

Wild Essex



february 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.

If WhatsApp is your thing you may like to join our group for lots of interesting photos and lively discussion. Just let me know and I will add you.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS -

<u>2024</u>

FRIDAY MARCH 15TH 10am-12 noon £10 per person

SIGNS OF SPRING – FROM **ALRESFORD OLD CHURCH TO THE ESTUARY AND BACK**

See what's springing up!



'ZUNDAY ZOOM'

THE MAKING OF A FIELD GUIDE

SUNDAY 3rd MARCH 7pm



Welcome....to our February newsletter

After what seemed a very long January, February went in a flash and is now nearly over! It has been lovely getting out (mud permitting) to see what signs of spring we could find. This will be the theme of our walk in March – taking in the beautiful ruined church at Alresford, then walking down to the estuary, looking for spring flowerings and any birds that may be on the water too. Hope you can join us. Book early to avoid disappointment!

Please send us your photos and nature observations for our March edition.



The blood, sweat and tears involved in co-authoring a wildflower guide! To join just follow the link below...

https://us05web.zoom.us/i/822934999 97?pwd=B9ojEXXkdAiwIsY0iifQrHa1y mjFYA.1

Meeting ID: 822 9349 9997 Passcode: 0FkXDn

If you missed the February presentation (The Wild Side of Beth Chatto's Garden), the link is below and available for a short time:

https://1drv.ms/f/s!ArJb8tGtNUkTkoUihAK RH1HJEBR5IQ?e=bLQVLh

Scarlet Elfcup fungus at Cockaynes...stunning display there this year!

For more photos visit Fungi – the third Kingdom | Chris Gibson Wildlife

LOOKING AHEAD:-

CHANGE OF PLAN!

Thursday 25th April 10 am–12 noon £10 per person

Due to a printers' error Chris' book 'British and Irish Wildflowers and Plants' is having to be reprinted and so will not be available for the walk we had planned on Wivenhoe's Barrier marsh.

So instead April's walk will be to **COCKAYNE'S RESERVE** to see it at its best, in Spring.

CITIZEN SCIENCE

If you are interested in helping our local wildlife trust in their surveying projects, eg for owls, butterflies, river creatures or much more, do get in touch with them. It is so important that records are kept to monitor declines (or otherwise!) in certain species to help focus conservation efforts.

Essex Wildlife Trust Biological Records Centre (essexwtrecords.org.uk)

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

WIVENHOE WOODS IN WINTER – TREES & BIRDS.

<u>#WildEssexWalks – Wivenhoe Woods</u> in Winter | 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> Subjects include 'Gardening with Wildlife in Mind'; 'The Wild side of Beth Chattos'; plus many others on the coast, botany, invertebrates etc. Do get in touch if you would like more details.

NEW YEAR'S DAY PLANT HUNT

The results are in!! A nicely brief write-up of the winners and losers of this year's event from BSBI <u>New Year Plant Hunt results are here (mailchi.mp)</u>

DEDHAM VALE'S DARK SKIES CAMPAIGN

We have recently been contacted by one of the organizers of this campaign and are pleased to include their promotional leaflet this month. As it explains.. 'As well as reducing climate emissions, reducing light pollution reduces disruption to our natural environment.'

Dedham Vale -Defend Our Dark Skie

NATURE NOTES

Thanks to everyone for your contributions this month.



Cheeky squirrel helping himself... love 'em or hate 'em you've got to admit they are rather cute!





Mr & Mrs Frog and a beautiful Jay, all enjoying the sunshine!

It is always good to know what is going on in your gardens. On 5^{th} Feb we

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. were told of a Comma butterfly enjoying the benefits of a wildlife-friendly garden...the first butterfly we had heard of for the year! That garden also has bees and the gardener's friends, ladybirds. If you are interested in planting with wildlife in mind check out Beth Chatto's website where they now have a 'pollinator plant menu' <u>Year-round pollinator plant menu</u> (bethchatto.co.uk)





TRANSITION TOWN WIVENHOE

For ideas about how you can help your local community, as well as hopefully the planet, get in touch with <u>transwiv@gmail.com</u> to receive their regular newsletter.

FUTURE EVENTS

Please let us know if you have any ideas of places you would like to visit on a WildEssex walk, or ideas for future free zoom sessions. We were wondering about doing a quiz at sometime...anyone interested?





Flowers that bloom in the spring, tra la - Hellebores in a local garden and Gorse near the sailing club

WIVENHOE WILDLIFE GARDEN

See what has been happening this month in your local wildlife garden. Contact <u>transwiv@gmail.com</u> to find out you can become involved.



Daffodils

Frogspawn

OLD KNOBBLEY

Some of you may be familiar with this amazing tree in Mistley – on a walk in that area with friends recently we came across an interview taking place between Oliver from World Radio Gardening and the author of a lovely children's book about this local celebrity tree. See the link for an article and photos (whoever is that person in the background \bigcirc ?). <u>Great Tree</u> <u>Beauties 2: Old Knobbley in Mistley – World Radio Gardening</u>

A date for your diaries – we will be organizing a walk there on Thurs $18^{\mbox{th}}$ July.

AND FINALLY.....

DUCKS!!! Courtesy of the London Wildlife Trust, a useful duck-ID

guide. You never know when it may come in useful

Duck spotter sheet.jpg (595×842) (wildlondon.org.uk)

PLEASE KEEP SENDING US YOUR PHOTOS AND NATURE NOTES!

Special thanks this time to Val Appleyard, Helen Chambers, Sue Minta, Derek and Maryline Tumber

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