

EPPING FOREST FAMILY SUMMER GUIDE AUGUST 2026

**Events, activities, things
to do, places to go in
the school holidays.**

FUN!



**To download your own copy or to see the updated
version - please visit www.essexpublications.co.uk**



**Helping families to discover everything
happening locally this summer**



**Published by Essex Publications
Publishers of
North Weald Village Life, Epping Town Life &
Ongar Local Life local magazines**

Welcome to summer in Epping Forest

Local places to go, things to do and local events for children and families

Welcome to our updated Summer Guide, including lots of suggestions for things to do locally for children and families during July. We will be updating this guide continually during the Summer to add more events and suggestions, so please check at www.essexpublications.co.uk or keep an eye on social media to plan your school holidays.

Children's Musical in 2 days

Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th August

10am—3.30pm

North Weald Village Hall

For years 6 to 13 years.

£59.00

To book --<https://eppingforestdc.bookinglive.com> or telephone 01992 564226.

TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC

Wednesday 19th August 12—2pm

Linder's Field, Local Nature Reserve, Roebuck Lane, Buckhurst Hill

Aimed at 3—6 years. Join Countrysidecare and bring your teddy and a picnic for an afternoon of fun and activities in the outdoors.

To book --<https://eppingforestdc.bookinglive.com> or telephone 01992 564226.

Baby and Toddler Rhyme Time

Tuesday mornings
10:30am-11am. North Weald Library.

Pet's Corner

Traditional farm animals, reindeer, aquarium, reptiles.

Mon—Sunday
11am—4pm.

Free admission (donations box)

Town Park, Harlow
CM20 2QG

IDEA: Enjoy a picnic. Have fun and make some sandwiches, grab some snacks and drinks from home, maybe a football and of course a picnic blanket and head out to one of our lovely areas to enjoy some fun time.

LIONS ON THE LOOSE TRAIL

Something exciting has arrived overnight on the streets and green spaces of Harlow, Epping and Loughton!

Lions on the Loose is proudly presented by St Clare Hospice, in partnership with Wild in Art. This free, inclusive art trail is designed to bring colour, creativity, and community spirit to the streets of Harlow, Epping and Loughton — and it's something the whole family can enjoy.

To help them on their way, there is a Lions on the Loose app where you can log each lion you find, vote for your favourite design and unlock rewards from the trail sponsors. These range from an annual Family Merlin Pass (worth £960) to bee bombseed packets to an iPad!

Alongside the main trail, a collection of 'little lions' — created by local schools and community groups — will also be on display, showcasing the creativity of our young people.

Lions on the Loose is the perfect summer activity: free, fun, and full of adventure. And by taking part, you'll be helping support the patients and families who rely on the care of St Clare Hospice.

To find out more please visit lionsontheloose.co.uk



ZINC SUMMER JAM!
FREE TO ATTEND!
Every Wednesday in August

The club days will be packed with fun sports and arts activities to keep you Motivated and Active! Whatever your ability, come and join us!

- Lunch included
- Ages 11-17
- 11-1pm
- Ongar Youth Centre, The Gables, Chipping Ongar, CM5 0GA

Book your place here



Essex Youth Services
Essex County Council

01277 365 626 | rhanna.picking@zincarts.org.uk



Play in the Park

Tuesday 4 August

Loughton 10 am to 12 noon

Roding Valley Recreation Ground (near Tennis Courts), Roding Road, Loughton IG10

Thursday 6th August

Ongar—1:30pm to 3:30pm

Shelley Park, St Peters Avenue, Ongar CM5 0BT

Friday 7th August

Epping—1:30pm to 3:30pm

Epping Green, Doorstep Green CM16 6PN

Monday 10th August

Ongar—1:30pm to 3:30pm

Love Lane Playing Fields, Love Lane, Chipping Ongar CM5 9BL

Thursday 20th August

Epping—10am to 12 noon

Stonards Hill Recreation Ground, Epping CM16 4QF

Ongar—1:30pm to 3:30pm

Shelley Park, St Peters Avenue, Ongar CM5 0BT

Friday 21st August

Ongar—1:30pm to 3:30pm

Willingale Cricket Club, 183 The Street, Ongar CM5 0SJ

Monday 24th August

Ongar—1:30pm to 3:30pm

Love Lane Playing Fields, Love Lane, Chipping Ongar CM5 9BL

Wednesday 26 August

Theydon Bois—10am to 12 noon

Theydon Green, corner of Poplar Row/ The Green, Theydon Bois, Epping CM16 7LW

Bkhurst Hill—1:30pm to 3:30pm

Hornbeam Road Recreation Ground, Buckhurst Hill IG9 6J

These sessions are free with no booking required. The sessions are fantastic for local families due to its accessibility, variety, and community feel. This is a great opportunity for parents and carers to socialize with other families and even bring a picnic while the children safely play.

