

WOODCRAFT TIMES



Welcome to our Newsletter!

Welcome to the 8th issue of your 'Harrow Woodcraft Times' and trust everybody is keeping well and safe.

Thank you to all of you who have been sending your pictures and stories of what you have been doing since being 'locked down'. The Zoom meetings that are taking place between leaders, Elfins and Pioneers are helping us all to keep in touch. As are the WhatsApp groups that have been set up. The importance of this digital contact is made in the latest letter from Head Office as their advice is that for the time being the only Woodcraft Folk activity permitted are remote and virtual activities. Planning for 'face to face' activities can be discussed, but each group and District will have to do what is right for them, their location and the families that attend their group. This discussion will be based on the National Youth Agencies Level Readiness, which is at red at the moment.

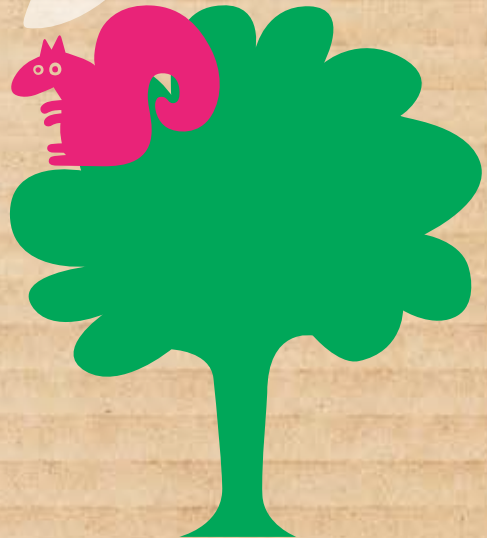
The Elfin Zoom meetings are now taking place on a weekly basis on Tuesday's at 4:30pm and the Pioneer Zoom meetings on Friday's at 3:00pm. So, keep checking your email to ensure you have the meetings ID number and password.

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/>



WHAT DID THE TREE DO
WHEN THE BANK CLOSED?
IT OPENED ITS OWN
BRANCH!



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

(Answer on the last page)



TENTS THE WOODCRAFT WAY

THE STORY THAT TENTS AND CAMPING HAVE PLAYED IN THE WOODCRAFT FOLK'S HERITAGE (PART 1)

People lived in tents long before houses and cities were built. The first people to spread over the earth were nomads, wandering hunters who ranged plains and forests unhindered by boundaries or fences.

The tents that these people developed were suited to the type of lives that they led and like them we have to choose our tents according to the type of camping that we wish to follow.

So let us learn from these early people the whys and wherefores of tent design by first finding out about these early nomads.

While in this 21st Century many of the old nomadic ways have been swept away by 'so called' progress, there are still communities that have kept their traditional ways of life and stayed with their 'tried and trusted' tent design that has served them well over time.

Let us look at the designs of tents that were used by these nomads and understand why they were made in the fashion that suited their life style:



OJIBWAY BIRCH-BARK WIGWAM



ESKIMO SEAL-SKIN SUMMER TENT



FRAMEWORK OF WINNEBAGO WIGWAM



COVERING OF READ MATS

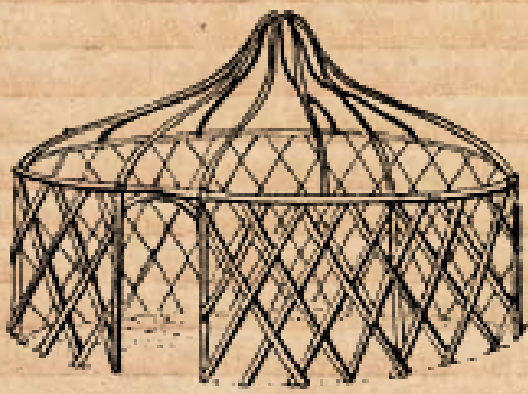


Woodcraft Folk

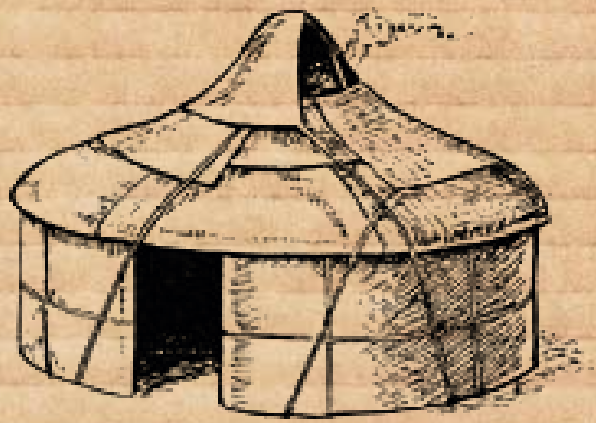


Even more!





FRAMEWORK OF MONGOLIAN YURT



FELT COVERING IN POSITION



MONTAGNAIS RECTANGULAR WIGWAM



MONGOLIAN SMALL TENT

Why the different styles?

