



# Wild Essex

## february nature news



### Wild Essex Diary

For more info or to book a place on any walk, please email me at [imgibson1959@btinternet.com](mailto:imgibson1959@btinternet.com) or text 07503240387...

### KEEPING IN TOUCH

... or you may like to be a part of the action via our lively Whatsapp group (topics recently ranging from pigeons (see more below) to The Giant Seal of Jupiter 😊). Also the way to find out about extra events including a spring social. See us on Facebook too @WildEssexBringingNatureToYou.

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### EVENTS FOR 2023

#### **FEBRUARY**

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> 10am - 12.30  
£10 per person  
LOOKING FOR SIGNS OF SPRING –  
COCKAYNES NATURE RESERVE  
Always something interesting to discover at this special place – part of the proceeds going to Essex Wildlife Trust to support their important work.



#### **MARCH**

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 7pm  
**Free Zoom** presentation by Chris 'GARDENING WITH WILDLIFE IN MIND' (postponed from Feb when we had Covid and weren't up to it!). Join us using this link

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/89651611565?pwd=MWhYazdBNFRoV0FMVGdqRU13UFdiUT09>

Meeting ID: 896 5161 1565

Passcode: 5HqdWK



Firebug (*Pyrrhocoris apterus*) discovered in a churchyard in Dovercourt. Only seen in UK in recent years, but now firmly established in this 'God's Acre'. Let us know if you see one as they are still fairly unusual. Aren't they stunning? Despite the warning coloration, they are totally harmless.

### Welcome....

.....to our February edition of Nature News.

As always, a warm Hello from us both. Lots to tell you about this month – we are thrilled that so many people have been in touch with their observations and photos.

#### HELP OUR HEDGEHOGS

As you are no doubt aware, hedgehogs have had a tough time of it. Fortunately, good people look out for them, with food, shelter and monitoring, but one problem is that their highways to food/shelter are often interrupted. Helping them to move from garden to garden is crucial, can you help by creating a gap in your fence to allow free movement?. [How to create a hedgehog hole | Essex Wildlife Trust \(essexwt.org.uk\)](https://essexwt.org.uk)



#### IN THE NEWS

Guess we all already knew... [Flying insect numbers plunge 64% since 2004, UK survey finds | Insects | The Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/feb/02/flying-insect-numbers-plunge-64-percent-since-2004-uk-survey-finds) Stats like this make us grateful for Buglife and other charities working to educate and improve the situation, and hopefully people are becoming more aware (RHS for example have totally had a rethink on what is a 'pest' and what isn't). [Garden pesticides are contributing to British songbird decline, study finds | Birds | The Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/feb/02/garden-pesticides-are-contributing-to-british-songbird-decline-study-finds)

A more cheery one for fungi fans...

[Biodiversity: Fungi are 'underloved and understudied' - BBC News](https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-62844444)









