Dukes are out in( Whit-barrow)! Cumberland,( I think that's how you spell it ), I've not been there, I've got so used to going to GB 😊 So we'll stick it out and try again next week. 😊 They'd Roped all the Duke area off when we got there so it was a bit disappointing not to see any thing 😞

We did see just one Green Hair Streak in the place we saw them previously but it looked a bit worse for wear much paler green and a small piece out of it's wing, It was the only thing I took a shot of besides the Speckie but we'll keep at it 😊

We even had a look at Warton NR and we saw nothing there at all, the hills there are very steep and rock's are every where, too much climbing, we kept to the lower slopes, I suppose the Pearl's could be on the higher slopes but we'll have to leave them to younger Butterfly enthusiasts 😊 Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 20-May-16 07:39 PM GMT

Nothing seen here since I last posted with the exception of a Small White in the Garden today who took advantage of some sun in-between the heavy cloud , the weathers been wet and cold and with more rain forecast it's not looking too good for next week either, I'll have to try and dodge out in-between showers 😊 Hope I can get up to Gait Barrow at some point in time. Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 20-May-16 08:34 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

I see DoB have been sighted at Gait Barrows a few days ago along with PBF. I am heading north in a couple of weeks and will be stopping for a couple of nights in the area so have been keeping an eye on the Lancashire BC sightings page. Hoping to have time, weather permitting, to have a look around Gait Barrows as well as Warton Crag and Arnside Knott.

Cheers,

Neil

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 20-May-16 10:28 PM GMT

You're notching up the species count Goldie 😊 My first Greenstreak of the year is always a relief 😊 Good luck with the Pearls and Dukes!

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 21-May-16 01:26 PM GMT

Hi! Neil, wouldn't you know it I was up there on the 17th and never saw a thing 😊 I hope you enjoy your trip North, in three weeks I'm going South to Sussex, I don't know what I'm expecting to see but hope fully I'll see some thing, If their not finished by then a Wood White would be good and a Grizzled Skipper, I expect they'll have gone by then.

You should be in time to see (if your going then) the Small Pearl BF so hope you have more luck at finding them then I've had up to now, 😊 Goldie 😊

Thanks Wurzel, I got the Green Hair Streaks at GB but nothing else, now Neil tells me the Duke and the Pearls are out at GB after me going up there on Tuesday 😊 looks like another journey is on the cards 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 23-May-16 10:11 AM GMT

Yesterday the Sun was shining so we decided a quick visit to Gait Barrow was a good Idea having been told by Neil that the Dukes were out and the PBF had been seen.

When we got to where the Dukes usually are we saw the Cordons all a round the enclosure, this is very good for their protection but not too good for photography unless you've got the heavy type of lens that I saw there being used. It also helps if the Butterfly moves to the front so you can get a shot 😊 this was not the case yesterday, the Butterfly stayed well out in the Briers so shots had to be taken in-between Ferns, grass, etc 😊

At least I saw it and managed some kind of shot even if far a way 😊 Whilst I was shuffling with other people to get a shot of the Duke what should come on the scene but the PBF, it whizzed about like a small Plane, diving over the Duke and landing first one side and then the other of the cordon, never, in-between 😊

I did manage some shots but being as it's a couple of years since I've seen one, I'm hoping it's a PBF but I'm not sure 😊

Also seen was another Green Hair Streak, and a Speckled Yellow Moth, after going to GB twice before and seeing nothing it was great to finally see the Duke and the PBF. Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Pauline, 23-May-16 01:48 PM GMT

You're probably used to seeing the white variety Goldie 😊😊 That was a cracking photo actually that won't be forgotten in a hurry. Seriously, really pleased that you got to see the butterflies you were after even tho' I understand your frustration about the (necessary) barriers. Well done 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 23-May-16 03:53 PM GMT

Many thanks Pauline, glad you liked the White 😊

I was at Hall-Lee-Brook today hoping to get a shot of a Holly Blue, I saw it but it was even further a way than the Duke, needless to say I didn't get one.

😊 I'll keep trying though 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**



by Pauline, 23-May-16 04:05 PM GMT

Just to be clear Goldie, for any 'newbies' that might be reading your diary, I wasn't referring to the smashing Small Whites you have posted recently but that amazing white PBF which you posted on page 8 of your diary and which has had over 1000 views! Not only is it a stunning butterfly but it has to be one of the best photos you have taken 📷📷📷 That has to be the highlight of your diary?

### Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 23-May-16 05:56 PM GMT

I'll second that, Pauline. Gosh, it was 53 pages ago and seems just like yesterday – a very memorable series of photos, Goldie 😊

Mike

### Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 23-May-16 06:27 PM GMT

I shan't forget that photo in a hurry, either, Goldie! A real find that was. 📷😊

Congratulations on seeing the Duke and the PBF yesterday – you've been waiting awhile for that. 😊

Dave

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 23-May-16 07:34 PM GMT

Pauline, that was the high light of my Butterfly adventures so far 😊 I still get the pictures up on my computer and just stare at them 😊 I feel sorry for the man who pointed it out to me as I have the pictures and all he had was his Binoculars, if I knew where he was I'd send him a photo. 😊 Wow! a thousand people you say have looked at them, that's fantastic 😊 I bet you can guess what the photo is on my Computer desk top 😊

Thank you Mike, gosh 53 pages since I posted, I still hope to see something like it again, that beautiful Butterfly that was posted the other day was awesome. I have a confession to make to you Mike after all your help I still forgot when I was at GB to change to a larger depth of field when taking the shots of the Duke, I think this could have made a difference to the shots I took of it, I'm still learning it seems, by mistakes 😊

Thank you Dave, I think it's everybody's wish to find something different, I'm still looking 😊 When I saw the Pearl's at GB I remembered the White SPBF I saw there and the date 4th of June (It was the day before my Husbands Birthday and boy did we celebrate both day's 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 24-May-16 07:10 PM GMT

Today I added three firsts for 2016 😊 We went to Southport and in the Dunes I found (to my surprise) Small Heath, Common Blue and a rather damaged looking Wall.

The Small Heath looked very fresh also the CB, there was lots of SH out but I only counted a few CB so I suppose they're just emerging. I only saw the Wall twice I knew it was the same one with the damage to its wing and the paleness of its colour, I hoped I'd see more but none appeared, there was no Small Copper either which was disappointing but at least I got some shots of the other Butterflies. 😊 Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 25-May-16 09:53 PM GMT

You're back in the butterflies which is great to see Goldie 😊  
Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 26-May-16 07:55 PM GMT

It was fantastic Wurzel to actually go for two days and actually see what I hoped to see. 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 30-May-16 08:43 PM GMT

Another lovely day today so we went to Gait Barrow, No Dukes, which was disappointing but I managed some more Fritillaries and my first Dingy Skipper of the year.

I also saw a Speckled Yellow Moth and couldn't leave GB without looking at the Slipper Orchids which were at their best. Goldie 😊



*Slipper Orchid*



*Speckled Yellow Moth*



*Dingy Skipper*



*Dingy Skipper*

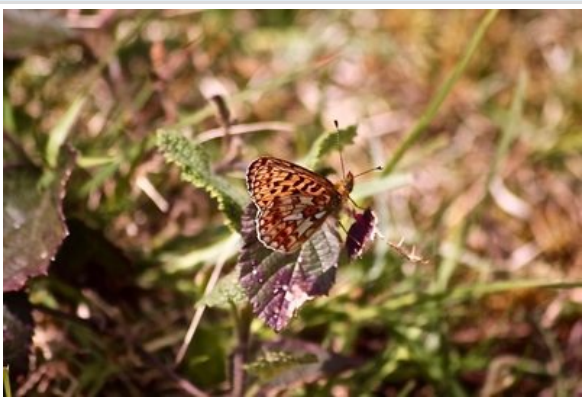


*Pearl Bordered Fritillary*

### **Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 01-Jun-16 10:04 AM GMT

I've just discovered that one of the photos I took on the 22nd of May was not a Pearl Bordered Fritillary but a SPBF, 😊 having discovered that it seems I may have taken shots of both again on the 30th May, 😊 well, at least I've bagged both. 😊 Goldie 😊



*Small Pearl Bordered 30th May*



*Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary 22nd May*



*Pearl Bordered Fritillary 30th May*

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 01-Jun-16 01:09 PM GMT

Good to see the Lady's Slipper Orchids doing well at GB. I'm hoping to visit GB myself later this month for the Dark Red Helleborines.

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 01-Jun-16 03:14 PM GMT

Hi! Mike, hope you see the NBArgus then and may be the High Brown Fritillaries and many other's 😊

I'm going to Meathop at the end of June to see if I can get better photos of the Large Heath, they were a bit too active for me last time. 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 01-Jun-16 10:42 PM GMT

Great going on the two sets of Pearls Goldie 😊, the Pearl hasn't made it any easier for you by being in such good nick! 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 02-Jun-16 10:07 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, the Small Pearl's were later this year, you got the odd one that may have been a bit sooner but most were quite late, on the other hand, the SPBF were on time 😊 I think the weather being very good up here these last few days have helped them. 😊 Goldie 😊

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-Jun-16 09:27 PM GMT

After a rather active weekend ( it was my Husbands Birth day) we went to Brockholes on Sunday, it was a lovely day of hot Sunshine so we wanted to make the most of the lovely walks around the Nature Reserve.

We walked along the board walk of the floating Restaurant looking into the water and we'd never seen so many Damsel Flies altogether in one place it was fantastic, the water seemed alive with them and much bigger Darter's.

Has I walked away from the Lake this flying orange caught my eye it was a Large Skipper much to my surprise 😊 Then my Granddaughter gave me a shout to look at a red Butterfly she said, then I was really amazed to see a Painted Lady, I also saw Common Blues mating at one point there was a three some 😊

That was yesterday, this morning early 9-15 we were out in the Garden and we found anther Painted Lady on the Boules Mauve, I think the weather up here has encouraged them to come North 😊 Goldie 😊



*Damsel Fly 5th June BH*



*Large Heath 5th June BH*



*Painted Lady 6th June BG*



*Painted Lady 5th June Brockholes*



*Common Blues 5th June BH*



*Common Blues 5th June BH*

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 06-Jun-16 09:31 PM GMT

You've certainly seen good temperatures lately, Goldie, which compensates slightly for the awful conditions you had in spring.

Glad to see Painted Ladies have made it up North - they're starting to appear near me too!

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 06-Jun-16 09:55 PM GMT

That's right David and it's been 28 degrees today 😊 I hope the weather changes down South for the better I'm down South next week 😊 It was great to see the Painted Ladies up here so soon let's hope other's follow them . Goldie 😊

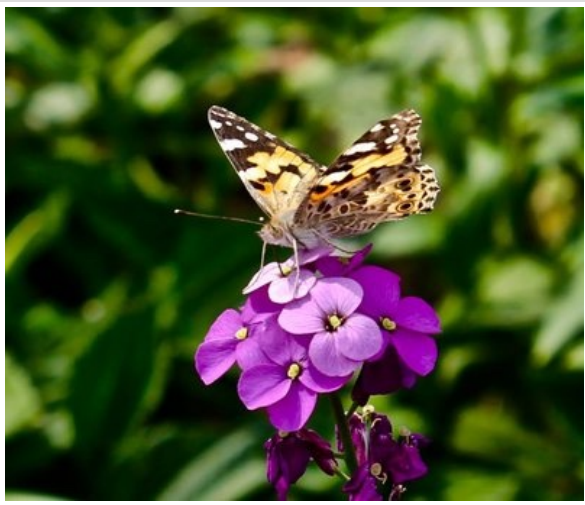
**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 07-Jun-16 05:10 PM GMT

Today in the back garden I saw another Painted Lady, I don't think it was the same one as yesterday because this one seemed more faded, it was still a nice surprise though, could be we've had another big influx arrive. Goldie 😊







**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 07-Jun-16 08:19 PM GMT

Great news about the Painted Lady Goldie – your garden has produced the goods again! 🍀🍀

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 08-Jun-16 09:58 AM GMT

Best thing I did for the Garden Wurzel was buying that Boules Mauve 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 17-Jun-16 07:34 PM GMT

We've just got back from a very wet holiday 😞 But thanks to Pauline I got two more firsts 😊 Pauline, it was a pleasure to meet you and hope fully we'll meet again this summer 😊 I hope your hands recover quickly and you take more great photos 😊 I loved your animals and hope your Rabbits okay, thank you so much for putting your self out to meet us 😊

Pauline showed me my first Wood Whites and Silver Studded Blues so thanks to her I got what I went to see and that was it for the rest of the week as for has Butterflies were concerned. We still enjoyed our holiday and managed to miss the showers, my Husband was recovering from an illness so the rest did him good, we did go to Warnham CP and we enjoyed seeing the Great Crested Glebe swimming with her babies on her back and we saw a rather handsome Dragon Fly, no Idea what's it's called. Also one night this lovely White moth flew onto our kitchen window so I just had to take a photo 😊

Also there was a Swan with her young family, a young Heron and my first really good look at a Cormorant, so all in all not a total loss 😊 Thanks again Pauline, you saved the week for me with two more firsts 😊 Goldie 😊



*Silver SB Female*



*Silver SS*



*Silver SS Male*



*Wood White*



*Wood White in flight*



*Wood White*



*Wood White*



*Unknown Moth*



*Dragon Fly*



*Great Crested Grebe*



*Swan with Cygnets*



*Young Heron*



Cormorant

### Re: Goldie M

by Pauline, 17-Jun-16 08:53 PM GMT

It was great spending time with you both Goldie. A pity about the weather but I am pleased that you got to see the butterflies you especially wanted to see. I have to say tho' that my favourite shot is that really cute Swan family - very nicely composed and I love the way you have captured the reflection in the water. I am sure we will meet up again later in the year 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 17-Jun-16 10:41 PM GMT

Two lifers on any trip is good going Goldie 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 18-Jun-16 12:08 PM GMT

Hi! Pauline, I've started this post about four times and kept pressing the wrong button, I'm really not with it yet 😊

It was great meeting you and I hope to do the same for the BHS 😊 I don't think you can really catch the delicate WW properly, their like white feathers in the breeze 😊 Any way I've put the photo in you mentioned plus a few more but feel they don't do the Butterflies the justice they deserve. 😊

Thanks Wurzel, it was due to Pauline that I found them I wouldn't have had a clue where to go other wise, that's the great thing about this web site ( you get to meet such great people interested in the same things you are) Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by essexbuzzard, 18-Jun-16 07:20 PM GMT

Congrats, Goldie. Sorry about the weather down here, but at least you got enough breaks to produce two lifers. That can't be bad!

**Re: Goldie M**

by jenks, 18-Jun-16 10:52 PM GMT

Glad to hear you had a good holiday and took some fine photos of it. Two lifers might just make up for the poor weather! The dragonfly is a Beautiful Demoiselle by the way. And aptly named, too.

Jenks.

**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 18-Jun-16 11:28 PM GMT

Wood Whites and Silver-studded Blues are a great pair of species to have seen, Goldie. Both make great photos, as you've demonstrated!