The nomads wandered over windy grass lands where strong winds and lack of shelter called for tents which would stand up to gales, so they evolved the 'conical tent'. The best example being the Native North American Indian's wigwam or tepee tents. (The difference between the two being that a wigwam was covered with birch bark and the tepee by hides).

The North American Indians tepee was made from a half circle of buffalo hide. The tent was erected on a set of inside poles, entwined at the top, with butt ends radiating in a circle. The tent formed a natural funnel and draughts which entered freely round the bottom of the tent was drawn upwards, behind a curtain which hung the poles round the edge of the tent. A fire kept the tepee warm in winter and in the summer the smoke kept the mosquitoes out. When the need to follow the seasons and the quest for food the tepee could be collapsed and packed and carried by horse and travois to a new site.

Some tribes changed the cone-shaped wigwam into a dome like a beehive by bending the poles in a curve. Both the cone and the dome are streamlined and offer less resistance to wind than any other tent.

The Mongolian nomad combined something of both shapes. A circular lattice-work wall is made by pushing poles into the ground at a slope and weaving them together. The roof of flexible poles curves over the dome. This tent or 'yurt' is covered with felt, one circular piece covers the roof and a long roll goes all around the wall, which can be removed in hot weather.

The Mongolians also made a small tent of black felt, like a wide A-tent, as did the Canadian woods Indians who also made a birch-bark hut of the same shape.




Woodcraft Folk



Even more!



TREE IDENTIFICATION

DOWNLOAD AN APP AND SNAP A LEAF TO IDENTIFY
AND LEARN ABOUT TREES IN YOUR AREA 



LeafSnap
Plant
Identification

There are lots of free apps to help you do this. Just search plant identification in the relevant app store.

(Note from editor) Leaf Snap is the one I have used, it's good and it is free!

HERE'S SOME LEAVES
THAT *Nalini* HAS
IDENTIFIED! SUPERB!!



Woodcraft Folk



Even more!



HISTORY OF THE HARROW WOODCRAFT FOLK.Pt8

1980-85

A new decade and the Harrow District was in the throes of reorganising itself. The Kenton Pioneer group merged with the Lone Pine Pioneers who along Patteran Elfin's, all held their meetings in the Wealdstone Co-op hall. As did the Rising Star Venturer group and Red Falcon District Fellowship (DF's)

The District was now running the Co-op Hall successfully, both financially and as a community resource.

At the same time an exciting development was the opening of two new groups at Weald School, Harrow Weald. These were named Badger Elfin's and Silver Birch Pioneers. Due to this additional influx of leaders and members, the decade was to be one of the most energetic that Harrow District had experienced for some years. It was running a full programme of weekend camps, summer camps, folk dances, hikes, youth hostelling and visits to the Lockerbrook activity centre. BBQ hikes to the Chess Valley were also very popular. Fund raising by jumble sales, book sales and running folk dances made it possible to purchase and run a minibus which gave added impetus to the Districts and groups activities.

The issues of the day were the Cruise missile being based at Greenham Common and taking a stand against the apartheid policy in South Africa. The DF's and adult members of the District joined in with the demonstrations that took place on these issues.

INTERNATIONAL CAMP - 1983



In 1983 there was an International Camp at the Cooperative Education College, Loughborough. The message was 'One World-Our World' and the four themes were: 'Our World at Peace', 'Our World to Share', 'Our World to Protect' and Our Race the Human Race'. Harrow joined over 3,000 other campers from UK and countries from the World to celebrate and commit to a better, more sustainable and peaceful World.

It was soon after this camp that 'backpacking' became popular and the Leaders, Venturers and the DF's started to travel to the scenic parts of the Britain and enjoy the 'great outdoors'. Starting initially at Northchurch Common, Herts and progressing, over the years, to the West Country, Wales and the North of England, many a footpaths walked and overnight camps enjoyed.

GREENHAM COMMON 1983



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Even more!





1984 was tinged with sadness with death of Badger (1896-1984). The District reflected on his and Heather's dedication and life's work to Harrow Woodcraft Folk.

In this year the District held it's summer camp at Corfe Castle, Dorset and as a gesture of solidarity invited the striking Kent miner's children to camp.

The Co-op Hall in Danger! The plans for the development of link roads in Harrow were published by Harrow Council. This required that the Co-op Hall be demolished to make way for the Wealdstone fly-over. The District campaigned against this decision and luckily, due to lack of finance, it was put on hold.

1985: 'The Rosedale Circuit' is a walk encompassing 37 miles of North Yorks. Moor. A challenge walk that was completed by the Harrow leaders and Venturers after two previous attempts failed. Being Easter the weather was capricious and fine weather turned to rain half way through the walk. Camping overnight was decidedly soggy but made bearable by a visit to a local pub to dry out.

1985 was also the year that Harrow District had its summer camp activity at the Lockerbrook activity centre in Derbyshire. Walking across Mam Tor to Castleton, enjoying a boat ride in the Blue John mine and hiking around the Ladybower reservoir made this visit memorable.



HIKING OVER MAM TOR TO CASTLETON



LOCKERBROOK ACTIVITY CENTRE



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Even more!



