

Exmouth & Budleigh Salterton Explorer Scouts

Summer Camp 2016 - Jersey



27th August – 3rd September 2016

Day 1 - Saturday 27th August



Today was the first day of our journey to Jersey. It started at the hour of 6 o'clock where the group met at Exeter Airport, however Brad was late to airport and attempted to queue jump past us all. Our flight was not until 7:15 so we had a bit of time to kill in the "exciting airport". The duration of the flight was 25-30 minutes, it was over very quickly.

Once we landed, we collected our luggage from the conveyer belt and made our way to Bob and Hannah outside in the minibus who had travelled by ferry with all the kit the day before. Jacob, Pete and I went in the minibus as it was still full of kit for the camp. The rest of the group got taxis up to the hostel that we are camping at. We then spent the next two hours setting up camp before heading to the beach for the rest of the afternoon.



We went to a beach called Rozel Bay, this is where we ate lunch at the "The Hungry Man". Brad, Ben, Alfie and myself all had the "Double Decker Heart Wrecker". This is burger that contains two double cheese burgers and two rashers of bacon. We all were able to finish however Brad did struggle with it.

We then took a trip to Waitrose as it is the only type of shop on the whole of Jersey, we then went back to camp where we relaxed whilst the group cooked the food. We then played ultimate group Frisbee with two teams, however I chose to retire from the game as it became too competitive for me.



We finally ate at 9pm and had Spaghetti Bolognese which was very lovely, it was followed by Angel Delight but I was too full to eat it. After a long day, we all felt very tired so most people were in bed by 10pm.

Day 2 – Sunday 28th August

I woke up at 8. Today was the day that we would visit the Wildlife Park. I got up to get ready for the day, breakfast consisted of bacon sandwiches, cooked for us by Jake, Marcus, Joe and Charlie (with the assistance of the leaders). We were told to get ready for the Wildlife Park, packing everything needed for the day ready for 10:00, we ended up leaving camp at 10:40, just slightly late.



We got to Durrell Wildlife Park and went to join the queue for tickets but Esther and Hannah just told us all to go straight through so that we didn't all block the entrance, instead we all gathered round a large park map. We were told to meet in a big grass picnic area at 1:30 which gave us 2 and a half hours of 'free time'. Owen, Ben, Brad, Alfie and I all set off, after about 50 metres we spotted some Lemur

enclosures, we quickly moved on and went through a small arch to a Madagascan area, spotting a plastic curtain like entrance and making our way through to find a series of enclosures for Mongooses (of the narrow-striped variety). Connected by overhead tunnels we were fixated on a Mongoose in the first enclosure who seemed to repeat the same movements, moving backwards and forwards in front of the viewing window. After about half an hour of watching the repetitive movements of the Mongoose we moved through to find a dead end except for a door that was for 'Staff only'. After realising there was nowhere to go we ventured back through the Mongoose area to explore the rest of the Madagascan area. We passed more Lemurs than found a human 'bird box' where someone could climb in and peep out of another hole.



We noticed there was a bear talk starting in about 5 minutes so we rushed over to the enclosure to watch this. After the bears, we headed over to the gorillas as another talk was due to start. The talk started with the keeper throwing food to the gorillas, starting with the dominant male 'Badongo'. The talk consisted of the traits and social position/standing of each gorilla. After the gorilla talk we headed off in search of the orangutans as yet another talk was taking place soon. We observed the orangutans and shortly after the talk we wandered back to the meeting point for lunch. For lunch, we had sandwiches with an assortment of fillings from ham and salami to pickle, which we made on a bench whilst being heavily assaulted by wasps.

After lunch, we wandered about the park some more, looked for some Aye-Ayes but were unable to spot any. We then continued onto more Lemurs, this time ring tailed ones before finding ourselves in the fruit bat building where we watched the bats climb about on the net ceiling for a bit before continuing on to the organic farm showcase. A fairly small garden greeted us with some flowers, pumpkin plants and a giant plastic snail, after this we made our way back to the gorillas and then made our way back towards the main entrance, stopping in the gift shop then sitting outside to wait for the rest of the groups. Soon it started to rain so we huddled in what little shelter there was until Bob came to open the minibus.



We got back to camp, for tea, we had barbeque chicken with rice that I didn't think much of but others really liked. We sat about for a bit before having a chocolatey angel delight and pancakes before setting off on an adventure to Gorey to have a look around. We eventually made our way back to camp, where we found some of the other Explorers in the hostel watching a film, after the film I eventually got to bed and soon after went to sleep.

