



FRIENDS OF WALTON FIRS
Newsletter No 18
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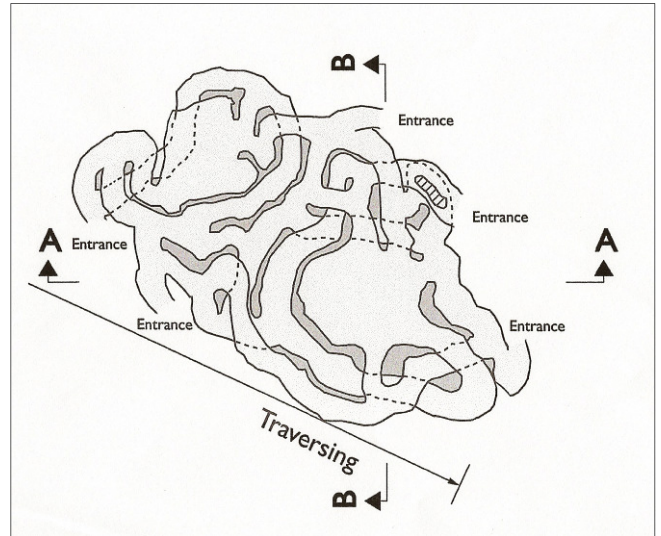


FUNDRAISING UPDATE — Directors give go ahead for Caving Complex

Challenge, adventure & education for young people

This may look like a slice of someone's brain, but in fact it is the brainchild of Dave McIntosh, our Warden, to develop the facilities on site and give our young people new and greater challenges. The caving complex will offer 50 meters of tunnels, with *squeezes* and two cave areas. There will be several entrances and exits, some of which can be blocked off until we need to expand the complex. The caves will be accessible to wheel chair users who can be lowered down to join in the caving experience. The complex is likely to be sited adjacent to the crate stacking activity. However,

***We still need to raise a further £15K
to complete the project***



Did you belong to our Service Team, or Crew?

At our AGM in May, several past members of the Service Team expressed an interest in coming back to see how the Centre is developing and to rekindle some of the old team spirit. So, it doesn't matter how long ago it was that you last crawled into a bunk after a long and happy day working on site, or how recent, all members of crews past and present are being invited to make contact with us so that we can tell you more about a planned re-union, likely to be in the

Autumn of this year. Depending on the level of interest we may use a building on site, or we may have to call you all back to erect a marquee! Either way, everyone is welcome. Please drop a line to Stella, email, or simply phone to express an interest, and we'll keep you posted! Full contact details are on the last page.

Annual Subscriptions for Friends of Walton Firs — Still possible to renew for 2009/10 year.

Thank you to all of you who have sent your cheques to renew your subscriptions. Your continued support means we can continue to develop the Centre for our young people. If you have been meaning to post a cheque, it is not too late, and better still if you can introduce a new Friend with the leaflet we enclosed. Thank you, also, to those of you who pay regularly by standing order, or on-line using PayPal. Sometime donations are left with our Warden with no address, so I apologise if you have not been thanked, but it isn't always possible to track you down. *All donations go into the development fund. All administration costs are covered by the site bookings. Every Penny Counts!*

Happy 70th Birthday Walton Firs!



We were delighted to welcome the High Sheriff of Surrey, Lady Elizabeth Toulson, on site, to mark this very special occasion. Lady Toulson presented Service Team members with the High Sheriffs Youth Award certificate and stayed on to cut and distribute birthday cake to lucky campers from Bishop Ramsey School, Ruislip. Many thanks also, to Sainsbury's and Tesco for their contributions towards costs.

One for the album

The Air Ambulance was called by paramedics when an adventurous camper sustained an injury. After a period of observation the casualty went to hospital in the regular ambulance and returned to his group later that evening to continue his activities. However, while waiting for a decision, the air ambulance crew showed off their helicopter and allowed campers a close up look at the aircraft before being called away to another incident. We have a letter complimenting the Service Teams here that day, and we add our own thanks to them for their calm professional approach to the situation which fortunately turned out not to be serious.



Well done Service Team!



It's that maze again!

When a staff member burning rubbish suffered burns to his hand, an ambulance was called as a precaution. The emergency services also sent a fire engine (which wasn't required) but it did give the local fire crews time to acquaint themselves with our maze. The fire crew offered fire training to our campers and a group has taken up the invitation!

Decision made to appoint another staff member

The Management Group, made up from representatives of the founder members, has decided to appoint another member of full time staff to the site. The new person will learn all Warden duties and develop contacts with non-voluntary and educational groups. The vacancy will be advertised on-line and in relevant publications soon.

A Black Tie Do, A Quiz Night & Fish Supper or a Ceilidh? What would suit you?

We have booked the Barnes Wallace Room at Burhill Golf Club for **18th June 2010** so plenty of time to check the fit of your dinner jacket and practice tying your bow tie! This will be an opportunity to meet a local celebrity or two, enjoy a fine dinner and help the fundraising activities at Friends of Walton Firs. This is a date for your diary, with more details to follow.

Would a quiz night interest you as well, or instead? Or how about a Ceilidh or barn dance? Nothing booked yet, but we could do with feed back on these ideas—and some help arranging things.



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