One of the things that I am proud to be associated with, as Chair of the Thames Chase Trust, is the excellent work that I believe the Trust is doing to encourage all sections of the community to benefit from the range of services and facilities that are on offer at the Visitor Centre and the Broadfields Farm site. This year the Trust has made great strides in encouraging people with all abilities to visit the site. Earlier on in the year Havering Council officially designated the site as one of Havering's "Cycle Hubs", in recognition of the work that the Trust had done to promote cycling and ensure that all sections of the community had an opportunity to enjoy a cycle ride. The Hub will build on the partnership that the Trust has developed with "Positive Parents" and "Trailnet" to provide bicycles for hire that have been adapted to meet the needs of people with various abilities. More recently the Trust has completed works to create a "Changing Places" facility, so that people with certain forms of disability and their carers can visit Broadfields Farm, safe in the knowledge that there are on-site toilet and changing facilities that will meet their needs. I would like to thank City Bridge Trust for the funding they provided and "Positive Parents" for the advice they gave on the type of facility that should be provided.

The Trust has more work to do, but I hope that you agree that significant progress is being made to encourage all sections of the community to visit the Broadfields Farm site.

Simon Parkinson - Chair of the Thames Chase Trust

Cycle Hire opens Thursdays for a trial period.
We will be adding to our cycle hire season by opening cycle hire on Thursday afternoons during term time from 1pm until 3.30pm until the end of October. These afternoons are open to all and as term time is quieter, would be ideal for those who have not cycled for a while or would like to try cycling for the first time. Visitors can enjoy the community forest by cycling on the surfaced paths at the Broadfields site for £3 for ½ hour or £5 for 1 hour.

Wendy Baker – Forest Centre Manager

THE EDITOR WRITES

Autumn 2017 sees the culmination of one cherished project at the Forest Centre where new facilities provide opportunities for everyone to explore and enjoy the natural environment at Broadfields and the launch of a new major Forest wide partnership project entitled ‘The Land of the Fanns.’

To support and progress the exciting programmes ahead, we welcome new staff both to the Thames Chase team and the Forestry Commission Thames Beat team as introduced on page three.

The new initiatives along with an ambitious programme of events at the Forest Centre, promises to also make this a challenging time for our volunteer teams, all of whom would welcome new members (see the back page).

Can you help?

With such a busy period, I hope we will all take time to enjoy the beautiful colour show the trees display in autumn.

Mary Wright - Trustee
London Environment Strategy
In August 2017, the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, published his draft London Environment Strategy. The Mayor is taking a range of actions to improve the environment now, setting London on the path to create a better future.

Today London is facing a host of environmental challenges. Toxic air, noise pollution, the threat to our green spaces, and the adverse effects of climate change, all pose major risks to the health and wellbeing of Londoners. The Mayor wants to ensure that London is greener, cleaner and ready for the future. This is the first strategy to bring together approaches to every aspect of London’s environment. It is divided into the following areas:

- Air quality
- Green infrastructure
- Climate change mitigation and energy
- Waste
- Adapting to climate change
- Ambient noise

The public consultation on these plans is now open until 17th November. The Thames Chase Trust will be responding on behalf of the Thames Chase Community Forest.

National Park City
London’s parks, green spaces, and natural landscapes are the places where Londoners can relax, exercise, play and enjoy the capital’s natural heritage and culture. They also provide habitat for wildlife, help protect London from the impact of climate change, and help improve London’s air quality. The Mayor wants to make London the first National Park City with a target of making 50 per cent of the city green by 2050. To do this, the Mayor wants to plant more trees, restore rivers, create natural play-spaces for children and green routes to encourage walking and cycling. The Thames Chase Trust is a member of the National Park City Advisory Group.

South Essex Catchment Partnership (SECP)
The Thames Chase Trust is the host organisation and Chair of the SECP. The 2017-18 programme has now been agreed with the Catchment Partnership and a diverse range of project activity will be delivered including walkover surveys, practical conservation volunteer project days, environmental education, fundraising, habitat improvements, and in-channel management.

Roding, Beam & Ingrebourne Catchment Partnership (RBICP)
Alongside Thames21, the Thames Chase Trust is the co-host organisation and Chair of the RBICP. The 2017-18 programme has now been agreed with the Catchment Partnership and a diverse range of project activity will be delivered across the Roding, Beam and Ingrebourne areas. This programme will include practical conservation volunteer project days, habitat improvements, walkover surveys, environmental education, and in-channel management.

Community Woodlands and development of the wider Forest
Thames Chase continues to work with all partners to develop the Community Forest in accordance with the Thames Chase Plan. The Trust is actively supporting the Forestry Commission’s (FC) ongoing programme of community woodland creation. We have been working with London Sport and the FC to recognise the recreation offer provided by the Forest estate and the FC has been working on new interpretation, an Autumn Trail at Broadfields, and a Tree ID trail at Pages Wood.

