

Rough Close Update

Summer 2009



George Shepherd Cabin

The George Shepherd Cabin has now been completed. It provides an ideal training room for young people and adults alike, whilst also providing an indoor base for camps and courses. Although not designed for accommodation the fully fitted kitchen will be able to provide the facilities to make visits logistically easier.

The George Shepherd Field has been enlarged and re-seeded and will be ready for camping next year. The building is now available for bookings

We held a thank you evening for our sponsors which was also attended by the widow of George Shepherd. Both she and her son were impressed by the work being done at Rough Close..

Busy Summer

Once again Rough Close is proving to be more and more popular. May and June have been particularly busy months with many group and district events being held.

June started with the PubScout Network festival and despite the weather seemed a great success. The following weekend we hosted the Bablake Cub camp, this was a great weekend for weather and everyone had a great time.

At the beginning of the season more work was carried out on the access road, violent storms over the last few days will mean another makeover before the end of the year.

Whilst the rain over last summer affected the main and top field this year we seem to have been luckier. Marquees and large tents where a mass of campers congregate are now carpeted thus stopping excessive wear.

Work has continued on some of our internal roads to make them less of a mud-bath and now make the Close more cared for. This work has been carried out by the Community Pay-Back scheme who continue to support us.

Over the last few years some of our pocket sites have been over-camped and have shown signs of stress. We have opened up more site in order to rest the existing for a season.

New Toilet Block

Work is progressing on the new toilet block, with the roof about to go on as we speak. It is envisaged that this will be the last major project until further funding is available.

We have currently been able to attract funding of nearly £50k for the block and together with help from H.Q. and our own input the block should be ready before the end of this season.

On completion it is intended to salvage the hardware from the existing block and use it to re-furbish the Cumwiddus toilets which is long overdue.

Further work!

Not being a group to stand still plans are in hand for further maintenance work at Rough Close.

The first of these small projects is some remedial work on the Guild Cabin.

There also needs to be some work on the waste disposal from the Norton Cabin, investigative work has already started and we hope that this will be completed in the next couple of weeks.

As already stated the toilet facilities at the Cummwiddus end of the site will be re-furbished, hopefully adding showers, hot water etc.

Cyber Training

The County Training team together with the Rough Close Management Committee have worked to give wireless internet access to both the Rough Close Retreat and the George Shepherd Cabin. The Training team applied for and got the funding for the hardware, whilst facilities were installed to house it.

Despite a few teething problems this facility will soon be fully operational.

Rough Close Management Committee

Chairman Dave Hart; Booking Secretary Nigel Stapleton; Dave Atkin; Sarah Miller; ;Stuart Grundy; Pete Marsden; Bob Tansey; Bob Tabb