

# **Exmouth & Budleigh Explorer Scout & Scout Network**

## **Summer Camp 2013 The 3 Peaks**



**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2013**



**EXMOUTH AND BUDLEIGH SALTERTON EXPLORER SCOUT UNIT**

**E:** [leaders@exbudexplorers.org.uk](mailto:leaders@exbudexplorers.org.uk) **W:** [www.exbudexplorers.org.uk](http://www.exbudexplorers.org.uk)

Registered Charity (England and Wales) 301044

## Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August

'Beeeeppp, beeeppp'. My alarm clock went off, it was 7 o'clock so I pressed snooze and slept for a bit longer. At 7:30 I got up and had a shower, put on my clothes, had some porridge, picked up my bag and walked out of the door ready for an adventure.

I got to the Scout Hut at 8am and we were leaving for Blackpool, there was a long journey ahead. Not much happened in our minibus; we put some road trip music on and played some Pokémon. Half way through Greg needed a wee so we had to stop which Hannah & Esther were glad about as they also needed the toilet but were too scared to tell Bob & Stu, and then we were on the road again. We eventually stopped at another service station where we had some lunch and the leaders



had bought lots of pasties and sausage rolls from Moores which were yummy.

When we got to the Travelodge in Blackpool we all went to our rooms and we chilled out for a bit while watching Harry Potter before it was time to head to the Pleasure Beach. We walked there and realised how bad Blackpool is. It is pretty much Sandy Bay x10.

We got our wrist bands for the pleasure beach and a little card (which we didn't use) and went in. The first ride we went on was called infusion, this was my first ever roller coaster, well apart from the little one at Crealy. It was awesome so I was well happy for the rest of the afternoon. The other good roller coasters were a grey one which looped really quickly and then did it again backwards. Another one is the pepsi coaster which went up to 200ft! After the Pleasure Beach closed at 8pm we went to get fish and chips on the sea front and then strolled home to our comfy beds in the Travelodge to get a good night's sleep ready for the trip to Scotland.



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## Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August

We woke up and then had breakfast outside, not inside the hotel on some picnic benches. We had cereals and fruit in plastic bowls because most of us had forgotten to bring our own bowls and spoons.

We then loaded everything back in to the minibus and went on another 7 hour journey up to Scotland which was extremely boring from what I can remember. I was asleep until we got to a Scottish service station. I didn't understand what the cashier was chatting about so I just gave her my money and smiled a lot. I sat next to Boris in the bus and we went past a really pretty loch but I don't know the name of it, there were log cabins on the other side and a huge tree that stuck out



like a yellow sock in a box of black socks.

We then arrived at Fort William Backpacker Hostel where me, Lindon, Sam & Stevo went to play Frisbee but before long it got stuck in a tree under water in a nearby stream. As I tried to scale the edge I fell and grabbed a thorn bush and got a splinter but at least I got the Frisbee. I tried to get the

massive splinter out of my hand but couldn't so Hannah had to do it for me.

For tea we had curry which was good. The hostel kitchen was very small and so was the dining room so some people had their tea sat outside.

After tea we all sat in the common room and Bob gave out our summer camp t-shirts and this year we got a fleece as well. We made our sandwiches and got all our lunch stuff ready for tomorrow.

When we were back in our room my bed broke which was so funny.



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## Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August

Rays of sunlight sliced through the curtains like knives on what seemed to be a perfectly normal Monday morning but little did we know something was stirring deep in the Scottish Highlands.

We awoke to the smells of pig and chicken and quickly devoured their produce, tasty bacon and egg sandwiches to get us going for the day, we would need the energy. After a short minibus ride to the north face of Ben Nevis we began to climb. The fast group I was in was attempting the CMD route.

The CMD stood for Carn Mor Dearg Arete route and the walk was as Scottish as the name. We journeyed through bogs dense with midges to the foot of the first mountain. After a steep and tough climb we reached the top. There were no clouds and the views were spectacular. There was then a climb down from my first Monroe to attempt the Arete. This was a knife edge ridge adjoining the CMD and Ben Nevis which was still in cloud at this point and looked quite ominous with ice still lining some of the crevices on parts of the mountain. The ridge walk was narrow with precipitous drops on either side. The walk was worth it however as there were gorgeous views on either side of the ridge. After the ridge was conquered a massive inclining boulder field awaited us before the summit of Ben Nevis. This involved a lot of scrambling until we finally reached Nevis.

