

# ON THE HOP

## Heart of Pitsea Newsletter



### OUR YEAR IN BRIEF AND IN THIS ISSUE



Our crime awareness

A.C.T.I.O.N. project is progressing well.

(see page 1)

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Plans for our Men's Shed continue to grow. News about this year's Pitsea Community Christmas.

(see page 2)

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Our annual summer activities programme went down a storm.

(see page 3)

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Another busy year for Youth YOUNique Generation, the Heart of Pitsea youth forum.

(see page 4)

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Find out about our outdoor activity groups and how you can get involved.

(see page 5)

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Heart of Pitsea will be changing from April 2024.

(see page 6)

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Have your say! We have two surveys you can take part in with prizes to give away.

(see the back page)

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We are delighted to be able to inform you of all the good things that have been happening with the Heart of Pitsea during the past year.

We have been out and about in the community running events and awareness sessions within our A.C.T.I.O.N. (Against Crime Together In Our Neighbourhood) project, which were well attended.

We have run activities for children and young people throughout the year, including an Easter Trail, 'music bus' studio performance sessions for teenagers, a summer holiday family events programme and our weekly youth clubs at Pitsea Leisure Centre.

Our resident partnership have also been working on the transition of Heart of Pitsea when our Lottery funding stops at the end of March (2024). The focus has been on the exciting development of our Men's Shed Hub project, which now has charitable status and outline planning permission for the building. Unfortunately some of our projects will end, but we are working hard to try and ensure that others, like our youth clubs and the annual Pitsea Community Christmas event, will continue with support from local organisations and our amazing community-minded volunteers.

On the back page of this newsletter you will find two surveys. We would value your input and you have the chance to win prizes in both!

If you would like to know more about any of our projects, all the relevant information can be found on our website [www.heartofpitsea.co.uk](http://www.heartofpitsea.co.uk) or give us a call on the number below.

**Tel: 07572 001671**

# A.C.T.I.O.N. (Against Crime Together In Our Neighbourhood)

## The Heart of Pitsea crime awareness project

During the last year we have commissioned crime awareness films, provided free self-defence classes for adults and young people and funded e-safety training for pupils at Maple Grove and Northlands Primary schools. We also ran an e-safety awareness session for parents and carers.

We have another FREE parent and carer internet safety session on Thursday 30 November from 7pm-8.30pm at The Basildon Upper Academy (on Wickford Avenue).

Qualified police trainers and e-safety specialists, 'The 2 Johns', will explain the changing risks faced by young people in 2023 and how parents should approach the online arena.

For more information and to book, scan the QR code below or call us on 07572 001671.



We have 'popped-up' regularly around Pitsea this year, chatting to residents and giving away safety information leaflets and equipment. We also attended the Basildon Council 'Operation Dial' ASB event on Elm Green in September.

More pop-ups will be planned for early 2024.



In May we held a crime awareness & prevention event at Pitsea Leisure Centre, attended by lots of residents, who chatted to representatives from organisations, including Victim Support, Basildon Community Policing Team, Neighbourhood Watch, Essex Dog Watch and many more.



We are running another crime awareness event on Friday 24 November from 1.30pm-4.00pm at the Chalvedon Community Centre in Chalvedon Square.

We will be premiering a newly commissioned crime awareness film at this event.

Admission is free and there will be free refreshments and lots of giveaways to pick up too. We hope to see you there!



Have your say and take part in our crime survey - turn to the back page.

The Heart of Pitsea website has a dedicated A.C.T.I.O.N. project page, with links for support, short films, podcasts, safety information and much more.

Visit [www.heartofpitsea.co.uk/ACTION](http://www.heartofpitsea.co.uk/ACTION).





# Men's Shed Update

Heart of Pitsea will soon be starting the build on our new 'Men's Shed' directly next to Chalvedon Community Centre.

Men's Sheds are community spaces specifically for men to get together and take part in practical activities, learn new skills, make new friends, and reduce social isolation.



We hope to be running sessions for women and intergenerational projects too.

This project is being supported by The Craig Tyler Trust and The Chalvedon Community Centre.

Keep a look out on our social media and website for further updates.

If you would like to know more about this project or get involved as a volunteer, please contact Tracey on 07572 001671 or email [hello@heartofpitsea.co.uk](mailto:hello@heartofpitsea.co.uk).



