

Woodcraft Folk

100 Objects Spanning 100 Years



Exhibition Guide



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Woodcraft Folk is a registered charity in England & Wales (1148195)

and in Scotland (SC039791),

and a company registered in England & Wales, Company No. 81337277

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LARGE PRINT GUIDE 14pt

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<https://woodcraft.org.uk/projects-campaigns/100-objects-spanning-100-years>



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100 Objects spanning 100 Years

Large Print Guide

Text Size: 14pt

This guide contains large print of the exhibition board texts and image captions.

Introduction

Text:

We're sharing special objects that tell our story – tangible links to our past, present, and future, offering unique and sometimes deeply personal stories about what it means to be a part of the Woodcraft movement.

Telling our stories over the last 100 years, we pay tribute to Trailblazers, younger and older, and ask how we will shape the future, spanning the world with friendship!

Image:

Crowd, Common ground, 2022 Photo Credit Anna Donne



100 Objects Collage

Collage Project Board 1 Images left to right, top down (all 2025):

1. Trailblazer tent Camp 100, August
2. Ellie Ramsden leads photography at Woodcraft Archives Special Collections UCL ,May
3. Exploring Archives with UCL Archivist Jess Womack, March
4. Discovering Woodcraft Archives at Cudham - Commemorative Tray Cudham 50th Anniversary, April
5. Ben Jones illustrates stories with photos at Birmingham, February
6. 'Wish you were Woodcraft' Postcard workshops begin, April
7. Shadow Puppetry workshops with Louis Delaney at Camp 100
8. Photography workshop with Ellie Ramsden at Cudham, April
9. KitKat interviewer with Hei Yan Tsui at Camp 100
10. Patchwork at Woodcraft Archives Special Collections UCL, April
11. Ellie Ramsden's photography workshop, Cudham, April
12. Silver Birch bound 'Logboke' 1929, Special Collections UCL

Collage Project Board 2 Images left to right, top down (all 2025):

1. Handmade decorated tent inside the Trailblazer tent, Camp 100
2. Postcards and badges being made at Camp 100
3. Banner workshop, Reigate and Redhill June
4. T-shirt display Camp 100, and the youngest attendee of International camp returns (at 2 hours old at 1988 Weston Camp)
5. Making and decorating a tent at Cudham April
6. Writing memories into Birmingham's Woodcraft Story February
7. Mrs. McGhie-Belgrave MBE at a Windrush workshop June
8. Hackney explore archives and draw memories March
9. Flags and photography Photo credit: Ellie Ramsden May
10. Marcus Belben uses Badger's naming workshop and 'Naming' ceremony, Camp 100

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Acknowledgements

Text:

There are too many people to thank for organising workshops, residentials, Camp 100 Trailblazer Tent, Graphic design, loan of items and taking part in all the activities we have run through '100 objects spanning 100 years' project. Thanks all the national lottery players and I'd like to thank some individuals:

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Helen Butler, Henry Rice, Isabel Cleveland, Isobel Cree,
Jessica Womack, Joan Pover, Kitkat
Kieran Kirkwood, Laila Smith, Laura Buck
Lewis Emery, Linda Osborn, Lisa Der Wedowe
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Martin Pover, Mathais Sanders, Mia Chapman
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Niamh Hall, Oliver Mackey, Richard Kirkwood
Rob Spencer, Rosalind Guzman, Sara Abdula
Shilo Spencer Pote, Thomas Black, Tilda Williams
Tracey Cleveland, Tracy Murket, Val Smith
Veronica Hammerstone



Camping

Texts:

"...We're using Camping and Hiking as a means and not as an end."

Leslie Paul, 1935

"It looks just like one of our Camps." District Fellow, 2025

"One camp or another, almost every other weekend, take our own food and cope for ourselves, I don't really remember any adults...we had to declare we would get out and keep fit in mind and body, that was the basis of it. Children had to be a little more independent and cooperative." Joan Pover, 2000

"It's really good to see our values...Woodcraft...It all comes from somewhere." Pioneer, 2025

Images left to right, top down:

1. 'Awake! Arise!' Rangers Woodcraft Fellowship Camp Log Boke, 1933
2. Camping at Crystal Palace, 1934
3. Tomahawk (Eric Beal), brother of Les Beal (Fleetwing). Eric created badge symbols and 'Leap High O Golden Flame', 1949
4. International Children's Camp, Brighton, 1937
5. Wapenshaw, 1950s
6. Debden International camp, 1951
7. Woodcraft International Camp, Weston Park, 1988
8. Singing at the camp fire, Common Ground, 2022
9. Wapenshaw with Joan Pover's model tent,
photo credits: Ellie Ramsden, 2025



