

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 03-Jan-20 05:30 PM GMT

Hi! everybody, thanks for your posts, I've just got back home after spending Christmas and New Year in Kent, I'd a great time and I hope everyone else had the same. 😊 Now we start over again waiting patiently for Spring 😊 I did get a nice surprise, when I looked in my Garden and saw the Snow Drops, roll on 😊
I'm aiming for the South this year in May Essex don't no where yet though any suggestions on certainties Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 03-Jan-20 07:36 PM GMT

If it's the end of May then you could be onto your Grizzled Skippers for sure Goldie as well as Marsh Frits and Dukes 😊 Good to hear that you had a great Chrimble – fingers crossed it'll only be 7–8 weeks until things kick off 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 03-Jan-20 08:59 PM GMT

Good to know you had a great Christmas/New Year, Goldie. I bet those snowdrops brought a smile to your face. 😊

All the best for 2020.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 04-Jan-20 11:51 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, hope fully I'll finally see the G Skippers this Year, so far, over all, I've seen 50 species over the years so I've not too many more to go in this country, trouble is with Butterflies there's no guarantee 😊 So fingers crossed 😊

Hi! David, they certainly did, I've not had a good look round the garden yet But I bet the bulbs are showing through has well. 😊

Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 09-Jan-20 01:27 PM GMT

Looking out into the Garden this afternoon I spotted these very different marked Woodie's, I've not seen them in the garden before. The middle photo is definitely my local Woodie but the other two I don't recognise at all, my local Woodie is definitely interested in the very marked one though 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 09-Jan-20 10:09 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, the two imposters are Feral Pigeons 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 09-Jan-20 10:24 PM GMT

Bugboy got there before me Goldie 😊😊 The first and last are Feral Pigeons although the first is quite a good fit for the ancestral Rock Dove from which the Pigeon Fanciers bred from originally and are now possibly extinct in the UK. The white collar is the best way of distinguishing the Woodie, although the young ones don't have it 😊 Good to see you keeping your hand in - not long now til kick off! 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 10-Jan-20 10:35 AM GMT

Many thanks Bugboy and Wurzel, I'd never heard of Feral Pigeons before let alone seen one in my garden, they're back again today.

I'm not getting the same amount of birds Wurzel due to the many Squirrels arriving in the garden and also three cats that or a pest can't do much about that, cats will be cats, but I've not seen the Gold Finch or too many Starlings lately.

I'm keeping my Camera handy though 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 10-Jan-20 08:50 PM GMT

I heard on the News tonight about the full Moon, they called it the Wolf Moon, anyway I couldn't resist taking some shots 😊 It was rather cloudy but I thought that made the Moon look more sinister 😊 then I changed my Camera for the last few shots to AV and got the the bigger, closer, picture. Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Padfield, 10-Jan-20 09:53 PM GMT

Hi Goldie. We've never met, but how many times we must have stood under a clear sky gazing at the full moon together ... 😊

Great pictures of the wolf moon. You got the close-up ones at just the right time, with the bottom right part of the moon darker because it was in more shade.

Guy

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 10-Jan-20 10:28 PM GMT

Great shots Goldie 😊 It was my sisters and nieces last night in the UK before they head back to Oz so we went out for a meal – but we kept nipping out of the restaurant to have a look – the waiter was a bit twitchy – I think he thought that we were planning on doing a runner 😂😂

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 11-Jan-20 09:42 AM GMT

Thanks Guy and Wurzel, The Moon fascinates me with it's different changes last year for instance it was called the Blood Moon (21st Jan) this year the Wolf Moon, what next!! can't wait 😊 Goldie 😊



Blood Moon 21st Jan 2019

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 12-Jan-20 10:49 AM GMT

Good stuff, Goldie. You've definitely got the hang of this! 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 14-Jan-20 01:29 PM GMT

Thanks David, not so nice here at present last two days have been awful with very heavy rain, no sign of the moon 😞
I just missed a shot of a Sparrow Hawk on Sunday though, that'll teach me to keep my camera handy 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 14-Jan-20 01:58 PM GMT

I was just looking back to photos I took in February last year, I remember the weather being unusually hot for that time of year and being surprised at finding my first Small Tortoiseshell in the front garden on the 25th February, I don't know what this year will bring but February is not so far a way 😊
The Butterfly was enjoying my White Heather, mind you I didn't see another until the 20th of March but it's encouraging 😊 Goldie 😊



20th March 2019 HLB



25th February 2019 front Garden

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 14-Jan-20 10:39 PM GMT

Great shots Goldie 😊 Mid February is generally when I start looking for butterflies – usually Small Torts or Red Admirals so not long now! Mind you I was lucky enough to get off the mark with a Red Admiral on Sunday so hopefully that's an omen of a great butterfly year ahead 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 15-Jan-20 07:10 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, I saw your post in the January section, I'd have been thrilled to see a Butterfly so soon, it must be much milder down South than here, even so I'm on the look out starting February 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 15-Jan-20 09:09 PM GMT

You can't wait can you, Goldie? 😊

I doubt if this February will be as glorious as 2019's version but whichever way you look at it, we aren't far away now! 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Jan-20 09:47 AM GMT

Hi! David, your quite right, I can't wait 😊 I've even booked for a five day trip to North Wales in February 😊

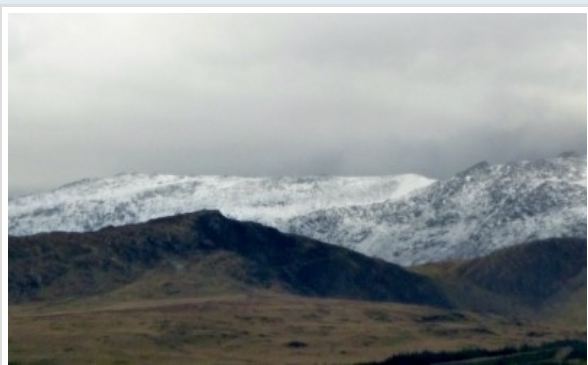
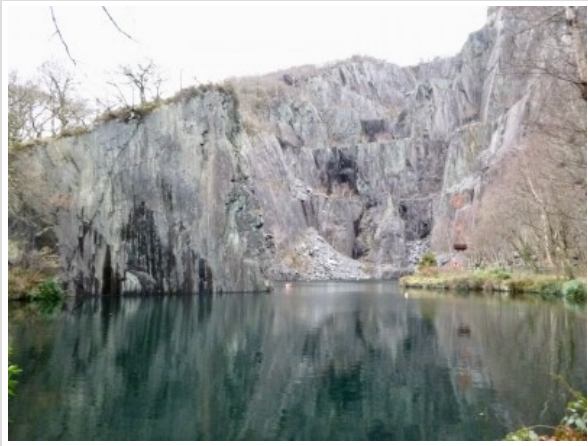
I've been fed up with the weather so I thought a trip out would be Ideal to break the Winter up a bit, I wouldn't be surprised though if it snowed 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 22-Feb-20 04:37 PM GMT

I've just got back from Llandudno, in spite of the rain I enjoyed it, good food and the company was pleasant, I went with my Sister-in-law . I took some shots from the coach windows of the mountains with snow on their tops , they looked really great, I also had a Visitor from time to time who looked in the Window 😊

We visited a Slate Quarry , the sharpness and shine of the slate made unusual colours in the water, really lovely 😊 It didn't rain all the time and we managed to dodge most of it.Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 23-Feb-20 08:43 PM GMT

Cracking views Goldie 😊 That shot of the quarry lake is lush 😊 The gull looks a little annoyed that you're looking into his 'bedroom' 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 24-Feb-20 09:29 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, it was nice to get a way even though it's Winter , it's helped pass the time on a bit 😊
I can't get into the Garden to do any thing because it's water logged but things are growing, I keep thinking rain is better than snow, at least I can get the car out 😊 Another shot of my nosy Sea Gull 😊
March starts on the Week-end, roll on. 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 24-Feb-20 10:45 PM GMT

It's always good to get away, Goldie, and it looks like you mad a good choice, too. It helps to break the monotony of wet and windy weather. Plenty of snow on those northern hills at the moment, with more to come over the next few days. Enjoy!

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 24-Feb-20 11:22 PM GMT

Glad you had a nice break and good to see you made a friend, Goldie! 😊

There's been precious little snow in south Wales this winter. Surprising how much of a difference a few dozen miles makes when you head further north.

Fingers crossed your garden dries out. I think we've all had a guts full of this stormy and wet weather. 😞

As you say, roll on March.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 25-Feb-20 10:48 AM GMT

Many thanks for your posts essex and David, it was good to get a way essex, and I'm planning on doing it again in April and May 😊
They keep on about lots of Snow here but so far we've been lucky, it's just missed us and landed in Cumbria, 😊

Hi! David, I thought about you in South Wales when they forecast all that rain whilst we were in North of Wales I took a shot of a flooded field, it seems the week before was much worse for floods so were lucky.

I tried to get into the garden to cut some of the roses down this morning, guess what! Rain again! 😞 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 25-Feb-20 10:08 PM GMT

Crickley Goldie there's more water in that field than grass 🤪 Hope you're doing okay up there – one way to look at it is that when the butterflies finally do arrive they'll be all the sweeter for having put up with all this dreary rain 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 26-Feb-20 05:53 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

..Hi! David, I thought about you in South Wales when they forecast all that rain whilst we were in North of Wales I took a shot of a flooded field, it seems the week before was much worse for floods so were lucky.

Thankfully Swansea escaped the worst of the flooding, Goldie. The problem here has been the wind. It's regularly been 60mph+.

My friend in Abergavenny has also largely escaped, though nearby towns and villages such as Hereford, Crickhowell and Raglan have been submerged in places.

I remember this happening around the same time of year in 2007. Let's hope it'll be at least 13 years before it happens again!

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 27-Feb-20 03:09 PM GMT

Hi! David, I thought we'd seen the last of the heavy storms but looks like there's another one on the way, it's very cold here at present and this morning we had the Snow but it's gone now thank goodness 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 01-Mar-20 08:29 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

Hi! David, I thought we'd seen the last of the heavy storms but looks like there's another one on the way, it's very cold here at present and this morning we had the Snow but it's gone now thank goodness 😊 Goldie 😊

Yep. It just goes on, Goldie, doesn't it?

There's snow on the Brecon Beacons but the problem round my way is the wind. We've had several dry, sunny days but with 30mph+ winds it's not conducive to butterflies going about their business.

I'd happily pay £100 for one calm day with lots of sunshine right now. I'm sure things would kick off spectacularly should that happen.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 02-Mar-20 03:11 PM GMT

Hi! David, we actually got a lovely day yesterday, Sun all day but a cold wind it did calm down some what in the afternoon and I did some gardening for the first time so I thought like you a little warmer and the Butterflies will be out 😊
I ventured into the Garden again this morning to do some work but the Hail Stones drove me back, hope fully if the saying is right,

"March comes in like a Lion and goes out like a Lamb", roll on 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 02-Mar-20 10:05 PM GMT

I hope you're right Goldie - we could seriously do with a little bit of sun and some butterflies 😊 I hope we don;t get a nasty shock at the end of the month 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 02-Mar-20 11:09 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

"March comes in like a Lion and goes out like a Lamb", roll on 😊

Let's hope so, Goldie. We all need a break from this stormy weather right now.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-Mar-20 02:54 PM GMT

Thanks for your post Wurzel and David, it looks like it's all systems go here at present, for three days now we've had very cold nights with frosty mornings but the Sun has warmed every thing up in the afternoons and that's when I spotted my first Butterfly of 2020 😊

It was in my Neighbours garage fighting to get out through the window, I was talking to her at the time when we spotted it so she allowed me to take some shots of it, poor thing was going mad to get out and not doing it's self much good so I helped it find it's way out when it landed on my finger then flew for the door. 😊 I just hope it's okay, the weather forecast isn't bad for the next few days so hope fully it will be. (I was really chuffed to bits) 😊
Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 06-Mar-20 08:43 PM GMT

Well found, Goldie. A rarity around here Small Torts had a bad year in 2019. Even down here in Sussex things are slow to get started, wind rain and cold air with little sun.

Keep well,
Trevor.

Re: Goldie M

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

Great that you're off the mark Goldie 😊 I'm on three but the Small Tort isn't on my list yet so a 🍀 from me 😊 Hopefully things will settle soon and we can get cracking with the season proper 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 09-Mar-20 09:46 AM GMT

Many thanks for your post Trevor and Wurzel, the weather has gone back to the usual here, (Wind and Rain) 😞

We do really well here Trevor with the Small Tort, it's usually the first Butterfly I see each year and last year I was lucky and had lots in my garden, it remains to be seen though this year with all the damp weather we've had just how they'll be affected, fingers crossed they'll be okay 😊

Weather's not settling this week Wurzel 😞 we've just got a weather warning for heavy rain starting today, I think that Small Tort was a bit too eager to get out 😞 hope fully other's will come later 😊

It's great you've seen three Butterflies already, 🍀 only two weeks off the first day of Spring now, (Roll On) 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 09-Mar-20 01:08 PM GMT

Wonderful that you got to see a Small Tortoiseshell, Goldie. 😊 I guess it'll be a while before it ventures out again given the weather forecast. It looked as though we were in for some respite but things have gone awry again and these gale force winds are set to continue. 😞

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 10-Mar-20 09:58 PM GMT

Hopefully things up there are following a different pattern to down my way Goldie - at the moment the worst weather seems to be reserved for the weekend 😞 Plus there's nothing more galling than looking out of the window whilst trapped at work and seeing blue skies and sun and knowing that there are Small Torts flying up the field 😞 Oh well soon be Spring proper 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 13-Mar-20 10:00 AM GMT

Hi! David and Wurzel, everybody around here are more bothered at present about the Virus than the weather 😞 people are keeping their distance from each other and my age group in particular are worried, I'm glad really I've got my camera and when the weather gets better I can escape into the country side, (and the garden) 😊 Looks okay today so I may try HLB, nothing flying in my garden yet 😊

We've had a real belly full of the weather, last night we'd the Gale force winds again plus the heavy rain and it looks like the same again this week-end, anyway Spring should start next week, let's hope the better weather will too 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 21-Mar-20 02:41 PM GMT

Each day I load up the camera with great expectations that'll see some Butterflies but so far nothing in the Garden 😞
I did venture further a field but still nothing, the wind is so cold and really strong, any way, it can't be too long now before some thing appears , everybody seems to be seeing them and I usually end up with them in the garden eventually, I've just got to be more patient 😊 In the mean time I took one or two shots of the lovely Sun sets we've been having and of course one of my favourite bird. 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 21-Mar-20 07:40 PM GMT

Much the same down here, Goldie. It's been bright but really cold and windy today. But it's only a matter of time, until then, keep well.

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 21-Mar-20 09:00 PM GMT

It can't be long now Goldie - I think the high pressure is supposed to be holding into next week and the wind is supposed to be a bit lighter so keep checking 😊 Lovely sunset images, don't forget "Red Sky in the morning Shepherds' warning, Red Sky at night Shepherds' hut is on fire" 😊 Stay safe

up there.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 22-Mar-20 05:57 PM GMT

Hi! Essex and Wurzel, guess what! I actually got my Comma today and as an added bonus I saw two Small Tort's and got some shots of both 😊

I decided (after wandering about the Garden aimlessly) to go to Hall-Lee-Brook, the Day was superb, light wind, full sunshine, it was a shame to sit at home. I cleaned my Green House out ready for getting busy in there, (I'd not bothered with it for years) now we're to be careful, I thought " it's time to grow some thing at home". I took a mask with me just in case I met up with somebody who was intent on getting too close 😊

I opened the gate to HLB and immediately disturbed a Comma 😊 this Comma was very light in colour compared to the next one I saw further along the lane, this one was chasing off a Small Tort, who was ignoring it and coming back constantly to perch 😊

All in all I saw two Small Tort's and three Comma's , I'd got some fresh air, had a natter at a good distance from a woman walking her dog , I was well satisfied and if I can keep doing this and stay careful the time should pass okay.(hope everybody stays well)

Goldie 😊







Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 22-Mar-20 06:54 PM GMT

Congratulations Goldie, I'm delighted for you. Provided you keep your distance, and have enough food, you should should get out and enjoy. Stay safe.

Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 22-Mar-20 07:37 PM GMT

Well done Goldie, an excellent haul there 😊. Stay safe and away from people up there!

Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 22-Mar-20 08:21 PM GMT

You've got off to a start in style, Goldie. Good to see Small Tortoiseshells appearing in our diaries. I can't see a problem with going out into the countryside on our own, and giving a wide berth to anyone we may meet. Mind you we can't do the same when we go Shopping!!.

Keep safe,
Trevor.

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 22-Mar-20 08:47 PM GMT

Great stuff Goldie 😊 Lovely looking Commas and Torts 😊👍 I too was out today and experienced similar conditions – if everyone stays sensible then we're in with a shot at most staying healthy and still being able to get out and about. But if the Muppets take over then we'll end up in Lockdown 😞😞 Stay safe 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 22-Mar-20 10:00 PM GMT

Well done, Goldie. I knew it wouldn't take you long to nail down that Comma.

Let's hope we can avoid a general lockdown, although there are idiots out there that carry on with their default behaviour in spite of the seriousness of the situation, so I'm not confident that we'll manage to do this.

The worst thing is that any lockdown could very well coincide with the emergence of Orange Tips. 😞😞

That would be an awful thing indeed.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 23-Mar-20 04:08 PM GMT

Many thanks for your posts Guy's, it was great to see them at last, I was so enthralled when I saw the first Comma that I just stood there watching it, 😊 Luckily for me it settled down again 😊

I went to have the car MOT to day, what a carry on!!! It didn't need doing really until April but I thought if they closed every thing down I wouldn't get it done. It's also I thought a way of getting out, even if you drive some where and have to sit in the car you can always wind down the windows get a

change of scenery and take a few sandwiches and a flask and I was determined to get it done.

I sat for about an hour on my own in there office, the receptionist disappeared (which I was glad of) the car past it's MOT but it would wouldn't it 😊 It spent nearly all last year on the drive. 😊 and it looks like I won't do much mileage this year 😊

On my way back I talked through the window to my neighbour who advised me to wipe every where they'd touched it with disinfectant, wise words but where to start 😊 I took the advise but I'd to laugh at myself with all the water and cloth's etc 😊 better to be safe than sorry!!!!

I do hope David we get to see the Orange Tip, it's always to me the High light of the year, take care everybody, let's hope the morons don't get us shut down. Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 23-Mar-20 08:06 PM GMT

Glad to see you got your Commas and Small Toroishells Goldie 😊 Just the thing to lift the spirit in these trying times.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 24-Mar-20 02:06 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

...I do hope David we get to see the Orange Tip, it's always to me the High light of the year, take care everybody, let's hope the morons don't get us shut down.

Yes, Goldie, a year without Orange Tips is just too awful to contemplate. Still, for the time being at least, we are allowed out once per day for 'exercise'. With any luck, OTs will emerge en masse soon due to the current sunny weather and we can all get our fix.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 25-Mar-20 09:30 PM GMT

Thanks for your post's Neil and David, If the weather keeps like it is now the time will soon pass, although they've said it's got to change once more going cooler.

I'd a fantastic day today in the Garden, the weather was lovely and the Butterflies took advantage by coming out in force, I counted up to ten Peacocks, some stayed some didn't, I also saw a Small White which passed through hurriedly , hope fully they'll be out again tomorrow 😊

The Tortoiseshells were also in the garden ,what a day 😊 I did decide to take a walk to HLB, where I once again saw a Comma, four more Tort's and lot's of Peacock Butterflies, it was great watching all these butterflies flying a round 😊

I had a Peacock in the garden that looked strange, I put it down to being weather worn and yet it's wings looked quite fresh, I hope tomorrow is just as great 😊 Goldie 😊







Re: Goldie M

by David M, 26-Mar-20 09:31 AM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

....I'd a fantastic day today in the Garden, the weather was lovely and the Butterflies took advantage by coming out in force...

Sure looks like it, Goldie. 😊

These adult hibernators will disperse soon, but at the moment they're greedily feeding-up after a long spell of inactivity.

Make the most of it and good luck with the Small Whites! 😊

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 26-Mar-20 11:09 AM GMT

That's a lovely selection, Goldie. I think you've had it warmer up there the last couple of days than down here, which has brought those butterflies out in force. Very envious of so many Small Tortoiseshells, especially. 😊🍷

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Old Wolf, 26-Mar-20 08:48 PM GMT

Hello Goldie, I hope you are well and glad to see things are getting going.

Like you, the recent circumstances have made me think about the need to grow some food. People panic buying has really driven the point home for me of how comfortably reliant I have become on there being a ready supply of what I want. As soon as this is taken away then where does this leave me? Wouldn't be such a a problem if I was more self sufficient.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 26-Mar-20 09:46 PM GMT

Hi! David, the Butterflies really dispersed today, although the weather was still warm I only saw a few, I still got some shots though 😊 never saw a White though, looks like I'll have to wait a while yet 😊

Hi! Dave, yes we seem to get a lot of Small Tort's here, it's usually the first Butterfly I see in the Spring every year, the temperature here yesterday helped 18c and just bit cooler today but still warm. 😊

Hi! Old Wolf, I used to grow all sorts of stuff but then I stopped for some reason, I think it was when my Husband retired and we started going out more, that's all so when my interest started with the Butterflies, I see you've been catching up with first timer's quite a lot 😊 your one up on me with the Grizzled Skipper 🍷 I was hoping to get that this year but plans are now put on hold for a while. 😊

I stayed in the Garden today, that's after I washed the car, (got the exercise in for today 😊) I did see the Small Tort and the Peacock again but not in such big numbers as yesterday, I can't resist taking shots of them so here's a couple more 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 27-Mar-20 12:02 AM GMT

Great stuff Goldie – a lovely set of Peacocks and Small Torts 😊 I'm ever more envious of your garden now 🍷🍷 Mind you hopefully the Muppets won't ruin it for the rest of us and we can continue our 'daily exercise' 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 27-Mar-20 08:21 AM GMT

Those grape hyacinths are a big draw for them, Goldie. I must get some myself for next year.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 27-Mar-20 09:33 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, many thanks, I'm so glad I've got my garden other wise I think I'd go up the wall 😊 I'm not sure now if we can still get out, It's been on the tele not to drive some where for your exercise and the police are now stopping people, I can walk to my local HLB CP but you meet more people when you do this, so I've driven there to avoid this,

Hi! David, yes, they love the Grape Hyacinth I've got them in pots in the ground every where 😊 The only trouble with them is the fact they spread like mad so you've to keep separating them to get some order 😊 The Butterflies also love Heather, I've got White Heather in the front Garden which the Small Tort seem to prefer and purple Heather in the Back which the Peacock also enjoys. 😊

I took a shot of some of the Grape Hyacinth yesterday 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by ernie f, 27-Mar-20 09:42 AM GMT

Goldie, love your garden. My guess is we shall be seeing a lot more pictures of people's gardens and the butterflies that visit them in people's PD's over the coming weeks.

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 27-Mar-20 01:40 PM GMT

Looks lovely, Goldie. Thanks for the advice regarding the grape hyacinths. To be honest, they can spread wild for all I care...they're a beautiful and welcome addition to spring.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 27-Mar-20 07:35 PM GMT

Many thanks, ernie and David, I saw three more Tortoiseshells today and one Peacock, the Small Tort's didn't stop, they just whizzed through 😊 the Peacock landed on the Heather and I managed a couple of shots before it took off again. 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 27-Mar-20 09:12 PM GMT

Great looking Peacocks Goldie 😊 I'm hoping to keep taking my walks and maybe when I have to go into work I'll get caught short on the way home so I'll just have to pop to a decent butterfly site 😊 Mind you knowing my luck I'll get fined for breaking quarantine, indecent exposure and urinating in public 😊😊😊 Stay safe!

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 28-Mar-20 09:27 PM GMT

Lovely, Goldie. Your hyacinths & heather are paying off right now! Garden is the safest place to be right now so if you have plenty to attract insects it's not too much of a hardship not to go further afield.

Re: Goldie M

by Janet Turnbull, 29-Mar-20 03:54 PM GMT

Lovely Peacocks Goldie. The Peacocks all seem very bright this year – they must have had an easier winter than we did! Good job they're not being kept home.
Janet

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 30-Mar-20 03:49 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, Many thanks Wurzel, I've not seen any thing else since, the weather's seen to that, we did have the Sun but the wind was freezing so I've not ventured further than the Garden 😊(Let's hope you don't get caught Short on your way home Wurzel 😊)

Hi! David, looks like the warm weather as disappeared for now, I was in the garden looking around this morning and doing bit of tidying up, lot's to do yet but it's so cold ,I soon hurried inside for some soup 😊

Many thanks Janet, I thought we were on to a good thing with the weather when I saw all the Butterflies ,then it turned cold, I've not seen the Peacocks since then, your right though they did seem much brighter, I think they were just happy to see the Sun. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Old Wolf, 30-Mar-20 08:23 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

I see you've been catching up with first timer's quite a lot 😊 your one up on me with the Grizzled Skipper 🦋 I was hoping to get that this year but plans are now put on hold for a while. 😞

Hello Goldie, you never know your luck. I actually had a Purple Hairstreak turn up in my garden last year so you never know 😊

Luckily I now know few sites that are within an hours drive for my chauffeur so if all this current business clears up then I may get out to see more this year. Keeping my fingers well and truly crossed.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 31-Mar-20 10:19 AM GMT

Hi! Old Wolf, I wish that was true, the Grizzled Skipper doesn't seem to like Lancashire 😞 at least I've never heard of it being seen here , plus the fact we can't travel, not to worry , I'll put it on hold until next year 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Old Wolf, 03-Apr-20 08:19 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

Hi! Old Wolf, I wish that was true, the Grizzled Skipper doesn't seem to like Lancashire 😞 at least I've never heard of it being seen here , plus the fact we can't travel, not to worry , I'll put it on hold until next year 😊

Ah, I see. Hopefully the restrictions will be lifted soon and we will all get out to where we want to be. I am keeping my fingers well and truly crossed 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 05-Apr-20 09:25 PM GMT

Hi! Old Wolf, I think most of our time is spent talking to friends and family on the phone these days but if that's what it takes to get rid of the Virus it's worth it, hope fully 😊

Well! the weather here has been poor, two days dry but no Sun just high cloud, this morning we saw the Sun for an hour and that was about 10am, it then disappeared and we started to get a really cool wind which was quite strong, the most annoying thing about this was the weather man who said it was lovely all over the country 😊 Any way I was out with my camera early just watching the Heather on the front Garden and I managed a few shots of a Peacock and Small Tort before the Sun deserted us, needless to say at 4 pm the Sun came back but to late for the Butterflies.

The Small Tort I took a shot of seemed to have it's own fur coat on 😊 No wonder!!!! Hope fully Tuesday may be better. 😊 Goldie 😊 Rain over night tonight!! 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 05-Apr-20 09:36 PM GMT

Very nice Small Tort, Goldie, they are a rare treat around here.
Hope the weather improves for you next week.

Keep well,
Trevor.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 05-Apr-20 09:52 PM GMT

Thanks Trevor, I do hope so 😊 You don't mind mind being stuck at home if you can get out into the Garden in the Sun. Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 05-Apr-20 11:14 PM GMT

Good to see you're still persevering despite the poor weather reports 😊😊 The weather people are surprisingly accurate at forecasting bad weather just not so good at forecasting 'good weather' 😊 I hope Tuesday lives up to their expectations and you can get a few more butterflies.

