

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 08-Apr-19 10:26 PM GMT

Padfield wrote:

Great pictures, Lee. I missed out on a Spanish trip this year and am especially enjoying catching up through your posts.

Your first common blue in particular looks a very good candidate for *P. celina*, which certainly flies there. Common blues probably fly there too – they are not particularly closely related and can overlap. In my experience, first brood *celina* is the same size as common blue but has noticeably darker margins, and broader, especially towards the apex. But as I've never killed one to check, my experience could be wrong anyway.

Wurzel wrote:

Alright there Lee – great shot of the Mallow Skipper 🦋🌿 – that was a species that I was hoping to get in France but didn't see one single one of the little blighters 😞

Andrew555 wrote:

Yup, I really like that Bath White as well. 😊 Great stuff Lee. 😊

Old Wolf wrote:

Hello Lee, I am catching up on diaries 😊

That looks like a great trip you had. Great shots of the beautiful landscape and of the butterflies too of course, especially the blue badger small copper.

Thank you all 😊 Guy, thank you. I suspect I have a few *P. celina*, from my Spanish photos; I will have to go back through and check.

Easter holidays now allow me some time to start catching up again!

Best wishes,
Lee

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 10-Apr-19 12:06 AM GMT

Los Romanes, Spain, May 2016 – Day 4

I visited Malaga during the day today but was back in time for the late afternoon. Just along from the hotel was a steep road down to the main road, over which, held this view:



It just begged to be explored. Further down, this was the habitat I found:



There were huge areas of grass, thistles, flowers and some dry river beds. A new species for the trip was the African Grass Blue:



African Grass Blue, Los Romanes, Spain, 25th May 2016



African Grass Blue, Los Romanes, Spain, 25th May 2016
Common Blues and *Polyommatus celina* were both present:



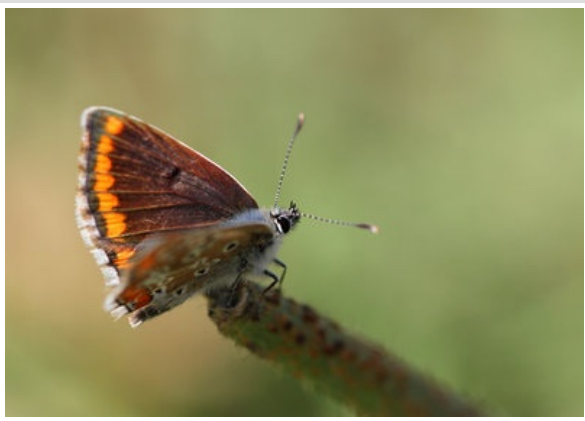
Polyommatus celina, Los Romanes, Spain, 25th May 2016



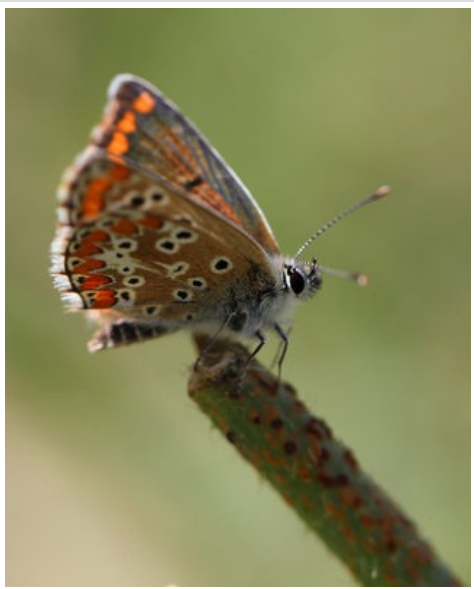
Common Blue, male, Los Romanes, Spain, 25th May 2016



Common Blue (I think), female, Los Romanes, Spain, 25th May 2016
There were also several Southern Brown Argus:



Southern Brown Argus, male, Los Romanes, Spain, 25th May 2016



Southern Brown Argus, male, Los Romanes, Spain, 25th May 2016

I was watching a male Mallow Skipper when a female must have flown past; she was soon joined by the male. There was a whole lot of shaking going on, but I didn't see if his moves paid off.



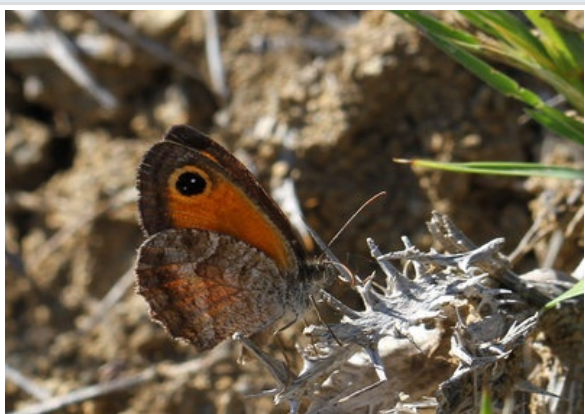
Mallow Skipper, male, Los Romanes, Spain, 25th May 2016



Mallow Skipper, female (left) and male (right), Los Romanes, Spain, 25th May 2016



Mallow Skipper, female (left) and male (right), Los Romanes, Spain, 25th May 2016
Southern Gatekeepers can be very difficult to photograph!



Southern Gatekeeper, male, Los Romanes, Spain, 25th May 2016
I very nearly trod on this bird's nest. I assume it's a Skylark, but I could be wrong.



Unknown bird's nest, Los Romanes, Spain, 25th May 2016

As the evening was drawing to a close, I was spotting whites going to roost on the thistles, on which they stood out nicely.



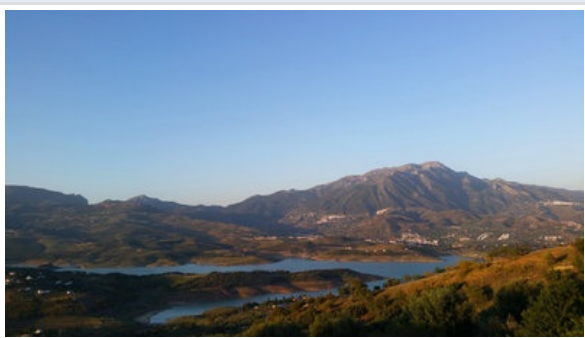
Green-striped White, Los Romanes, Spain, 25th May 2016



Bath White, Los Romanes, Spain, 25th May 2016

Seen today were: Bath White, Green-striped White, Large White, Small White, Clouded Yellow, Wall, Meadow Brown, Southern Gatekeeper, Common Blue, *Polyommatus celina*, African Grass Blue, Lulworth Skipper and Mallow Skipper.

I got back to the hotel for in time for the sunset and a cold beer.



Re: Lee Hurrell

by Wurzel, 10-Apr-19 10:13 PM GMT

Great stuff Lee – some of that habitat looks delectable I wouldn't know where to have started looking 🤔🌿 Cracking shots of the Whites 😊🌿 Will those Brown Argus be Southern BAs?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 10-Apr-19 10:57 PM GMT

Los Romanes, Spain, May 2016 – Day 5 (part 1)

I went out in the car for the day again today. First stop was the hillside meadow near Ventas de Zafarraya. Once again, it didn't disappoint.

There were some beautifully fresh Small Coppers.



Small Copper, male, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 26th May 2016



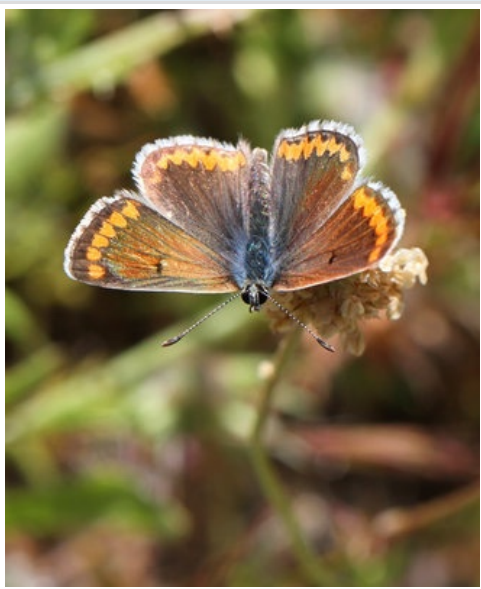
Small Copper, female, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 26th May 2016
Common Blues and *Polyommatus celina* were also both present.



Polyommatus celina, male, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 26th May 2016



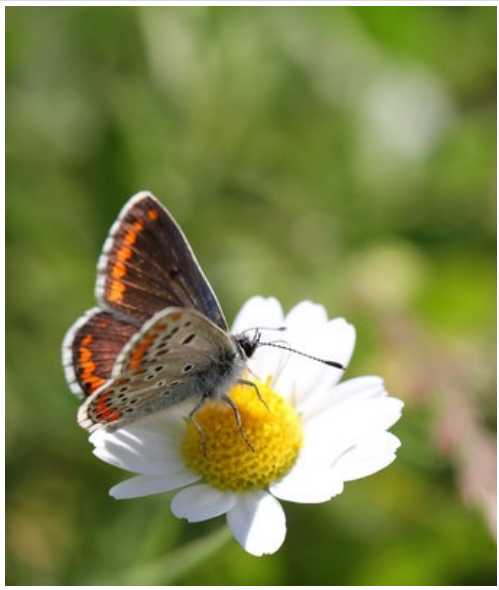
Common Blue, male, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 26th May 2016
As were some beautiful Southern Brown Argus.



