Thames Chase Newsletter
November 2023

Thames Chase

NEWS



Thank You

Welcome to the November edition of the Thames Chase Trust Newsletter. It's been a busy month on site following a wonderful Apple Day with lots of visitors, a sold out Halloween Spooky Walks and a jam packed October half term with lots of families and children enjoying Thames Chase Community Forest. Forest Centre Manager Caroline Roberts says "It was wonderful to see so many visitors enjoying Apple Day at Thames Chase. The sun shone, the community came together and the Community Forest was a hive of activity". Apple Day received lots of positive feedback via the Visitor Centre and across social media. Deputy Community Forest Director Aisling Woodhead says "Thank you to all who attended Apple Day at Thames Chase Forest Centre, we hope you all had a brilliant time celebrating our local heritage! A big thank you as well to all of our staff and volunteers who helped with organising and delivering the fantastic autumnal events".
We were thrilled to welcome the Mayor of Havering Cllr Stephanie Nunn and the Mayors Consort who attended our Spooky Walks and were given a tour of the Visitor Centre and Heritage Barn. Thank you to the brilliant actors from the Store Room Youth Theatre and to our volunteers and staff for their hard work and support in making these events come to life. Everyone had a frightfully good time and we are already looking ahead to planning for next year!



Community Tree Planting

Help us create your community woodland at Hole Farm! In partnership with National Highways, Forestry England is creating a new woodland at Hole Farm in Great Warley which will help expand the Thames Chase Community Forest. The 95-hectare site will have a mosaic of habitats comprising of ponds, wildflowers, a network of paths for walkers, cyclists and horse riders and, of course, woodland – this is where we want you to help out!

We're excited to say that we'll be starting year 2 of tree planting this winter where Forestry England will be planting another 70,000 trees on site. There will be two community tree planting days held on Sunday 26 November and Saturday 2 December 2023, 10:00am – 2:30pm. Grab your gloves and wellies and come join us - sign up for these events: https://forms.office.com/e/eTHhuGiS5y

Visit the Forestry England Hole Farm website: www.forestryengland.uk/hole-farm for more information. Or if you have any questions please email: hole.farm@forestryengland.uk

Forestry England

Seed Collecting

Thames Chase had a great day volunteering at Hartswood, Brentwood along with Brentwood Borough Council and other BEBA members, Zest Recycle, Baker Labels, Attract & Engage - The Growth Marketing Agency and Tees Law.
The day consisted of tree climbing demonstrations, seed collecting and some delicious food!
Thames Chase Senior Programmes Officer led various talks on:
Seed collecting and stratification. The importance of local provenance for seed collecting and biosecurity plus fruit tree grafting and why apple seeds will produce different flavoured fruits.
Thank you to everyone involved.





New Wellbeing Trail

Thames Chase staff and Forestry England colleagues recently took part in a mindful walk on site to explore the new Forestry England wellbeing trail. Visitors to Thames Chase Forest Centre are invited to take a mindful walk through the woodland this winter to take care of their physical and mental health after a successful trial of Forestry England's wellbeing trail.
The self-led trail winds through the trees, encouraging visitors to pause, unplug and mindfully reconnect with nature as they walk. Paper journals to accompany the trail are available in the Thames Chase Visitor Centre.
You can find out more information here:
www.forestryengland.uk/wellbeing

The Future For Nature in Essex

More than ever, wildlife and the habitats it needs to survive are under threat. Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) will become the primary strategic plan in England to tackle the demands of the ecological emergency and help reverse biodiversity declines.
Essex County Council is the Responsible Authority for creating the Essex LNRS, which will become a comprehensive strategy to highlight areas of importance for biodiversity, as well as showcasing priorities for nature recovery.
Hearing local opinions is an essential part of how the Essex LNRS will be created, understanding existing success stories and new opportunities. Online webinars and in-person workshops will take place, giving you the chance to ask questions and provide feedback that can become part of the Essex LNRS. To find out more, visit: essexnaturepartnership.co.uk

