

Re: Trevor

by David M, 02-Jan-20 10:04 PM GMT

[quote=trevor_post_id=150047_time=1577719610_user_id=13654] Signs of hope on the penultimate day of the year (Decade). My front garden this afternoon.

Always a great sight, Trevor. Means things are on the right path.

I saw a bumble bee and a celandine in flower on 29th so it shows how mild things have been lately.

PS – love the story about Jess – what a beautiful dog.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-Jan-20 02:53 PM GMT

A DAY FOR THE OPTIMIST !.

Today is the middle day of the mid-Winter month, which suggests that as from today things err towards Spring. As we are all aware, as far as the weather is concerned, we are far from out of the woods yet.

But this clump of Daffodils in South road car park, Hailsham, is in full bloom, and has been for about a week.

Hope you enjoy this unseasonable spectacle!

Trevor



Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 15-Jan-20 07:26 PM GMT

Love your shot of the Dog Trevor, it's going to be a real handful when full grown, 😊 Can't wait to hear about it's antics then 😊

Love the Daffodils too 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 17-Jan-20 11:37 PM GMT

Love those daffs, Trevor. I saw my first of the year at Aberglasney Gardens yesterday, along with carpets of snowdrops and they fair gave me a lift.

Doubtless there'll be a few more out this weekend as me march on inexorably towards spring. 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-Jan-20 02:12 PM GMT

Many thanks, Goldie and David.

Those Daffodils grow on a south facing bank, which gives them a head start. In 2015 some were out on Boxing Day, they never manage to last until Easter!.

All the best, both.
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 21-Jan-20 08:51 PM GMT

I saw my first Daff this weekend Trevor – it was a lonely looking individual and with the current cold weather it was probably wondering why it had

bothered to open up 😊 Still onwards and upwards, hopefully it won't be too long until I get 2020 butterfly number 2 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-Jan-20 04:21 PM GMT

Cheers, Wurzel, did you manage an image of your first 2020 sighting ?.
Quite a few singletons have been reported around here, but none for me yet.

My own effort with a Moon shot from a few years ago.
Camera hand held, I don't have a tripod.

Not too long now,
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by David M, 23-Jan-20 07:15 PM GMT

[quote=trevor post_id=150382 time=1579796511 user_id=13654]...Camera hand held, I don't have a tripod.

I was trying that technique myself recently, Trevor, but failed miserably.

How do you get a clear shot on zoom without a tripod?

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 24-Jan-20 10:14 PM GMT

Cracking moon shot Trevor 😊 Unfortunately I didn't manage a shot as it was keeping up high and also I'm a fair bit out of practice 😊 Still not long now – generally second week of Feb for Small Torts in the Salisbury area 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 25-Jan-20 01:22 PM GMT

Many thanks, David & Wurzel.

David, out of many shots of the moon that evening, two came out OK, and that was the best one.
More to do with the image stabilisation capabilities of the camera than skill on my part.

Wurzel, if you are out of practice, now is the time to limber up that trigger finger to get it nice and quick for the Sussex Black Hairstreak this coming June. Talking of which, hope those brownie points are stacking up nicely.
Coming to Wilts for the half term, will look out for early Small Torts.

Best regards both,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 25-Jan-20 05:59 PM GMT

Good luck with the Small Torts Trevor – I've seen them on the 16th and 17th February before although I was a little later last year as I was in Wales during the balmy start to the season. I think it might be all stations go for the Blackstreak this year, fingers crossed that I don't get "double booked" 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Feb-20 10:00 AM GMT

One of the challenges I have set myself for the coming season is to obtain an image of a male Purple Hairstreak showing full purple. There is a young Lady who I see around when out and about, who has taken some annoyingly brilliant images of male PH displaying full glowing purple. Hopefully I will have the opportunity to obtain a rival shot this year.



Not my effort, but one of the superb images by Kirsty Gibbs.



My best effort from last year.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 11-Feb-20 04:38 PM GMT

I'm 100% with you on that quest, Trevor! I never seem to spot the little devils before they have spotted me, or have been distracted by something else at the key moment. 😊

That's a glorious image from Kirsty, though – and your best effort is a great deal better than any of mine. 🍷🍷

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Essexbuzzard, 11-Feb-20 06:37 PM GMT

Crikey, that's some picture of a PH. You need to find out how she does it!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-Feb-20 07:20 PM GMT

Cheers, Dave & Mark.

Kirsty's image was a case of right place, right time, a good camera and a good photographer behind the lens!. It is a stunning image from all perspectives, an arboreal species low down on bracken, perfect reflective light, and a very fresh butterfly. Apparently it was in no hurry to move, and was possibly drying it's wings.

It's probably my favourite butterfly image of all time.

A hard act to follow!.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 12-Feb-20 10:52 PM GMT

Good luck on your quest Trevor – it's only a matter of time before you bag the elusive shot I'm sure as half of the battle is having a reliable site where they come down low 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-Feb-20 09:38 AM GMT

Thanks, Wurzel.

For the past three years I've had a very reliable site three miles from home. If it performs as well this season my full purple male might be in the bag. I did see one last year, but he escaped as I checked the camera settings, as you can imagine the language was pretty awful. Compensation came that same morning when a fresh female PH was found open winged.

The weather doesn't look very kind for my Wilts visit next week.

All the best,

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 13-Feb-20 11:38 AM GMT

{quote=trevor-post_id=150601-time=1581328820-user_id=13654}...There is a young Lady who I see around when out and about, who has taken some annoyingly brilliant images of male PH displaying full glowing purple.

That's pretty much as good as it gets, Trevor. Fresh specimen too!

Good luck in trying to match that! 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-Feb-20 02:44 PM GMT

A tall order, David !, but something to aim for.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-Feb-20 07:10 PM GMT

At least this Winter has been very good for Moss.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 21-Feb-20 08:27 PM GMT

Crickey Trevor I wondered what that was when I saw the image on the 'front page' 😲 I thought that you'd been busy propagating in the greenhouse 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 21-Feb-20 10:19 PM GMT

{quote=trevor-post_id=150697-time=1582225841-user_id=13654} At least this Winter has been very good for Moss.

Think this one needs a bit of further explanation, Trevor. Looks like a cash crop.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Feb-20 08:30 AM GMT

Thanks both.

That almost luxuriant covering of moss was growing on the corrugated roof of a very old outbuilding at Avebury, Wilts. I found the effect very striking indeed, and worthy of a couple of shots.

Driving down to Wilts. with storm Dennis for company ruled out any optimism I may have had for an early butterfly sighting during my stay, though the wild roadside Snowdrop displays in the Devizes area was adequate compensation.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 23-Feb-20 08:40 PM GMT

Lovely sight those Snowdrops Trevor 😊 The butterfly sightings continue to be scarce – only a couple in Feb, roll on March when things generally start happening apace 😊 Let me know when you're down this way next as the butterflies should surely be out by then 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 24-Feb-20 09:09 AM GMT

Cheers Wurzel, Snowdrops seem to be almost native to Wiltshire. I've never seen so many growing wild. In some locations they can be seen in their hundreds of thousands.

My next visit to Wilts should be over Easter, hopefully something should be flying by then!

On the subject of Wiltshire and butterflies, I have marked out a map of the Tilshead site. This site is well worth a visit at the appropriate times of the season for grassland species.

The A360 from Salisbury and the A303 direction is at the bottom right of map. The area marked in orange is the car park. A good area to search is within the red outline. The mauve arrow points towards Chitterne and the A36. Cotley Hill is one mile away once on A36.



Click on image for enlarged map.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 24-Feb-20 10:51 PM GMT

Good to see that map Trevor – over the road looks interesting too. Hopefully by Easter things will have taken off – we could even be into Orange-tips by then 😊😊 We'll have to try and sort something out 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 25-Feb-20 07:18 PM GMT

[quote=trevor post_id=150716 time=1582360245 user_id=13654]..That almost luxuriant covering of moss was growing on the corrugated roof of a very old outbuilding at Avebury, Wilts. I found the effect very striking indeed, and worthy of a couple of shots.

Thanks for that, Trevor. I hadn't imagined it being a corrugated roof. It looked like it was being cultivated in a field!

Beautiful snowdrop display. It's rare to see so many in one place.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Feb-20 08:25 AM GMT

Thanks, Wurzel & David.

Wurzel, The track ' on the other side of the road ' that runs parallel with the road, is where the Wall Browns hold fort. It was fascinating to watch the males launching at each other, and the frequent squabbles with rivals, all along the length of the track. From what I could see there was a very strong colony at that location.

Look forward to meeting up sometime,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Mar-20 06:48 PM GMT

MARCH 1st, A HAIL STORM AND A RED ADMIRAL !.

Today is the start of meteorological Spring, or as like to call it the optimists start of Spring. But this morning started with a terrific hail storm, which fortunately soon passed, and later we had bright sunshine, any warmth tempered by a cold breeze. So I was very surprised to see my first butterfly of the year today at Halnaker, a Red Admiral, 😊 which after a short flutter, landed and nectared on a Celandine flower. Unfortunately I didn't have my camera with me to record my first butterfly sighting since October.

Trevor.



My hail covered garden this morning.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 01-Mar-20 07:48 PM GMT

Great to hear you've got your first and are off the mark Trevor 😊 That first one generally catches me out as well 😊 but it always serves as the prompt to start carrying my camera everywhere 😊 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Matsukaze, 02-Mar-20 05:29 PM GMT

I must check that Tilshead site out – only an hour away and doubtless it has butterflies I don't usually come across locally. Thanks!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-Mar-20 07:17 AM GMT

[quote=Matsukaze post_id=150854 time=1583170173 user_id=23] I must check that Tilshead site out – only an hour away and doubtless it has butterflies I don't usually come across locally. Thanks!

Enjoy!!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-Mar-20 07:39 PM GMT

I think we could all do with a foretaste of Spring !.



Abbots Wood Spring 2017.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 07-Mar-20 08:19 PM GMT

Lovely bit of colour Trevor 😊 It can't be much longer now surely? We seem to be having 'daddy and mummy bear' weather at the moment, it's either too cold, too grey, too wet or too windy; I can't wait for some days when we have 'baby bear' weather 😊😊 Although saying that somehow I've managed to get to three species for the year 😊
Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 08-Mar-20 07:42 PM GMT

`{quote=trevor post_id=150884 time=1583437199 user_id=13654}`I think we could all do with a foretaste of Spring..

Agreed, Trevor, although spring is most definitely here in a flora perspective with daffodils, celandines and dandelions seemingly everywhere.

Good to see you off the mark. These sightings will continue to be haphazard until we finally get a calm, sunny day.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 08-Mar-20 08:13 PM GMT

Many thanks, David. Let's hope, when the weather improves that species will arrive in their various slots in the season, more or less on time, rather than early, as has been the case in recent years.

Only one Red Admiral sighting so far.
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 09-Mar-20 01:15 PM GMT

`{quote=trevor post_id=150920 time=1583694790 user_id=13654}` Many thanks, David. Let's hope, when the weather improves that species will arrive in their various slots in the season, more or less on time, rather than early, as has been the case in recent years.

Yes, Trevor. Every cloud has a silver lining, I suppose.

A fairly 'normal' season wouldn't be unwelcome.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-Mar-20 04:13 PM GMT

Lighter winds and strong sunshine this morning gave me some optimism that the old railway, which is quite sheltered, might produce the odd butterfly. It was a good hunch as I quickly spotted a basking Comma, then a worn Peacock.

My only other find was an early Bee fly. It was also a good morning for Bumble bees.

It occurred to me that should ' self isolation ' become necessary then butterflying could be a good way of avoiding contact with people, and at the same time enjoy some fresh air and the butterflies.
This assumes that we are alone in the car, and visit a remote spot as the destination.

Let's hope we all stay healthy!,
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 13-Mar-20 05:02 PM GMT

Nice to see your local patch is winding up to productivity now, Trevor! 😊

Your thoughts on "self-isolation" were running along similar lines to mine – I was out on my usual walk for an hour this afternoon and saw only one other person (an angler some distance away), but there were three Commas! I'm more concerned about not feeling well enough to go out when the sun is blazing down outside. Let's hope we can all avoid that scenario.

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 13-Mar-20 07:24 PM GMT

Well done Trevor. Largely cloudy in Essex today, but I was at work anyway. I echo your thoughts regarding self-isolation though, of course, I hope it doesn't get to that stage.

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 13-Mar-20 09:02 PM GMT

Good to see you are off the mark Trevor 😊

Nothing for me yet up here in the midlands but being stuck in work during the week doesn't help. I am seeing some reports from not far away so hopefully not long now.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 13-Mar-20 11:03 PM GMT

Funny you should mention about self isolating, I put this as my facebook status this morning:

"This year I shall mostly be self isolating in what's left of the British countryside, like I do most years"

Good to see the butterflies are finally waking up, hopefully I'll get enough sun next week to bag myself a few species 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-Mar-20 08:20 AM GMT

Many thanks for your positive replies Dave, Mark, Paul & Neil.

Believe it or not, the Comma I found yesterday was the first one of the year to be reported to the Sussex BC sightings page, I found that surprising at this stage in March!. At the moment the weather forecast for next week looks pretty good, so hopefully some Spring like weather is just around the corner.

Take care all,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 15-Mar-20 08:52 PM GMT

I was stuck teaching all day Friday Trevor so 🙄 for your brace of butterflies. also am looking forward to this self-isolation lark - I reckon almost all of my butterfly sites except Bentley Wood could count as my self isolation area 😊 I heard an expert on Radio 4 saying that 'getting out to remote areas during self isolation' was a good idea - so as far as I'm concerned that's Official Permission. 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-Mar-20 05:23 PM GMT

The very fine weather today prompted two trips out.

This morning it was the old railway where three Peacocks, a patrolling male Brimstone and an extremely battered Comma were found. If there is a competition at the end of the year for the butterfly with the most wear, I should win outright!. It was barely recognisable.

After lunch it was over to Rowland Wood, and some immaculate butterflies, here two Commas, and possibly more than two fresh looking Peacocks were seen, along with another non stop Brimstone. Obviously the hibernators are responding to the improving weather, lets hope it lasts!.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 16-Mar-20 09:26 PM GMT

Great stuff Trevor 😊 It a;ways amazes me that butterflies like that Comma can still fly even when in such a state 🤪 Saving you a few Small Torts (8 today 😊)...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-Mar-20 10:29 PM GMT

Cheers Wurzel, I've now seen four of the five hibernators.
Great to read of your haul of eight Small Torts, that's more than I saw in E.Sussex for the whole of last season!. The farm buildings at Halnaker may produce a few in the next week or two.
I have never seen butterfly in such bad condition as that Comma before.

Keep well,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Andrew555, 17-Mar-20 09:23 AM GMT

Well done Trevor. The Peacocks are lovely. 😊

Re: Trevor

by Old Wolf, 17-Mar-20 10:41 AM GMT

Hello Trevor, congrats on the lovely Peacocks. Definately a sight for sore eyes 😊

The Comma looks like it has seen better days and amazing that it can still get off the ground in that condition.

Re: Trevor

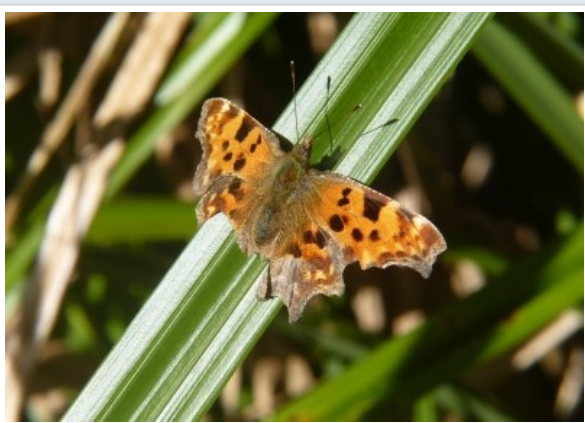
by trevor, 17-Mar-20 08:55 PM GMT

Many thanks, Andrew, Old Wolf & Wurzel.

Life is full of surprises, and one was waiting for me today.
After photographing several Commas at the old railway this morning, I had to do a double take when what I was expecting , from a distance, to be another Comma, turned out to be a Small Tortoiseshell, a most surprising find. I have visited this site every Spring for many years and this was the first Small Tort ever to be seen there by myself. I was very excited by this discovery, especially in my home town, as they have been so scarce locally in recent years.

Other sightings were of Commas, and mostly active Peacocks. No Brimstones today.

Keep safe,
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 17-Mar-20 09:39 PM GMT

Great news about the Small Tort Trevor – I'll let the Wiltshire ones know that they don't have to hang around now then 😊😄 It looks in good nick too – better than the final Comma anyway, does that one count as a whole Comma or 3/4? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 17-Mar-20 10:16 PM GMT

That's excellent, Trevor. It just shows those Torties are still hanging on down your way despite their best efforts to avoid you! Also, that ragged Comma in your previous post was amazing! I imagine it was probably invisible to any predators in that state, which may have ironically helped it survive. Let's hope it manages to start another generation. 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 17-Mar-20 11:31 PM GMT

Congratulations on the Tortoiseshell, Trevor. And there's me thinking I had them all here!

Re: Trevor

by David M, 18-Mar-20 09:15 AM GMT

Great blaze of colour there, Trevor. You've definitely packed a lot into the last few days. Love that beaten-up Comma – what a survivor!

Things are really moving now.

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 20-Mar-20 08:59 PM GMT

Hi Trevor,

Good to see that Small Tortoiseshell as I have read your previous comments about how scarce they have been down your way.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 21-Mar-20 02:05 PM GMT

Really glad you saw a Tortoiseshell Trevor, nothing much here yet, mind you I've not ventured out much lately, Spring has arrived at last Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-Mar-20 07:55 PM GMT

Many thanks everyone. That Small Tortoiseshell was a most welcome sight.

I'm off to Halnaker tomorrow, the farm there can be host to more Small Torts in late March.

Today, despite the strong easterly wind, I paid another visit to the old railway. After a false start, eventually three Peacocks, and four Commas were found. One of the peacocks provided me with my ideal Springtime image, by nectaring on wild pear blossom high up against a clear blue sky.

Keep well,
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 21-Mar-20 09:09 PM GMT

That is a quintessentially Spring image Trevor – cracking set of shots – the pinky white petals and blue sky really set off the Peacock colours 😄😄
Good luck with your Small Tort hunt tomorrow 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 22-Mar-20 07:40 PM GMT

Great stuff Trevor, lets hope you'll need two hands to count all the Small Torts you'll be seeing this year.... as long as you're allowed out!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Mar-20 08:07 PM GMT

Cheers Wurzel & Bugboy,

YES, the hoped for Small Tortoiseshells appeared at Halnaker today, with five seen. They were found on the same patch of land they use every year, in late March, after emerging from hibernation in the farm buildings. The very brisk, cool breeze may have kept numbers down, but this was a very low count compared to previous years. Also seen were two non-stop Peacocks, and a Small White which touched down just long enough for identification.

Keep well & safe,
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 22-Mar-20 08:55 PM GMT

Cracking stuff Trevor – glad you got your hoped for Small Torts 😊😊 – long may if continue and hopefully there will be more to come in later days to bolster those numbers – perhaps the cooler weather and recent low pressure systems have held them back from emerging 😊 Stay safe.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-Mar-20 08:09 PM GMT

Just the one butterfly for me today, a Comma, and it took some finding. It spent some time hopping between Celandine flowers.

Keep well,
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 23-Mar-20 09:44 PM GMT

That is a cracking light Comma Trevor – lovely markings 😊👍 Better take your camera out with you for your 'one exercise' trip per day 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 23-Mar-20 11:51 PM GMT

I just love those images of the Peacock on the blackthorn blossom, Trevor. One of the highlights of the year for sure.

Thank God we've been spared total lockdown tonight so we can all have chance to see this wonderful period in the natural calendar unfold.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 24-Mar-20 07:40 PM GMT

I went along to the old railway for my exercise this morning. Of the few people who passed by everyone politely kept a good distance, as did I. I have included an image of the tarmac path, the width of which may be judged.

It was the day of the Peacock, with a good dozen seen, including three in view at a time. Most were in superb condition, as was the only Comma seen. Any day now the first Speckled Wood should appear there, and a little later the first Orange Tip.

Exercise well, and keep safe !,
Trevor.





The wide path along the Cuckoo Trail.

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 24-Mar-20 08:10 PM GMT

Glad to see you have seen some more Small Tortoiseshells Trevor 😊

A really like photos of the Peacock against the blue sky in your earlier post too 🍷 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by Chris L, 24-Mar-20 08:39 PM GMT

Absolutely stunning photos Trevor. Thank you for sharing.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 25-Mar-20 10:00 PM GMT

Fantastic shots Trevor, it's great we can just get out for a while , I love the photo of the Peacock on the Blossom 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 25-Mar-20 10:39 PM GMT

Many thanks folks for the kind comments.

I needed a little more exercise this morning, and I was rewarded with a Small White, which unlike the first one on Sunday, settled long enough for a couple of shots.

Then as I was examining a Blackthorn for butterflies a Peacock landed just above my head and proved very difficult to photograph, at least I managed a couple of unusual shots.

Back at home a further three Peacocks were seen in the garden.

Keep well, and exercised,
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Janet Turnbull, 25-Mar-20 11:10 PM GMT

That's a lovely Small White Trevor, looks like it just emerged 😊
Janet

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Mar-20 06:52 PM GMT

I think you are right Janet, that Small White was very fresh.

A very quiet morning for butterflies today.
But I did find my first settled male Brimstone of the year. It was soon sent up by a passing cyclist, and was not seen again. Nearby was a basking Comma. The only other sighting was an out of reach Peacock.

Hope you are all well !.
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Old Wolf, 26-Mar-20 08:36 PM GMT

Hello Trevor, fantastic Peacock images.

Whilst out walking the dogs I too have noticed that people are politely keeping their distance but also that there is more eye contact as people navigate each other and people are greeting each other more because of this. An unexpected plus side of the current circumstances.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Mar-20 09:34 PM GMT

Anyone familiar with the ending of the film ' The Italian Job ' will get this joke. I found it so topical and amusing that I thought it might bring some cheer.

I'll take this post down, in a day or two.

Enjoy,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 26-Mar-20 10:04 PM GMT

Thank you Trevor - that made me chuckle, certainly. 😊

It does worry me though that though their theme song was "The Self-Preservation Society", these folk really haven't got the hang of social distancing... 😞

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 27-Mar-20 12:12 AM GMT

Thank you Trevor - I laughed a bit loudly and now I've woke the wife AND kids up - minus Brownie points for me 😊😂😂 Cracking Small White shot from before - they can be a bugger to get without bleaching 😊🇧🇪

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by ernie f, 27-Mar-20 10:05 AM GMT

Very funny "Italian Job" pic. It cheered my up a lot I can tell you.

Also, amazing underside shot of a Peacock you took recently – showing the upper markings backlit through the wings.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 27-Mar-20 09:47 PM GMT

Glad my joke was found amusing 😊.

Now back to the butterflies. Today just two Commas and four peacocks were found. I am sure the nagging cool wind kept activity down.

Keep well,
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 28-Mar-20 12:01 AM GMT

A cold wind here too, Trevor, though west-facing aspects have done quite well. Other people have been seeing Orange Tips!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-Mar-20 07:46 AM GMT

Cheers Mark,
I was confident that my exercising area would produce a Speckled Wood, and a Holly Blue this last week, but none were found, I think due to the constant very cool, sometimes cold breeze. An OT would be very welcome!.

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 28-Mar-20 11:38 AM GMT

Hi Trevor,

I think we had it a bit warmer here in my bit of the midlands on Wednesday/Thursday, there was certainly less wind. I haven't seen Speckled Wood or Holly Blue yet though although I was pleased to see my first Orange-tip and Small White on Thursday.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 28-Mar-20 08:21 PM GMT

Lovely shots Trevor 🤝👍 That nagging wind looks to be striking back with a vengeance tomorrow. Mind you if the weather does take a turn for the worst it will make Lockdown easier to deal with... 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-Mar-20 09:24 PM GMT

Thanks Neil & Wurzel.

Every day recently has been spoilt by a cool breeze/wind. Unfortunately if it's too windy for butterflies to appear, it'll be too windy and cool for exercise!

Hope we are all well and not going nuts!.
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 29-Mar-20 08:05 AM GMT

Will we see gatherings of enthusiasts like these this year?.
In normal years large gatherings are only seen when there is something special about.
In the case of these images it was the Black Hairstreak at Ditchling Common, and the annual ' same old faces ' group at Chiddingfold forest for the Purple Emperor.



Last of the Emperor's for another year. 2019.



Purple Emperor party, there's an ab on the ground.



Black Hairstreak party.

Re: Trevor

by P.J.Underwood, 29-Mar-20 05:39 PM GMT

Trevor,
Looking forward to meeting up again at P.E. time—hopefully.
Philip

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Apr-20 07:39 AM GMT

Great to hear from you Philip, a person I associate with high Summer!.
At the moment I should be able to see all the common Spring species locally.
The one treat close to home, at the end of April, is the Pearl Bordered Fritillary.
As things stand the Emperor season is a long way off, if they can get on top of this bug,
and ease restrictions, we may indeed enjoy Chiddingfold forest at the end of June.

Best wishes, and keep well,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 01-Apr-20 12:14 PM GMT

Hi! Trevor, it was April last year when I saw the Wall Brown in Kent, not this year unfortunately, my visit called off 😞 so I'm looking forward to seeing your shots of the Wall (hope fully) 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Apr-20 01:17 PM GMT

Unfortunately the Wall Brown site is at a local beauty spot, Goldie. So it may be closed.
Coupled to that, the main road leading there is closed long term for road works.

Good weather for this weekend is forecast.

Keep well,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Apr-20 08:42 PM GMT

Just two butterflies were seen today. A Small White was seen fluttering around a Blackthorn and then it disappeared high over the tree tops.
Next was a resting Comma, unfortunately with a grass blade in the way, a failed attempt to move the grass blade sent the butterfly up. One shot was obtained.

Looking forward to a warm weekend!.

Stay safe and well,
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by David M, 01-Apr-20 09:44 PM GMT

Good to see you remaining upbeat, Trevor. We mustn't let this get us down **too** much. Best to sit it out as best we can without becoming casualties ourselves.

Good luck this weekend!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-Apr-20 07:31 AM GMT

Thanks David. As well as enjoying butterflying I have other interests and activities, and every single one has either been cancelled or is no longer possible in the current circumstances. EXCEPT!, the once a day ' exercise ' session we are allowed.

Trevor.

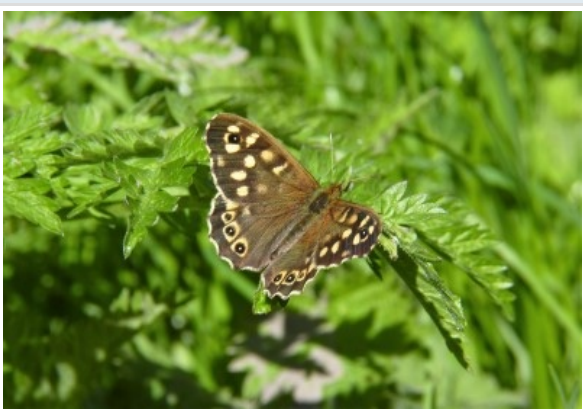
Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-Apr-20 02:06 PM GMT

This mornings exercise produced my first Speckled Wood of the year, plus another non stop Small White. Two Bee Flies also posed nicely. This was not a bad haul as the Sunshine was brief.

Plenty of exercise is on the cards for Sunday!

Keep safe and well,
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 02-Apr-20 03:13 PM GMT

Good to see a Specklie, Trevor! 🍷 Still waiting for them here... 😊 The weekend could see a lot more butterflies, fingers crossed. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 02-Apr-20 05:59 PM GMT

It's still a cracking shot of the Comma Trevor – almost an 'o-ring' 😊 Great to see the Specklie too – yet to see one yet despite straining my eyes during my daily exercise. 😊🍷

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-Apr-20 06:44 PM GMT

Cheers Dave & Wurzel. I am hoping that Sunday will produce more Specklies, and maybe a couple of other new species for the year so far.

We are overdue some warmer weather.