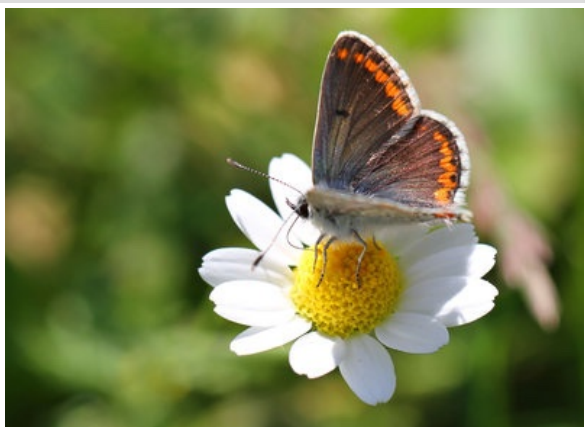
Southern Brown Argus, male, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 26th May 2016



Southern Brown Argus, male, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 26th May 2016



Southern Brown Argus, male, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 26th May 2016



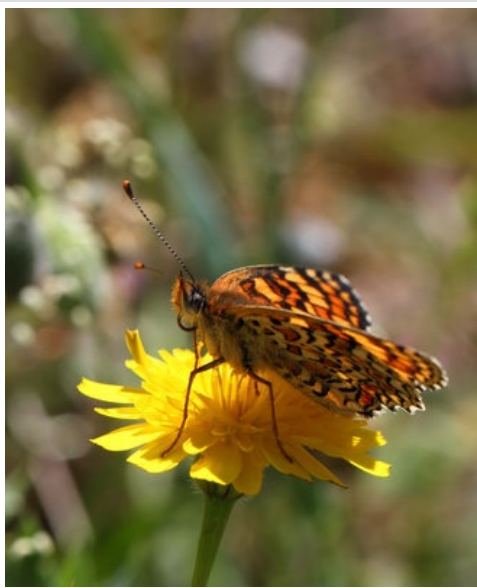
Southern Brown Argus, male, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 26th May 2016



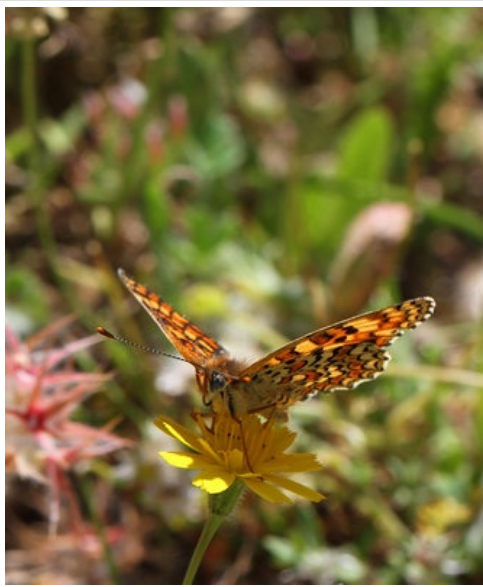
Southern Brown Argus, male, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 26th May 2016
I was able to get a lot closer to a Knapweed Fritillary too!



Knapweed Fritillary, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 26th May 2016



Knapweed Fritillary, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 26th May 2016



Knapweed Fritillary, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 26th May 2016



Knapweed Fritillary, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 26th May 2016



Knapweed Fritillary, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 26th May 2016

Lastly for part one, a Small White.



Small White, male, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 26th May 2016

Seen here were: Knapweed Fritillary, Wall, Spanish Festoon, Large White, Small White, Clouded Yellow (including a *helice* female), Small Copper, Brown Argus, Adonis Blue, Common Blue and *Polyommatus celina*.

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 11-Apr-19 08:58 AM GMT

Wurzel wrote:

Great stuff Lee – some of that habitat looks delectable I wouldn't know where to have started looking 🤔🇪🇺 Cracking shots of the Whites 😊🇪🇺 Will those Brown Argus be Southern BAs?

Thanks, Wurzel 😊

You're quite right – as with *celina*, I will need to go back and amend! All of my Spanish Brown Argus will be Southern.

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Wurzel, 11-Apr-19 11:58 AM GMT

No worries Lee I tried the same trick with your Small White but it had that annoying little vein 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Lee Hurrell

by David M, 11-Apr-19 06:19 PM GMT

I'm very much enjoying this continuation, Lee, especially given that Bugboy and Guy Padfield have recently been posting from southern Spain as well.

It's surprised me just how green things are looking in some of your images, particularly with your visit being in late May!

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 11-Apr-19 09:51 PM GMT

Thank you, David. It was quite a trip.

The next sequence was taken at a higher altitude, where it was even greener!

Best wishes,
Lee

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 11-Apr-19 11:26 PM GMT

Los Romanes, Spain, May 2016 - Day 5 (part 2)

Moving on from Ventas de Zafarraya, I carried on along the A402 towards Alhama de Granada. As I drove on, it gradually got higher. Stopping at any likely looking places, first up was a small pull in, on a bend near some fields and near the Alto del Navazo nature reserve.

I was amazed at just how green it was, given this was southern Spain at the end of May. This was higher than I had been of course, but still, it could have been the English countryside.





The views were stunning. On the road was a Knapweed Fritillary, while Lorquin's Blues danced along the roadside margins. Excitingly though, a Provence Orange Tip was in a field nearby.



Provence Orange Tip, male, Alto del Navazo, Alhama de Granada, Spain, 26th May 2016



Lorquin's Blue, female, Alto del Navazo, Alhama de Granada, Spain, 26th May 2016

Seen here were: Knapweed Fritillary, Speckled Wood, Provence Orange Tip, Western Dappled White, Large White, Small White, Clouded Yellow and Lorquin's Blue.

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Wurzel, 12-Apr-19 08:12 AM GMT

Some stunning views Lee – it could indeed be England although a worryingly declining bit 😞😞 Love the shot of the POT – cracking 🍷🍷 It's got a little bit of all my favourite shot 'types' 😊🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 12-Apr-19 08:28 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel 😊
Declining indeed 😞

Re: Lee Hurrell

by David M, 13-Apr-19 08:18 AM GMT

That's beautiful habitat, Lee. I'm really surprised to know how green and floral things are at that time of year. I will certainly pay this area a visit at some point.

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 13-Apr-19 12:24 PM GMT

It certainly was, David. It's well worth a visit! Let me know as and when you do and I will point you in the direction of the sites I stopped at.

Best wishes,
Lee

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 13-Apr-19 12:53 PM GMT

Los Romanes, Spain, May 2016 – Day 5 (part 3)

A short distance further along the A402 I stopped at a small track that led past some orchards to a stunning viewpoint.



Notice the beehives in the second image above. These would play a big part in my visit to this location...

There was a beautiful female Meadow Brown *hispulla* near where I parked.



Meadow Brown, female, Alto del Navazo, Alhama de Granada, Spain, 26th May 2016
Clouded Yellows were also nearby and unusually approachable.



Clouted Yellow, Alto del Navazo, Alhama de Granada, Spain, 26th May 2016
There were two Scarce Swallowtails hilltopping around a small flowering tree next to the beehives. They were an absolute delight to watch.



Scarce Swallowtail, Alto del Navazo, Alhama de Granada, Spain, 26th May 2016

Unfortunately for me, the resident bees from the hives pictured above decided that I was not equally delightful to watch and opted to see off the unwelcome human. This led me to walk, jog and run a little faster than I wanted to and I ended up going flying, landing on my head and banging my camera. I made it back to the car, bruised, battered and bleeding, but in one piece. I sat in the car for a short while, a bit dazed and reflecting on how perhaps being in the middle of nowhere in a foreign country was not the most sensible of decisions, in the event of an accident happening.

In the end, I decided bugger that, I have butterflies to find 😊

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Wurzel, 13-Apr-19 06:13 PM GMT

That is an absolutely cracking shot of the Scarce Swallowtail Lee 😊👍👍 I had a run in with a few hives myself a few years back and wasn't able to escape theirs stings – the Apiarist had just been and they were a bit riled up 😬😬 Mind you I reckon you came to the right conclusion – that should be the motto of every butterflyer 😊😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Lee Hurrell

by David M, 14-Apr-19 08:30 AM GMT

I have a 100 metre rule with beehives, Lee. That's as close as I will go and it seems to work.

Thanks for the offer of site information. I may well take you up on that (and will return the favour should you be visiting areas I'm familiar with).

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 14-Apr-19 11:12 PM GMT

Wurzel wrote:

That is an absolutely cracking shot of the Scarce Swallowtail Lee 😊👍👍 I had a run in with a few hives myself a few years back and wasn't able to escape theirs stings – the Apiarist had just been and they were a bit riled up 😬😬 Mind you I reckon you came to the right conclusion – that should be the motto of every butterflyer 😊😊😊

Thanks, Wurzel 😊

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 14-Apr-19 11:13 PM GMT

David M wrote:

I have a 100 metre rule with beehives, Lee. That's as close as I will go and it seems to work.

Thanks for the offer of site information. I may well take you up on that (and will return the favour should you be visiting areas I'm familiar with).

Thanks, David 😊 I do intend to explore further, so any site information will be most useful!

