

**Re: Kev Ling**

by kevlng, 21-Apr-19 10:58 AM GMT

20/4/19:

With the amazing Easter temperatures, it was off to my local Nature Reserve to search for Green Hairstreaks in the hope of achieving my earliest recorded sighting of the species. It was not long before two appeared above me, spiralling through the air together. A few minutes patience and they came to rest on the Hawthorn and even a ground shot which is a little more unusual.





Kind Regards  
Kev

### Re: Kev Ling

by Wurzel, 21-Apr-19 09:53 PM GMT

Cracking stuff Kev - Greenstreaks are really a 'value for money' species to me - interesting behaviour, approachable and totally different 😊😄🌍 I've seen a few Greenstreaks down on the ground and I've been led to believe that the grounded ones are generally female? Great way to start your 2019 PD 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Kev Ling

by David M, 22-Apr-19 07:30 AM GMT

Nice work, Kev. Always a delight to catch up with Green Hairstreaks, although as you say not usually by Easter!

### Re: Kev Ling

by Goldie M, 22-Apr-19 11:17 AM GMT

Lovely Green Hair Streak shots Kev, I've been into Blean Woods but seen nothing special so well done 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 09-Jun-19 01:08 PM GMT

Sussex Holiday - 25th May to 1st June (part 1)

A little late posting, but just enjoyed a great week's holiday spent in Sussex from 25th May - 1st June.

We stayed just outside Lewes and there were a number of wonderful sites close by to visit. Unfortunately the weather gods were not always on our side and despite no rain, a number of days were very cloudy with a moderated breeze, keeping the butterflies hankered down. However with much perseverance I did manage to see all that I wanted and made the most of the sunny conditions when they came.

Malling Down - We visited here a couple of times and were treated to Dingy Skipper, Adonis Blue, Common Blue, Brown Argus and a single fleeting appearance of a Grizzled Skipper, along with some other more common spring species.

Brown Argus



Dingy Skipper



Common Blue



I'm not 100% sure if this is common or Adonis. Having rarely seen Adonis I'm still getting my eye in



Speckled Wood



Kingston near Lewes – A short distance from Lewes we looked for Wall Brown and in windy conditions were fortunate to count a total of 12. They were on the upper slopes above Stump Bottom.



More to follow

Kind Regards  
Kev

### Re: Kev Ling

by Wurzel, 09-Jun-19 04:14 PM GMT

Looks like you had a great break Kev 😊 I'd go for Common Blue for your unsure Adonis as the chequered don't reach right to the end of the white margins 😊 Cracking shots of the Wall – it looks a bit double eyed – a possible aberrant 🤔🤔🤔

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 09-Jun-19 05:34 PM GMT

Sussex Holiday – 25th May to 1st June (part 2)

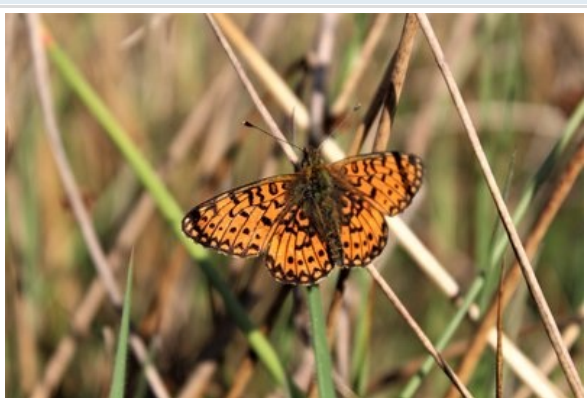
Thanks Wurzel for the tip on Adonis and well spotted with the aberrant Wall Brown. I hadn't considered that.

Mill Hill – What a lovely place this is overlooking Lancing College and Shoreham. Unfortunately we passed by at a time of grey skies and howling wind.

But as Millie the dog need a walk, we carried on regardless and were rewarded by two Common Blues and what i think may be an Adonis which took a liking to my daughter.



