

20190221 First of the year!

by Janet Turnbull, 21-Feb-19 05:34 PM GMT

I have become an eco warrior on behalf of Carrington Moss and lately have spent most of my free time walking the paths. I was looking for birds today, but suddenly a bright yellow leaf flickered through the trees. Birds forgotten, I chased after it and watched it settle under some rhododendron leaves. It hung in there and I disturbed it trying to get closer, but it didn't fly far and settled again where I could see it. Yay!!



The Moss is under threat of massive development – there is a GMSF consultation in progress and we are trying to get the message out to everyone to object to the proposals.

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 23-Feb-19 10:14 PM GMT

Great shot Janet – it's really hard to get Brimstone shots at this time of year as they seem to fly incessantly 😊📷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 23-Feb-19 11:28 PM GMT

Great to see, Janet! I think things have kicked off just about everywhere in the UK with this unseasonably balmy weather!

Good luck with your campaign. I used to live in Sale around the turn of the century and a few years ago went back and took a walk in the park opposite the Pelican pub at Broadheath. I was shocked and dismayed to find a new housing estate had been built beyond the far end.

With every passing year the concrete jungle extends and the traffic bottlenecks get worse.

I have to admit I'd hate to go back even though I loved the area at the time. 😞

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 24-Feb-19 12:55 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel – I think it had only just emerged so it was still recovering. I saw two more today, plus a Peacock but I'll have to get the photo off the camera tomorrow.

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 20-Mar-19 08:04 PM GMT

David M wrote:

Great to see, Janet! I think things have kicked off just about everywhere in the UK with this unseasonably balmy weather!

Good luck with your campaign. I used to live in Sale around the turn of the century and a few years ago went back and took a walk in the park opposite the Pelican pub at Broadheath. I was shocked and dismayed to find a new housing estate had been built beyond the far end.

With every passing year the concrete jungle extends and the traffic bottlenecks get worse.

I have to admit I'd hate to go back even though I loved the area at the time. 😞

Thank you David (sorry, I've only just seen this as it was on the next page!) The concrete jungle seems to encroach at a terrifying rate. There is still a nice little wildlife reserve off the canal near Timperley and I found birds and butterflies there last summer. We got chased by a goose, too.. Greater Manchester's 'Consultation' ended on Monday so we await results. The whole thing is developer driven – they would like to build 300,000 homes where there is need for 30,000, and of course the council looks forward to all the income from them.

20th March 2019

by Janet Turnbull, 20-Mar-19 08:20 PM GMT

I took our rambles for a walk on the Moss today, and what a glorious day it was. Although the calendar says the first day of Spring is 21st March, astronomically today is the first day of Spring (this year). If you're interested you can read about it here <https://www.fullmoon.info/en/blog/fullmoon-easter.html>

The butterflies were about and my walking companions are becoming more and more au fait with them, which pleases me greatly! We saw three of each of Brimstone, Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock – two of the Peacocks were courting and were upset by a Brimstone barging in.

The Blackthorn was looking lovely and one of the Torts posed on it beautifully for us. I'm intrigued by the state of it though – looks like it has just woken up and forgotten to brush its hair.

Arriving home we sat in the garden and another Peacock came to enjoy the warmth of the wooden window frame.



Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 21-Mar-19 01:58 PM GMT

Great to hear you're properly up and running Janet 😊 walls and other man made surfaces at this time of are great for g butterflies with bonus that you also get 'clutter free' interesting backgrounds to the shot 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 21-Mar-19 09:15 PM GMT

I noticed the forecast yesterday reported fine conditions in parts of northern England and wondered whether any members might have made the most of it.

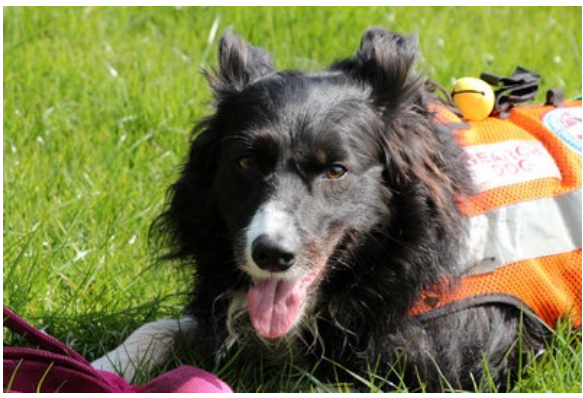
Seems you did, Janet. Great Peacock image. It's always nice to get one basking on a dull coloured background.

Tittesworth Reservoir, Peak District

by Janet Turnbull, 10-Apr-19 11:37 AM GMT

Our rambles did a walk round the reservoir last Saturday (6th April) and despite the terrible weather during the previous week we had a glorious sunny

day. As we sat for lunch we were 'inadvertently rescued' by two search-and-rescue men with their rescue dog, a Collie called Penny, who were actually out looking for a man who had gone missing.



The butterflies were out and Gren and I managed to slow the ramble down while we chased after the Small Tort which wanted to bask low on the dead straw, and the Comma which was nectaring on the blackthorn. I chased after the first Orange-tip I'd seen this year, which hubby pointed out, but it friskily sped away and I would have lost the rest of the party if I had gone after it. I'm pleased that the other ramblers are taking such an interest in butterflies now - they are becoming familiar with the names and are keen to point them out if I've missed them. I even get excited reports from them about what they've seen themselves which is great.



I was pleased to see a Chaffinch which was flitting between the hedgerow and a puddle on the path. I haven't seen many locally.



8th April Carrington Moss

by Janet Turnbull, 10-Apr-19 12:10 PM GMT

With the Moss under threat of development I've spent a lot of time walking and recording what I see there. I went out there on 4th April when the wind was howling across - far too cold for butterflies but I did achieve a reasonable photo of a Yellowhammer. I've never seen these birds before and apparently they are on the red-list of endangered species.



Four days later I was there again and turned up the track by the barrier to the road that leads to Manchester United's training ground. The guard's hut is heated, sadly, by a diesel generator which puts out vast quantities of polluting fumes all day. I wasn't even beyond the stink of it before coming across the first of the orange-tips - a couple of males - who despite their environment looked nice and clean and fresh. As I progressed along the track - and out of the reach of the diesel fumes - I counted fully 25 O-tips of which only 3 or 4 were females. The males kept making advances but the females repulsed them, being interested only in nectaring on the dandelions.





Several male Brimstones patrolled the stretch and had to share the dandelions with the Orange-tips. I didn't see any females though



By the former orchard on Brookheys Road (still an old unmade lane and long may it remain so) the first of this year's Speckled Woods made their appearance



Continuing the trail round to the old disused railway I watched a pair of courting Peacocks. One of them had evidently decided on the ideal spot to make a home and the pair danced around together, darting away and returning time and again, for twenty minutes. Suddenly they shot away over the hedge and although I waited a few minutes they must have changed their minds about the locality for they did not return.



Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 10-Apr-19 10:18 PM GMT

A cracking set of shots Janet especially the female OT – something I've not seen yet this year 🍀 And that really is a YELLOWhammer 🤪🤪

Have a goodun

Wurzel

ps. you'll have to be careful walking round with your camera – they might think that you're a spy for Man City 😊😊

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 11-Apr-19 08:37 AM GMT

Wurzel wrote:

ps. you'll have to be careful walking round with your camera – they might think that you're a spy for Man City 😊😊

I seem to have won the confidence of the man at the barrier, Wurzel! He assumes I'm out birdwatching..

Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 11-Apr-19 02:55 PM GMT

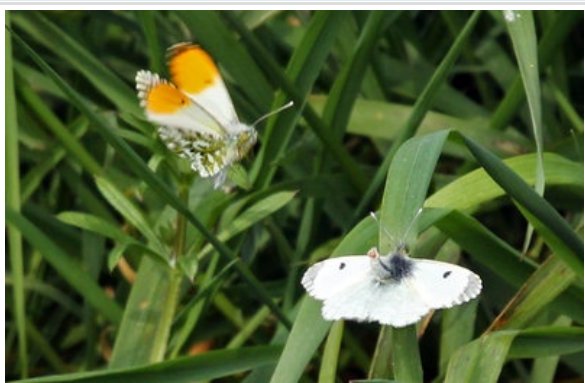
Fabulous that you saw a yellowhammer, Janet. It just shows how precious Carrington Moss is for a variety of wildlife.

It saddens me to hear of potential further development. When I lived in Sale the moss stretched from Broadheath to Partington, and given how damp and marshy the bulk of it is, I never thought it could be transformed into housing estates (or anything else).

Carrington Moss again

by Janet Turnbull, 19-Apr-19 10:12 PM GMT

Another walk around the Moss and this time there were more females – all spoken for, it seemed, because they were rejecting the advances of the males.



Also seen were Small Tortoiseshells



and Peacocks, who were also courting. The Peacock pair were low in the vegetation and dropped further and further down until they reached ground level and disappeared from view.



Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 19-Apr-19 10:27 PM GMT

My first Holly Blue of the year turned up in the garden at teatime and as I prepared the meal it kept reappearing and hiding as soon as I ran outside – so no photo of that today. I was out on the Moss at 7.30 am though – and what a glorious experience that was. Beautiful low light, birds singing their hearts out – and as the temperature rose the butterflies started to appear. We saw around 20 species of birds and to my delight a Yellowhammer flew into a nearby bush and posed for me.





Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 20-Apr-19 06:51 PM GMT

Cracking stuff Janet – did the male OTs finally get the message or did they keep up with their unwanted advances? 😊 Great shot of the Yellowhammer 🐣🐣 Is that a female as it looks a it streakier on the side? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 21-Apr-19 01:31 PM GMT

Wurzel wrote:

Great shot of the Yellowhammer 🐣🐣 Is that a female as it looks a it streakier on the side? 😊
Wurzel

Hard to tell, Wurzel, but probably female – its face does look a bit darker than a male's.

Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 22-Apr-19 07:23 AM GMT

All sounds positively idyllic, Janet. Good to know there's so much going on round your way.

Female Orange Tips are becoming ever more noticeable right now. I feel a bit sorry for the males as their pursuit is almost certain to be fruitless....doesn't stop them persisting though.

Re: Janet Turnbull

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

Hi! Janet, you make me wish I was back home 😊 not that I could do much, but I do get Butterflies in my Garden, nothing to speak of yet in my Daughters Garden in Kent 😊 Goldie 😊

Eyarth Rocks and PBF

by Janet Turnbull, 14-May-19 12:00 AM GMT

G and I took a trip to Eyarth Rocks to look for PBFs and it was our lucky day – not only greeted at the gate by a poser, there were dozens. We arrived before midday and found the frits were particularly attracted to the dandelions. By mid afternoon the dandelions had dried out in the hot sun and the frits were supercharged and not settling.





One of them looked a bit darker and I thought it might have been a Small PBF, but I think it was just the colouring. Also a very pale fritillary appeared – is it a ab?



Also seen were our first Small Heaths of the year, which settled on the short grass of the footpath and immediately angled themselves to the sun.



A few very tired Peacocks were still around and an extremely ragged Small Tortoiseshell, but the Speckled Woods were nice and fresh and there was a good show of Orange-tips





Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 14-May-19 08:45 AM GMT

Great shots Janet 😊 The pale Pearl looks good for an aberrant as it's more of a straw colour than a faded orange that you see on older specimens also the margins are all intact and it doesn't seem to show any signs of wear 😊👍 Great find 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Andrew555, 14-May-19 10:12 AM GMT

Lovely PBF's Janet, sounds like a great site. 😊

Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 14-May-19 08:40 PM GMT

Good to know there are decent numbers of PBFs flying at Eyarth, Janet. They still look pretty fresh too so maybe they were a little behind the more southerly emergences.

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 15-May-19 10:34 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel - I'm chuffed it was an ab. It was certainly as fresh looking as the rest.
Andrew555 - it is a lovely site and seems very quiet - we saw only one other person all day!
David M - I wonder if Eyarth is generally thought of as a 'late' site?

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 28-May-19 05:29 PM GMT

We booked a trip to Ireland - our first ever - to look for Cryptic Wood Whites. Thoroughly enjoyed our stay in Malin Head with friends, who now know about Green Veined Whites of which there was no shortage - but failed in our mission for the CWW. Aside from the GVWs, on the day we left, I spotted a single tired Small Tort which appeared to be one of the overwinter survivors, three or four Speckled Woods, an Orange-tip and a Large White.



On the drive back to Belfast for the ferry we stopped off at Ness Country Park near Londonderry, and Alan spotted our first Small Copper of the year, which had suffered a bird strike but seemed happy enough on the daisies.



I was delighted to see some Stonechats and also finally managed to get a shot of the elusive Greenfinch (although I thought it was a Sparrow at the time! 😊)



Wagtails a Swallows perched on the power lines



whilst on the ground was a small bird none of us could identify



Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 28-May-19 05:45 PM GMT

25th May: Rixton Clay Pits

Waking up to a sunny morning we went along to Rixton Clay Pits - it still only costs 12p each way to cross the Ship Canal, although there were two people taking advantage of the queue to collect for the Lifeboats - not that I have ever seen one on the Ship Canal 😊

The Common Blues were out in force at Rixton





and my eye was taken by a brilliant flash of red which turned out to be a Cinnabar moth



Another moth - Initially I thought it was a Mother Shipton but I'm not sure if it is



There were four different coloured Damselflies and a Four-spot Chaser



Re: Janet Turnbull

by millerd, 28-May-19 07:16 PM GMT

That's an unusual male Common Blue, Janet, with the black spots around the hindwings. Interesting. 😊

I know your moth is not a Mother Shipton – I think it is a Burnet Companion, though having failed to recognise one earlier this year, don't take my word for it! 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 28-May-19 10:14 PM GMT

millerd wrote:

That's an unusual male Common Blue, Janet, with the black spots around the hindwings. Interesting. 😊

I know your moth is not a Mother Shipton – I think it is a Burnet Companion, though having failed to recognise one earlier this year, don't take my word for it! 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Dave – I believe you are right about the moth – I should have looked at BC's website first instead of Collins Gem! 😊😊 It is a Burnet Companion.

The spots on the Blue make it look almost like a Silver Spotted, but the underwings are normal Common Blue as far as I can tell. I wonder if it is an ab. I shall have to go back to Rixton and see if there are any more! – Janet

Re: Janet Turnbull

by bugboy, 28-May-19 10:56 PM GMT

Hi Janet, a nice selection of recent images. Your unidentified bird from your previous post has me stumped as well. It's clearly a fledgling but of what I'm not entirely sure, perhaps a Grey or Yellow Wagtail 😊

Your male Common Blue with the black spots is an ab *nigromaculata*.

Your Damselflies are a Blue-tailed Damselfly, a Large Red as you say, a male Azure Damselfly, and what looks like one of the Emerald Damselflies although the colour at the base of the abdomen and thorax does look a bit odd.

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 28-May-19 11:25 PM GMT

Cracking reports Janet – really like the Common Blue ab. 🤔🤔🤔 I reckon that your small bird is either a very young/recently fledged Pied Wagtail (<http://www.arthurgrosset.com/europebirds/photos/motalb25186.jpg>) or a juv Grey. Yellow Wagtails have much more yellow and look like the females.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 29-May-19 05:08 PM GMT

millerd wrote:

That's an unusual male Common Blue, Janet, with the black spots around the hindwings. Interesting.

It is very interesting. I see this occasionally in Adonis Blue but I don't think I've ever seen it in Common Blue.

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 29-May-19 06:01 PM GMT

Thank you Bugboy, it's good to have a name for my Blue ab. It's turned dull today so I haven't been back to check if there are more.. also David M and Wurzel – I reckon the consensus is for juv. grey wagtail, especially as there were other greys in the area but I didn't see any yellows.
Janet

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 30-May-19 12:34 PM GMT

Yep Grey was the way I was going – it was great looking through my old bird books and googling stuff 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

29 May Carrington Moss

by Janet Turnbull, 30-May-19 05:15 PM GMT

I hadn't looked in on the Moss for a couple of weeks and was pleasantly surprised how lush and green it has become. There were few butterflies, it being rather a dull day, although I came upon a Small White who was searching among the nettles for a suitable egg plant. Nearer Sinderland Brook I found a solitary Banded Demoiselle and a huge black flying insect apparently stuck to a goosegrass, dead. It was approximately 3.5cm long, measured against my phone.



Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 30-May-19 05:23 PM GMT

The Cinnabar moth in my previous post appeared to have very pale upper wings and at first I couldn't place it – so here's another view. My companion has a similar photo so it wasn't just my camera. Another ab or just faded, I wonder.



Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 30-May-19 06:50 PM GMT

That is one ferocious looking insect Janet 😬 It is some kind of Sawfly? 😬 Not sure about the Cinnabar as the wings look paler as does the underside though I could be mistaken 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Janet Turnbull

by bugboy, 30-May-19 07:23 PM GMT

I reckon that black beastie is a Birch Sawfly. Did it have a white mark on the base of the abdomen?

It's definitely a Cinnabar, nothing else in the UK has anything close to that patterning. Difficult to say whether the pale colouring is just wear and tear or it's a genuine ab. There is a quite well known ab. in the Cinnabar where all the red is replaced by yellow.

Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 30-May-19 08:38 PM GMT

Not quite sure what has made your cinnabar moth pallid, Janet, but a cinnabar it certainly is.

More mysterious is your dead fly. I can't say I've ever seen one quite like that.

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 30-May-19 10:10 PM GMT

Bugboy – its wings are closed over but in the photo it does look as though they are covering a white mark. So it could well be a birch sawfly. Massive critter!

1/6/2019 Hartington

by Janet Turnbull, 01-Jun-19 11:13 PM GMT

Today's ramble saw a dozen of us out in the White Peak and how difficult it is to chase butterflies whilst leading a ramble! I reckoned I saw a large fritillary zooming down the hill – just the one and I couldn't go after it. I also thought I saw a small fritillary on a flower but it was spooked before I got a photo. Perhaps neither was what I thought – or hoped. There were still quite a few Orange-tips around – I counted nine in Biggin Dale and a few more in Beresford Dale. A very frayed and battered Small Copper in Biggin Dale and a lovely fresh specimen in Wolfscote Dale were happy to pose.





