Thames Chase Newsletter
October 2023

Thames Chase

NEWS





Thames Chase Trust Patron

Welcome to the October edition of the Thames Chase Trust Newsletter. We would like to introduce HM Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Mrs Jennifer Tolhurst the new patron of the Thames Chase Trust. It really is a great honour to have her as our Patron and we really appreciated her recent visit to the Thames Chase Art Exhibition. Born in Northern Ireland in 1951. She is the eldest daughter of a family of eight. Her father was in the army and the family moved many times. After a number of military schools, she was educated at a Convent in Kent and later as a mature student she gained a BA Hons in Art and Design. She married Philip Tolhurst in 1972 and has lived in Essex for 46 years. Mrs Tolhurst has been involved with the voluntary sector all her married life. She started the Danbury and Little Baddow fund-raising branch of the NSPCC, chaired the Prince's Youth Business Trust in Essex, served as a Magistrate and was High Sheriff of the County in 2005-06. Since then she has worked voluntarily for the Catholic Diocese of Brentwood, been Vice-Chairman of the Governors of New Hall School and, until recently, served on the High Sheriffs' National Council. She remains Vice-President of the Essex Community Foundation, serves on Essex University Court, and is Chairman of the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Justices of the Peace in Essex. She has spent her married life championing the county, and was appointed His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Essex, taking over from The Lord Petre KCVO DL, when he retired in August 2017.



ART EXHIBITION

This years Exhibition was a great success with lots of visitors, a record number of artists taking part and art sold. Thank you to the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Jennifer Tolhurst and Artist Tom Mead who opened the event.
Thank you to the Chair of the Thames Chase Trust Christine Burt and to Natalie Lizzimore who organised the event. And a special mention to Hilary Barkwith on harp and The Forest Centre Tea Room at Thames Chase, for the musical recital, fabulous food and refreshments plus our staff and volunteers for their hard work and dedication.

Photo:L-R Deputy Community Forest Director, Aisling Woodhead, Artist Tom Mead. Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Jennifer Tolhurst. Chair of the Thames Chase Trust, Christine Burt and Phillip Tolhurst.

Agroforestry Show

This month, the Programmes team attended the first UK Agroforestry show! Showcased here were the many organisations involved in actively supporting forestry within the agricultural sector. Thames Chase Trust helped represent England's Community Forests by hosting their stall, where we were able to network, notify people about our Trees for Climate grant and demonstrate all of the positive work we are able to do.
We also had the opportunity to attend various lectures on the benefits of trees within agricultural systems and the future of agroforestry. All of the lectures we attended were extremely informative. Overall, this event provided a platform for knowledge sharing and gave a sense of real hope for the future of agriculture!





Put Down Roots

We are currently taking part in a national Put Down Roots campaign. Aimed at farmers and landowners interested in woodland creation. The message that planting trees can benefit land and business. And Thames Chase can help with a range of grants and support available. As part of the England's Community Forest network Thames Chase Trust are keen to extend help to support local farmers and landowners with our knowledge and expertise. Interested parties are encouraged to find out more and get in touch via https://woodlandcreation.campaign.gov.uk/
This activity is part of the national government-led Nature for Climate Fund and is being delivered by Thames Chase Community Forest.

Trees For Climate

Thames Chase Conservation Volunteers have been busy in recent weeks working in the grounds of primary schools helping to develop their grounds for outdoor learning ready for the new school year. They have been working in Thurrock and Havering Schools recently.
At St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Hornchurch the team have installed a picket fence to create a new Forest School and Outdoor Learning area within the school field. We plan to return this winter to plant a mixed native hedgerow with help from the children funded by the Trees for Climate, providing funding for tree planting schemes across the Community Forest.



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EVENTS | DATES



APPLE DAY, FAMILY FUN DAY 2023

Welcome to Autumn. Following the success of last months Art Exhibition we have been busy preparing for Apple Day 2023 on Sunday October 22nd from 10am-3pm. We are looking forward to welcoming the community and celebrating our historic farm buildings at this wonderful autumnal event. This year a selection of locally grown English apples and pears, juices, honey, produce and preserves will be available for tasting and purchasing celebrating the local produce available.
There will be a variety of stalls and activities on offer including; children's crafts, circus skills workshop, live singers, Rumford Morris Men plus the Tommy Lusion magic show. The popular Orchard Walks in partnership with Forestry England will also be available for a small fee along with face painting but all other activities, shows and workshops will be free with no booking required. Caroline Roberts Visitor Centre Manager says " We want to welcome the community and showcase the heritage of the site, celebrate local artisans and offer a fun packed day for all the family to enjoy". For a full timetable of events on the day please see details on our website www.thameschase.org.uk.

For more information about events and latest developments please call the visitor centre reception: 01708 642970 or visit our social media pages



Apple Day Orchard Walk

During Apple Day we are hosting an Orchard Apple Walk in partnership with Forestry England.
Orchards and fruit tree cultivation has existed in some form or another for thousands of years and we are proud to continue that tradition with the Thames Chase Forest Centre Orchard. We have apple varieties like Chelmsford Wonder and Discovery, both cultivated in the Essex area many years ago! Why not join us on Apple Day on our Orchard Apple Walk, a guided session through the orchard from 10:30am to 11:30am. Booking through Eventbrite is required and appreciated. To book a space go to: Eventbrite.co.uk and search Thames Chase.

Halloween Fancy Dress Party

We have some frightfully fun activities planned for children during October half term at the Thames Chase Forest Centre. Come and join Little Legs for a Halloween Fancy Dress Party filled with party games, disco, mischief, mayhem and everything in between! The cost is £12 per child, and this includes unlimited juice and a lunch box supplied by The Thames Chase Forest Centre Tearoom.
Suitable for ages 2-11 years (Children must be accompanied by a parent/carer at all times)
Date: Tuesday October 24th
Times: 11am-1pm or 2pm-4pm
Cost: £12 per child
Please call the Thames Chase Visitor Centre to book: 01708 642970





Spooky Walks

Come and join us at Thames Chase for our spooky walks around the forest – IF YOU DARE!
Are you brave enough to undertake a spine chilling quest to save the forest from always being in the dark?
Date: Saturday October 28th
Time: There will be slots every 15 minutes from 6.15pm until 8.15pm.
Cost: £8 per person or £30 for a family of 4 (2 adutls and 2 children)
Please note this event is not suitable for dogs or buggies. The Forest Centre Cafe will be open and there will be a selection of stalls, crafts and pumpkin carving. To book call the Thames Chase Visitor Centre: 01708 642970

Dates For Your Diary

- Guided Heritage Folklore Walk - Oct 6th
- Julie Jive and the Bigshots - Oct 8th
- Thames Chase Art Club - Oct 11th
- Apple Day, Family Fun Day - Oct 22nd
- Halloween Fancy Dress Party - Oct 24th
- Spooky Sweet Coffin Decorating - Oct 25th
- Spooky Walks - Oct 28th

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



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