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 19-Jun-16 09:10 AM GMT

Thank you Dave, both species saved the week for me 😊 The weather was awful but it's one thing you can't control so it's a case of get on with it, luckily Pauline was on hand. 😊

Hi! Jenks I appreciate your comments and has you say two lifers make for a good holiday 😊 Thank you also for naming the Dragon Fly it's well suited to it's name. 😊

We can't control the weather Essex and if I'd been at home it would have been the same as it was I got two lifers 😊

Being has the weather up here is going to be miserable again for a couple of days which will stop us going any where I'm consoling myself with a few more shots I took of the Silver SB's Goldie 😊







**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 21-Jun-16 03:30 PM GMT

I went to Hall-Lee-Brook today I was amazed how quickly the grass can grow in the space of a couple of weeks. 😊 We had to wade through the tall grass, I was pleased to find more Thistles growing than I saw last year so the Sun and heavy showers did some good at least. The only Butterflies I saw were Speckled Wood and Large Skippers but seeing has I only got side shots of the Large SK before I was quite pleased with the full shots. Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 21-Jun-16 04:58 PM GMT

Very pleased to know you saw Wood White and SSBlue. We used to have Wood Whites in a local wood but, sadly, the population died out. They are such beautiful delicate creatures.

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 22-Jun-16 09:36 AM GMT

It's such a shame Mike to hear they've died out where you are but it looks like the Dukes also are in a bad way at Gait Barrows with the most being six in all being seen, I count myself lucky at having seen the one even if it was quite a distant shot, I hope some thing can be done to increase the species up there. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 22-Jun-16 07:25 PM GMT

Today the weather forecast was for dry weather, however we still had a shower 😞 Any way my Husband's been a bit( under the weather lately) so we decided to have a run some where near, so we went to Southport to the Dunes. We saw very few Common Blue's but there were lots of Small Heath's, my attention was taken with the amount of Burnett's there, one looked different but I suppose it was more weathered than the other's , no Graylings yet though. Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 22-Jun-16 08:05 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Just catching up on your diary, glad that you managed to see the Wood Whites and Silver-studded Blues 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 24-Jun-16 04:03 PM GMT

Thanks Neil, it 's always fantastic to see what you've traveled a long to see 😊 Hope I do the same with the Emperor next month. 😊

Yesterday was lovely and Sunny but the only Butterfly I saw was a Meadow Brown, it was one of those Day's when you spot one and then it decides to fly into the long Grass, Great! I was at Fleetwood another short Journey for us 😊 (My trip to the Lakes still on hold)  
We then traveled down the coast to Lytham and the park there, I had my cousin with us (who's not into Butterflies at all,) so I left her talking to my Husband ( who's still taking it easy) and wandered off on my own, still no Butterflies which I was surprised at because the Gardens were lovely, may be if the weather picks up again ( raining today) we'll get to see some.Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by Hoggars, 26-Jun-16 04:29 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, you asked me about Brown Hairstreaks in Kent and I wasn't much help (pure ignorance I'm afraid) but I bumped into AllanW today who's far more "in the loop" than me and he mentioned BH's recently having been discovered in North Kent, so maybe you could send him a message?

Best wishes,

Hoggars

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 26-Jun-16 04:33 PM GMT

Thanks Hogger's that's good to know, I'll have to find out now where a bouts in North Kent, Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 26-Jun-16 10:07 PM GMT

Things have gone a little it quiet at the moment, I think everything's bracing ready for the next wave of species to emerge. 😊 What's the statue of – he looks like he's raking the pond or stalking something 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 28-Jun-16 03:36 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, I'm not sure about the statue, he looks better when the Autumn's here, 😊 raking in the leaves 😊

Yesterday we decided to go to Meathop Moss, my Husband was better, has he say"s (" almost human " ) 😊 so we set off early morning. The weather forecast wasn't good but I thought if I went any later I'd miss them, we'd only been there for a short while when we saw three but all out of reach and no way could we step off the wood walk, I've never seen so much water, the Moss was quite flooded, we were safe enough on the board walk and it was great to be able to walk all round in a circle which had been newly laid because last year it was just a short board walk and had apparently suffered with all the rain, ( it was quite sunk in some parts)

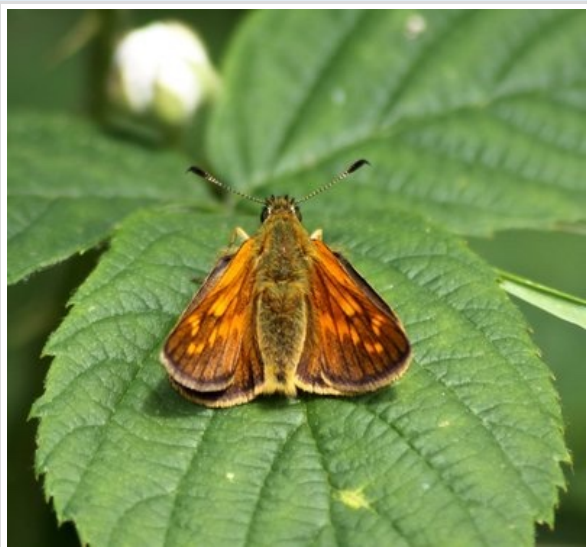
Any way it was hopeless trying to get any shots, the Butterfly was hiding in the brush most of the time, it would suddenly appear and then disappear just as quickly , the weather didn't help, there was a strong wind and then the rain arrived so that was that, at least we'd seen them briefly. 😊

We decided being has we were up there we may has well take a look at Gait Barrow, the rain had stopped by the time we got there but it was still muggy. The first Butterflies we saw were the Ringlet's they were every where, they weren't stopping for any one, like the LH they flew into hiding but at least I got a couple of shots, my first Ringlet's of this year.

On our way back to the car having seen nothing but Ringlet's, I spotted a Large Skipper who didn't bounce off for a change 😊

Other than that we only saw a couple of Speckled Wood, before the rain pelted down again.

When we got home the Sun was shining so we decided a quick visit to HLB was okay, we saw a couple of White's I think Small they didn't stop for photo's, then I spotted my first Female LS ( I think ) 😊 In spite of the weather we'd enjoyed being on the move again and stay hopeful we'll see more Butterflies soon. Goldie 😊



*Large Skipper HLB*



*Large Skipper Gait Barrow*



*Ringlet GB*

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 29-Jun-16 07:34 PM GMT

I forgot to mention this little Lizard I saw at Meathop not sure of the correct name for it, Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 01-Jul-16 07:35 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Looks like when I went to Meathop Moss the other week I timed it just in time. It was fairly dry then but given the amount of rain most of the country has had since then I bet the moss has soaked it up like a sponge.

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 01-Jul-16 10:15 PM GMT

Hi! Neil, it was so wet up there that the Moss was unable to soak all the water up, there was huge puddles every where. I picked what I thought was going to be a dry day, the Sun came out momentarily but the wind was a killer, nearly blew us off the boards 😞 no chance for a photo although two brave souls had their wellingtons on and were sinking into the Marsh, not me though 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 01-Jul-16 10:16 PM GMT

Glad you got to see you saw the Large Heaths Goldie – that's a species that I need to catch up with 😊🇮🇪

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 01-Jul-16 10:29 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel that's all I did what a day. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 01-Jul-16 10:40 PM GMT

You've certainly seen more Large Heaths than I have Goldie – I've yet to knowingly see one ever... 🇮🇪

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 02-Jul-16 03:20 PM GMT

You'd like it at Meathop now Dave, it looks a different place since they've put all the new board walks in, last year you'd to walk through very tall grass and prickles to get even to the entrance, all that's gone now and a board walk starts before the field making it much easier to look for the LH's. I hope you make it to see them some day, looks like it will be next year for me now photo wise 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 04-Jul-16 05:39 PM GMT

We've had two reasonable days until 4pm today when the heavens opened again, I managed a few photos in that time but believe me the Butterflies are few and far between at present, my good news though is the Meadow Browns are back at HLB, not in great numbers but at least they're back 😊 Also today I saw my first Green Veined White for ages, (but only one)

Yesterday I saw a Small Tortoiseshell, again Only one but I suppose it's a start, none today though and the weather was warmer today with more Sun 😊 Also saw some Large Skippers but nothing on the scale of last year, hope fully the weather stays dry tomorrow and I'll see more Goldie 😊



*Small Tortoiseshell 3rd July*



*Green Veined White 4th July*



*Meadow Brown 4th July*



*Large Skipper 4th July*

## Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 04-Jul-16 07:13 PM GMT

Following on from our recent discussion in my diary, I can see that your photos are suffering from a lack of depth-of-field.

Taking your Skipper for example, the EXIF data indicates that you used an exposure of 1/500s@f/5.6 (ISO640) with your 300mm lens. For a subject like this, I would have chosen a smaller aperture (larger f-number), such as f/11. This would bring the shutter speed down to 1/125s, for the same exposure, which might be a bit slow if you aren't using some support, such as a monopod. I'm not sure if your lens has built-in stabilisation (IS), which would also help to eliminate camera-shake. You could also increase the ISO to 1000, which would allow an exposure of around 1/200s@f/11.

I did a couple of calculations, using the <http://www.cambridgeincolour.com/tutorials/dof-calculator.htm> website. For your camera, with a 300mm lens at a distance of around 2m (my guess), the calculated depth of field (DOF) at f/5.6 is only 8 mm, which is not enough to cover the butterfly, whereas at f/11, the DOF increases to 17 mm (nearly 2cm), which should be adequate.

Your GvW photo suffers the usual 'whites' problem of over-exposure. You used exposure compensation of -1/3 stop but around -1 stop would have done a better job.

Keep practising but don't let all this photographic guff stop you enjoying the butterflies 😊

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 04-Jul-16 08:24 PM GMT

Hi! Mike thanks for your advice, I used my Micro on the 300 lens and Close Up setting on the camera which changes because it's auto focus, I know your right about the depth of field but I used f8 on some shots I took today. The GvW for instance.

This morning I took shots of my Lily in the back garden, ( Like I say I'm always experimenting 😊 )

In the first shot I used ISO 100 on the close Up setting Micro .f5.6

On my second shot i used ISO 400 f11 Ap setting I was pleased with both but when I tried them out at HLB later I didn't get the same result.

Because of the vegetation at HLB it's hard to get too close to things, any way I'll keep to the A setting has you suggested because I've tried it and Like it, also the F11, I'm not too sure about the speed though because when I use the Close Up setting it changes the setting I've put on the camera, I think I'd be better not to use this setting and just try the A setting, if you follow me.

Any way I'm so glad of your help I love taking shots of the Butterflies no matter what!f I can get better shots that'll be great, please keep an eye on me.

😊 Goldie 😊



Lily 4th July BG



Lily 4th July BG

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-Jul-16 09:22 AM GMT

Yesterday I went to Southport Dunes , I don't know what I expected to see because really this year so far has been very disappointing with the exception of my two firsts, WW's and SSB's. In fact It's one of the worse year's up here I can remember at my local haunt Hall-Lee-Brook.



It's true I got most of the Spring Butterflies but the numbers were odd ones not loads like other years and in some cases I'd to go to other places to find them, I hope the rest of the Summer is much better, any way back to the Dunes. I saw a few Meadow Brown's and also present were some Small Skipper's, at least I think they are it's so long sine I saw them even I'm not sure 😊 and that's it really, ( what a Summer ).to put a cap on every thing I'm off to the Camera shop this morning because my camera's refusing to take shots on my 70-300 lens the joys of photography. 😊 Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 06-Jul-16 10:02 PM GMT

I reckon you're on the money with the Skipper IDs Goldie, the last photo is a definite Small, the brand is big and has a kink in it near the body 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 07-Jul-16 08:39 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, the weather here has been awful and what with my lens packing in and having to buy a new one which I can't use because of the weather, it's made me rather fed up, 😊 especially when it as been dry, it's been dull and cloudy, on a lighter note I read that the NBA and the High BF are out now at Arnside also the DGF,so with luck and a bit of Sunshine I might be able to try out the new lens. Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 07-Jul-16 09:51 PM GMT

#### Goldie M wrote:

Thanks Wurzel, the weather here has been awful and what with my lens packing in and having to buy a new one which I can't use because of the weather, it's made me rather fed up, 😊 especially when it as been dry, it's been dull and cloudy, on a lighter note I read that the NBA and the High BF are out now at Arnside also the DGF,so with luck and a bit of Sunshine I might

be able to try out the new lens. Goldie 😊

That's good news, I'm up there in about 3 weeks, can you try and keep it sunny up there for me please 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 07-Jul-16 10:48 PM GMT

Hi! Bugboy, Gait Barrow always seems to get the High BF's out last, don't know why this is 😊 so if you've no luck at Arnside try GB 😊  
Your up here in three weeks and I should be down in Kent in two weeks, you bring the Sun shine with you but PLEASE leave some South for me 😊  
Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 08-Jul-16 08:55 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

I am going to be up in Arnside again in about three weeks time. When I have been there in the past at around that time I have always found the Knot to be better for HBF than Gait Barrows although at both places they are late in their flight period then. I understand they haven't done too well at GB the past couple of years.

The NBA have been out in that area for over a month now, I saw nice fresh ones at Warton Crag, Arnside Knot and Gait Barrows on my way up to Scotland in the first week of June as per the report in my diary at the bottom of page 87. I also saw some at Latterbarrow on my return the following week.

Here's to hoping the weather is good for us all during our travels.

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 09-Jul-16 10:24 AM GMT

I agree with you Neil, the HBF have not been good at GB but I saw them there last year 15th July and they were fresh and didn't seem to have been out long. It's been the same with the PBF and Small PBF but the other way round last year they were very scarce, this year plentiful, the poor Dukes have really suffered at GB this year with only about six being seen.

The NBA were in a poor condition when on the same day I saw them 15th July, funnily enough the NBA that I've seen at GB have nearly all been Salmacis, species.

I planned to go to Arnside but the weather forecast in the last few days as given nothing but rain and right now it's pouring down, I hope we get better weather soon and that it's better when you come up again.

I've only been to Warton Craig once this year Neil, I know all the species we've mentioned have been seen there but I'm afraid the place is for too steep for me, I can climb so far and then that's it 😊 (Age has it's drawbacks) The weather for next weekend looks good according to long range forecast so we'll probably try again then. Hope you get good weather when you come up. Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 12-Jul-16 10:51 PM GMT

After a week of awful weather the forecast said we'd actually have a Sunny day today, right we thought and we set off for Arnside Knot, wrong again, the weather stayed dull until nearly 3 pm, even the weather girl apologised tonight on the tele 😊

Any way it was a day of surprises and disappointments, when we arrived at the knot it was to grey sky's and spots of rain, we didn't know what to expect but to our surprise when we walked through the gate from the car park the first thing we saw flying about was a DGF 😊

I got one or two shots before it landed down into the grass, that's when I noticed the other DGF, this one was keeping low in the grass but was much darker than the first which was flying around it, I managed to get a shot of the second one before it disappeared over the ferns, the difference between the two is stark, the first DGF looks quite faded in parts where the other one looked quite fresh, trouble is I only got one shot of it. 😊

We decided to have our sandwiches and wait to see if the Sun would finally arrive 😊

After lunch we set off back through the gate and down the path through the ferns this time, we searched for the High Brown Fritillaries for ages, when the Sun finally came out what a difference, we saw a couple of Small Tort's, Small Skipper's, lot's of Whites, also the HBF's about three but sadly no photos

they no sooner landed than they flew off again, finally we decided to give up and check out Gait Barrow hoping we might see some there and that the Graylings could be out.