And the only moth of the day which may be a Common Carpet



Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 01-Jun-19 11:48 PM GMT

Interesting to see the chronological variation in those Coppers Janet 🤔😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 02-Jun-19 10:35 AM GMT

That first Small Copper has character, Janet. I dread to think how many skirmishes he's been involved in. 😊

4/6/2019 St Werbergh's

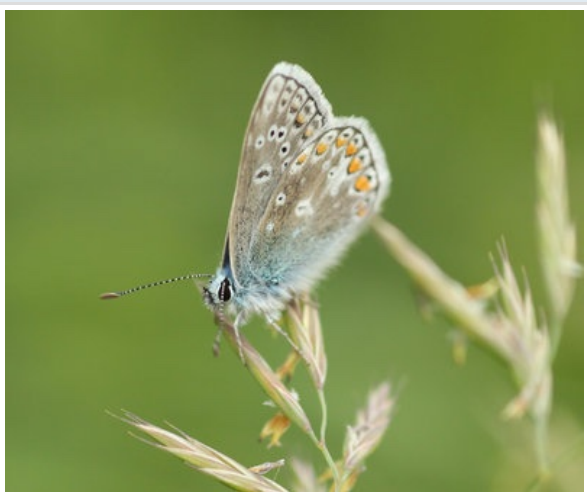
by Janet Turnbull, 04-Jun-19 03:17 PM GMT

A brief spell of sunshine gave me an opportunity to take the metrolink a couple of stops along to St. Werbergh's where you don't even have to leave the platform to go butterflying.

The Six-spot Burnets were out in force and it appeared there were some Five-spots mixed in with them. A late caterpillar was looking a bit lost among the adults.



A solitary male Common Blue which flew up out of the grass in exactly the same place I saw his father last year, and a single Large White were the only butterflies out today – the sunshine having got bored of waiting whilst a stranger engaged me in lengthy conversation.





Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 06-Jun-19 11:25 AM GMT

Lovely shots of the Burnet's Janet – you really captured the iridescence on their wings 😊 Interesting looking markings on the Blue as well 😊 I do find it strange that butterflies turn up in the same places year upon year 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 11-Jun-19 11:31 AM GMT

Out recce-ing a ramble at Wycoller country park yesterday I was delighted to see my first Red Admiral of the year – a beautifully fresh specimen. Before I could get a shot it took off, landing unexpectedly on my shirt. It immediately took off again in shock and vanished, so I haven't got the evidence, but I do hope it was not the only one for this year. There were precious few last year. A Small Copper warming itself on the stony track leading out to the moorland did allow me a photo, as did a Large White.



In the village a Green-veined White nectared on a geranium and a Peacock, one of the last survivors from last year, was resting on a bush looking like a wand'ring minstrel full of shreds and patches. I wonder if it will live to see its offspring..



The afternoon was dull and cooler, so the butterflies hid and the birds became more prominent. I was thrilled to hear curlews and lapwings (which scolded us for being too near their nest) and meadow pipits. There was another small bird which I haven't identified, pied and grey wagtails catching insects in the stream and a robin who was determined to get his worm as we stood and watched!





Re: Janet Turnbull

by philm63, 11-Jun-19 12:08 PM GMT

Hi Janet

The bird between the Wren and the Robin is a Spotted Flycatcher. Nice find, and some very nice images. phil

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Goldie M, 11-Jun-19 06:53 PM GMT

Lovely shots of the birds Janet and love your Small Copper and the GVV 🤔 Goldie 😊

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 11-Jun-19 11:29 PM GMT

philm63 wrote:

Hi Janet

The bird between the Wren and the Robin is a Spotted Flycatcher. phil

Thank you Phil – I went through the bird book and didn't find that one!

It hasn't been brilliant for butterflies up here has it Goldie – I've been grateful for the birds!

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Goldie M, 12-Jun-19 11:13 AM GMT

Hi! Janet, it's been awful weather here, I've been checking Lanc's Butterflies web sight and they're seeing Northern Brown Argus and Small PBF at Gait Barrow if your interested when the weather does pick up. Can't get up there myself yet. Goldie 😊

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 12-Jun-19 11:19 PM GMT

Lovely set of images Janet – I see Phil beat me to the bird ID 🤔😄 They're a real 'value for money species' – I could watch them all day 🌿👀

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 15-Jun-19 06:41 AM GMT

Nice work with the Lapwings, Janet. Yes, get too close and they will fly around you making that distinctive, shrill cry.

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 15-Jun-19 11:03 PM GMT

15th June 2019

As we drove down yesterday the wheather steadily improved and today was sunny after a cloudy start. After all the rain of the last few days the butterflies were desperate to get warmed up and nectared.

We walked down to the Doctor's Garden where several huge lenses were being aimed at a patch of sweet Williams. "There were two Swallowtails here a few minutes ago; I was able to get really close" said one of the photographers. But it returned and further along three or four more made appearances in a meadow backed by trees. Although I managed several shots I don't have the means to upload them yet.

The Doctor's Garden and the surrounding areas were awash with Painted Ladies, most of whom were looking rather tired and faded having just been blown in en masse. It's looking like a good year for them!

Re: Janet Turnbull

by ernie f, 18-Jun-19 01:54 PM GMT

Hi, Janet

Great pics of birds you've got there. I actually like the one of the perky wren quite a lot.

Re: Norfolk part 1

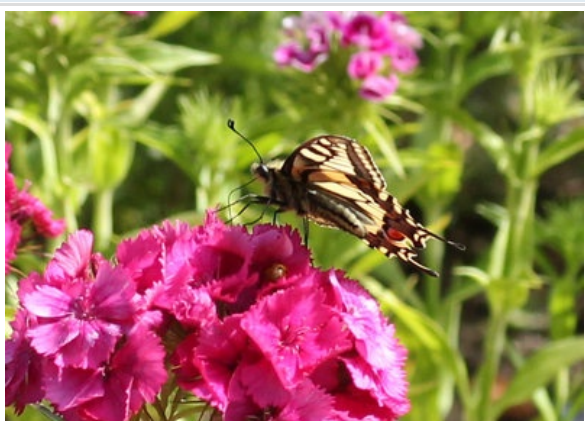
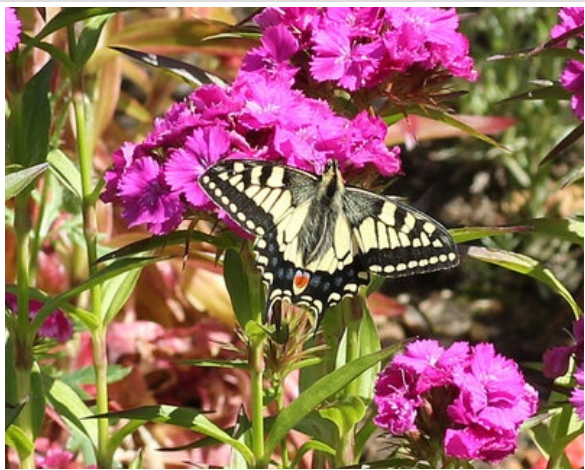
by Janet Turnbull, 06-Jul-19 11:10 PM GMT

Because I decided not to take my laptop with me to Norfolk, I just never seemed to get around to posting anything – so here goes.

We left home in dismal weather but it brightened up as we neared East Anglia, and by the time we reached our destination it was full sunshine. It turned out that the B&B we booked was twenty minutes' walk from Strumpshaw Fen, so we strolled along to see if we could find the Doctor's Garden. Along the way we were delighted to see a number of Meadow Browns Painted Ladies nectaring in the hedgerows.



Trevor's directions were spot on (thank you Trevor!) and the doctor's wife was working in the garden, ignoring the little group of photographers with huge lenses pointed roughly in her direction. The previous week had been wet, she said, and now the sun had arrived and so had her work cut out pulling up weeds. The Painted Ladies had arrived too and there were dozens of them on the Sweet Williams, together with a Brimstone, and of course I was informed that had we been ten minutes earlier we would have seen a Swallowtail too. Before long the Swallowtail returned, and I was able to get a few good shots. Further along, in the field Trevor described, two Swallowtails appeared, zoomed round and off. Later the same day I wandered into the field and one of the beauties was perched on a grass stem. So I felt very privileged to have seen them.





Back at the Doctor's garden, a tired-looking female Brimstone was fending off a very persistent male who didn't want to take No for an answer.





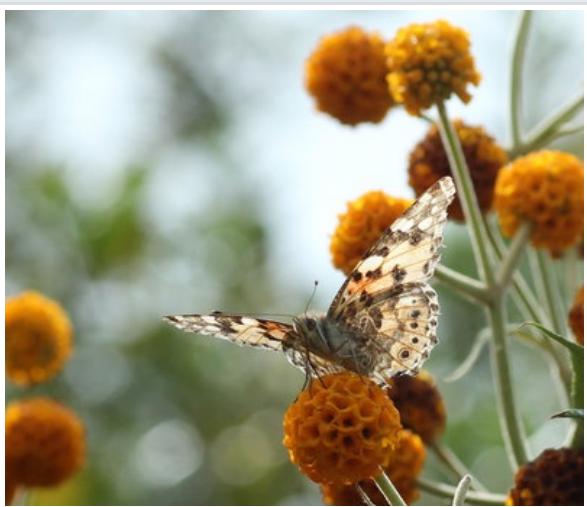
Also seen: A green beetle with what appear to be huge balls, and a small moth with a very long antenna