Keep safe and well all,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-Apr-20 06:33 PM GMT

Just two Peacocks today. The one in my image played awkward. It was quite lively and constantly flew to different branches within a Blackthorn bush. But not once did it land anywhere useful for an image. It eventually left the Blackthorn and in doing so sent up another Peacock, both of them then spiralled skyward and out of sight.

Stay healthy,
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 03-Apr-20 07:10 PM GMT

Nice Specklie Trevor 🍷😄

They have still not woken up by me yet...maybe this weekend.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 03-Apr-20 08:24 PM GMT

Peacocks can be a bit awkward at times – they do seem to be the most haughty of the 'Aristocrats' possibly because they're named after an overdressed Chicken? 😊😄 You did well to get that shot in the circumstances– hope you get some more Specklies this weekend.

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 03-Apr-20 09:02 PM GMT

Might have been 'awkward', Trevor, but it still looks mightily impressive on that blackthorn blossom which appears to be at its peak by you right now.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-Apr-20 09:51 PM GMT

Thanks all. Yes Speckled Woods are on the menu this weekend. Unfortunately the weathermen are now forecasting a strong breeze to accompany the warm weather on Sunday. Let's hope for the best.

Re: Trevor

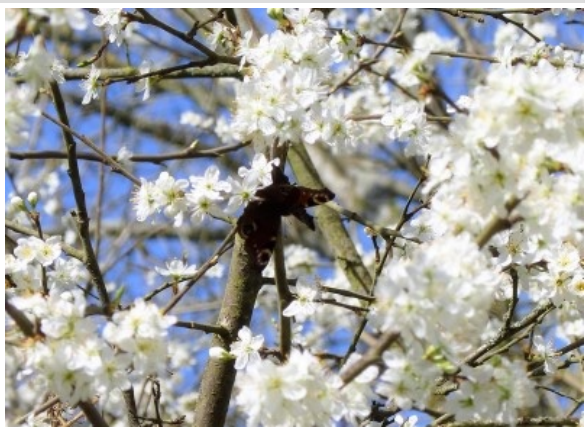
by trevor, 04-Apr-20 09:02 PM GMT

A very productive mornings exercise.
I am pleased to say that the few people I see do keep a good distance when passing each other, and very often a friendly ' good morning ' is exchanged.

Today I found five, male Speckled Woods, Five Peacocks, two Small Whites, one Large White and one Comma. Glimpses of other species included a non stop Red Admiral, and a Holly blue. A courting pair of Peacocks raised my hopes of a mating pair, but it was not to be. I have included a poor shot of their antics, which took place deep in a Blackthorn.

Keep safe and well,
Trevor.





A poor shot of the courting Peacocks.



Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 04-Apr-20 11:41 PM GMT

Congratulations on the Large White, Trevor! I suspect the first Orange Tips will be appearing down your way next week, given the forecast.

Keep well.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-Apr-20 09:04 AM GMT

Cheers Mark; I had a species rich day yesterday, but no OT yet. They are now being seen, and my local exercising site is in fine fettle to receive them.

Keep well,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 05-Apr-20 05:39 PM GMT

Great stuff Trevor – that Large White shot is a perfect one for comparative identification 😊 And Specklies – still to see one though round this way we're between a week and a week and a half behind you 🤔🤔🤔 I too have experienced plenty of 'Hello's' whilst out exercising though one bloke called out "Social Distancing? More like Anti-social Distancing!" 😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 05-Apr-20 07:45 PM GMT

Lots to like in that last post, Trevor. The Large White alongside the Small White, the early season Speckled Woods....but the most striking for me is that 'snowstorm' of blackthorn blossom. It will be at its glorious peak throughout this coming week and I hope plenty of us get to see it.

Wonderful!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-Apr-20 07:58 PM GMT

Today was one of those days that had to made the most of. So obeying government guide lines I set off for my ' local patch ' 0.75 of a mile from home. This was of course the old railway. A Comma was found within seconds of arrival, as were several Specklies. There are now enough Speckled Woods out for two long lasting Specklie duels to be seen today.

As I walked along the path I noticed a Holly Blue, a male, taking minerals from the path, it then flew onto a Celandine leaf, right next to a basking female Holly Blue. Unfortunately the female was not in a good position for a decent image, any movement on my part would have sent her up. Quite a few Peacocks were seen, and for once one posed almost perfectly on Blackthorn for me.

A great hour was spent, and another new species for this year.

Stay well all,
Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 05-Apr-20 08:33 PM GMT

Great stuff Trevor 😊 Yet to see all three of the new species that you've caught up with on your last couple of exercise trips 🤗🇹🇹 That first Holly Blue shot is a cracker – it looks almost silver like 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-Apr-20 09:25 PM GMT

Cheers Wurzel, There has been something new on every visit recently. For that site, there's the Orange Tip, and GV White still to appear then that's it. Later in the month it'll be Abbots Wood for Pearls and Green Hairstreak. After that I'll have to travel, so that could be it until restrictions are lifted.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 05-Apr-20 09:33 PM GMT

Great to see your Butterfly shots Trevor, i'm hoping some will come into the Garden, I need my car to travel to the nearest spot and the police have been stopping people, I'd be okay but for my hip (old age) but if the weather get's warmer I'll try for a walk, (It's still unsettled here weather wise) mean time keep the photo's coming. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Apr-20 09:39 AM GMT

I am lucky, Goldie, I can get to a good butterfly site without breaking any rules. The problem will come when I would normally have to travel for species I won't see locally. Hopefully restrictions will ease by high summer.

Glad you enjoy the pictures, stay well,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 06-Apr-20 06:50 PM GMT

A nice selection recently Trevor 🇹🇹😊

Looks like you did better than me with the weather, the weekend turned out rather cloudy here and today was cooler again with some showers of rain. Still, the next couple of days are looking better...but so did the weekend until it got here 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Apr-20 07:42 PM GMT

Thanks Neil, We were promised rain last night, but missed it completely. Believe it or not the garden could do with some. Today was the best so far for butterflies!

For a change I took my (completely legal) stroll in the afternoon. An early sighting was of my first Orange Tip of the year, but it was in constant

patrolling mode, so I carried on, noting many Peacocks on the way.

A large number of Speckled Woods has now built up, and on two occasions a butterfly I was trying to photograph was sent up by a Specklie. Something I will have to get used to. One of the butterflies was a male Brimstone I had seen go down in the distance, with which I later had some success. The other Specklie victim was a nicely settled Holly Blue, this was sent up just as I had the camera focused.

On leaving the site I once again encountered the Orange Tip, I was able to keep up with it as it flew along side at waist level. Then utopia!, it landed, wings wide open!, and stayed put for a good couple of minutes. I left for home fully satisfied with the bounty on offer today.

Keep safe and well,
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 06-Apr-20 07:59 PM GMT

It's great when OT's finally land and stay put for a bit - great results 🤗🌱 Photographing OT's, or trying to keep up with them at least, definitely counts as exercise 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 06-Apr-20 08:32 PM GMT

Nice Orange Tip shot, Trevor. Holly Blue looks good too; in fact, you've got practically all colours of the rainbow there and we're still in the first week of April! 😊

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 06-Apr-20 09:11 PM GMT

Congratulations on that Orange Tip, Trevor!

When we see the first Orange Tips, we know Spring has properly arrived.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-Apr-20 07:29 PM GMT

Many thanks, Wurzel, Mark & David.

Today, same place, similar time to yesterday and the whole length of the old railway was quiet. Even the Speckled Woods were hiding. Two male Brimstones and a Single male Orange Tip were patrolling without stopping and that was about it.

Peacocks were showing well, particularly around the Blackthorn. In one image two together can be seen, possibly courting. Birds flying into and out of the Blackthorn kept disturbing the Peacocks including the courting pair.

So I came home wondering how two days with similar weather can be so different.

Keep well,
Trevor.



Courting pair?.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 07-Apr-20 10:11 PM GMT

It is weird how some days are just butterfly free for no apparent reason Trevor 😊 Mind you those Peacocks on the Blackthorn are a lovely sight 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 08-Apr-20 04:03 PM GMT

[quote=trevor_post_id=151860_time=1586284192_user_id=13654]Today, same place, similar time to yesterday and the whole length of the old railway was quiet.

Even the Speckled Woods were hiding. Two male Brimstones and a Single male Orange Tip were patrolling without stopping and that was about it.

No two days are ever the same, Trevor, especially at this time of year.

I saw more butterflies at Cwm Ivy on the Gower on 22 March than I did on 7 April, even though conditions were much better on the latter date.

I think in early spring those first few days bring them all out en masse, but after a short while they begin to disperse, so while there are similar numbers around, they are less concentrated in the prime spots.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 08-Apr-20 05:42 PM GMT

Love your Peacock shots Trevor, if the weather your way was any thing like ours today you should be luckier today 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 08-Apr-20 08:48 PM GMT

Many thanks all.

Today was a little busier than yesterday, with many Holly Blue sightings. Again it was the Peacocks that stole the show, with a supporting cast of Specklies. Just one male Orange Tip was seen whilst out, but I was delighted to see one briefly in my garden around lunchtime.

Stay well everyone,

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 08-Apr-20 10:18 PM GMT

Glad you got a Brucie Bonus Trevor – an OT in the garden as an added extra to the exercise OT 😊 I'm just jealous as I don't have a garden so there will be no additional opportunities for butterflying outside the exercise hour 🍷

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-Apr-20 07:05 AM GMT

Cheers Wurzel, I managed to grab a 'panic' shot of the OT in my garden yesterday. I saw it go down, had to grab the camera from indoors, knew it would soon be gone, so I fumbled badly, anyway here is the one 'proof shot' !.....



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-Apr-20 08:01 PM GMT

With a warm day forecast I took my exercise earlier today.

Even so the Butterflies were quite active, particularly the Holly Blues.

A Peacock drew my attention as it spent ages in the undergrowth, it was observed taking up dew from the surface of a leaf.

Three patrolling Orange Tips were seen, no hope of a image there!

I will have to wait for one of those days of Sun and cloud for calmer OT's.

My luck was in however when a Male Brimstone paused on some Spanish Bluebells very near to where I was standing.

As the warmth built the Speckled Woods immediately closed their wings after landing. I called it a day when my hours exercise was about to be exceeded.

Keep well, all
Trevor.



Peacock taking moisture.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 10-Apr-20 09:05 AM GMT

I like that as a term for an OT shot Trevor – Panic Shot – is generally an apt description for me, particularly the first of the year 😊 Cracking shots of the Specklies, good to see the exercise is still going well 😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 10-Apr-20 09:34 AM GMT

Good to see you've now got Specklies & Orange Tips to charm your camera lens, Trevor, even if the latter was a rushed effort.

It's going to get cooler from Sunday, so that should give you a better chance of nailing them, especially earlier in the morning.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Apr-20 12:44 PM GMT

Thanks both, The exercising went very well this morning.

I went along to the old railway determined to photograph the Holly Blue. There is a traditional ' hotspot ' for them quite near the entrance to the footpath. As is usual in this weather they could be seen flying high up, with one or two swooping lower down, but as always some look as though they are about to land, and then disappear up into the trees again. But one individual, a fresh male, did eventually land on a Spanish Bluebell. This made for quite a nice photogenic perch, understandably in this weather he kept his wings tightly closed, but I left for home quite pleased that I had some co-operation for my efforts.

Stay safe,
Trevor.

PS. A bonus shot of a Six Spot Ladybird included.



Hide and seek!.



Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 10-Apr-20 06:17 PM GMT

Glad you got a Holly Blue Trevor, I find when they do visit my Garden it's a case of hit and run 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 10-Apr-20 06:37 PM GMT

Good work Trevor patience pays off 😊🍀 You did better than me with them as I watched several today and all did that thing of flying low, circling a bit and then promptly bu£fering off elsewhere 😊😂

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 10-Apr-20 10:12 PM GMT

A Holly Blue nectaring on a bluebell! Not seen that before.

Well done, trevor, although I find that this species tends to keep its wings closed when feeding. 😊

What you need is for one to bask on a leaf to soak up the sun.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 13-Apr-20 11:03 PM GMT

Holly Blues don't often seem to nectar much at this time of year (though they do like pink bramble flowers later on), and I've never seen one on a bluebell either! 😊

Cheers,

Davve

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-Apr-20 07:19 PM GMT

Many thanks all. No Holly Blues this morning, just an icy blast!

I went out for my exercise this morning, but it was bitter cold, with nothing seen. So I abandoned all hope of any Butterflies for the rest of the day.

That was until just after 2pm, when I saw a white Butterfly fluttering around the garden. Fortunately it landed, and was quickly identified as a female Orange Tip, my first female OT of the year in the garden!. After a few shots, I wondered whether the males might be about too. So I returned to the old railway, where five patrolling males were eventually found. A couple of these paused to either bask or nectar, as in other years the flower of choice was Herb Robert, even flowers obscured by foliage were found by the OT's, remarkable!.

The only other species seen were two Speckled Woods and a single Small White.

Not a bad haul for a very cool day,
Trevor.



Garden female OT.



Garden female OT.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 14-Apr-20 08:03 PM GMT

Good to see you got some Brucie Bonus Butterflies Trevor 😊🍷 I found the trick to today was getting out of the wind – it was quite chilly when that was blowing but step round a corner screened by trees and it was almost sunbathing weather 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 14-Apr-20 08:20 PM GMT

Hi! Trevor, looks like I copied you 😊🍷 My first Orange Tip in the Garden for a year or two and a Female:D love your Male Orange Tip photo's hope I get lucky with them 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 15-Apr-20 07:59 PM GMT

Well done, Trevor. Your hunch was correct, and no doubt the cooler conditions encouraged the OTs to pose as they did, i.e. very accommodatingly. 🍷

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-Apr-20 08:00 PM GMT

Many thanks, Wurzel, Goldie and David.

Two of this mornings images were obtained by pure luck. A large White which had been flying around for sometime suddenly landed and nectared on a Dandelion right where I was standing. The same happened again when a male Orange Tip which had been patrolling up and down, stopped for some refreshment on a Bluebell, once again I was very close by. The OT could possibly be the same one I saw yesterday, identifiable by a tiny white dot in it's forewing black spots. Speckled Woods were out in force including my first female, her behaviour singling her out from the males. No photo unfortunately. Back at home a fresh Green Veined White and a Comma dropped by in the garden this afternoon.

A good day, but more exciting times are only days away!

Good health all,
Trevor.





Garden Comma.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 15-Apr-20 08:22 PM GMT

Great 'lucky' shots Trevor 😊 I reckon that those are two different male OT- when you zoom in on the first the white spot is more like a little line yet this most recent one is a 'dot' 😊 Or it could be that I've started seeing things 😊
Looking forward to hearing about the more exciting times 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-Apr-20 08:47 PM GMT

Exciting times, Wurzel ?. It's only a half hour walk to Abbots wood, or fifteen minutes to the right spot if I drive part way. On the down side it looks as though I will miss Cotley Hill, and Tilshead later on in May, unless there is a miracle.

Keep well,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 15-Apr-20 09:10 PM GMT

It's good when luck plays a part, Trevor. That's a great shot of a tricky butterfly in the spring. 😊 I watched a Large White today do exactly what you described and plummet down to a dandelion, the only problem being that I was too far away to get there before it had finished.

I am anticipating a considerable amount of 🍷 any time now, when you take your first stroll over to Abbots Wood. There will be a few things there it would probably take me all week to walk to from here. 😊 Can't be long now... 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-Apr-20 09:25 PM GMT

Cheers Dave,

Had I been further away from that Large White, I would have missed it.
That's where the luck came in.

My earliest PBF sighting was 18th April 2017, when two were seen.

Still no accommodating Holly Blues for me so far!

Stay well,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 15-Apr-20 10:44 PM GMT

Ah exciting times indeed Trevor 😊 I'm scheduled to work the end of next week (currently on Easter Holidays although you wouldn't know it 😞) so I will have to take the long way home via Bentley Wood so that I can do my exercise 😊 They're talking about a phased end to Lock Down possibly starting as early as 7th May 😊 although this is from the Daily Mail so the veracity needs to be considered, but maybe we still might get the summer specialities and fewer people will suffer - we can but hope 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-Apr-20 07:27 AM GMT

I hope you're right, Wurzel. We all have to travel for certain species.
The likes of Adonis Blue, Small Blue, Dukes, Wood Whites and of course ' His Majesty ', all require a car journey, as none of them are found locally around here.

Good luck for your return to work,
Trevor.

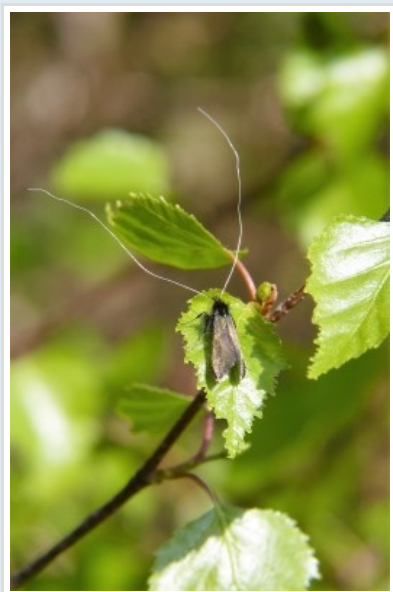
Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-Apr-20 04:28 PM GMT

For a change this morning I had a wander over to Abbots Wood, and arrived about the same time as the cloud. The whole place was very quiet, except for a whole host of ' small black flies '. Then I remembered that I was standing in an area where Green Longhorn moths regularly gather each Spring. Sure enough that's what the ' black flies ' were. Once a few had settled I remembered marvelling at the gold coloured iridescence and the ultra long antennae from previous year's visits.

Although these little moths don't stay still for very long I did manage to grab a few shots before they suddenly disappeared into the high canopy of a tall Birch.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 16-Apr-20 10:39 PM GMT

They're great Moths Trevor 😊 Are they the same species that share their name with one of my favourite bands (Metallica)? 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 17-Apr-20 12:37 PM GMT

You know you're halfway through spring when those Longhorn moths emerge, Trevor. 😊

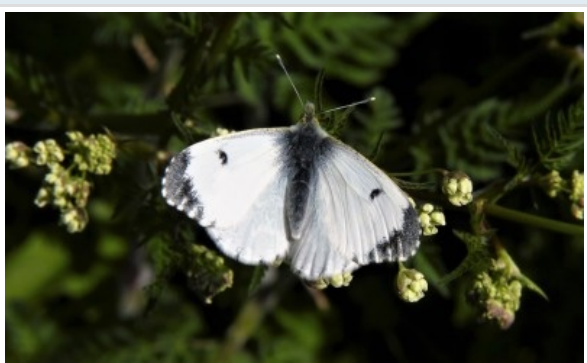
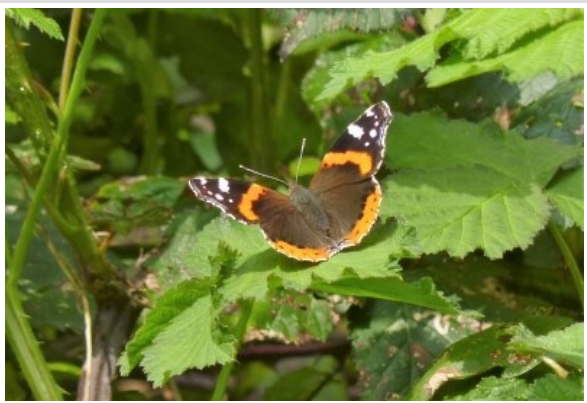
Well done with the Large White. I can't get within 20 feet of the blighters this year. 😞

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-Apr-20 09:23 PM GMT

My post for today was wiped when I pressed submit, so I will only post today's images.

Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by trevor, 19-Apr-20 03:42 PM GMT

Unlike yesterday a huge number of 'Whites' were present today along the old railway. All were very fresh indeed suggesting there been a mass emergence since Saturday. Whether they were Large, Small or Green Veined, obtaining images was not difficult.

Female Orange Tips outnumbered males today, and each one sent aspiring suitors packing in no uncertain terms. One female spent some time inspecting one of the few clumps of Garlic Mustard growing along the line, but no eggs were deposited. One male OT had a deformed right hand forewing affecting his flight, but that didn't stop him from trying his luck, but again she raised her abdomen, and he flew off.

A very rewarding hour!,
Stay well everyone!.

Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 19-Apr-20 04:11 PM GMT

Nice shot of the GWV Trevor 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 19-Apr-20 05:55 PM GMT

Cracking shot of the Large White Trevor 🍷 – still not seen one this year although like yourself I noticed the Whites were out in force today 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 19-Apr-20 08:35 PM GMT

[quote=trevor_post_id=152451_time=1587307358_user_id=13654]...Whether they were Large, Small or Green Veined, obtaining images was not difficult

You must share your secret, trevor, as these species have been highly frustrating for me so far this year. 🍷

You've done justice to them all, I have to say.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-Apr-20 08:58 PM GMT

Many thanks, Pauline, Wurzel & David. More ' Whites ' today.

I had an interesting hour at the old railway this morning, arriving just after 10.00. At this time of year the sun is just clearing the tree tops at that time, with most of the path still in shade. There is one spot where the sun has had a chance to warm things up, so I made for there first, a good move as I was rewarded with a male Holly Blue, a male Orange Tip and a Large White. All three Whites were seen, as well as four Red Admirals. but no Commas or Peacocks have been seen now for several visits.

Keep safe and well,
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 21-Apr-20 09:00 AM GMT

Some lovely shots of the Butterflies Trevor and such a Variety your seeing, lets hope this weather keeps going 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 21-Apr-20 04:03 PM GMT

Still not seen a Large White Trevor 🍷 Mind you got Dingy, Grizzlie and Greenstreaks so can't complain too much 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-Apr-20 05:38 PM GMT

Cheers, Goldie & Wurzel.

Well done, Wurzel on your Green Hairsreak and Grizzled/ Dingy Skippers.
I have yet to find any of those, but I did find something else today !.

Stay safe and well, both,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 21-Apr-20 06:26 PM GMT

Does this mean that I need to try and get to Bentley Wood next week some time 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-Apr-20 08:35 PM GMT

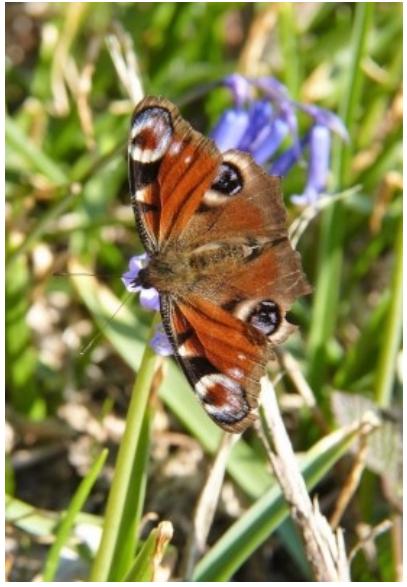
It certainly does Wurzel!.

For a change I took my exercise in Abbots Wood this morning, I arrived just after 9.00. All was very quiet initially, until I spotted a distant Butterfly land on a Bluebell, from where I was standing it was impossible to tell what it was, but closer inspection revealed a Peacock. After several shots my eye was distracted in another direction by a low, fast flying Butterfly which was almost certainly a Pearl Bordered Fritillary. Half an hour passed before I had a definite PBF sighting, and this one was soaking up the sun near the path. I crept up as close as I dare, taking care not to cast a shadow, and managed several shots. By now the strong sunshine prompted more PBF to become active, and several chases were taking place, but luckily for me some landed to bask and a few more shots were bagged. I would estimate that a good dozen Pearls were seen today. Only four days ago in similar weather, but with no wind, none were seen at all.

A very enjoyable hour (or two).

Stay well all,
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 21-Apr-20 09:00 PM GMT

Nicely done Trevor. It's safe to say this is another species I will be taking a rain check on seeing this year but at least I know they're about down there so next years batch should be in safe hands/wings 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-Apr-20 09:16 PM GMT

Cheers Paul, I'm afraid if this lockdown continues there are many species I will not see this year. Once the Spring regulars are over things will get very difficult. Same for all of us I suppose.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 22-Apr-20 05:54 PM GMT

A cracking find and set of photos Trevor 😊👍 I've got to work on Monday so I might be able to 'get lost' on the way home and find myself at Bentley Wood 😊😄

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 22-Apr-20 10:22 PM GMT

Lovely to see the PBF, Trevor. I doubt I shall see them this year either, but please have another walk over there and post a few more – they look splendid! 🍷😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by David M, 23-Apr-20 01:51 PM GMT

Fabulous, Trevor. So nice to see. Unless we have some restrictions lifted in early May, I'll be struggling to see this species in 2020 in the same way I'll have difficulty seeing Dukes.

They usually last about 4 weeks so around 20 May is the cut off, so keep posting them whenever you see any – it'll certainly cheer me up. 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-Apr-20 02:59 PM GMT

Cheers Wurzel, Dave & David.

I will visit Abbots wood in the coming days to see the PBF.

At the moment I am waiting for numbers to build, and for some more suitable weather. We need it cooler, with some sun and cloud and a nice early start for best images. From what I saw the other day, it looks very promising for the local PBF's this year.

Stay well, all,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-Apr-20 03:17 PM GMT

It's always nice when they come to me..... 😊
A Small White resting on one of my Acer trees this afternoon.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 23-Apr-20 07:13 PM GMT

Those are the best butterflies Trevor – the 'freebies' 😊😂 Still envious of the Pearls 🌍 can I wait until Monday hmmm 😊😂

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 23-Apr-20 10:24 PM GMT

Fantastic shots of the Pearls Trevor, the Sun has certainly helped bring the Butterflies out, 😊 keep the shots coming i'll be missing quite a few species this year. Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 23-Apr-20 11:24 PM GMT

Trevor, you're very lucky to have a site such as Abbots Wood on your doorstep like that. Unless restrictions are eased a little, I will miss many of the spring specialists this year. Spring Skippers, Dukes, Green Hairstreaks, Adonis Blues, the lot. Not to mention the spring orchids! Suppose we should concentrate on what we do see, rather than what we don't. But it is tough...

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 24-Apr-20 08:41 AM GMT

Very nice Pearls Trevor 🌍 😊

[quote=essexbuzzard post_id=152658 time=1587680652 user_id=11426] Trevor, you're very lucky to have a site such as Abbots Wood on your doorstep like that. Unless restrictions are eased a little, I will miss many of the spring specialists this year. Spring Skippers, Dukes, Green Hairstreaks, Adonis Blues, the lot. Not to mention the spring orchids! Suppose we should concentrate on what we do see, rather than what we don't. But it is tough...

Indeed! Up until now I have not really missed travelling further but it has now reached the time I will be missing things.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 24-Apr-20 06:35 PM GMT

Many thanks, Wurzel. Goldie, Mark & Neil,

It is an unfortunate fact that none of us will have all, or even most, UK species close to home. Travelling has always been essential to our hobby, whether (for me) 8 miles for Wall Browns or

54 miles for Purple Emperor.

Of course if distance travel is eased we could enjoy more species, and social distancing has nearly always been practiced by us when we're out at a remote spot anyway!

More Pearls to come.
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 24-Apr-20 07:41 PM GMT

"Of course if distance travel is eased we could enjoy more species, and social distancing has nearly always been practiced by us when we're out at a remote spot anyway!" fingers crossed we'll be in a position to safely do this Trevor 😊, it would be nice to see Lulworths this year and I was even going to try for Black Hairstreak 😊

Anyway on a brighter note – looking forward to your Pearls 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 24-Apr-20 10:04 PM GMT

Cheers, Wurzel, here are today's Pearls.

As I walked through Abbots wood this morning there was a distinct nip in the air. So I had to be patient and wait for some warmth to build. My first Pearl Bordered Fritillary was found basking on a bramble leaf, and although it was still chilly this Butterfly was still capable of rapid flight.

As the warmth built so did the number of PBF, including two males sharing a single Bugle flower. The next good find was the first female, she was much more placid than the males, allowing me many shots including some of the underside.

With a camera full of images, it soon becomes clear that any extra time spent on site is not going to produce many more shots, as things were getting too lively in the building heat. On the way out of the woods a lovely, female, Large White nectared on a Dandelion.

A very enjoyable hour and a bit !

