

1981

CONISTON LAKE

Site Details: Coniston Hall Farm, Coniston, Cumbria.

Large, well drained, flat field sloping gently towards the lake shore. Cost £33.00.

Dates: 22nd to 29th August

Numbers: Staff 7 Members: 14 + 3 Children

Tentage: Two Bell Tents; one 22 x 15' Marquee; one 12' x 12' Cookhouse; plus a miscellany of Staff and Store Tents. Quoted hire charges by J. C. Bradfield £147.00. However, additional charges were incurred due to 1) our local Transport Company's inability to collect the tentage from Liverpool provoking a delivery charge to Moulton of £59.00. 2) Peg and stake breakages - £ 10.00. Giving an actual overall total of £216.00.

Tent Commanders:

(1) C Swarbrick (2) G Christie

Camp Song Verse:

The midges did bite and the sun shone bright at Coniston '81 x 3
And water sports gave much fun – SUN.

Ghost Story: The tomb of 'Natas'.

Anecdotes:

1) Midges:

The main recollection of this camp was the weather. All week it was hot and humid and in consequence much time was spent in the lake canoeing, boating, fishing and swimming.

2) Bugs Bunny:

One evening Alan Farnham (East) was telling whoever wanted to listen about his rabbits and how he was a keen breeder. Later the Staff (in jest) asked Alan to tell them about his Rabbit breeding programme and how he organised it. Alan explained about his stud rabbit and how good it was. One of the Staff then asked him the name of his stud. Innocently, Alan replied 'Bonker' at which the Staff fell about and couldn't speak for some time!

1981 – CONISTON LAKE



Staff: Phil Ashton; Les Burgess; Geoff Crompton; Daryl Christie; Alan Farnham (East); Malc. Fleet; Brian Holland; Daryl Mitchell; Paul Murray; Andrew Preen.

Members: T. Burgess; A. Christie; G. Christie; D. Findlay; J. Malone; M. McConnell; R. Royle; S. Simpson; C. Swarbrick; S. Ward; G. Woodrow + Matt Burgess, Adrian Fleet; Jane Fleet.

1982

ULLSWATER LAKE

Site Details: Side Farm, Patterdale, Ullswater, Cumbria. Site cost £85 per week. Well drained, narrow field on a gradual incline towards the lake shore; trees-a-plenty.

Dates: 14th to 21st August.

Numbers: Staff: 8 Members: 12 + 1 Child

Tentage: One 22 x 15' Marquee; one 12' x 12' Cookhouse; plus a miscellany of Boys, Staff and Store Tents. Quoted hire charges by J. C. Bradfield £87.17; transport donated by a local Haulage Company.

Tent Commanders:

(1) C Swarbrick (2) R Royle (3) G Christie

Camp Song Verse:

Richard (Royle) got his just deserts in 1982 x 3
When we covered him with slimey cow pooh – PHEW.

Awards:

Cross Country Winners: 1) A Rathbone (2) D Rathbone (3) C Swarbrick.

Best Tent: Number one – C Swarbrick

Best Member at their first camp: C Bickerton

Best Member overall: C Swarbrick

Anecdotes:

1) A Long, Long Slog:

It was always a tradition in the Group to spend a day walking in the hills. Bearing in mind the fact that some Members would be attending their first camp, and not used to long hikes, the walk was usually gentle and not too taxing. Not so in 1982, for Brian Holland was in charge. Most of the camp set off and were in good spirits but returned some 6/7 hours later, shattered. Brian, who was sometimes referred to as 'The mountain goat' had led the party up hill and down dale until most were exhausted. Some threatened never to walk with Mr Holland again.

2) A Very Unpleasant Experience:

Richard Royle was always full of fun and forever ribbing and playing tricks on the Staff. In the middle of the week he went a little too far with some of the younger Staff who decided to have their revenge on this cheeky youngster. Unseen by Richard, the staff found some very juicy cow pats and shovelled them into a bucket. They then tried to catch Richard who, smelling a rat (and a lot more besides!), fled to the shore, climbed into a canoe and paddled out to a small island. The Staff, not to be thwarted, climbed into more canoes and ran Richard to ground on the island.

There, they anointed him from head to toe with the contents of their bucket!! Richard, being the sport that he was, took it all in good part, dived into the lake afterwards and cleaned himself off. After this bit of fun Staff were always a bit wary at morning dip in case they encountered unmentionable flotsam on the water.

3) Most Definitely Not Politically Correct:

After inspection on the Thursday, the whole camp was looking forward to their day out in Ullswater and to buying presents for home etc. Everyone dressed up in their uniforms in readiness for the Camp Photograph to be taken prior to departure. Everyone, that is, aside from young Richard Burgess who was enjoying paddling on the shore. When Richard was called in to get himself ready for the trip, he refused, much to the annoyance of his Dad, Les. When finally Richard did leave the shore, having delayed the whole camp, he strolled to his tent and spent ages getting into his uniform. After another five minutes Les exploded and the sound of his voice reverberated around the hillsides. Richard then received a swift whack from Les for his disobedience.



Ullswater Village And Lake



Inspection



Starting The Slog



The Canadian On The Lake



Cross Country



Outdoor Table Tennis



Erecting Staff Tents

Staff: Phil Ashton; Les Burgess; Geoff Crompton; Chris Eatock; Alan Farnham (East); Brian Holland; Daryl Mitchell; Andrew Preen.

Members: C. Bickerton; M. Burgess; G. Christie; D. Findlay; A. Rathbone; D. Rathbone; R. Royle; D. Sharman; A. Swarbrick; D. Swarbrick; S. Ward; G. Woodrow + Richard Burgess.

1983

LLYN CWELLYN

Site Details: Planwydd, Rhyd-ddu, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, North Wales.

Farmer: Mr. J L Ellis. Site cost £56.00 per week.

River and lake site just below Mount Snowdon and surrounded by trees.

Dates: 20th to 27th August

Numbers: Staff: 13 Members: 26 + 1 Child.

Tentage: Four Bell Tents; one 30 x 15' Marquee; one 22' x 15' Cookhouse; plus a miscellany of Staff and Store Tents. Quoted hire charges by J. C. Bradfield £209.00; transport donated by a local Haulage Company.

Tent Commanders:

(1) G Woodrow (2) J Maddock (3) D Rathbone (4) K Simpson.

Camp Song Verse:

We had a separate Bell Tent in 1983 x 3

Occupied by five girlies.

Ghost Story: Llewellyn's Revenge.

Awards:

Cross country winners: (1) D Rathbone (2) D Findlay (3) J Maddock.

Best Tent: Number 3 – D Rathbone.

Best Member at their first camp: A Rattray.

Best overall Member: D Rathbone.

Anecdotes:

1) Early To bed – Early To rise:

Having loaded tents, equipment and personal kit onto the lorry on the Friday evening, it was agreed that everyone should assemble at the HQ at 07.30. Everyone complied except, that is, for Daryl Mitchell. Now Daz could always sleep and the morning of Camp was no exception. It was left to Phil to sprint around to the house in Regent Street and to throw gravel at Daz's bedroom window.

Phil's plea to Daryl to get up echoed up and down Regent Street, so quiet was it at that early hour. Daryl eventually appeared at the window and seemed to mouth 'Oh yeah, Camp', as though he had forgotten. He was then left to play catch up with the convoy en route to Llyn Cwellyn. Fancy, oversleeping on the day of camp. Never been known before or since.

2) Girls, Girls Girls:

During the previous year, having vainly attempted to set up a separate MAG for girls, the Staff of the Group decided to take the plunge and to open up the Group to both sexes. This news was received by a number of young ladies in the Village with glee, for they had long wanted to join in with the activities of the Group. The mother of one of the girls, Monica Simpson, was persuaded to attend camp to look after the needs of the young ladies and all was set for our baptism of fire. By necessity the camp format had to be changed i.e. private wash facilities with showers, rough games such as 'Murder Ball' were off the programme, better toilets were supplied, strict rules governing tent lines were issued etc. Still it worked, and worked very well. Girls have now been an integral part of the Group for over 25 years.

3) The Phantom 'Crapper':

Just before tent inspection one morning a flustered Tent Commander, who had been chasing around trying to get his tent ready for inspection, dashed over to one or two Staff standing near the marquee. 'Please come and look at my tent' he said desperately. On arrival at the tent the Staff were shown a huge 'turd' on the grass between two tents. It was a beast, and of elephantine proportions. Not knowing who the culprit was, Geoff read the riot act about cleanliness and personal hygiene to both tents and ordered that the offending 'sausage' be removed and deposited in the pit. Geoff's threats had no effect, for the very next morning the same Tent Commander reported that there was another dollop in the same place. This time Geoff told all of the boy's in camp (girls would not do such a thing!) that if he found out who the offender was he would be taken home at once. Next morning, all was clear. Problem solved, or so everyone thought! However, during the inspection, when the Inspecting Officer turned back the large circular ground sheet to check for litter he was confronted by another huge 'turd' winking at him. At least it was then known which tent was responsible. On close questioning of the tent members a little lad finally owned up to being the culprit. It didn't seem possible that he could produce such specimens, but he had and on three occasions. The little boy said that he was afraid to go across the field in the middle of the night to the toilet tent and that was the reason he had squatted between the tents. He was told that in future, if he needed to answer the call of nature in the night, he should wake his Tent Commander, who would escort him to the bogs. His Tent Commander was not too happy with the arrangement it must be said.