Re: Norfolk part 2

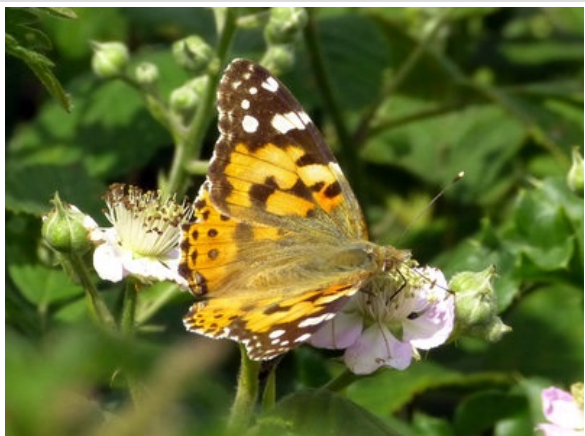
by Janet Turnbull, 06-Jul-19 11:19 PM GMT

The following day we went to How Hill where the gardens have been restored and consist of a series of 'secret' spaces surrounded by enormous yew hedges. Here were more Painted Ladies, most of which looked very tired after their long journey. I was rather taken by this one posing elegantly against the light



A return to How Hill next day for a trip on an 'Electric Eel boat' produced another Swallowtail with a bit of tail missing, and some very lovely, bright Painted Ladies and a Large Skipper





A group of photographers shared their find of a Norfolk Hawker with me, and I also captured a Four-spot Chaser and a pair of blue Damsel flies in cop



Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 07-Jul-19 04:59 PM GMT

Cracking shots Janet especially the stained glass Swallowtail and Painted Lady 🤩👍🌿🌿
"I just never seemed to get around to posting anything " I know that feeling 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Norfolk part 1

by David M, 07-Jul-19 09:42 PM GMT

Janet Turnbull wrote:

Because I decided not to take my laptop with me to Norfolk, I just never seemed to get around to posting anything – so here goes...

Wow! That certainly **needed** posting, Janet. Lovely butterflies and the supporting cast is rather splendid too!

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Goldie M, 07-Jul-19 09:50 PM GMT

Hi! Janet, Your Swallow Tail shots are great, I must say though I love the Painted Lady shots, the colour of the flowers are a lovely contrast and compliment the Painted Lady with their colour 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Janet Turnbull

by bugboy, 07-Jul-19 10:33 PM GMT

Swallowtail AND Norfolk Hawker, well done Janet!

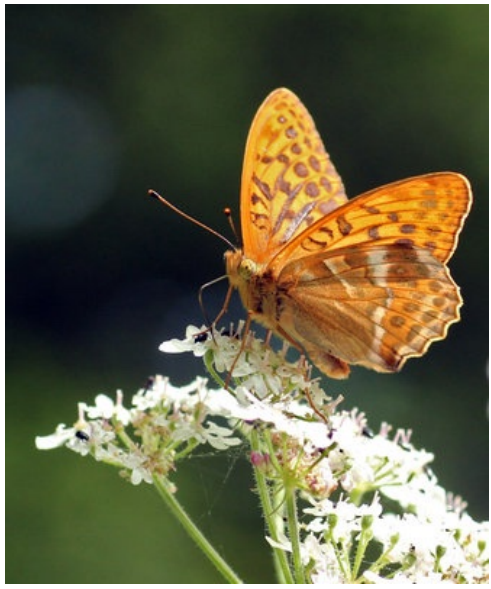
Re: Bucknell Woods

by Janet Turnbull, 09-Jul-19 12:22 AM GMT

Wurzel, David M, Goldie, Bugboy – thank you all for your kind and greatly appreciated comments!

I'm still playing catch-up – I didn't get another opportunity for a day out until Friday 5th July, but boy was it worth it! I thought so at any rate. I went down to Bucknell Woods as a change from Fermyn, hoping to find Purple Emperors. It followed a spell of hot dry weather and so the butterflies were not deigning to come down to visit mere mortals and stayed well up in the canopy. However I found a few Ringlets which didn't stop to be photographed, a GVV and dozens of Meadow Browns. A Large Skipper rested on a bramble leaf long enough for me to get a shot, followed by a Comma. Then the Silver Washed Fritillaries started to tease me and I chased one down until he gave up and let me photograph him, and soon a female showed up as well. Next up a pair of Ringlets were so engrossed in each other they were unconcerned by my presence, but just then a flutter of white caught my eye – and three Whites were flitting among the grasses. It was not until I was home and able to have a good look at them that I realised they were Wood Whites.







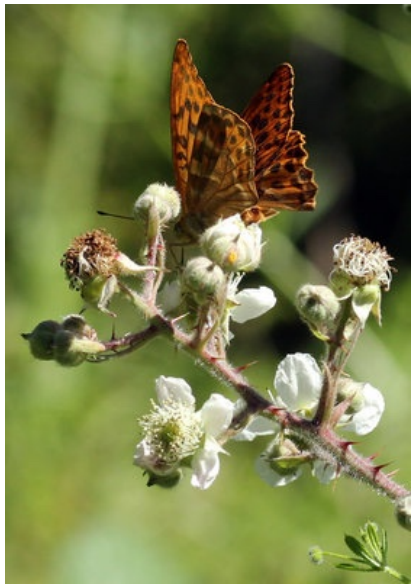
A Painted Lady posed for me but was photobombed by a pair of SWFs!





I saw only one Common Blue. A couple of fellow butterflyers told me where to find the White Admirals and sure enough, they were in bramble bushes by the car park.





A SWF valesina also occupied this bramble bush but the camera had a hard time capturing her. However I did get one shot of her being courted by a 'normal' male which showed up the difference in colouring very well.





Last but not least, a flash of gold in the sun led me to a very aptly named female Beautiful Demoiselle – I have never seen one before.



And at the end – is this an Essex?



Re: Janet Turnbull

by Goldie M, 09-Jul-19 08:46 AM GMT

A great day out for you Janet and lovely shots of the Silver Washed Fritillaries especially Valesina 🍷🍷 Goldie 😊

Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 09-Jul-19 03:14 PM GMT

More nice species there, Janet, although your image of the mating Ringlets just reminded me how few times I've seen this myself in spite of it being an incredibly common butterfly near me.

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Old Wolf, 09-Jul-19 03:54 PM GMT

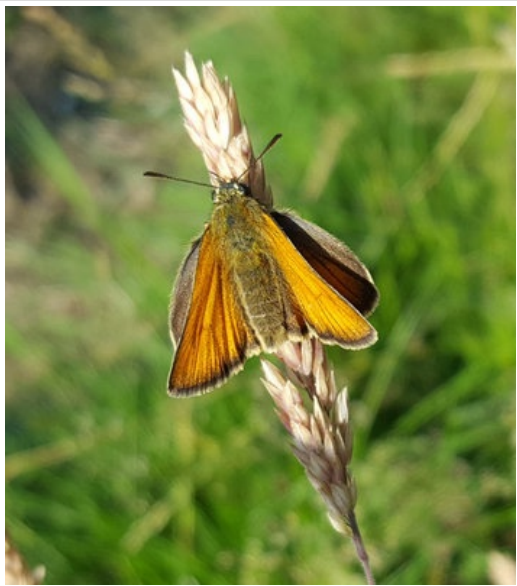
Hello Janet,

I am catching up on diaries and have just finished yours. What a diverse selection you have been seeing with some great shots of our avian friends. Also, you are knocking it out of the park with the abs so far, especially the Valezina, definitely worthy of one of these 🍷

Re: Wild Garden

by Janet Turnbull, 09-Jul-19 04:37 PM GMT

Having seen on BC that we should try to leave the grass to grow long, I have resisted the temptation to mow the lawn. If that's what it can still be called. The garden isn't that big and simply mowing a path to the washing line seriously depleted the amount of long grass remaining, but as I sat in the sunshine on Sunday afternoon we were rewarded by a visit from a Small Skipper - I'm sure we have never previously had one in the garden.





A very handsome, fresh and hirsute Small Tortoiseshell and a battered Painted Lady sampled the *verbena bonariensis*.





Re: Janet Turnbull

by bugboy, 09-Jul-19 05:32 PM GMT

Well done for not mowing the lawn Janet, doesn't matter how small it is, every little helps as your Skipper visitor shows. Can't help but notice it's a female and she's perched on one of the favoured food plants, Yorkshire Fog. I suspect you'll be seeing a few more next year 😊

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 09-Jul-19 05:45 PM GMT

8th July: Anderton nature Park

G and I took an afternoon out to the naturepark – the day had lost the sunshine although it was still very warm and humid. We were hoping for Purple Hairstreaks, but it was not to be. G rescued a Peacock caterpillar from certain death as it hurried across the footpath, and set it on a nettle where it seemed happy.



The first butterflies we saw were Meadow Browns all busy egg-laying, but the one I happened upon is a double-eyespot individual.



Dozens of Ringlets were fluttering in the 'Uplands' meadow and we were thrilled with our first sighting this year of a Gatekeeper and we kicked up a moth which may be a Red Carpet.



Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 09-Jul-19 10:35 PM GMT

Cracking shot of the Hedge Brown Janet 😊 Good job on resisting the mowing too 😊 I reckon your moth is a Shaded Broad-bar 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Goldie M, 09-Jul-19 11:21 PM GMT

Lovely Gate Keeper shot Janst, not seen them here yet 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 09-Jul-19 11:58 PM GMT

I'm not sure I really want a garden full of Yorkshire Fog, Bugboy! 😲 I just read that the roots of an acre of Yorkshire Fog would weigh 7 tons (not that our garden is that big)

It was the first Gatekeeper here, Goldie 😊

Thanks for IDing the moth for me, Wurzel - I couldn't find it in my books 😊

Thanks for your kind comment, Old Wolf! I guess I was just lucky - I didn't recognise any as being abs until later.

