



FRIENDS OF WALTON FIRS  
Newsletter No 25  
SUMMER 2011



## *Challenge Adventure and Education for Young People*

[www.waltonfirs.co.uk](http://www.waltonfirs.co.uk)

Whether you are new to Walton Firs or an old hand welcome to our summer newsletter. If you haven't seen it recently have a look at our website [www.waltonfirs.co.uk](http://www.waltonfirs.co.uk). You will find lots of information on the use of the site, the launch of our appeal for the Patience Baden-Powell Centre and new pages on **efT** The Eric Frank Trust which is a separate organisation being hosted by Walton Firs. The Trust is dedicated to the promotion and advancement of leadership skills in young people throughout the world particularly through the Scout Movement and we hope will be real force for values based education.

### **Supporters' Day Launches 'Patience Baden-Powell Centre' Appeal**

Our Supporters' Day on Saturday on 21st May welcomed Mayors, local council Chairmen, VIP guests. Derek Pollard, Chairman of the Friends of Walton Firs launched the appeal to raise £150K and David Gardner, Chairman of the Management Group to give us some hard figures to grapple with. Our planning approval is in place and the costings have been done! Now we are working hard to raise the funds we need to build the new **Patience Baden-Powell Centre** to be a hub for activities at Walton Firs. To keep costs down, the demolition of the old building and site preparation will be done by our volunteers however, we need sufficient funds to be in place before we can order building materials and the timber framed building.



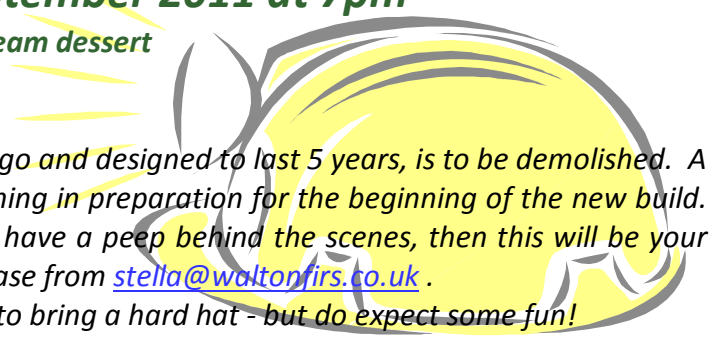
Saturday was also the ideal time to invite Lord Baden-Powell to witness the unveiling of a plaque commemorating Patience, Lady Baden-Powell who worked tirelessly to raise the profile of Walton Firs.

### **'Demolition Do' Wednesday 7th September 2011 at 7pm**

*Tickets £20 and includes fish & chip supper and ice cream dessert*

*More info on our website [www.waltonfirs.co.uk](http://www.waltonfirs.co.uk)*

*The wooden shop and office building put up 20 years ago and designed to last 5 years, is to be demolished. A token act of demolition will take place during the evening in preparation for the beginning of the new build. If you want a nostalgic look at the old building, or to have a peep behind the scenes, then this will be your last chance. Tickets are limited and available to purchase from [stella@waltonfirs.co.uk](mailto:stella@waltonfirs.co.uk). Bring your friends and family — you won't really need to bring a hard hat - but do expect some fun!*



£3000  
Sponsor wanted for Walton Firs Event

**SPRING CONCERT**

DORKING HALLS  
31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2012

Introduced by  
Michael Aspel O.B.E.

WEYBRIDGE MALE VOICE CHOIR  
AND  
TREBLE CLEF LADIES CHOIR

PRESENT A CONCERT OF  
LIGHT MUSIC AND CHORAL FAVOURITES  
INCLUDING

LULLABY OF BROADWAY, VANGELIS-CONQUEST OF PARADISE,  
KALINKA, ALEXANDER'S RAGTIME BAND, MORTE CRISTE,  
AND MANY MORE

All proceeds in aid of Walton Firs Activity Centre and  
especially towards the new building dedicated to the memory of  
Patience Baden-Powell our Founder Patron

Admission £8.50

## Annual General Meeting: 12th May 2011

The Foundation is delighted to welcome two new Directors. Mrs Maggie Rebbeck, who has a particular interest in outdoor education joins us from Ashley Park Church of England School, and Dr Geoffrey Card, who has worked with Walton Firs on previous projects, joins us and has already given his time to the Patience Baden-Powell Centre. A very warm welcome to Maggie and Geoff.

Also receiving a warm welcome are Martin Gerrard DL, Gordon Bates DL, and Rob Douglas CBE who join us as Patrons. We hope these will be long, happy and productive associations with Walton Firs.

Stepping down this AGM is Rex Rothwell-Jackson who has served as a Patron since the purchase of the site in 2008. Rex is moving to be nearer his family, but will be sadly missed in the Walton Firs family. Thank you for your dedication, Rex. We wish you every happiness in your new home.

**The Service Team Reunion** Despite the wet weather, nothing was going to put a damper on the fun, games and picnics, although the picnickers did have to escape under the marquee at lunchtime. Service Teams from the 50s and 60s through to the present day had plenty of time to recall "the coach that rolled down the lane", and how about the one "when the ravine needed erosion protection and someone let the wheelbarrow full of mud go down too fast". Tales of trek cart near misses, night hikes and falling out of bunks whilst completely encased in sleeping bags, abounded. Many of the punch lines were lost in the laughter they prompted, so we may never know the endings! It is a comfort to know that they all survived and in fact several still meet up for Christmas Dinner (originally in the crew hut with decorations, fairy lights, but now in an hotel) to recall those heady days and the firm friendships that were formed. Some members have graduated to our Management Group so no pulling the wool over their eyes with tall stories and lame excuses! If you missed the reunion, check out the photo gallery on our website, and come along next year. If you have some good photos, pass them on and we'll load them up too.

Finally, a big **THANK YOU** to Dave & Sue for organising the event, to all those who 'manned' the activities, and to all of those who came along with friends and family to enjoy the day.



You can contact us by email at [stella@waltonfirs.co.uk](mailto:stella@waltonfirs.co.uk) or [derek@waltonfirs.co.uk](mailto:derek@waltonfirs.co.uk) or by post to: Stella Simpson, Friends of Walton Firs, Walton Firs Activity Centre, Convent Lane, Cobham, Surrey, KT11 1HB. By phone: 01932 860224 or mobile: 07786 023408, or visit [www.waltonfirs.co.uk](http://www.waltonfirs.co.uk) and email us via the Contact Us page.