4) Safety First:

At the early morning swimming parade one day Phil Ashton was the Duty/Safety officer. He was standing on the shore of the lake whilst everyone ‘enjoyed?’ the morning dip. Suddenly, he saw Andrew Rattray, who had swum beyond the marker buoy and out of his depth, in difficulties and disappear beneath the water. Without hesitation Phil ran fully clothed into the lake, swam to the spot and pulled Andrew to the surface and then onto the shore. The lad had apparently got cramp in the cold waters of Llyn Cwellyn.

5) Retribution:

As mentioned in the 1982 anecdotes, Richard Royle was forever plaguing the Staff with his tricks and good humour. So, it was decided to bring him to book for the second time in two years. An elaborate plan was hatched by Phil Ashton, Chris Eatock and Brian Holland. They convinced Richard that they were going to play a trick on one of the other Junior Staff members. They all agreed, including Richard, that they would capture the culprit and stake him out ‘Redskin’ fashion on the field. Richard was asked to get four pegs and to hammer these into the ground in an oblong formation. Four pieces of rope were then found and the trap sprung. Someone said that he didn’t think that the pegs were in the right place so Richard volunteered to lie down and have his wrists and ankles lashed to the pegs to test the distances. As soon as he was staked out it dawned on him that he had been well and truly stitched up and that he was in fact the victim. As he was wearing only shorts and was naked above the waist, a jar of marmalade, brought from the cookhouse, was liberally smeared all over his chest, neck and face. It didn’t cure Richard of his pranks, but it did give the rest of the Staff a very hearty laugh. Richard was a great guy and contributed greatly to the Group during his service as a member of Staff.



Derelict Building On Site At Llyn Cwellyn

1983 – LLYN CWELLYN



Staff: Helen Ashton; Phil Ashton; Les Burgess; Daryl Christie; Geoff Crompton; Chris Eatock; Brian Holland; Daryl Mitchell; Richard Royle; Monica Simpson; Simon Ward.

Members: M. Atherton; C. Bickerton; S. Brain; M. Burgess; C. Davies; A. Egerton; D. Findlay; L. Gibson; S. Gibson; J Maddock; S. Marshall; D. Mitchell (Diane); S. Pugh; A. Rathbone; D. Rathbone; A. Rattray; P. Rees; M. Roberts; D. Sharnan; R. Sharnan; K. Simpson; D. Slinger; S. Slinger; A. Swarbrick; C. Swarbrick; G. Swarbrick; S. Walker; G. Woodrow + Richard Burgess.

1984

CRICCIETH

Site Details: Ynysgain Faur Farm – middle or ‘rock’ field. Farmer: Mr. Hughes. Site cost £56.00 per week.

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

Dates: 18th to 25th August

Numbers: Staff: 10 Members: 18

Tentage: Three Bell Tents; one 22 x 15’ Marquee; one 22’ x 15’ Cookhouse; plus a miscellany of Staff and Store Tents. Quoted hire charges by J. C. Bradfield £223.00; transport donated by a local Haulage Company.

Tent Commanders:

(1) D Findlay (2) D Sharman (3) K Simpson

Camp Song Verse:

We took an early morning dip one night in ’84 x 3
But we didn’t swim far from the shore – COR!

Awards:

Best Tent: D Sharman

Best Member at their first camp: A Winstanley

Best overall Member: D Sharman

Anecdotes:

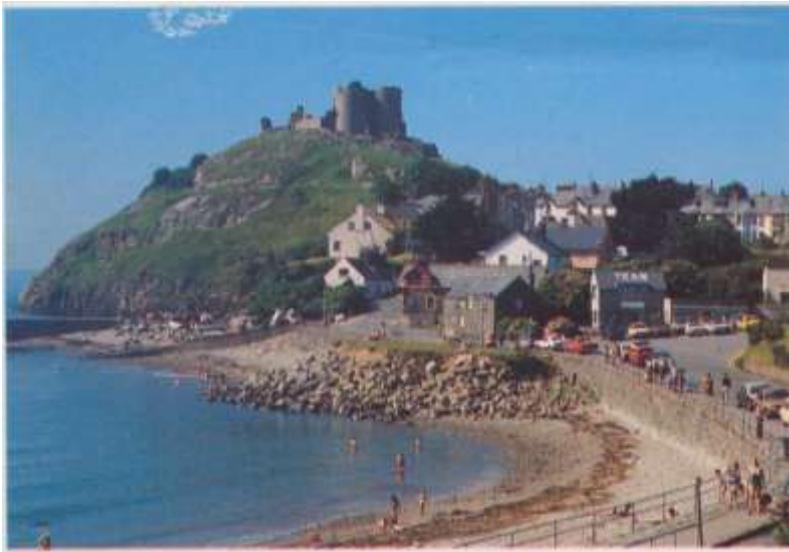
1) Midnight Dip:

The weather during the week was glorious, with the sun shining from early morning ‘til late at night. It was so hot that one day the Staff agreed that a mid-night dip would be a great experience for both young and old alike. Safety arrangements were agreed and a small area of shore line marked out on the beach. Staff would stand in a semi-circle within their depth to allow the rest of camp to swim in safety. Everyone had a great time in the cool, cool waters of Criccieth Bay. Everyone that is, except Monica Simpson, who lost sight of Geoff in the darkness and thought that he had come to grief.

2) A 'Wellie' Nasty Trick:

One afternoon, Phil Ashton, obeying the call of nature walked across to the bog tent in the corner of the field. When he arrived he saw that the little sentry like box tent containing an 'Elasan' toilet was occupied as a pair of toe caps was just showing under the bottom of the door flap.

Eventually, the little lad finished his task, unzipped the door flap and allowed Phil to occupy the throne room. On walking away from the latrine area shortly afterwards, Phil's mischievous mind started to work overtime. He went back to his tent, collected a pair of green Wellington boots and returned to the bog tent. He then placed the Wellingtons inside, with their toe caps just showing under the door flap. He then zipped up the tent door and retreated to the marquee to await developments. Very soon a little boy, also answering the call of nature, approached the latrine area. Seeing the toe caps sticking out from under the tent door, **he waited and he waited and he waited**, pacing around in ever decreasing circles with a gnawing frustration plain to see on his face by Phil from the marquee door. After about ten minutes he rushed across to the Marquee and told the Phil that he was bursting to use the loo, but that someone had been in 'occupation' for ages. Phil then led the lad back to the bog, removed the Wellingtons and let the lad answer the call of nature. The little lad was not amused – but every one else saw the joke.



Criccieth Castle

1984 – CRICCIETH



Staff: Phil Ashton; Les Burgess; Geoff Crompton; Chris Eatock; June Egerton Brian Holland;
Danny Rathbone; Daryl Mitchell; Richard Royle; Monica Simpson.

Members: M. Atherton; M. Burgess; R. Burgess; C. Davies; C. Davies; A. Egerton; D. Findlay;
H. Godfrey; S. Marshall; D. Mitchell (Diane); P. Rees; M. Roberts; D. Sharran; R. Sharran;
K. Simpson; A. Winstanley; G. Winstanley; N Yardley

1985 WHITBY

Site Details: Carr Mount, Sleights, Nr. Whitby.

Flat, well drained field with the A1410 road on one side and the River Esk on the other.

Dates: 17th to 24th August

Numbers: Staff 12 Members: 15 + 1 Child.

Tentage: Three Bell Tents; one 22 x 15' Marquee; one 22' x 15' Cookhouse; plus a miscellany of Staff and Store Tents. Quoted hire charges by J. C. Bradfield £218.00; transport donated by a local Haulage Company.

Tent Commanders:

(1) R Sharman (2) N Yardley (3) P Rees

Camp Song Verse:

The Red Arrows came and entertained us x 3

At Whitby '85 – WE'RE ALIVE

Ghost Story: The red eyed atomic rat.

Awards:

Cross Country: (1) N Yardley (2) M Burgess (3) G Winstanley.

Best Tent: Number 1 – R Sharman.

Best Member at their first camp: K Maddock

Best overall Member: P Rees.