Don't know what happened to the report on Bucknell Wood - the photos haven't matched up with the words at all!

Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 10-Jul-19 10:11 PM GMT

Love the Hedge Brown, Janet. I always think once they've hit their peak summer is on the wane. 😊

Re: Janet Turnbull

by bugboy, 11-Jul-19 11:25 AM GMT

Janet Turnbull wrote:

I'm not sure I really want a garden full of Yorkshire Fog, Bugboy! 😲 I just read that the roots of an acre of Yorkshire Fog would weigh 7 tons (not that our garden is that big)

Yellow Rattle is your friend in this context Janet 😊

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 23-Jul-19 10:48 PM GMT

The annual road trip to Denmark and Norway part 1

Stopping over at Mulmshorn in German to break the journey, A and I took a stroll along the lane to where we found the Large Chequered Skippers last year - and sure enough, a couple were there again in the same place, although a week later than before. The sunn was a little uncertain so they were quite docile until I got too close for comfort



and the soldier beetles were on military exercises



Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 23-Jul-19 11:03 PM GMT

Annual road trip to Denmark and Norway part 2

On reaching Jeni's house near Skanderborg, I discovered several heavily marked GVWs as well as more 'normal' ones



Along the lane from the house were dragonflies, of which only one actually landed.



The Small Tort looked brand new but the Painted Lady, whilst well coloured, had a bite out of her wing. The Meadow Browns were busy laying eggs deep in the grass and were almost invisible when closed.



Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 24-Jul-19 10:35 PM GMT

Fantastic images Janet 😊 That Large Chequered Skipper is something else 😲 it wouldn't look out of place in a tropical rainforest somewhere 😊😎🌿
The Painted Lady is also a cracker – it seems to have two extra spots on each of its fore wings – something I've not seen before 😊🌿 Looking forward to what you see next 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 25-Jul-19 11:26 AM GMT

Looking forward to reading more about your trip, Janet. I love the Large Chequered Skipper and the Green Veined White is absolutely stunning.

It's always interesting to see overseas variants of butterflies we get in the UK and that one is particularly attractive.

Re: Janet Turnbull

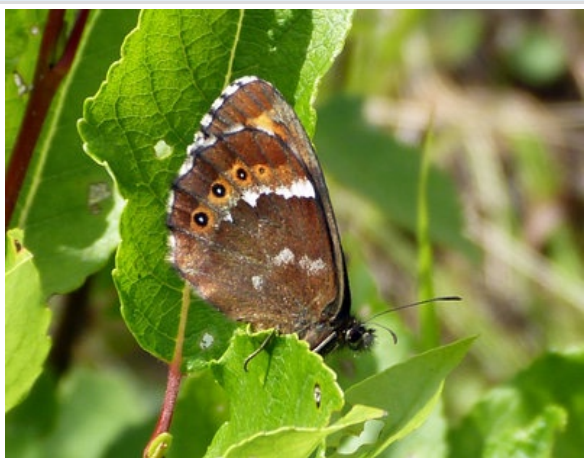
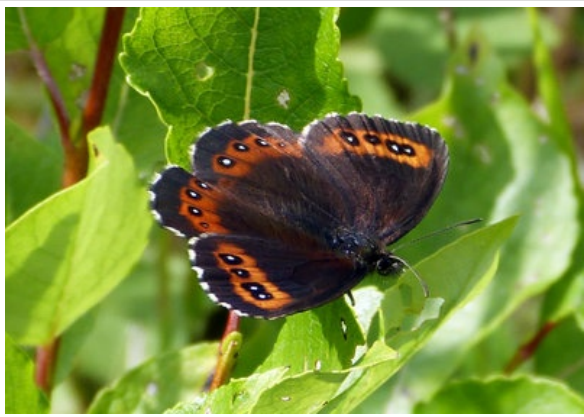
by Janet Turnbull, 30-Jul-19 09:31 PM GMT

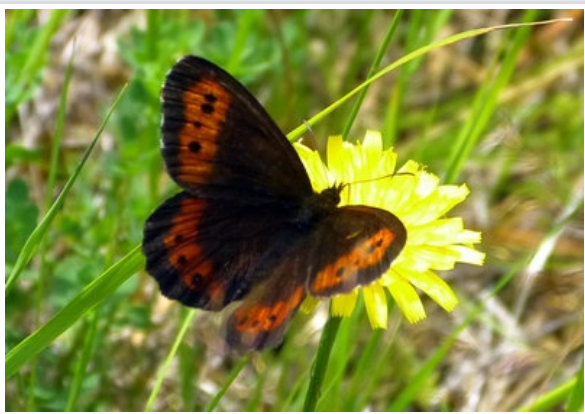
Big trip part 3

Our stay in Denmark was brief and all energies were concentrated on taming the garden. Then it was a drive up to Hirtshals to get the ferry to Bergen. One night there on son's sofa before we all drove 300km generally eastwards to a big campsite at Gol, where we are at 1500ft. Chris and his four had a big family tent next to our cabin. It's great for the kids and they went off each day to swim while A and I went for gentle walks in the forest. Coated in sun cream and midge spray, we looked for butterflies and I took the photos while A tried to find a bit of shade. Our sightings included what I believe was a Large Tortoiseshell, Scarce Copper,



and what I thought were Scotch Argus but may be Arran Browns.

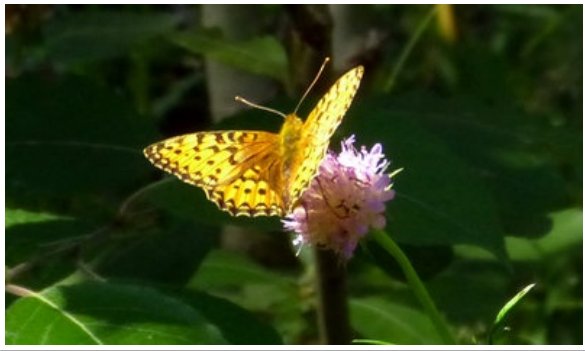




Silver-washed, High Brown and Queen of Spain Fritillaries,(but I'm happy to be told I'm wrong!)



Dark Green Frit



and I could not decide if this was a PBF or an SPBF



Common (maybe) and Silver-studded Blues.





The temperature was around 30 degrees in the shade and the butterflies predictably super-charged, especially the blues which rarely settled and when they did, they kept their wings closed. The little Coppers aggressively chased off the big Fritillaries and the only butterflies which gave me much of a chance were the Erebias.

The first drops of rain began to fall as we left the campsite this morning and we drove back to Bergen in Biblically torrential rain. End of summer?

Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 03-Aug-19 02:29 PM GMT

Some good stuff in there, Janet. I think your Blues may be Idas Blues. They don't look 'right' for Silver-Studded.

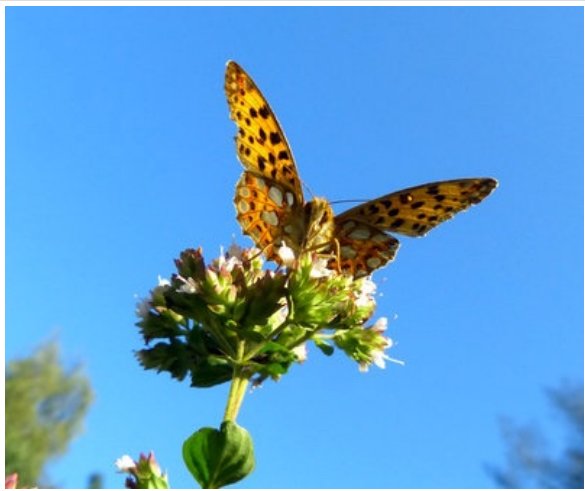
Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 05-Aug-19 01:33 PM GMT

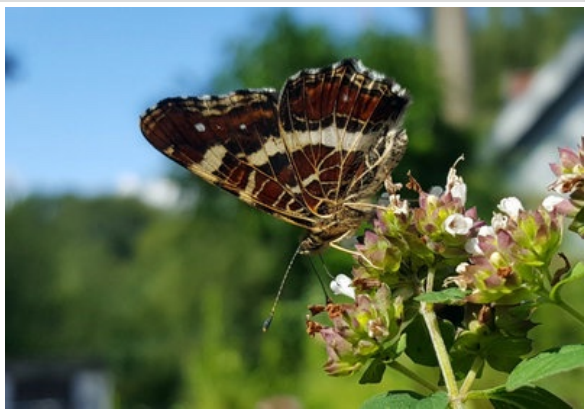
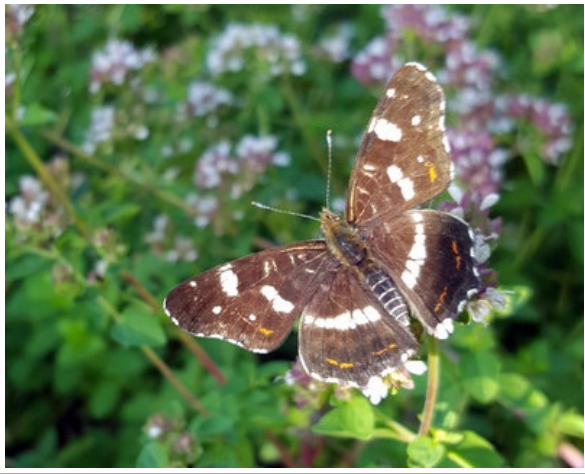
Thank you, David! Internet time is very limited at the moment so I didn't get to look them up properly - I will have to do that when we get back home.

