

**THIRTY YEARS OF CAMPING  
WITH  
THE MOULTON ADVENTURE  
GROUP**

**COMPILED AND WRITTEN  
BY  
GEOFF CROMPTON**

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**CONTENTS: © GEOFFREY A. CROMPTON**

**FOREWORD: Harold & Mary Mitchell**

**Group Web Site: [www.moultonadventuregroup.org](http://www.moultonadventuregroup.org)**

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# **FOREWORD**

All of our boys along with Diane our youngest daughter (the Group did not cater for girls at first), loved going to MAG camps – they were so excited at the prospect of spending a week under canvas. Our eldest son Wayne accompanied by his younger brother Michael attended the first camp in the Lake District in 1970. Our third son Daryl loved the Group so much that he went on to become leader and still leads the Group to this day. After camp our children came back tired but always elated after having had such a good time - they never stopped talking about it!

As parents, we encouraged our children to go to the Group for we could see how much they enjoyed it and how much they benefited from it. It taught them discipline and helped them to become more independent. Camp also gave them a good experience and training for life. For example they learned how to cook and look after themselves. They were involved in all types of outdoor activities including canoeing, boating, rock climbing, walking, swimming and orienteering etc.

The Group helped them to develop leadership skills too, not only as part of a team, but progressing on to lead a group. The Group also motivated and encouraged them to obtain their Duke of Edinburgh's Award. We are very grateful to Geoff Crompton, who deserves a commendation for this book and for all he has achieved over the years with the children of Moulton and the surrounding area.

Mary and Harold Mitchell – Moulton 2008

# **DEDICATIONS**

This book is dedicated to the Staff and Instructors of the Moulton Adventure Group who, for over 35 years, have unstintingly given of their time and energies to the young people of Moulton village. May their efforts in some little way have helped to change the course of many a young life for the better.

## **ALSO INCLUDED IN THIS DEDICATION ARE:**

Harold Mitchell, without whose help and guidance the building of our Headquarters in School Lane could not have been undertaken.

Mrs Edie Nelson and her friends who, over many, many years have raised thousands of pounds for the Group.

# INTRODUCTION

This book is a mostly light hearted attempt to capture and illustrate the fun and good fellowship enjoyed by Members and Staff over 30 years of camping with the Moulton Adventure Group. To save embarrassment, the names of some Members featured in the tales have been omitted.

## A Personal View:

Living, as we now do in a ‘Nanny’ State, controlled by governments, elf’ n’ safety and politically correct bureaucrats, both elected and non-elected, it is most difficult for young people to grow and mature into rounded, caring, responsible adults. Games with an element of risk are now off the agenda; British Bulldog, Conkers, One ton, Tree climbing etc are a few of the many that come to mind. Competitive games are now considered to be taboo by many schools who believe that everyone should be a winner and that being a looser will somehow scar a young person for life. These PC bureaucrats/educationalists seem to forget that children need to be educated and at the same time learn that when they enter the big wide world there **will** be winners and there **will** be losers and that they must learn to overcome disappointments and move on – GAC.

From the very first Camp, the reasons for spending a week under canvas were clearly defined. To help young people to:

- 1) Attain a degree of self respect.
- 2) Attain a certain amount of pride in their achievements.
- 3) Develop good habits.
- 4) Build confidence in their abilities.
- 5) Work with others as a team.
- 6) Become self sufficient.
- 7) Cope with adversity.
- 8) Have lots and lots of fun.

The original Objects, Promise and Motto of the Group are as follows:

## OBJECT:

“To serve God and the community and to foster a spirit of adventure in young people”.

## PROMISE:

“I promise to do my best to serve God and my fellow man, to honour my Queen and Country and to live a clean, active and worthwhile life”.

## MOTTO:

“We Serve”

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My sincere thanks go to Phil Ashton, Les Burgess and Daryl Mitchell for their remarkable memory recall and for providing me with a vast number of the Camp tales from yesteryear. Without their kind help the contents of this book would be much reduced\*\*\* May I also thank Phil for performing his computer magic on the numerous photographs and illustrations throughout the book.

My gratitude is also extended to:

Those past Members of the Group who contributed some of the tales.

My friend, Diane Fletcher, for her help with the script and for proof reading the finished version.

\*\*\*Note: During the months preceding the publication of this book, Phil, Les, Daryl and I had a number of sessions to try to recall the events of the past. However, and despite our best efforts, we know that we will have missed many tales and omitted to mention the involvement of some Members and Staff. May I apologise in advance for these shortcomings. For myself, please put it down to old age and senility! GAC



**Around The Camp Fire**

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**Rope Bridge At Whitby**

# THE VILLAGE

Moulton Village stands in the heart of the Cheshire countryside between the towns of Northwich and Winsford. It runs more or less parallel with the River Weaver and is located on a ridge overlooking the vale. The 1086 Domesday Book mentions that 'Moletune' was part of the estate of The Baron Richard de Vernon of Shipbrook. Roughly translated from the old English the entry reads:

‘Moulton. Leofnorth held it - he was a freeman. There is one hide paying tax. There is land for 2 ploughs.

There is one villager and one smallholder who have 1/2 plough.

There is 1 acre of meadow; Woodland 1 league long and 1 wide; 1 enclosure.

Value was and is 5 shillings (25p)’.

In the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Moulton and the surrounding area was purchased by the France-Hayhurst family who took up residence in nearby Bostock Hall. The estate was sold off during the 1950s. Bostock Hall was converted into flats in the late 90s.

Today (2008) the village boasts two places of worship; The Methodist Chapel dating from 1875 and The Parish Church of St Stephen the Martyr built in 1876. It has two pubs, the Lion and the Travellers Rest; a County Primary School (built in 1894); village hall; British Legion Club; Verdin Institute and the Moulton Adventure Groups HQ in School Lane.

In 1801, the population of the village stood at 103. Since that time numbers have steadily increased. By 1851 the population had risen to 328; by 1901 to 1004; by 1951 to 1218 and by 1997 to 2330. In this current year (2008) the figure is in excess of 3000. The heart of the old village, comprising Main Road, Regent Street, Church Street, Chapel Lane, Chapel Street, Whitlow Lane and Niddries Lane is now surrounded by new estates of houses, bungalows and flats.

Employment in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century was dominated by the salt industry and the houses in Regent Street and Church Street were built to house the workers in this industry. At dawn, salt workers would trudge up ‘the bank’ from their homes, along the path past the sand pit and down through the railway tunnels to the Newbridge Salt Works. Some would walk even further and cross the River Weaver via the bridge to clock on at Falk's Salt Works. When Sir John Brunner and Ludwig Mond established their chemical plants in Northwich, towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, men from Moulton sought jobs in their factories at Winnington and Lostock.

During the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century life in Moulton was typical of many a country village. Men worked on the land and at various trades in and beyond the village. Their wives brought up large families in small houses - three children to a bed were not uncommon. The 1891 Census repeatedly lists the occupation of the head of the household as 'Salt Boiler'. The job of a 'Salt Boiler' was to look after large open pans filled with salt brine. He tended the fires under the pans and regulated the flow of brine into them until a combination of time and heat produced the required crystal size. Various grades of salt from 'block' through to very fine granular were made. The process could take up to a week after which time the pans would be emptied, cleaned and the cycle repeated. It was hot, steamy, sweaty, labour intensive work with the men stripped to the waist and wearing clogs to keep their feet dry.

The population of the village increased slightly from 1100 in 1914 to 1150 or so in 1939. In 1926 and later on in 1932, new houses were built at the entrance to the village. A new numbering system was introduced affecting most of the properties in Main Road. Although new people arrived they had little effect on the overall size of the village population for by this time families had stabilised at approximately seven or below. Large families of twelve or more were a thing of the past and women, in particular, were glad of it!

1926 was a momentous year, for this was the year of the General Strike. It was also a red-letter year for Northwich and the surrounding area. Brunner Mond and Salt Union, the main employers of labour in the district, merged with other large chemical companies throughout the land to form Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd (ICI). A new dawn had begun.

Sometime during the early 1920s, at the height of the Depression, many men employed by the salt industry in factories along the banks of the River Weaver were laid off. Being desperately poor, they spent hours each week searching for coal on the local ash/ cinder tips. They would return to their houses covered in coal dust & looking as black as 'crows'.

The Village War Memorial stands at the side of Main Road on land donated by the Salt Union Ltd after the Great War. On a raised plinth, the figure of a soldier with his rifle in the 'at ease' position faces Regent Street, and surveys the houses from which many of the 46 men who died in two World Wars made their last journey.

# CAMPS 1970 – 1999

## GROUP CAMPS

- 1970 WINDERMERE – NEWBY BRIDGE. (Lake site)
- 1971 CRICCIETH – YNYSGAIN FAUR FARM. (Middle field)
- 1972 CRICCIETH – YNYSGAIN FAUR FARM. (Middle field)
- 1973 WINDERMERE – STOCK PARK MANSION. (Lake site)
- 1974 CRICCIETH – YNYSGAIN FAUR FARM. (Top field)
- 1975 WINDERMERE – STOCK PARK MANSION. (Narrow field)
- 1976 CRICCIETH – YNYSGAIN FAUR FARM. (Middle field)
- 1977 CONISTON LAKE – HALL FARM. (Lake site)
- 1978 CRICCIETH – YNYSGAIN FAUR FARM (Middle field)
- 1979 CONISTON LAKE – HALL FARM. (Woodland site)
- 1980 CRICCIETH – YNYSGAIN FAUR FARM. (Middle field)
- 1981 CONISTON LAKE – HALL FARM. (Lake Site)
- 1982 ULLSWATER – SIDE FARM. PATTERNDALE. (Lake Site)
- 1983 LLYN CWELLYN – PLANWYDD. (River & Lake site)
- 1984 CRICCIETH – YNYSGAIN FAUR FARM. (Railway field)
- 1985 WHITBY – SLEIGHTS. (River site)
- 1986 LLYN CWELLYN – PLANWYDD. (River & Lake site)
- 1987 CRICCIETH – YNYSGAIN FAUR FARM, (Middle field)
- 1988 WHITBY – SLEIGHTS. (River site)
- 1989 LLYN CWELLYN – PLANWYDD. (River & Lake site)
- 1990 CRICCIETH – YNYSGAIN FAUR FARM. (Middle field)
- 1991 WHITBY - SLEIGHTS. (River site)
- 1992 LLYN CWELLYN – PLANWYDD. (River & Lake site)
- 1993 CRICCIETH – YNYSGAIN FAUR FARM. (Railway field)
- 1994 BALA LAKE. (River site)
- 1995 CONISTON – HOATHWAITE FARM. (Lake site)
- 1996 ANGLESEY – TANY BANK, DULAS. (Farm site No.1)
- 1997 LLYN GWYNANT – HAFOD LWYFOG. (Lake site)
- 1998 CONISTON – HOATHWAITE FARM. (Lake site)
- 1999 ANGLESEY – DAFARN RHOS FARM. (Farm site No.2)

## SENIOR CAMPS:

- 1972 WINDERMERE & ELTERWATER. YOUTH HOSTELLING.
- 1986 WINDERMERE-LOW WRAY FARM, AMBLESIDE

# SENIOR UNIFORMED STAFF

## 1969 – 1999

### STAFF:

### GROUP LEADER

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Phil Ashton     | 1984 - 1986 |
| Alan Bennett    |             |
| Les Burgess     | 1983 – 1984 |
| Geoff Crompton  | 1969 – 1983 |
| Pam Davies      |             |
| Heather Donald  |             |
| Chris Eatock    |             |
| Madge Egerton   |             |
| June Egerton    |             |
| Rebecca Egerton |             |
| Adrian Fleet    |             |
| Malcolm Fleet   |             |
| Brian Holland   |             |
| Mike Hubbard    |             |
| Andrew Knight   |             |
| Daryl Mitchell  | 1986 – 1993 |
| Helen Mitchell  |             |
| Teresa Mitchell |             |
| Rachel Moreland | 1999 – 2001 |
| Aden Pimlott    |             |
| Andrew Preen    |             |
| Simon Preen     |             |
| Andrew Royle    | 1993 – 1999 |
| Carole Royle    |             |
| Michelle Royle  |             |
| Richard Royle   |             |
| Rachel Sharman  |             |
| Monica Simpson  |             |
| Alan Slack      |             |
| Andrew Wilson   |             |
| Ray Woodrow     |             |

# TRUSTEES, INSTRUCTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS:

Ken Adamson  
Phil Ashton  
Tom Bennett  
Alan Brown  
Bob Brown

Alan Burgess  
Les Burgess  
Geoff Crompton  
Tony Darlington  
Jack Denton

John Gough  
Harold Mitchell  
David Nelson  
Irene Nixon  
Mr Rumble

Mike Stephenson  
Walter Watkin  
Mr Wyath



Scrambling

# **THE FOUNDERS**

## **GEOFF CROMPTON**

In the mid 60's Geoff, who then worked for ICI at Runcorn, was transferred to a new job in Northwich. After two or three years travelling to and fro from Runcorn to Northwich, he and his wife, Lois, took the decision to 'up sticks' and move to Mid-Cheshire with their two year old daughter, Gillian. They purchased a bungalow in Eaton View, Moulton and settled down to enjoy village life.

Having spent most of his younger life as an Officer and boy in the 1<sup>st</sup> Widnes Company of the Boys' Brigade and been instrumental in forming a new BB Company in Runcorn in 1959, Geoff was no stranger to voluntary youth work. In 1968, having seen that there was little to do for young lads in the village, he approached the Elders of the Methodist Church and asked if they would be interested in the idea of his forming a new Youth Organisation in the Chapel Hall on one evening a week. The Elders of the Chapel were delighted and gave the scheme their blessing.

Geoff then had a problem. Did he have the time to run a BB Company and all that that entailed, or should he form a new hybrid group more suited to the time he had available? He decided on the latter course and with the help of his wife deliberated long and hard about the form the group should take. After much thought he came up with the notion of a group centred around three main tenets: 1) Christian principles, 2) service to the community and 3) adventurous activities.

Lois thought up the name for the new organisation - 'The Moulton Adventure Group' and Geoff worked on the 'Object', 'Promise' and 'Motto'. A crest, basic uniform and badge system was devised and armed with these Geoff started to 'beef up' the detail and to plan the activities.

Much taken with the concept of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme whilst in the BB, he contacted the Chairman of the local D. of E. Award Committee, Mr. Doug Myerscough, Headmaster of Rudheath County Secondary School.

A meeting was arranged, and it was during this meeting that Geoff struck gold, for he was told of a young married man, Les Burgess, a Gold D. of E. Award winner at 17, who had recently moved into a bungalow on Weaver Grange, not 70 yards from where he lived! On the following Sunday afternoon, Geoff knocked on the door of 'Tryfan' and a friendship, which is still strong to this day, was formed.

NOTE: Lois died in June 2004.

## **LES BURGESS**

Les first completed the Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Awards while still at Rudheath School between 1957 & 1959 under the guidance of Mr. Doug Myerscough, the Headmaster, who was running the scheme. He completed the Gold Award aged 17 in 1961 while working as an apprentice with British Railways in Crewe. After completing the Gold Award he and his climbing partner, Charles Lishman, joined the Mid Cheshire D. of E. Committee, run by Colonel Denton and Doug Myerscough. As Expedition Trainers, they trained scores of young men, and latterly young women, to pass their Bronze, Silver and Gold Award Expeditions. For 30 years Les served on the Committee, latterly as Chairman. He finally handed over the reins in 1991. Les also had time to participate in a Mountaineering and Cultural Expedition to Poland and Slovakia over 2 months in 1965, led by Lord Hunt of Everest fame. Meanwhile, after setting up home in Moulton village in 1967, he was approached by Geoff Crompton with a proposal to start a Youth Group for boys in the village.