Stay well all,
Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 24-Apr-20 10:28 PM GMT

More lovely shots, Trevor. Just shows what can be achieved by an early start. 🍷

Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 25-Apr-20 11:16 AM GMT

You and I are very lucky Trevor to be so close to some of the less common species. Thanks to Neil and others I have 2 lots of PBF in different directions but both are about a 20 – 25 min drive and I think that would probably be pushing it a bit. Some nice shots there 😊

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 25-Apr-20 02:31 PM GMT

Splendid PBF, Trevor. 🍷 🍷 Well worth getting there early for those great shots. I imagine that by midday they would have been manic! I hope your exercise regime will include further strolls in Abbots Wood... 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 25-Apr-20 02:33 PM GMT

Thanks, Mark, Pauline & Dave. The PBF are either 1 or 3 miles from my front door, depending on which access to the woods I use. Today I went to a different area that has been managed for PBF for the first time this year. Hope you enjoy today's shots.



Female.



Saw this one twice today. See below.



A very pale coloured specimen, with white at the base of hindwings.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 25-Apr-20 10:14 PM GMT

Even more cracking Pearls Trevor – the first of the latest batch looks really well marked – enough for a 'melanistic' or ab? 😊🇬🇧😄 Keep 'em coming 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 26-Apr-20 08:39 AM GMT

Very nice, Trevor. You're lucky to have them so close to your home (my nearest colony is 60 miles away) 😞

Usually, I see plenty abroad but I doubt we'll be allowed to travel before their season is over. Shame really, and it reinforces just how fragmented the populations of certain species are in this country.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Apr-20 03:55 PM GMT

Thanks, Wurzel & David,

Yes, David PBF populations are fragmented, they don't seem to disperse very far, if at all. If their habitat becomes unsuitable they die out rather than move on, or so it would seem. Luckily the two sites near me are well cared for.

This morning I watched two female Brimstones on an egg laying mission. Once I realised what they were up to, and had got my eye in, I found an egg on the underside of every Alder Buckthorn leaf they visited, the depositing of an egg is a very quick process, with the Butterfly hardly pausing at all.

Trevor.

PS Plenty more to come.....



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Apr-20 07:27 PM GMT

Also today I found two new species for this season.

The hoped for Green Hairstreak did not appear, but a Grizzled Skipper, and a Dingy Skipper were adequate compensation. However the images obtained come under the ' must do better ' category. A couple of frisky Peacocks added the the variety today.

Trevor.

More to come..



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 26-Apr-20 09:13 PM GMT

Good to see the two skippers, Trevor – more species I am highly likely to miss this year unfortunately. The Grizzlie seems to have a slight touch of the *taras* about it too! 😊🍷

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Apr-20 09:17 PM GMT

And finally for today, The Pearl Bordered Fritillaries from this morning.

Enjoy,
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 26-Apr-20 09:27 PM GMT

Very nice again, Trevor. That last one definitely seems to have had a bit of extra black ink spilt on it – distinctly darher than average. 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Apr-20 10:04 PM GMT

I thought the hind wings had a touch of Art Nouveau about them Dave.

Re: Trevor

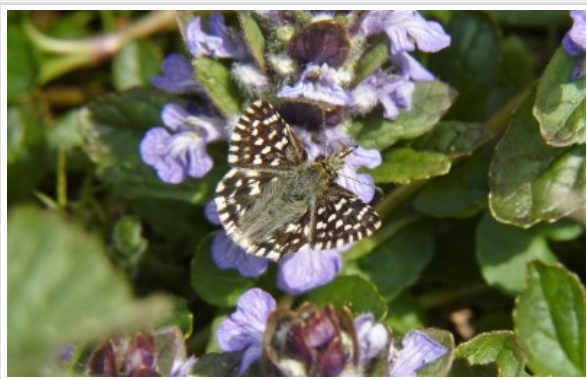
by trevor, 27-Apr-20 07:20 PM GMT

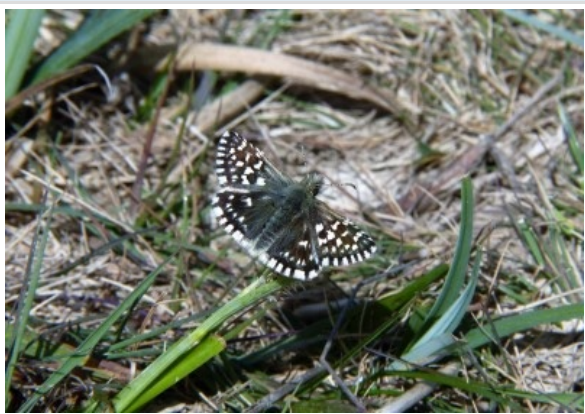
One of the access points into Abbots Wood crosses a large clear felled area. I have often crossed this area into the Woods but never explored it. In my search for Green Hairstreaks I thought that the periphery of the area might be a good area to search.

That was until I quickly found a Grizzled Skipper, and then another. Suddenly my quest was diverted into a Grizzly hunt, over the huge area I eventually found about ten.

On the way back to the road I spotted the unmistakable flight of a Green Hairstreak, but had much trouble waiting for it to settle for a few images. It soon became obvious that it had a torn wing, but to me this didn't matter as it was my first one of this year, so I convinced myself that the tear added character to the Butterfly!

That might be it for a few days, as rain is forecast.
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 27-Apr-20 08:55 PM GMT

Great sets of shots Trevor 😊 I had one day off from UKB and you wen 'post happy' 😊 mind you with those species seen and photographed no-one can blame you 😊 Interesting Grizzlie your first one...if it's not a ab.taras then it could be an ab.intermediata 🍷

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 27-Apr-20 09:01 PM GMT

Lovely shots of the Grizzlies, Trevor – they are really fresh at the moment and look perfectly splendid. Worth at least 🍷🍷 and probably more! 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by David M, 28-Apr-20 08:02 PM GMT

Well done with the two 'G's', Trevor. Yes, the weather has finally called time but we need the rain, and in all honesty whilst we remain in lockdown it may as well go bleak for a short while so as to hold things back for better times.....which I hope will arrive soon. 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-May-20 10:10 AM GMT

I will be offline for a while, my laptop is not charging.
So how long before I can get it repaired, who knows!

Here's one from yesterday.

Hopefully back soon.
Trevor.

**Re: Trevor**

by Maximus, 01-May-20 01:13 PM GMT

Very nice to see those Pearls, Trevor, and the Grizzlies, those are two that I will miss out on this year, as will others on this forum 😞 At least we can enjoy them through your lovely photos 🍷 😊

All the best,

Mike.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 01-May-20 07:45 PM GMT

Cracking Large White Trevor 😊 I hope you can get your laptop sorted 😊 Mine hasn't taken charge now for almost 18 months – I just use it plugged in 😞

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-May-20 10:37 PM GMT

Cheers Mike and Wurzel.

With a laptop about to run out of power, I occupied myself with a few chores.
I had a model locomotive to repair. While searching for my miniature screwdrivers,
I came across an old charger, what it was for I can't remember, but the plug fitted
the computer, I switched it on expecting nothing or a loud bang!
But it worked, and charges up very slowly, so all seems OK for now.

Hopefully the power problem was a temporary blip,

Stay well everyone,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 02-May-20 08:42 PM GMT

Good to see your problems seem to have been fixed, Trevor. 😊

Love the Large White....and the Grizzlies. 🍷

Re: Trevor

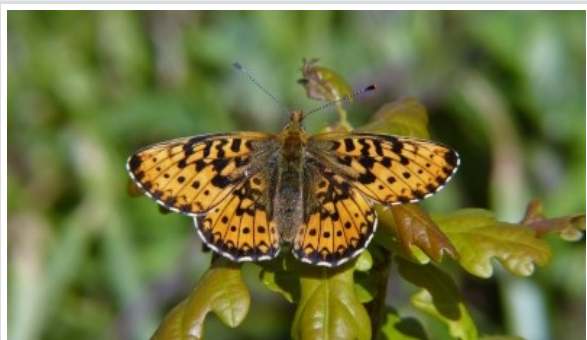
by trevor, 02-May-20 08:43 PM GMT

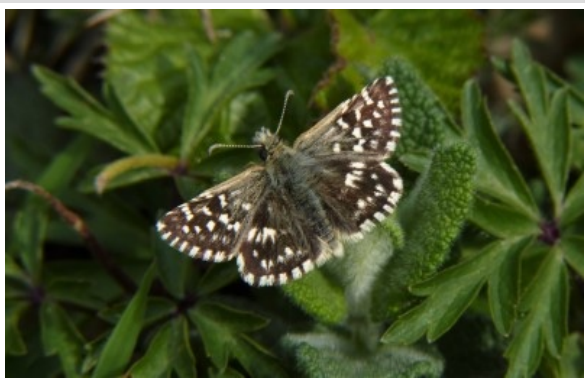
This morning I reaped the rewards of an early start, over in Abbots wood. The Sun had yet to win over the cool breeze, and the few PBF flying were making frequent stops to bask. Higher up the slope it was even cooler, and just right for some very approachable Pearls. Two females modelled for my lens, and even closed up several times as well as basking with wings fully open.

The Green Hairstreak was on the menu as well, having failed to find them in previous visits to one of their hotspots, and with patience two were seen.

Happy with my haul I headed for home, only to find a Grizzled Skipper near the road.

An excellent morning,
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 02-May-20 11:20 PM GMT

Pearls, Green Hairstreaks and a Grizzled skipper - you've hit the jackpot there Trevor. 🍀 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-May-20 07:38 AM GMT

Many thanks, Katrina. Unlike life at the moment, everything was perfect yesterday morning, ie. weather, photo opps and locating the Green Hairstreaks.

Stay safe and well,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 03-May-20 06:30 PM GMT

Glad you're back online 😊 That's a fantastic looking Pearl ab. Trevor beautiful 🤩👍 It's great when things turn up at the end of a trip like your Grizzlie – leaves heading for home even more chuffed 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 03-May-20 07:18 PM GMT

Great shots Trevor, I'm green about your Grizzlies 🤩👍👍 looks like I'll have to wait for next year 😞 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 04-May-20 06:33 AM GMT

Very nice, Trevor – an ab. from Abbots. Green Hairstreaks and Grizzlies make up an enviable triumvirate.

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 04-May-20 09:58 AM GMT

Hi Trevor,

Looks like you are mopping up on the species I will be missing this year 🤩👍👍👍

That female Pearl is a striking individual with lovely extra dark markings around the fringes of all wings 🤩 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 04-May-20 07:23 PM GMT

Many thanks everyone, sharing our hard won images helps to remind us of better times.

Today was slower going, with more cloud than Sun.

This did mean that the few Pearls that were found were quite easy targets for the camera. The cloud also helped to calm down the Dingy Skippers, and a very fine Green Veined White. A surprise came in the form of a Red Admiral nectaring on Bluebells, a particularly feisty specimen that would not keep still, and eventually flew off at high speed.

Escapes today were a very fresh Small Copper, and a Grizzled Skipper, but a fairly docile Green Hairstreak made up for those!.

Keep well exercised, and healthy!
Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 04-May-20 07:28 PM GMT

Very jealous of your local species there Trevor but after a little walk on my local patch today, perhaps not quite as much as I was yesterday 😊 That final CVW is a bit special though 🍷

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 04-May-20 08:22 PM GMT

Continuing multiple 🍷 for the PBF images, Trevor, especially that beautiful-marked female from the earlier post. And the Dingy and Hairstreaks as well

of course... 😊 Keep going back – there's more good weather on the way... 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 04-May-20 08:27 PM GMT

Another cracking collection Trevor eve with the escapees missing 😊😊 I love the pose the Green-veined White is holding, with one of its legs tentatively raised 😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 05-May-20 09:20 AM GMT

Love the Green Hair Streaks Trevor, I'll probably miss them for yet another year 😊 Keep the shots coming 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 05-May-20 08:48 PM GMT

Oh, I just love that last image of the Green Veined White, Trevor. Maybe during these times of confinement I'm more frustrated than usual regarding my inability to locate one posing so well like that.

Nice to see the Pearls again. I'm eagerly anticipating the government announcement this coming Thursday regarding any concessions on travel. If there are none then I will miss out on this species in 2020, as they will be gone by the late May Bank Holiday. 😞

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 05-May-20 10:16 PM GMT

Glorious set of PBF images there, Trevor. Those early starts have paid dividends! 🍷

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-May-20 06:09 AM GMT

Many thanks everyone for the comments and appreciation.

That Green veined White was easy, not only was it very fresh, but it was very cool/cold where I found it, and so was the Butterfly.
As for PBF, very early morning is best, or just before roosting time, given ideal weather.

Another early start today, will it bear fruit?

Enjoy the next couple of days, you won't enjoy the Arctic blast on Sun/Mon.
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 06-May-20 09:07 AM GMT

Another great set of photos Trevor but my favourite is the Dingy Skipper on the wood. There is something just 'right' about the complimentary colours in that shot 🍷 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 06-May-20 04:10 PM GMT

I'm with Neil on this one Trevor (well, you only have to look at his moth compositions and backgrounds to see that he knows what he's talking about 😊). Anyway, this is about you and that is a great Dingy shot. They were a source of great frustration to me today – well, actually, it wasn't the butterflies, it was the people!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-May-20 07:55 PM GMT

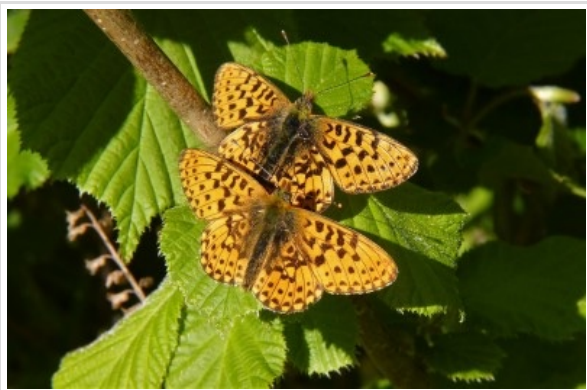
Many thanks Neil & Pauline. I was pleased with that Dingy for different reasons, it was one of only a few seen this year, and the only one to pose nicely so far.

Fortunately I woke up just after 5 this morning, so there was plenty of time before I needed to set off for Abbots wood. On arrival some Pearls were already flying, but in areas that had been in shade a few were found warming up on the ground and on foliage. The most remarkable find was a pair of Pearls basking together. Finding fresh PBF is now becoming more difficult, but most are in good condition.

I also had an appointment with the Green one, these are found in a secluded corner of the main PBF site. I found a definite three, but by now it was warming up and GH were lively and I missed far more shots than I obtained.

It was now after 10.00 and time to leave, but not before another, rather worn Grizzled Skipper appeared from nowhere!.

Stay well all,
Trevor.



PBF Don't do social distancing !.





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 07-May-20 08:36 AM GMT

Hi Trevor, Lovely shots of the Pearl's but I'd love your G Skipper worn or not 🤔🤔🤔 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 07-May-20 05:55 PM GMT

More lovely Pearls Trevor 😊 The Grizzlies don;t look good fr long do they 😊 too busy being little balls of rage 😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

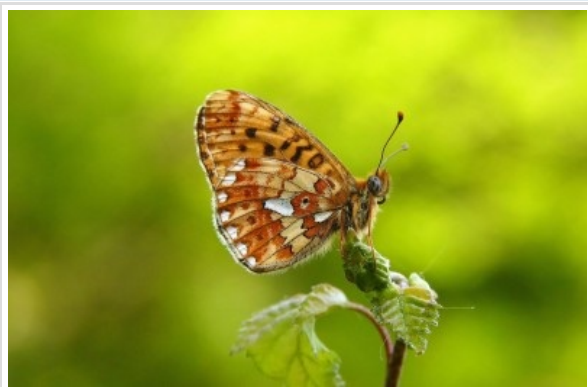
Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-May-20 08:03 PM GMT

Thanks Goldie & Wurzel.

My early morning Butterfly expeditions were rewarded in style this morning.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 07-May-20 09:05 PM GMT

Well worth getting up for, Trevor! 😊 It pays to be out there as soon as you can, and I seem to have started to wake up early too, especially with all these sunny mornings. It's a bonus – and all that sunlight must be good for you and your vitamin D levels.

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 07-May-20 09:09 PM GMT

You're certainly making the most of your local spots Trevor 🍷

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-May-20 09:38 PM GMT

Cheers Dave & Paul, Opportunities like that don't come along very often.

The rest of the morning was quite rewarding too. Not many PBF were around it was just too chilly, but that did not stop a very fresh Grizzled Skipper from making the most of what warmth was available.

I also found the first of many Small Heaths quite early on, and a few Dingy Skippers. A very obvious Crab Spider was waiting on top a Bugle flower spike for it's next victim, with Butterflies very much on the menu.

It was now time to leave for my own breakfast.
Trevor.





Small Heath with hitch hiker!





Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 08-May-20 06:40 PM GMT

Nice Grizzled Skipper Trevor – I haven't seen one yet this year 😞

PS. Don't forget a bowl of water in this hot weather 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 08-May-20 08:15 PM GMT

Cracking set of shots Trevor 😊 Loving the Grizzlie – looks good for an ab.intermedia (or some such; the perils of a Westcountry dialect and Latin mixing 😊😊😊🇬🇧) In other news I saw a report today of Marshies at Tilshead Down so something to look at for either this year if Lockdown is eased or something to bear in mind for 2021 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 08-May-20 09:43 PM GMT

Nice continuation, Trevor. The Grizzled Skipper is a beauty, although I cannot say the same for the crab spider. I know nature should be left alone to do its own thing but the sneaky way they operate is somewhat distasteful to me.

Re: Trevor

by Janet Turnbull, 08-May-20 10:51 PM GMT

I've just been catching up on your diary, Trevor, and I wouldn't have enough space for all the Mr Greens! Grizzlies are something special and your photos are superb. I didn't see one last year and it doesn't look like I will this year either, so it's good to see yours. Thank you – keep them coming!
– Janet

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-May-20 08:03 PM GMT

Many thanks everyone. With compliments like those, Janet, you may call again! 😊

Today is my Birthday, and Boris sent me a present, in the form of unlimited car travel. I can now visit sites outside of my local area for species not found around here. I have been to Park Corner Heath recently, which I clocked at 6.7 miles from home.

Let's hope the virus continues to decline before the Emperor season starts, we don't want total lockdown again.

Keep well everyone,
Trevor.

PS. A present to myself, my favourite PBF image from this year.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 11-May-20 08:11 PM GMT

Many happy returns Trevor 😊 – looks like you had 'happy returns to butterflyng proper' too 😊 Looks like "the Hill is Alive..." again 😊😂

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 12-May-20 08:06 PM GMT

`{quote=trevor_post_id=153452_time=1589223794_user_id=13654}` Many thanks everyone. With complements like those, Janet, you may call again! 😊

Today is my Birthday, and Boris sent me a present, in the form of unlimited car travel. I can now visit sites outside of my local area for species not found around here. I have been to Park Corner Heath recently, which I clocked at 6.7 miles from home.

Let's hope the virus continues to decline before the Emperor season starts, we don't want total lockdown again.

Keep well everyone,
Trevor.

PS. A present to myself, my favourite PBF image from this year.

Hear, hear, Trevor.

If we can salvage something out of Emperor season, that'll be a welcome bonus.

Many happy returns. 😊

Re: Trevor

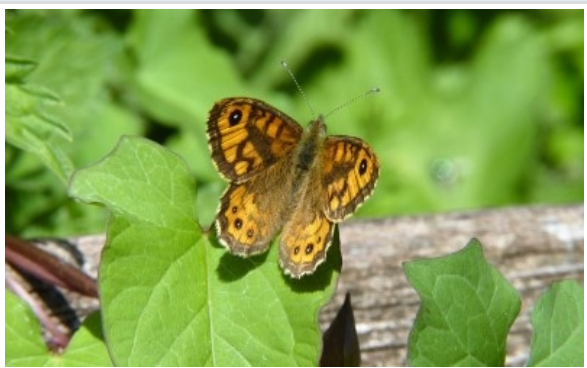
by trevor, 12-May-20 08:44 PM GMT

This morning I went up to High and Over, at 9.8 miles this was my longest car journey since the lockdown. The car park was closed but the layby across the road was not.

The Wall Browns were lively, despite the light breeze and temperature of only 9c. Four were found on or near the steps, and in the meadow. All were fairly worn. The best specimen defended a territory around one of wooden seats.

The Walls were a new species for the year, and so were some very fresh, male Common Blues. Fortunately, as the cloud built, the Common Blues landed and rested with wings closed, allowing plenty of time for closed wing shots. But patience was required for the Sun to return, when it did return I had to be quick to capture the exquisite fresh blue as they opened up.

A great, rewarding morning.
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 12-May-20 08:57 PM GMT

Good to hear the Walls up at High & Over are in fine fettle, Trevor. 😊 Hopefully I shall be able to visit them at some point soon as well...

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-May-20 07:13 PM GMT

Make it soon Dave, they're getting past their best.

Very few Pearls flying this morning, but one very fresh Small Pearl scooted past me, but was swept out of view by a gust of wind.

Stay well everyone,
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 13-May-20 08:50 PM GMT

Even when they're getting on a bit the Pearls still look lush Trevor 😊 Double figures of Marshies reported form The Hill yesterday...it's all kicking off! 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-May-20 09:15 PM GMT

Cheers, Wurzel. I've been watching the Wilts. BC sightings page. The Larkhill circular, what ever that is, turned up Marshies and Dukes. And Cheverell Hill (near my Daughter) has Marsh Frits, but does not look very easy to get to. I will have to miss out this year, can't stay over, or a day trip of 270 miles.

Never mind, stay well,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-May-20 08:16 PM GMT

When I was commenting on essex buzzard's diary this morning, it occurred to me that if I was to see a Duke of Burgundy this year, then I had better be quick. So I drove over to Kithurst flower meadow, enjoying the bright sunshine on the way. On arrival it was breezy and only 9c, and worse I soon acquired my own personal cloud, or so it seemed. The sunny breaks soon encouraged a few butterflies to show. The first was one of quite a few, fresh, Grizzled Skippers seen throughout the morning, and a couple of Dingy Skippers appeared at about the same time. The first of four Dukes seen only appeared when some warmth had built up. To me the butterfly of the day was a fresh, very obliging Green Hairstreak, one of the best

specimens I've ever seen. By now the cloud cover was almost complete, so back to the car.

Stay safe, all,
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 14-May-20 08:44 PM GMT

Well done, Trevor. You've got the same species as me there! Lovely pictures.

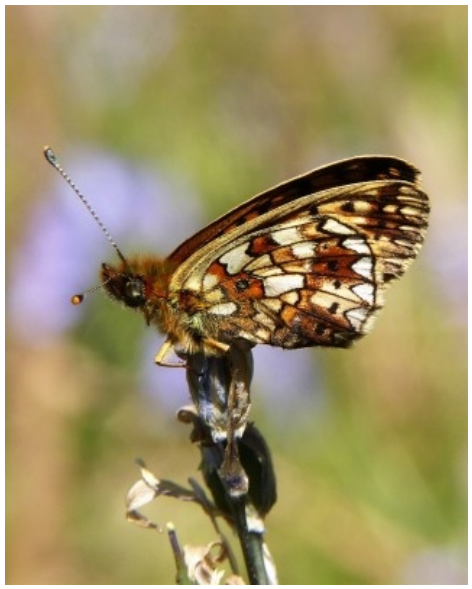
I was going to warn you to be quick!

Isn't it great to get out and about again?

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-May-20 06:21 PM GMT

An early start this morning to look for Small Pearl Bordered Fritillaries. About six, allowing for multiple sightings of one individual, were found, one of which was newly emerged.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 16-May-20 11:16 AM GMT

Glad you got a Duke or four Trevor 😊😄 Great work with the Small Pearls as well – I managed to find a couple yesterday at Bentley Wood which is a relief as last year I was worried that they could be extinct at this site but they were nowhere near as obliging as yours 😊🌿

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-May-20 08:18 PM GMT

Cheers, Wurzel. I'm pleased to say that the local SPBF seem to be thriving.

And that's where I spent a few hours this morning, arriving at just after 7am. The weather was for once ideal, and it was not difficult to find a few Small Pearls soaking up the early morning rays of sunshine.

It was more difficult to locate any still at roost. The area that catches the last of the evening sun, is also the last to receive it in the mornings, thus the SPBF that chose to settle down where the sun is casting shade for longer, were still fast asleep. The undoubted highlight of the morning was a stunning, fresh, beautifully marked female SPBF.

Just one Brimstone was seen nectaring on some, still fresh, Bluebells.

Stay well all,
Trevor.



Find of the morning, a beautiful female.







Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 17-May-20 08:30 PM GMT

Glad to see they're still there Trevor 😊. Any other year I might have bumped into you today but if they have a good spring maybe a few will come out for a second brood and I'll be able to pop down your way for a day out of London 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 17-May-20 08:40 PM GMT

Cracking shots Trevor 😊👍 Looks like I need to call in at Bentley again 😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-May-20 09:09 PM GMT

Thanks Paul & Wurzel.

I was speaking with the guy who raised the SPBF that provided the stock for the re-introduction several years ago.

I asked him if they had been 'topped up' this year, the answer was no. So all SPBF on the site are the natural offspring from 2019 broods.

I have to say it's looking good for the future, including the condition of the site(s).

Happy day's,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Neil Hulme, 17-May-20 09:27 PM GMT

Hi Trevor

The SPBF reintroduction at the BC reserves was achieved with a 'single shot' of 69 final instar larvae and 85 adults in spring 2017; there have been no subsequent releases of either larvae or adults.

The species double-brooded that first year, and every season since, so those currently flying are the sixth generation since the release occurred.

I was joined by three others today (including Gary Norman of the captive-breeding team) to conduct a systematic survey of both reserves. There are currently a minimum of 9 SPBF flying in Rowland Wood and 21 on Park Corner Heath. It is still very early in the flight season and Rowland Wood (which starts later than PCH) should be in full flow by later this week.

The first SPBF emerged here on 6 May, much earlier than usual. A second brood (partial, but strong) should emerge mid/third week July.

Shame I missed you today.

BWs, Neil

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 17-May-20 10:17 PM GMT

That's a terrific selection of SPBF shots, Trevor. 😊 I might venture that way sometime soon, though I can't see myself being there by 7am to see them!

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by David M, 18-May-20 12:37 PM GMT

Great sequence, Trevor. Definitely worth the early start!

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 18-May-20 06:51 PM GMT

Lovely sequence of Small Pearls Trevor 🍷 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-May-20 08:11 PM GMT

Thanks everyone. I'm pleased that my recent posts have been enjoyed.

More Small Pearls later.

But a first for me this season, a co-operative female Holly Blue.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-May-20 08:17 PM GMT

Going off topic, can anyone identify this Spider?. I can honestly say I've never seen this species before.

Thanks in anticipation.

Trevor,



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 18-May-20 09:08 PM GMT

Can't help you with the spider, Trevor, but I'm pleased you found a cooperative female Holly Blue. 😊 I think the females once they get into egg-laying mode tend to be more accessible and approachable.

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 18-May-20 09:49 PM GMT

The Jumping Spider *Marpissa muscosa* looks like a pretty good match for your spider Trevor 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-May-20 11:02 PM GMT

Thanks, Paul. Are they common?, a new one for me.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-May-20 11:14 PM GMT

Dave, that female Holly Blue was showing great interest in an Alder Buckthorn, but as far as I could see no eggs were deposited.

And now for today's SPBF, including a female hiding down in shaded foliage. Had she been mated, and not wanting further male attention?.



Female down in the foliage,



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 19-May-20 09:28 PM GMT

For a change I had an evening session with the Small Pearls today.
It was great to see Doug Neve, Gary Norman and Andrew Reekie, enjoying the late sightings.

I managed what I went for, roosting SPBF.

Stay well all,
Trevor.

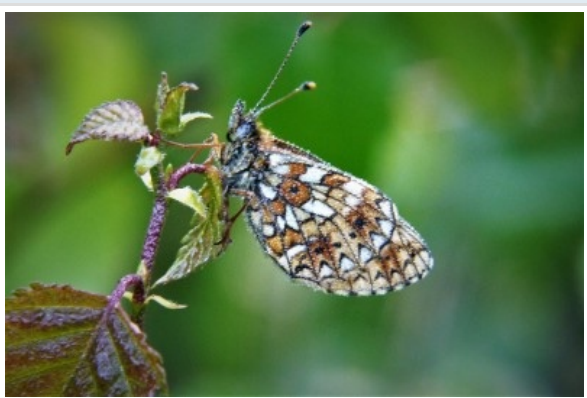
PS I have added images from 20/5 to this post.