At GB we didn't see any HBF but we met some people who'd seen one that was also in bad shape but they'd managed to get some shots of it, they'd been up there for a few days and said how bad the weather'd been.

We walked back along the path to the Lime Stone and found the Graylings so at least after some really depressing days of nothing but wind and rain it'd been great just to get out again. Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by Paul Harfield, 12-Jul-16 11:59 PM GMT

Hi Goldie

The weather has not been great down here either 😞, but I am sure it will improve. Your Dark Green Fritillaries are a male in the first pic and a female in the second 😊. I have only seen one DGF at my local site so far this year, hopefully there will more to come.

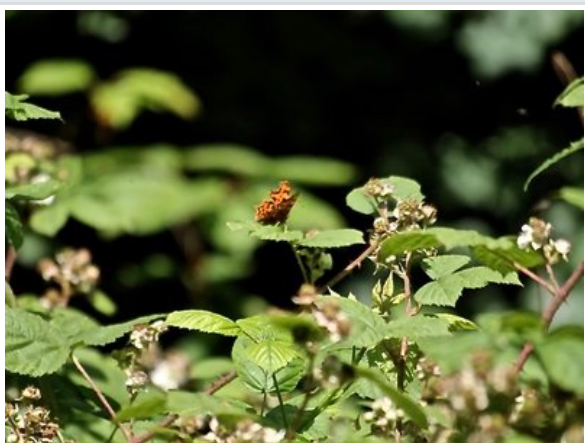
### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 15-Jul-16 10:24 AM GMT

Hi! Jack, hope you see the DGF soon, it seems nearly every Butterfly I've shot lately have all suffered from the weather with the exception of the Small Skipper which is just emerging here. 😊

On Wednesday the weather was sunny but with a cool breeze so I decided to take another look at Hall-Lee-Brook, I'm glad I did because I saw my first SS there for this year, I thought at first it was another LS but I took a shot of it anyway, when it flew down near me and opened it's wings I was so pleased it gave me hope that may be things were starting to move here 😊  
Has I moved around the site I spotted a Small Tort hiding in the long grass I couldn't get a good shot of it because of the tall Grass, also in the distance I saw a large white Butterfly, it landed far away in the Blackberry brambles and some thing Orange moved and flew nearer to me but still was far a way

in the Brambles, I still took a shot and recognised a Comma, things were at last on the move 😊  
The Meadow Brown's had certainly suffered with the bad weather taking it's toll but still I couldn't help but take some shot's of them because of last year when they were at their best and the meadow Grass was cut, I still get a good feeling when I see them now. Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 15-Jul-16 03:13 PM GMT

**Goldie M wrote:**

I got one or two shots before it landed down into the grass, that's when I noticed the other DGF, this one was keeping low in the grass but was much darker than the first which was flying around it, I managed to get a shot of the second one before it disappeared

That's classic behaviour, Goldie – the males patrolling ceaselessly until they find a female, lodged down in the grass. Then they try the courtship you observed, by flying around her. It can be useful because, if you find a female and wait, then a male is likely to arrive sooner or later! I've used this method to get photos of Adonis Blue males.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 15-Jul-16 07:17 PM GMT

Hi! Mike, I'll remember that for August when I hope to see the Adonis, I've missed them for a couple of years, so hope fully this year i'll get to see them and I'll look for this activity between them, thanks once again 😊 Goldie 😊

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 19-Jul-16 02:15 PM GMT

We went to Feryn Woods on Sunday the 17th July, it's a Journey I've longed to make for Quite Some time and I wasn't disappointed 😊 We'd only been out of the car and entered the lane when I saw a few people around what looked like a puddle, has we approached I saw my first Male PE, he was enjoying himself on some dog poo! It didn't make for great shots but who cares 😊 I did manage some without the poo though. 😊

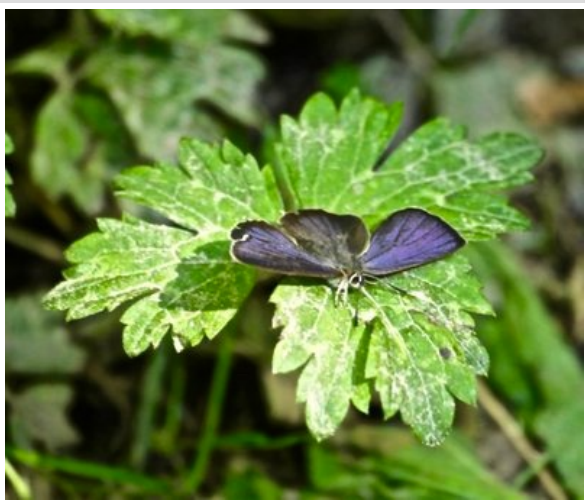
We spent some time there and walked on down the Lane, some one said there was a PHS that was very fresh, this I had to see, so I hurried in that direction , my photos last year of the Empress and the PHS were nothing to shout about so I hoped I'd see a bit more ,other than a side wing of both. What I didn't realise then until now was that the wings of the PE were iridescent when the Sun shone on them and only then, what a fantastic sight it was when the Sun caught him with his wings open 😊 I really thought this couldn't be topped until I saw the PHS with it's wings wide open, Wow!

Some of the shots I took really couldn't do both Justice.

We set off down the lane again and I was delighted at the sight of GVW's every where, Skipper's ,MB's, It was like a real Summer's day after being starved up to now at the sight of the occasional butterfly 😊 I was interested in the Butterflies we don't see around our area like the SWF which was flying every where and didn't stop long for photos so we tried to track that down while at the same time taking shots of more PE and PHS, what a fantastic day.

We didn't leave until tea time and on the way back to the car what should float passed us but a WA, it landed briefly but I managed a quick shot, that was icing on my cake for the day 😊 Goldie 😊











**Re: Goldie M**

by Padfield, 19-Jul-16 02:52 PM GMT

I can feel your happiness, Goldie. If you had a tail I think you would be wagging it so hard it would fall off! 😊

Lovely pictures.

Guy

**Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 19-Jul-16 04:56 PM GMT

Brilliant!, Goldie. Most of us can only dream of a Purple Emperor and Purple Hairstreak in one day. The Purple Hairstreak alone is worth some mrgreens!. 🍃🍃🍃. I imagine you're glad you went!

Best wishes,  
Trevor

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 19-Jul-16 07:07 PM GMT

Thank's Guy and Trevor, It was one of those days that you look back on and say how fantastic it was, unbelievable! 😊 I think if any one's going to Fermyn Wood in the next few days weather permitting they'll have a great day too, thanks again Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Katrina, 19-Jul-16 08:02 PM GMT

Well done, I have never seen a purple hairstreak close enough to get photos so some Mr Greens from me too 🍃🍃

**Re: Goldie M**

by Pauline, 19-Jul-16 08:04 PM GMT

Great sightings Goldie. I can feel your excitement and I know that will be a day you will always remember – a special memory 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 19-Jul-16 08:26 PM GMT

Well done Goldie, not only your first grounded male Purple Emperor but an open wing male Purple Hairstreak too...that's a special kind of double purple 🍃😊

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 20-Jul-16 09:10 AM GMT

Thank you so much, Katrina, Pauline and Neil, I was really privileged that day, I was so lucky to see these people when we arrived and was sent to see the PHS also by these people, isn't it great when people are so help full and willing to share. 😊 I was also glad I'd got my 70-300 lens on at the time because I could stand out of the way and take my shots instead of having to get too close, Great

Day! Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 20-Jul-16 10:43 PM GMT

I agree with Guy's comment, made earlier, since I too can feel your happiness. Seeing the two 'purple prizes' displaying so splendidly, both on the same day, might be bad for my blood pressure! We went to South Wales, hoping it might be cooler near the coast, but it wasn't 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 21-Jul-16 09:00 PM GMT

Wow Goldie, as everyone else says, two purples in one day 🍷🍷🍷. I was over the moon at finally getting my Emperor pics!

I saw your comment on Guys page about not getting White-letters. I've found that they only seem to come down late in the day, after 4pm. I was still watching them on bramble at 7pm on Monday. Not sure if that's just peculiar to my colony or whether that's standard behaviour (gut feeling is it's the latter)

### Re: Goldie M

by Paul Harfield, 21-Jul-16 11:08 PM GMT

Hi Goldie

As others have said, well done with your Purple Emperor and Hairstreak 😊😊, and all in the same day too. Puts my own purple experience to shame 😞 I have still not managed any Purple Hairstreak photos 😞.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 22-Jul-16 07:21 AM GMT

Hi! Mike, Thanks for your comments 😊 I was glad on that Sunday that we'd gone to the wood because it was lovely and cool there and I think this brought the PE and the PHS down from high in the tree's to the puddles on the ground, I also gave the dog's poo my blessing where I usually get annoyed when I see it. 😊 I didn't need to go to Lady Wood either because of all the activity in Fermyn Wood 😊 If you decide to go there we stayed over night at at Travel lodge just off the A14 at Kettering, it was only a few miles from Fermyn and very good.

Hi! Bugboy, It looks like my timing could have been off with the Hair Streaks, I've always got there in the afternoon , I'll try evening's and see what happens. 😊

I'm glad you got your shots of the PE and you seem to be doing well with all your first's 😊

Hi! Jack, it was one of those days when your luck is in, plus the amount of people already there spotting things helps 😊 Hope you get a shot of one soon. Goldie 😊

After the thrill of Fermyn Wood it was a great disappointment when I went to my local haunt, Hall-Lee-Brook on Wed's and saw one single Tort, a few Whites, Large/Small that didn't stop and some MB ,the only shot I managed was of a Large Skipper, chasing off a Meadow Brown and it caught my attention because it looked very dark, probably because they were aged. I'm hoping things will pick up there but it's not looking too good at present even with the weather being so nice. One thing I noticed at Fermyn also was the very small size of the Meadow Brown compared to the size they are here, you could mistake them for Hair Streaks they were so small, in fact some of the people there were doing just that, I wonder if any one else as noticed this. Goldie 😊😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 22-Jul-16 10:34 PM GMT

Great stuff Golide – glad that you got your Purple fix 😊🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 24-Jul-16 12:30 AM GMT

Just catching up on things, Goldie, and I'm so glad you got not only an audience with HIM, but also a few bonus Purple Hairstreaks to boot!

Must have been very satisfying for you?

**Re: Goldie M**

by Maximus, 24-Jul-16 01:22 AM GMT

Shame we missed you at Fermyn, Goldie, but glad you got to see your PE and also PH 😊 It was great to get to Fermyn at last, might have to be an annual visit from now on 😊

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 25-Jul-16 12:13 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, it was a day to remember. 😊

Cheers David, it is satisfying, I think when you've wanted to see some thing badly for a while and then it finally happens it's it's a great feeling 😊  
Hi! Max, may be we'll meet up some time at Fermyn 😊 Goldie 😊

I went to a wedding yesterday at Barrow, it was rather wet up there no chance for Butterflies but a great wedding 😊  
I had vistor to the front and back gardens though which made a change last few days, only Large White's but still most welcome after such a bad weather. Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 25-Jul-16 02:33 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, it's good to see that you've tackled the tricky photographic problem of Large Whites! These white species are very under-represented in photos and you have used exposure compensation very effectively.

I don't think you have got the focus quite right on the first shot, since the Buddleia flowers are sharper than the eyes of the butterfly. The problem is probably that your camera has automatically focused on the nearest part of the subject. It's all described in the Canon 1100D manual.

If you look in your camera manual (p83, I think), you'll see that the 'default' AF mode is to focus on the nearest object but you can over-ride that by selecting the focus point yourself. I usually choose the central focus point and place this over the eyes. After setting the focus, keep the shutter release half-pressed and you can then move the camera a little from side to side, to get the composition you want, without the focus changing. Be careful not to move forwards or back, though, or the focus will no longer be correct!

Your pics are lovely and I think whites always look their best against a plain background.

Mike

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 25-Jul-16 05:49 PM GMT

Thanks Mike very much appreciate your advice which helped me with selecting my exposure compensation.

I must say I was annoyed when I saw my shots because the eye wasn't too clear on the Butterfly, I'll try to take more time in setting the position I want, the large Whites don't seem to settle for long so I'm always in a hurry when taking shots of them, they don't seem to be landing for any period of time. The Small Whites that've been in the garden up to now have not been landing on the flowers but on the green foliage, I think may be they're egg laying but the foliage is always out of the way.

Thanks again Mike Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 25-Jul-16 07:53 PM GMT

The Small Whites are very busy on the foliage in my garden too - I must search for eggs! With a digital camera, just keep shooting and adjusting your position, so that you've a better chance of the 'perfect' shot. Simply delete the rest and it's cost you nothing and you've learned a lot 😊

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 26-Jul-16 09:30 PM GMT

Hi! Mike I saw some more Whites today, still practising with the Camera 😊

I went back to Hall-Lee-Brook today in the hope I'd see some thing because the Season here has been a shocker up to now so I was pleased to see a Green Veined White , Speckled Wood, Comma and Gate Keeper 😊

The weather was dull with the Sun occasionally peeping through the clouds , this helped really because I saw the Comma, this time very near to me for a change and stayed put because of the cloud, also there tucked into the Blackberry bushes were my first Gate Keeper's of the year and the Male looks to have no spots, two females also were in no mood for moving and stayed one above the other for shot's 😊 Hope fully if we can get some Sun tomorrow we may get a few more Butterflies out.

I included the Meadow Brown because it was sitting in the wet grass looking so sorrow for its self the weather has done nothing but rain since they first appeared. Peacocks up to now and the Red Admiral's have not put an appearance in yet. Goldie 😊







### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 27-Jul-16 10:42 PM GMT

Nice find there Goldie, an eyeless Hedge Brown 😊🍷 Your female looks to be a an excessa with the extra spots too 😊  
Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 28-Jul-16 09:46 AM GMT

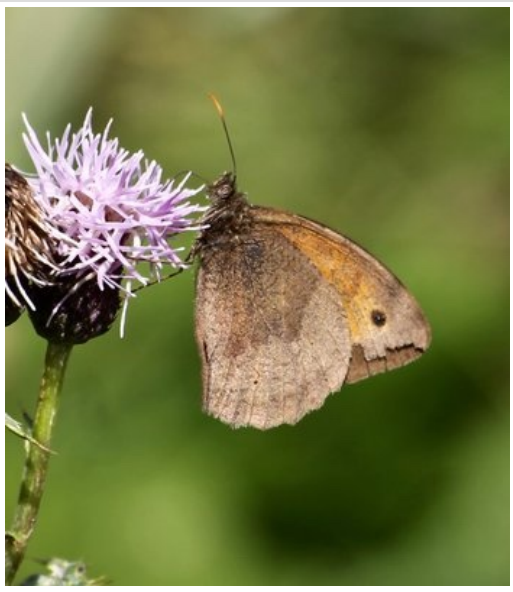
Thanks for your post Wurzel, I was hoping some one would pick up on them because I wasn't sure of the Female, 😊 I'll have to look up what the Male might be called in the species section. 😊

I went back to Hall-Lee-Brook yesterday to see if any thing else had arrived, lot's more GVW which were a site for sore eyes 😊 The Meadow Brown were still there but slightly worn, with the Sun in and out again the Gate Keeper's were in there special corner of the Meadow on the fast changing Blackberry bushes, I didn't see any Tort's are Peacock's hope fully they won't be too long arriving. The SK's were also out in force has were the SW.