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-Apr-20 01:21 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, in spite of the wind and rain today I saw a Small Tort on the back Garden, it was blown by the wind and didn't stop 😊 I'm hoping for a Small White to pop in next and who knows may be a Holly Blue will show up , tomorrow if possible 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 06-Apr-20 07:50 PM GMT

Good to hear Goldie 😊 I've got my fingers crossed for a Grizzlie for you this year! 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 06-Apr-20 08:14 PM GMT

You **don't** give up do you, Goldie? 😊

Fair play, if anyone deserves an Orange Tip, a Grizzlie or a Duke then it's you.

Hopefully the weather will be more favourable in your part of the UK over the next few days.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 07-Apr-20 10:30 PM GMT

Thanks for your posts Wurzel and David, Today was a great day at last for the Sun, the Butterflies were out again in the Garden and I spent most of my time out there today. 😊

I saw the Small Torts again, five of them, the Peacocks were every where I counted at least ten, but my highlight was my first shot of the Small White for this year 😊 Two passed through the garden but I just managed one. 😊

One Peacock in particular was checking out every flower especially the Rockery and when it landed on my Tulip I just had to take more shots of it 😊

I finished the day with a shot of the Super Moon which was clouded at times,(I think they called it the Super Moon) After all the bad weather it was great, I just hope tomorrow is as good.Goldie 😊







Re: Goldie M

by Padfield, 07-Apr-20 10:40 PM GMT

I knew you'd be out there, under the super moon, Goldie 😊 . And isn't it a super moon tonight!

Strange – we've never met, but when the moon is full we go out and think of each other! 🤔

All the best, and from Minnie,

Guy

Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 08-Apr-20 07:57 AM GMT

Your image of the Peacock on that Tulip is both different and beautiful. When we see a situation like that we have to hope the butterfly stays put for long enough to get a shot like that. 😊

Stay safe,
Trevor.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 08-Apr-20 05:36 PM GMT

Hi! GUY, when I went outside last night I thought, " I bet Guy's out too" 😊 I can't resist taking shots of the different Moons 😊
I think we're both Moon Struck 😊 Give Minnie a big hug from me 😊 Goldie 😊

Thank you Trevor, I was hoping all the time that it wouldn't move 😊 Surprisingly, this morning I had another two landing on the flowers, one a Peacock and the other, which I thought at first was a Female Orange Tip (wishful thinking) 😊

I started out on the front Garden this morning, the weather was perfect, so perfect all day that even the Butterflies were closing their wings in the afternoon. 😊

I took a shot of a peacock once again this time on a Daffodil, the Daff was a little weary though, they never seem to feed off them, they just rest. Another shot was amazing when this very small white landed right in the middle of my Magnolia flower 😊 I've never seen them do this before. 😊

I was also surprised when I spotted the Large White on the Grape Hyacinth , another first. 😊 those Grape Hyacinth certainly attract the Butterflies. My last shot was a Small Tort which landed on the Yellow flowers of the Rockery, the Sun certainly made it shine 😊 Another good day. 😊 Goldie 😊







Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 08-Apr-20 06:53 PM GMT

Good to see you have been seeing plenty of Butterflies Goldie 😊

You have certainly been getting some unusual shots, Peacock on a Tulip, Large White on Grape Hyacinth and Small White on Magnolia 😊

Great Stuff,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 08-Apr-20 08:04 PM GMT

Great stuff Goldie your garden is certainly producing the goods – you've got two species there that I haven't seen yet – Large White and a Green-veined from Tuesday 🍀🍀 Looks like we're in for a run of reasonable weather so hopefully you'll pick up a few more species – fingers crossed for a lost Grizzlie turning up in the rockery 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 08-Apr-20 08:27 PM GMT

Thanks so much Neil and Wurzel, let's hope they keep coming 😊

It looks like I made a boob on Tuesday Wurzel, 😊😊 my Small White, was a Green Veined White 😊 I was so pleased to see a White, (excuse) 😊 I bet you've got an Orange Tip though which I haven't yet. 😊

I don't know why they keep going on the flowers Neil, because they never stay on the flowers too long but just long enough for me to get a shot, (thank goodness) 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Vince Massimo, 08-Apr-20 09:26 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, you are doing better than me for butterflies in the garden.

Your white from 7th April is definitely a Green-veined White (some of the black edging on the back of the fore wing is triangular in shape). The identity of the white on the magnolia today is less clear-cut because the black markings are more diffuse, but it could also be a Green-veined White (which would explain why you thought it was a female Orange-tip when it flew in).

Stay safe,
Vince

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 09-Apr-20 10:56 AM GMT

Thanks Vince, I did wonder about the smallness of that Butterfly in the Magnolia, it looks like I'll have to change it's name again 😊😊 I should have known the one on the 7th was GVW but I was to eager for a Small White. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Pauline, 09-Apr-20 05:51 PM GMT

Some unusual shots there Goldie - your garden is a magnet for both range and numbers of butterflies. Looking forward to seeing the next lot later.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 09-Apr-20 06:18 PM GMT

Thanks Pauline, I'm waiting with bated breath for your post's 😊

Today was a funny day to start with, cold wind, high cloud, I thought at the time I'd be lucky to see many Butterflies.

In the afternoon the Sun was stronger but the Butterflies didn't appear, then all at once a Small White nipped over the fence and landed on the BM 😊 I hope this time I've got the right Species 😊 (I can't go to Spec saver's 😊)

A bit later A Small Tort landed on the house wall took some Sun then shot off again and that was it for today, I did have some company though, Woody took over, and the Gold Finch who! usually take off at the least movement stayed while I took some shots 😊 Take care everyone. Goldie 😊







Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 09-Apr-20 06:45 PM GMT

Definitely a Small White that one, Goldie! The ever-reliable Bowles Mauve works its magic again. 😊

Looks like another sunny warm day tomorrow too.

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 10-Apr-20 08:39 AM GMT

No trip to Specsavers needed yet Goldie 😊 Love the shot of the basking Small Tort – it looks like it trying (very unsuccessfully) to blend into the brickwork 😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 10-Apr-20 08:40 AM GMT

Excellent, Goldie. How long has your bowles mauve been flowering? Mine still isn't out despite an extremely benign winter.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 10-Apr-20 06:52 PM GMT

Thank's everybody for your posts, I wouldn't like to be without at least one BM in the Garden Dave although the Butterflies have fancied the Grape Hyacinth more up to now 😊

Hi! Wurzel I was surprised the Small Tort landed on the brickwork and not on a flower 😊

Hi! David, at the end of the year I cut the Bowles Mauve right down, for some reason it started to recover and even got a few flower heads, I suppose it

was because the weather was mild, the flowers didn't get any bigger but gradually as Spring approached they started to grow and open up, I have one that hasn't survived but I take cuttings and can replace it with one I've grown in a pot. 😊

Today was a slow day for Butterflies but a round 2pm two came at once a Small Tort and a Peacock, I was pleased to get shots of both because after that I saw four Peacocks that flew straight through the garden, also two whites which were so quick I couldn't even identify them, followed by two more Small Tort's who were also in a hurry 😊

Later a Peacock made a landing on the back of my pot Elephant before taking off like a jet plane 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 10-Apr-20 06:55 PM GMT

Smashing shot of the Small Tort Goldie 😊 and I really like the way that it looks like the Peacock is riding the Elephant 🤪🤪

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 10-Apr-20 09:32 PM GMT

Glad you like my Elephant Wurzel, 😊 It 's eyes and trunk used to light up with the Sun's rays but I guess the Bulbs have gone 😊 Another thing to buy when we're back to normal 😊 Stay safe,Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Janet Turnbull, 10-Apr-20 10:50 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, that Peacock on the pink tulip is beautiful! 😊 And you have seen a Small White already – more importantly, managed to photograph one 🇮🇪 😊 . I think I saw one today but it never settled. Have a good Easter. Janet

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 11-Apr-20 12:02 AM GMT

That Peacock on the stone elephant is comical, Goldie.

Fair made me smile. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 11-Apr-20 12:13 PM GMT

I wish I had a garden like yours Goldie, it would make the current situation infinitely more tolerable!

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 11-Apr-20 06:08 PM GMT

Many thanks everybody for your posts,
Hi! Janet, I've had a few Small White in the garden but most have shot through, I think in the coming days they'll more, I'd three in today but only managed the one shot 😊

It does look like it's having a ride David, it's funny how they choose the thing's to land on 😊

Hi! Bugboy, I'd hate to be without mine right now, I've spent the last few days in it from Lunch to tea, I feel sorry for the people who live in flats my Grandson being one of them is finding it hard. 😊

I was in the Garden all day today, one of the slowest as far has the Butterflies were concerned, but I did manage to see and photograph three Peacocks

and one Small White, no Small Tort's today though, the Gardens been a god send since we've not been able to move but then so has the weather, I've done no house work at all, time to do that and keep occupied when the weather turns rubbish again. 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 12-Apr-20 12:47 PM GMT

That sounds like a plan Goldie "time to do that and keep occupied when the weather turns rubbish again" 😊 I was gettign a bit nervous about having all this free time and not being able to go anywhere as I was expecting my wife to suddenly produce the list of jobs that I never get the time to do 😊 The up side of Lockdown is that the places I need to buy the paint, polish, sandpaper etc from are all shut 😊😊 Keep enjoying the garden and stay safe!

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 12-Apr-20 04:09 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, the weather's changing fast here, it's very warm but quite Murky so I made a cake and finally did some cleaning 😊 I hope your all keeping well and safe , I bet your wife wishes she'd got some stuff in before all this happened 😊
I saw a Small White in the garden earlier but it shot over the fence, that's been it so far today. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 13-Apr-20 02:17 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

...the Gardens been a god send since we've not been able to move but then so has the weather, I've done no house work at all, time to do that and keep occupied when the weather turns rubbish again.

It's been a godsend to many of us too, Goldie. 😊

Like you say, it must be awful for those living in flats, particularly in the bigger cities. Worse still when you're living through the sunniest first half of April that I can ever remember and you just want to be outdoors. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 13-Apr-20 09:51 PM GMT

Hi! David, thanks for your post 😊 My family seem to be doing loads of Jig Saws to pass the time 😊 they've even sent me one 😊 I'm looking forward to it arriving but the weather is supposed to get warmer again so I'll be in and out of the house, should pass the time on. 😊 Keep Safe Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 13-Apr-20 10:10 PM GMT

Cheers Goldie - " I bet your wife wishes she'd got some stuff in before all this happened 😊" let's just say that she might have but it might have gotten lost in the loft 😊😊 Keep the garden pics coming 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 13-Apr-20 10:25 PM GMT

Too cold today Wurzel, we'd an East wind that was bitter today, about 3pm the wind died down but it didn't bring the Butterflies out 😊 It's supposed to get warmer so hope fully!!!! 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

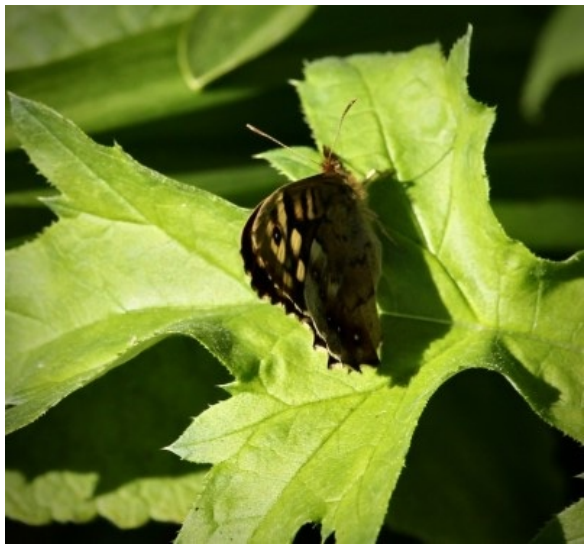
by Goldie M, 14-Apr-20 08:13 PM GMT

This morning it was very cold, the Bird bath's had a layer of Ice on them but the good thing was the Sun was strong and there was no breeze, the sky was blue and cloudless, I thought maybe, just maybe, it would tempt a few Butterflies later, so I kept checking the Garden has I went on dusting, through the bedroom window which looks out on the front Garden I saw a white flutter so I grabbed the Camera (which was ready to go) and went outside, to my astonishment I saw it was a Female Orange Tip 😊

If I said I followed it from the Front Garden to the Back Garden you won't be surprised !!! 😊 I was so surprised, I couldn't get enough shots of it 😊 Needless to say I took too many. 😊 (if that's possible) 😊

I saw the Butterfly at a round 11am, it was still cold and would rest a while on a green leaf soak up the Sun then continue round the garden, I've got a plant pot of white flowers on the back, they're a rockery plant and on the Front Garden they're in the Rockery, I keep them in a pot on the back because they can become intrusive, any way I dragged this pot into the Sun and the OT immediately flew onto them, trouble is I've forgotten what the Plants called 😊

Later, about 3pm I saw a Speckled Wood fly over the fence, it didn't open it's wings so the shots are the best I could get, it was disturbed by a huge Bee and flew off, I only managed a couple of shots but because it was also one I didn't usually see until much later in the Year in the Garden I'm hoping it will pop back tomorrow. 😊 I also got the tail end of a Large White that was also in a hurry 😊 Goldie 😊









Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 15-Apr-20 06:13 PM GMT

I'd another good day in the garden, when a Male Orange Tip flew in and landed on my Bowls Mauve, he did have a struggle at one point when feeding, he appeared to have to struggle getting free from the flower 😊

Also landing on my BM, (it was certainly a day for that plant) was a Peacock, a Small White and what I think was a Green Veined White, it was very small once again and the dark shading on the wing was absent, I hope I'm right 😊

I hope the weather stays good for tomorrow, I'd love a Holly Blue to arrive 😊 Goldie 😊







Green Veined White



Small White

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 15-Apr-20 07:49 PM GMT

Great sets of OT shots Goldie – I reckon the females are the best white butterfly that the UK has to offer 😊 Love the Large White shot too – that's a much better view than you normally get – they're normally whizzing by 12 foot up 🤓😞 I'm sorry to have to do this again but your Green-veined White looks like a Small White to me 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 15-Apr-20 08:21 PM GMT

That's okay Wurzel, I never used to get mixed up with the Whites but just lately some of them have been really Small and this one seemed to have Veins 😊 we'll have to call it an age thing 😊 I think I'll just give them the slip from now on 😊

The Female OT was a lot more photogenic than the Male, he was intent on keeping his wings closed a lot of the time, she on the other hand went first to the front Garden then to the Back, she looked very fresh has well and very in-tent on the White flowers although she did venture onto the BM at one point. It was really great to see both of them and a real surprise 😊 I wonder what Tomorrow will bring 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 15-Apr-20 08:24 PM GMT

I still reckon you're due an errant Grizzlie Goldie 😊😞

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 15-Apr-20 08:40 PM GMT

That bowles mauve is an absolute magnet, Goldie. It seems to attract all species (except Holly Blue, of course). 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 16-Apr-20 08:24 AM GMT

I wish Wurzel!! 😊 If some one could entice them further North 😊 Another 3 weeks they say, hope the Sun keeps shining 😊

Hi! David, you never know, maybe the Holly Blue will fancy it 😊 I'll keep a look out any way 😊

Another lovely day outside hope fully more Butterflies 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 16-Apr-20 09:09 AM GMT

You're getting a nice selection of butterflies in your garden up there Goldie 😊, still not seen a Large White myself and only saw my first female Orange-tip yesterday.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 16-Apr-20 01:51 PM GMT

That female Orange Tip is such a beautifully delicate creature, and when they are engrossed in nectaring like that they are much easier to approach than the males. Still, the Bowles Mauve worked its magic and you got both! Excellent shots. 😊 That male has a very faint dark spot on the forewing – much fainter than usual – I was wondering why it looked a bit different! In fact the black border is also very subdued too.

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 16-Apr-20 04:37 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

..Hi! David, you never know, maybe the Holly Blue will fancy it 😊 I'll keep a look out any way 😊

I think the only thing I've ever seen the spring brood nectaring on is blackthorn blossom, Goldie. I'll be mightily impressed if you get an image of one on your bowles mauve. Good luck!

Re: Goldie M

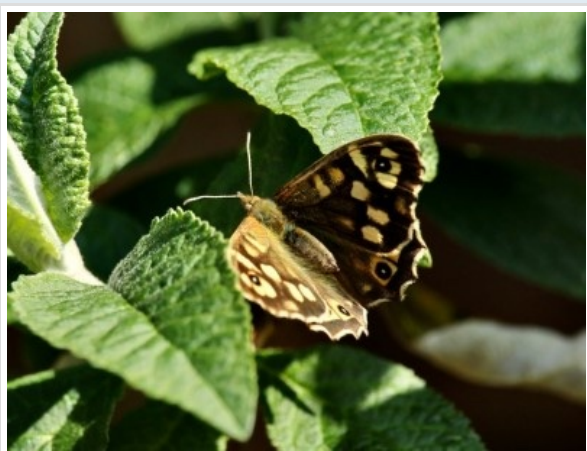
by Goldie M, 16-Apr-20 06:58 PM GMT

Hi! Neil, I was amazed to see both Orange Tip's especially when both went on the Bowles Mauve and in the Garden, I just saw another Male today but he went straight through 😊 When they said Lock-Down I thought that would be it but so far I've been lucky and it's certainly kept me on my feet. 😊

Hi! Dave, I just put the markings on the OT down to being out in the weather, because here we've had two real heavy down pours but mostly at night which as been great for the Gardens and the fact we've enjoyed the Sunny days. 😊 Your right about the Female Orange Tip she was easy to get shots of once she settled and she looked so fresh.

I hope your wrong David, 😊 I was going off the fact I've seen them on Lavender and Marjoram, mind you it was later in the year, I associated the OT with Blue Bells and Garlic flowers, I got a surprise when they both went onto the Bowles Mauve 😊 I'd be glad to see a Holly Blue in the Garden no matter what they landed on 😊

Today was a slow day, most of the Butterflies were flying through the Garden, I did get shots of two Peacocks , one was in a tatty condition but I saw five pass through all in different conditions, also passing through were Small Whites and Large Whites, I'd just got a brew when I spotted a Speckled wood landing on my Budlia which is still growing after the cutting I did last year, this time I got a bit more of the wings than last time 😊 Thanks everyone for your post, stay safe, Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 16-Apr-20 07:21 PM GMT

I agree with the appreciation for your female Orange Tip shots, Goldie. I grow annual Wall flowers in the front garden but maybe I ought to try Bowles Mauve. I've noticed that OT's seem to be attracted to pink or mauve flowers. Out in the countryside, Herb Robert is a favourite.

Keep well,
Trevor.

Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 16-Apr-20 07:33 PM GMT

A great selection of species there Goldie, I'm so jealous of your garden, I reckon you get more butterflies there than I get on my local patch which is a SSSI nature reserve! 🍷

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 16-Apr-20 10:52 PM GMT

Good to see the Specklies in the garden Goldie 😊 I see that you've developed a similar method to butterfly enticement to me – put on a brew/pour a coffee and then the butterflies turn up! 😊😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Apr-20 12:27 PM GMT

Hi! Trevor, I love the Bowles Mauve plant, it can get a bit stroppy after a while, it needs replacing after a couple of years but you can take cuttings and replace them. I've just done this with one plant, I like to keep two on the back Garden and one on the front. The front Garden is in the shade most afternoons after 2pm but the Back is a Sun trap all day, that's one reason the Butterflies enjoy it I think. 😊

I've certainly done well Bugboy so far this year with the butterflies, also the Garden get's the Sun all day I think that's a good reason for so many Butterflies. The Garden has done me good too, I'm walking circles round it for exercise 😊

That's right Wurzel, I think the Butterflies smell the Coffee 😊 It's a much colder wind today so I'm not expecting anything really in the Garden the Sun is shining but the temperature is down quite a lot, no sitting out today I think. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Apr-20 06:47 PM GMT

I did sit outside for a short spell today but not until about 3pm when the wind ebbed a little, nothing showed except this White who seemed to rest for a short spell before taking off again which gave me a chance for a quick shot 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 17-Apr-20 07:37 PM GMT

Your garden keeps on giving Goldie 🍷🍷 That's a lovely looking white and those markings are slightly unusual with the second spot being split into two 😊😊 I didn't get out today too busy catching up with work 🙄 Mind you the weather wasn't that great so it was no real sacrifice 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Apr-20 11:19 PM GMT

I did wonder about the spots Wurzel, but lately I've been at odds with the White's has you Know 😊
Looks like rain here tomorrow so I may get some work done for a change, I just hope it warms up again and the wind drops a bit.

Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 19-Apr-20 09:42 AM GMT

Nice to see the Speckled Woods, Goldie, and your female Small White is quite unusual. I don't ever think I've seen one with an = marking rather than a whole spot.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 19-Apr-20 10:17 AM GMT

Your right David about the Small White, I've just had it confirmed has an ab, I'm really pleased, it was the only butterfly I got a shot of that day 😊 Goldie 😊

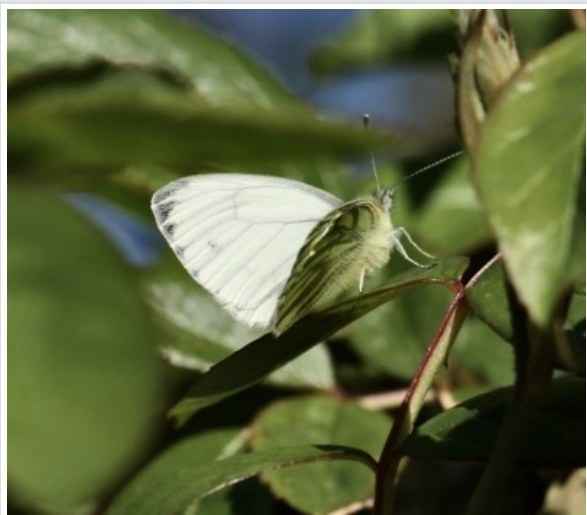
Re: Goldie M

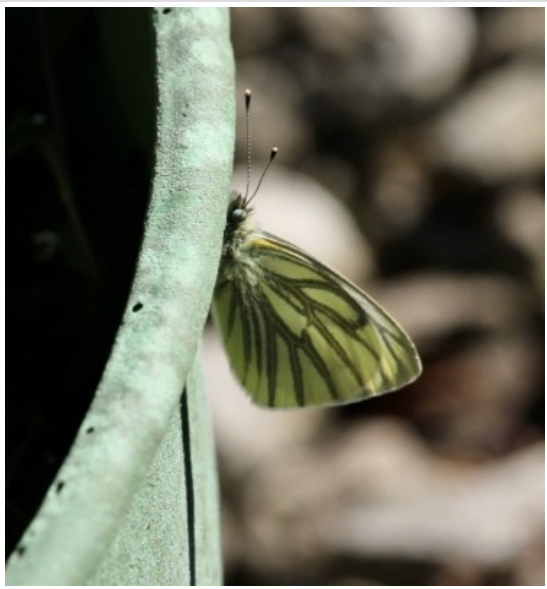
by Goldie M, 19-Apr-20 11:08 PM GMT

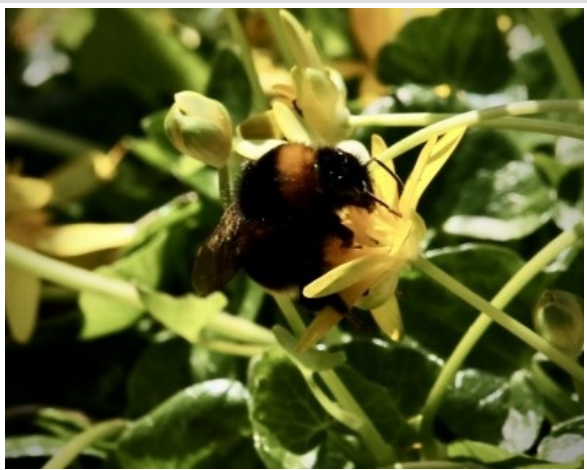
Today was definitely Green Veined White day, 😊 I saw two Male Orange Tips fly into the Garden circle round the Bowles Mauve and move on, also three Speckled Woods did the same and one Peacock landed right in front of my seat then took off, the only ones to stay were the GVV 😊 I was pleased with this because their Green stripes were very prominent and they were so fresh looking.

The weather was Sunny but the wind once again was chilly, I found a sheltered place in the Garden but not until after lunch , even then a warm cardigan was needed, it was after 3pm before the GVV/s started to fly in and finally I got to take some shots 😊 In the mean time I'd been watching this large Bee in the Rockery and took a couple of shots of that 😊

I have noticed in the last few weeks I've been stuck in the Garden that very few Butterflies came before 2pm, most have arrived between that time and 3.30 pm, Just a few in the morning which arrive mostly in the front Garden and the weather then has to be really calm and warm. Tomorrow has to be cold and windy so it looks like it's House work day 😊 Goldie 😊









Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 20-Apr-20 07:40 PM GMT

Cracking Green-veined White that one Goldie 🤔🍷 and no doubting it either 😊 Keep checking out the windows while you're doing the housework Goldie - you never know 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 21-Apr-20 08:30 AM GMT

Many thanks Wurzel, the wind yesterday had gusts of 30 miles an hour, I kept looking out, even sat out in a sheltered spot but it was much too windy for them to travel very far. 😊 I can't grumble, up to now I've had 8 species and not moved out of the garden 😊 I keep thinking a quick walk out would be okay, then I heard one of the neighbours had passed a way, so that put me off 😊 We'll get over this eventually and first thing I'll do is look for that elusive Grizzled Skipper 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 21-Apr-20 01:54 PM GMT

Love the Green Veined White shots, Goldie, especially the third one where the light has been captured particularly well.

Haven't seen too many on my patch so far this year. I do hope this isn't another species soon to be under threat. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 21-Apr-20 07:49 PM GMT

Thanks David, I was lucky, I was packing up to go inside when the first one came and after that three more arrived one after the other, I don't remember seeing so many all at once in the Garden, then again I'm usually out looking else where at this time of year 😊 Hope you see a few more soon.

I just took one shot today of a Peacock, It looked really blown about and stopped in the Rockery flapping it's wings to warm up, then it took off again, two Small White's also whizzed through I hope the wind eases down tomorrow, I'm really tempted to go further a field to see if I can find a Holly Blue or Brimstone.Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 23-Apr-20 09:54 PM GMT

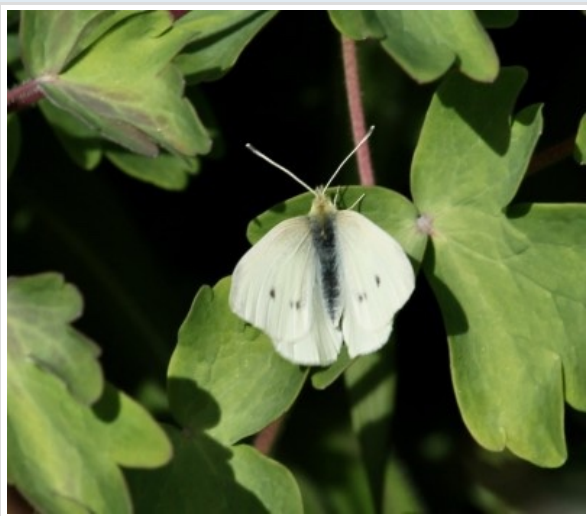
Over the last couple of days most of the Butterflies I've seen have not stopped in the Garden looked a round and then carried on, today I'd 3 OT's, 2 Speckies, 12 SW , 1 Peacock 😊 2 LW, I managed two shots Only 😊

One Small White I'm sure was the same ab I saw on the 17th, 22nd, and today and the only Small White that stopped. This seems unusual if I'm right.

