

Thank you team...

Birchmere has a great repair and management team, unknown to most folk. Our management committee suggest and agree all things that occur. Also, there's a wardens work party who get "down and dirty" sorting out all maintenance and repair issues and long term improvements. This past year the wardens work party have implemented a whole load of needed upgrades. This is ongoing as they strive to install new adult toilets and showers. Thankyou Steve for gathering this group together and a special thanks to all our helpers.

Birchmere said goodbye to its treasurer recently. However we are grateful that Alex Hovden, a past Explorer Scout, has taken over this role. Our booking secretary, Judi Oakley has been able to maintain all bookings and COVID-19 related cancellations. Thank you both Judi and Alex.

The Birchmere Committee has often been on the receiving end of scouting awards. Andy Dolan has received The Award of Merit, Nick Derrick has been awarded the Chief Scouts Commendation for Good Service. And for distinguished service Richard Mackie has been awarded the Silver Acorn!

Congratulations Andy, Nick and Richard!

Birchmere's 2021 Campsite fees

	Woking Scouts	Non-Woking Scout Groups / Guide Groups	Charity Groups
Camping Fee	Free	£4.00 pn pp	£4.20 pn pp
Family Camps	£200	N/A	N/A
Daytime rate	Free	£2.00 pd pp	N/A
Birch Lodge or The Retreat	Free	£20.00 pd, up to £80 per visit	
Deposit (non-refundable)	N/A	£50	

Campsite charges effective for all bookings after 1st January 2021. All campsite fees at the discretion of the Warden.

Deposits and Family Group camp fees must be paid at time of booking and are non-refundable. These rates may change depending on when you book. Please check before your camp.

Campsite Warden, Steve Valiant: 07966 176683

Campsite Chairperson, Richard Mackie: 07801 545847 dick.mackie49@gmail.com

Scouts



Birchmere Campsite

Lockdown & Updates

Birchmere campsite expected another jammed packed year of visiting camps and excited campers. We didn't know how the new COVID-19 virus could and would affect us. So when the first lockdown shattered our dreams we had to sit down and decide how to deal with an empty campsite. Obviously there was only one way....update!

So taking advantage of the empty site, we scanned past suggested campsite improvements from the past few years. The plan resulted in a major refurbishment of the campsite. In fact looking back there wasn't really much that wasn't changed.

For example. to adequately deal with all grey water from our increased users, the septic tank drainage was doubled in size. The campsite area seating doubled together with the addition of the much acclaimed Giants Seat. The new activity rooms, although only erected three years previously were modernised and redecorated. All the toilet/shower areas were repainted. Our special needs ramp to the activity rooms was enlarged and made more accessible.

Most noticeably, our warden's hut, tractor shed and outdoor store area were



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repositioned and an area to accommodate new leader toilet /shower pods created. These units will greatly reduce the wait for adults to enjoy a hot morning shower. The campsite is really grateful for the amazing support of the Ratcliffe Trust for promised funds to purchase these pods. Plans for this major improvement are at the moment submitted to Guildford Borough Council, planning department, for approval. If passed it is hoped to have these in place by early summer 2021.

That's a load of updates!



Birchmere entertains The Mayor

The Mayor of Woking, Cllr. Mrs Beryl Hunwicks, kindly spent time at Birchmere recently to see the changes taking place at the campsite.

After a tour of the site, in which she mentioned she loved the Giants Chair in the camp fire circle, Cllr. Hunwicks spent time with the wardens work party enquiring about the campsite future projects.

She was very interested to hear about the proposed plans, especially about the proposed Adult toilets and showers pods.

Cllr. Hunwicks has kindly accepted the invitation that she might again visit the campsite to officially open the new Activity Halls. This, if all the COVID-19 restrictions are favourable, should occur in April 2021. We are very grateful for all the support shown by The Mayor for Birchmere Campsite.



M25 J10 Highways England update

The Secretary of State has extended the deadline for the decision on the Development Consent Order for improvements to the M25 junction 10/A3 Wisley interchange to 12 May 2021. The 4-month extension is to allow the Secretary of State to consult further on specific areas



We look forward to the Secretary of State's Development Consent Order decision later in the year and will continue to assist with the process over the forthcoming months. Thank you to everyone for their engagement and contribution in the development of the scheme to date.

The plans to improve the M25 at junction 10 near Wisley are good for road safety, good for the environment and good for business and jobs. The new junction will improve almost 300,000 journeys a day, making them more reliable and safer, with nearly a third fewer collisions.

COVID-19 Precautions

The campsite, as with all meeting areas, has attempted to better than meet the suggested prevention standards.

We have kept our risk assessments updated to meet with the current situations and have made sure that the site can meet fully all suggested precautions. Sanitisers are at all entrances and exits and extra hand washing facilities are in place.



Not only will we ensure that there is a pre, and post meeting clean, but that a fortnightly deep clean is carried out. We have signed up to the NHS QR track and trace system.

We hope that it's all going to be history as soon as possible.