ESSEX LNRS | LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY

www.essexnaturepartnership.co.uk

THAMES CHASE FOREST CENTRE
PIKE LANE
UPMINSTER RM14 3NS

WWW.THAMESCHASE.ORG.UK
TEL. 01708 642970

CHARITY NO.1115627 COMPANY NO.5687558

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EVENTS | DATES



Christmas 2023

We are really looking forward to the festive season here at Thames Chase. There is so much happening and we have something for everybody. Whether it is our Christmas Markets selling unique stunning gifts, our Christmas Celebration (December 17th) to get you in the festive mood or our Santa's Grotto, where younger family members can feel the magic of the season. Thames Chase is the place to be this yuletide! Our Christmas Market takes place over the weekend of November 18th and 19th from 10am-3pm. Stall holder spaces are now fully booked there will also be craft activities for children including Christmas Eve Box decorating with our education volunteers (fee payable) For full details and to book please call the visitor centre on the number below (cost £12 per child). The Forest Centre Tea Room will also be open serving its usual menu plus some winter warmers.

This year due to popular demand we have just added a 3rd session to our Christmas Wreath Making Workshops, with Clare from Bliss Flowers as both previous sessions have already sold out! The extra session takes place on December 2nd, 2pm-4pm and includes all material to make your natural wreath plus a festive drink and mince pie! Cost £40 per person bookable by calling the Visitor Centre reception on the number below.

For more information about events and latest developments please call the visitor centre reception: 01708 642970 or visit our social media pages



Thames Chase Talk Built Heritage

Come and visit the Thames Chase Forest Centre to discover the history and stories of three important local heritage buildings. Next in our series of talks from speakers across the Thames Chase Community Forest. We will hear about the historic Thames Chase Essex Barn, the magnificent Upminster Windmill and the wonderful Valence House. A perfect opportunity to learn about these significant landmark buildings and enjoy a complimentary refreshment!

Date: Friday November 24th
Cost: £3.50 per person
Time: 2pm-4pm. Call the Thames Chase Visitor Centre reception to book 01708 642970 or book via Eventbrite (Eventbrite.co.uk and search Thames Chase)

Santas Grotto



Let your child feel the magic of Christmas, here at Thames Chase. Enjoy a story by Father Christmas, help fix his sleigh, make some reindeer food for Christmas Eve and then take photos with Father Christmas.
The experience will last for 30-45 minutes and includes a gift for each child.
Please ensure that everyone is wrapped up warm as it gets cold in the north pole!
(Parents/carers must stay with their child during this magical experience)
Dates: Various dates in Nov/Dec includes a relaxed session on Dec 3rd suitable for anyone with additional needs. Please call direct for details 01708 642970.
Cost £10 per child.



Thames Chase Art Club

The Thames Chase Art Club has proven extremely popular we have been blown away by the attendance and positive feedback and would like to say a special thank you to Robert Stevenson and Stephen Green for leading the classes.
Suitable for beginners aged 16 years and over you can book onto our next sessions on November 8th and December 13th via Eventbrite (Eventbrite.co.uk and search for Thames Chase). We ask for a donation of £3.50.
Our team will provide artistic warmup exercises for each session, and then a theme to get stuck into for a couple of hours. With good weather we'll walk around the Forest Centre and explore natures beauty and influence. We will have some art supplies available, but please feel free to bring your own.

Dates For Your Diary

- Guided Heritage Walk - Nov 3rd
- Thames Chase Art Club - Nov 8th
- Make A Bug Hotel - Nov 10th
- Christmas Market Weekend - Nov 18th/19th
- Christmas Eve Box Decorating - Nov 18th/19th
- Santas Grotto Opening - Nov 25th
- Festive Guided Heritage Walk from Thames Chase - Dec 1st
- A Christmas Celebration - Dec 17th
- Feel Good In The Forest - Jan 13th

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



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