



COLIN'S BLOG

Friday 4th May 2018

There is something very special about the arrival of Spring and the wonders of bird song, which tends to lift your spirit, at the start of each new day!

International Dawn Chorus Day is the worldwide celebration of nature's symphony. This year there will be more opportunities than ever to join in the excitement. In the run up to the event events from all over the world and across the UK will be listed on this website, so visit us regularly to see what's planned in your area.

Celebrated on the **first Sunday of May**, the story goes that International Dawn Chorus Day began in the 1980s when broadcaster and environmentalist Chris Baines asked everyone to attend his birthday party at 4am so they could enjoy the dawn chorus with him. Since then IDCD has grown from a small event in Birmingham UK to an annual international celebration with Dawn Chorus events held as far afield as the Caribbean and Antarctica.



The Wildlife Trusts promote International Dawn Chorus Day. We think the best way to generate support for nature conservation and understanding of the importance of the natural world to human well-being, is to get people to experience the wonders of their local wildlife first-hand.

To date, over eighty countries have participated in International Dawn Chorus Day, and this year people all over the globe will once again be rising early to greet the morning sun and enjoy nature's daily miracle.

ESSEX WILDLIFE TRUST Sat, 05/05/2018 - 4:00am - 6:00am

Enjoy a walk around the **Abberton Reservoir Visitor Centre** and nature reserve listening to bird song and watching the reservoir wake up

Get up early and join our friendly leaders as we watch the reservoir and its wildlife waking up.

As a celebration of International Dawn Chorus Day, join us and experience bird song at its best and identify the songsters before returning to the Visitor Centre for a full English breakfast (vegetarian option available, please let us know at time of booking)

Places are limited so please call 01206 738172 to book your place to avoid being disappointed. **Venue location:** Abberton Reservoir Visitor Centre, Colchester, Essex C02 0EU

FINGRINGHOE WICK Sun, 06/05/2018 - 4:30am - 7:00am

Experience the amazing sound of the dawn chorus at Fingringhoe Wick with tour guide Steve of Swallow Birding. Learn how to identify the members of our "Bird Orchestra" with Lesser Whitethroat, Blackcap, Garden and Willow Warbler and not forgetting the wonderful Nightingale. Expect many more species and round the morning off with a bacon bap and hot drink back at the visitor centre. Booking is essential. Limited places available for this event. Donation requested £10 per person (includes butty and drink)

Venue location: Fingringhoe Wick Visitor Centre & Nature Reserve, Colchester, Essex, CO5 7DN Book by phone: Tel: 01206 729678

Also check out: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/events-dates-and-inspiration/events/family-chorus/>

European Union votes to ban bee-killing pesticides



The EU has expanded a ban on three neonicotinoid pesticides, now completely barring their use outside. The vote comes after the EU's food safety watchdog found the pesticides pose a risk to bees. An expert panel of representatives from the European Union's 28-member

states voted on Friday in favour of extending a ban on three neonicotinoid pesticides that researchers warned have negative impacts on bee populations.

"Member states' representatives have recently endorsed, a proposal by the European Commission to further restrict the use of three active substances ... for which a scientific review concluded that their outdoor use harms bees," the European Commission said in a statement.

The approved proposal calls for a full outdoor ban of three substances: imidacloprid which was developed by Germany's Bayer Crop Science, clothianidin created by Bayer Crop Science and Japan's Takeda Chemical Industries, as well as thiamethoxam from Switzerland's Syngenta.

"All outdoor uses will be banned and the neonicotinoids in question will only be allowed in permanent greenhouses where exposure of bees is not expected,"



Kent Police are looking for a 'Hive arsonist,' who has recently doused hives with petrol and burned 1.5 million bees to death. Bees play an important part in pollination and in our ecology, as well as the health and well-being of all of us. Apparently, the offence was reported online, and has been subsequently 'filed,' until there is further evidence.

Someone has suggested that perhaps the perpetrators of this crime, if caught, should be left in a room at the mercy of a swarm of very angry bees? (Now, there's a thought, a different slant on a 'Police sting!')



HOW SAFE DO YOU REALLY FEEL?

Saturday 12th May 2.00pm - 4.00pm Venue: St Mary's Church,
201 High Rd, Loughton IG10 1BB

Neighbourhood Watch and Essex Police Safety Session: this session is free and will be for anyone wishing to know more about avoiding being a victim of crime or helping older people stay safe.

You will learn how to avoid becoming a victim of crime from Sgt John Berwick, Essex Police.

Topics covered will include street robbery, theft from and of vehicles, burglary, scams and any topic you wish to raise. There will also be lots of free booklets and safety items to take away with you. **FREE**

Booking: There is no need to book, but to make sure we have enough resources and chairs in the hall, it would be appreciated if you could please book through this website: -

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/stay-safe-with-essex-police-neighbourhood-watch-tickets-43184290375?aff=es2>



DON'T RUBBISH ESSEX - 2018

I can hear you all saying: Now what!

Well, I feel that once again, it is time that those of us who passionately care about the County in which we live and or work, to make a difference and stand up against the litter louts that try to blight our County and spoil the environment, through their thoughtless and irresponsible discarding of litter and the ever-increasing problem of fly tipping!

There are some members of our community, of all ages, who seem to think that it's alright to drop litter, because **'someone else will pick it up!'**

Others, who 'just don't give a damn,' as long as they can dispose of it, and many, who don't appreciate what harm that they are actually doing.

Our local District and Borough Councils have environmental teams who carry out excellent work in helping to protect our local area. They are part of enforcing the laws by taking action in respect of anti-social behaviour, but perhaps it's time that those of us who belong to Neighbourhood Watch groups, Resident's Associations and other community groups get involved to help stop litter louts by educating and or reporting those responsible.

Anyone who 'deliberately' drops litter, from the smallest sweet wrapper, chewing gum, cigarette end, food wrapper, can, bottle, paper or other packaging, commits an offence. This often occurs within a short distance from a litter bin. Many discarded items could also be put into recycling bins or taken home to be recycled. There really is no excuse.

Working with local councils, the keep Britain Tidy Campaign and other agencies, I continue to support '**LITTER WATCH 2018,**' with a view to encouraging community-minded residents to take responsibility for looking out for those who abuse our County, the environment and our local communities through their irresponsible dropping of litter, fly tipping, dog fouling etc.

From time to time, I will send out information, including news and updates received from community groups and individuals across the County, and will work with Essex Watch, Neighbourhood Watch, local councils, Environmental agencies and other interested parties, as well as individuals.

Sign up to the campaign today, by emailing your support to:-
colin@neighbourhoodmatters.org.uk



NO IF'S – NO BUTTS – NO EXCUSE



DATA PROTECTION My blog is sent to members and supporters of Epping Forest, Brentwood and Harlow NhW groups. and partnership organisations. When you join neighbourhood Watch, you agree that your contact details are shared between Neighbourhood Watch and Essex Police under existing partnership agreements, and that they are not shared with other organisations or individuals.

To unsubscribe from my blog, or from Neighbourhood Watch, please send an email to: - colin@neighbourhoodmatters.org.uk quoting the area in which you reside, so that, I know from which to list remove your contact details. Thank you.

Colin I. Freeman MITOL Trustee and Executive committee member of Essex County NhW Association, member of Epping Forest, Brentwood and Harlow NhW committees and Advisor to London Community Watch. colin@neighbourhoodmatters.org.uk

You can also read my blog at: <http://www.eppingforestnhw.org.uk/>



HELPING COMMUNITIES TO HELP THEMSELVES