Best wishes,
Lee

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 15-Apr-19 12:04 AM GMT

Los Romanes, Spain, May 2016 - Day 5 (part 4)

I did decide to go further (and be careful). A little further along the A402, I turned off onto the A4150 and stopped at a wooded carpark that led through to a very scenic lake, Presa del Rio Alhama, which I walked a good way around.



Along with Common Blue, Small Heath, Meadow Brown and Clouded Yellow, I found a mating pair of Bath Whites and a female Southern Brown Argus.



Mating Bath Whites, Presa del Rio Alhama, Alhama de Granada, Spain, 26th May 2016



Brown Argus, female, Presa del Rio Alhama, Alhama de Granada, Spain, 26th May 2016
My next find was a surprise though!



European Pond Turtle, Presa del Rio Alhama, Alhama de Granada, Spain, 26th May 2016

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Wurzel, 15-Apr-19 08:46 AM GMT

Lovely shot of the Bath Whites Lee 😊👍 I'm hoping to pick this species up in August in Portugal, fingers crossed 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Lee Hurrell

by David M, 16-Apr-19 06:36 AM GMT

You did well to find a mating pair of Bath Whites, Lee. That's probably one of the few occasions when they'll stay relatively still!

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 16-Apr-19 08:21 PM GMT

Thank you, Wurzel and David. 😊

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 16-Apr-19 09:11 PM GMT

Los Romanes, Spain, May 2016 - Day 5 (part 5)

For the last stop of today, I went back to the lovely habitat in front of and down the hill from the hotel. In the first photo, you can see the village of Los Romanes at the top of the hill and my hire car in the middle of the picture.



I was looking for more roosting whites, and I wasn't disappointed 😊



Green-striped White, Los Romanes, Spain, 26th May 2016



Mallow Skipper, Los Romanes, Spain, 26th May 2016
Spot on for *Polyommatus celina*, or Austaut's Blue.



Austaut's Blue (Polyommatus celina), Los Romanes, Spain, 26th May 2016

I also found a large and colourful wasp and a little orange moth I haven't been able to identify.



Unknown wasp, Los Romanes, Spain, 26th May 2016



Unknown moth, Los Romanes, Spain, 26th May 2016

Seen here were: Bath White, Green-striped White, Small White, Clouded Yellow, Meadow Brown, Southern Gatekeeper, Mallow Skipper, Common Blue and Austaut's Blue (*celina*).

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 16-Apr-19 09:59 PM GMT

Los Romanes, Spain, May 2016 – Day 6

This was my last day in Los Romanes and I opted to spend longer in the scenery I finished up at last night, below the village. I did this in two stints as it was so hot in the middle of the day.

Over the two trips, I saw: Clouded Yellow, Bath White, Small White, Meadow Brown, Southern Gatekeeper, African Grass Blue, Common Blue, Austaut's Blue and Large Skipper.



African Grass Blue, Los Romanes, Spain, 27th May 2016



Austaut's Blue, Los Romanes, Spain, 27th May 2016



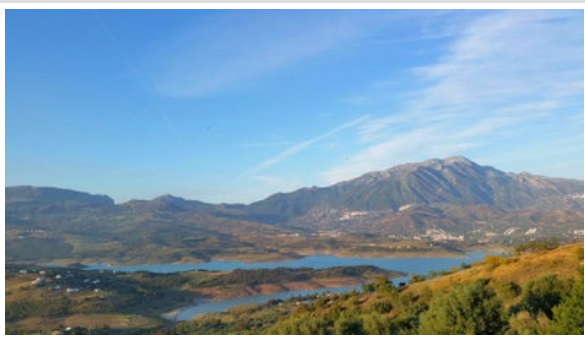
Common Blue, Los Romanes, Spain, 27th May 2016



Southern Gatekeeper, Los Romanes, Spain, 27th May 2016



Bath White, Los Romanes, Spain, 27th May 2016
The last view though must go to this stunning vista. I will be back.



Re: Lee Hurrell

by Wurzel, 16-Apr-19 11:14 PM GMT

More cracking shots Lee – those Blues are pretty special, the markings on the Grass Blue are subtly beautiful – cracking shot 😊🇩🇪 I'm most envious of the Mallow Skipper – 8 days in France and 7 in Lisbon and not one seen 😊 Here's hoping for this year 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Lee Hurrell

by David M, 17-Apr-19 12:25 PM GMT

Yes, Lee, that last vista is something special. I would never have guessed it was southern Spain had I not known.

The range of butterflies is good too, with some that won't be seen anywhere outside of Spain.

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 18-Apr-19 09:37 PM GMT

Wurzel wrote:

More cracking shots Lee – those Blues are pretty special, the markings on the Grass Blue are subtly beautiful – cracking shot 😊🇩🇪 I'm most envious of the Mallow Skipper – 8 days in France and 7 in Lisbon and not one seen 😊 Here's hoping for this year 😊

Thanks, Wurzel 😊

Good luck for your Bath Whites and Mallow Skippers 😊

Best wishes,
Lee

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 18-Apr-19 09:39 PM GMT

David M wrote:

Yes, Lee, that last vista is something special. I would never have guessed it was southern Spain had I not known.

The range of butterflies is good too, with some that won't be seen anywhere outside of Spain.

It is definitely worth a visit, David. I do wonder if it is normally that green, but it is stunning!

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Wurzel, 18-Apr-19 10:54 PM GMT

Cheers Lee, I reckon this could be the year having already put in so much leg work on two previous visits abroad 😊😊

I'll keep you posted on the Marshie situation – should only be a couple of weeks until the first is seen 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 07-May-19 11:38 PM GMT

Fairmile Common, 18th June 2016

I visited Fairmile Common, a small but reliable site for Silver Studded Blue. The males were showing nicely, with 20 seen.



Silver Studded Blue, male, Fairmile Common, Surrey, 18th June 2016



Silver Studded Blue, male, Fairmile Common, Surrey, 18th June 2016



Silver Studded Blue, male, Fairmile Common, Surrey, 18th June 2016



Silver Studded Blue, male, Fairmile Common, Surrey, 18th June 2016



Silver Studded Blue, male, Fairmile Common, Surrey, 18th June 2016



Silver Studded Blue, male, Fairmile Common, Surrey, 18th June 2016
A Red Admiral was the only other species seen.

Re: Lee Hurrell

by David M, 08-May-19 10:26 PM GMT

From certain angles, the shade of blue resembles mazarine. These are gorgeous insects, and I suspect they'll be on the wing very soon again, in a month or so. Certainly a contender for Britain's most photogenic species.

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Wurzel, 08-May-19 10:41 PM GMT

Fantastic shots Lee of a stunning species. 😊 It's interesting that you only saw a Red Admiral as well; it's like that when I visit Slop Bog for my Silver-studs. I can see over 50 odd butterflies during the course of my visit but invariably they will all be Silver-studs minus one or two Large Skipper. I suppose they are habitat specialists 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 18-May-19 08:14 PM GMT

Thank you, both.

I agree, David, they do have a hint of Mazarine about them.

As for habitat, Wurzel, I rarely see many other species at my local Silver Studded sites, with the exception of Grayling and perhaps Green Hairstreak.

Best wishes,
Lee

Re: Lee Hurrell

by millerd, 18-May-19 08:38 PM GMT

As you know, Lee, Fairmile Common is one of my favoured spots for seeing SSB too. Interestingly (as well as a single second brood male) last year I discovered it has a healthy Brown Argus and Small Copper population – I can't say I'd ever noticed this before!

Some of those butterflies are a really deep blue – nice shots too. They seem to vary quite a bit, and you often see some that are more silver than blue.

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 18-May-19 10:05 PM GMT

Thanks, Dave. Fairmile Common also holds Green Hairstreak and I've seen Small Copper there, although not Brown Argus. Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown and Ringlet are present too.

The last couple of years I have been to Dawney's Hill near Pirbright for Silver Studded, which also has Grayling. Let me know when you're coming down and I'll show you 😊

Best wishes,
Lee

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 18-May-19 10:59 PM GMT

Lingfield, Surrey, July 2016

I spent a little time in Lingfield in Surrey in 2016, where there is a lovely nature reserve. The following were seen on a walk near the village though.



Ringlet, Lingfield, Surrey, 16th July 2016



Ringlet, hind-wing detail, Lingfield, Surrey, 16th July 2016



Comma, Lingfield, Surrey, 16th July 2016



Gatekeeper, female, Lingfield, Surrey, 16th July 2016



Small Skipper, Lingfield, Surrey, 16th July 2016



Large Skipper, Lingfield, Surrey, 16th July 2016



Beetle love: Rutpela maculata mating pair, Lingfield, Surrey, 16th July 2016
The following photos were taken at the nature reserve on a series of late evening walks in high summer.



