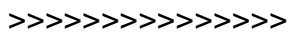


JUNE

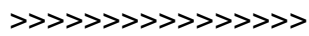
Saturday 3rd 9am – 11am [Marvellous Moths! - Beth Chatto's Plants & Gardens](#)

Come and explore the insect life in this wonderful garden and see our moth trap (set overnight) opened. £25 per person
Book directly with the garden.

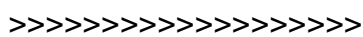


MANNINGTREE EARTH FESTIVAL
Sun 11th 12 noon – 6 pm
[The Manningtree Earth Festival | Entertain, Inspire, Educate, & Empower](#)

Lots of interest at this FREE festival in nearby Manningtree. We will be leading some 'Wildlife Wanderings' events. Come and join us, meet at the Water Zone.



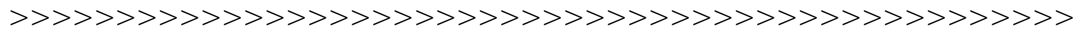
Thursday 15th HOCKLEY WOODS, NEAR SOUTHEND
Largest continuous block of ancient woodlands in East Anglia. Famous for Heath Fritillary Butterflies, at their peak at this time, plus a whole range of other insects and flowers. Half day £20 per person. Meet at lunchtime and spend the afternoon with us. Full details will be sent out nearer the time to those who make a booking. (For info we intend to travel by train).



Monday 19th SUTTON AND UPPER HOLLESLEY HEATHS AND NIGHTJARS
Own transport and packed meal(s) required. Three options for the day....choose between...

DAWN CHORUS!

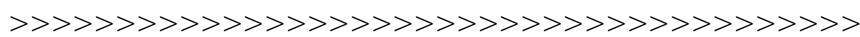
If you haven't been on a dawn chorus in person this year (or even if you have), why not tune into this relaxing programme on BBC iPlayer [BBC iPlayer - Dawn Chorus: The Sounds of Spring](#)



CITIZEN SCIENCE

Why not join in with the Essex Wildlife Trust's Bio Blitz? [Essex Wildlife Trust | Essex Wildlife Trust \(essexwt.org.uk\)](#). Also, if you should be fortunate enough to find a toad, record it [here Toad Watch | Essex Wildlife Trust \(essexwt.org.uk\)](#)

Our own Citizen Science project – 'Firebugs' – turned up more of these little critters, along Dovercourt Seafront – all doing very nicely thank you very much!



NATURE NOTES

We are grateful to everyone who has taken the time to get in touch with photos and comments this month.

FLOWERS

Kicking off this time with some pictures sent from Spain (where it has been very dry) of flowers which are easily grown here in gardens, and good examples of 'drought-tolerant' plants.



Cistus



Alyssum

And nearer to home....



Scurvy grass on the Isle of Wight



Purple Toothwort, East Bergholt

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: ADVISING ON WILDLIFE GARDENING IN BRIGHTLINGSEA : both in a private garden and at Springmead Gardens [Springmead Gardens - Visit Brightlingsea](#)

BLUEBELL WALK: for a private group.

NATURETREK WALKS

Chris has been involved in leading holidays and day walks with this company for a number of years. You may be interested in this? (book directly with Naturetrek)

Wrabness 11 July [The Wild Side of Essex: Summer by the Stour Estuary \(Day Trip\) - Naturetrek](#)



Thanks to Jenny for her WRABNESS NATURE NEWS –

In Stour Wood, two darkish tits are fossicking about among the slim trunks of a coppiced Sweet Chestnut. But they're not Coal Tits – they are chunkier and have no white stripe down the back of their heads. Marsh Tits!

At the start of the sea-wall path, the air is heavy with the scent from a bank of lime-green Alexanders. Where the leaf-stalks meet the main stems are newly-opened pale-green sheaths, decorated with fine pink lines.



Alexanders



Marsh Tit (@wikimedia commons)

AND FINALLYFEATHERS!!

These familiar but fascinating structures were brought to our close attention this month when we were sent this photo. The feathers had once belonged to a bird killed by a raptor and were discovered in a Herefordshire wood... but to which unfortunate bird?



©Dilys Hart

Thanks to the website [Featherbase](#) Chris was able to determine that they were from a Mistle Thrush. [Mistle Thrush \(Turdus viscivorus\) - Feathers on featherbase.info](#)

An interesting book in our collection: 'Feathers, The Evolution of a Natural Miracle' by Thor Hanson, is well worth checking out, for anyone with an interest in science or social history. As it sums up - 'Feathers are an evolutionary wonder: aerodynamic, insulating and beguiling'.

The following link may be of interest to feather-fans (no pun intended!) too. [Plucky idea: the feather library providing a visual A to Z of India's birds | Birds | The Guardian](#)

PLEASE KEEP SENDING US YOUR PHOTOS AND NATURE NOTES!

Special thanks this time to Val Appleyard, Anne Boileau, Jenny Coumbe, Nick Green, Mark Halladay, Dilys and Ian Hart, Sue Harvey, George McKissock, Mary McNeilly, Sue Minta, Paul Peak, Matthew Vinogradoff, Ginny Waters, Sue Ward and Sue Warren

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Beth Chatto's Dry Garden