

BICKERTON HILL SCOUT HQ and CAMPSITE



INFORMATION FOR VISITORS

1st Sandstone Scout Group

Tel: 0330 330 9689

Email: gsl@sandstonescouts.org.uk

Web: <http://www.sandstonescouts.org.uk>



1st SANDSTONE SCOUT GROUP

INFORMATION FOR VISITORS

Welcome to our Headquarters. Opened in 1957, Bickerton Scout HQ has been enjoyed by generations of Scouts, Cubs and (latterly) Beavers from all over Cheshire and the north of England.

Please help us to keep this building running – we meet here every week – help us to look after it.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE

The code(s) we gave you will open the road gate (if it is locked) and the key case in the front porch. In the key case is a key to open the front door. Please replace the key in the key case and scramble the code as soon as you have opened the door.

On a hook just inside the kitchen door is a large red key fob with keys to the front door, the two side doors, and the key to the kissing gate onto Bickerton Hill. We recommend that you use these keys during your visit. Please leave this bunch of keys on the hook when you depart.

The master timer for the heating is just inside the main hall. Press the large button next to the timer once; the red LED should light briefly and the heating will switch on for 1 hour (see below for further instructions on the heating)

DURING YOUR STAY

Fire Safety

The Hut is constructed almost entirely of wood and is surrounded by woodland – there is, therefore, always a **HIGH FIRE RISK**.

The following fire precautions must be observed:

1. wood burner: if the wood burner is lit (or even warm) it must not be left unattended unless the door and all vents are fully closed
2. electrical appliances (except for the fridges) must be switched off and unplugged when unattended
3. no flammable gasses or liquids (propane/butane gas, meths, petrol, etc) may be used inside the Hut at any time
4. combustible items (matches, firelighters, etc) must be kept in a closed non combustible container (eg tin) when not in use
5. all three doors must be kept clear for immediate emergency exit when anyone is sleeping in the Hut

No open fires may be lit anywhere on the site other than in the raised camp fire area outside the north west (kitchen) end of the Hut. Fire extinguishers and buckets of water must be immediately available while any fires are burning and all fires must be fully extinguished.

Wood burner

This is a valuable piece of equipment. Please follow the instructions on the wall next to the stove.

The hire of the Hut does not include fuel for the stove; please bring your own fuel. You may collect small sticks and twigs lying around but please do NOT use larger logs or branches lying around the site.

Wood, coal, firelighters and matches can be purchased from the garage on the Broxton roundabout (junction of A41/A534) or the Cholmondeley Farm Shop

Electricity

The circuit breakers for the Hut are above the main entrance door and there is a subsidiary consumer unit in the kitchen.

If the electricity supply fails the emergency lights will be illuminated by battery and will indicate the exits.

If other local properties still have electricity check the circuit breakers – they should all be fully up (on). If any are in the middle or down position unplug all appliances and switch the offending circuit breaker back on. NOTE: if the main RCD switch has tripped it will be in the middle position – it must be switched fully down (off) before it can be returned to the fully up (on) position.

If the whole area is without power call Scottish Power on 0845 272 2424 and report the fault (the postcode is SY14 8LL)

Water

If frost is expected the water is turned off. It will normally be turned on again before you arrive. If you find the water is off please:

1. turn off all taps and ensure that the drain cock under the kitchen sink is closed
2. turn the water on at the stop tap under the sink
3. if the water is still off turn it on at the main stop cock – this is located in the roadside verge directly in line with the north west wall of the Hut (the side furthest from the car park)
4. if the water was off when you arrived please turn it off again when you depart - close the stop tap under the sink and flush toilets

Note: in cold weather the exterior taps are turned off at the on line valve under the kitchen sink.

Exterior lights

Please turn these off when not in use and especially on departure.

The lights over the activity area and car park turn on/off inside the main door; the lights over the campfire area turn off on/outside the kitchen door; the light over the main door and gate area turn on/off at the gate.

Heating

The electric heating in the main hall is provided by four 2kw heaters controlled by a master timer just inside the main door from the porch.

The master timer cannot be adjusted. The adjacent button can be used to switch the heating on for one hour at a time.

Pushing the red button once will switch on the heating and the red LED will light. The heating will stay on for 1 hour.

At any time while the heating is on the button may be pressed again and the heating will then remain on for 1 hour from that button press.

To switch the heating off press and hold the button until the red LED flashes; the heating will then switch off within 1 minute.

Note: the woodburning stove also delivers 8kw of heating, and is cheaper to run than the electric heaters.

