Upcoming Events

Friday 6th May
10.30am-12.30pm
Discovering Thames Chase coffee morning
Join us for coffee and share memories of the Stubbers. Learn a little about the development of the Outdoor Pursuits Centre
Donations

Friday 13th May
2.30-4.30pm
Cream tea (must book)
Enjoy a delicious cream tea whilst listening to live music
£8 per person
Stubbers

Sunday Market
Produce and craft stalls from local providers. Craft demonstrations.
A walk from the Forest Centre to Stubbers.
£3 per person
Donations

Friday 27th May
From 10am
Guided walk to Stubbers Shakespeare weekend
A weekend of celebration in honour of William Shakespeare. Explore Shakespeare in magic, nature and love as you stroll around the Forest.
Our annual visit from the Guild’s craftsmen. An opportunity to purchase a unique item and observe skilled craftsmen at work.
Donations of about £3 please

Saturday & Sunday 21st/22nd May
11am-3pm each day
Guide of Essex craft fair
Our annual visit from the Guild’s craftsmen. An opportunity to purchase a unique item and observe skilled craftsmen at work.
Free

Sunday & Monday 29th/30th May
10am
Guide of Essex craft fair
Our annual visit from the Guild’s craftsmen. An opportunity to purchase a unique item and observe skilled craftsmen at work.
Free

Sunday 12th June
10.00am & 11.30am
Children’s half term holiday programme
During National Tree Week our activities will celebrate trees.
Donations

Sunday 5th June
2.30-
Concert – opera favourites
An afternoon of musical intrigue at Trinity, Station Rd. Upminster
£10 per person
Free

Friday 10th June
10.30am-
Discovering Thames Chase coffee morning
Join us for coffee and share memories of the Community Forest.
Free

Sunday 12th June
10.00am & 11.30am
Children’s half term holiday programme
During National Tree Week our activities will celebrate trees.
Donations

Friday 17th June
2.30-4.30pm
Cream tea dance (must book)
Enjoy a delicious cream tea whilst you listen and maybe smooth to live music
£10 per family
£3 per individual in the fun run
£6.00 per person
Wear suitable clothing
Free

Sunday 19th June
10.00am-
Discovering Thames Chase morning
Join us for coffee and share memories of the Community Forest.
£6 per person

Sunday 26th June
2.6pm
Big Band Concert
We welcome back the Brentwood School Big Band for our picnic in the meadow.
Details on front cover
Free

Friday 8th July
10.30am-12.30pm
Discovering Thames Chase morning
Join us for coffee and share memories of the Community Forest.
£6 per person

Friday 15th July
2.30-4.30pm
Cream tea (must book)
Enjoy a delicious cream tea whilst listening to live music.
£6 per person

Friday 15th July
8.11pm
Jazz in the Barn
An evening with Dave Browning’s Jazz Band in our 17c barn
£12 per person
Free

Sunday 17th July
10.00am-3pm
Sunday Market
Produce and craft stalls from local providers.
Free

25th August – 4th September
Tues, Wed & Thurs each week
Children’s school holiday programme
Full details of the summer holiday programme will be published separately and on the website.
Times to be advised

The Land of the Fanns Project
In March, the Thames Chase Trust hosted an environment and heritage focused conference, bringing together over 40 representatives from across the Community Forest to support our future project plans.
Attendees heard updates on the Heritage Lottery Fund ‘Land of the Fanns’ funding bid, and shared expertise to explore how the Forest can be better used for education and skill development. This information will feed into our ‘Land of the Fanns’ bid which will enable nearly £2million of improvements across the Community Forest over 5 years from 2017. Information on this programme will be added to our website in the next few months, so do look out for this. The bid will be submitted in September.
Scott Sullivan – Development Manager

Picnic in the meadow - Big Band Concert
We are delighted to welcome back the Brentwood School Big Band on Sunday 26th June for an afternoon of champagne picnics, barbecue and incredible sound. This is an occasion for all the family. Bring your garden chairs and rugs to relax and listen to a varied programme of song and sound.
Admission to the site is free (car parking £2). Donations please toward Thames Chase Trust.
Champagne picnic basket for 2 and family picnic baskets can be pre-ordered from the Centre before the day.
There will also be a beer tent and a barbecue.

Discovering Thames Chase
Our next study will focus on Stubbers, the home of William Coys and later the Russell Family. Now an outdoor pursuits centre, Stubbers is another example of how a historic landscape can be regenerated into valuable green space for people and wildlife. The coffee morning on Friday 6th May will share its history and recent memories. On Friday 27th May our walks team will lead a guided walk to Stubbers. The topic for both coffee morning and guided walk in June will be Tylers Common.