Day 3 – Monday 29th August

Today we had cereals for breakfast before heading off to the Jersey War Tunnels. The tunnels were built to be a hospital for German soldiers during World War II. We were each given an ID card of a 1940's Jersey Civilian (more on that later) and entered the tunnels.



Inside the entrance there was a replica tank and lots of vintage motorbikes including a rare Triumph and sidecar, there was also a VW office transport vehicle. Deeper into the tunnels there was lots of information on the occupation of Jersey by the German's, it was very interesting seeing how the Jersey people lived under Nazi occupation during WWII. There were lots of eye witness accounts and people's experiences. In one room, there was examples of laws passed by the Nazis



on the island. Towards the end of the tunnels I discovered information on my Jersey Civilian, Dennis. He had managed to escape the island on his boat whilst being chased by 2 German patrols. It took him 2 days to get to the UK and he had to pay tax for his boat once he got there. It was comparatively cold inside the tunnels and it was nice to be in the sun outside again.



In the afternoon, we went kayaking and paddle boarding, we couldn't believe how quickly the tide came in. The first group went off and we played catch in the sea, it was freezing! When they got back we swapped activities and we kayaked/paddle boarded to the breakwater where we tried to sit as close to the end of the kayak as possible or did yoga on the paddle boards. We then swapped so we had both paddle boarded and kayaked and headed back to the beach and then back to the campsite to start cooking.

We ended up eating at 8:30, it was pasta with tomato sauce induced with kidney beans, various veggies, chicken and chorizo. By the time, we had eaten and cleared up it was about 11 so we played a game of cards before heading to bed as we were exhausted after a great day.

Day 4 – Tuesday 30th August



I woke up early in the morning to the sound of a peculiar bird. I had a shower and went for breakfast. I ate a fish finger sandwich, cereal and drank 1 cup of Jersey cow mile (which I love). We then all loaded up into the minibus and went into St Helier to have

a look around the shops. I bought some more sun cream and a bottle of Diet Coke and a packet of Cadbury Twirls. I was shocked to discover the marked prices did not include import duty, which bought the shop price from £2.80 to £3.80 which I thought was ridiculous. We then looked around the side streets and discovered a 99p store where Jake got a 99p roll and drink, although surprisingly some of the prices were upwards of £29.99. Overall St Helier was interesting but there were few independent shops on the high street so it was just like any other town.

Anyway, back to the cool stuff, we met back at the minibus at 12:30pm and drove up past a race course to a collapsed 13th century fort. The fort was oddly placed on top of the headland, it was badly defended only having two walls and a natural ditch for defence. It also lacked a fresh water source. After a hearty lunch with 1.5 rolls per person, 1 packet of crisps, 1 pork pie, 1 penguin bar and a piece of fruit. I enjoyed my rolls and filled them with mayonnaise and cheese and pickle.



We then got into our harnesses and hats, I descended the path to the ledge where we would be climbing. At this point I was slightly terrified because Chris put all 19 of us on the ledge despite objections from some of his team members. We then climbed down a steep slope



where we would be climbing. Whilst climbing we talked to the instructors about the surrounding area. We were informed that the area was a national park and nature reserve, which was not allowed to be built on. However, the occupying Germans had evidently ignored this rule because there was a large cylindrical bunker protruding

from the top of the nearest peninsular. I quizzed him on the bunkers, it really proves the quality of German engineering as the bunkers has no succumbed to the ferocious weather of the Jersey islands even after 70 years. After this historical session, I climbed two faces the so call "Block Buster" and "Ask Dan about this one". Upon returning to the campsite I was informed that the previous night I had talked in my sleep. Apparently, I had heard the church bells and said "Is that a train" I also said "I love my book, I love my phone", this was scary because I remember nothing about both of these things. I now fear for the next night's sleep and what secrets I will divulge, As and added note, the dinner was good if a bit spicy.

Day 5 - Wednesday 31st August

The day started very early as we were having breakfast at 7:30 and leaving at 8:15 but we ended up leaving a bit late. We boarded the minibus and drove to St Helier and hired some bikes from Zebra hire service. We rented some bikes and a tandem! Owen and Ben decided to attempt to ride the tandem but failed miserably because they couldn't make it to the end of the street. Brad and Alfie took over and managed it straight away.



They cycled along the beach and the cycle track which was approximately 7.5 miles. They switched with Fox and Jacob and they took it along the coastal path which wasn't exactly the best to ride on as it was very rocky and had a lot of sand. We carried on down a steep hill which was very fast however I managed to get stuck behind a van. I did see a Ferrari parked in a garage but was unable to get a look at it. We went on to the coastal path and down a hill to the beach where we had a debate whether the sand was giant sand or tiny rocks.



