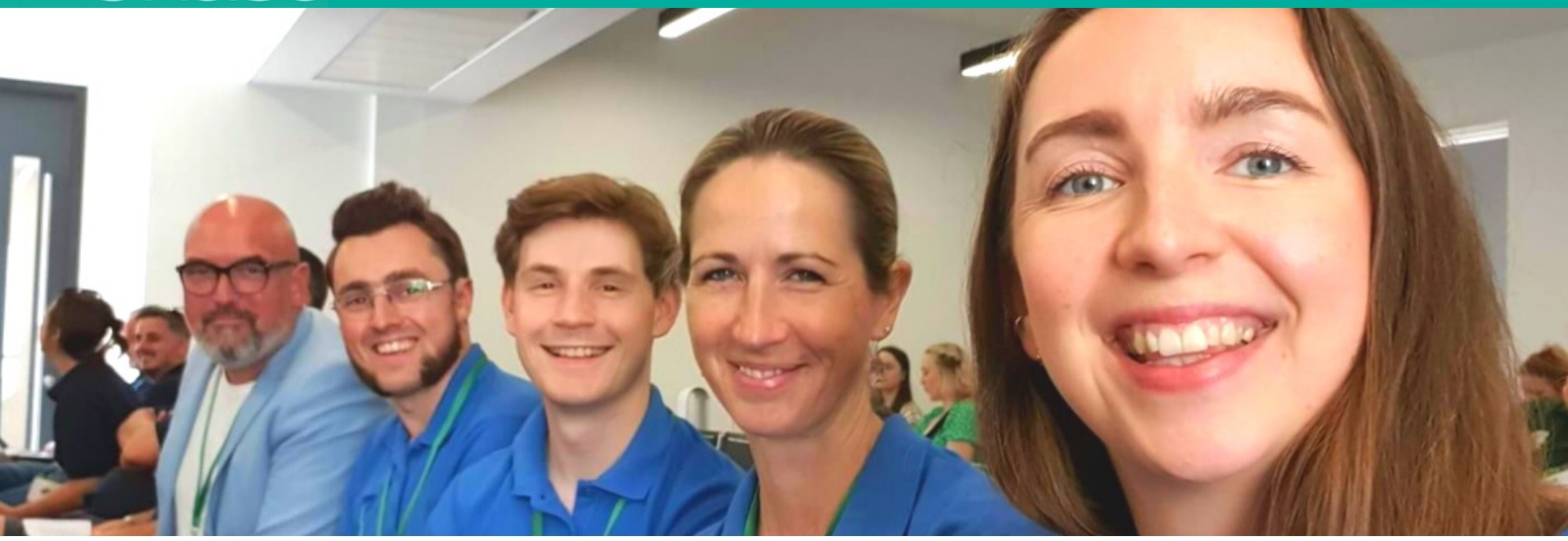
Thames Chase

Thames Chase Newsletter **July** 2023

NEWS



England's Community Forests

Welcome to the Thames Chase Trust July newsletter. On Thursday June 22nd Thames Chase attended the annual England's Community Forests (ECF) conference in Manchester hosted by City of Trees. The event began with an introduction by Paul Nolan, Chair of ECF and was followed by a panel of prominent members of the ECF who had the opportunity to answer questions from conference attendees.

We visited the Castleford Viaduct, a National Trust site promoting the industrial heritage of Manchester and collaboration between the ECFs and partner organisations. This was followed by updates from each Community Forest allowing attendees to better understand the strengths of the national networks of Community Forests. Dave Bigden, Thames Chase Community Forest Director reported on the recent increase in area from 40 to 70 square miles and the excellent work by the team at Thames Chase. Following this was the awards ceremony for the ECF network, where outstanding members of the ECFs can be celebrated. Thames Chase were nominated for two awards; James Doyle was nominated for the Sapling Award and the Programmes Team were nominated for the Breakthrough Star Of The Year for the biggest shift in performance and impact. Finally, inspiring words were given by Charles Vivian, the CEO of the Community Forest Trust, who asked the ECFs to strive further and accomplish even more this coming year.



Mary Wright

Mary Wright, the Trust's longest serving trustee, has sadly decided to retire as a trustee. Mary first started supporting the Thames Chase Community Forest as a volunteer back in the early 2000's. She became a trustee in 2006 when the Trust was first registered as a charity.