20th May am.

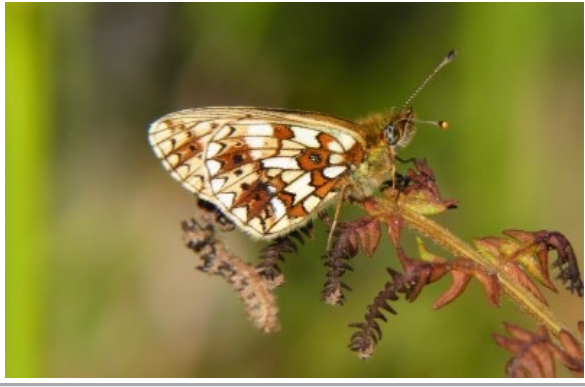


20th May, very early am.



Completely covered in dew.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 21-May-20 07:37 PM GMT

Brilliant Small Pearls Trevo- especially the dew encrusted one 🤩🤩🤩🤩 I see that you're 'doing a Dave' 😊🤩

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 21-May-20 08:32 PM GMT

{quote=trevor-post_id=153796-time=1589829114-user_id=13654}...a first for me this season, a co-operative female Holly Blue.

Isn't she just, Trevor? 😊 Always a delight when one of these decides to brighten your walk.

The SPBFs are pretty impressive too, especially that first open-wing female from your later post.

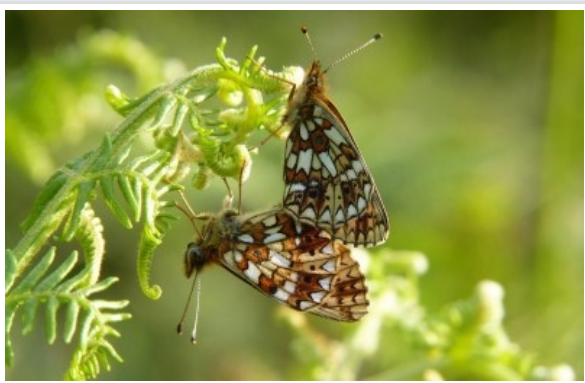
Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-May-20 08:47 PM GMT

Cheers Wurzel, even better this evening!.

For a change I went over to Park Corner Heath this evening, Gary Norman, and Andrew Reekie were already on site, and told me that activity was abnormally quiet. Certainly there were fewer SPBF looking for somewhere to roost. Gary and Andrew decided to explore Rowland Wood, but I stayed put, and about half an hour after they left I discovered a mating pair of SPBF, which at first glance looked like a large curled over Bracken tip. After many shots I called out for Gary at the top of my voice. Fortunately I was heard and both Gary and Andrew were able to ' fill their boots '.

A wonderful experience!
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 21-May-20 08:55 PM GMT

Excellent shots of the pairing, Trevor! 😊 I assume things were generally quiet because it was so warm today.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 21-May-20 10:25 PM GMT

Crickley Trevor 😊 That's the last British Frit that I need to complete a section of my 'Butterflies In Cop' collection 🍷🍷🍷 Brilliant images 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 22-May-20 09:45 AM GMT

Lovely shots of the Pearls Trevor 🍷🍷 the closed wing shots of there patterned wings really stand out, Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 22-May-20 08:16 PM GMT

Time, perhaps, for you to buy a lottery ticket, Trevor? Fortune is definitely smiling on you right now. 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 24-May-20 04:55 PM GMT

Many thanks all, that SPBF pairer is something you hope to find, but not expect to.

I had a complete surprise today, and right on my doorstep!

Close to my home there is a single track country lane which I often use to access the A22.

A short way along this lane, it is joined by another lane coming in from the left.

Being a blind junction great care is needed when passing it. This morning I walked past

this junction and noticed on the other side of the lane a very discreet style and an

East Sussex cc foot path sign. As I walked along the overgrown footpath I could not believe

the most suitable Butterfly habitat that opened up before me. This is a location I will visit

regularly from now on. The countryside I passed through was literally Olde England at it's best!

A few years ago I had a White Admiral in my garden, today gave me a clue of where it may have come from.

Just to think I've been in my house for 23 years and did not know about this fabulous unmanaged land.

A few of this mornings finds.....

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 24-May-20 05:14 PM GMT

We should all explore more on our own doorsteps, Trevor. That sounds like an excellent find (any Holly Blues? 😊 😊) A Green Hairstreak no less.

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 25-May-20 08:19 PM GMT

It's surprising how much decent butterfly habitat is actually out there isn't it Trevor? 😊 Greenstreaks within walking distance is not to be sneezed at 😊 🍷 🍷

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 26-May-20 06:49 PM GMT

Well done on finding that local spot Trevor. So much more satisfying to find good stuff on your doorstep.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 27-May-20 08:35 AM GMT

One of only two Butterflies seen in two hours yesterday !.
A very fresh Speckled Wood, and a very quick, lightly marked Grizzled Skipper.

Still, silly season looms!
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 27-May-20 08:21 PM GMT

Nice Speckle Trevor 😊 Is it just me or does Silly Season seem to be arriving early this year?

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 28-May-20 07:27 AM GMT

[quote=trevor_post_id=154046_time=1590335748_user_id=13654]...I had a complete surprise today, and right on my doorstep!
Close to my home there is a single track country lane which I often use to access the A22.
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Being a blind junction great care is needed when passing it. This morning I walked past this junction and noticed on the other side of the lane a very discreet style and an East Sussex cc foot path sign. As I walked along the overgrown footpath I could not believe the most suitable Butterfly habitat that opened up before me. This is a location I will visit regularly from now on. The countryside I passed through was literally Olde England at it's best!
A few years ago I had a White Admiral in my garden, today gave me a clue of where it may have come from.

Just to think I've been in my house for 23 years and did not know about this fabulous unmanaged land.

A rare lockdown benefit, Trevor! Must admit, my increased movement in my immediate local vicinity saw me stumble upon a damp meadow 2 miles from my home which I never knew existed! Surprises can be lurking closer by than we think. 😊

Re: Trevor

by Janet Turnbull, 30-May-20 10:28 AM GMT

Lockdown has has some real benefits! Aside from reducing the pollution, the amount of 'exercise' has meant I have discovered several new paths within walking distance of home. I say exercise, but a five mile walk that takes three hours because of butterflying and birding hasn't trimmed off much fat! 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 30-May-20 08:57 PM GMT

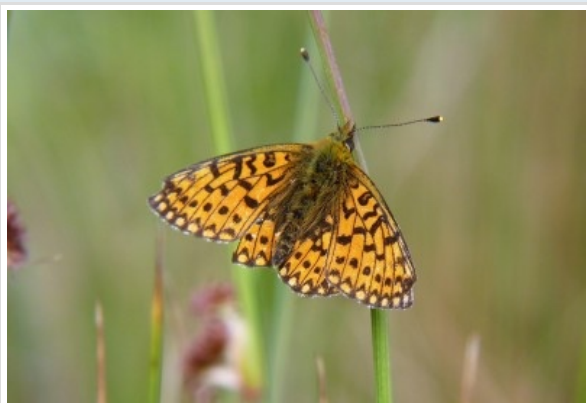
Many thanks all, not much to report this week though.

Finding Butterflies anywhere around here this past week has been hard going.
Searches have revealed only a few, worn specimens, and a few fresh Specklies.
It would seem that there is an early June gap generally in this area.

On the plus side I found my first, and very difficult, Meadow Brown yesterday,
and this morning at High and Over, my first Large Skipper of the year.

Three tattered male Wall Browns were seen defending their territories around several of the wooden bench seats, also at H&O.
Still I have found two species that herald the start of Summer this week.

Stay well all,
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 31-May-20 07:47 PM GMT

Hi! Trevor, same here, Butterflies are getting fewer and fewer it seems, hope fully a few more will appear if the weather changes, Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 01-Jun-20 06:38 PM GMT

Things have gone a bit crazy this year – the butterflies seem to have burnt themselves out in the heat 🤔😓 Still just as things were looking good the weather is set to change, a bit of rain would be good, but not too much 😊😓

Have a goodun and stay safe

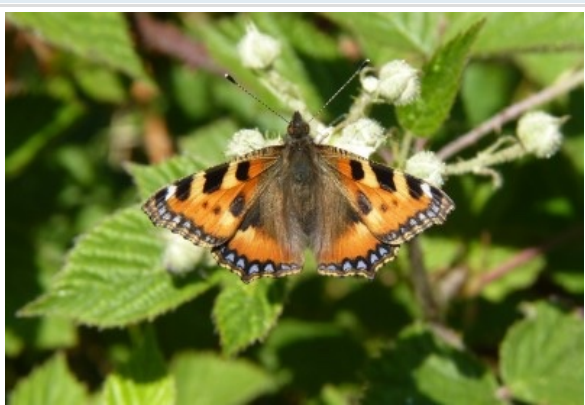
Wurzel

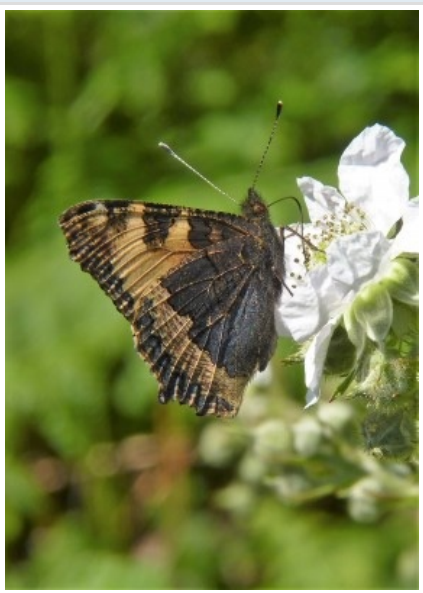
Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Jun-20 09:06 PM GMT

I went over to Rowland Wood this morning to see how many Summer species might be about. A Large Skipper was easily found near some brambles, I then made my way over to a large bramble patch which has always been very productive in previous years. Sure enough a Meadow Brown was flying between bramble blossoms. As I waited for it to settle, a fresh Small Tortoiseshell flew in, only my second one of the year so far. In the heat it was not only very active, but mostly kept it's wings closed while nectaring. After many shots I moved over to Park Corner Heath, only to discover another Small Tort, again on bramble blossom. I was delighted to find two in one session, a rare occasion around here!.

Stay well,
Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 01-Jun-20 09:58 PM GMT

Congrats on getting your Small Tort Trevor – I know that they're pretty rare over your way so to get two – brill 🤩🤩

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 02-Jun-20 02:06 PM GMT

Great to see you got a couple of summer brood Torties, Trevor. You may well see plenty more, they are suddenly about in large numbers in my part of the world and I'm hearing the same from elsewhere too.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-Jun-20 09:22 PM GMT

Cheers Wurzel & David.

I went over to Ditchling Common this morning for the Black Hairstreak, unlike yesterday, which was far too hot, today was cloudy/bright, still and warmer than mild, ideal in other words. On arrival at about 9.15 I met Martin, as we said good morning a Black Hairstreak flew upwards between us, and out of sight. The next half an hour was very productive with several landing on low foliage. But it was to be a day of fits and starts, ie, a little action then nothing for long periods, but a very worthwhile all the less.

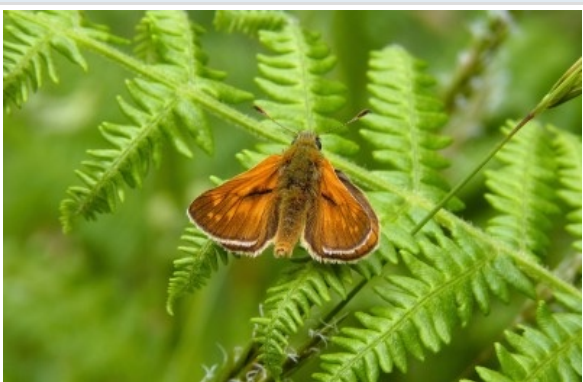
It was good to meet Martin, Kirsty, John Williams, Neil Hulme and two other enthusiasts who came and went.

I left at the right time, as I drove through a cloud burst at Cooksbridge!
Trevor.

PS. Forgot to mention the male and female Large Skipper's we saw on the Bracken.







Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 03-Jun-20 10:06 PM GMT

Fantastic images Trevor 😊👍👍 I'd like to get some like that one day 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 03-Jun-20 11:19 PM GMT

Great work with those Black Hairstreaks,Trevor. You definitely made the right decision vis-à-vis the weather by waiting for the heat to disappear.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 04-Jun-20 08:50 AM GMT

Excellent Black Hairstreaks, Trevor. 😊👍 Hopefully the abrupt change in the weather won't affect them too much.

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-Jun-20 06:42 PM GMT

This morning I had arranged to meet Wurzel at Ditchling Common to look for Black Hairstreaks. The first arrival, after myself, was Dave Miller (millerd), followed almost simultaneously by Wurzel. As we made our way to the ' hot spot ' Wurzel spotted an old Green Hairstreak near the path.



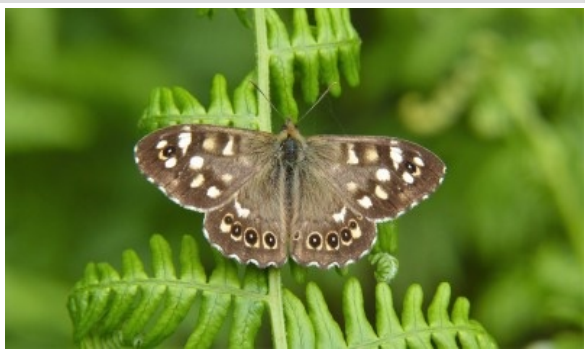
Once at ' Hairstreak alley ' it was realised that we would have to wait it out for any BH sightings. Fortunately three were eventually found low down, and Wurzel was able to grab images of several BH throughout the day, and ' lifers ' for him, making the journey from Salisbury worthwhile.

As things were very slow I explored more of the common, and was delighted to find some male Meadow Browns nectaring and basking with wings wide open,





Another discovery was a female Speckled Wood, only my second of the year, and a fresh male.



Other species seen were several Large Skippers, and a very fresh Small White.
On the way back to the car I managed a few shots of the Bee Orchids which reliably flower in the same place every year.

It was good to spent an enjoyable day with some old faces! 😊

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 07-Jun-20 08:28 PM GMT

Yes, it was a very sociable day, Trevor, and most enjoyable despite my shots of the Black Hairstreaks being entirely forgettable. 😊 Always good to see you. It was probably a good time to leave when I did because I hit rain not all that long after heading off...

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 09-Jun-20 06:13 PM GMT

A massive thank you for all the directions (both to and on site) Trevor it was a great day even if the butterflies didn't play ball 😊 Mind you it's a good job I'm quite slender after the amount of fat that was chewed 😊 the only thing missing were a few beers and we could almost have been at the Social 😊. Hope to catch up with in the field again soon 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-Jun-20 09:20 PM GMT

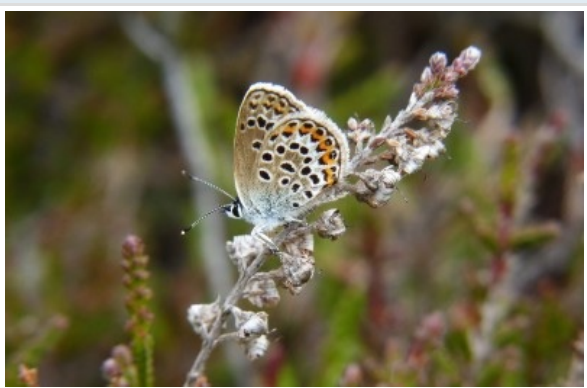
Cheers Dave, still a worthwhile visit and enjoyable day out.

My pleasure Wurzel. Nothing worse than finding an exact location for the first time, and having to concentrate on the road as well!!

I went to a familiar location today, Iping Common for the Silver Studded Blue. On arrival at exactly 9am it was cool and cloudy, but SSB's still at roost were easy to find. It was gone 10 before male SSB's started to open up and bask. There was a mixture of fresh and worn specimens and numbers were very good. Finding females was a hard task, but eventually four were found.

Keep well all!,
Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 09-Jun-20 10:15 PM GMT

Lovely set of Silver Studs Trevor 😊 Interesting to see the difference in the amount of orange that the females have on their hind wings with yours seeming to have only the slightly hint 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 10-Jun-20 03:03 PM GMT

Beautiful photos Trevor. Well timed visit.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 10-Jun-20 08:51 PM GMT

Very nice photos, Trevor, especially that almost unmarked female. 😊 It looks from what you can see in some of the shots that the heather flowers there have been crisped by frost too – this seems to be a universal problem. Let's hope that little colony has some alternative nectar sources or the heather reflowers before the Blues disappear.

Cheers,

Dave

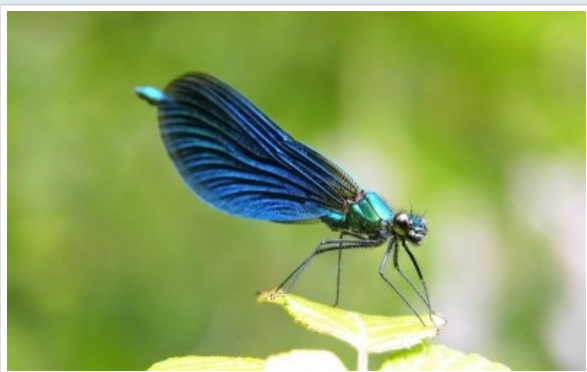
Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Jun-20 09:10 PM GMT

Many thanks Wurzel, Katrina & Dave.

Much of the Heather was scorched, Dave, but not all. In places the ground has been scraped clear and replanted with Bell Heather, this was in flower.

Now for a bonus sighting back at lping car park, a Beautiful Demoiselle male. I wasn't going to post the image as part of it is out of focus, but I did have to hold the camera above my head!.



Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 11-Jun-20 11:07 AM GMT

It's still a great shot Trevor, you've really captured it's lovely blue colour 😊 also love your SSB shots 🇮🇪 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 12-Jun-20 12:42 AM GMT

Some very striking blue colours in your last couple of posts, Trevor. Seems crazy for SSBs to be in full stride with over a week till midsummer's day but that's reflective of the warm, sunny spring i guess.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-Jun-20 08:00 PM GMT

This has been a week of very few butterfly sightings.

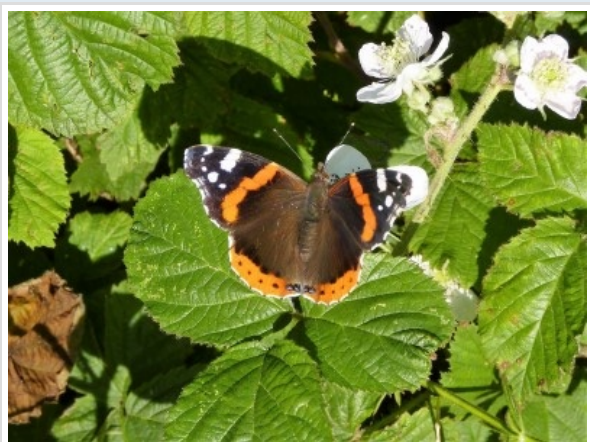
The only species seen in high numbers was the Meadow Brown, but each day has produced several fresh looking Red Admirals, and yesterday two fresh Commas were seen.

This morning I went over to Horseshoe Plantation, near Birling Gap to look for Dark Green Frits and Marbled Whites but none were found.

The proximity of this site to the sea might make it a later site for them.

Later today I was fortunate to get close to a female Broad Bodied Darter.

Stay safe all,
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 14-Jun-20 08:07 PM GMT

Great shot of the Chaser Trevor – Dragonflies make good reserve targets when the butterflies are thin on the ground 😊😁 Soon be time to stock up on Tuna Chunks 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 14-Jun-20 08:23 PM GMT

Yes, time to pop into Tesco, Trevor – the word is that the first one has now appeared so others won't be far behind... 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-Jun-20 10:21 PM GMT

Cheers Wurzel & Dave.

Already done!. Tuna in brine (Tesco of course) in stock, with added ingredient X. This is in direct competition with ' Hulme's elixir '. Hopefully they will fall out of the trees.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-Jun-20 09:40 PM GMT

Early this morning I visited Abbots wood for the first time since the PBF's were out. This visit was to a different part of the wood, near the main car park.

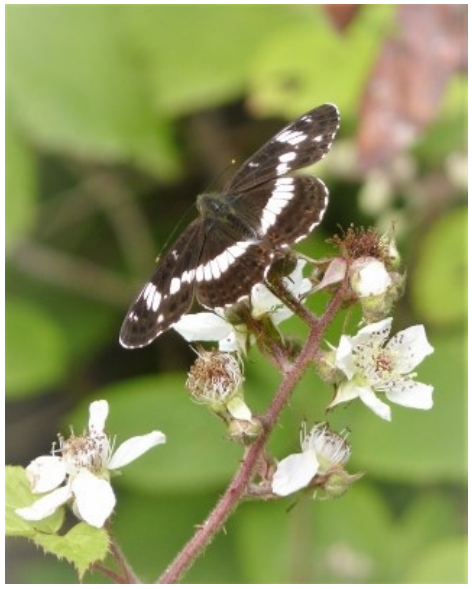
As I walked up the main drive not a single butterfly was seen, and this was also true as I explored the shrubbery that borders the car park/picnic area.

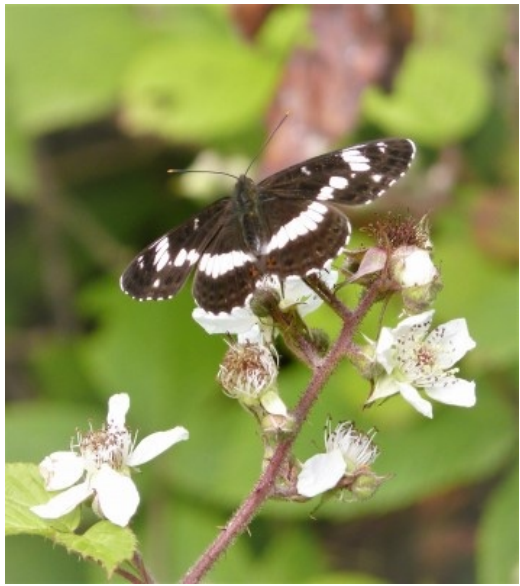
Then I was halted in my tracks, literally looking down near my feet there was a very fresh White Admiral displaying perfectly, comprehension of what my eyes were seeing was not instant!. They just don't normally rest near the ground. After a good many shots I explored a larger area, and saw another WA on some bramble blossom with a Red Admiral for company, not too far away there was yet another WA sighting.

Until I examined my images at home I thought I had seen one WA several times, but the images show three individual White Admirals were seen.

Stay well all,
Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 16-Jun-20 08:29 PM GMT

Lovely shots Trevor - I've still to see any WAs in 2020 🤔🇩🇪🇩🇪 You'll have to get a score board ready for when the silly season kicks off proper - and if yours comes out on top perhaps there will be a market for PE bait 😊😄

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-Jun-20 08:49 PM GMT

I set out early this morning for Chiddingfold Forest. Although the Purple Emperor failed to show, the day was far from a disappointment. Early on it was cool, cool enough for a male Silver Washed Fritillary to pause and bask. For two consecutive days I've had two, normally very active, high Summer species relax in front of me for many close up shots.

White Admirals appeared in very good numbers, and seem to be having one of their better years at Chiddingfold. Before 10.00 I had counted 15. But as usual they proved difficult to approach.

Later on in the morning Max, an enthusiast I met at Ditchling Common, pointed me in the direction of a Wood White at rest, and I found another fluttering along the ride. No doubt they were survivors from the Spring brood.

No sign yet of the Ringlet or Small Skipper.
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 16-Jun-20 09:00 PM GMT

One of those "curtain-raiser" visits to Chiddingfold, Trevor! I may do the same tomorrow having spent today over in Essex for a change... 😊

Great shots of those Silver-washed Fritillaries, and that White Admiral too. 😊 And those Wood Whites just go on and on – their offspring will be out before all that long!

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-Jun-20 07:41 AM GMT

Thanks Dave. ' The supporting cast ' certainly made for an absorbing morning. So much so I almost forgot what I went for. I've never seen White Admirals in such good numbers this early on.

Stay safe,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 17-Jun-20 03:44 PM GMT

Fantastic shots Trevor of the WA and SWF, 🍷🍷 your making me long for Kent, it's the only place I see them 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-Jun-20 07:02 PM GMT

Thanks Goldie, hope you have a good time in Kent.

This morning I found this small Dragon Fly perched on the tip of one my tomato plant stakes. I searched around for an identity and Common Darter seems to fit.

Stay well all,
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 17-Jun-20 07:12 PM GMT

{quote=trevor-post_id=155006-time=1592376089-user_id=13654} The supporting cast ' certainly made for an absorbing morning. So much so I almost forgot what I went for. I've never seen White Admirals in such good numbers this early on. I went down there today and coincided exactly with Andrew, and we later bumped into Mark Colvin. The White Admirals were pretty numerous and also very obliging, but aside from a couple of flybys we saw no SWF. There was a Dark Green, however. Nothing purplish of any kind, though, so you didn't miss anything by staying away today! 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-Jun-20 05:24 AM GMT

Cheers Dave. Sounds as though I saved myself from a wasted journey yesterday. Though with all those White Admirals around it would have been far from wasted. I could sit and watch their elegant flight for hours. I only saw the one Silver Washed, when it stopped to bask it was in no hurry to move. If the weather holds I'm looking forward to next week!.

Keep well,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 18-Jun-20 07:32 AM GMT

You're really cleaning up with those summer species 🍷 . I reckon your dragonfly is a Ruddy Darter. Need a clear view of the legs to be sure but what

from what I can see of them that's what I'd go for 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 18-Jun-20 06:26 PM GMT

Cracking White Admirals Trevor and I'm also pretty 'jelly' of the Wood Whites 🍷😄 Hopefully things Purple will pick up for a visit next week although the next couple of days don't look promising weather wise 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-Jun-20 07:22 PM GMT

Cheers Paul, I'll take your word for an ID.,the images I looked at did not exactly match my photo, but Common Darter was close. So Ruddy Darter it is!. Thanks for that. 😊

If you are coming over next week, Wurzel, may I suggest Mon or Tues, after that the forecast is for very hot weather, which is next to useless, if they do come down they won't open up (as in 2018). You will be impressed with the number of White Admirals around, I've never seen so many this early. With luck I should be there both days.

Stay safe both,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 18-Jun-20 08:59 PM GMT

Great shot of the dragonfly, Trevor, and your SWFs and White Admirals are making me yearn for this rain and cool weather to end so I can see a few myself!

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 19-Jun-20 07:58 PM GMT

As the Law of Sod dictates Monday and Tuesday are my rota'd days this week so I will working in work rather than working from home 😊😄 Hopefully things won't go too mad and will cool down slightly later in the week - fingers crossed 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-Jun-20 08:32 PM GMT

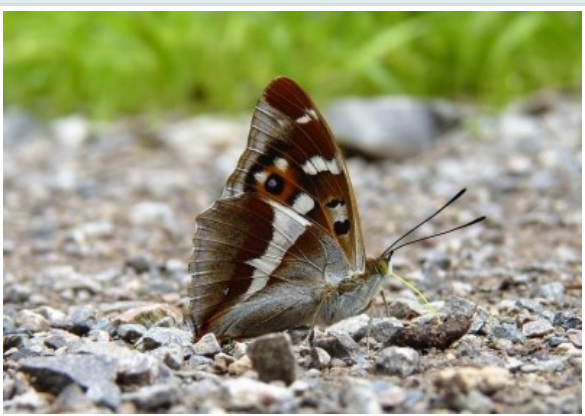
I drove over to Chiddingfold Forest early this morning, arriving at my chosen spot at 7.55. Dave (millerd) arrived later on and for a while it looked as though the weather might collapse, and it also started to drizzle, later we had some light rain. When some sun did appear I carefully explored the ride and was rewarded with a Purple Emperor landing nearby. Then near disaster!, as I waited for it to settle properly I could hear many footsteps approaching from behind me, it was two adults with three young children and Dog. When they got closer I asked if they could approach slowly, pointing to the Emperor. Actually this family were brilliant, the wife told me her Grandfather used to go Emperor watching the three young boys were very interested, and the father had taken the Dog out of harms way.