Epping Ongar Railway—Kids for a QUID

Climb aboard and enjoy a truly memorable journey through time – perfect for family days out in Essex, days out with grandparents, and anyone who loves classic rail travel.

Every Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday during the summer—Kids ride for just £1.

There are also family special deals on the website during the summer.

For details of ticket prices, how to visit and events taking place please visit www.eorailway.co.uk



IDEA: Don't forget the Summer Reading Challenge—available at all Libraries throughout the summer.



FREE

20 JULY – 28 AUGUST 2026



Outdoor play sessions for children across the district.

No need to book - just drop in.



Sponsored by:
Local Town &
Parish Councils

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PROPERTY SOLUTIONS

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out more:



SUMMER ART CAMP

- SO STUDIOS -

Brickfield House, High Road, Thornwood, Epping, CM16 6TH

Dates in July & August • Fun, creativity Art to take home

Ages 5~12 • 9am-3:30pm

≡ All materials provided ≡

- Canvas Painting
- Charcoal Drawing
- Mixed-Media Collage
- Bubble Painting
- Watercolour Salt Magic

Max 8 Children

£30 per morning or afternoon session
£55 for the full day

info@so-studios.co.uk
07368466310
www.so-studios.co.uk

Scan to Book Your Space! -

Children's Photo Competition

When you are out and about enjoying our local area or at home, why not take a photo and send it via email to the editor—june@essexpublications.co.uk. There are two age categories 5—10 and 11—16 years.

So please include name and age. All entries will be judged by the editor and Sarah Oliver who runs her own photography studio. Prizes will be awarded to one winner in each age category and the winning photos will be included in our magazines. The competition will close on 31st August 2026. So get snapping!

Bramble Hedge Trail—1.5 miles through the forest. Along the Trail you will find 17 carved oak sculptures of characters from the Bramble Hedge books in Epping Forest. A Trail map is available to buy from the Epping Forest Visitor Centre at Chingford, enabling you to tick off each character as you go and return to collect a completer's sticker at the end. Every sculpture is hand-carved from sustainably sourced wood, to blend with the ancient woodland surroundings. Starting point Visitor Centre at Chingford, Chingford, 6 Ranger's Road London E4 7QH
To find out more - www.visiteppingforest.org

Introducing Epping Forest's Brand New Treasure Trails

Discover the brand new **FREE**, self-guided clue-solving adventures in Waltham Abbey, Ongar and Loughton - fun for all ages!

Explore your local area, crack clues and uncover hidden stories on engaging walking trails, each taking around 2 hours to complete.

1. Simply visit treasure-trails.co.uk
2. Search your postcode and select one of the three Epping Forest trails.
3. Then use the corresponding code at checkout to download it for free:

CODES: Ongar2026 | WalthamAbbey2026 | Loughton2026



PASS IT ON! KIDS UK CIC Community Day's Out & Mini-Sessions

UPCOMING EVENTS!

FUN, PLAY, FRIENDS & MEMORIES FOR EVERYONE!

Day	Location	Time	Session	Event Type
FRIDAY 7 AUGUST	BUCKHURST HILL WOOLLARD CENTER IG9 6AD	2pm - 3:30pm	SEN SESSION	MINI-SESSION EVENT
		3:30pm - 5pm	ALL SESSION	
MONDAY 17 AUGUST	ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH CM18 6QR	11am - 5pm		COMMUNITY DAY'S OUT EVENT
TUESDAY 18 AUGUST	ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH CM18 6QR	10am - 12:30pm	SEN SESSION	MINI-SESSION EVENT
		12:30pm - 3pm	ALL SESSION	
WEDNESDAY 27 AUGUST	THEYDON BOIS VILLAGE HALL CM16 7ER	12pm - 1:30pm	SEN SESSION	MINI-SESSION EVENT
		1:30pm - 3pm	ALL SESSION	

TICKETS MUST BE BOOKED PRIOR TO ARRIVAL THROUGH OUR WEBSITE: www.passitonkidsukcic.com

PARKING IS LIMITED AT ALL VENUES.

SPONSORED AND FUNDED BY

Essex ACTIVEate Essex County Council ActiveEssex

CREATING MEMORIES, BUILDING COMMUNITY, TOGETHER.

PLUM PICKING

Bloomfield Fruit Farm is lovely for families. Everyone can have fun picking your own plums and pay for those that you pick. You can always reward yourself with a piece of cake and a lovely cup of coffee. Open throughout August. Free parking, free entry and a lovely way to spend some time outside and enjoy the views and the plums!

Ashlyns Lane, Ongar CM5 0NB Dogs and children welcome