Thames Chase

Art Exhibition 2023

At The Thames Chase Forest Centre



September 2nd-10th 2023

10am-4pm

For more information 01708 642970
Thames Chase Forest Centre, Pike Lane, Upminster RM14 3NS
Email: enquiries@thameschase.org.uk

Thames Chase Trust Charity no. 1115627 Company no. 5687558

Welcome to the Thames Chase annual art exhibition. Thirty five local artists are exhibiting this year and we are overjoyed to see many new artists as well as those that have previously exhibited.
We would like to thank local artist Tom Mead for opening this years exhibition, you can find out more about Tom's work here: Tommead.co.uk



We are fortunate to be surrounded by such an inspiring landscape of woods, meadows, ponds and paths that have been created from disused farmland, there is scope for recreation, discovery and study here at Thames Chase.

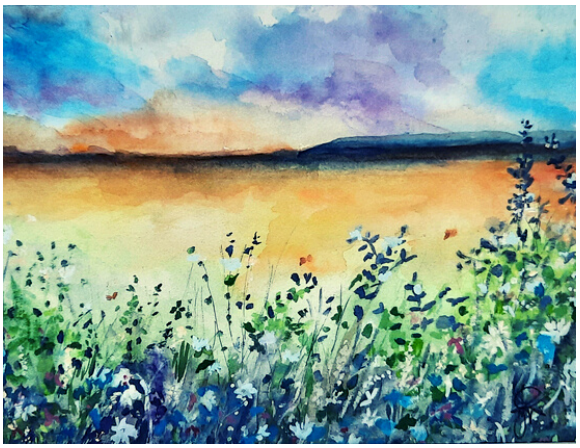


Thames Chase Community Forest now encompasses 70 square miles of countryside in Barking and Dagenham, Brentwood, Havering, Basildon and Thurrock. Within its boundaries there has been a concerted effort since 1990 to re-generate despoiled landscape and enhance the natural environment for the benefit of local people and wildlife. Many sites have been improved or created around the London/Essex borders.



Natural play is encouraged here at Thames Chase and if you look carefully on your next walk around the Community Forest, you may see some examples of these works of art in the guise of dens.
It is easy to see how the beauty of the landscape has inspired so many artists over the years. With a rich history of farming, our 17th century barn still stands today and will be housing some of the exhibition pieces.
Thames Chase works in partnership with Forestry England, who own and maintain the land that surrounds our historic and architecturally commended buildings.
We welcome you to the exhibition and we thank all the artists, volunteers, stewards, staff members and visitors, for making this event a success. And a special thank you to artist Lucia Hardy for our cover art of the meadow here at Thames Chase.

Meet The Artists



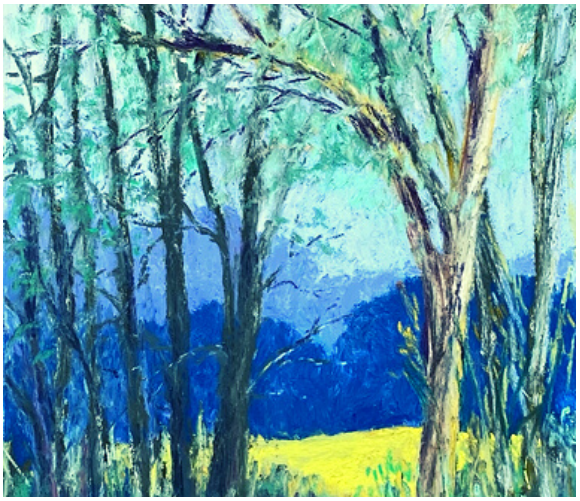
Jan Wix

Jan is an amateur artist who loves to paint with all different mediums. She likes to challenge herself and strongly believes you never stop learning!