Dave Bigden – Forest Development Manager
I will start with an introduction to myself as I only began working full time as the Land of the Fanns Scheme Manager in August, previously having been involved in the development of the project with Havering Council. Since I started we have been very busy with recruitment, having run two recruitment campaigns we have now established the full Land of the Fanns Team. Amena Ahmed joined the team in May as the Finance and Admin Officer. Along with getting familiar with some very complicated spreadsheets, Amena has also taken a lead on commissioning the new Land of the Fanns website and establishing social media platforms for the scheme. Deborah Brady will be joining the team shortly as the Heritage Engagement Officer. Deborah has a real passion for heritage and has a great deal of experience working in this sector. And last but not least Aisling Woodhead will also be joining the team as the Environment Engagement Officer. Some of you may already know Aisling as a familiar face in the Thames Chase visitor centre. She has a passion for environmental conservation and is already familiar with the some of the communities we will be working with having worked for Thames Chase Trust as both a volunteer and currently as the Project Support Officer.

We are all very keen to make a start on project delivery, it feels like a long time since we were first offered the HLF grant in November 2016! Some of the first project areas the team will be looking at are the river projects. Here we have been working closely with the local community and Land of the Fanns partners to establish plans for river restoration along the Rivers Rom and Ingrebourne. We have also been looking at taking our interpretation strategy a step further to develop interpretation plans for a number of key visitor destinations within the Land of the Fanns. Another exciting project we have been working on is a community archaeology project with Museum of London Archaeology. You will soon be able to find out more information through our website that will be closely linked to the Thames Chase website.

As an update we will be holding an informal lunch time session for stakeholders to bring them up to date with what’s happening with the project. The intention will be to hold a more formal conference event early in the new year.

Benjamin Sanderson – Scheme Manager

Welcome to Beth Cambridge

Beth Cambridge joined the Forestry Commission Thames Beat team as Community Woodland Manager at the beginning of September. After spending a year travelling around the world, Beth was accepted at the University of Nottingham to study Environmental Science which included living in Malaysia for one year where her interest in forestry grew.

Beth started with Forestry Commission Scotland on the Graduate Programme and has since taken on a variety of roles in all parts of the organisation, bringing a variety of skills and lots of enthusiasm to the role.

Some interesting facts about Beth- she has done the world’s highest bungee jump, ridden an ostrich and spent a month living in the jungle tracking elephants!

Beth Cambridge – Community Woodland Manager

The Forestry Commission would like to thank retiring Volunteer Site Wardens Doug and June Whittaker for all their hard work and invaluable help at Pages Wood. Over the last 12 months they have been instrumental in helping the Rangers keep the woodland tidy and litter free, and have provided both visitors and staff with friendly faces to chat to on site.

Scott Osbourne – Community Ranger
Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13th Oct</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>2.30-4.30pm</td>
<td>Apple Cream Tea</td>
<td>£9 (Booking essential)</td>
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<tr>
<td>21st/22nd Oct</td>
<td>Sat/Sun</td>
<td>10am-4pm</td>
<td>Apple Weekend</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<td>24th, 25th &amp; 26th Oct</td>
<td>Tue, Wed, Thurs</td>
<td>10.30am - 12.30pm</td>
<td>Autumn half term - Family Activities</td>
<td>£3 donation</td>
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<tr>
<td>27th Oct</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>10am-12:30</td>
<td>Guided walk to Dagnam Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>28th Oct</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>1:30-3:30pm</td>
<td>Spooky Crafts and Trail</td>
<td>£3 donation</td>
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<tr>
<td>28th Oct</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>5:15-8:15pm</td>
<td>Spooky Walks</td>
<td>Free (Individual = £6, Family = £20)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th Nov</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>10am-1pm</td>
<td>Forest Centre Conservation Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th Nov</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>2:30-4:30pm</td>
<td>Musical Cream Tea</td>
<td>£9 (Booking essential)</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th/19th Nov</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>10am-4pm</td>
<td>Christmas Craft Fair</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th Nov</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>10am-1pm</td>
<td>Guided walk to St Mary Magdalene’s Church</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>2:30-4:30pm</td>
<td>The Chase Players Variety Show</td>
<td>£10 (Children £5)</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>Christmas Traditions</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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<td>Christmas Cream Tea</td>
<td>£9 (Booking essential)</td>
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<td>17th Dec</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>10am-3pm</td>
<td>Sunday Market</td>
<td>Free</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Always check the website www.thameschase.org.uk before the event in case of any changes.

Have you thought of volunteering?

There are lots of other opportunities at Thames Chase and I am sure we have a role that would interest you. Your reward is knowing that you are making a difference to all our futures in helping to improve local landscape.

Why not come along to the centre or join one of our events and talk to other volunteers about their experiences.

Donate to Thames Chase Trust

Charity Number: 1115627

The Giving Machine

Remember, when you are buying Christmas presents online you can generate a free cash donation for us just by going on the Giving Machine website. You’ll find over 2,000 of the most popular shops, so it’s easy for you to make a difference without it costing you a penny more than the normal purchase price of your item. The Giving Machine turns the commission you’ve generated into a charitable donation and passes it on to Thames Chase if you choose to support us:

https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/thames-chase-community-forest

My Donate

Online on the My Donate website: https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/thameschasecommunityforest

Or

• In the Thames Chase Forest Centre
• Telephone: 01708 642970
• Email: enquiries@thameschase.org.uk

For more information and to make bookings please ring 01708 642970 or call at
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Website: www.thameschase.org.uk
Charity no. 1115627. Company No. 5687558

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