Lingfield Nature Reserve, Surrey, 18th July 2016



Comma, Lingfield Nature Reserve, 18th July 2016



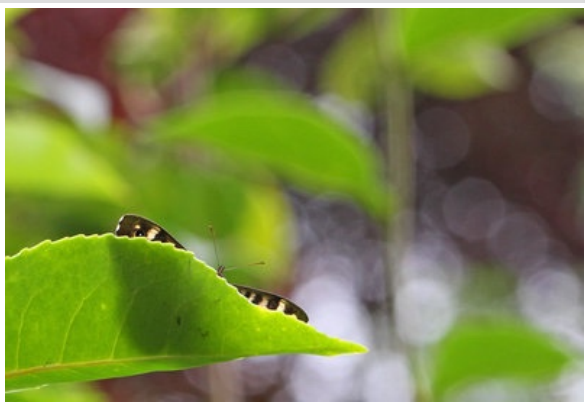
Meadow Brown, female, Lingfield Nature Reserve, 18th July 2016



Holly Blue, female, Lingfield Nature Reserve, 23rd July 2016



Peacock, Lingfield Nature Reserve, 23rd July 2016



Speckled Wood, Lingfield Nature Reserve, 24th July 2016



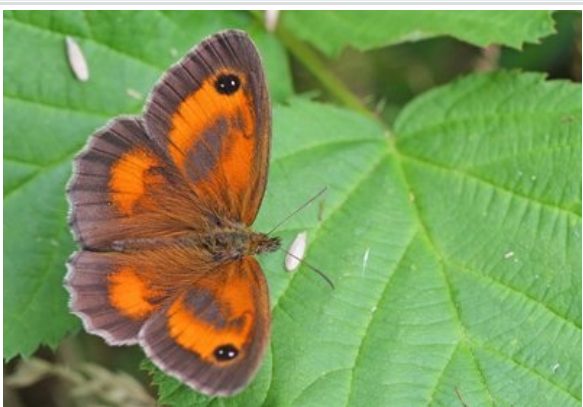
Peacock, Lingfield Nature Reserve, 24th July 2016



Small Skipper, Lingfield Nature Reserve, 24th July 2016



Comma, Lingfield Nature Reserve, 24th July 2016



Gatekeeper, male, Lingfield Nature Reserve, 24th July 2016



Gatekeeper, female, Lingfield, Surrey, 30th July 2016

Re: Lee Hurrell

by millerd, 18-May-19 11:30 PM GMT

Hi Lee - I particularly like the Ringlet shot. Beautifully fresh. 😊

I know Dawneys Hill well - my closest reliable site for Grayling with a good population of SSB to boot. Also Small Coppers (again!) and a selection of small brown butterflies throughout the summer months.

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Wurzel, 19-May-19 06:37 PM GMT

Those Ringlets shots are lush Lee - not long now until they're flying again 😊 Love the view of the 'tunnel' 😊 If you managed to make it to the Hill I hope it panned out and the butterflies put on a good show 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Lee Hurrell

by David M, 19-May-19 09:21 PM GMT

The Holly Blue female and the Ringlet really stand out there, Lee. The underside of the Blue is practically pure white. She must have been extremely fresh?

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 21-May-19 10:53 PM GMT

Thank you all 😊

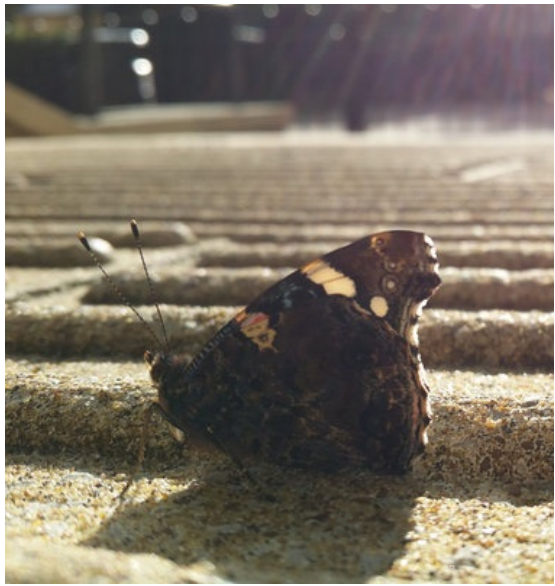
I think you're right, David; she was fresh out of the box! I do recall that she seemed very white.

Best wishes,
Lee

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 22-May-19 12:00 AM GMT

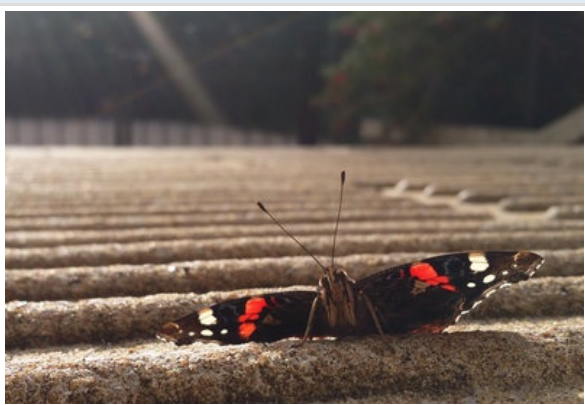
I struck lucky on the way home from work on the 3rd August 2016. Taken with my phone, and just cropped, this stunning Red Admiral was soaking up the sun at 17.50 in Shoreditch, London.



Red Admiral, Shoreditch, London, 3rd August 2016



Red Admiral, Shoreditch, London, 3rd August 2016



Red Admiral, Shoreditch, London, 3rd August 2016

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 22-May-19 12:07 AM GMT

A few more photos from Lingfield Nature Reserve in Surrey, taken in August 2016.



Lingfield Nature Reserve, Surrey, 6th August 2016



Speckled Wood, male, Lingfield Nature Reserve, 6th August 2016



Gatekeeper, female, Lingfield Nature Reserve, 9th August 2016, soaking up the last of the evening sun at 19.57



Lingfield Nature Reserve, 9th August 2016



Lingfield Nature Reserve, 9th August 2016

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Wurzel, 23-May-19 08:28 PM GMT

Brilliant stuff Lee 😊 I can't wait for the this time of year to roll round again, there's something about the light at this time, which you've rally caught with the Hedgie – it glows 😊🌿

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 23-May-19 11:06 PM GMT

Thanks, Wurzel.

She did indeed glow 😊 There is something special about butterflying at 8 pm in high summer!

Best wishes,
Lee

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 24-May-19 12:02 AM GMT

Santorini, Greece, August 2016

In August of 2016, I visited Santorini, a stunning Greek island in the Cyclades island group. It wasn't specifically a butterfly holiday, but I did manage to find some.

Geranium Bronze were found in most locations, including the patio of the hotel!



Geranium Bronze, Firostefani, Santorini, Greece, 15th August 2016



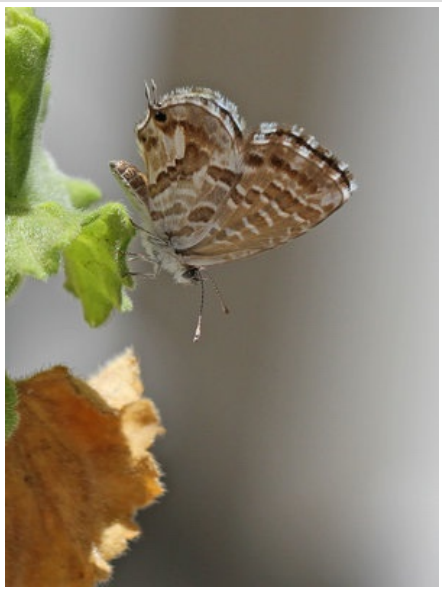
Geranium Bronze, Firostefani, Santorini, Greece, 15th August 2016



Geranium Bronze, Episkopi, Santorini, Greece, 15th August 2016



Geranium Bronze, Episkopi, Santorini, Greece, 15th August 2016



Geranium Bronze, Firostefani, Santorini, Greece, 19th August 2016
There was a little reminder of home at Oia, in the north of the island.



Painted Lady, Oia, Santorini, Greece, 16th August 2016

Seen on Santorini were: Geranium Bronze, Swallowtail, Painted Lady, Red Admiral and Large White.

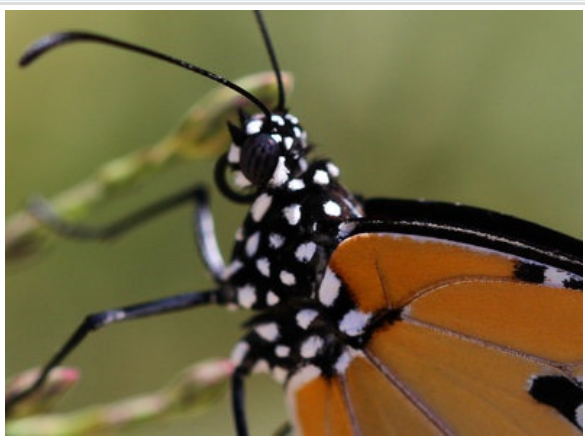
A boat trip to the nearby island of Ios for the day found a colony of Plain Tiger, which I hadn't seen for a while. I'd seen these in Spain and Turkey in the past but there were a large number of them here; I saw at least 30.



