

THE ANTLER

CUDHAM SHAWS OUTDOOR CENTRE



SEASONS GREETINGS

Happy Christmas and Best Wishes to you all for 2023.

Thanks for all of your help and support during 2022 and we hope that you will be able to join us on Tuesday 20 December (full details on page 9)

INDOOR NEWS

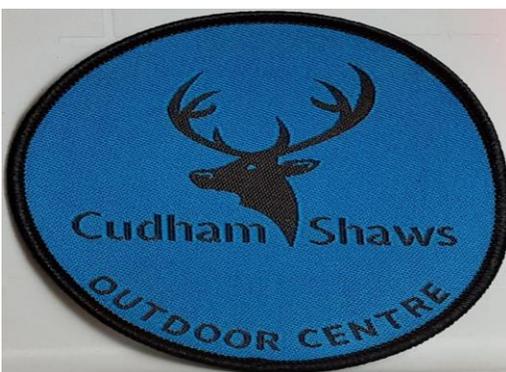
The internal wall has been installed in Badgers and in January Silver Birches dormitory will be split into 2 smaller dorms.

2 new accommodation buses will be arriving in the Spring - more details on page 3.

2023 EVENTS

Please see pages 4, 5 and 6 for dates and details of some events that are already being planned for 2023.

If you have any questions, or suggestions for additional events, please e-mail cudhamcrew@bexleyscouts.org.uk



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 28 February.

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



CUDHAM INTERNATIONAL

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our first international visitors with Dunajec and Osemka Polish Scouts (who are based in London) coming later this month and 1st Brussels Guides already booked for next summer.

With Chelsfield and Orpington stations nearby, we look forward to more visitors coming from beyond our local area in 2023. The District does have 2 minibuses that can be hired, with full details at:

<https://www.bexleyscouts.org.uk/members-area/minibus>



Cudham Shaws
Outdoor Centre



[cudhamshawssite](https://www.cudhamshaws.site)



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

2023/24 PRICES

With unprecedented inflation rates and sharp increases in utility bills, diesel, etc. we have unfortunately had to increase some of our prices for next year to ensure that we have sufficient income to operate and develop the site, whilst ensuring that we remain very competitively priced with other sites.

From 1 April 2023 the camp fees, building costs and visitor fees will increase by 10% but we're pleased to say that we have been able to freeze the costs for all activities for the year ending 31 March 2024.

To further assist groups in this current financial climate, the team have also decided, for this year only, that any bookings already made by 31 October 2022 for 1 April 2023 onwards will still be charged at our existing fees and therefore won't be subject to any increase.

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!!

LIKE LONDON BUSES

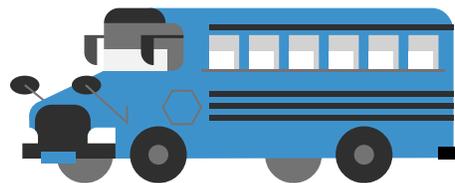
From 1 April 2023 we will have 2 accommodation buses on site and available to book as alternative / additional indoor options.

Plans still to be finalized with Mark, who designs and builds the Cave Buses, but at this stage we are expecting:

A Double Decker bus on the lower field (probably around site 12) which will sleep 14 on the top deck, 3 on the lower deck and will have toilets and a barbecue nearby.

A Single Decker bus on the upper field (probably around site 2) which will sleep 6 (possibly 8) people in twin rooms and is intended for groups where a few people are unable to camp or for DofE groups where the staff often prefer indoor accommodation.

We'll keep you posted on social media as the buses are sourced and the builds start in the New Year.



CONSERVATION DAY

Guillaume has very kindly offered to organise another Conservation Volunteer Day for Guides, Scouts, Explorers and Rangers on Sunday 12 March 2023.

Times will be approximately 9am to 1pm and you may wish to bring a packed lunch with you. We will hopefully then make 1 or 2 activities available for participants to use for 90 minutes in the afternoon.

Places are free of charge and numbers are limited - please e-mail Chris and Gary via bookings@bexleyscouts.org.uk to book your / your section's places.



BE PREPARED

The priority booking windows for Bexley Scouts and GLK Guides have now passed, so both of these events are now available for ALL Guides and Scouts to book and participate in.

