

Wild Essex



july nature news

Wild Essex Diary

For more info or to book a place on any walk, please email me at mgibson1959@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 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 over a pint using C's book (bring your own copy if you have one).

£5 per person



TUESDAY 20TH AUGUST

Evening walk. 'Trees and Bats'. 7pm until late.

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

Meet at 7pm at the Uni for a walk around the grounds, then as night falls we'll set up camp by the lake looking for bats and other nocturnal nature. We will bring our bat detector.





Welcome....

......to our July newsletter - a (mainly) lepidoptera special!

Firstly many thanks to Wendy for this wonderfully eye-catching piece of pro-caterpillar artwork! Often we hear 'we love butterflies, but not the caterpillars munching holes in my leaves'. The reality is we can't have one without the other, and yes so many creatures other than those fabulous bees (which we all love) are crucial pollinators, so well said Wendy!

And talking of butterflies, if you haven't yet completed a survey for Butterfly Conservation charity, you have until 4th August to get your entry in....see link for full details

Big Butterfly Count (butterfly-conservation.org)







Wall Brown

Essex Skipper

Painted Lady

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

£10 per person

BETH CHATTO'S GARDEN

'MEET THE NATURALIST'

FRIDAY 2nd AUGUST 11am – 1pm FRIDAY 16th AUGUST 11am – 1pm

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

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LOOKING AHEAD:-

THURSDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

Morning walk along **HARWICH FORESHORE** looking for plants and fossils, followed by optional (and if weather OK) trip on Harwich Ferry for afternoon at **LANDGUARD POINT**, **FELIXSTOWE**

£10 for Harwich-only portion, £15 all day Ferry extra (£5.50 each way)

Day starts at 10.30 at Harwich Halfpenny Pier

We will explore the lunch options and report back to those who book a place with us.



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CITIZEN SCIENCE

Butterfly Conservation . Big Butterfly Count between 12^{th} July -4^{th} 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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NATURE NOTES

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



Female Common Blue Damselfly tucking into a tasty cranefly for lunch







Six-spotted Burnet moth — they are out and about now on our local grasslands and are a delight to behold. Here we have the adult, caterpillar and a newly-vacated chrysalis

WIVENHOE WILDLIFE GARDEN See what has been happening this month in your local wildlife garden. Unfortunately, we found (& removed where possible) a number of plastic bottles and other litter when we visited. If you would like to join in with the next Wildlife Garden working party, please email Stephen Novy stephennovy@outlook.com.





MARVELLOUS MOTHS - BETH CHATTO'S GARDEN









A selection of moths caught in our trap as part of the 'Marvellous Moths morning' in July. (All released unharmed). Here we have Rosy Footman, Canary-shouldered Thorn, Blood-vein and Buff Arches

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

Summer evening in **WRABNESS**



#WildEssexWalks: Wrabness and Stour Wood | Chris Gibson Wildlife

OLD KNOBBLEY and other



#WildEssexWalks: Mistley Furze Hill and Old Knobbley | 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.

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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.





Mating Hornet Clearwings, Suffolk



Jersey Tiger, Wivenhoe





... and some holiday lepidoptera! **9-spotted moths** in Slovenia, and representing the butterflies a **Monarch** in California and below a group of **Green-veined Whites** congregating in Sweden, taking essential salts from the soil



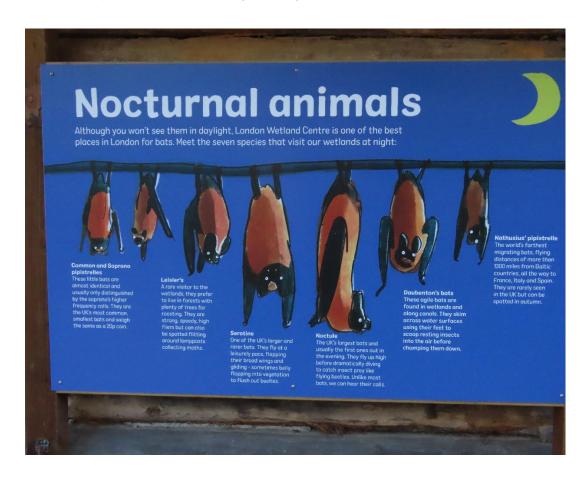
FREE BEE GUIDE



Download your free bee guide here – it's full of useful info on how to help them, identification and lots more. Courtesy of London Wildlife Trust <u>BEES WAG 2017 - Booklet AW new logo web 0.pdf (wildlondon.org.uk)</u>

AND FINALLY.....

... **Bats!** We copied this from an interpretation board at the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust Centre in Barnes recently – a fun and handy guide to the main species of bats that you may encounter.



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 Helen and Dave whose photos feature in this newsletter. Also thanks to Val Appleyard, Kirsten Broomhall, Wendy Constance, Jeff Delves, Nick Green, Ann Lunn, George McKissock, Carol Mitchell, Nel Mooy and Ginny Waters.

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