

# *Rough Close Update*

Autumn 2009



## **Busy Summer**



Work carried out on the Main and Top Fields has paid off in summer. The fields haven't been as wet and have drained far better.

This has meant more camping and evening activities.

We have entertained large camps such as the Network Festival, Bablake Cub Camp and Gateway Camp. In addition to various Group, District and Family Camps.

Further remedial work and autumn feeding should continue this improvement for next year.

## **Back to Basics**

**With the arrival of Bear Grylls as our Chief Scout a lot of emphasis has been put on learning more camp craft and survival skills.**

**Rough Close is one of the few campsites that allow ground fires to help practice these skills, why not enhance your programme and relearn these skills**

## **Winter Plans**

Plans are already being drawn up for improvements for next season. One of the priorities will be to improve the toilets adjacent to Cumwiddus. This will be achieved by salvaging much of the contents of the existing toilet block once the new block is open. These toilets will have two showers improved lighting and appearance.

Whilst the new toilet block is being completed it is the intention to move the caravan to the rear of the new block. This will improve the view onto the main field and provide an open area around the Rough Close Retreat.

## **New Toilet Block**



The new toilet block is now nearing completion. The first fix of the electrics has been completed and screed has been applied to the floors in advance of tiling. The fitting out will commence shortly. A new environmentally friendly waste disposal system is being installed which will save expenditure on having the current tanks emptied. The block will be clad in timber keeping its appearance in line with the George Shepherd and Norton Cabins.

## **Cable Donation**

Following an appeal to his employers Mark Colvin managed to get a donation of 300 metres of armoured cable from Cleveland Cables Ltd. Will enable us to provide mains electricity to the toilets in the Top Field. In carrying out this work we hope to put additional electric points in both the Main and Top Fields.



## George Shepperd Cabin

The George Shepperd Cabin is now in use after it's major refit. The training field has been levelled and reseeded and next year it will be available for camping.

The building is centrally heated and has many uses such as meetings, training sessions or indoor catering for winter camps. It also offers WiFi to enable the use of technology to enhance training courses.



## Guild Cabin

Work carried out on the Guild Cabin has includes a new kitchen with a range cooker. An improves veranda and generally improving the look of the structure. Work clearing the perimeter of the adjacent field should mean better drainage.

The Guild is a very popular cabin and offers a great base for a camping for Cub Scouts through to Network Scouts.

## Work Parties



During the year we have been able to continue improvements to our campsite. Our Service Crew and Midweek Crew have been joined by various Explorer Units in providing much needed labour. This has been supplemented by the continued work of the Probation Service through their Community Payback scheme.

We have got volunteers from the Department of Works and Pensions carrying out work as part of their Community Service scheme.

We will always welcome Districts, Groups or Units who would like to be responsible for making a difference at or camp site.

## Crew News

The Service Crew have had a very busy year both helping maintain the camp site and providing hours of activities for our visitors.

We will always welcome new members and where possible provide activity training for those who wish to enhance their personal skills.

If you would like to help please contact Nigel Stapleton or Sarah Miller

## Your views sought.....

Rough Close is your camp site and as such the County is always looking for possible improvements. If you have ideas, suggestions etc. please let us know by contacting Dave Hart.

## Trading Post.

The Trading Post continues to attract customers, whether for uniforms, badges or just a chat. It can offer all your groups and section needs and it will continue to open during the winter months, look out for revised opening times.

## Rough Close Retreat

Having had a number of people volunteer we hope that next season the Retreat will be open each weekend for either a cuppa or a friendly chat.