August 4th; back to Denmark

Today's offering is a Queen of Spain fritillary which was in our daughter's garden on Friday; not a perfect specimen but so very joyful looking.



Two days ago (2nd August) the buddleia bush in the garden was absolutely humming with activity - I have never seen so many butterflies at at once. There must have been over 50 Peacocks, which were by far in the majority, followed by Red Admirals, Painted Ladies and a scattering of Small Tortoiseshells. A few Silver Y moths were also nectaring on the bush. There was a couple of Brimstones and just a few whites - most of which, together with two or three Maps and a Holly Blue, preferred the marjoram and oregano growing in the border.



Suddenly for no apparent reason, a cloud of butterflies rose from the bush and circled round, most coming back in to land again. Next day was more overcast and only a few butterflies remained on the bush, while many butterflies hunkered down in the grass, virtually invisible, to wait for the sun to come out again. Just walking across the lawn raised a dozen or more.



A large Longhorn beetle wandered across the lawn and out on the roadside I captured a grasshopper



The weather seems to be deteriorating now with thunderstorms promised, and sadly we leave for home tomorrow, where reports of flooding and constant rain suggest that our own buddleia bush may not have enjoyed quite the same attention from the 'sommerfugle'.

Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 08-Aug-19 09:38 PM GMT

Hope the storms weren't as severe as the ones my part of the UK is experiencing right now, Janet.

Any further butterfly images from that part of Europe would be welcome, be they non UK species or those we see here that may have different forms in that part of the continent.

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 10-Aug-19 04:58 PM GMT

David M wrote:

Hope the storms weren't as severe as the ones my part of the UK is experiencing right now, Janet.

I've now looked up the Idas Blue and have to agree my photo looks very similar! I'm still struggling to figure out the difference from a SS Blue though.

The ferry crossing was smooth and we arrived back home to a lovely day making us wonder about the reports of storms! Friday was also sunny and although I was too tired to get the camera out, I was pleased to see three Painted Ladies and a Peacock on the buddleia. By afternoon we were being deluged with astonishing amounts of rain..Where do the butterflies go for shelter? This morning there was a brief spell of sunshine and two Small Whites and a Holly Blue showed up but did not settle long enough for me to rush in and get the camera. All windy and cloudy this afternoon.

Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 10-Aug-19 05:09 PM GMT

Janet Turnbull wrote:

...I've now looked up the Idas Blue and have to agree my photo looks very similar! I'm still struggling to figure out the difference from a SS Blue though.

That's until you see them both together, Janet. SSB generally has much broader black margins to the upperside and larger spots on the undersides. It is also smaller and has more rounded wings than Idas, and its ground colour on the underside is paler.

Here, Silver Studded is on the left with Idas on the right:



Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 10-Aug-19 05:41 PM GMT

Wurzel wrote:

The Painted Lady is also a cracker – it seems to have two extra spots on each of its fore wings – something I've not seen before 😊🇩🇪 Looking forward to what you see next 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Only now having a chance for a good look at the comments and compare photos! Thanks for your comment, Wurzel – you are right, and I had not noticed the extra spots on the Norwegian PL. Other PLs from Denmark that I photographed do not have those extra markings.

David – thank you for the comparison picture. Do they normally occur together? Just to confuse things, this Blue was at a different location from the other Idas and was practically indistinguishable from the greyish background.



Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 10-Aug-19 10:15 PM GMT

Janet Turnbull wrote:

..David – thank you for the comparison picture. Do they normally occur together? Just to confuse things, this Blue was at a different location from the other Idas and was practically indistinguishable from the greyish background.P1410374 Is this an Idas Blue.jpg

Idas and SSB commonly occur together in the Alps, Janet. They share similar habitat.

By the way, that last image is of Cranberry Blue, a butterfly that's been on my hit list for a while.

Great sighting!

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 10-Aug-19 10:52 PM GMT

David M wrote:

By the way, that last image is of Cranberry Blue, a butterfly that's been on my hit list for a while. Great sighting!

Wow - I'm made up! And to think I nearly overlooked it as a faded specimen.. 😊

Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 11-Aug-19 12:44 PM GMT

Janet Turnbull wrote:

Wow - I'm made up! And to think I nearly overlooked it as a faded specimen..

So you should be, although it's principally a northern European butterfly whose distribution extends as far south as the Queyras region in France. It's not a common species that far south and I'd love to see it one day (perhaps a trip to Scandanavia might help!!)

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 23-Aug-19 10:45 PM GMT

Back in Brexit Britain. The weather hasn't been great but today a friend and I went off to Wharfedale to recce a walk to take the group in a couple of weeks' time. Knowing my companion would want to do the walk and not get too sidetracked by butterflies, I only had a compact camera (lighter to carry, too) so although my photos were very limited today, it meant I could just enjoy the butterflies.

Along a stretch of the Dales Way fluttering among in the tall grass and thistles and basking on the stony path, were several Scotch Argus; they appeared a little faded, some were damaged, but of course the darkest, most handsome one did not want to be photographed.



The sun had not really made a full appearance at that point but by mid afternoon, as we passed it on the way back there were easily 50 Peacocks nectaring on the thistles. They were super fresh-out-of-the-box, bright and undamaged. Just by the chapel was a large buddleia bush on which it was hard to see the flowers, there were that many Peacocks on it. Easily 75-100. Half a dozen each of Red Admirals and Small Tortoiseshells, one faded Painted Lady and one indeterminate white. Joan found a bench in the shade while I attempted to estimate what was on the bush. She isn't a great butterfly fan but even she had to admit the vast number of Peacocks was a sight to behold.

I was also thrilled to find a pair of courting Small Coppers although the only pic that turned out well was of this one



Re: Janet Turnbull

by millerd, 24-Aug-19 09:21 PM GMT

An interesting spot to find Scotch Argus, Janet. Accepted wisdom seems to suggest that there are now only two sites for this species in England, both in Cumbria (Arnsdale and Scardale Gill). To quote from the bit about Scotch Argus in the species list elsewhere on UKB:

"...A colony at Grassington in Mid-west Yorkshire, famous for a particular race that had reduced orange markings, became extinct in 1923..."
This is just a few miles south of where you were. Have they been reintroduced, I wonder? 😊😞

Great to hear about the profusion of Peacocks too. They are having an excellent year, but down here in the south they have already gone into hibernation for the most part.

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 24-Aug-19 10:53 PM GMT

Cracking shot of the Scotch Argus I didn't know that they were around up there 🤩🇬🇧 Great to hear about the huge numbers of Peacocks as well 🤩🤩

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 24-Aug-19 11:16 PM GMT

Thanks, Dave and Wurzel – I checked on the Yorkshire BC branch and there is no rerecord of a sighting so I have sent the details to them. I wonder if it's a new colony!

Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 27-Aug-19 06:14 PM GMT

I've heard reports of this colony before and suspect it was an introduction. The butterflies, however, are in decent nick given the date – normally, they're on their last legs by the end of the second week of August.

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Neil Freeman, 27-Aug-19 08:02 PM GMT

Hi Janet, Interesting find with the Scotch Argus.

Further to Daves (Millard) comments. I knew I had seen something somewhere about Scotch Argus at Grassington so had a look.

From 'The Butterflies of Britain & Ireland' – Thomas & Lewington.

' There were once several colonies in northern England, for example at Castle Eden Dene near Durham, at Fawden in Northumberland, and at Grassington in Yorkshire.

The Large Scotch Argus colony at Grassington was famous because it supported a highly distinctive race. The males had almost no orange on their upperwings, while that on the females was little more than on a normal male'

Have you had a response from Yorkshire BC yet?

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 27-Aug-19 09:05 PM GMT

Neil Freeman wrote:

Hi Janet, Interesting find with the Scotch Argus.

Have you had a response from Yorkshire BC yet?

Cheers,

Neil.

Hi Neil – Dave Ramsden, Recorder for the area, tells me there was an 'unofficial reintroduction' of Scotch Argus which appears to be doing reasonably well and expanding its range. The earliest record the local Recorder has is from 2011. He added that there has been no ongoing site maintenance for the species.

I don't know if it's supposed to be a secret so I have deleted the description of the exact spot! 😊

Janet

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Goldie M, 28-Aug-19 11:11 AM GMT

Well spotted Janet!! I believe the Large Heath are being reintroduced into the Lancashire and Cheshire area's, Chester Zoo have got the caterpillars , where about 's, I'm not sure but some where in the Greater Manchester area which I'm in but I don't know where about yet and will wait to see if that's also a secret (if I find out) before saying where ,Goldie 😊

Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 29-Aug-19 08:54 AM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

Well spotted Janet!! I believe the Large Heath are being reintroduced into the Lancashire and Cheshire area's, Chester Zoo have got the caterpillars , where about 's, I'm not sure but some where in the Greater Manchester area which I'm in but I don't know where about yet and will wait to see if that's also a secret (if I find out) before saying where ,Goldie 😊

It's not a secret, Goldie. 150 larvae are being raised at Chester Zoo for release at two peat bogs where they used to occur some years ago:

<https://www.discoverwildlife.com/news/large-heath-reintroduction-manchester-cheshire/>

Re: Janet Turnbull

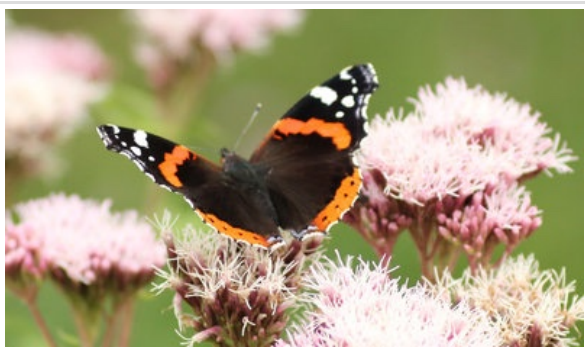
by Janet Turnbull, 29-Aug-19 11:19 AM GMT

I remembered reading about that, Goldie but couldn't think where – so thanks Dave for finding it. Risley Moss is quite close to me so I'll make a point of looking for them!
Janet

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 29-Aug-19 10:34 PM GMT

Visited Rixton Clay Pits yesterday. It was overcast but a few Painted Ladies and Small Torts flew up from the flowers as I went by. A patch of hemp agrimony held half a dozen nectaring Red Admirals, getting what they could before the rain came. At a signal they all decided to up sticks and disappeared, and not long afterwards the rain began. The information board was popular with the Common Darters who fancied themselves as life models.