Anecdotes:

1) A Centrally Heated River:

The River Esk can become pretty cold, even during the summer months and this was certainly the case in August 1985. Some 'nesh' youngsters were forever complaining about the water temperature, particularly during their early morning dip. Phil put it about that a water heating device was to be purchased to heat up a small section of the river. This device did not come cheap and those who wanted to take advantage of it would have to pay towards the rental! On the following morning a peculiar contraption (knocked up in

the marquee the night before) was lowered into the river, near to the bank, and a ‘dummy’ electric cable led towards the generator tent.

When morning dip was called at 8 a.m., Members were told that anyone wanting a warm dip would have to pay for the privilege. One of the boys even agreed to collect the cash and to vary the charge according to the distance bathers stood from the heater. With the water running fast past the ‘heater’ it was amazing how many youngsters delved into their pocket money to pay the levy. To top it all, some actually said that the cost was worth it and that the water was warmer than on any previous day.

2) Entertained By The Red Arrows:

After a full and very enjoyable day on the beach, swimming, canoeing, cliff climbing and playing beach games the Group were in the process of packing up the gear to return to Camp. At about 5 p.m. some Staff noticed that large crowds of people were beginning to gather on the promenade and cliffs. On asking what was happening they were told that the RAF Red Arrow Aerobatic Flight was shortly to give a demonstration off Whitby Head. The Group decided to delay the evening meal and to await the arrival of the flyers. Eventually they came and gave a most magnificent display over the sea and one which all who were present will remember for many a long day.



River Esk, Whitby

1985 – WHITBY



Staff: Helen Ashton; Phil Ashton; Les Burgess; Geoff Crompton; Chris Eatock; June Egerton; Brian Holland; Daryl Mitchell; Diane Mitchell; Andrew Preen; K Simpson; Monica Simpson.

Members: M. Atherton; M. Burgess; R. Burgess; A. Egerton; C. Maddock; K. Maddock; N. Masson; R. Moreland; P. Rees; M. Roberts; R. Sharman; S. Waddington; A. Winstanley; G. Winstanley; N. Yardley

1986

LLYN CWELLYN

Site Details: Planwydd, Rhyd-ddu, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, North Wales.

Farmer: Mr J L Ellis. Site cost £37.00 per week.

River and lake site just below Mount Snowdon and surrounded by trees.

Dates: 16th to 23rd August

Numbers: Staff: 9 + 2 part time Members: 13 + 1 Child

Tentage: Two Bell Tents; one 22 x 15' Marquee; plus a miscellany of Staff and Store Tents. Quoted hire charges by J. C. Bradfield £137.00; transport donated by a local Haulage Company.

Tent Commanders:

(1) A Winstanley. (2) A Egerton

Camp Song Verse:

In 1986 the Circus came to Madoc Town x 3

But Monica didn't rate the 'Piggin' clowns – SHE FROWNED.

Awards:

Cross country: (1) A Edwards (2) M Burgess (3) R Burgess.

Best Tent: Number 2 – A Egerton.

Keenest Member: R Burgess

Best Member at their first camp: A Edwards

Best overall Member: M Atherton.

Anecdotes:

1) Attendance:

In July of this year a special Senior Duke of Edinburgh's Award Camp had been held on the shores of Lake Windermere. In consequence numbers at this camp were below normal.

2) A Circus Came To Town:

When Staff learned that a circus tent had been spotted in Porthmadog enquiries were made and tickets booked for an evening performance. The circus clowns took a great liking to Monica Simpson. However, Monica did not appreciate their attention and let it be known in no uncertain manner that ‘She did not like the ‘Piggin’ clowns!’ Nevertheless, it was a memorable night for the rest of the Camp Members.

3) Rope Bridge:

Running alongside the site and into the lake was a river approximately 10 metres in width. Brian Holland, an expert with ropes and pulleys and things, decided to rig up a rope bridge across the stream at its widest point. ‘Bridge’ may be a slight exaggeration, for the finished construction consisted of two taut ropes, 4 feet apart and one above the other. Members were then invited to try their luck at crossing the stream with their feet on the lower rope whilst holding on to the one above. This was not a steady structure for the ropes swayed from side to side as each person tried to cross. With difficulty, quite a number successfully made it to the opposite bank, but a few dropped off into the deep stream below, much to the derision of the watching throng.

4) The Flood:

Although the river was placid most of the time, to the extent that it was safe and suitable for swimming, this all changed one morning when a raging storm in the hills the previous night turned the stream into a raging torrent. No swimming or playing in the river that day.



Sail Boarding on Llyn Cwellyn

1986 – LLYN CWELLYN



Staff: Helen Ashton; Phil Ashton; Les Burgess; Geoff Crompton (Part); Chris Eatock; June Egerton (Part); S Hitchinson; Brian Holland; Daryl Mitchell; Monica Simpson; Susan Woodward.

Members: M. Atherton; M. Burgess; R. Burgess; J. Dale; A. Edwards; A. Egerton; S. Marshall; R. Moreland; R. Sharran; K. Simpson; A. Winstanley; G. Winstanley + Daniel Ashton.

1986

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD CAMP LAKE WINDERMERE

Site Details: Low Wray Farm, Windermere – A National Trust Site.
More or less opposite to Waterhead, Ambleside. Flat field surrounded by trees and close to the lake. Site cost: £46.00.

Dates: 19th to 26th July

Numbers: Staff: 2 + 2 part time Members: 6.

Tentage:

Small 2 man Tents for Staff and Members; two large Frame Tents.

Staff:

Geoff Crompton; Monica Simpson; Phil Ashton (part time); Andrew Preen (part time).

Members:

A.Egerton; C.Maddock; K.Maddock; R.Moreland; K. Simpson; S. Waddington.

Activities:

Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award Expeditions.

During the course of the week five young ladies passed their D of E Award Expedition Tests. They walked for 15 miles around Lake Windermere, carried their own gear and camped for one night in the woods close to Low Wray Castle.

Other activities during the week included: games; hill walking; canoeing; swimming and visits to Ambleside and Bowness.

Anecdotes:

1) TA On Parade:

On the last day of camp a Territorial Army Unit set up tents in the woods next to our site. Now, it should be understood, that the six young ladies of the Group, five of whom were engaged in taking their Duke of Edinburgh's Award, were very attractive 14/16 year olds. The young TA lads started to 'chat them up' but in an astute move, Geoff and Monica, thinking that the TA lads would be better in their line of vision than out of it, invited them

to the camp fire that evening. They all sang heartily, listened intently to the ghost story and enjoyed a mug of cocoa and biscuits before retiring for the night.



Preparing To Set Out Around Windermere



Staff And Members At The 1986 D.o.E. Camp



Staff And Members Back At The HQ - 1986

1987

CRICCIETH

Site Details: Ynysgain Faur Farm – railway field. Farmer: Mr Hughes. Site cost £68.00 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: 22nd to 29th August

Numbers: Staff: 12 Members: 12 + I Child.

Tentage: Two Bell Tents; one 40x 20' Marquee; plus a miscellany of Staff and Store Tents. Quoted hire charges by J. C. Bradfield £152.00; transport donated by a local Haulage Company.

Tent Commanders:

(1) P Rees. (2) R Moreland

Camp Song Verse:

There came a Yank to Criccieth camp in 1987 x 3
From Michigan USA – HURRAY.

Ghost Story: Alwyn Thomas - the Hunchback of Criccieth Castle.

Awards:

Best tent: Number 1 – P Rees.

Best Member at their first camp – A Washington.

Best overall Member: P Rees.

Anecdotes:

1) Breakfast Ritual:

These were the years of our second minibus 'Maggie Too'. Because our friendly local haulier was unable to collect our tentage from J C Bradfield in Liverpool on the Friday afternoon's Daryl and Phil volunteered to pick up and transport the gear to Moulton in 'Maggie'. This they then did for a number of years and now recall that they developed the ritual of having an all day breakfast at a Little Chef on their return journey.

2) The Yanks Are Coming:

Susan Woodward was not strictly a member of staff of the MAG. She was a participant in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, having started on the D of E trail whilst at the Grange School, Hartford. Having left the Grange she made the decision to finish her Award and asked Brian Holland, who served on the local D of E Award Committee, if he could arrange for her to do part of her service training with a local group? Being a member of staff in the MAG, Brian suggested that she come along to camp in North Wales for a week.

Susan had a pen friend in Michigan, USA who was visiting her in Northwich during the summer of 1987. Not wanting to leave her friend at home whilst she was away enjoying a week's camp, she asked if she could bring her along too. The Staff of the Group readily agreed and were introduced to the young lady – Kelly Olson. Kelly was a delightful girl who quickly struck up a rapport with everyone and enjoyed her camp thoroughly.

3) Yankee Doodle Dandy:

The Staff item at the camp fire on Friday night was a compliment to Kelly Olson. They devised and acted a parody of that famous American scene showing a small group of early Americans, some wounded in battle, playing 'Yankee Doodle' on a piccolo and drum and carrying the Stars and Stripes, proudly, to their front.