Doreen Bright

Doreen's passion is the natural world. Nature being her inspiration. Wherever possible she uses naturally occurring materials to make her paintings. This is an extension of her concerns with pollution and global warming. She tries to use 'green' materials and recycle as much as possible. She incorporates rubbish and discarded items into some of her paintings and prints.





Julian de Camillis

Born in North London in the early 50's I grew up in a musical/artistic family. I have always loved the smell of oil paint from an early age and remember trips to Hampstead Heath where my dad would paint while my sister and I played nearby.

I have always sketched but did not take up painting since schooldays until around 1980. Mostly self taught but attended various adult education evening classes and art instruction holidays during the 80's.

I enjoy painting on location (Plein Air) and have always been inspired by the big skies and estuaries of East Anglia and regard myself as a representational painter with a touch of Impressionism. Most of my work is produced outdoors where the light, sights, sounds and smells are all part of my inspiration. I work in all mediums often combining them for mixed media work.



Dawn Cowan

As a child I was always to be found with pens, pencils and paint, but after leaving school art took a back seat to my career for a few years. Around 25 years ago I decided to sign up for watercolour classes, after which I joined Upminster Art Society, and haven't stopped painting since. My first love is painting animals and wildlife, and I moved from working mainly in watercolour to pastels as these are ideally suited to my favourite subjects. Around six or 7 years ago I also started experimenting with fluid acrylics and often combine them with realistic overpaintings. I'm now admin on Acrylic Pouring UK, the largest fluid acrylic Facebook group in the UK and spend much of my time producing instructional videos for our 3200+ members.

Terry Doyle

A Local amateur artist I live in Upminster and paint in watercolour, acrylic and oil. I enjoy landscape painting especially sketching and painting outdoors. Subjects include local scenes as well as places visited during trips and holidays. I I also paint wildlife and marine subjects. In addition to Thames Chase I exhibit at The Queens Theatre Hornchurch, Upminster Library and the South Weald Flower Festival. I am currently Chairman of Upminster Art Society.





Janet Doyle

Janet lives in Upminster and is a member of the Upminster Art Society. She regularly exhibits at Upminster library & The Queen's Theatre Hornchurch. In addition to the Thames Chase event, she supports fundraisers such as the South Weald Flower Festival. She paints a variety of subjects mainly in watercolour. Weather permitting she likes to sketch and paint plein aire.



Otis Griffith

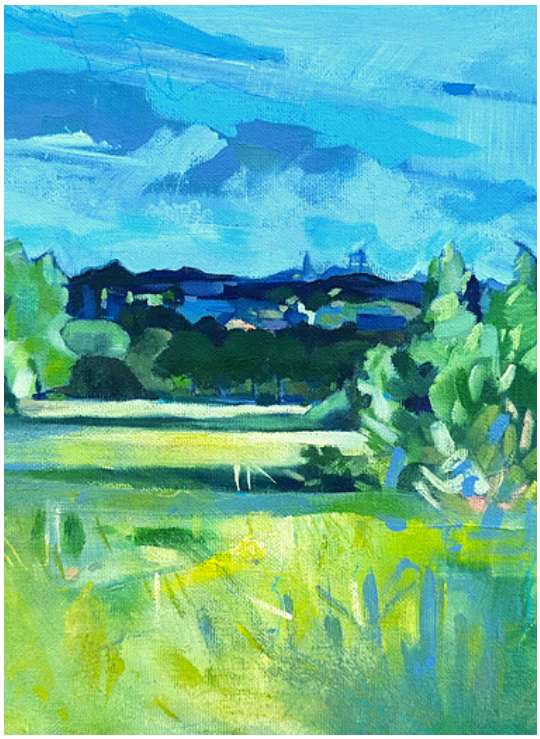
Over 20 years ago, Otis purchased a Mig welder and started experimenting with scrap metal, recreating the images he had in his mind.
After years of honing his skills as a self-taught artist and welder he has created hundreds of pieces of art experimenting in a variety of genres taking inspiration from day to day objects, his visions & even the metal itself.