The PE did eventually fly off, but returned to the same spot later on and was enjoyed by Dave, John Williams and Steve, for whom this was his first ever Emperor. Mark Colvin and Andrew Reekie missed the event, but had a fleeting glimpse of another PE.

I was also pleased to obtain an image of a White Admiral underside.
Trevor.



Note the extra orange on the hind wings.





Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 20-Jun-20 08:50 PM GMT

Well done Trevor – good to know they're about at Chiddingfold and with the weather forecast for next week I expect numbers will increase quickly.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 20-Jun-20 09:45 PM GMT

Very nice shots of that Emperor, Trevor a quite different angle to the ones I have. 😊 It's certainly a more colourful beast than usual with the quite prominent hindwing orange markings. Your battle with the bracken certainly paid off with the White Admiral underside as well. 😊

Good to see you and everyone else this morning. Here's to many more Emperors during the coming sunny midsummer days!

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-Jun-20 06:50 AM GMT

Many thanks Pauline & Dave.

After the poor weather of the early morning, the day picked up nicely.

It was a surprise, looking at my images, to discover that the Purple Emperor we spent so much time with was not fresh, but had clearly been around for a couple of days.

Not looking forward to the heat forecast for later on this week!.

Stay safe
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 21-Jun-20 09:21 AM GMT

Hi! Trevor, lovely shots of the Emperor, first time I saw one it took my breath a way 😊 especially when the Sun caught it's wings, your one looks so fresh 🍃🍃 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 21-Jun-20 06:24 PM GMT

A cracking set of images Trevor 😊🍃🍃 I was hoping to get there mid week but the heat looks like I'll have to wait until the weekend when it's slightly cooler 😊 Fingers crossed – it would be good to catch up again 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 22-Jun-20 05:14 PM GMT

Great stuff, Trevor. 🍃 It's always an exciting moment when the first Emperors take to the wing. I may even get the chance to see them myself this year given that trips abroad look to be off the menu until some point in July.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Jun-20 09:04 PM GMT

All quiet on the Emperor front today, but for other species the early start was justified. I even obtained shots of three firsts for the season, Marbled White, Small Skipper and Ringlet.

Back again tomorrow for another try!.
Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 23-Jun-20 07:52 PM GMT

Better shot of a White Admiral than I've managed so far this year Trevor 🍷 Hopefully the Emperors won't burn themselves out in the heat 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-Jun-20 08:37 PM GMT

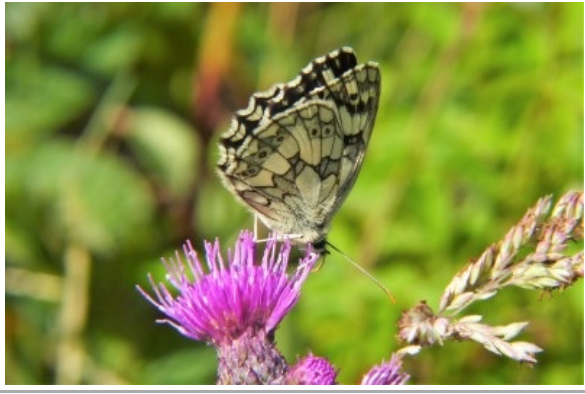
It's a good job you were at work today, Wurzel, Chiddingfold would have been a wasted trip.

Once again the Purple Emperor proved elusive today, despite near perfect weather in the morning. Maybe He's keeping us waiting until nearer the traditional time of emergence.

The warm weather today was responsible for keeping most species very active, and most that landed kept their wings closed, so it was a good day for underside shots. The find of the day was a Purple Hairstreak, 10 points to whoever spotted it in the first place, as it was not easy to see where it was perched.

I'll no doubt be back for more, but not for a few days.
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 25-Jun-20 07:40 PM GMT

The Purple Emperor has avoided me like the plague so far this year despite putting in many hours it has always been a case of wrong place, wrong time. But I must admit (and I don't want the likes of Neil Hulme to know this) but I spooked a real beauty yesterday 😊 , and sent it up with no photos!. (keep that quiet!).

But on the plus side I made a good discovery today. A young enthusiast, Max, showed me an image of a fresh Wood White, and later on I found another, which together with a few survivors of the Spring brood still flying, confirmed that the two broods have overlapped in 2020. In some years no Wood Whites are seen at all during the PE season.

Must do better!,
Trevor.



Back lit Summer brood specimen.



Close up of new brood wing with complete fringe hair.



Spring brood survivor.

Re: Trevor

by Max Anderson, 26-Jun-20 03:10 PM GMT

Chin up Trevor, there'll be more opportunities to see PE over the next week or so!

Nice to see the second generation Wood whites out already – photo below (from 25/6) illustrates the fringe hairs quite nicely.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Jun-20 07:18 PM GMT

Thanks Max, I saw another fresh Wood White today, it was well away from those we saw yesterday. Overlapping broods have probably happened before, but personally I have known whole Emperor seasons with no Wood Whites about at all.

A bit more luck with His Majesty today.

I went for a short walk from my base, on my return, a few minutes later, an Emperor had landed in the meantime while I was away. It was clearly not approachable, so I removed my close up lens, and using some zoom, took a few shots from a safe distance. Good job I did as it didn't stay long. When I examined the spot where the PE had been I found a very old, dried out Fox scat which was obviously of no use. I was later treated to two very fast and powerful flybys, probably by the same butterfly, on the second pass I was briefly 'buzzed', but was clearly not smelly enough!

So far this has been the most frustrating season I've known. It can only get better?.

Keep well,
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Chris L, 26-Jun-20 07:19 PM GMT

Lovely photos Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 26-Jun-20 09:36 PM GMT

Hi! Trevor, a great array of shots especially the Emperor 🇩🇪🇩🇪🇩🇪 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 27-Jun-20 06:02 PM GMT

Fingers crossed Trevor – it can't get any harder can it? 😊 At least the 2nd brood Wood Whites and that cracking Purple Hairstreak went some way as consolation for the offhand manner in which His Nibbs is behaving so far 😊😊🇩🇪

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 28-Jun-20 12:53 PM GMT

Well done with the grounded Emperor, Trevor. Been a real scarcity of those so far during its flight season.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-Jun-20 03:48 PM GMT

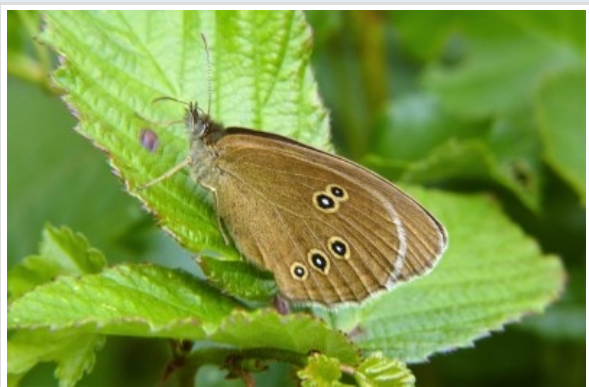
Many thanks all. The Emperors haven't been that scarce, just plain awkward. But it was very hot last week, and I was often in the wrong place at the wrong time.

With high winds forecast for today, I thought about going over to Abbots Wood. There are some good east facing woodland edges which have proved useful when the wind is blowing from the west, in the past, and also catch the best of the early sun.

There were quite a few Ringlets bobbing around, including a very nice ab, which I have discovered is *ab.fijlanceolata*. I spent over an hour following the ab in order to photograph both sides and open wing.

Retracing my steps back to the car there were five White Admirals in the air at once and two basking within a few yards. I managed shots of the two basking, a male and a female, both were showing signs of middle age.

No Purple Hairstreaks today.
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 28-Jun-20 04:56 PM GMT

That's a great ab., Trevor! It almost doesn't look real. 🤔📷

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 28-Jun-20 07:22 PM GMT

That is a fantastic find Trevor – better than an Emperor anyday 😊📷 Great work getting the topside view as well I can't remember seeing that before 😊📷

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-Jun-20 07:45 PM GMT

Thanks Guys. There were actually two of those ab's, but I could only follow one!. It took over an hour to photograph both sides and open wing. It was very mobile.

John Williams found a grounded Purple Emperor at Chiddingfold today, Wurzel, I think you made the right decision though. Crap weather forecast for next week!.

Stay well both,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 28-Jun-20 09:08 PM GMT

Loving that ringlet ab Trevor what a brilliant treasure to find!


Re: Trevor

by Allan.W., 28-Jun-20 09:21 PM GMT

Superb Ringlet AB; there Trevor, best I've seen, found an AB; Arete a few days back. but that little beauty, is off the scale..... Nice find! Allan.W.

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 28-Jun-20 10:18 PM GMT

That's a very striking Ringlet, particularly the upperside, I've only ever managed the underside of a lanceolata  [quote=trevor-post_id=155441-time=1593369944-user_id=13654]



John Williams found a grounded Purple Emperor at Chiddingfold today, Wurzel, I think you made the right decision though. Crap weather forecast for next week!.

Stay well both,
Trevor.

I wonder if that was the one I pointed him in the direction to, the only one I saw on the ground there today, a rather flighty individual. There was a little bit of activity but it was all quite late in the morning, nothing was seen before 11 as far as I could make out.

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 29-Jun-20 02:01 PM GMT

That is a really striking Ringlet Trevor and well done for capturing it from all angles to show it off  .

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 29-Jun-20 07:26 PM GMT

Many thanks Katrina, Allan, Paul & Neil.

I got quite excited when that Ringlet ab gave a brief glimpse of its upperside, obtaining an image with wings open was a different matter. It kept moving around and landing in the grass, after an hour it landed on a leaf, job done! 😊

Best wishes all,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 29-Jun-20 07:49 PM GMT

Today was possibly my last chance to catch up with the Purple Emperor for this year. We have two more days of poor weather forecasts, and on Thursday I'm off to Wiltshire for about a week.

Early this morning the sky was clear, and the wind gusts were infrequent so it was off to Chiddingfold Forest. On arrival I found a fresh Comma basking, and the first of two male Silver Washed Fritillaries that I would photograph today.

A real surprise was in the form of a fresh male Holly Blue, one of two seen.

Next, in a sunny spot out of the wind a fresh White Admiral nectared on bramble with wings closed showing that incredible underside. To end the morning another fresh Wood White was discovered.

Needless to say His Majesty failed to show, so ends a tricky season.

All Ringlets (and there were many) were of the normal variety.

Stay safe,
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 29-Jun-20 08:03 PM GMT

That's a pretty good selection, Trevor, despite the suboptimal weather – especially the White Admiral and first SWF 😊 By the time I'd got myself up today, the cloud had blown over the blue, so I decided to stay put and have a proper local session instead.

You've certainly had some poor luck with the Emperor this year – he's been messed around by the ever-changing weather and hasn't followed the form of previous years. As well as sneaking down in places you happened not to be – which is the most frustrating part. 😞

Have a good time in Wiltshire and see what you can turn up down there! 😊 Hope to see you down in Sussex later in the summer for some late specialities – let's hope there are some good ones..

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 29-Jun-20 08:50 PM GMT

I be more than happy with those images despite not having His Nibbs in the mix Trevor – especially the White Admiral and the Wood White 😊🍷🍷 I have given up on hte Emperor as well for this year Trevor, though to be fair I don;t know why I thought this would be the year – my previous sets of images of grounded Emperors were from 2012, 2015 and 2018 so by my reckoning I should be due another set in 2021 😊😭😭

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 29-Jun-20 09:16 PM GMT

That's quite some cast from Chiddingfold, Trevor, even if it doesn't include an Emperor.

Your *lanceolata* Ringlet from an earlier visit is absolutely stunning, and well done regarding your persistence in getting an upperside shot. That's the first time I've seen the ups on this aberration. Wonderful!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Jul-20 08:43 PM GMT

Thanks Dave, Wurzel & David. I gave the Purple Emperor one last try today. The sight of two PE's gliding along the tree tops convinced me that groundings may be on the wane or even over for another year.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Jul-20 08:58 PM GMT

I was witness to an unusual event this morning. I had just photographed a female Comma nectaring on bramble blossom which then took off and landed on a nearby leaf. A male Silver Washed Fritillary seemed to find the Comma very attractive and spent sometime fluttering around the Comma and even landed beside it.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Jul-20 09:11 PM GMT

The best of the rest today.



Quite a few female Silver Washed Frits were flying. This one although fresh had some scale damage.





The rare sight of a Small Tort.



Three male Holly Blues seen today.



Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 02-Jul-20 10:52 AM GMT

I'm just catching up Trevor, that ab is just like another species altogether, 😊 the markings are lovely, it would be great if it was the start of some thing new. 😊 Goldie 😊

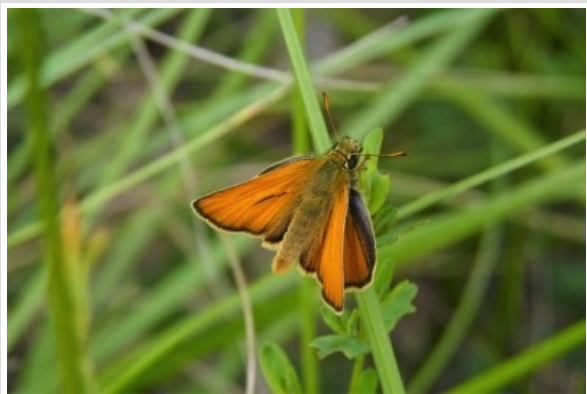
Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-Jul-20 10:10 PM GMT

Near the end of my journey to Wiltshire late this afternoon, I could not resist

a quick stop off at Tilshead. As usual the place was heaving with butterflies, mostly with golden Skippers and Marbled Whites. My first discovery was, however, a bit gruesome. A Crab Spider had grabbed a Small White which had been nectaring on Privet blossom. Another surprise was a Skipper and Marbled White sharing a Scabious bloom.

Keep well all,
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 03-Jul-20 06:30 PM GMT

Great set of shots Trevor 😊 WRT the Silver Washed' dalliance with the Comma perhaps a female had been on that leaf previously? Or possibly that was the Silver Washed' preferred perch? 🤔 Fingers crossed for your Wiltshire stay 😊🤔

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 04-Jul-20 06:55 PM GMT

Cheers Wurzel. The constant stiff breeze is making life difficult.

I went over to Tilshead on Friday morning, and although there were many Marbled Whites to choose from most were perched on swaying grass stems or were being blown around in the wind. An exception was a Red Admiral basking on something more wind resistant.

Stay well,
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 05-Jul-20 07:47 PM GMT

Tell me about it Trevor 😊 I'm finding that I have to wait for the breeze to cease for a moment before trying to cram in as many shots as possible before it picks up again and generally when the wind stops the butterfly flies 😊😊 Oh well keeps you on your toes 😊 Things look to be improving by the end of the week and next week looks good – but I'm due in four days then, typical 😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 06-Jul-20 03:49 PM GMT

Keep at it, Trevor. The weather will come round eventually.

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 06-Jul-20 06:41 PM GMT

{quote=trevor_post_id=155691_time=1593885345_user_id=13654} ... The constant stiff breeze is making life difficult...

Isn't it just 😊 between being whisked away in the wind or bobbing about when they are settled it is certainly challenging getting any photos lately.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 08-Jul-20 09:23 PM GMT

During a brief bright spell this afternoon I went in search of some Gatekeepers. Unsurprisingly all that I found were very fresh, and all were males. It was a shame to see some of the 'Summer spectaculars', which not long ago, were fresh, now looking tired and worn, But that is when the Gatekeeper appears, immediately after the peak of the butterfly year.

Keep safe and well,
Trevor.

PS. Many thanks Wurzel, David and Neil for your previous comments.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 09-Jul-20 07:29 PM GMT

Lovely shots of my second or third favourite butterfly Trevor 😊😄 Your second one is an ab.excessa 😊🇬🇧

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Jul-20 11:09 AM GMT

Thanks for that Wurzel. I must admit I hadn't noticed the extra eyespot 😊. 🗿
But when I looked up ' ab excessa ' your images of this variant were found!.

Keep well,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Jul-20 11:19 AM GMT

2020 Was the second worse year for me with the Purple Emperor.
The worse year was 2012 when it rained on each visit and I saw none at all.

However I had a reminder of better times this morning when looking at some old images.
The shot below was taken at Chiddingfold Forest, at the triangle on 4/7/2016 at 11.20.

Here's to 2021!.
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 10-Jul-20 08:13 PM GMT

That's about as Purple as you can get, Trevor! You haven't done too badly since then, with the odd ab I seem to recall... 😊 However, you were really unlucky this year, and the butterflies could certainly have been more cooperative. Hearing reports of them appearing after you'd left for the day didn't help I'm sure! Here's to a better show in 2021. 😊

I'm hoping your part of the world will conjure some late summer Sussex specialities to give the rest of the season a "kick". 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

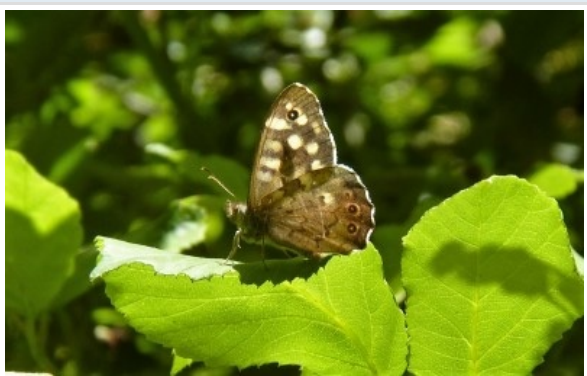
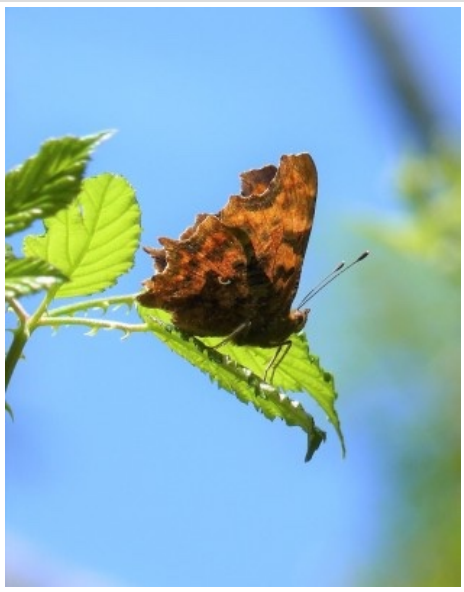
by trevor, 10-Jul-20 10:27 PM GMT

Cheers Dave. The Purple Emperors had quite a bit to cope with this year, heat, rain and strong winds. It was not a normal year for them.

This afternoon I made a rare Summer visit to the old railway in Hailsham. Foremost among species present were Green Veined Whites and Holly Blues, though none of the latter came within camera range. Even the Commas were staying high up, requiring a little zoom. Battling Specklies were in the minority on this visit, and again were to be found higher up.

Stay safe and well all,
Trevor.





by Wurzel, 11-Jul-20 06:58 PM GMT

Don't worry Trevor 2021 will be much better – it'll be year 3 of my three year cycle so there will be plenty about and I should get some shots of grounded Emperors 😊😊 Lovely set of shots – especially like the wing tip markings on the Green-veined White – it looks like the ink ran slightly 😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-Jul-20 09:55 PM GMT

2021 it is then Wurzel! 😊 .

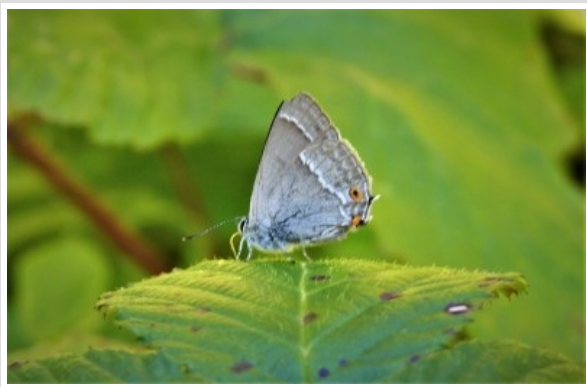
Early this morning I went over to Abbots Wood for Purple Hairstreaks.

There was a lot of high up action in one of the most popular Oaks, and eventually three came down low, all males with some damage. Talking of damage it was sad to see badly worn White Admirals and Silver Washed Fritillaries well past their prime, although just one female SWF was seen with only minor wing damage.

Many Commas and Peacocks were making the most of the dwindling bramble blossom.

As the Sun warmed the butterflies became too active, so it was time to head home for breakfast.

Stay well,
Trevor.





Approaching old age.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 12-Jul-20 07:00 PM GMT

I had some incredible luck this morning while searching for uncooperative Purple Hairstreaks. Among the many tattered Meadow Browns seen, this very fresh female landed on a bracken frond literally beside me. The twin eye spots struck me straight away as odd.

I asked the question and my specimen is *ab. biocellata*, many thanks to Clive Pratt for his kind assistance. As it was early am the only other butterflies around of any note were fresh Gatekeepers.

Stay safe and well,
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 12-Jul-20 08:14 PM GMT

I've wondered about the doubled eyed Meadow Browns Trevor – so cheers for posting that info 😊 cracking shot as well 🍷

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 13-Jul-20 01:16 PM GMT

That is indeed a lovely female Meadow Brown, Trevor. Lots of interesting stuff you've seen lately; I guess we're approaching the peak period in terms of sheer numbers right now.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-Jul-20 10:16 PM GMT

I set out this morning to try and locate some female Gatekeepers. Two were seen among the building male population, but only one was near enough for a shot. Something else I've noticed recently is the number of fresh Meadow Browns flying with old well worn specimens.

Stay well,
Trevor.





Male Gatekeeper.



Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 14-Jul-20 09:05 AM GMT

[quote=trevor_post_id=156077 time=1594674979 user_id=13654] ...Something else I've noticed recently is the number of fresh Meadow Browns flying with old well worn specimens...

I have noticed before that they seem to come in 'waves' as part of one long protracted emergence.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-Jul-20 03:55 PM GMT

Cheers Neil, you are almost certainly right about that.

I saw some more fresh Meadow Browns this morning, and again all females. Also the later arrivals seem to be more willing to bask with wings open.

Stay safe and well,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-Jul-20 07:42 PM GMT

I went for a walk around Rowland Wood this morning.

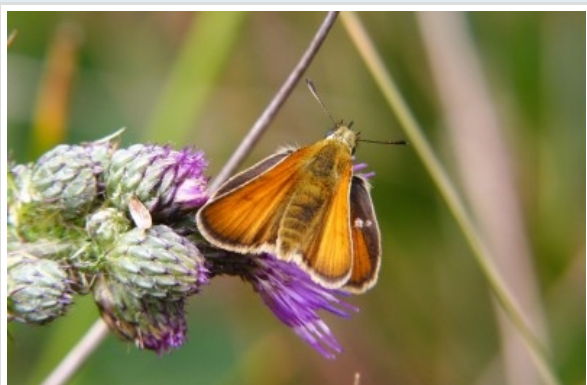
Gatekeepers seemed to be the species of the moment, followed by worn Ringlets.

Some more fresh Meadow Browns, and quite fresh Small Skippers had concentrated in one small area, to be safe I will them ' Smessex ' Skippers.

The treat of the day was a close encounter with a huge Large White. Not only was it very fresh, but was not at all bothered by my presence.

No exotics were found, but I came home happy.

Keep well all,
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 15-Jul-20 07:48 PM GMT

Lovely couple of reports since I last commented Trevor 😊 Love the Large White – they suddenly seem to have started behaving (at least 😊) 😊 That Meadow Brown is beautifully marked – with little orange 'sausages' running down the wings cool 😊🍌

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 16-Jul-20 11:33 AM GMT

Aah! Female Hedge Browns, a sure sign that we're in the second half of summer.

That's a beautiful Large White. Love it.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-Jul-20 02:53 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel & David. There are a lot of Large Whites around at the moment.

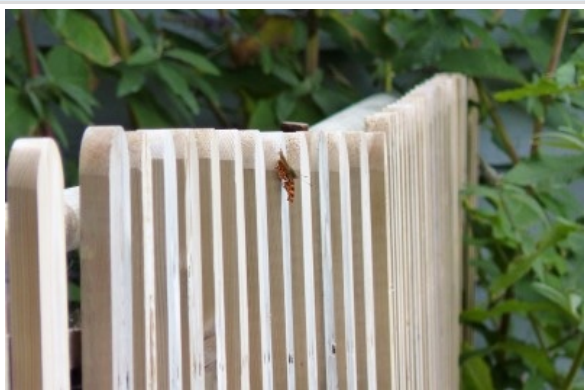
Yesterday I thought I would try for something a tad more exotic.

Leaving home at silly o'clock I arrived on the Isle of Portland at 08.20, to hopefully track down an LT. There was only enough time in a day to visit one of their haunts properly. The site I chose was Church Ope Cove, several Large Tortoiseshells were seen and photographed here, flying and basking around the many beach huts, back in the early Spring.

The weather was warm, but there were only brief glimpses of sunshine, and the butterflies responded while the sun shone. I thought my luck was in when a ginger/brown butterfly landed on a distant inaccessible fence. I set my camera on full zoom and managed two shots, the result a Comma.

Church Ope Cove is accessed via a flight of steep steps, which lead off a dead end lane. Looking up at the cliff from the boulder strewn beach it becomes clear why Large Torts are breeding there. The cliffs are covered in Elm trees, some mature. Importantly there was little sign of Dutch Elm disease die back on this year's growth, though some branches were already dead from previous attacks. From what I've seen of Elms recently these looked generally healthy.

No luck for me this time, but I did have a very enjoyable day.
Trevor.



The Comma that caused a momentary thrill.



General view of the Cove.

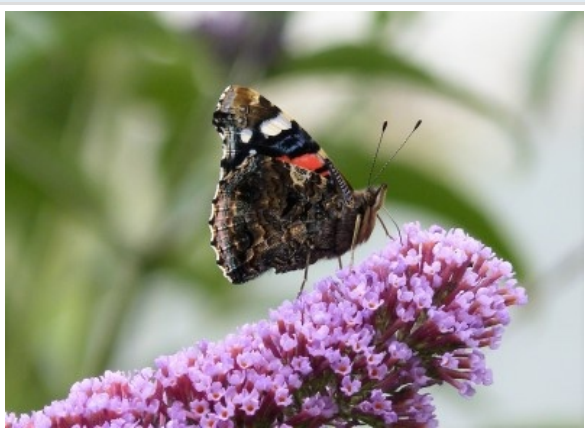


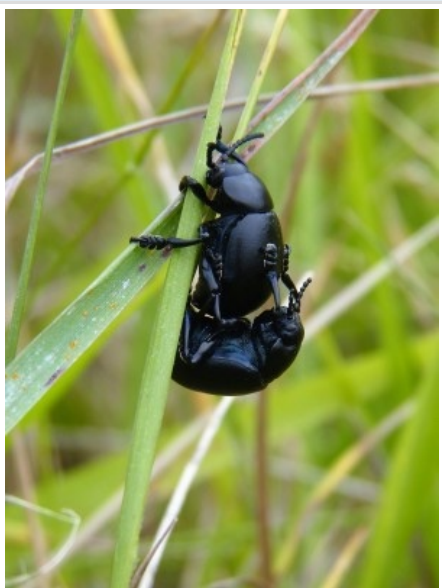
The trees with the bluish hue are Elms.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-Jul-20 03:01 PM GMT

Anyway an area above the Ope Cove car park did provide some butterflies, but nothing I couldn't have found nearer home!. There was a bonus here though, a pair of mating Beetles!.





by Pauline, 17-Jul-20 04:49 PM GMT

Always nice to try somewhere different once in a while Trevor so good on you for giving it a go. Mind you, as I recall, you have already seen a LT – even if you didn't know it at the time! 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-Jul-20 07:11 PM GMT

Thanks Pauline. A certain law has controlled my butterfly activities this year. So much so that a fresh Large Tortoiseshell was seen and photographed in another part of Portland yesterday.(see facebook butterflies UK).