The Large White appeared at 5 pm just has I was packing my garden stuff a way, the Small Whites that did come in the Garden found others already in and that was that 😊 I've posted the shots of the Small White , it has the same two spots. Goldie 😊



Small White 23rd April



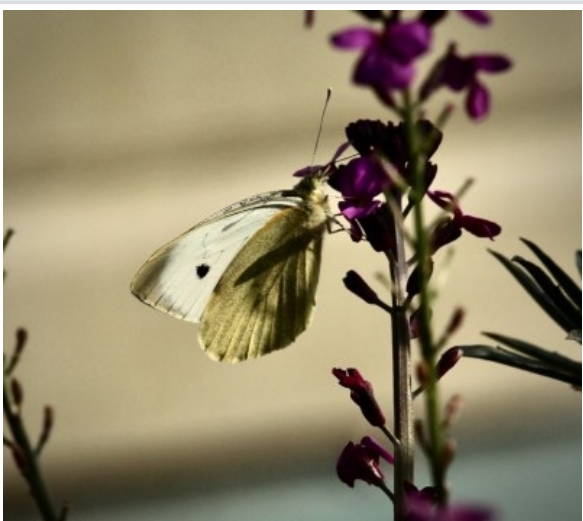
Small White 23rd April



Small White 22nd April



Small White 17th April



Large White



Large White

Re: Goldie M

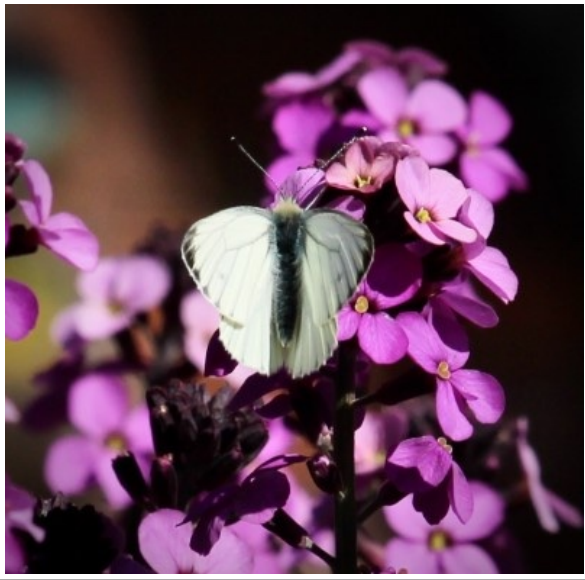
by Goldie M, 24-Apr-20 05:59 PM GMT

Today was a much better day than yesterday, no clouds, very little breeze, very warm, 😊
Loads of Butterflies flew in and out of the garden and today I managed to get some shots but you really had to be quick, the Butterflies were busy but at least they put down briefly. 😊

I was surprised when a Small Tort put down, it was in a bad way but I think still deserved a post 😊
Another Female Orange Tip showed up and I was lucky this one didn't fly through like the Males yesterday.
When this really well marked Green Veined White put in an appearance I was well satisfied, then to finish off a Large White settled briefly, most of the Small Whites I saw didn't settle but I counted quite a lot but I was too busy trying for the other's, the SW's seemed to arrive at the same time has the others so I'd to prioritise 😊 Goldie 😊









Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 24-Apr-20 07:37 PM GMT

Great stuff again Goldie – like you say a much better day 😊 Good to see the aged Small Tort still going strong 😊 – a good work capturing the Large White– I've seen one or two now but not got anything on my memory card yet 📷
By the way did your aberrant Small White have a name as I think I saw a similar looking one a few days back? 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 24-Apr-20 10:09 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, I'm not sure , but I think the ab is called "binigrata" but I could be wrong 😊

I seem to have got lot's of Large White's coming through the Garden at present, also I saw a small GWW but couldn't get a shot, they're too quick at present 😊 I was surprised to see the the Small Tort, it was flying pretty good and was just has quick as ever 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 25-Apr-20 09:58 PM GMT

Brilliant cheers for that info Goldie – I'll have a proper look at the shots I got...probably around June time knowing me 😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 25-Apr-20 10:10 PM GMT

{quote=Wurzel-post_id=152721-time=1587848289-user_id=9821} Brilliant cheers for that info Goldie – I'll have a proper look at the shots I got...probably around June time knowing me 😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

I think that ab is called ab.*divisa* based on the description on here 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 26-Apr-20 08:31 AM GMT

Your garden is attracting plenty of Pierids, Goldie. Nice underside images of both Small and Green Veined White.

I agree, a Small Tortoiseshell is always worthy of attention, irrespective of its condition. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 26-Apr-20 11:00 PM GMT

I do like your Green-veined Whites, Goldie. 🍷 Such an attractive species when fresh, as all yours seem to be. Your grape hyacinths (muscari) seem to attract a variety of species, unlike those growing near me which never have a butterfly near them! 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 28-Apr-20 09:37 PM GMT

Thanks everybody for your posts, I wasn't sure about the name of the ab so thanks for that Bugboy 😊

The Butterflies over the last three days have been hit and miss, so many Whites , Large, Small, I'm not sure about the Green Veined, if any landed they weren't marked very strong and were too quick for me to get shots of, in the end I gave up and did some gardening 😊

Today it started raining about 3pm and was very dull before that so it looks like a few days of rain will do the Garden good and may slow the Butterflies down for a while when the weather picks up again (Hope fully the rain won't last long) Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 28-Apr-20 10:02 PM GMT

"a few days of rain will do the Garden good and may slow the Butterflies down for a while when the weather picks up again" – I'm looking forward to a few days of rain – it'll give me a chance to catch up Goldie – mind you I'm so far behind I think I'll need more than a few days of rain I'd need so much rain that I'd also need to build an Ark 🙄😊

Have a godun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 30-Apr-20 08:58 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, we've certainly had the rain haven't we 😊 I don't mind too much the garden looks a lot healthier now and with the promise of warmer weather next week, roll on 😊

I'm doing a puzzle sent by my Daughter to keep my head busy 😊 It's got 1, 000 pieces and it's certainly doing that 😊

Keep well and keep safe and get your job's done 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 30-Apr-20 08:23 PM GMT

Is that keeping your head busy OR doing your head in? 😊😂 Weather looks to be improving – fingers crossed!

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

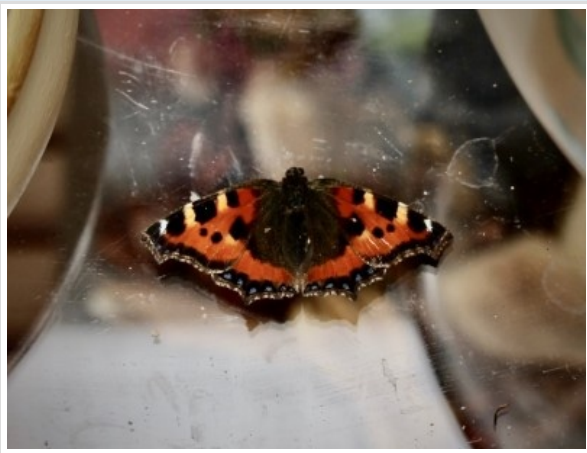
Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 02-May-20 02:39 PM GMT

Doing my Head in Wurzel 😊

I went into the Garage to get a sweeping brush today and there on the floor near the car was what I thought was a Moth at first, then I realised it was a Dead Tortoiseshell Butterfly, I've often wondered where they went but never thought my Garage would be the place when one died 😊 It's made me feel sad with so much death around at present, it's in good condition and complete even it's colour is lovely, I'd love to put it some where and keep it, just to look at it in the Winter month's, if that doesn't sound too melancholy!! It seems a shame not to keep it some where, I've not a clue how to preserve it though.

On a more pleasant note, I've not seen any live Butterflies since the rain arrived , I did take a shot of a Small White in the Garden from a distance on the 25th of April, that's the last time I saw one and the Cornflowers are out in the Garden and just waiting for them 😊 Hope fully the clouds the wind and rain will give us a break soon 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 02-May-20 05:39 PM GMT

You could pop the dead Tort in a matchbox or a small plastic container – it should be alright if it's kept dry. I've had a Peacock in my glove box for about a year now- I keep meaning to take it out and put it safe somewhere 😊 I hope the weather bucks up a bit for your Goldie 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 02-May-20 07:26 PM GMT

Good Idea wurzel, I'll do that , I can see it any time then. 😊

By the way the other Small White ab I saw and thought was the same Butterfly that'd come back again , it's not the same,It's been proved to be a different ab, don't ask me what it's called though 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 03-May-20 06:02 PM GMT

Shame about the Small Tortoiseshell, Goldie. Perhaps it died a while back having wakened and tried to get out of its hibernation quarters?

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 03-May-20 06:51 PM GMT

Hi! David, no, the the Small Tortoiseshell wasn't there a couple of days ago, I usually cook lots of meals at once and store them in the freezer in the Garage and I would have seen it, besides which I usually check to make sure when it's this time of year by leaving the Garage door open whilst I'm in the Garden, it's just one of those things, it's time was up 😊

I was in the Garden today and the Butterflies were once again flying, straight over my fence, all except one which landed 😊 I managed a couple of quick shots before that also took off.

It was funny weather, loads of clouds but sunshine in-between but by 3pm the Sun had gone so no more Butterflies hope fully more Sun this next week.

😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

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

Lovely looking Small White Goldie 😊 Fingers crossed for some conducive butterfly weather – down here it looks like a mixed bag for a few days and then steadily improving – though I'll believe that when I see it 😊 – I get my forecasts now by looking out of a window facing the way I'm intending to head 😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 04-May-20 06:39 AM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

David, no, the the Small Tortoiseshell wasn't there a couple of days ago, I usually cook lots of meals at once and store them in the freezer in the Garage and I would have seen it, besides which I usually check to make sure when it's this time of year by leaving the Garage door open whilst I'm in the Garden, it's just one of those things, it's time was up

I guess this is the time of year when post hibernation Small Tortoiseshells naturally expire, Goldie. It was probably over 10 months old, so by butterfly

standards it had a good innings. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 05-May-20 09:39 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel and David, I've nothing much to post these days and today we've got yet another strong wind although it's Sunny 😊

I did see this Small Wren in my Garden tackling a large Worm which it was struggling with, I took the shots through the window I didn't want to disturb it, you don't see the Wren's too much they're usually too Quick so I couldn't resist and it made me laugh 😊

I also saw yet another SW and managed just one shot before it took off 😊 Later has I was thinking of giving up and going in this Speckie landed on my Hose pipe which had not been put a way (Lazy) and seemed to be trying to get warm, the wind was cool yesterday, it closed it's wings and then has the Sun came out from the clouds opened then fully for a shot 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 05-May-20 07:38 PM GMT

Good to see you were out and about and the Specklie paid you a visit Goldie 😊 You did well with the Wren – they're usually just a brown blur leaving you wondering which Little Brown Job it actually was 😊 Lovely Small White – probably another ab 😊 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 05-May-20 10:42 PM GMT

I saw the little Speckie again today Wurzel, it was hiding out of the wind in the side Garden 😊 No Butterflies except for the Speckie today the wind was too strong, it did die down later but nothing seen. Hope fully I'll see some thing tomorrow 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 05-May-20 10:56 PM GMT

That's a nice Speckled Wood, Goldie, and you've been doing well getting shots of the Whites too – they are so difficult to approach. Your Bowles Mauve works its magic again! 😊

Hopefully that wind will have dropped tomorrow.

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-May-20 08:18 AM GMT

I'm hoping on the nice weather as well Dave, this time a few years ago I would have been up in the Lakes looking for the Duke, even if this Virus wasn't here I can't get anyone to go up there with me for the day 😞 people around me aren't interested in Butterflies, at least nobody I know, anyway the Lakes are shut down to travellers at present, I just hope I can get down to Kent this year to see my family, OH! WOE IS ME !!!!! 😞 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Pauline, 06-May-20 04:12 PM GMT

Great shots of that Wren M. I know from personal experience just how hard it is to get any sort of shot as they are so quick but I reckon you've nailed it there. Well done!

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 06-May-20 07:21 PM GMT

Lovely Speckle pecking out in the wind Goldie 😊 Hopefully there will be some good but sensible and safe news about Lockdown restrictions come Sunday Goldie 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 06-May-20 08:14 PM GMT

Yes, wrens can be comical, Goldie, but they're pretty ruthless with their prey most of the time.

Love the image of the Speckled Wood on the hosepipe. I'd never have anticipated that combination! 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 07-May-20 08:14 AM GMT

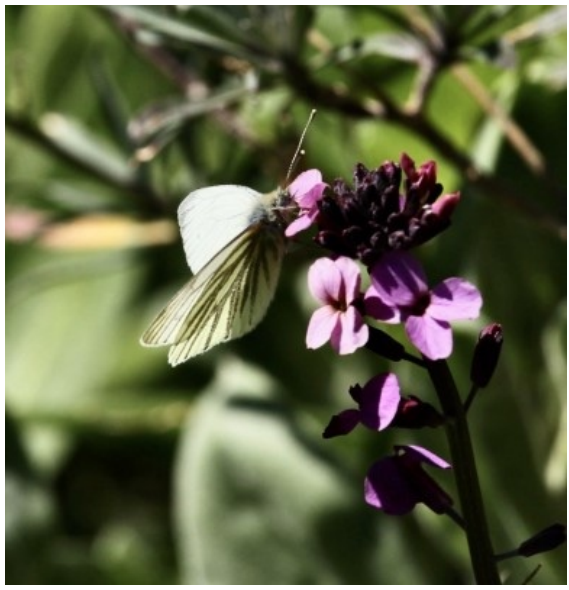
Thanks Pauline, Wurzel, and David for your posts, 😊 The tiny Wren made me laugh, it was determined to nail that worm 😊

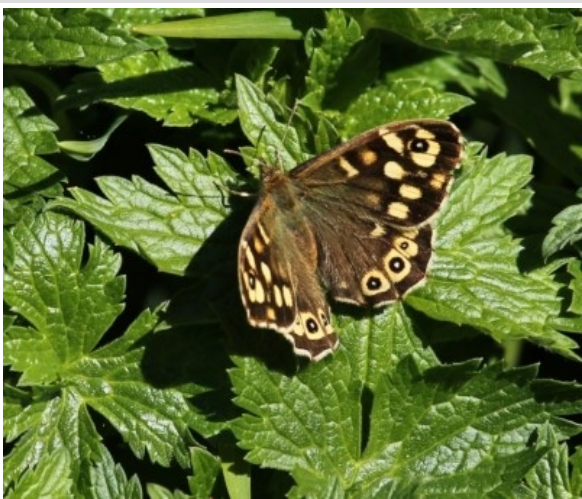
I do hope we hear good news on Sunday Wurzel, I did venture out yesterday but not too far 😊

Yesterday I thought I'd go to Hall-Lee-Brook, it's very near to my house (about two avenues a way) I didn't go before because most of the Spring Butterflies were coming to my Garden, since they've finished the White's have taken over but don't stay very long if at all 😊 anyway I got there and apart from the exercise it was a waste of time, I saw 2 OT's 4 SW's, 2 Speckies all were flying none stopped.

But guess what!! I got home made a brew took it out to the Garden and a Female OT arrived, 😊 typical, not long after a GVW arrived, the SW's has usual

didn't stop but a Speckie did and I managed another shot, I think today I'll just stay in my Garden 🤔 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 07-May-20 08:29 AM GMT

Last night I saw that lovely Moon, I went outside about 21-45 (according to my camera 😊) the Sun was setting and gave my first shot of the moon a nice bloom, my second shot was taken at 22-03 and is much different, finally at 22-32 I took yet another shot, (I was quite enjoying myself at this point and tending to get carried a way with the camera 😊) It was such a lovely night with my security light lighting up the Garden and the moth's flying about, I could smell the perfume of the flowers, I'd to force myself inside 😊 Goldie 😊



21-45



22-03



22-32

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 07-May-20 05:53 PM GMT

Lovely set of shots Goldie especially the female OT 😊 Yep finally going out and there being no butterflies that stop - that is definitely a case of the Law of Sod 😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 08-May-20 08:11 AM GMT

Ah, simple pleasures, eh Goldie? Saw the moon here last night but there were thin, wispy clouds that dulled some of its brightness. It's a nice time of year though, mild in the evenings and light till gone 9pm....still several more weeks of it too. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 08-May-20 05:12 PM GMT

Thanks for your post Wurzel and David, those Butterflies are very quick these day's 😊 either that are I'm slowing down 😊

Most of the morning was dull but the afternoon was great, light breeze fluffy clouds every now and again, very pleasant, I can't count how many Butterflies I missed 😊 but I definitely managed two Large Whites, 😊 but the Green Veined White got a way 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 08-May-20 07:16 PM GMT

I see the bowles mauve does its job again Goldie 😊

Nice Large White, I have still only seen a couple of these. Lots of Green-veined and Small Whites now though.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

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

Cracking shots especially the Large White Goldie 😊 Just how I like em – all stained glassed like 🙄👍

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 10-May-20 01:40 PM GMT

Well done, Goldie. Never an easy task photographing Large Whites.

Must say, I've seen a few females lately nectaring from bluebells as I've been on my walks. They're definitely having a better year than last year, when I don't think I saw more than two dozen.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 10-May-20 10:56 PM GMT

Thanks Neil, Wurzel and David, it looks like we've got the green light tonight 😊 trouble is it's too cold now 🙄 But the wind seems to have dropped thank goodness. 😊

I was pleased to see the Large White's Neil, your right about the Bowles Mauve, it seems to do the job every year 😊

I thought of you Wurzel when I saw the shot's of the large White's , I was the wrong side of the Sun when I took the shots but it was a case of being quick before they took off, so I just hoped the shots would be okay. 😊

Many thanks David, I've yet to get a shot of one with open wings, I bet they looked great on the Blue Bells , they certainly like the Bowles Mauve 😊

I didn't get any shots of Butterflies yesterday although a few flew through the Garden, it was just too hot for them, not one in the Garden in the afternoon, what a contrast today, down to 2c tonight. 🙄 Goldie 😊

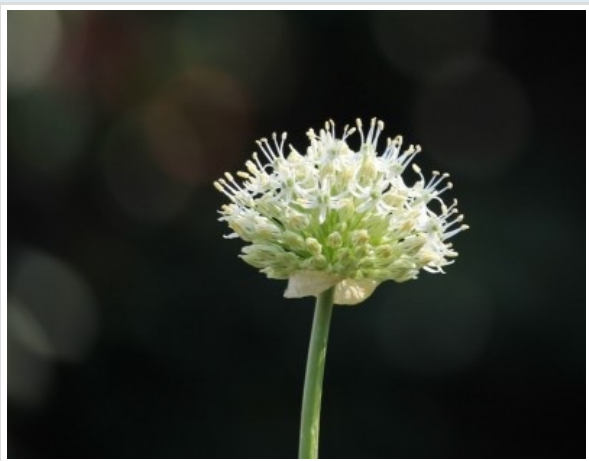
Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 12-May-20 02:54 PM GMT

Nothing in the Garden since the 9th May, much too cold and windy but this morning I found this Moth in the Kitchen, I wonder if any one knows what

it's called 🤔 It's quite large, I'll try putting it out when the weather gets milder.

On the 9th the weather was too hot for the Butterflies even the Blackbird took a bath then, like last year did some Sun bathing 😊 I took a couple of shots of the flowers in case the wind damaged them, looking forward now to some warm days out 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 12-May-20 08:06 PM GMT

I'd love to be able to help you with your moth Goldie but I'm at as much of a loss as you are – it's probably called something like a Dark Rustic or some such 😊 Love the shot of the Blackbird having a bit of a sunbathe, mind you looks more like he's doing some ballet to be honest 😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 12-May-20 09:03 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

I'm not 100% sure but I think your moth is a Cabbage Moth,

<https://www.ukmoths.org.uk/species/mamestra-brassicae>

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 13-May-20 11:31 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, The Black Birds love to Sun Bathe 😊 Especially on the top of that storage cupboard 😊 I love watching their antics, they love Grapes and when I'm sat out they've got use to me taking some out for them and come close to me to take them. 😊

I've looked at the Cabbage Moth you put on the post and it does look like one, It was much milder today and when I looked for it it'd gone, I hope it doesn't like curtains and furniture plus clothes instead of Cabbage 😊 It was quite big and I thought it was some kind of Hawk moth 😊 I did have the doors open coming and going so hope fully it's gone out.

It's still cold this morning, I hope it warms up more this afternoon then and only then will I go out 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 13-May-20 12:51 PM GMT

Hello Goldie ,

Your moth looks like a Cabbage moth. (Mamestra Brassicae,) . Allan.W.

Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 13-May-20 12:56 PM GMT

Sorry Goldie ,ignore last post didn,t read your other replies properlyand missed that you already had an ID for your moth !! (which I agree with !) Allan.W.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 13-May-20 01:43 PM GMT

That's okay Allan, when I do get to Kent (when) I wouldn't mind knowing where the Grizzled Skippers are 😊 Probably be next year to see them now. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Janet Turnbull, 13-May-20 05:03 PM GMT

Love that shot of the blackbird, Goldie! And I'm sure I've seen those moths before and never managed to ID them so I'm glad to see Wurzel and Allan have decided it's a cabbage moth. I've only had clothes moths this year – flipping nuisance!
Janet

Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 13-May-20 06:12 PM GMT

Goldie ,I'll happily show you Grizzled Skipper ,next time you, re down this way , and as long as the local colonies remain stable ,one of the local colonies ,seems to have really crashed ,compared to last season.I struggled to find a singleton this afternoonbut then Grizzlies do hate the wind ! Mind you I did find a pretty scarce moth by way of compensation ! Keep well Regards Allan.W.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 13-May-20 08:42 PM GMT

Hi! Janet, the moth disappeared when I went to look for it again, I just hope it keeps to eating cabbage and not clothes . 😊
The Black Bird's are great to watch and I love to hear them playing hell when the Magpie get's to near their nests 😊 they also give me a few songs which is lovely. 😊

That's great Allan, the ab you found was fantastic, I just hope to be able to see them next year. 😊 I'll definitely get in touch if I can get to Kent in May
😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 13-May-20 08:52 PM GMT

I'm glad someone came up with a name for the Moff Goldie, but embarassingly I should have known that one as I've got shots of the same species myself 😊😊 Oh well back to the drawing board 😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 13-May-20 09:04 PM GMT

Or Speck Savers Wurzel, 😊😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 15-May-20 08:02 PM GMT

Yesterday I went to Hall-Lee-Brook in the morning, it was still quite cool but I thought maybe the Butterflies if any might be warming up and slower 😊 they were but I only saw three, Speckled Wood, Large White and Small white so nothing much to report then until I returned home and saw a well marked Green Veined White in the Garden and three more White Butterflies, not much more to report really from my area.

People have been warned to stay a way from the Lakes saying the Toilets and cafe's won't be open, Southport, Blackpool, all saying the same, since it takes at least an hour to reach all three it looks like no choice to be had but to stay local, trouble is most of the species I want now I've to travel to, 😊 I'll wait for the warmer weather I think 😊

The first Butterfly photo looks familiar ? 😊 Goldie 😊



My Garden

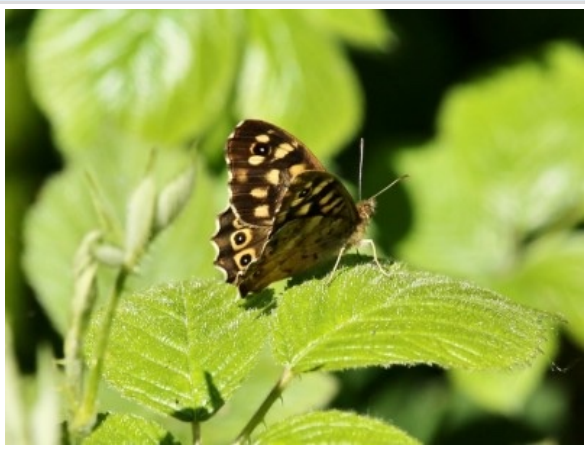


My Garden



My Garden





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 16-May-20 11:22 AM GMT

That is a beautifully marked GVW Goldie 😊 I know what you mean Goldie, on the one hand we're told that we can drive into the countryside and travel as far as we like but on the other hand when you get to your countryside destination it's shut, the gates are locked, the beaches are closed etc. Just another confusing message 😞 Oh well at least your garden is still producing the goods 🍷🍷

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 16-May-20 02:04 PM GMT

That is indeed a beautifully marked Green Veined White, Goldie. 😊 Your garden is certainly a hotspot for Whites this spring.

Sorry to hear about your travails vis-a-vis getting to further flung destinations. It's a tricky situation right now and people need to be sensible about where they go. No point visiting any of the most popular beauty spots if they're going to be overrun by hordes of people. That said, being outdoors in numbers is far safer than being in a supermarket/DIY centre at half capacity!

Let's hope things calm down in a week or two.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 16-May-20 04:16 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel and David for your posts, it's very frustrating like you both say, places closing, when you get there, I'd decided to try various places until I saw Southport and the lakes on Tele with every thing closed, pointless going there, I will try Brockholes CP when the weather gets warmer, it's been cold here, the wind once again making every thing feel colder, if you sit in the Sun out of the wind it was warm, other wise wearing a coat was needed.

I went to Hall-Lee-Brook today for a walk. I didn't really expect to see much after being there before but I thought "you never Know", 😊 I was right, just two shots of Butterflies not a sign of Holly Blues yet, not even a fly pass 😞 But I did see an unexpected sight 😊

Three little Ducklings belonging to one of the Houses being looked after by the owners dog 🐶 It was worth the walk just to see them 🐶 Goldie 🐶



Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 16-May-20 06:44 PM GMT

Your Garden does it again for the Whites Goldie – what are you feeding the plants with? 😊😊 I remember when I was a little lad my dad brought home some Mallard eggs from an abandoned nest and we hatched them out in the airing cupboard – I had my own little band of followers after that 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 17-May-20 09:02 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Goldie M wrote:

... I will try Brockholes CP when the weather gets warmer...

I have seen some photos on social media taken at Brockholes this week so people are going there.

Janet Turnbull wrote:

... so I'm glad to see Wurzel and Allan have decided it's a cabbage moth...

Errr!...Wurzel? 😊😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-May-20 12:57 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, I think that's what happened with these Ducklings 😊 they were following the Dog every where 😊 they certainly thought the dog was Mum 😊 In the Garden I throw a few handfuls of Bone Meal 😊

Hi! Neil, thanks for the info on Brockholes, it's a big place so it should be easy to keep a distance, it's only about 15mins a way which will help, it's a bit too soon for the WLHS's s, it's good to know it's opened, I should be able to seek them out later 😊 Hope fully the Common Blue 's and Small Copper will be there. 😊

Nothing happening today so far, it's warmer but very cloudy no Sun so far, I think Wednesday's to be the best day, roll on!!!Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 17-May-20 08:25 PM GMT

To be fair Neil we have never been seen in the same place at the same time... 😊😊
"In the Garden I throw a few handfuls of Bone Meal 😊" it certainly seems to be working! 😊🇹🇷

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 19-May-20 07:43 PM GMT

Love the dog with the chicks, Goldie. Our own German Shepherd, Joelie, is very protective of our poultry although since we got rid of our cockerel we sadly haven't had any baby chickens to look after.

Pet animals can be funny – our dog absolutely HATES a fox yet she'll lie on the ground with chickens pecking around her as if it were natural.

