

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 22-Feb-19 06:33 PM GMT

Wow: almost a couple of years since we have added anything.

A couple of Butterflies today in the Grounds of Hall Place (the LB of Bexley in SE London) viz. a **Red Admiral** (our second of 2019) and this **Small Tortoiseshell**:



Not long now before the Butterfly Season begins in earnest.

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 23-Feb-19 06:33 PM GMT

To the East Wickham Open Space (the LB of Bexley in SE London) in search of a **Comma** Butterfly.

Nothing doing alas (perhaps a little early) but there were at least two **Red Admiral** Butterflies present viz.





And at least one **Brimstone** Butterfly (our first of the year).

Re: Mike Robinson

by Wurzel, 23-Feb-19 10:46 PM GMT

Welcome back Mike 😊 I great set of shots to return to the fold with 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 24-Feb-19 09:19 AM GMT

Wurzel: thanks... PS... I spent the last couple of years collecting local records but I'm a Free Agent again now...

Re: Mike Robinson

by David M, 25-Feb-19 05:37 PM GMT

Lovely contrast of colours with the dark butterfly feeding on the white blossom, Mike.

I'm sure Commas have emerged round you by now; they seem to be everywhere else these last couple of days!

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 25-Feb-19 09:31 PM GMT

Thanks: yes they are indeed out and about locally. I managed to see eight **Commas** locally today, including these Guys:





Also my first Peacocks (two of 'em), including this Guy:



And a couple of Red Admirals including this Character:



Plus some nice-looking Bees including an assumed Buff-Tailed Bumblebee, a Hairy-Footed Flower Bee and a Red-Tailed Bumblebee:



Re: Mike Robinson

by Wurzel, 25-Feb-19 10:55 PM GMT

Great stuff Mike, brill shots - I still haven't seen a Peacock 🐔 but in this crazy February maybe tomorrow 😊😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Mike Robinson

by David M, 26-Feb-19 06:01 PM GMT

What an array of colour to brighten up a late winter's day! Interesting to see that blossom in full swing. Which shrub/tree does it belong to?

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 26-Feb-19 07:06 PM GMT

Wurzel: thanks.

David M.: Cherry Plum I think.

Back out again today and saw our first **Speckled Wood** Butterfly of 2019: on Bostall Heath.

And then down through Lesnes Abbey Woods to Lesnes Abbey Park where we managed to see a passing **Brimstone** Butterfly, a **Comma** Butterfly viz.



a Peacock Butterfly and one, possibly two Small Tortoiseshell Butterflies viz.





Reluctantly, I'm inclined to think they are the same Butterfly.

Re: Mike Robinson

by Neil Freeman, 26-Feb-19 08:26 PM GMT

Beautiful photos on the blossom Mike 😊

I would say those last two Small Tortoiseshell photos definitely show two different individuals.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Mike Robinson

by Wurzel, 26-Feb-19 10:51 PM GMT

Lovely marked Small Tort Mike 😊 A Speckled Wood already 😬 There can't have been many others seen so far this year 😊🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Mike Robinson

by David M., 27-Feb-19 01:36 AM GMT

Mike Robinson wrote:

...David M.: Cherry Plum I think.

Thanks, Mike. They sure seem to be attracted by it. Makes for some lovely images and I suppose the butterflies are at a handy height to capture too!

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 27-Feb-19 03:02 PM GMT

Neil: thanks very much...

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 27-Feb-19 03:03 PM GMT

Wurzel: thanks...

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 27-Feb-19 03:04 PM GMT

David: yes, the flowers are very pretty. Not too high up thankfully...

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 28-Feb-19 03:46 PM GMT

I must have seen them before but it had never really registered that Comma Butterflies have white legs: until yesterday viz.



Sadly: the Sunny Spell seems to be over.

Re: Mike Robinson

by Goldie M, 28-Feb-19 05:18 PM GMT

Hi! Mike, I've noticed that too, I've often thought their legs look like Match Sticks 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 01-Mar-19 09:22 AM GMT

Goldie: thanks. Yes: Match Sticks...

