December 2016

Thames Chase

the Chaser

NEWS FROM IN AND AROUND THE COMMUNITY FOREST

COMMUNITY FOREST

Season's Greetings

and best wishes for 2017
from the Board of Trustees, staff and volunteers.

2016 ends on a positive note with the success of a Heritage Lottery Grant for a huge project entitled:
'The Land of the Fanns'.

£1.3 million to help improve landscape on the borders of east London and south-west Essex

The Land of the Fanns Landscape Partnership Scheme has been granted £1.3 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). This will help improve the quality of the local landscape and increase awareness of, and access to the natural and cultural heritage of the area. The partnership includes Havering Council, Barking & Dagenham Council, Thurrock Council, Brentwood Council, Essex County Council, Thames Chase Trust, Thames21, Forestry Commission and Thames Estuary Partnership.

The 'Fanns' landscape, which encompasses Thames Chase Community Forest on the edge of east London and south-west Essex, may not be a landscape familiar to everyone. It extends from the River Rom in the west towards Basildon in the east and from Brentwood in the north to the River Thames.

The Land of the Fanns scheme will help to transform the landscape and the lives of people living within and around the Thames Chase Community Forest. It will support the work of the Thames Chase Trust in delivering the Thames Chase Plan (www.thameschase.org.uk) and in achieving the Trust's vision that the "*Forest will be recognised as an inspirational example of landscape regeneration where enhanced, connected woodland and green space has made a clear difference to wildlife and peoples' lives*".

.

Thanks to National Lottery players the Scheme, which will begin in April 2017, will offer exciting opportunities for local people to get involved in a variety of events and activities aimed at understanding and restoring local heritage. Activities will range from travelling archaeology exhibitions to opportunities to learn new skills in natural, built and archaeological heritage.

There will also be a community action fund to support local community projects and an arts festival celebrating the landscape.

THE EDITOR WRITES

The news from the Heritage Lottery Fund is fantastic and an enormous boost to a wide range of projects included in 'The Land of the Fanns' programme. However, Thames Chase Trust continues to play its part in other projects working on improving the landscape within the Community Forest and beyond. David Bigden has outlined the live projects in which the Trust is involved. As David has mentioned, the Thames Chase Plan is our guiding document and this can be viewed on the Thames Chase website www.thameschase.org.uk

2017 promises to be another busy year for the Forest and there will be plenty of opportunities for those who wish to be part of its development to get involved. From April 'The Land of the Fanns' Project will get underway and its progress will be tracked on the website.

Here at the Forest Centre we have a full calendar of events for the next year and hope that you will join us. The walks programme will focus on exploring the Forest with the history and facilities of each area that has been regenerated by the Community Forest partnerships. As always, your help and support both physical and with donations is our lifeblood.

Many thanks!

Mary Wright
Trustee

Stuart Hobley, Head of HLF London, said: "This fascinating project will help protect and preserve a rare and under threat working landscape which hugs the borders of London and Essex. With a rich history going back to the Saxons and including historic buildings and ancient monuments as well as protected species and habitats, the essence of this landscape can sometimes be under-appreciated, so we are delighted that National Lottery players' money will help to reconnect communities with the natural heritage on their doorsteps".

The 26 organisations who are involved in the project celebrated the successful outcome of the bid in early December.



Thames Chase Community Forest continues its involvement in other strategic projects

London Tree Programme

London's trees define the city and make it one of the best world cities to live, work and visit. Although London faces unprecedented levels of growth, the Mayor of London's ambition is to ensure that the capital retains its status as one of the greenest big world cities. To help achieve this, the Mayor included in his manifesto a commitment to embark on a major tree planting programme.

The Thames Chase Trust (TCT) is a member of the London Tree Partnership and is working closely with the Greater London Authority (GLA) and its partners to identify and promote the opportunities for tree planting within the London areas of the Thames Chase Community Forest.

All London Green Grid & Green Infrastructure Advisory Group

The Thames Chase Community Forest is a key strategic component of the All London Green Grid network. The Thames Chase Trust continues to work closely with the GLA on the development of this programme and our membership of the All London Green Grid & Green Infrastructure Advisory Group ensures that the Community Forest has a voice in London.

Woodland Carbon Fund

Millions more trees will be planted across the country thanks to grants from the WCF, which opened for applications in November 2016.

More than £19 million has been made available by the Government's commitment to plant 11 million trees by the end of Parliament (by 2020). Landowners and managers can apply for grants and will be encouraged to create woodlands close to communities which provide public access.
Maximum grants available will range between £6,800 and £8,500 per hectare depending on its location, with the higher rate available where there is an access need and permissive access is granted. Discretionary footpath access payments will also be available.

