



# Kench Hill Centre

Spring Newsletter 2012

Tel 01580 762073 [www.kenchhill.co.uk](http://www.kenchhill.co.uk) Email: [admin@kenchhill.co.uk](mailto:admin@kenchhill.co.uk)



## LATE AVAILABILITY 2012

**Just released! 30<sup>th</sup> April – 4<sup>th</sup> May**  
• 16-20<sup>th</sup> July (or part-week)

## **BOOK NOW FOR 2012-13**

2012-13 bookings are filling fast, see the availability calendar on the website now. <http://www.kenchhill.co.uk/availability/2012.asp>

Take advantage of cheap rates in December when it can be mild and beautifully autumnal. We run a full programme of activities all year, so why not consider a winter wonder week, with a beautifully decorated house and our famous festive feasts!

## **Disabled Access**

We are upgrading equipment and resources to improve the visitor experience for disabled users, with a grant from Hackney ARK. We have a *profiling high/low bed* and will have a *hoist*, so will not need (wo)manpower to lift children. The funding is also being used to buy new indoor and outdoor games and toys, in particular for those with autistic spectrum disorders. Let us know if you have any specific needs in order for us to facilitate a visit from your group.



The Kench Hill Charity (Reg. 1123878 in partnership with

## **New Curriculum activity for KS2**

The 'Contrasting Locality' study has been enhanced to include a fun new trail in Woodchurch village. Explore the geography and history of this archetypal rural community.



Combined with a visit to the museum, church and/or windmill this can now form a whole day activity, with a wet weather lunch option in the Scout hut and active play on the new 'senior gym' equipment at the Recreation Ground.

## **Centre news**

The main lounge had a revamp with bright paint, thanks to staff who worked hard over quiet weeks in winter. We are waiting delivery of new sofas to make it even more like 'home from home'. And we entered the C21<sup>st</sup> with the purchase of an i-pod docking station for groups that are not satisfied with disco hits from the 60's and 70's!

## **Easy Squeezy**

To our amazement this year's surplus apple crop produced 200 litres of delicious cloudy apple juice, bottled for us at Biddenen Vineyards. We used a blend of dessert and cooking apples, creating a sweet and tangy juice. It is available to taste and buy for £2.30 per bottle – get your orders in!

**Quote of the Month:** 'Do you have the same money as us here? And the same president' (Year 4 pupil)



## Open Day

We held our first open day for local people in December. It was a gamble but the weather was perfectly bright and crisp, showing off the house and gardens to perfection. Around 50 neighbours, former staff and 'Kench Hill babies', born here when the house was a maternity hospital, came on a trip down memory lane and to see the work we do today. Some guests were last here over 50 years ago. They made Xmas decorations from natural materials, had tours of the house, viewed archive film and partook of tasty treats made from our own home-grown produce.

We heard fascinating stories about the history of the house and people that stayed here, including HE Bates (Author of Darling Buds of May) and Dame Edith Evans. First hand accounts of the maternity care will go into our archives.



Making bird feeders on the Open Day

## Schools news

**Baden-Powell** win an award for completing planning and administration 6 months before their visit this year. Congratulations to **James Smith**, their Learning Mentor. Second place must go to **Gayhurst Primary**, thanks to fantastic support from **Julie Tivey**. A complimentary bottle of Kench Hill's apple juice to both!

Welcome back **Nightingale Primary** after a gap of 7 years. We were able to fund a week residential for Year 4/5 pupils for just £40!, using the School Journey Grant. Contact us if you would like to be considered for an off-peak bargain next year.

Did you know that we offer 'Feel Good Breaks' at weekends and holiday periods for up to 7 families at a time, based on the premise of 'Feel Good-Eat Well-Be Active', particularly aimed at those with mental or physical health problems affecting their ability to get away from home.

We have enjoyed working with **Burbage Primary** staff and families for several years, in partnership with Family Holiday Association to develop 'Feel Good Breaks' for deprived families, a national research project to evaluate the educational benefit to pupils of being able to have a family holiday. For more information, including funding, see [www.familyholidayassociation.org.uk](http://www.familyholidayassociation.org.uk)

Our next Feel Good break is with families from **Stormont House SEN school** at Easter

## FREE Support for Residentials

Trustees, ex-head Di Roome and Liz Cooke (ex-Grazebrook) have volunteered their expertise to help lead residentials. From planning to staffing for a week, they can give practical support and guidance to inexperienced staff or be an additional member of the team. They have lots of experience leading groups at Kench Hill. **Call us to discuss on 01580 762073 or email [admin@kenchhill.co.uk](mailto:admin@kenchhill.co.uk).**

## Secondary schools

We can facilitate activities to support many areas – humanities, science, English, PSHE, revision weekend. Ideal for units on Ecology & Conservation. Email [Sandi.bain@learningtrust.co.uk](mailto:Sandi.bain@learningtrust.co.uk) to discuss your requirements.

## Keep Up With Us on FACEBOOK

[www.facebook.com/kenchhillcentre](http://www.facebook.com/kenchhillcentre)

'Like' us, share stories and help spread the word. We love to hear back from visitors.

## OWNED BY HACKNEY...FOR HACKNEY

Kench Hill Is Hackney's Own Residential Outdoor Education Centre.

### We Offer:

- **Assurance of LoTC Quality Badge**
- *Grants for Hackney pupils – up to £85*
- **Disabled access**
- Exclusive occupancy for 40+ pupils
- **Single bedrooms + lounge for staff**
- *24 hour on-site support*
- **Planning meetings at your school**
- Weekends, short weeks and holidays
- **Excellent value for money**
- *3\* hostel accommodation*
- **High quality curriculum-linked activities for KS2 - A level**
- Self-catered breaks for groups in our elegant Georgian manor house
- **Healthy home-cooked meals using our own organic produce**