

The New Toilet Block



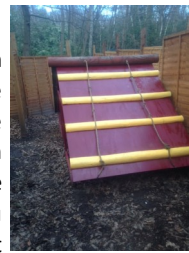
From the Initial Purchase of Walton Firs back in 2008, The Trustees have been determined to update and improve facilities and activities on site and by far our biggest project to date has been our brand new toilet and shower facilities. We were greatly helped in the funding of this by donations and grants from many, too numerous to mention here, but all will be recorded and acknowledged once completion is achieved! As you can see, this is well in sight and we have a green light planned for Spring bank holiday opening, which will delight our users who have been patiently coping with the 1940s block. Come "pay a visit" and see the difference for yourselves.



The Maze



The maze was well known for its centerpiece, an iconic Beatles' Yellow Submarine as used on their film set. Despite constant maintenance it finally sunk into disrepair and had to be removed, allowing a major overhaul. The new theme for the maze will be Medieval. Over the winter period the staff and volunteer crews have been constructing different Medieval props and games to be included within the maze. The most challenging of the build is a central, 8 foot high, castle. Do you think you have what it takes to solve the puzzles and raid the castle; why not come on down and have a go?



Walton Firs says 'Goodbye and Hello'

Walton Firs said goodbye to Joe Braidley, one of our activity instructors. He decided to improve on his water based instructor qualifications over the winter, and has a job for next season using these newly gained qualifications. We are pleased to say that he will still be seen volunteering on site.



Joe Braidley

Rob Williams and Joe Bird say a big HELLO and welcome two new faces, Stuart Whythe and Matthew Burford, both of whom, for the last few years, have worked for Scout and Girl Guiding Activity Centres and bring with them great enthusiasm and ideas.



Val Ellis, Julie Bird

Our Admin team has been strengthen to a full five day coverage; Val Ellis joined us last September and initially covered all five days until Julie Bird joined her in February this year and between them they take care of all the administrative needs of the Centre. We are very grateful for the assistance of John Dedman who, once a week, provides the Centre with his valuable accountancy.



Stuart Whythe, Matthew Burford

Contact us information

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Why Not like us on Facebook and Twitter to keep up-to-date with all that's happening on Centre:

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[twitter](https://twitter.com/WaltonFirs) @WaltonFirs

We held an Archery Instructor course over a weekend in early January for Service Crew members and Founding district Scouts to gain their GB Archery Instructor Award. Further courses are as follows and are open to all:

Courses Available are:

Emergency first aid 1 day £40

NVQ level 3 First Aid £150

Archery Instructor Award £195

If you are interested in any of these courses then please contact info@waltonfirs.co.uk and reserve your place.



WALTON FIRS NEWS

'a centre of activity, learning and education'

The Walton Firs Newsletter is the only place to find out everything that's happening at Walton Firs Activity Centre. For up to date news follow us on

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Duke of Edinburgh

At the beginning of the year, The Centre welcomed Sophie Howard who is completing the service phase of the D of E Award by renovating the iconic Totem Pole which sits outside reception.



If you are looking for somewhere to complete your service section for DofE, Why not volunteer at Walton Firs Activity Centre.

Please contact us on:

Info@waltonfirs.co.uk

The First RBS Volunteer Day

On a beautiful September morning, we welcomed 60 Royal Bank of Scotland employees to a volunteer day at the Centre and were blown away by the enthusiasm and energy they brought with them. The promise of an evening BBQ spurred the work on. Cyndy Yap, CIO of RBS, arrived in time for the BBQ and surprised everyone by presenting David Gardner with a cheque for £2,500 to put towards the new toilet block. A great day and a huge thank you to all the volunteers and staff who came along and supervised the various tasks, which included the erection of knee high fencing, the exterior painting of all accommodation buildings, shrub and bramble removal from the new build area, painting a mural on the bouldering wall and various IT tasks including devising new Team Tasks. A big list and a great start to ticking off the winter workload for the staff! We all had a great day and they have booked to repeat the experience this month.



Stella Simpson (1953-2015)

With deep sadness we have to pass on the news that Stella Simpson, so long associated with Walton Firs and the backbone of our fund raising team, was tragically diagnosed with very aggressive brain tumors in September and lost a brief but enormously courageous fight for life on 30th December 2015. Nothing was ever too much trouble for Stella; she smiled her way through all adversity, and put copious layers of clothes on to counter the freeze in her shed until we provided her with a new office in 2012. Her warm and kind nature will be greatly missed. Our Deepest sympathy goes to her family and friends for their loss.



Stella Simpson

Get Involved...

If you would like to volunteer and make a difference, learn new skills or help a young person to experience outside adventure, there are always volunteer opportunities at Walton Firs. You could be helping others enjoy themselves while having fun and amazing experiences at Walton Firs, and don't forget it looks great on your CV too!

The volunteers and staff also have a fun social programme outside of Walton Firs, from nights out to BBQs and active sports. There is usually something for everyone of every age!

If you would like to become a volunteer at Walton Firs Activity Centre then please contact rob@waltonfirs.co.uk today.

For your peace of mind...

Walton Firs gets an AED fully automatic defibrillator



This can be used by everyone without any formal training and we very much thank Richmond upon Thames Scout District for their kind contribution to the Centre's facilities.