Thames Chase

Thames Chase Newsletter **September** 2023

NEWS





Changing Times

Welcome to September! With the change in season upon us there are some staff changes to announce at Thames Chase Trust as Aisling Woodhead steps into the role of Deputy Community Forest Director and Dave Bigden to Consultant Community Forest Director. Aisling first joined Thames Chase Trust as a conservation volunteer in 2015, and since then has worked in many roles including project support, as part of the Land of the Fanns Landscape Partnership Scheme, as part of the Programmes team, and even on occasion helping out on reception or fixing a computer!

Aisling says “We have all worked extremely hard in recent years to achieve so much. It has been a very busy period and there is an exciting future ahead. Going forward there is a need to share the load of the Community Forest Director role and to divide operational and strategic tasks. Dave Bigden’s new role as Consultant Community Forest Director will allow for focussed strategic development and Dave will be tasked with the creation of the next Thames Chase Plan and its strategic implementation. As Deputy Community Forest Director, I will oversee all operational aspects of the Trust. We’re looking forward to working together; trustees, staff and volunteers have brought the Trust to where it is today and continuing to work in this way will build and secure a strong and robust future for the organisation and in turn, the Community Forest”.

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



Keep Moving!

We have recently launched a weekly active wellbeing walk at Pages Wood. This well-paced active wellbeing walk around Pages Wood is led by Thames Chase Trust, in partnership with Forestry England. With regular breaks to enjoy the natural environment, and wildlife rich views of Pages Wood, this is a great opportunity to take in nature and meet new people! Brisk exercise and taking in the natural environment has proven health benefits, from lowering blood pressure to improving concentration.

The Active Wellbeing Walk takes place every Wednesday, from 10:30am to 11:30am, with half an hour of optional refreshments afterwards. We meet at Pages Wood Car Park (RM14 1TT), off Hall Lane, just outside of Cranham. If you would like to attend please call 01708 642970 to secure your space, cost £3 donation per person

Forestry England

Quarry Hill

Thames Chase Trust staff and Conservation Volunteers recently helped to transform a space at Quarry Hill Academy in Grays providing maintenance and repairing their 'Magic Garden', a sensory and gardening club space for the KS1 and KS2 students.
There was lots of work to be done. We cleared the footpaths, raised beds and around the perimeter of the garden. We also repaired some of their footpaths, fencing and their mud kitchen.
The end result was a wonderful space that can provide the children with a great space for learning and experiencing new things.
(With thanks to J Doyle and B Gibson for the photo)





BioBlitz

At the end of August one of our main activities has been our annual Thames Chase Forest Centre Bioblitz. A favourite of family groups and of insect specialists, this event combines education and learning with fun and genuine recordings of what species we have on our site.
With good weather and a fair number of volunteers to help out, the event was a success with dozens of family groups coming along and trying their hand at sweep netting and river life identifying. We had a myriad of species caught (and safely released) including Garden Tiger Moths, Red-tailed Bumblebees, Grass Veneers and more species of beetle then we know what to do with!

Thank You

It's been a very busy summer at Thames Chase with the return of the cafe provision and the school holidays. We wanted to say a special thank you to our volunteers. Without their time, skills and dedication, our events simply wouldn't be possible.
Forest Centre Manager Caroline Roberts says "It has been so lovely to see so many visitors attending Thames Chase this school summer holidays. I always say that the volunteers are the jewel in the Thames Chase crown. Without their dedication and giving of their time, so many of our wonderful events would not be able to go ahead. Our fabulous volunteers are already planning fun activities for Apple Day, Spooky Walks and Christmas"