Plain Tiger, Los, los, Greece, 16th August 2016



Plain Tiger, Los, los, Greece, 16th August 2016



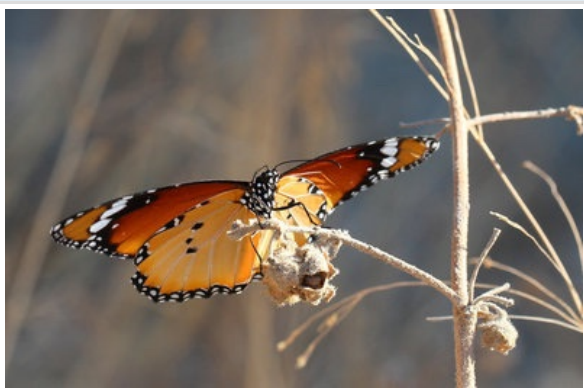
Plain Tiger, close up detail, Los, los, Greece, 16th August 2016



Plain Tiger, Los, los, Greece, 16th August 2016



Just hanging around. Plain Tiger, mating pair, Los, los, Greece, 16th August 2016



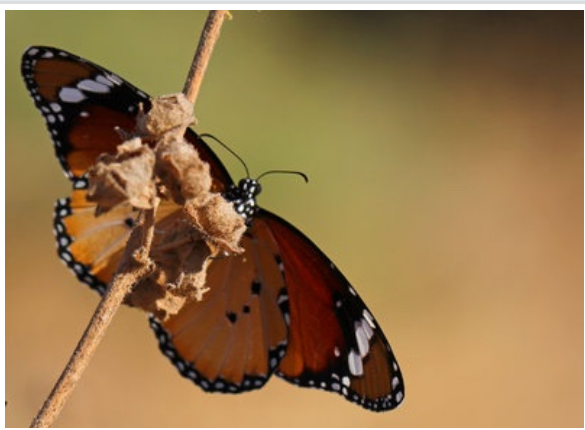
Plain Tiger, Los, los, Greece, 16th August 2016



Plain Tiger, Los, los, Greece, 16th August 2016



Plain Tiger, Los, los, Greece, 16th August 2016



Plain Tiger, Los, los, Greece, 16th August 2016
See on los, were: Plain Tiger, Swallowtail and Scarce Swallowtail.

Re: Lee Hurrell

by David M, 24-May-19 03:29 PM GMT

Beautiful images of the Plain Tigers, Lee (only they're anything BUT 'plain'). This is one species very high up on my wish list. 🌍

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 01-Jun-19 01:27 PM GMT

Thanks, David. They are majestic to watch. You'll **know** when you see one 😊

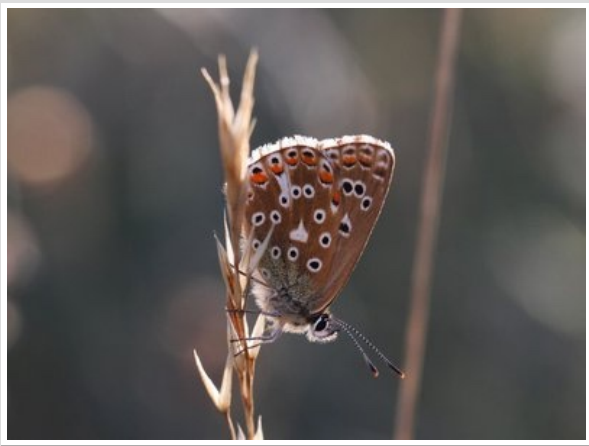
Best wishes,
Lee

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 01-Jun-19 01:33 PM GMT

Rounding off August 2016 at Denbies

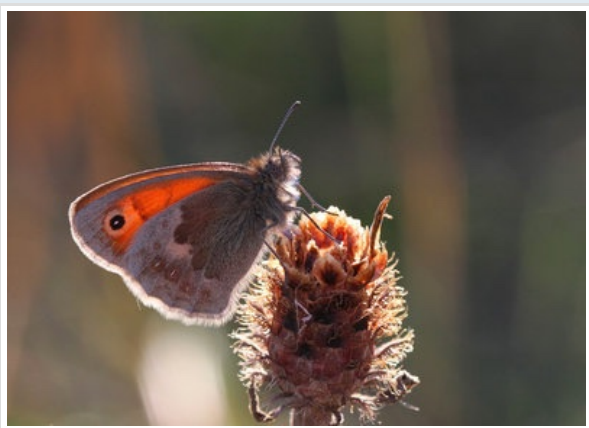
Second brood Adonis were evident at Denbies Hillside in Surrey at the end of August 2016. Seen this evening were: Adonis Blue, Chalkhill Blue, Common Blue, Brown Argus, Meadow Brown and Small Heath.



Adonis Blue, female, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 29th August 2016



Adonis Blue, male, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 29th August 2016



Small Heath, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 29th August 2016



Green Woodpecker, juvenile, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 29th August 2016

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Wurzel, 01-Jun-19 10:19 PM GMT

Lovely glowing shots Lee 😊 Hopefully your filling your boots with first generation Adonis at the moment 😊 Interesting looking Small Heath – I've seen them with and without spots but not with little streaks 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Lee Hurrell

by David M, 01-Jun-19 11:39 PM GMT

I really like that back-lit image of the Small Heath, Lee. I'm assuming it was taken in the early evening?

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 02-Jun-19 09:18 PM GMT

Thanks, both. I do love sunset butterflying 😊

The Small Heath does have nice little streaks, doesn't it?
The photo was taken at 19.45, David.

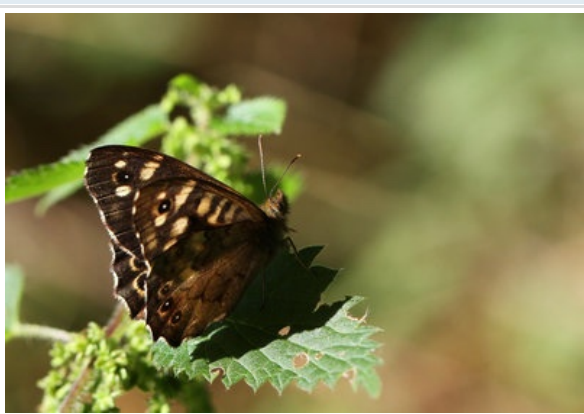
Best wishes,
Lee

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 02-Jun-19 09:35 PM GMT

Last Hurrah for Lingfield

An afternoon at Lingfield Nature Reserve resulted in Speckled Wood, Meadow Brown, Large White, Small White and a Red Admiral.



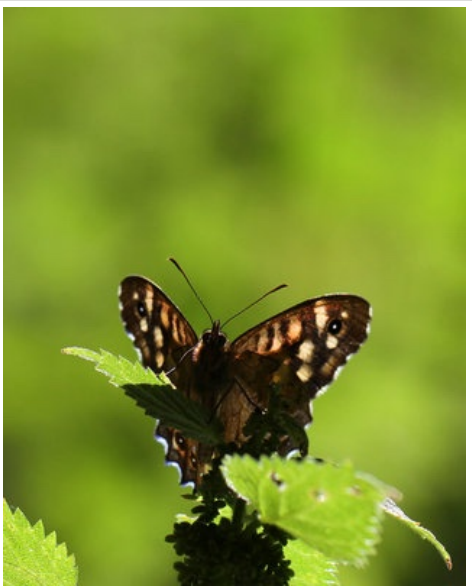
Speckled Wood, male, Lingfield Nature Reserve, Surrey, 11th September 2016



Speckled Wood, male, Lingfield Nature Reserve, Surrey, 11th September 2016



Speckled Wood, male, Lingfield Nature Reserve, Surrey, 11th September 2016



Speckled Wood, male, Lingfield Nature Reserve, Surrey, 11th September 2016



Speckled Wood, male, Lingfield Nature Reserve, Surrey, 11th September 2016



Speckled Wood, male, Lingfield Nature Reserve, Surrey, 11th September 2016

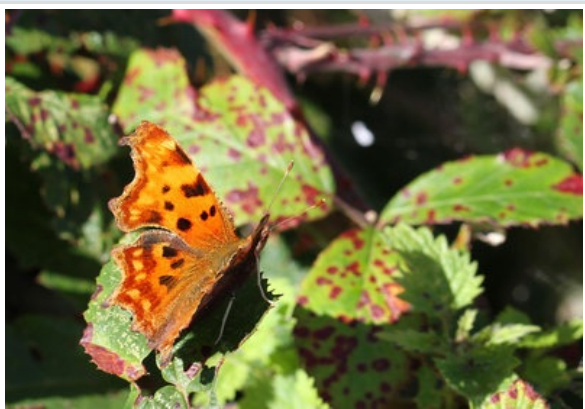
Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 02-Jun-19 09:57 PM GMT

Autumn delights at Sheepleas

Sheepleas Nettle Meadow in Surrey is always a great place for Nymphalids, so I am frequently there at the beginning and toward the end of the season.

25th September 2016 was no different: I saw 7 Red Admiral, 2 Comma and a male Green-veined White.



Comma, Sheepleas, Surrey, 25th September 2016

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Wurzel, 02-Jun-19 10:57 PM GMT

Great set of Specklies Lee, especially number 4, that's a member of the 'I wish I'd taken that one' club 😊🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Lee Hurrell

by David M, 02-Jun-19 11:28 PM GMT

Lee Hurrell wrote:

The photo was taken at 19.45, David.

🤔 I would never think of looking for butterflies at that hour, Lee. Just shows what I'm missing I suppose.

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 11-Jun-19 10:46 PM GMT

Thanks, Wurzel. Speckled Wood is a rather photogenic butterfly at times!

David, for those few short weeks, when it is warm and sunny enough, it's quite literally a golden hour for photos.

Best wishes,
Lee

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 11-Jun-19 11:12 PM GMT

2017 gets underway

Early season warm sunshine can only mean one place – Sheepleas. 25th March 2017 gave me a full house of hibernators as well as a Holly Blue.



Small Tortoiseshell, Sheepleas, Surrey, 25th March 2017



Dark-edged Bee-fly, (Bombylius major), Sheepleas, Surrey, 25th March 2017



Brimstone, male, Sheepleas, Surrey, 25th March 2017



Brimstone, male, Sheepleas, Surrey, 25th March 2017



Comma, Sheepleas, Surrey, 25th March 2017

The next day I explored a new site near home, Grant Moors Path in Farnborough. It's a lovely path with a patchwork of habitats along the Blackwater River, adjacent to the A331. I would return to visit here many times.