THE EDITOR WRITES
Our ‘Land of the Fanns’ project is reaching the end of the development phase. It has drawn together a wide range of organizations from local communities across the Forest and beyond and has the potential to offer many the opportunity to pursue a long desired ambition.
Our good fortune in achieving a substantial grant from Tesco’s Bags of Help scheme is already helping us to meet a current need to regenerate our tree nursery. Plans are well underway and our volunteers are rearing to start work. Watch this space!
On a lighter note, we are very lucky to host the Brentwood School Big Band again this year. Their visit to the Forest Centre promises to be a memorable afternoon. I only hope the weather is kind!
The 10k run on the other hand is for the athletic amongst us, although the fun run could be less challenging! There is still time to enter for either run. For more information visit the Forest Centre or the website.
Our walks programme as outlined by Bob is exploring the wider Community Forest to discover what Thames Chase has achieved in its first 25 years.
Mary Wright, Trustee


Volunteers

Walking Group Update

Thames Chase Guided Walks 2016

In 2016 there will be Thames Chase guided walks on the 4th Friday of each month starting at 10.00 am. The walks will have the theme of Discovering Thames Chase and each walk will complement the Discovering Thames Chase coffee mornings which are held on the 2nd Friday of each month.

Each walk will be up to 5 miles long and last between 2-3 Hours. The walks will be at a leisurely pace so that walkers have time to absorb the character of the area and enjoy the sights and sounds of the countryside.

The first walk, held on 25 March, was a circular walk from the TC Visitor Centre to Parklands via the Cranham Nature Reserve. This walk was very well attended, the weather was glorious and we were fortunate to be joined by Andrew Griffiths who gave us an informative description of Parklands and the history and renovation of the ancient bridge.

The April walk to Belhus Country Park, started at 10.00 am from the car park at Cely Woods on Friday 22 April. This walk passed through White Post Wood with its glorious carpet of bluebells, through Cely Wood and then around the meadows, woods and lakes of Belhus.

The May walk on Friday 27 May will be to Stubbers. The walk will start at 10.00 am from the Forest Centre or you can join the walk at the car park in Stubbers at 11.45 am. A chance to see the lakes, woods and the Walled Garden.

Later walks have yet to be finalised but will be published on the Thames Chase web site
www.thameschase.org.uk

Bob Stevenson – volunteer walks' leader

Calling all runners!

The Thames Chase 10k run is taking place again this year. The course is a very pleasant one using the all-weather paths through the community forest. The course is all off road, gently undulating, and multi-lap, with chip timing.

Date: Saturday 12th June 2016, at 10.00, at The Forest Centre, Pike Lane, Upminster, RM14 3NS.

Onsite parking, refreshments and toilets all available with race mementoes, medals and goody bags for all participants.

Entry £17 affiliated, £19 non-affiliated.

Enter online: http://www.chiptiminguk.co.uk/ps/event/TheThamesChase

After watching (or running!) the 10k race, why not join the Family Fun Run at 11.30. Entry £10 per family, £3 per child 11-16 running alone.

Please email enquiries@thameschase.org.uk or call in to the Forest Centre to book. Medal and goody bags for all participants!

Further details of these events are on our website: www.thameschase.org.uk under ‘Upcoming Events’

All profits go to Thames Chase Trust who manage the Community Forest.

Ian Pirie – volunteer fund raiser

Cycling News

Cycling Taster days at Thames Chase Forest Centre!

During the coming months we will be holding cycling taster days for those who have not cycled for a while or would like to try cycling for the first time. Included in the cost will be tea or coffee and a piece of cake in our Forest Café. Well you will have earned it!

For the Young at Heart!

Wednesday 13th July anytime between 1.30pm and 4pm for £6

For those young at heart who would like to cycle for 1/2 hour and then enjoy refreshments in the café.

Ladies’ Only!

Wednesday 14th September anytime between 1.30pm and 4pm for £6

For those ladies who would just like to try, you can cycle for 1/2 hour and then head for the café.

We have a wide variety of cycles, including trikes, come and have a go!

If you cannot make these dates but would like to try our cycles you can hire cycles at weekends and school holidays until 31st October.

Wendy Baker-Forest Centre Manager

The Thames Chase Tree Nursery

We are grateful to those who supported our bid for a grant from Tesco’s ‘Bags of Help’ fund. We were successful in receiving the maximum grant to revamp our tree nursery at Broadfields. Most of the work will be carried out by volunteers throughout the summer ready for autumn planting.

Our aim is to replace and improve the raised beds, replace the rabbit proof fencing, improve access and add a potting shed for seed planting. The new tree nursery will be used for education as well as supplying a stock of native trees for planting and for sale.

Volunteers are now needed firstly to help build and then to manage the nursery to ensure the project is a success. Contact 01708 642970 or email enquiries@thameschase.org.uk if you can offer help.

Volunteering

Do you have just half a day per week and would like to support the Thames Chase Forest Centre. Or perhaps you have a particular skill or ideas for fund raising. If so we need your help!

At present we urgently need help with administration to support the running of the Visitor Centre. An organized work ethic with basic computer and typing skills would be ideal to join a busy team.

We also need support at weekends for conservation work on the first Sunday each month or with general maintenance or events or reception work. Contact us on 01708 642970 or email enquiries@thameschase.org.uk
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Young at Heart!

Cycling News
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