

# Wild Essex



## march 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 your telephone number and I will add you.

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS -

<u>2024</u>

#### **CHANGE OF PLAN!**

THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 10 am-12 noon £10 per person

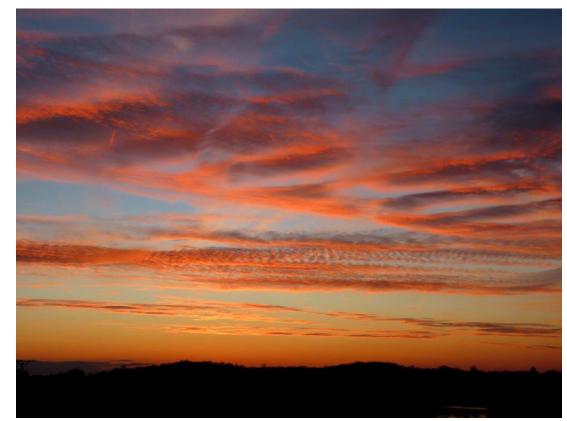
Due to a printers' error Chris' book 'British and Irish Wildflowers and Plants' is having to be reprinted and so will not be available for the walk we had planned on Wivenhoe's Barrier marsh.

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

Meet at 9.45 in Wivenhoe for a round walk, returning by 12.15. Some of the proceeds will be donated to Essex Wildlife Trust.

Optional drink in a local hostelry afterwards?

**BETH CHATTO'S GARDEN** 'Meet the Naturalist'



Sunsets from our flat have been few and far-between so far this year - this was a beaut!

#### Welcome....

#### .....to our March newsletter

Another month has flown, and slowly but surely signs of spring are all around. Hope you can join us on some of our 'walks of discovery' this month - see left for more details.



#### FRIDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL11am – 1pm

Join Chris for the first of his FREE 2hour walks around Beth Chatto's Garden (Elmstead Market). Meet up with him at anytime between 11 and 1 in the garden and stay with him for as long as you like.

(Please note entrance fee to the garden still applies). No need to book.

#### 'ZUNDAY ZOOM'

Thank you to all you lovely people who turned up regularly to see what Chris had to say each month. We hope to resume in the autumn/winter for another random selection of topics!

A favourite of mine, white Bryony. If you have this in your garden look out for the rare Bryony Bee - a relatively new arrival to UK.





For more photos visit Innerscapes 2 | Chris Gibson Wildlife

If you missed the March presentation (The Making of a Field Guide), the link is below and available for a short time:

https://1drv.ms/v/s!ArJb8tGtNUkTldNSm3f S1x3UuE\_RrA?e=9Zft5p

LOOKING AHEAD:-

#### WEEKEND OF WILDLIFE!

SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 10am – 12 noon £10 per person

BLUEBELL WALK – WIVENHOE WOODS Come and see the stunning display of bluebells and other woodland flora, and learn about their ecology.



SUNDAY  $5^{TH}$  MAY Start time TBC (prob around 4.30 am) for a couple of hours or so. Only a few spaces left.

DAWN CHORUS from Wivenhoe Station



One of our CHARITY EVENTS....all proceeds to Buglife <u>Buglife | Help</u> <u>Buglife save the planet</u> Give what you can.

#### **CITIZEN SCIENCE**

#### DEDHAM VALE'S DARK SKIES CAMPAIGN

Dark Sky Fair | Dedham Vale Society

If you are interested in the skies, planets, light pollution, nocturnal wildlife or any other related topic why not go along to the free 'Discover the Night' event on 7<sup>th</sup> April in Boxted. See above link for full info. There'll be lots going on including a talk by Chris (billed as 'The Famous Mothman!' (2))

#### NATURE NOTES

Thanks to everyone for your contributions this month. Starting with a continental theme....



Ciao! Rather impressive Yellow-legged Gull enjoying the sights of the Colosseum



Spring is a-springing and bees rejoicing in these beautiful crocuses in a wildlife-friendly gardens in both sunny Bavaria (left) and closer to home (below)



#### **'BUTTERFLY SEEKERS'**

Why not become a 'Butterfly Seeker' and help our Wildlife Trust record these precious creatures? Just download the app.

Become a Butterfly Seeker 🔛 (mailchi.mp)





Spring colours to enjoy - Primrose and Comma butterfly

#### WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

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

<u>#WildEssexWalks: Signs of Spring</u> around Alresford | 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.

#### **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.

#### **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**

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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?



A brilliant way to attract our feathered friends to the garden – apple slices on branches. This garden has many visitors including Blackcaps, Blue Tits and Blackbirds.

#### INTERESTING PODCAST

For plant fans, this is a must listen! - fascinating stuff.

Start the Week - Mysterious Plants - BBC Sounds

#### WIVENHOE WILDLIFE GARDEN

See what has been happening this month in your local wildlife garden. If you would like to join in with the next Wildlife Garden working party, please email Stephen Novy <u>stephennovy@outlook.com.</u>





AND FINALLY..... MODERN MEDICINES FROM PLANTS

Modern



This is a must-read book for anyone interested in plants and drugs! And the fascinating links between the two. Available at all good bookshops and online. See here for Chris' review... BOOK REVIEW Modern medicines from plants: Botanical histories of some of modern medicine's most important drugs | Chris Gibson Wildlife



## medicines from plants



Botanical histories of some of modern medicine's most important drugs

Editor: Henry Oakeley Royal College of Physicians London

#### PLEASE KEEP SENDING US YOUR PHOTOS AND NATURE NOTES!

Special thanks this time to Val Appleyard, Wendy Constance, Jo Gibson-Schneider, David Green, Nick Green, Lesley Mackie and Sue Minta

### CONTACT US:-

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