

Results of Biodiversity Survey carried out at St. Nicholas Church by members of the Essex Field Club on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2008

List of species found at St Nicholas Laindon, about 16ha in the NE corner of TQ6889.

Plants were surveyed twice, first in 18 April, 2007 and, more completely, on 5 July 2008. The overall list is given below:

<b>Taxon (scientific name)</b>	<b>Vernacular (common name)</b>
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse-chestnut
<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Agrimony
<i>Agrostis gigantea</i>	Black Bent
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent
<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>	Water-plantain
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard
<i>Allium vineale</i>	Wild Onion
<i>Alopecurus myosuroides</i>	Black-grass
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow Foxtail
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i> subsp. <i>arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel
<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>	Barren Brome
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley
<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	Snapdragon
<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	Thale Cress
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser Burdock
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-Grass
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords-and-Ladies
<i>Aster</i> agg.	Michaelmas Daisy
<i>Atriplex patula</i>	Common Orache
<i>Atriplex prostrata</i>	Spear-leaved Orache
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black Horehound
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	False-brome
<i>Bromus commutatus</i>	Meadow Brome
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Common Soft-brome
<i>Bryonia dioica</i>	White Bryony
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Box
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed
<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	Large Bindweed
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	Hairy Bitter-cress
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Cuckooflower
<i>Carduus crispus</i>	Wetted Thistle
<i>Carex divulsa</i> subsp. <i>divulsa</i>	Grey Sedge
<i>Carex remota</i>	Remote Sedge
<i>Centaurea montana</i>	Perennial Cornflower
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i> subsp. <i>vulgare</i>	Common Mouse-ear
<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	Sticky Mouse-ear

<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb
<i>Chenopodium polyspermum</i>	Many-seeded Goosefoot
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed
<i>Coronopus didymus</i>	Lesser Swine-cress
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Crataegus x media</i>	<i>C. monogyna x laevigata</i>
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Smooth Hawk's-beard
<i>Crepis vesicaria</i>	Beaked Hawk's-beard
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's-tail
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot
<i>Daucus carota</i> subsp. <i>carota</i>	Wild Carrot
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Tufted Hair-grass
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Wild Teasel
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Male-fern
<i>Elytrigia repens</i> subsp. <i>repens</i>	Common Couch
<i>Epilobium ciliatum</i>	American Willowherb
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broad-leaved Willowherb
<i>Euonymus japonicus</i>	Evergreen Spindle
<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Petty Spurge
<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	Tall Fescue
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Galega officinalis</i>	Goat's-rue
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium pratense</i>	Meadow Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb-Robert
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy
<i>Glyceria fluitans</i>	Floating Sweet-grass
<i>Gnaphalium uliginosum</i>	Marsh Cudweed
<i>Hedera algeriensis</i>	Algerian Ivy
<i>Hedera helix</i> subsp. <i>helix</i>	Common Ivy
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Wall Barley
<i>Hordeum secalinum</i>	Meadow Barley
<i>Hyacinthoides x massartiana</i>	Hybrid Bluebell
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly
<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	Jointed Rush
<i>Juncus bufonius</i>	Toad Rush
<i>Juncus conglomeratus</i>	Compact Rush
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft-rush
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	Hard Rush
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Prickly Lettuce
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red Dead-nettle
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort
<i>Lathyrus latifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Everlasting-pea