The tubular heaters in the toilets and kitchen are for background heating only and should be left switched on between 1 October and 31 March.

Toilets

The toilet area provides 3 toilets, 2 washbasins with hot and cold running water, and an electric shower.

The end cubicle with the shower is for Leaders and Ladies only. Leaders of visiting groups may allow others to use it for showering if required.

Please ensure that the room is well ventilated after use to prevent any build up of moisture or condensation.

On departure please ensure that the door to the shower cubicle is OPEN, and the main door from the Hall to the toilets is CLOSED (to allow the heater to prevent freezing up in winter).

Important: only TOILET PAPER & HUMAN WASTE may be flushed down the toilets. Paper towels and other rubbish should be discarded in the red bin; they must NOT be flushed down the toilet; they will block the sewer and culprits will be obliged to clear blockages!

RED cleaning items and materials are provided for use **ONLY IN THE TOILET AREA**

Kitchen

The left-most cupboard is used by Leaders of 1st Sandstone. All other cupboards are available for use by visitors.

The Burco hot water boiler should only be used by young people under supervision. Please do not leave this switched on – if left to boil away it will fill the whole area with steam and if it boils dry is expensive to replace.

The water heater over the sink is designed for hand washing and small volume washing up.

GREEN cleaning items should be used **IN THE KITCHEN**; under no circumstances should red items be used in the kitchen.

Games

Please do not use footballs and similar rigid projectiles inside the Hut. Only soft balls and sponge balls should be used inside, and unsupervised ball games should not be allowed inside the Hut.

The side windows have been replaced with double glazed units fitted with toughened glass and will withstand most normal events but are not totally indestructible!

Cargo net

The Cargo Net may be used at your own risk. Please note that the site Risk Assessment has identified a risk to young people of rope entanglement, and adult supervision is recommended while it is in use

Woodland

The site is surrounded by a barbed wire fence; all young people should be warned of the danger this presents, especially during wide area games or in the dark

There are very steep drops in the south east corner of the site; this area should be inspected by the Leader/Person in charge and appropriate safety measures taken if young people are likely to approach the area.

The kissing gate which provides access onto Bickerton Hill should be locked when young people are present and should be left unlocked at other times. The key to the padlock is on the main key ring. When you leave the gate unlocked (if, for instance, you are out on the Hill) please lock the chain to the gate so that it cannot be stolen while you are away.

Shooting area

The small former quarry in the south east corner of the wood may be used for air rifle shooting; the firing should be directed from a firing point against the roadside fence towards the steep bank opposite.

A qualified person must be in charge of any shooting. This person must mark out the firing arcs and danger areas and ensure that everyone is excluded from danger areas while shooting is in progress.

COMMENTS

We aim to continually improve the site and the facilities; we would, therefore, welcome your comments and suggestions.

Please leave any observations, comments or suggestions (or complaints) in the letterbox inside the kitchen door

PAYMENT

Payment may be made by cheque (payable to "1st Sandstone Scout Group") or cash. Please leave your payment (and a note of how it was calculated unless this is self evident) in the letterbox inside the kitchen door.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Please observe the following rules to protect the environment and allow others to enjoy the site:

1. the banks surrounding the Hut area are strictly out of bounds in order to prevent subsidence & erosion; the only routes up to the wood and beyond are to the left of the camp fire area and the path which starts directly opposite the south east corner of the Hut
2. all sticks, stones and other items which may damage the mower from the grassed area should be placed in the bin
3. no trees may be cut down, pruned or damaged; stacked wood must be left alone; improvised shelters may be used but must not be altered or damaged
4. gratuitous damage to the bracken in the woodland should be avoided; wide area games are permitted, but damage to any living growing tree or plant should be minimised

CLEANING

Please clean the Hut, especially the kitchen and toilets, before leaving. A cleaning charge of £20 will be made if any cleaning is necessary after your departure.

Please **DO NOT** use disinfectants unless they are labelled as suitable for septic tanks. Ordinary disinfectants will kill the bacteria in the septic tank and prevent it from working properly.

DO's AND DON'Ts

We would like all our guests to have a great time at Bickerton with the minimum of restrictions and rules. The main building is, however, a 65 year old wooden hut built in a former sand pit and some rules are, regrettably, necessary to preserve it for future generations! We hope you won't mind us drawing your attention to a few house rules.

