

Wild Essex

may 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 for lots of shared photos and info about exclusive events. Just contact me and I will add you to the group ©

EVENTS FOR 2023

JUNE

3rd Beth Chattos Moths
11th Manningtree Earth Festival
15th Hockley Woods Butterflies
19th Sutton and Hollesley Heath
28th Summer Social and Stag Night

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Saturday 3rd 9am – 11am Marvellous Moths! - Beth Chatto's Plants & Gardens £25 per person Book directly with the garden.

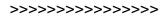


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MANNINGTREE EARTH FESTIVAL
Sun 11th 12 noon – 6 pm
The Manningtree Earth Festival |
Entertain, Inspire, Educate, &
Empower

Lots of interest at this FREE festival in nearby Manningtree. We will be leading some 'Wildlife Wanderings' events. Come and join us, bookings will be taken for walks from the Water Zone at 1, 2, 3 or 4pm.







Bluebells East Grove, Wrabness

Welcome....

.....to our newsletter for May

A shorter-than-usual newsletter this month as we have been on an exciting train holiday visiting Chris' family in Germany and visiting other parts of Europe. A relaxing break with interesting wildlife (see spider pic below!)

Firstly we would love to shout out for this brilliant new initiative in Wivenhoe....



which is for anyone in our local community who wants to offer or request (for free) any of the following:

Plants
 Seeds
 Tools (either to borrow or keep)
 Advice

This newsletter comes out too late to mention their launch on 21st May, (hope it went well guys!) but we will be very happy to keep you up-to-date with their events in our newsletter. In the meantime why not check out their Facebook page 'Wivenhoe Plant and Seed Share' (5) Wivenhoe Plant & Seed Share | Facebook

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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).



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Monday 19th SUTTON AND UPPER HOLLESLEY HEATHS AND NIGHTJARS

Own transport and packed meal(s) required. Three options for the day....choose between...

a) meet after lunch at Sutton Heath for an afternoon walk around the Suffolk Sandlings, maybe including Shingle Street. Looking for flowers, insects and heathland birds. Stay on for an evening listening for Nightjars £30 Or b): just come along for the afternoon £20 Or c): just for the evening £10.

Full details will be supplied to those who book.



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Wednesday 28th 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 wild 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. (3)

From 8pm. FREE EVENT, but please book your place.

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>. Also, if you should be fortunate enough to find a toad, record it here Toad Watch | Essex Wildlife Trust (essexwt.org.uk)

Also, we'd be interested to hear of your sightings of the Holly Blue Butterfly. Have you seen any/many this year? We've heard of a large number being spotted in a Wivenhoe garden (a very wildlife-friendly one I might add!). These creatures need both Holly and Ivy plants at different times of the year, so if your garden has these then you stand a good chance of having these beauties in your garden. Let us know!





NATURE NOTES

We are grateful to everyone who has taken the time to get in touch with photos and comments this month, sorry if we have not included you this time.

FLOWERS



Hedgerow Crane's-bill - hanging on in Wivenhoe, before the mowers get it!



Meadow Saxifrage - safe in a Suffolk garden that has had this wonderful meadow for five decades!

INVERTEBRATES



So where's the invertebrate? The Oak Apple Gall is caused by a microscopic wasp. Each gall contains numerous larvae



Greater Thorn-tipped Longhorn
Beetle



Neon-striped Tortoise Beetle

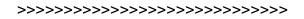


Large Red Damselfly



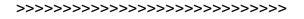
WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

Sadly not much, at least with WildEssex. Forecast of rain stopped play for our Wrabness Adventure. Everything crossed for better weather next year. Third time lucky!!



WHATSAPP GROUP GETTOGETHER

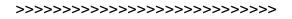
Another fun (though eye-wateringly early!) meet-up for our group. This time a dawn chorus in Wivenhoe. We saw/heard 39 species.
#WildEssex: Dawn Chorus along the Wivenhoe Trail | Chris Gibson Wildlife



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.

This month he has taken part in the Pint Of Science event held in Colchester.



TRANSITION TOWN

Find out more about what you can do to help the environment locally by contacting Diane at transwiv@gmail.com to receive her regular newsletter.

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.



Rose Chafer



Ladybird Spider! Fantastic beastie discovered on a Bavarian hillside

BIRDS

Lots of bird-sightings recorded this month, including, Whitethroats, Cetti's Warblers, Wood Warblers, Green Woodpeckers, Nightingales, and Buzzards. Also a dear friend and I spotted the 'leucistic' Oystercatcher along the estuary early in the month. Too far away to get a photo though. It isn't a complete albino, having some pigmentation including in its beak, and I feel rather smug as Chris has yet to see it!

REPTILES



Lovely to see this Slow Worm out for a slither. On his hols in France.

BIRD OF THE MONTH



Nightingale Luscinia megarhynchos

We are lucky here in Wivenhoe to have these beautiful and mellifluous birds visiting us each summer. They arrive in April and sing until June, before leaving our shores for the long journey back to Africa in July and August. However, as is sadly so common, due to loss of their habitat these birds are becoming rarer.

TICKS

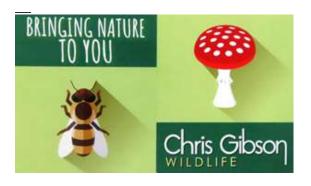
Time for our annual mention of ticks. They are frequently found in grassy areas and it's easy to bring one home with you accidentally. The Scouts website has lots of useful info and advice. Ticks - advice on protection, prevention and removal | Scouts

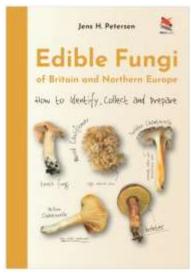
AND FINALLY ...

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) - Naturetrek</u>







Two books we have had fun helping to copy-edit and proof-read. Available in a good Bookshop near you! No bookshelf is complete without them.

PLEASE KEEP SENDING US YOUR PHOTOS AND NATURE NOTES!

Special thanks this time to Val Appleyard, Helen Chambers (and mum and dad!), Jean Gordon, David Green, George McKissock, Sue Minta, Paul Peak and Derek Tumber.

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Wild Essex -Bringing Nature to
You



Beth Chatto's Dry Garden