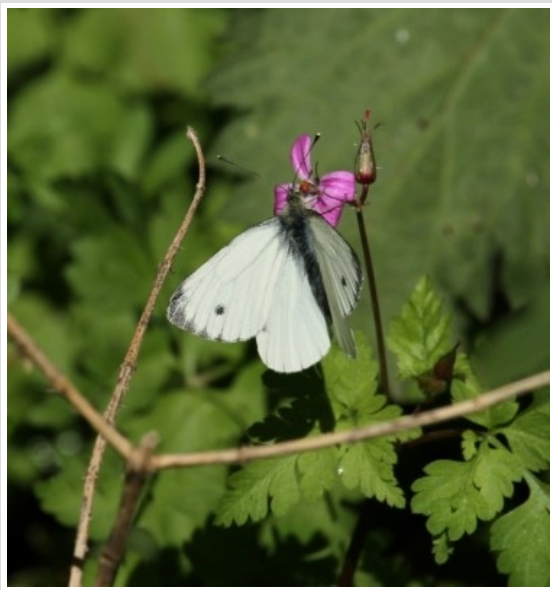
Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 20-May-20 11:01 PM GMT

Thanks for your posts Wurzel and David, I was in the Garden this afternoon Wurzel and the Bone Meal did the trick again 😊

We use to have a Dog David, she was a cross between a German Shepherd and a Labrador she looked more Shepherd than Lab, she also had a lovely nature, I don't know if she'd have been so friendly with hen's though, 😊 Sheba thought any thing that had four legs and moved had to be played with. 😊

Today I actually made it to Brockholes 😊 when I got there the gates were shut, the Car Park closed, there's two separate roads at Brockholes, one to go in and one to exit, having planned on this visit for so long and having been stuck at home for so long I was not going to go back, I turned the car round and parked on the Exit road with the other car's, nobody was there at the time so I set off up the road. When your in the car you don't realise just how far a walk will be 😊 I'd my walking stick for guidance 😊 When I finally reached the part where I'd seen the Common Blue before, at first I saw nothing, then as I walked through the tall grass and flowers I spotted them 😊 It felt great to be out 😊 I also saw a rather nicely marked GVW. I stayed for a couple of hour's having gone early I returned home about lunch time, it was absolutely roasting in the Garden so I put the Sun shade up and had just settled down when I saw a flash of bright yellow, I couldn't believe my eyes, a Brimstone on the Bowles Mauve 😊 It landed right in the middle of the plant 😊 I did my best with the shots 😊 I also managed another Large White, 😊 Later two Holly Blue flew through but didn't stop, hope fully they'll be back 😊 Goldie 😊









Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 21-May-20 07:45 PM GMT

A lovely set of Blues and whites Goldie 😊 I felt your excitement of breaking your house arrest, long may it continue 😊😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 22-May-20 09:19 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, it was really eerie at Brockholes, I only saw about four couples walking, but there were loads there on Bikes so I kept away from the cycle paths, I did think of walking by the River Ribble but I saw men fishing so decided just to keep to the mane route until I got to the meadows.

I won't bother going again until late June hope fully the car park will be open then, I think they closed it because it's got a huge children's area with loads of things for them to go on, it can only be that because even when there's loads there it's a huge country park with two woodland area's, surrounded by fields full of wild flowers, plus the River and two lakes, it was great to be out and do and see some thing different like you said in your post 😊

Rain and strong winds today and tomorrow so not much going on here for a couple of day's, not much on the wing either, I only saw the Blues and one or two white's at the CP with the exception of three Orange tips that went flying passed and an handful of GVW's you can tell I'm getting bored now can't you with the length of my post 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 22-May-20 07:28 PM GMT

No worries Goldie – just hang on in there a few more days and we're set for some high pressure so things should improve into next week and you can venture forth/escape once again 😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 22-May-20 07:51 PM GMT

Yes, there's a bit of a 'Twilight Zone' feeling when visiting the countryside at the moment, Goldie. I went to a regular haunt the other day and saw six deer casually munching away in a place I never knew they frequented – clearly they are enjoying the continuing relative absence of we human beings.

Nice selection of Common Blues. They've exploded into life near me and have taken over from Orange Tips as the most common species.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 23-May-20 10:47 AM GMT

Thanks for your posts Wurzel and David, I've seen the weather forecast for next week and it looks promising (roll on) it's been a long time since I've seen my family and it doesn't help when I see them sitting on bench's looking at the sea 😊😊 Hope fully if every thing goes well I'll be on the move in July to Kent 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 23-May-20 10:19 PM GMT

It would be great if things could get back to the new version of normality by July Goldie, fingers crossed that you can get to see your family 😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 24-May-20 07:49 AM GMT

For me it was a great relief when travel restrictions were lifted.
Let's hope they open the car parks as well, though many of the sites I visit it is possible to park safely in a lay by or road side.
Good to see your mating Common Blues, I've only seen males up to now.

Stay well,
Trevor.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 25-May-20 05:01 PM GMT

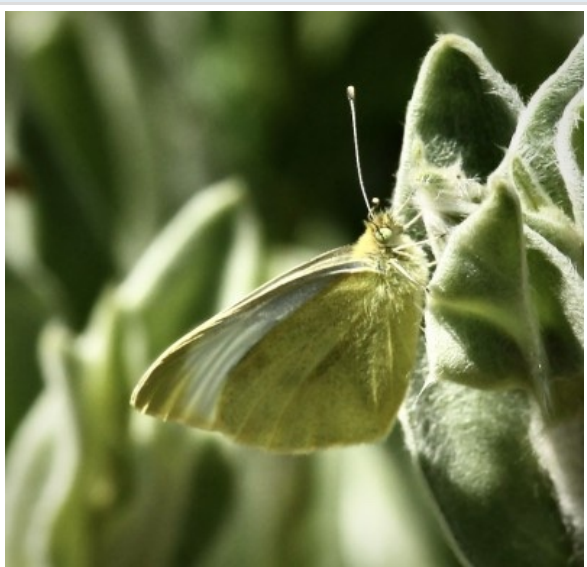
Many thanks for your posts Wurzel and Trevor,
My family ring me every other day Wurzel, of course it's not like being with them, so hope fully July will be more fruitful and we can move further. 😊

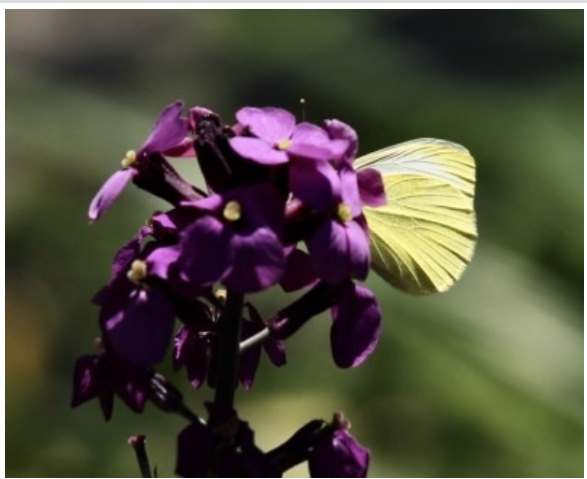
Hi! Trevor, it's the first journey I've taken that's had it's gates shut, not that I've been to too many, it does put you off going when you know all the facilitates are closed when you get there and you've to walk a good distance 😊 I didn't see what I wanted when I got there 😊 a Small Copper 😊

Today in my garden I saw my first Red Admiral of this year, I didn't manage a shot though, I was tying some perennials to a stick when it landed in front of me 😊, I don't know who was more surprised 😊 it shot off but at least I know they're a round now 😊

I did have the company of a Large White, (no opened wing shots) and a Small White unusual because at first I thought it was another Brimstone it was so Yellow on the underside of it's wings and unlike the other Butterflies it stayed in the garden for over an hour, I did try to get an open wing shot so I could see it's open wings because on close up they seemed to be dusted with black, (not very good though)after it finished on the Bowles Mauve it settled down for over Half an hour on a plant that's yet to grow more before it flowers, I can't think what the plants called but it's gray and produces red flowers in Summer.

Any way ,at least the weather was great after the 40mile an hour winds we've had 😊 Goldie 😊







Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 25-May-20 08:39 PM GMT

That is a beautiful 'Small Lemon' Goldie 😊😄🍋 I sometimes despair at the boring names we give to butterflies (and other animals) 😊 Why couldn't we have names like 'Lemon or Lime' (Brimstone) or Balog for Small Heath (Bloody annoying little orange git)? 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 26-May-20 12:44 PM GMT

That is indeed a very yellowish Small White, Goldie. Most attractive. Glad to hear you're off the mark Red Admiral-wise; I've only seen three myself thus far, and for probably the first time in years Meadow Browns are out prior to me getting an image of an RA!!

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 27-May-20 11:19 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel and David, in-spite of the nice weather, nothing much seems to be flying here, I went to Hall-Lee-Brook today and saw two whites 😊 I thought maybe the Meadow Browns may be out but nothing, I did see a rather worn Peacock and thought I saw a Red Admiral, the Butterfly kept it's wings closed so I'm not sure what it was, I did take a shot of it but it didn't hang about and was too far a way to pick up any markings.

I did see a Large White this morning and when I got back from HLB another came into the garden, I'm afraid that's all I'm seeing at present 😊 Still, it's better than nothing 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 28-May-20 07:22 PM GMT

At least your garden is still producing Goldie - cracking Large Whites 😊 Perhaps the 'June Gap' has already started which is why the butterflies are a little scarce? 😞

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 28-May-20 07:32 PM GMT

Today I was going to do some traveling , I decided to have my lunch in the Garden first, I was half way through my sandwich when a female OT arrived in the garden, she stayed until after five pm, I decided I'd stay has well, it was so hot but we still had a nice breeze, the OT also felt the heat she would circle the Bowies Mauve than settle for ages wings closed in the shade, she repeated this until she eventually flew off.

I was able to get quite a few shots and one in particular makes me wonder if there really is Fairies 😊 Goldie 😊

We must have posted at the same time Wurzel 😊😊 Thanks for your post 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 28-May-20 07:38 PM GMT

Good call on staying in – glad you took the advice of the OT Goldie 😊 , lovely shots 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 28-May-20 07:47 PM GMT

Just catching up Goldie, some marvelous shots on the Bowles Mauve 😊 I had a Painted Lady gorging on it at work the other day, fingers crossed we're in for another invasion and they get up to you again 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 28-May-20 07:55 PM GMT

Just got your post Bug Boy, seems we're at cross purposes tonight 😊 I'd love to see a Painted Lady but I bet there's not as many this year, they seem to come every so often 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 29-May-20 05:37 PM GMT

Only two Small Whites in the Garden today, they arrived early morning, nothing in the afternoon the heat really getting to the Butterflies now plus the lack of water so I went out tonight and watered every thing. 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 29-May-20 07:25 PM GMT

More lovely shots Goldie – especially the second in the sequence – a bit of a corker! 🤔👍 Early morning does seem to be the best time in the current sunny climes – but I found this morning there's quite a short window of opportunity between the shade being forced back and it getting too hot 😞

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 30-May-20 02:27 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

Only two Small Whites in the Garden today, they arrived early morning, nothing in the afternoon the heat really getting to the Butterflies now plus the lack of water so I went out tonight and watered every thing.

Not surprising the butterflies disappeared, Goldie. I'm seeing the same thing round my way. The heat is causing them to burn themselves out by noon. Everything's beginning to look a little 'tired'. We could do with a day or two's rain in all honesty.

Re: Goldie M

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

Hi! Wurzel, I'm still in the Garden these days, I went over to HLB yesterday and saw nothing so I went up to Rivington which has two Lovely Reservoirs and is a local Beauty spot , I didn't even get out of the car, the place was packed, car's on the road, car park full, I believe they'd to send for the fire brigade again some idiot set the moor on fire again 😞

Hi! David, I watered the garden to no avail 😞 there really is a big gap between Butterflies now but I thought at least the Meadow Brown would be out by now and may be the Skipper's , I'll have another go at HLB next week. 😞 Goldie 😞

Only two Butterflies again today , one a Small White was in a bad way but still flying 😞 the other one A GVW was really nice, it came in early again, in the morning, that's it really ,I'm still looking for some different species 😞 Goldie 😞





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 01-Jun-20 06:41 PM GMT

"I believe they'd to send for the fire brigade again some idiot set the moor on fire again" – that's the thing with the easing of Lockdown – the Muppets have gotten it in their heads that that's it, it's all over 😊😏 – not helped by the ridiculous "Stay Alert" message 😊
At least the garden is still producing some great butterflies – that GVV is gurt lush, fantastic markings 😊😏

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 02-Jun-20 07:30 AM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

Hi! David, I watered the garden to no avail 😞 there really is a big gap between Butterflies now but I thought at least the Meadow Brown would be out by now and may be the Skipper's , I'll have another go at HLB next week.

Looks like we might get some rain tomorrow, Goldie. We certainly need some.

I'm sure your Meadow Browns & Large Skippers are out now. In fact, the large Fritillaries should be flying at Morecambe Bay any time now.

Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 02-Jun-20 10:38 AM GMT

Take heart, Goldie. Good stuff is just around the corner. Meanwhile, that's a lovely GV White! 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 02-Jun-20 07:02 PM GMT

Thanks for your posts, Wurzel, David, essex,

Hi! Wurzel, i believe the fire was started by two guys in their 20's with a Bar-be-cue of all things, now the Fire men are asking for a ban on there sale 😞 There's another fire tonight this time on Saddle Worth Moor 😞 The Garden is ready for tomorrows rain, I'm not sure I am 😞

Hi! David, I went to HLB today and I saw a Skipper, it was to quick for me 😞 It was great to see it, no Meadow Brown's though, I did manage to see a Small Tort .

Hi! essex, I still keep seeing the odd ones in the Garden, a Small Tort shot through this morning 😞 no shots though 😞

With the weather changing tomorrow I decided on one last trip to HLB, I didn't expect much because it was so hot, I managed to see a Skipper has I said to David but no shots, I'd better luck with the Small Tort I saw, I think the way it looks and where ,sums up the hot day and why we're all waiting for the rain 😞 Goldie 😞



Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 03-Jun-20 02:15 PM GMT

Those GVW shots are terrific, Goldie, especially the last one - what a lovely butterfly that is. 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 03-Jun-20 04:54 PM GMT

Thank's Dave, I've had some good luck with my Garden and the Butterflies, what Butterflies I've seen have been really great, i've had a few disappointments when I've been out, like yesterday at HLB when I missed a shot of a Skipper but after this rain we've had today and some yet to come I'm hoping it will help the Butterflies, they need moisture badly, trouble is it's going much cooler, we can't win 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 03-Jun-20 06:22 PM GMT

Yep that Small Tort does has a desiccated and fed up look Goldie 🙄🙄 Fingers crossed the coolness only slows the butterflies down a bit and doesn't put them off entirely 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 03-Jun-20 08:20 PM GMT

Shame to hear about the fires, Goldie. We had this round my way a few weeks ago and it decimated the breeding grounds of the Marsh and Small Pearl Bordered Fritillaries. 🙄

I guess you will find conditions rather tricky for observing butterflies over the next few days, but at least we've had some rain which was much needed. Don't feel afraid to venture out. You may not see so many on the wing but those you do see will be less hyperactive than those around during the hot weather recently.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 05-Jun-20 04:06 PM GMT

Thanks again Wurzel and David for your posts, the weather is really making the garden fresh and we are getting some Sun in between the Showers, but it's too cold and windy for the Butterflies I'm afraid with none being seen at all, may be next week will be calmer, we've to expect 40 mile an hour winds tomorrow, I'm just hoping my fencing holds up. 🙄 roll on next week 🙄 Goldie 🙄

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 06-Jun-20 10:20 AM GMT

Yes, both windy and wet here right now, Goldie. Happy to take it on the chin so long as it doesn't last too long or cause any damage.

As you say, roll on next week when things ought to look a little more refreshed.

Re: Goldie M

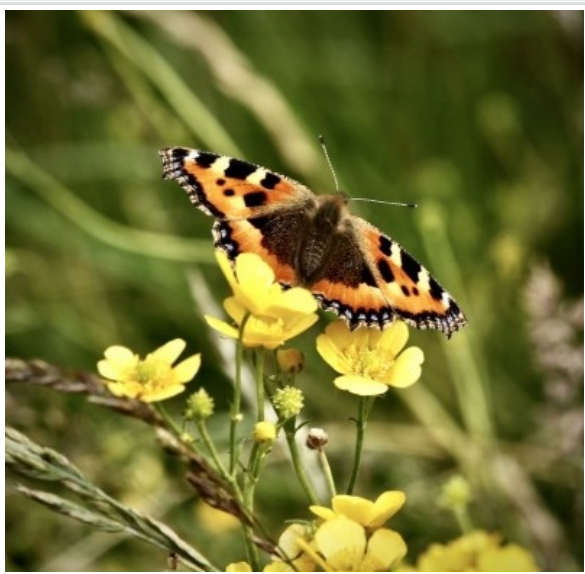
by Goldie M, 09-Jun-20 07:29 PM GMT

Sorry to take so long in answering David, I've been trying to get some sense out of the gardening I've been doing 🙄

One of my Butterfly bushes as taken a beating with the wind also my Fox Gloves, it's rained here a lot and been windy, the nice weather I thought we'd have for this week as not yet appeared, I thought this morning there was a chance, the Sun kept popping out now and then, I've been fed up 🙄

I decided to get going again because for once it didn't rain, although the clouds were thick at times like I've said I did see the Sun at times, I went to Hall-Lee-Brook looking for the large Skipper and may be some Meadow Browns but saw none, I'm beginning to wonder if MB's will appear there 🙄 I did see two Small Tort's and managed some shots so it wasn't a total waste of time 🙄

When I see everyone's shots of all the Butterflies now on the wing I get really envious 🙄 because I can't get to see them 🙄 hope fully I'll get to Kent before they all disappear, rain again tomorrow 🙄 Goldie 🙄



Re: Goldie M

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

Those Small Torts must have made up for the lack of Meadow Browns Goldie 😊 I hope you can get down to Kent Goldie as you're due a butterfly fix for sure 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 10-Jun-20 11:32 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, I hope so to, I'm feeling bored at the moment, it's going on and on, I've been to a couple of shops usually just before 4pm and found it okay, no queuing, but I really want to go again to Brockholes to see if the White Hair Streaks are out yet but it's still closed.

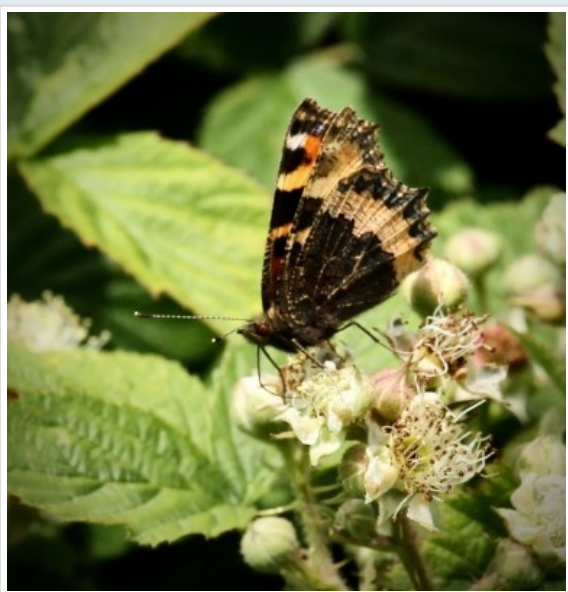
There's no Butterflies like White Admirals round here, and they don't want people to go to the Lakes, every thing's still closed, so you feel like your in a rut 😞 I'm optimistic though and hope things will move soon, I know I'm not on my own in this 😊 Until then I'll get stuck into the Garden 😊 All the best Goldie 😊

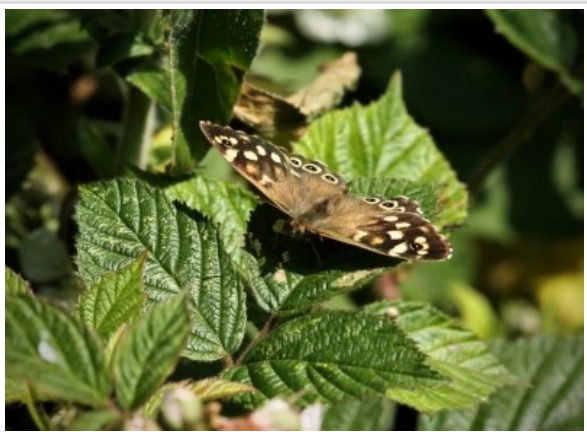
Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 11-Jun-20 05:53 PM GMT

I went once more to Hall-Lee-Brook , there was a very strong wind but the Sun was shining so I thought I'd look care fully in the sheltered area's, the grass was very high and being blown about, in fact it blew my hat off once 😊 Once again I saw three Small Tort's, one nearly had no black spots 😊 I moved on to where the Blackberry bushes were full of flowers and was surprised to see a Red Admiral, it wasn't in such good shape and looked like it'd been a round for a while, still it was the first I'd got a shot of 😊😊

I didn't see any Meadow Brown but just has I was ready to go back home I passed more Berry bushes and to my surprise saw two Large Skipper's sitting there quite still, I was really pleased, 😊 I couldn't get near to them but managed to zoom in and get some shots, I came home well pleased with my Butterfly fix. 😊 Goldie 😊









Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 11-Jun-20 07:47 PM GMT

I recon your Meadow Browns will appear next week, Goldie, with warmer weather forecast. However, it will probably be late June or July before White Letters emerge up North.

Until then, keep enjoying those Small Tortoiseshells!

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 11-Jun-20 08:10 PM GMT

Love the final shot Goldie 😊 Looks like Large Skippers know how to Social Distance 😊 I wish they could pass on some instructions to some of the muppets down my way 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 11-Jun-20 10:13 PM GMT

Glad to see you managed to see some butterflies Goldie 😊

Nothing flying here for the past couple of days, really dull, cold, wet and windy. I know we needed the rain but we have gone from one extreme to the other.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 11-Jun-20 10:30 PM GMT

Getting two Large Skippers in one shot is quite an achievement, Goldie! 😊 They usually chase each other madly around if they get that close. Some good variety there – your butterflies were just waiting for a bit of sunshine! 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 11-Jun-20 10:42 PM GMT

Hi! Essex, we do seem to be behind up here, the weather since June came in as been rough, when I got back home today, I was amazed, I'd only been in the house a short time when I once more, heard the rain and wind really strong, I hope your right about next week 😊 hope fully Brockholes CP should be open later in June if things keep going well, that should be okay for the WLH's then. 😊

Hi! Wurzel, It's not been too bad passing people here I try to get a walk in when I think the dog walkers have been out. 😊 I've only been to the shop's a couple of times, I'm in the ancient category 😊 My friend brings my shopping, she's been great. My Daughter rang last night, I'll be going to Kent shortly, she's a teacher and I'll wait until the school Holidays s start before going down , she's coming up for me, boy! am I looking forward to going. 😊

Hi! Neil, we've been out of Butterflies for quite a while, it's been great to actually see some, I think I got spoiled in May in the Garden with the Butterflies and lovely weather, it was a shock not seeing any for so long, the weather's been bad since June came in here, when dry it's been really cold and everybody's fed up of the wind and rain now 😊 Hope there's nicer weather on the way 😊

Thanks Dave, I think they were too cold to move and were just soaking up the Sun 😊 The wind was really strong I'd my hooded Jacket on but I was ready for some fresh air and exercise, I didn't really think the Butterflies would be out so it was a surprise when I saw them, I hope some more species arrive and better weather 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 12-Jun-20 04:17 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

...My Daughter rang last night, I'll be going to Kent shortly, she's a teacher and I'll wait until the school Holidays s start before going down , she's coming up for me, boy! am I looking forward to going.

I'll bet you are, Goldie. Time you had a bit of good fortune for a change. I hope you will be able to get out as often as possible and see plenty of butterflies.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 13-Jun-20 07:55 PM GMT

Thanks for your post David, it will be great to see them again, roll on! 😊

Today was a lovely warm day, I got the washing on the line and decided to go to Hall-Lee-Brook again, I'm glad I did, I finally saw the Meadow Brown 😊 It's not a Butterfly that I take many shots of but at HLB in the past they've cut the grass in the Meadow just as the MB has appeared and it's not done the species a lot of good, so I was pleased to see the start of them, I just hope they don't come and cut the grass. 😊 But it wouldn't surprise me if they did. 😊 I saw only three MB's.

I also saw six Small Tort's and numerous Large Skippers so things are beginning to move, I've never seen a Small Heath at HLB which always seem's strange when I know their in some local areas, I'll keep looking you never know 😊 Goldie 😊







Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 13-Jun-20 08:08 PM GMT

Glad that you managed to get out and enjoy the butterflies Goldie 😊 Great shots, particularly like the Small Tort 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 14-Jun-20 07:50 AM GMT

Delighted for you, Goldie. Always good to get out after a spell of poor weather.

Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 14-Jun-20 10:40 PM GMT

Looks like the mornings are going to be best this week Goldie, so get early if you can. Good to see the Meadow Browns have started.

It's a shame about the grass cut, but don't get me started on that. Imagine how many Orange Tips caterpillars are destroyed each year in the name of tidiness!

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 15-Jun-20 10:52 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, thank you, there was quite a lot of Small Tort's, they seem to be having a good year, I've seen one in the garden so far unfortunately I was talking at a distance to my neighbour and we just watched it, I was eager to get my camera but had to stay put 😊 .

Thank you David, the last few days have been very warm here, we've had the showers as well but they've not lasted too long, today how ever we're to get Thunder etc, I'll have to wait for a better day to venture further 😊

Hi! essex, when I took photo's at Hall-Lee-Brook a few years back before they made it into a CP , the meadow there was full of May Flowers and I could stand in the middle and take shots of Orange Tips a plenty, then the grass cutting started, now your lucky if you see one , I have wondered if this is why they've been seen more in the garden's, I'll go to HLB again shortly, I think the only reason they've not been in there and cut the grass now is because of the Virus. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 16-Jun-20 08:24 PM GMT

It's bloomin annoying when butterflies turn up and you're chatting away isn't it Goldie 😊😊 Some people can be so inconsiderate, it's a case of "there's a butterfly to photograph why are you still gabbling away at me?" 😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

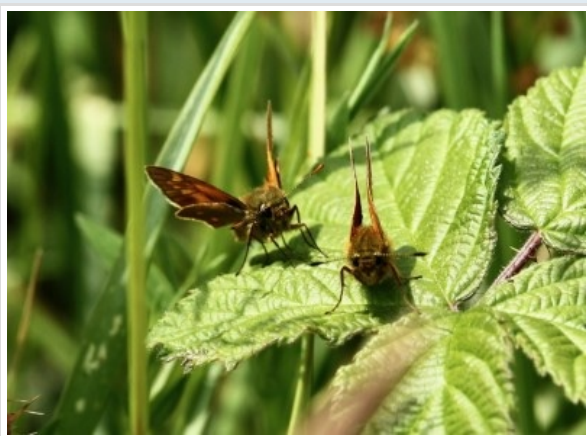
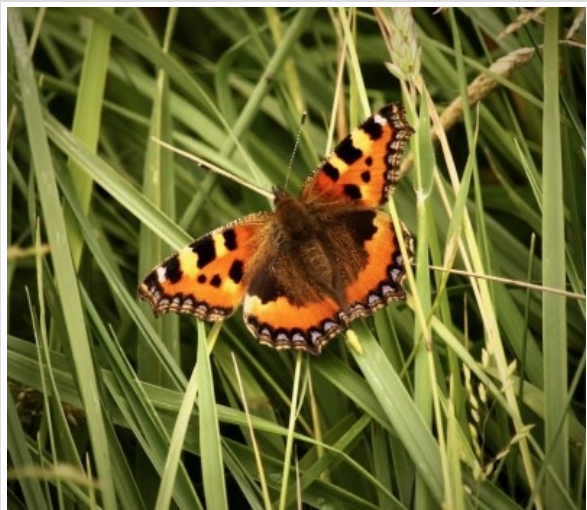
Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Jun-20 03:19 PM GMT

Your so right Wurzel, I was dying to get my camera 😊

I went to Hall-Lee-Brook after lunch, with more storms expected I thought I'd take a chance while the Sun was still shining, I was there less than an hour when the sky went dark, in that short space of time though I managed to see two Large Skippers, the Male was trying his best but the Female didn't want to know and shook her wings every time he approached , I'd never seen Skipper's refuse before and I was surprised how menacing the Female looked. 😊 (Take your hook) was a real message 😊

I also saw lot's more Meadow Browns and Small Tort's which quickly disappeared with the darkening sky. Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Pauline, 17-Jun-20 03:47 PM GMT

You've captured that courtship attempt well Goldie. Even the wing shaking is quite apparent. Well caught 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Jun-20 03:59 PM GMT

Thank you Pauline, roll on Kent 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 18-Jun-20 06:17 PM GMT

Great views of the Large Skipper out on a date – I don't think it'll go to a second one though 😊😊 Love the 'two tone' Meadow Brown 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 18-Jun-20 08:56 PM GMT

In spite of your lack of opportunities, Goldie, you've done something I haven't this year – seen a female Large Skipper!