Lathyrus nissolia	Grass Vetchling
Lathyrus pratensis	Meadow Vetchling
Lemna minor	Common Duckweed
Leontodon autumnalis	Autumn Hawkbit
Leontodon saxatilis	Lesser Hawkbit
Lepidium draba	Hoary Cress
Leucanthemum vulgare	Oxeye Daisy
Ligustrum ovalifolium	Garden Privet
Ligustrum vulgare	Wild Privet
Lolium perenne	Perennial Rye-grass
Lonicera periclymenum	Honeysuckle
Lotus corniculatus	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil
Lotus pedunculatus	Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil
Lycium barbarum	Duke of Argyll's Teaplant
Lycopus europaeus	Gypsywort
Lysimachia punctata	Dotted Loosestrife
Mahonia aquifolium	Oregon-grape
Malus domestica	Apple
Malus sylvestris	Crab Apple
Malva sylvestris	Common Mallow
Matricaria discoidea	Pineappleweed
Matricaria recutita	Scented Mayweed
Medicago arabica	Spotted Medick
Medicago lupulina	Black Medick
Mentha aquatica	Water Mint
Mercurialis annua	Annual Mercury
Muscari armeniacum	Garden Grape-hyacinth
Myosotis arvensis	Field Forget-me-not
Myosotis scorpioides	Water Forget-me-not
Myosotis sylvatica	Wood Forget-me-not
Myriophyllum aquaticum	Parrot's-feather
Narcissus agg.	Cultivated Daffodil
Nigella damascena	Love-in-a-mist
Odontites vernus	Red Bartsia
Oxalis articulata	Pink-sorrel
Oxalis corniculata	Procumbent Yellow-sorrel
Papaver rhoeas	Common Poppy
Papaver somniferum	Opium Poppy
Pentaglottis sempervirens	Green Alkanet
Phleum bertolonii	Smaller Cat's-tail
Phyllitis scolopendrium	Hart's-tongue
Picris echioides	Bristly Oxtongue
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain
Plantago major subsp. major	Greater Plantain
Poa annua	Annual Meadow-grass
Poa trivialis	Rough Meadow-grass
Polygonum aviculare	Knotgrass
Populus nigra 'Plantierensis'	Black Poplar hybrid
Populus x canescens	Grey Poplar hybrid
Potamogeton natans	Broad-leaved Pondweed
Potentilla anserina	Silverweed
Potentilla reptans	Creeping Cinquefoil
Prunella vulgaris	Selfheal
Prunus cerasifera	Cherry Plum
Prunus domestica	Wild Plum
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn

<i>Pseudofumaria lutea</i>	Yellow Corydalis
<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>	Common Fleabane
<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i>	Firethorn
<i>Quercus petraea</i>	Sessile Oak
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus lingua</i>	Greater Spearwort
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus trichophyllus</i>	Thread-leaved Water-crowfoot
<i>Rapistrum rugosum</i>	Bastard Cabbage
<i>Ribes uva-crispa</i>	Gooseberry
<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	Field-rose
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog-rose
<i>Rosa canina x stylosa</i>	<i>Rosa canina x stylosa</i> (f x m)
<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	Japanese Rose
<i>Rubus caesius</i>	Dewberry
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel
<i>Rumex conglomeratus</i>	Clustered Dock
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock
<i>Rumex cristatus</i>	Greek Dock
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock
<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>	Wood Dock
<i>Sagina procumbens</i>	Procumbent Pearlwort
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Grey Willow
<i>Salix fragilis</i>	Crack-willow
<i>Salix fragilis</i> var. <i>russelliana</i>	Bedford Willow
<i>Salix x reichardtii</i>	Hybrid Willow
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Sedum album</i>	White Stonecrop
<i>Sedum rupestre</i>	Reflexed Stonecrop
<i>Senecio erucifolius</i>	Hoary Ragwort
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion
<i>Sison amomum</i>	Stone Parsley
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet
<i>Solidago gigantea</i>	Early Goldenrod
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow-thistle
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort
<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	Lesser Stitchwort
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Greater Stitchwort
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed
<i>Symphytum orientale</i>	White Comfrey
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	Lilac
<i>Tanacetum parthenium</i>	Feverfew
<i>Taraxacum</i> agg.	Dandelion
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goat's-beard
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser Trefoil
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover
<i>Triticum aestivum</i>	Bread Wheat

Typha latifolia	Bulrush
Ulmus procera	English Elm
Urtica dioica	Common Nettle
Urtica dioica intermediate ssp.	Stingless Nettle
Veronica arvensis	Wall Speedwell
Veronica chamaedrys	Germander Speedwell
Veronica hederifolia subsp. lucorum	Ivy-leaved Speedwell
Veronica persica	Common Field-speedwell
Viburnum opulus	Guelder-rose
Vicia cracca	Tufted Vetch
Vicia sativa subsp. segetalis	Common Vetch
Vicia sepium	Bush Vetch
Vicia tetrasperma	Smooth Tare
Viola odorata	Sweet Violet
Vulpia bromoides	Squirreltail Fescue

Bird species noted:

Wood Pigeon, one seen

Swift, one seen

Great Spotted Woodpecker, one seen

Magpie, several in a group seen

Blackcap, several heard in different wooded areas

Green Woodpecker, one seen

and several holes in the church steeple made by assorted Woodpeckers, who may have been after getting the bats!

