Facebook post on 11 July 2020

Let's pause for a moment and reminisce.

What fond memories do you have of Suntrap? We'd love to hear them.

Suntrap Forest Centre Facebook page

Veronica Davis Marsh

Many happy times spent there on our school trips. The owl was lovely. Looked through a microscope and the bug was huge. Jumped out of my skin. Never forgotten my trips there.

Claire Reeve

I went to school in Walthamstow and I looked forward to visiting on the school coach. While we were taught in the classroom, I sat gazing out of the window, amazed at the colour the blue tits outside which we didn’t see where we lived. In a box of my old school stuff, I still have my wallpapered Suntrap book with a pencil on a string still attached.

Sarah Pegnall

My father was born there, during the second world war when it was a nursing /maternity type establishment.

Eileen Franklyn

I went to Chase Lane school in Chingford late 60'/early '70's. Loved our visits to Suntrap (Mondays I think). We learnt orienteering, pond dipping, remember an owl. We were shown the different trees, silver birch, hornbeam, oak, beech. Loved it – best of all my school days. I still have the poem I wrote at school following a Suntrap visit when I was about 10 years old (got a gold star – my mum kept it). Wonderful memories.

Simon Lancaster-Brown

I remember that if you have you have tomatoes or cucumbers in your packed lunch, you end up with soggy sandwiches. I remember that despite the name, it was rarely sunny, and I remember the incredible smell of nature in the forest. The decaying autumn leaves, and rich aromas of Epping Forest compared to the concrete, tarmac and traffic pollution smells of Walthamstow. Happy days at Suntrap!

Kim Evans

I remember going there with the school around 1969. It was magic, just walking through the forest and learning about the trees and plants. Then going back into Suntrap to learn more. Magic memories!

Trevor Austin

One of the happiest memories of my childhood. Felt almost somewhere I'd dreamed until I went past it again many years later.

Jamie McKay-Haynes

Newts from the pond, which felt very lake-like when I was 6 in 1978.

Carol Woodward

Suntrap line!

Sarah Warner

Wellies and water trough, I remember it well.

Jvaria Sheikh

Scrubbing our wellies clean in the water troughs! And being fascinated by insects under the microscope.

Luke Procel

We found you can eat nuts in forest, and we made toast on campfire with sticks about 25 years ago there was I remember a red longhair dog was there and the house in the woods.

Our Waltham Forest School Days

Jo Skinner

Wellies, squashed sandwiches long walks and loving every minute of it.

Ingrid Coules

Only thing I remember is a shack and Wellington boots. No toilet

Rhonda Scott

Loved every visit Great memories.

Dawnie Nutt

Loved Suntrap

Terry Wilson

Way back in 1965/6 – Ken Hoy having half my Mission Grove class in the forest.

Tanya Bailey

The Suntrap camp we went on when we were 10 and feeling really smug that we got to stay there overnight whilst all the other groups went home.

Barbara Stackwood

I went there in early 60s with Winns Avenue primary school. I don't remember anything that posh. Our group would spend the day roaming the forest with Fred Speakman. Loved it.

Jacquie Rendall Bracewell

Fantastic memories.

Old Memories of Walthamstow and district

Rosemary Venning

My dear late mum a teacher at St Patrick's school E17 used to take her school children there. They used to have a lovely time. My son also went there as he was at St Patricks.

Martin Norvall

I went there as a kid in Sidney Chaplain school.

Debbie Mallard

Loved our Monday trips there from Woodside school, doing trails through the forest and seeing the owls.

Paul Harmon

I remember going when I was at Wynns Avenue.

Lynne Spears

Went there from Woodside school enjoyed day out and my egg sandwich but hated mud and dissecting mice yuk.

Robin Reynolds

Remember the place well.

Marie Neville

My kids went there as well over the years.

Chris Walker

Suntrap Line

Kathleen Bryan

My kids called it Deathtrap as they only seemed to go in winter or bad weather. One time it was so foggy we thought they wouldn't make it home lol.

Belinda King

Happy memories as a child in the 60's I loved going there.

Anthony Van-as

Loved going there in the late 60s highlight of my school years.

Karen Kimber

In the 70's or early 80's I was the first person in my class to find a water beetle and the first to lose a welly and cause our teacher to lose a trainer in a mud patch, that he'd told us not to walk through only minutes before. I loved Suntrap as did my daughter and my son many years later. I hope that my grandchildren get to enjoy it too.

Maria Paice

Hubby said there were classrooms with Bunsen burners.

Sue Gooding

I was at Henry Maynard and we were split into two groups, one to Suntrap and I was in the High Beech Field Centre group. Remember Fred Speakman who lived there and taught us. He wrote a couple of books about Epping Forest.