Hope the weather improves during your stay in Kent.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 19-Jun-20 09:37 AM GMT

Many thanks Wurzel, my range is limited at present, most of the places like CP, ETC, are closed so I'm depending on the local area which seems not to have a good range of Butterflies at present, plus the weather has been awful since June arrived 😊 Thunder Storm's again today UGH! 😊
Going to Kent David will open more opportunities but my mane pleasure will be seeing my family again 😊 My Daughter's been teaching all through the Shut down and is still doing it for another two weeks, so it'll be nearer the end of July before I go, we want to be on the safe side. (Some good news though, My Hair Dresser's got in touch and I've got an appointment for July, WOW!! 😊)

Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 20-Jun-20 09:27 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

...My Hair Dresser's got in touch and I've got an appointment for July, WOW!! :lol

Yes, looks like we'll have movement on this quite soon, Goldie, and not before time. I'm looking like a 70's throwback right now given that my last haircut was in early March! 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 21-Jun-20 09:07 AM GMT

Hi! David, I should have my hair cut just before I go to Kent, (hope fully) 😊

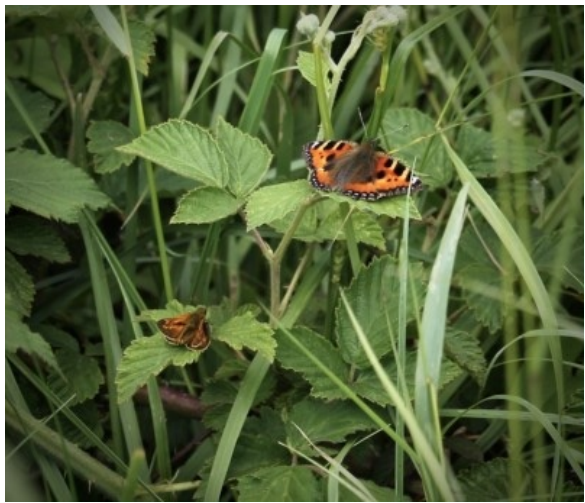
Yesterday morning it was raining hard and then it stopped so I decided to pick a few weeds up in the Garden, guess what, I was caught in a heavy shower, that's after the forecast said no rain 😊 any way lunch time came and so did the Sun and the clouds, I decided to take a chance and go to HLB, I thought if nothing else I'd get some exercise. 😊

The Large Skipper's were out in force, also the Small Tort's but I was surprised to find two Red Admirals, they were lying low in the Brambles because when the Sun did emerge from the clouds it was hot and I don't think the RA like a hot Sun!

The Skipper's and Torts on the other hand were in their element 😊

I was walking on the path through the field when I spotted what I thought was another Large Skipper, then I noticed this one had spots, I was excited when I saw it was a Small Copper, it was so small though and perfectly still, the clouds were covering the Sun at this point so I was able to get a few shots, when the Sun did come out it threw shadows of the grass across it so I could have missed it, first time I've been glad of cloud cover. 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 21-Jun-20 09:35 AM GMT

Well-spotted with the Small Copper, Goldie, and then getting close to it. They are very skittish in bright sunshine. I think you may be right about the Red Admirals – at this time of year I see most of mine late in the afternoon, or early evening when the sun is less strong. They are quite happy in shade or even in a bit of rain! They are also the only species I've seen flying after sunset. 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 21-Jun-20 09:40 AM GMT

Thanks Dave, I was pleased to see the Copper, my first of this year 😊 I'll be going to HLB again today if the weather keeps up 😊
Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 21-Jun-20 06:28 PM GMT

As Dave said – good work with the Small Copper 😊 I don't know if it's the changeable weather but everything seems a little skittish at the moment 😊 and getting close to a small, fast moving butterfly can be really tricky 😊 Hope you get onto plenty of butterflies in the coming days 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 22-Jun-20 10:53 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, the weather was awful yesterday, really heavy showers and I'm still waiting for the warm weather they keep forecasting 😊 This mornings been cold and looking like rain so it looks like the Butterflies will have to wait a while longer. Having said that, I can see some Sun trying to get through the cloud 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 23-Jun-20 07:47 PM GMT

I hope the sun shone eventually Goldie 😊 It looks like it doesn't matter where you are over the next couple of days it's going to be difficult for butterflies – wet up North and ridiculously hot down south 😊 Hope you get something 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 24-Jun-20 03:28 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

..the weather was awful yesterday, really heavy showers and I'm still waiting for the warm weather they keep forecasting..

Hope you're getting some now, Goldie. It's roasting in S. Wales today and tomorrow looks very much the same. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 24-Jun-20 07:08 PM GMT

Just catching up on your diary Goldie now I have got a stable internet connection again.

Goldie M wrote:

... two Red Admirals, they were lying low in the Brambles because when the Sun did emerge from the clouds it was hot and I don't think the RA like a hot Sun!

I have noticed the same thing with Red Admirals, they have a tendency to duck into the shade in hot sun.

Hope you have a good time in Kent and see loads of butterflies.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 26-Jun-20 10:21 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, David, and Neil, thanks for your post, the weather has been too hot for the Butterflies and it's been a frustrating couple of days here 😊

I went to Hall-Lee-Brook early Wednesday Morning, my thinking was ,going early I'd see more Butterflies before it got too hot, I was surprised to see very few, the L Skippers and Small Tort's were the only ones I saw, which was better than none I suppose 😊

That same night how ever i was in the Garden after 6pm and a Painted Lady flew in and out never settling , then a Red Admiral did the same, and on it went, Small Torts and whites, Really frustrating 😊 even a Large Skipper and Meadow Brown, they flew over the fence 😊😊

Yesterday was very similar except in the morning a Humming Bird Hawk Moth arrived in the Garden, it wasn't in long and did the same except I did grab a quick shot which wasn't very good, after that I managed one shot of a white and two of a Small Tort both were hiding a way for the night 😊

Any way the Butterfly bushes are coming out now so there's hope 😊 Goldie 😊



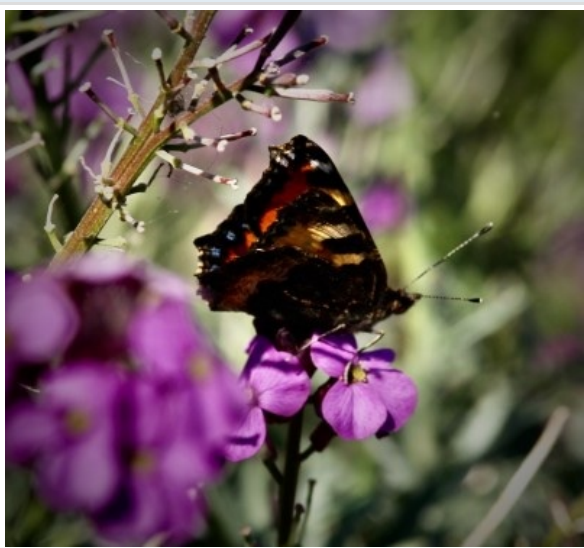
Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 26-Jun-20 09:25 PM GMT

This morning it rained really hard but after Lunch the Sun returned and was really hot, this time the Butterflies landed a few times instead of flying through, I took some shots but I didn't see any Painted Ladies or Red Admirals , the Small Tort's did land but kept mostly to the shade.

I included one shot of an open winged white although it's wing was damaged at least they were open 😊
I saw this one Butterfly that looked like it was still uncurling but I could be wrong and from the distance I was taking the shot I wasn't sure, I couldn't resist the Small Tort shot , he was keeping cool 😊

Hope fully I'll get to Brockholes soon when they open the car park and see the White may be even the Purple Hair Streaks, I'm certainly ready for a few changes 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 27-Jun-20 05:40 PM GMT

Great shots Goldie 😊 I too got caught out by the idea that going early would mean seeing the butterflies before they got hot enough to move around like they had rockets attached 😊 All that happened was there as nothing about for an age and then when they did wake up they warmed up within 30 seconds and flew around like they had rockets attached! 😊😊 Hope things perk up for you soon! 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 27-Jun-20 10:46 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, the weather here as gone down hill, real thunder showers all day and the next week looks awful, there may be a chance of better weather the following week fingers crossed 🙏

Hope fully I should be in Kent by the end of July if all goes to plan , you never know, when you see people crowding on the beaches there could be another out break, we could be back to square one, let's hope not 🙏 Keep safe 🙏 Goldie 🙏

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-Jul-20 06:22 PM GMT

I went to Hall-Lee-Brook this afternoon, in spite of a blustery wind, at least the Sun was out, has were the clouds 🙏
After the Gale force wind yesterday it wasn't too bad today, although I expected a shower, it didn't arrive 🙏

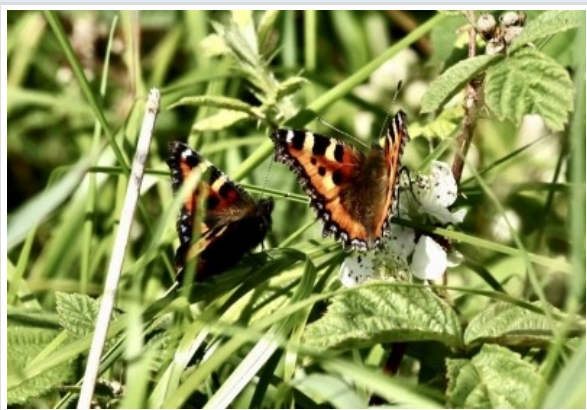
I'd not seen a Butterfly for nine days, so even the Meadow Brown brightened me up even though they were too quick for shots, (making up for loss time. 🙏)

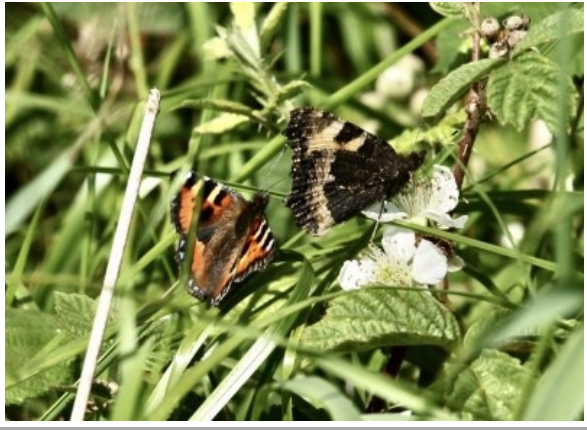
I was pleased to see the Small Tort's and one Male was trying his luck , to no a vale 🙏 I saw 14 altogether so their doing well inspite of the weather. I also saw deep in the hedge keeping out of the wind a Peacock, further along the path a Comma, I saw another Comma in the field, this one had closed wings and looked darker than the first.

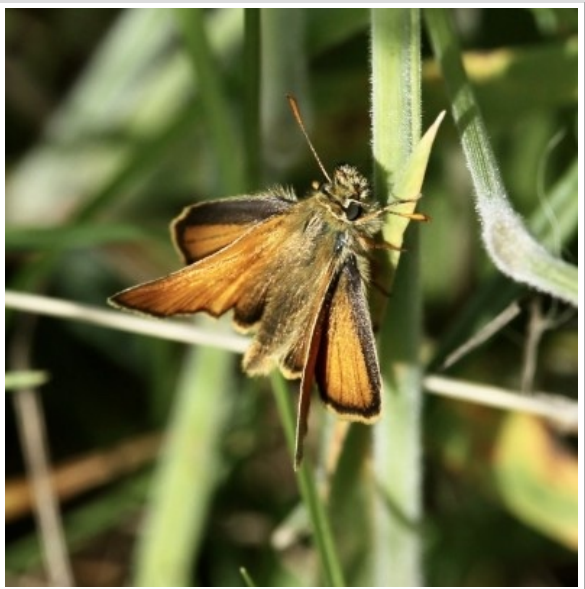
There was still loads of Large Skipper, one in particular caught my eye because it seemed to have more of a brighter pattern.

Then I spotted my first Small Skipper just as it was about to take off, at least I think it's a Small Skipper 🙏 The next one I saw shot down to the base of a grass stalk and looked petrified 🙏 No wonder I was following it down with the Camera 🙏

Any way I was pleased to get out for once in the Sunshine after all the rain and finally see some Butterflies Goldie 🙏









Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 06-Jul-20 06:37 PM GMT

Good to see you have got out and seen some butterflies Goldie 😊

You've beaten me to a summer Peacock, not seen one of them here yet although I am expecting them any time now.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 06-Jul-20 07:41 PM GMT

It is great to get out after a couple of days isn't it Goldie? Mind you at the moment the days when I could because I'm not in work but working from home are generally the worst weather wise 😞 Good call on the Small Skipper ID 😊 Looking forward to your forthcoming Kentish reports 😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 07-Jul-20 09:53 AM GMT

Hi! Neil, thanks for your post 😊 I was surprised to see the Peacock but it was certainly crouched down in the briers out of the wind 😊 It was good to get out again after days of rain and it's pouring down again at present. 😞 Goldie 😊

Hi! Wurzel, the sooner I get to Kent the better 😊 It's not been 2 days here of rain it's been nearly every day and when it's not rained the wind as been very strong, I was surprised to see so many Butterflies yesterday because it rained hard up to lunch time then the Sun came out but the wind was still strong, I was so fed up I thought blow it I'll chance it and the fact I found a Small Skipper was a nice surprise and worth the visit, although it was hiding from the wind as was all the others, they were a bit awkward to get's shot's of , i 'd to keep moving the tall grass out of the way and trying to hold it back whilst the wind was blowing it about 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Janet Turnbull, 07-Jul-20 11:57 AM GMT

Hi Goldie, you've beaten me to the Small Skipper! 🍷 Good to see the pics of the Small Torts courting. Good luck butterflying in Kent - you should see a lot more than we do up here. 😊
Janet

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 07-Jul-20 04:20 PM GMT

Hi! Janet, I was looking for a Gate Keeper yesterday but never saw one, no doubt I'll see one in Kent now, (hope fully) we've had some shocking weather lately but I believe it's to be better next week, would be when I'm off 😊

Did you know that Brockholes is open now and Wall, Dark Green Fritillaries and Green Hair Streak are to be found there, I was going to see the White Hair Streak and may be the Purple HS but with the weather being so inclement didn't get there, hope fully I'll get both or all three next year 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 07-Jul-20 09:45 PM GMT

Be sure to visit Lydden Temple Ewell reserve while you are down here Goldie, if you are able. It was teeming with Marbled Whites when I was there last week, and any day now, the first Chalkhill Blues will appear.

Maybe see you there!

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 08-Jul-20 09:52 AM GMT

I'll certainly be doing that Essex, it's one of my favourite places to go when I'm in Kent 😊 I'll have to bend a few arms though 😊 I hope I see you there 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 08-Jul-20 10:07 AM GMT

Yes Goldie, I too hope you have an enjoyable stay down here in Kent, as Essex says you should be spot on at Lydden, for the Chalkhills, I saw my first of the season there, a male on the 26th June, so I'm assuming that there will now be many more on the wing if you're down Dungeness way, there are still good numbers of second brood Small Coppers on the wing, ranging from mere "ghosts" to pristine individuals. Silver Wash frits are about in Orlestone, with a few reasonable conditioned White Admirals also still about + many Purple Hairstreaks, And who knows you could even get lucky with one of the very elusive Purple Emperors! Good Luck! Regards Allan.W.

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 09-Jul-20 08:05 PM GMT

Good you managed to get out, Goldie. Bit like a return to early spring with all those Torties, Peacocks and Commas.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 09-Jul-20 11:14 PM GMT

Hi! Allan, I remember last year when my Daughter and I went to a place you told us about but seemingly we ended up on the top of the hill instead of below it and my daughter didn't like the Sheer drop. 😊 You told me after there was a way in on the lower level and you'd give me directions next time I was in Kent, 🤔 Do you remember 🤔 I can't think what the place was called 😊 so much as happened in-between 😊 If you recall the place can you let me know please 😊 Goldie 😊

Hi! David, it was, except for the wind, we don't seem to be able to get rid of it before it's back again 😊 I'm hoping the next week or two in Kent will be better still for the Butterflies 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 10-Jul-20 08:31 AM GMT

Hello Goldie,

As you know Goldie, Lydden / Temple Ewell, covers a very large area, and the Lydden reserve (proper), the old Kent trust reserve, is quite some distance from the car park at Temple Ewell (TR 287 444 APX). The Temple Ewell area, would be closer for you, from the car park, and Chalkhills should be flying there in good numbers.

From the car park, go through the corner kissing gate, by the information board, and follow the path up to a small wooded picnic area, turn left, you'll come out in an open area (popular with dog walkers!) follow the track up to the right, until you come to another gate, don't go through it, but follow the wooded path, to the left, you'll hit another gate (at TR 286 446 APX), and you're on Temple Ewell downland, the lower slope, to the left of the gate is generally

a good area, but to be honest, they should be about anywhere there. I hope this is of some use.

If there are more accessible ways in, I don't know them. Years ago you used to be able to park right outside the old Lydden reserve, accessed along an old rough track, but that's been closed for many years. Good Luck!

PS; If I were you, I'd have a look on Google earth, and locate the area on an Ordnance Survey map.

Regards Allan.W.

Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 10-Jul-20 01:06 PM GMT

Hello Again Goldie, Ignore the above post, as you'll probably think it's Gobbledegook!!

It's just dawned on me, that you were talking about the Devils Kneading trough at Wye (Brook area), and entering the site from the lower rd, another site which has a good colony of Chalkhills, haven't been there, for a couple of months, but anyway, the grid ref, for the very small car park is at TR 0749(5)451, don't worry about the double wooden gates, they are never used. Park carefully, go through the gate, and follow the path up and around, on your right you will see a gate, go through, and follow the path, as you walk keep your eyes peeled, to the left Chalkhills, Common Blues are often here, and also earlier in the year Green Hairstreaks and Dingy Skippers, keep walking (200m ish) through another gate, and that will take you to the lower area of the Kneading trough, the Downland on the right hand side is good for Chalkhills and all of the normal expected butterflies, a bit later Adonis are found (bit early for 2nd brood) and earlier in the year a few Duke of Burgandys show.

As I've said I haven't been since mid-May so may be a little overgrown.

If you're feeling adventurous, keep walking along the base of the Kneading trough, and follow the path up to where you took your picture last year take plenty to drink!

Good Luck! Regards Allan.W.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 12-Jul-20 07:55 AM GMT

Hi! Allan, many thanks for your info, now I've to persuade my Daughter to go there 😊

I've not done too badly since I arrived, but on the way down it was a bit precarious, we stopped at a Service Station on the Toll road thinking there wouldn't be many people there, mistake! it was packed, we were in and out right a way, apart from that the Journey was okay.

My Daughter has moved house and lives nearer to the beech now and also nearer to East Blean woods 😊 So yesterday we decided to go there in the afternoon, it was nearer and less tiring after the journey.

The afternoon was cloudy at times and when we got there the gates were shut so we found a spot on the road has did quite a few car's.

At first we saw nothing and I was thinking I'd missed every thing, then the Sun shone on this corner of the woods and it suddenly came a live 😊 I looked for Purple HS but didn't see any, I did see the White Admiral but it didn't settle how ever a Silver Washed Frit did, my first in EBW's I was well pleased and when I spotted the Heath Frit's, I couldn't believe my luck 😊

Also that morning whilst walking the dog I saw my elusive Holly Blue. 😊 A pretty good haul for my first day out 😊 Goldie 😊









Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 12-Jul-20 08:43 AM GMT

Well done with the Fritillaries, Goldie! 😊 The Heath Frits look surprisingly fresh and I'd never expected to have seen them flying alongside the Silver-washed. That sounds like a great day to start off your stay in Kent, and there's a spell of mostly decent weather coming up too. 😊

Have a great time,

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by ernie f, 12-Jul-20 09:53 AM GMT

Goldie – Love the Heath Frits. Not a species I have seen unfortunately – we don't get them here in Hampshire to my knowledge.

Also – I only found out yesterday that they are going to re-introduce European Bison to Blean Woods. Yes BISON! Apparently they have not roamed Britain since prehistoric times. Four are going to be released in Spring 2022. Don't worry though, they are said to be "peaceful" animals.

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 12-Jul-20 04:46 PM GMT

Absolutely cracking find that Heath Frit Goldie – like Dave says in good nick too, I missed out on this specie this year as I'm trying to stay a bit more local 🤔🤔🤔 Great to see your butterfly break starting so well – looking forward to find out what you find next 😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 12-Jul-20 09:27 PM GMT

Glad you got down there okay, Goldie, and I'm delighted to see you caught up with Heath Fritillary, a species you've no chance of seeing up north.

Best of luck for the rest of your stay.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 12-Jul-20 11:06 PM GMT

Thanks everybody for your post's, 😊

Hi! Dave, I was amazed when the fritillaries appeared We'd walked past the area before and seen nothing but it was cloudy , then the Sun appeared and so did the butterflies, lovely surprise 😊

Hi! ernie, I can't see letting huge animals into the wood will do it much good especially for the Heath Frits who's flowers like the lower ground , I can see them getting trampled, any way what do i know , 😊 I wouldn't fancy meeting one gentle or not 😊

Hi! Wurzel, The Heath's were really fresh, I was really surprised, I was more surprised when I saw the Silver Washed Fritillary amongst them 😊 wait until you see what I saw next 😊

Thank's David, it was a really good day 😊 it just shows doesn't it when you think some things have finished they can surprise you. 😊

Today was another surprising day 😊 we decided to go to Seasalter where I'd seen Clouded Yellow before and we'd only been there about 15min's when two flew passed and one of them settled onto what I think is Red Clover, I'd seen them before making for this flower but they'd never stayed long enough before flying off.

I think because a lot of plants were dried up and not many were there they stayed longer and I managed some shots. 😊

I can't believe my luck so far this trip, only my second day, let's hope it keeps going 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 13-Jul-20 07:36 PM GMT

Wow that is a very yellow Clouded Yellow – I personally have never seen one that was that yellow 🤩😄👍👍👍 Great to see your break is going so well Goldie 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 13-Jul-20 09:41 PM GMT

Well done with that stunning Clouded Yellow, Goldie. 🥳📷 They can be difficult to get shots of at the best of times. It looks very fresh, so I wonder if it was part of a local emergence rather than an immigrant. I hope we get a few more! Kent is doing you proud at the moment. 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 14-Jul-20 08:54 AM GMT

We were very lucky Wurzel with this one, I managed to get pretty close, (for once) 😊 My other shots of one when I've been to Seasalter haven't been too good , the Butterfly would land then take off again quickly, this one stayed on the plant and when the Sun caught it, it was out standing 😊

Many thanks Dave, I'm not too sure about a local emergence Dave, there's a sign post there telling you what can be seen, the Clouded Yellow was on this last time I looked, every time I've been here in Kent I've gone to Seasalter and seen the Butterfly there, it's the first time it's actually stayed still for shot's though 😊 also the grasses and wild flowers were pretty dried up so it didn't have a lot of choice, I know with going there it likes this particular plant, I waited beside it just in case one came along, 😊 my luck was in 😊

Seasalter for those who've never been, as the Sea to one side and a path that runs along the top of a huge dip , at the bottom of the dip there's another path which runs all the way along side the Dip and this is where the Clouded Yellow flies, it's sheltered from the Sea and catches the Sun, to the side of this path it's all Marsh land which seems to suit the Cloudy as it often takes off quickly some times into the marsh before returning, I don't always get a shot of one but they're always seen. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 14-Jul-20 09:12 AM GMT

I thought I'd put a few shot's in my post of a Red Admiral that seems to have taken residence in my Daughter's garden 😊 it's there every day and seems to enjoy the washing pegs 😊

Also on her roof the Sea Gulls have a nest and the young one's are getting ready to fly, trouble is every time we take the dog out we're targets because of the dog, poor Toby, they swooped down nearly hitting him every time, yet they don't bother him in the back garden.!!! So much for living near the sea, 😊

My Daughter's only been in the House since May and it's my first visit, but I like it 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Pauline, 14-Jul-20 09:17 AM GMT

I'm so pleased you're having a lovely time M. – you really deserve it. I shouldn't worry about the Bison – they were on Countryfile the other night (along with the Heath Fritillary which seems quite a success story) and they look lovely. Great shots of the Clouded Yellow btw 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 14-Jul-20 10:53 AM GMT

Hi! Pauline, I hope your right, cow's and large animals are not my thing 😊 I was chased when young going through a field of cow's and only just managed to duck under a fence, they had young calf's so I suppose that's why. 😊

Yes I'm certainly having a great time, 😊 all my Grand Children came to see me on Saturday and we sent out for Chinese, it's like being let out of Jail 😊 and I've certainly been lucky with Butterflies up to now. 😊

With it being so hot and bright I changed my camera down to a lower point of Darkness, it's certainly pleased me up to now, it's cut a lot of the brightness down and given me a better shot of the subject, in this case the Cloudy 😊

i was wondering if the Brown Hair Streak is any where near us in Kent or do we have to Travel a long way to see it, that's of course if it's out sooner while I'm here 🤔 I'd better get going we're on the move again 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by ernie f, 14-Jul-20 11:56 AM GMT

I've just seen your Clouded Yellow pics. I was stunned by how vivid they were, especially picture number 2. Its not just the depth of yellow but how dark the spots are and how dark the ring on the hindwing is. I was so taken aback I went through all of my own past pics of this species and none came close. Then I looked on the internet and again, only a couple seemed to capture it.

Dave was probably right – it may have been a local.

Re: Goldie M

by Pauline, 14-Jul-20 12:27 PM GMT

Don't you worry about updating your diary whilst you're away M. Just focus on the butterflies and enjoying yourself. You'll be so far behind when you get back that you'll be able to give Wurzel a run for his money! (only teasing Wurzel 😊😂).

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 14-Jul-20 01:46 PM GMT

Hi Goldie – unfortunately I don't think there are Brown Hairstreaks anywhere near you in Kent, Allan W. may be able to advise you better.

It's particularly interesting for me to read about your adventures in Seasalter. When I was a kid, my grandparents lived in Swalecliffe and when we stayed, we often went along the coast to Seasalter for the day. I can even remember seeing (and I'm ashamed to say, catching... 😞) Clouded Yellows there. This would have been the early sixties... 😊 A long time ago now.

