

EARLEYWOOD UPDATE

An occasional newsletter from the Earleywood Management Committee
www.southberksscouts.org/ew/

June 2008

New Warden's Appointed

The Earleywood Management Committee are delighted to announce that they have teamed up with Ascot based outdoors activities company Rockfrog who are going to take on the warden duties at Earleywood. Rockfrog owner, Graham Coff, will personally be doing a lot of the work around the site, assisted particularly in opening/closing duties by Val Hannington and other members of the Rockfrog team. Rockfrog are undertaking the warden duties as volunteers, however in return they will be receiving access to the site and the climbing wall, at times that do not affect the primary Scouting/Guiding use. The EMC view this as a mutually beneficial arrangement and look forward to a long and successful partnership. If you want to view Rockfrog's capabilities and activities why not visit the website at: www.rockfrog.co.uk

Many of you will know that Earleywood has been without a dedicated Site Warden for almost 5 years now, however during that time we have been able to continue operating due to having a small but dedicated team. In particular the EMC would like to pay tribute to Peter Scurry who has been mainly responsible for the opening and closing of the site, and to his wife Betty, for putting up with his absences whilst doing so, although she quite often kept him company. Peter is now looking forward to a slightly less hectic time, although he continues in his role as Secretary to the EMC.

Improvement Activities at Earleywood

The first phase of the camping area toilet block upgrade has been completed. Both the ladies and gents have been totally refurbished, with new plumbing and improvements to the walls, ceiling and floor. Phase 2 which will hopefully provide shower facilities and hot water to the taps will follow as soon as funds become available.

Climbing Wall

We were delighted with the first year of activities on the climbing wall. The highlights were the "100 Up the Wall Day" organised to celebrate both the Scouting centenary and the opening of the wall. We actually had almost 200 up the wall!

Another highlight was the leader training course conducted by County Climbing Assessor Ian Kirkham. Over 20 adult leaders attended and received permits over the 8 week sessions held on a Tuesday evening, and the course was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We are delighted that Ian has organised a further course for 2008 that is now well into its stride and that a further 20+ qualified rope leaders and supervisors, will soon be available within the County. If you would like a climbing wall qualification Ian will probably organise another course in 2009 if there is a demand, so if you would like to receive details of this please contact Peter Scurry on;- pandbscurry@aol.com and Peter will be pleased to contact you with details nearer the time.

We still have some evening and weekend dates available for this summer so if you want to give your young people a taster session please contact Alan for available dates.

A recent addition to the Wall are the flood lights which only require a 40 metre extension cable to allow users to climb after dark!

**Thanks to Jeremy Burden
Berkshire Scout Climbing Club**

It has been mooted that there may be some interest in forming a club based at Earleywood, which could meet monthly or quarterly, whatever the majority wants. The idea would be to meet up and discuss mutual interest in climbing activities, possibly occasionally have a guest speaker, and organise the occasional trip to a "real mountain" or whatever else the membership wanted. If this may be of interest to you please again contact Peter Scurry as above, and we will then organise an inaugural meeting.

Earleywood Scout Camp Site and Centre

Bagshot Road, Sunninghill, Ascot, Berkshire. SL5 9JP

Contact details for booking or general enquiries: Alan Foster, 5 Beech Way, Basingstoke, Hampshire. RG23 8LR. Or telephone 01256 3313963 (evenings and weekends) or e-mail: earleywood@aol.com

New Trolleys

The EMC has provided 2 new trolleys at the site to assist with the movement of camping equipment from the car park to your allocated site. If there is demand and provided the existing ones are looked after and not abused we will consider buying one or two more in the future.

Service Crew Vacancies

We currently have a small number of mainly Explorer Scouts, who assist with maintenance on the site. Crew membership can be individual or by Explorer Unit, Network Group or Fellowship Unit. Ideally we would like around 6/8 crews to provide a rota particularly during the main season April to September. We intend holding an "Open Day" in the near future when interested people/units can visit the site, meet each other and hear more detail of what being a crew member is all about. We will advertise the date nearer the time but if you would like to ensure you receive details please e-mail earleywood@aol.com.

Site Cleaning up

Considerable work has been carried out, by a small working party led by Gerald Hill, SE Berks District Chairman supported by Bill Kemp & Peter Minchin, clearing some of the unused equipment from around the site. The initial phase culminated in a Working W/E, 22nd/24th February, when 2nd & 6th Bracknell together with a couple of Network members from S Berks loaded three skips of rubbish and undertook other tasks to tidy up the site. Stewart Sinclair provided considerable guidance in spite of his current medical condition. A very satisfying effort greatly appreciated by the EMC.

The Centenary of Scouting

- Trees for All

Cub Scouts from South East Berkshire planted trees, generously provided by the Woodlands Trust to mark 100 years of Scouting. In spite of the bad weather forecast for the week-end in December the Cubs found gaps in the showers to plant the 60 tree and bush saplings around the Site. The Bracknell Forest Borough Council Rangers provided the necessary protection for the saplings to survive attack from the local wild life. Many thanks' SE BERKS Cub Scouts. Site users are asked to avoid damaging these tiny additions which need care and time to grow.

Water!

Where is it coming from? Why isn't it going away? We seem to be suffering from an excess of groundwater not draining away. Some of the ditches around the site may well be choked with fallen leaves but even so there appears to be more muddy paths than ever. A team of volunteers will be doing some work on the ditches etc over the weekend 31 May/2 June. If you can join us even for a couple of hours you will be more than welcome. Meals, coffee tea etc provided.

Site Arrival Timing!

Please note the importance of booking the right time for arrival on site. There are differing interpretations of the booking in time. This ranges from the meeting at your own HQ to the expected arrival of the participants. This results in either vehicles parked in a dangerous position on the busy road outside the gate or an irate duty warden sitting waiting wondering if there has been a cancellation. Please book the expected time of the first arrival at Earleywood so we can open up in time for you.

Earleywood's Future

We are all looking forward to this haven of tranquillity continuing as the base for exciting adventurous scouting in the area. *(Even if these two don't always match up!)* There are very few venues where true Scouting practices can be conducted in safety and with the support and approval of the owner / operators. So please encourage the use of the site for all the many Scouting events and activities it can accommodate. It is up to the local Scouting community to ensure the site is used so there are no grounds for anyone to say this gem is not worth more than any sum of money to retain for the progressive development of tomorrows society. We look forward to welcoming all users practising true Scouting, which includes the care of the outdoor environment factors so important to all in today's electronic gizmo dominated society.

Discounted Leisure Park Tickets

If you are intending to visit any of the South East's top leisure attractions why not book through the Earleywood Booking Secretary and take advantage of some very worthwhile discounts. Contact Alan for details of the discounts available for Thorpe

Park, Chessington World of Adventure,
Legoland Windsor, Madame Tussuads, The
London Dungeon and Sealife Centres.

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