



Badges

Haven't got one yet? Birchmere badges are available from the Campsite Warden or Woking Scout Resource Centre and only cost £2, all profit is reinvested into the campsite

Birchmere's 2019 Campsite fees

	Woking Scouts	Non-Woking Scout Groups / Guide Groups	Charity Groups
Camping Fee	Free	£3.80 pp pn	£4.00 pp pn
Family Camps	£100	N/A	N/A
Daytime rate	Free	£2.00 pd	N/A
Birch Lodge or The Retreat	Free	£10.00 pd, up to £50 per visit	
Deposit	N/A	£50	
Sole occupancy		Contact us	

Campsite charges effective for all bookings after 1st January 2019. All campsite fees at the discretion of the Warden.

07801 545847 dick.mackie49@gmail.com



Bookings

July 2019 weekends are all booked! Contact us now to secure your camping dates for 2019 ASAP!



Hidden Treasure



Birch Lodge and The Retreat, Birchmere

You may have known Woking from its famous landmarks, businesses or names such as McLaren Formula 1 racers or supercars.

Or it might be that it has one of the fastest rail links to London. Perhaps it's that the RHS Wisley Gardens is close by. What you may not have realised and one of the best

Continued on page 2

Notes from the chair

The Birchmere Wardens, Steve and Katy Valiant, have now become established as an enthusiastic management team after joining us last spring. Over that time they have worked hard to change how the campsite runs.

A notable improvement is the monthly wardens work morning. Occurring on the first Tuesday of the month, a small team meets to do maintenance and repairs.

From painting to door hanging, grass mowing to decluttering, they tackle most things. This, combined with support from members of Woking District who brought specialist help when needed, the campsite has seen steady improvements over the year.

Birchmere is very lucky to have all these "friends" who are so willing to turn up to do these tasks.

Richard, Birchmere Campsite chairperson

birchmerescoutcampsite.org

#SkillsForLife

Copyright 2018 The Scout Association Registered Charity numbers 306101/SC038437

 /BirchmereScoutCampsite

 @UKScouting

Continued from page 2

kept secrets, is that there exists near Wisley Gardens a small but perfectly formed Scout campsite, Birchmere. Over the past two years the campsite has upgraded their aged activity hall with two refurbished halls acquired from a school in London and now it is able to offer visiting groups not one, but two halls, both with a modern kitchen for group use.

Not only have there been new indoor activity areas built, but the way the campsite deals with an expected increased campsite use and resulting waste water has also been improved with a new soakaway being created for rain water and an upgraded septic tank facility for waste water for showers and toilets.

It is no secret that the campsite's main users should be groups in Woking District however the site is also available for hire by youth groups for elsewhere. To publicise the improvements at Birchmere the campsite's web site has been replaced with a modern and stylish means of allowing potential visitors to view the site and to book a visit on-line.

In the coming spring, there is planned an official campsite building opening and Woking District St. George's Day event. Later in the year our plans are to upgrade the septic tank drainage system, create a small on-site firing range and to clear coppiced areas of Woolgars Wood for small group use. The outcome of all these plans is to continue to provide Woking District Scouts with a "Proper little campsite" and for another very busy year at the campsite.



Knaphill Family Camp 2018

We were blessed with amazing weather once again for Family Camp this year. Beavers, Cubs and Scouts camped overnight with their families and enjoyed a fun variety of activities throughout the weekend. All got a true taste of Scout camp.

Here's Josh and Luke had to say about the weekend:

Family camp was very good, I especially liked the campfire because Ollie and Tom sang some great songs. I loved pulling the American army land rover and playing with the rods and balls. Josh, Beaver

I loved family camp because everyone was very nice. And also I never got bored because there were loads of activities. My favourite activities were the crossbow and the firebird challenge. It was the best family camp ever! Luke, Cub

The 'Thank you' bit

Always when you are involved with a project such as our new activity rooms there are a lot of "Thank You's" but oh my word, where do we start! Can we thank Gary and Tuffin Ferraby and Taylor for sourcing the buildings and for, not only suggesting their use, but also for managing their dismantling, transport, erection and their early refurbishment at the campsite. From there it has been amazing how much time and effort has been put in by, both contractors and volunteers, to make the upgrading of the activity rooms so very successful. We are truly grateful for their help.

In particular we should also thank all those who have helped to fund the new activity rooms and to make them fit for purpose. Our principal source of funding has been Woking District Scout Executive for the essential initial work. Without their substantial help the project would not have been attempted. From there, however, so many have helped to make a difference. Can we especially thank Woking Borough Council and Ros and Ian Colston for their help with reroofing both halls, 1st Horsell Scout Group and Horsell Residence Association for electrical and plumbing work. To Woking Lions, from their Horsell Fun Run, for a contribution to the kitchen fitting. To The Rotary Club of Woking, whose 2018 Swimathon helped with the funding of the special needs ramp and steps at the front of the building and to the three anonymous donors whose generous gifts purchased the second kitchen and enabled us to fit floor

coverings in both halls; the Surrey County Council Local Committee who supported our initial planning costs. Finally to the St Faiths Charity who, by their generous grant, funded the first stage of the new upgraded waste water management septic tank system. Birchmere is very grateful to all of the above and to everyone who has contributed to make our new activity rooms such a successful project and a credit to Woking Scout District. Thank you!

Richard, Birchmere Campsite Chairperson

"Thank you to all those who have worked so hard to make Birchmere such a great campsite. Such a lot of hard work has gone into getting funding & equipping the new buildings and it has made a lovely campsite even better. It really is perfect for a Group Family Camp, secluded, well equipped & our families with young children love the freedom it affords. Our catering crew for Family Camp really appreciate the extra space and better cooking facilities the new buildings offer. I always ask for feedback after our camps & many say how lucky we are to have Birchmere as a District campsite."

Tracey, Group Scout Leader, 1st Knaphill Scout Group.