Re: Mike Robinson

by David M, 01-Mar-19 12:09 PM GMT

Yes, Comma have highly attractive legs, which contrast beautifully with the dark undersides.

Some of the Lycaenids have striking black and white bands around theirs....we are so busy concentrating on the wings we often miss other areas, for example, the beautiful, rusty coloured antennae of Brimstones.

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 03-Mar-19 11:01 AM GMT

David M.: thanks very much.

We had not intended to venture forth yesterday but a Burst of Sunshine prompted us to hoof it to nearby Bostall Heath in the hopes of a Bee or something: well, anything really.

I really wasn't expecting a Butterfly but was super-pleased to see this **Small Tortoiseshell** visiting the Red Dead-Nettles (which have been considerably bucked up by the recent Rains):



And there were indeed some Bees viz.





Re: Mike Robinson

by David M, 07-Mar-19 05:27 PM GMT

Mike Robinson wrote:

I really wasn't expecting a Butterfly but was super-pleased to see this **Small Tortoiseshell** visiting the Red Dead-Nettles (which have been considerably bucked up by the recent Rains

Mike, you did well to see anything given the stormy conditions.

After racking up almost 100 butterflies in the latter half of February, I'm still waiting to break my March 'duck' after a full seven days! 😞

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 07-Mar-19 07:05 PM GMT

David M. it was supposed to be Sunny today and it sort of was. But I hadn't been expecting the, beyond Brisk, Wind...

Re: Mike Robinson

by Jack Harrison, 07-Mar-19 07:11 PM GMT

Mike Robinson[quote]hadn't been expecting the, beyond Brisk, Wind...Hmm. The strength of the wind was the main feature in all weather forecats that I saw.

Jack

Re: Mike Robinson

by essexbuzzard, 07-Mar-19 08:10 PM GMT

Yes, the weather is now back to normal for early March. Should be a little bit of sunshine tomorrow morning, though. The sun is now much stronger than it was a few weeks ago so if you can find a sheltered spot, you never know.

Re: Mike Robinson

by Wurzel, 10-Mar-19 07:35 PM GMT

Great to see the Small Tort and the White faced bees Mike 😊 If anything the weather this weekend was even worse – with only ever two out of three of the favourable conditions at any one time 😊 Oh well ;east it's more what we expect (minus the gales)...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Mike Robinson

by Jack Harrison, 10-Mar-19 08:10 PM GMT

Having said how well I thought the wind had been forecast a few days ago, it was far windier today than had been expected. Weather forecasts are very good these days but (as today) it still goes wrong perhaps one day in ten – hence I felt it worthy of comment. It is essential of course to make interpretation for local conditions which might not be made clear in a broad-brush TV forecast.

Jack

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 29-Mar-19 10:39 AM GMT

Back in the fray after an enforced lay-off. Some of the Butterflies seen yesterday on the Crossness Nature Reserve and Surrounding area (SE London):







Re: Mike Robinson

by Wurzel, 29-Mar-19 09:18 PM GMT

That's a cracking array for this early in the season Mike 🤔🍀 Hopefully the reasonable weather will remain fingers crossed 🙏 I don;t recall seeing Green-veined White mentioned yet this year – I could be mistaken – so could that have been a first for 2019? 🍀

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Mike Robinson

by David M, 30-Mar-19 09:12 AM GMT

Great stuff, Mike. Looks like Pierids are getting going round your way. That's a lovely GVW, with much stronger markings than I would expect in the first brood.

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 30-Mar-19 09:37 AM GMT

Wurzel: thanks. Looking on Twitter, I see that a few Green-Veined White Butterflies have already been reported: the earliest 23 March in Somerset...

Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 30-Mar-19 09:37 AM GMT

David M. Thanks...

Re: Mike Robinson

by Wurzel, 30-Mar-19 09:01 PM GMT

Sorry for suggesting Mike – I don't have The Twitter – I asked my daughter about getting it and got the "really Dad" eye roll 🤔🙄 She suggested that I stick to Instagram.

Have a goodun

Wurzel