When we reached the summit of Nevis the other 2 groups were already there sat eating their lunch. Perfect timing, we were all at the top at the same time so we were able to have a big group photo. The views from the top were also amazing as there was no cloud.



After a quick lunch we started our descent. We didn't go down the CMD route, instead we went down the tourist route with one of the other groups.



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On the way down the mountain Greg & Gary managed to lose Esther's camera. She wasn't angry, just disappointed as they'd been taking photos all day.



When we got back to the hostel we all had showers and Hannah had made dinner for us so we had jacket potatoes with lots of different toppings, including left over curry, beans, tuna, sausages and salad. It was great that none of us had to prepare anything as we were all quite tired.



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## Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August

After climbing Ben Nevis yesterday my body was aching today and I was unable to walk like a normal person. We were allowed to have a lie in today and we didn't leave the hostel until about 11am. Before we left we did a secret Santa and got given £5 each and took another group photo outside the hostel. While in Edinburgh we were to go shopping and buy something for the person whose name we'd got.

We drove a 4hr journey down to the historic city of Edinburgh, with many stops for toilet breaks and photo opportunities. We got there and Bob & Stu dropped us off at the Travelodge while they went to park the minibuses. We checked in and went to our room which was miles from reception.



We unpacked and then me and Katherine set off on a journey to discover the strange large city. I needed to post a postcard but after getting disorientated looking for the post office we eventually found a post box. We then we had to buy our secret Santa presents so we found this shop that had loads of toys for boys on discount and found the most perfect presents for our people. We then went and got some food from the mini bar in the wall; it wasn't expensive but was incredible. Then we had a university moment and sat in the park eating and talking.

Then we went back to the hotel and got ready for the dinner of a life time. We walked into an all you can eat buffet of all types of food and unlimited drinks. The food was amazing, well until we got to our pudding. Then Katherine found a maggot in her ice-cream, it was disgusting.

After dinner we went to the Military Tattoo at Edinburgh Castle. The tickets were expensive but definitely worth it, it was an amazing night, watching all the marching bands and military people. There was also a motorbike riding display by some young children. It finished with some amazing fireworks over the castle.



Today has been the best day so far.



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## Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August

Woke up at 8ish after a late night at the Military tattoo which was amazing. We headed out for breakfast in Edinburgh in two groups. Greg requested to head to the cafe where JK Rowling had written Harry Potter. He was slightly disappointed at the lack of Potter themed stuff but discovered a whole new world on the toilet walls and graffitied with Gary along with all the other Harry Potter fans.

I was in the other breakfast group with Max. We headed to good old Poundland first to hunt for secret Santa presents but instead we managed to lose Stevo. We soon found him again then headed to an Italian Cafe and ate a lot. Tim & Philo had haggis, it looked slightly dodgy and I didn't try any. I had fruit salad and poached eggs on toast. The whole meal was great and everyone who went thoroughly enjoyed it.

After that we went back to the hotel and packed all our stuff. Bob & Stu turned up in the minibuses and we loaded everything back in again to travel to the Lake District. The views were amazing, lots of lakes. We have been really lucky with the weather so far – no rain yet and nice and warm. We had a pit stop to buy ice creams and bits & bobs.



Gary realised he still had his compost bag from Ben Nevis – it wasn't pleasant.

We arrived at Ennerdale Scout Centre with a nice welcome from lots of excitable dogs. We all found our rooms and settled in; we would

be here for 3 nights.

Some of the group went out for a trip to the supermarket and the rest of us went for a swim in the lake with Max. I just paddled and found a nice rock to sit on. I called one of the dogs over for company, it shook off the water and then peed all over my foot. I couldn't move so just had to accept it. Everyone played with Tim's Frisbee, that Max insisted would not sink, it sunk and is now lost forever.

We had spaghetti Bolognese for tea made by Georgie, Stevo & Aaron with Max helping.

We then packed our bags and made our lunch ready for tomorrow to climb Scafell Pike. We all had our bags checked this time by the leaders because some people had carried totally pointless things to the top of Ben Nevis which had slowed them down.



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## Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August

We set off in the minibuses at 8:30 heading for Scafell Pike. We parked at a small farm where we met up with the three mountain leaders (Rob, Rob & Lee) and their 2 dogs. Esther, Max & Bob know Rob because he was their group leader when they went to Namibia years ago which was good as it meant we all got to go up Scafell Pike in one large group rather than splitting into 3 groups like we did on Ben Nevis.