Craft & Creativity

Texts:

"We did a great deal of craft work and folk dancing and singing and every week we had a pow wow where our leader would give us a talk for about 20 minutes. No test work, We did a lot of camping in various places." Barry Wilson, 2025

"Brighton Central and Hove district have designed the tray celebrating our 50 years. They did a recycled craft which is very us and they made them out of tomato puree tins or tubes." Tracy, 2025

Images left to right, top down:

1. Competitions, 1955
2. Camp Journal 1929
3. 'Nightfall' poem 1929
4. 'Garten Arbeit' Lagen in Fussen
5. 'Dancing at Debden International Camp 1951
6. Elfin Handicraft trophy (1949) Photo Credit Ellie Ramsden
7. Constructing a model of West Hoathly, 1951
8. West Hoathly Model 1953
9. Leather purse made by Badger 1940s
10. Fireworks and show at Weston 1988
11. Owaissa's belt
12. 50 years at Cudham, Tray



Debate

Texts:

"I've chaired loads of things in the Trade Union Movement and Labour Party. I always start by saying, 'I was trained in the Woodcraft Folk' – because Tony Raine taught me how to chair a meeting. Completely different to how a political meeting is chaired...I became a venturer leader (at 19) which we called 'Dennis Goldberg Venturers'. I met him at the Annual Conference. I took delegations to France and Spain, to big anti-apartheid camps. When I was young and enthusiastic, I got energy. You lived and breathed Woodcraft...It was my first Love."

Diane Fairfax, 2025

"Changes? A lot in 1970s. National folk decided to be a large organisation and lots of groups started, some with very little or no knowledge of Woodcraft Folk history. They hadn't got the feel or beliefs. Maybe they were CND members or Quakers or Labour party but not Woodcraft Folk." Joan Pover, 2000

"Being given the opportunity to help co-ordinate events, lead workshops and have responsibility for the well being of others has given me a lot of unique experiences for a young person... Woodcraft has made a massive difference to my life' I've met some of the coolest people I know and developed some really genuine Friendships."

Sadie (19), 2025

Images left to right, top down:

1. Disagreement between the Coop and Woodcraft Youth movements and the way they worked together in the 1940s
2. Labour youngsters promotion, 1930s
3. Reenactment of 'conscientious objector or fight the fascists' debate, chaired by Diane Fairfax, 1985
4. For debate, performance, greeting or parting, Woodcraft Folk forms a circle. Holocaust memorial, 2020

5. Morning meeting, Birkenhead Common Ground, 2022

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Education

Texts:

"I do remember the 1926 strike when we gave up our mattresses on our beds and they were taken to a church hall for people who'd come down from London to sleep on and that had to be explained to us."

Joan Pover, 2000

"We'd all go on the Marches, singing all the way." Gillian, 2025

"Growing up in a lefty family in Eltham, south-east London felt like treading water in a sea of normality – barely keeping my head in the air. But on these protests we found there were other like-minded people. My early teenage years were spent playing in the park and camping with the Woodies...I felt grateful to my mum and dad for introducing me, so long ago, to this particular family tradition."

Colin Fancy, 2011, supports the campaign group Defend the Right to Protest

"I suppose you learn by doing it." Pioneer, 2025

"I'd like to do more, it's really made me think." Venturer, 2025

Images left to right, top down:

1. Elaborate Bloodstained twaddle – HG Wells on School History Teaching 1930
2. Hosting the first international post-war visit, Brighton, 1946
3. The Aldermaston Marches (to London, 52 miles), Gillian on her father's back, 1950



Education (continued)

4. Anti-nuclear weapons demos in the 1950s and 60s, linked to Greenham Common demos, which Woodcraft Folk were also involved in leading to the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) in the 1960s
5. 'Taking time out' Tony Raine, 1981
6. Burning Clocks Parade, Brighton & Hove, 2015
7. Camp programme, Hackney, 2025
8. Western Sahara Delegation show their traditional costume and chat over tea at Camp 100, 2025



Fellowship

Text:

"They were the most important years of my life – I found my tribe."
Pioneer, 2025

"There's a feeling I get, even though we've just met, that it feels like we're family. I get very emotional about it. We've met people from around the world, the country, and there is a spirit that runs through the whole thing, which is very earthy." Kieran, 2025