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## **THE EARLY DAYS**

During the early part of 1969 Geoff and Les scrounged around for money and equipment to enable them to run the Group. They managed to pick up a much used vaulting box and springboard from Sir John Deane's G.S., a set of parallel bars from Cuddington Youth Club, an old mattress and various other 'bits and bobs'. By now, news of the new Group was out and two others were encouraged to help, Ray Woodrow and Tony Darlington. In addition, two 17 year old lads, stepped forward and asked to be included - Alan Bennett and Andrew Knight. By the end of 1970 Malcolm Fleet, Aden Pimlott and Alan Slack had also swelled the Staff ranks.

So, on an evening in early October 1969, the Moulton Adventure Group opened the Chapel Hall doors to their first nine recruits - and the rest is history. The Group's first home was the Methodist Hall, in Chapel Street.

The Group is now 39 years old and still a source for good in the community. Things have moved on but the basic principles are more or less the same.

During the late '70s and '80s a small number of Staff and parents, led by Harold Mitchell, toiled for seven years to disassemble, transport and erect a two storey building, donated by Messrs L Thomason & Co., from a site at Shell Ltd, Carrington. This fine building, which was acquired by Alan Slack, is now the Groups Headquarters in School Lane, opposite the Primary School and is valued today in excess of £200k.

# **LATER**

In 2002, after 33 years service with the Adventure Group and 15 years with the Boys' Brigade in Widnes and Runcorn, Geoff retired from active voluntary youth work. However, he is still involved with the village having written two books of dedication entitled '34 MEN' and 'ANOTHER DOZEN' to honour the men of Moulton who died in both WW1 and WW2. All proceeds from the sale of these two books are for service charities. Geoff is a member of St. Stephens Church and also Secretary of Moulton Royal British Legion. In 2005 Geoff started to research material for this book. In the same year Geoff was invited back by the Management of the Group to act as Resource Officer (Scrounger) to raise money for equipment and the like. He finally 'threw in the towel' as 2007 came to a close.

Les, who still works hard for the youngsters of Moulton, is currently the Group Treasurer and serves on the Management Committee. Although he is coming to an age when most youth leaders put their feet up, he still enjoys the challenge and wants to carry on giving what he can to the youth of Moulton and the surrounding area for some years to come.



**'Jaws' – The Shark Of Bala Lake**

# THE FOUNDERS



**MOULTON – CIRCA 2000**



# HEADQUARTERS - MOULTON ADVENTURE GROUP



# **CAMP ORGANISATION**

## **SITE SELECTION:**

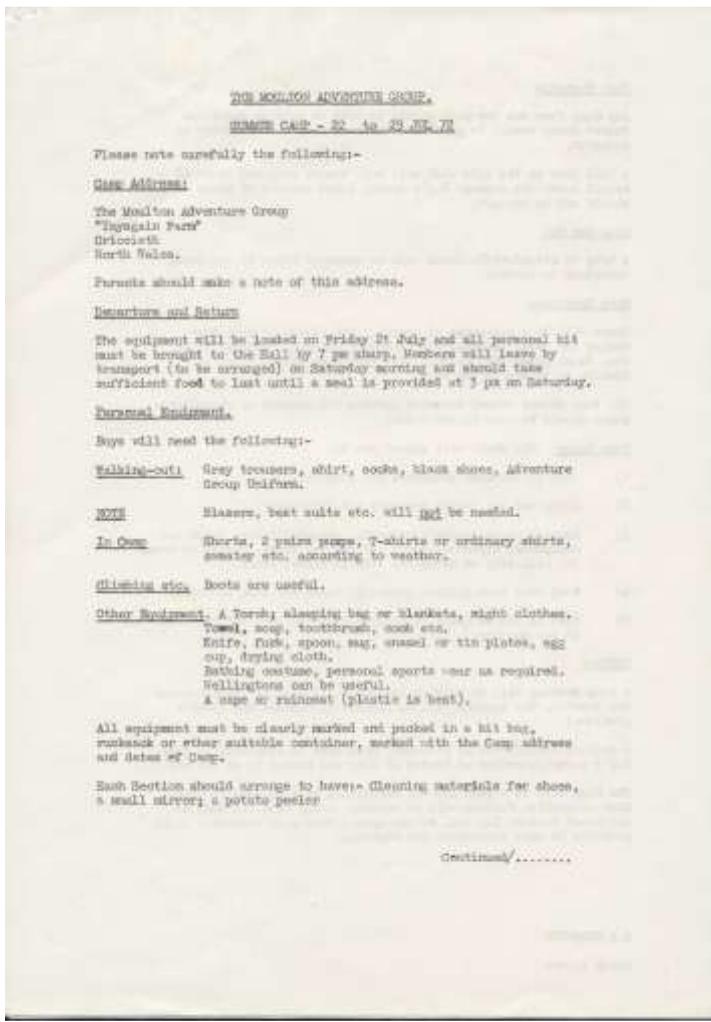
Good planning is an essential ingredient for a good camp with the first requisite – a good site. Time and energy needs to be expended to ensure that the chosen venue is right for the needs of the Group. Usually, this means a day or a weekend away in the months leading up to Christmas. Staff charged with this task will search for a well drained, flat field with room for games. It needs to be close to water for swimming and boating etc, near to hills for walking & climbing and with good vehicle access. It must be near to retail suppliers/medical facilities and last but not least have affordable site charges.

## **PREPARATION**

It will come as no surprise that Staff look forward to and enjoy Camp just as much as the youngsters. An illustration of this occurred one night in January one year when Group Leader, Daryl Mitchell, asked the assembled parade to indicate if they intended to attend the Annual Camp in August. Before the Members could answer, Daryl said ‘You should all quite clearly understand, that whether you go to Camp or not is incidental – the Staff are going!’

Chores prior to Camp include:- compiling and distribution of Camp forms to parents; equipment checking, cleaning and servicing; menus planning; preparation of grocery orders and their collection; tables/benches etc to be borrowed or hired; vehicle to be arranged (Local Hauliers to be persuaded to donate, later Rolls Royce Ltd supplied the vehicle); tent collection; Members and Staff allocated to cars/mini bus/ vehicle; Members allocated to tents; tent Commanders and seconds selected; Camp rules and orders stressed. Over the years, loading the vehicle on Friday evening became a well organised event. Tentage was stowed at the front of the vehicle with robust kit over the base. Fragile gear was then placed on top. A human caterpillar was used to carry the camp gear from the HQ to the vehicle parked up in School Lane. Having loaded the lorry the whole load was tightly secured and made ready for departure early the next day. The kudos of being selected to travel with the driver to camp became a much sort after perk by junior members of Staff.

Departure on the Saturday morning was sometimes a tearful event for some parents but often a very joyous one for others – peace perfect peace – and for a whole week! On arrival at camp the lorry was quickly unloaded to enable the driver to depart the site as soon as possible. Similarly on the last night of camp preparations were made for unwanted gear to be made ready for loading on the vehicle as soon as it arrived on Saturday morning.



### Parental Information (1 of 3)

Camp Payments

Any Camp fees not yet paid should be paid as soon as possible. Pocket money should be paid into the Camp Bank and withdrawn as required.

A Tuck Shop on the site will sell pop, sweets etc. and about £2 should cover the average Boy's needs; large amounts of money should not be brought.

Camp Day Out

A trip to Oriskany/Pulliheli will be arranged later in the week, according to weather.

Camp Programme

There will be a programme of sports, with plenty of free time during the week, together with swimming parades, boating, walks etc. Night games will be held, and also Camp Fires. There is fishing to be had in the sea.

All boys should attend swimming parades for reasons of cleanliness; pumps should be worn in the water.

Camp Rules The Staff will expect you to:

- 1) Join in the Camp programme and competitions.
- 2) Carry out any duties promptly and cheerfully.
- 3) Respect other people's property, especially farm stock and equipment, dry-stone walls and growing crops. Damage to trees et. will stop us using the site in future years.
- 4) Keep away from private property, boats and also caravans.
- 5) Turn in and be quiet at "lights out" and turn out promptly in the morning.

GENERAL

A Camp meeting will be held on Wednesday, 19 July to which Parents are invited. The Leaders will be pleased to discuss any special problems.

A medical certificate is attached. This must be completed by each boy's parent/guardian on Friday 21 July and handed in at the Hall.

The Camp site is a good one and everything will be done to make Camp enjoyable. Parents will be welcome at any time although no organised Parents Day will be arranged - Sunday or Wednesday would probably be most convenient for visiting.

G A CRUMPTON  
Group Leader

THE MULLION ADVENTURE GROUP

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

To be completed on the evening before Camp and handed to Mr G A Crompton.

PARENTS DECLARATION:

1. I certify that my son \_\_\_\_\_ has not suffered from, or been in contact with any infectious disease during the period of three weeks ending today. (See Note).
2. He may take part in swimming/boating/fell walking/rock climbing. (See Note 2).

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian.

NOTE 1.

If you are unable to make this statement, you should inform Mr G A Crompton and consult your Doctor before allowing your boy to Camp.

NOTE 2.

Certain of those activities are open only to Senior boys who are suitably qualified. Please delete those not applicable.

**Parental Information (1 of 3)**

# ARRIVAL ON SITE

By far the most difficult day of Camp is the first. Regardless of the weather, sleeping tents must be erected, marquees hauled up; bogs and pits positioned and dug, gear stowed, flag staff erected and finally a meal prepared. It's a question of all hands to the wheel with no 'shirkers'. For this reason the youngster's tents are always erected last so that they have no place to hide from the graft.

When a group vacates a site and their 'bog' pit is filled in, it is usual to tie a couple of sticks together in the form of a cross to mark the ground as unsafe. One year, the two man team allocated to digging the pit, noticed one such cross stuck in the ground in the corner of the field. Intrigued, and not knowing what the cross represented, they decided to investigate and released the foulest mess and smell imaginable.

On another occasion the team laboured long and hard on the pit, only to discover that the water table in that area of the field was so high that within hours it was full to the brim. They then had the job of having to dig another hole elsewhere.

Of course, despite the mayhem of the first few hours, there is always time for good fun and laughter. Often this takes the form of playing tricks on first time campers. For example the need for a long stand; a rubber mallet to hammer in cracked pegs; brailing rollers; buckets of steam for the steam pudding; sky hooks to erect the Marquee and even pigeons milk from the local Post Office! Most children are gullible enough to fall for this Camp folklore and in their turn revel in playing the same tricks in later years on others.

Myth: The main poles of the marquee must always be aligned in the direction of Criccieth Castle....

# CAMP ROUTINE

If a Camp is to run smoothly it must have a daily routine allowing for some flexibility, but also containing times which are sacrosanct. Daily Inspection is one of these with Breakfast another. Generally, the first person to rise is the Duty Officer at around 06-30. Firstly, he makes a brew for his duty section and then cajoles them into shaking a leg at 06-45. At 07-30 the rest of the Camp is persuaded to see the light of day. Sometimes this can be difficult and requires a degree of coercion. For instance, it is not unknown for the occupants of a reluctant tent to be dragged into the middle of the field, still in their sleeping bags, and threatened with a cold water splash.

To help build team spirit whilst performing their weekly stint on fatigues Staff sometimes encouraged their fatigue teams to adopt a 'theme' dress code. Over the years fatiguer's have dressed as Pirates, Canoeists, and Rock Climbers etc.

Breakfast bacon has, and always will be, a bone of contention at camp. Some like it crisp whilst others prefer it raw and soggy (No guesses as to the writers choice!!). Dependant on who is on duty the bacon is fried to their liking. This usually results in much banter over breakfast between the 'Crispies' and the 'Soggies'.

Tent Commanders are expected to organise their tents to ensure that everything is 'ship shape' in time for Tent Inspection at circa 09-30. Spuds are peeled, ground sheets brushed and washed, brailings rolled, tent pegs and guys checked, litter cleared, kit placed in line outside the tent (inside if wet) with sleeping bags neatly folded and gear stowed in rucksacks etc. Tent Commanders then ensure that everyone has had a wash and is dressed in their uniform top etc. Finally, and just prior to Inspection, the Union and Camp flags are raised at the flag staff.

From the first camp in 1970 and until the beginning of the millennium, it became tradition for the Group to hold a swimming parade at 08.30 hours. There was always a three line whip on this parade with very few excuses accepted! Duty Staff led by example and entered the sea, river or lake waters first, having previously marked the swimming area with safety buoys etc. Some Members required a deal of persuasion to enter the waters. One young lady springs immediately to mind, Andrea Edgerton, who would walk up and down at the waters edge psyching herself up for the ordeal ahead. Her demeanour much resembled a weightlifter confronting the bar before attempting the lift. Eventually Andrea would pluck up sufficient courage to creep slowly into the water until it was just deep enough for her to take her dip. Immediately after she had wet herself all over, she would flee with her towel wrapped around her, as though all the devils in hell were on her heels. The long tradition of the 08.30 morning dip is now, sadly, a thing of the past. As the new millennium got under way a decision was taken to discontinue the custom. It is said that some lady members of Staff, objected so strongly to having a cold dip before breakfast that Daryl Mitchell, the Group Leader, finally succumbed to their pressure –poor dears!

After Swimming Parade, Breakfast and Inspection, Camp Bank opened to allow Members to draw sufficient funds for the day ahead. Tent Inspection involved the awarding of points in four specific areas, 1) Tent and surrounds. 2) Personal cleanliness. 3) Peeled potatoes. 4) Personal equipment. On completion of the Inspection, the Duty Officer presented the camp pennant (made by Mrs Rumble in 1970 and still treasured to this day) to the Tent Commander. During 'on site' days little cash is required, aside from a limited amount for goodies from the tuck shop which opens after dinner in the evening.

Note: The rest of Camp routine can be viewed on the old (1972) programme that follows.



**The Dreaded Bogs – 1986**



**Playtime For Staff**

# CAMP ORDERS

## THE MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE GROUP

### CAMP ORDERS

1972 - Section 7A

| <u>DAILY TIME TABLE</u> | <u>A.M.</u>                                |
|-------------------------|--|
| 6.30                    | Orderly Officer                            |
| 6.45                    | Orderly Section                            |
| 7.30                    | Reveille - wash, tidy tents - prepare kit. |
| 7.45                    | Swimming parade                            |
| 8.30                    | Breakfast                                  |
| 9.30                    | Inspection                                 |
| 10.00                   | Camp bank and tuck shop                    |
| 10.30                   | Camp programme                             |
| 12.00                   | Lunch                                      |
|                         | <u>P.M.</u>                                |
| 1.30                    | Free time - <i>as indicated</i>            |
| 6.00                    | Dinner                                     |
| 7.00                    | Camp programme and Camp Bank               |
| 9.00                    | Supper                                     |
| 10.05                   | Lights out                                 |

#### SWIMMING AND CANOEING

Cyn shoes will be worn at all times for these activities

#### BEST SECTION

A prize for each boy in the best all-round section will be presented at the end of camp.

#### GENERAL PATIENCES

##### Potatoes

Each tent will be responsible for peeling its own potatoes. These will be inspected at 9.30 am each morning and points awarded.

##### POST

Post will be collected at approximately 9.30 each day. The post box is situated in the mess tent.

##### TENT INSPECTION

Tents to be cleared completely - sleeping bags/blankets are to be folded. Knives forks and spoons to be stowed away in kitbag or case. Items such as fishing rods etc. can be stores in the store tent. Wet towels to be folded along side kit.