## Pitsea Community Christmas Event

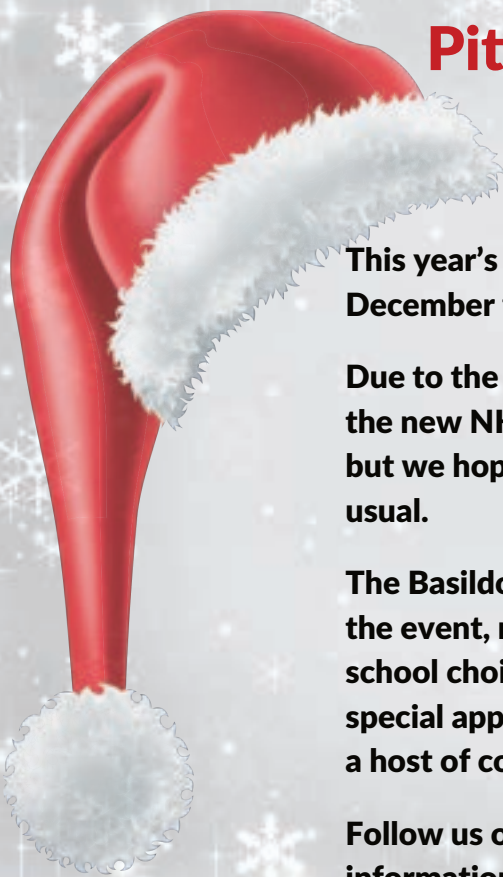
Saturday 2 December, 11am-3pm

This year's Pitsea Community Christmas event will be held on Saturday 2 December from 11am-3pm.

Due to the planned demolition of The Place, Pitsea Leisure Centre (for the new NHS diagnostics centre), we aren't sure of our exact location, but we hope we will be in the area at the top of Northlands Pavement as usual.

The Basildon and Pitsea Carnival Association are once again supporting the event, running the entertainment stage with martial arts displays school choirs, singers etc. and arranging for Santa to make his very special appearance. There will also be low cost funfair rides to enjoy and a host of community stalls to browse.

Follow us on our Facebook page - search Heart of Pitsea - for more information nearer the date.



# Summertime TEN Holiday Events

This summer, we provided 10 separate days of free activities for children in our parks.



'It was brilliant thank you to Heart of Pitsea xxx'

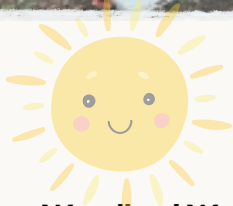


Six days of multisport, split between Elm Green Park and Legacy Park, delivered by Corey Coaching who did an amazing job. The children took part in one hour sessions of football, dodgeball, rounders and ultimate frisbee, which is like rugby but much more fun!

We also provided giant outdoor games, including Snakes & Ladders, Jenga and Connect 4, plus arts and crafts. We also funded 20 free packed lunches for the children at each of the multisport sessions which we ordered from local caterers, R&G Banquets - a huge thanks to them for supporting us!



'my boys learnt new skills and did things they wouldn't otherwise do.'



Our three Woodland Warriors sessions were themed around Oceans, Forests and Wetlands. The children took part in archery, planting, swinging on a hammock, blowing giant bubbles, making bracelets and key rings and roasting marshmallows. They had a lot of fun!



'Everyone had fun and it was a great family event'



We had one Big Inflatables Day at Legacy Park which was a fantastic success, with over 200 children attending. It was a great day, the weather was good, and many families came over to the park with their blankets and picnics and stayed for the whole event.



## The Heart of Pitsea youth forum



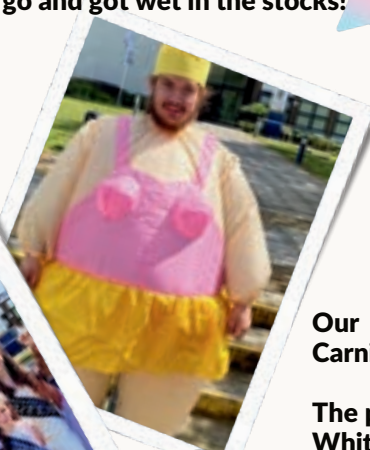
In May, the forum collaborated with Northlands Primary School to run an art project called Past, Present & Future. Selected pupils took trips to museums in London including the Design Museum, the Victoria & Albert Museum and the Natural History Museum. This was to provide them with inspiration for three themes: history; technology and the natural world. The young artists submitted work in a variety of media, including painting, drawing, textiles, pottery and mixed media. The entries were exhibited at a special exhibition at the school in July where the winning works were awarded prizes. The outstanding winner was Kimberly Iyama with her painting *Tiger Surrounded By Fire and Trees*.