4) All Under One Roof:

In an attempt to keep camp charges to a minimum the Staff decided to reduce the tentage bill. This they did by hiring one 40' x 20' marquee instead of the usual two smaller ones. The cookhouse facility was then relocated in a partitioned corner of the large tent. This system worked well and was used for many years until the Group managed to purchase its own marquee and cookhouse tent.



Camp Fun Photo Criccieth

1987 – CRICCIETH



Staff: Helen Ashton; Phil Ashton; Andrea Bebbington; Les Burgess; Geoff Crompton; Chris Eatock; Brian Holland; Kelly Olsson (USA); Daryl Mitchell; Kerry Simpson; Monica Simpson; Susan Woodward.

Members: S. Bell; M. Burgess; R. Burgess; A. Fleet; C. Illidge; S. Marshall; R. Moreland; P. Rees; C. Powell; R. Sharmar; S. Thomas; A. Washington + Daniel Ashton.

1988 WHITBY

Site Details: Carr Mount, Sleights, Nr. Whitby. Site cost £101.50 per week. Flat, well drained field with the A1410 road on one side and the River Esk on the other.

Dates: 13th to 20th August

Numbers: Staff: 10 Members: 17 + 3 Children.

Tentage: Three Bell Tents; one 40x 20' Marquee; plus a miscellany of Staff and Store Tents. Quoted hire charges by J. C. Bradfield £201.00; transport donated by a local Haulage Company.

Tent Commanders:

(1) G Winstanley (2) M Burgess (3) R Sharman

Camp Song Verse:

Reeso went fishing at Whitby '88 x 3
But he didn't catch a SPRAT he caught a BAT – HOWZAT!

Awards:

Cross country winners: (1) J Powell (2) D Edwards (3) A Buckley

Best Tent: Number 1 – G Winstanley

Most adventurous Member: S Foster

Best Member at their first camp: S Foster

Best overall Member: J Powell

Anecdotes:

1) Hook, Line And Sinker:

After dinner one night some Members decided to break out their fishing rods and head for the river to try to catch some fish. One of the lads was Paul Rees and as it grew dark Paul bated his hook and cast into the river. As his float and hook were airborne a bat swooped down from the trees and took his hook and bait, literally 'hook line and sinker'. Staff had great difficulty in extricating the hook from the throat of the bat to set it free.

2) An Unexpected Guest:

In 1988 both Phil Ashton and Monica Simpson had the job of Quartermasters i.e. they ensured that all food and anything else required was purchased and available as needed. One day Phil and Monica said that they needed to take a trip to the local shops to buy groceries. Whilst they were away Daryl Mitchell thought he would have a bit of fun with Monica.

Along with other Members of Staff he emptied Monica's tent of all the gear and took it down. He then re-erected the tent on the same spot over Monica's Mini Metro Car and zipped up the door.

On her return from shopping Daryl told Monica that one of the children was unwell and that he had put her to bed in her tent. He said the child was asleep and should not be disturbed. Some time later, Monica looked in on the child only to receive a welcome from her car number plate inside the door.

3) Kippers For Breakfast:

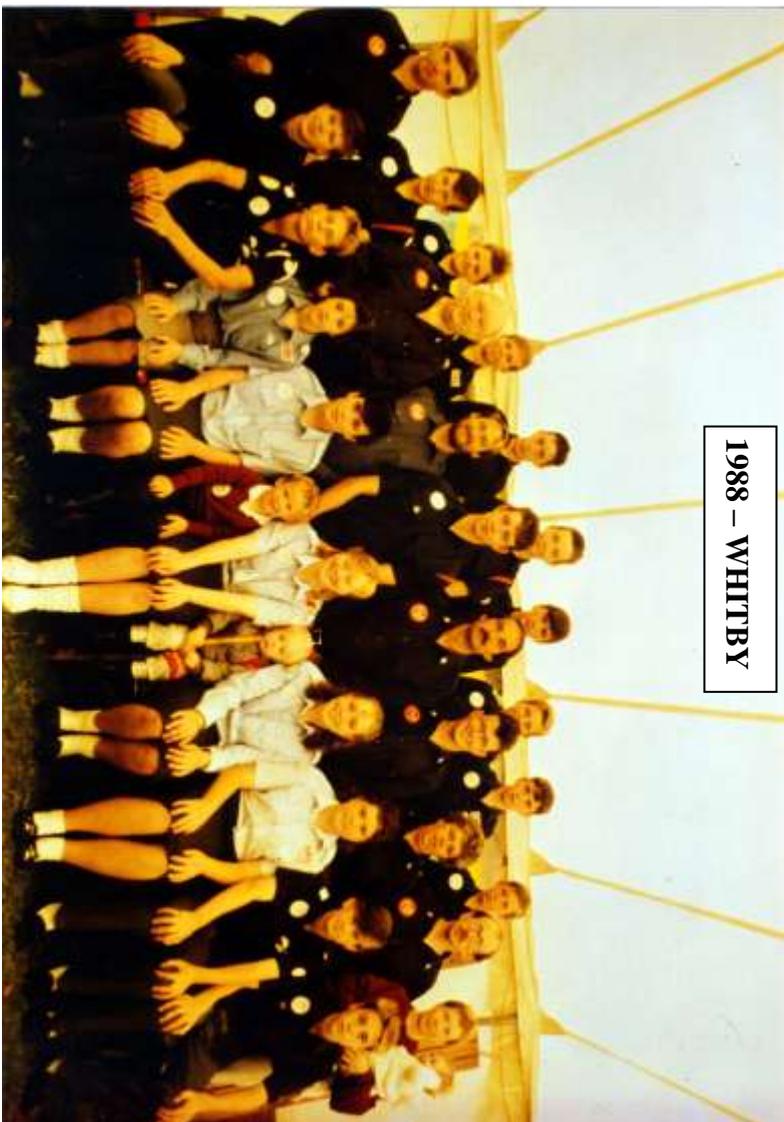
Shane Marshall was a keen fisherman and one day asked if he could fish in the river after dark. His wish was granted on the understanding that whatever he caught would be cooked and that he would eat it.

Shane set up his gear on the bank and settled down to fish. Whilst Shane was answering the call of nature Phil Ashton hauled in his line and attached a kipper to the hook. When Shane returned from the bog he shouted with joy when he realised that he had caught something. He pulled in his line and showed everyone in camp his catch. Next morning the kipper was duly cooked and presented to Shane for breakfast.



The Landing Pier At Whitby

1988 – WHITBY



Staff: Helen Ashton; Phil Ashton; Les Burgess; Geoff Crompton; Chris Eatock; Brian Holland;
Daryl Mitchell; P Rees; Monica Simpson; A Winstanley.

Members: R. Barton; S. Bell; M. Burgess; R. Burgess; A. Buckley; D. Edwards; A. Fleet; S. Foster;
J. Head; L. Hough; S. Marshall; C. Powell; J. Powell; K. Rees; R. Sharran; A. Washington;
G. Winstanley + Daniel Ashton; Kate Ashton; Carl Mitchell.

1989

LLYN CWELLYN

Site Details: Planwydd, Rhyd-ddu, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, North Wales.

Farmer: Mr J L Ellis. Site cost £ 60.00 per week.

River and lake site just below Mount Snowdon and surrounded by trees.

Dates: 18th to 25th August

Numbers: Staff: 12 Members: 12 + Four mini campers (2 days) from the Kestrel Section and 3 Children

Tentage: Four Ridge Tents; one 40x 20' Marquee; plus a miscellany of Staff and Store Tents. Quoted hire charges by J. C. Bradfield £122.00: transport donated by a local Haulage Company.

Tent Commanders:

(1) A Fleet (2) C Powell (3) R Burgess

Camp Song Verse:

Four mini campers came to Cwellyn '89 x 3
And we hope they will return another time – FINE.

Awards:

Best tent: Number 3 – C Powell

Most adventurous Member: A Edwards

Best Member at their first camp – S Maddock

Best overall Member – C Powell

Anecdotes:

1) Mini Campers:

1989 saw the arrival of four mini-campers from the Kestrel Group (7 – 10 year olds). The idea was that these youngsters would be allowed to come to Camp for two nights to get a taste of what camping was about.

2) And The Rains Came:

On the whole, not a very good week so far as the weather was concerned. However, this did not create any problems until the final day when Camp was being struck. The vehicle

sent to collect the gear etc managed to get stuck in the mud and we had to enlist the help of Mr. Ellis and his tractor to haul the vehicle off the site and on to the hard standing of the lane leading to the Camp.

3) 'I See No Sheep':

At about 3 a.m. one night Geoff was awakened by the sound of the rain and wind lashing down. He then felt that his sleeping bag was wet and that rain was pouring in at one end of the tent. He put on his clothes and went outside to see what the trouble was. The rain had softened the ground allowing the wind to drag out the pegs at one end. The outer tent was lying on the inner with the result that water was leaking in. Geoff found a mallet and in the pouring rain started to hammer in the pegs. He said later that he had said to himself "What on earth am I doing here at 56 years of age, hammering pegs into the ground in torrential rain in the middle of the night, in the middle of Snowdonia?"