Images left to right, top down:

1. Danbury International Camp, 1957
2. Magic fellowship led by Joan Pover, banner from the 1950s
3. Song from an early Woodcraft Folk songbook
4. 'All children have the right to be brought up in a Spirit of Tolerance peace and Brotherhood', 1979
5. 'Together' magazine, promoting and valuing dance in the Woodcraft movement, 1955
6. 'Woodcraft Folk has 111 districts and 350 groups'
7. Kieran at the annual gathering, Biblins, 2018



Folk Names

Text:

Acorn, Estrellita, Tulip, Goldfinch,
Shamrock, Leopard, Great Owl,
Red Arrow, Clover, Pine Jackal,
Fawn, White Hawk, Swallow, Phoenix,
Blackbird, Beech, Queok, Hawk,
Dawn, Nanook, Daisy, Swift Arrow,
Antelope, Crow, Bluebell, Cobra,
Springbok, Lime, Orion, Deerfoot,
Opechee, Hawkeye, Young Chief,
Sorrel, Hare, Cuckoo, Woodpecker,
Merlin, Honeysuckle, Tomahawk,
Kangaroo, Redwing, White Fang,
Fleetfoot, Timber, Wolf, Yak, Rising Sun,
Shikari, Nokidee, Ladybird, Beaver,
Doormouse, Bagheera, Penguin,
Ash, Tiger, Wren, Zebra, Little Owl,
Bracken, Mohawk, Moose, Vixen,
Oak, Buffalo, Tarka, Cedar, Harebell,
Eagle, Squirrel, Puma, Dingo,
Zinnia, Rainbow, Falcon, Nemo,
Akela, Ivyleaf, Skylark, Timber Wolf,
Archer, Robin, Anang, Python,
Cherry, Elk, Longbow, Panda,
Wildrose, Caleva, Violet, Vulture,
Silver Birch, Primrose, Sunbeam,
Daffodil, Chestnut, Rowan, Barn Owl



Food

Text Size:

"If you get the food and the toilets right, it'll be a good camp."
Sara 2025

Images left to right, top down:

1. Preparing the grub, 1929
2. Cherry serves Mary, Austria, 1958
3. Our circle, Oct 1951
4. Poem Mousse, A camper's anthology, Gillians book, 1970
5. Peeling potatoes, Birmingham, 2017
6. Celebrating with cake, 1988
7. Common Ground leaflet about Cooking, 2022
8. Keeper of Provender at Common Ground, 2022
9. Front cover Woodcraft Folk recipe book, 2013
10. Eating on Common Ground, 2022



Hiking

Text:

1 "It started at a time of deprivation when going camping or for a walk in the countryside was something special." Joan Pover, 2000

Images left to right, top down:

1. "What shall I bring?" Debden camp, 1951, Festival of Britain – a three week international camp
2. Brighton International Camp Backpack, 1937
3. Lockerbrook hiking, 1989
4. Birmingham at Biblins, 2021
5. Woodcraft Focus, Trespass Celebrated Peggy Aprahamian 1982
6. Mass Trespass and Mass swim, Kinderscout, 2025



International Friendship

Text:

"Yes I made a friend in Belgium before the 2nd World War – 3 days before and made friends with Dutch people, and I corresponded with a Dutch boy in the navy and heard after the war he was ok and what had happened to his family, very sad. He drifted away as falcon mvt packed up there and in France. We both got married you know. I did make strong friendships with people in Austria for a long time."

Joan Pover, 2000

Images left to right, top down:

1. Scandinavian visitors feed pigeons on the way to Rottingdean camp 1946
2. Austria marches to show itself, Austria 1958
3. Policeman looks on 1958
4. Austria, 1958
5. Lager in Fussen
6. Our world to share, learning pack for leaders 1983
7. First impressions of Danbury Park, Camp of Nations poem 1970
8. Pioneers look at banners from past international camps 2025
9. Peace, Love, Palestine, Music, Common ground 2022



Naming

Text:

"Badger was very explicit in telling us why we had folk names, that it was to give us all a sense of equality, not only between the boys and the girls, but between the children and the adults. There was no Sir or Miss or Mrs or anything. All the names were equal.

We were encouraged to choose a name which had some connection with our character, or our build, or our colouring, or something, and he would say, as an example, Leslie Paul chose the name Little Otter because he had dark sleek hair and he was an excellent swimmer."

Joan Pover, 2000

"Badger's old naming ceremony was similar to a christening where folk parents are appointed. I adapted it to keep a non-religious Woodcraft naming ceremony. I only slightly changed the language to non-gender specific terms."

