Thames Chase

Thames Chase Newsletter **August** 2023

NEWS



Forest Centre Tea Room

We are thrilled to announce the opening of the Thames Chase Forest Centre Tea Room. It's great to have a cafe provision in place for visitors once again. The tea room will be open daily from 10am-4pm from July 31st. We have had a peek at the new menu and there are lots of delicious offerings to suit all tastes and dietary requirements at reasonable prices. We cannot wait to welcome you all back!

In other news we are launching the Thames Chase Art Club on September 13th, suitable for adults. Whether you're an absolute beginner or a dab hand with a pencil and sketchbook, nature can inspire and shape the work we make in ways that we don't expect. So, we welcome you to the first Art Club sessions at the Thames Chase Forest Centre, titled "Drawing to Relax". Our team will provide artistic warmup exercises for each session, and then a theme to get stuck into for a few hours. Booking is available either through Eventbrite.co.uk (search Thames Chase) Or via the Forest Centre and we ask for a £3.50 donation per person. We will have some art supplies available, but please feel free to bring your own.

For more information about events and latest developments, see our social media. Or please call the visitor centre reception: 01708 642970.



Hole Farm

Tree maintenance and aftercare can sometimes be forgotten about, with the act of tree planting getting all the news and the next several crucial years of the tree's life being ignored. Not so at Hole Farm! Having spent time already mowing between the planted trees to keep weeds and grasses down for the first year, Forestry England asked if we could help with the close up. The Thames Chase Conservation Volunteers were happy to oblige, with the first of two days of grass cutting on site. This will help reduce the competition that each individual tree faces for resources, improving survival rates significantly. Many of these trees were also planted by members of the local community, so we are even more keen to help them to thrive! The cut grass and weeds are left to compost naturally, improving the nutrients in the soil that the trees can use in the coming months. What a great project! (Photo by Steve Green)

Beavers Group Visit

It was a pleasure to host the 2nd Squirrels Heath Beavers group on site at Thames Chase Forest Centre a few weeks ago. The children showed a real love of learning and great team working skills. Children took part in a range of activities including problem solving tasks, bird box making, bug hotel making and spent some time in the Community Tree Nursery.
We have shared some of the photos from their visit on our social media channels and it has been really encouraging to receive such positive feedback from the group leader and parents. We look forward to hosting the children again soon!





Upminster Windmill

We had a wonderful afternoon recently visiting Upminster Windmill to meet the team of staff and volunteers. It was great to connect with another local heritage site in Havering and discuss ideas for future collaborative working.
We were given a private tour of the Windmill and learnt some fascinating facts about the history of the site and surrounding area.
It was a truly magical moment when the sails were switched on and began to turn just for us! Thank you to the wonderful staff and volunteers for sharing their knowledge and expertise. We look forward to working together in the near future.

Reading The Landscape Walk

Our partners Forestry England are involved in a walk at Hole Farm. On Wednesday 2nd August 2023 Landscape Specialist Maria Medlycott will host a walk around Hole Farm, Great Warley. The walk will be exploring the hidden archaeology and history within the fields around you.

This free event is funded by Lower Thames Crossing Legacy Fund. It will comprise a two hour countryside walk supported by Forestry England.

Please book to attend at:
arch.events@essex.gov.uk



THAMES CHASE FOREST CENTRE
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EVENTS | DATES



A DAY TO REMEMBER

Welcome to August! It's been a very busy few weeks at Thames Chase, we recently hosted the first 'Feel Good In The Forest' event in partnership with Forestry England. And despite the rain it was a wonderful day with lots of visitors from the local community and further afield making the most of the free activities on offer. Caroline Roberts Thames Chase Forest Centre Manager says "It was so wonderful to see so many members of the community enjoying the forest and all that Thames Chase has to offer. People of all ages came together to take part in 'feel good' activities such as yoga, meditation, rock painting and art. We thank everyone that came for making it such a special day". Our Forestry England colleagues hosted a stall and received lots of positive engagement with visitors. Richard Wonfor the Forestry England Community Ranger gave several wildlife walks on the day which received fantastic feedback from participants. Jill Mead, Forestry England said "Despite the weather being more like Autumn than a summers day in July, it was great to see a steady flow of visitors throughout the day, some of whom were visiting for the first time and others visiting from outside of the local area." We had a great time collaborating with Forestry England on this event and we look forward to continuing our partnership working.

For more information about events and latest developments, see our social media. Or please call the visitor centre reception: 01708 642970.



Upcoming Heritage Walks

Our August and September walks are both bookable via Eventbrite. Go to Eventbrite.co.uk and search 'Thames Chase' Where you will find a list of all of our events which are bookable online.

The walk on August 4th from 10.30am-12.30pm begins at Thames Chase Forest Centre and discovers the source of the bricks of many older homes and buildings in Havering, as well as the history and wildlife of Franks Woods. Parking, complimentary refreshments and toilets will be available at the Forest Centre at the end of the walk.

The September walk on Friday 1st, will explore Hornchurch Country Park, an area of rich aviation and military heritage plus Ingrebourne Hill also stopping off at Rainham Hall and Albans Farm. Altogether, this walk will cover the built, military and natural heritage of Rainham, be sure to come along!

Beginners Guide To Birding

Due to popular demand we are running another beginners guide to birding session in partnership with Forestry England.
Birding is a wonderful hobby, relaxing and calming after a busy day. It can be done with no training at all, but perhaps you'd like an introduction to this favoured pastime, with an expert taking you on a walk round a brilliant bird watching site? Then come join us on an extended walk around Thames Chase Forest Centre, on Friday 25th August. Places are very limited for this course and on a first come first serve basis!
Suggested donation £6 per person. Booking is via Eventbrite (Eventbrite.co.uk and search for Thames Chase)





Art Exhibition

The 2023 Thames Chase Art Exhibition begins on September 2nd until September 10th. With around 20 exhibitors confirmed so far we are really looking forward to hosting this event and showcasing the very best local artists. Entrance is free and the exhibition will be open daily from 10am-4pm.
Once again younger artists can get involved with our Children's Art Competition. Your artwork should express how visiting the Community Forest makes you feel. Entries will be judged in 3 categories Ages 4-6, 7-10, 11-16 years.Winners will receive an art bundle worth £20.
To enter bring your artwork to the Forest Centre by August 29th with your name, age plus parent or guardian contact number and email address written on the back. All entries will be displayed at the Forest Centre from 2nd-10th September.

Dates For Your Diary

- Children's drop in summer holiday activities every Tuesday and Wednesday until Aug 23rd 10.15am-12.15pm
- Guided Heritage Walk - Aug 4th
- Children's Circus Skills Workshop - Aug 18th
- Monthly Sunday Market - Aug 20th
- Jazz In The Barn - Aug 25th
- Beginners Guide To Birding - Aug 25th
- Guided Heritage Walk - Sept 1st
- Art Exhibition opening - Sept 2nd

To find out more visit the Thames Chase website **www.thameschase.org.uk** or check social media



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