On my way out I thought I saw a Red Admiral but it was too far a way but what usually happens to me, when I got home there was a RA on my Buddleia I managed a quick shot before it flew off. 😊 Goldie 😊









**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 28-Jul-16 09:10 PM GMT

Well done on that "blind" Gatekeeper, Goldie – it really does look very odd without the white pupils. 😊

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 28-Jul-16 10:10 PM GMT

Thank's Dave, Hall-Lee-Brook seems to throw quite a few unusual ab's up, it's surprising really, you see nothing much for ages and then 'Bingo' some thing different 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 30-Jul-16 04:38 PM GMT

I went back to Hall-Lee-Brook today hoping I'd see the ab again no luck though, there was the usual Butterflies there but not in great numbers like there used to be.

There were more GW's than I saw all Spring which is good, the odd Comma, the Meadow Brown's were looking a bit worse for wear as was a Small Tort that was either faded or had a lot of White on it, I did see a Large Skipper, I thought they'd finished so that was a change, no Peacocks though are Red Admirals yet which seems strange since I saw one in the Garden.

Hope fully we may see some thing when we go South shortly, it's just a pity I can't get up to Arnside for the Scotch Argus but that's life! 😊 Goldie 😊







**Re: Goldie M**

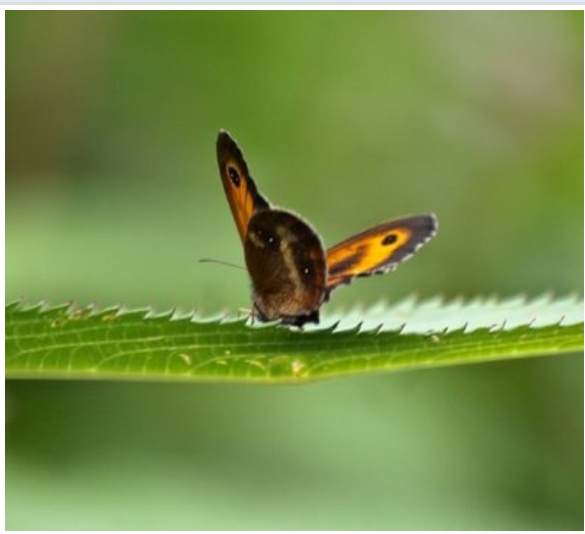
by MikeOxon, 30-Jul-16 05:16 PM GMT

I like the unusual 'arty' shot of the Gatekeeper on the edge of the serrated leaf - looks as though he's guarding the castle 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 30-Jul-16 07:44 PM GMT

Hi! Mike, yes I like that shot too 😊 I was just taking the picture when he started to stretch, first one way then the other has in this shot, I think he was guarding his castle,( Leaf) 😊 Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 31-Jul-16 10:12 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Glad to see your seeing a few things up there. Good luck with your trip south, I am heading north again in a couple of days for another stint up at Arnside.

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 31-Jul-16 07:59 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, you should see a few red admirals in the south next week, as there are now reasonable numbers around. Be sure to visit some Chalkhill Blue and Silver Spotted Skipper sites while you are down here. Debbie's Hillside in Surrey and Lydden Temple Ewell near Dover for Chalkhills and Aston Rowant for Silver Spots. Good luck!

### Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 31-Jul-16 09:13 PM GMT

In fact all three of those sites have both of those species, though the Silver Spots are tricky to find at Denbies. Happy hunting, Goldie!

Dave

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 31-Jul-16 10:29 PM GMT

Great shot of the '6 spot' Hedge Brown Goldie 😊 Good luck on your southern trip – if you make it slightly more west you could try Broughton Down for SSS and Shipton for Brostreak 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 01-Aug-16 09:41 AM GMT

Thanks Neil, I'm looking forward to the trip South, we've put the trip off twice now because my Husband's not been too well but hope fully we'll make it shortly, at least we're going to family so that's good, I hope your trip is good and the weather also, the Scotch Argus are out at Arnside so you should see them. Goldie 😊

Hi! Essex, believe it or not yesterday I saw a RA in my garden 😊 We will definitely be visiting Temple Ewell NR for the Chalkhills and hope fully we'll see some SSS there, finger's crossed 😊

Thanks Dave, let's hope we see some Clouded Yellow at Temple Ewell as well, I've seen them there before and the SSS usually when we've gone South later in August so may be we'll see all three, hope fully. 😊

Hi! Wurzel, cheer's, glad you like the GK, I didn't realise it had '6 spots, is that unusual I wonder 😊 I think we may have to stay in Kent because my Husband's not quite up to traveling, we'll do the driving down there in our turn's (if he let's me 😊) But I'd love to see a Brostreak I've never seen one. May be I can twist my Daughters arm. 😊

Yesterday was amazing in the the garden for the first time this year I actually saw Butterflies every where, mostly White's L/S, GV, others seen RA and yes at last a Peacock, also a ST so it looks like thing's maybe on the turn here, all I'd to do was step out side with my Camera so I had to post a few shot's to celebrate Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by essexbuzzard, 01-Aug-16 07:33 PM GMT

Well done Goldie, you've definitely had the best of the weather up north the last couple of days. Those butterfly bushes seem to be proving their worth.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Allan.W., 01-Aug-16 08:23 PM GMT

Hello Goldie,

Just noticed that you may be visiting Lydden/Temple Ewell in the near future. We had a short visit there yesterday (Sunday), large numbers of Chalkhill Blues, but just the one Silver spotted Skipper, and as yet no 2nd brood Adonis. At Dungeness the second brood Small Coppers are starting to drop in numbers, most are looking a bit dog eared now, but there were still one or two in good nick, I saw around 30 in an hour, also yesterday, (compared to around 200-250 in about 2 and a half hours, a couple of weeks ago), but I'm sure there should be some still on the wing, suggest "the moat" and the power station fence, from the seashore to the bird obs. Good hunting! Regards Allan W.

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 02-Aug-16 09:51 AM GMT

Hi! Essex, it was a great day however since than we've had lots of rain which doesn't seem to bother the Whites too much they've kept flying but I've not seen the RA, Peacock or the ST since, hope fully they'll reappear. 😊

Thank's Allan, for your post, maybe the Adonis will put in an appearance by the time we get down there 😊

Hope fully the Coppers will still be there, I keep going to HLB to see if there are any to be seen but so far nothing , not even in the Dunes at Southport where I've seen them two years on the trot, It's been so bad this Spring for Butterflies up North, thanks again Goldie 😊

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 04-Aug-16 11:07 AM GMT

This week so far has been awful weather wise, yesterday we had gale force winds, infact it felt like winter time with the window's and doors closed, although the Sun did at times break through and it's still warm, to say i'm fed up of it would be an under statement 😊 So I was very surprised when watching my Buddilea being thrown about by the wind to see a flutter on one of the flowers. I donned my coat on grabbed the camera (for getting I'd still got my slippers on) 😊 to find a Red Admiral hanging to the underside of the flower, it was almost in possible to take a shot, so I watched it for while, whilst I watched, this Green Veined White suddenly appeared on my lavender so I looked a quick shot of that. 😊

I turned my attention back to the Buddilea then and found the RA had flown down on to my Miniature Bud ,

so I got a quick shot before it flew off and hid from the wind 😊

What awful weather we've had here UGH!

We've had to put our plans for coming South on hold, my Husband's not been too well and until we get to the bottom of things, he's better off at home, so may be we'll get down in August may be September now, disappointing for us both , but it's best to stay home if your not well. Goldie 😊



## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 04-Aug-16 07:58 PM GMT

How a day can change, this morning I was moaning about the weather and after lunch the Sun came out 😊 It was very intermittent with lot's of cloud and still windy but nothing like it had been, so we set off and thought we'd give Hall-Lee-Brook a go.

When we arrived the Sun just showed it's self for a few minutes it was long enough to spot a Holly Blue that landed on a rather chewed up leaf just has we went through the gate. 😊 I was thrilled, I'd been looking for one since the Spring and although seeing them my one and only shot was not good, so when this one actually opened it's wings for photos it made my day and cheered us both up no end 😊

It landed on the ground afterwards on to the pebbles and seemed to be enjoying the dampness there, after this we saw a Comma but got no shot's of

that.

I'd seen a very tiny Moth before but could get no shots because it kept vanishing beneath the leaves, today how ever they were very active on the flowers so I did manage a few, I'm not sure of it's name so may be some one knows what it is.

I also saw an excessa the Gate keeper was in the grass so as usual I got grass on my photo 😊

Also there were quite a few GVW which I'm so pleased about not seeing many in the Spring, so all in all a very unexpected good day and to add to that my Husband got the all clear to travel 😊 Goldie 😊









**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 04-Aug-16 08:10 PM GMT

Another very nice *Excessa* Gatekeeper I see, quite a common sight up north I found!

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 04-Aug-16 10:45 PM GMT

Great Holly Blue Goldie and that *Excessa* is a cracker, really nicely marked 😊🇬🇧

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 05-Aug-16 09:01 AM GMT

Yes Buggy, for some reason we seem to get loads of Gate Keeper ab's at HLB and has you've seen in Cumbria as well. 😊

Hi! Wurzel, yes, at last I got my HB, 😊 and the *Excessa* was a great bonus 😊 I'll be over there again today to see what else I can find. 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 05-Aug-16 07:34 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Sorry to hear your trip down south is on hold, hope your husband gets better soon.

Congrats on your Holly blue photos, great stuff 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-Aug-16 12:38 PM GMT

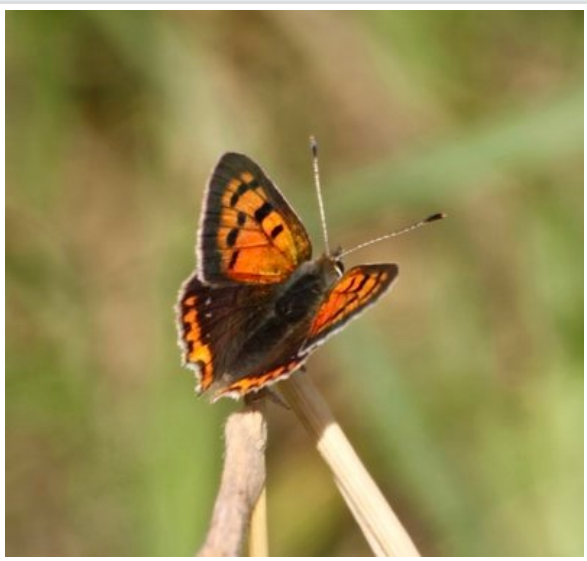
Hi! Neil, thank you for your concern, I'm so pleased to say that yesterday my Husband got the all clear to travel and he can't wait to be on the move, so we've packed our cases and we're setting off South tomorrow 😊

We're at our Daughters so the change and rest will do him good and we'll share the drive down. 😊

Yesterday was also a good day for Butterflies I went to Hall-Lee-Brook and saw my first Copper 😊 I couldn't believe it at first and thought it was a GK 😊 I'd been to the same spot loads of times and not a sign of one.

Funny thing I found by watching it was how it's colour seemed to change when it landed on different plant's etc, needless to say I took loads of photo's and I'm sure it's the same Butterfly because of it's blue spots which seem to be in the same place on each photo.( I'd love to go back there today but I'm a bit too busy with the packing 😊 ) at least now I can be content knowing we've still got SC's at HLB 😊 Goldie 😊







**Re: Goldie M**

by Hoggers, 06-Aug-16 02:07 PM GMT

Excellent! And a Blue Badger as well!

I hope you get many more when you visit Dungeness,

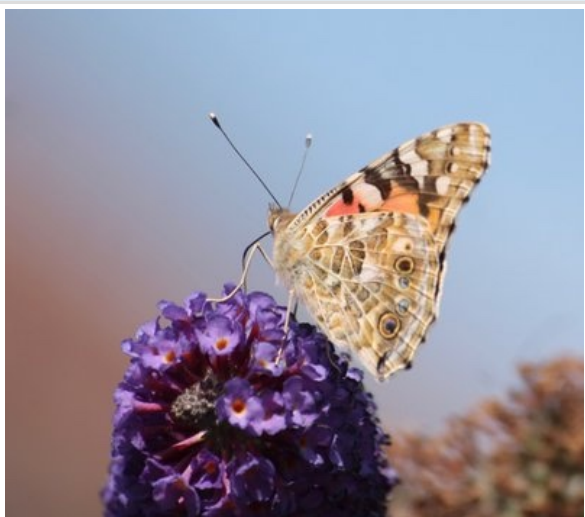
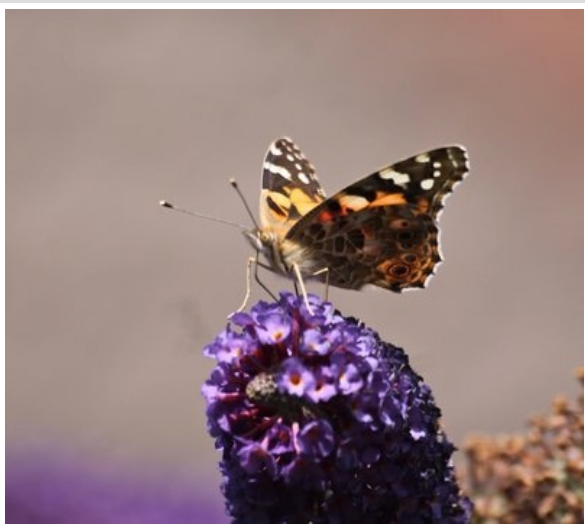
Hoggers.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 06-Aug-16 04:48 PM GMT

Thanks Hogger's, I hope so too, wouldn't mind one of those Ab's you've shown 😊 Goldie 😊

Didn't get out today too busy but whilst I was in the front garden I got a visit from a Painted Lady and loads of SW and LW In the back garden, it's all happening now up here and I'm off down South wouldn't just know it 😊 Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 07-Aug-16 10:29 PM GMT

There's plenty going on down here Goldie - I hope you have a great time - try for some Brostreaks 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 11-Aug-16 09:56 AM GMT

Sorry it's taken so long to reply Wurzel but with journeying down here to Kent and out with relatives it's been busy, I wish i could say "busy butterflying" but that's not how it's been so far apart from one day, May be I'll get to see some Brostreaks yet though! Goldie 😊

Our journey down was pretty good and we arrived at my Daughters on the Sunday , Monday the weather was lovely so we went to Temple Ewell NR, every thing seemed very over grown but I was pleased when I caught sight of my first Chalkhill Blue's of 2016 😊

Also there were Brown Argus which were also a first for the year and I took some shots of this Blue which I thought could be Adonis but was a pretty fresh Common Blue 😊

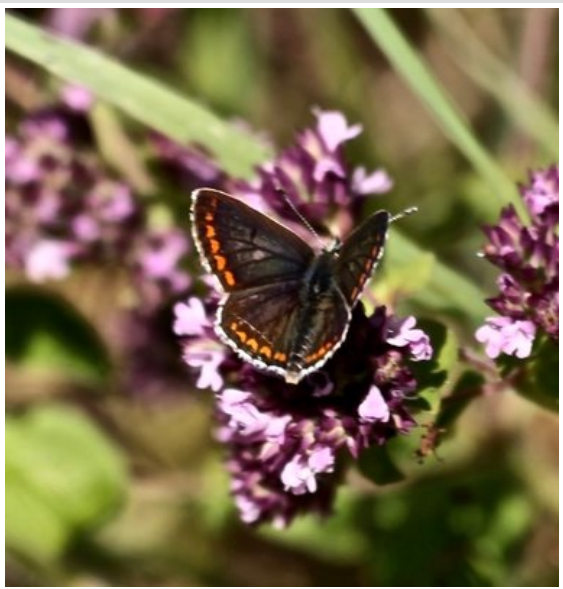
We decided to go to the top field where I'd seen Silver SS's before and Adonis but we'd to go through this narrow lane of tree's and that's when disaster arrived in the shape of a rather sharp tree branch that some one had chopped but was sticking out rather precariously, I saw it and ducked my Husband didn't and it caught him sharply cutting the top of his head, that was that, we'd to go back and do some accident repairs 😞 He's certainly had his share of trouble lately!!!! If any ones going to TE and up to the top field be careful of low tree branches.