Looking forward to more of the joys of butterflying in Kent!

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 14-Jul-20 06:45 PM GMT

Hello Goldie,

Pleased to see you're doing well in Kent ,and well done with the Heath Frits ,and the Cloudy in particular ,two species I,ve missed (well the Heaths anyway) so far.

As for Brown Hairstreaks ,being back in KentThey are but some distance from where you are ,there is a thread on page 2 of the "sightings" thread ,started and added to by mainly "Greenie " and others .Not been there myself as yet (they,ve been seen for around 3 seasons now) ,they're close to the Surrey border and the mainland Glanville site ,Hutchinsons bank.

The thread heading is "Brown Hairstreak back in Kent "

Regards Allan.W.

Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 14-Jul-20 07:11 PM GMT

Treat those Gulls with caution Goldie. especially if one of the young is in the garden at the same time as you, the adults will dive bomb.

Years ago I was on holiday in Newquay with some friends, and we found a baby Gull trapped in someone's garage. As I emerged from the garage with the young bird I was immediately attacked, and it came back for more. Herring Gulls are big birds!

Enjoy the butterflies in Kent, and stay well,
Trevor.

Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 14-Jul-20 10:12 PM GMT

Well done Goldie, you deserve a bit of luck, and great pictures, too!

Hope you continue to enjoy your time down here.

If you're worried about the gulls, Hold a stick above your head when you go out.

Looking foreword to more pictures!

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 15-Jul-20 10:35 AM GMT

Hi! ernie, I thought the black spot was large on the Cloudy, but I've got shots of them before , I might say, Quick shot's, not as close as these, so I wouldn't really know of any difference. 😊

The Butterfly hopped from flower to flower into all kinds of different positions which was great and when the Sun caught it I was lucky. 😊

Hi! Pauline, I'm just going along with the flow here 😊 The last two day's we've been out to lunch twice always sitting outside but it felt great 😊 I've not been lucky with the Butterflies , I went back to EBW's but no White Admiral and the Heath Frit's had vanished mind you the weather wasn't great very cloudy, hope fully we'll be off to Temple Ewell later in the the week 😊

Hi! Dave, at least catching the Butterflies got you interested in them whilst still young, Seasalter still seems to attract them, it would be great if they were actually local, when I've seen them over the years they always seem to come down from Seaward and head inland, I couldn't believe my luck when this one didn't move on, it almost posed for shots 😊

Hi! Allan, thanks for the info, I think I'll find them some day, that's a bit too far to travel though, we don't like leaving the dog for too long because he's just getting use to his new surroundings and we don't like taking him in the car because of the heat.

Hope fully we may try the other place you mentioned Kneading Trough, but I'll have to do some persuading on that 😊

Many thanks for that info Trevor, we thought the Gull would just fly off but it may land in the Garden so we'll keep an eye out for it. I hope you That Gull

didn't hurt you !!!

Hi! Essex, we haven't got a stick but we'll use an umbrella now 😊 Glad you liked the pictures I'm off to get some more if, it doesn't rain 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 15-Jul-20 09:41 PM GMT

Great to see you're having a good time, Goldie, and that Clouded Yellow is the *pièce de resistance*; it's beautifully marked and very richly coloured.

Re: Goldie M

by Essexbuzzard, 15-Jul-20 11:55 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, how long are you down for? If you are here until the end of this month, you should get to see the first Silver Spotted Skippers emerge at Lydden Temple Ewell reserve!

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 16-Jul-20 03:57 PM GMT

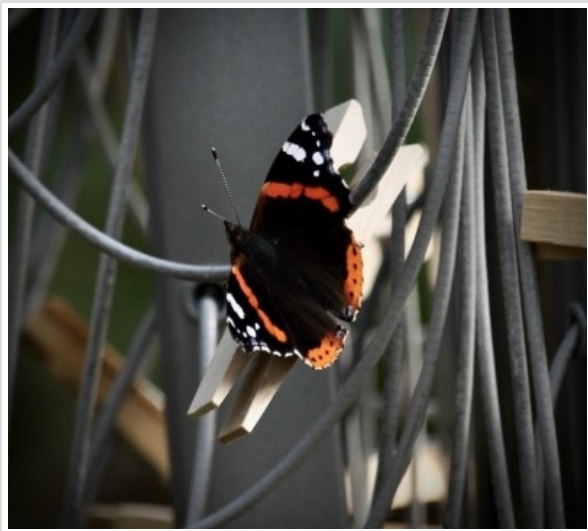
Thanks David, it was a lovely surprise and i'm really pleased with the shots 😊 If I can get more Butterfly shots similar I'll be happy 😊 The weather's been very cloudy here these last few days so nothing much to report but when the Sun appears again we'll be off to Temple Ewell. 😊

Hi! Essex, only another week so I'll miss a few Butterflies unfortunately, my Daughter came for me in the car so I expect I'll travel back the same way, if I can get some shots of the Chalkhill's and the Marble White I'll be happy, I'd also like a shot of a White Admiral but may be they' could be nearly finished now. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 16-Jul-20 04:24 PM GMT

I thought I'd just stick these shots in taken in East Blean Woods, it was very dark in there the Sun had gone and I forgot to change my Camera from Sun to shade 😊 I also took a Quick shot of the Admiral again on the pegs in my Daughters garden:D Goldie 😊







Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 16-Jul-20 06:25 PM GMT

Hello Goldie,

As Essex has said ,if you particularly wanting Chalkhill s,before your return, Temple Ewell/Lydden is your closest (and best,bar Dover cliffs) bet ,you could also get lucky

with an early SSS ,I know they do emerge early here in some seasons ,and I,m pretty sure that the warden has already started looking for them

Of course you may also bump into a Cloudy or two !

home from my hols next week so may bump into you up there (still on furlough !) Regards Allan.W.

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 17-Jul-20 07:09 PM GMT

Hi Goldie. Glad to see it looks like you are having a good time down in Kent with a cracking selection of butterflies.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 17-Jul-20 07:35 PM GMT

Lovely shots from East Blean Goldie – your Gatekeeper is an ab.excessa as it's got the (tiny) brown spot in the orange on the fore wing 😊 Good luck with the Chalkhills – I saw a few the other day and it was really cloudy but that helped as they were more settled, sometimes a bit of cloud is the butterfly's friend 😊😊 Good luck with the rest of the holiday 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 18-Jul-20 10:53 AM GMT

Many thanks Allan, I went to Temple Ewell yesterday and was entertained by the Chalkhills 😊

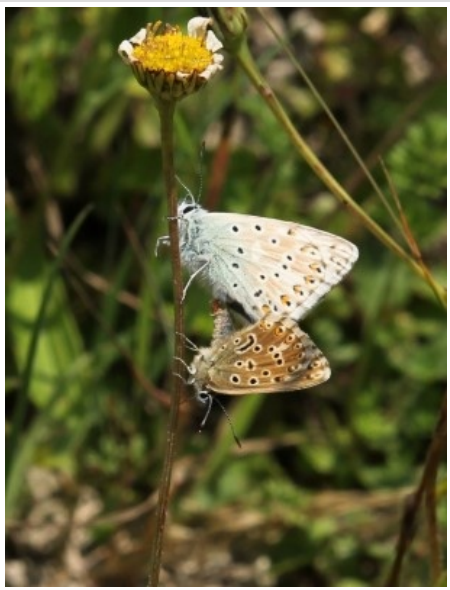
Hi! Neil, I've certainly seen loads of Butterflies and really enjoyed myself in-between with lunch's out etc 😊

Hi! Wurzel, I'd another good day yesterday, saw the Chalkhills and also had lunch out, (treat from my Son-in-Law) with glass of wine included 😊 He didn't come though 😊

I did wonder about that ab, that's my second this year, I have a photo I took yesterday of the Chalkhills in Cop, I think the Female could be an ab?

We went to Temple Ewell yesterday, boy was it hot, the Chalkhills were all over the Dog Poo 😊 I've never seen so many gathered together 😊 I counted at least 13 at one point. I was also in my element when I saw the Marbled White's they were a little more used than the Chalk's who were in really good condition, strangely I only saw a few Common Blue, there were still loads of Meadow Browns, also Gate Keepers but I was a bit disappointed on not seeing a Small Heath or a Brown Argus, still, another week to go.Goldie 😊









Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 18-Jul-20 11:10 PM GMT

Well done Goldie, absolutely delighted for you—you deserve it.

Great place is that, my favourite Kent site for sure, and surprisingly little visited.

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 19-Jul-20 08:13 PM GMT

I see what you mean about the female Chalkhill Goldie – 'definitely differently marked' (this is my p.c. term that I've come up with for aberrants and oddities 😊😂😂)

Cracking sequence of shots – the first couple in particular are brilliantly evocative 😊😂 Keep on having a great holiday 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 20-Jul-20 10:13 PM GMT

Fabulous, Goldie. 😊 You must have been in your element!

So pleased for you after all that's gone on lately. Enjoy the rest of your trip.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 21-Jul-20 07:29 PM GMT

Hi! Essex, it was a good day out and with the weather being so nice very enjoyable especially when the weather at home has been wet. 😊

Hi! Wurzel this holiday just gets better and better 😊 the Butterflies I thought I'd missed I finally got 😊

Many thanks David, it's been great so far 😊

Well!!! where do I start, 😊 yesterday we went to Dover to the cliffs, it was lovely, we'd a cream tea, (out side of course) and then we climbed slowly to the top of the slope and found a very sheltered spot where lots of Butterflies were flying these included Marble Whites, Peacocks, Red Admirals, Gate Keepers, MB's, CB's, Chalk Hill's, the CHB's were not seen on the lower slopes, I was very pleased to see a Small Copper, also Small Skipper's, I'll post a few but the today was even better. 😊

We went to Reculver again, we didn't expect to see too much but the cafe there is excellent 😊 We walked down the path at the side until we came to the wall, (which was being repaired) every thing to the left of the path had been levelled 😊 There was plenty of flora on the wall in places and that's when I spotted what looked like Wall Butterfly it stopped just once and I took a shot not thinking or knowing if it was a Wall it's stay was so brief, I was lucky 😊

On the way back to the house we passed East Blean Wood, so we went there on the off chance there might be some thing and boy was there 😊 The Admiral wasn't in great shape but he was good enough to film:D



Dover



Dover



My Daughter's house on Wisteria



EBW



EBW



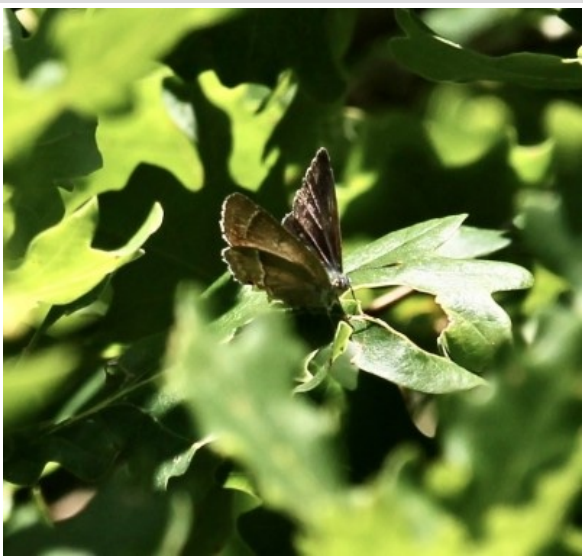
EBW



EBW



EBW



EBW



EBW



Reculver

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 21-Jul-20 08:36 PM GMT

You did well with the Wall Goldie – they can be right pains – possibly one of the hardest butterflies to get photos of 😊😁 Love the Purps and the Small Copper is a 'Blue Badge' 😊😁 Keep on enjoying the holiday – and keep a look out for Silver-spotted Skippers (if they're over that way that is) – they're out now! 😊😁

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 21-Jul-20 10:23 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, i was so pleased when I saw it was a Wall Butterfly 😊 The PHS's were fairly active and high up in the branches so I was pleased to get the shots, 😊 There are Silver SS's at Temple Ewell But I seemed to have dragged my Daughter all over the place so we may get back there but I'm not sure!!! I'm happy any way with the shots I've got so far, most were unexpected and I've had such a great holiday with the family 😊 I'm off to see my Grandson's playing Cricket on Saturday , I'll be taking my camera along for more than family Photo's 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 21-Jul-20 11:43 PM GMT

Fantastic to hear, Goldie. Sounds like you're having a great time!

Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 22-Jul-20 07:33 AM GMT

Looking at your shots, you've certainly made the most of your Kent visit, and photographed an amazing array of species.

A mrgreen for the Purple Hairstreak 🍷

Stay safe and well,
Trevor.

Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 22-Jul-20 08:43 AM GMT

Hello Goldie ,

Pleased to see that you're having a good trip ! I was at Temple Ewell from about 7.45 – 10.00 am on Monday ,and apart from 1 possible fly-by I never noticed any SSS ,but as you already knowhundreds of Chalkhills .

I did see a single second brood Dingy Skipper ,and kept my eyes open for 2nd brood Wallbut again ,no joy !

Common Blues (for me !) are very thin on the ground ,and amongst the hoards of Chalkhills ,i only saw 4 or 5 ,and 1 Brown Argus .

A short footnote to the above , a visit to Dungeness yesterday ,finally found Common Blues in good numbers ,and also at another site near home .

Regards Allan.W.

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 22-Jul-20 09:31 AM GMT

Some great stuff from down in Kent Goldie, looks like you are having a fantastic time 😊

Jealous of the Purple Hairstreak 🍷 , although I have seen a few high up, I think I am the only one now that hasn't taken a photos of one low down this year 😞

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 22-Jul-20 10:11 AM GMT

I really am Essex, I think when you've not been able to get out for so long you appreciate every thing more, plus I've been so lucky with the Butterflies 😊

Many thanks Trevor, a warden once told me at East Blean Woods to go about tea time to see the PHS's, we were there 3-15 pm then we went into the woods for a walk first and it would be about 3-45pm that we were back in the car park and there they were on the Oak Tree's there. 😊

Hi! Allan, I looked for Brown Argus but I didn't see any or any SSK's at TE or Dingy Skipper, I'd like to add all three to my list 😊
I'll have to try and get back there if possible .

When I went to Reculver I felt really sorry for the Butterflies, all up that lane to the left was completely cut down, that poor Wall was up and down the lane and along the Wall , it only stopped the once, luckily it was just in front of me, also there I saw the HB's but again they were doing the same. 😞

Many thanks Neil, I was really pleased to see them, after the year I had last year and early this year it was like being out of Jail 😊 Like you I love my garden but one can only stand a place for so long 😊 I hope you get some shots of the Hair Streak soon Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 22-Jul-20 09:29 PM GMT

Lots to be envious of there, Goldie -White Admiral, Holly Blue, Wall & Chalkhill Blue just for starters.... 🍷

Seems like a great trip up to now, have you any surprises in store before you return to the north west?

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 23-Jul-20 07:10 PM GMT

Thanks for your post David, the answer is yes 😊 I got a big surprise today at Temple Ewell, didn't see any Silver spotted Skippers but did find some unusual Butterflies 😊

We made a Bee line for the top field where the grass is shorter and we saw a Dingy Skipper, another first for me for this year 😊

A Man came up to talk to us asking about the Skippers and said he'd seen a Small Blue in the lower field, I'd never heard of Small Blue being at Temple Ewell so I was a bit skeptical, we went down to the field following his instructions and we finally spotted it .

I've not seen one for years so I'm hoping it's a Small Blue 😊

When its wings were slightly open they were very dark Blue, however fully open much lighter. I'm well pleased with today's haul.

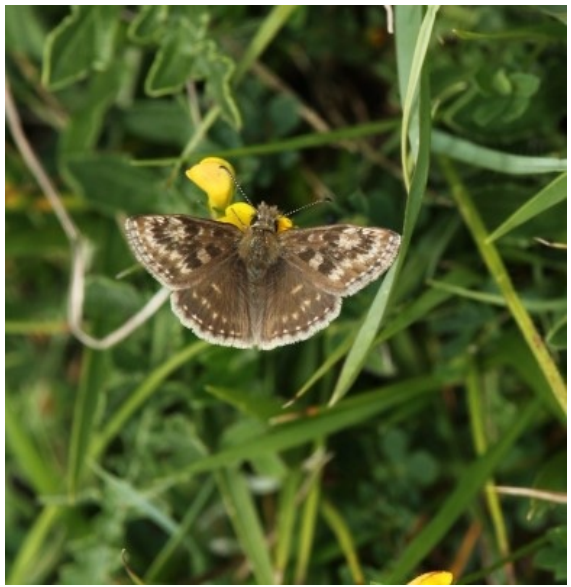
Also took shots of a Large Skipper, Common Blue, Chalkhill Blue, and a very Small Moth I don't know the name of the Moth.

Many thanks Alan for the info about the Butterflies 😊 Goldie 😊











Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 23-Jul-20 07:48 PM GMT

Definitely a Small Blue, Goldie! 😊 Excellent to find it. Second brood Dingy Skippers are appearing all over the place it seems, so it's great you found one of those too. Your haul from this stay in Kent is going to be amazing! 😊 With a bit of luck, you still might get to see a Silver-spot as well, or even an early Adonis Blue. Fingers crossed... 😊 😊

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 23-Jul-20 08:00 PM GMT

Great, Goldie. 😊

You're now even seeing stuff that you wouldn't normally expect.

So pleased for you. 🍷

Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 23-Jul-20 08:07 PM GMT

Hello Goldie,

Thats a brilliant find !(ie;Small Blue) ,funnily enough i found loads of Kidney vetch there and wondered if there was a chance of Small Blues hanging on there

They used to be found in a couple of very small specific areas on the downlands there ,but i,ve looked where i,d seen them in the past ,and its now much too overgrown ,think i last saw some there at least 25 years ago maybe moreWell done ,great find !

Pleased you also managed a Dingy Skip ,all in all Goldie ,i,d say you,ve had a very rewarding trip !

PS; I think your moth is a worn Mint moth.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 23-Jul-20 10:47 PM GMT

Thanks for your posts every one, it's been a real adventure this holiday, I can't believe the Butterflies I've found , ones I've looked for before and not found 😊 I'm still on a High 😊

Hi! Dave, I don't think I'll be seeing too many more Butterflies here in Kent 😊 Tomorrow it's family day 😊 we're having a party before I go home and I think the weather may be dull, Saturday is Cricket day 😊 Sunday I'm off home 😊 My Daughter's coming to stay for a few day's so it's back to normal 😊 I can't grumble,I've seen loads of Butterflies all the ones I wouldn't see at home, I'll be off looking for the White Letter Hair Streak if it's still a round at Brockholes 😊

Many thanks David, It's been a fantastic day, it must be ten years since I've seen the Small Blue so to see one again was great 😊

It was a great day out today Allan, the Dingy Skipper can only be found up near the lakes near me so to find one was great. 😊

I wouldn't have known about the Small Blue but for that man, if your interested , (I only saw the one but it could be they're on the way back at Temple Ewell) It was found at the far end of the large field in the sheltered area where you can go up into the hilly part where the Skippers are, we looked all through the top field for the Skipper's but saw none so their not out yet, good luck in finding them 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 24-Jul-20 05:37 PM GMT

Hello Goldie ,

Had a great afternoon myself ,today at Temple Ewell,about 2 hours in all ,I found Small Blues just where you,d described ,a spot that i did think a while back looked very promising for them ,but some distance from where i saw them last ,i saw 4 males in all ,masses of Kidney vetch on the small bank by the fence ,i also had a quick look at another couple of likely spots nearby ,but no joy !

Next time you visit ,do the next field over ,i,ve rarely bothered in the past ,but today it was absolutely ALIVE ! hundreds of Chalkhills ,and at last good numbers of Common Bluebut best of all 1 (poss 2) Silver Spots ,2 male Adonis ,2 Clouded Yellows + single Wall ,Brown Argus and Small Heath ,in future (because i,ll be back there shortly !) i,ll make a bee-line for this field.
Safe journey home ! Regards Allan.W.

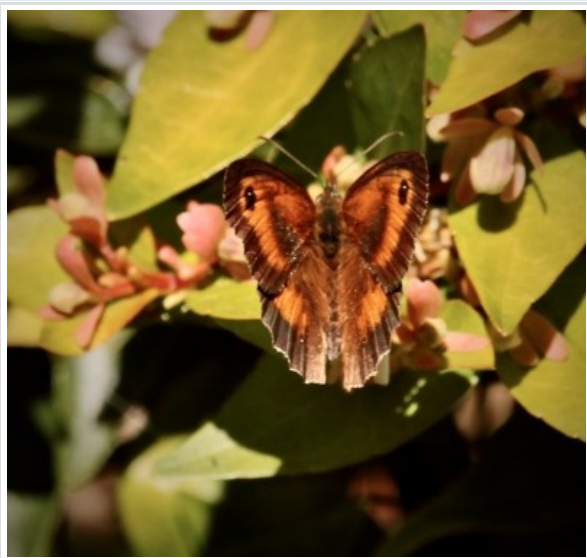
Re: Goldie M

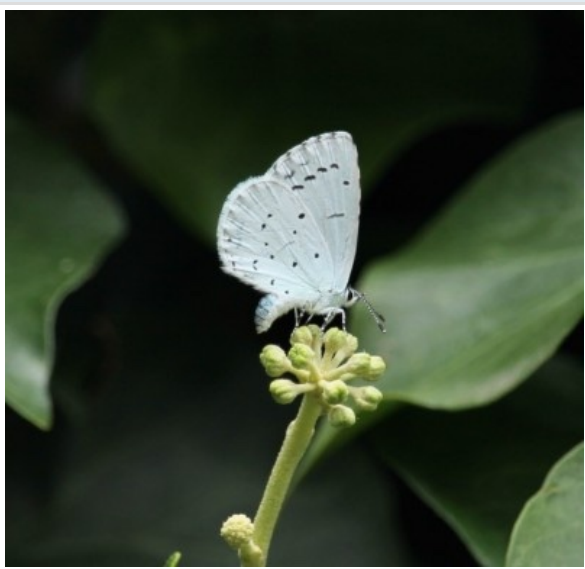
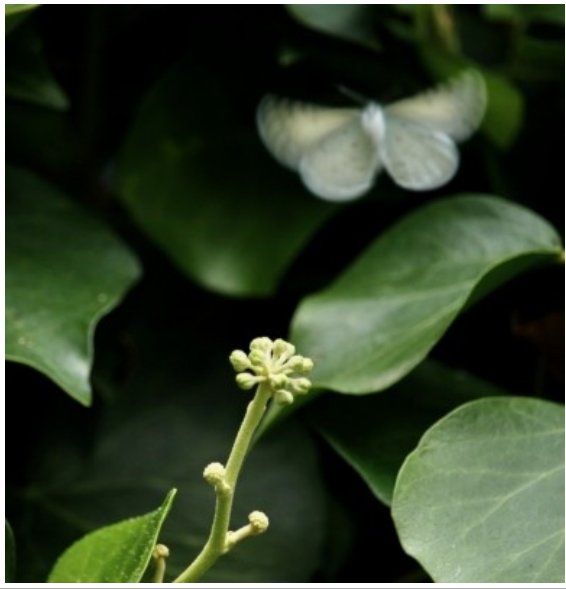
by Goldie M, 24-Jul-20 06:11 PM GMT

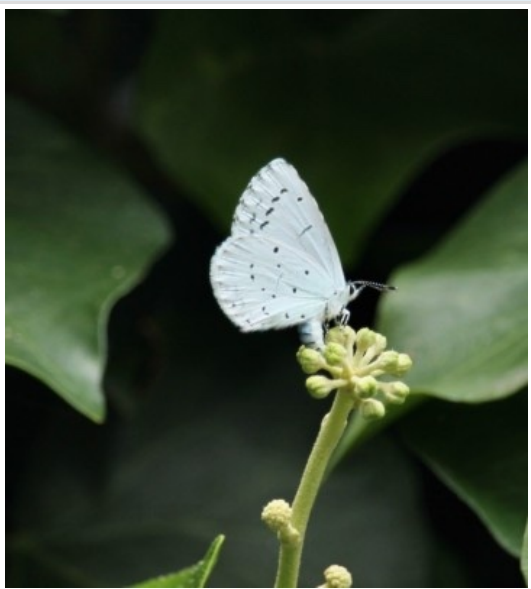
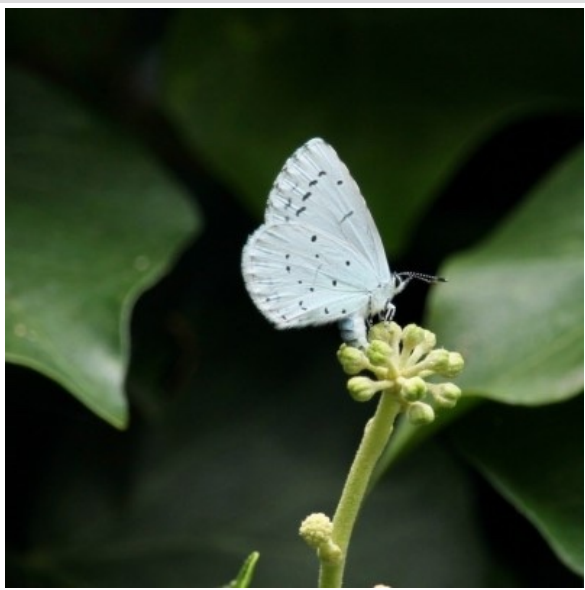
Hi! Allan, looks like I missed out a bit, 😊 It's just one of those things, you win some you lose some 😊 At least I got the the Small Blue 😊 I've never looked in the field you mentioned either but I will next time 😊

We didn't do much today, it's a long drive home so my Daughter was taking it easy, I went out into her Garden and saw an unusual Gate Keeper, it seems to have three spots instead of two on one wing and the week before I saw one with just one spot 😊 I wondered if the one with one spot was a bit weathered that's why i didn't post it.

I also found an Holly Blue egg laying so I took a sequence of shots, hope there's not too many 😊 posted them wrong way round 😊 Goldie 😊









Re: Goldie M

by David M, 24-Jul-20 08:46 PM GMT

What a charmed visit you've had, Goldie. Holly Blues laying in the garden!! You don't see that every day.

Hope you have a safe journey back on Sunday, and given your current form if I were you I'd be out looking for Scotch Argus next week. 🍀

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 25-Jul-20 07:51 AM GMT

Many thanks David, I'm not sure I'll get up to the Lakes when I get back but I'm certainly going to pay Brockholes a visit, weather permitting, I believe the weather's been awful up there, just may be it's delayed the WLHS, you never know 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 25-Jul-20 05:19 PM GMT

Fantastic set of posts recently Goldie – makes me slightly embarrassed that I had a night or two off from UKB 😊😊 Great that you caught up with the unexpected Small Blues, even better that it's a second brood one 😊😊 Interesting Gatekeeper too – could the extra spot be a hole in the wing and the petal is showing through? 😊 Brilliant shots of the Holly Blue laying eggs 😊🍀 Safe return journey!

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 25-Jul-20 05:52 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel it could be 😊 It just looked strange with the yellow gold colour and odd spot 😊

Long journey tomorrow, fingers crossed a safe one, I'm going to miss everyone though, I'm seriously thinking of moving. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 25-Jul-20 06:29 PM GMT

If you do move Goldie I can think of one small butterfly that you'll definitely be able see/photograph 😊 I've heard of people doing extreme things to see a particular butterfly but moving home is right up there! 😊😊😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 26-Jul-20 08:50 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

...I'm seriously thinking of moving.