Grounds

1. keep all vehicles in the parking area to the left of the building; driving vehicles onto the front and right of the building compacts the soil and kills the grass (and may crush drains)
2. do not drive any stakes, tent pegs, etc into the ground beyond the line of the side doors; the drains are very shallow and will be damaged
3. please pick up from the grassed areas any sticks, stones and anything else that may cause injury or damage to the mower and dispose of them
4. no not allow anyone to climb on soil banks in order to prevent erosion; keep to the main paths

Toilets

1. do not allow anything other than human waste and toilet paper to be put down the toilets; it WILL block the sewer
2. do not use disinfectants unless they are marked as suitable for septic tank sewers

Fires

1. do not light fires anywhere other than in the camp fire area and do not leave fires unattended
2. do have at least one bucket of water available when a fire is lit
3. do not allow and flammable liquids (meths, etc) inside the building at any time, and no keep matches and firelighters in a fireproof container (eg a closed tin)
4. do not leave the woodburner unattended while lit unless the door and all vents are closed and the immediate area is clear of combustible materials

Games

1. do not allow ad hoc ball games inside the building, and only use soft balls for organised games inside the building
2. do not allow balls to be kicked against the outside of the buildings

ON DEPARTURE

Please complete the following tasks:

1. Clean the kitchen and mop the floor (green cleaning items)
2. Clean the toilets, shower and basins and mop the floor (red cleaning items)
3. Clean the cooker if you have used it
4. Empty the fridges and wipe clean if necessary
5. Vacuum the main hall (sweeping tends to raise the dust which collects throughout the Hut; using the vacuum ensures that all dust is contained)
6. Place all rubbish in the wheelie bin
7. Ensure that the stove is cold; if not ensure that the door and all vents are tightly closed
8. Ensure that all lights and kitchen appliances, including the boiler but excluding the fridges, are switched off and unplugged
9. Ensure that the tubular heaters in the kitchen and toilet area are switched ON (1 Oct – 31 Mar) or OFF (1 Apr – 30 Sep)
10. Hang the keys on the hook inside the kitchen door
11. Leave your cheque for hire charges (payable to "1st Sandstone Scout Group") in the letterbox inside the kitchen door
12. Check that the shower cubicle door is open, and the main door from the Hall to the toilets is closed
13. Close all doors and windows, lock all the doors
14. Ensure the heating is switched off at the main timer, but individual heaters are switched on at the wall boxes
15. Leave by the main door, lock the door, and lock the key in the key case

USEFUL CONTACTS & SITES

For general supplies and shopping the centres are:

| | | |
|------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Chester | North up the A41 (10 mile) | Full range of shops and supplies; Sainsburys is off the roundabout at the top of the A41 |
| Whitchurch | South on A41 (9 mile) | Sufficient for most requirements and more convenient than Chester; Sainsburys & Tesco, most shops are on Green End or High Street |
| Malpas | Straight across A41 on B5069 (4 mile) | Groceries, Post Office, Newsagent, Pharmacy, Groceries, Cafes, Take-Aways; most shops are on High Street |

The nearest **Hospital** with A&E facilities is the Countess of Chester Hospital, Chester: north up the A41 to Chester and pick up signs on entry to Chester (on A5116 – Liverpool Road on northern edge of Chester)

Other useful places are:

| Site | Provides | Directions |
|---|--|--|
| Laurel Bank Surgery, Malpas Tel: 01948 860205 | Doctor | Old Hall St, Malpas (on southern edge of village heading for Whitchurch) |
| Wendy Nulty 07831 561588 | National Trust Ranger, Bickerton | |
| DA Roberts Tel: 01948 662762 | Fuel, garage, newspapers, groceries | On A41 at Grindley Brook (head south on A41) |
| Cholmondeley Farm Shop Tel: 01829 720201 | Groceries, newspapers and post office 0900 – 1700 every day (closed Sun pm in winter) | Turn right at Bickerton Church, bear left at Bickerton School; on right after 2 mile |
| Barnhill's of Broxton | Fuel (expensive), wood, coal, groceries | Turn left at Bickerton Church, turn left along A534; at A41 roundabout after 2 miles |
| Sainsburys, Whitchurch Tel: 01948 622000 | Groceries and general supplies | London Road, Whitchurch, SY13 1NJ |
| Tescos Tel: 0845 6779743 | Groceries and general supplies | White Lion Meadow, Whitchurch, SY13 1BA |
| Forts of India Tel: 01948 820389 | Indian restaurant and takeaway | A41 Hampton (turn right at Bickerton Church, bear left at school and keep going) |
| McDonalds Tel: 01948 661896 | | On A41/A49 Whitchurch By- Pass |