

# Wild Essex



## august 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.

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS -

THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER FULLY BOOKED

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 10am \* at Harwich Halfpenny Pier \*NB originally billed to start at 10.30





A **tick** 'questing' – i.e. reaching out to try to hang on to anyone/thing passing by in a Bristol wood! Luckily we spotted him before he spotted us. 0

### Welcome....

#### .....to our August newsletter

Just a reminder to be on the lookout for these little critters during the hot dry weather. They live almost anywhere outdoors and if they bite the results can be very unpleasant indeed. The Scout website page on them is very informative (see link below).

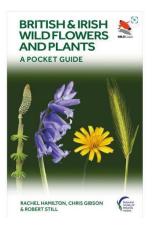
Ticks - advice on protection, prevention and removal | Scouts



#### WILD ESSEX BOTANY CLUB - FLOWER ID SESSIONS

#### FLOWER ID SESSIONS

See right for details of what we have planned for the rest of the year. We will add more dates if the idea seems popular.



Following the success of the first meeting of the 'club' we are planning some more ID-in-the-field sessions. If you are keen to hone your Flower ID skills using Chris' book (no previous experience necessary!) why not join in? Booking essential please!

Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Sept WIVENHOE WATERFRONT 2pm *Saltmarsh and coastal plants* using the book. ID session to take place on benches in front of the Royal British Legion, Wivenhoe. Max 2 hours in total. £5 per person (WEATHER DEPENDENT)

Thur 21<sup>st</sup> Nov WIVENHOE KGV 11am *Leaves and twigs* using the book. ID session to take place on benches in the Sensory Garden £5 per person (WEATHER DEPENDENT)

If popular we will do some more of these flower-based events in 2025. Let us know your thoughts/ideas 😊

#### **BETH CHATTO'S GARDEN**

'MEET THE NATURALIST'

#### FRIDAY 20th SEPT 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.

LOOKING AHEAD:-

FRIDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

## **COLCHESTER STATION TO STATION' WALK !**

Exact details to be decided but we aim to walk from Hythe to Colchester North station (or vice versa), taking in the river bank, wetlands and Roman wall which supports interesting flora. If possible we'll stop for refreshments and so this event may last more than the usual two hours. £10 per person whatever!



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#### CITIZEN SCIENCE

#### <u>Bugs Matter - Buglife</u>

Why not take part in this 'splatometer' survey, organized by one of our fave charities, Buglife.

#### NATURE NOTES

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



Insects can be just as beautiful from underneath! A Jersey Tiger Moth on a kitchen window and Peacock butterfly on Creeping Thistle



Swallowtail Moth



Migrant Hawker Dragonfly







Female Speckled Bush Cricket (note her long ovipositor), a rather unusual fly 'Superb Ant-hill Hoverfly' (its larvae live in ant-hills), and an Emperor Moth caterpillar



#### WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

Evening walk and Plant ID session (over a pint) at **GREAT BENTLEY GREEN**.





'Puffed up' Jay – probably enjoying the sensation of ants 'cleaning up' and killing his parasites. He looks happy any rate

#### UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

Evening walk looking at trees and bats



#### 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</u> <u>wildlife</u> 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.





**Elephant Hawk-moth** adult and caterpillar. The name 'elephant' isn't at all descriptive of the adult but when you see the larva you can see why – it *is* quite trunky! Thanks to everyone who has reported finding these beasties recently

#### SALLY CHANDLER GARDEN DESIGN

We are proud to count Sally as a friend and can wholeheartedly recommend her if you are thinking about redesigning your garden or need advice about planting. We wish her every success with her new venture Check out her website.

Sally Chandler Garden Design (sallychandlergardens.co.uk)



BUTTERFLY QUIZ Courtesy of our friends in London Wildlife Trust – how many do you know? Butterfly ID quiz (typeform.com)



#### AND FINALLY..... .... not for the faint hearted!

This amazing photo (plus video footage which I can send to anyone interested) was captured in an Essex garden. Here a parasitic wasp is attacking a Privet Hawk-moth caterpillar. Although the caterpillar 'got away' it has no doubt been stung by the wasp, which will have laid its eggs inside it. The eggs will hatch out, and begin by eating the caterpillar from the inside, leaving the vital organs until the end. The stuff of nightmares, but as the photographer said 'Horrible, but that's nature'.



#### 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 Cathy and Helen whose photos feature in this newsletter. Also to Jenny Coumbe, Nick Green, George McKissock, Vanessa Middleton, Sue Minta, Angie Reid and Matthew Vinogradoff

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to You