Our youth forum members also hosted a stall at the Chalvedon Community Centre Coronation event on 7 May.

They provided free arts & crafts for kids, including colouring, and making key rings, wind chimes, bookmarks, and jewelled crowns.

The weather was great and so many people turned up and stayed with their picnic blankets. They enjoyed the Punch & Judy, face painting, cakes, burgers and much more.

The youth forum members enjoyed taking part in this event - they even had a go and got wet in the stocks!



Our forum members also took part in the Basildon & Pitsea Carnival Parade on 29th July.

The parade started at De La Salle School, went all the way along Whitmore Way and finished at Northlands Park.

Youth forum members gave out flyers advertising our summer activities and supported the carnival team by collecting donations along the way.

To make sure they were noticed, they dressed up as Luigi and Princess Peach - supported by our Heart of Pitsea Coordinator Tracey as Mario - and they won 1st prize for their costumes!

Thanks to the Basildon & Pitsea Carnival Association for letting us tag along.



# Outdoor Activities

## Sprucing up the Pitsea Market Pots



Heart of Pitsea supports a group of wonderful volunteers who meet every other Thursday morning to spruce up the round planters in the market area on Northlands Pavement.



The community-minded bunch really enjoy chatting over their weekly work.

Aside from weeding, they have been planting seeds, shrubs, spring flowering bulbs and cuttings from their own gardens.

Fancy getting involved?

You don't have to have green fingers to take part!

For more information call Tracey on 07572 001671 or send an email to [admin@heartofpitsea.co.uk](mailto:admin@heartofpitsea.co.uk)

## Join our Walk and Talk group

Winter may just be around the corner, but our friendly 'walkers and talkers' still get together once a week.



Weather permitting, we meet on Tuesdays at 12.30pm outside the Chalvedon Community Centre.

We take a leisurely stroll over to Northlands Park, walking around the lake, then stopping off at the park café for a cuppa and a chat, before setting off back to Chalvedon Shops.



So why not wrap up warm and take a gentle stroll with our friendly group? No power walking with us! Babies in prams and four legged friends are welcome!

For more information call Tracey on 07572 001671 or send an email to [admin@heartofpitsea.co.uk](mailto:admin@heartofpitsea.co.uk).





# The next chapter for the Heart of Pitsea



**LEGACY PARK**

Heart of Pitsea will be scaling down from April 2024 when our lottery funding ends. We have created a new charity which will be running the Men's Shed Hub, next to the Chalvedon Community Centre with the help of local resident volunteers.

Sadly some of our projects will end, but the hub will support the continuation of our walking group and the Pitsea Pots maintenance group.

We will also be setting aside funding for other organisations to take the baton of some of our key projects, including our hugely successful youth clubs and the Pitsea Community Christmas event for 2024. These have become an integral part of our community and we truly hope that they will continue.

You might not realise that Heart of Pitsea has been running for over 10 years! During that time we have provided hundreds of projects within the area and we are incredibly proud of everything that we have achieved, including funding the creation of the play area, outdoor gym and benches at the Legacy Park on Chalvedon field and the outdoor gym on Elm Green. We have also created fabulous friendships with the residents within our community and a huge number of local organisations.

We will be working on a publication and an event to celebrate the legacy of Heart of Pitsea's achievements and also everyone that has volunteered their time or taken part in our projects.



**QUIZ NIGHTS**



**YOUTH CLUBS**



**PITSEA COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS**



**SUMMER EVENTS**



**YOUTH FORUM**



**COVID INITIATIVES**



**HEALTH MARKETS**

# Have Your Say!

We have two community surveys you can take part in.



## Crime Survey

We would appreciate your input in our crime survey, which aims to find out the issues concerning residents within our local community. By taking part, you have the chance to win crime prevention equipment including a Yale home security system, solar security lights, a steering wheel lock or a bike lock.

To take part scan the QR code, or if you would like a paper copy delivered to your home, give us a call on 07572 001671.

## Resident Survey

Since 2012 Heart of Pitsea have conducted regular surveys, asking residents what improvements they would like to see in the area.

The responses to these questions have helped shape our aims and objectives for the future. Since then we have continued to speak with local people about changes they would like to see.

We would now like to follow up on our surveys to see if there is any shift in priorities and themes. We are conducting a random draw and giving away five £50 cash prizes.

To take part scan the QR code, or if you would like a paper copy delivered to your home, give us a call on 07572 001671.



## GET IN TOUCH WITH HEART OF PITSEA



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[hello@heartofpitsea.co.uk](mailto:hello@heartofpitsea.co.uk)



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