##### TENT

Surrounding area to be cleared of all litter. When wet inspection will take place in tents.

##### Tent Pops

Not to be driven deeply into ground.

##### SICKNESS

The Section Leader will contact the Duty Officer immediately any illness is reported to him.

##### NOTICE BOARD

All other orders and information will appear on the notice board. Read it regularly.

##### NOTE

Most of our camp equipment is hired. Therefore, treat it with great care for the Group is liable to pay for any damage.

# TYPICAL CAMP PROGRAMME AND POINTS RECORD SHEET

CAMP PROGRAMME - 1972 ECCLESTON

| PERIOD                                    | SUNDAY  | MONDAY                               | TUESDAY                                   | WEDNESDAY              | THURSDAY                              | FRIDAY                               | SATURDAY                |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1<br>AFTERNOON:<br>10-12 AM to<br>12-2 PM | SWIMMING<br><br>TALK OF<br>MOR  | →                                    | →   | →                      | →                                     | →                                    | STRAKE<br>CAMP<br>DAILY |
|   |   | NEW TERMS                            | FOOTBALL                                  | CRICKET                | CRICKET<br>COUNTRY                    | WALL GAME                            |                         |
| 2<br>AFTERNOON<br>1-2 pm to<br>4-5 pm     | STILL v boys<br>&<br>BASEBALL<br><br>KITCHEN<br>SWIMMING<br>CLIMBING<br>BOATING | → do →                               | → do →                                    | - do -                 | → do →                                | → do →                               | → do →                  |
|   |   |                                      |   |                        | EARLY LUNCH<br>DAY OUT<br>MORNING OUT | STILL v boys<br>CRICKET              | FREE<br>TIME            |
| 3<br>EVENING<br>6-7 pm to<br>LIGHTS OUT   | 1/2 hour Songs<br><br>'MORNING'<br>PRAYERS                                      | BASEBALL<br><br>CAMP FIRE<br>PRAYERS | MORNING<br>CAMP<br><br>MORNING<br>PRAYERS | MORNING<br><br>PRAYERS | —<br><br>MORNING<br>PRAYERS           | ATHEISMS<br><br>CAMP FIRE<br>PRAYERS |                         |

# DAILY INSPECTION POINTS RECORD

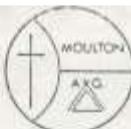


THE MOULTON ADVENTURE GROUP

1980 - CRICKET IN

POINTS RECORD

| DAY                | ACTIVITY   | <i>S. BROWN</i> <i>J. BRYCE</i> |                  |           |
|--------------------|--|---------------------------------|------------------|-----------|
|                    |  | SECTION 1                       | SECTION 2        | SECTION 3 |
| SUNDAY             | Fatigues<br>Hockey<br>Cricket                            | 3½<br>1<br>3                    | 4½<br>3<br>1     |           |
| MONDAY             | Fatigues<br>HARROWS                                      | 3½<br>1                         | 4½<br>3          |           |
| TUESDAY            | Fatigues<br>Football                                     | 3<br>1                          | 3<br>3           |           |
| WEDNESDAY          | Fatigues<br>Hill Trek<br>Valley Race<br>King of the Hill | 3½<br>3<br>1<br>1               | 4<br>1<br>3<br>3 |           |
| THURSDAY           | Fatigues<br>Cross Country                                | 4<br>1                          | 3<br>3½          |           |
| FRIDAY             | Fatigues<br>Bike Race<br>athletics                       | 3½<br>3<br>3                    | 3½<br>1<br>1     |           |
| TOTAL              |  | 39                              | 45               |           |
| + Inspection Marks |  | 84                              | 79               |           |
| GRAND TOTAL        |  | 123                             | 124              |           |



THE MOUTLON ADVENTURE GROUP

SECTION COMPETITION

5 POINTS PER SECTION - POSSIBLE PER DAY 20

1980-CLIFFDEN

| SECTION              |                      | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|
| 1<br>Jim<br>Loughran | Potatoes             | 4½     | 3      | 3½      | 4½        | -        |        |
|                      | Personal Cleanliness | 4½     | 3      | 2½      | 5         | 4        | 4      |
|                      | Personal Equipment   | 4      | 2½     | 3½      | 4         | 4½       | 4½     |
|                      | Tent & Surrounds     | 3½     | 2½     | 4       | 3         | 4½       | 4      |
|                      | Total per day        | 16½    | 11     | 13½     | 16½       | 13       | 12½    |
|                      | Bonus Points         |        |        |         |           | 1        |        |
|                      | Total                |        |        |         |           | 14       |        |
|                      | Total for week       |        |        |         |           |          | 84     |
| 2<br>S. Beech        | Potatoes             | 2½     | 3      | 3½      | 3         | -        |        |
|                      | Personal Cleanliness | 4      | 3      | 3       | 5         | 4½       | 4      |
|                      | Personal Equipment   | 4      | 2      | 3½      | 4         | 4½       | 3½     |
|                      | Tent & Surrounds     | 3½     | 2      | 3½      | 3½        | 4        | 4½     |
|                      | Total per day        | 14     | 10     | 13½     | 15½       | 13       | 12     |
|                      | Bonus points         |        |        |         |           | 1        |        |
|                      | Total                |        |        |         |           | 14       |        |
|                      | Total for week       |        |        |         |           |          | 79     |
|                      | Potatoes             |        |        |         |           |          |        |
|                      | Personal Cleanliness |        |        |         |           |          |        |
|                      | Personal Equipment   |        |        |         |           |          |        |
|                      | Tent & Surrounds     |        |        |         |           |          |        |
|                      | Total per day        |        |        |         |           |          |        |
|                      | Bonus Points         |        |        |         |           |          |        |
|                      | Total                |        |        |         |           |          |        |
|                      | Total for week       |        |        |         |           |          |        |



**The Camp Pennant Awarded After Each Day's Inspection**

# CAMP FIRES

Without doubt, one of the most popular events at camp is the 'Camp Fire'. Traditionally, these take place on Monday and Friday nights at around 9-30 pm. Dead wood is collected on the shore or in the woods. In the days preceding the Camp Fire, Staff feed the imagination of Members by letting slip scary snippets about the ghost story.

Benches are brought from the Marquee and the fire lit, often with the help of a goodly dose of paraffin if the wood is damp. If it is too wet to hold the event in the open then it is switched inside to a darkened Marquee with gas rings and storm lamps providing the only light.

When everyone is settled and the fire burning well the sing-along begins with the ever faithful song 'Camp fires burning', followed by such old favourites as:- 'There's a hole at the bottom of the sea'; 'Lloyd George knows my father'; 'Ging gang goolie'; 'Ten green bottles'; 'Quarter master stores'; 'Green grow the rushes Oh!' and countless others.

Finally and after a jolly good sing along each tent is charged with entertaining the rest of the Camp with their tent item. Some items are exceptional, some not so good. One in particular springs to mind, Raymond Egerton standing behind the camp fire, all kitted up in his 'skin head' gear wearing his bovver boots and singing 'D'ya wanna be in my gang'. After the tent items, comes the turn of the Staff to do their bit. For instance 'Three wheels on my wagon' went down well and this Staff review from the 1995 camp at Coniston, sung to the tune of Cumby yar, was a hoot with everyone:

Come by car to camp, come by car  
-Ditto x 2 –  
Oh Lord, come by car.

Lorry stuck on field, get the tract-or  
Ditto x 2 –  
Chill out Andy, chill out Phil.

Kayley's crying Rache, she wants her Ma.  
Ditto x 2 –  
Oh Kayley shut your face!!

Bog tents flown away, not too far  
S H one T, on the floor  
'Get the spade' said Phil, 'treats in store'  
Lovely toilets, give me more.

Eddies gang of three like their jars  
Better stick to coke, after dark  
If they drink too much, can't play cards  
Stick to Snap, it's not too hard!

Want my Cheerio's, it's not fair  
Don't like sausages, but I want my share  
Give me junk to eat and I'll not care  
Oh Mummy, are you there?

Perfect 20 points for Jimbo's tent.  
Never done before, was heaven sent.  
Flagpole fell to ground, as you'd expect  
We're not worthy, show respect

If you've enjoyed this camp, go by car  
To Snowdonia, not too far  
Make your mind up soon, ask your Pa  
Until then from us, 'Ta - ra'.

The monologues of Stanley Holloway are always popular and who will ever forget 'The Lion and Albert', 'The Battle of Hastings', 'The Runcorn Ferry', or 'Sam Small'. After the Staff contribution, hot cocoa and biscuits are served and spuds incinerated in the ashes of the fire. Finally, the ghost story. Everyone is asked to calm down, to look into the embers of the fire and to let their imagination run riot. Two ghost stories are told at each camp, on the Monday and Friday night. Sometimes they are in two parts, sometimes separate stories. More often than not they involve the field or locality where the Camp is taking place. One night at Criccieth, in the early 90's, Geoff was stuck for an idea for his Ghost story so he decided to repeat the story he had told in 1971 of 'Goronwy the Red'. The story went down well, but on the following morning a little boy approached Geoff and said 'Mr Crompton, that ghost story you told last night wasn't right'. Surprised, Geoff retorted 'What do you mean 'wasn't right', how would you know?' 'Well, said the little boy, my Dad came to camp with the Group many years ago, and he has been telling that story to the family for years!' – Moral for the future, never repeat a ghost story.

Some others that spring to mind are:

The Hand of Miss Bradfield, PC Hugglesthwaite, The Criccieth Ghost Train, The Atomic Rat, Tony Darlington, The Hanging Vicar of Fell Foot, The Tomb of 'Natas' etc.

# CAMP SONG

At the very beginning it was thought that it would be a good idea to perpetuate the memory of Camp by having a 'camp song' and recalling a memorable event from each Camp in verse. It was agreed that a good tune to build the song around would be 'John Brown's Body' and that an introductory verse should first be written. Some memorable verses are:

1) The Moulton Adventure Group was formed in '69..... x 3  
And now it's doing fine.....SUBLIME.

1969. We caught our Jeremy chopping at the trees.....x3  
But he ain't going to chop no more.....ENCORE.

1970. John and Tony swam across Lake Windermere.....x3  
But Chris got stuck halfway.....HURRAY.

1971. Goronwy the Red kept the juniors out of bed.....x3  
And he walks Criccieth castle even now.....KPOW.

1977 We had a ride upon a Duck in 1977.....x3  
But we had to pump it out all the way.....HURRAY.

1982 Richard got his just deserts in 1982.....x3  
When he was covered with cow pooh.....PHEW.

1985 The Red Arrows came and entertained us.....x3  
At Whitby '85.

1997 In 1997 we gave ourselves a shock.....x3  
When we jumped off the Elephant Rock.

1999 We saw the sun eclipse at Anglesey '99.....x3  
When the sun and moon combined.

Note: For a comprehensive list of all of the verses go to the Groups web site at:  
[www.moultonadventuregroup.org](http://www.moultonadventuregroup.org)

# DAYTIME GAMES

Good fun and games are an integral part of Camp. Aside from the usual cricket, football, baseball etc some strange activities have crept into the programme. For instance;-

## 'Dead Ants'

Introduced to Camp by Malcolm Fleet this game involves the selection of a Dead Ant King/Queen for the day. He/she is allowed to shout 'Dead Ants' on three occasions during the day. On hearing this call, all Members, not engaged on fatigues or, on the 'bogs', run from wherever they are to the flag staff, drop onto their backs, and wave there legs in the air, rather like dying ants. The call once went out in the main street of Criccieth and visitors were amazed when 30 to 40 children and adults dropped onto their backs and started to wave their legs in the air.

## 'Scram'

Much the same as the above but this time members have to hide as quickly as they can from the sight of the 'Scram King/Queen'.

The last to arrive at the flag staff or to hide away has to pay a forfeit. This can take the form of running a water gauntlet, being coated in mud or even having sea weed wrapped around them on the beach.



Dead Ants



The Mud Lark After A Dead Ants Forfeit

### **Nurdles'**

A twenty yard cricket style pitch is paced out (15 'giddles' to be exact) with a triangular 'tudge' made up of three large tent pegs hammered into the ground at each end of the pitch. Two opponents then position themselves at each end of the pitch armed with three 'nurd' (wooden mallets). The object is to throw the 'nurd' so that any part of it encroaches into the 'tudge'. If a dispute arises then the 'Tudge' Judge is called to arbitrate with his 'tudge' stick. On occasions an 'Inthlog In' is achieved. This happens when the shaft of the 'nurd' embeds itself into soft ground within the 'tudge'. Conversely an 'Inthlog Out' occurs when the same thing happens outside the 'tudge'. 'Headthlogs' also occur on occasions, but this is rare. If someone inadvertently walks into the playing area then a shout of 'Slung' must ring out.

Daryl Mitchell was once tasked in an English Language class to prepare and deliver a talk. Not being a very keen pupil Daryl did nothing about his project. On the day appointed he was called forward to do his bit. Not having prepared anything he was in a fix and thrashed about in his mind for something to talk about. Suddenly inspiration came; he would talk about the game of 'Nurdles'. This he did and at the end gained the highest mark with 18 out of 20.

### **'Murder Ball'**

A large tent bag is placed at each end of a 50m. square pitch. Two teams are selected and a rugby ball is placed in the middle of the pitch. Each team then stands behind their respective tent bag. When the whistle blows they race forward, try to pick up the ball and place it on their opponents bag at the other end of the field. There are no rules, aside from the obvious i.e. no dirty play. It is much akin to the Eton Wall Game – hence the name of the game – 'Murder Ball'.

### **'Tug of War'**

Needs no explanation.

### **Staff v Members.**

These are generally light hearted games of cricket, baseball etc between Staff and Members. However, there are always exceptions and one springs to mind' a cricket match at Stock Park Mansion, Windermere. The Staff team comprised both Senior and Junior Staff. The Members team was determined that they were going to win at all costs. They even employed their own body-line bowler by the name of Charlie Vernon who attempted, and pretty near succeeded, in maiming some of the Staff. The Staff batted first and in the face of the assault from Charlie scored very few runs until Ray Edgerton reached the crease. See full account of this game under 1975, Windermere.

# NIGHT GAMES

A favourite activity with all those who attend Camp, including Staff, is the night or wall game. Youngsters do like to chase about in the dark and so, these games are often played after cocoa and biscuits.

One of the most popular is the 'armband game'. Two teams are selected. One remains in the Marquee whilst the other is allowed 5 minutes to hide within a designated area. The Members of this team are fitted with plastic arm bands. When the 5 minutes are up, the catching team goes about its business and, whenever they catch an opponent, they snatch off his/her armband. The opponent is now dead and must retire to a prepared square in the middle of the site, lit by a storm lantern at each corner. When both teams have completed their 10 minute run the arm bands are totted up and the winners declared.

## THE CROSS COUNTRY RUN

Dependent on the persons involved, this activity receives a very mixed reception. Some love it whilst others hate it. Some excel to such an extent that they surprise everyone including themselves. Others do the minimum by walking around the course. Nevertheless the Cross Country run is an integral part of Camp. The course is usually less than two miles long over rough paths and sometimes through water. At one point, at Criccieth, the runners are directed around a large rock standing in the shallows and about ten yards from the shore. Staff are posted along the route to point the runners in the right direction. Usually this is a fail safe system but on one occasion it backfired when the leading runner reached a point on the route before the Staff member was in place. Result, the leading runner, Matt Burgess, headed off in the wrong direction and in consequence lost the race. Matt was a very, very angry young man that day and could not be consoled by either his Dad, Les or his younger brother Richard.

