

## Acclivity's Activities – April 2021

Spring finally decided to struggle through the cold and there have even been days when it's been tolerable to be outside, in spots protected from the chilly winds.

One day, I decided to do an insect hunt in quite a small area – a path between Kathrine Way and Clementine Avenue, Seaford. Within 45 minutes, 20 different insect species were photographed and identified. The best of these being the “Common Mourning Bee”, *Melecta albifrons*.

I dedicated the Bee finding to H.M. The Queen, also in mourning



The common Greenbottle fly, *Lucilia sericata*, is quite attractive in close-up!

On a trip to Friston Forest, it was noticeable that most of the bees observed there, were “Cuckoo Bees” – so named because, in true Cuckoo fashion, they lay their eggs in other bees' nests.



Four different species of *Nomada* Cuckoo Bee were found, including *Nomada latburiana*, shown here.

Apologies if you are squeamish! But it was in the forest that I also observed for the first time a “Styloped” bee.



The bee is *Andrena scotica*, and you can just observe the “Stylops” – another insect – emerging from the bees' back!

## A walk by the Cuckmere River



Oyster Catcher

Dunnock

Black-headed Gull



The bee is *Andrena haemorrhoa*, one of the solitary spring mining bees.

This Bee was feeling cold and sluggish. Observing that it was a male, and so could not sting me, I coaxed it onto my hand where it warmed up before flying away.

## Some spring Garden sightings



The Orange Tip is always a welcome bright sign of Spring



Goldfinches really need to be heard as well as seen, to be fully appreciated!

Chiffchaff is another sure sign of Spring. This one was seen in Last Wood



Both Dotted and Dark-Edged Beeflies were found at Last Wood



I found a Common Pill Woodlouse, Armadillidium vulgare, at exactly the place I found one 2 years ago, on the path entering Last Wood Meadow at the Alfriston end



## An Insect hunt over a concentrated area

On April 19<sup>th</sup> I spent 45 minutes on one footpath. 20 insect species were photographed and identified.



This Queen Buff-tailed Bumblebee has her tongue out in anticipation!



Two more spring species. Epistrophe eligans (above) and Andrena nigroaenea (left)