I managed a few photos, mainly of Common Darters, but the midges won the day, delighted that I was wearing a short sleeved T-shirt, and sent me home.

Today I paid a return visit, more suitably dressed with two layers of long sleeves, and went back to the midge bowl where I was bitten several more times..

The sun brought out a few more butterflies but the hemp agrimony patch was bereft. A tired Comon Blue and an enormous hoverfly, enjoyed licking the fleabane and more Common Darters settled on the midge fence.



There is an oak wood near the car park and I spent a while scanning the trees for Hairstreaks, but there were none that I could see. Down at ground level was a huge fungus – could it be Chicken of the Woods?



Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 31-Aug-19 03:45 PM GMT

Great stuff Janet 😊 – I reckon your Hoverfly is *Volucella inanis* and the fungus looks good for Chicken of the Wood 😊 Cracking Small Tort shot, a nicely dark one 🍷 and I love the image of the Darter having an existential crisis, I just see it trying to work out "Who am I?" 🤔

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 01-Sep-19 09:13 PM GMT

Always cover yourself when visiting wetlands! Nice to see a Red Admiral amongst the cast, Janet. I'm wondering where they've all gone to this year. 😊

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Goldie M, 02-Sep-19 03:16 PM GMT

Hi! Janet, I'll have to look up Risley Moss, I've not a clue where that is 🤔 Nice shot of the Tortoiseshell Janet 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 05-Sep-19 03:41 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

Hi! Janet, I'll have to look up Risley Moss, I've not a clue where that is 🤔 Nice shot of the Tortoiseshell Janet 😊 Goldie 😊

Thanks, Goldie! Risley Moss is near the M62 at Warrington. I've never been but it looks as if it might be worth dicing with the satnav..! 😊 Janet

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 05-Sep-19 04:16 PM GMT

The white buddleia in the garden has been in full flower for a month now, and has its own fan club of regular visitors; up to 5 Painted Ladies, 3 Red Admirals and a Small Tortoiseshell. A couple of Large Whites ignore it, preferring the purple flowers on the Loosestrife and what is left of the purple buddleia.

After the strong winds and rain yesterday I thought the butterflies would be done for, but this morning was calm and sunny if much cooler at only 9 degrees. As the temperature rose, two Red Ads, two PLs, a Small Tort and a Comma appeared.



And today I cut the grass. I'd left it since April to see what would happen; it grew and went to seed. It actually looked quite attractive but it was a bit impractical for a small garden.



We did get a visit from a Small Skipper which looked very much at home but it was only couch grass, not Yorkshire Fog. So a few days ago I strimmed the top layer of seed off, and today mowed it on the mower's highest setting, disturbing one of these moths in the effort - I've never been able to identify them.



A very long flying insect went scurrying across the path - it was about an inch long



Meanwhile on the bird feeder, there was a raiding party of 6 Long-tailed tits, hotly pursued by a company of Blue and Great tits!



Re: Janet Turnbull

by Jack Harrison, 05-Sep-19 07:47 PM GMT

I might try Purple Loosestrife again. I was successful with this basically riverside plant in a dry garden in Norfolk. How dry is your garden Janet?

Jack

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 05-Sep-19 10:33 PM GMT

Beautifully crisp images Janet that jump out of the screen 😊👍 Especially like the Painted Lady as you can just make out the blue 'pupil' in the black hind wing spots 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 05-Sep-19 11:16 PM GMT

Thank you Wurzel - I've been trying different techniques to try and improve the sharpness. I used a Lumix bridge camera with a zoom, set on macro but standing well back for these. Doesn't do to zoom in too far though.

It's a dry garden, Jack - and it grows very vigorously! - Janet

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Goldie M, 06-Sep-19 04:44 PM GMT

Lovely shots of your Garden Janet and the Butterflies, they look great on the White Buddleia especially the Comma 😊

I'll have to wait until next year now to find those Heath Butterflies more's the pity, I'm not too good with a sat nab though, 😊 I'll probably end up in the middle of warrington 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Neil Freeman, 06-Sep-19 07:14 PM GMT

Janet Turnbull wrote:

Neil Freeman wrote:

Hi Janet, Interesting find with the Scotch Argus.

Have you had a response from Yorkshire BC yet?

Cheers,

Neil.

Hi Neil – Dave Ramsden, Recorder for the area, tells me there was an 'unofficial reintroduction' of Scotch Argus which appears to be doing reasonably well and expanding its range. The earliest record the local Recorder has is from 2011. He added that there has been no ongoing site maintenance for the species.

I don't know if it's supposed to be a secret so I have deleted the description of the exact spot! 😊
Janet

Hi Janet,

Sorry for the delay but I have been away and just caught up with your reply. Thanks for the info, I did wonder if your sighting was the result of a reintroduction as in appearance it looks like a typical example like those I have seen at Arnside rather than the form described that used to be found at Grassington.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 08-Sep-19 05:55 PM GMT

It's interesting how the Large Whites seem disinterested in the white buddleia, Janet. Must admit, when they have a choice most butterflies seem to prefer the lilac/purple colour, but white is always a nice background when you get the colourful vanessids on them.

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 20-Sep-19 10:23 PM GMT

19th September

After a long spell away I decided to go back to Carrington Moss to see what was happening there. Immediately suffered two midge bites as a reward for watching the dragonflies. There were several white butterflies which from a distance and in flight appeared to be Large Whites. A dark shape on a reedstem morphed into a Comma and was the only photo I managed but there were also a couple of Red Admirals.



20th September

Today instead of attending the ER strike in Manchester we had to recce a walk near Haworth. Along a stretch of footpath near the Bronte Falls were a Small Copper basking on a stone; Small Heath; several Red Admirals, Small Tortoiseshell, and further along in the edge of the trees, a few Speckled Woods.

Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 22-Sep-19 09:21 PM GMT

Very nice Comma image, Janet. I know what you mean regarding biting flies....I dread to think how dragonfly aficionados manage.

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 27-Sep-19 09:56 PM GMT

Yesterday I helped with the volunteers scything a meadow which has not seen any attention for years. I observed one Large White but other than that there seem to have been very few butterflies about these last few days. Hacking through the undergrowth I came to a sudden stop mid-scythe as I spotted a flutter of wings deep in the grass. At first it looked like a Skipper, but then turned out to be a terrified moth which had nearly lost its wings 😬 I think is a Brimstone moth but I'm happy to be corrected – it doesn't look exactly like the pictures. It allowed me to photograph it before taking it to a place of relative safety.

The moth seems to have got its underwing stuck above the forewing, but the second photo, although out-of-focus, shows more of the patterning.



Re: Janet Turnbull

by Allan.W., 27-Sep-19 10:23 PM GMT

Think your moths a Sallow (xanthia icteretia) Regards Allan.W.

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 29-Sep-19 11:23 AM GMT

Cracking Comma Janet 😊🍷 I would have gone with Brumstone for your moth 😬 good job I wasn't able to post right away 😊😬

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 30-Sep-19 06:26 PM GMT

Wurzel wrote:

Cracking Comma Janet 😊🍷 I would have gone with Brumstone for your moth 😬 good job I wasn't able to post right away 😊😬

Have a goodun

Wurzel

I'm not convinced either way, Wurzel – the patterning doesn't look right for a Sallow and there is too much for a Brimstone 😬

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Allan.W., 30-Sep-19 06:56 PM GMT

Had another look at your moth ,and you,re quite right not a Sallow , its certainly not a Brimstone , but I reckon its a Pink Barred Sallow Xanthia togata
Allan.W..

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 30-Sep-19 08:37 PM GMT

Allan.W. wrote:

Had another look at your moth ,and you,re quite right not a Sallow , its certainly not a Brimstone , but I reckon its a Pink Barred Sallow Xanthia togata

Allan.W..

Yesss! That's it Allan. Thank you! 😊😄
Janet

Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 01-Oct-19 09:17 PM GMT

Nice work, Allan. I'd never have gone for that.

Not surprising that butterflies are thin on the ground, Janet, given the prolonged spell of stormy weather we've had lately. I dread to think how our south Wales populations are faring following all the wind and rain recently.

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 02-Oct-19 11:10 PM GMT

On Monday I went along to Sale Water Park to see if Taylor's Field had been scythed. It had, and a Large white fluttered up to my face, had a look and flew away before I could get a snap – I did wonder if it was actually a female Brimstone – and then I saw this very dark and beautiful Speckled Wood sucking on a soggy tissue.



