



Friends of Suntrap
 Registered Charity No. 1102119
 Patron – Lord Palumbo
 Honorary President - Ken Hoy MBE



Newsletter No. 41 - September 2014

Open Day 11th October 1-5pm

We would love to see lots of families at our annual open day enjoying pond dipping, meeting the Suntrap animals or exploring the forest on a guided walk.

We would also be very grateful for help on the day. Please get in touch if you would like to volunteer, serving refreshments, helping with craft activities or supervising the pond dipping.

Ken Hoy 90th Birthday



Ken enjoying his 90th birthday party

During the summer we had the privilege of hosting a very special party, to mark the 90th birthday of Ken Hoy, our honorary president. Ken was a pioneer in environmental education, starting as a field studies teacher at Jubilee Retreat in 1963, before becoming the first headteacher of Suntrap in September 1967 until his retirement.

Before the national curriculum was even thought of, Ken and his staff planned all the activities, with class teachers following up with lessons back in school. They must have got it right, as eventually every primary school child in Waltham Forest made

visits to Suntrap every month, and nearly 50 years later Suntrap is still going strong.



Ken leading a group into the forest in 1969

Summer at Suntrap

Summer is always a very busy time at Suntrap - but what do we actually do? Since May we have had 27 camps, ranging in age from 7 to 16 years old. The camping groups enjoyed activities including; making dens, pond dipping and camp fires, but also orienteering, forest art or geography GCSE course work. Of course, we also had classes coming for day visits to do all the usual Suntrap activities.

During the summer holidays Suntrap animals visited different Waltham Forest libraries to allow families to meet the salamanders, snakes, stick insects and other interesting creatures. Groups from Waltham Forest's Schools Open for Summer Programme enjoyed day visits to the Centre. The group leader from Edinburgh Primary said " *The families all commented on what a brilliant day it was and asked for it to happen again. Time flew by and it was an incredibly positive experience for everyone.*"



When it's hot on camp, water games help you to cool off.



Many groups enjoyed exploring the forest, making natural art or camping during the summer.

New members of the team

Suzanne Ibbotson has joined our teaching team. She comes to us from the RSPB site at Rye Meads with a wealth of experience in environmental education.

Simon Koenen will be working with Paul on ground maintenance and animal care until April.



Unexpected visitors



The grass is always greener....

A couple of the redpoll cows managed to find their way into the Suntrap garden in July. One obviously liked the flavour of our grass as she managed to push her way through the hedge on several more occasions. Her incursions were stopped thanks to the herdsman who installed a temporary "invisible fence". We now have a new section of post and rail fence along the road.



Bearded Dragon

We are very pleased to have been given a young bearded dragon who is called Norbert. At the moment he is living with a member of staff until he is old enough to come and join all the other amazing animals at the Centre.

Open Day Saturday 11th October 2014 1-5pm

Free entry - £3 charge for parking. Free shuttle bus to and from Chingford Station. Pick-up from station; 12.50pm, 1.40pm & 2.25pm return from Suntrap: 3.15pm, 4.30pm & 5pm.

Suntrap's annual open day where you can meet the animals, pond dip, peer down microscopes, complete a map trail, have a go on the low ropes course, make a clay animal, stroll through the forest on a guided walk, look at our exhibitions or enjoy some light refreshments.

Glorious Autumn Saturday 8th November 2014 12-3pm

£2 per person. An afternoon of family autumn arts and craft activities in Epping Forest. Come and enjoy a walk through the forest to see the amazing autumn colours then have a go at some autumn based craft activities.

Lantern making, bonfire and burgers Saturday 22nd November 2014 4-7pm

£6 per person (£20 for family of 4). **Booking essential please ring or email Suntrap to book your places.** Make your own lantern which will light your way to the bonfire in the grounds of Suntrap. Enjoy a warm drink and burger round the fire before you finish off with toasted marshmallows.



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If you have anything you'd like to contribute to the Friends Newsletter please send it to Suntrap, Church Road, High Beach, Loughton, Essex, IG10 4AJ or by email to: suntrap.centre@walthamforest.gov.uk or phone: 0208 508 0611