After calling at Tesco's for gels etc for his head he decided he was okay so we carried on to Dover and had some lunch over looking the Docks, it's great up on the cliff's watching the ferries coming and going. That's when I spotted the Red Admiral with the two distinct white spots, could this be anther ab, maybe! 😊

Tuesday my Husband's head was sore so we decided to give going out a miss, yesterday our daughter drove us to Kingsland the weather was dull and cold, I saw some MB's, GK's , White's but nothing out of the ordinary, we also called at EBW again nothing but this Meadow Brown I took a shot of did seem to have two spots on one of it's wings instead of the usual one but I think I've seen that before.

So that's it up to the present day which is supposed to be dull and cool all day, so it looks like shopping is on the cards for today, hope fully tomorrow is hot with a high of 24c so they say and maybe we'll be off again. Goldie 😊









**Re: Goldie M**

by essexbuzzard, 11-Aug-16 06:59 PM GMT

It's a common blue, Goldie, but a great sighting anyway. Do visit Lydden Temple Ewell again if you get the chance. I'm sure Silver spots will be out if the sun shines, just be careful of those branches!

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 11-Aug-16 08:45 PM GMT

Hi! Essex, I'm definitely going back there, tomorrow hope fully, I'll have to get my Husband a Helmet 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Essexbuzzard, 11-Aug-16 09:28 PM GMT

Ha ha, good idea! Silver Spots are weary active in hot weather, so you may find it easier for picture taking in the morning or late afternoon and evening. Good luck, I will probably be heading there myself next week.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 13-Aug-16 05:47 PM GMT

Hi! Essex, I went back to TE and got some shots of the SSS, they were well down in the grass, one or two were flying lower down off the path, if you go look for them there. 😊

Hi! Dave thank you for finding the Skipper's for me and it was great putting a face to a post 😊

We arrived in the morning at Temple Ewell and met Dave who showed us where he'd seen the SSS, we saw one almost at once which quickly flew off, I did manage a shot before it took off 😊 Then further down the field we saw one circling round and Dave said there could be a female there, so we watched where it landed and sure enough there was the two of them tucked into the grass. 😊

They were very hard to photograph but after some gentle moving of a few blades of grass we managed some shots 😊 They didn't seem to mind us and didn't fly off, in fact it was us I think being watched 😊

I'm not sure if they mated but from the shots we took it's possible they did, as I was walking a way we spotted a SSS on a flower, I only managed a quick shot of that before it flew off but my total for the day was five so I was pleased. 😊

Added to my list for that day was a Holly Blue and more CHB's Goldie 😊









### Re: Goldie M

by Pauline, 13-Aug-16 06:53 PM GMT

Great sequence of shots Goldie -I'm pretty sure you have a mating pair there. Well done 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 13-Aug-16 07:24 PM GMT

Well done Goldie. I'm really pleased you went back and saw the SSS' s. They really are cracking butterflies . 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by dave brown, 13-Aug-16 08:03 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

It was really nice to bump into you at Temple Ewell and put a face to a name. A most unexpected meeting, although I knew from a previous post that you were heading Kent way. Glad I could help with the SS Skipper. We saw 11 in total although some were in the upper part of the field the other side of the footpath.

Don't forget Wall Browns should be out at Capel along the cliff top footpath. Best spot seems to be Dover side of the Cliff Top Cafe. Walk for about 200 metres. Most years they are present in reasonable numbers.

Hope your Husband is feeling better now.

Best wishes

Dave

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 15-Aug-16 06:02 PM GMT

Hi! Dave, just thought I'd let you know we went to Kingsland Down today also Samphire Oh! nothing there except MB's GK's and White's. This time last year I'd got my first shot of a Clouded Yellow at Samphire things are really bad Butterfly wise at present, I've decided to go back to TE, at least there's a chance we'll see some Butterflies there. Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Aug-16 09:14 AM GMT

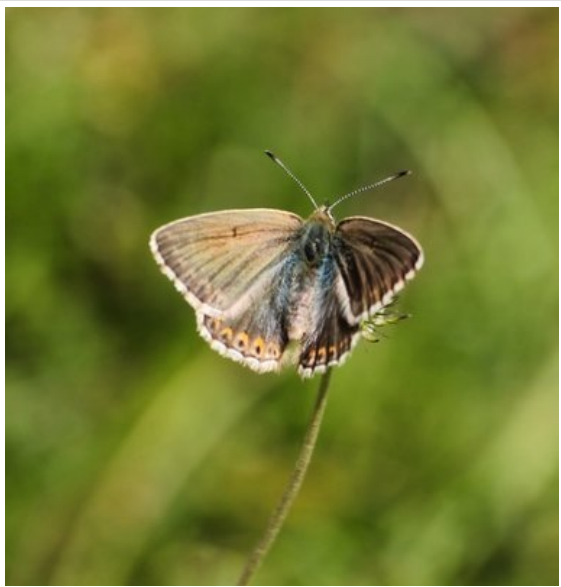
I've not had much chance to reply to other posts yet but I keep reading them, being here in Kent is also a visit to my family and it's been very active fitting in my Butterflying when I get the opportunity. 😊

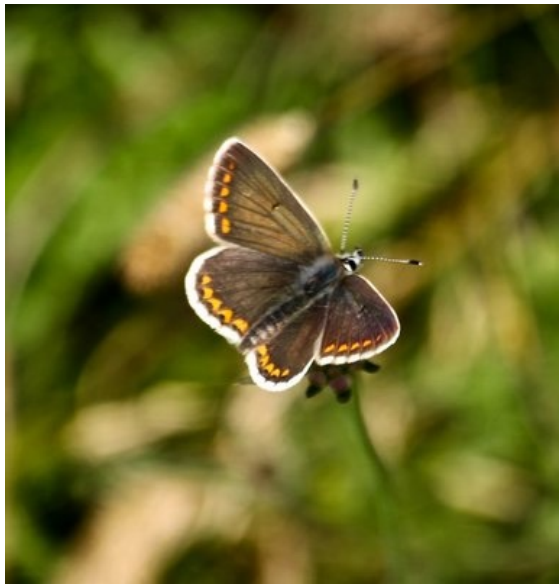
Yesterday we went back to Temple Ewell not having seen anything hardly the day before at Kingsland or Samphire Oh! I was hoping to see an Adonis but no luck yet with that. 😊 However the SSS were flying more when we got there so I managed a few more shot's of them 😊

We also saw a large number of Brown Argus which weren't there in great numbers before so that was a treat in it's self , also there were Brimstone and Chalkhill's the latter being in much more of a poor condition now but still mating when they got the chance although the females didn't seem so interested in the Males 😊

What really took my eye was this tiny butterfly, I thought at first it was a Brown Argus until it opened it's wings slightly when landing on a blade of grass, I suppose it's a Common B but it's the smallest CB I've ever seen and the prettiest Goldie 😊







**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 17-Aug-16 09:59 PM GMT

Just catching up Goldie – good to see that you got your Chalkhills and some great Silver Spots 😊 Just got to try for those Brostreaks now 😊



Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 18-Aug-16 05:42 PM GMT

Thank's Wurzel, the Brostreaks will have to wait unfortunately until next year now, my priority now is to get my Husband sorted out health wise, we thought it would be good for him to have a change but he's still not back to his usual happy self , he just wants to get home put his feet up, get his usual Rum and Blackcurrant and fall asleep in his chair when he wants 😊 I said that's fine if i can throw a box of chocolates in with that and maybe a glass of red wine 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Pauline, 18-Aug-16 06:08 PM GMT

You 2 have certainly got it sorted out 😊 Can I come and join you – mine's a G@T 😊 Seriously, hope Jim's 100% soon. Please give him my best x.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 19-Aug-16 11:01 AM GMT

It was very hot yesterday ( Thursday ) so with rain forecast for the next couple of day's and not having seen many Butterflies other than at Temple Ewell and just a few the day before on the White Cliffs, mostly Common Blue we decided to return to TE for the last time.

Thank's Pauline for your concern I think things too active for Jim and he just needs to relax now, hope fully we'll see you again next year. 😊

Having seen a Wall Brown last time I visited there, which quickly flew a way, I decided to take the same path but we never saw any only Meadow Brown's.

On the lower field there were very few BF flying, lots of White's a few Gate Keeper's one or two CHB's, in a very poor condition so we went up through the tree's to the top sloping Meadow.

Here it was so different, Butterflies every where, I took loads of shot's at any thing Blue 😊 Still looking for my Adonis 😊 never saw one ) What I did see though was a Small Heath lot's of them and I've never seen has many Brown Argus, I'm not exaggerating when I say they seemed has numerous as the Meadow Browns.

We didn't need to search for SSS either they were flying all over both in the top most field to the lower slopes

it was great to see. ( no Clouded Yellow's though ) I'll have to do without those has well has the Adonis this year but hope fully there's always next year 😊

One shot I took got my curiosity going because I thought the Butterfly was egg laying and I was looking at the egg has it was laid but the wing of the BF which is a CB showed Blue so this leads to a Question, Male or Female and what's happening. ? Goldie 😊







**Re: Goldie M**

by peterc, 19-Aug-16 01:36 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

You made a point about having to wait for Brown Hairstreaks until next year but someone saw one at the Gait Barrows NR on Tuesday and Wednesday (iRecord database) – in your neck of the woods? Can this really be true?

ATB

Peter

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 19-Aug-16 03:44 PM GMT

Hi! Peter, I'm still in Kent at present so I've not heard any thing about Brown HS's at Gait Barrow, it would really surprise me if some one had seen them, it's not so long since I had an e-mail from the Ranger there when I asked if he knew the where about's of the White Letter HS at GB and he said if on my travels there I saw one to let him know 😊

I know Purple HS have been seen there also at Arnside Knot but if the BHS have been seen at GB they've not been recorded on the Lanc's sighting posts I've just checked, if I hear any thing more about it I'll let you know because I'll be up there has soon as I get back if it's true. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 19-Aug-16 05:14 PM GMT

**Goldie M wrote:**

..... I thought the Butterfly was egg laying and I was looking at the egg has it was laid but the wing of the BF which is a CB

showed Blue so this leads to a Question, Male or Female and what's happening. ? .....

Just as in the case of Common Blues, Chalkhill females can have quite a lot of blue scales on their wings. I recently posted a photo of one <http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=93473&mode=view>

I think a 'blue' female is more likely than an egg-laying male 😊

Mike

### Re: Goldie M

by peterc, 19-Aug-16 05:56 PM GMT

#### Goldie M wrote:

Hi! Peter, I'm still in Kent at present so I've not heard any thing about Brown HS's at Gait Barrow, it would really surprise me if some one had seen them, it's not so long since I had an e-mail from the Ranger there when I asked if he knew the where about's of the White Letter HS at GB and he said if on my travels there I saw one to let him know 😊

I know Purple HS have been seen there also at Arnside Knot but if the BHS have been seen at GB they've not been recorded on the Lanc's sighting posts I've just checked, if I hear any thing more about it I'll let you know because I'll be up there has soon as I get back if it's true. Goldie 😊

The person who saw them was certain that they were Brownies at grid ref SD 4833 7745 and SD 4837 7746.

ATB

Peter

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 19-Aug-16 06:13 PM GMT

Hi! Peter, i'll look into what you've posted when I get home , i hope the person is right, I'll contact my friend and ask about it, you never know with the warmer weather etc, any thing can happen these day's.Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 19-Aug-16 06:24 PM GMT

Hi! Mike,I should think an egg laying Male would make a nice change, Don't you 🤔😊😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 19-Aug-16 06:47 PM GMT

Peter, I've sent Coordinates, to the Manager at GB when I get a reply I'll let you know. Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 19-Aug-16 07:06 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Just catching up on your trip to Kent...glad to see you saw some nice butterflies including the Silver-spotted Skippers. Shame you missed the Adonis but like you say, there is always next year. I have missed a load of species myself this year.

I would be very surprised if a Brown Hairstreak was seen at Gait Barrows, that is well outside of their range. Unless there is some proof my money is on Gatekeeper or male Vapourer Moth. The latter especially are often mistaken for Brown Hairstreaks when they fly in the day high up around trees. Either that or a release.

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 19-Aug-16 08:27 PM GMT

That's a great selection from the end of your trip to Kent. 😊 I really wish I'd spent more time up on the hillsides when I lived in Dover... 😊

I think your Blue *is* a male, but I don't think it's egg-laying. Enlarging your photo makes it look more like a small globule of yellow liquid at its tail end – certainly not an egg, which would be much tinier and white. It's also perched up on a grass stalk, not a place for a Common Blue to lay. The butterfly looks a bit dishevelled, so maybe it was damaged in some way? Just a thought... 😊

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 19-Aug-16 09:04 PM GMT

Just what I thought Dave, that 's why I queried it because it looked more like a male than a female, I'd taken a photo of a Female a couple of day's before that looked similar also on a blade of grass so I wasn't sure.