Next morning the storm had abated and the day's activities began. Over lunch Geoff, who had not had a lot of sleep, asked the rest of the Staff what their plans were for the afternoon. He was told that they had arranged canoeing on the lake and that some Members were to set off to climb a mountain near to the site. At this Geoff said 'Well if you don't mind I'm off to bed to catch up on my sleep!' About an hour later Geoff, who by this time had nicely snuggled down in his, now dry sleeping bag, was wakened by a call of distress outside. 'Geoffff... Geoffff' he heard. Quickly getting out of his bed, he put on his clothes, unzipped the tent and looked around. There was nobody to be seen. He could see some Staff and Members at a distance canoeing and swimming in the lake but not a soul on site. Geoff then looked over the hedge into the next field and a sheep looked him straight in the eye and said, what sounded like 'Geoffff'.



Snowdonia

1989 – LLYN CWELLYN



Staff: Helen Ashton (part); Phil Ashton; Les Burgess; M Burgess; Geoff Crompton; Chris Eatock; Brian Holland; S Marshall; Daryl Mitchell; Richard Royle (part); Michelle Royle (part); Monica Simpson.

Members: S. Birtles; R. Burgess; A. Edwards; D. Edwards; A. Fleet; S. Lees; S. Maddock; S. Noden; C. Powell; V. Powell; K. Rees; J. Yarwood. Mini Campers (2 Days): A. Gee; A. Grant; J. Hunter; L. Whitlow + Daniel Ashton; Kate Ashton; Carl Mitchell.

1990

CRICCIETH

Site Details:

Ynysgain Faur Farm – middle or ‘rock’ field. Farmer: Mr. Hughes. Site cost £221.00. Good, flat well drained site c.100 yards from shore; sandy spots to swim fish and boat; interesting rock pools abound.

Dates: 20th to 27th August

Numbers: Staff: 13 Members: 20 + 13 Mini campers.

Tentage: Three Bell Tents; one 40x 20’ Marquee; plus a miscellany of Staff and Store Tents. Quoted hire charges by J. C. Bradfield £214.00; transport donated by a local Haulage Company.

Tent Commanders:

(1)A Edwards (2) R Burgess (3) A Fleet

Camp Song Verse:

At 1990 Criccieth camp the men were really cads x 3
For they filled the girls toilets from the lads – THEY’RE BAD.

Awards:

Cross country winners: (1) Alan Edwards (2) A Buckley (3) A Fleet.

Best Tent: Number 1 – A Fleet.

Best Member at their first camp – S Hughes

Best overall Member – A Fleet.

Anecdotes:

1) Duke Of Edinburgh’s Gold Award:

A young lady, from the Grange School, Hartford, asked permission to attend camp as a working Junior Member of Staff to help achieve her D of E Service level. Her name was Jenny Cope. She put in a tidy bit of work over the week to obtain a glowing report in her record book.

2) Bog Problems:

As mentioned earlier the ladies of Camp were supplied with a large frame tent for personal washing, hygiene etc. Also within the tent was a partitioned latrine. It was the custom for the males to empty their ‘bog’ into the latrine pit whilst the girls attended to theirs.

This system worked well until a devious Member of the male Staff (Daryl Mitchell) had an idea. Each morning they quietly bided their time until all the ladies on site were engaged in other activities. They then proceeded to empty the boy’s latrine bucket into the bucket in the girl’s tent. As there were far more males than females in Camp Monica approached Geoff after a couple of days with a very worried look on her face.

She said she was very concerned at the amount of ‘pooh’ the girls were producing and suspected that they had some form of infection. She was not best pleased when told that she had been emptying the total excretions of the Camp into the pit for the past two or three days.

3) Stirling Moss They Were Not:

As a treat for some of the older Members, a few Staff, who had brought their cars to Camp, allowed the boy’s and girl’s to drive the cars around the playing field for a while under supervision. They were thrilled and the vehicles survived the experience.



A Typical Staff Meal Gathering

1990 – CRICCIETH



Staff: Phil Ashton; Les Burgess; M Burgess; Jenny Cope (D of E); Geoff Crompton; Chris Eatock;

Brian Holland; Shane Marshall; Daryl Mitchell; Simon Preen; Richard Royle; Michelle Royle; Monica Simpson.

Members: A. Buckley; N. Bugg; S. Bugg; R. Burgess; A. Edwards; D. Edwards; J. Fitton; A. Fleet; J. Fleet;
I. Green; S. Hughes; S. Hough; S. Lees; P. Latham; C. Lever; S. Noden; D. Parker; L. Parker; A. Thompson;
M. Walker.

Mini Campers (2 Days): R. Andrew; L. Bailey; L. Chilton; A. Grant; G. Green; N. Hough; V. Lever; S. Mill; E.

Robson; A. Thompson; L. Whitlow; V. Whitlow; R. Wiseman + Daniel Ashton; Carl Mitchell; Lyndsey Mitchell.

1991 WHITBY

Site Details: Carr Mount, Sleights, Nr. Whitby.

Flat well drained field with the A1410 road on one side and the River Esk on the other

Dates: 17th to 24th August

Numbers: Staff: 14 Members: 22 + 6 Mini Campers and 3 Children.

Tentage: Three Bell Tents; one 40x 20' Marquee; plus a miscellany of Staff and Store Tents. Vehicle donated by Bristol Haulage Company but drivers wages and fuel cost £150.00.

Tent Commanders:

(1) S Hughes (2) D Edwards (3) N Bugg

Camp Song Verse:

The river needed warming up in 1991 x 3
But our generator wasn't good enough – TOUGH.

Awards:

Cross country winners: (1) D Edwards (2) P Latham (3) L Massey.

Best Tent: Number 1 – S Hughes.

Best Member at their first camp: S Lear.

Best overall Member: D Edwards.

Anecdotes:

1) Aquaplaning On The Esk:

Early on in the week a good natured feud began between four Members of Staff. Over two or three days a good deal of banter took place between the Royle brothers on the one hand (Andrew and Richard) and Phil Ashton and Daryl Mitchell on the other. The banter centred on which of the two pairs was stronger at paddling a Canadian canoe. To settle the argument it was decided to arrange a tug of war contest on the waters of the River Esk. The contest would take place with both pairs sitting in a Canadian, facing in opposite directions. When the start whistle blew each set of paddlers would pit their strength against the other and try to move the canoe forward. On the evening of the contest all was

made ready and, with much cheering from the bank, the signal to start was given. Both couples began to paddle like crazy but sad to say it was no contest.

Andrew and Richard won easily, for being much heavier than Phil and Daryl, they were able to obtain more purchase on their paddles by digging them deep into the water. The excuse given by Phil and Daryl for their defeat was that the canoe was lower in the water at the Royle end leaving them high in the air at the other. Phil said later that he was so high in the air at one point that he suffered a nose bleed. A lame excuse it has to be said.

2) **Bolshy Boy:**

It was Ewan Robson's first Camp and to say he was of an independent nature would be stretching it a bit. He was 'bolshy'. He just would not do as he was told and at one point was in danger of being sent home. Just before the heavens were about to descend on him Daryl Mitchell and he had a final confrontation. There had been heavy dew the night before and after the morning inspection Daryl ordered everyone to put their gear back into their tents. Ewan refused and so Daryl decided that the time had come to make a firm stand. He placed a chair at the entrance to Iwan's tent and refused to let him enter until his gear was properly stowed away. It took a while, but in the end Iwan capitulated. After that there were no further problems with Iwan who became a very long serving member of the Group.

3) **Scarred For Life:**

For one reason or another, some people who attend Camp seem to think that they must have the facility of a shower on site. Bathing in the sea, lake or river is just not sufficient for their needs. Ladies, in particular are prone to complain, but in fairness it must be said that the 'odd' bloke does have a moan too. Well, at Whitby in 1991, some kind hearted Members of Staff decided to rig up a make-shift shower. They put up a screen, with a watering can rose above and designed to supply a limited amount of water to the recipient below. Some Staff Members started to use the facility and one day, Haley Green, a very attractive young Junior Member of Staff, decided it was her turn. She entered the shower, stripped, and proceeded to enjoy the luxury of the cascading water. Unfortunately for her, Richard Royle, with the same idea in mind, approached the shower and without noticing (or that's what he said, anyway) pulled back the screen. There, standing in front of him was this naked figure of loveliness. Richard fled in terror but later apologised to Haley for viewing her in her birthday suit.

1991 – WHITBY



Staff: Phil Ashton; Les Burgess; Richard Burgess; Geoff Crompton; A Harvey; Heather Donald; Chris Eatock; Adrian Fleet; S Gandi; Haley Green; Daryl Mitchell; Andrew Royle; Michelle Royle; Richard Royle.