Rowland Wood – By teatime the sun finally put in an appearance. I hot footed it to Rowland Wood for roosting Small Pearl Bordered Fritillaries, following Neil Hulme's advice that this is the best time to observe and photograph them. And so it proved.





I also got close to a roosting Small Heath, a species that I have very few close up shots of due to the flighty nature.



It is fair to say that I returned home for supper that evening, a very contented man.

Regards Kev

### Re: Kev Ling

by Wurzel, 09-Jun-19 08:10 PM GMT

No worries Kev – looks like you did get your Adonis 😊 and a 'butterfly in the hand' as well 😊🌿 Lovely golden Small Pearls too – especially the stained glass shot 🤔🌿

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Kev Ling

by David M, 09-Jun-19 09:30 PM GMT

Great that you got some close-up shots of the Small Pearls, Kev.....and your Blue is definitely Adonis!

### Re: Kev Ling

by millerd, 10-Jun-19 08:17 PM GMT

Very nice Small Pearls, Kev, especially that underside – though it's shame you got to see Mill Hill under lousy conditions earlier, as it is glorious in warm sunshine.

Dave

### Re: Kev Ling

by kevlng, 11-Jun-19 08:00 PM GMT

Thanks Dave: Yes I loved that Pearl in the evening sun. Gave me a warm glow. As for Mill Hill, I was gutted as even in poor weather you could see the potential. I'll be back!

### Sussex Holiday – 25th May to 1st June (part 3)

Last stop of on my Sussex Tour was one of my favourite spots – Devils Dyke. Such a beautiful place with views to die for.

Despite a moderate breeze the sun was out and once at the sheltered bottom of the dyke, I was greeted with a haze of blue as Common Blue had burst into season.



The highlight was a small colony of Small Blue, a species I had only seen once or twice before





Final highlight for me was my first female Adonis Blue





Regards  
Kev

### Re: Kev Ling

by bugboy, 11-Jun-19 08:41 PM GMT

Great shots Kev, Sussex has so many great sites doesn't it, I feel like I spend half my life down there 😊

### Re: Kev Ling

by Wurzel, 12-Jun-19 10:52 PM GMT

Cracking Common and Small Blues Kev 😊 As for the female Adonis – I would rate her as the creme de la creme of female Blues, a luscious mix of chequers,slaty blue against chocolate – brill 😊😎

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Kev Ling

by David M, 13-Jun-19 08:48 PM GMT

That's quite a Blue-fest, Kev....even the brown one is a Blue, if you know what I mean. 😊

### Re: Kev Ling

by Neil Freeman, 13-Jun-19 08:54 PM GMT

Great reports and photos from Sussex Kev, particularly like the shot of the SPBF underside in the evening light 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

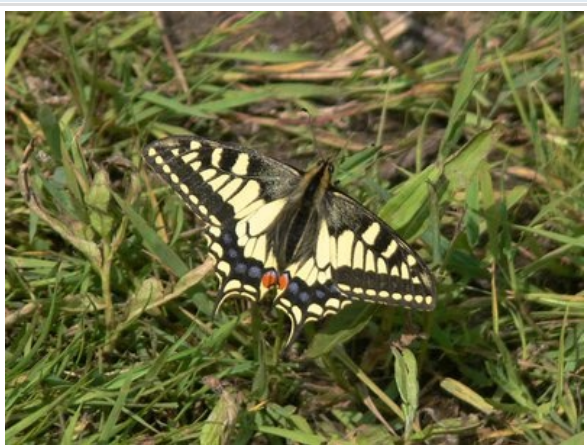
### Re: Kev Ling

by kevlings, 13-Jun-19 09:03 PM GMT

Thanks Bugboy – Yes, I was like a child in a sweet shop when I was there. So many sites to choose from.  
Thanks Wurzel– I agree about the female Adonis. It rates very highly for me too.