With each piece his technical skills have grown and this has further inspired him to challenge himself creatively. He creates art from a variety of recycled & new materials & transforms them by hand into an individual & innovative piece of art. Creating his pieces of Art is now a well established creative pursuit, only time is against him to reduce the evergrowing list of ideas he has in his mind.
After winning an episode of BBC's "Home Is Where The Art Is" And being featured in "Scrap Kings" on Quest, he has been inspired to another level to chase the visions he once thought were beyond his skill set, enabling him to create larger and more complex pieces of art.

Otis Art @_OtisArt_

Lucia Hardy

Our cover star Lucia Hardy is an artist from Harold Wood, Essex, painting expressive and dynamic birds, wildlife and wild British landscapes. Inspired by nature's strength and resilience, her paintings explore the connecting struggle we share with nature to balance the darkness and joy of life. Painting in textural acrylics in a contemporary, semi-abstract style, her process involves following trails of inspiration to explore ideas. She spends time sketching and painting en plein air, writing and using music to inhabit key themes. Her painting moves between instinctive, physical mark making and creating depth with layers of colour, texture and form. Lucia is a member of Colchester Art Society, the Brentwood Art Trail and has works with galleries in Essex, Suffolk and online. She has exhibited at the Oxo Tower Bargehouse and Truman Brewery, London with Roy's Art Fair and has undertaken a range of projects and exhibitions, including live painting demo's with the Essex Wildlife Trust, Thames Chase Forest Centre and the London Wetland Centre.
Lucia featured on Sky Art's 'Sky Landscape Artist of the Year' programme in January 2023, as the heat Wildcard Winner at Royal Ascot's picnic area.



Lucia Hardy Art

@LuciaHardyArt



Judith Harries

Judith works mainly in acrylics and enjoys exploring different textures & techniques. She is especially interested in wild, atmospheric landscapes. She is a regular visitor to St Ives, Cornwall which has resulted in numerous paintings which she has sold to locals and visitors alike. Observing the wildflowers and grasses in and around the local area has inspired this years work with an imaginative & abstract interpretation.

Lynne Harris

A fascination with light and colour have always been a motivation and powerful influence in Lynne's practice. Working primarily in watercolour and using a limited palette to mix her own secondary and tertiary colours, she explores using layers of washes of colour to obtain a luminous quality and capture an intensity of light. She has recently started to explore the art of lino printing.





Deborah Dickens

All three of the submitted works were created using black ink and household bleach. I work in mixed media, collage, ink, watercolour, pastel, acrylic. I have been painting for many years and am a member of West Horndon Art Group.



Sylvia Tyler

Sylvia is an amateur artist and paints in a wide range of methods including, watercolour, acrylic and pastel.

Lynne Matthews

Inspired by my lifelong interest of the countryside, hiking in the Derbyshire Peaks during my childhood and exhilarating holidays in Snowdonia, I now enjoy similar experiences with my own family, in the expansive country parks and coastline within Essex. Once back in the studio, with reflection upon magnificent views, original beeswax paintings are created, also known as Encaustic Art. The pigmented beeswax is applied to the surface of wood or China Clay coated card with heated tools such as a craft iron or hot stylus, which leaves a high gloss finish with delicate texture.



Dennis McDermott

Dennis is a self taught artist who tries to cover a wide range of subjects.







Stephen Green

More than 50 years ago I passed O level art but was unable to study at A level due to timetable clashes. I didn't really do much sketching until becoming involved in the 100 stories project through Kinetika and Land of the Fanns in 2019 which started me drawing again. During lockdown I became much more involved in the flag design for 100 stories and have kept going with drawing and sketching for my own enjoyment and relaxation.

Bill Newman

Bill lives in Ockendon. As a young lad he was greatly inspired from watching his older sister sketch while completing commissions.
He then became an artist in his own right after leaving his career of 25 years as a draughtsman. He is self taught and is progressing with his artistry constantly and now is a celebrated artist of renown throughout the Country.



