

# Wild Essex



# september 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 -

FRIDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

## 'COLCHESTER STATION TO STATION' WALK

Commencing 10.45am

Walk from Hythe Station to Colchester North Station, taking in 'The Moors' and various aspects of the Colne River. Lunch stop in Castle Park followed by plant hunt along a section of the ancient Roman Wall. Option to go straight back to Colchester North station, or to join us for a drink in The Marquis and additional walk. Event likely to last at least 3 hours. £10 per person.





Juvenile and Adult Mediterranean Gulls – similar to our familiar Black-headed gulls, though much rarer. Numbers increasing on our shores, particularly it would seem at Southend where Chris snapped these attractive birds. Note deeper red and more powerful beak than the Black-headeds and adults lack any black on wings.

## Welcome....

### .....to our September newsletter

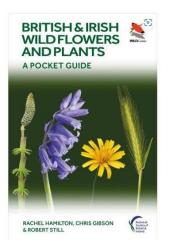
A particularly warm welcome to our new readers this month. Our circulation list is growing – do always feel free to pass on our details to anyone who you think may be interested and please keep on sending us your nature observations and photos – we are very happy to include as many as we can.

Our new 'Botany Club' has taken off well and to date we have done four sessions. Chris has navigated us through the craft of Plant ID using his book. More dates planned – see below.



#### FLOWER ID SESSIONS

See right for details of what we have planned for the rest of the year.





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

Thur 10th Oct WIVENHOE OUTSIDE THE NOTTAGE 2pm *Flowering plants and grasses* using the book. ID session to take place in the shelter near the Nottage £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)

#### NATURE NOTES

**ZOOM TALKS** 

Advanced warning that we will be hosting a series of free zoom talks again this winter – why not join us on the **first Sunday of each month** for 40 mins from 7pm to be entertained on a nature-related topic.

Programme as follows:

3rd Nov - Whats in a Name?1st Dec - Review of 20245th Jan - Creatures of the Night4th Feb - History of EssexWoodlands

We will send out links in the newsletter prior to each one.

LOOKING AHEAD:-

SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER

#### FRUITS AND FUNGI OF WIVENHOE

10am - 12 noon, £10 per person

Exact details to be decided. Will take in local cemeteries and other grasslands.



**CITIZEN SCIENCE** 

#### **Citizen Science - Buglife**

Support efforts to help our in-danger pollinators by completing a survey.

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



One for the amphibian lovers - super Common Frog





Woodland finds - Oak Marble Gall and a bracket fungus



Pair of Elephant Hawk-moth caterpillars and Silver Y Moth

#### WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

**Harwich Walk** (unfortunately the planned Felixstowe section cancelled due to lack of ferry crossing that day)



<u>#WildEssexWalks: Harwich town and</u> <u>beach | Chris Gibson Wildlife</u>

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Two **Clustered Bellflowers**. One has grown to normal height, whilst the other, photographed in Scotland, is much shorter and compact, no doubt due to the wind and temperature conditions.

'Wild Essex on Tour' # overtheborder



Our 3-day extravaganza to Felixstowe. Not as much rain as expected and lots of fun! We'll include the link to the blog in the next newsletter.

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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. <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.

#### **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.





Western Conifer Seed Bug and Willow Emerald Damselfly two creatures that are not so unusual these days, but still fairly new visitors to our shores. Beautiful additions to our insect life!

#### AND FINALLY..... .... BOOK CULL!!



We have been giving our bookshelves a thorough pruning.

To begin with, we have a number of guidebooks, photographic identification books etc – some in English and some in the native lingo, from Africa, Australia, Bulgaria, Crete, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain and various places in the UK. A small selection shown above.

If you are planning your next holiday or would just be interested in looking through some nature books from these places, let me know. We can provide further info to help you decide. ALL FREE TO A GOOD HOME!! The catch is that you would need to collect from us or meet in a mutually convenient place please. Thank you 😳 .



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#### 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 Chambers whose photo features in this newsletter. Also to Val Appleyard, Chris Burren, Leonie Henderson and Barney, Rowena Inzani, Bob Juniper, Ann Lunn and George McKissock.

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