#### STRUMPSHAW FEN (3rd June 2019)

Back from Sussex and I had a few extra days leave. A trip to Norfolk was called for in search of the rare and beautiful Swallowtail.  
I ventured past the doctors house and up on to the meadow where two or three were very obliging, including this very fresh example.



I saw a total of five during the morning including a couple inside the reserve too. There were also a good number of Dragonfly species on the wing and although I missed out on a Norfolk Hawker, I did bag my first Scarce Chasers.



Finally as I was heading to the car, this rather fine Female Common Blue obliged for the camera.



A very memorable morning with such great wildlife.

Regards  
Kev

**Re: Kev Ling**

by trevor, 13-Jun-19 09:13 PM GMT

Very nice images from Strumpshaw, Kev.  
I imagine we must have seen each other that day, but there were many other people around too. It's a good job we chose last week!.

All the best,  
Trevor.

**Re: Kev Ling**

by Allan.W., 13-Jun-19 09:37 PM GMT

Reading your excellent report ,makes me want to get myself back up to Norfolk Kev ! , Shame you missed the Norfolk Hawkers , I saw 3 in Kent (East Blean wood ) , last weekend ,but still haven,t managed to sort out any Scarce Chasers yet ,and those you,ve posted are beauties ! Years ago I saw my first (of several ) Norfolk Hawkers and Swallowtails at How Hill , a lovely little reserve ,I also saw both (like yourself ) at Strumpshaw. Regards Allan.W.

**Re: Kev Ling**

by Wurzel, 13-Jun-19 10:31 PM GMT

Cracking Swallowtail shots Kev 😊👍👍 Is it just me or is that first one really dark?!I've not seen the British race so perhaps they're all like that? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Kev Ling**

by keving, 13-Jun-19 11:40 PM GMT

Thanks for the comments folks:

Wurzel: yes that first Swallowtail was freshly emerged, probably less than 24 hrs, so the colours were bold.

Allan: Thank you. I visited How Hill a few years back and it was very nice, with less visitors too making it very personal.

Trevor: We certainly did make hay while the sun shined

Neil: Thanks, early evening is such a nice time to get up and personal with those SPBF

David: Thanks, haven't seen so many blues in along time

**Re: Kev Ling**

by Neil Hulme, 14-Jun-19 07:52 AM GMT

Hi Kev

It looks like you cleaned up during your trip to Sussex. Some lovely pics and hopefully plenty of memories to take home.  
BWs, Neil

**Re: Kev Ling**

by millerd, 14-Jun-19 08:31 PM GMT

Great Swallowtail shots, Kev, and of some I think I didn't see on the 3rd. 😊 Shame not to have bumped into you - there were quite a few there from UKB that day it seems.

Cheers,

Dave

**Re: Kev Ling**

by David M, 15-Jun-19 07:28 AM GMT

Beautiful, Kev. They are so much darker than the continental *gorganus* race.

**Re: Kev Ling**

by keving, 15-Jun-19 06:43 PM GMT

Neil - Happy memories indeed. Thanks for the advice on the SPBF

David - I agree that *britannicus* do seem darker in colour. The first photo was of a freshly emerged adult.

Dave - From what I've read half the UKB members seemed to be there. Next time perhaps

IPSWICH (15th June 2019)

A morning walk with Millie the dog and Mrs L through the wildflower Meadow on a local park in Ipswich started fairly non-eventful. It transpired that we were still a few days away from the first Marbled White emergence, so we enjoyed our first Meadow Browns of the year, alongside Common Blue and Red Admiral.

Suddenly something caught our eyes and on closer inspection it was a Small Blue. A very rare sighting indeed and the first recorded in Suffolk for many years. Although rather worn it was an unexpected start to the day.



Just as we were heading off to our next location, this splendid Small Tortoiseshell obliged for my camera too





Still beaming from our Small Blue sighting, we headed to our local heathland at Purdis, Ipswich for Silver Studded Blues. This site had been managed by Suffolk BC for many years but uncertainty as to the sale of the land has meant that we have been unable to do any habitat management for over a year. Nevertheless there were still a dozen recorded this morning with the peak emergence still a few days away.



