

Rough Close Update

April 2010



A New Season

Another season of camping is upon us, after a long hard winter we are now able to get our County Camp site looking spick and span.

A lot has been happening over the winter period to enhance the appearance of Rough Close and improve on its infrastructure.

The wardens caravan has been moved to improve the aspect across the Main Field and electric cables installed to give mains electricity to the main and top field.

Continued improvements to both the George Sheppard Cabin and the Guild have added to the impact of the camp site.

With the opening of the new toilet block the old facility will be demolished and the area in front of Rough Close Retreat will be levelled and landscaped.

Vehicle access to that area will be kept to a minimum making it safer for our young people.

Members of our mid-week crew have carried out some major work on our ditches and internal drainage systems. Accessing the ditches and improving the flow will help drain water from our camping fields.

Another project being undertaken is replacing the canvas roof on the tractor shed with a more permanent construction this will be completed when we have the roof material from the old toilet block available.

New Toilet Block



New toilet block nearing completion

The first impressions of any camp site are the toilets and associated facilities.

We can honestly say that the new block at Rough Close is second to none. Boasting four showers in both the male and female facility together with hand dryers, plug points (for your curling tongues chaps). It also has central heating.

At the rear of the block is a separate special needs facility which is a wet room complete with shower, toilet, sink etc. being fully compliant with the recognised regulations, and is fully accessible for wheel chairs.

Next door being a utility room which will contain washing machine and tumble dryer for wet nights and accidents.

The building has been clad with pine to keep it similar in appearance to the other buildings.

A new effluent disposal system will eventually save the site a lot of money with the more modern operation.

The funding for this facility has come from various local charities, the Youth Opportunity Fund and The Scout Association.

Additional Facilities

We have always been conscious of the lack of facilities in the Top Field. The small toilet block installed three years ago does not really provide for the increasing numbers camping.

In order to address this problem a larger module unit is being installed giving three toilets in both the male and female sides plus the sinks etc. you would expect to find. This has been made available from the 'Friends of Rough Close' 200 Club funds.

The strategy then is to move the smaller block adjacent to the Cumwiddus toilets whilst they are re-furbished. This will be accomplished by re-using the redundant materials from the old toilet block.

Volunteers

Over the winter we have been helped by various groups clearing and improving the site. Horizon Volunteers from Coventry and Warwick Universities joined us to clear the old plantation. Also together with the Service Crew and 5th/80th Cubs fenced and replanted the very wet area on the Training Field.

Members of the Bablake Explorer Units have used volunteering at Rough Close to help with their Environmental and Conservation Awards.

Our mid-week crew is now approximately 12 strong and working well.

As the new season approaches we would still wish to recruit more members to our week-end crew

Enhanced Activities

To remain compliant with best practices we are re-launching the Crate Stacking activity for this next season.

We have taken advice from the Associations Headquarters sites and are in the process of putting in a steel structure with more space and up to date equipment to improve this popular activity.

Re-training the instructors has already started and we hope the structure will be available soon.

Pedal Cars

During the period of the building of the new toilet block we have had to curtail the use of the pedal car track.

This will now be fully restored and improved to enable us to re-introduce this activity. Maintenance work is being carried out on the cars ready for this summers usage.

Pond Dipping

With the improvements being made to the site drainage system the bridging pond now has water flowing through it which should help maintain a better stock of creepies and crawlies for this and associated activities.

Thanks to Paul and Selwyn from our Tuesday team we can introduce a new activity at our own Bug City see what you can find

Rough Close Retreat

We are planning to open the café side of the Retreat from Easter onwards so if you are camping or just visiting you will be able to pop in for a drink with friends. Over the winter period both the Retreat and the George Shepherd has had wi-fi installed to help with training, meetings, displays etc.

Community Pay-Back

Again the Community Pay-Back scheme has assisted us in many of the improvements we have been able to make to Rough Close. Working with us three days each week means that both the Service Crew and mid-week crew can be released from this work to do other important work on the site



Recently re-furbished George Sheppard Cabin

What of the Future!

Following the last four years of hyper-activity we don't intend to let things rest. Already we are speaking to potential organisations who might fund more projects for your campsite.

One of the major projects to be completed will be re-roofing the Storm Hut (MacClean Centre) which was opened in 1973 so improvement is long overdue.

We would very much like to add to our activities by possibly installing a climbing tower although this depends on availability of more instructors and finance becoming available.

It's Your Rough Close

Rough Close is the one asset that we as a County own and having owned it for 60 years we hope that we can continue to improve the site for generations to come.

This can only be achieved with your help.

We need new ideas to take the site forward, increased use from our own groups would help to supplement the use it is getting from adjacent counties.

Why not bring you section group or District to carry out a conservation type project at Rough Close. This will help with improving your already balanced programme and will help your camp site.

The other way to help is to join the Friends of Rough Close monthly draw as this provides valuable funds for our improvements.

The Trading Post

Visit Coventry's own Badge Shop for all of you sections badge needs.

The Trading Post is open every weekend
For advice on uniforms, neckerchiefs, etc.
contact

David Miller tel. 02476461022.

Big Walk

The Big Walk will take place on
Sunday May 16th at Rough Close
For further information please
contact Nigel Phillips-Parnham
Tel. 02476 403753