The world of technical drawing clearly shows through his artwork when detailed perspectives are required. Many subjects are in his portfolio. His favourite medium is pastel, because he finds the blending capabilities of the pastels complement the subjects he works with and his portraiture. Bill’s contemporary artwork covers a varied selection of images including family, pets, architecture, cars and ballet, amongst others. Because of his abilities, the galleries have requested commissions on many of these subjects for their customers.



Richard Tunstall

Richard has been working as a professional goldsmith for over 50 years, previously working in Clerkenwell and Hatton Garden. With a life-long interest in drawing and water-colour painting, Richard now divides his time working on these two projects.
You can view Richard's jewellery and artwork on Instagram:

richardtunstallart

curvespacejewellery

Bob Stevenson

Bob is an amateur artist from Upminster who started painting as a complete novice after his recent retirement. His art is inspired by the natural environment and his work as a Thames Chase Conservation Volunteer.
He prefers to work with acrylics because of their vibrancy and quick drying properties. More recently he has moved away from realism to a more abstract style.





Simona Durrant

Simona Durrant is a London-based abstract artist who draws inspiration from nature, space, and geometry.

Her unique, textured art pieces, crafted with various tools and techniques, aim to trigger different emotions and unlock memories with every glance.



Brenda Haywood

Brenda has been an artist for most of her life. Originally self taught but having attended numerous art courses over the years.
She specialises in all medium and particularly loves painting the natural world. She enjoys making art that is affordable for all.



Louise Reilly

Louise Reilly is a Wildlife Artist from Hornchurch, Essex. Although she studied Art & Design at Epping Forest College and Graphic Design at Middlesex University, she is a relatively new artist, only picking it back up recently. She has exhibited locally and also in London and Cambridge. Louise has a passion for birds and endangered species and often focuses her work on these. She creates her pieces in mixed media, using fine liner pens and watercolour, with some pieces also including acrylic inks, pencil and pastel. Although she has a background in art and graphic design, she's self taught in her mediums. Her style is contemporary, using a controlled scribble technique to create the form of the subject and then using watercolour to define and bring the subject to life. Every animal has it's own character and she aims to capture this using her skills and unique technique.



Jo Tyler

I am an amateur artist, my art journey started in childhood. I paint in watercolour and mixed media.



artby_danidavison

paint_circle_

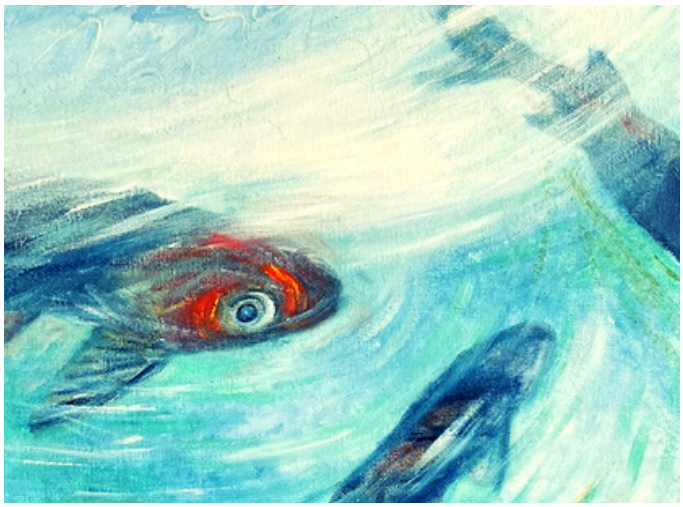
Dani Davidson

Dani is an artist from Upminster, who has always painted but has decided to focus more on this in the last year, taking steps to set up an online shop to showcase her artwork. She is inspired by nature and the change in seasons and loves painting abstract landscapes, seascapes and flowers with bright pops of colour. Although Dani is a language tutor, she has now branched out into teaching art to adults and children in fun paint-along sessions. Dani believes that everyone has a creative side and sometimes you need to be helped to kickstart that passion.



