



WALTON FIRS NEWS

'a centre of activity, learning and education'

September 2016

The Walton Firs Newsletter is the only place to find out everything that's happening at Walton Firs Activity Centre.

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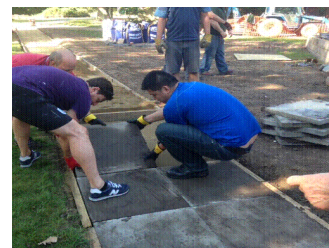
Esher District Scouts

Contact Us

The Walton Firs Picture Appeal

Walton Firs are looking to update the website and would like to have some pictures of groups using the Centre. If you have some snaps from your stay here that you would like to share, please could you send them to info@waltonfirs.co.uk

(Please ensure you have the consent from those in the picture and let them know how it will be used.)



New Toilet Block Official Opening



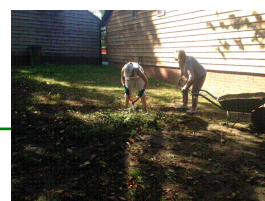
The Mayor of Elmbridge, Councillor Tania Shipley, helped Cubs cut the toilet roll ribbon on the toilet block. The toilet block replaces the old one which had been on the site for the past 70 years. The toilet block opening brought Scouts and Guides, past and present, to Walton Firs to enjoy the event and to help the Cubs celebrate their 100 birthday. The day was topped off with a BBQ, with members of Crew 3A Service Team, Richmond Guides, cooking the sausages and burgers for all on site.

The new toilet block will be a welcomed relief for more than 15,000 young visitors that Walton Firs welcomes annually, staying onsite for an average of two or more days either camping or making use of the indoor accommodation and activities. A big thank you goes out to all who have contributed to making this project a reality. The new toilet and shower facility has underfloor heating, to encourage use all year round, much improved disabled facilities with two fully fitted wet rooms.



The RBS Team Are Back.

On the 15th September, Walton Firs welcomed The Royal Bank of Scotland for another volunteering day. The RBS Team were determined to complete all the jobs set for the day, which include laying the path outside the toilet block, painting knee high fences around the car park and chipping the new picnic area alongside the new toilet block. On the warmest September day for many years, the RBS and Walton Firs Teams had a productive but very hot day.



Get Involved...

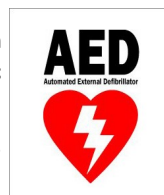
If you would like to make a difference to young people, learn new skills and enjoy the outdoors, there are always volunteer opportunities at Walton Firs. All volunteers are welcome and we can always find a volunteer role that is flexible and will fit in with your availability. Whether you have activity qualifications and would like to help deliver activities, help with maintenance of the site, or looking after the shop for our young guests, we are likely to have a role for you. Don't forget, those doing D of E can use volunteering at Walton Firs to help them complete the service element of their award.

Young or old, if you would like to become a volunteer at Walton Firs Activity Centre then please contact info@waltonfirs.co.uk today.

For your peace of mind...

Walton Firs gets an AED fully automatic defibrillator.

The new defibrillator is now in service and located just inside the porch for the crew hut. Thanks to Richmond District Scouts for their donation towards the purchase.



Summer at Walton Firs



1st Bookham Scouts



Over 80 people from 1st Bookham Scout Group had a wonderful time at Walton Firs in May. Beavers and Cubs explored the maze, discovering a Castle in the centre. Wearing helmets with head torches they explored the cave, played "Giant Twister", bowled strikes on the skittle alleys, made bottle rockets and identified objects in the feely-bag trail. Cubs practised their archery skills, bursting balloons on the targets. Cubs and Scouts created high towers from crates, then cheered as the stacks fell. Scouts practised a steady hand at the rifle range and then used strength and technique to scale the climbing wall. Scouts like using gadgets and they soon mastered a 21st Century gadget with some GPS geocaching around the site. All the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts became a little muddy as they crawled, scrambled and swung their way around the Adventure course, though with head to toe mud! **Claire Thomas AGSL**



Walton Firs on Tour



The Walton Firs Instructor Team go on tour to Bethesda, Wales. The team enjoyed two days of climbing in the Welsh mountains, helping them maintain their climbing skills. The first day saw the team enjoy some lead climbing on Little Tryfan before moving to slate on the second day. The tour was a great success for them as two instructors managed to lead their first outside climbs.



Church Crookham Junior School Visit

The military children of CCJS have been coming to Walton Firs for 3 years running. Every year they come home very excited about the activities they did and for some, the fears they faced. One of our children almost didn't come as he was terrified of the caving activity! His fear of the dark and closed spaces nearly took over. Once at the activity and with his friends, he listened to the safety talk by the instructor and was told that he didn't have to go in if he didn't want to. He went in and had a wonderful time! All of the instructors are amazing with the children.

We love bringing our children here as there is so much room for them to have fun, so much on offer for them to do and most importantly, it's safe.

Trish Smith, Church Crookham Junior School

If you are interested in bringing your school to Walton Firs, please contact: info@waltonfirs.co.uk or speak to a member of our team about our different school packages and programs.

Winter Developments

Over the winter months, Walton Firs goes through changes from big to small. Some of the projects which will be happening are:

- The creation of the Low Ropes Course.
- A Drinking Fountain outside the toilet block.
- Some renovation of lower toilet block.



Cliff Palmer, a Walton Firs Patron and past Service Team member, teaching the Walton Firs Team a bit of stone masonry whilst starting to slate the outside of the new water fountain.



First Aid Course

First Aid at Work Course—NVQ level 3 including Defibrillation Training—NVQ level 2.

18th, 19th and 20th November 2016. For more details contact info@waltonfirs.co.uk

Contact Us

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Esher District Cubs

World Record Attempt

2016 is a special year for Cubs as it is their Centenary in the UK. There have been many exciting events arranged for Cubs, encouraging them to learn and have fun. Esher District Cubs had a never to be forgotten event, promoting the ideals of Scouting, by taking part in a world record attempt here at Walton Firs. During their camp in June they were able to create "The largest human image of the merit badge" using 312 Cubs, Scouts and Explorers. The successful attempt will hopefully inspire other Cubs in the UK and around the world to take up the Centenary Challenge.