## NICKNAMES

Youngsters do like to give each other nicknames. Some that come to mind are: 'Blodwin' (Welsh connection), 'Daz', 'Digger' (Australian connection), 'Sticker', 'Panhead' (Because of his hair style), 'Jez', 'Duckegg', 'Jimbo', 'Muzza', 'Sticklet' (Brother of 'Sticker'), 'Knocker', 'Penguin' and many more.

One member of Staff, Geoff to be precise, always had difficulty in remembering names and would address the youngsters as ‘Egremont’, ‘Rachmaninoff’, ‘Gonzales’, ‘Gladys’, ‘Gemima’, or any other silly name that sprang to mind. Nobody took offence for these names were used with affection and often raised a good laugh.

## **STAFF LEISURE**

By the mid 70’s the Group was flourishing and well respected in the village. It had a waiting list of youngsters and had attracted more Staff who had been waiting for someone to take the lead. The Methodist Chapel Trustees then agreed to an additional night each week. Tuesday night remained as Parade Night with a Club Night one night of the week (Table Tennis, Darts and board games etc) and a Judo Night the following week. Alan Slack took charge of the Club Night and Bob Brown the Judo Night. This effectively meant that some Staff saw little of each other over the year. The solution, a Staff meal, and what better place to have it than at Camp when most of the Staff would be together anyway?

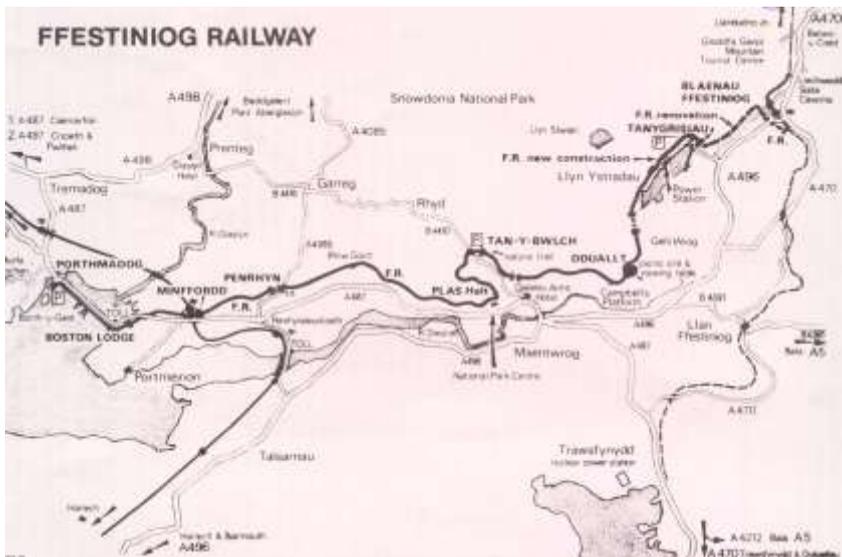
A good idea in theory, but regrettably, impossible to achieve, for it meant that at least two members of Staff would have to stay on site whilst the others retired to the local hostelry. Plan ‘B’ was then proposed and adopted. If Mohamed can’t go to the mountain then the mountain would have to come to Mohamed i.e. a formal meal on camp. This required a degree of planning and also the cooperation of the youngsters who were asked for one night in the week, to retire early at 9:00 pm and to be quiet in their tents. Preparations for the meal started on the Thursday morning with a discussion on the menu. In the early days this invariably came down to a starter, steak and chips and a sweet followed by cheese and biscuits. Some wine was provided but regrettably, the Duty Officers had to be persuaded to have just a sip. The Marquee was cleared after the youngsters had gone to bed and a large table placed in the centre. This was covered with a white cloth, napkins and candelabra. Staff were expected, to attend in full Adventure Group Uniform. This grand affair continues, to an extent, to this day. However, nothing stands still and there have been some changes and additions along the way. For instance, Daryl Mitchell sometimes cooks his now famous Chilli Con Carne and at other times, a local takeaway, of some ilk, will receive the order for the night. Whatever is decided, it is always an enjoyable night with toasts to The Group, The Queen and peppered with liberal quantities of good humour.

After the meal and this is repeated on most nights at camp when the youngsters are settled in their tents, games of some description are organised. Over the years this has taken the form of Canasta, Solo, Bridge, Cribbage, Trivial Pursuits, Monopoly and many more. Indeed, it is not unknown, whilst playing Trivial Pursuits, for some Staff still to be in the Marquee at 3 –to 4 am in the morning.

No secret is made to the youngsters that Thursday night is a time for the Staff and a little reward for all their hard work over the year. They are also told that the Staff will have a drink but that this does not mean that they will be 'getting tipsy' or having more than two or three glasses of wine with their meal. Staff feel that it is no bad thing to show youngsters that responsible drinking is acceptable.

## DAY OUT

After Inspection on the Thursday morning a packed meal is prepared in readiness for the camp Day Out. Everyone assembles in the marquee spruced up in their MAG uniforms and ready for the Camp Photograph. After all the arguments about where to take it, who to stand/sit by are sorted out it usually falls to Phil to use his time lapse camera to do the deed. Having set the camera Phil races back to his spot, everyone smiles, and after about three or four tries, for there is always some nurd who wants to make a gesture or pull a face, the job is done. It's then into the transport and off to the chosen location to buy presents for family and friends back home. Some Staff are allocated to escort small groups of youngsters around the town/resort whilst others are charged with buying prizes for presentation at the Camp fire on the final night.



The Ffestiniog Railway

# FOOD, FADS & ALLERGIES

Camp food is not all Bangers and Mash or Burgers and Beans. With limited equipment at their disposal Staff do attempt to provide a healthy, balanced diet catering for all tastes. Meals such as Braised Steak and Onions, Stew (Scouse!) and as mentioned earlier, Chilli Con carne can often be found on the menu.

However, there is an old saying by John Lydgate: ‘You can please some of the people all of the time and all of the people some of the time but you can’t please all of the people all of the time’ and so it is at Camp. Two examples illustrate this; 1) in the early 70’s a young boy arrived at Camp with his own personal supply of ‘Ready Brek’ and this was all he would eat – morning, noon and night! Despite this diet he was a fit and active youngster who grew into a healthy adult. 2) One lovely young lady in the mid 80’s was allergic to dairy products. Despite the difficulties involved, Staff were able to cater for her dietary needs.

It often amused Staff when youngsters came to the serving table for their first meal. The inevitable ‘I don’t like that’ came from the occasional little boy/girl. Geoff’s answer was always ‘OK, pass on then’. This response was not quite the answer they expected for some were used to being spoiled at home. True to say, they quickly learned and by the Monday of camp week were eating most of what was put in front of them. There was, however, in the early days, some items on the menu which were a definite mistake. Two that spring to mind are Kippers and Braised Liver and Onions (not on the same plate of course!). Now, although the Staff loved both of these meals most youngsters hated them and so, after having had to finish off 75% of the Kippers one year, they and the Liver were consigned to history.

Staff had a huge stroke of good fortune one year at Llyn Cwellyn, when the old farmer appeared at the cookhouse door with a bucket of freshly picked mushrooms. These were reserved for consumption by ‘Staff only’. It would have been highly irresponsible to risk youngsters eating a rogue toadstool, or at least that’s what we told them anyway!



**On Top Of Tryfan**

# CAMP MENU SHEETS FOR 1973 & 1999

| 4000<br>****                        |   | THE NEW YORK STATE MILITARY  |  |  |   |  |                           | ARTHUR, NY 11931 |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|--|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1973 - MONROE                       |   |  |  |  |   |  |                           |                  |
| SATURDAY                            | SUNDAY  | MONDAY   | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY                                    | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY                  |                  |
|                                     | CORN FLAKES (ALL BRAN)  | CORN FLAKES (ALL BRAN)   | CORN FLAKES (ALL BRAN)                             | CORN FLAKES (ALL BRAN)                                 | CORN FLAKES (ALL BRAN)                      | CORN FLAKES (ALL BRAN)   | CORN F ALL                |                  |
| <u>BREAKFAST</u>                    | BACON   | BACON  | BACON  | BACON  | BACON                                       | BACON  | BACON                     |                  |
|                                     | BREAD AND BUTTER  | BREAD AND BUTTER   | BREAD AND BUTTER                                   | BREAD AND BUTTER                                       | BREAD AND BUTTER                            | BREAD AND BUTTER   | BREAD BUTTER              |                  |
|                                     | JAM<br>TEA  | JAM<br>TEA   | JAM<br>TEA   | JAM<br>TEA   | JAM<br>TEA                                  | JAM<br>TEA   | JAM<br>TEA                |                  |
| <u>LUNCH</u>                        | SALAD<br>LUNCHEON<br>MEAT, BOILED<br>EGG, TOMATOES<br>LATTUCE<br>ONIONS | SARGAGE AND<br>TOMATOES<br>BREAD AND<br>BUTTER   | BOIL IN THE<br>BAG KIPPERS<br>BREAD AND<br>BUTTER  | HOT MEAT<br>PIE<br>BREAD AND<br>BUTTER                 | SARGAGE AND<br>BEANS<br>BREAD AND<br>BUTTER | SOUP<br>BOILED EGGS<br>BREAD AND<br>BUTTER                               | MEAT P<br>BREAD<br>BUTTER |                  |
| TEA<br>FRUIT AND<br>CREAM           | TEA<br>FRUIT AND<br>CREAM   | TEA<br>INSTANT<br>WHIP   | TEA<br>SHRUBBARD AND<br>CUSTARD                    | TEA<br>STEAK APPLE<br>AND CUSTARD                      | TEA<br>FRUIT AND<br>CREAM                   | TEA<br>INSTANT<br>WHIP   | TEA<br>FRUIT<br>CREAM     |                  |
| <u>DINNER</u>                       | BRAISED CHOPS<br>POTATOES<br>GREASE<br>ROAST<br>POTATOES                | SCOUSE<br>CORNED BEEF<br>ONIONS<br>POTATOES<br>CARROTS                                     | BRAISED LIVER<br>AND ONIONS<br>POTATOES<br>CABBAGE | SCOUSE<br>CORNED BEEF<br>ONIONS<br>POTATOES<br>CARROTS |   | FISH<br>FINGERS<br>POTATOES<br>PEAS                                      |                           |                  |
|                                     | SWISS ROLL<br>AND CUSTARD   | RICE   | STEAMED<br>PUDDING AND<br>CUSTARD                  | RICE   |   | SWISS ROLL<br>AND CUSTARD  |                           |                  |
| <u>SUPPER</u><br>COOK &<br>BISCUITS | COOK AND<br>BISCUITS  | COOK AND<br>BISCUITS   | COOK AND<br>BISCUITS                               | COOK AND<br>BISCUITS                                   | COOK AND<br>BISCUITS                        | COOK AND<br>BISCUITS   |                           |                  |
| <u>DELIVERY LIST</u>                |   |  |  |  |   |  |                           |                  |
| <u>MEAT</u>                         | -   | 40 SAUSAGES  | LIVER FOR 20                                       | 20 MEAT<br>PIES.<br>40 SAUSAGES                        | -   | 20 MEAT<br>PIES  | -                         |                  |
| <u>GROCER</u>                       |   | 5lbs BACON<br>(2 seals)<br>6 SLICED<br>LOAVES. 225<br>PACKETS OF<br>NOIL IN BAG<br>KIPPERS |  | 5lbs BACON<br>(2 seals)<br>6 SLICED<br>LOAVES          | 6 SLICED<br>LOAVES                          | 40 FISH<br>FINGERS<br>1lbs FROZEN<br>PEAS<br>6 SWISS ROLLS<br>1lbs BACON |                           |                  |

## The Moulton Adventure Group Menu

|               | Saturday | Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday                                | Friday  | Saturday   |
|---------------|----------|---|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| Breakfast     |          | Hot Cakes<br>Banana<br>B&B Jars<br>Tea  | Cornflakes<br>Alfalfa<br>Banana<br>B&B Jars<br>Tea | Waffles<br>Bananas<br>B&B Jars<br>Tea               | Cornflakes<br>Alfalfa<br>Banana<br>B&B Jars<br>Tea                     | Bread<br>Banana<br>B&B Jars<br>Tea      | Cornflakes<br>Alfalfa<br>Banana<br>B&B Jars<br>Tea                                    | Cornflakes<br>Alfalfa<br>Banana<br>B&B Jars<br>Tea |
| Lunch         |          | Soup (B&B)<br>Peanut<br>Bacon Ball<br>Cornball<br>Cantaloupe<br>Apples<br>Tea | Soup (B&B)<br>Hot Dogs<br>Onions<br>Apples<br>Tea  | Soup (B&B)<br>Banana<br>Baps<br>Apples<br>Tea       | Soup (B&B)<br>Pork Fingers<br>Baps<br>Apples<br>Tea                    | Soup (B&B)<br>Banana<br>Apples<br>Tea   | Soup (B&B)<br>Baked Potatoes<br>Pillows/beans/<br>chocolate/raisins/<br>Apples<br>Tea | Chips<br>Biscuits<br>Pop                           |
| Dinner        |          | Grilled Cheese<br>Tossed Yucca<br>Roast Potatoes<br>Boiled Potatoes           | Spaghetti<br>Potatoes<br>Onions                    | Stew<br>Onions, carrots,<br>Sweet Peas,<br>Beetroot | B-B-O<br>Baked Potatoes<br>Filling<br>Burger & Top<br>Sauces<br>Onions | Beef Burgers<br>Onions<br>Baps<br>Beans | Beef Cakes<br>Boiled Potatoes<br>Pasta  |  |
| Supper        |          | Fruit & Cream<br>Cocoa & Biscuits   | Fruit & Cream<br>Cocoa & Biscuits                  | Fruit & Cream<br>Cocoa & Biscuits                   | Fruit & Cream<br>Cocoa & Biscuits                                      | Cocoa & Biscuits                        | Beans, Peas &<br>Cantaloupe   |  |
| Shipping List |          |   | Fruit Cakes<br>The Finger Rolls                    | The Finger Rolls<br>The Daps                        | The Finger Rolls<br>The Daps   | Prizes                                  | Cocoa & Biscuits<br>Cocoa & Biscuits  |  |

GIS people!

June 2017

# THE MARCH OF TIME

Little in today's world stands still and the Camp experience is no exception. From the very first the Group had little option but to hire tentage from a Liverpool company – J C Bradfield Ltd. This company provided most of the equipment, including Bell Tents and Marquees until the 90's. As the Group became more affluent and grant applications more successful, the need to hire equipment gradually diminished. Firstly, the Group purchased a number of large ridge tents followed by a large marquee and recently, a second marquee for cooking and food storage. With the demise of the need to hire equipment, the use of Bell Tents became a thing of the past. A sorry end to what, in some people's minds, is the best accommodation tent around. It can still be seen in large numbers whenever TV News reports the problems of refugees and homeless people throughout the world. The Bell Tent allowed everyone to stand upright and to lay claim to his/her defined sleeping area. It was also the best inclement weather tent around, the wind being unable to find a flat surface to attack – sad, but that's the march of time.

Another casualty of modern times is the 'Tilley' lamp and to an extent the storm lantern. The purchase of a generator in the 90's allowed both the Marquee and Cookhouse to be well lit in the evenings and for the chore of lighting and servicing the lamps every night to be diminished. However, paraffin storm lanterns are still used around the Camp overnight and are still serviced every evening. Later, when funds were available, the generator allowed for the purchase of a box freezer. This was filled with meat, bacon etc from local Mid Cheshire suppliers during the week before camp. Huge savings over the prices charged by retail outlets in the holiday towns were achieved and BBQ food became a regular feature of the menu, usually on Thursday evening, after the day out.