Stay safe and well,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 17-Jul-20 07:40 PM GMT

I know the Law of which you speak Trevor 😊😊 I've been caught out by it many times in the past 😊 The 'some were seen the next day' line is right up there with 'If you'd been here five minutes ago' line for making me gnash my teeth in frustration...At least you tired I've chickened out on going twice now...mind you reading your post has got me wondering about a trip back home... 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 19-Jul-20 08:43 PM GMT

Nothing wrong with trying your luck, Trevor, and who knows what could turn up in a coastal area like that even if Large Tortoiseshells were not around.

Re: Trevor

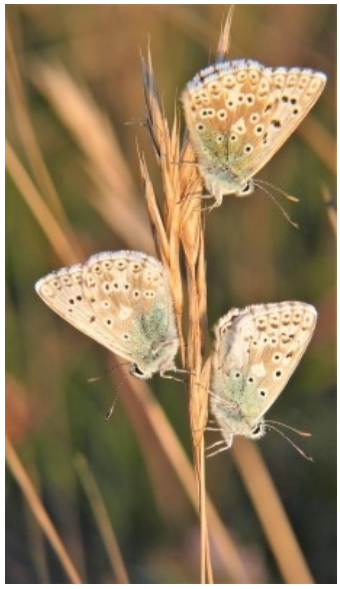
by trevor, 20-Jul-20 09:58 PM GMT

Thanks, Wurzel & David. I didn't find it very soothing when I learned that there were three Large Tortoiseshells on the same Buddleia in another part of Portland that day.

Anyway, success this evening with the Chalkhill Blue at Birling Gap.
For me the Chalkhill is either an early morning or evening butterfly, and not one to go after when they are warm and active during the day.
I arrived at Birling Gap just as they were starting to roost, and saw many males but no females this evening. It was interesting to observe some communal roosting as the light began to fade.

Stay safe,
Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by millerd, 20-Jul-20 10:04 PM GMT

Very nice Chalkhills, Trevor. 😊 They put on a great show at the end of the day like that.

You really were unlucky with your Large Tortoiseshell expedition – I have to say that I wouldn't have had a clue where to look on Portland either, and your logic looked sound enough to me! 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-Jul-20 10:21 PM GMT

Cheers, Dave.

From home to Portland takes over three hours, even in the early morning. I think it's a destination for an overnight stay next time, for some more relaxed and thorough searching. I only had time to visit the one site.

Stay well,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by ernie f, 21-Jul-20 07:11 AM GMT

Three Chalkhills on a single stalk. Nice one.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 21-Jul-20 08:42 PM GMT

Lovely Chalkhills Trevor – they do look extra special during the evenings 'golden hour' 😊😌🍷

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 22-Jul-20 09:33 AM GMT

Lovely Chalkhills in the evening light Trevor 🍷 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 22-Jul-20 09:25 PM GMT

You've definitely done justice to those Chalkhills, Trevor, especially with that shot of the threesome.

You can't always have a perfect day, but you can regularly have a very good one, and you certainly had that. 🍷

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 24-Jul-20 09:41 PM GMT

Many thanks folks, I was delighted to catch those Chalkhills just right, some open, some roosting.

This morning dawned cloudy with a few sunny breaks and very mild.

Up at High and Over these conditions were perfect for not relaxed, but slightly calmer Wall Browns. Even so one of those heavy cameras with a luxury length lens, where a decent image taken from a great distance can be obtained, would have made life easier.

It was an all male show, and nearly all were in fresh condition. I would estimate that well over a dozen were found, but only one female was seen, lurking deep in the undergrowth, hence the poor shot.

In the long grass, near the steps, many fresh Common Blues were still trying to catch the early sun, as was the only Holly Blue found today.

A great morning,
Stay well all,
Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by millerd, 24-Jul-20 10:16 PM GMT

You did far better with those Walls at High & Over than I did on Wednesday, Trevor, despite an earlyish start. It was probably too sunny then, and there were an abundance of dogwalkers as well. Some terrific shots there of a tricky butterfly! 😊📷

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 25-Jul-20 05:23 PM GMT

Great set of shots Trevor 😊 They're right bu£ers so you did really well with them. The calming effects of a bit of cloud shouldn't be underestimated 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Jul-20 07:31 PM GMT

Quite late last evening a Red Underwing moth flew in to the house. I tried to photograph the moth this morning on a window, but with bright light outside and the moth indoors it was difficult to get anything other than a black silhouette. In the end I had some success, then released my visitor, none the worse for wear.

Trevor.

PS, Wurzel & Dave. Those Walls were a little easier than usual, and all in good condition.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 26-Jul-20 07:52 PM GMT

Cracking looking moth Trevor 😊👍 The light streaming through from behind makes some of it's less obvious markings really stand out 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 27-Jul-20 05:54 PM GMT

Great work with the Wall Browns, Trevor. A bit of cloud cover works wonders with them.

Nice image of the moth too, with the red hindwings on display.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 29-Jul-20 08:08 PM GMT

Later this morning I arrived at Steyning rifle range hoping to find an early Brown Hairstreak. As I reached the end of the track from Mouse lane there were four vehicles from the South Downs National Park Authority present, with four people working on some posts. A bit extravagant I thought, then I entered the BH site proper through the metal gate.

My heart sank!, for every clump of Blackthorn/Bullace along the edge of the meadow had been cleared, all the way to the fenced off BH reserve, and beyond.

There is now hardly any Bullace left in the meadow at all, save for a small area by the gate from the pond.

In the past I have had more success with BH in the meadow area, than in the reserve itself.

As the morning wore on one of the rangers pulled up in a Landrover, and asked if any BH had been seen. I took the opportunity to enquire about the drastic Blackthorn clearance.

Apparently the area of the meadow immediately outside of the fenced reserve was due to be cut as part of the Winter cutting rotation work. But a misunderstanding lead to the wholesale clearance of the whole area I have described.

To add to this sorry tale, there is a small herd of Dexter cattle on the site as well!.

How well the Brown Hairstreak population does this year, in that area, remains to be seen.

Trevor.



The tall post is where the stile into the reserve is located.



Cleared Bullace outside the fenced reserve.



Felled, mature Bullace, with the Dexters in the background.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 29-Jul-20 08:54 PM GMT

I seem to remember there was a "misunderstanding" in relation to the management of this site last year as well, which allowed those cattle to browse the bullace and blackthorn in the field during the spring and consequently munch their way through a lot of the Brown Hairstreak larvae. It appears that instead of removing the cattle, they have removed the shrubs instead! 😞 Although other parts of the area have blackthorn and the hairstreaks won't have been eradicated, it's going to be even longer now before this site returns to its former glory.

Thank you for reporting this, Trevor – I think you might have saved me a journey.

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 31-Jul-20 12:39 PM GMT

Sorry to hear about this Trevor but thanks for posting. It is good to know what happened.

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 01-Aug-20 10:35 PM GMT

Yes, thanks Trevor. Negative reports are just as important as positive ones. I now know not to visit.

Such a shame the people managing the site clearly don't know what they are doing.

Re: Trevor

by ernie f, 02-Aug-20 07:15 AM GMT

Trevor

I just read your post on my PD about my Brostreaks and then I look at your PD and see this happening to yours. I am so sorry. I just hope the Brostreaks manage to survive nearby and repopulate once it all grows back again. Noar Hill suffered similar damage by mismanagement a few years back and it too is grazed by cows but the Brostreaks hung on and slowly built up numbers again.

Trouble is the people who do this don't just cut it back and leave it lying awhile, they either remove the cuttings from site or burn it on site. At Noar Hill they burnt it on site!

Re: Trevor

by kevlng, 02-Aug-20 12:34 PM GMT

Sad news about the Hairstreak habitat Trevor, that's heart breaking. Looking back through your recent posts, I love the Wall Brown photos. A beautiful species.

Kind Regards
Kev

Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 02-Aug-20 06:23 PM GMT

I was so sorry to read your report Trevor (taken me a while to comment 😞). I am at a loss to understand just how so many mistakes can be made in such a short period in the management of that site. I'm sure it will eventually recover but that's not much good to you now 😞

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 02-Aug-20 07:44 PM GMT

Can't believe that this could happen Trevor 😞😞 Hopefully you can find some consolation at Shipton Bellinger 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-Aug-20 08:39 PM GMT

Steyning will grow back, and hopefully the extra young growth in future years will be productive, if the cattle can be kept away!.

A friend was recently given three Large Copper pupae, two of which

have emerged, both females. This morning I was invited to see them.
As it was early they were in the process of warming up, and thus placid.

The Large Copper is a new species for me, although the similar Scarce Copper was seen and photographed in the French Pyrenees in 2017.

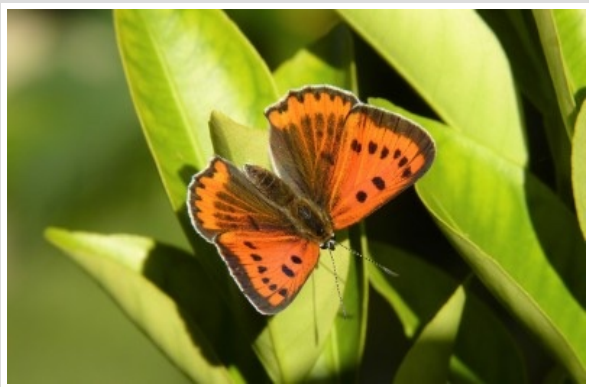
Stay well,
Trevor.



1st female Large Copper.



1st female.



2nd female.

Re: Trevor

by ernie f, 03-Aug-20 04:30 PM GMT

Trevor - never seen a Large Copper myself. Very pretty.
Did it wing-roll for you??? 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-Aug-20 09:38 PM GMT

If I had returned home with just two of my finds this morning, I would have considered the visit to Rowland Wood/Park Corner Heath to have been worthwhile.
First in Rowland Wood I found the freshest, Small Tortoiseshell with very vibrant colouring. This was only the fourth Small Tort I have seen in East Sussex so far this year.

Wandering around the adjacent Park Corner Heath my eye was distracted by a very fast flying butterfly, some distance away. Fortunately I saw exactly where it landed and was

very surprised to discover a female Wall Brown, a species not often seen in that area.

These two made my day on their own, so I considered a fresh Small Skipper, and a 'blue' female Common Blue as something of a bonus!.

Stay well all,
Trevor.



What a beauty!.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 03-Aug-20 09:56 PM GMT

I offer a 🍷 for the Wall in particular, Trevor! I really struggle with this species wherever I find it, but you always get great shots of the. A very nice female! 😊 Another round of Small Tortoiseshells – I wonder if they'll try and fit in another brood or head for the garden sheds and spare room cupboards!

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 04-Aug-20 10:36 PM GMT

That is a lovely looking Lady Wall Trevor 😊🍷 But the fresh Small Tort 🍷 that deserves 🍷 even though they're relatively common over this way 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

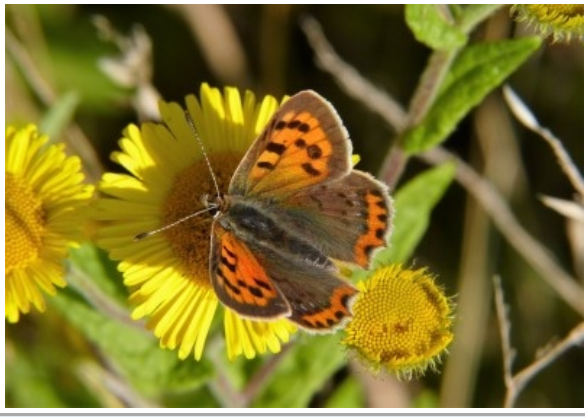
Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Aug-20 07:27 AM GMT

Thanks Dave & Wurzel, It's always a thrill to get a reasonable image of a female Wall, and this one just turned up. probably my most unexpected butterfly of the year!

This week I renewed my membership of the blue badge club.



Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 06-Aug-20 09:40 AM GMT

That is a lovely female Wall and Small Tort combo. I'm guessing second brood SPBF will start appearing down there soon 😊

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 06-Aug-20 12:56 PM GMT

Lovely Wall Butterfly Trevor and Small Copper's 😊👍

When I visited Temple Ewell looking for SSS, I saw cattle on the slopes there, young cattle at that, it's the first time I've seen them there and in the field where the Skippers were just about to come out, makes you wonder what's going on there!!! 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 06-Aug-20 07:50 PM GMT

Great Blue Badge-r Trevor 😊😊 I'll send you the details later for the weekend - hopefully they'll play ball in the hot weather 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 08-Aug-20 02:29 PM GMT

Lovely, fresh Small Tortoiseshell from your earlier post, Trevor. It's great when they pose like that with wings angled back to absorb heat.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-Aug-20 07:29 AM GMT

Yesterday I spent a wonderful day at Shipton Bellinger.

My sincere thanks to Wurzel for concise directions to the exact spot for parking and for his expert guidance to the best and most productive parts of this large site.

The morning started off with my first ever second brood Dingy Skipper, followed quickly by a lone, very fresh second brood Adonis Blue. Many Brimstones, both male and female were seen busily nectaring, and interestingly the males were taking no notice of the females. But of course this generation of Brimstones are going to hibernate, so mating will take place next Spring.

Other species seen were Brown Argus, Common and Holly Blues, all three Whites, Commas, Small Tort., and later, at the classic start time, the species we had come to see!.

More later!

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-Aug-20 10:39 PM GMT

The weather at home on Friday, with clear blue sky and very hot sunshine, very nearly persuaded me to contact Wurzel in order to postpone yesterday's trip to Shipton Bellinger. Fortunately the weather on Saturday, at least in the morning, was perfect, with high cloud allowing just enough sun to filter through and keep us comfortable, and the butterflies active.

Wurzel had high hopes that the conditions might provoke the Brown Hairstreaks to appear early. Not a bit of it!, as he showed me the ' hot spots ' nothing appeared, as we toured the famous hedge and beyond. For a moment I'm sure we were both thinking that the wrong day had been chosen.

Then bang on 11.00 Wurzel spotted a male BH nectaring on a thistle, and kindly offered me first pickings. This male often had to share his thistle with a female Meadow Brown, which sent him up several times, but this male was persistent and kept returning to the same flower head. The general area of this first find was to produce a further four males in fairly quick succession, to the delight of us and several other visitors.

Up to now no females had been seen, but this was to change when we toured the famous hedge. Wurzel was responsible for spotting at least three female BH along the length of the hedge. Even when we decided to call it a day we found a fresh female posing perfectly, not far from our cars. But this one was very flighty and eventually escaped without a single image for either of us.

An observation of the day was that males were always found on thistles, and the females preferred ripe blackberries. The day also provided a personal first. The only time I have photographed male and female BH on the same day!!.

My sincere thanks to Wurzel for a most fabulous day!
Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-Aug-20 10:49 PM GMT

A postscript from Saturday. I did achieve one ambition, an open wing male. But it was a poor old thing who had been around for a while!.

Never mind, he'll do for now.



Re: Trevor

by ernie f, 10-Aug-20 06:48 AM GMT

Trevor - I am so glad you achieved you ambition of an open-wing male Brostreak.

I, too am "a poor old thing who had been around for a while" so I empathize with him a bit.

And I loved all your other pics of them as well, particularly the blackberry shot - that's a winner.

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 10-Aug-20 08:00 AM GMT

Great stuff Trevor. A 🍷 for that open wing male, something I'm still looking to achieve. I was going to join you but events conspired to make that plan impossible 😞. Happy to report though that I spent my spare time wisely and found 10 BH at Bookham instead, so not a complete washout for me 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 10-Aug-20 08:35 PM GMT

A cracking set of images from a cracking day Trevor 😊 – and glad Shipton delivered the goods 😊. Brostreaks are a most contrary species – never sticking to the rules – last year when it was a similar temperature they were all out early yet this year – bang on 11am 😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 11-Aug-20 09:05 AM GMT

Great set of Brown Hairstreak shots Trevor 🍷😊. Another 🍷 for the double with the Meadow Brown, I am a sucker for multi species shots 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 11-Aug-20 10:41 PM GMT

I also have to give you a 🍷 for the double

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 13-Aug-20 07:15 AM GMT

[quote=Wurzel_post_id=157149_time=1597088116_user_id=9821] bang on 11am 😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Exactly the same over this side of the country, can wander around for a couple of hours and see none then 11am arrives and they're everywhere 😊

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 14-Aug-20 05:39 PM GMT

Looks like you had a splendid day over at Shipton B., Trevor: it has to be one of the top spots for Brown Hairstreaks anywhere, though it does help to have local knowledge on hand to lead you to them (which is exactly what happened on my visit too!). 😊 A great record of your stay too, with some memorable shots – I like the blackberry one as well... 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-Aug-20 02:21 PM GMT

Many thanks all for your kind comments.

I have just returned from Wiltshire (didn't take my lap top) so a bit late with reports. Suffice to say that Friday and Saturday were a write off due to grey gloom and drizzle, But Sunday and Monday were simply WOW!

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 18-Aug-20 07:33 PM GMT

Looking forward to the WOW days Trevor – unfortunately both those days I was booked in for Family Duties 😊 Even worse tomorrow it's the Blue and Yellow Hell with it's Maze of Madness and its Sinus Sapping Scents 😊😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-Aug-20 09:56 PM GMT

Sunday 16/8. Part 1.

After two days of grey gloom while I was in Wiltshire, the Sunday showed some signs of promise. So I didn't hesitate to drive the 5 miles over to Tilshead. On arrival all was unusually quiet, but then the Sun had hardly broken through the gloom of the previous days. Fortunately it was warm and the Adonis Blues started to respond slowly, allowing for some very relaxed photography. Many shots later, I was attracted to a fairly distant bright blue object which could have been a discarded sweet wrapper. As I got closer I could see it was a male Adonis Blue displaying full 'electric blue' on all four wings, something I've never seen before. I have included an image of what I saw, but the camera hardly did the butterfly justice. The other species seen at Tilshead speak for themselves, with the exception of a solitary Chalkhill Blue.

Then, after Tilshead I drove over to Shipton Bellinger.....



Full 'electric blue'.



Just one Chalkhill Blue, among all the Adonis!.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 18-Aug-20 10:09 PM GMT

Looks like you were in a bit of Blue heaven, Trevor – the colour of those Adonis is absolutely stunning. 😊 Less than brilliant sunshine is definitely the best for getting good shots of them. That's a splendid new female, too. 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-Aug-20 10:29 PM GMT

Cheers, Dave. Tilshead never disappoints.

On arrival at Shipton Bellinger the cloud had reasserted itself, but it was very warm. The temperature alone gave cause for optimism, but a thorough search of ' the hedge ' revealed nothing. So I retraced the route that Wurzel had taken the previous week and to the same thistle that the first male was found. To my astonishment there was a male Brown Hairstreak on the very same thistle from a week ago!.

The same male, we will never know, but quite possibly!.

Keep well, all.
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 18-Aug-20 10:38 PM GMT

Well done with the brostreak!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-Aug-20 10:49 PM GMT

Many thanks, Katrina. On Monday I went back to Shipton B., and Hairstreak heaven !.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 19-Aug-20 09:55 PM GMT

Monday 17th Aug. Back to Tilshead.

When I left for Tilshead there seemed an improvement in the weather, but driving over the plain a thick mist covered most of the area, including the Tilshead site.

Wellies were a requirement as the tall grass was very wet, and most roosting butterflies were covered in dew, and were inactive for over an hour after arrival.

When the sun got to work the photo opps kept coming, including a male Adonis Blue ab, which had yet to open up, allowing shots of both sides to be taken. This specimen was devoid of hind wing markings.

As well as the many Adonis Blues, of both sexes, a few Common Blues were found, along with another lone male Chalkhill Blue.

It was by now 10.30, and time to head over to Shipton Bellinger.



Female Adonis Blues covered in dew.



Male Adonis Blue ab



Male Adonis Blue ab



A bright blue jewel in the grass.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-Aug-20 08:07 AM GMT

Monday 17th Aug. Shipton Bellinger.

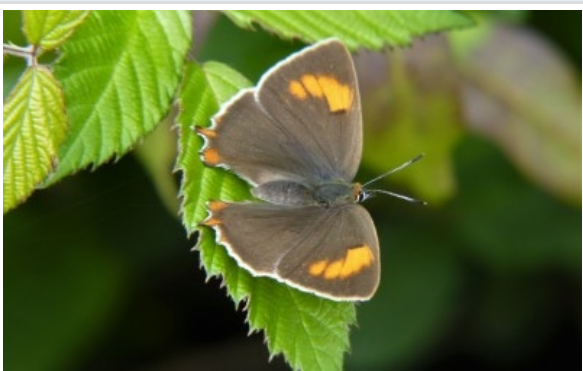
The weather had really improved by the time I arrived at Shipton B. Indeed I was enjoying probably some of the best Brownie weather possible. Bursts of hot sunshine, with lots of fluffy white cloud and no breeze gave cause for optimism. So I slowly toured the famous hedge, when nearer the 'Tidworth' end of the hedge I spotted the unmistakable sight of a BH in flight. When I caught up with it, it had landed high up and was perched with wings slightly open. After a few zoomed in shots, this BH began to wander, then flew almost from view. I stood for ages watching and hoping that this butterfly would come down lower, but it was clearly not going to co-operate so I reluctantly disturbed the foliage, with nothing to lose, gently shook the general area the butterfly was occupying. It worked!, and I could now clearly see a pristine female BH.

Having spent the best part of an hour with that BH, it was time to carry on searching. Back at the ' Bulford ' end of the hedge an elderly couple were searching for BH. After a short conversation with them I started to resume my search, then I heard the woman shout out " I've just disturbed one ", I was, after a short while, able to relocate this perfectly fresh female BH. And after many underside shots, this perfect female began to open up, and eventually opened up fully.





The 2nd female.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 20-Aug-20 09:28 AM GMT

Beautiful shots, Trevor – pretty well the holy grail as far as Brown Hairstreak is concerned. Not a mark on her. 😊🍷🍷🍷

I'd put your feet up for the year now! 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-Aug-20 10:03 AM GMT

I can't put my feet up yet, Dave. I'm hoping for a long Autumn with Cloudies and Long Tailed Blues. And having been away recently, I still have to check Park Corner for second brood SPBF.

I have to agree, female Brownies don't come any better than those two! 😊

Stay well!,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 20-Aug-20 01:01 PM GMT

Well you've certainly come up with the goods on those posts 🍷

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 20-Aug-20 10:17 PM GMT

Brilliant stuff Trevor 😊 – great to see Tilshead throwing up the goods – cracking ab 🍷🍷 But those shots of the female Borstreak – lush she is mint 😊
🍷🍷 Good to see Shipton delivering again – I was a bit worried after reading that the 'Collector' had been there again last week but there are still reasonable numbers of females about 😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 20-Aug-20 10:22 PM GMT

Fantastic images of the Brown Hairstreaks, Trevor! Looks like they are having a better year than last year!

Re: Trevor

by David M, 21-Aug-20 06:57 AM GMT

That second Brown Hairstreak is immaculate, Trevor. I reckon that's as good as it gets. 🍷

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 21-Aug-20 07:12 PM GMT

A lovely female Brown Hairstreak there Trevor 🍷😊

Cracking Adonis Blues in your previous posts too 🍷😊

Cheers,

Neil

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 24-Aug-20 08:41 PM GMT

Many thanks, all. Those two female Brown Hairstreaks were hard won. The first one required loads of patience, and the second one was in a bramble thicket. I had to stand for quite a while with thorns penetrating my thick jeans.

It occurred to me that the fresh open wing female was probably the finest specimen I've seen since 2012.



Steyning, August 2012.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 25-Aug-20 11:20 AM GMT

That's a fantastic shot of the Hair Streak 🍷🍷 one I've yet to see 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 25-Aug-20 08:44 PM GMT

I might have given up after getting a shot like that Trevor – getting anything better would have seemed impossible 🤩😊🍷🍷

Have a goodun and say safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 26-Aug-20 03:35 PM GMT

[quote=trevor post_id=157649 time=1598298110 user_id=13654]It occurred to me that the fresh open wing female was probably the finest specimen I've seen since 2012.

The one in 2012 must have been quite something to eclipse that latest one, Trevor. 🍷

Nothing finer than an immaculate female *betulae*.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 27-Aug-20 07:28 AM GMT

Many thanks, Goldie, Wurzel & David.

I remember Neil Hulme commenting on that pristine Brown Hairstreak at Steyning in 2012. His theory was that the butterfly was so fresh, that it had yet to take it's first flight up to the nearby Ash trees.

On Sunday, in inclement weather, I found my first Painted Lady of the year, sheltering high up in a crevice on a very old brick wall.

Keep well, all.
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 27-Aug-20 07:51 PM GMT

You did well with that one Trevor 😊🍀 - they've been very thin on the ground this year - often the way after a 'Painted Lady Year' 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 28-Aug-20 08:58 PM GMT

[quote=trevor_post_id=157728_time=1598509691_user_id=13654]...On Sunday, in inclement weather, I found my first Painted Lady of the year, sheltering high up in a crevice on a very old brick wall.

Only seen single figures myself, Trevor, and that includes two trips abroad, to France & Spain.

Amazing how a butterfly can go from being so common one year to so scarce the next. 😊

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 29-Aug-20 04:27 PM GMT

Hi! Trevor, I'm still looking for my first Painted Lady , hope fully before the Summers gone 😊 Question is, (Is the Summer still here) 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 31-Aug-20 08:41 PM GMT

Today had a real end of season feel about it, and as I wandered around Rowland Wood butterflies were hard to find. A Speckled Wood was the first find of the morning, then two worn Small Coppers were found on the dwindling Fleabane.

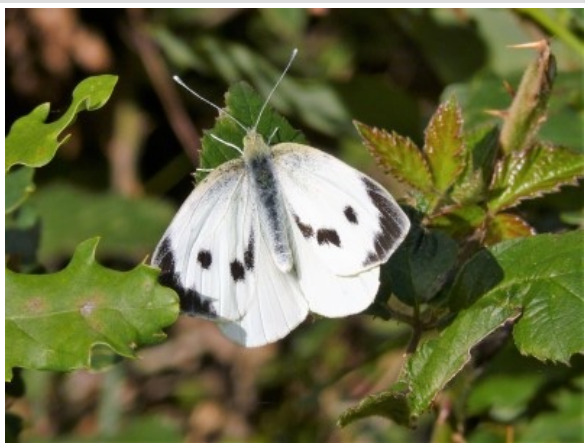
Park Corner Heath eventually provided two fresh butterflies, first a glowing Small Copper spent ages basking on the path, then a little later on a beautiful female Large White, well endowed with black markings, flew from plant to plant, allowing for several shots.

There were still no signs of any second brood Small Pearl Bordered Fritillaries.

I am pretty sure there has not been a second brood at PCH/Rowland wood this year.

Stay well all,
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 01-Sep-20 06:24 PM GMT

Things have taken a real Autumnal turn over this way too Trevor 😊 I wonder if we'll have an early doors year or whether there will be a sudden rallying with an Indian Summer? 😊 Sorry to hear about the lack of 2nd brood Small Pearls – I did see mention of them over in Somerset a few days back and the South West populations are often the first to emerge the first time round – is there still time over your way?

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Sep-20 06:42 PM GMT

Cheers Wurzel, On August 5th last year I saw three 2nd brood SPBF on the small patch Heather at Park Corner. I've been over there about six times since early August so I think any 2020 2nd brood would have appeared by now.

BUT!, I discovered the 3rd brood of another species today.

Stay well,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Sep-20 07:04 PM GMT

Early this morning I drove up to High and Over to see if any 3rd brood Wall Browns had appeared yet. In previous years, about now, it was possible to find a few fading 2nd brood Walls and the odd 3rd brood example.

This was the case today, but as the sun warmed they proved absolute devils to approach. Indeed it became so warm against their favourite hedge, that they closed up as soon as they landed. So I have plenty of closed wing shots, but not many basking.

In all I saw five fresh males and one tired old 2nd brood male. One of the fresh males had a deformed RH hind wing, which appeared to be stuck to the forewing.

I also found a bonus Comma, and a most gorgeous, fresh, vibrant Red Admiral.

A wonderful morning,
Trevor.



Last of the summer brood.





Male with deformed RH hindwing.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 01-Sep-20 07:37 PM GMT

A fantastic set of Walls Trevor 🍷 - the hind wing 'eyes' really stand out against the cryptic colouring 😊😄 The one with the deformed hind wing is really interesting, especially as the markings seem perfectly formed, just painted on a smaller canvas 😊😄

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-Sep-20 09:25 PM GMT

I wonder if any of the Wilts Wall Brown colonies have a Third brood, Wurzel. High and Over is quite reliable in this respect.

