



# Wild Essex

## 2023 programme of events



### Other stuff

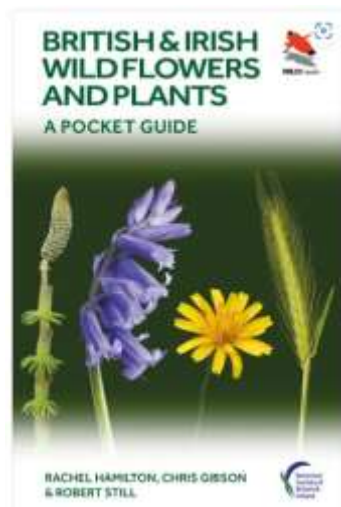
#### CITIZEN SCIENCE

RSPB GARDEN BIRDWATCH  
the annual RSPB birdwatch takes place 27-29 January 2023  
[Big Garden Birdwatch | The RSPB.](#)

#### CHRIS' FLOWER BOOK

Most of you know Chris (& others) have been working on a British Wildflower Guide for a long time. The 'full' version is still a way off but a pocketguide should be out later this year (watch this space!). We were surprised but delighted to see it mentioned in the paper last weekend in an article about no-fly travel...

[https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2023/jan/12/month-by-month-guide-no-fly-travel-ideas-2023?CMP=Share\\_AndroidApp\\_Other](https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2023/jan/12/month-by-month-guide-no-fly-travel-ideas-2023?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other)



The article also mentions an edible fungi book which we were involved with, in a copy-editing capacity. We'll let you know when that is out.

#### WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

ZOOM PRESENTATION 'WILD ESSEX, THIS YEAR AND NEXT'

If you missed it, catch up now using this link which will be available for another few weeks.

[https://1drv.ms/v/s!ArJb8tGtNUkTIKQDT1oN5BOM\\_xWQZg?e=PsGOf5](https://1drv.ms/v/s!ArJb8tGtNUkTIKQDT1oN5BOM_xWQZg?e=PsGOf5)

+++



### Welcome....

This month's newsletter is primarily a list of events we have planned for 2023...we've walks of varying lengths around Wivenhoe, and others in nearby towns and villages (where possible easily accessible by public transport, being conscious of our carbon footprint), as well as continuing our winter series of free zoom sessions. Have a couple of charity events in the pipeline too. More info will appear in subsequent newsletters, but feel free to get in touch now to book anything or get more info. In addition, we may well throw in a few last-minute local walks which we will advertise on Whatsapp (do let me know if you'd like to join this friendly group of nature-lovers 😊) and Facebook. Places are usually limited to 12, so that everyone can see what is going on and feel involved.

### JANUARY

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> 11 – 12 noon £5 per person

TREE IDENTIFICATION FROM WINTER BARK AND BUDS.

How many do you know? Join us on King George's Field, Wivenhoe to find out! Local pubs within easy reach if anyone fancies post-walk drink/lunch 😊

### FEBRUARY

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 7pm ZOOM 'GARDENING WITH WILDLIFE IN MIND'.  
Join us using the following link

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/87250073107?pwd=K1QzSTY3ZGIDRWhIblorM0ZWNFJEZz09>

Meeting ID: 872 5007 3107

Passcode: 4Dju62

\*\*\*\*\*

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> 10 - 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 will go to Essex Wildlife Trust

---

## NEW YEAR'S DAY WILDFLOWER HUNT

Thanks to all who joined us for this annual event. This year between us we spotted 23 species. See here for our blog. [#WildEssex New Year Plant Hunt 2023 | Chris Gibson Wildlife](#) We sent the results in to the BSBI for their data base. Always good to be part of a 'bigger project'.

---

## NATURE NOTES

Thanks to everyone who has sent in observations and photos this month.

This 'moonbow' was very impressive!



Like a rainbow, though the effect produced by moonlight rather than direct sunlight.

+++



Remember the frosty weather?...I was very taken with this depiction of an angel from Brighton. The power of natural phenomena to enhance a man-made object.

+++

Birds are moving into gardens and nature reserves for shelter and food – a keen birdwatcher keeps in touch with us and tells us he saw 42 species in one session in Fingringhoe. The reserve there is well worth a visit.

[Fingringhoe Wick Nature Discovery Park | Essex Wildlife Trust \(essexwt.org.uk\)](#)

Another EWT site, Wrabness Nature Reserve also warrants an exploration. Grateful to a regular there for her observations of 'two snoozing Black-headed Gulls, a Common Gull, an Oystercatcher, two Dunlin and several Redshank, all within the same binocular-width, and all lit by the setting sun'. We are planning two Wild Essex visits there this year – see opposite for details. [Wrabness Nature Reserve | Essex Wildlife Trust \(essexwt.org.uk\)](#)

## MARCH

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 7pm ZOOM 'HISTORY OF ESSEX WOODLANDS'  
[See February newsletter for link](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> 10.30 – 12.30 £10 per person  
BIRDS AND ESTUARY WALK – MISTLEY WALLS  
See how many species we can spot. And why not join us for a pub lunch afterwards?

