

Wild Essex

may nature news



Wild Essex Diary

For more info or to book a place on any walk, please email me at <u>imgibson1959@btinternet.com</u> or text 07503240387.

To join our lively WhatsApp group, just let me know your mobile number.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS -

THURSDAY 13TH JUNE 2–4pm £10 per person – just a couple of spaces left!

HEATH FRITILLARY BUTTERFLIES AND MORE – HOCKLEY WOODS

Visit the largest area of contiguous ancient woods in Eastern England to find this rare butterfly – and more.



MONDAY 24TH JUNE from 8pm

SUMMER SOCIAL AND STAG NIGHT, WIVENHOE KGV

Enjoy a relaxed evening with other nature fans. We will arrange a couple of short walks then as dusk falls be on the lookout for Stag Beetles and Bats.

Bring chairs and refreshments and we will make a night of it.

FREE but BOOKING ESSENTIAL PLEASE – in case we have to cancel due to bad weather!

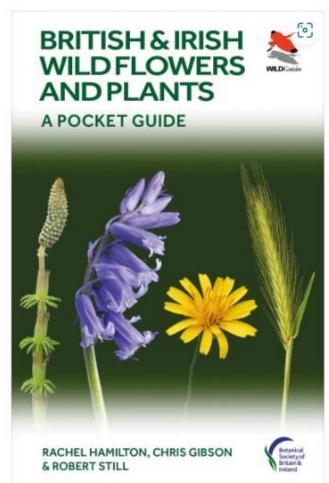


Stunning planting at Beth Chatto's garden in early May

Welcome....

.....to our May newsletter

Things are certainly hotting up and the insects are appearing accordingly. Lots of bird sightings recorded this month too, including many of those most beautiful songsters Nightingales, as well as Blackcaps and Goldfinches. Swifts are starting to arrive – hearing their screeching is indeed a thrill and something we look forward to each Spring. Mammals are making appearances – a Wood Mouse on a bird feeder, plus fox cubs, and hedgehogs galore!



We'd hoped to have been able to announce the arrival of 'the book' – but it is not quite here yet.

We are expecting advance orders to be fulfilled this coming week and to receive a stock soon. A truly original piece of work, not only full of superb photos and info, but also a step-by-step guide to how to ID many wild plants. We will have some (signed

by CG if required) copies to sell at the discounted price of £10 (RRP £12.99) We are taking orders. (Sorry will only be able to deliver in person — we'll not be able to post copies out). Also available in a good book shop near you and on-line of course.



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MEET THE NATURALIST FRIDAY 21st JUNE 11am – 1pm

Chris will be leading (weather permitting) some FREE wildlife walks around Beth Chatto's Garden (Elmstead Market) on the above date.

(Please note entrance fee to the garden still applies). No need to book. Meet at 11.00 or 12.00 outside the Visitor Information Centre.

'MARVELLOUS MOTHS'

SATURDAY 22ND JUNE AND 20TH
JULY 9am – 11am
Marvellous Moths! - Beth Chatto's
Plants & Gardens (June)

Marvellous Moths! - Beth Chatto's Plants & Gardens (July)
Come and explore the insect life in this wonderful garden and see our moth trap (set overnight) opened. Have the first hour in the garden to ourselves!

£25 per person Book directly with the garden



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LOOKING AHEAD:-

MONDAY 8TH JULY EVENING from 6.30

£10 per person

WRABNESS

Round walk from Wrabness Railway station, taking in East Grove, Field Margins and Ancient Woodland

NATURE NOTES

Thanks to everyone for your contributions this month, sorry we haven't been able to include all your photos...







Three critters you may well encounter in the next few weeks - Rose Chafer beetle, Dock Bug and Wasp Beetle



Well, not everyone's cup of tea maybe but we think slugs and snails are fascinating and all part of the rich pattern of life - from this Garden Snail to pretty Banded Snails. Thank goodness fewer folk seem to be using snail pellets these days - a measurable sign of this is the gradual return of mollusc-eating Song Thrushes to our gardens and hedgerows







Aptly named Beautiful Demoiselle, plus Salsify, growing on the seawall





Two finds from our recent Antwerp trip -13-spot Ladybird and the Bee Chafer beetle. Both now occur in UK, so worth looking for!



THURSDAY 18TH JULY 2.15 – 4.15, meet at Mistley Railway station

£10 per person

OLD KNOBBLEY AND OTHER ANCIENT TREES, MISTLEY

A lovely walk taking in some historic woodland.



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CITIZEN SCIENCE

Essex Wildlife Trust Bioblitz

Let's go wildflower hunting (mailchi.mp)

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WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

BLUEBELLS OF WIVENHOE WOOD #WildEssexWalks: The Bluebells of Wivenhoe Wood | Chris Gibson Wildlife



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TALKS

Chris has a large repertoire of fully illustrated presentations, all suitable for giving to clubs, groups etc, in person or by zoom. Talks | Chris Gibson Wildlife Subjects include 'Gardening with Wildlife in Mind'; 'The Wild side of Beth Chattos'; 'Creatures of the night' plus many others on topics concerning the coast, botany, invertebrates etc. Do get in touch if you would like more details.



Gorgeous fox cubs at play!

POETRY

Our regular poet has written this beautiful piece of work, inspired by our recent Dawn Chorus charity event. Thank you Berenice!

Wivenhoe Dawn

It seems
Everyone sleeps
Apart from us
Savouring the song
With our hungry ears
And of course –
The birds

We dwell in the mist
A trail between two worlds
Wood and river
Wrens and chiff chaffs
On one side
A cuckoo on the other
Joined by oystercatchers
In a raucous rabble
All vying for attention
But not from us
In their territory not ours.

During this The greatest concert
A highlight in the interval
The nightingale
Spilling trills and frills
From the bush
Bringing our smiles

See only a few
Squinting at mallards
Shrouded in the haze
A blur of blackbird
On muddy path
But hear many
As notes abound
From song thrushes
In repetitive phrases

The sorrow
As I'm told
Volume of birdsong
Turned down each year
But the hope
For sound
Loud like before
As the mist clings
To the river bank
Before sun breaks through

By Berenice Tregenna 16.05.24







THE JOYS OF A TRAIL CAMERA.....





...you never know what'll turn up!

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.

LOCAL NATURE INITIATIVES

WIVENHOE PLANT & SEED SHARE – see their Facebook page

WIVENHOE GARDENING FOR NATURE – see their Facebook page

WIVENHOE BIODIVERSITY GROUP — contact <u>markhalladay1@outlook.com</u>

TRANSITION TOWN WIVENHOE – contact <u>transwiv@gmail.com</u>.



AND FINALLY...



Weird insect or plant? For more photos like this see <u>Innerscapes 2</u> <u>Chris Gibson Wildlife</u>

PLEASE KEEP SENDING US YOUR PHOTOS AND NATURE NOTES!

Special thanks this time to all in our Whatsapp group for their interesting posts and photos throughout the month, plus Val Appleyard, Martin Forth, Nick Green, Sue Minta, Paul Peak, Ed Thorn and Berenice Tregenna.

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