As we climbed Great Gable in order to reach Scafell Pike the going got a bit tougher as the top of the path turned into a boulder field which involved scrambling, spreading the group a little. The weather was amazing, almost too hot, allowing most of us to wear just shorts and t-shirts for the walk. We reached the summit at a good pace and sat down to eat lunch. The weather was a little colder on the summit as you would expect but I still had an enjoyable lunch as we sat around eating and taking group photos.

The descent was long, down an easier stepped path during which I spent time talking to Greg who also managed to wee on his own leg during the walk due to a fatal miscalculation of which way the wind was blowing. We completed the walk in around 7 hours arriving back at the small farm. So far Scafell Pike has been the easier of the two mountains we walked.



We headed back to the Scout Centre where Hannah had spent the day because of her broken foot. She'd made sausage and mash for our tea so we all had showers then sat down to a good dinner. In the evening some of us watched films while others played table football or went to bed early.



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## Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August

This morning we were allowed to stay in bed as long as we wanted because we didn't need to leave the centre until half past midday, I got up at 10:30.

When we eventually got up we had brunch, which was lots of different things but included nachos with the left over bolognaise from Wednesday night. They were yummy. We left the Scout Centre about midday on our way to the Via Ferrata. I didn't do the Via Ferrata but I heard it was darn good.



Whilst everyone else was climbing I went into Keswick with Hannah and Esther to get the food for dinner. The journey was terrifying because Esther was unsure and she was driving! We only got slightly lost and only stalled once. After turning round we parked in the car park of what I thought was an average supermarket; Booths. We strode through the automatic door and realised that we were in a whole new world. Booths was (and probably still is) incredible; it's filled with chrome lights, matte black ceiling and floors and very specifically labelled isles. It was a posh eloquent experience. After seeing a large coiled sausage which made Hannah & Esther laugh so much they had to have their photo taken with it to send to Esther's boyfriend, we did the shopping for our roast dinner.

After Booths we headed for the pencil museum. We parked the minibus in a parking bay and paid £4 each for the quirky, historical and modern pencil museum. Inside we saw the biggest pencil in Europe (which was

6ft high/long). We also saw the smallest and oldest known pencil in the UK. Our favourite pencils were as follows:

- Hannah – green pencil that came out pink
- Esther – E.T. finger pencil
- Me – pencil with razor on the end

I really enjoyed the museum because it was quite humorous (even though it was rather small). We then drove to find a geocache which we found fairly easily but when turning the bus round we were perpendicular to the road, holding up traffic from both directions.

Finally we all reunited at Honister Slate Mine at the Via Ferrata and had a drink in the cafe. When we got back to the Scout Centre my group cooked roast dinner with Hannah helping us. Cooking for so many people took hours, we had to cook 5 chickens and peel so many potatoes. I made broccoli in cheese sauce because they didn't have any cauliflowers at Booths.

Everyone said it was very scrumptious but we didn't eat until 10:30pm because it took so long to cook. After dinner we all sat in the common room and gave out our secret Santa presents which was really good fun. I got a Scottish tartan hat with hair. After secret Santa we had pudding of swiss roll and custard. It was a very late night and we were all shattered but it was a great day again.



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## Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August

We were up quite early again because today we were moving down to Wales ready to climb Snowdon. We had lots of leftovers for breakfast and then started packing all our stuff into the minibuses again.

Esther & Hannah went food shopping while we all cleaned and tidied up. When they got back Bob & Stu weren't impressed by the amount of food they'd bought as they didn't think it would all fit in but it did. We set off from the Lake District all happy that we'd climbed Scafell Pike.



It was a really long journey down to Wales and the traffic was quite bad. When we got to the next place, another Scout Centre, Matt was already there to meet us. He was joining us for our last weekend.

For dinner we had lasagne so Hannah & Max helped Gary, Katherine & David cook it. The kitchen

was tiny so hardly anyone could fit in it.

The lounge room was quite small but we managed to get everyone sat round tables for dinner but it was a tight fit.

The lasagne was really good and we had salad and lots of garlic bread with it.



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## Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August

Many things were revealed as dawn broke over the small Welsh valley of Cornell. Birds were singing, lambs were leaping, deer were frolicking but of course what would have caught most people's eyes that fresh crisp morning was the 24 Explorers and their leaders piling into the 2 minibuses situated next to the house in which they has spent the night.



