

WOODCRAFT TIMES

Welcome to our Newsletter!

Welcome to the 7th issue of your 'Harrow Woodcraft Times' and trust everybody is keeping well and safe. With the slight easing of the 'lock down' conditions, enjoying the fine weather has been possible and given us the chance to explore our local 'green spaces' and parks. Some of which we haven't visited for a long time, due to our busy lives. Now Spring has progressed to Summer, the trees, flowers, birds, insects and animals are there to be spotted and if possible, photo'd. So, with a keen pair of eyes what have you seen?

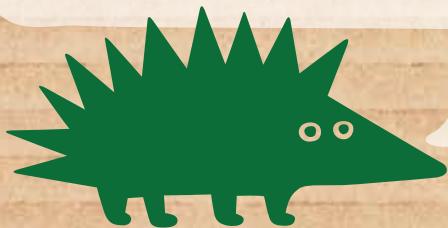
Write in and tell us and we will print your stories and photos.

Email: johnwoolf9@gmail.com

The Elfin Zoom meetings are now taking place on a weekly basis on Tuesday's at 4:30pm and the Pioneer Zoom meetings on Friday's at 3:00pm. So, keep checking your email to ensure you have the meetings ID number and password.

The national Woodcraft Folk's promotion 'Dream Big at Home' has been a great success and continues. 'Dream Big at Home' and can be found on the web address:

<https://:dreambigathome.uk/>



MY 4 YEAR OLD IS LEARNING TO SPEAK SPANISH. SHE STILL CAN'T SAY PLEASE THOUGH..
..WHICH IS POOR FOR 4...



If you saw the symbol on a map what would it mean?

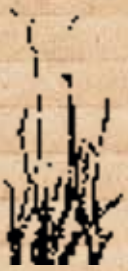
(Answer on the last page)



LAYING & LIGHTING A FIRE THE WOODCRAFT WAY



CAMP FIRES PART FOUR Kindling and Fuel:



EXTRA-FINE KINDLING:

Very dry twigs 30cm long and matchstick-thin. Should catch light from a match alone. Birch bark, dried grasses, wood shavings, bird down, waxed paper, cotton fluff, fir cones, pine needles.

WHAT'S A MOUSE'S
FAVOURITE GAME?
HIDE AND SQUEAK!



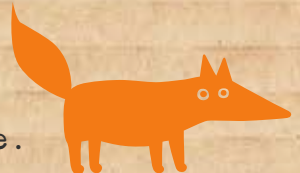
FINE KINDLING:

Thicker than a match but thinner than a pencil. Brittle dry. Gather plenty. Small dry twigs, resinous and softer woods are best. Look for dead wood snagged in the branches above ground as this should be drier than dead wood found on the ground.



KINDLING:

Brittle-dry wood of pencil thickness. This really gets the fire crackling. Again, gather plenty. Broken into pieces a hand-width long, this kindling is the best to use when you need to control the heat of a cooking fire.



SMALL FUEL:

Thicker than a pencil but not thicker than your thumb, this fuel is the beginning of the fire proper. Hard woods such as hickory, beech and oak, burn well, are long lasting, and give off great heat.



MAIN FUEL:

Sticks thicker than your thumb which you can break over your knee. For most trail fires this is the largest fuel needed. Anything larger is more appropriate to fixed camp use or special fire lays.



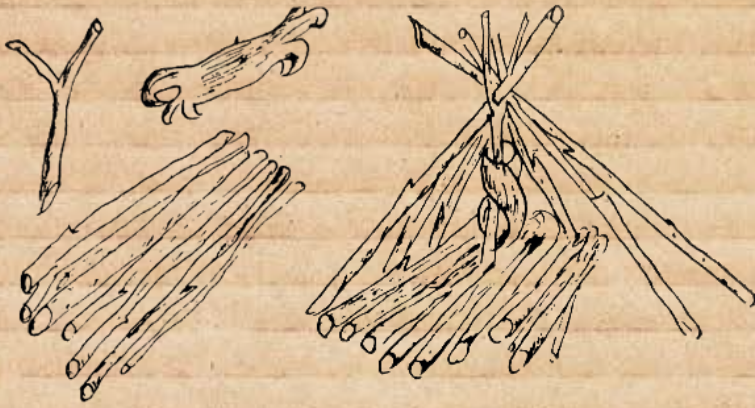
Woodcraft Folk



Even more!



STARTING A FIRE



- (1) Prepare the fireplace: Remove turf and store for replacement.

- (2) Lay a foundation of thin branches if the bare earth is damp.

- (3) Have the right kind of kindling and twigs ready in sufficient quantity to keep the fire going after it is lit.

- (4) Push a little forked twig into the centre of the fire place. (So it sticks up about 100mm above the surface).

- (5) Curl a strip of birch bark round the the fork and stem.

- (6) Build a 'tent' of thinnest dry twigs and kindling round the fork , leaving an 'opening' or 'door' facing the wind (to blow your flame in the right direction).

- (7) Build a second layer of slightly thicker twigs to your 'tent'

Your fire is now ready for lighting. Using matches and once lit keep the fire going , feeding it carefully and gradually with fresh kindling using thicker and thicker twigs. As the fire grows feed it until it is as big as you need it.



HISTORY OF THE HARROW WOODCRAFT FOLK. Pt 7

THE 1970'S

The 1970 International camp at Danbury Park, Essex opened the new decade with the 'Cold War' of the 50's and 60's still continuing. With the Folk's motto 'Span the World with Friendship' firmly in place, the camp was promoted as the 'Camp of Nations' and hosted delegations from the Soviet Union and from both East and West Europe. Harrow camped with Ealing and Southall Folk. One of 16 villages of 100+ campers per village. The weather was kind and made for a memorable camp where the young people made friends regardless of the barriers that governments had created.