A canoe trailer was purchased, thus saving an awful lot of manhandling of canoes. Over the years the Group enjoyed the use of two mini buses – 'Maggie' and 'Maggie Too'. These are now well gone and the Group now uses mini buses borrowed/hired from local schools.



**Returning From A Walk Along The Cliffs**

# GROUP MINI BUSES



Maggie (Old Ambulance)



Maggie 'Too'

# 1970

## LAKE WINDERMERE

As this was the first camp of the newly formed Moulton Adventure Group, camping experience was very limited. In fact only Geoff and Les had attended group camps in the past. To make life more difficult the rain teemed down on Saturday and spitefully kept going for most of the week.

As the Group was just 10 months old and very low on funds, camping equipment was basic. The Dining Tent and Cookhouse comprised large fly sheets. The stove was made by courtesy of the Engineering Section at ICI Lostock Works – as also was the flag staff! Cooking utensils came from the same source, but this time from the defunct Industrial Civil Defence Section. Messrs Harris Road Services kindly donated a vehicle to transport the equipment to camp with members travelling by car.

Note: As the camp files for 1970 and 1971 have been mislaid statistics such as dates, costs, members attending, precise tentage details etc are missing or at best, questionable.

### **Site Details:**

Fell Foot, Newby Bridge, Windermere.

This is a National Trust site, not more than 20 yards from the lake and more or less opposite to the Lake Side Steamer terminal. The site is close to a boat house and small marina. It is well drained, flat and surrounded by trees and bushes. An idyllic camp site.

**Dates:** August 1970

**Numbers:** Staff: 5 Members: 14

**Tentage:** 4 small Ridge tents plus a miscellany of Staff and Store tents. transport donated by a local Haulage Company

### **Tent Commanders:**

(1) W Mitchell (2) R Egerton (3) J Bancroft (4) A Kenyon.

### **Camp Song Verses:**

We caught our Jeremy chopping at the trees x 3.

But he ain't gonna chop no more...ore...ore.

(Jeremy Simpson)

John and Tony swam across Lake Windermere x 3

But Chris got stuck halfway – Hurray!

(John Bancroft, Tony Kenyon, Chris Williams)

**Ghost Story:** The Hanging Vicar of Newby Bridge.

## **Anecdotes:**

Maybe because this was the first full week's camp of the Group, memories are still sharp and there are numerous tales to recount.

### **1) The Good Samaritan:**

A number of cars transported the youngsters and Staff to The Lakes. One of the cars was driven by Mr. Williams, a parent and another by Alan (Bert) Bennett, a Junior Member of Staff. Bert's car was a bit of an old banger and when both cars were spotted on the hard shoulder of the M6 it was assumed that Bert's car had broken down and that Mr Williams was offering assistance – WRONG! It was the spanking new car belonging to Mr Williams that had come to grief and Bert was playing the Good Samaritan.

### **2) Breakfast (a):**

On the Sunday morning it was all hands to the wheel with breakfast to be cooked, tents to be made ready for inspection and camp to be put into ship shape order after a very wet night. Aden Pimlott, a member of staff, was helping to prepare breakfast and was asked by Geoff to get the corn flakes ready. Five minutes later Geoff looked in on the cookhouse to see how things were progressing and was speechless when he saw that Aden had mixed two packets of corn flakes with the milk and sugar and was stirring the whole lot into a thick porridge.

### **3) Breakfast (b):**

One of the lads on fatigues that first morning was Wayne Mitchell. He was given the job of frying the eggs. His mum, Mary Mitchell, must have done all the cooking in the Mitchell household for Wayne managed to break at least 80% of the eggs. A quick decision was required and so 'fried' quickly became 'scrambled' on the menu sheet.

### **4) A Just Punishment:**

On the Monday preparations began for the camp-fire that evening. Lads were sent off into the woods to collect any 'dead wood' lying on the ground. On no account, they were told, should they cut green branches from the trees.

This instruction fell on the deaf ears of Jeremy (Jez) Simpson, for when next seen, he was trying to fell quite a large fir tree with his axe He was reported, reprimanded and given the dreaded 'bogs' (toilets) as punishment. Next day when the 'bogs' were nicely full and ripe, Jeremy was detailed to empty them. He trudged over the field in his shorts and oversized 'wellies' and was next seen struggling with a very heavy bucket towards the 'pit'. At about mid point in his journey he caught his toe on the ground and the liquid mush slopped from side to side, with the result that a goodly quantity found its way over the edge of the bucket and into Jeremy's Wellington boot. A quick paddle in the lake soon

cleaned him up but he was not best pleased when his pals pulled his leg, the none smelly one that was!

### **5) Maggots:**

Before setting off for camp the lads were advised that there was some good fishing to be had in the lake and that, if they could, they should bring along their fishing gear.

On the Tuesday morning quite a number of the boys could be found (in the rain) fishing on the lake shore. At noon the shout went up that lunch was about to be served. Now, the mention of food to boys of 12 or so is something they are incapable of ignoring. They came galloping up the slope at a great rate of knots, threw down their fishing gear and lined up in front of their tents. Traditionally the first tent to be ready with eating irons and plates etc is the one selected to be served first.

After the meal the lads washed their plates etc and went back to their tents to stow away their 'irons'. Within a minute a howl of distress went up and one of the lads came running over to the Staff to ask them to take a look at his tent. What they saw was a sight to give the keenest fisherman nightmares. Michael Mitchell, on reaching his tent after hearing the lunch call, had thrown his gear into the tent. Unbeknown to him the lid of his maggot jar had detached with the result that the whole contents of the jar were freed and crawling all over the tent from floor to roof. To make matters worse the tent was sky blue in colour which made a lovely contrast to the shiny white of the maggots! Michael had quite a job collecting his little charges and replacing them in his jar.

### **6) Full Of Good Intentions:**

By Wednesday, because of the incessant rain and despite our best efforts to keep dry, everybody had a selection of wet clothing. Aside from the stove in the cookhouse there wasn't a source of heat on camp capable of drying the wet gear. However, Alan (Bert) Bennett came up with a brilliant idea. "Why don't I load the wet kit into my car, take it to the local launderette in Bowness, and dry it out?" - he said. "What a great idea" we all said, "Off you go Bert". Regrettably, on the way to Bowness, Bert was inspired for a second time that day. 'While I'm at it I might as well wash the clothes as well' he said to himself. Now, not knowing anything about the effect of very hot water on woollen sweaters or indeed the colour fastness of the garments in the bags, he carried on with his master plan.

The result: bags of clean "GREY" washing, including men's sweaters that would not fit even one of the younger boys. As an example, Geoff's bob hat came back the size of an orange. Bert was not best popular for a while and was advised to steer clear of parents on his return home. And to cap it all, Bert managed to hit a wall on his return journey to the site!

### **7) The Fishermen Of England:**

Jeremy (Jez) Simpson was a young fisherman well schooled in the art of fishing in the local Mid-Cheshire waters. He was also a very adaptable boy, and when one of the lads, Carl Lewis, who had every conceivable bit of fishing gear, failed day after day to catch anything in the lake, Jeremy decided to give him a lesson in the fine art of angling. Next morning, when Carl, kitted up in his fisherman's leggings, was standing up to his thighs just off shore, Jeremy decided that it was time for a little tutorial.

He approached the Duty Officer in the cookhouse and asked if he could have a large jam jar. As it happened, a large marmalade jar had been discarded that very morning and this was rooted out from the rubbish bin.

Jeremy washed it out, tied a long length of string around the neck and placed some bread in the bottom. He then approached Carl, still standing up to his armpits in water, and nonchalantly threw his jam jar into the lake. He waited a few minutes and then snatched it out to find three or four small fish feeding on his bait. Carl was not a happy bunny but recognised that in Jeremy, he had met a fisherman of some skill.

### **8) A Sting In The Tail:**

Sometime during the start of the week a game of baseball was organized. A ball was pitched at the batsman who smashed it high and long into a clump of rhododendron bushes. Ray Egerton, who was on the fielding side, went to retrieve the ball. Seconds later he emerged from the bushes, shouting in agony and surrounded by a stinging swarm of wasps. The wasps were quickly dispersed and Ray was taken in great distress to the First Aid tent where the wasp stings, covering his face, arms and legs, were removed. Ray quickly recovered his composure and was back to his normal self in a very short time.

Note: This was the only time I ever saw Raymond cry. GAC.

### **9) A Very Tasty Drink?:**

On the Tuesday morning when each tent was scurrying round getting ready for the daily inspection an event occurred that only came to light recently. During the previous evening, Michael Mitchell, who had retired to his sleeping bag in a somewhat nervous state after having heard the ghost story about the Hanging Vicar of Newby Bridge, needed to answer the call of nature during the early hours. Being too scared to go to the 'bogs' in the dark by himself, he unzipped the tent door, poked out his 'widget' and relieved himself on the grass in front of the tent, or so he thought.

Next morning, when all was hustle and bustle in the tent, someone noticed a puddle on the groundsheet by the door. On its side, close by, was a bottle of Cream Soda pop. Someone remarked that the bottle must have leaked during the night. As the pop belonged to Chris (Blodwin) Williams, he dipped his fingers into the puddle and tasted the liquid 'No, it's definitely not Cream Soda' he said!



**Boat Houses And Marina At Fell Foot**



**Fell Foot Site**

**THE FIRST FOUR TENT COMMANDERS – WINDERMERE 1970**



**Staff:** Alan Bennett; Les Burgess; Geoff Crompton; Mark Knight; Aden Pimlott.

**Members:** J. Bancroft; A. Davies; C. Lewis (Christie); R. Egerton; A. Hassel; I. Kennerley;  
A. Kenyon; M. Mitchell; W. Mitchell; A. Preen; S. Preen; P. Rowlinson; J. Simpson; C. Williams.

# 1971

## CRICCIETH

### **Site Details:**

Ynysgain Faur Farm – middle or ‘rock’ field. Farmer: Mr. Hughes. Site cost £12.00 per week.

Good, flat, well drained site - circa. 100 yards from the shore; sandy spots from which to swim fish and boat; interesting rock pools abound.

Note: As the camp files for 1970 and 1971 have been mislaid statistics such as dates, costs, members attending, precise tentage details etc are missing or at best, questionable

**Dates:** August 1971

**Numbers:** Staff: 4 Members: 17

**Tentage:** Three Bell Tents; one 22’ x 15’ Marquee; one 12’ x 12’ Cookhouse, plus a miscellany of Staff and Store Tents. Quoted hire charges from J. C. Bradfield £22.00; transport donated by a local Haulage Company.

### **Tent Commanders:**

(1) J Bancroft (2) A Kenyon (3) R Egerton

### **Camp Song Verse:**

Goronwy the Red kept the juniors out of bed x 3.  
And he walks Criccieth Castle even now – KPOW.

**Ghost Story:** Goronwy the Red.

### **Anecdotes:**

#### **1) A False Accusation:**

After swimming parade one day, a little boy approached a Member of Staff and said that his watch had been stolen. He was upset and said that the watch had vanished from his tent, where he had left it before going on swimming parade. The Staff, concerned that there might be a thief amongst the boys, conducted an investigation.

On questioning a number of the lads it became clear that the accuser had not left the watch in his tent, but had been seen taking it off and placing it on a rock on the beach before his swim.

## **2) An Expert In Our Midst:**

One evening later on in the week, everybody at Camp was on the beach enjoying numerous activities. Suddenly, the sea in the shallows came alive due to some violent agitation beneath the surface. Immediately, Jeremy (Jez) Simpson asked if he could return to Camp and scampered off as quickly as his young legs would carry him. Within minutes he returned with his fishing rod and quickly bated his hook with silver paper. He then cast his line into the shivering waters and proceeded to pull mackerel after mackerel from the maelstrom. These were cooked and enjoyed later by Jeremy and his pals.

Note: The phenomenon of the mackerel run is well known to fishermen. When it's feeding time for a shoal of predatory mackerel they often chase minnows or bate fish towards the shore. Having trapped the small fish in the shallows, they gorge themselves in a frenzy of catching and eating, thus creating great turbulence on the surface of the sea. Jeremy knew this and acted swiftly to provide fish for his supper. As mentioned in a previous anecdote Jeremy was some fisherman, even as a very young lad.

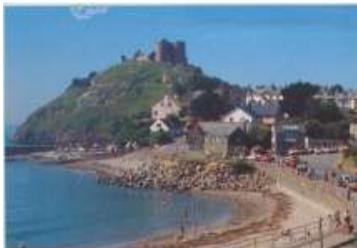
## **3) A Watery Grave:**

Sometime in the summer of 1970 the Staff decided to buy a 'Wensum' dinghy in kit form. Harold Mitchell, father of Wayne, Michael and Daryl, who was a very accomplished Joiner, said that he would put the boat together in time for camp in 1971. Well, due to work commitments, the boat was nowhere near completion by April 1971.

Enter Andy Royle, Malc Fleet and Phil Ashton - stage right. They said that they would take the job in hand and this they did. By August the boat was finished but untested. It was duly loaded onto the camp lorry and transported to Criccieth.

On launching the boat, they found to their horror that the dinghy leaked like a sieve. After extensive corking the boat was refloated, but when Andy, Malc & Phil rowed the boat a bit too close to the rocks, they were caught by a largish wave and smashed onto a jagged rock which caved in the bottom.

Sadly, the dinghy never saw Moulton again, for it was given a 'sailors farewell' and sunk in Criccieth bay.



**Criccieth Castle**



**Tent 1**



**Tent 2**



**Tent 3**



1971 - CRICCIETH

**Staff:** Alan Bennett; Les Burgess; Geoff Crompton; Andrew Knight.

**Members:** P. Ashton; J. Bancroft; A. Davies; R. Egerton; K. Fletcher; I. Kennedy;

A. Kenyon; C. Lewis (Christie); M. Mitchell; W. Mitchell; A. Preen; S. Preen, P. Rowlinson; A. Royle; L. Savage;  
J. Simpson; C. Williams.

# 1972

## CRICCIETH

### **Site Details:**

Ynysgain Faur Farm – middle or ‘rock’ field. Farmer: Mr. Hughes. Site cost £12.00 per week.

Good, flat, well drained site - circa. 100 yards from the shore; sandy spots from which to swim fish and boat; interesting rock pools abound.

**Dates:** 22<sup>nd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> July.

**Numbers:** Staff: 3 Members: 19 + 1 Child

**Tentage:** Four Bell Tents; one 22’ x 15’ Marquee; one 18’ x 12’ Cookhouse, plus a miscellany of Staff and Store Tents. Total hire charges by J. C. Bradfield £46.50; transport donated by a local Haulage Company.

### **Camp Song Verse:**

We covered our small Marquee with lovely creamy rice x 3.  
But it still tasted very, very nice – SURPRISE.

**Ghost Story:** The Hunchback of Ynysgain.

### **Anecdotes:**

#### **1) Rice Pudding For All:**

One day Alan (Bert) Bennett was on cookhouse duty. On the menu was Rice Pudding, and in readiness for this, two large catering tins had been bought in Northwich prior to Camp. About an hour before the meal was due to be served Bert placed the tins on the stove in a ‘Dixie’ filled with boiling water. However, Bert had never been told that he should puncture the tins first! Result, after about half an hour – a large bang and creamy rice all over the cookhouse.

