

# Wild Essex



# january 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.

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS -

MONDAY 24th FEBRUARY 2025

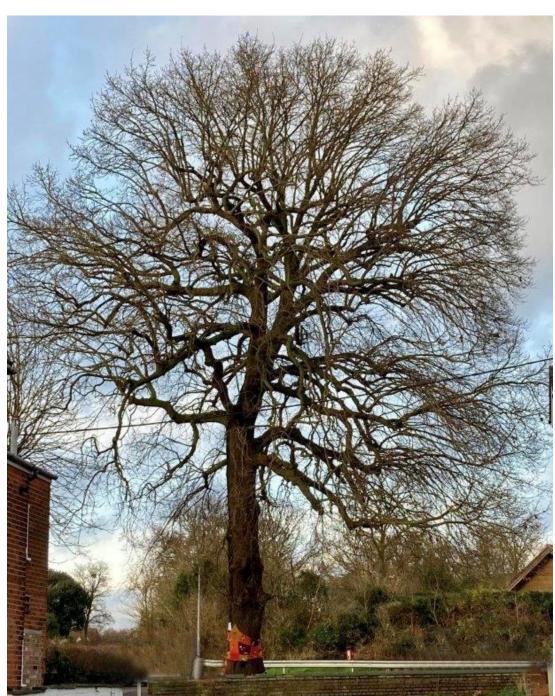
10 am -12 noon £10 per person

#### **'HUNTING THE ELF' – COCKAYNES** WOOD

Help us hunt the Elf cap – an uncommon fungus, the presence of which helped to save this area of Cockaynes from being turned into a gravel pit. Join our walk to find out about this, and lots more.



Proceeds of this walk to be donated to Essex Wildlife Trust 



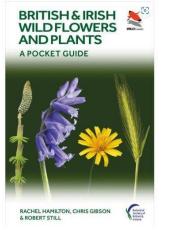
Old King George Oak Tree, Wivenhoe

Welcome.... ..to the first newsletter of the year

#### FLOWER ID SESSIONS



#### Join our Botany Club for more details



As nature lovers and residents of Wivenhoe we are sad to see that this magnificent tree, and two others nearby, have their futures hanging in the balance. The reasons are complicated and divisive.

Should the worst happen, the loss of the tree will affect our community, both now and far into the future. This oak could live for another 500 years at least, providing shade, improved air quality, carbon sink as well as its beauty in all seasons of the year. All we need to do is leave it alone!

And of course what about the wildlife – birds, insects, and quite possibly bats - which depend on this resource for their very existence?

There is currently a petition to Save The Oak. If you would like to find out more and maybe sign, please visit https://chng.it/KsVzWXt2YY

The Facebook page is Save Wivenhoe's Old King George Oak.

#### **IN OTHER NEWS – BIRD LIFE**

#### **ZOOM TALKS**

The season of free talks concludes on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February, on 'History of Essex Woodlands'

To join the presentation at 7pm use this link.

https://us05web.zoom.us/j/89240754 714?pwd=7lHTIMfkIYBJRWILDE2rqGs Foiepws.1

If you missed the live presentation of the January zoom 'Creatures of the Night' please get in touch as I have it recorded.

LOOKING AHEAD:-

THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

1pm – 3pm £10 per person

#### **BIRDS OF THE STOUR**

Meet at Manningtree Co op for a couple of hours' walk along the seawall to see what birds we can discover. Bring your binoculars. We will be in the Skinners Arms having a drink from around 12.30 if you'd like to join us there. 😊



#### **CITIZEN SCIENCE**

Get the dates in your diary 24th - 26th January for the annual RSPB Garden Birdwatch. Your results count!



Don't forget to take part in RSPB's annual Garden Birdwatch 24th - 26<sup>th</sup> January, Your results count! Big Garden Birdwatch

Habitat loss is a major issue for all wildlife. Birds have a particularly hard time, not only finding places to nest that are safe, but finding food and sustenance throughout the year. Please feed your local birds. A birding friend cuts apple slices and puts on the twigs of shrubs in his garden. Keep bird feeders clean to help stop spread of disease.

A couple of articles from the Guardian this month. The first is shocking, unfortunately the last line of the article says it all...'how much the haul is worth'. Sad that everything comes with a monetary value. https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/dec/30/police-seize-6000-wild-birds-eggs-as-raids-net-largest-haul-in-ukhistory?CMP=Share AndroidApp Other

The second article rather more cheering fortunately, we don't want it to be a solely depressing read this month!

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/jan/01/turtle-doveseuropean-shoot-ban-species-recovery?CMP=Share AndroidApp\_Other



a prize-winning photo of a Little Grebe. Well done Dave! See Essex Wildlife Trust for other amazing pictures.

#### **Big Garden Birdwatch**

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#### WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

Unfortunately our annual Wild Flower hunt walk on New Year's Day was cancelled due to dreadful weather. We did a walk on our own a couple of days previously and totted up 37 species in flower – more than ever before. Our results have been sent to BSBI to be included in their database. We have full details should you wish to check what we have discovered year on year. Continuing the bird theme – a nice link from London Wildlife Trust 3 long-billed wading birds to spot this winter | London Wildlife Trust



# TRANSITION TOWN WIVENHOE and PACE MANNINGTREE

For ideas about how you can help your local community, as well as hopefully the planet, contact transwiv@gmail.com and <u>PACE</u> <u>Manningtree</u> to receive their regular interesting newsletters.

#### 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.



Unusual Coral Fungi discovered in a Wivenhoe garden. Without using chemicals, collecting spores and microscope facilities it is nigh on impossible to identify it to species level. Very interesting find though!



Other attractive fungi found locally Crucibulum laeve Common Bird's-nest and Yellow Brain Fungus



AND FINALLY.....

#### MISTLETOE



Something with which we are all familiar, from kissing underneath it at Christmas parties  $\bigcirc$  or seeing it in trees more-or-less anywhere. If you are interested in finding out more, this (quite long) article is packed full of information, photos, distribution maps etc.

MistletoeBriggs BritishAndIrishBotany2021.pdf

#### 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 whose photo features in this newsletter. Also to Nick Green, Sue Minta and Nel Mooy. All other photos by Chris.

### CONTACT US:-

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