That's what I think Neil, but you never know, look what I found in 2012 White SPB frits, it would be great if there was though 😊

I've posted the photo of the BF I took a couple of days ago Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 19-Aug-16 09:05 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, on Monday at Shipton Bellinger I too photographed a male Common blue behaving identically to your one, perched on a dead stem curling its abdomen? (A picture is in my PD). Perhaps a female had left some pheromones behind and it thought it was in luck? 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Essexbuzzard, 19-Aug-16 10:41 PM GMT

You're going to hate me Goldie but guess what I saw at Lydden Temple Ewell downs on Wednesday, among all those Silver Spotted Skippers! My first in Britain this year:



**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 20-Aug-16 11:24 AM GMT

Hi! Essex, well done, 🍷🍷 right place at the right time, I was on the White Cliffs of Dover, that day eating cream scones when I should have been butterflying 😊

I think your right Bugboy, looks like my Male wasn't lucky either 😊

I can't grumble these last two weeks the weather has been great and we've been out and about with the family and got some Butterflies I wanted has well, what I didn't get will wait until next year. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Padfield, 20-Aug-16 02:01 PM GMT

Hi Goldie. Adult butterflies don't go to the loo much but they will eliminate excess liquid from the tip of their abdomen and this may hang on the end as a golden orb as in your common blue. I suspect he is perfectly healthy – just had a bit of a night on the town!

Guy

**Re: Goldie M**

by essexbuzzard, 20-Aug-16 07:05 PM GMT

I know all about eating cream scones, Goldie! Yes,whisper it but the weather has been much better down here recently. Not so good today,though!

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 20-Aug-16 07:38 PM GMT

Trust me Guy to take a photo of a Butterfly going to the loo 😊 I ask you of all the photos to take. I bet a lot more people didn't know that Butterfly's go to the loo. 😊 Goldie 😊

I hope the weather keeps up for you essex, i'm back in the North tomorrow, I must say though when it's nice and the Sun's shining it's beautiful in the hills in the North. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 20-Aug-16 10:10 PM GMT

Having a cream tea is never the wrong thing to do Goldie 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 21-Aug-16 09:48 PM GMT

I'm glad you had a great time, Goldie, and I hope all will be well on the the health front.

Like you, I get frustrated in that I have to travel such distances to see many of the UK's downland species. Still, you have a handful on your doorstep that those in southern England have to travel great distances for – Mountain Ringlet, Large Heath, Northern Brown Argus, High Brown Fritillary, Scotch Argus.

It's not all one way traffic! 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 22-Aug-16 10:33 AM GMT

I agree Wurzel, I'd rather have seen a Clouded Yellow though 😊 Goldie 😊

I agree David, out of the five you've mentioned though, this year I've seen two of them, no shots though, wrong time and bad weather for the LH and a bit too early for the HBF, the MR I've yet to see and although I looked for the NBA I never saw it this year, the Scotch A will have to wait for next year as well, so you could say we didn't manage the Northern species too well this year. 😊

That's how the cookie crumbles they say , what with one thing and another this year we've had the health problems but we've nearly got that sorted hope fully, 😊

We arrived home yesterday and although the weather was warm it started to rain and it's still raining, My neighbour told me they've had a couple of nice day's so it looks like we timed our visit South at the right time.

The garden in two weeks looks wild so before any thing else we'll slowly have to get stuck in there, I emphasise Slowly 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by essexbuzzard, 22-Aug-16 09:36 PM GMT

Yes,the north is not so bad! As David says, you have some species accessible to you up there that us southerners can only dream of. Glad you had a nice time down here...

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 23-Aug-16 06:57 PM GMT

Can I just say Peter, your contact was right, 😊 I've just had word from the Manager at Gait Barrow and he says " Yes" it's a fact, there are Brown Hair Streaks at GB and he's seen one himself , he didn't say where so I'm assuming they're at the coordinates I sent sent him which you gave me 😊 Their eggs have also been found. 😊

So essex it looks like we can add Brown Hair Streaks to that list now, 😊

This is great new's and if I'm not too late for them I'll try to get up there post haste 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by peterc, 24-Aug-16 07:10 AM GMT

The best of luck in your quest for a Brownie, Goldie. I am confident you will find one 😊

ATB

Peter

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 24-Aug-16 09:06 AM GMT

In spite of the lovely hot weather yesterday the only Butterflies I saw in the garden were Large Whites and a single Painted Lady, no Peacocks yet or Small Tortoiseshell's.

We were busy doing the garden yesterday so going to HLB wasn't an option, hope fully I'll see some there today if not fingers crossed they'll arrive in September. Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 25-Aug-16 10:35 PM GMT

Nice Painted Lady Goldie, nice to see a slightly different angle, it really brings out the blue circles 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 26-Aug-16 07:35 PM GMT

Hi Goldie...I see the Brown Hairstreaks have been confirmed at Gait Barrows, must say I was surprised at that. Is there any news on how they got there...an introduction or release?

I like the Painted Lady photo, the background compliments the butterfly nicely 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 27-Aug-16 04:07 PM GMT

Thank you Wurzel, I've not seen one since in-fact there's not been many Butterflies at all except for Whites and Speckled Wood, I'm still hoping for the Peacock and Small Tort to appear. 😊

Hi! Neil, glad you like my Painted Lady, she was a one off, 😊

I've heard from Gait Barrow again Neil because I asked the Manager if it was worth the journey up there to see them, he said although he'd seen one hisself the week before( also confirmed eggs had been found) he didn't think it was worth the trip because on Wednesday the weather was good and there was a round 40 people there and none was seen!!!! Word soon get's out 😊 I've contacted him again but he won't be in his office until Monday because I'm also wondering about how they arrived there has well, has for going up there, I'd love to but the way things have been lately here health wise with my Husband, I think they'll keep ( if there ) until next year. 😊 I'll let you know if I learn any thing else 😊

The only Butterflies in the my Garden at present have been White's and they'll all beginning to look rather worn.I took these shots in the garden yesterday.

I looked at some photo's I'd taken last year and there were loads of ST's , Peacock's in September and October so I'm hoping to see some then other wise I'll be rather worried. Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by Pauline, 27-Aug-16 06:59 PM GMT

Those are great shots of the Small White Goldie. You have managed to capture all of the detail which is great. Well done 😊 Lovely Painted Lady too.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Katrina, 27-Aug-16 08:37 PM GMT

I agree with Pauline, I think the purple flowers really complement the whites.

**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 27-Aug-16 09:19 PM GMT

Those Whites on the lavender are splendid, Goldie. They really love this plant at this time of year, so you may get loads there if the sun shines. And they



are not easy to photograph at all either! 😊

Dave

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 29-Aug-16 10:49 AM GMT

Thank you Pauline, Katrina and Dave, It's always good to see the Small White's they look so delicate, I've got three Lavender plants in my garden so I see lot's. 😊

Yesterday in the garden I saw a Red Admiral, I'm only getting the odd butterfly now, one Painted Lady, one Red Admiral, exception being the White's.

The Red Admiral was a bit of an acrobat and never stayed still very long, 😊 it was still good to see it though, I'd been to HLB over the week-end and I saw one GVW a few SW's, two or three really poor RA's, not too good for this time of year.

Let's hope we see more in September my garden is usually full of ST's and RA's and Peacocks then, so I've got my fingers crossed for September. Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 29-Aug-16 11:30 PM GMT

Here's hoping September produces the vanessids we're all looking forward to Goldie 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 01-Sep-16 04:29 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, so far no sightings yet of the S Tort, or the Peacock, considering how plentiful they were last year at this time of year I can't help but feel apprehensive. 😊

We decided today to take a trip to Fleetwood, it's only about 3/4 of an hour away, if that, with the weather having been better but still rather cloudy, (at least we've seen the Sun) I thought I may see some Small Tort's or Peacocks there, so we headed for the Wyre Country Park.

I was wrong, the only Butterflies we saw were the Speckled Wood's, loads of them and a couple of White's which didn't settle, it was still a pleasant change and those Speckies seem to have had a good year. 😊

We went into Fleetwood and had a short walk on the sea front, I took a shot of a ship because it showed how rough the sea was even with the weather not too cold (a coat was still needed) it was windy though. I also took a shot of the lakes in the distance and the Bay. We had a nice lunch and returned home, I checked the flowers and bushes in the garden, still no Butterflies. 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 01-Sep-16 09:27 PM GMT

At least you saw and got a photo of one butterfly Goldie – on my last visit I didn't get any 😞 of well there's still a little bit of the season remaining 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 01-Sep-16 10:36 PM GMT

Keep perservering, Goldie. These butterflies can't go on hiding forever up in northern England.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 02-Sep-16 07:25 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel and Dave, sounds like we might be getting some good weather next week, hope fully more Butterflies will appear 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 07-Sep-16 09:18 AM GMT

Yesterday the weather was very warm and Sunny in the morning and I got a lovely surprise, when drawing the curtains back in the bedroom there on my Buddleia were two lovely Tortoiseshells, At Last!!!! 😊

I can't describe how happy I felt 😊 The Tortoiseshell is the first butterfly I see every year in my garden and the thought that may be they were disappearing was upsetting but better late than never 😊

I keep my Buddleia's ( I have three ) small so that after the first flush of flower's I cut the old flowers off and cut to the nearest bud which gives me a second flush of flower's, I'm so glad I did this because at least the Tort's will get a start by using them has a stopping place because most people these day's especially round where I live just have grass or pebbles.

I'm off now into the garden with the camera hope fully I'll see more today 😊 Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 08-Sep-16 10:00 AM GMT

Yesterday was another lovely day and having seen the Small Tort's in the front garden a few Whites and a Red Admiral I decided to go to Hall-Lee-Brook thinking there maybe more Butterflies there.

The only Butterflies I saw were Speckled Wood's which isn't surprising because they don't depend on flowers all the time like a lot of Butterflies but according to my book prefer Honeydew from the leaves in the wood, my point being is that the only flowers there were not really nectar plants all the thistles etc, having finished.

The two meadows had been mowed again like last year with no sign at all of Meadow Brown's, which I suppose isn't really surprising given the weather we've had up here in August, so it looks like the Tort's etc, were in our gardens looking for nectar, which isn't too bad photographic wise but not too good for them, most gardens along my avenue having pebbled garden's. Then people wonder why there's a decline in Butterflies, it's not always insecticides and farmer's to blame. 😊

So! all though I've posted some shot's before this of ST's and White's together with Admiral's, I'm posting just one of each again because these could be the last of the year from a round my way Goldie



Front Garden 7th Sept



Front Garden 7th Sept



Front Garden 7th Sept

**Re: Goldie M**

by Pauline, 08-Sep-16 10:29 AM GMT

That's a smashing ST shot Goldie 😊😊😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 09-Sep-16 07:13 PM GMT

Thanks Pauline, I really appreciate what you think and I'll miss your posting's 😞 I can't believe the season's nearly over but when I look out side now at the weather, it's believable 🙄

Thank you for showing me those fantastic Wood White's and SSB's we'd never have found them without your help and let's hope we can repeat it next year with the BHS 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Butterflysaurus rex, 09-Sep-16 09:28 PM GMT

Stuck at home with a flu like virus I've been enjoying the Small Tortoiseshells and Red Admirals on our buddliea too Goldie. A few Painted Ladies pop up occasionally but Red Admirals and whites are outnumbering the others by far. I like to think they are visiting me because I'm poorly, not true of course but it cheers me up a bit.

BW's

James

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 10-Sep-16 12:53 PM GMT

So sorry to hear your not well James, I think when you can't get out and about you get really fed up. we've been stuck in here a lot this Summer with the bad weather and it drives me batty, 😞 at least you've got some Butterflies in your garden which you can enjoy 😊

We went to our Daughter's in Kent for two weeks and the weather was great barring the day before we left, when we got back to Lancashire the neighbour's said there'd been two nice days only all the fortnight, any way James I hope your better before all the Butterflies completely disappear 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 10-Sep-16 11:16 PM GMT

That is a cracking Small Tort Goldie 😊 I now what you mean about the Specklies they seem to be all over the place 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 11-Sep-16 09:52 AM GMT

Thank's Wurzel, I appreciate your comments, I'm still waiting for them to return, hope fully next week when the weather's to get warmer they'll put in another appearance. 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Butterflysaurus rex, 11-Sep-16 03:19 PM GMT

#### Goldie M wrote:

So sorry to hear your not well James, I think when you can't get out and about you get really fed up. we've been stuck in here a lot this Summer with the bad weather and it drives me batty, 😞 at least you've got some Butterflies in your garden which you can enjoy 😊

We went to our Daughter's in Kent for two weeks and the weather was great barring the day before we left, when we got back to Lancashire the neighbour's said there'd been two nice days only all the fortnight, any way James I hope your better before all the Butterflies completely disappear 😊 Goldie 😊

Thank you Goldie, I'm almost back to full strength and the weather this week looks like it might get hot. It's not been a great summer down here so I can imagine what you've had to endure up there. The buddliea has rapidly gone to seed and with that most of the butterflies have moved on. Nice while it lasted, and it cheered me up while I was under the weather. Hopefully next year will be much better, what could really do with is a colder winter.

Best regards

James

### Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 11-Sep-16 10:01 PM GMT

Lovely Small Tortoiseshell photo, Goldie! I think ours have all gone into hibernation now. 😊

Dave

### Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 12-Sep-16 07:57 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, I have to agree with all the comments on your Small Tortoiseshell photo...great shot 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 13-Sep-16 03:34 PM GMT

Glad your feeling better James, let's hope You see a few more Butterflies before the Autumn really takes hold.

Thanks Dave, Sunday and this morning the Small Tort's were still back in the Garden also Large White's and Small White's, I think we're just seeing our Butterflies coming out up here. 😊

Thanks very much Neil, I was thrilled to finally see some Butterflies in the garden 😊

Today I think some one told the Butterflies the rain was on it's way again, because they flew in and out with out stopping except for one small Tort who posed nicely for me, he's not included in my shot's though because he was mostly hidden in the flower's 😊 Here's a few shots from Yesterday though. Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 14-Sep-16 04:57 PM GMT

After last night's storm I'm surprised we got back to normal today 😊 but in the Garden this morning were Small White's and even a Small Tort , a red Admiral also put in an appearance but didn't stay around to be photographed.  
On Monday I went to the local Garden Centre and saw a lovely plant there which was covered in Bee's, I couldn't resist it and yesterday we cleared loads of stuff in the Garden and planted it, it's called Caryopteris " Black Knight " and it's colour is gorgeous, it was on this plant that the Small White's couldn't get enough of today and the heavy rain last night Helped to settle it in .  
Anyway I just had to share it with other Butterfly gardener's 😊 Goldie 😊







## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 16-Sep-16 01:47 PM GMT

To round up this year I've chosen to do the Butterflies in their various families because I think this is easier when it comes to the species I've got and the species I've yet to photograph.

So far I've managed to see 49 species over the last few year's adding at least one or two lifer's each year, I've found this was a good way to do it for me because it was some thing to look forward to each year, plus the fact I don't enjoy doing any thing in a rush, so here goes.