#### **2) ‘Scrumpy Jack’:**

Towards the end of the week some of the older boys took themselves off into Criccieth for the afternoon. On their return it was noticed that Raymond Egerton was not with them. On asking where Raymond was, Geoff was told that he was on the beach and slightly tipsy on the contents of a flagon of cider. He had last been seen, in King Canute style, ordering the

sea to retreat – it must have been ‘Scumpy’ cider. Ray was quickly escorted back to Camp and had the “Bogs” to contend with the next day for his pains.



**Criccieth Castle**



**The Rolled Up Brailings Of The Bell Tents**

**1972 - CRICCIETH**



**Staff:** Alan Bennett; Geoff Crompton; Andrew Knight.

**Members:** P. Ashton; J. Bancroft; A. Davies; A. Davies; R. Egerton; A. Hough; K. Fletcher; I. Kennedy; A. Kenyon; C. Lewis (Christie); M. Mitchell; W. Mitchell; A. Preen; S. Preen; P. Rowlinson; A. Royle; J. Simpson; C. Vernon; C. Williams + Gill Crompton.

# 1972

## SENIOR CAMP IN THE LAKE DISTRICT

**Description of Camp:** Youth Hostelling in the Lakes.

**Dates:** Whitsun holidays.

**Accommodation:** Ambleside YHA (6 days). Elterwater YHA (1 day)

**Numbers:** Staff: 3 Members: 6

**Staff:** Les Burgess; Dave Riley (part time) Dr. Tony Banaghan (part time)

**Members:** Phil Ashton; John Bancroft; Ray Egerton, Tony Kenyon;  
Andrew & Simon Preen.

**Activities:** Hill walking, climbing, canoeing and swimming.

### **Anecdotes:**

#### 1) **What A Lot Of Bull:**

Whilst traversing the Fairfield Horseshoe at Rydal one day, the Group were confronted and chased by a herd of bulls. '**Gore** Blimy' said one of the lads.

#### 2) **Young Love:**

On one of the free days one young man, Ray Egerton, lost his heart to a girl from Fleetwood. After camp he visited her once or twice but their young love did not stand the test of time.

#### 3) **Rave Up:**

On the Tuesday night at the Elterwater Youth Hostel the gang held an impromptu disco. When it became rather noisy, the Warden threatened to evict them if they didn't keep quiet.



**Ray Egerton 'Do you wanna be in my gang?'**



**Morning Dip – Senior Camp - 1972**

# 1973

## LAKE WINDERMERE

**Site Details:** Stock Park Mansion, Newby Bridge, Nr. Ulverston. Site cost £25.00 per week.

Narrow, flat field surrounded by trees on three sides and 10 yards from the Lake.  
Excellent site.

**Dates:** 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> August

**Numbers:** Staff: 4 Members: 15 + 1 child.

**Tentage:** Two Bell Tents; one 22 x 15 Marquee; plus a miscellany of Staff and Store Tents. Total hire charges by J. C. Bradfield £16.20; transport donated by a local Haulage Company.

### **Camp Song Verse:**

Michael Mitchell nearly drowned in Windermere x 3.  
But we managed to pull him clear – CHEER.

### **.Anecdotes:**

#### **1) Underwater:**

One of the original nine lads, who joined the Group on that first night in October 1969, was John Bancroft. By 1973 John was well into his teens and a keen Scuba Diver. John asked permission to take his scuba gear to camp and this was agreed. Being a keen swimmer himself, Geoff was intrigued by the kit John had brought and asked if he could 'have a go'. John showed him the basics and Geoff went down to a depth of about 15 feet for about 30 minutes. To be on the safe side and to show John where he was at any one time, Geoff inflated a balloon, tied one end of a length of string to the balloon and the other end to his foot. The balloon, floating on the surface, showed John just where Geoff was in the event of a problem - there wasn't one however. Geoff very much enjoyed viewing the eels on the lake bottom.

#### **2) Girl Power:**

One evening, some of the lads asked if they could be taken out in 'Poly' (our small polystyrene rowing boat) to fish in the lake. Gill, Geoff's daughter, who was eight at the time, asked her dad if she could go fishing too. The problem was finding a fishing rod. As there were no spares available Geoff rooted out a sea line and bated the hook. Having reached a suitable spot, the lads cast their lines and waited for a bite.

They were a little ‘miffed’ when after a couple of hours they had caught nothing and decided to call it a day. Gill, on pulling up her line, found to her joy that she had something big on the end. It turned out to be a large eel which was landed and placed in the fire bucket for all to see.

### **3) Summary Justice:**

One day whilst in the marquee an argument started between Simon Preen and Bert Bennett, a Junior Member of Staff. It got quite heated and Simon started to use some rather choice language in front of the younger boys. Bert told Simon to be quiet, but Simon wouldn't, with the result that Bert leapt over a table and knocked Simon to the ground. Not an action the Senior Staff would have recommended, but as none were present at the time, nothing could be done or said to stop it. Simon, his dignity badly bruised, to say nothing of his chin retired to his tent, where he packed his bags and said that he was going home. After about an hour he sheepishly returned, unpacked his gear and soon forgot about the incident.

### **4) Finders Keepers:**

Whilst walking along the lake shore one day, one of the boys spotted some unattended fishing gear. The lad looked around to make sure that nobody was about and pocketed an expensive reel. Later that night a Scout Master, who's Troop was camping nearby, visited the Camp and said that a reel had been stolen and that he suspected one of our boys. Geoff told him that the Staff would question the Group. This was done it then came to light that the culprit was indeed one of our lads. The reel recovered, Geoff had the embarrassing task of returning it to the Scouts, with his apologies.

### **5) Averted Tragedy:**

One sunny afternoon, a Field and Water sports tent competition was organised. One of the races involved a 25 yard sprint to the lake shore, a 25 yard swim around a buoy and back and finally a sprint to the finishing line. A representative from each tent was selected and all was going well until the four lads approached the buoy. Geoff then spotted that Michael Mitchell had disappeared from view. He immediately ran into the water, fully clothed, swam to the buoy and was just in time to see Michael's head about three feet below the surface. He grabbed Michael's hair and somehow got him to the bank. Michael was shaken but otherwise OK - thank God.

Many years later, whilst visiting his family with his new Australian bride, the Group's Staff was introduced to her in the Lion Pub one night. On introducing Geoff to his wife he said 'I wouldn't be here now but for this guy'.

## **6) Generosity:**

On striking Camp on the Saturday, a large Harris Road Services vehicle arrived to collect the gear. As the vehicle drove off the site it badly damaged a cattle grid and a dry stone wall. After their return home the Group received a hefty bill from the site manager at Stock Park Mansion. However, when he learned that the vehicle had been donated free of charge by the haulage company, he kindly agreed to waive the charge.

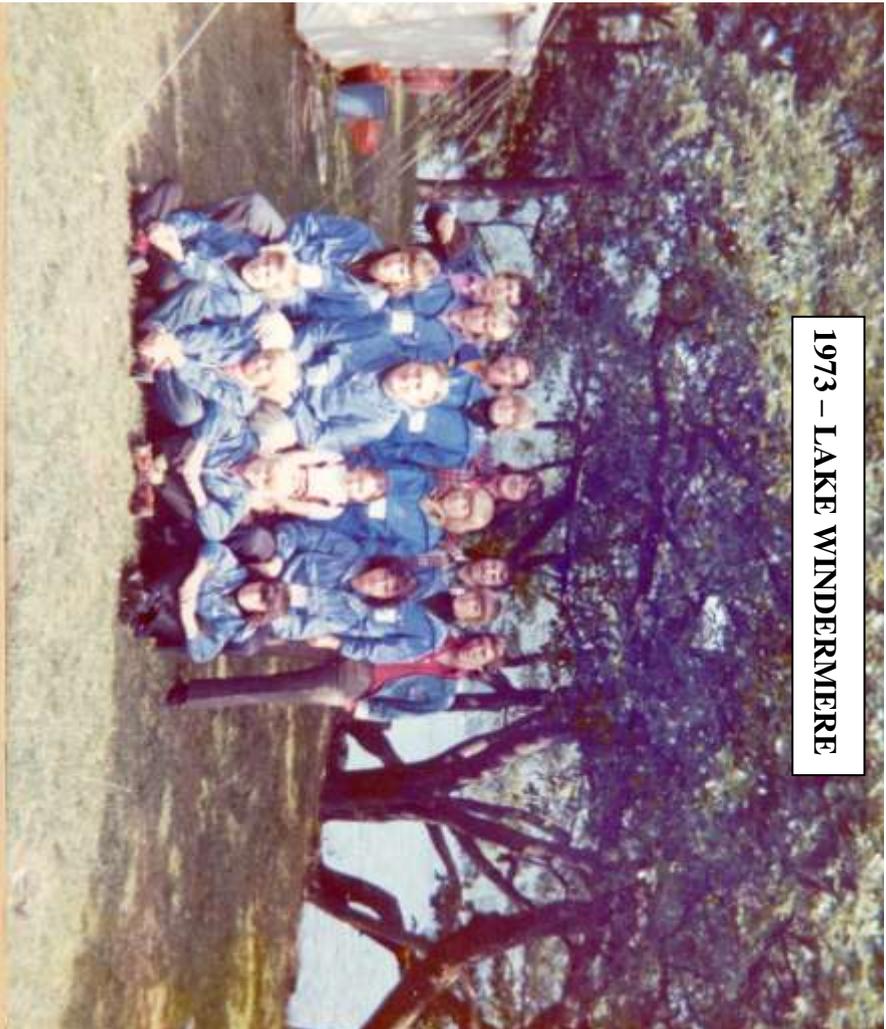
## **7) Lake Cruises:**

A Camp on the shores of Lake Windermere would not be complete without a trip on one of the Lake Ferries; 'Tern', 'Teal' etc. This usually happened on the Thursday of Camp and was combined with buying presents etc for the family back home. All at camp were ferried across the lake by dinghy or canoe to the Lake Side Steamer Terminal to catch the ferry. Bowness was the favoured venue in 1973 and the trip, as usual, was enjoyed by all.



**Stock Park Mansion Site**

**1973 – LAKE WINDERMERE**



**Staff:** Les Burgess; Geoff Crompton; Male. Fleet; Aden Pimblott.

**Members:** P. Ashton; J. Bancroft; C. Lewis (Christie); S. Clewes; R. Egerton; K. Fletcher; C. Hadfield; I. Kennerly; M. Mitchell; W. Mitchell; G. Pollitt; A. Preen; S. Preen; A. Royle; L Savage + Gill Crompton.

# 1974

## CRICCIETH

**Site Details:** Ynysgain Faur Farm – middle or ‘rock’ field. Farmer: Mr. Hughes. Site cost £15.00 per week.

Good, flat, well drained site - c.100 yards from shore; sandy spots to swim, fish and boat; interesting rock pools abound.

**Dates:** 17<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> August.

**Numbers:** Staff: 4 Members: 21 + 1 child.

**Tentage:** Three Bell Tents; one 30 x 15 Marquee; one 18 x 12 Cookhouse; plus a miscellany of Staff and Store Tents. Total hire charges by J. C. Bradfield £43.00; transport donated by a local Haulage Company.

### **Tent Commanders:**

(1) M Mitchell (2) J Simpson

### **Camp Song Verse:**

Dead Ants was the game in 1974.

Philip went a streaking – but he wont streak no more.

Jeremy broke his leg upon the rugby floor.

Hurray for 74 – MORE.

**Ghost Story:** The Criccieth Ghost Train.

### **Anecdotes:**

#### **1) Dead Ants:**

In 1974 Malcolm Fleet introduced the ever popular game of ‘Dead Ants’ to camp for the first time. See ‘Daytime Games’ on page 16.

#### **2) Avert Your Eyes Girls:**

It was during the early 70’s that a new pastime hit the headlines - ‘Streaking’. Young men or women would divest themselves of their clothing, usually in a very public place or arena and cavort in front of the public until apprehended by the long arm of the law. Who will ever forget the picture of the apprehended male, with his ‘nether region’ covered by a policeman’s helmet, being led from the pitch at (I think) Lords.

On about the Tuesday of Camp a Member of Staff learned, on the grapevine, that one of the lads, Philip Royle, had somehow managed to lose his pocket money. Contrary to advice given before camp, Philip had considered himself too mature to place his cash into the safe keeping of the Camp Bank.

The Staff pondered what to do. Should they leave him to stew, and hope he would learn a very valuable lesson (but maybe spoil his camp), or should they organise a collection from both staff and members. The Staff had no need to concern themselves, for the problem was resolved by one of the boys who offered Philip a small bribe to 'Streak' naked around the field. Very quickly this was taken up by the rest of the Group, who also chipped into the kitty. Now this activity would not have been a problem had it been at an all male camp. However, this was not the case, for Geoff's eight year old daughter Gillian was camping with us and wanted to witness the event at first hand. She was at once banished to her tent by her Dad and threatened with some form of retribution if he saw her peeking from under the brailings or through the door. Spoilsport!

At the appointed time Philip stripped off and ran like a young hare around the field to the cheers of the whole Camp. It turned out to be a very lucrative run, for afterwards, when Philip counted his spoils, he found he had more money than he had lost in the first place. Note: There must be a message in this story somewhere, but for the life of me, I can't see what it is" GAC

### **3) Man Overboard:**

One sunny evening, the Group was on the beach swimming, crabbing in the rock pools, playing games and generally enjoying themselves. Les agreed to take two lads fishing in 'Poly' (the Group's small polystyrene dinghy). Geoff asked if he could join them and the dinghy was launched. Now Geoff never had the stature of a 'stick insect' to be sure, and when he climbed into the boat alongside Les, it very nearly capsized. To balance Geoff's bulk in the stern, Les and the two lads had to sit forward in the boat! The small outboard engine was started and the boat headed for a point about 100/200 yards off shore. Later, when it started to grow dusk they decided to head for the beach and started the outboard engine. After about 50 yards the engine failed and no amount of pulling on the toggle would start it again. The oars were then brought into play but by this time the sea had developed a 'swell' and rowing became very difficult.

After a tremendous effort the dinghy reached a point about 20 yards from the shore and Les, looking over the side, decided to jump in and tow the boat for the rest of the way. Now the sea can play funny tricks on the human eye, for when Les jumped in he found himself in about 10 feet of water and disappeared from view for a second or two. He quickly surfaced and somehow the intrepid foursome managed to reach the shore. To top

off this whole saga, the expedition was in vain, for the lads caught nothing after all their efforts.

#### **4) Broken But Unbowed:**

On the Thursday we awoke to cloudy skies and light rain. Our rain philosophy at camp was always 'Carry on Regardless' and this we did. Murder ball was planned for that morning, an ideal game for inclement weather.

The game has few rules and requires two teams to compete for a rugby ball and touch it down on a large marquee bag at either end of the pitch to score. All was going well and everyone was enjoying the rough and tumble in the mud when disaster struck. Jeremy Simpson received the ball in his own half and set off up field like a gazelle (by this time Jeremy was a very fit cross-country runner). As a host of opponents descended on him, he slipped on the wet grass and went down with two or three lads piled on top.

There was a 'crack' and Jeremy was left writhing in agony with a broken leg. We rushed him to the nearest hospital where his leg was set in plaster up to his knee. On his return from hospital Jeremy was told that his bag had been packed and that one of the staff would run him home. At this Jeremy tearfully protested, saying that there was no way that he was going to miss the rest of Camp and in particular the Camp Fire and ghost story on the Friday night. Such was the spirit of the lad - who could refuse him! Older Staff still have a memory of Jeremy, his plastered leg propped up on a chair, singing away for all he was worth as the flames flickered on the faces of all those present.\*\*

#### **5) Parental Responsibility:**

One night towards the end of the week Geoff was tucking his young Daughter Gill into bed and asked if she had had a good day. 'Yes', Gill replied 'I've had a lovely time and some of the boys asked me in their tent to play 'Strip Jack Naked'!. I said no, because you had told me that I must never go into the lads tents'. 'Good girl' said Geoff, who decided at that point that Gill was now getting a little too old to share a week under canvas with a gang of lads.

