

THE ANTLER

CUDHAM SHAWS OUTDOOR CENTRE



TELEPHONE

The telephone line has now been reconnected by BT and has an answerphone for when the office is closed.

01959 570705

We're talking to BT about reinstalling a line to the lower field...

WORK WEEKENDS

Please see page 2 for details of how to sign up for our forthcoming work weekends in July.

There are also regular working parties most weeks on Tuesdays.

TUESDAY 5 JULY

Archery instructors needed for Cleeve Meadow's activity day at Cudham Shaws for around 75 SEN pupils

Please e-mail cudhamcrew@bexleyscouts.org.uk if you can help us.



ONLINE SHOP

Our online shop is now LIVE on the website and from there you are now able to order:

Hoodies

Polo Shirts

The new site badge

Paracord bracelets

www.cudhamshaws.site/shop

The Antler Needs You!!

If you (or your youth members) have any articles for the next edition of The Antler please forward these to cudhamcrew@bexleyscouts.org.uk by 31 August

Please also post photos of your group at Cudham Shaws onto our social media - Facebook, Twitter and Instagram links below.



ACTIVITY INSTRUCTORS

With the summer months now (finally!) here, groups using the site evenings and weekends and some of our instructed activities now up and running we'd really like to expand our pool of instructors for air rifles, archery and tomahawk throwing.

If you are able to help please e-mail cudhamcrew@bexleyscouts.org.uk

We're also looking to organize courses for new archery and tomahawk instructors at Cudham Shaws in the Autumn.



Cudham Shaws
Outdoor Centre



[cudhamshawssite](https://www.instagram.com/cudhamshawssite)



[@CudhamShawsSite](https://twitter.com/CudhamShawsSite)

WORK WEEKENDS

Many thanks to all of you who have already given some of your time to help us refresh and refurbish the site - there is still plenty of work to do so that the site is as we would all like it to be and we are arranging a few specific work days in July.

These are: Sat 9 Jul Sun 10 Jul Sat 16 Jul Sun 17 Jul

If you are able to help on any or all of these days, please can you complete the Google form at <https://forms.gle/t4CXSD7kzvdALFkf8>



By pre-registering (and advising of any specific skills) the team will be able to plan what work can be done ahead of each weekend. Camping will also be available on 9-10 July.

If you are able to help with any of the following please let us know via cudhamcrew@bexleyscouts.org.uk

- Working parties for site maintenance on Tuesdays or weekends
- Team members to help run the Centre when campers are on site - meeting arrivals, accessing activities, etc. and being available on site to assist our guests.
- Grass cutting.
- Companies carrying out charity work days at Cudham Shaws
- Specialist trades workers willing to donate time and / or materials
- Activity instructors for archery, tomahawk throwing & air rifles
- Any other area that you feel you would be able to assist

CUDHAM SHAWS



NEEDS YOU!!

ORIENTEERING COURSE

The new orienteering course is now set up and we'll make this available on our booking system as soon as the map is back showing the location of each 'flag'.

There are 2 shorter 5 point courses (A to E - upper site) and (F to J - lower site) or the full 10 point course which will more or less take you to every corner of the site.

You can either ask teams to write down the correct letter for each location or ask them to take a team photo to prove they've been there.



CAVE BUS



The Cave Bus company carried out their site visit earlier this month and the Bus should be arriving in the first half of August.

It will be located between sites 3 and 4 so that it is relatively close to the upper car park for groups wanting to use it of a section meeting evening as well as for those camping at Cudham Shaws.

Please keep an eye on our social media in July and August for further updates.

BEECHWOOD



As you may be aware, when LaSER vacated the site, the electricity at Beechwood was cut off.

We had anticipated that their electrician would have reinstated this by now but unfortunately that is not the case yet.

Those who have already booked Beechwood have (or soon will be depending on date of booking) been contacted directly with details of our Plan B and until the electricity is working again no further bookings for Beechwood are being taken at the moment.