Her passion and dedication for improving the environment for the benefit of the local community has helped develop and promote the Community Forest as we know it today. There have of course been lots of memories, with highs and challenging times. Mary helped with the opening and management of the first & the rebuilt Visitors Centre in 2005 & 2011, as well as supporting environmental projects, all much appreciated.

We hope that Mary will be able to join us later in the year to plant a tree, as a fitting way to recognise her significant service to the Community Forest. Thank you Mary.

Upminster Junior School

We are very pleased to be working with Upminster Junior School to help them develop their school grounds for outdoor learning. The school gardening club are pleased to have some renewed raised beds for planting which have been topped with compost created on site.
Thames Chase volunteers have also done a fantastic job of creating a mud kitchen for the Key Stage 2 (Juniors) children complete with double sinks and hobs and a range of frying pans and baking trays for making delicious mud pies! The frame was built using wooden pallets, reused timber and a marine ply. We look forward to continuing to work with the staff and children of Upminster Junior School.





Stoneford Community Garden

It was wonderful to spend another afternoon at the National Trust's Stoneford Community Garden recently.
We run a fortnightly volunteer session and are keen to welcome new people. The garden is such a special place - it's hard to leave.
The space is continuing to transform. During this session we planted some runner beans with a natural wigwam to support them and nearly finished weeding a wonderfully fragrant and beautiful rose bed. We plan to add some mulch next to keep the moisture in and reduce the weeds.
If you would like to find out more about the volunteer sessions at Stoneford Community Garden please email: enquiries@thameschase.org.uk

Introducing Steve Cantle

Steve Cantle joined Thames Chase Board of Trustees in May. Previously involved in a number of voluntary roles, Steve served as a Magistrate in Havering, Barkingside and Waltham Forest for several years. He also worked as a mentor with the Princes Trust advising young people on educational and career issues.
Steve's time was also occupied with operating as a police custody visitor. During his professional career Steve worked as a Solicitor in the city specialising in professional negligence cases and commercial litigation. Steve is married and has two adult children and six grandchildren. His pastimes include lawn and indoor bowling, motorcycling, narrow boating and skiing.



THAMES CHASE FOREST CENTRE
PIKE LANE
UPMINSTER RM14 3NS

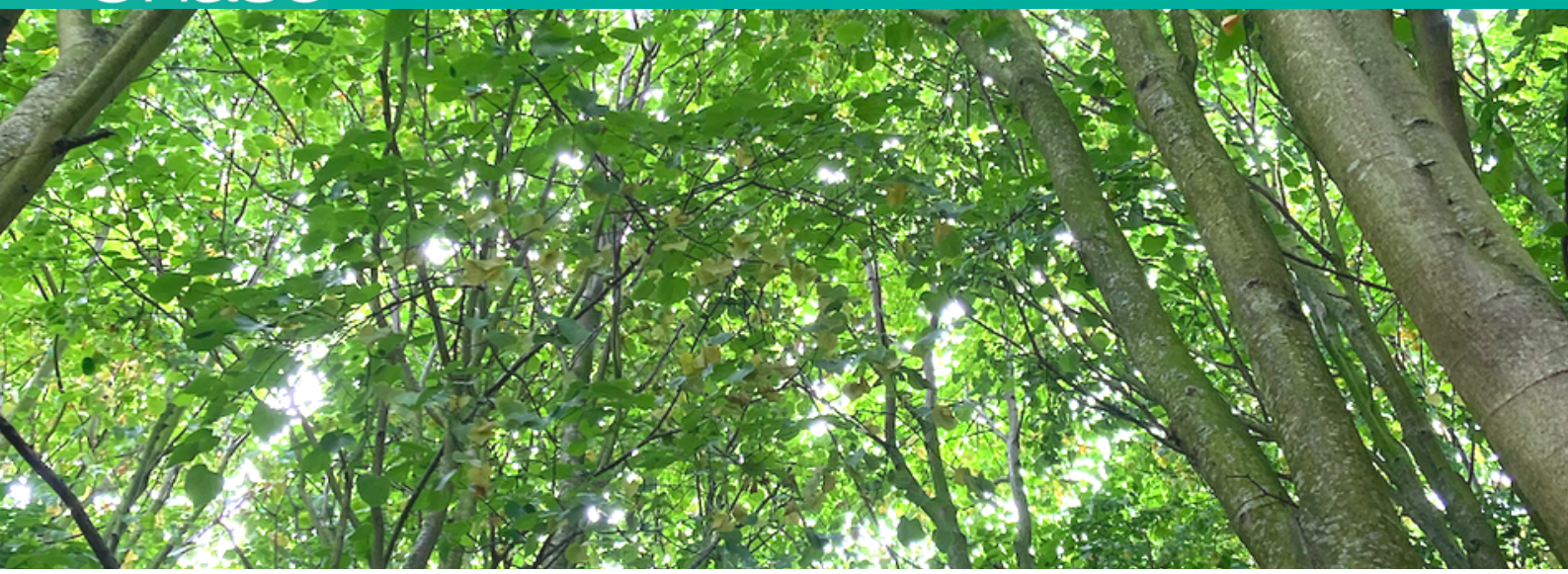
WWW.THAMESCHASE.ORG.UK
TEL. 01708 642970

