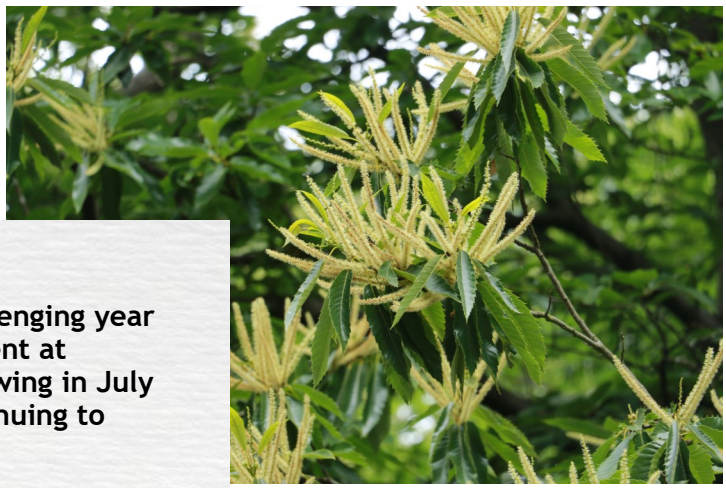
Heartsease at heart

Issue no: 11

March 2021

We are so happy to be able to welcome groups back from 29th March, for outdoor meetings in line with Girlguiding's official guidance. Book online for your unit: www.girlguiding-heartsease.org.uk/booking.html



We know it has been an unusual and often challenging year for everyone; things have certainly been different at Heartsease. Sue, our Chairman, wrote the following in July 2020, as she reflected on how nature was continuing to thrive at our site during lockdown.

July 2020

As I visited Heartsease today, brushing away the cobwebs from the gate lock, I knew things would be just as they were on my last visit, quiet and peaceful, with two Red Admiral butterflies playing in the sunshine of the clearing alongside the path. As I continued towards the house, a Jay flew up and two Great Spotted Woodpeckers made further off to another oak tree to hunt for insects on the old wrinkled bark.

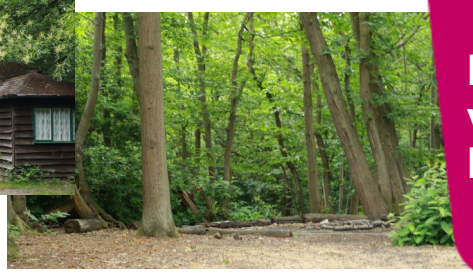
Heartsease is quietly waiting for us to return, whenever that may be. The Bluebells and Foxgloves continued to bloom even though we could not see them. The Bees, high up in the wall outside the hall were busy as ever. Grey Squirrels leapt lightly from branch to branch, having paused from chewing our roof timbers. The smell of the Sweet Chestnut trees in full flower was almost overpowering and had lured two Painted Lady butterflies to their nectar. One even landed briefly on my head!

After checking around to see that all was well, I locked up and left, looking forward to when we can invite visitors back to enjoy our safe and beautiful woods.









Read on to find out more about what has been happening at Heartsease over the past year!

Heartsease: Woodland Way, West Wickham Kent BR4 9LT

: www.girlguiding-heartsease.org.uk; (bookings) heartsease.bookings@gmail.com

: twitter.com/GGHeartsease



IMPROVEMENTS

During our closure period, we were able to take the opportunity to complete some improvement works at Heartsease. This involved a big project to replace the ceiling in the main hall. Brand new insulation was installed in the roof space, with LED lighting put in to replace the old strip lights. We hope that these changes will have a positive impact in making the building more energy-efficient. Our next major project will be to replace the heating, and we are incredibly grateful to an anonymous donor who has recently made a substantial gift to Heartsease, which will help us to complete this next phase of improvement work.

MEETING UP AGAIN AT HEARTSEASE



During the summer holidays and the autumn term last year, a few Beckenham Leaders were able to use Heartsease to hold outdoor meetings with their girls, and also the indoor space once restrictions permitted. Leaders and girls really welcomed the chance to get back together again in person, and it was lovely to see the girls chatting and laughing away as usual!
Meeting at Heartsease proved to be a good option for those who couldn't access their normal meeting place at the time. The woodland area afforded lots of opportunities for socially distanced activities in small groups, with girls enjoying firelighting, wide games, yoga and rocket-launching! Craft and drama worked well inside, with the facilities at Heartsease making it possible for Leaders to split groups into two bubbles (one inside and one outside) if required.
If you would like to find out more about bringing your unit to Heartsease, please do get in touch with our bookings secretary: **heartsease.bookings@gmail.com**, or see our online booking calendar: www.girlguiding-heartsease.org.uk/booking.

JOIN OUR COMMITTEE?

We are looking for new people to join our Committee, as we have two vacancies. If you would be interested, please get in touch. You do not have to be a member of Girlguiding, but keen to uphold our objectives, with time to spare for a few committee meetings a year and maybe to help at working parties and fund-raising events.
Please get in touch with Sue if you would like to find out more: suej.short@ntlworld.com



WISHING YOU ALL WELL

The Heartsease Committee sends all our very best wishes to you, your families and your units. As lockdown eases and spring arrives again, we hope to be able to see you soon. Take care.