

# *Cambridge Woodcraft Folk*

**The Cambridge District of The Woodcraft Folk**  
**Registered charity No. 1073665**

Woodcraft is a parent-led voluntary youth organisation which is a registered charity. We are a unique progressive movement for children and young people - both boys and girls - designed to develop self-confidence and participation in society, with the aim of building a world based on equality, peace, social justice and co-operation. Through our activities we try to give our members an understanding of important issues such as the environment, world debt and global conflict - a key focus in recent years being sustainable development.

The Woodcraft Folk started in 1925 in south east London. We are called Woodcraft because the word was used by the writer and naturalist Ernest Thompson Seton at the turn of the century. Woodcraft in this context meant the skill of living in the open air, next to nature.

We do not have a set uniform; although our members often wear T-shirts or 'woodie hoodies' designed by our own youth groups. The Cambridge District has several Woodcraft groups split according to age and location:



## **Woodchips (under 6 years)**

There are currently no Woodchip groups in the Cambridge district. Let us know if you would be interested in helping to start one off !

## **Elfins (6-9 years)**

What do 6 - 9 year olds like doing? Making a lot of noise, being physically active, and having a lot of fun - and that is just what they do on Elfin Group Nights.



A typical Elfin evening consists of some quieter times too, when we listen to each other's news or get involved in craft activities. Through the experience of working co-operatively and problem solving together the young people learn how this can work for them in practice - parachute games don't work if only one person is holding the parachute. Common activities for Elfin groups include cooking, drama, going swimming, singing and a wide variety of games.

## **Pioneers (10 - 12 years)**

Pioneers still require what are fundamentally children's activities, but as they are no longer young children they enjoy (and need) to be stretched a bit more. A typical Pioneer evening is similar to an Elfin one, but somewhat noisier and wilder! We do lots of outdoor activities which include night walks, orienteering, nature conservancy, overnight bivouacs as well as semi-social events and some political and social discussions along with our games and crafts.



## **Venturers (13 - 15 years)**



There is only one Venturer group in Cambridge. We take young people who have grown through the Pioneer groups and also have several members new to Woodcraft. The group at the moment is large and our members are an exciting mix. The Venturers have a hand in organising their weekly programme of activities. Favourites include speakers from other organisations, cooking, an annual trip to London for a Midnight Skate at Alexandra Palace, and collecting money for a charity they have chosen.

## District Fellows (DFs)

Our older teenagers and young adults organise their own activities and are known as District Fellows.

DFs arrange and benefit from regular opportunities each year to meet up with other DFs from across the country. This happens at the DF only camp that they organise and run every summer, and at other planned gatherings. An annual general meeting is held by, and for, DFs to plan the next year's events. The DFs also play a crucial role in organising a large camp for Venturers from across the country which takes place every 3 years.

## Camping

Camping is for many members the best part of being a 'woodie'. Each year as a district we organise several camps, which normally include:-

- Spring camp for all ages, sometimes other towns.
- Elfin camp, a weekend in early
- Pioneer camp, a different weekend in
- Summer camp for all ages, a week in

We also organise a couple of weekends at hostels, such as Lockerbrook in Derbyshire Suffolk (which we are helping to renovate).



with groups from  
summer.  
early summer.  
summer.

Woodcraft owned  
and Darsham station in

## Membership and policies

The national Woodcraft organisation has only a small permanent staff and our activities rely on parent volunteers. Children can come along on a trial basis without any commitment to join the Woodcraft organisation, but it our policy that all adults attending our main camps should become members. All potential adult members are Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checked and it is our policy to have at least two adult members present at all activities.

We follow the national Woodcraft policy on Child Protection which can be found on the national website. In addition we have local policies on topics such as hill walking, which can be viewed on request.



## Further information

For further information about our activities, including contact details of all the Cambridge Woodcraft groups, please visit our web page at:

<http://www.cambridge-woodcraft.org.uk>

General information is also available on the national webpage at:

<http://www.woodcraft.org.uk>

