



BIRCHMERE CAMPSITE NEWSLETTER



ISSUE : SPRING 2017

Welcome

Birchmere has, over the past few years, seen a whole load of improvements to make it a more modern, efficient and a greener site. These range from new wastewater management involving a new septic tank to upgrades in the special needs, boys and girls toilet and showers. The site is now highly rated by our camping visitors.

In a constant need for time and energy to be spent in all aspects of the camping experience, in 2016, we turned our attention to all safely aspects of the site usage. A recent Electrical Certificate test showed that there were aspects of the site circuitry that could require an update. This last year has seen all these requirements completed and as a result, all power circuits and electrical equipment are newly passed and certificated.

We are always aware that our major publicity and bookings are via our excellent web site and so this will be the next aspect to receive an update thus allowing an easier access from mobile phones and tablets. This will enable the campsite to be easily



Badges available from Campsite Warden or Woking Scout Resource Centre.

		Woking District Scouts	Non-Woking Scout Groups and Guide Groups	Other charity Youth Groups
Camping Fee	Camper per head per night/ 24 hours	FREE	£3.60pp	£4.00pp
Family Camps	(for whole camp)	£50 (payable at time of booking)		N/A
DRT Hut	Up to 24 hours	FREE	£10.00 (per day up to a max of £50 per week—shared DRT subject to the discretion of the Warden)	
Cancellation fee	Which is less than two weeks	£20		N/A

Campsite charges effective for all bookings after 1st January 2017

All campsite fees at the discretion of the Warden.

A non-refundable deposit of £50 for DofE Groups is required at the time of booking.

www.birchmerescoutcampsite.org

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Registered Charity Number 308528

2016 RANGER NOTES FROM WISLEY COMMON, OCKHAM AND CHATLEY HEATH

Hello! Throughout the year, we have been busily working to keep the heathland in a great condition to benefit all types of wildlife. Notably, during the spring and summer, a trio of rare birds use the heathland areas to raise their families. Dartford Warblers, Nightjars and Woodlarks nest on the ground – in amongst the heather and gorse. They don't like to be disturbed and are likely to abandon their nests and chicks if people or dogs pass too closely, so it is important to stick to footpaths during the breeding season. If you are very lucky (and watch quietly from the paths), you may catch a glimpse of them foraging for insects to feed their chicks on the open heathland. Here's to a great 2017 and if your group would like to help with any of the practical habitat management that we do, please let me know. It is a fun, energetic and rewarding way to spend a day! Ranger Micheal

viewed, and bookings made by phone and tablet as well as pc.

Birchmere Campsite is bound in its lease to only permit bookings by youth groups and that no adult clubs are permitted. This is used to our advantage as we now have an active Forest School preschool group that meets in the warmer months.

New aspects when using our site are requirements by our landlords, Surrey Wildlife Trust, to supply details of all Common use. This is as a result of the area being an area of SSSI with many fauna and flora sensitive areas. Please do conform with their requirements and permit the site to be well maintained as a species sensitive area. This will affect the use of Geocaching and some wide games in the summer months, however, our Orienteering courses are in non-sensitive areas and usable all year. Other campsite bookable activities, such as shooting and archery are available by arrangement.

We cater too for your pioneering requirements with a well-stocked supply of equipment.

Birchmere campsite is a member of Surrey Wildlife Trust. Visit their web site, www.surreywildlifetrust.org for the local outdoor activities and wildlife information or, should you wish, chat to our local ranger, Michael, when you see him out on the common.

Don't forget that the campsite is well positioned for visits to London, Legoland, Chessington World of Adventures, Thorpe Park, Mercedes World, Wisley gardens and more locally The Semaphore Tower on Ockham Common. That's not bad for a small District campsite even though it is a "Proper Little Campsite"



BIRCHMERE MANAGEMENT TEAM MEMBERS AWARDED

Birchmere has a management committee of totally dedicated scouters who spend a lot of their time ensuring that the campsite runs smoothly and that all the kit and activities are up to a high working standard. It's really nice when the members are thanked for their Scouting commitments....

Just recently we were very pleased to learn that Terry Oakley (past campsite warden and a District Explorer Scout Helper) and Linda Plunket (a Woking GSL and an Explorer Scout Unit Leader) have been duly honoured with a bar to their Award of Merit. Congratulations Linda and Terry!