We ate our lunch on the beach and me and Marcus decided to have a go on the tandem as we got to the top of the hill I was fairly sure that I saw a Bugatti Veyron, one of the fastest/expensive cars in the world. We quickly came to a conclusion that when we tried the tandem we could not ride it with me at the back, however when we switched

around we could manage it perfectly well so we decided to have a turn on the way back. Fox and Jacob started with a very challenging hill and carried onto a café. At the café, we stopped for Ice Cream where Ed and Greg took over. Their bit looked really good as it was all downhill and extremely fast. They took it about half way along the beach and then it was the moment of truth. It was the turn of Marcus and I.

We took off a little shaky going slow at first and cautious round the corners but soon got the hang of it and picked up a good amount of speed. We took the bikes back to Zebra and went into St Helier for a bit of shopping and saw Christian May one of the people running for senator. We bought an Ice Cream which Charlie spent almost £4 on and he was a bit disappointed.



We caught the bus back to Gorey and walked back to the campsite, we played football and Frisbee for a bit, we then had Sausage and Mash for dinner then I had a shower and went to my tent to listen to music and lie down. I talked to Charlie for a bit then went to sleep.

Day 6 – Thursday 1st September

The day started really well, at 9:30 we had egg and bacon and coco pops for breakfast and I must say that it was the best breakfast of the week. Then after we messed around for a bit, played a bit of Frisbee, a bit of rugby and then a bit of football. I had a bit more food before we left for Coasteering.



I took my boots, swim shorts and a rash vest along with a spare set of clothes. We met Craig and Dan in a car park and got given our wet suits, helmet and bouncy aid, got changed and headed to the beach. Once on the beach we were given a quick talk before heading up onto the rocks and along the coast, going through rock pools until we got to a deep spot ready for our first jump into the sea.



After this we walked around the coast through more rock pools until we came to a big pool where we chilled for a while before moving onto “Rhino” which was a very big jump! I struggled at first but eventually made the jump, after everyone had jumped we headed to the secret beach before heading through some caves back to the main beach and car park.

We all got changed into dry clothes and ate lunch before heading back to camp to get ready for our meal out and secret Santa.



At 18:10 everyone had changed into some slightly smarter clothing and began walking down to the evening’s dinner venue. “The Crab Shack” which had been very appropriately named due to the seafood inspired menu. After enjoying 2 courses, we began the opening of our secret Santa gifts.

Everything from Princess Tiaras to Gardening Equipment and 6 litres of Iron-Bru had been

received. Also, being the special occasion of Esther’s last camp and retirement of Scout Leadership a few extra gifts had to be given. A card written by all the Explorers and a beautiful piece of artwork has handed to her. After the meal and gifts, we had a quick stroll back to the campsite where we enjoyed a late evening of general socialising before going to bed.



Day 7 – Friday 2nd September

As we awoke we realised we were being introduced to our last full day on the island. As this saddening fact dawned on us like the day itself, we could still appreciate our lie in and the day ahead.



The wind forecast was very low for Blo-Karting so it was suggested that we should do paintball (spring-loaded) and archery. So, after the breakfast of a million leftovers we strolled over to the on-site paintball arena. We got our brief, masked up loaded our weapons and got to the action. Our team demolished everything and the best games was everyone vs Bob and Craig (the instructor) we were a team of 14 against 2 and hit Bob so much that he left the field covered in paint. After the few hours of paint balling flew by we had a little sit down and another brief, it was time for a short archery/slingshot session. As expected my archery aim was

shocking but I had a few good shots on the slingshot before we were done with the day's activities.

We all relaxed for a bit before heading to the supermarket, we all got a few drinks and snacks for the evening and journey home. When we were all back Esther really wanted us to have a banana, so we had an intense banana eating competition, first to eat five was a winner. Four of us sat in a row and Bob got the camera to film it. It began, Brad had a solid lead at the start, but through the competition I caught up and came out the victor!



Our tea was a really nice barbeque which we all enjoyed, before starting to pack away our kit. We decided to have some sleepovers so we could take down some of the tents. After a dark, wet clear up we all went to the hostels meeting room to find out that we had to wake up at 5am the next morning! After hearing this news, we had to watch some "Countdown" to calm down.

Tomorrow, we fly back to our lovely beds after our incredible week in Jersey. What a great last summer camp. Thanks Bob, Esther, Amy and Hannah for a great week.