Today I came upon a Red admiral with a spot of blue on its wing – and then I realised it was just a shadow..



Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 03-Oct-19 08:32 PM GMT

That soggy tissue makes an interesting and different background Janet 😊🌍 It almost has the look of a patch of snow 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 04-Oct-19 08:41 PM GMT

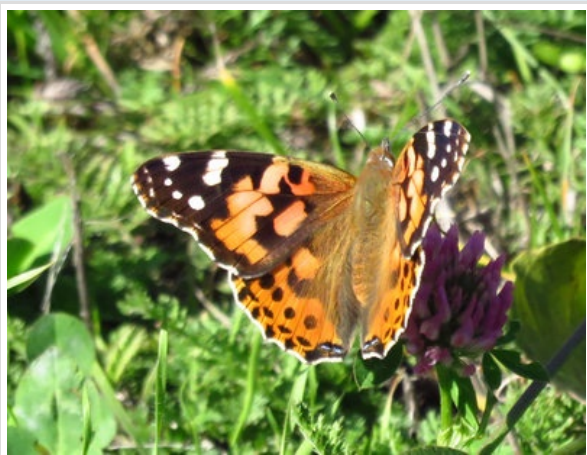
That's an unusual food source for a Speckled Wood, Janet, but good to see they're still going further north in the UK. I guess they'll all be gone by the end of the month. 😊

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 06-Nov-19 12:20 PM GMT

Bohemian Paradise, October 8-14

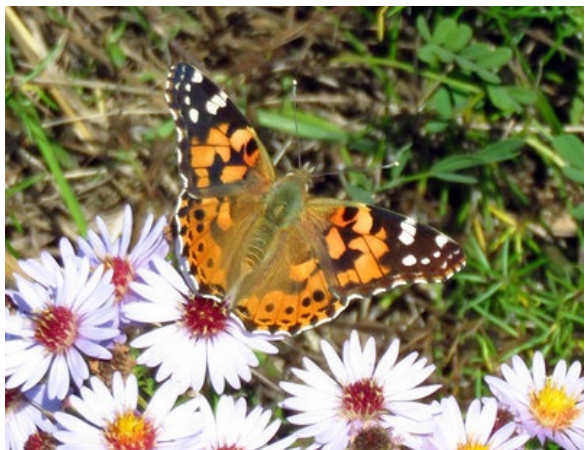
Not exactly UK sightings, but six of us did this walking holiday in Bohemia (Czech Republic) and the other five are now well acquainted with looking out for butterflies, as well as mushrooms of which there was a wonderful bounty. Being on a walking holiday meant I had only a compact camera rather than the heavy Canon SLR and I found it frustratingly difficult to even find the critters in the viewfinder. By the time I had located them and zoomed in they had moved on! The first few days were mainly in the forests; there were mushrooms but few butterflies. Later on it became more open with woodlands. The first butterfly I managed to photograph was a Comma. On the section between Kost and Hruba Skala a flash of orangey brown caught my attention and it settled to bask on brambles near a wall. As I trained the camera upwards, a farmer's face appeared in the frame which startled us both, but the Comma maintained its cool and I got the picture. Painted Ladies were very much in evidence so maybe it was a good year for them there as well.

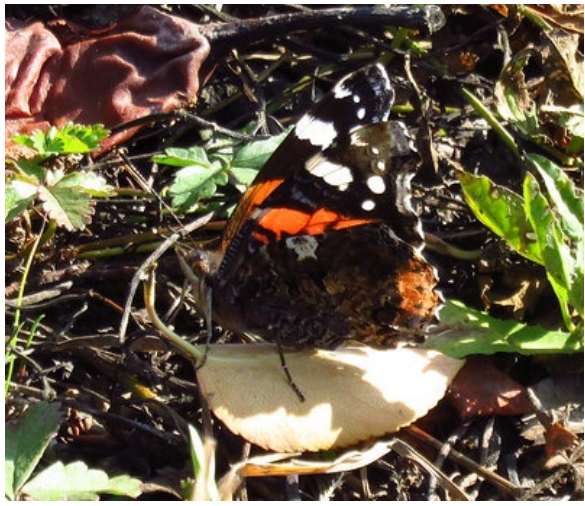


Next day, between Trosky and Prachov, we stopped by a pretty fishing lake for lunch and nearby I saw the only Central European butterfly of the holiday – a Queen of Spain fritillary. It was basking low down on the ground but it was nervous of my presence and by the time I had captured it, I had to run to catch up with my companions, and had to ignore the two Brimstones which were hawking back and forth. However, they had stopped further on to mark the place where they too had spotted a Brimstone, and this one allowed me a portrait.



Prachov to Jicin was also in more open countryside and once out of the rock town there was a stretch of Michelmas Daisies along the path. Here there were more Painted Ladies and a single Small Copper. Lunch was taken in a sunny, wide ride in open woodland and I spent most of the time unsuccessfully chasing a couple of Red Admirals. However, further along we came upon a pile of rotting apples by the roadside and this was humming with activity; Peacocks, Red Admirals, Painted Ladies, wasps and hornets were all making the most of this feast.





In Jicin itself was a small park with what was left of the summer flowers, and I found Peacocks and Painted Ladies nectaring there. A walk through beech wood up to a viewpoint gave me the best Red Admiral of the holiday as it basked among the fallen leaves.



Re: Janet Turnbull

by Wurzel, 08-Nov-19 08:16 PM GMT

A lovely report and set of photos Janet 😊 – especially the topside view of the QoS – really well marked that individual 🤖 I visited the Czech Republic a few years ago now and it was fantastic and your report has rekindled my longing to go back 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 10-Nov-19 06:47 PM GMT

That selection's almost a home from home, Janet (even QoS pops up here occasionally). 😊

I love the colour contrast with the Peacock on those purple asters. Beautiful.

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 10-Nov-19 09:42 PM GMT

Wurzel wrote:

I visited the Czech Republic a few years ago now and it was fantastic and your report has rekindled my longing to go back

It was a lovely holiday, Wurzel, and I imagine there would be a great variety of butterflies in May.

David M wrote:

even QoS pops up here occasionally.

I hadn't realised that David! I wonder if it's a consequence of climate change.

Thank you both for taking the time to comment. I have been very lax about commenting this year and I appreciate your encouragement.

Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 10-Nov-19 10:28 PM GMT

Janet Turnbull wrote:

..I hadn't realised that David! I wonder if it's a consequence of climate change.

Hard to say with this species, Janet. It's quite an infrequent visitor to our shores, although there was a year when there was an influx (2007 if I remember correctly).

I don't think it is strongly migratory, like Clouded Yellows, Long Tailed Blues, etc, so it's unlikely we'll see a huge influx out of all proportion to previous numbers in a particular year, but given that its foodplant is field pansy one wonders what is stopping it from colonising the southernmost areas of the UK.

It does, however, overwinter as an adult, so perhaps this explains why it hasn't yet established itself. Maybe it's just too wet over here?

Re: Janet Turnbull

by NickMorgan, 11-Nov-19 01:18 PM GMT

Hello Janet,

I have just been catching up with your diary and I see your post about the Scotch Argus. I also saw the later post saying that it is likely to be the result of an introduction.

I spotted a Scotch Argus at our place in the Scottish Borders this summer. I knew of an old record for them in the next valley, but it was over ten years old. Ironically, I had been there the previous weekend on the off chance that Scotch Argus were still there, but despite extensive searching I didn't see any.

I know that Scotch Argus tend to land quite deep down in the grass, so it may be possible for them to discretely live somewhere, unnoticed. However, I am at a loss as to where the one in our garden came from. I can only imagine there is an unrecorded colony close by.

It doesn't sound as though this is the case with yours if it doesn't conform to the markings of the form previously found in the area.

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 12-Nov-19 08:15 AM GMT

NickMorgan wrote:

I can only imagine there is an unrecorded colony close by.

It doesn't sound as though this is the case with yours if it doesn't conform to the markings of the form previously found in the area.

Hello Nick, I wonder how far they can be blown away by high winds. Could yours have been blown over from the next valley, assuming there are some there?

The county recorder informed me that there had been an unofficial reintroduction in Yorkshire – he didn't say exactly where – and the earliest record was 2011. So they're not the original colony unless they have lost their distinctive markings.

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 20-Dec-19 05:14 PM GMT

I've just rediscovered a photo taken in Denmark on 2nd August, of a very yellow butterfly. No idea why I didn't post it at the time, but does anyone have any idea what it is? I thought it might be a fritillary but – as yellow as that?



Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 20-Dec-19 06:30 PM GMT

A slightly over-exposed Queen of Spain, Janet.

Re: Janet Turnbull

by Janet Turnbull, 21-Dec-19 08:51 AM GMT

David M wrote:

A slightly over-exposed Queen of Spain, Janet.

Really? That probably explains why I didn't post the picture in the first place 😊😊😊
Thanks for taking the trouble to comment, David. Merry Christmas to you!

Re: Janet Turnbull

by David M, 22-Dec-19 11:34 AM GMT

Janet Turnbull wrote:

David M wrote:

A slightly over-exposed Queen of Spain, Janet.

Really? That probably explains why I didn't post the picture in the first place 😊😊😊
Thanks for taking the trouble to comment, David. Merry Christmas to you!

My pleasure, Janet. Merry Christmas to you too....and a Happy New Year, of course. 😊