

## Re: Old Wolf

by Old Wolf, 10-Jul-19 11:19 PM GMT

I feel it is probably worth a recap as to why I am here, so.....

### *Previously in Old Wolf's Diary.....*

Old Wolf gets lent a camera. Old Wolf doesn't know how to use it but starts to try to learn by taking photographs of butterflies. Old Wolf gets a few photos he is happy with and vows to continue until he can get the shots he wants whilst seeing butterflies he has never seen before.

Well winter came and went and how much practice did I do? None! Nothing. Not a bean. Not a single photograph taken so when the weather improved and I started heading out into the wild again with the camera it became very apparent that I had forgotten pretty much everything I learnt last year. Back to square one. Cue the Rocky theme tune and the montage of Old Wolf watching loads of Youtube tutorials, running backwards and forwards into the garden to take pictures, reading online articles, running backwards and forwards to the garden to take pictures. Reading the manual, running backwards and forwards to the garden to take pictures.

### **Marston Vale 12-05-19**

I remembered that a BC event to Marston Moretaine Forest Centre had taken place last year for Green Hairstreak, Dingy and Grizzled Skippers which I found out about after the fact. I have never seen any of these three even though we regularly take our dogs there so I decided that today might be a good time to rectify the situation.

Rather than following the path which we would normally do, I thought we would try down by the lakeside which is a sandy, muddy affair with sparse patches of grass, so a place that we generally avoided whilst walking the dogs throughout the winter. The weather had been dry for while so the mud was pretty baked and cracked and there were more than a few dead fish littered around. They were exactly like the ones you see in cartoons or comics, head, tail and only a spine inbetween.

I tapped all of the bushes as we walked through the tracks that criss cross all over the lower part of the edge of the boating lake hoping to dislodge a GHS but there was nothing. Nothing flew and nothing to be seen until a brown blur caught my eye. I followed it and it landed but I had to get close to see what it was as it was a dull brown against the brown of the mud. I utilised the strategy of click and creep which is essential for someone with only an 18-55 lense. Click so you at least have a shot then creep a little closer and click again. Repeat until either the butterfly has flown or you are close enough that you just get a picture that is any good. By now I am on my knees and trying to get as close as I dare and through the viewfinder I can see that it is my first ever Dingy. A female.



Well this has got me excited. My first new sighting of 2019 😊

I continued on and kept on seeing more brown blurs chasing each other, zipping around at great speed but it was quite hot and none were settling. The few that did settle only did for a few seconds because they would be off again chasing another brown blur that came too close. I was unprepared for how small and fast they were, a blur of brown against the brown muddy landscape. I kept tracking them until another landed on the track just ahead of us and entered 'click and creep' mode. Success. A Male.



Pretty happy that I had seen one of each we carried on as the dogs were getting quite hot at that point and it was nearly time to head back. We started to head back with me still tapping bushes and hoping until a small light blur zipped past us and landed on the scrubby grass a little way back down the track. I headed back and once again entered C&C Mode and in my viewfinder I saw it! A Green Hairstreak 😊 but only one click, one step of the creep and it had gone. So the picture isn't great as it was from quite a distance but I had seen one if only for a few seconds.



Two first time sightings in one trip 😊

I think 2019 will be a good year for first time sightings 😊 and it would be even better if I could get to grips with this dang camera. 😊

P.S.

I have decided to update my signature with my 2019 first sightings as I update my diary so if you want to avoid my inane waffling just scroll to the bottom of my post and then you can scan backwards if you see anything that might be worth a look. The funny thing is that if you have got this far then you have already had to read a load of waffle 😊

### Re: Old Wolf

by bugboy, 11-Jul-19 09:06 AM GMT

Bring on the Waffle Old Wolf! 😊😊

### Re: Old Wolf

by Wurzel, 12-Jul-19 12:09 PM GMT

Great stuff Old Wolf – the 'Click-step' is the preferred dance of any good butterfly! 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Old Wolf

by Neil Freeman, 12-Jul-19 07:44 PM GMT

**bugboy wrote:**

Bring on the Waffle Old Wolf! 😊😊

Agreed 😊 . Although I like to look at peoples photos, it is the descriptions of the days out that I often find most interesting and enjoyable to read.

Cheers,

Neil

### Re: Old Wolf

by David M, 13-Jul-19 06:37 AM GMT

I have to admire your persistence, Old Wolf. Well done for getting stuck into things again. I'm sure you'll completely get the hang of it before you know it.