Me too, Goldie. The older I get the more I realise how I'm missing out.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 29-Jul-20 07:09 PM GMT

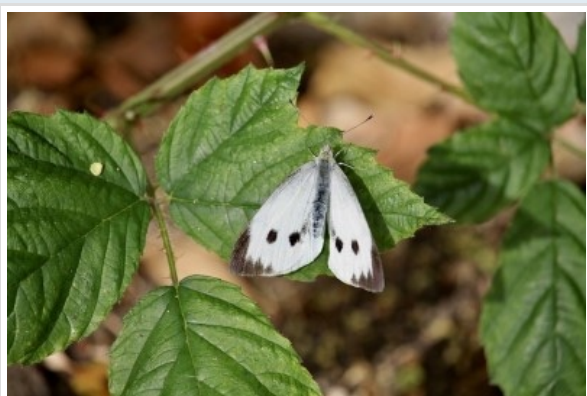
Hi! Wurzel, my Daughter really wants me to move, it makes sense really, I am stuck on my own up here now 😊

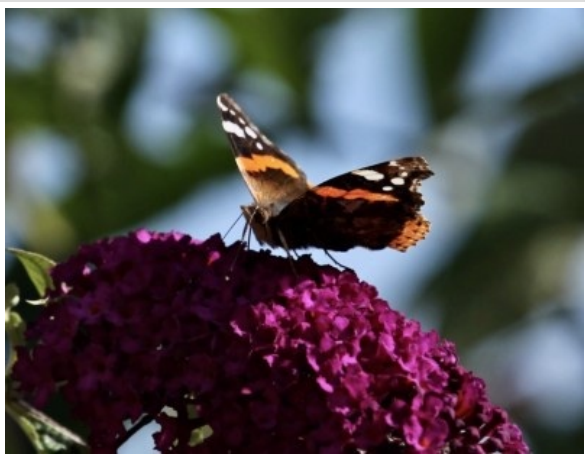
It was a great holiday with my Grandchildren dropping in and actively going out, I realised what I'm missing when I can't get out, not seeing family, etc. I could be near them and I'm still driving, just think of all those Butterflies and places I could go 😊

Hi! David, You're right, it's seem's daft to wait, might as well do it while you still can. 😊

Well ,I got home safe and sound my Daughter driving all the way but the Journey was good, good, until I'd a Bacon sandwich at one place on the way and spent Monday in bed all dayUGH!! I didn't miss any thing because the weather was awful.

Tuesday wasn't much better but I was, thank goodness 😊 It was this morning that the weather improved, I waved my Daughter off and was greeted with the sight of a Small Tort on My Butterfly bush 😊 It made me smile 😊 through the day I counted loads of White's both Large and Small, even a Meadow Brown arrived 😊 towards 5pm I spotted a Peacock and a Red Admiral but my attention was caught with two White's one of which was refusing/ at least she seemed to be the Males advances 😊 I wonder what tomorrow will bring 😊 Goldie 😊







Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 29-Jul-20 09:51 PM GMT

Hello Goldie ,

Very pleased to see that you had an enjoyable holiday with your family , and also an excellent butterfly trip . Thought you may be interested in a little Temple Ewell update ,i had another two hour visit this morning ,on site at 6.40 am ,and headed straight to that far field (over the fence ,from the Small Blues) It was superb with very high numbers of Chalkhill Blues just hanging in the grasswarming up !

Also good numbers of Common Blue ,Meadow Brown ,Gatekeepers , no Clouded Yellows ,or Dingys or Adonis and only 2 Brown Argus ,found 2 Abberant

Chalkhills ,and saw 5 Silver -Spots (all males)and a single Small Tortoiseshell ,I left at 9.30 am ,by then it was too difficult to get reasonable pictures ,as the Blues were just too active(as expected !).

I had a quick look at the Small Blue spot ,and found 6 ,4 males and two females . I know that i,ve already said it ,but you must try this field next time you,re down.

Regards Allan.W.

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 29-Jul-20 09:55 PM GMT

Glad you're feeling better, Goldie - you timed it well to be poorly on a lousy weather day. Very well planned! 😊 I see the butterflies have got together to welcome you back - that's quite a selection that appeared in your garden. 😊 But definitely come south if you can - the butterflies are out on cloudy days down here! 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 30-Jul-20 08:42 PM GMT

Great set of behaviour shots of those Small Whites Goldie 😊😊

" I could be near them and I'm still driving, just think of all those Butterflies and places I could go 😊"...Let me know when get down here and I'll get you a Grizzlie and more, after the success today (we managed to find Philzoid all 5 of his target species) I'm thinking about setting up Wurzel's Wiltshire Safari - but bring your passport as we might venture into Hampshire 😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Pauline, 02-Aug-20 06:27 PM GMT

That really is a very good sequence demonstrating rejection behaviour in the Small White M. Better than anything I've ever managed 🇬🇧

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 02-Aug-20 08:03 PM GMT

Hi! Alan, I'll be making a bee line for that field next time I'm down but it could be Christmas 😊 I'll have to wait until next year now, we've been shut down again here 😊

Hi! Dave, I've taken it easy and messed about in the Garden this week except for Friday when I went to Brockholes, too hot 😊 I'm definitely thinking of moving South though. 😊

Hi! Wurzel, we've gone every year to Kent and I know the area between Dover and Canterbury and the the surrounding area's pretty well now, so I've a good Idea where to look for property , (nearest place to the Butterflies) 😊

Hi! Pauline, Flattery will get you any where, 😊 Coming from you that's a great compliment 😊

Well this week I've seen loads of Peacocks and Small Tort's in the Garden but because of the heat, Friday, was rubbish at Brockholes, although I got there at just after nine,(it was pleasant then,) only the Meadow Brown's and Gate Keeper's were flying, I saw Peacocks, mostly with wings closed and nearly always in the shade. I did see two Common Blues and managed a shot of one again, with wings closed. Since then we've had mostly rain on and off and clouds and wind, the usual with some Sun in-between 😊

It's been a really mixed bag of species in the Garden, today for instance, a Speckled Wood and Green Veined White, plus the Peacock's and I lost count watching the LW's and SW's, all much too busy to stop 😊 Next week after Wednesday it could be okay again, Hope fully!!

I took a shot of an insect on a flower in the Garden, not sure if it's a fly or what!!!! Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 04-Aug-20 10:05 PM GMT

That sounds great Goldie 😊😄🍷 Lovely shots especially that Green-veined White 😊 I think I've only got about four decent shots of this species all year 🍷

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 05-Aug-20 10:25 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, the Green Veined White do seem to have been scarce in the South, I was amazed when down there, everything seemed so dried up , when I got back home I was told it'd rained every day, people were fed up with the weather. It's been the same since I got home, Wet,Wet 😊 The week-end should be better, (hope fully) Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 05-Aug-20 04:11 PM GMT

Not often I'm envious of UK goings-on when I'm abroad, Goldie, but having just spent a week in Spain without seeing a single Peacock or a single Small Tortoiseshell, the greener climes of northern England take on a whole, new attractive dimension. 🍷

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-Aug-20 12:39 PM GMT

I hope you had a good Holiday any way David, 😊 The Peacock Butterflies are having a great time here, I'd three in the Garden in spite of the weather on Monday , I've put a shot of one in just for you 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 06-Aug-20 07:48 PM GMT

Great to see the Peacock Goldie - after seeing loads a week or so ago they've nipped off somewhere else now 😊 Fingers crossed for for you that you get some better weather over the weekend 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 07-Aug-20 04:06 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

I hope you had a good Holiday any way David, 😊 The Peacock Butterflies are having a great time here, I'd three in the Garden in spite of the weather on Monday , I've put a shot of one in just for you

Thanks, Goldie. Apart from being Peacock bereft it was a fabulous week with thousands of butterflies. Back to reality now though. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 08-Aug-20 09:08 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, I think the Peacocks have come North because of the heat in the South 😊 we've had some cloudy weather here , Warm, but cloudy, the Peacocks over the last three days have loved it 😊 also the red Admirals who don't seem to like the Sun too strong.

Hi! David, Glad you had a good Holiday hope to see some of your photos, I've been busy here so not kept up with the posts too much.

Over the last two day's I've been in and out of the Garden doing bits here and there, I've tried to keep up with the Butterflies spreading my photo's over the two days so here goes 😊

Peacocks stole the day on the 6th so many entered the garden I couldn't keep up 😊

On the 7th I got a real surprise when a lovely fresh Comma came into the front Garden I'd to rush into the house for the Camera 😊

Today another surprise when a Holly Blue I've looked for in the Garden since Spring actually came and even laid eggs, strange thing though, of all the places to lay them on a small bud of a Buddlia (for got how to spell it) .

Other Butterflies today included Speckies, Red Admirals, Peacocks, and a Small Tort which took off before I got a shot 😊

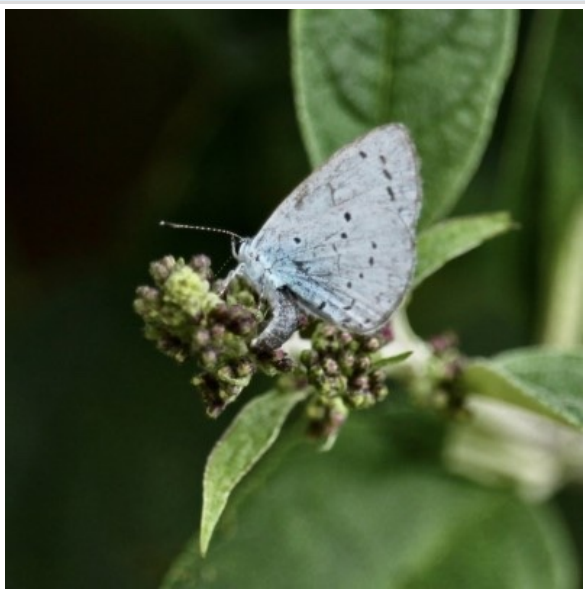
Hope fully the weather keeps up and we get some more Sun.Goldie 😊



7th August



8th August



8th August



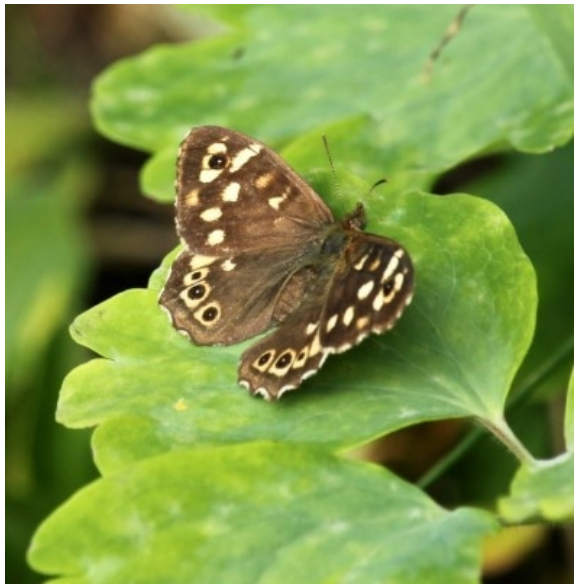
8th August



8th August



8th August



8th August



7th August



7th August



6th August

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 10-Aug-20 07:37 AM GMT

Nice range of species to have in your garden, Goldie. The Holly Blue ovipositing on buddleia is especially interesting.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 10-Aug-20 12:38 PM GMT

Thanks David, I thought the Holly Blue interesting as well, when I took shots of a Holly Blue doing the same at my daughters house it was doing it on Ivy leaves, the bud of the Buddleia will have to grow into a flower! so I can't see the purpose of it ovipositing on the bud, maybe they do it all the time and we take it too much for granted it's got to be Ivy 😊

It flew off afterwards then came back to the same bud and seemed to check it out, maybe it realised it'd picked the wrong plant 😊 I'll be keeping an eye on that Bud 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 10-Aug-20 08:28 PM GMT

Great set of shots Goldie 😊 Especially like the ovi-positing Holly blue 😊 Hope things weather wise are still good - we're unbelievably hot down here so everything is flying round like it's backside is on fire because...well it is! 😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

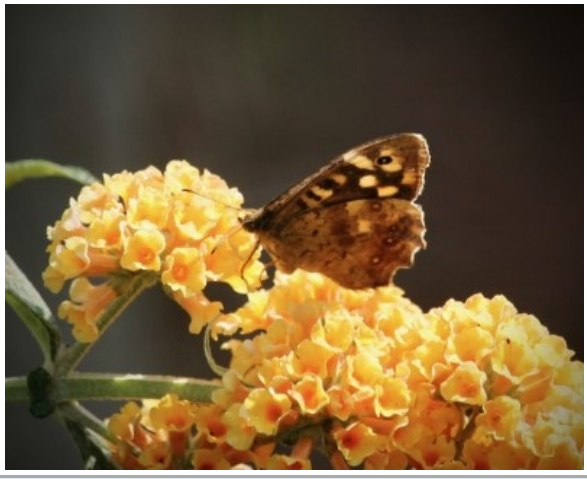
Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 10-Aug-20 09:01 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, it's not been too hot here like it's been in the South with the exception being today, when it was really hot and humid but we'd a shower about 3pm but it didn't cool things down much, like you we're expecting thunder etc tonight. 😊

The Butterflies were back in the garden today, although it's been warm here we've had a lot of cloud Saturday and that suited the Red Admiral because it wasn't too hot, today however and Sunday the Small Tort's were loving the Sun 😊 The Peacock's take every thing Cloud, Sun, even rain 😊 I've been amazed at the amount of White's that have been in the garden, large and Small, I've just taken a few shots because there's been so many, let's hope the rain if it comes won't do too much damage to the Butterflies 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 11-Aug-20 09:02 AM GMT

Nice shots from your garden recently Goldie, I do like that yellow buddleia of yours 🍷 😊

I have seen reports in the past of Holly Blues laying on Buddleia and seen it a couple of times in my garden although I have never found eggs or caterpillars so they may have just been going through the motions.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 11-Aug-20 08:08 PM GMT

Hi! Neil, I looked for eggs but couldn't see any, mind you I need to visit Spec Savers 😊

I grew the Yellow Buddleia from a Cutting given to me by my Neighbour across the way, now it's bigger than the ones I've had for ages 😊 I like it because it's always slower to flower than the others (I've got three more of different colours) 😊 and the Butterflies like the Peacock and Small Tort always look good on it when i take photos 😊

Today was too hot for the Butterflies, only the Whites seem to flourish in this heat, but I did get a Gate Keeper on my Marjoram which I was pleased about and a couple of days ago a Large White actually landed and opened it's wings which was a surprise, I'm beginning to think the Peacock and Small Torts may be trying to hibernate or else they're just keeping out of the heat, 😊 I found two in my garage. I hope they don't go for a while yet I've enjoyed watching the antic's of the Peacock in the garden 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 12-Aug-20 07:21 PM GMT

Great shot of the Small Tort on the yellow Buddleia 😊😁 That's the technique I've used for my last couple of trips out Goldie – just hang around the clumps of Marjoram 😊 works a treat 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 13-Aug-20 01:30 PM GMT

Marjoram is a great favourite of Gatekeepers, Goldie. They can't resist it. Talking of irresistible, your yellow buddleia seems to be a great draw. I must see if any are available round my way.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 13-Aug-20 03:34 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel and David, that yellow Buddleia is a star attraction at present 😊

I was surprised last year to see the Marjoram grow so big, I've even had Holly Blue land on it before now, (then take off quickly) 😊
If you can get a cutting of the Yellow Buddleia they take really well. Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 16-Aug-20 09:23 AM GMT

Not too much happening over the last couple of days except for the Small Tortoiseshell which has visited every day but the Whites have been in the garden come clouds or sunshine, I've lost count on these 😊 Also a couple of Speckies which also preferred the Yellow Buddleia 😊 No Painted Ladies yet!

The Tort's looked great when the Sun caught them giving them a real shine, we've had some rain this morning but hope fully that will clear. Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 16-Aug-20 07:38 PM GMT

Great Small Torts Goldie and you've caught that Small White male just right – it's great to see the veins like that – cracking shot 🤩🤩🤩

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 17-Aug-20 07:29 PM GMT

Great image of the female Small White in particular, Goldie. I'm eagerly awaiting Thursday so I can get out and see how many Whites there are round my way.

August is turning rather autumnal (again) however. Be nice to have a break where we just get 'normal' weather for a change, i.e. not hot and humid weather....and no storms! Fingers crossed.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 19-Aug-20 10:12 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel and David, the Whites have been out in force here, 😊 I'd to laugh today even when the rain had stopped and it was still gloomy the flowers still heavy with rain, they were out in the garden 😊 they certainly cheer up a miserable day 😊 we're suppose to get high winds etc , August has been rubbish up to now lets hope we get some settled weather soon. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 20-Aug-20 08:24 PM GMT

I hear you Goldie – it would be great if we get a bit of a late Summer/early Autumn heat. I remember a couple of years ago walking round in shorts and t-shirt at the end of October 😊 I just hope that when things do settle the butterflies that are left aren't too battered 😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

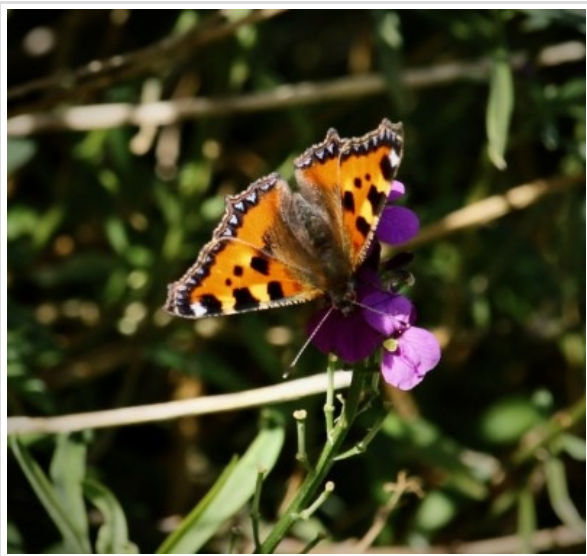
Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 21-Aug-20 04:51 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, we got one good day of Sun yesterday, today we're back to square one 😞 The Small tort's were out in force, I counted six at one point on the Boules Mauve 😊 I'd to go out in the afternoon and was a way for at least two hours when I got back they were still enjoying themselves on BM 😊 and other plants 😊

This was on the front garden for a change, I still say they know when the weathers about to change and and make the most of it before it does 😊

I love to see the Small White on Lavender, I took the shot on the 18th between showers 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 21-Aug-20 06:48 PM GMT

Lovely to see all those Small Tortoiseshells, Goldie – I haven't seen one down here for weeks now and may not until next spring. 🍷 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 21-Aug-20 06:51 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

...we got one good day of Sun yesterday, today we're back to square one 😞...

Same here Goldie. Yesterday was pleasant if a bit windy but today has been blowing a hoolie with some sharp showers thrown in.

Nice Small Tortoiseshell shots, especially the one on the rudbeckia 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 22-Aug-20 10:44 AM GMT

Hi! Dave, One thing we seem get loads of up here are the Small Tort's, in the Spring it's usually the first Butterfly I see every year and to see so many on the one day was really up lifting. 😊

Hi! Neil, I love to see the small Tort's on the yellow flowers, they really contrast nicely with their colours but looks like we're back with the bad weather Monday, it feels a bit cooler here, one thing we can't control, the weather!! 😞 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 22-Aug-20 11:52 AM GMT

Hi Goldie. It seems as though Small Torts may be responding to climate change by moving northwards. Peacocks are the dominant Vanessa here. In my garden, I have had more Red Admirals than usual. When the sun finally came through one afternoon, after rain, A Red Admiral was behaving rather strangely – flying round and round the same course quite slowly and occasionally pausing very briefly, always on the same leaf. Perhaps it didn't like getting its feet wet 😊
Mike

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 23-Aug-20 12:18 PM GMT

Hi! Mike, We've had lots of Peacock 's this year as well, mostly in Spring, Red Admiral's , not too many up to now but usually we see lots in September, with the weather like it as been up here up to now only the White's seem to be enjoying it , wet feet or not 😊

I took a couple of shots of one I saw yesterday in-between the showers 😊 Hope your keeping well, Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 23-Aug-20 05:45 PM GMT

I totally agree with you Goldie – the butterflies always seem even more frantic before a break in the weather – Panic Buying almost 😊😓
Lovely shots for the Small White – interesting marking on the fore wing 😊 I'm still hoping for an Indian Summer 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 23-Aug-20 08:36 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, I've put another shot of the Butterfly up, could be A for Angel 😊😓 Lets hope we get that Indian Summer 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 25-Aug-20 10:40 AM GMT

Yesterday was a lovely day for most of us, it was also a Small Tortoiseshell day in most of the Gardens around me, my neighbours who normally don't comment much about Butterflies were astounded at the amount they'd seen in their gardens. At one point I counted twelve ST's in the front garden and ten in the back garden plus a Red Admiral and a couple of Peacock's, only saw one Admiral. The Peacock's were rather worn compared to the ST's .

I think they must be getting ready to settle down for the winter, either that, or they knew the storm was on the way 😊

Lots of White's, I managed to get a shot of one with opened wings 😊 Goldie 😊







Re: Goldie M

by David M, 25-Aug-20 01:05 PM GMT

Wow, that's quite a Tortoiseshell-fest, Goldie. Good to see them having a decent year. They're about in strong numbers round my way too.

Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 25-Aug-20 08:15 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, what a sight that must have been. Tortoiseshells have been virtually absent down here since June, but are clearly doing ok up there!

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 25-Aug-20 08:43 PM GMT

That is indeed a cracking sight Goldie – I generally see ones and twos at this stage of the year with the double figure sightings coming during the spring so that is a welcome sight to see 😊😄🍀

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

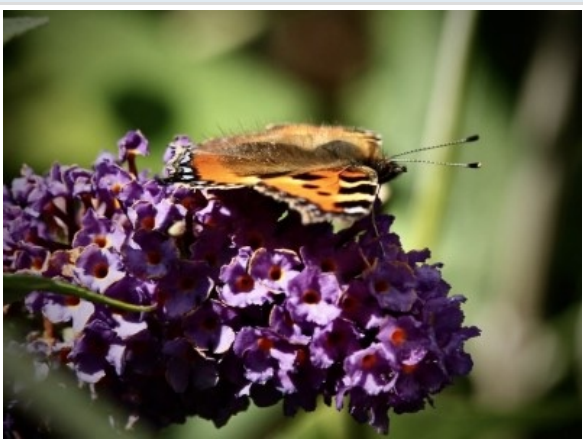
by Goldie M, 26-Aug-20 10:05 PM GMT

Hi! David, Glad your getting lot's of Small Tort's as well 😊 they were back again today even after the Storm 😊

Hi! essex, it was great to see so many, I hope the storm didn't get too many of them 😊 they were back again today but in reduced numbers 😊

Hi! Wurzel, they seem to be doing well up here, today was no exception, they landed on the flowers and just shook off the drops of rain and dried off in the Sun 😊

The storm was really bad here, we seemed to be in the eye of it at one point, because it went very still and the Sun came out and then we were plunged back into it again, then it rained here until midday today but when the Sun did appear so did the Butterflies 😊 Goldie 😊







Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 27-Aug-20 07:49 PM GMT

A fantastic set of Small Torts again Goldie 😊 Really like the 3rd and the shots – you can almost see the mirror 😊😊🌿

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 28-Aug-20 09:49 AM GMT

Many thanks Wurzel, not sure about the mirror but certain about the rain drops 😊 it made them shine in the Sun 😊

Raining again here, but just seen the news and the weather in Whitstable looks great, I'll have to give my Daughter a ring and send her a Green 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 28-Aug-20 12:54 PM GMT

Lovely Small Torts, it's been a while since I've seen one, might have to wait til next year now!

Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 28-Aug-20 09:22 PM GMT

Hello Goldie ,

Pleased to see that you're seeing plenty of Small Tortoiseshells where you are ,although numbers certainly aren't like they were in the 70,s and 80,s i,m also seeing reasonable numbers down here in Kent .

On the Clouded Yellow front ,i,m now getting sightings regularly at one of my local sites (2 yesterday ,and 1 today) and they are regularly turning up at Samphire Ho! and Reculver (but curiously enough ,not to many ,as yet at Dungeness) and at various other sites around the coast.

Shame you weren't down here for The Silver-Spot season ,they're having an exceptional year ! at Temple Ewellstill theres always next year ! Keep up the good work ! Regards Allan.W.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 29-Aug-20 04:20 PM GMT

You never know Bugboy, just when you think you won't see them again, they've been known to turn up 😊

Hi! Allan, glad the Clouded Yellow's or showing up, you never know I may be back to see them next year all being well, also all the Butterflies I've missed.

Nothing like being optimistic 😊

This morning was very sunny but much cooler, it didn't put the Small Tort's off though 😊 or the Whites, I managed to get a few shots before the clouds arrived which I've done nothing with yet hoping the cloud will lift, tomorrow's supposed to be a much better day, I keep hoping for a Painted Lady but no signs of one yet although I saw another Red Admiral on the Butterfly Bush, I didn't manage a shot but at this time of year when the Admiral's come we usually see one, (fingers crossed)Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 29-Aug-20 06:01 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

...The storm was really bad here, we seemed to be in the eye of it at one point, because it went very still and the Sun came out and then we were plunged back into it again, then it rained here until midday today but when the Sun did appear so did the Butterflies 😊 Goldie

Good job they are hardy little creatures, Goldie. 😊

Same thing here with the storms. It thundered again yesterday and today, in spite of a good forecast, it was mainly cloudy and very cool (around 15c) for late August. We've gone from the hottest ever August Bank Holiday in 2019 to probably the coldest in the space of just 1 year! 😊

Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 29-Aug-20 06:49 PM GMT

I can't send you any Painted Ladies, I've only seen the one so far this year, but you seem to have Small Tortoiseshells to spare. I've only seen four in East Sussex in 2020. You have some lovely shots of them.

Stay safe and well,
Trevor.

Re: Goldie M

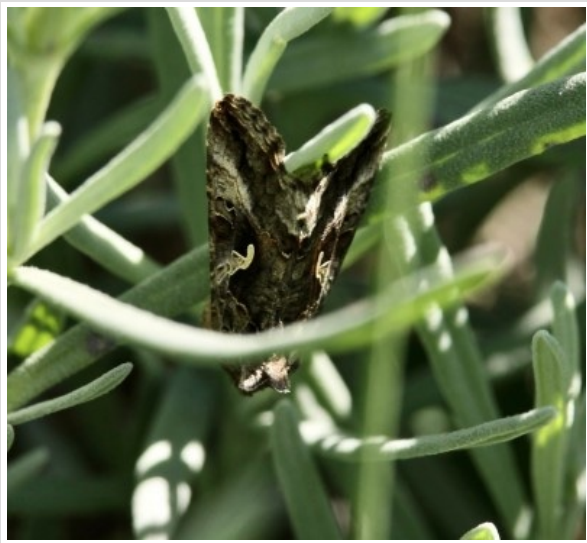
by Goldie M, 31-Aug-20 02:16 PM GMT

Many thanks Trevor, every one is seeing loads round here, I counted up to 14 just in my Garden alone, on the front and Back gardens , they're in the side garden now on the Autumn Glory 😊

We seem to be having a real influx of Small Torts at present, although the Mornings are much colder the Butterflies are out in the Garden at 8am, I've never known them so early before.