Regards  
Kev

### Re: Kev Ling

by trevor, 15-Jun-19 07:38 PM GMT

Beautiful, fresh, Silver Studs, Kev.  
Hope that site where they were found is safe for the future.

Al the best,  
Trevor.

### Re: Kev Ling

by bugboy, 15-Jun-19 08:36 PM GMT

You're diary looks almost as well traveled as mine at the moment. An excellent range of species and well done with those Small Blues 😊

### Re: Kev Ling

by Wurzel, 16-Jun-19 07:38 AM GMT

Those Small blues were a great find Kev - it's great when something turns up unexpectedly 😊 Fingers crossed for those Silver-studs, butterflies are often more resilient/tougher than we give them credit for 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Kev Ling

by David M, 16-Jun-19 10:15 PM GMT

You're taking in both ends of the spectrum there, Kev. Faded Small Blues giving way to fresh Torties and SSBs.

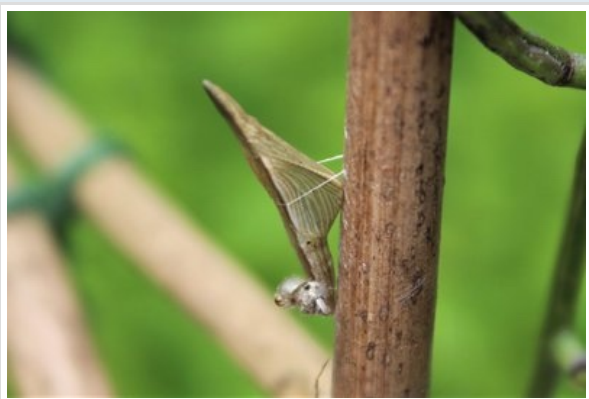
Still a lot to look forward to.

### Re: Kev Ling

by kevlings, 23-Jun-19 02:27 PM GMT

After a good deal of travelling in search of Butterflies, I have been catching up with activity at home. I have not been disappointed. A year ago I planted some Buckthorn whips and very soon had over twenty larva on them. I'm pleased to say that I have had more success this year, as I witnessed a Brimstone laying at least five eggs. I will look forward to watching them develop.

I had thinned out some of my Garlic Mustard, but was still left with plenty on flower this spring. Female Orange Tip activity has been good and I counted at least a dozen eggs, of which a quarter have made it to pupation. What is interesting is that they are in both brown and green form, something I would be interested in knowing why the reason for. Two of them have also pupated on their larval food plant. I was expecting them to move on to somewhere else.



A little repositioning has enabled me to get a photo of two together, demonstrating the differing colour forms.



Regards  
Kev

**Re: Kev Ling**

by Wurzel, 23-Jun-19 11:00 PM GMT

Interesting to see the two different colour forms 😊 What's happening with the bottom of the pupal case in shot 3?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Kev Ling**

by kevlings, 23-Jun-19 11:07 PM GMT

Wurzel, generally when the larva pupates, the head detaches and drops to the floor. In this case it has remained stuck to the pupal case.

Regards Kev

**Re: Kev Ling**

by Wurzel, 23-Jun-19 11:27 PM GMT

Brilliant cheers for the info - I think I can see the old 'eyes' now 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Kev Ling**

by David M, 24-Jun-19 06:23 PM GMT

Your investment has been rewarded with those buckthorn whips, Kev. I am going to try and source some myself to see if I can do likewise.