Members: R. Andrew; N. Bugg; S. Bugg; D. Church; D. Edwards; J. Fleet; J. Gandi; A. Grant; M. Hughes; S Hughes; S. Lear; S. Lees; P. Latham; C. Lever; L. Massie; S Mill; J. Payne; E. Robson; J. Ward; E. Whitlow; R. Wiseman; M. Wright

Mini Campers (2 Days): A. Astles; T. Astles; S. Edwards; D. Finney; K. Worth. + Daniel Ashton; Carl Mitchell; L.vndsev Mitchell.

1992

LLYN CWELLYN

Site Details: Planwydd, Rhyd-ddu, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, North Wales.
Farmer: Mr J. L. Ellis. Site cost £62.00 per week.
River and lake site just below Mount Snowdon and surrounded by trees.

Dates: 22nd to 29th August

Numbers: Staff: 9 Members: 10 + 3 Children

Tentage: Two Bell Tents; one 40x 20' Marquee; plus a miscellany of Staff and Store Tents. Quoted hire charges by J. C. Bradfield £207.00; transport donated by a local Haulage Company.

Tent Commanders:

(1) D Edwards (2) J Fleet

Camp Song Verse:

We had to move the big Marquee in 1992 x 3
'cause the ground was in a stew – LIKE GLUE

Awards:

Best Tent: Number 2 – J Fleet
Best Member at their first camp: M Hubbard
Best overall Member: D Edwards

Anecdotes:

1) Quagmire:

In 1992 the weather was very unkind to the Moulton Adventure Group. It rained all week and by Tuesday the site was a quagmire, particularly the land around and inside the large marquee. A decision was taken to strike the saturated canvas (not an easy task) and move the marquee to higher ground. When this was done life became a little more comfortable in the new location.

2) Singing In The Rain:

The Staff camp fire item on the Friday was a hoot for they decided to do that memorable Gene Kelly scene from the film 'Singing in the Rain', with umbrellas, wet gear and copious amounts of water.

3) Hypothermia:

On Saturday morning the heavens opened again, just in time for the striking of Camp. By the time the marquee had been dropped, nearly everyone was wet, cold and miserable. A meal of sorts was put together and eaten in the only tent left standing, an ex War Department store tent. Concern was then expressed about the very young Members who were in danger of succumbing to hypothermia. It was decided to send them home early and Les was asked to do the honours. He had no objections and was glad to vacate the site with his young charges. When the Group finally left the site it looked very much like of a scene from the WW1 Somme or Passchendaele battlefields.



Lake And Mountain – Llyn Cwellyn

1992 – LLYN CWELLYN



Staff: Phil Ashton; Les Burgess; Geoff Crompton; Heather Donald; Adrian Fleet; Brian Holland; Daryl Mitchell;
Andrew Royle; Richard Royle.

Members: R. Andrew; D. Ashton; S. Dutton; D. Edwards; J. Fleet; A. Grant; M. Hubbard;

C. Mitchell; R. Powell; E. Robson. + Lindsey Mitchell; Laura Royle; Sarah Royle.

1993

CRICCIETH

Site Details:

Ynysgain Faur Farm – Railway field. Farmer: Mr. Hughes.

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

Dates: 7th to 14th August

Numbers: Staff: 10 Members: 14 + 1 mini camper

Tentage: Two Bell Tents; one 10' x 8' Ridge Tent; one 30x 20' Marquee; plus a miscellany of Staff and Store Tents. Vehicle donated by a local Haulage Company.

Tent Commanders:

(1) D Edwards (2) M Hubbard (3) E Worth

Camp Song Verse:

Our Mini-Bus broke down in 1993 x 3

And it broke down in a traffic jam – KABOOM

Awards:

Best Sports Team: D Edwards and Team.

Best Tent: Number 1 - D Edwards

Best Member at their first Camp: Emma Worth

Best overall Member: D Edwards

Anecdotes:

1) Right Site, Wrong Field:

On occasions when the driver of the vehicle, wanted an early start on Saturday morning two Group members would travel with him to offload the gear prior to the arrival of the main convoy. This particular year was such an occasion and Phil Ashton with young David Edwards volunteered to rise early and travel on the lorry. On arrival at the site they quickly unloaded the vehicle and sent the driver on his way. Shortly afterwards the farmer, Mr Hughes, arrived on site to tell them that they were in the wrong field and that they should be in the Railway field. Phil and David then had the job of telling the rest of

the Group, on their arrival on site, that the gear needed to be moved to the correct location.

2) Putting On A Show:

As the sea wall at Criccieth is high and pretty steep the ‘mountain goats’ among the Staff decided to use the facility as a climbing wall. Members, properly roped up, with a Member of Staff lashed on at the top, enjoyed a unique climbing practise in the sunshine. Crowds soon gathered to watch the Group and were delighted at what they saw.

3) ‘Dipso’ Roylee:

For a bit of light relief Staff, led by Daryl Mitchell, concocted a ruse to make Monica think that Andrew Royle was well on the way to becoming an alcoholic. Each day, when the Quartermaster was about to leave to collect the groceries from town, he asked the Staff, including Monica Simpson, if there was anything they wanted from the shops. Each day, Andrew asked for a bottle of whisky. He then, on a number of occasions over the day, let it be known that he was retiring to his tent for a few minutes. Pretending secrecy, he would then produce a brown paper bag with a bottle in it and take a sly slug, making sure of course that Monica was observing him. Monica became so concerned that she confided in some Senior Members of Staff and pleaded with them to do something to stop Andrew’s addiction. She was not a ‘happy camper’ when she discovered that she had been duped again and that the bottles contained cold tea.

4) Revenge Is Sweet:

Not to be outdone, Monica decided to take her revenge. When Daryl was off Camp one day, she crept into his tent and sewed up his sleeping bag at about half way, making an ‘apple pie bed’. After a night in the marquee playing cards etc Daryl retired to his pit but try as he might he could not stretch his legs to the bottom of his bag. In desperation he raided the first aid kit, borrowed a pair of scissors and cut the stitching inside his bag. Monica had had her revenge.

5) Amateurs And Experts:

One day when the weather was poor, a decision was taken to transport most of the Camp to Criccieth baths for a swim and hot shower. On the return journey the mini-bus gave up the ghost and Phil and Andy tried to fix it. They failed and the bus was then towed back to Camp. On arrival, and much to Phil and Andy’s embarrassment, Daryl took a look at the problem and within minutes, sorted the fault and had the bus running again.

1993 – CRICCIETH



Staff: Phil Ashton; Les Burgess; Richard Burgess; Geoff Crompton; Heather Donald Adrian Fleet; Daryl Mitchell; Rachel Moreland; Andrew Royle; Monica Simpson.

Members: R. Andrew; D. Ashton; D. Edwards; J. Fleet; V. Goodier; M. Hubbard;
C. Mitchell; L. Mitchell; O. Maskell; E. Robson; S. Royle; R. Wiseman; E. Worth; K. Worth.

1994

BALA LAKE

Site Details: Flat, well drained site with the River Tryweryn flowing alongside into Bala Lake. Further upstream, 'white water' canoeists trained and competed. To make this sport more interesting a dam had been constructed beyond the 'white water area'. The waters, when released every day around 10 a.m, cascaded down stream for about six hours. This made the river unsafe for water sports and these were banned during the time of the torrent. Site cost £200.00 per week.

Dates: 6th to 13th August

Numbers: Staff: 11 Members: 18

Tentage: Quoted hire charges by J. C. Bradfield £229.00

Tent Commanders:

(1) J Fleet (2) A Grant (3) L Hubbard (4) E Worth

Camp Song Verse:

Andy went a swimming in the deep, freezing stream x 3
Just to save the ladies latrine – KEEN

Awards:

Best Tent: Number 1 – Jim Fleet.

Best Member at their first camp: L Hubbard.

Best overall Member: A Grant.

Anecdotes:

1) A Costly Set Of Gear:

On the way to Camp on the Saturday morning Geoff's car, loaded with kit and youngsters, decided to give up the ghost. It broke down with severe gearbox problems. The car was towed onto the site by one of the other cars and later to a local garage in Bala. A new gearbox was prescribed and this made camp a very expensive holiday for Geoff.

2) A Tent Full Of Eastern Promise:

Adrian Fleet, a young Member of Staff, asked if it would be OK to invite his young lady to Camp. He said that she had her own tent and that it was perfectly adequate. On the Saturday morning the Staff were astounded to see the design of the tent. It looked rather like something from the Arabian Nights, with tassels, trinkets and minarets in abundance. A magic carpet was half expected to appear but didn't, thank goodness.