## APRIL

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> 10– 12 noon £10 per person  
BLUEBELL WALK – WIVENHOE WOODS  
Come and see the stunning display of bluebells in our lovely woodlands and learn about their ecology

## MAY

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> 11.30 – 4 £20 per person  
WRABNESS HALF-DAY EXPLORATION  
Sample some of the delights of this village – East Grove, House for Essex, Sand Martins, EWT Nature Reserve and much more! Hoping for less rain this year!

## JUNE

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> HOCKLEY WOODS. Largest continuous block of ancient woodlands in East Anglia. Famous for Heath Fritillary Butterflies, at their peak at this time, and whole range of other insects and flowers. Half day £20 per person. Meet at lunchtime and spend the afternoon with us.

\*\*\*\*\*

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> SUTTON AND UPPER HOLLESLEY HEATHS AND NIGHTJARS  
Details TBC

\*\*\*\*\*

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> 9am – 11am Midsummer Moths event (**PROVISIONAL**)  
[See 3<sup>rd</sup> June above. Book directly with the garden](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> SUMMER SOCIAL AND STAG NIGHT, WIVENHOE KGV  
To complement our 'Winter Trees' session, come and learn how to ID trees in summer, and see the interesting plants growing on KGV in the unmown areas. As dusk falls, stay for Stag Beetles and Bats. Bring chairs and refreshments and we will make a night of it. 😊  
From 8pm. £5 per person

## JULY

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Evening GREAT BENTLEY GREEN  
Details TBC

\*\*\*\*\*

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> Insect Foray – LOWER LODGE, WIVENHOE £10 per person  
Details TBC

\*\*\*\*\*

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> CHARITY PICNIC WALK– WRABNESS STOUR WOOD  
Butterflies and other insects in famous woodland setting. Meet at Wrabness Rail Station. All profits to Buglife. Half day event – bring your lunch!  
Details TBC

---

## IN THE NEWS

THOR THE WALRUS Well done Scarborough Council for calling off the New Year's fireworks so as not to disturb their special visitor. Good sense prevailed!  
[https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/dec/31/walrus-sighting-draws-crowds-to-scarborough-on-new-years-eve?CMP=Share\\_AndroidApp\\_Other](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/dec/31/walrus-sighting-draws-crowds-to-scarborough-on-new-years-eve?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other)

+++

ICE PANCAKES. Amazing!  
['Ice pancakes' form on freezing Glasgow river - BBC News](#)

---

## 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.

---

## COMPETITION RESULTS

Thanks to everyone who entered our competition last month. Answers 1) Cormorant 2) Heron 3) Swallowtail Butterfly 4) Fox 5) Egret 6) Bee-fly.

---

## NEWS FROM COLL

Many of you will know Greg and Sarah Smith from Wivenhoe who for the past few years have been happily ensconced on Coll, a wonderfully remote island in the Inner Hebrides, leading wildlife tours and recording the wonders of nature to be found there.

They have an interesting website which is definitely worth a look. If you are dreaming of summer, warmth and flowers, take a look at this.. [The Wild Orchids of Coll \(Part 1\) | Wildsmiths](#)

There is a Part 2 too!

## AUGUST

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Evening WRABNESS NATURE RESERVE £10 per person  
Details TBC

\*\*\*\*\*

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Evening. UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX. Enjoy a walk in this beautiful park before sunset, then watch bats over the lakes.  
Details TBC

## SEPTEMBER

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> BRIGHTLINGSEA. Walk and chips! Details TBC

## OCTOBER

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> SALTMARSH PLANTS, WIVENHOE 'First fruits of autumn' + spot of birdwatching  
Details TBC

## NOVEMBER

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> FUNGI AT THE UNIVERSITY  
Details TBC

\*\*\*\*\*

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> WALTON ON THE NAZE – fossils, geology, birds, plants, the lot! Details TBC

Of course, we reserve the right to cancel/amend any of the above should the need arise, eg due to ill health, severe weather etc. Hope to see you on some of the above events. Also just to say that as always should you no longer wish to receive these emails, please just drop me a line and I'll sort it.

Special thanks this time to Val Appleyard, Jenny Coumbe, Paul Peak, Greg & Sarah Smith and Alex Ward

---

## CONTACT US:-

---

Email  
[chrismothman@btinternet.com](mailto:chrismothman@btinternet.com)  
[jmgibson1959@btinternet.com](mailto:jmgibson1959@btinternet.com)

Whatsapp  
07503240387

Phone  
07887351596  
or  
07503240387

Twitter  
#chrismothman1

Facebook  
Wild Essex -Bringing  
Nature to You

---