CHARITY NO.1115627 COMPANY NO.5687558

Thames Chase

Thames Chase Newsletter
July 2023

EVENTS | DATES



Feel Good In The Forest

Feel good in the forest this summer with Thames Chase and Forestry England!
Join us at Thames Chase Community Forest for a FREE day of activities for the whole family on July 22nd from 10am-3pm. All ages and abilities are welcome. The day will consist of FREE taster sessions of various activities including: Family Yoga, Adult Yoga, Wellbeing & Tree Walks plus Cycle Hire (bikes are available for all ages plus adapted bikes) Why not try Meditation with John London or connect with nature on an immersive Wildlife Wonders Walk led by a Forestry England Ranger.
There will be children's activities throughout the day including games, sports and crafts. Local artist Lucia Hardy will lead an artist sketch and walk session for budding artists. Food and refreshments will be available. Free tickets can be booked online via eventbrite.co.uk Search for 'feel good in the forest'

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



Upcoming Heritage Walks

You can now book our heritage walks online at your own convenience via eventbrite.co.uk
This July join the team for a guided heritage circular walk and discover hidden gems in Harold Court Woods, Pages Woods and the River Ingrebourne wetlands. The walk also includes a talk by a Forestry England Ranger. This walk is suitable for age 16 years and over
Date: July 7th
Time: 10.30am-12.30am

Looking ahead to August 4th discover the source of the bricks of many older homes and buildings in Havering, as well as the history and wildlife of Franks Woods on a circular guided heritage walk from the Thames Chase Forest Centre, to Franks Woods and Cranham Brickfields. This walk also includes complimentary refreshments.

Children's Activities

We have a jam packed schedule of summer holiday activities available this year during July and August with a mixture of themed drop in activities including seaside fun, sports games, lavender bag making and create your own mythical beast from air dry clay.
Bookable activities include story time and pottery with the Pink Parachute on July 27th. And a fabulous circus skills workshop with Rhythm & Balls on August 18th. Spaces are already filling up fast!
We also have the brilliant Crababs on site for 3 dates painting various items including money boxes and mini beasts! Or why not try pond dipping (Aug 11th) All details are listed on social media and our website.





Thames Chase Talks

Introducing Thames Chase talks a series of talks from members of the communities and organisations of the Thames Chase Community Forest. These will showcase the stories and general interests within the Community Forest. The theme for this first event on August 4th, 2pm-4pm will be forest wildlife. The three speakers at this event will be James Doyle (TCT), Richard Wonfor (FE), and Lois Amos (Bedfords Park Walled Garden Volunteer). A complimentary drink will be available.
Come and hear about the interesting forest tales and wildlife within the Thames Chase Community Forest! Our three guest speakers will speak about forest wildlife and the story of the Bedfords Park Walled Garden. Cost £3 per person book via eventbrite.co.uk (search Thames Chase wildlife)

Dates for your diary

- Thames Chase social club - July 3rd
- Story and rhyme time - July 4th
- Guided heritage walk - July 7th
- Dave Browning, Jazz in the barn - July 7th
- Thames Chase Sunday Market - July 16th
- Feel good in the forest - July 22nd
- Family gardening event - July 24th
- Summer holiday drop in activities for children begin - July 25th/26th

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



THAMES CHASE FOREST CENTRE
PIKE LANE
UPMINSTER RM14 3NS

WWW.THAMESCHASE.ORG.UK
TEL. 01708 642970

CHARITY NO.1115627 COMPANY NO.5687558

Thames Chase