Susan Smith

I remember Fred Speakman. I too went to Field Study Centre in High Beech and the other half of the class went to Suntrap with Mr Hoy. Great memories feeding the golden eagle and ferrets he had and learning about the forest.

Steven Card

I remember going there a few times with the school. I loved it.

George George

I have many many memories.

Samantha Grundy

I thought it was miles away in the country.

Keeks Burton

Cherry the dog

Jo O'Connor

The coral snake we could hold! Also learning trees by leaf, Hornbeam is all I can remember.

Belinda Hayley

Remember going there from my primary school in Shernall Street, felt like it took forever to get there, Loved it!

Farha Choudhary

So many wonderful memories. I did the Suntrap camp too.. it was just brilliant. I remember finding a newt and looking at it in the Suntrap lab … it was mesmerising.

Oh. My. Days. I want to go back just for the sake of it!

Paula Gilfillan

Pretending to be Roman soldiers marching in formation through Epping Forest and then being attached by native Brits. Utterly brilliant piece of teaching but sadly I can't remember his name.

Terence Singh

I remember Mr Bunn… always talking about the secret lives of Chaffinches. Fond memoire from a very long time ago.

Holly Mimms

Camping with my school friends, making a camp fire and cooking toast on it lol. Elvis the cockerel (I think his name was Elvis) and pond dipping.

Natalie Biagioni

Best toast I ever had!

Eve Wakefield

Loved it. Still remember them lovely days out of school. My mum gave me jam sandwiches in my packed lunch and I sometimes think of jam sandwiches it always reminds me of Suntrap. Happy Days.

Barry Bosher

Many happy memories

Wendy Bullen

Remember Suntrap but nothing else!

Iain MacDougall

To my eternal sadness and disappointment my only memory of Suntrap is that every other class in my school was taken to visit it except mine.

Nosheena Javaid

Washing muddy wellington boots in the trough! Eating homemade kebab sandwiches shaking a tree and holding a white cloth under it to catch insects to look at with a magnifying glass. Used to go there in the 80's.

Lin Taylor

Brilliant place, loved every minute there, learnt so much, sweet memories.

Sara Outtridge

Being a parent on a Winns Primary trip around 2000 and knowing that some of the children had never been to the Forest before even though it was practically in sight of where they lived. Seeing the children hold a Hissing Cockroach. Such a brilliant place.

All my husband's friends that grew up in Walthamstow that visited or camped loved it, such a valuable and unique place.

Donna Price

I loved coming there!

Mark Cook

This place gave me my love of the outdoors – our Junior school visits back in 1970/1/2… including an overnight camp still stuck in my mind…some great memories. We visited with four of our grandchildren on the anniversary opening a few years ago and featured in the Guardian showing three generations of family visiting.

Mellanie Cook

This was the best place ever. Loved it.

Chris Dean

Packed lunch, my far-out painted wellies, being in the forest, in the lab. I don't remember the outside of the building! The best bit of school for me! 1970?

Tony Farquhar

Absolutely amazing place. We had some fantastic times there.

Michelle Skeats Watts

Loved it best was camping for a few days on the field when I was at primary school.

Tracey Daltrey Tapper

Scrubbing mud off the wellies in the water trough. Had to borrow them from their supply as never owned a pair. Didn't they have stuffed animals there too. scared me.

Jeanette Jackson

I loved going there.

Zoe Barnes

Loved it. Is it still there?

Linda Rossiter Harper

Went there with my daughter's classes from Thorpe Hall school in the nineties. Children loved it.

Yasmin White

Remember it well – highlight of primary school.

Anthony Smith

Remember it well going from Edward Redhead.

Trevor Bunch

A great place all the kids had fun there.

Ray Dodge

Went every week for some time from Barley School… love it especially as went by double decker.

Tony Farquhar

I remember some years back, reading James Herbert's The Lair, Suntrap was the centre of the book, and it was weird I was reading a horror and it brought back pleasant memories.

Jaynsue Hamlin

I'm now 60 I went to Suntrap with the school aged about 11 years old and have never forgotten it and still tell my kids and their kids about it left a lasting impression.

Karen McDonnell

Holding grass snakes, bark rubbing, using a compass, washing wellies, Mr Hoy. Oh and one of my class falling into a ditch of dirty water as attempted to jump over it!

Malcolm Hunt

It's a fantastic place, I loved going there. We met a barn owl once and went on many themed walks. The one that stands out for me is the geology trip. We took an auger to take core samples from the ground and went up hill towards High Beach. Each sample we took showed how the underlying soils differed on each level.