Michael Slade

I use a mix of handcrafting and woodturning on my lathe to create visually interesting pieces from locally sourced wood retrieved from fallen trees or reclaimed and recycled timber. I like the natural grain, knots, bark and spalting to feature in the finished item so that the wood is the star rather than intricate embellishment. The delicate forest flowers were finely turned from newly felled green wood, from a variety of species including oak, apple and cypress. They retain the bark whilst highlighting the grain and spalting where it occurs. The wood has been turned so thinly it moves, bends and changes shape as it dries, resulting in shapes that have been likened to woodland mushrooms. My work is finished with natural oils and waxes.



Barbara Naylor

I have loved drawing and painting for as long as I can remember but not until recently have I had the time to really try and hone my skills. Currently I create paintings using acrylic and oil- landscapes, portraits or random images from my imagination.

My style is varied depending on the subject, but leans towards the modern and impressionist styles as this is what influences me. I share my work on social media which has led to sales and commissions.

In 2022 I entered the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition and my work was selected and sold, a huge personal achievement .



Coral Binsmead

I have lived in Hornchurch all my life and been a member of the Upminster Art Society for many years. I have enjoyed experimenting with different media but prefer watercolour for wildlife and floral studies.



Hazel Turner

I am a local artist, have always enjoyed painting, and have exhibited in exhibitions over the last twenty years.
I particularly enjoy painting children and animals, and do take on commissions of pets.My paintings are mostly watercolour, although I have used pastels and oils.

I have taught a weekly watercolour art group for the last 15 years, meeting on Tuesday's, we used to have exhibitions of the class paintings in Upminster library the class enjoyed having their paintings on show, and selling them. It's lovely to see how they improve and enjoy painting.



Jo Stevens

I paint abstracted, textured scenes and memories to capture and understand the link between emotion, connection and visual language. I apply oil paint and mixed media through a layering and expressionist process, leaving the viewer open to find and experience their own memories and the feelings these evoke. I love the idea that art can be cathartic and healing for both the viewer and the artist. This led to my interest in how our minds understand and interpret information, based on conscious and unconscious processes.

I have been teaching Art for over 12 years, during this time I have had 3 children and set up a home studio, which is my little escape when I can't paint outside! Teaching part time enables me to create my own work, teach and also offer therapeutic arts sessions (BAAT ARTiculate) at my school. This offers individual students another form of communication, to hopefully improve their mental health and wellbeing. I am very grateful that I get to do something that I love, to teach and hopefully help others too.

Kirsten Church

Il love experimenting with fragmented reality, mixing abstract forms with elements from the natural world. As humans I think we can all feel fragmented in some way trying to find connection to the world around us. I try to find mine through the people that surround me, especially my children and spending time in nature. These paintings are a reflection of my life, as I paint I try to work out areas that are slowly vanishing that I try to cling onto with everything I have and others that shine out for the clarity and beauty they can give us.



Nicola Osbourne

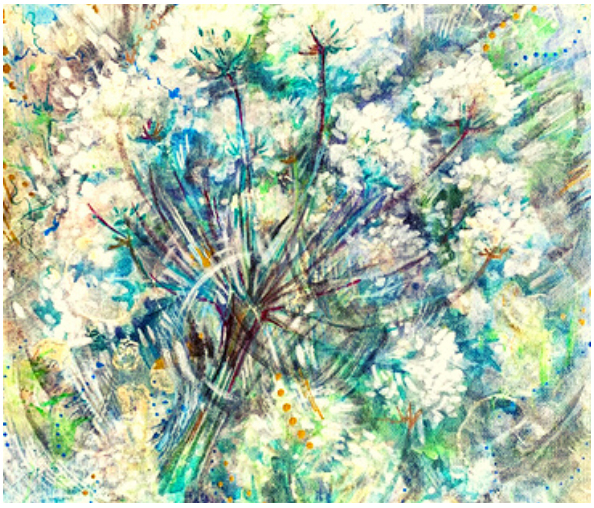
As a former art teacher, Nicola is passionate about the connection between the visual arts and the viewer. She strives to make her work as accessible to all, by employing the delights of colour.

