

Madagascar Expedition



Although a bitterly cold January weekend the Explorers had great fun and enjoyed the challenge of waking to ice on their tents. Birchmere is a great site and we would book again. Paul - 7th Epsom Scouts (Madagascar Expedition 2020)

Birchmere's 2020 Campsite fees

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

Campsite charges effective for all bookings after 1st January 2020. 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



The Beaten Track



Birchmere campsite continues to become more popular! It now seems that there is a form of tactical booking. This is when you don't just book for the next year but to ensure you get what you need, you book for many years to come! We now have a booking diary for 2021 which is filling up fast!

This seems to be because Birchmere offers to Woking District Groups what they need and to other out of District areas, we offer a safe and economic environment for all youth

camps whether this be scouts, guides, cadets or youth groups. As we now have two buildings, Birch Lodge and The Retreat, that can be used in tandem for large groups, we now can offer two individual "home bases" for separate bookings. Both the buildings offer a quality environment for group use and first rate semi industrial cooking facilities.

Over the past year the campsite has spent on reducing the row of very high Poplar trees along the site border and new grey water disposal facility is booked. The long term will see a greater emphasis on leader/adult shower and toilet facilities and a plan to replace the old single glazed windows in the halls with new double glazed units..

All of this will take funds which we will have to earn. However, we still offer great value to all and will ensure that our standards and user care to our campsite visitors will stay just as high as always.

birchmerescoutcampsite.org

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J10 Upgrade



Birchmere campsite has long suffered from access issues and the volume of traffic on the northbound A3 increases. This has led to inconveniences in accessing and leaving the area. The whole of J10 being re-planned by Highways England and this should start in 2020/21. While the work is progressing the campsite should not be hindered by the building and our access will remain the same for most of the work. The result of the work will ensure that the campsite will be an easier place to visit. This is a progress report from Highways England. Highways England, M 25 – J 10 Progress report, November 2019 .

Our proposals for the M25 junction/A3 Wisley interchange were accepted by the Planning Inspectorate on 17 July 2019 for formal examination. This is a significant milestone for our scheme, as it means we've taken a big step towards delivering much-needed improvements on this stretch of road. You can view our planning application on the Planning Inspectorate website. To confirm plans we have also been doing surveys around junction 10 which started in May 2019. These surveys will be running until winter 2020 and include drainage surveys, pavement surveys, ecological surveys and exploratory holes being drilled into the ground.

The Committee Thanks you!

This is always an enjoyable bit!. Birchmere has a great management team who get so much done, most of which you'll probably never know about. So it's a very big "Thank You" from the 3000+ young people who use the campsite every year.

Steve Valiant, our Birchmere Warden still finds the folk who trot along to his monthly working party Tuesday's. Improvements that they have made range from new partition walls, decorating, cleaning, ditch clearing and very much more. We should also thank Terry Oakley and Steve who make and take so much time to mow the campsite's grass. Thanks also to Andy Dolan who sets out this newsletter. There's so much more we can thank them all for.

Over the year the Management Committee regretfully said goodbye to Treasurer Rob Christmas when he moved to Cambridge but we welcomed Una Sunderland, the Woking District Treasurer, as a temporary replacement. Gary Cheeseman has also stood down, but this after being a driving force in the design of the kitchens in our new buildings. Thank you both for making such a difference.

Finally Judi Oakley, our Booking Secretary of ten years received the Commissioners Commendation award



Judi with Kevin Spencer and Campsite Chair, Richard Mackie

for her tremendous support to Birchmere. As a thank you for providing such a professional service to Birchmere and Woking District Scouts, where she is the first contact with all potential camping enquiries and is able to efficiently manage all of its bookings, at the recent Birchmere Management Committee meeting, Judi was presented with the Commissioner's Commendation Award by Kevin Spencer, the Woking Scout Deputy District Commissioner.

The Commissioner's Commendation Award is the highest award that a non-uniformed helper can be given for service to Scouting. The certificate's commendation wrote... "For services as Booking Secretary to Birchmere Campsite; being the welcoming voice of Woking Scouts to potential visitors.

For your loyalty and assertiveness and for offering suggestions during changes to both site and campsite fees" It was signed by the County Commissioner for Surrey Scouts, Joe Rogerson. This award is certainly richly deserved. From the thousands of campsite visitors who you help each year, thank you very much Judi.

It's a great committee, we should be proud of them.

2020 newsletter competition

This competition was as a result of a small black rubbish bag being left at the campsite. As you well know we have some wild animals that are very keen to help us clear up by eating any left-overs. The trouble is that they have very bad table manners! The Competition. From the picture...

1. Count the number of torn off scraps of food paper left on the field.
2. Do the animals seem to have a favourite food?
3. What don't they like to eat?

To prevent this competition being repeated - PLEASE TAKE YOUR RUBBISH HOME WITH YOU!



1, 57, 2, Almost anything, 3, Bananas and cleaning scourers.