**\*\*Note:** As soon as Jeremy was able, he enlisted in the Royal Marines. In 1982 he sailed with his unit for the Falklands. He 'yomped' across the island and took part in a number of battles including the one for Two Sisters overlooking Port Stanley. He lost his best pal in the fighting and later helped to bury him. The Group still treasures an Argentine shell case presented by Jeremy and brought back from the Falklands. The shell case is inscribed with details of his involvement in that war. Jeremy became a Warrant Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class in the Special Boat Squadron attached to 4/5 Commando.

On retiring from the Marines after 23 years service, 21 in the SBS, Jeremy secured the post of Senior Maritime Consultant at Lloyds Register in London. Some years later he

received a telephone call from his old C.O. offering him the post of 'Underwater Instructor' to men on 'covert' operations!

Jeremy is a very fine man and one I am very proud to have known throughout his formative years. GAC



Putting The Marquee Up



On Parade



Nurdles In Front Of The Main MO & Cook Tent MO



Around The Flag Pole

**1974 - CRICCIETH**



**1974 - CRICCIETH**



**1974 - CRICCIETH**



**Staff:** Phil Ashton; John Bancroft; Les Burgess; Geoff Crompton; Raymond Egerton; Malc. Fleet;  
Ian Kennerly; Carl Lewis (Christie); John Mills;  
**Members:** A. Davies; A. Farnham (East); A. Fletcher; C. Hadfield; D. Jackson; L. Latham; D. Mitchell;  
M. Mitchell; C. Mothershead; P. Riley; A. Royle; P. Royle; J. Simpson; P. Washington; C. Vernon; G. Williams  
+ Gill Crompton

# 1975

## LAKE WINDERMERE

**Site Details:** Stock Park Mansion, Newby Bridge, Nr. Ulverston. Site cost £46.00 per week.

Narrow, flat field alongside a dry stone wall and small wood; small lake frontage. Good site but difficult for games.

**Dates:** 16<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> August.

**Numbers:** Staff: 7 Members: 17

**Tentage:** Two Bell Tents; one 30 x 15' Marquee; one 18' x 12' Cookhouse; plus a miscellany of Staff and Store Tents. Total hire charges by J. C. Bradfield £51.00; transport donated by a local Haulage Company.

### **Tent Commanders:**

(1) A Royle (2) M Mitchell

### **Camp Song Verse:**

We called upon the Girl Guides late one night in '75 x 3  
And we're lucky to be alive

**Ghost Story:** P. C. Hugglethwaite

### **Anecdotes:**

#### **1) Midges And Marmalade:**

Early on in the week it was hot and humid and most people in camp were plagued by 'midges'. Tubes of 'midge' cream were purchased and sold to anyone who wanted to buy them. Tim Keen decided to expend some of his pocket money and applied the cream liberally to his exposed skin.

When his tube of cream was half empty some evil minded person, who shall remain nameless, emptied the remainder of the cream and replaced it with marmalade.

#### **2) Retaliation:**

One night, whilst everyone was asleep, the Camp was 'raided' by a group of Girl Guides camping near by. They hauled a sock up the flag staff and left us to guess who the late night visitors might be. The lads quickly discovered the identity of their nocturnal visitors

and decided to retaliate. In the dead of night a small group entered the Guides Camp and purloined their camp flag. The Guides then had the ignominy of having to ask for it back.

A good relationship was then formed with the Guides and their leaders to the extent that they invited the Group to their next camp fire. Everyone had a great night and we even learned some new words to the old camp fire song 'WE PUSHED THE DAMPER IN'. These are still sung at our camp fires to this day.

### **3) The Body Line Bowlers:**

As is the custom, a Staff v Boys cricket match was arranged. To say that the lads were 'up for it' would be an understatement. They were determined, by whatever means, fair or foul, to win. The Staff batted first and were subjected to some harsh 'bodyline' bowling from Charlie Vernon and Tim Keen. In fact it could be said that they were out to maim some Staff Members! Wickets fell rapidly and it was only when dear Ray Egerton got to the crease that things changed for the better. Ray carted the bowling all over the field and made a very poor Staff score look respectable. Not to be outdone, the lads started to pile on the runs and when the last man was at the crease they needed only two more runs to win. Geoff, who was the Bowler, cynically bowled down a ball that was only inches short of being wide. The batsman missed it and the game was over. The lads learned a valuable lesson that day, play to win, but not at any cost.

### **4) A Rude Awakening:**

On the last morning of camp, and after a late night around the camp fire, the boys in one of the tents were reluctant to get out of their sleeping bags at Reveille. The bell tent door was quickly opened and the lads dragged, in their sleeping bags, to the flag staff (the traditional punishment for late risers!). It had been a particularly cold night and Geoff noticed that Tim Keen was shivering on the tent floor, covered only by some very flimsy bedding. Later Geoff had words with the tent commander and told him that he should have let the Staff know about Tim's bedding earlier in the week for there were spare blankets in the First Aid tent! \*\*

\*\* **Note:** Many years later, a drug pusher, who regularly sold drugs of an evening at a spot behind the Cenotaph, was confronted by a now, very adult and tough Tim Keen. Tim told him, in no uncertain manner, that if he showed his face in Moulton again he would not walk for a very long time. Some weeks later, the Staff of the Group were having a drink in the Lion Pub when Tim was spotted on the other side of the bar. Geoff asked the landlord to pull Tim a pint and the Staff toasted Tim with a 'Well done' across the bar.



**Tent 1**



**Tent 2**



**The Camp Site**

## 1975 – LAKE WINDERMERE



**Staff:** Phil Ashton; Les Burgess; Geoff Crompton; Ray Egerton; Malcolm Fleet; Brian Holland; Andrew Preen.

**Members:** D. Christie; A. Clews; A. Fletcher; P. Ikin; R. Ikin; D. Jackson; T. Keen;  
L. Latham; D. Mitchell; M. Mitchell; C. Mottershead; P. Riley; A. Royle; P. Royle;  
J. Simpson; C. Vernon; G. Williams.

# 1976

## CRICCIETH

**Site Details:** Ynysgain Faur Farm – Top field. Farmer: Mr. Hughes. Site cost £15.00 per week.

Good, flat, well drained compact site close to a rail line and circa. 100 yards from shore; sandy spots to swim fish and boat; interesting rock pools abound.

**Dates:** 21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> August.

**Numbers:** Staff: 8 Members: 14

**Tentage:** Two Bell Tents; one 30 x 15' Marquee; one 12' x 12' Cookhouse; plus a miscellany of Staff and Store Tents. Total hire charges by J. C. Bradfield £58.00; transport donated by a local Haulage Company.

**Tent Commanders:**

(1) D Jackson (2) D Mitchell

**Camp Song Verse:**

Pollit was the super 'berk' of 1976 x 3  
So he 'aint gunna come no more – ENCORE.

**Ghost Story:** 'Crewwlyn' – Son of Goronwy

**Best Section:** David Jackson No.2 Tent.

**Awards:**

Camp Joker - Peter Clews

**Anecdotes:**

**1) Hot, Hot, Hot:**

The summer of 1976 turned out to be very hot and sunny and in consequence the undergrowth became tinder dry. As a result the Group was prohibited from holding camp fires on the field or in the woods. Permission was granted by Mr. Hughes for these to take place on the shore, but as close to the water as possible.

## **2) Camp Bonnets:**

A 'Silly Hat' competition took place during the week and the award for the best creation was presented at the camp fire on the last night.

## **3) A Tribute To Camp:**

It says something about the attractions of Camp that Andrew Preen, serving as a Ships Steward on a large oil tanker, travelled many hundreds of miles from abroad to attend.

## **4) Church Parade:**

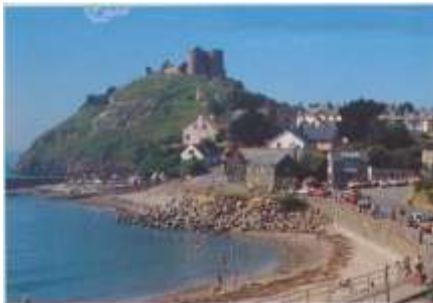
On Sunday morning the Group, smartly attired in their uniforms, marched into Criccieth to a local Chapel. The preacher, who was not the most inspiring in the world, proceeded to bore everyone to death with his lengthy oration about Jonah and the whale. Some members of Staff had difficulty in staying awake after the exertions of the previous day.

## **5) Gullible Doug:**

In the middle of the week it was agreed to hold a Sports Day as part of the tent competition. In order that every boy take part whatever his ability, it was decreed that each tent member should represent his tent in at least two events. Douglas Pollit asked his Tent Commander which events he would be taking part in. Tongue in cheek, his Tent Commander told him that he was down to 'head the shot' and 'catch the javelin'. Satisfied with the answer, Douglas walked away muttering 'Just my flipping luck' He is now immortalised in the Camp song of 1976.

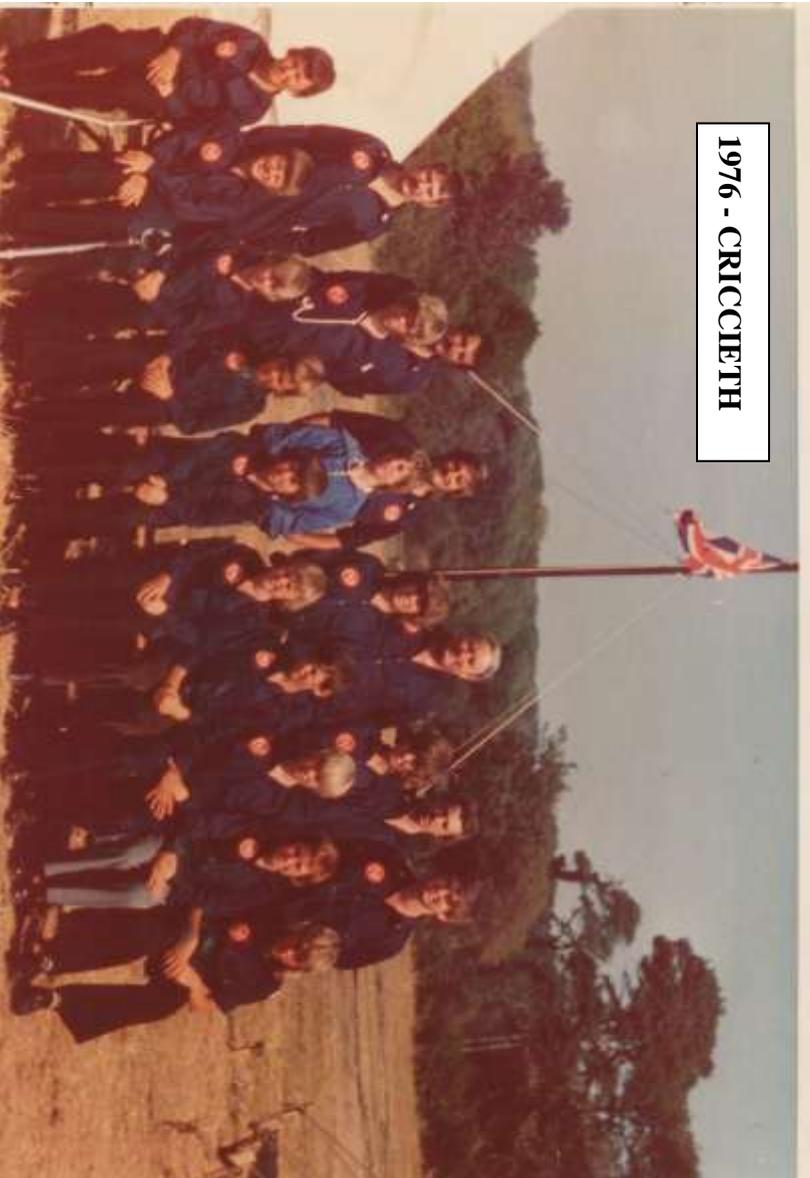
## **6) Experienced Beyond His Years:**

In the Marquee one night, an indoor games session was arranged. Geoff was approached by a young Daryl Mitchell and asked if he would like a game of chess. Geoff agreed but after a few moves Geoff realised that the little lad was a much better player. Geoff decided, if he was going to stand any chance of winning against this young boy, that he would need to go into wrecking mode and to take pieces off the board at every opportunity. After a while, Daryl looked Geoff in the eye and said 'We are playing CHESS, Mr. Crompton, not DRAUGHTS'.



**Criccieth Castle**

**1976 - CRICCIETH**



**Staff:** Phil Ashton; John Bancroft; Les Burgess; Geoff Crompton; Ray Egerton; Malc. Fleet; Brian Holland; Andrew Preen.

**Members:** D. Christie; A. Clews; P. Clews; T. Crank; P. Davies; D. Hough; P. Ikin; D. Jackson; D. Mitchell; S. Nixon; N. Kennerley; J. Smout; K. Turner; L. Turner.

# 1977

## CONISTON LAKE

**Site Details:** Coniston Hall Farm, Coniston, Cumbria. Site cost £42.00 per week. Large, well drained, flat field sloping gently towards the lake shore.

**Dates:** 20<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> August.

**Numbers:** Staff: 7 Members: 15

**Tentage:** Two Bell Tents; one 30 x 15' Marquee; one 12' x 12' Cookhouse; plus a miscellany of Staff and Store Tents. Total hire charges by J. C. Bradfield £68.00; transport donated by a local Haulage Company.

### **Tent Commanders:**

(1) D Mitchell (2) P Davies

### **Camp Song Verse:**

We had a ride upon a duck in 1977 x 3  
But we had to pump it out all the way – HURRAY.

**Ghost Story:** The Ghost of Donald Campbell.

### **Anecdotes:**

#### **1) Glorious Weather:**

Again, as in 1977, the Group was blessed with warm sunny days and cool nights. Water sports abounded with swimming a regular feature of the day's activities.

#### **2) Not Too Old At 40:**

Instead of travelling with the rest of the Group, one of the Junior Staff, Ray Egerton, decided to ride to Coniston on his new motor cycle. Having ridden a motor bike during his National Service in the early 1950's and later owned a scooter; Geoff asked Ray if he 'could have a go' He then proceeded to ride around the field for a while, much to his great delight.

### **3) 'Bluebird':**

The first ghost story at Coniston was about the tragic death of Donald Campbell in his speedboat 'Bluebird' which had occurred some years earlier. Geoff painted the picture of Campbell's ghost walking the fields and shores of the lake in the dead of night. On the following morning Alan Farnham (East), swore to anyone who would listen, that during the night he had seen the figure of Donald Campbell walk through the wall of his tent and out the other side.

### **4) A Flightless Duck:**

Early in the week a World War Two amphibious landing craft, similar to the ones used on the 'D' Day landings in Normandy, drove on to the camp site. These vehicles/boats were officially known as DUKW's or 'Ducks'. Everyone was curious about this strange beast and walked across to have a better look. Two elderly couples appeared on deck and explained that they had driven the 'Duck' to the Lake District from the South Coast. During the next two days everybody on camp was intrigued to see the vehicle trundle down the field and into the water.