Comma, Grant Moors Path, Farnborough, Hampshire, 26th March 2017



Comma, Grant Moors Path, Farnborough, Hampshire, 26th March 2017



Red Admiral, female, Grant Moors Path, Farnborough, Hampshire, 26th March 2017
I ventured over the border into Surrey and found another Comma.



Comma, Frimley Green, Surrey, 26th March 2017

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Wurzel, 12-Jun-19 11:13 PM GMT

That is a flipping brilliant close up shot of the Brismtone Lee 🤩👍👍 absolutely cracking 😊 Up close they do have something of a Punk look going on 🤩

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 13-Jun-19 10:47 PM GMT

Wurzel wrote:

That is a flipping brilliant close up shot of the Brimstone Lee 🤩👍👍 absolutely cracking 😊

Thanks, Wurzel. I was particularly happy with how that one came out 😊 I actually have it on my wall! I also have a similar one coming up for April 😊

Best wishes,
Lee

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 13-Jun-19 11:06 PM GMT

A gorgeous day in early April and a visit to Denbies Hillside in Surrey.

Along with my spring officially starting with a male and a female Orange Tip, I saw plenty of Brimstones, Peacocks and Small Tortoiseshells.



Brimstone, male, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 2nd April 2017



Peacock, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 2nd April 2017



Peacock, hindwing and abdomen detail, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 2nd April 2017



Small Tortoiseshell, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 2nd April 2017

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Goldie M, 14-Jun-19 11:32 AM GMT

Lovely shots Lee, lets hope the weather picks up soon and we see more Butterflies 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Wurzel, 14-Jun-19 10:25 PM GMT

That is another great Brimstone closeup Lee 😊 Also really like the large blue triangles on the Small tort – really makes it stand out 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 17-Jun-19 11:33 PM GMT

Thank you both!

Best wishes,
Lee

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 17-Jun-19 11:52 PM GMT

More from Grants Moor Path

Quickly becoming my favourite local site, I returned to Grants Moor Path, near Farnborough North station. Here, I saw Holly Blue, Speckled Wood, Brimstone, Orange Tip, Comma and Peacock.



Holly Blue, male, Grants Moor Path, Farnborough, Hampshire, 8th April 2017



Speckled Wood, male, Grants Moor Path, Farnborough, Hampshire, 8th April 2017



Speckled Wood, male, Grants Moor Path, Farnborough, Hampshire, 8th April 2017



Large Red Damselfly, female, Grants Moor Path, Farnborough, Hampshire, 8th April 2017



Robin, Grants Moor Path, Farnborough, Hampshire, 8th April 2017



Brimstone, male, Grants Moor Path, Farnborough, Hampshire, 8th April 2017



Brimstone, female, Grants Moor Path, Farnborough, Hampshire, 8th April 2017

Moving on to Dawney's Hill, near Pirbright, I found this beautiful little micro moth on the gorse flowers along with Orange Tip, Brimstone, Peacock, Speckled Wood and Holly Blue.



Unknown micro moth, Dawney's Hill, Surrey, 8th April 2017

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Wurzel, 18-Jun-19 10:42 PM GMT

That Holly Blue is a Dave Miller special Lee 😊😄🍷 Cracking Brimstone as well - the male is gurt lush 😊😄🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Lee Hurrell

by David M, 19-Jun-19 06:11 AM GMT

That's an interesting close up of the male Brimstone, Lee. Their antennae are quite unusual, I find. They are quite short and a lovely, rust colour and the eyes are quite dark, something that your image shows very well.

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 27-Jun-19 10:43 PM GMT

Thank you, both.

I quite agree, David. The Brimstone's antenna is quite unusual compared to other species.

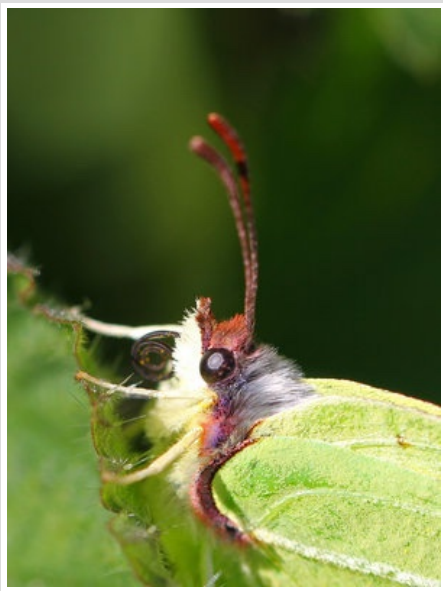
Best wishes,
Lee

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 27-Jun-19 11:07 PM GMT

Sheepleas, Surrey, 9th April 2017

The next day I returned to Sheepleas in Surrey for more early spring delights. Seen in the various meadows were: Red Admiral, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Brimstone, Orange Tip, Speckled Wood and Holly Blue.



Brimstone, male, Sheepleas, Surrey, 9th April 2017



Peacock, Sheepleas, Surrey, 9th April 2017



Speckled Wood, male, Shepleas, Surrey, 9th April 2017



Speckled Wood, male, Shepleas, Surrey, 9th April 2017



Robin, Shepleas, Surrey, 9th April 2017

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 27-Jun-19 11:25 PM GMT

Denbies Hillside 9th April 2017

Shepleas is not far from Denbies Hillside, so if I have time, I usually visit both sites. You can of course spend a whole day at either! Along with my first swallows of the year, seen at Denbies were: Green Hairstreak, Holly Blue, Grizzled Skipper, Brimstone, Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell.



Small Tortoiseshell, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 9th April 2017



Peacock, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 9th April 2017



Peacock, forewing detail, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 9th April 2017

Re: Lee Hurrell

by David M, 28-Jun-19 09:28 PM GMT

I'm enjoying this approach you have by concentrating in detail on one part of the butterfly's wings/body, Lee. Gives things an added dimension.

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Wurzel, 29-Jun-19 08:10 PM GMT

Yep I agree with David Lee really interesting to see the scale detail as well as the other lush shots 😊 Looking forward to many more 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 30-Jun-19 11:10 PM GMT

You're both very kind. I was (and still do) just see what the camera/lens can do. I'm quite impressed!

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 30-Jun-19 11:41 PM GMT

Daya Vieja, Rojales, Spain, April 2017

I spent a few days with my Dad in Spain in April 2017. He had moved a short distance from Ciudad Quesada to a small village called Daya Vieja. Of course, I had a good look around.



Lulworth Skipper, female, Daya Vieja, Spain, 15th April 2017



Lulworth Skipper, female, Daya Vieja, Spain, 15th April 2017



Small White, male, Daya Vieja, Spain, 15th April 2017



Painted Lady, Daya Vieja, Spain, 15th April 2017



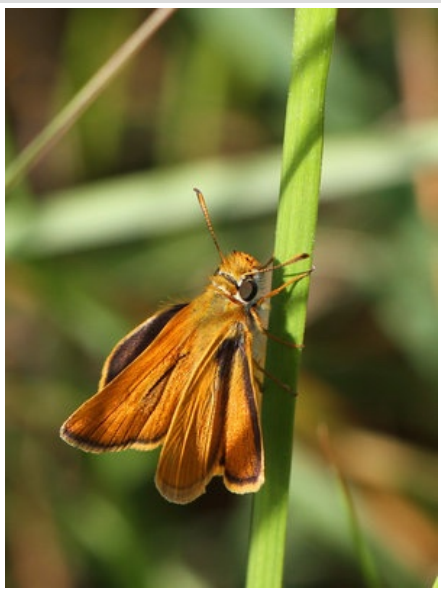
Clouded Yellow, male, Daya Vieja, Spain, 15th April 2017



Small White, male, Daya Vieja, Spain, 16th April 2017



Lulworth Skipper, female, Daya Vieja, Spain, 16th April 2017



Lulworth Skipper, male, Daya Vieja, Spain, 16th April 2017



Lulworth Skipper, male, Daya Vieja, Spain, 16th April 2017



Pale Shoulder (I think), Daya Vieja, Spain, 16th April 2017



Mallow Skipper, Daya Vieja, Spain, 16th April 2017



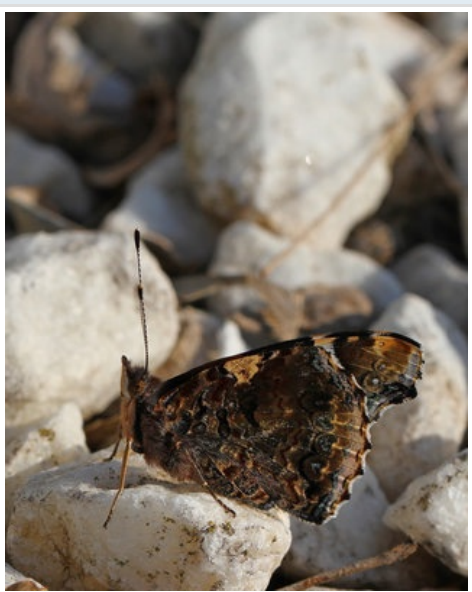
Swallow, Guardamar del Segura, Spain, 17th April 2017



Audouin's Gull, Guardamar del Segura, Spain, 17th April 2017



Audouin's Gull, Guardamar del Segura, Spain, 17th



Red Admiral, Daya Vieja, Spain, 17th April 2017



Painted Lady, Daya Vieja, Spain, 17th April 2017



Red Admiral, Daya Vieja, Spain, 18th April 2017

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Wurzel, 01-Jul-19 10:30 PM GMT

A couple of 🐞🐞 for the Audouin's Gull and that bloomin Mallow Skipper 🤔 It must be a bit odd seeing a Lulworth Skipper nowhere near Dorset 🤔🤔

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 01-Jul-19 11:07 PM GMT

Thanks, Wurzel. I am yet to see Lulworth Skipper in the UK - something else I must put right.