Nicola is a mixed media, intuitive painter. Working mainly, in acrylic and vibrant acrylic inks, she investigates glazes of colour, using the emergence of imagery to inform outcomes.

She draws inspiration from the natural world, with a particular interest in floral subject matter and uses the changing seasons to inform her practise. Textures, repetition of shape and colour in organic forms have influenced her desire to examine their complexity. Her work has developed from the representational to the more abstract. This is in part to an emerging sense that she cannot truly capture the intricate beauty of the natural world and needed to find a way of conveying her own personal connection rather than a facsimile.

As an intuitive artist, Nicola works with the emerging and unexpected affects, these dictate the direction of her finished work. She uses colour overlap, shape and pattern to create intricate spaces. Immersing herself in the passion she has for kaleidoscopic imagery. Her work evokes her love of geometry and line. Images are often a mix of; mark making, bold colour and strong shape and line, creating dynamic and exciting, immersive paintings.







Tracey Walker

I love to explore light, texture and colour in my paintings, evoking emotions, creating atmospheres and drawing the onlooker into a bright and beautiful world. I find the freedom of abstract painting allows me to express my joyful, spiritual creativity.

A professional artist for over 30 years, I love to work with people to create the perfect pieces for them.





Stephen Cook

I studied at Hornsey College of Art, Walthamstow School of Art and at Goldsmiths College. My professional life has been spent in the field of Adult Art Education.
I work exclusively in oils and the main focus of my work is the realistic depiction of botanical and wildlife imagery. The myriad abstract shapes to be found in the structure of plants and natural forms are a fascination for me and oil paint allows for the meticulous approach essential to achieve the high level of detail required. My paintings can be found in collections in the UK, Europe and the USA.

A book about my work has only recently been published “The Painting of Stephen Cook. Enhanced Naturalism in a Post- War Figurative Tradition ' by the art historian and academic Stephen Miller.

stevecookartist

www.stephencookartist.com

Jennifer Arthur

Jennifer has been drawing and painting since childhood and has experimented with various media. She currently tends to paint in watercolour and ink and will have a go at most subjects.





Annabel Barry

Annabel produces Paper Mache Art creating each piece from scratch then painted by hand. A piece starts with an idea and evolves through design, construction, painting and finishing before becoming what I hope is a beautiful and tactile object. The process can take many weeks to complete, particularly for larger and more complex pieces.



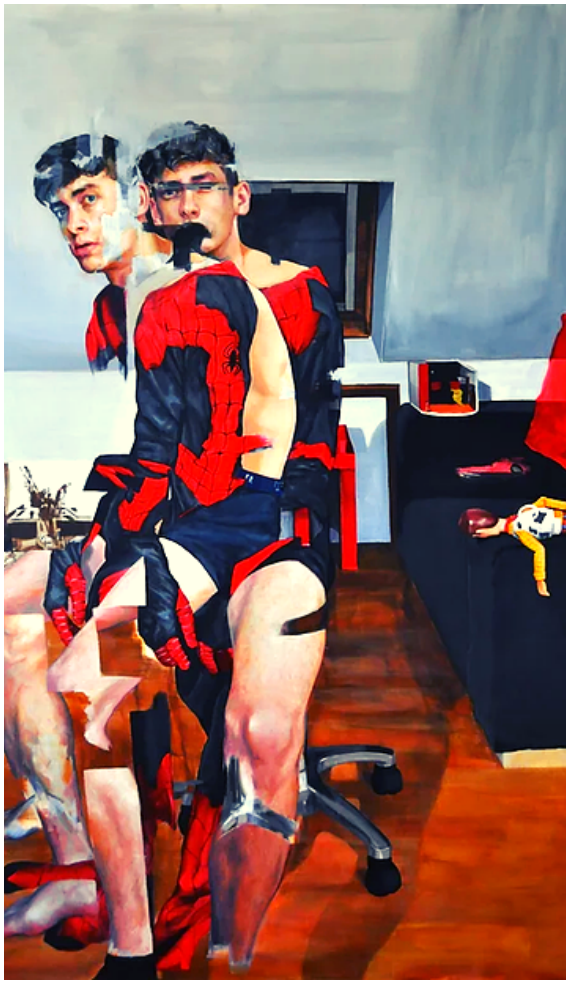
I recycle old newspapers and magazines and I prefer whenever possible to work with a cardboard frame for the structure, rather than wire as I think this creates a more fluid look and feel to the finished piece. Every piece is unique.



