



Wild Essex

november nature news



Wild Essex Diary

For more info or to book a place on any walk, email me at jmgibson1959@btinternet.com or text 07503240387.

Let me know if you would like to keep in touch via our NEW Whatsapp group.

DECEMBER

Sunday 11th 7pm

Free Zoom presentation by Chris 'WILD ESSEX, THIS YEAR & NEXT'. A chance to revisit any walks you joined us on this year, or if you haven't been along with us yet, to give you a taste of what we get up to!

Join us using this link
<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/82541385697?pwd=cGh4Q1R1RVU3eVkrNGpjKzVqVW5Ldz09>

Meeting ID: 825 4138 5697
Passcode: xN3EU0

JANUARY 2023

Sunday 1st 2 - 3 pm

NEW YEAR PLANT HUNT

Come along on our **Free walk** to help us search for the wildflowers that are in bloom on this day. Results will be fed into the Botanical Society of the British Isles' database. Meet at Wivenhoe Jetty. Booking essential please!

[New Year Plant Hunt 2023 – Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland \(bsbi.org\)](https://www.bsbi.org/)

Monday 30th 11am - 12noon

TREE IDENTIFICATION FROM WINTER BARK AND BUDS.

How many do you know? Join us on King George's Field, Wivenhoe to find out! £5 per person.

Local pubs within very easy reach if anyone fancies a post-walk drink? Or lunch!



Friendly garden visitor. No prizes for guessing what it is!

Welcome....

.....to our November edition of Nature News!

So another month has passed, the end of the year fast approaching. The state of the planet has been in the forefront of many people's mind this month, with the COP convention on climate change being in the news. Wouldn't it be wonderful if some long lasting good came out of this event – but we remain sceptical. - what devastating damage human beings continue to do to this 'vast rondure spinning in space'!*. We hope that in a very small way our walks and talks help to enthuse others about the wonders and fragility of nature and the importance of looking after it. If you have (or haven't yet) been to any of our events, perhaps you would like to join us on our little 'retrospective' of some of our nature-outings this year, on Sunday 11th December, from the comfort of your sofa. Our zoom presentation 'WILD ESSEX, THIS YEAR AND NEXT' begins at 7pm sharp. See top left for the link.

More 'Zunday zooms' are planned over the winter, watch this space next month for more info. (If you missed 'THE MAGIC OF MUSHROOMS' and would like to see it, the link to the recording is on page 2).

* Walt Whitman 'Leaves of Grass'



Gorgeous spider web poetically described by a friend - 'like our own sparkling festive decoration on a misty morning'. And a pic of the wee beastie who makes these works of natural art – Aranaeus diadematus, the *Garden Spider*.

Lots of varied events are planned for 2023! Including a Charity picnic, Bluebell walk, evening walks, birdwatching at Mistley Walls with pub lunch, plus a possible 'three day event' somewhere in Essex. We will keep you posted.

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

Zoom presentation 'THE MAGIC OF MUSHROOMS'. If you missed it, catch up now using this link which will be available for another week or so.

https://1drv.ms/v/s!ArJb8tGtNUkTlJ4UtWcpKxp56rZV_w?e=hwEkkR

WALTON ON THE NAZE walk November 18th

As always a varied and enjoyable exploration of this interesting place. Lasting 4 hours, we had ample chance to search for fossils and shells on the beach, and to explore the nature reserve and grassy areas atop the eroding cliffs. The geology is of special importance (the Naze itself is an SSSI). See our blog for a photo report of the day.

[#WildEssexWalks: The Naze and Walton Backwaters | Chris Gibson Wildlife](#)



TALKS Chris has a large repertoire of fully illustrated presentations, all suitable for giving to clubs, groups etc. [Talks | Chris Gibson Wildlife](#) Do get in touch if you would like more details.

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.

RECENT EVENTS

Amble with a walking group who loved our estuary and all the life it sustains.

Bird walk along the trail with two visitors to Wivenhoe.