Mammals noted were: 2 horses, grazing, who were a bit over-friendly!

Reptiles noted were: Adder (juvenile), *Vipera berus*

Amphibians noted were: immature Great Crested Newt, 'newtpoles', *Triturus cristatus*.

Insect species noted were:

Azure Damselfly, one seen, *Coenagrion puella*

Thick-thighed Beetle (male and female), several seen, *Oedemeria nobilis*

Meadow Brown, several seen, *Maniola jurtina*

Ringlet, several seen, *Aphantopus hyperantus*

Large White, one seen, *Pieris brassicae*

Essex Skipper, at least 2 seen, *Thymelicus lineola*

Comma, one seen, *Polygonia c-album*

a large iridescent blue-black Hoverfly, one seen

Bumble-bees, several seen, *Bombus* spp

a large anthill containing Ants.

We noted leaves of Horse-chestnut which had many brown patches on due to larvae of a micro-moth, *Cameraria ohridella*, which mine the leaves of the trees, and soon kill them. The leaves have orange patches with yellowish margins early in summer, which all turn a rich brown later, and holes can be seen where the moth eventually gets out. This moth is

from the Balkans, but it is spreading fast across Europe. There is little anyone can do to prevent its spread.

A spiky red Robin's-pincushion, caused by a gall insect, was seen on one bush of Dog-rose.

Molluscs noted were: Great Ram's-horn Snail, one seen, *Planorbis corneus*.

Mary Smith, 6 July 2008.

Two people, Roger and Sylvia Jiggins, were from the Essex Bat Group, and they hunted inside and around the actual church building. No bats were found, but there was evidence (ie droppings) that bats had occasionally visited in the recent past. They commented that the church looked ideal for a bat colony, and one may have been destroyed when the steeple was renovated a few years ago. They also met a small Adder inside the church, which was speedily removed outside. A few weeks earlier, an adult Adder had been seen by Stuart Ricketts in grass nearby, and a beautiful picture of it was taken by Ken Porter. These two are local people who help with tidying the area and they were very helpful to us when we arrived, and when we left (one kindly got my car out of the wet verge on which it had got stuck!).

The other five of the group were mainly botanists, under the guiding hand of Ken Adams, to whom many thanks are due for his expertise. Some people, notably Barbara Chapman and Ken Adams, spotted butterflies and other insects, Barbara and David Bloomfield spotted or heard several birds, and Peter West had thigh waders and a net so he went in a pond and found 2 kinds of animals there, which he identified.

Overall, there were 228 plant species recorded, which was a pleasing count for such a small area, however the figure was boosted by various 'grave escapes' near the church and some planted species in the younger pond. The full list is available on request. A whole sunflower seed was also seen, but not counted as a growing species.

A surprise was a patch of Stingless Nettle around the old stew-pond. This plant is not often found, but you could brush this across your face and feel only soft hairiness, like a feather. It has some claim to be the native Nettle, as the stinging ones were probably brought in by the Romans. Most of us had not seen one before, but we were told they only grow in a few very damp, nutrient-rich places.

Bird species noted were: Wood Pigeon, Swift, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Magpie, Blackcap, Green Woodpecker, and holes in the church steeple made by assorted Woodpeckers (see pic), who may have been after getting the bats!

Mammals noted were: 2 horses, grazing, who were a bit over-friendly!

Reptiles noted were: Adder

Amphibians noted were: immature Great Crested Newt, 'newtpoles'.

Insect species noted were: Azure Damselfly, Thick-thighed Beetle (male and female); a few butterflies: Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Large White, Essex Skipper, Comma; and a large iridescent blue-black Hoverfly, a Bumble-bee and a large anthill containing Red Ants.

We noted leaves of Horse-chestnut which had many brown patches on due to larvae of a micro-moth, *Cameraria ohridella*, which mines the leaves of the trees, and soon kills them. The leaves have orange patches with yellowish margins early in summer, which all turn a rich brown later, and holes can be seen where the moth eventually gets out. This moth is from the Balkans, but it is spreading fast across Europe. There is little anyone can do to prevent its spread.

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