In search of some late Summer/early Autumn colour and some butterfly variety, I visited the gardens of Herstmonceux Castle this morning. Sunshine was limited, but when it shone the butterflies responded in good numbers. Whites dominated, both Large and Small but a single Green Veined White was found among them. This is also a very good site for Small Coppers, and many were seen including an ab (radiata ?) but fresh ones were at a premium. A single, fresh, Peacock completed the day.

Stay safe and well all,
Trevor.



Small Copper ab.

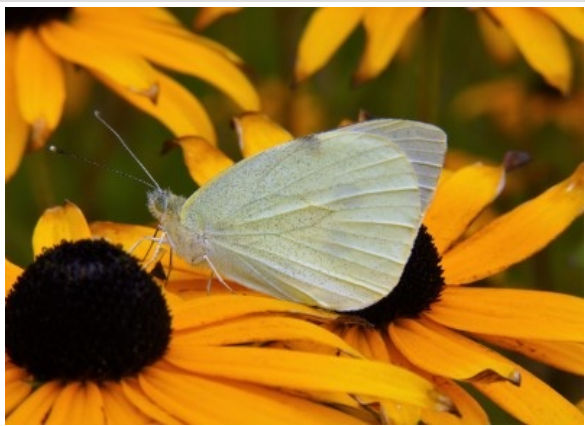


Small Copper in 3D !





The lone Green Veined White.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 03-Sep-20 09:01 AM GMT

That's a very nice Small Copper ab., Trevor – the hindwings are almost bereft of orange altogether! 😊 I wonder if that Peacock (being fresh) is a second brood example?

Useful to know the third round of Walls have started at High & Over – I feel another Sussex trip will be required very soon, with an early start to catch them before they are too active... 😊😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-Sep-20 11:41 AM GMT

Cheers Dave. I only managed two shots of that Small Copper ab before it was off, unlike some of the others, it was not seen again.

For the next couple of weeks those gardens will be heaving with butterflies, given good, sunny weather. Well worth a visit.

As for H&O, don't forget that the sun shines on that hedge as soon as it rises!

Stay safe and well,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 03-Sep-20 12:44 PM GMT

Lovely Copper Trevor 🦋, *radiata* verging into *obsoleta* possibly. That's one species where I don't see many abs at all, I do have one nice one waiting in the wings though 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 04-Sep-20 06:06 PM GMT

Cracking set of images Trevor with some lovely Coppers. 😊🦋 That ab is very interesting – that streak of orange almost suggests ab.radiata, I wonder if there is such a thing as 'partial radiata'? 😊 either way still most cracking 🦋

The Walls I saw a couple of years back at Great Cheverall were on 29th August so second brood – I did read somewhere that there were often 3rd brood Walls around September/October time at Keyhaven but I can't recall seeing any records from Wiltshire that would suggest a third brood – if I get a chance on Monday I'll have a flick back through the annual county records 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 04-Sep-20 07:29 PM GMT

Cheers Paul & Wurzel. More Walls today!.

On arrival at High and Over this morning I just had time to photograph two of the three Wall Browns that appeared when a bank of high cloud came over, the temperature dropped and the butterflies disappeared. Looking at the images obtained, they looked OK, so I headed back to the car. From the car park I could see a large patch of blue sky, which should be at H&O within an hour or so. So I decided to stay on.

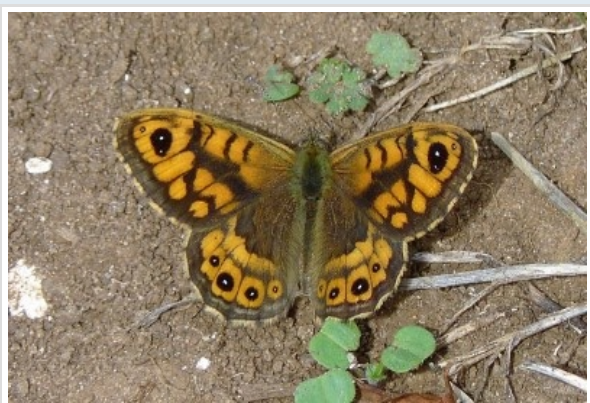
Several Red Admirals entertained, nectaring on Ivy blossom, as I waited. It was interesting to watch the Red Admiral's irritation as hundreds of Ivy bees buzzed around them.

Then I felt warmth on my back, the Sun had returned!.

Back at the famed steps where basking Walls are almost guaranteed all hell was breaking out, with many male Wall squabbles taking place, pairs, threes and even four were brawling in the air. Fortunately the earlier cool weather meant that many of the Walls needed to bask for longer than normal, allowing me plenty of photo opps.

All posed open wing today!

Trevor.



Note twin eyespots.



One double eyespot.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 04-Sep-20 07:35 PM GMT

Great Walls Trevor 😊 I think that the one with the double eye spots is called 'anticrassipincta' but I might be mistaken 😊😊 Great shot by the way 🍷

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

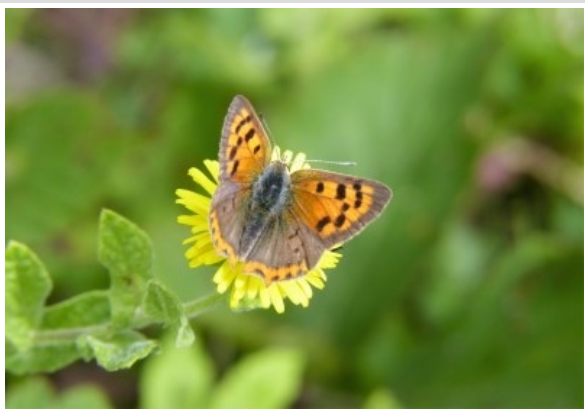
Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Sep-20 09:04 PM GMT

I went for a stroll around Rowland Wood this afternoon. There were very few butterflies to be seen, but unusually I found two Small Heaths nectaring, as opposed to grounded and tilted to one side, also they were not too easily disturbed. A couple of fresh male Common Blues and a part worn Small Copper. Then a shower brought my brief walk to a close.

Stay well all,
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 06-Sep-20 10:14 PM GMT

More excellent Wall shots from High & Over, Trevor. 😊 With a decent weather forecast this week, there should be some further opportunities to see them (I hope!).

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 07-Sep-20 09:07 AM GMT

Some cracking Wall Browns in your previous report Trevor 🍷😄 Well worth sticking around for the cloud to move on.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-Sep-20 03:19 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, Dave and Neil. I think I've got my head around the name for that twin spot, Wurzel. That cloud cover was just the cooling off period those Walls needed.

Anyway I found a very fresh male speckled Wood this morning. And I have included a teaser for what else was seen today!



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 07-Sep-20 08:50 PM GMT

A very nice new Specklie, Trevor – and before I saw this post I had already somehow guessed what you might also have been up to (and even sent you a PM on the subject... 😊😄)

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 07-Sep-20 09:12 PM GMT

From events I saw on facebook over the weekend I've already penciled in Thursday for a trip into Sussex to go looking for some BLEP, that looks the best day weatherwise that coincides with a day off... 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-Sep-20 10:31 PM GMT

As you might of guessed a hunt for Long Tailed Blues was on the menu today.

I arrived at Whitehawk Hill to a grey sky, and for about 30 mins all I saw was the Speckled Wood (above). One other person was already on site and he confirmed that nothing had been seen. Then a couple turned up and the woman, whilst walking through the long grass, sent up an LTB. Fortunately we all saw where it landed. We were looking at a near pristine male, and with no sun, we all had plenty of time for many shots

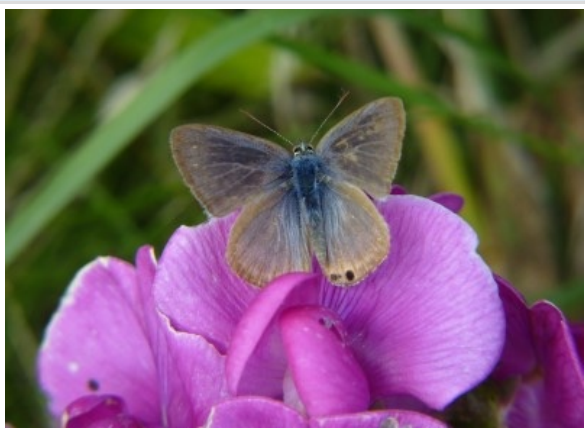
When the sun did appear the warmth built very quickly, and very soon multiple LTB's were zooming around. There was no need for photographers huddles there were enough for everyone to have their own personal LTB!

I even saw five in the air at the same time, three in a vertical chase and two flying around the BLEP. I won't even try to guess how many were seen, but the action was non stop.

An absolutely fabulous morning!
Trevor.









Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 07-Sep-20 11:35 PM GMT



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 08-Sep-20 01:58 PM GMT

I have to echo those 🦋 Terrific shots of a fresh male LTB, Trevor. (Somewhat annoying as I wasn't very far away yesterday...!)

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 08-Sep-20 08:16 PM GMT

I was scrolling through and the moment I saw a BLEP I thought "here we go!" 🦋 Fantastic set of shots Trevor 😊🦋🦋🦋 When fresh the males look distinctly hairy 😏 not something I'd noticed before 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

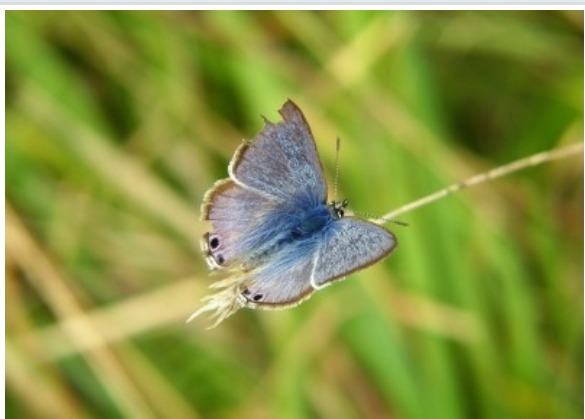
Re: Trevor

by trevor, 08-Sep-20 10:40 PM GMT

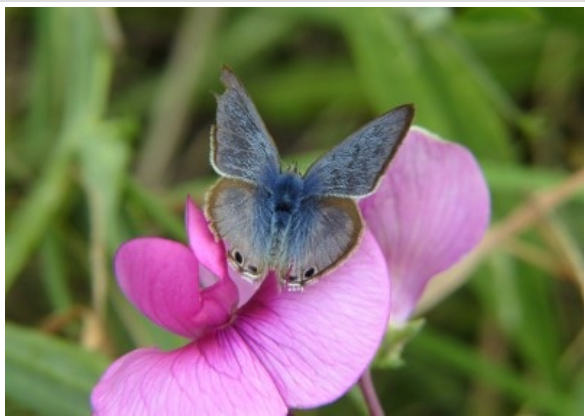
Many thanks Gentlemen, I went back to Whitehawk Hill for another dose today..

Although there were fewer Long Tailed Blues flying this morning than yesterday it was still action packed. For the first hour I had the site to myself, when most images were obtained. Later on, as more people arrived the site became crowded. Visitors came from afar including Norfolk and Oxford. I think all would have headed home happy, as the LTB's were reasonably co-operative.

Another great morning,
Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Sep-20 08:20 PM GMT

An excellent week for migrants.

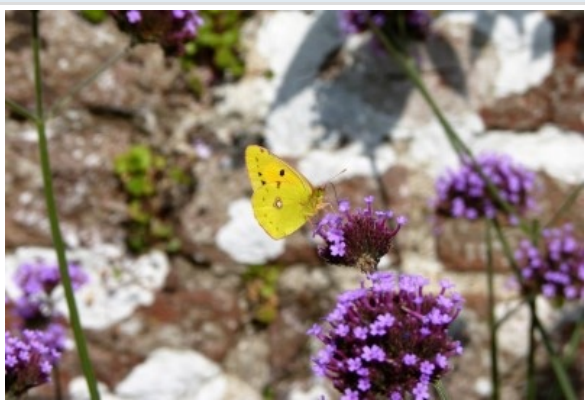
This morning Doug and myself visited the gardens of Herstmonceux Castle. We had not been there long when a Clouded Yellow was spotted. Sometime later when the butterfly returned I saw it land on a large patch of Rudbeckia. The resulting image is rather yellow! A little later a lady gardener asked us if we were looking for butterflies, and pointed to a grounded Cloudie, so we grabbed a few more shots, and thanked the lady.

On the way to lunch, passing through another part of the garden, I saw a Cloudie land on a Verbena and in a great position for quite a few shots.

I had no doubt at the time that we had seen ONE busy Cloudie, but when I loaded my shots onto the laptop it became clear that we had seen three different individuals.

These were my first Clouded Yellows since 2018. None were seen last year.

More to follow,
Trevor





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 11-Sep-20 07:49 PM GMT

Fantastic images Trevor - LTBs 🍷🍷 and the Cloudies 🍷 That first one is so vivid and yellow it almost looks fake 🤪🤪

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-Sep-20 10:02 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel. Two of those fresh Clouded Yellows were particularly bright. It's a pity they never open up when nectaring, with such beautiful markings.

One of the reasons for our visit to Herstmonceux yesterday, was for the Small Copper. The garden offers them abundant nectar from the late summer flowers, and for us a dramatic backdrop to set off their bright copper orange.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 11-Sep-20 10:14 PM GMT

Lovely fresh vibrant Cloudies, Trevor. 🍷 That must make up for missing out last year. If only they were so obliging every time, but they must have been captivated by the abundant nectar sources in the gardens. Cloudies are very identifiable by that central hindwing mark – it's almost like a fingerprint and very useful when you're trying to work out how many you've actually seen. The Coppers are an excellent selection too. 😊

After seeing all your terrific shots, I've caught up with those LTB myself now – almost certainly some of the same individuals. I suspect their hindwing markings would also be as individual as those on the Cloudies... 😊😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 12-Sep-20 05:55 PM GMT

A veritable Constabulary of Coppers Trevor 😊😊🍷 The floral backgrounds really bring out their colours to great effect 😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 12-Sep-20 08:37 PM GMT

Cheers Dave. The two Cloudies on the flowers were almost passed off as a singleton, it took careful scrutiny to establish that two individuals had been seen.

The third one on the ground was easy as it was showing some wear.

Looking forward to your (and Bugboys) LTB shots, a 🍷 in advance if either of you managed an image of a pristine female!. Neil Hulme has a stunning female shot.

We tended to lose interest in the Coppers once the Cloudie(s) appeared, Wurzel. Two interesting migrant species, and pristine examples of both, in one week can't be bad!. Let's hope this weather holds.

Take care both,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-Sep-20 06:50 PM GMT

I had a great day at Herstmonceux Castle gardens today, lots of butterflies including a bonus Small Tortoiseshell. One Small Tortoiseshell is good around here, two and it would have been champagne and dancing girls tonight!. To celebrate this sighting it'll be a bottle of chilled Leffe blonde.

Trevor.

More to follow.



Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 13-Sep-20 08:59 PM GMT

Great Small Tortoiseshell photo. I haven't seen many this year.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-Sep-20 09:41 PM GMT

That was my 5th Small Tort from East Sussex this year, Katrina. To put it into perspective I've seen greater numbers of Black Hairstreaks, Purple Emperors, and Long Tailed Blues this year than Small Torts.

Serious times for them around here.
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-Sep-20 10:20 PM GMT

There was an amazing number of fresh Common Blues at Herstmonceux today. I found a mating pair in full view of the visitors, none of them noticed though.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-Sep-20 10:32 PM GMT

The main reason for my visit to Herstmonceux today was for Clouded Yellows. Unlike Thursdays visit, today I saw three Cloudies in the air at the same time. I have yet to analyse my images thoroughly, but I am sure there are shots of two of them. They are so easy to photograph there, no scrambling up steep slopes, and when nectaring on *Verbena Bonariensis* they are at head height. Very civilised!

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 13-Sep-20 10:37 PM GMT

Loving that first shot. Stunning with the yellow and purple. Better than the standard Cloudie shot.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-Sep-20 11:03 PM GMT

Thanks Katrina. Maybe you should visit those gardens on one of your days off. There is a lot of variety there, and even an area specially planted for butterflies.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-Sep-20 10:21 PM GMT

The temperature when I left home this morning was only 13c.

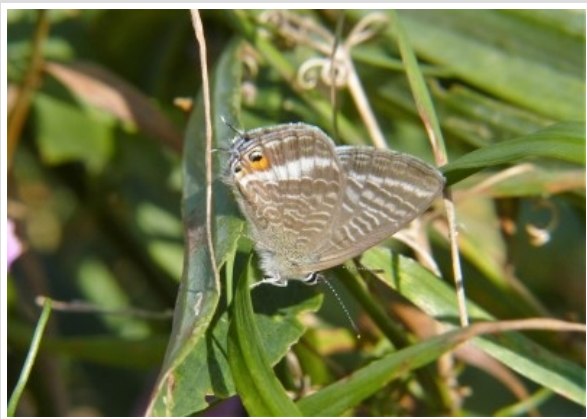
When I arrived at Whitehawk it had crept up to 19c. Surprisingly six people were already on site. One of the enthusiasts, Andrew Burns, told me that my hoped for pristine female had already been seen. For the next hour or so only very tatty and worn males appeared, and more people arrived.

A large huddle concentrated on a fairly fresh LTB that had landed near some BLEP, and there it stayed. Once the huddle eased I went over for my turn and soon became convinced that this butterfly was a female, just by it's behaviour. This was confirmed when she started wing rolling and milk coffee brown coloured hind wing could clearly be seen. Unfortunately in the heat she never opened up and eventually flew up into a bush.

I later met Max Anderson and he kindly directed me away from the crowd to a spot where a male LTB was regularly returning to a favourite perch, several satisfactory shots were obtained when the LTB came back to his perch. In the heat today most of the LTB's kept their wings closed on landing.

It was also good to have a catch up with Ben Greenaway this morning

Not the best day, but still quite enjoyable.
Trevor.



The only female I saw today.





Re: Trevor

by David M, 15-Sep-20 08:14 PM GMT

Fabulous reportages, Trevor. Whilst I'm conscious of your dearth of Small Tortoiseshells (they are common round my way), I am extremely envious that you can hook up with Clouded Yellows and Long Tailed Blues. 🍷

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 15-Sep-20 08:30 PM GMT

Lovely shot of the Small Tort Trevor – and a good choice of beer 🍷😄 Those Clouded Yellows are some of the yellowish Cloudies that I think I've ever seen! 🍷😄🍷 Lovely set of, the now almost obligatory, LTBs 😄 Still a few of these left in the tank 🍷🍷🍷

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-Sep-20 08:51 PM GMT

I went back to Whitehawk Hill again this morning for what will possibly be my last visit of this year. The next time I could visit is next Tuesday, and the site is now so trampled with very few pea flowers left that could mean a wasted future trip.

The start today was hampered by a stiff breeze and no sun, and left the waiting hopefuls twiddling their thumbs. Not too long after Katrina arrived she spotted an LTB land on a leaf a short distance from the main area.

Next came the butterfly of the day (as far as I was concerned), another small group had discovered a Clouded Yellow hunkered down in the grass. After they left it I took a few shots, and soon realised that I was looking at a Helice which nicely completed my Clouded Yellow collection for this year.

I was denied the hoped for open wing female LTB, but a couple of fairly fresh males obliged for the camera once the sun finally appeared.

It was great to meet Katrina, John Williams and Ben today.
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 16-Sep-20 10:42 PM GMT

Good to see you today. Unsurprisingly my photos look very similar!

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 16-Sep-20 11:01 PM GMT

Very nice set of shots, Trevor. There aren't going to be many days when you can see both LTB and a *helice* Clouded Yellow flying in the same spot. 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 17-Sep-20 08:11 PM GMT

Flipping fantastic way to finish the Whitehawk Hill visits Trevor 🤔🤔🤔 I'd have been chuffed with LTBs and the Cloudies but even more so with the Helice - I've never seen one 🤔🤔🤔

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 18-Sep-20 08:44 AM GMT

Some beautiful Clouded Yellow shots in your earlier reports Trevor 🍷🍷🍷

Cracking LTB shots from Whitehawk Hill 🍷🍷

And a helice too 🍷🍷

[quote=trevor_post_id=158285_time=1600285909_user_id=13654] I went back to Whitehawk Hill again this morning for what will possibly be my last visit of this year. The next time I could visit is next Tuesday, and the site is now so trampled with very few pea flowers left that could mean a wasted future trip.

A shame about the trampling of the habitat Trevor but I suppose it was inevitable once the word was out and the twitchers started descending on the site. I have seen a number of comments on social media about the number of people there and a couple of photos showing a crowd of photographers gathered around a LTB with very little social distancing.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 20-Sep-20 06:13 PM GMT

Long Tailed Blue and *helice* Clouded Yellow is amazing, Trevor. You'd struggle to see that in the south of France!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-Sep-20 08:06 PM GMT

Many thanks Katrina, Dave, Wurzel, Neil & David.

Considering there was not much else flying at Whitehawk Hill, the combination of Long Tailed Blues and a helice was quite remarkable.

Wiltshire turned out to be very quiet on the butterfly front. Two highlights were a high speed Clouded Yellow at Tilshead, and a male Wall Brown in the grounds of my ex. Wife's house. With my camera some distance away on a patio table I had no chance of photographing the Wall.

Never mind I had better luck today!
Trevor.

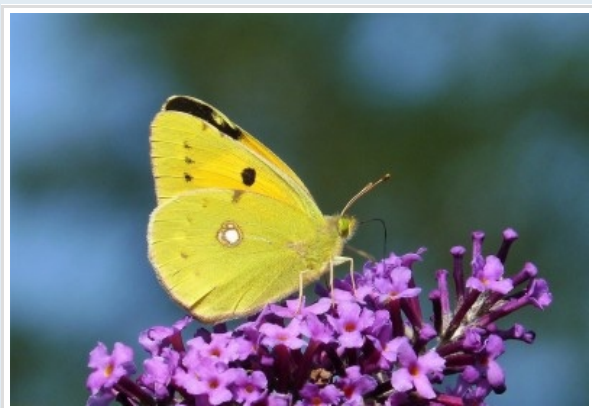
Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-Sep-20 09:36 PM GMT

To make the most of the remaining fine weather another visit to Herstmonceux Castle was on the cards today. There were many Small Coppers squabbling among themselves, and they also took great exception to any Common Blue that passed by.

At least two Clouded Yellows were seen, and at one point they met, so I had two definite individuals to identify. Eventually both settled and were in 'the bag' after a few missed opportunities.

Stay safe and well,
Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by David M, 22-Sep-20 03:34 PM GMT

That first image positively glows, Trevor, with the slight glimpse of the darker upperside contrasting beautifully with both the underside and the flower the butterfly is nectaring from. I presume it's buddleia and the following two are verberna?

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Sep-20 04:43 PM GMT

Thanks David. Yes that one was on Buddleia. That's when I discovered the second one as it flew over and sent my subject up!

Stay safe,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

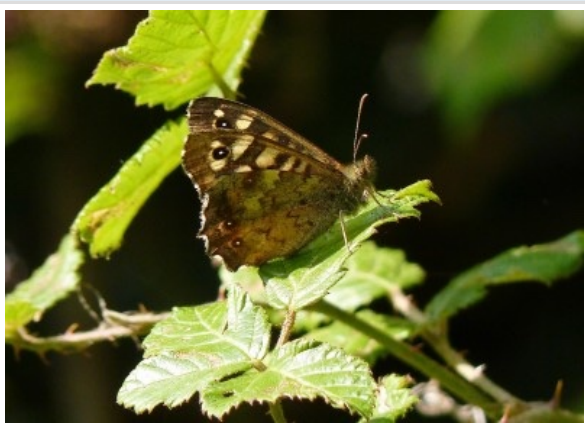
by trevor, 22-Sep-20 06:46 PM GMT

For a little while this morning I thought my plans for the last, forecast fine day, had been scuppered when a thick, damp mist descended. Fortunately the Sun eventually broke through so I made my way up to High and Over.

The 3rd brood Wall Browns were still going strong (more later), but in the meantime there were fresh Speckled Woods, Red Admirals, and a solitary Peacock (too high for a shot) to be seen.



Note discoloured hind wing.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Sep-20 10:36 PM GMT

It is now 22 days since I found the first 3rd brood Wall Browns at High and Over. It was clear today that they were still going strong, although most males were worn to some degree. Always looking out for the more elusive females, I was delighted to stumble upon a pristine female posing perfectly, then (that law again) just as I was about to ' click ' a male found her, and it was a hop, skip and a jump until they both disappeared over a barbed wire fence into a meadow and out of sight.

Never mind, the Walls still had another surprise in store for me!



A snatch shot of a pristine female after a male had found her.



As always, in all three broods, this seat is always the centre of a males territory.



The only very fresh male of the day.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Sep-20 11:27 PM GMT

The surprise of the day was reserved for later on, as I was about to head home. There is another wooden seat well away from normal Wall Brown activity, as I have occasionally seen the odd male defending this seat I thought I would take a quick look.

Sure enough a tired looking old and tatty male was found around that seat, and after a short while he had found a female who was not in the slightest bit interested in his advances. After several shots of the rejection ritual, they both flew out of sight. Within a minute the old male had returned without the female to his territory.

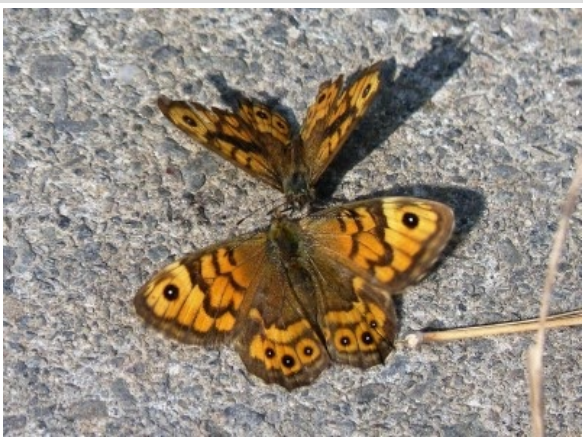
Keep well all,
Trevor.



This worn male is about to have a few seconds of excitement.



He is nothing but persistent.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 23-Sep-20 08:04 AM GMT

That's a great bit of behaviour, Trevor. 😊 Usually this sort of thing takes place in the grass where you can't see properly what's going on (let alone get a photo), but you had a nice open flat surface as a backdrop and made the most of it!

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 23-Sep-20 10:07 PM GMT

As Dave says Trevor – a cracking bit of behaviour caught on camera 😊 I was unable to make the most of the last couple of good days as I was stuck in work and then was needed home on the hurry up 😊 Oh well there might be a bit more life in the season yet 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 24-Sep-20 08:32 AM GMT

What a treat for September! Not many get to see this behaviour too often, although I suspect that the presence of a third brood these days is instrumental in this species' general decline in the more southern parts of the UK. 😞

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 24-Sep-20 11:11 AM GMT

Thanks Dave. A concrete slab in front of that seat made an ideal 'dance floor' for those two. The female was quivering her wings the whole time the male was in pursuit, hence the blurred wing tips in my shots.

Cheers Wurzel, I treated Mon & Tues this week as a last chance saloon for going out with any certainty of finding end of season butterflies. Especially as the weather brought a premature end to Autumn excursions last year.

Wall Browns regularly produce a third brood at High and Over, David, and from what I have seen go on to produce three healthy broods the following year. Two other Sussex hot spots, Cissbury Ring and Mill Hill have also had third broods this year. I would say that the Sussex colonies I know of are holding their own.

Stay safe and well all,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 24-Sep-20 05:46 PM GMT

Some nice Walls there, they've had a really good third brood it would seem, loads at Tidemills now, all over the site. Not bad considering I only saw them there for the first time last year!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 25-Sep-20 07:31 AM GMT

I have not visited Tide Mills for sometime Paul, but it seems like a visit soon, weather permitting, would be worthwhile. I have often found the odd Wall over there, but I like the sound of 'all over the site'. I saw a male in Wilts on Sunday.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 27-Sep-20 06:56 PM GMT

`{quote=trevor post_id=158453 time=1600942264 user_id=13654}`...Wall Browns regularly produce a third brood at High and Over, David, and from what I have seen go on to produce three healthy broods the following year. Two other Sussex hot spots, Cissbury Ring and Mill Hill have also had third broods this year. I would say that the Sussex colonies I know of are holding their own

Pleased to hear that, Trevor. One presumes that if average temperatures continue to rise, then this species will break out of its 'developmental trap' and start to become commoner in those places where conditions are optimal.

