

Wild Essex

june 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.

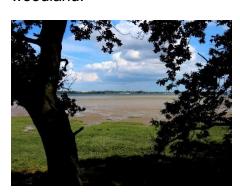
To join our lively WhatsApp group, just let me know your mobile number.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS –

MONDAY 8TH JULY EVENING from 6.30. Meet at **WRABNESS** railway station, £10 per person (minimum of 4 people for the event to take place)

Round walk from the station, taking in East Grove, field margins and ancient woodland.



THURSDAY 18TH JULY 2.15 – 4.30, meet at **MISTLEY** railway station £10 per person

'OLD KNOBBLEY' AND OTHER ANCIENT TREES

A lovely walk taking in some historic woodland. If the weather is nice optional coffee at the station garden first.





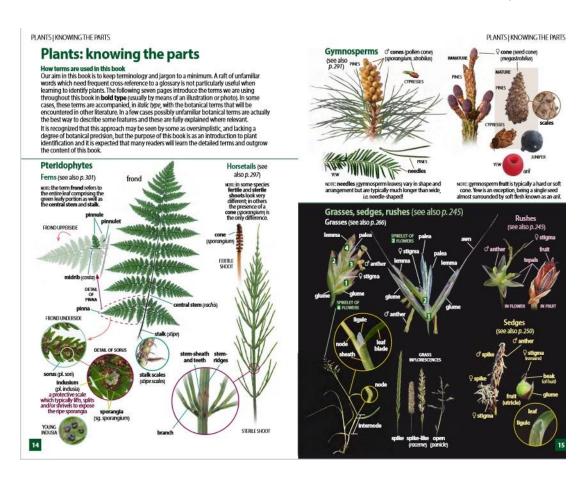
What is the collective noun for Heath Fritillary Butterflies? 'A Wonder' perhaps? Having become extinct in Essex, these butterflies were reintroduced to Hockley Woods in the late '80s and have since gone from strength to strength. And our group was able to see them in good number this month.

Welcome....

.....to our June newsletter

Well, the changeable weather patterns have continued this month — confusing for us all, and no doubt for wildlife too. What impact is it all having? Why not take part in **Butterfly Conservation's Butterfly Hunt** to help record data in UK-wide Citizen Science Project. See left hand column a couple of pages below for the link.

At last our Flower Book is in print (and we have copies to sell at a discounted price of £10 (RRP £12.99)). To whet your appetite see below for an example of one of the spreads. Get in touch if you would like a copy (we can deliver to addresses to Wivenhoe, or arrange a mutually convenient place to meet - we cannot post out copies unfortunately).



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BETH CHATTO'S GARDEN

'MEET THE NATURALIST'

FRIDAY 19th JULY 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 20TH JULY 9am – 11am

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 5TH AUGUST Evening walk at **GREAT BENTLEY GREEN** (with a chance for a social drink too).

Meet at The Plough at 6.30. (Very easy walk from the Railway Station).

An hour or so's walk looking at the flora on the Green, taking in the churchyard and village pond too. Weather permitting we will pick a few flowers and return to The Plough for a bit of botany identification using C's book.

£5 per person

NATURE NOTES

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

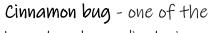


A **Bittern** enjoying the safety of RSPB Minsmere. If birds are your thing, test your knowledge with this quiz courtesy of the London Wildlife Trust <u>Bird identification quiz (typeform.com)</u>



Sand Martin
youngster in the
sandy cliff at
Wrabness Nature
Reserve. This is a
wonderful place
with lots to enjoy
including the sadly
rare song of the
Turtle Dove.







Garden Chafer beetle

harmless bugs displaying warning coloration

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 stephennovy@outlook.com.





TUESDAY 20TH AUGUST Evening walk. 'Trees and Bats'. 7pm until late.

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

Meet at 7pm for an evening walk around the grounds of the university, then as night falls sit by the lake looking for bats and other nocturnal nature. We will bring our bat detector.

The evening will end around 10pm. Bring torches, refreshments and warm clothes! Mozzie repellent useful too ©

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CITIZEN SCIENCE

Butterfly Conservation . Big Butterfly Count between 12th July – 4th August

Why not join in this huge piece of citizen science and record the butterflies you see over a quarter of an hour period on any day that you like between the above dates. See the link below for all the details.

Big Butterfly Count (butterfly-conservation.org)

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WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

HOCKLEY WOODS – HEATH FRITILLARIES AND MORE

The Wild Side of Essex: #WildEssex and Naturetrek at Hockley Woods | Chris Gibson Wildlife



BRIGHTLINGSEA EAST END WALK AND PUB LUNCH

#WildEssexWalks: Brightlingsea East End | Chris Gibson Wildlife



MARVELLOUS MOTHS - BETH CHATTO'S GARDEN









A selection of moths caught in our trap as part of the 'Marvellous Moths morning' in June. (All released unharmed). See left for details of July event at Beth

Chatto's garden. Here we have Small Elephant-hawk, Green Silver-Lines, Blotched Emerald and Buff Tip. Amazing huh?



Lovely garden find in Wivenhoe – White Admiral butterfly





Our old friends - Stag Beetles.

The male (L) looks ferocious but is harmless – those horns are just too large for them to be able to give much of a bite. The female (R) on the other hand could give a nasty nip!. We are lucky in Wivenhoe to be in one of the national hot spots for these spectacular beasties.

SUMMER SOCIAL

A lovely relaxed evening with nature-fans getting together for a couple of short walks, chat and a glass of wine! The weather was just glorious too. We were visited by a few Stag Beetles and one or two Noctule Bats trawling the skies high overhead...

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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.

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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.

LOCAL NATURE INITIATIVES

WIVENHOE PLANT & SEED SHARE see their Facebook page

WIVENHOE GARDENING FOR NATURE see their Facebook page

WIVENHOE BIODIVERSITY GROUP contact markhalladay1@outlook.com



ORCHIDS – those most mysterious of plants







Bee Orchid

Common Spotted Orchid Pyramidal Orchid

THE TENDRING SHOW - SATURDAY 13TH JULY

In 2024 our friends in PACE in Manningtree are trying to make this famous local show more sustainable. In their own words '(this year) PACE will be encouraging visitors to come on foot, by bicycle, or with a full car (4 or more persons). This is important because it reduces greenhouse gas emissions and reduces congestion on local roads. To recognise those that make an effort, we will be running a PRIZE DRAW - everyone that comes with a full car, by bike or on foot will have free entry into this Draw. There will be 8 Cash Prizes (First Prize £200), and each prize comes with a Bee Hotel (recognising the importance of pollinators) and a £20 voucher for the Manningtree Wholefood Store (recognising the importance of local shops).'



AND FINALLY.....

As many of you know Chris writes BLOGS! regular blogs on all kinds of topics – flowers, bugs, places etc. You can have a browse here Blog | Chris Gibson Wildlife | Wildlife and Nature Photographer, Essex and if you like what you see, you can sign up to receive a notification when a new one goes online.

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, especially Dave Green, Lesley Mackie, Julia Mason and Ginny Waters, plus Pippa Allerton and Val Appleyard.

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Wild Essex -Bringing

Nature to You