First I'll start with the 'Hesperiidae' family, ( Please note I'm learning ) 🤔

The Grizzled Skipper I've still to photograph, also the Chequered Skipper and the Lulworth Skipper they're all future projects. The other Skippers this year I found plenty of on my Holiday in the South but in the North this year I noticed a decline in Small Skippers.

The Papilionidae, I didn't see this year but last year I was thrilled to get some okay shots of this beautiful Butterfly, the Swallow Tail.

The Pieridae family this year I can now say I've seen them all having added the Wood White finally to my list which was great. I'm sorry to say though that around here the Orange Tip's were few and far between at my local haunt Hall-Lee-Brook, add to that Green Veined Whites also suffered a decline. I did see the Brimstone's but not at HLB and not as many as the year before . Although I tried my best whilst on my holiday I didn't manage the Clouded Yellow.

Next the Lycaenide, I'll start with Hair Streaks because these little Butterflies I've not been too lucky with, I've not seen the Brown, Black or White HS's yet but putting that aside I got a fantastic shot of an opened winged Purple HS at Fermyn Wood which really made my day.

The Small Copper, I saw only once at HLB and was lucky to get some shots of this Lovely Butterfly I never saw it any where else on my travels.

The Blues, I can say I've only one to see now to finish my species on these beauties this being the Large Blue.

It's a few year's since I saw the Adonis also the Small Blue which I missed this year but made up for with adding a first to my list by seeing and photographing the Silver SB, great!

I found the Duke of Burgundy was seriously down in numbers at Gait Barrow with only an handful spotted by most people, hope fully we'll see more next year.

The Nymphalidae I've still to finish with not having seen or Photographed the Glanville Frit, or the Mountain Ringlet .

This year seems to have been a bit touch and go for me, for instance I got a quick shot of the White Admiral at FW, my one and only, also the Wall Brown in the Dunes at Southport was poor with the Wall I shot having part of it's wings missing, again my only Wall sighting of the year, when I ventured to Meathop for the Large Heath I saw them but they were too busy seeking shelter from the wind and the site was really flooded , so no shots this year of them.

The Purple Emperor was great though with my very first siting of how this lovely butterfly turns iridescent in the Sun, the outing to FW that day was fantastic with sitings of Speckled Wood , Silver WF's ,Comma's, Meadow B's etc.

Ringlets seem to have done well this year at Gait Barrow and the Small Heath which I saw loads of at Temple Ewell In Kent.

I'm pleased to say I found an unusual Gate Keeper ab at HLB and the Meadow Browns were also there but not in such great numbers has the year before.

I missed the Scotch Argus this year at Arnside also the High Brown Frit which couldn't be helped but I did see the Dark GF. I also missed the Marbled White and Heath Frit, wrong time of year in Kent for those. Also I missed the Marsh Frit but at least I've got shot's of it previously but quite a while since I saw them.

I did see the Grayling at Gait Barrow but they were absent when I visited the Dunes at Southport . Also seen at GB was the SPB Frit also the PB Frit which I didn't manage to see last year so that was a plus, although the High Brown eluded me also at GB has did the DGF but at least I saw that at AK.

So the year was not too bad but the absence of Butterflies like the Peacock and the Small Tortoiseshell which I usually see in abundance around HLB were quite down in numbers , a handful compared to what I'd seen in the years before.

So that was my year full of up's and down's but that's Butterflying and why I enjoy it Goldie ! 😊

## Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 17-Sep-16 07:53 PM GMT

Interesting round up Goldie – but there might still be life in the season yet 😊 I hope you can add to your tally of lifers next year 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Goldie M

by David M, 17-Sep-16 09:31 PM GMT

Such a shame that the earlier part of the season up your way was so dire, Goldie. Things seem to be improving markedly everywhere over the last few weeks, which is hardly surprising given the abnormally warm conditions we've all experienced.

If only we could have these conditions in April/May. 😞

## Re: Goldie M

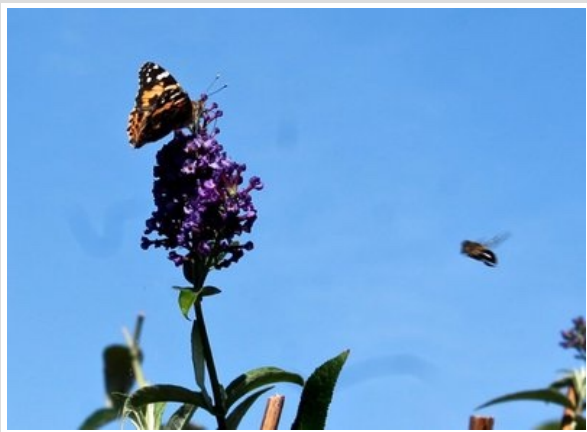
by Goldie M, 19-Sep-16 09:40 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, I've had some time this year to study the different species so I thought it would sum up my season better by doing it this way 😊  
By the way your right about the season not quite finishing because over the weekend I'd quite a few visitors to my back garden 😊

Hi! David, yes, the weather has certainly not helped us up here this year, it's been hit and miss, it was a case of if the Sun shone go out right a way 😊  
Trouble is it didn't do that much, like you I'm hoping for a better Spring next year.

This weekend has been the best one yet, we've been working in the garden a lot ( also sitting and enjoying the Sun) 😊 After traveling out and about to Southport, Fleetwood, etc, and finding very few Butterflies we gave up I wrote my summary of my year and decided, that, was it for the year, then what happens, I've been very busy with my Camera in my own garden.

My visitors have been Small Tort's, Red Admiral's, Comma's, Painted Lady, Small White and Large, I even saw a Speckie, which saw me first and took off and the Sun's out again today so who know's. Goldie 😊



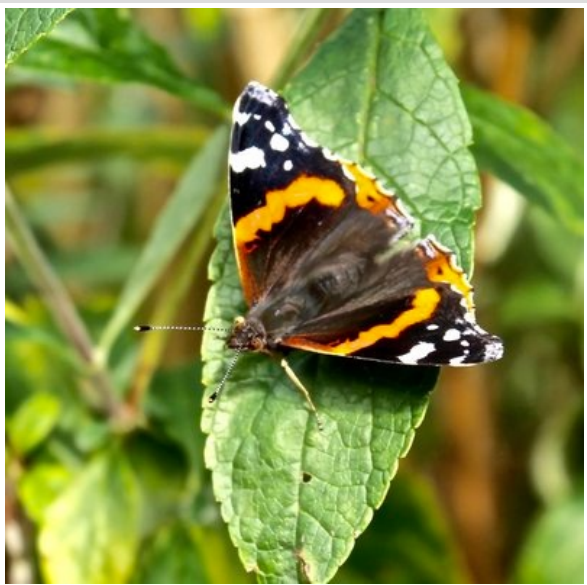
*Making a Bee line) for the flowers*



*Bee arrived*



*The Painted Lady didn't seem quite as bright as it usually does. Time of year?*





*Comma the first Butterfly to land on these flowers since last year when I took loads of shots.*

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 23-Sep-16 10:13 PM GMT

Great to see the seasons still continues for you Goldie 😊 Great shots of the Comma and Painted Lady 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 23-Sep-16 10:40 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel for your post's, I'm really happy with the last few days having seen a few Butterflies in spite of the cloudy conditions, the Sun when it's shone has been very warm, even managed to sit out side for a while 😊 Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 23-Sep-16 11:40 PM GMT

Now all of a sudden, Goldie, you're seeing far more butterflies than me! 🍷

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 24-Sep-16 01:40 PM GMT

Not today David, it's been cold first thing and now it's cloudy and windy and looks like rain, still if the Sun does get through maybe I'll be lucky again 😊  
Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 24-Sep-16 05:20 PM GMT

Love your Small Tortoiseshell image, nice pose, nice background.

Trevor.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Butterflysaurus rex, 24-Sep-16 05:37 PM GMT

Ah some butterflies at last Goldie, with the warm sunshine and all these butterflies about you must be feeling re charged. 😊

BW's

James

**Re: Goldie M**

by Katrina, 24-Sep-16 05:43 PM GMT

I like the comma shot with the yellow flowers background! 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 24-Sep-16 08:23 PM GMT

I agree – the two shots of the Comma on the big yellow daisies are terrific, Goldie, especially the first one. 😊 I don't think I ever see a Comma on garden flowers round here.

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by essexbuzzard, 24-Sep-16 08:26 PM GMT

I like those,too– the flowers are called Rudbekia. Nice to see things are still going up there,Goldie 😊 .

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 26-Sep-16 08:21 PM GMT

Thanks everybody for your most welcome comments , it was a great few day's those Yellow Rudbeckia certainly attract the the Butterflies 😊

Sunday was a funny day with the rain coming down on and off, heavy showers too, but in between the shower's we'd a visit from two or three Large White's and some Small White's, I was surprised because the wind was quite cool, also the Butterflies were in quite good condition for the time of year. Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 28-Sep-16 10:50 PM GMT

Nice whites Goldie 😊 I haven't been out in over a week now, it's just been work, work and more work 😞 I'll see my butterflies through you and others at the moment 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 30-Sep-16 09:32 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, hope you've been able to get out and about since you posted, nothing really out there much when I've gone out but in the garden my Comma's have been active once again in-between the showers with quick visits by the White's. 😊

This morning we got our first frost and it felt very cold when we decided to move so on went the heating 😊 it'll be interesting to see if there's any more Butterflies visiting the garden today , although it's quite pleasant now the forecast is for hail showers later UGH! Winter's on the way.

I was out all day yesterday but Wednesday we had visit's again from the Butterflies, one photo in particular made me smile, although not too good a shot I liked the photo of the Small White that seemed to be smelling the Buddliea 😊 I'm really glad I cut the Buddliea back to the lower shoots instead of cutting them right back, ( which i'll have to do shortly) because it's given the Butterflies a bit longer to visit the garden. Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 01-Oct-16 04:41 PM GMT

Yesterday when the Sun did come out after a pretty wet and cloudy day, it was great to see the Red Admiral in the back garden, it just paid us a brief visit so I was pleased to see it was the ab" biabta " which I saw a lot of last year but not too many this year.

Today on the front garden the Small Tortoiseshell paid a visit and on the back garden the Small White's also all seemed to be in good condition so with a nice day promised for tomorrow who knows, October has started well. Goldie 😊





### Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 03-Oct-16 10:07 PM GMT

I'm glad someone has been managing to photograph the butterflies Goldie – I still haven't managed to get out – oiling doors and sorting printers this weekend 😞 Oh well maybe next weekend...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 04-Oct-16 10:16 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, I've not been getting out either, I've just been lucky enough to have them visit the garden, they've visited but in small numbers not like last year when at this time of year it wasn't just odd numbers I saw but three and four at a time and different species too, this year as been very bad where I live the only species really being seen since the end of August most frequently are the Small Whites which is up on last year.

The worst species hit have been the Peacock's , only one being seen since August, not one so far since then where as last year they were in my garden on and off till late Sept/Oct. 😞

We'll have to wait and see what next year brings, I don't like snow but a cold Winter and a warm Spring with out too much rain could hope fully bring more Butterflies, I Wish! 😞

Mean time the Small Tort's , ( just one was back again Yesterday) Goldie 😞



**Re: Goldie M**

by millerd, 04-Oct-16 05:11 PM GMT

Your photos make me really envious of you seeing the Tortoiseshells, Goldie! 🍷 I've only seen two on my local patch since June – one in July, one in August and none since. 😊

Dave

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 05-Oct-16 09:08 PM GMT

Nice Small Tort Goldie 😊 Fingers crossed for more conducive weather in 2017 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Paul Harfield, 05-Oct-16 10:32 PM GMT

Hi Goldie

Nice to see you have some Small Tortoiseshells up there 😊 . I have not seen one around here since Mid August 😊 .

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 06-Oct-16 10:01 PM GMT

That Bowles Mauve sure is doing you proud, Goldie! 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 08-Oct-16 02:34 PM GMT

Thanks every one for your posts, I've not seen anything since the 4th until today when a small Comma landed in the back garden whilst I was hanging out the washing, ( I saw the Sun and went mad 😊 ) it landed on my Buddliea cutting which was a first having just put the cutting in a pot last year.

The weather here has been very cold and the wind from the East quite bitter for the last few days but today it's a lovely day with hardly any breeze so I was hoping I'd see some thing flying about 😊

The Buddliea cutting was a gift from a neighbour, I wasn't sure I liked it at first ( what do I know 😊 ) because of it's colour but it's been great and has more flowers on it than the other three bushes for the time of year, so I'll be finding a place in the garden for it for sure next year. Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 09-Oct-16 06:29 PM GMT

Really enjoying your recent reports Goldie 😊 as yet another weekend has passed me by and I haven't been able to get out 😞 Oh well next year my renovations should finally be completed and then I'll have all the time in the world 😊 Good job I'm so far behind with my PD 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 10-Oct-16 10:34 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, You'll make up for it next year and let's hope it's a better one Butterfly wise for their sake , I hope I can spot one or two more before the season finishes, Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 10-Oct-16 11:05 PM GMT

Goldie, what is the yellow flower those butterflies are nectaring from?

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 11-Oct-16 10:12 AM GMT

Hi! David, it's a yellow Buddliea, my neighbour gave me the cutting last year and I put it in a pot to see if it'd take, I'd never seen a Buddliea that colour before so I was curious 😊 I was also very surprised when it took and produced all these flowers at this time of year especially when I went to Southport Dunes yesterday and we saw just one Small White and when I got back home, there was a Small Tort on my yellow Buddliea 😊

The Small Tort was rather worn and a bit hard to photograph because it was shiny, it's wings glistened in the Sun so I changed the lens on my camera to see if I could get a reasonable shot because it still looked great on the yellow Buddliea. I think these may be the last time I may see the Small Tort's going off the condition of this one in the garden , Last of the Summer wine I think. Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 11-Oct-16 11:55 AM GMT

I believe your plant is *Buddleja × weyeriana* 'Sungold' – it's great for butterflies 😊 I do like your second Small Tort photo very much, with all those back-lit hairs shining in the sun. It shows how the butterfly keeps warm in the coming winter.

Mike

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 12-Oct-16 10:42 AM GMT

Thanks Mike, the Buddliea certainly suits it's name, "Sungold " , I'm surprised just how this small cutting took and how well the flowers photograph with the Sun on them.

I've not seen the Butterfly since but it was cold yesterday, by the way , thank you for the comments you made about

my Brimstone photo, I'm going to print the photo out and make it bigger because it reminds me of what Butterflying is all about to me . Sunshine, Flowers, Butterflies and hazy lazy days 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 23-Oct-16 10:15 AM GMT

I was surprised to see a lone Red Admiral on Friday 21st of October in the Back Garden because the weather has been cold and wet and I've seen nothing even when the Sun has been shining for a while now.

The Butterfly would land on the Buddliea which, I was just about to cut down when the Butterfly flew in 😊

I've left the Buddliea now for a few more days to see if the RA returns, I did manage a couple of shots not too good I'm afraid but I'm posting one any way. Goldie 😊



### Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 11-Nov-16 01:55 PM GMT

It's quite a while since I posted and quite a while since I ventured out looking for Butterflies, the weather here in the North has been very cold and our Daughter visiting us from Kent in October ( the last time we ventured very far) brought no results, then to cap it all I got a tooth infection which lasted for a few days, which has now cleared up but then the cold weather really arrived -4 and we just missed the snow.