We're also getting the Red Admirals who seem to be getting frustrated with the large amount of Tort's 😊 I watched one Admiral who specifically liked a certain spot on the Autumn Glory because it was shaded, fly onto this spot ,which it'd had before. and which a Small Tort had taken over start to roll or flap it's wings at the Tort who immediately did the same back, then to my amazement the Admiral knocked the Tort off the plant by rolling is wings and took it over, off flew the Small Tort. 😊😊 I also saw a Silver Y Moth hiding in the flowers 😊 I also saw one small Tort that looked much different having lots of White on it's wings instead of Yellow, could this be an ab or is it just wear I wonder ?

Any way it's certainly been an Interesting few days 😊 Goldie 😊







Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 01-Sep-20 06:20 PM GMT

Great set of shots Goldie 🤩👍 I'd like to have seen the stroppy Red Admiral – sounds like he was pulling rank 😊😄

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 02-Sep-20 09:52 AM GMT

Hi Goldie, I don't know if your Small Tortoiseshell is an ab. but these individuals with paler coloration seem to crop up quite regularly. In fact, with there being so many around at the moment (at least in Lancs & S. Wales) I'm seeing them range from very pale to quite dark.

Re: Goldie M

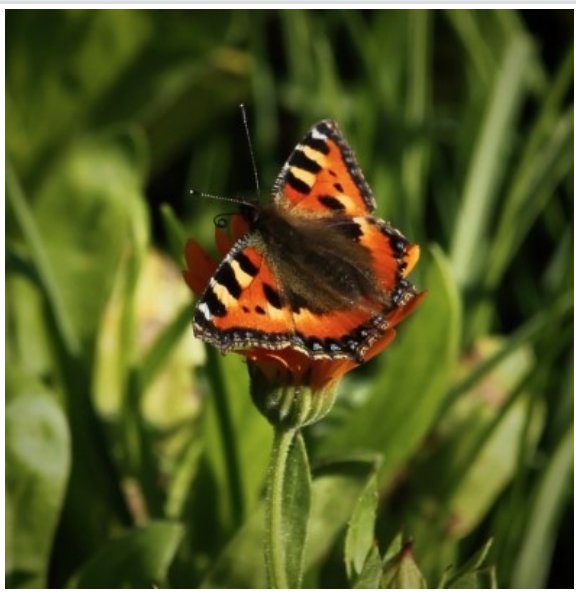
by Goldie M, 02-Sep-20 03:36 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, I like that, pulling rank 😊 We're getting more and more Admirals every day, I saw them this morning before the rain arrived, also the Small Tort's but I was busy and by the time I Finished my chores the rain arrived 😊

Hi! David, I don't think the Small Tort is an ab, the variation in the Butterflies makes for a nice contrast though 😊 I keep hoping the large Tortoiseshell will arrive in the North, only because we get so many of the Small Torts here, I think it would be Ideal for them. 😊

Yesterday was another full day of Butterflies, so many ST's they were landing on the car and I even got a Red Admiral landing on my Shoulder 😊 It flew off afterwards and landed on my hanging basket, although I've posted lots of shots of the Small Torts, RA , Peacock's I can't resist putting some more in my post 😊 Who Knows how long we'll be seeing them now it's September. 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 02-Sep-20 07:47 PM GMT

Lovely looking Small Tort there Goldie – love the view of its proboscis 😊😁 Surprised to see a Peacock – I thought they'd be tucked up in hibernation already 😊😁

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 04-Sep-20 09:22 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, the Peacocks if any thing have increased here in the last day or two, there were two on my Yellow Buddliea yesterday and I got a shot of one Sunday, yesterday they were too high up in the tree, so they're still making their presence known 😊😁 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 04-Sep-20 06:14 PM GMT

Looks like they were making hay while the sun still shone – down here its been almost miserable 😞 Luckily I've been at work so it hasn't mattered 😊
😞 Still it might turn nice for the weekend yet...

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 06-Sep-20 10:06 PM GMT

You look to be seeing plenty of vanessids up there, Goldie, and the Peacocks in particular are enviable. I think I've only seen one since I returned from Spain on 5th August. 🇬🇧

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 07-Sep-20 09:10 AM GMT

Some great butterflies from your garden Goldie 😊

I was away for most of last week and the week before was horrible wit hlots of wind and rain, so I need to get out and see what (if anything) is still left around here.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 12-Sep-20 07:56 PM GMT

My envy for your Small Tortoiseshells continues, Goldie. I last saw one down here on 11th July... 🇬🇧🇬🇧🇬🇧 Peacocks disappeared a bit later, but haven't been around for weeks either.

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Goldie M

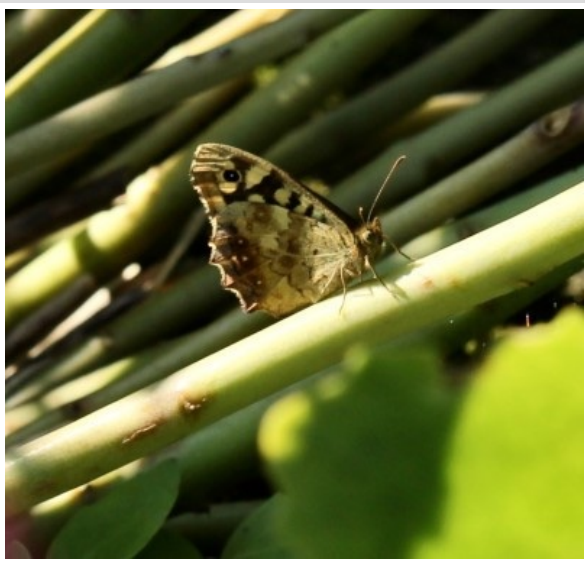
by Goldie M, 14-Sep-20 03:10 PM GMT

Thanks everybody for your post, i've been busy here, I put my Bungalow up for sale, after being with my family for a fortnight in Kent (it was like being out of jail 😊) I realised in some situations it's better to be closer to family ,especially has time moves on 😊 So I've been kept busy, then Bolton went into lock down again, not as bad as before but bad enough, some folks don't realise the danger, so we all suffer. Any way enough said 😊

I've been seeing loads of Butterflies, mostly Small Tort's and Red Admirals so I was surprised yesterday when I found a Comma and a Speckled Wood on my Autumn Glory 😊 The Comma seemed very fresh the green markings on the outer wings really standing out. It was back today 😊 Also the Small Whites have been up to their usual selves, either trying to mate and not being too successful in some cases 😊

The weather has been great these last few days, hope fully it'll keep it up 😊 Goldie 😊









Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 15-Sep-20 08:18 PM GMT

Great news to hear that you'll eventually be on the move Goldie – I hear the Grizzlies are looking forward to it and have started organising a welcoming committee 😊😄 A lovely set of shots – especially like the way you've caught the greeny underside markings of the Comma – subtle and beautiful 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 16-Sep-20 12:00 PM GMT

Many thanks Wurzel, the sun was just right for that shot 😊

I'll miss my garden here but then I'll be in the Garden of England, hope fully wading through Grizzlies, 😊 things have gone slow this week so far and Bolton is so quiet it's scary, we just have to grin and get on with it 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by jenks, 16-Sep-20 02:22 PM GMT

Good luck with your move. Being close to family in these times must surely be a good thing. And just think, next year you can go searching for Long tailed Blues !

I`ve been out birding and butterflying since travel restrictions were lifted here in Wales, but on my own, so social distancing was easy. The new wave of Covid -19 cases is worrying and depressing but having been into Cardiff on a couple of occasions and seen the number of people eating and drinking in cafes and bars I`m not surprised. It could almost be a joke, except that it has serious consequences. "How many people is it possible to sit around a table eating and drinking whilst allegedly observing social distancing rules ? 30, 50, 100, 1000, 10,000 ? ". Absolutely crazy. Since the restrictions were lifted in July when I`ve been out I`ve taken a flask and a muffin/ doughnut/ and a bar of chocolate with me. Question; why does coffee taste OK from a flask but not tea ?

Anyway, stay safe and I hope your move down south goes well.

Jenks.

Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 16-Sep-20 03:44 PM GMT

Good luck with your move, Goldie. Your new home should offer more butterfly variety, but you may have to say goodbye to the Small Tortoiseshells. Hopefully there are more in Kent than in East Sussex. Maybe those on here with knowledge of Kent will be able to point you to some good sites for butterflies. I don't get over that way very often.

Good luck again and keep well,
Trevor.

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 16-Sep-20 07:12 PM GMT

{quote=trevor_post_id=158275_time=1600267445_user_id=13654} Good luck with your move, Goldie. Your new home should offer more butterfly variety, but you may have to say goodbye to the Small Tortoiseshells.

Yes, Trevor, that is undoubtedly true.

That said, Goldie, the compensations outweigh the losses. I moved from the north (near Manchester) to south Wales in 2008 and was within striking range of double figure numbers of species that I wouldn't have been able to easily find in NW England, e.g. Small Blue, Marbled White, High Brown/ Marsh Fritillary, Silver Studded Blue, Brown Hairstreak & Duke of Burgundy.

I wish you the best of luck with your impending move. I'm sure you're doing the right thing and that it will enrich your life.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Sep-20 02:45 PM GMT

Many, Many, thank's everyone, I've had a lot of people looking but I don't think they've liked big Gardens up to now 😊 I'm a big believer in, " what will be, will be" you all know what I mean 😊 I'm happy here but it's time to move on 😊 Hope fully the right person will come along 😊

I've an Idea where I want to settle in Kent and it happens to be near a popular site for Butterflies so roll on 😊😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 17-Sep-20 07:08 PM GMT

Just catching up on your diary, good luck with the move 😊. Some great shots from your garden, I'll miss seeing oodles of Small Torts but I'm sure they'll be replaced with oodles of other species. Keep an eye on the Small Whites down in Kent, the Southern Small White is just over the channel in Calais itching to colonize us. Make sure you plant lots of candytuft in your new garden, that's a favourite foodplant for them 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 18-Sep-20 12:54 PM GMT

Thanks for the tip Bugboy, 😊 How you'd think some Sweet Peas would go down when I start it up 😊 Who knows I may attract LTB's 😊

I'll certainly miss the Small Torts, they're the first Butterfly I see in the Garden in Spring, I've not seen any for a couple of days now, I've been leaving my garage door open when I'm doing the garden so hope fully some have gone in there for the Winter, it's gone a lot cooler here, mostly at night, the Whites are still flying though 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 20-Sep-20 09:05 AM GMT

Good luck with your plans to move Goldie. From my perspective here in the midlands, I can certainly understand the temptation to move down south and in your case with family down there it makes sense.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 22-Sep-20 08:30 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

..How you'd think some Sweet Peas would go down when I start it up 😊 Who knows I may attract LTB's

Let's put it this way, Goldie, if I were going to live in Kent, not only would I plant some BLEP in my garden, but I'd also let a few seeds loose in the immediate area in the hope of attracting LTBs.

They seem to be attracted to higher ground, so perhaps you should consider a house in a lofty position! 😊

Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 22-Sep-20 11:02 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

Thanks for the tip Bugboy, 😊 How you'd think some Sweet Peas would go down when I start it up 😊 Who knows I may attract LTB's 😊

I'll certainly miss the Small Torts, they're the first Butterfly I see in the Garden in Spring, I've not seen any for a couple of days now, I've been leaving my garage door open when I'm doing the garden so hope fully some have gone in there for the Winter, it's gone a lot cooler here, mostly at night, the Whites are still flying though 😊 Goldie 😊

If you're anywhere near the coast then I'm sure a few Pea plants in and around your garden will bring something nice in. Also try some Wild Pansy for Queen of Spain Fritillary and while you're at it might as well have some Fennel as well for any passing Swallowtails. Mind you if you end up with all these rare migrants living in your back garden you might have to erect an electrified barbed wire fence to keep over enthusiastic butterflyers at bay 😊

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 23-Sep-20 08:18 AM GMT

I bet you're itching to head south now, Goldie. With the right plants in your garden you could attract all sorts of things from nearby chalk downs. Judging by the knack you have for drawing butterflies in up in the northwest, your camera will get lots of exercise. 😊 I remember when I lived in Dover (getting on for 30 years ago now) we regularly had Chalkhill Blues and Walls in the garden... 😊 I hope your plans all work out over the winter months so you'll be able to welcome the butterflies in next spring.

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 23-Sep-20 04:02 PM GMT

Many thanks everyone, no takers yet, it's surprising what people want in a house 😊 I'm ready for off and all your posts make me want to be there and planting 😊 No rush though, although I wouldn't fancy moving at Christmas time. 😊

If I get a place near the sea I can see I'll have a lot of cups of tea to make 😊 At least I'll have people near with the same interests 😊

In my last post I said I'd not seen the the Small Tort's and thought they'd gone for the Winter, would you believe it, they were back Sunday and Monday 😊 way up high on the yellow Buddleia 😊

The nice week-end we had brought them back, also I'd a Comma here for a full day, also saw a rather nice Speckled Wood but it's markings on the side wings had no Green like the last one I saw. I also had Large White's and numerous Small Whites , they do cheer you up no end 😊 Goldie 😊









Re: Goldie M

by dave brown, 23-Sep-20 04:44 PM GMT

Hi Goldie.

I look forward to seeing you again, or at least passing on the latest news for Kent. It will be so nice for you to be near family, and the insect life is great. I look forward to seeing the Long Tailed Blues in your garden. Mine is black tea with no sugar and a digestive biscuit 😊
Best wishes for your move.

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 23-Sep-20 10:24 PM GMT

That's a nice collection for this time of year Goldie 😊 Looks like the Small Torts decided they'd headed off a bit too early 😊 Love the Specklie – it looks like it supping from the world's oddest Blackberry 🤪🤪

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

p.s. Green Tea please, I'll bring the chocolate Hob Nobs 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 24-Sep-20 01:03 PM GMT

Hi! Dave, it's a while since I saw you, my Husband was with me at the time, that was at one of my favourite places in Kent, Temple Ewell, I hope to visit there often when I eventually move 😊 I've written your tea order down 😊

Hi! Wurzel, I've got your tea order has well 😊 The weather has changed once again back to cold and rain, we've got bit's of Sunshine now and again which the Whites are taking advantage of, (they're still around) but not much else is happening, which is just as well because I'm too busy sorting stuff to throw out 😊 Oh! before I forget , I'm rather partial to Milk Chocolate Digestives 🤪🤪 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 24-Sep-20 03:49 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

..In my last post I said I'd not seen the the Small Tort's and thought they'd gone for the Winter, would you believe it, they were back Sunday and Monday 😊 way up high on the yellow Buddleia

I've finally succumbed, Goldie. Three Buddleia weyeriana Sungold on their way to south Wales! 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 28-Sep-20 01:03 PM GMT

Well Done David, you won't regret it 😊 I didn't know what it was called has I planted it from a cutting but " Sun Gold " certainly suits it 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 28-Sep-20 08:29 PM GMT

I'll stock up on McVites in readiness then Goldie 😊😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

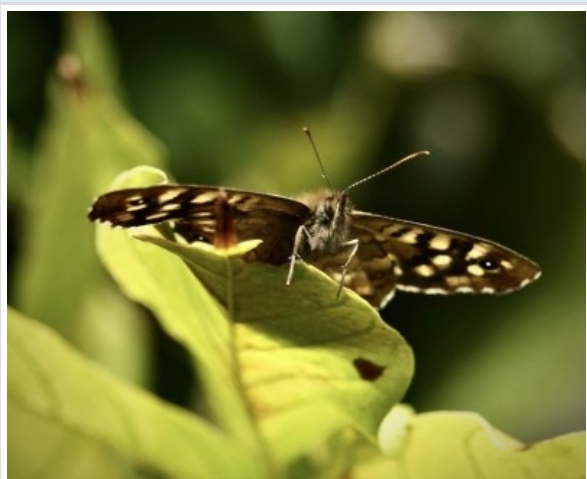
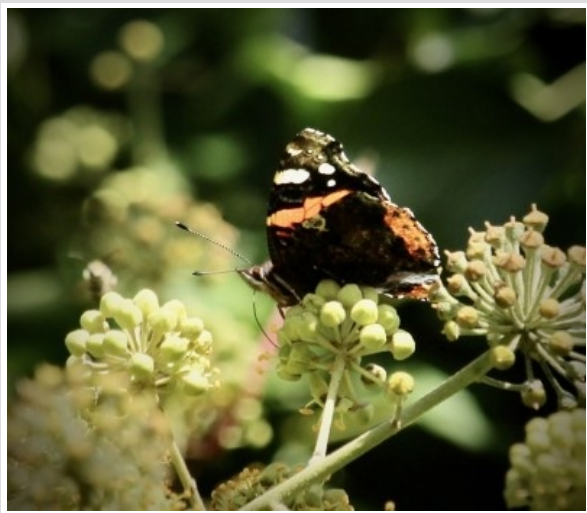
Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-Oct-20 11:37 AM GMT

Long time in getting back to you Wurzel 😊 I was whisked a way to Kent by my Daughter last week and I've been looking at properties whilst here taking advantage of the time here 😊

Every thing is going slow at present up there, so i'm not missing much. I've only seen a few Butterflies since I arrived, a Speckie, Small White and Red Admiral, the weather here was shocking at first and since then it's been cold until yesterday when I saw the Butterflies. I'll keep a look out for more but I'm off back shortly. Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 08-Oct-20 08:05 PM GMT

Sounds like you're having an exciting time Goldie – great to see you can fit in a few butterflies on the way 😊 Love the shot of the Specklie 😊😎 Fingers crossed things keep moving forward 😊 I'll stock up on the McVites anyway, just in case 😊😎

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 08-Oct-20 10:41 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

...I've only seen a few Butterflies since I arrived, a Speckie, Small White and Red Admiral, the weather here was shocking at first and since then it's been cold until yesterday when I saw the Butterflies.

The weather was shocking indeed, Goldie, so I'm not surprised you haven't seen much. I daresay there'll be precious little on your return to the north west but with any luck you'll have relocated by next spring....fingers crossed.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 09-Oct-20 07:15 PM GMT

Thanks for your posts, Wurzel and David, What a difference down here is to up North, it was great to get a way even if I was busy viewing 😊 Things have come to a halt as far as that goes up there, but coming here was good i'd a good look round, now it remains hope fully, to sell some time on my side, I'm in no hurry, it's just as well 😊 It was great to see the Speckie etc , I'd given up on the Butterflies with the weather being rough, hope fully I'll see a few more before the frosts arrive.

Back to the prison on Sunday 😊😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 13-Oct-20 04:00 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

Back to the prison on Sunday 😊😊 Goldie

Trust me, Goldie, I know the feeling. 😊

At least this latest local semi-lockdown is at the end of the butterfly season, rather than the beginning.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 19-Oct-20 02:50 PM GMT

Hi! David, sorry for the delay in replying, since I got back from Kent I've been trying to clear my Garage out, finally I've ordered a skip, my Husband was a real hoarder 😊 I bet I need more than one skip 😊

I see Wales is in lock down and we'll be in Number 3 I'm sure shortly, I'm beginning to know the people now that have the virus. luckily for me I've not been in contact with them but it brings the realisation home just how bad things are here at present, I'll be sticking to the house for a while that's for sure.Goldie 😊 Stay safe

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 19-Oct-20 10:23 PM GMT

Watching the news tonight made me want to send best wishes, I hope you manage to keep healthy and happy up there Goldie 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 01-Nov-20 10:21 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

I see Wales is in lock down and we'll be in Number 3 I'm sure shortly, I'm beginning to know the people now that have the virus. luckily for me I've not been in contact with them but it brings the realisation home just how bad things are here at present, I'll be sticking to the house for a while that's for sure.

Very prescient, Goldie. For the first time, it looks as though England is going to be in a worse position than Wales. There seems to be no end to it, and you're right to isolate yourself given what's going on right now. Seems to be younger ones contracting it this time – we've even had half a dozen or so from my workplace. Stay in and stay safe!

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 02-Nov-20 05:15 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel and David for your posts, I've been busy in the house trying to sort things out so I've not strayed too far, trouble is nobody wants to visit so looks like the house viewing is going quiet for a while which is just as well in the circumstances .

I also got some bad news this week , my Sister-in-Laws Husband passed away with the Virus 😞 It seems to me like the younger generation don't care too much, I saw the news about Nottingham and they were all out-side the pubs there, I wonder if any of their families will get it because of their actions.

Take care and stay safe, Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 11-Nov-20 08:30 PM GMT

Such a shame about your sister in law's husband, Goldie. The UK seems to be having 20,000+ cases and 500+ casualties every day now. One can only hope that the latest lockdown will bring these numbers down significantly, and that the vaccine that has been publicised lately can be rolled out within the next few weeks in such a way that we can begin to get on top of this epidemic in early 2021.

You're right to be patient and pragmatic. There's no other sensible option in all honesty.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 14-Nov-20 02:06 PM GMT

Hi! David , many thanks for your posts, we've got hope at last with this vaccine , I know when it's available I'll be on the front row 😊

Nothing much doing here at present, nobody viewing, I've even thought I'd stay put, then I think of all those lovely Butterflies I'm missing out on and change my mind 😊

I was looking back on my first sighting this year of the Chalkhill Blues and it convinced me to press on regardless 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 15-Nov-20 06:17 PM GMT

I can see why those images would have you hankering after the move again Goldie 😊😌🍀 Hopefully things will turn a corner in the next few weeks – the R number is one the way down and fingers crossed for the vaccine 😊😌

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Nov-20 10:47 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, thanks for your post, I'm looking forward to next year now, house sale or not 😊 I've just been out feeding the Birds and guess what!! Bulbs are already coming up 😊 Good sign I'd say. Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by millerd., 17-Nov-20 02:09 PM GMT

Those Chalkhills are amazing, Goldie! I've seen groups of them down on the ground settled on something unpleasant, but those seem to be just clustered on the plants. Great shots. 😊

It's probably the worst time of year for house sales in normal times, but things usually pick up after Christmas, so with a bit of luck 2021 will bring you what you're hoping for. Fingers crossed! 😊

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 17-Nov-20 09:18 PM GMT

Hello Goldie .

Just seen your Chalkhill shots from TE/L ,I reckon ,that one of the numerous dogs (or foxesor even cattle !) had pre –"watered " the plants that your Chalkhills are clustered onjust a thought !

Regards Allan.W.

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 18-Nov-20 09:01 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

...I've even thought I'd stay put, then I think of all those lovely Butterflies I'm missing out on and change my mind.

I was looking back on my first sighting this year of the Chalkhill Blues and it convinced me to press on regardless

The image speaks for itself, Goldie. You won't see things like that in the north west, sadly.

Personally, having moved from Manchester to Swansea over ten years ago I'd never go back. I'd lose so many precious butterflies as well as the milder climate!

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 18-Nov-20 10:31 PM GMT

Many thanks every one, I couldn't see what the Butterflies were landing on Dave, but I guessed it would be some thing unpleasant 😊
I have decided to take the Bungalow off until Spring , I'm wondering now about Christmas and what's going to happen, I've just heard my eldest Grandson has the virus 😞 What else can happen !!!!!

Hi! Allan, I think your right about the Chalkhills ,It was at TE I saw them, I've never seen so many at one time 😊 I really enjoy going there, I nearly always get shots of some thing different, this time it was those Small Blue. 😊

Hi! David, I love living here and I know if I move I'll miss the hills and being so near the Lakes , but having all my family down South, and it seems every time I visit them the weather is good, not to mention all those lovely Butterflies, 😊 I'd be crazy not to move, having said that I think I was lucky this time not to be down there with my Grandson having caught the Virus. Now I'm too far a way to know what's going on though! I can't win 😊

The weather isn't too good here at present, (that's a surprise 😊) I'll pacify myself with a Hot Chocolate, take care everybody, keep safe . Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 01-Dec-20 03:55 PM GMT

After a truly horrible day yesterday, I was surprised when going into the kitchen to put the light on I found it already bright in there from the moon 😊

I quickly went for my camera (which hadn't been used for days) to take a few shots thinking any moment it would be covered with clouds.

After days of dark ,wet ,windy, weather, it was great to see some brightness, I've put a shot in my post to prove I really saw the Moon 😊 We also had a frost this morning and snow is forecast for the Pennines and Scotland, That, I hope we miss 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 02-Dec-20 08:35 PM GMT

Great to see the Man in the Moon Goldie 😊😊 I hope your Grandson is doing okay.

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 02-Dec-20 08:50 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

...I've put a shot in my post to prove I really saw the Moon...

Not only have you seen it, Goldie, you have captured it superbly. I keep trying to do likewise but I can't get anything approaching the quality of yours (or Guy Padfield's). 🍷

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 03-Dec-20 09:50 PM GMT

Many thanks Wurzel, the good news is my Grandson is okay and back teaching 😊 My other Grandson (both share a flat) just had a headache so both are okay and the rest of my family are good. It's up to me now to get the Vaccine. 😊 Roll on Spring 😊

Many thanks David, they said on the news the space Station was to pass in front of the Moon at a certain time and I was hoping to see both 😊 I got the wrong time I think 😊 Snow forecast for tomorrow, what a contrast 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 03-Dec-20 10:26 PM GMT

Great Moon shot Goldie. Lovely and clear, even some of the craters are discernable.

Great stuff,
Trevor.

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 04-Dec-20 09:14 AM GMT

Just seen your shot of the moon Goldie...lovely 😊

I must try and get a few shots myself next time we have a full moon on a clear night.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 04-Dec-20 11:26 AM GMT

Many thanks Trevor and Neil, I just can't resist taking shots of a full moon 😊 I'm out with the Camera every time 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 04-Dec-20 07:53 PM GMT

That's good news about your Grandson 😊 Only a few more weeks now until the Xmas holiday 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 08-Dec-20 11:26 AM GMT

Hope fully, I'll be in Kent then Wurzel 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 08-Dec-20 08:31 PM GMT

Fingers crossed Goldie that you can get out and do a few reconnaissance trips ready for 2021 – stay safe in the meantime! 😊

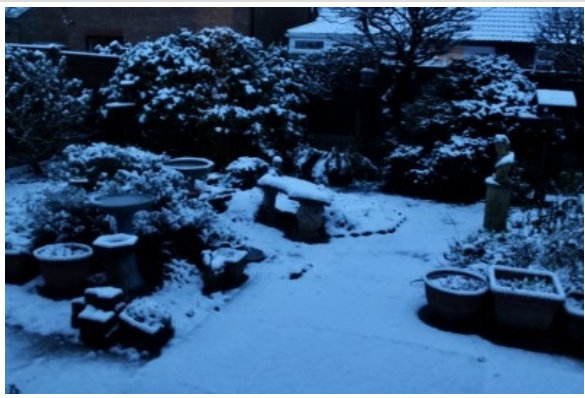
Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 28-Dec-20 09:32 AM GMT

Well, I woke up this morning to a snowy scene, it really felt like Christmas 😊 I didn't make my trip to Kent unfortunately , we thought it was a bit risky, so I'd to settle for a lonely Christmas , I wasn't on my own though, all over the country people are in the same boat, thank goodness for the telephone 😊 lets hope next year this is all over with and we can get back to normality , Happy New Year to every one, Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 29-Dec-20 05:25 PM GMT

I was switching my decorations on tonight when I saw the full Moon, I couldn't resist taking some shots over the roof tops of the houses, even got the tips of a few decorations 😊 Then I looked back to the shots I'd taken through the years at around this time of year and noticed they were more or less taken in January, time moves on, has do we. 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 31-Dec-20 12:01 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Sorry to hear that you are unable to visit your daughter for the new year.

Cracking shots of the moon 😊 We have had clear skies here too giving good views of the full moon but with temps down to -2, I have stayed in the warm 😊

Also had quite a bit of snow here the other day but it didn't stay settled for long.

Happy New Year to you and I hope you are coping as well as you can up there,

Cheers,

Neil