Be Prepared
Resilience Event



Be Prepared
Resilience Event

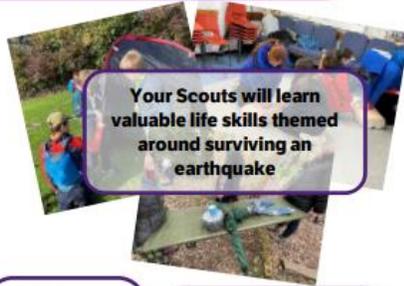


Be Prepared is here for 2023!

Scout Day: Saturday April 1st 2023

Priority booking for Bexley based Scout units is **now open!**

General bookings will open on December 2nd



Your Scouts will learn valuable life skills themed around surviving an earthquake

Price:
£15/Scout

Location:
Cudham

Places are limited so get in there quick so you don't miss out

More information and sign up at www.beprepared.org.uk/london

We also need volunteers to help out on both days – you can run one of our bases, help out in the kitchen, and more, with free food and accommodation for the whole weekend

Sign up at www.beprepared.org.uk/london/volunteer

Be Prepared is back for 2023!

Guide Day: Sunday April 2nd 2023

Priority booking for GLK based Guide units is **now open!**

General bookings will open on December 2nd



Your Guides will learn valuable life skills themed around surviving an earthquake

Price:
£15/Guide

Location:
Cudham

Places are limited so get in there quick so you don't miss out

More information and sign up at www.beprepared.org.uk/london

We also need volunteers to help out on both days – you can run one of our bases, help out in the kitchen, and more, with free food and accommodation for the whole weekend

Sign up at www.beprepared.org.uk/london/volunteer

If groups that are participating in Be Prepared wish to camp on the lower field at Cudham Shaws on the Friday and / or the Saturday night we are offering a special camp fee to those groups of £4 per night for youth members with all leaders FREE. Please contact bookings@bexleyscouts.org.uk or ensure that you select Be Prepared if booking directly on Online Scout manager to take advantage of this offer.



2023 EVENTS DATES

In addition to the Conservation and Be Prepared events mentioned elsewhere, we have a few other 'save the dates' for you when planning your 2023 programme / diaries:

Friday 7 to Sunday 9 July - Cudfest

For Explorers and Rangers - 2 nights camping, activities on Saturday and DJs and hopefully some live bands on both evenings.

Friday 27 to Sunday 29 October - Nightmare

Our Halloween weekend of activities, scares and surprises mainly targeted at Guides and Scouts but open to all.

Saturday 2 December - Christmas Fayre

Stalls and activities and the possibility for groups to run a fundraiser inside one of the buildings or field kitchens that will become chalets for the day.

BEXLEY DISTRICT SCOUTS CAMP

We hosted our largest event to date at the end of September when over 600 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Adults used the site for Bexley's District Camp.

Donna, the Beaver Leader said '4th Barnehurst Beavers - Mariners had a fantastic time in Silver Birches at district camp this year, so much so we've booked for next year already! The facilities were great and the layout worked really well for our group of 22.'



As well as all of the usual onsite activities, we also had a host of inflatables on East Field, the Cave Bus was fully in operation for the first time - and many thanks to Mark for coming all the way down from Yorkshire to run that for us, mobile climbing wall, It's A Knockout on the lower field, disco and an Every Second Counts competition on Sunday morning.



BENCHES

1st Northumberland Heath Guides recently kindly donated a new (replacement) bench, in memory of Brenda Miller and this has been sited outside Silver Birches to allow many people to enjoy the view across the upper field.



We are aware that many benches and other memorials were removed from Cudham Shaws when LaSER announced that the site was going to be closing.

We are happy for those items to be returned to the site or for new benches, picnic tables or other items to be donated to remember those who were special to you and your group - please e-mail luke.cashin@bexleyscouts.org.uk to discuss.

RECYCLING

We are pleased to advise that the new bin collection service is now in place and that we now have recycling bins back at Cudham to help support the environment.



CHRISTMAS @ CUDHAM

We hope that you can join us in Silver Birches on Tuesday 20 December

Please RSVP to james.hunt@bexleyscouts.org.uk so that he has a rough idea of numbers in advance for catering.

****Christmas @ Cudham****

Be our guests and join us for a pre-Xmas get together

- 20th December - 7.30pm till late •

Mince Pies & treats

Mulled Wine & festive punch

www.cudhamshaws.site

Free Event