I did how ever take a few shots this year of some wild flowers which I thought might just brighten up our mood, it certainly did mine when I looked at them. Goldie 😊



*Slipper Orchids Gait Barrow 30th May*



*Butterflies on Buddleia Temple Ewell 8th August*



*Wild Flowers 8th September Southport Dunes*

**Re: Goldie M**

by trevor, 11-Nov-16 02:35 PM GMT

Good to hear from you Goldie. The season is really tailing right off down here now. I can't complain, I've had a good year. I do envy those Slipper Orchids though.

Best wishes,  
Trevor.

**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 11-Nov-16 05:40 PM GMT

Glad your feeling better now Goldie, like Trevor I'm very jealous of your Slipper Orchids 🍷

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 12-Nov-16 02:36 PM GMT

Thank's Trevor, the Slipper Orchids are out each May/June at Gait Barrow, it's the only time we struggle to park at GB, people come from far and wide just to see them and I like to take a shot every time I go 😊

Thank you Bugboy, I feel much better now, 😊 The Slipper Orchids seem to come out just as the Dukes and the Pearl BF /SPB are coming out which makes the trip up there even better and not far from them in the Bushes are the GHS so it's usually a great day out, roll on Spring! Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 13-Nov-16 06:07 PM GMT

How far away those heady days seem and how long until they return 😊 Still your images brightened my mood Goldie – cheers 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 14-Nov-16 10:17 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, it's looking good for next year a round here, the butterflies retired early, we've already had Snow, (well near us) 😊 and temps of minus -4 , cold weather also forecast for Thursday, so fingers crossed maybe we'll get back to normal. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 14-Nov-16 08:50 PM GMT

Agreed, Goldie. I've been heartened by the frosts we've had in south Wales so far, and with any luck we'll get a proper, cold winter whereupon butterflies surely can't be any worse off than they've been after the mild ones we've been having?

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 16-Nov-16 02:12 PM GMT

Hi! David, looks like we've got Snow coming to the hills this week, roll on Spring 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 19-Nov-16 11:08 PM GMT

Well! out came the boots this morning as I walked to the local shop for a newspaper, we had our first snow fall, or was it hail stones, what ever, every thing was covered in a light fall. 😊  
The m 61 was blocked yesterday and I couldn't see the Moors for mist but I took this shot of my Cherry Tree at the bottom of the Garden with the Snow on the roof and boy as it been cold, so cold the Wood pigeons took the top of a chimney pot where the heat was and two more on the top of a lamp post and there's more snow forecast for tonight. I'll have to venture out and try to get some more shots of the Moors that's where most of the heavy snow fell. ( That's if I'm brave enough ) 😊 I do tend to Hibernate myself in Winter. 😊 Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by Butterflysaurus rex, 20-Nov-16 01:47 PM GMT

No snow down here yet Goldie but it's a bit windy to say the least! A good run of frost down here would help the Butterflies so I'm hoping some of your weather makes it down this far. Not for too long though, I tend to seize up in cold weather.

Best Wishes

James

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 20-Nov-16 09:01 PM GMT

No snow near the south Wales coast, but I **did** notice a dusting on the highest peaks inland when I ventured out around midday today.

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 21-Nov-16 01:23 PM GMT

Hi! David, we've not had any heavy falls of Snow here but my cousin lives only half an hour a way and they've had a really good Snow fall. The wind here is very strong and cold and it's raining but we've been lucky so far we certainly didn't get the storm ( Angus ) that hit the South. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 21-Nov-16 07:10 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

No snow here yet but it was bitterly cold last week and Storm Angus has been making itself felt the past couple of days.

I recognise those Ladies Slipper Orchids at Gait Barrows, I took a photo of the same clump when I was there earlier this year, brings back some great memories 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Goldie M**

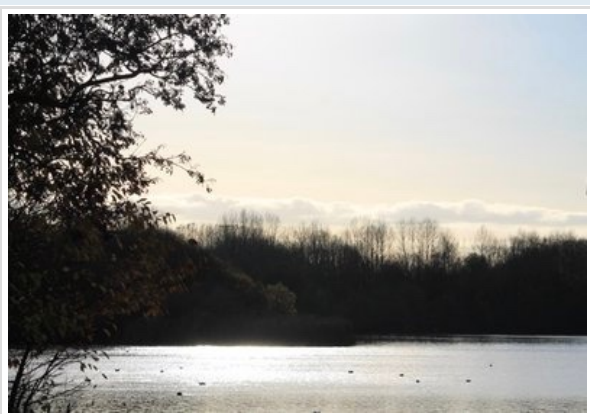
by Goldie M, 24-Nov-16 05:18 PM GMT

Hi! Neil, it sounds like we're already for next year and Spring 😊

Today was one of the best days since November came in, lots of Sunshine not much breeze, still cold but great for a long walk in the country 😊 We decided to visit Pennington Flash, we were disappointed when we reached the Hides, usually the birds are given Bird seed and other various feed, like Nuts etc but there was nothing there at all, so as you can imagine, there was very few Birds to photograph.

I managed a Thrush, and a Moor Hen.! Has we walked round through the trees we came across a family of Swans in their own private pond 😊 One Tree had Berries on it and a few birds were enjoying themselves there, I took some shots of these and some Ducks way out in the distance, a Cormorant was sat on a post in the lake and it was only when I got home I saw what the post said 😊 One of the Birds in the tree had a black cap, I've looked in my book and thought it may be a Black Cap but yet the beak seems different so I could be wrong.

It was a good day out and felt good to get out and stretch our legs 😊 Goldie 😊









**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 24-Nov-16 05:53 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, if the unk bird with a black cap you mention is in the second and third pictures, it is a female Bullfinch 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 24-Nov-16 10:15 PM GMT

Thanks Bugboy, I should have guessed really 😊 because I'd just taken a shot of the Male Bullfinch in the same tree but somehow the female seemed bigger and darker on the head, it was a good way off at the top of the tree though, excuse, excuses, 😊. I recognised the male because of his red chest which stood out at the top of the tree. Goldie 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 28-Nov-16 10:49 PM GMT

Great shots of the Bullfinches Goldie – they can be difficult to get close too, especially the females 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 29-Nov-16 10:52 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, can I use that as an excuse for not recognising them 😊

Yesterday was a lovely day, cold but crisp, Ideal for a trip out, not for sighting Butterflies though worse luck. 😞

We decided to go to Fleetwood and have a walk by the River Wyre , i say walk by the River, the River walk how ever is in sight of the river itself but quite a distance away over mud flats which is great for the birds but not for walkers.

Has we walked the bushes there were full of bright red Berries, in-spite of this there were very few birds but quite a lot of Sea Gulls one of which was quite cheeky posing for a photograph 😊

We carried on walking and after a while we came to a seat, which we didn't use because it was too cold but there hanging above it was a Silver Heart shaped ornament, that set me thinking that some one instead of flowers had placed it there for a loved one who'd passed a way,( it was very sad, yet warming ).

We returned to the car and traveled on first stopping for a coffee and Doughnut before journeying on through Blackpool and home.

All the way home I was thinking about the person who'd placed that lovely ornament. Goldie 😊





**Re: Goldie M**

by maverick, 30-Nov-16 08:45 PM GMT

Hi Goldie

Your gull is a great black backed gull (try saying that after a few)

As for you I've said goodbye to the butterflies in the Northwest a month ago

Time for bird watching

**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 30-Nov-16 08:50 PM GMT

**maverick wrote:**

Hi Goldie

Your gull is a great black backed gull (try saying that after a few)

As for you I've said goodbye to the butterflies in the Northwest a month ago

Time for bird watching

Sorry to stick my oar in but I think the yellow legs make it a Lesser black back. Great black backs have pink legs. 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 01-Dec-16 01:38 PM GMT

Great shots Goldie – those streetlamps(?) are quite surreal, almost like Palm trees 🤪 I agree with Buggy – the slate grey back makes that a Lesser BB Gull. GBB are massive and beautifully contrasting with a jet black back. 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 01-Dec-16 05:13 PM GMT

Are those streetlights meant to lean like that or have they been subjected to a few onshore gales too many? 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by maverick, 01-Dec-16 06:40 PM GMT

Sorry Goldie I was close  
Thanks bug boy that will teach me to be s bit more observant

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 02-Dec-16 07:05 PM GMT

Thank's everybody for your input, 😊 I'm afraid I'm not too well up (has they say) on Gulls, not really liking them too much, they scare me the way they bomb you at times, on the other hand I love to hear their calls, especially when I'm at the Sea side, we seem to get a lot a round here which amazes me because we're a good way from the Sea side.

The Lamp Posts are like that Wurzel and Dave, I think they've bent them on purpose because of the wind.  
Blackpool has changed a lot, for instance, all the Sea Fronts have been remade because of the rising Sea's which came over the front in high winds, there's even grass a long them now,( Quite Posh) 😊

I couldn't resist putting this shot in my post of the Big Dipper which is in South Shore .

Over the last couple of days I've taken a few shots from my back Garden of visiting Birds and birds passing over, the ones passing over I'm not sure of, they were too far a way, but the ones in my garden love the small Fir Tree I've got there and when the weather is cold some times hide in it and also pick food out of it dropped by the Starlings fighting over the Suet pellets above them. Goldie 😊



*Big Dipper Blackpool*



*Passing Birds*



*Collared Dove*



*Blue Tit*



*Dunnock*

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 03-Dec-16 08:48 AM GMT

Even amongst birders, Gulls are regarded as a 'specialist subject' Many species have around four different plumages between juvenile and breeding adult, which makes ID of the rarer species quite tricky. Nice to read that Blackpool front is looking posh 😊

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 03-Dec-16 04:05 PM GMT

Hi! Mike, we're so posh now we're getting Snobby 😊😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 04-Dec-16 06:31 PM GMT

That's a great shot of the Blue Tit Goldie – it confused me for a mo until I realised I was seeing the back of it's head 🤔🤔

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 05-Dec-16 02:29 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, I just got a shot before it disappeared into the tree, the smaller birds love that fir Tree 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 07-Dec-16 04:35 PM GMT

Today I got back from shopping about 3pm and was just having a cup of coffee when I looked out side and there was what I thought at first was a Thrush, I grabbed my camera but by then it had flown onto the back fence, it was then I realised it was bigger than a Thrush but didn't seem big enough for an Hawk, mind you I was a distance from it and in my kitchen, I've tried to compare it to a photo I took last September of a Sparrow Hawk but it still seems small to me, so I wondered if it could be a Merlin? Goldie 😊



September 2015



7th December 2016



*7th december 2016*



*7th December 2016*



*7th December 2016*





7th December 2016

**Re: Goldie M**

by bugboy, 07-Dec-16 06:00 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, that is indeed a Sparrowhawk, a female from the looks of things 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 07-Dec-16 08:31 PM GMT

Thanks Bugboy, I thought so, our Garden is a favourite with them but I'd never seen one actually poke the bushes before to see if any birds were in there. Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 08-Dec-16 10:07 PM GMT

Great shot of the Sparrowhawk Goldie, as Buggy says it looks like a female as males are slightly smaller and can be pinker on the breast. It might be the colder weather bringing it into your garden or using bird feeders as a trap.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 09-Dec-16 03:13 PM GMT

My Husband feeds the birds every morning Wurzel, so it looks like the SH is watching us, it's not stopped the birds coming though, we'd Gold Finch, Robins, etc in the garden this morning. 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 11-Dec-16 06:19 PM GMT

Sounds like you're getting good value on the bird feed Goldie, not only are you feeding the songbirds but the Hawks as well! 😊 I bet if the producers cottoned on they'd rise the price 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 12-Dec-16 06:57 PM GMT

We're just "Bird Brains" Wurzel 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Neil Freeman, 14-Dec-16 09:04 PM GMT

Nice Sparrowhawk Goldie 😊 I have seen a few but not managed to photograph one yet. A number of years ago one used to visit my Mom & Dads garden and a couple of times I saw it shoot through the gap between the houses from its vantage point in a tree across the road and take bird from their feeders.

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 15-Dec-16 08:25 PM GMT

We had to put some netting across the flight path from the shrubbery to stop the Sprawks using our feeders as a fast-food outlet 😊

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 16-Dec-16 10:16 AM GMT

Hi! Neil and Mike, my Husband is very sad when the Sparrow Hawk takes a bird but says " they have to live has well" Live and let Live he says, according to him the birds are very Savvy, he's noticed and pointed out to me, that most of the smaller birds seem to arrive at the same time has the Starlings, I've

watched the Robin in particular sit waiting on our Fir tree underneath the feeders picking up any thing the Starlings drop 😊

The Dunnocks and the Black bird also the other smaller birds are dab hands at doing this, the main point also is the fact that the Starlings always seem to have a look out and when the alarm is given off they all go. 😊

Sadly it's the Wood P are the Collard Dove that ends up being caught , Unfortunately, that's Nature at it's most unpleasant. 😞 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 20-Dec-16 04:51 PM GMT

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE AND A HAPPY BUTTERFLY YEAR

THE VERY FIRST SHOT I TOOK OF MY FIRST WOOD WHITE FINISHES THE YEAR FOR ME 😊 GOLDIE 😊

ALL THE BEST FOR 2017



**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 21-Dec-16 11:12 PM GMT

Have a cracking Xmas Goldie, looking forward to 2017 already! 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 22-Dec-16 02:48 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, I'm in Kent now and just had a Hot Chocolate in Canterbury with the family, marsh mellowes , cream, the lot, 😊 Goldie 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by David M, 22-Dec-16 08:02 PM GMT

All the best, Goldie. Looking forward to hearing how you get on in 2017. 😊

**Re: Goldie M**

by MikeOxon, 22-Dec-16 09:08 PM GMT

**Goldie M wrote:**

Thanks Wurzel, I'm in Kent now and just had a Hot Chocolate in Canterbury with the family, marsh mellowes , cream, the lot, 😊 Goldie 😊

Sounds wonderful - enjoy 😊

Mike

**Re: Goldie M**

by Goldie M, 30-Dec-16 01:58 PM GMT

Just got back home after a lovely Christmas, 😊

My daughter has a lovely dog and for his Christmas he was given a huge meaty bone which he took outside onto the patio, he visited the bone on and off for the rest of Christmas, on Christmas day we looked outside and saw this little bird also tucking in to the bone so I couldn't resist posting a shot of it having it's Christmas dinner, 🍗🐦 I think 😊

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYBODY LET'S HOPE IT'S A GOOD ONE FOR BUTTERFLIES

GOLDIE 😊



**Re: Goldie M**

by Wurzel, 30-Dec-16 10:51 PM GMT

Indeed let's hope it's a good year for butterflies 😊 You're right about the Dunnock though I prefer the older name of Hedge Sparrow, but then I prefer Hedge Brown to Gatekeeper 🍗🐦

Have a goodun (New Year that is)

Wurzel