On about the Wednesday evening, when the boys had been bedded down for the night, the Staff retired to the marquee to play cards, chess etc. After an hour or so, a distressed figure appeared at the door of the marquee and asked for our immediate help. It was one of the old gentlemen from the 'Duck'. He told us that they had been celebrating the birthday of his friend's wife and that his friend had tried to fire a WW2 rocket flare into the night sky. The old flare gun had exploded in his hand and he was in a bad way.

Staff, led by Malc Fleet and Brian Holland, raced across to the vehicle with the First Aid kit, treated wounds on the casualties hand and face and drove him immediately to the local hospital.

On the following day the old gentleman, now recovered, came across to thank the Staff for their prompt and kindly help. He then suggested that if anyone would like a trip on the lake in the 'Duck' we would be most welcome. The invitation was gladly accepted and on the following day as many of the lads and staff that could clamber aboard set off down the lake to visit 'Wild Cat Island'. The remainder followed in canoes. This island was the one featured in the TV production of 'Swallows and Amazons', the story of young boys and girls on holiday in the Lake District.



**Coniston Site**



**The DUKW Of Coniston Lake**



**The DUKW With MAG On Board**



**Staff:** Phil Ashton; Les Burgess; Geoff Crompton; Ray Egerton; Malc. Fleet; Brian Holland; Andrew Preen.

**Members:** A. Beckett; D. Christie; P. Clews; J. Davies; P. Davies; A. Farnham (East); N. Kennerley; D. Mitchell; S. Nixon; G. Pearson; D. Pollitt; A. Stoneley; A. Turner; K. Turner; L. Turner.

# 1978

## CRICCIETH

**Site Details:** Ynysgain Faur Farm – railway field. Farmer: Mr. Hughes. Site cost £15.00 per week.

Good, flat, well drained compact site, close to a railway line and circa. 100 yards from shore; sandy spots to swim, fish and boat; interesting rock pools abound.

**Dates:** 19<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> August

**Numbers:** Staff: 8 Members: 22

**Tentage:** Three Bell Tents; one 30 x 15' Marquee; one 12' x 12' Cookhouse; plus a miscellany of Staff and Store Tents. Total hire charges by J. C. Bradfield £120.00; transport donated by a local Haulage Company.

### **Tent Commanders:**

(1) S Nixon (2) G Pearson (3) D Mangham

### **Camp Song Verse:**

In 1978 we met a singing railway guard x 3  
And for him we made it very, very hard – 'MINNFORDD'

### **Ghost Story:**

The hand of Miss Catherine Bradfield!!

### **Anecdotes:**

#### **1) Tragedy:**

The Camp of 1978 did not start well. Whilst journeying across the moors from Bala to Trawsfyndd the Group, travelling in convoy, were first on the scene of a dreadful car accident.

A Mini car, with two ladies and two children on board, had been hit head-on by a larger car trying to pass another vehicle on an incline. The Staff of the Group quickly broke out the first aid gear and attended to those involved. Brian Holland, our very experienced First Aid specialist, took charge until the ambulance arrived. Regrettably, one of the occupants of the Mini died at the scene.

Afterwards Geoff, admitting to being rather squeamish, said he was very thankful to take on the roll of Point Duty Policeman whilst Brian, Malc. and other Staff tended the injured.

## **2) Stuck In The Mud:**

On arrival at the site, Mr Hughes, the farmer, advised that there had been quite a substantial amount of rain over the past few days and that the ground was soft underfoot. Concerned about the weight of the vehicle carrying the gear, the driver was advised to stay on the gravel path leading to the field. This advice fell on deaf ears, for no sooner had the lorry been unloaded, than the driver drove off the path in a wide arc and was quickly up to his axles in mud. We then had the job of employing Mr Hughes and his tractor to extricate the vehicle and to send it on its way.

## **3) Extra Cash On Hand:**

Next to the site on which the Group camped was a site we had used on previous occasions. This was the ‘middle’ or ‘rock’ field. We called it the ‘rock’ field because it had a large boulder located close to the entrance. Early in the week Phil decided to play a little trick on the boys. He super glued a 50p coin to the face of the rock and was rewarded when a succession of lads tried unsuccessfully to increase their pocket money.

## **4) An Averted Disaster:**

Friday was, and still is, ‘Steam pudding day’. After watching Geoff make the pudding on one or two occasions, it became a tradition for Junior staff to ask to be given this culinary honour and to bathe in the glow of the congratulations afterwards. In 1978 Phil Ashton, then a young Member of Staff, asked to be allowed to make the pudding.

His wish was granted, but he stressed, that he didn’t want any help and could manage the whole operation on his own. Phil duly made the pudding, lit the gas rings on the stove, and tended the tins all day. After the main course had been eaten, Phil said he would break out the puddings, smother them in hot golden syrup, and serve them with custard. Again he said he didn’t need any help. Two or three minutes later a white faced Philip appeared at the marquee door. “Geoff” he said, in a very low voice, “Can you come?” Geoff left the table and went with Phil into the Cookhouse. Philip then told Geoff that the steamed puddings were not cooked and were still liquid. “They’ll lynch me” he exclaimed. Some quick thinking was needed to save Phil’s bacon and Geoff suggested that they fry the pudding batter in the two roasting tins used for the breakfast bacon. This they did, then smothered the whole lot with the 2 x 2lb. tins of syrup and served the waiting throng. The taste was memorable, if a little different, but the whole Group applauded Phil for his efforts. It has to be said that since this incident Phil has, on many occasions, achieved steamed pudding perfection.

## **5) The Hand Of Miss Catherine Bradfield:**

The final camp fire of the week was held in the depths of a small wood alongside the site. Geoff continued the ghost story about Miss Bradfield started at the camp fire on Monday

evening. Unbeknown to anyone, Phil, knowing the end of the story, had rigged up a cotton line between the trees and across the camp fire.

When Geoff reached the climax of the tale - telling how the hand of Miss Bradfield still sometimes crawled through the grass during the night and into the tents. Phil released a stuffed glove on a small pulley which glided into view and across the face of the camp fire. This moment of fright was dramatically increased when, at the very instant when the hand came into view, an owl in a tree close by gave an almighty screech! At this, everyone around the camp fire jumped up in alarm. Afterwards, the boys, and indeed some staff, were reluctant to return to their tents or go to the latrines on their own.



**Criccieth Castle**



**Staff:** Phil Ashton; Les Burgess; Geoff Crompton; Peter Davies; Malc. Fleet; Brian Holland; Daryl Mitchell; Andrew Preen.

- Members:** A. Beckett; J. Beech; T. Burgess; D. Christie; G. Christie; P. Clews; J. Davies; A. Gregory; A. Farnham (East); A. Hough; D. Mangham; S. Nixon; G. Pearson; B. Pimlott; D. Pimlott; A. Rathbone; A. Stoneley; L. Turner; S. Turner; I. Weedall; P. Wilkinson; P. Williamson.

# 1979

## CONISTON LAKE

**Site Details:** Idyllic woodland glade circa. 70 yards from the lake shore. Drainage, however, was poor and the site was prone to become a quagmire during long spells of rainy weather. Site cost £66.00 per week.

**Dates:** 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> August

**Numbers:** Staff: 10 Members: 22

**Tentage:** Four Bell Tents; one 30 x 15' Marquee; one 12' x 12' Cookhouse; plus a miscellany of Staff and Store Tents. Total hire charges by J. C. Bradfield £153.00; transport donated by a local Haulage Company.

### **Tent Commanders:**

(1) G Pearson (2) L Turner (3) A Stoneley

### **Camp Song Verse:**

We had mud, mud and yet more mud in 1979 x 3  
But we managed to hold the line – FINE.

### **Anecdotes:**

#### **1) Quagmire:**

The weather was so bad at times at this camp that even the floor of the marquee was one or two inches deep in mud. Trenches were dug around all of tents to avoid water ingress. Branches and bracken were collected to cover the entrance to tents and to try to soak up mud and water.

#### **2) Slaves:**

For a small fee, which was donated to the camp funds, Staff hired themselves out to the lads. They brought them breakfast in bed, washed their dishes, prepared their kit for inspection and generally became their 'slave' for the day.

#### **3) AWOL:**

Although there had been a Mitchell in the Group since it's formation in October 1969, this camp at Coniston was the only one not to have had a Mitchell present. Daryl, who fully intended to come to Camp, secured a new job starting on the Monday of Camp week.

**1979 – CONISTON LAKE**



**Staff:** Phil Ashton; Les Burgess; Geoff Crompton; Alan Farnham (East); Malc. Fleet;  
Brian Holland; David Mangham; Calvin Murray Andrew Preen; Andrew Royle

**Members:** T. Burgess; D. Christie; G. Christie; L. Collister; J. Davies; A. Gregory; D. Hough;  
I. Lees; J. Maddock; J. Malone; P. Metcalf; G. Pearson; A. Rathbone; D. Rathbone; R. Royle;  
S. Simpson; A. Stoneley; C. Swarbrick; L. Turner; S. Turner; P. Wilkinson; G. Woodrow.

# 1980

## CRICCIETH

**Site Details:** Ynysgain Faur Farm – railway field. Farmer: Mr. Hughes. Site cost £48.00 per week.

Good, flat, well drained compact site close to a railway line and circa. 100 yards from shore; sandy spots to swim, fish and boat; interesting rock pools abound.

**Dates:** 16<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> August.

**Numbers:** Staff: 7 Members: 17 + 1 Child.

**Tentage:** Two Bell Tents; one 30 x 15' Marquee; one 12' x 12' Cookhouse; plus a miscellany of Staff and Store Tents. Total hire charges by J. C. Bradfield £144.00; transport donated by a local Haulage Company.

### **Tent Commanders:**

(1) T Burgess (2) J Beech (3) D Christie (Service Section).

### **Camp Song Verse:**

We had to make a boxing ring one day at Ynysgain,  
'Didger' was in a fighting mood and wanted Philip lame,  
Philip toyed about with him, inflicting little pain,  
But it all ended up quite tame – SHAME.

### **Awards:**

Best Member at their first Camp: R Royle.

Best overall Member: C Murray

### **Anecdotes:**

#### **1) New Headquarters:**

1980 was a truly momentous year for the Moulton Adventure Group. During the course of the year their new Headquarters, in School Lane, Moulton, was finally completed. The whole project had taken seven years to finish, often testing the resolve of the workforce, and expending liberal quantities of blood, toil, sweat and tears in large measures - the latter in particular. It took 12 months to take the building down at Shell's Carrington site, transport it to Moulton and place it in store on land at the Beehive Corner.

Sometime later, thieves got amongst the steel work with oxy-acetylene torches, cut up the huge supporting beams, pillars and fire escape, and left the project dead in the water.

It was only the intervention of a local steel company, Joseph Parkes Ltd., that saved the day. They replaced the stolen steel, valued at some thousands of pounds, free of charge and also supplied a crane with a team of steel erectors to lift the structure into place.

For the whole of the seven years a team of voluntary helpers, led by Harold Mitchell (see 'Dedication' at the front of this book), laboured on the project at every opportunity. Helpers came and went over time but a dedicated few saw the project through to the end. The Group will be for ever in their debt.

## **2) 'Sat Nav' Needed:**

Much to his embarrassment, Daryl Mitchell, on arrival at the site, led the convoy of cars and more particularly the articulated vehicle carrying the gear, down the wrong lane. Cars and vehicle then had to reverse, with great difficulty, back down the track to the start point.

## **3) Not A 'Thrilla in Manila':**

Jon Davies, 'Didger' to everyone who knew him, was a great lad who lived with his Aunt and Uncle, Mo and Alan Hewitt, towards the end of Main Road. Prior to living in Moulton he had lived with his parents in Australia, hence his nickname 'Didger', derived from that unique Australian bamboo woodwind instrument the 'didgeridoo'. Jon was given his nickname at the village school as soon as he arrived.

'Didger' and Phil Ashton developed a great friendly rivalry and were continually ribbing and playing tricks on each other. Early in the week 'Didger' challenged Phil to a boxing match. Having, at that time, two sets of boxing gloves in the sports kit, the bout was duly arranged for one evening in the marquee. A make shift ring was prepared and some of the Junior Staff volunteered to act as both Referee and Seconds. At the appointed time everyone in Camp attended the marquee to await the big event. Phil was so agile that, try as he might, 'Didger' could not lay a hand on him. The bout finally finished with honours even, much to the delight of all who were present.

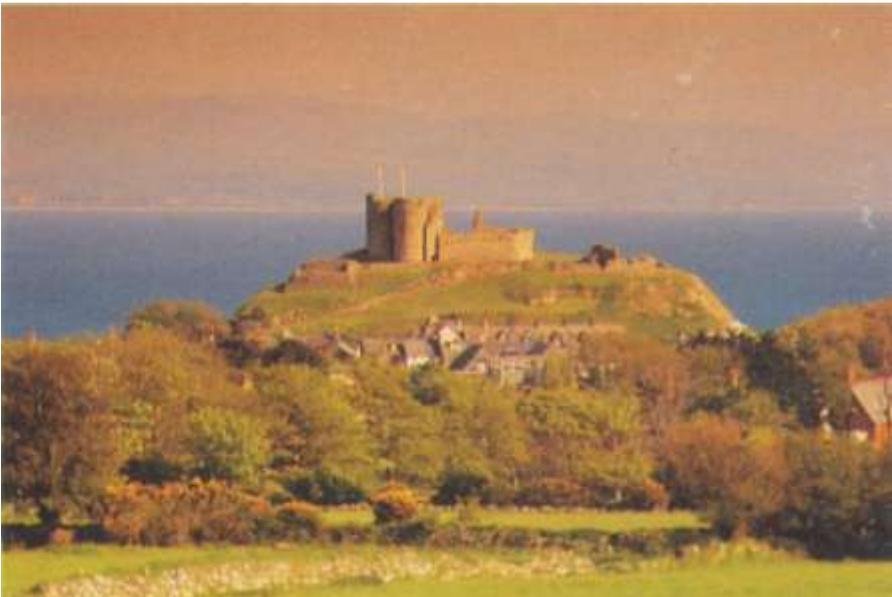
## **4) Cow Pats Are Lethal:**

Running across the field one day, Phil, not looking where he was placing his feet, stood in a cow pat, skidded, fell and broke two bones in his right hand. Good to recall that his broken hand did not stop his enjoyment of the remainder of camp. However, it was rumoured by some, that he had done it deliberately to avoid his fatigue duty or to avoid seeing his fiancée (Helen) who was staying in Pwllheli!

### **5) Bog Rolls Are A Problem:**

Ever since the very first camp for boys organised by William Smith of the Boys' Brigade in the 1880's 'bog' paper has been a problem. Keeping a bog roll dry in a sentry, tent like box, in the corner of a wind swept and rainy field is not easy. Many solutions have been tried including plastic bags, buckets with lids etc. All have failed dismally, with the result that on entering the 'throne' tent one was usually confronted by a soggy mass of tissue.

Members, and particularly young boys, who answer the call of nature, either forget to put the roll back in the receptacle or are just too lazy to be bothered. Maybe, the solution is to offer all campers a 'bog' roll on day one of Camp and for each to guard his own over the next seven days.



**Criccieth Castle**

## 1980 - CRICCIETH



**Staff & Service Section:** Phil Ashton; P. Bailey; Les Burgess; Geoff Crompton; Daryl Christie; Jon Davies; Alan Farnham (East); Male. Fleet; Alan Gregory. Brian Holland; David Hough; Daryl Mitchell; Calvin Murray; Andrew Royle; Lee Turner.

**Members:** J. Beech; T. Burgess; G. Christie; J. Maddock; J. Malone; R. Royle; S. Turner; S. Ward; G. Woodrow + Matt Burgess.