**Re: Kev Ling**

by Chris Jackson, 24-Jun-19 06:34 PM GMT

Nice shots of the pupae Kev. Its rewarding when you get deeper into their life cycle.  
Chris

**Re: Kev Ling**

by millerd, 25-Jun-19 09:00 PM GMT

You've done well with those Orange Tip pupae, Kev. I've never yet managed to find one! 🍷😊

Cheers,

Dave

**Re: Kev Ling**

by kevlings, 25-Jun-19 09:11 PM GMT



Dave, Dave, Chris, Wurzel: Thanks for the comments. I have struggled getting up close and personal with adult Orange Tip butterflies this year, but struck it lucky with their offspring 😊

#### Brimstone Larva Predation

A contact of mine has been updating me on the progress of Brimstone larva on her Buckthorn. She slowly noticed a reduction of larva and assumed it was down to small birds. However on two separate occasions she has seen wasps go in and take the larva. My question is whether this is recognised predatory behaviour as i have never heard of this before.

Regards  
Kev

#### **Re: Kev Ling**

by David M, 27-Jun-19 06:33 AM GMT

##### **kevling wrote:**

...A contact of mine has been updating me on the progress of Brimstone larva on her Buckthorn. She slowly noticed a reduction of larva and assumed it was down to small birds. However on two separate occasions she has seen wasps go in and take the larva. My question is whether this is recognised predatory behaviour as i have never heard of this before.

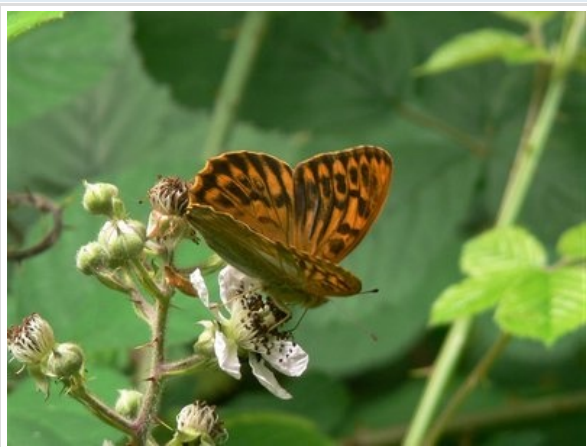
Nor have I, Kev. I presume these are early instar larvae, because late instar ones would be pretty sizeable for a wasp to carry away?

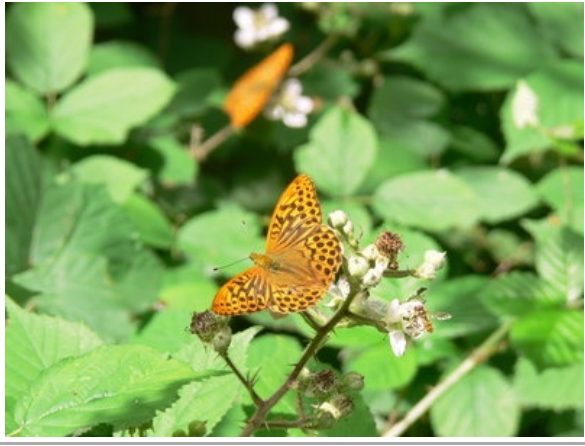
#### **Re: Kev Ling**

by kevling, 08-Jul-19 09:11 PM GMT

Ramsey Wood – Near Ipswich

I visited my local Silver Washed Fritillary patch at the weekend, where numbers were building nicely. I saw 15 in total including a female and this lovely example, which I think is *ab Confluens*





Kind Regards  
Kev

### Re: Kev Ling

by MrSp0ck, 08-Jul-19 09:51 PM GMT

I have known wasps to be a big problem, and take large Indian Moon moth larvae that were sleeved on Apple, and once they learn where they are they keep coming back for more, and being wasps they can chew through netting and wood.

A fully grown Brimstone larva would be an easy meal for a wasp, at least in some areas the hornets are keeping the wasp population down, but they also are taking Butterflies etc.

### Re: Kev Ling

by Wurzel, 08-Jul-19 10:49 PM GMT

That is a cracking aberrant Kev 🤩👍 Stunning 🤩👍 Great find.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Kev Ling**

by David M, 09-Jul-19 07:49 AM GMT

Great ab SWF, Kev. There seem to have been a few this year (along with White Admiral abs).