SILVER BIRCHES

As we mentioned to some of you during April's Open Weekend we will be carrying out some work in Silver Beeches to make the building better for co-ed groups.

This will involve dividing the main dormitory into 2 smaller dorms and slightly extending each shower cubicle to allow for a door and small drying area with seat to be added to each.

This work will be done in January 2023 and therefore the building will be unavailable for the whole of that month.



FOUR SEASONS BADGES



We are planning to reintroduce to Cudham Shaws a Four Seasons badge later in the year and are currently working on the criteria for this with the current plan to have different levels.

Thanks to Fie Rason for her input and advice about this and also to Paul Cooper for updating the badges to reflect our logo and site activities.

If you have any suggestions for items to include within the badge please send them to

cudhamcrew@bexleyscouts.org.uk

CONSERVATION WORK

There is some fantastic nature and wildlife to be seen with our site but unfortunately, with the site having been closed for much of the previous 2 years due to COVID, many areas have become very overgrown and this is harming some of the beautiful orchids and other plants and wildlife.

As a 1st step we are planning a small working party of youth members (Guides, Scouts, Rangers or Explorers with a maximum 12) along with up to 4 adult leaders to help our dedicated conservation team to start clearing some of the area between the lower and upper fields.

This will start at 9am on Tuesday 9 August with a brief talk about the work the team will be doing and the reasons why before starting work at about 9.30am. The session will be finished by 1pm and you will then be free to either go home or to bring a picnic lunch with you and make use of a couple of the site's unstructured activities as a 'thank you' until 3pm.

Scouts and Explorers should be able to count the morning towards Activity Centre Service and Environmental Conservation badges, Rangers towards their Volunteering badge and all, including the adults towards the Four Seasons badge when that relaunches.

If you have any questions, please e-mail cudhamcrew@bexleyscouts.org.uk and if you would like to take part please sign up via:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cudham-shaws-conservation-day-tickets-374302979287>



2023 BOOKINGS

Our booking system allows bookings up to 12 months before the date you want to book.

We are already starting to receive bookings for 2023 - these will currently show at 2022 prices but, as advised on the bookings page of the website, we will be reviewing all prices this Autumn for 2023 and the booking system prices will then be updated for those.

With inflation currently very high and utility bills soaring it is unfortunately inevitable that some fees will increase for 2023 but we will do our best to keep these to a minimum whilst also working towards the site becoming self-financing and then over the next couple of years hopefully generating a small surplus which can be ploughed back into renovation, facilities and activities for the benefit of all users.



INSTRUCTOR COURSES

As mentioned on page 2, we are very keen to increase our activity instructor pool for air rifles, archery and tomahawk throwing both with adults who already hold the relevant qualifications or if other adults would like to gain the qualifications to then be able to volunteer at Cudham Shaws please to increase the number of groups able to try these activities.

Frylands Wood in Addington are running air rifle training courses on 27 - 28 August and archery instructor courses on 24 - 25 September with full details found at:

<https://frylandswood.co.uk/events>



HAPPY CAMPERS...

We've been delighted to welcome so many different groups to the site throughout June for section evenings during the week, section camps, group days and family camps.

We've also hosted over 250 members of Orpington Division for their activity afternoon and picnic for Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers and Adults, an incident day hike for the Scouts and older Cubs of Bexley District, several local schools for the Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions plus Explorers and Scouts undertaking their DofE and Expedition Challenge expeditions respectively.

With the lower and upper parts of the site having separate entrances we have the scope and flexibility to meet most requirements so if you would like to hold an event on the site in the 2022/23 year please discuss with the team as soon as possible.

And if you are looking at 2 night expeditions you will find that Bears Wood, Farningham Woods, Frylands Wood and 4th Sevenoaks are all about the right distance from Cudham for the 'other' night so again, if you are unfamiliar with these sites please ask the team for details.