Best wshes,
Lee

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Wurzel, 01-Jul-19 11:09 PM GMT

If you need any info just give me a holler 🤔

Have a goodun

Wuzel

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 01-Jul-19 11:26 PM GMT

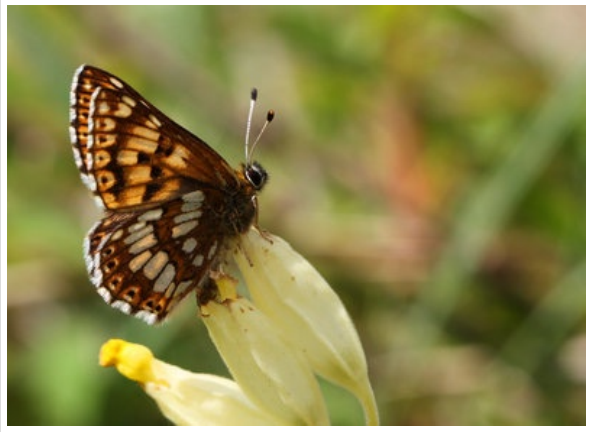
I will do 🤔

Re: Lee Hurrell

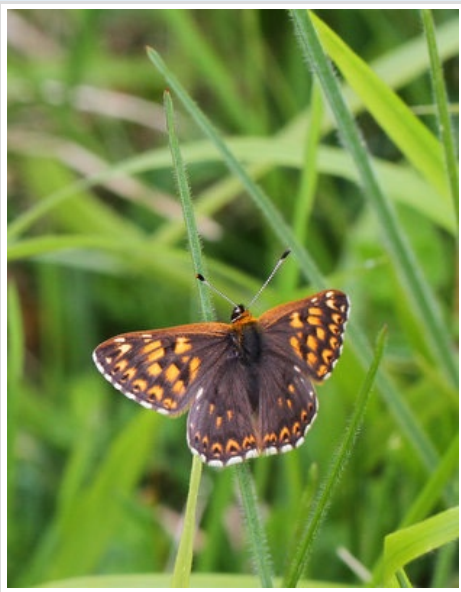
by Lee Hurrell, 01-Jul-19 11:42 PM GMT

His Grace

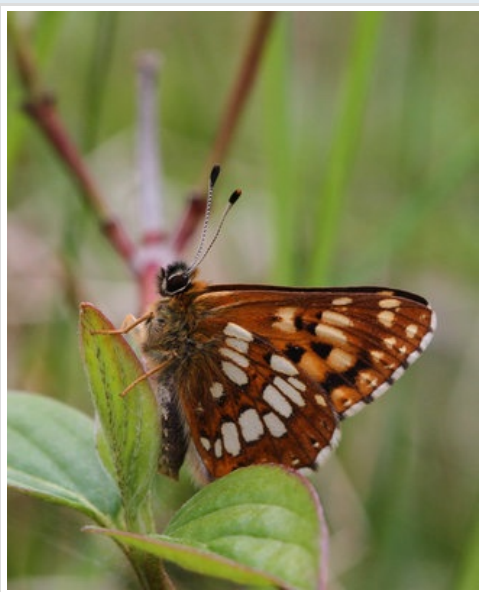
Back in the UK, it was time to seek out His Grace.



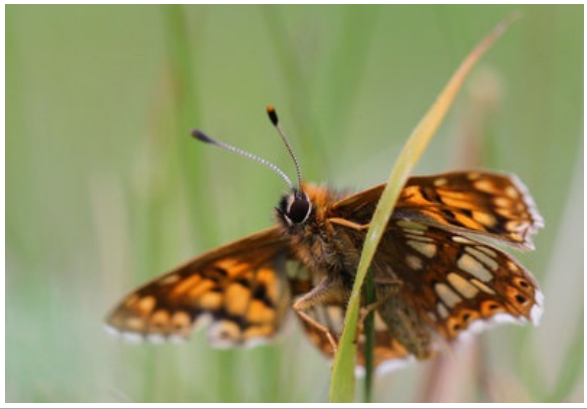
Duke of Burgundy, male, Noar Hill, Hampshire, 23rd April 2017



Duke of Burgundy, male, Noar Hill, Hampshire, 23rd April 2017



Duke of Burgundy, male, Noar Hill, Hampshire, 23rd April 2017



Duke of Burgundy, male, Noar Hill, Hampshire, 23rd April 2017



Duke of Burgundy, male, Noar Hill, Hampshire, 23rd April 2017
I also found Holly Blue, Peacock and this beautiful Scarlet Tiger caterpillar.



Scarlet Tiger caterpillar, Noar Hill, Hampshire, 23rd April 2017
From Noar Hill in Hampshire, I went over to Chiddingfold Forest in Surrey. Here, I saw just one male Wood White.



Wood White, male, Chiddingfold Forest, Surrey, 23rd April 2017



Wood White, male, Chiddingfold Forest, Surrey, 23rd April 2017



Wood White, male, Chiddingfold Forest, Surrey, 23rd April 2017

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 02-Jul-19 11:42 PM GMT

South to East Sussex, 29th April 2017

Like most years, I headed south to East Sussex for a spring visit. I first stopped at Abbott's Wood where I saw Orange Tip, Brimstone, Peacock, Comma and Speckled Wood.



Abbot's Wood, East Sussex, 29th April 2017



Speckled Wood, Abbot's Wood, East Sussex, 29th April 2017

I then went on to Windover Hill, one of my favourite places. Here, I saw Wall, Speckled Wood, Small Heath, Peacock, Dingy Skipper, Orange Tip, Green-veined White and Small Copper.



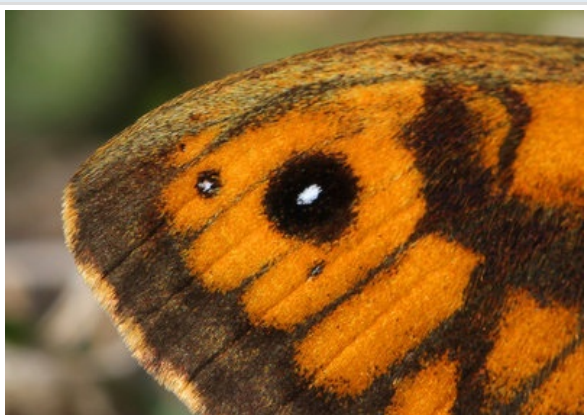
Dingy Skipper, Windover Hill, East Sussex, 29th April 2017



Windover Hill, East Sussex, 29th April 2017



Wall, male, Windover Hill, East Sussex, 29th April 2017



Wall, male, forewing detail, Windover Hill, East Sussex, 29th April 2017

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Wurzel, 03-Jul-19 06:56 PM GMT

Cracking Ninja skills Lee to have gotten as close in to that Wall 😊🍷 And in amid the lovely Wood Whites the most fresh Duke I think I've ever seen – it's so new it looks shiny 🤩🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Lee Hurrell

by David M, 04-Jul-19 09:53 PM GMT

Nice sequence of reports, Lee. As you know, I'm especially interested in anything from the continent so it's nice to see a few of the species that can be seen in that part of Spain in mid April.

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 06-Jul-19 10:38 PM GMT

Thank you, Wurzel and David.

Walls are pretty hard to get near, aren't they! I also find early Meadow Browns and Small Heaths particularly flighty.

Best wishes,
Lee

Re: Lee Hurrell

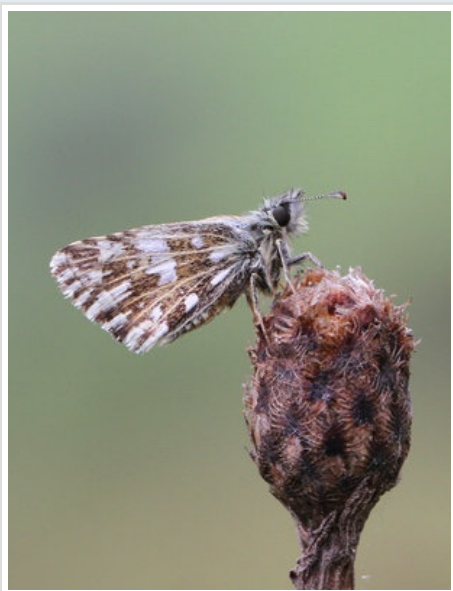
by Lee Hurrell, 06-Jul-19 11:49 PM GMT

Denbies Hillside - 1st May 2017

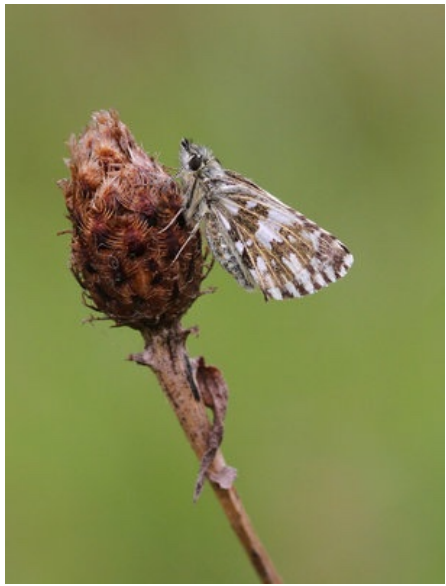
This day was a classic example of "If in doubt, always go out". I follow this all the time; you never know what you will see. So, despite overcast skies and even some drizzle at times, Denbies was once again a delight.



