

# CHELMER BLACKWATER RESERVE

SHAREHOLDER NEWSLETTER # 7 November 2023



The Chelmer Blackwater Reserve Community Interest Company (CIC) was formed by a group of residents concerned as to future plans for the land adjacent to the Tesco Supermarket in Maldon. In Feb 2022, the CIC signed a long-term lease with Tesco Stores Ltd to take control of the land and to develop it as a community nature reserve. All members of the CIC are un-paid volunteers and work is funded by a combination of grants and donations. Members of the public are actively encouraged to become shareholders and to participate in activities to support the management of the reserve.

This newsletter provides updates on what has been going on over the past few months.

## CHELMER BLACKWATER RESERVE CIC WINS CONSERVATION AWARD

On 7<sup>th</sup> November we were very honoured to be declared winners in the Nature Conservation category of the Maldon District Conservation & Design Awards. This was the fortieth year of the awards, which aim to applaud and promote good quality development throughout Maldon District. The judges agreed our project “was an outstanding example of a grass-roots initiative to establish a nature reserve.” They said they were “full of admiration for the mobilisation and enthusiasm of so many volunteers.”



It is hoped that a resin copy of the award can be made for display at the reserve.

## MAIN PATHS NOW ALL COMPLETED!

Work has now been completed to provide a more durable surface to the remaining section of path from the viewing platform to the public footpath along the western edge of the reserve. Many thanks to Wayne and his team from WLG Maintenance for carrying out the work ahead of time and within budget and to our supporters for providing the funds to support it all.

The next planned actions are to finalise and instal the information boards and to provide some protective edgings to some sections of the new paths that are at risk of breaking up.



### CHARLES TAIT PAINTING

Those members who attended the AGM had a chance to view the Charles Tait original oil painting of Maldon Quay, generously gifted to us by the Essex Wildlife Trust in order to help raise funds for the reserve. The plan is to auction the painting but it is available for pre-sale to any CBR members who wish to make a good offer. Please make your offer by e-mail to Simon Wood ([simon.wood27@gmail.com](mailto:simon.wood27@gmail.com)). Simon can also be contacted if you wish to view before you buy. It would make a very nice Christmas present!



Frame size 690x495 mm



## WORK PARTIES

Our next work party will be at the reserve on Sunday 26th November at 10am and will be the last of this year.

We will be continuing to cut back the thorn saplings and shoots that have regrown over the area that we cleared last winter, as well as along the south facing slope of the borrowdyke.

We will be tidying up along the route of the newest section of path, which will involve shovelling the removed soil from one side of the path to the other and 'landscaping' it.

If time permits, we would also like to attempt to clear a route to where we believe a pond is located to 'see what we can see' and there will of course be litter-picking to do as well.

Please bring along gloves, pruners/loppers and shovels and spades, if you have them. We can provide a few pairs of croppers as well. Please also wear sturdy boots.

Those leaving vehicles in the Tesco car park, please let Simon Wood know, including registration plate details, so that he can sign you in.

## CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER 26TH NOVEMBER

Please join us at the Muddy Duck at Fullbridge immediately after the work party on Sunday 26th November from 12 noon for a Christmas drink and mince pies.



## STANDING ORDERS

Your share purchase makes you a member of The Chelmer Blackwater Reserve Community Interest Company for life and you do not need to make any further payment. However, in order to help the CIC meet the inevitable expenses which we incur going forward, we are inviting shareholders to enter into standing orders on a voluntary basis. We suggest five pounds a year but if you want to pay more that would be very much appreciated. Since this was first mentioned at the AGM, we are grateful to those members who have already started standing orders. If you would like to join them, the bank details are:

The Chelmer Blackwater Reserve CIC      Sort Code 60-13-37      Account No. 49715534

It will help if you also e-mail the Treasurer [cpryke@clara.co.uk](mailto:cpryke@clara.co.uk) and tell him you have set it up.

**THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR YOUR SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR -  
HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!!**

This newsletter is published by the Chelmer Blackwater Reserve Community Interest Company  
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