The 1970's for the Woodcraft Folk were challenging. Already involved in supporting the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, the Vietnam war was now a pressing issue, which the Folk took a stand against. By coming out on the streets and openly campaigning against the Vietnam war led to an upward turn in the membership of the Woodcraft Folk. In 1975 there was a campaign by the Conservative Party to brand the Woodcraft Folk as a communist organisation. This was promoted by national and the local press, who carried out a 'red scare' campaign. This led to Councils refusing to let school halls be used for Woodcraft

Folk groups. This campaign was fought and repudiated and eventually it was accepted that the Woodcraft Folk had no affiliation with any political party and its policy based on 'Education for Social Change' was reasonable in a democratic society.

Harrow District likewise attracted more parents who joined and became active leaders and helpers. With a second group opening in Kenton. Group membership was on average 15+ and the District now had a strong Venturer group (Age 13+ to 16+). The local camps were held for many years at Cockayne Farm at Croxley Green but by 1974 they were being held at Mad Bess Wood camp site in Ruislip. Reflecting the growing membership the camps were, on occasions, over 60+. In 1974 Harrow joined with Watford Folk in a summer camp at Barmouth in Wales.



1975 saw the International camp at Stanford Hall, The Cooperative College near Loughborough. One of the largest, about 3,500 campers from across the World, enjoyed the College's beautiful



Woodcraft Folk



Even more!



park land. With 1975 being the 50th anniversary of the Woodcraft Folk the camp was named the 'Celebration Camp of Nations'.

Harrow joined with Long Eaton Folk and they were hosts to an Austrian Red Falcon delegation.

In 1977 the Harrow Folk had a new challenge to face. The Co-op Hall in Wealdstone was threatened with closure by the London Co-operative Society (LCS), but due to an agreement brokered by the LCS Education Dept. with the Board of the LCS, it was agreed that the District would take over the running costs and pay an annual rent of £1000, so the Hall could remain open. The leaders and helpers put in many hours of voluntary work to refurbish the hall and then ran it on a profitable basis by hiring it to local community groups.

THE WOODCRAFT FOLK



**INTERNATIONAL CAMP 11-25 AUGUST
MALVERN WORCESTERSHIRE**



1979 saw Harrow and Boveny Districts camping together at the International camp at Malvern. The foreign delegation being from Hungary. The camps theme was the 'Year of the Child' and explored the many issues that affected children across the World. The Malvern Hills being a perfect back drop to the camp of over 3000 campers from across the World.



Woodcraft Folk



Even more!



AND THIS FROM *Henry!*

I love getting the Beano magazine every week. I like these magazines because they are funny and interesting. They have lots of jokes. This week I have been making Beano posters, and colouring Dennis pictures. I also followed the instructions to make my own drawings too. It was lots of fun!



Woodcraft Folk



Even more!



LOVELY FOOD FROM *Livie!*



Banana and berry ice-cream

I love cooking and found a recipe in my Jacqueline Wilson magazine. To make the ice-cream, you slice and then freeze 4 ripe bananas. Then the next day you use a hand blender to mix in a handful of frozen berries (more if you want).



Woodcraft Folk



Even more!

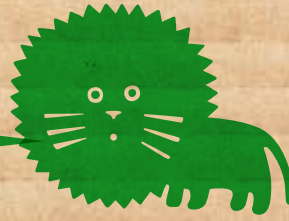


Questions TO THE LEADERS

Harrow Woodcraft

In 'THE FIRST' of our new section
John answers questions about Woodcraft

Q: WHAT SORT OF TENTS DID YOU CAMP IN?



A: When I joined the Woodcraft Folk in 1948, Harrow had bought some army surplus tents that had been issued to the soldiers in the war. So we camped in small ex-United States army tents. I think they were called bivouacs. These tents were made of very tough, dark brown material. They didn't have sewn in groundsheets so they were very draughty. They were held up by two tent poles and pegged out using wooden tent pegs. We slept on groundsheets that were made of a cloth/rubber finish, which was ok but you had to make sure that they didn't stick outside the tent or you would get wet if it rained.



Q: WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE GAME TO PLAY WHEN YOU WERE AT WOODCRAFT?

A: My favourite game was called the 'Scarf Game'. This was played by all the group members standing in a circle. The leader chose a girl or boy to be the scarf holder. When the leader gave the signal those in the circle began to sing songs from the Woodcraft Folk's songbook and the 'scarf holder (say a boy) had to go round the circle and pick a girl, then the girl had to pick a boy and so on. All the time the circle members had to keep singing songs. When the 'scarf' snake of girls and boys was long enough, the scarf holder dropped the scarf and the 'snake' boys and girls had to run back to their place in the circle. The first one back became the next scarf holder.



Q: WHAT FOOD DO YOU REMEMBER FROM CAMPING TRIPS?



A: Food was rationed in 1948 so we had to take our food to camp separately. It's called 'self grubbing'. So the meal that I remember most was the Sunday midday meal; potato/soup with a slice of bread and margarine. The potatoes were boiled separately and the tins of soup were mixed up together and heated. Then the potatoes were added to the soup. Very simple and tasty.



Woodcraft Folk

ANSWER TO MAP ICON 'HORSE RIDING'



Editor: John Woolf

Email: johnwoolf9@gmail.com
harrowwoodcraftfolk.btck.co.uk