3) Abandon Ship:

One morning Andy Royle offered to take the two Worth sisters for a boat ride on the lake. Now these three ladies were bonnie lasses to say the least and Andrew was no lean chicken either! When they all climbed aboard the Guard Boat aft, they, along with the weight of the outboard motor, very nearly swamped the boat with water lapping over the gunwales.

4) The Great 'Bog' Escape:

Having emptied a bog bucket into the chemical toilet provided by the site management the Staff member concerned noticed, on tramping back to the latrine area, that the bucket was still a little soiled. Not wishing to retrace his journey to the chemical toilets he decided to clean the bucket in the river. On wading in to the stream he lost his grip on the bucket handle which quickly sailed away. Camp activities were then interrupted with a shout from the river bank of 'Bog overboard'. Staff and members raced down the river in an attempt to cut off the escaping bog. Some 200 yards down stream the escaping toilet was recaptured, given a good thrashing and returned to the lonely seclusion of its own little sentry box. Later a member of staff to suggest that a new sport had been invented. White water 'toBOGaning'.



Kayak Instruction On Bala Lake

1994 – BALA LAKE



Staff: Phil Ashton; Les Burgess; Geoff Crompton; David Edwards; Adrian Fleet; Mike Hubbard; Daryl Mitchell; Rachel Moreland; Andrew Royle; Monica Simpson. Pam Wymne.

Members: R. Andrew; D. Ashton; A. Grant; L. Hubbard; S. Mill; S. Norwood; C. Mitchell; L. Mitchell; O. Maskell; E. Robson; S. Royle; E. Sumner; H. Sumner; E. Worth; K. Worth.

1995

CONISTON LAKE

Site Details: Hoathwaite Farm, Coniston Water, Cumbria. Farmer: Mr. A. C. Wilson.
Large lake side site with trees in abundance.

Dates: 19th to 26th August.

Numbers: Staff: 13 Members: 28

Tentage: Three 13' x 8' Ridge Tents; one 40 x 20' Marquee; plus a miscellany of Staff and Store Tents. Quoted hire charges by J. C. Bradfield £259; vehicle donated by a local Haulage Company.

Tent Commanders:

(1) J Fleet (2) E Robson (3) L Hubbard (4) W Griffiths (5) E Worth.

Camp Song Verse:

Three tried to swim across the Lake in 1995 x 3
But Sarah got stuck half way – DISMAY.

Awards:

Cross country winners: 1) S Brooks 2) I Robson 3) G Baker

Best Tent: Number 1 – J Fleet

Best Sports team: Team 'A' – Laura McGahern

Best Member at their first camp (Senior): L McGahern

Best Member at first camp (Junior): S Brooks

Best overall Member: W Griffiths

Anecdotes:

1) Another Challenge:

You could lay odds that if the Group camped close to a lake then at some time during the week someone would want to swim across it. Coniston Water was no different and early in the week three Members asked permission. This was granted, providing each was accompanied by a canoe or Guard Boat. The three, Laura McGahern, Sarah Royle and Gill Stanning duly set off but, as in previous years, one succumbed to the cold and developed cramp. The Guard Boat quickly hauled Sarah aboard leaving the other two to complete the challenge.

2) Warnings Often Fall On Deaf Ears:

One very hot afternoon the whole of Camp was enjoying a swim in the cool waters of the lake. Marker buoys were positioned, showing the limit beyond which Members must not swim. An Observer was on watch on the bank. In her excitement, Emily Sumner swam out of her depth and panicked when she could not touch bottom. A Member of Staff, Neil Brooks, quickly swam to her aid and pulled her back into shallow water. However, in her panic, she managed to claw some great scratches onto Neil's chest.

3) Its Not The Cough That Carries You Off – It's The Coffin They Carry You Off

In:

It has long been a tradition at Camp that after supper, when Wide games etc have been completed and youngsters bedded down for the night, Staff retire to the marquee for a well earned hour or two of relaxation, cards and chat. This time is very often so enjoyable that some younger Staff Members, who may have been out 'yomping' the hills all day, often refuse to succumb to their tiredness for fear of missing something.

One night at, Coniston Adrian Fleet, could be seen 'dropping off' at the table. It was suggested that he turn in, but he refused. Later on, he lay on the floor of the marquee and dropped off to sleep. Enter stage left, a devious bunch of older Staff, who proceeded to construct a coffin like structure around the prone figure of Adrian. When he did finally awake in his box, he thought for a brief moment that he was dead. It was only when he heard the laughter of the Staff that he realised he wasn't.



Rock Climbing Practise

1995 – CONISTON LAKE



Staff: Phil Ashton; Helen Bampton; Neil Brooks; Geoff Crompton; David Edwards; Adrian Fleet; Michael Hubbard; Daryl Mitchell; Rachel Moreland; Andrew Royle ; Gill Stanning; Grant Stanning; Andrew Wilson.

Members: H. Ashley; J. Ashley; D. Ashton; G. Baker; C. Brooks; J. Brooks; S. Brooks; T. Davies; G. Day; G. Day; J. Fleet; S. Fletcher; C. Flynn; W. Griffiths; D. Hough; L. Hubbard; C. Mitchell; L. Mitchell; D. Maskell; O. Maskell; L. McGahern; E. Robson; S. Royle; E. Sumner; H. Sumner; E. Worth; K. Worth; K. Worth.

1996

ANGLESEY

Site Details: Tan-y-Bank, Dulas, Anglesey, Gwynedd, North Wales.
Large, well drained, flat field some 100 yards from the sea shore.

Dates: 17th to 24th August

Numbers: Staff: 12 Members: 19

Tentage: Two Bell Tents; two 13'x 8' Ridge Tents; one 40 x 20' Marquee; plus a miscellany of Staff and Store Tents. Quoted hire charges by J. C. Bradfield £320; vehicle donated by a local Haulage Company. Cloughwood Special School donated the use of their mini-bus for the week.

Tent Commanders:

(1) D Edwards (2) C Mitchell (3) W Griffiths (4) H Sumner

Camp Song Verse:

Tony came to camp once more in 1996
Adrian talked to his sacred urn, full of cindered sticks
Eddie burnt the bacon, so we were in an awful fix
So we breakfasted on 'Weetabix'.

Ghost Story:

The Ghost of Tony Darlington.

Anecdotes:

1) Due Respects:

When the Group first formed in October 1969, Tony Darlington, a local Photographer, lived in a bungalow in Eaton View, Moulton. He was approached by Geoff and Les and asked if he would like to run a photography class for half an hour, one night a week. Tony agreed and so became one of the first Instructors in the new Group. Later, Tony and his wife moved away and the Group lost touch with them.

Cleaning out his loft one weekend, Philip Ashton came across an old 'Urn' like trophy awarded to his Grandfather's brother for athletics in his youth. Looking at the trophy, which was unmarked, it reminded Phil of the kind of vase used for the ashes of a deceased

person. Phil's mischievous sense of humour then began to work overtime and he discussed with Daryl, Geoff and Les the idea of taking the urn to camp.

It was agreed that at Camp that they would casually mention that Tony Darlington, an original Member of Staff, had died some two or three years ago and that he had made a special request in his will to the effect that his ashes should be taken to Camp with the Group. Quite untrue, for Tony was still very much alive and kicking. Only the four Members of Staff knew of the ruse and Geoff duly placed the 'Urn' onto the small gas cylinder canopy at the front of his caravan. Some Members then started to collect little bunches of flowers and pretty little stones to decorate the canopy on which the 'Urn' stood. It was then mentioned that Mr Darlington had so loved our Camp Fires (he never actually camped with the Group) that he had also asked for his ashes to be taken to the Camp Fires during the week. On the Tuesday night the 'Urn' was ceremoniously placed on a chair near to the fire for all to see! It was also put about that Mr Darlington had so enjoyed morning swimming parades that he had asked if his ashes could be taken down to the lake or shore each day. A Junior Member of Staff, who shall remain nameless, was seen to carry the 'urn' to the beach and to place it on a rock in full view of the water. An old couple, walking their dog, asked what the 'urn' represented and were told the story of our dear old Instructor who had passed on to that great 'camping site' in the sky. On another occasion the 'urn' was taken for a trip in a canoe. On the last night of Camp and after the Awards had been presented around the fire, Geoff asked everyone to stand whilst he scattered the ashes from the 'Urn' onto the fire – a final wish from Tony. This everyone solemnly did and it was only when they were about to retire to their tents that Geoff told them the truth about Mr Darlington. That he wasn't dead and that it had all been a huge joke. There were quite a number of red faces about and they had nothing to do with the heat of the fire! Apologies to Tony and his family for using his name in this elaborate hoax.



The Sacred Urn Containing The Ashes

1996 – ANGLESEY



Staff: Phil Ashton; Helen Bampton; Les Burgess; Geoff Crompton; Heather Donald; Adrian Fleet; Michael Hubbard; Daryl Mitchell; Rachel Moreland; Andrew Royle; Carol Royle; Andrew Wilson.

