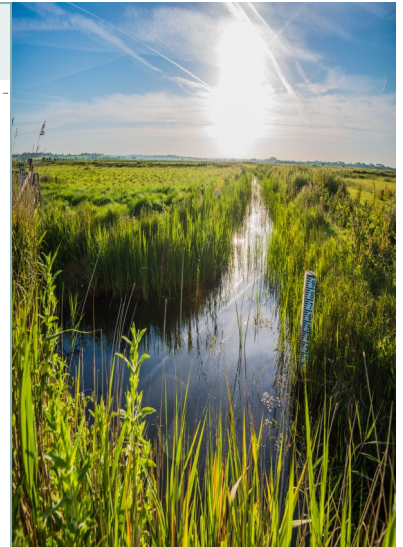




Roesel's Bush Cricket (*Roeseliana roeseli*)

Welcome to
the
first edition
of the
**Bexhill
Nature
Club**
Newsletter



Pevensey Marshes SSSI



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- A New Club
- Planning ahead
- Understanding Nature

BEXHILL NATURE CLUB

First meeting

Following a vote, most members decided that the evening session would be best for them. So 7pm to 9pm was the majority decision for a monthly Thursday evening. The next thing that happened was that more people wanted to join, so to ensure seating capacity the original idea of the Northern Hotel was abandoned and instead we are meeting

on **29th August 2024**

at

BEXHILL SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

45 EVERSLEY ROAD

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TN40 1HA

From **7 pm to 9pm**

...and at the same time on the last Thursday of every month in future.

The event is free of charge but tea, coffee & biscuits can be provided at £1.00 per person.



Ichneumon stramentarius

THE WAY AHEAD

With your agreement we hope the Bexhill Nature Club will have in each session:

- ◇ A PRESENTATION
- ◇ OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCUSSION
- ◇ A SCIENCE-BASED EXAMINATION OF A NATURE ASPECT
- ◇ A BEXHILL WARD STUDY
- ◇ PROJECT UPDATES



Cooden Ancient Wood

Bexhill's Wonderful Wildlife—where to find it and how to enjoy it.

NEW BAT

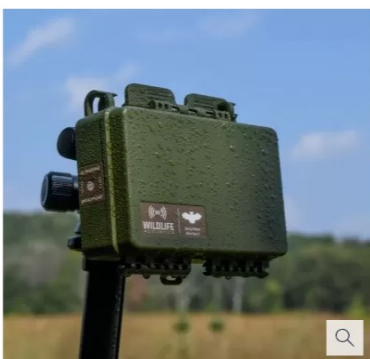
Lithuania and Latvia seem a long way off—but bats from these countries are coming to England, some for their holidays and some to stay.

These bats are called

NATHUSIUS' PIPISTRELLE

Latin: *Pipistrellus nathusii*

One place they now inhabit is St Barnabas Church in Sea Road.



WE ARE COMPLETELY BATTY

Bexhill Wild CIC has a top-of-the-range Bat Detector. It collects data using two powerful microphones.

Recording: The Bat Recorder is connected to a clamp. The clamp is placed four feet or more above the ground and left in the chosen secure location for 24 or 48 hours.

The data is recorded onto an internal SD card. The SD card is then removed after each session and the data files are copied to a folder on a PC.

The next stage is to use the BTO app (British Trust for Ornithology). This takes the data into an open science-based project that records all the bats in the UK.

The data files take a few minutes to upload and then a message is sent, telling us that within a few hours, the BTO will complete a full analysis of the data and email the results to the PC.

Once data analysis is received, the SD Card is then cleared of data and replaced in the Bat Recorder ready for the next session.

The Bat recorder also collects data on amphibians, grasshoppers crickets, moths and even rats!

Now Bexhill is part of 'Big Science'.



**WALKING
IN
BEXHILL**

Bexhill Nature Club hopes to organise a series of walks during the year.

We believe that walking in natural surroundings is good for mental health and fitness.

It is also good for learning about the different landscape types and creatures to

be found during the walks.

So our walks will be explorations -- not route marches.

We will be going to places where we have time to really see nature—the plants and animals, their food chains and life cycles.

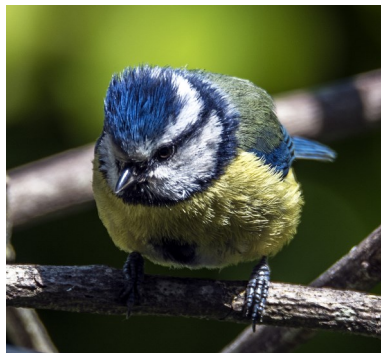
Walks will hopefully have at least one expert to guide the walk research so that Bexhill's environment can be better understood.

BEXHILL WALKS

At our first meeting we can all discuss the walks we'd like to have in our Club calendar.

There are some obvious ones:

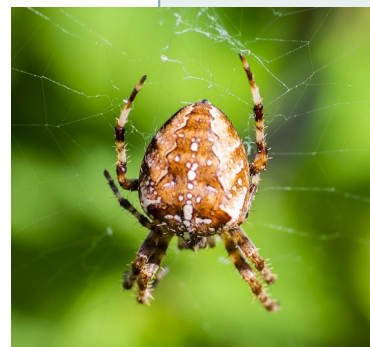
- ◇ Collington Woods
- ◇ Gillham Woods
- ◇ Highwoods
- ◇ Broad Oak Park
- ◇ Cooden Moat and Cooden Ancient Wood
- ◇ Galley Hill
- ◇ Northeye Medieval Village
- ◇ Combe Wood and the Old Railway Track
- ◇ Acton's Farm
- ◇ The Greenway's Waypoint 57 pathway.