Grizzled Skipper, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 1st May 2017



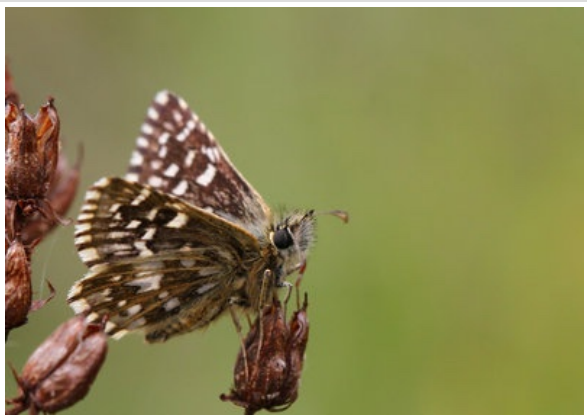
Grizzled Skipper, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 1st May 2017



Grizzled Skipper, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 1st May 2017



Grizzled Skipper, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 1st May 2017



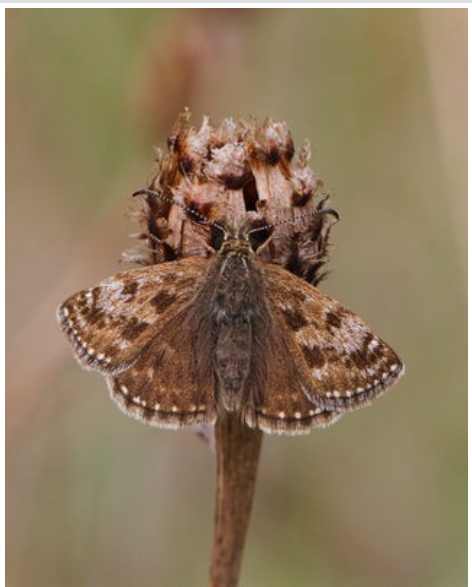
Grizzled Skipper, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 1st May 2017



Dingy Skipper, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 1st May 2017



Dingy Skipper, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 1st May 2017



Dingy Skipper, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 1st May 2017



Brown Argus, male, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 1st May 2017



Brown Argus, male, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 1st May 2017



Brown Argus, male, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 1st May 2017



Small Heath, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 1st May 2017



Five-Spot Burnet, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 1st May 2017

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Wurzel, 07-Jul-19 05:16 PM GMT

As always Lee well worth waiting for these shots 😊😄 Overcast skies can often be the best days, I reckon it's because the butterflies don't expect us to be out and so we can catch them off guard 😊😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Lee Hurrell

by David M, 07-Jul-19 09:47 PM GMT

Lee Hurrell wrote:

...This day was a classic example of "If in doubt, always go out". I follow this all the time; you never know what you will see...

Quite agree, Lee. After all, if you DON'T go then you definitely **won't** see anything.

It's rare that any of these 'do I, don't I?' days draw a blank.

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Goldie M, 07-Jul-19 09:56 PM GMT

Love your shots of the Grizzled Skipper Lee, especially the fifth shot it's a real poser 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 08-Jul-19 10:07 PM GMT

Thank you, all 😊

Re: Lee Hurrell

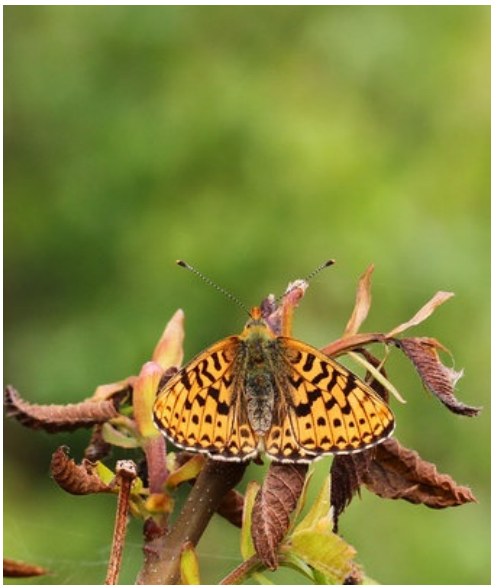
by Lee Hurrell, 08-Jul-19 10:37 PM GMT

Rewell Wood Pearls – 6th May 2017

On the 6th May 2017, I met up with Neil, Susie and a few others at Rewell Wood in West Sussex for some Pearls. It was a splendid day, and I learnt a lot about the habitat requirements of the Pearl Bordered Fritillary.



Pearl Bordered Fritillary, male, Rewell Wood, West Sussex, 6th May 2017



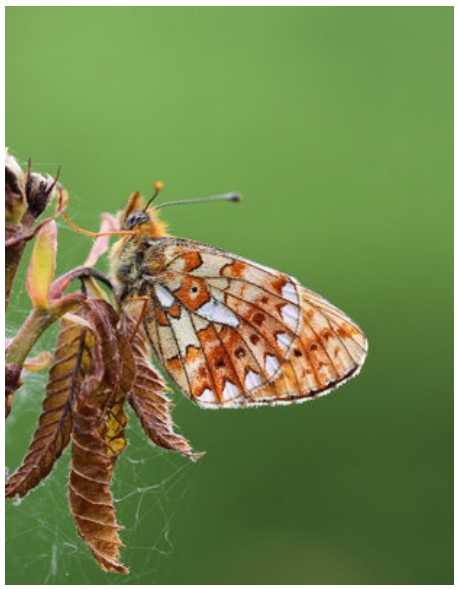
Pearl Bordered Fritillary, female, Rewell Wood, West Sussex, 6th May 2017



Pearl Bordered Fritillary, male, Rewell Wood, West Sussex, 6th May 2017



Pearl Bordered Fritillary, male, Rewell Wood, West Sussex, 6th May 2017



Pearl Bordered Fritillary, male, Rewell Wood, West Sussex, 6th May 2017



Pearl Bordered Fritillary, male, Rewell Wood, West Sussex, 6th May 2017



Pearl Bordered Fritillary, male, Rewell Wood, West Sussex, 6th May 2017



Pearl Bordered Fritillary, male, Rewell Wood, West Sussex, 6th May 2017
There were a few other critters too.



Green Tiger Beetle, Rewell Wood, West Sussex, 6th May 2017



Wasp Beetle, Rewell Wood, West Sussex, 6th May 2017



Crab Spider, Rewell Wood, West Sussex, 6th May 2017

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Wurzel, 08-Jul-19 11:00 PM GMT

Cracking set of Pearls Lee 😊 Looking at your shots and comparing them to some of mine from this year I was surprised that they seem to have different 'tones' in different years, your ones undersides seem more peachy than those from this year? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Lee Hurrell

by David M, 09-Jul-19 02:53 PM GMT

Lovely PBFs, Lee. They have an almost Shepherd's/Mountain Fritillary hue to the outer third of the underside hindwings.

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 27-Jul-19 11:41 PM GMT

Thank you both! 😊

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 27-Jul-19 11:59 PM GMT

Adonis at Denbies - 13th May 2017

At sunset in mid-May, you will find me at Denbies. I just love the 'golden hour' and the warm light it gives.



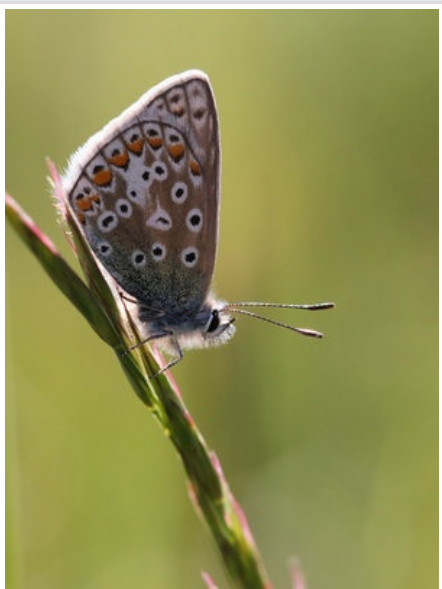
Adonis Blue, male, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 13th May 2017



Adonis Blue, male, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 13th May 2017



Adonis Blue, male, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 13th May



Common Blue, male, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 13th May 2017



Common Blue, male, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 13th May 2017



Dingy Skipper, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 13th May 2017



Dingy Skipper, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 13th May 2017



Five-Spot Burnet, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 13th May 2017

Re: Lee Hurrell

by Wurzel, 28-Jul-19 10:28 PM GMT

I can see why you'd be found there Lee – the light gives the images that extra little something 😎😁👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Lee Hurrell

by David M, 03-Aug-19 02:16 PM GMT

That's a great Dingy shot, Lee. I never seem to find them curled up like that. 😊