Applicants can apply for the grant by completing an expression of interest application form. Applicants will have to produce a Woodland Creation Design Plan (with funding available through the Woodland Creation Planning Grant) and obtain regulatory consent.

Full details of how to apply and the criteria necessary is available on the Forestry Commission website: www.forestry.gov.uk/england-wcf

Thames Chase Projects

South Essex Catchment Partnership

The Thames Chase Trust is the host organisation for the South Essex Catchment Partnership. This ambitious multi-agency programme seeks to bring real improvement to the south-Essex landscape, with a focus on the Mardyke River. The partnership has created a Catchment Plan and this can be found on the Thames Chase website: www.thameschase.org.uk

Roding, Beam & Ingrebourne Catchment Partnership

The Thames Chase Trust is the co-host alongside Thames21 for the Roding, Beam &Ingrebourne Catchment Partnership. The work of this multi-agency partnership has a focus on the rivers Roding, Beam & Ingrebourne and a Catchment Plan has also been created by this partnership. This document can be found on the Thames Chase website: www.thameschase.org.uk

David Bigden – Interim Development Manager

Children's activities

Children's Half Term Holiday Programme

Activities will be available on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 14th, 15th and 16th February between 10.30am and 12.30pm at the Forest Centre.

Activities will focus on exploring the green environment around the Forest Centre and will include a scavenger hunt, sketching, bark rubbing, tree search, bulb planting and feeding the birds.

Donations for activities will go towards resources for children's activities.

All children must be accompanied by an adult for all activities.
All the activities are produced by our volunteers.

How to donate

The Giving Machine
When you buy something on an online shop via TheGivingMachine your purchase automatically generates a sales commission. 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
To Donate to the Tree Nursery: https://mydonate.bt.com/events/thameschasetreenursery/344190

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

Upcoming Events

Music Concerts

Sunday 22nd January *- Tim has established himself as one of the busiest musicians on the Jazz club circuit.*

Playing Vintage and Modern styles on piano and clarinet, he has worked with many well know jazz musicians including Digby Fairweather and Dave Browning.

Sunday 26th February *- A programme of light classical music for all to enjoy from local musicians.*

Sunday 26th March (Mother's Day) *- If you enjoy the jazz standards made famous by singers such as Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Peggy Lee and Michael Bublé then this is an opportunity to join our group of friendly jazz musicians and perform the song you have always wanted to do. If you enjoy singing, whether you are experienced or not, you will have a chance to learn and have fun.*

Guided Walks

Friday 27th January *- Explore two freshly created woodlands managed by the Forestry Commission and including a visit to the commemorative stone for the 'Battle of Tylers Common'.*

Friday 24th February *– Starting at the Visitor Centre at Hornchurch Country Park, explore the site of the old Hornchurch Second World War airfield and the newly created Ingrebourne Hill.*

Friday 24th March *– Visit Warley Place to enjoy their early spring flowers and learn about its creator, Eleanor Wilmot, the influential 19th Century English Horticulturist. Also visiting Headley Common.*

More information can be found on our website.

13th Jan	Friday	2:30-4:30pm	Cream tea with live music from our volunteer musicians	£9 (booking essential)
15th Jan	Sunday	10am-3pm	Sunday market	Free entry
22nd Jan	Sunday	12 noon -2.30pm	Afternoon concert with the Tim Huskisson Duo (Including refreshments)	£10 (14-18yrs £5)
27th Jan	Friday	From 10am	Guided Walk to Pages and Harold Court Wood (Details above)	£3
14th /15th & 16th Feb	Tues- Thurs	10.30am-12.30pm	Children's half term holiday activities (See previous page)	Donation
17th Feb	Friday	2.30-4.30pm	Cream tea with live music from our volunteer musicians	£9 (booking essential)
19th Feb	Sunday	10am-3pm	Sunday market	Free entry
24th Feb	Friday	From 10am	Guided Walk to Hornchurch Country Park (Details above)	£3
26th Feb	Sunday	2:30-4.30pm	Afternoon Concert of favourite classical songs and instrumental music (Including refreshments)	£10 (14-18yrs £5)
17th March	Friday	2.30-4.30pm	Cream tea with live music from our volunteer musicians	£9 (booking essential)
19th March	Sunday	10am-3pm	Sunday Market	Free entry
24th March	Friday	From 10am	Guided Walk to Warley Place (Details above)	£3
26th March (Mother's Day)	Sunday	11am-3.30pm	Singing workshop Sing the American Songbook (Booking essential)	£18 to take part (£6 to watch)

For more information and to make bookings please ring
01708 642970 or call at The Thames Chase Forest Centre,
Pike Lane, Upminster RM14 3NS
E-mail: enquiries@thameschase.org.uk
Web site: www.thameschase.org.uk
Charity no. 1115627. Company No. 5687558