

Rough Close Update

Winter 2010



Busy Summer



Once again the year has been extremely busy with visitors from all over the country.

We have been able to provide a site of excellent quality with great activities.

The site could not function without the work of the Service Crew, Friends of Rough Close Crew and the many units and individuals who work at Rough Close.

Over the last few years the roles of our various Crews have changed, our weekend Crew have been busy running activities for our visitors, ensuring that they have had full training, the right equipment and able to carry out the activity in a safe manner.

This year we have installed a new area for our popular crate stacking. We have provided specialist training and new equipment.

Along with activities they have provided camp site cover for all weekends plus other emergency camp site maintenance.

This has meant that our Friends of Rough Close Crew have continued with site improvements and new projects.

We certainly couldn't operate without these teams of dedicated individuals who give up their time to improve the operation of Rough Close.

The other hard-working team are David Millers team who open our 'Trading Post' each weekend. This not only supplements our income but provides a valuable service to leaders from not only Coventry but the neighbouring Counties.

Early Winter Weather

The recent freezing temperatures and snow have created extra work for our Crews.

Our thanks to Nigel and Scooby who worked one night from 7.00p.m to midnight to make good a burst pipe by the George Sheppard Cabin and to Dave Atkins and the mid-week crew who have repaired all the bursts and leaks.

New Toilet Block



After many years with a sub-standard facility the main activity of the year was the opening of the new toilet block. Since its opening many have commented on the obvious improvements.

This has enabled Rough Close to have a major makeover with the repositioning of the Wardens Caravan and the opening of the large area now between the Retreat, new block and the main field. The erection of another flagpole and additional subdued lighting has provided a much needed centre to the site.



Camping Fields

Our camping fields have continued to improve over the

year, they currently are draining better thanks to the improvement to our ditches. This work is essential if we are to maintain our fields.

The ditching work has been carried out by various work parties, some of the mid-week crew and the Community Payback Scheme.

Rough Close Woodland

One of the major assets to our campsite is the 20 acres of woodland within the site.

This is ancient woodland and in need of some tender management. Plans are being put in place to carry out this necessary maintenance.

The changes you will see will be the opening of the tree canopy of our pocket sites. This will improve grass growth and lead to less water retention.

The areas surrounding our main fields and smaller camping fields will be thinned to allow better growth of the new trees that are self generation.

It is our intention that the majority of the woodland will only be maintained on the grounds of safety for our young people to enjoy.

No Increase in Site Fees for 2011

With the continuing success of Rough Close and your help the Rough Close Management Sub-Committee are recommending to the County Executive that there be no increase in site fees for 2011.

We hope that more of the County will come along and use our improved facilities for the benefit of their young people.



George Sheppard Cabin

The George Sheppard Cabin continues to be a popular building for both training and using as a base for the camping field. Now fully equipped and centrally heated it can be used all year round for your activities.



Norton Cabin

The Norton Cabin still is a popular venue for all sections and continues to be booked most weekends.



Over the last couple of months Brian Beever and other of the mid-week Crew have been busy manufacturing and fitting new bunk beds to all the dormitories.

These will give more space in the dormitories and are solidly fixed to the walls so there should be no creaking.

The funding for this project has come from the Friends of Rough Close '200 Club'



Work Parties

Over the year we have been helped by some of our District Explorer Units, corporate organisations, universities and many others.

We would really like this to continue, if your troop, unit, group or District would like to help please contact Nigel Stapleton or Dave Hart

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

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. If you would like to book the Retreat for an event, presentation evening, reunion etc. please contact Nigel Stapleton who will help book the event

Your views sought.....

We have recently carried out a survey of improvements that you wish to see at your camp site. Some of these have already been incorporated. One much sought after improvement is to our booking system. We are currently looking at a computerised system which may be possible to install, this of course will not preclude other methods of booking but hopefully will be more user friendly.

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.