BASIC KNOTS (PART 1)

The Reef Knot

THIS KNOT IS USEFUL FOR JOINING TWO ROPES (OF THE SAME DIAMETER) TOGETHER

Fig 1: Cross the rope end held in the left hand, over the right hand end held rope. Tuck the left hand rope under the right hand rope. (As shown). Producing Fig 2.

Fig 3: Ensuring that the ends of the rope are of sufficient length, repeat the same procedure by placing the right end over the left hand rope end.

Gently gather the rope ends and rope and pull together to close the knot. (Fig 4)



Fig 1

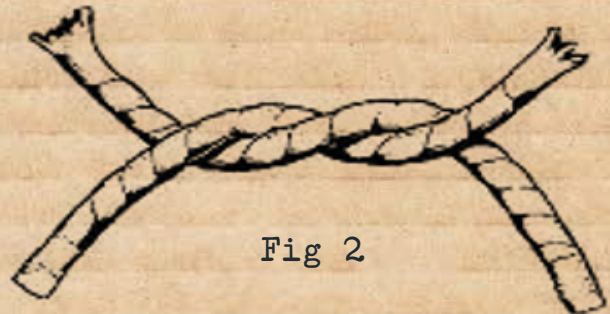


Fig 2

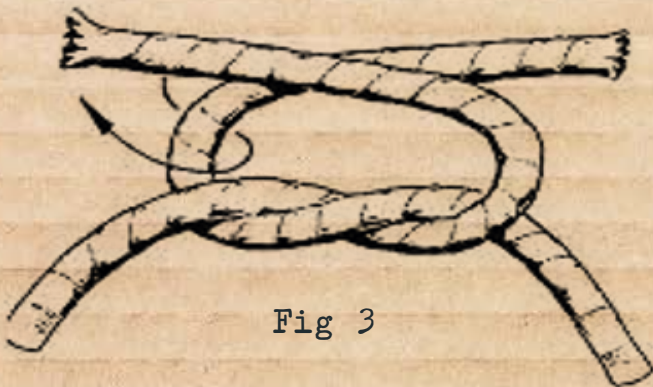


Fig 3

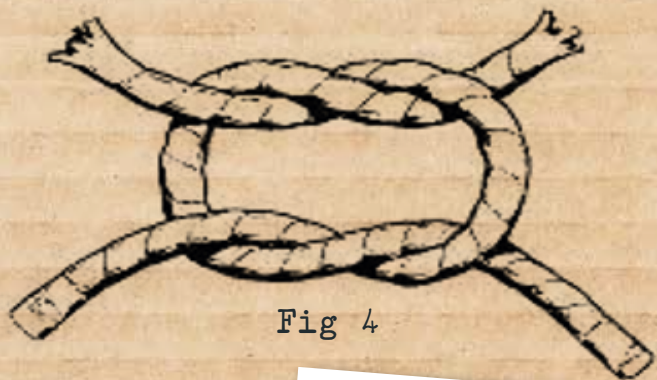


Fig 4

Once you've learned how to tie a reef knot we challenge you to try and do it with your hands behind your back. Also take a photo and send it John and we will feature it in the next issue!

MEANWHILE A HUGE WELL DONE TO *Emily*
FOR CREATING THIS AMAZING CROWN!



Woodcraft Folk



Even more!

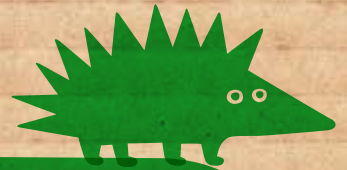
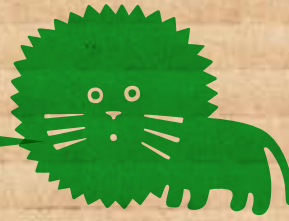


Questions TO THE LEADERS

Harrow Woodcraft

Clair answers questions about Woodcraft

Q: WHAT SORT OF TENTS DID YOU CAMP IN?



A: Our first tents were Icelandics or Nigers. These were heavy green canvas tents that slept about 6 people. No sewn in groundsheet so it could get a bit draughty! I remember when we got some smaller cotton tents with sewn in groundsheet - what a luxury!. They had no porches, just an eave that projected slightly over the front. This is why I always sleep with my head to the door - you could just wriggle forward in your sleeping bag and look outside your tent in the morning.



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

A: My favourite game was called Austrian football although it wasn't football at all. We played it when I was a Pioneer. It is a little like bench ball that we play at school today only you had a keeper and a striker. Just like bench ball the keepers were at either end of the hall ready to catch the ball. They then had to throw it to the striker who was positioned on a chair at the side of the hall, midway down. If the striker caught the ball, they could try and hit a player on the opposing team. If the player got a hit, they had to change teams. It was a very fast paced, exciting game. We loved it!



Q: WHAT FOOD DO YOU REMEMBER FROM CAMPING TRIPS?



A: I love my comfort food so I'd say steam pudding. We had these long 'sleeves' that the syrup pudding was steamed in so they would come out like swiss roll. Camping was often quite cold and wet so the steam pudding was really welcome.



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ANSWER TO MAP ICON 'RECREATION OR LEISURE OR SPORT CENTRE'



Editor: John Woolf

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