Members: R. Andrew; D. Ashton; S. Cannon; D. Edwards; J. Fleet; W. Griffiths; D. Hough; M. Hough; L. Hubbard; K. Kenyon; S. Kenyon; T. King; O. Maskell; C. Mitchell; L. Mitchell; L. McGahern; S. Royle; E. Robson; R. Sweeney; D. Walker.

1997

LLYN GWYNANT

Site Details: Hafod Lwyfog, Nantgwynant, Gwynedd, North Wales. Site cost: £210.00.

A large 15 acre field, sloping gradually towards the shore of Llyn Gwynant.

Dates: 2nd to 9th August

Numbers: Staff: 13 Members: 20

Tentage: Three Bell Tents; two 10' x 8' Ridge Tents; one 40 x 20' Marquee; plus a miscellany of Staff and Store Tents. Quoted hire charges by J. C. Bradfield £426; vehicle donated by a local Haulage Company.

Tent Commanders:

(1) J Fleet (2) C Mitchell (3) L McGahern (4) L Mitchell

Camp Song Verse:

In 1997 we gave ourselves quite a shock x 3
When we jumped off the Elephant Rock.

Awards:

Best Sports Team: J Fleet and Team

Best Tent: Number 1 – J Fleet

Best Member at their first camp: M Hough

Best overall Member: W Griffiths

Anecdotes:

1) Sledging In Summer:

One of the pieces of gear acquired over the years was a large blue plastic vehicle sheet somewhat smaller than a tennis court. Just close to the site at Nant Gwynant was a rather steep slope and staff decided that the combination of the two would make an ideal sledging venue. The blue sheet was duly stretched taut and pegged onto the slope. Buckets of soapy water were then poured onto the plastic and Members invited to slide down on their bottoms on bin liners. A great time was had by all those who took part.

2) Shovel Misuse:

Being no more that big kids at heart some younger Members of Staff spent an hour or two one evening being towed on the grass on a shovel by David Edwards – quite mad!

3) Married Bliss:

One night after cards etc in the marquee the Staff turned in for a good nights sleep. The Camp Site was quiet and very still, when across the field from the direction of Andy and Carol’s tent floated the comment for all to hear ‘You’re not sleeping with me with that hat on’.

4) Elephant Rock:

Just around the lake from the Camp Site was a rocky outcrop reaching approx. 30 feet high. This was known locally as “Elephant Rock”. Having checked the depth of water directly under the rock, Members who felt plucky enough, were invited to jump into the lake from one of three levels. A Guard Boat was positioned close to the Rock and most of the Camp had a go with some Junior Members of Staff making spectacular jumps from the highest point into the waters below. A great afternoon of fun, but one that could not be repeated in this day and age – elf n’ safety would not allow it you know?



Jumping Off Elephant Rock

1997 – LLYN GWYNANT



Staff: Phil Ashton; Helen Bampton; Les Burgess; Geoff Crompton; Heather Donald; David Edwards;
Adrian Fleet; Michael Hubbard; Daryl Mitchell; Rachel Moreland; Andrew Royle; Carol Royle; Andrew Wilson.
Members: R. Andrew; D. Ashton; S. Cannon; J. Fleet; W. Griffiths; D. Hough; M. Hough; L. Hubbard;
K. Kenyon; S. Kenyon; T. King; O. Maskell; C. Mitchell; L. Mitchell; L. McGahern; S. Royle; I. Robson;
R. Sweeney; D. Walker and Alaina?

1998 CONISTON

Site Details: Hoathwaite Farm, Coniston Water, Cumbria. Farmer: Mr. A. C. Wilson. Site cost £300.00 per week. Large lake side site with trees in abundance.

Dates: 22nd to 29th August

Numbers: Staff: 15 Members: 20

Tentage: Three Bell Tents; three 13'x 8' Ridge Tents; one 40 x 20' Marquee; plus a miscellany of Staff and Store Tents. Vehicle donated by a local Haulage Company.

Tent Commanders:

(1) E Robson (2) D Ashton (3) L Mitchell (4) S Royle

Camp Song Verse:

We were in tents and the heat was intense at Coniston 98 x 3
So we swam in the lake all day – HURRAY.

Anecdotes:

1) To The North Of Kathmandu:

One of the favourite camp fire items, performed by the Staff, was the much loved 'Green eye of the little yellow God'. At Coniston in 1998, the item was performed by Phil Ashton and Andy Royle. Andy sat on a chair with Phil concealed behind him, covered by a sheet but with his arms extended around Andy's waist. Andy was much slimmer in 1998 or was it Phil's baboon like reach that circumnavigated Andy's girth? As Geoff read the famous verses, Phil performed the actions, much to Andy's discomfort at times. For instance at the lines:

"He returned before the dawn with his shirt and tunic torn
And a gash across his temple dripping red"

Phil produced a lipstick and slashed it across Andy's forehead. All who witnessed this performance will for ever recall the fun and laughter at the antics of both Phil and Andy. Thank you Guys.

2) A Cross Dresser Amongst The Staff:

With the best will in the world it is difficult to keep 20/30 Members occupied inside the marquee, particularly on very wet and sometimes windy evenings. Generally, games competitions etc are organised to entertain both Members and Staff alike. On one such night it was decided to play 'Prize Bingo' to while away an hour or so before bedtime. One or two packs of playing cards were dealt out to those taking part and a further pack used by the 'Bingo' caller. Andrew Wilson (Wilf) volunteered to be the 'Caller' and then disappeared into his tent. He then reappeared some 10 minutes later dressed in ladies gear as 'The Dolly Dealer'. It all helped to amuse and entertain us all. Now each year Wilf brings his kit to camp...in the expectation that we will play cards!



Striking Camp For Another Year



The Bingo Caller's Assistant

1998 – CONISTON



Staff: Phil Ashton; John Bancroft; Geoff Crompton; David Edwards; Adrian Fleet; Jim Fleet; Wendy Griffiths; Louise Hubbard; Michael Hubbard; Laura McGahern; Daryl Mitchell; Helen Mitchell; Andrew Royle; Carol Royle; Andrew Wilson.

Members: R. Andrew; D. Ashton; J. Bancroft; K. Davies; A. Foster; L. Greenwood; D. Hough; L. Hough; Z. Jackson; K. Kenyon; S. Kenyon; M. Hough; O. Maskell; C. Mitchell; L. Mitchell; E. Owen; S. Royle; E. Robson; L. Royle; L. Vernon.

1999

ANGLESEY

Site Details: Dafarn Rhos Farm, Llugwy Beach, Molfre, Anglesey. Site cost £274.00 per week. Good flat field close to the shore.

Dates: 7th to 14th August

Numbers: Staff: 12 Members: 17

Tentage: Five Bell Tents; one 40 x 20' Marquee; plus a miscellany of Staff and Store Tents. Vehicle donated by a local Haulage Company. Quoted hire charges by J. C. Bradfield £512.00.

Tent Commanders:

(1) C Mitchell (2) M Staniforth (3) L Royle (4) L Mitchell

Camp Song Verse:

We saw an eclipse at Anglesey in 1999 x 3
When the sun and moon combined.

Anecdotes:

1) “Arkright’s Boiler”:

In 1970 the newly formed Moulton Adventure Group was given an old Calor gas water boiler by the leader of Lostock Boy’s Club (Harold Nicholas). For countless Camps, the boiler served the Group well until the late 90’s, when it became rather temperamental in its old age. To light the boiler the gas was first switched on and a lit taper gingerly proffered through a small aperture at the base to the gas ring within. Combustion was not always immediate and was often preceded by a large bang. Lady Members of Staff, in particular, became loathe to light the boiler and to see them attempt this operation was rather like watching Ronnie Barker or David Jason in the TV comedy ‘Open All Hours’ trying to open that manic till in their grocers shop. Staff knew they had served their apprenticeship if they still had eyebrows and hairs on their hands at the end of camp.

2) Eclipse:

Prior to Camp, the media was full of the news that a full eclipse of the sun would take place during our Camp week. Letters were sent to all parents asking if their son/daughter could view the event and if so to provide adequate eye protection.

On the day of the eclipse the weather was fine and clear and none were disappointed. An unforgettable event in the memory bank of the Moulton Adventure Group.



Beumaris Castle



Checking That The Buoyancy Aids Work

1999 – ANGELSEY



Staff: Richard Andrew; Phil Ashton; Geoff Crompton; Richard Burgess; David Edwards; Daryl Mitchell; Laura McGahern; Helen Mitchell; Ewan Robson; Andrew Royle; Carol Royle; Andrew Wilson.

Members: D. Ashton; J. Bancroft; L. Greenwood; D. Illage; Z. Jackson; K. Kenyon; S. Kenyon; O. Maskell; D. McKay; C. Mitchell; L. Mitchell; O. Murray; E. Owen; L. Royle; M. Staniforth;