THAMES CHASE FOREST CENTRE
PIKE LANE
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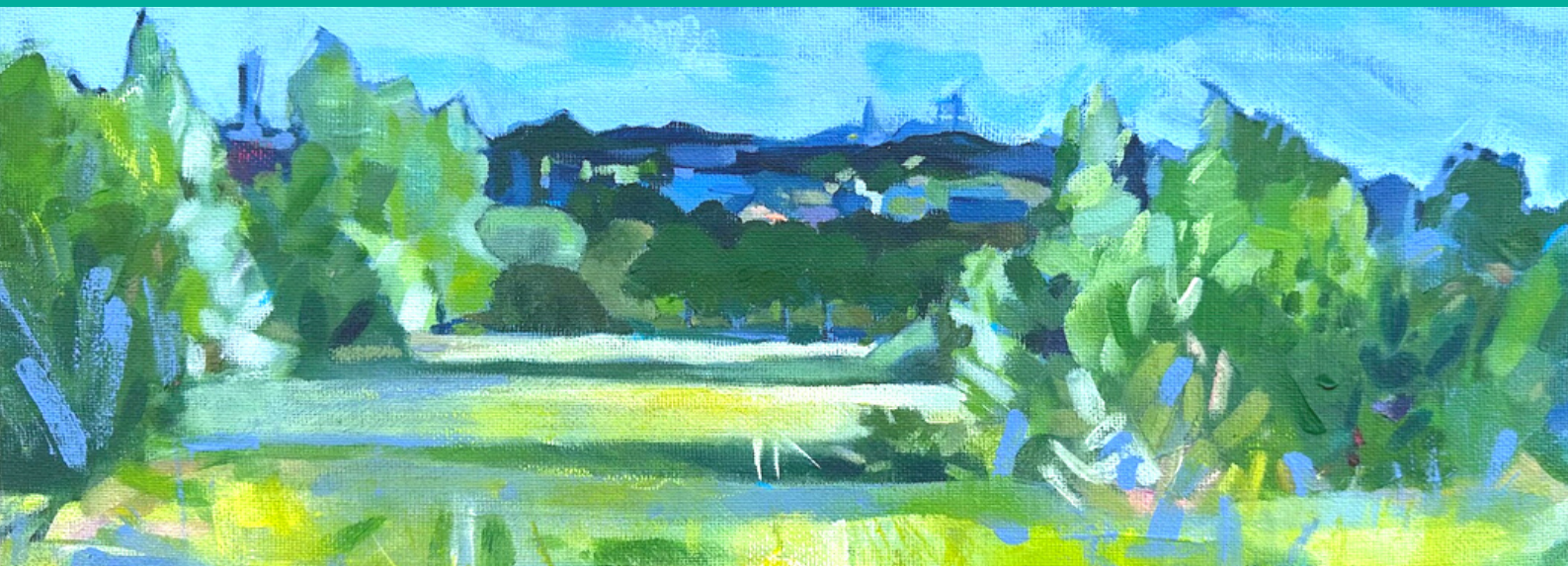
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EVENTS | DATES



ART EXHIBITION 2023

The Thames Chase Art Exhibition opens to the public on September 2nd and is set to be bigger and better than ever, with thirty five local artists showcasing their work. Entrance is free and the exhibition will be open daily from 10am-4pm until September 10th. Artist Tom Mead will be 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'. More information on Tom and his works can be viewed via his website: www.tommead.co.uk. Caroline Roberts Forest Centre Manager says "Thames Chase Forest Centre in the heart of Upminster is the hub of the Community Forest. 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 Trust 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, stewards, staff members and visitors, for making this event a success."

For more information about events and latest developments please call the visitor centre reception: 01708 642970 or visit our social media pages (Main Image Credit: Lucia Hardy)



Free Event - The Power of Song

Join us on Saturday 23, September, 3pm-4.30pm for a Classical singing recital.
Songs can help us to explore and understand our feelings, especially when they are settings of words by sensitive poets. The songs in this recital suggest that we may come to deal with our feelings by immersing ourselves in nature, realising we are part of nature, and therefore feeling safe and ‘at home’.
The programme includes songs by George Butterworth, Kurt Weill, Roger Quilter, Peter Warlock and Tchaikovsky. Musicians include Ian Pirie and Hilary Barkwith. Tea/Coffee and cake will be available at the end of the recital.
This event is free, however if you wish to donate to Thames Chase you are most welcome.
Please speak to the visitor centre reception to register your interest or call 01708 642970.

Quiz Evening

Get your family and friends together for a fun evening at Thames Chase!
Saturday 30th September 2023 in the Education Room 7pm for 7.30pm start.

Tables of up to eight people are available only £6 per person, with a selection of raffle prizes to be won.
Please bring your own refreshments, tea and coffee will be provided
Booking is essential call the visitor centre to secure your space: 01708 642970 *Please note payment must be taken at the time of booking*
(This event is suitable for families and all ages)





Julie Jive and the Bigshots!

Thames Chase are proud to present Julie Jive and the Bigshots!
Join us on October 8th, 2pm-5pm for an afternoon of dancin', jivin', rock n rollin' or just listening!
Julie Jive and the Bigshots bring all of your favourite 1950's and rock n roll hits, to the Thames Chase heritage barn.
Tickets are priced at £20 per person and it is suitable for all ages.
Bring your own food and drink and don't forget your blue suede shoes!
Call Thames Chase visitor centre to book: 01708 642970
*Please note payment must be taken at time of booking, thank you.

Dates For Your Diary

- Art Exhibition - Sept 2nd-10th
- Thames Chase Art Club - Sept 13th
- Monthly Sunday Market - Sept 17th
- Quiz Evening - Sept 30th
- Heritage Folklore Walk at Dagnam Park - Oct 6th
- Julie Jive & The Bigshots - Oct 8th
- Apple Day - Oct 22nd

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



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