Devil's Coach-horse Beetle. Thanks to everyone who has got in touch to say they have seen one of these critters. A kind of Rove Beetle, they are pretty magnificent when they stick their tails up in a threatening pose. Often out at night catching their prey, they also can be readily spotted during the daytime.

CITIZEN SCIENCE – WILDFLOWER HUNT NEW YEAR'S DAY

Join us for a spot of Citizen Science and come along on 1st Jan. See top left Page 1 for full details!

GARDENING WITH WILDLIFE IN MIND

The message this month – remember our feathered friends! Food and water are particularly important at this time of year, and don't forget to keep the feeders scrupulously clean and food stations away from where cats may be hiding. Birds have had a particularly tough time this year – drought, lack of insects to feed on, not to mention avian flu.



Blackbird posing for the NatureSpy Trailcam in a wildlife-friendly garden in Clacton and **Waxwing** (note the pink wax on its wing)

HONEYGUIDE HOLIDAYS

Chris has regularly been a leader on these, thoroughly recommended, wildlife holidays for the past 30 years. Next year the following trips are up for grabs (not necessarily with our Chris included though!)

[Morocco](#) 14-21 March 2023.

[Extremadura](#) 14-22 March 2023.

[Crete](#) 11-19 April 2023.

[South of Salamanca](#) 3-11 May 2023.

[Corsica](#) 16 — 23 May 2023.

[Picos de Europa](#) 14-21 June 2023

FOR MORE INFO CLICK ON THE INDIVIDUAL LINKS OR CONTACT

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NATURE NOTES

We enjoyed hearing about our friends' adventures in New Zealand – wonderful birdlife including shearwaters and petrels, plus dolphins and seals. And good to discover that there were lots of fungi to be found recently at Fingringhoe Wick.



Waxcap, Turkey tail and Parasol fungi at Fingringhoe

IN THE NEWS

We loved this heartwarming story of an OWL LOST AT SEA. [Attacked owl rescued by fishing crew 100 miles out to sea - BBC News](#)

And thanks to our friend for often sending us interesting articles from the media. Will aim to share as many as we can. This one on 'BRITAIN'S TOP TREES' www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-surrey-63510326

TALES OF A TOWN GARDEN...first in a new series by Emily

In January 2022, my husband and I decided to move back to Essex from London to be close to family, and were lucky enough to find a house in Clacton with a large, long and wild garden! Our previous home had been an apartment with a terrace where I discovered an interest in plants and was able to feed local birds and squirrels, but I longed to have a garden of my own. Our new outdoor space certainly needed some love and care, not having been tended for some time, and we are setting about making improvements; cutting back some of the larger bramble bushes to be able to put in some flower beds (adding ornamental cabbages, violas and cyclamens) for colour and to attract bees and butterflies.

Large number of birds visit us daily including a flock of 12-15 collared doves; blackbirds, starlings, magpies, crows, blue tits, great tits, robins and sparrows. We put up a squirrel feeder on the newly named 'squirrel tree' and about a month ago installed a hedgehog house which now has a resident. We regularly see a family of 5 - 6 hedgehogs who squeeze under the fence from next door's garden where they live under the shed.

I work from home so being able to watch the constant goings on in the garden has helped my mental health and I am now able to enjoy being a beginner gardener so improving my physical health as well.



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.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

If you would to join our WILD ESSEX Whatsapp group please just send me your phone number. Will be a great way to share photos/stories etc and details of last-minute walks we could be arranging when the wildlife and weather look set fair 😊

AND FINALLY...



Some bright and beautiful wildflowers from New Zealand – to brighten your November day 😊

PLEASE KEEP SENDING US YOUR PHOTOS AND NATURE NOTES!

Special thanks this time to Val Appleyard, Cathy Burns, Ros Christian, David Green, George McKissock, Sue Minta and Emily Poyser-Beezley

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Wild Essex -Bringing
Nature to You

