

Wild Essex



august nature news

Wild Essex Diary

For more info or to book a place on any walk, please email me at jmgibson1959@btinternet.com or text 07503240387.

Or you may like to keep in touch via our lively Whatsapp group, just contact me and I will add you

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UP COMING EVENTS

MONDAY 4th SEPTEMBER

Evening walk in WRABNESS NATURE RESERVE. From 5pm til dusk. Come and help us find Great Green Bush Crickets and lots more!



£10 per person.

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MONDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER

NB DIFFERENT DATE TO THAT PREVIOUSLY ADVERTISED

CHARITY WALK – all proceeds to Springmead Gardens Brightlingsea. Meet at the gardens in the morning, followed by walk around The Lozenge Nature Reserve. Perhaps we'll stop off for a drink somewhere too. Booking essential please.



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Looking ahead we are planning a Wivenhoe Saltmarsh walk (14th Oct), Birds in Mistley (31st Oct), plus a series of (free) Zoom talks for the winter months, starting with 'Galls' on Sunday 1st Oct. More info next time!





Wasp enjoying lunch

Welcome....

.....to our newsletter for August

Another busy month when our feet have hardly touched the ground!. We have been fortunate to spend lots of time with our little granddaughter — including taking her on her first visit to Cambridge Botanic Garden which she loved. Other train trips included those to Bath and Wales — visiting family, a bit of culture and of course nature-spotting wherever we go. Hope you have all been enjoying the summer.



Art in Nature

BETH CHATTO'S GARDEN

If anyone would like the chance to look at the insects and other wildlife of Beth Chatto's Garden with Chris, he is running a series of 'Meet the Wandering Naturalist' events (weather permitting!), the next on 1st

September, between 1100 and 1300.

No need to book, just come to the garden (normal entry price applies) and ask at the Visitor Information

Centre where he will be and when, and come along and find him!

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WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

WIVENHOE PARK – BATS AND TREES

Great evening, finishing with breathtaking fly-pasts of bats.



#WildEssexWalks – an evening with trees and bats in Wivenhoe Park | Chris Gibson Wildlife

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GALLS

As a taster for next month's newsletter, here is a gall on Oak. 'Ram's Horn'. Galls are such fascinating things!



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TALKS

Chris has a large repertoire of fully illustrated presentations, all suitable for giving to clubs, groups etc, in person or by zoom. <u>Talks | Chris Gibson Wildlife</u> Do get in touch if you would like more details.

NATURE NOTES

Thanks to everyone for your contributions this month.





Camouflage – gorgeous Hairy Shieldbug, its colours beautifully mimicking the flower, plus Spot the Frog....hard to find in his garden pond.!

A dear local friend was excited when she discovered this very rare and underrecorded insect in her kitchen – a Hornet Rove Beetle, which was verified by a national expert. A Red Data list species with only two other Essex records – and those far, far away in Epping Forest. Good spot!





Hornet Rove Beetle which lives side-by-side ('commensal') with Hornets in their nests

Commensalism is a long-term biological interaction (<u>symbiosis</u>) in which members of one species gain benefits while those of the other species neither benefit nor are harmed.

Have you ever thought about how plants attract insects in for pollination? Some use their glorious scents and obvious pollen resources, but others use 'trompe l'oiel' devices to get pollinators to drop in by appearing to have insects already on them. A good example of this is the humble and very common Wild Carrot, whilst other more exotic looking plants employ the same trick too...



wild Carrot with a fake fly in the middle

BRINGING NATURE TO YOU

We would be very happy to discuss any ideas you may have for a tailor-made nature experience. Perhaps advice on Rewilding your garden, a moth trapping evening or bespoke walk with a group of friends. General cost £5 per hour per person, usual minimum group of 3 or £15 per hour.

THIS MONTH – Visiting local garden to advise on wildlife

HONEYGUIDE HOLIDAYS

Honeyguide wildlife holidays - Menorca

Chris has been involved in leading holidays and day walks with this company for a number of years. You may be interested in this relaxing holiday 4 – 11 October? (book directly with Honeyguide)



TRANSITION TOWN WIVENHOE

For ideas about how you can help your local community, as well as hopefully the planet, get in touch with: 'transwiv@gmail.com' to receive their regular newsletter.







Widow Iris

Bee Orchid



The 'Three Bird' Toadflax – does this attract budgerigars we wonder?



AND FINALLY

Butterfly quiz. If you have a few moments why not see how many you can score in this quiz from London Wildlife Trust.

Butterfly ID quiz (typeform.com)



PLEASE KEEP SENDING US YOUR PHOTOS AND NATURE NOTES!

Special thanks this time to Val Appleyard, George McKissock, Sue Minta, Jane Read and Sue Ward

CONTACT US

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Beth Chatto's garden looking good.....as usual!