I don't think I'll be around to see any such success however; I think it will take another 30-50 years for any such success to result in the Wall Brown reoccupying many of the transect squares from which it has routinely disappeared from the mid-80s onwards.

In the meantime, I expect it will remain a largely coastal butterfly in the southernmost 10% of the country and continue its drive into more northerly climes.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-Sep-20 09:36 PM GMT

We are now in late September, so I am treating each butterfly outing as though it may be the last. To almost guarantee some sightings today I went over to Herstmonceux Castle. The gardens there have thrown up a few surprises in the past, Today's surprise was the sight of nectaring Wall Browns. In all my visits I have never seen Walls there before. In all I found about four, all males.

The photographic opportunities on offer today were in complete contrast to those at High and Over!.

More to follow.....





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 29-Sep-20 08:45 AM GMT

Another small colony of Wall Browns found yesterday, David. According to the Sussex BC sightings page the 3rd brood is turning up in many places. Those found yesterday must be 3rd brood, as it is now late Sept.

Stay safe and well,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 29-Sep-20 09:02 AM GMT

An amazing number of other species, given the time of year, were to be seen at Herstmonceux yesterday. These included yet another Clouded Yellow, all four of our hibernating vanessids, including about six each of Peacocks and Red Admirals, one Comma and a single Small Tortoiseshell (my 6th of the year locally). Small Coppers and Common Blues were everywhere, and mostly worn. Whites were also present but there were far fewer seen than on my last visit.

I think I had excellent value out of my £6.00 admission fee yesterday!.

Enjoy what's left of the season,
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 30-Sep-20 07:33 PM GMT

A cracking trip report Trevor – a total contrast to the weather over this way today 🤔🌍 Congrats on the Walls as well, especially the Wall on a wall 😊



Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 30-Sep-20 09:54 PM GMT

[quote=trevor post_id=158529 time=1601366579 user_id=13654]..I think I had excellent value out of my £6.00 admission fee yesterday!

I'd have happily paid triple that fee for those butterflies, Trevor.

That verbena was clearly quite potent. I'm used to seeing vanessids nectaring from it, but to have Wall Browns and Clouded Yellows visiting must have been extremely satisfying. 🍷

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Oct-20 10:13 PM GMT

A bit of a panic this morning. The car went in for it's annual service, in Uckfield. And what had been a morning of doubtful weather suddenly turned bright, warm and sunny. And there was me with no car. Fortunately I returned to the garage early, and my car was ready!. So I dashed home, grabbed my camera and headed over to Herstmonceux Castle.

This afternoon it was a case of quality over quantity. The first find was a stunning, fresh, ' blue ' female Common Blue, with possibly the finest markings I've ever seen. Small Coppers were still around in good numbers, but only one Peacock was found. Once I had decided to head for home, something spurred me on to make a last quick tour of the garden. This last minute decision produced a magnificent female Wall Brown, basking in a very appropriate fashion, on a wall!. A male was also found on the same wall.

Not a bad day for Oct.1st.

Stay well,
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 02-Oct-20 09:29 AM GMT

A lovely blue female Common Blue, Trevor – a real favourite of mine, that. 😊 Interesting that third brood Walls are appearing all over the Sussex Coast, even outside the spots where this is an annual phenomenon these days. We shall have to wait and see how this affects numbers next spring. They also seem to have turned up in more places generally – maybe they are spreading further afield once more? Your Wall-on-the-wall shots are terrific – this species earned its name for a reason! 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-Oct-20 11:26 AM GMT

Cheers Dave. Regarding the 3rd brood Walls, as you know those at High and Over seem to produce a 3rd brood in most years, and there are still good numbers of Spring brood the following year. The situation of the site, ie. its proximity to the sea and that hedge may offer some protection for overwintering eggs. Whatever, they always seem to do well up there. And yes, as a species Wall Browns seem to have had a great year, at least in the south.

Stay safe and well,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 03-Oct-20 10:22 PM GMT

Cracking Common Blue Trevor and two Walls on a wall? Brilliant! 😊🍀 It was probably good fortune that your car was in when it was – as you might have missed out on those finds if you'd gone any earlier 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 04-Oct-20 11:17 AM GMT

You say I might not have found them if I'd been earlier Wurzel. I have often wondered what I have missed at a site by being late, and what's landed behind me as I've headed for home!

Stay safe and Well,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-Oct-20 09:53 PM GMT

After three days of wind and rain, a sizable patch of blue sky mid morning was all the encouragement I needed to get out for a couple of hours. Such was my haste to make the most of the improving weather, that I later discovered that the memory card for my camera was still at home 😊.

Fortunately the camera's internal memory will hold twelve images, so I needed to be both sparing and ruthless at the same time, and delete any unsatisfactory shots. A few Common blue shots had to go when I found a nectaring Comma, and later a fresh looking female Wall Brown. Two Peacocks were also a welcome sight as was a fresh Red Admiral with a large chunk of forewing wing missing.

Back at home I had to figure out how to retrieve today's shots from the camera, which took a while, as this was the first time I have had do it, and was hopefully the last time.

Stay well all,
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 05-Oct-20 10:20 PM GMT

Cricky Trevor you did brilliantly to get the pass rate that you did to get those shots! 🍷😄 That's actually a pretty good method, it must have made the sorting and processing later much easier at least 😊😄

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Oct-20 09:28 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel. While taking my photo's yesterday with no memory card I was reminded of the old box camera I had as a boy, which again would only take twelve shots, and then came the agonising wait for the developed film to come back from the chemists. It was also expensive with only paper round money as income.

Re: Trevor

by ernie f, 07-Oct-20 07:28 PM GMT

Trevor

I'm catching up with peoples PD's. Love your pic of a Cloudie with blue sky behind and an amazing number of Wall Browns. Looks like they are expanding their range if you are seeing them in places you never saw them before. Hope they come over my way some-day.

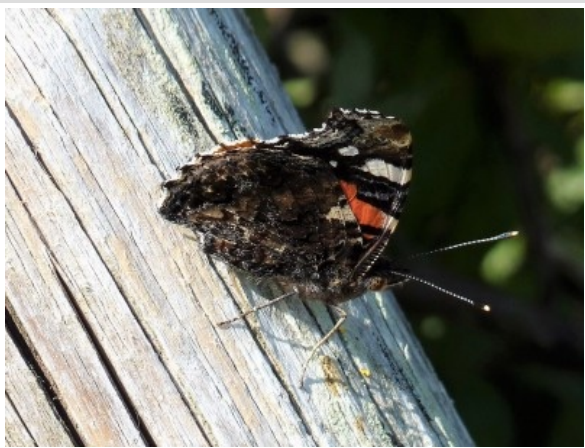
Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-Oct-20 10:50 PM GMT

Thanks Ernie. If that Cloudie shot is the one I think it is, it's one of my favourite shots of the year.

I was booked in for a flu jab at 12.20 today, so only a brief trip out today. I chose High and Over as it is fairly local. Only a maximum of four male Wall Browns were seen, all with battle/bird strike scars. Red Admirals numbered three, all had been indulging in Ivy blossom. Other sightings were of a single Small White and a possible Small Tortoiseshell, which was seen against the sky so only a black outline to go by.

Stay well all,
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 07-Oct-20 11:08 PM GMT

Looks like the Walls are finally coming to an end there, Trevor. Still, it looks as if the third brood has been thoroughly successful so let's hope for good numbers in the spring. 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 08-Oct-20 08:15 PM GMT

Although they're showing a little bit of wear and tear still great to see those 3rd brood Walls 😊👍 They used to have a third brood at Keyhaven but I think the numbers have dropped off there in recent years so it didn't work out for them – hopefully it will in Sussex 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-Oct-20 05:13 PM GMT

Cheers Dave & Wurzel.

As I found out today, as far as Wall Browns are concerned, the fat Lady has yet to sing!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-Oct-20 10:14 PM GMT

My original plan for today was for a trip to Mill Hill.

But at 10.00 despite a clear blue sky it was still far too cool for butterflies.

On top of that cloud and rain was forecast for the afternoon, so a very short window of fine weather meant staying local was the best bet.

So Herstmonceux Castle was the natural choice.

Shortly after arrival I was initially disappointed when only a few tired looking

Small Coppers seemed to be flying. I then noticed a female Wall Brown nectaring

on verbena but she was too far away for a shot, but I did catch up with her later on.

My next find was a complete surprise, a beautiful, very fresh, 'blue' female Common Blue,

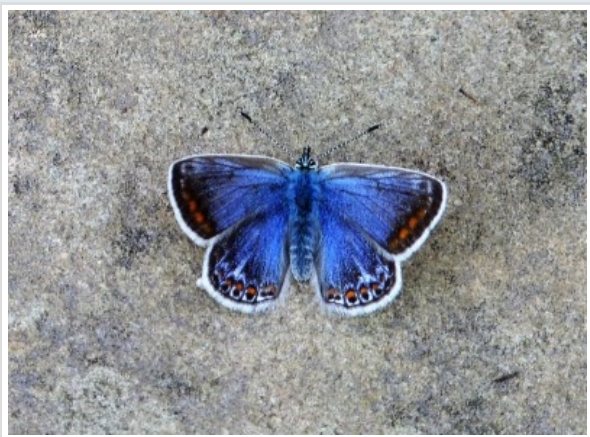
basking on a stone slab. Close inspection revealed that she was in fact drying her wings,

for she had only recently emerged. While this Common Blue was receiving my full attention

a Clouded Yellow flew in, as I focussed on the Cloudie another female Wall settled nearby.

In all three female Walls were seen, and only two males. And things became lively.....

More to follow.





The first female Wall.



The second female Wall

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Oct-20 07:26 AM GMT

The five Wall Browns, three females and two males, I saw yesterday provided a feast for the camera. When the third female came along I had to pinch myself

to confirm that I was looking at a very fresh female Wall as late as Oct 9th.

After a few shots of this third female basking on a wall, she then flew onto a Verbena to nectar and was very soon joined by a male on the same flower. Of course he was going to try his luck, and after several chases and two groundings he finally took the very strong hint that she was not interested and left her quivering her wings on the ground.

I only saw 11 butterflies yesterday, but what a day of entertainment they provided!.

Stay safe and well,
Trevor





His 2nd attempt.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 10-Oct-20 09:18 AM GMT

That is a beautifully vivid female Common Blue, Trevor. 😊 Absolutely nothing "common" about that one. When you think about it, female Common Blues are some of the most varied and striking butterflies the British list has to offer.

Among all those great Wall images, there's a terrific one (on the verbena) nicely illustrating the difference between the sexes. One for the textbook! 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 10-Oct-20 08:18 PM GMT

Fabulous Walls and Cloudy Trevor but that female Blue? 😊 There's certainly nothing Common about her 🤪🤪🤪 cracking set of shots 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-Oct-20 09:28 AM GMT

Many thanks Dave & Wurzel.

That female Common Blue was very special, more so because of the date.

But, the ratio of Wall Browns, three females to two males was what I found remarkable.

I have never found three females on the same day, nor have I seen them outnumber males before.

I might pop back today for another dose!

All the best,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 11-Oct-20 08:36 PM GMT

[quote=trevor post_id=158770 time=1602311195 user_id=13654]..When the third female came along I had to pinch myself

to confirm that I was looking at a very fresh female Wall as late as Oct 9th.

I'd be pinching myself were I to see this on 9th September, Trevor, never mind October! I'm ever more beginning to ponder over whether the Wall Brown (in certain parts of the country at least) is starting to break through its developmental trap and to become genuinely triple brooded.

Equally as satisfying is that female Common Blue. She is absolutely dazzling. 🦋

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 11-Oct-20 11:32 PM GMT

Wow, what a great place to have on your doorstep, that's turns up stuff like that.

What a lovely Common Blue!

And those Walls are superb, well done Trevor!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-Oct-20 08:23 AM GMT

Many thanks David and Mark. That female Common Blue would have been quite a find back in the Summer, let alone October.

I went back to Herstmonceux Castle on October 11th for what will probably a last visit for this year. This time it was the male Common blue that predominated, all were far from pristine, Even the only really fresh one had suffered a bird attack.

Fellow enthusiast, John Williams, joined me later on in the day, but by then the cloud had built and sunny breaks became fewer, and it was mainly down to a single male Wall Brown for the rest of the afternoon, although a female Wall was my first find in the morning.

Stay safe and well everyone,
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 13-Oct-20 10:29 AM GMT

Excellent Wall Browns Trevor 😊🇬🇧

Those, and your Clouded Yellows, also not forgetting the recent LTBs almost make me think about moving down south...almost 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-Oct-20 11:00 AM GMT

You would be very welcome ' down South ', Neil.
But, you would be a lot further away from those Northern species that you could possibly fit in to a day trip. Every area has its compensations and draw backs, but I am very lucky to have such variety on my doorstep, or a short drive away.

Stay safe and well,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 13-Oct-20 08:27 PM GMT

Great set of Blues Trevor and another Wall on a wall 😊🇬🇧 It's often the way that the freshest looking or brightest individual has been attacked and shows some damage - they just having got the knack of staying out of the way that the complete yet faded ones have 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-Oct-20 09:08 PM GMT

Cheers Wurzel, more Blues today but no Walls.
A site I visit annually, about this time of year is Southwick/ Shoreham Harbour.

This is usually a great spot for late Clouded Yellows, and today produced a very fine helice. A few males were found and all were very worn. Another pleasing find was a 'normal' female Common Blue, and again the males were all worn. Large and Small Whites were present, some in pristine condition, although in very low numbers.

Bob the Egret was ever present. Unfortunately my best shot of Bob has a sea of plastic waste as a backdrop.

Stay safe and well,
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 14-Oct-20 09:30 PM GMT

A very nice *helice* there Trevor! 😊 There seem to have been more reports of them than usual this year – but maybe there have just been more Cloudies altogether. Southwick is a very sheltered spot (in terms of temperature) so the species may well persist a bit longer down there. There must be some caterpillar foodplant too as there are always Common Blues, and the two species have similar tastes.

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-Oct-20 08:22 PM GMT

Cheers Dave. Until this year Southwick has always been my go to place for Clouded Yellows. Because it is a South facing, sheltered site I have often wondered if Cloudies could survive our winters there in whatever life stage. At Southbourne, near Bournemouth apparently they can.

Today I had a reminder that the season is now very advanced. With several tired, worn Speckled Woods and a single Large White.

Stay well,
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 15-Oct-20 11:10 PM GMT

Lovely helice Clouded Yellow, Trevor!

Things certainly seem to have come to an unwelcome and early end this year, and you've done well to see what you have. The endless rain and cold has put paid to any hope of a late season flush.

Being on the south coast, you have definitely been in the best place this autumn!

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 16-Oct-20 08:34 PM GMT

Cracking set of Helice shots Trevor - a form I've yet to encounter 🍷🍷 There is a definite "They think it's all over...it is now" feel in the air at the moment but I'm still hoping for the odd warm day and a chance sighting of a Red Admiral. You're right about the Cloudies at Southborne - I believe (my memory could fail me here) that they've been seen in every month barring January there...I need to get down there again one day...

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

ps Isn't that a Small White? 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 16-Oct-20 10:49 PM GMT

Love that *helice*, Trevor, although I confess I'm developing an increasing soft spot for Bob the Egret....even if his 'des-res' leave a lot to be desired. 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-Oct-20 04:59 PM GMT

Many thanks Mark, Wurzel & David.

The season may be nearing the end, but around here I think the fat Lady is in her boudoir fine tuning her voice in readiness for a three month long concert.

One butterfly species that's really suffering a decline around here (East Sussex) is the Small Tortoiseshell, and once again this year my sightings for the County has numbered six. And here they are!.....



The old railway, Hailsham 17/3/2020. A real rarity, on all my visits to this site, this was my first ever sighting of one at that location.



Park Corner Heath 1/6/2020. One of two on the same day!.



Rowland Wood 1/6/ 2020.



Rowland Wood 3/8/2020. The finest 2020 specimen with the most vibrant colours.



Herstmonceux Castle 13/9/2020



Herstmonceux Castle 28/9/2020

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 18-Oct-20 06:32 PM GMT

That vibrant Small Tort is a stunner Trevor 😊🍷 We still seem to be doing okay for Small Torts in the South West, perhaps the wetness of the West play a part? 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 19-Oct-20 10:02 PM GMT

Today the weather was sunny but breezy, and was just fine enough for a trip out. Around lunchtime I headed over to Herstmonceux Castle gardens. Unsurprisingly butterflies were harder to find, but I came home with images of a Red Admiral, one of two seen, and a male and female Wall Brown.

Stay safe and well,
Trevor.



Note both male and female Wall have chosen the same spot to bask.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 19-Oct-20 10:27 PM GMT

Great shots Trevor as we head into the tail end of the season 😊 Interesting that both teh males chose to perch in the same place? I wonder if the fact that there's the patch of white paint has anything to do with it as that could reflect some of the radiation back on to the underside of the butterfly 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 19-Oct-20 10:35 PM GMT

I reckon Wurzel could be right about the white paint – I've seen several butterflies settle on reflective surfaces like that (including a Red Admiral on a silver car the other day). Great photos of the Walls, Trevor. 😊 With the two on the paint splodge, the female is significantly larger than the male if you compare the outline of the paint behind them – maybe half as big again.

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Oct-20 05:07 PM GMT

Thanks Dave & Wurzel.

Been away for a few days so I'm a bit late catching up!
Ref. the Wall images above, the white patch on that wall is lichen, not paint, and both the male and female Wall Brown chose the exact same patch to bask on, despite the fact that it's a very long, tall wall.

Had some luck on the way home today!
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 26-Oct-20 09:24 PM GMT

Hi! Trevor, great Wall shots, I visited Reculver whilst I was in Kent in October and was surprised to see the Roman Wall there was stripped of all it's vegetation and being rebuilt along it's length, last year I saw lot's of Wall Butterflies there, I'm hoping they'll some how survive, but I was dismayed at the sight of it. Goldie 😞

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Oct-20 10:57 PM GMT

Hope you enjoyed your stay in Kent Goldie, good luck with your move down there.

I left Wiltshire for home this morning in the most atrocious weather, heavy rain, lots of spray and standing water. Before I left we had a magnificent rainbow, which lasted for many minutes, and formed a complete arc. Once well into Sussex the road began to dry up and there were signs of sunshine. As I neared Shoreham I could see blue sky and the temperature had risen to 15c, so I made the decision to divert to Southwick/Shoreham harbour. Just two Clouded Yellows were found, with the male in very good condition, and the other a helice, was somewhat worn. They both met several times and seemed to ignore each other, until the male just had to try his luck. This lead to a very brief act of rejection which I was ill prepared for, so my shots are not all in focus. Nothing else was found despite a very slow search of the site.

Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by millerd, 26-Oct-20 11:18 PM GMT

Do you think that *helice* female is the one you saw there before, Trevor? She looks distinctly the worse for wear, almost transparent, but the male clearly doesn't care about that. 😊 That's a nice selection of shots showing their interaction.

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 27-Oct-20 09:25 PM GMT

Brilliant stuff Trevor 😊👍 I'm regretting posting my Valesinas now as you're getting your own back with the Helice 😊 - I've never seen one so even though she's not exactly in fine fettle worth 👍👍

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 31-Oct-20 07:03 PM GMT

[quote=trevor_post_id=159072_time=1603749421_user_id=13654]...As I neared Shoreham I could see blue sky and the temperature had risen to 15c, so I made the decision to divert to Southwick/Shoreham harbour. Just two Clouded Yellows were found, with the male in very good condition, and the other a helice, was somewhat worn. They both met several times and seemed to ignore each other, until the male just had to try his luck. This led to a very brief act of rejection which I was ill prepared for, so my shots are not all in focus. Nothing else was found despite a very slow search of the site.

Is that a sign of the new 'normal', Trevor? Seeing Clouded Yellows at all used to be an irregular event, but to see them in the absence of other species in the few days left prior to November would have been considered freakish not so long ago.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 04-Nov-20 11:19 AM GMT

Cheers Dave, that helice could well have been the same one.

Thanks Wurzel, the helice and suitor could well have been my last butterflies of the year.

Southwick is a sheltered south facing site, David, and is usually excellent for late season Clouded Yellows, several years ago I found a very worn one there on Nov.18th.

Yesterday my Daughter, Lorna, found a Small Tortoiseshell fluttering around in her bedroom. No doubt it was looking for somewhere to hibernate. No chance of that where I live!

'Enjoy' the lockdown, and keep well all,
Trevor.



Not bad for a phone image!.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 04-Nov-20 04:55 PM GMT

I suspect that Tortoiseshell had already found somewhere to hibernate indoors, but the warm weekend followed by Monday's sunshine roused it from its slumbers! Hopefully it was able to relocate and maybe even have a topup snack before settling down again. 😊

I have a theory that the Small Tortoiseshell's habit of entering houses to hibernate when we have the windows wide in July and August is a factor in its decline. They are frequently woken prematurely when the central heating is switched on and (if lucky enough to be released) have to find another spot to settle down at a time when the weather is not so kind.

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 04-Nov-20 08:30 PM GMT

You might be able to get the odd Red Admiral over the next few days Trevor – fingers crossed 😊 Here we go with Lockdown 2 – just like all sequels it isn't going to be as good 😊😞

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Nov-20 02:19 PM GMT

You could be right there Dave. At work there was an outside electrical cupboard, and this was the winter home for many Small Tortoiseshells.

Couldn't manage a Red Admiral today Wurzel, but how about a fresh Holly Blue?.

Stay safe,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 06-Nov-20 08:09 PM GMT

Sounds great Trevor 😊🍵

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 06-Nov-20 08:27 PM GMT

`{quote=trevor_post_id=159242_time=1604672392_user_id=13654}`...how about a fresh Holly Blue?

Yes please, Trevor, if you've got one. 🍷

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Nov-20 09:00 PM GMT

I was intrigued by a report, on the Sussex BC sightings page, of a strong emergence of November Holly Blues at Southwick/Shoreham harbour. At least seven were found on the 4th.

This morning I had my first coffee of the day under one of the most spectacular sunrises I have ever seen, and this inspired me to pop over to Southwick to look for a November Holly Blue or two.

After searching for a while I found a very fresh female Holly Blue in 'lockdown', perched on an apple leaf and having to endure a chilly easterly breeze.

After several shots I decided to thoroughly search the rest of the site, but no more were found, only a couple of Silver Y moths were seen. Upon return to the Holly Blue, about 45 mins later, she was beginning to warm up, and took a couple of feeble flights and finally opened up to bask, in the warmer conditions she was soon off and disappeared over towards the main road.

Without doubt this was my finest ever November butterfly!.

Stay safe and well,
Trevor.



This mornings spectacular sunrise.





This boat has quite a following!

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 06-Nov-20 10:10 PM GMT

A very nice third brood female Holly Blue, Trevor (speaking as a connoisseur you understand...). 😊😄 About as new as you can get, and beautifully marked. 🍷

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 10-Nov-20 10:33 PM GMT

Cricky Trevor she is an absolute stunner! 😍😄🍷🍷 Certainly warms the cockles on this chilly night 😊 Was this a case of "Red sky in the morning, butterflies are calling"? 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 11-Nov-20 08:39 PM GMT

[quote=trevor post_id=159257 time=1604696423 user_id=13654]...Without doubt this was my finest ever November butterfly!

I can assure you, Trevor, that it would have been mine too had I seen it. 🍷

She's a wonderfully dusky-looking specimen too. Whether that's because she's a third brooder or just random I don't know.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 12-Nov-20 10:14 PM GMT

Thanks Dave, definitely a butterfly for the connoisseur. Today's might also have been if she had opened up!

Cheers Wurzel, a stunner indeed especially given the date.

Thanks David, she was a lovely specimen with very, bold, black markings.

Today I returned to Southwick to try my luck. Despite full sun, the morning was marred by a very chilly breeze blowing from the west. I walked as far as the fuel tanks, searching thoroughly as I went. Nothing at all was seen. Returning, as I reached roughly the half way point between the fuel tanks and the steps I saw a distant 'white triangle' perched on a leaf. Not convinced it was a butterfly I took a shot on full zoom, then enlarged the image on playback, sure enough a Holly Blue!

Now the problem of getting closer. The butterfly was somewhat up the bank in a bramble thicket, not easy!. After some bad language and plentiful thorns I managed to get just close enough for a few sensible shots. Although she never opened up to bask, I was able to identify the sex when the breeze briefly blew her wings open. Amazingly, given the date this was another fresh example. Nothing else was found, and I left with the thought that the fat Lady is about to sing.

I have included a view of the site for the benefit of those who are not local to Sussex.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 13-Nov-20 09:57 AM GMT

Excellent, Trevor. 😊 It looks as though a whole selection of eggs were laid down there which have all been subjected to the same sheltered warm and sunny conditions, leading to a completion of their life cycle very late in the year. As none of us seem to have seen the species in this spot before, it's possible the butterfly's parasites didn't manage to find it either, leading to a high proportion of successful emergences. Whatever the reason, great to see. 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-Nov-20 10:53 AM GMT

Thanks Dave, I imagine an egg laden female found the site a few months back. As you say if there were no parasites the survival rate would be high, helped no doubt by the micro climate down there.

I seem to remember your local patch produced a brood even later in the month last year.

Keep well, here's to next season!.
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 13-Nov-20 07:35 PM GMT

If the over large maiden does warble imminently that's a cracking way to finish off the season Trevor 😊 Cheers as well for the photo of the habitat - it does help to build the picture in your mind when reading the reports 😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 14-Nov-20 02:37 PM GMT

Smashing Holly Blue Trevor 🍷 your so lucky with the weather down there, it's done nothing but rain here on and off for days 😞 Take care, Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 16-Nov-20 11:32 PM GMT

Looks a nice site, Trevor, and a great sighting for approaching mid-November. Such a shame rain and storms have arrived, otherwise the 'fat lady' would still be rehearsing. 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-Dec-20 11:45 AM GMT

Many thanks Wurzel, Goldie & David.

Over the past few years I have posted images of a particularly early clump of Daffodils in the South Road car park in Hailsham. The earliest blooms I can remember were on Boxing Day 2015. A visit this morning found them very advanced, and by the looks of it some will be out before Christmas!. This will mean that they have flowered twice this year!.

What a crazy year,
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 17-Dec-20 10:25 PM GMT

Crickey Trevor things have been a bit out of whack this year – but biannual Daffs 😊 I saw in some newspapers that we could still get a White Christmas 😊 Mind you as they've reported it it'll got the same way as the Bar-be-que Summers do 😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Dec-20 11:49 AM GMT

WISHING EVERYONE ON HERE A GREAT CHRISTMAS AND A MUCH BETTER 2021!. 😊

All the very best,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 22-Dec-20 02:32 PM GMT

Many thanks Trevor, the same to you, mine will be strange this year, no Kent I'm afraid for me.

I have no Daff's yet but Snow Drop's are out in my Rockery 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 23-Dec-20 10:16 AM GMT

Like you, we have a few clumps of daffs on the Gower that look to be ready to flower, Trevor. Apart from two or three mild frosts, it's been pretty mild so I guess t's not surprising that things are so in advance of where they should be.

All the best for Christmas and let's say good riddance to 2020 at the end of next week!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-Dec-20 02:21 PM GMT

Many thanks Goldie and David.

Some of my Snowdrops are out, and those Daffodils had five in flower yesterday.
As for 2020, my sentiments exactly David.

Stay safe and well,
Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 23-Dec-20 06:48 PM GMT

Wishing you a Merry Christmas too Trevor and here's to hoping for a better 2021.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 23-Dec-20 07:53 PM GMT

Have a cracking Christmas Trevor and may 2021 be excellent to you 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 31-Dec-20 08:49 PM GMT

For a change my look back on 2020 consists of lucky encounters that have resulted in images which, for me, ' hit the spot '. Out of all the mediocre shots taken there were a few this year that were just a bit special to me.

Starting with Spring.

Wishing all on UKB all the very best, and a prompt vaccination, for 2021!.
Trevor.