I personally had not had a very good night's sleep at all. My mattress was uncomfortable, the room I was in (which I shared with 7 of my fellow Explorers) was hot and sticky, the bottom bunk bed which I was in was too short (so my feet stuck out of the end) and the distance between the mattress and the bunk above was so small that every time I even slightly lifted my head I was forced to let out a short sharp cry as my forehead had become bruised upon the hard wooden supporting beam of the bunk. And judging by the slow cumbersome movements of the rest of the group they had not fared much better in the night.

A quick breakfast, last minute packing and toilet stop and we were under way. The weather had turned grey and windy so many layers of clothing were put on in the bus on the way to Snowdon. Most of us had naps on the way in an attempt to conserve energy for the rest of the day. Today's mission was simple: Climb the highest mountain in Wales, the infamous Snowdon. Standing at 1085 metres or 3560 feet it is taller than Scafell Pike but

not quite as tall as Ben Nevis which we had both climbed earlier in the week.

We travelled for about an hour west to the Snowdonia National Park. It was here in this bleak cloudy moorland at the base of mighty Snowdon that we met the three guides that would take us to our third and final peak that lay just 1km above us. Their names were Conrad, Siobhan and Will. The leaders soon divided us into 3 groups. My group would be led by Conrad along with Max, Lewis, Boris, Will, Ben and the wonderful Katherine.



The climb also immediately felt easier than the previous two mountains; however some were still recovering from the week's arduous climbs.



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The hiking seemed to pass quicker than usual and we were soon nearing the mountain peak which was as those mountains before it composed of the hard granite and brittle slate. Before we knew it we had entered the dense cloud layer that shrouded the mountain's peak. As we reached the very top of the mountain from out of the white gloom of the hill came forth a group of 8 strange figures. It was the other group arriving at the top at the exact same time, however the third group had yet to emerge from the clouds so we retreated to the warm safety of the mountain top cafe which sat next to the railway station at the very top of the mountain. Ten minutes later the third group arrived. We ate our lunch, took our last group photo and were then underway back down Snowdon because the winds had picked up and it had become a bit unpleasant. The journey off the mountain was very good fun as we all took different routes and the weather had lightened up.



There were mixed feeling at the bottom about the completion of our three peaks challenge and enjoyment on the way back in our little convey of buses.

I write this as I'm sitting in the common room of our little home stuffed on custard and fajitas watching the others play an obviously enjoyable game of cards. I am a bit tired now but I'm resistant to get back into my little wooden coffin of a bed but we're off white water rafting tomorrow so I'm going to have to go to sleep soon.



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## Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August

Today we had brunch at 11am. It was mainly leftovers like lasagne and nachos but there were also cereals, toast, sausages and porridge. We left at midday to go rafting.

When we got to the river we chose our groups to go in the raft and were shown all of the safety procedures. As soon as we started we all got stuck on the first drop but our leader managed to get us off.



As we were going down the river our leader told us that when he shouts piracy we should all jump off the raft and pull everyone else off their rafts. So when he shouted it we all launched ourselves off the raft and tried to pull as many people off as we could.



After this we went through the rapids and somehow stayed in the raft. At the end of the rapids our leader got us all to sit at the back of the raft and steered it into the flow. The raft started to wheelie and we nearly all fell out. It didn't really help that I was crushed by Owen. Just as we reached the last rapid we all started to relax a bit and think nothing bad would happen. But as we went through the last bit the boat started to tip. We all tried to keep it upright but as the river sped up it flipped completely over. In the end it was exciting but at the time it was all very quick.

After the rafting we went to a cafe and most of us had chips which were very nice. We then drove back to the Scout Centre.

For dinner we had make your own pizzas, the leaders had bought loads of cheese and tomato pizzas and lots of different toppings so we were able to have exactly what we wanted. They were really nice and there were lots left over for our journey home tomorrow.

During the evening we had a water fight and played a game where me, Owen and Will got covered in flour.



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## Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August

Our final breakfast of the trip that consisted of leftovers as we all tried to eat all the food so we didn't have to take anything home. We then packed our stuff for one last time and Bob and Stu managed to get it all into the buses.

We cleaned the centre and we then had a final group photo outside Cornell before we all piled into the minibuses for our journey home.



Summer camp has been brilliant this year, we all climbed the 3 highest peaks in Great Britain and had a great time away. It's just a shame Aidan broke his arm the week before camp and wasn't able to come with us.



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