Paul Bemrose, 2015

"I like the connection with nature, to name yourself after something in the natural world makes sense."

Elfin, 2025

Images left to right, top down:

1. Badger's Naming Ceremony
2. Badger naming a child
3. 'Little Otter' drawing 1929
4. Tree naming book, editor Frank Booth, 1948, still in use
5. Introduction to Frank's tree naming book
6. Pinewood logbook 1951
7. Pinewood logbook 1951



Peace

Text:

Fenner Brockway acknowledged his wife, Lilla Brockway, had the foresight “that those who intended to refuse military service should band themselves together.”

Founder of ‘No Conscription Fellowship’. In 1926, Fenner presided over the annual conference of the No More War Movement at Birmingham and was the Chair of the IFM 1948.

Henry ‘Koodoo’ Fair coordinated travel of children from Czech socialist internationalist families, ‘in peril of their life, hundreds are refugees, sleeping in fields and ditches...now comrades here is our chance to show our solidarity with our Czech Comrades. Can you take a boy or a girl or perhaps two boys or girls? Talk this over immediately.” Woodcraft Circular, November 1938

Images left to right, top down:

1. Youth for Peace and Unity, World Peace & a new world order 1935
2. The Helper, 1938
3. Fenner Brockway, 1940
4. Photo of Teddy Hawkes (Swift Canoe), 1950s
5. Marching for Peace in Watford, 1960s
6. A night in Clapham South Deep shelter,
a safe haven in times of war, 1951



Peace (continued)

Text:

"My Dad, [Richard] he's 82 now, first heard about Woodcraft Folk on Aldermaston march. There was a guy he knew who knew all the organisations. Woodcraft Folk came in all their green costumes, and they were all singing the same songs, and he was like, 'Who are these people?'...He said, 'when I have kids they're going there, so when my sister was born she went in the 80s, and I went in the 90s up to now.'" Kieran, Hackney Camp, 2025

Images left to right, top down:

1. Bradford Star, 19 March 1987
2. Woodcraft Folk anti-war material 1980s
3. Woodcraft National Council 1980
4. Woodcraft supporting Schools against the Bomb 1981
5. Explaining the peace books, 1983
6. Battersea Park rafts for Peace, 1984
7. Western Daily Press 1995
8. Carnations on the rock to commemorate Conscientious Objectors, Tavistock square, 2025



Propagandists

Text:

"My mother told me about the library. All books were asked for via the fellowship and signed by the headman." Gillian, 2025

Images left to right, top down:

1. Folk Year Book 1932
2. Folk Year Book 'Special Propaganda Issue' 1930
'An open letter to young kinsfolk' from Leslie Paul
3. 'The New Helper', Jack Colbert, London Kin Headman, 1950
4. War news, April 1941
5. Brown Robin Memorial Library's first librarian, Mrs. M. White, 1946
6. Brighton and Hove Herald 1946
7. Early Flyers
8. Lithographic printing 1950s
9. Publicity leaflet in community languages, early 1980s
10. Publicity in Welsh, 1980
11. Holloway and Highgate Zine, 2025
12. Mini zines, 2017



Sex & Gender

Text:

"In early days (of Woodcraft), it just seemed natural that some leaders male, some female. The more responsible jobs were taken by the men folk. I don't remember anyone challenging this not for many many years. It did crop up in the 60s I suppose. Leaders of large districts nearly always men and head office. There was a push for women to take more responsible parts." Joan Pover, 2000

"A Folk family is one where traditional roles are dropped. You are much more likely to find shared roles within a folk family where parents are looking after children, so that one or the other can help in the Group or go to a meeting or go to a camp or whatever...I felt it was a movement for peace and second it brought boys and girls together and I was all in favour of that. And it did have some ideals behind it as well. We all grew up equals. 'We are one Blood' ." Chrys Salt, 1985

"There aren't many places where it's OK, whether your gay, trans, cis, whatever, it doesn't matter...we've done campaigning, everyone needs respect." Venturer, 2025

Images left to right, top down:

1. Sexuality working group, 1986
2. 'The only way to contain the spread of aids is through education', 1988
3. Exploring sexuality postit notes, International Camp, Weston Park, 1988
4. Cover Report of Sexuality working party, 1989
5. Common Ground, 2022, Photo Credit: Anna Donne
6. Cover Report of Sexuality Working Party 1989
7. Discussion group on sexuality 1989