Sean McMahon

Sean is an illustrator and artist. Born in Wiltshire in 1954, I have tried my hand at most forms of art work, but probably best known for equestrian paintings, and children's illustrations.





Tom Mead

Thank you to Tom for opening this years exhibition. Tom Mead is a figurative Artist, living in London.

Challenging pictorial space, the fractured and overlapping nature of Mead's paintings convey a sense of life and movement over time, and explores the relationship between traditional painting and technology using 'glitches'.

Often clinging to visuals and ideology from childhood and cinema, Mead's artworks juxtapose this imagery with a harsher reality and the expectations of 'growing up'. As a result, a melancholic, warped form of nostalgia remains, with themes such as identity and existentialism permeating throughout.

To find out more about Tom's work visit: tommead.co.uk

How to purchase artworks

The artworks on display are for sale. Speak to one of the gallery stewards or to the reception staff at the Visitor Centre about purchasing these pieces.

We accept card and cash payments.
20% of the sale value goes to the Thames Chase Trust (registered charity no.: 1115627) as a commission for the exhibition.
This enables us to deliver our vital work in improving and enhancing the local landscape throughout the Community Forest.

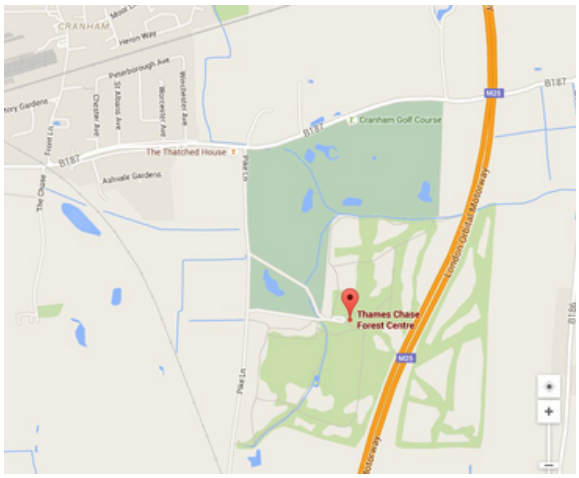
Pieces that have already been purchased will be represented with a red sticker.

Contact

Thames Chase Forest Centre, Pike Lane,
Upminster, RM14 3NS

Phone: 01708 642970

Email: enquiries@thameschase.org.uk



Upcoming events at Thames Chase

Wednesday September 13th - Thames Chase Art Club
Sunday September 17th - Monthly Sunday Market
Friday September 22nd - Guided Plant Folklore Walk
Saturday September 23rd - Healing Power Of Song (free event)
Saturday September 30th - Quiz Evening
Sunday October 8th - Julie Jive & The Bigshots
Sunday October 22nd - Apple Day
Saturday November 18th and Sunday November 19th - Christmas Market
Saturday November 25th - Christmas Grotto Opens
Sunday December 17th - Christmas Celebration



Visit our website for more information
www.thameschase.org.uk

Thames Chase