

Wild Essex june nature news



Wild Essex Diary

For more info or to book a place on any walk, please email me at <u>imgibson1959@btinternet.com</u> or text 07503240387.

Or you may like to keep in touch via our lively Whatsapp group for lots of shared photos and info about exclusive events. Just contact me and I will add you to the group \bigcirc

EVENTS

JULY

8th Lower Lodge, Wivenhoe 9th Bennison's Farm, Thorrington 12th Wrabness Butterflies etc 15th St Mary's Wivenhoe, Bug Hunt

AUGUST 4th Wrabness Nature Reserve 17th University, evening walk

SATURDAY 8TH JULY

WALK AT Lower Lodge, Wivenhoe 10am – 12 noon £10

Focusing mainly on insect-life, for our annual survey, but looking at plants, birds too of course!





Summer colour at Beth Chatto's garden

Welcome....

.....to our newsletter for June

...and it's Stag Beetle time in Wivenhoe! Our little town is one of the hotspots for these amazing critters. Thanks to everyone who has let us know you have these splendid visitors. Let us know if you find any. (And if they are in one piece or have been disemboweled by Magpies).



SUNDAY 9TH JULY

WILDLIFE ON THE ORGANIC FARM. Bennison's Thorrington. 10 – 11am. FREE, but please book with the farm Events at the farm 2023 - Bennison Farm

CITIZEN SCIENCE

Why not join in with the Essex Wildlife Trust's BioBlitz? <u>Essex Wildlife Trust | Essex</u> <u>Wildlife Trust (essexwt.org.uk)</u>. From 14 July to 6 August is Butterfly Conservation's Butterfly Count...help them monitor the state of the nation's favourite insects <u>Big Butterfly</u> <u>Count (butterfly-conservation.org)</u>

WEDNESDAY 12TH JULY

WOODLAND BUTTERFLIES and lots more, Wrabness and Stour Wood. Meet at Wrabness Railway station. $1.30 - 3.30 \pm 10$

SATURDAY 15TH JULY

BUG HUNT FOR KIDS. St Mary's Wivenhoe. 10.15 and 11.15. Contact church for booking and more info stmaryswivenhoe | The parish church for Wivenhoe and the University of Essex



WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

MOTH MORNING at Beth Chatto's. Not as many moths as we would have liked, but still an enjoyable morning. Marvellous Moths morning at Beth Chatto Gardens – early June | Chris Gibson Wildlife



NATURE NOTES

We are grateful to everyone who has taken the time to get in touch with photos and comments this month, it is a wholly insect-affair this time 😳 If you would like to join in our annual insect survey at Lower Lodge, Wivenhoe, on 8th July please get in touch. Details above left.

INVERTEBRATES



Hornet dropping in for his daily drink in a local pond. Such beautiful and misunderstood creatures. Usually non-aggressive unless provoked or if nest is threatened



Three beetles – the 'thick thigh' feasting in a daisy, a kind of oil beetle out walking plus a *Carabus* ground beetle sunning himself in beautiful Bavaria



I was puzzled by this creature, sent to us for ID. The first picture was when it had just emerged from the pupa – wings still unfurling. So when the operation was complete it was much easier to tell – a Large Yellow Underwing moth!

MANNINGTREE EARTH FESTIVAL

We led four short walks on a green space at the heart of Manningtree. A very hot day, with little insect life, but the grasses and wild flowers were a joy to behold.



Stunning photo of a Lime Hawk-moth



SUFFOLK SANDLINGS

Afternoon and evening delights including many Nightjars

Midsummer in the Suffolk Sandlings | Chris Gibson Wildlife



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.

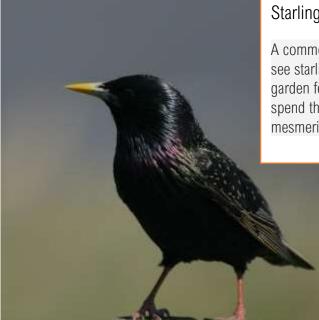


Well-camouflaged Four-spotted chaser, and two Male Banded Demoiselles!



Longhorn beetles are so exquisite - a couple of species you may find on your travels

BIRD OF THE MONTH



Starling Sturnus vulgaris

A common, though sadly declining species. You can see starlings all year round, squabbling around garden feeders. Large numbers arrive in autumn to spend the winter here, often forming mesmerising <u>murmurations</u> in the sky.

BRINGING NATURE TO YOU

We would be very happy to discuss any ideas you may have for a tailormade 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.

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 <u>The Wild Side of Essex:</u> <u>Summer by the Stour Estuary (Day Trip) -</u> <u>Naturetrek</u>



IN THE NEWS

An interesting article about the perils of 'enthusiasts' releasing insects they have raised into the wild.

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jun/12/reintroductions-of-rarebutterflies-to-uk-a-risk-to-other-species?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other

And did you know about the Painted Lady butterfly? One of life's mysteries! <u>Painted Lady</u> <u>migration mystery solved by researchers - BirdGuides</u>

Being a Harwich girl, I was amazed to read about a seahorse being found in the harbour there Seahorse discovered in rare Harwich Harbour sighting - BBC News



AND FINALLY ...

Binoculars! For those insect-spotting moments we would recommend the <u>Pentax</u> <u>Binoculars UP 6.5X21 Papillo II w/case – PENTAX - Official Store</u> Available at many stockists and fairly reasonably priced.

PLEASE KEEP SENDING US YOUR PHOTOS AND NATURE NOTES!

Special thanks this time to Rik Andrew, Val Appleyard, Cathy Burns, Wendy Constance, Sue Minta, Paul Peak, Martin Schneider, Pauline Smith, Jenni Thomson, Derek Tumber

CONTACT US

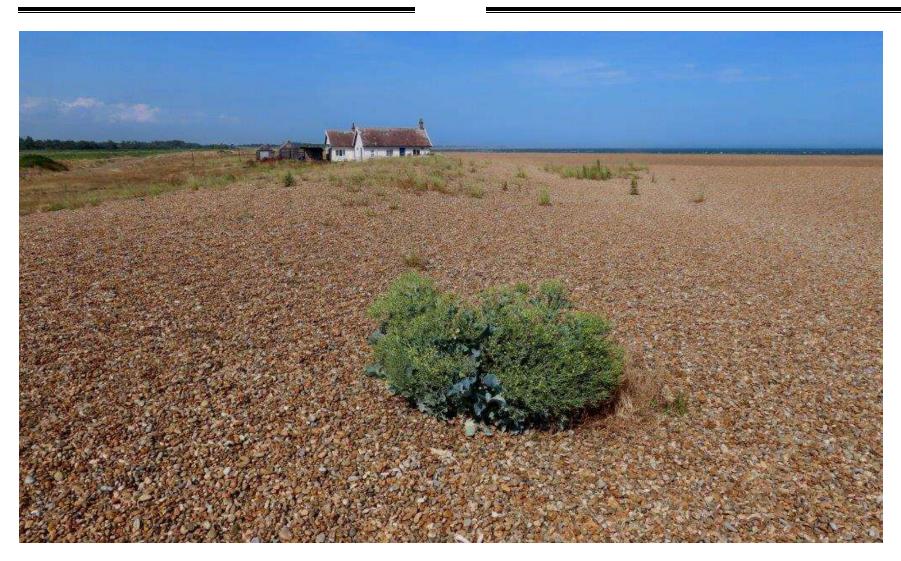
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