Punk Blue-tit

During our first meeting we will work out a timetable for the rest of the year that takes into account the seasonal spectaculars—for example, in Spring the bluebell displays in Combe Wood and Cooden Ancient Wood are just breathtaking. In autumn the golden canopies of Highwoods and Collington Wood are pleasant to see—and from late March onwards the rare bees and Northern Wheatears begin to arrive at Galley Hill.

There is a Season—Turn, turn, turn.



Orb Web Spider

FOR THE BIRDS

Bexhill's bird population is being monitored week by week via our set of PUC-AI recorders.

One device is set near St Barnabas Church and is on most of the time at

[PUC-3801](#)
[WILDCIC :: Bird-Weather](#)

The other is for roving surveys through woodlands.

The number of species of birds in England is...

628

and the number of species in Bexhill is...

144

So that means we now have...

23%

Of all England's bird species here in our lovely town.

THE BIRDS OF BEXHILL

Because Bexhill has such a varied landscape and coastal scenery, we are lucky to have many habitats attractive to a wide range of species.

The main areas that attract birds are obvious—the beach and sands, the woods and meadows, and of course the winter-flooded marshes of Pevensy.

and Combe Valley, both of which have SSSI wildlife areas inside the Bexhill boundary.



Kestrel

WOODLAND BIRD SURVEYS

WOODLAND BIRD SURVEYS

Using BirdWeather's PUC AI devices cross-checked with the Merlin Bird App, Bexhill Wild CIC has been surveying some of Bexhill's many woodlands. It is interesting to note that there are birds that are unique to some woodlands and some that are general. For example, the Wryneck is found in woodlands to the west of Bexhill, like Cooden Moat Wood and Cooden Ancient Wood, whereas the recently red-listed Wood Warbler can be found in the woods surrounding the Old Railway Track, where the trains used to run on a single track from Sidley to Crowhurst over what was called the '17 Arches' viaduct. These surveys will continue throughout the year as we gradually visit all publicly accessible woodlands month-by-month to see the migratory birds and those always with us.

BEXHILL BUTTERFLIES

BUTTERFLIES OF BEXHILL

Maybe because of Climate Change, the number of Small Tortoiseshell butterflies is falling whereas the White Admirals and Silver-washed fritillaries formerly seen only in Fore Wood at Crowhurst have begun to move south into Combe Valley from time to time.

At present Bexhill Wild CIC is conducting a butterfly recovery project at Fairlight. We hope to show you how you can also set up the simple ingredients of a butterfly recovery programme in your garden or local woodland.

PROJECTS

Bexhill Wild CIC Projects cover the area from Rye Harbour to Pevensey Marshes.

In Bexhill we have three main aims—to provide more hedges, to provide more water in the landscape for wildlife and to think of solutions to long term problems that have been plaguing Bexhill.

At present we are working on a project called...

SIDLEY WOODS NATURE PROJECT

The aim is to conserve and enhance Sidley Woods and as a result of this to stem the excess flow of the Egerton Stream that runs through the woods into Egerton Park, where, in times of high rainfall, the whole Park floods when the tide gates are shut.



Painted Lady

Sidley Woods Nature Project has a Crowdfunder—see below...

CAN YOU HELP?

The situation is as follows:

The project cost is estimated at £10,000.00 .

The Crowdfunder has raised £340.00 so far.

Bexhill Town Council has given £1,000.00 and East Sussex County Council has offered to match fund, so that if we reach £5,000.00 they will give us another £5,000.00

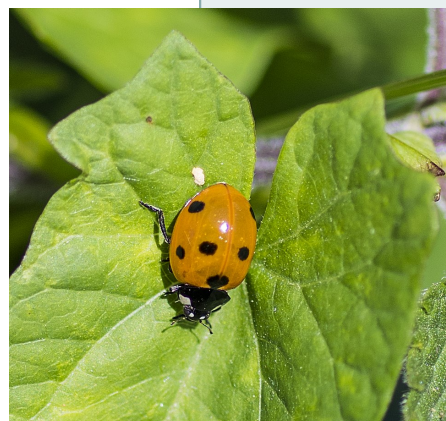
In addition the Sussex Police Chief Constable has given another £1,000.00 but this cannot be included in the Crowdfunder as it was given before the Crowdfunder started—but it is an asset!

The next aspect is that we need at least **25 different people**

to donate in order to qualify for the £5,000.00 match funding from ESCC.

So far we have just 11 people who have paid in.

Can you help by donating £1, £2, or even £5.00 or whatever you can afford to this project—that would be great?!



Ladybird

The link to ctrl-click on is:

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/bexhill-wild-1>

ABOUT US

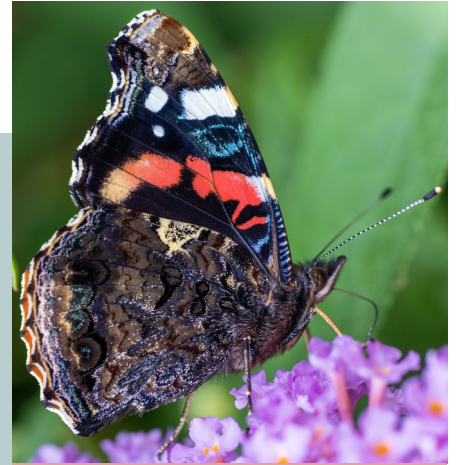
Bexhill Wild Domesday CIC is a registered Community Interest Company with four directors:

David EP Dennis—Managing director

Dr Barry Yates—Wildlife adviser

Viv Taylor-Gee—Publicity officer

Ellen Garner—Secretary



Peacock Butterfly

We are also registered with the Information Commissioner (ICO) to hold the data of our members and directors.

We have full public liability and employer's liability insurance for all forms of conservation work, grant funding work and equipment cover.

We look forward to meeting you all at our first meeting on 29th August...

