

51
Participants

Boys: Kevin Cole. Mark Lane. Paul Reynolds.
John Barber. Edward Moulson. Geoffrey Rimmington.
and Robin Tyser. — all of 60.

Masters: Messrs. P.N. Jones, C.P. Hammersley and P.J. Smith.
(and Son, Scott, aged 4½.)

Old Centrals: C. T. Westwood, R.W.A. Annetts, M.J. Toone
J. Arnold, D. Warren, A.P. Hunter, who also cooked.

EASTER 1974.

FRIDAY
5th April. Advance party arrived by car to open up camp [P.J.S., Barber and Moulson] to find that earlier in the day the coalman had delivered 1 ton of Grade B Nuts, gaining entry by removing the horseshoe from the coalhouse doorpost.
Weather: Sunny, hot, light breeze; 3 in Camp

SATURDAY
6th April. Main party arrived by minibus in time for lunch, following which, preparations were made for the major jobs to be started:

1. Front gatepost was demolished, new one erected and cemented.
2. Tent roof was cleaned down.
3. Nissan window was replaced.
4. The Cook - A.P. Hunter (O.C.) settled in.

During the evening the whole party repaired to Llandloe, for suitable relaxation and telling of tales.
Weather: As for Friday; 12 in Camp.

SUNDAY
7th April. Not a day of rest, but a day of work! The boys worked well aided by helpful remarks by visitors and onlookers alike. The bitumastic paint, acquired for the Tent roof 'ran' out in mid-afternoon - thus the job came to an end. The shuttering on the West end of the Miner's Cottage was given a coating of rustproofing solution followed by a coat of bitumastic paint; the front door lock was repaired; the red-brick university gained some replacement timbers; the slates on the collage roof, damaged in the 1974 Winter gales - which also

felled one of the Bryntail Farm elms - were replaced (the roof timbers being found to be in good condition).

Sunday evening was spent round the kitchen fire revelling in the scandals revealed by the National Sunday Press.

Weather: As for Friday - 12 in Camp.

Visitors: Mr. and Mrs. E. Cartwright of C.G.S. P.A. and Son, John. Bryntail Cottage is indebted to the Parents' Association for their kind gift of a ton of coal. Also R.W. Fryer and family visited.

MONDAY
8th April.

Woodcutting began - most energies being directed towards kindling for starting fires at many times during the day. A start was eventually made on refilling the woodbin. P.N.J. repointed half of the coachhouse chimney, following which the continuing sunshine was enjoyed by most and leisure became the pastime for the afternoon and early evening. The cook - A.P. Hunter - delivered cauliflower cheese for lunch and an extremely appetizing stew for dinner - Compliments to the chef indeed.

Visitors: The Revs. M. Thomas (O.C. - 1948-55) and W. Wilson (from the Diocese of Hereford Youth Chaplaincies).

Mr. and Mrs. John Edge (he on the staff 1971-72) who brought with them in their diesel Land Rover a Newhome Kitchenette 153 Calor Gas Cooker, complete with a nearly full Calor Gas Cylinder - a most welcome gift to Bryntail.

Soon after the arrival of R. Annetts, M. Toome and C.T. Westwood (all O.C.'s) at midday, the stove was plumbed in and the old 'baby stove' was relegated to its former position beneath the zinc table, which in its turn awaits resiting.

Weather: As for Friday, but hotter; 15 in Camp.

Arrivals: C.P.H. and Scott aged 4½. + 2)

TUESDAY
9th April.

The day dawned mistily, but cleared to give sunshine by mid-morning; the Tent roof was completed and the woodbins were filled to overflowing in preparation for the forthcoming Camps. PJS shopped in town and paid all the bills.

VISITORS: Mr. and Mrs. B.D. Roberts and Family who lunched and departed to explore Bryn y tail and environs; they eventually returned with twigs for the woodstocks.

PNJ, C.P.H. and Scott Hammersley prepared an Orienteering Course for the evening, taking in Bryntail summit, Bidfal. stile and Crowlym summit with several points on the Clywedog nature trail. The boys were not enthralled at the prospect of such an energetic venture (2½ hours being allowed for the whole course) but seemingly enjoyed the evening while being observed from a distance — and indeed had high praise for PNJ as organiser after the event.

- Results:
- J. Barber and K. Cole 85 points.
 - D. Warren, P. Hunter, J. Arnold. 75 points.
 - E. Moulson, G. Rimmington, P. Reynolds. } 60 points.
 - M. Lane and R. Tyner. }

A suitable token presentation was made to the winning team at Dinner.

The E.W. Moulson Bone Trophy for "Grafting" was not awarded, although many felt that PJS might have received it for his shopping tours of Llandilloes.

Departures: C.T. Westwood, R.W.A. Annetts, M. J. Toone for Birmingham leaving 4 in Camp.

Weather: Continuing sunny and hot.

Tasks requiring urgent attention.

1. Coach house: lintel over double doors needs replacing without delay.
2. Nissen: R.W. Annetts has measured side windows for replacement.
3. Nissen: Provision of replacement stone.

WEDNESDAY
10th April.

Clearing-up commenced after breakfast while P.N.J. and Cole retrieved the Orienteering markers. They eventually returned, having been instrumental in freeing a cormorant from where he had been anchored to a tree by fishing line tangled round his legs, to find most of the ~~tree~~ jobs completed.

VISITORS: Mr. Hunter with daughters Alison and Elizabeth from Byng Kentick School.

DEPARTURES: P.N.J. in minibus with 7.
C.P.H. with Scott (reluctantly).
A.P. Hunter with his folks.

and finally after locking-up, turning off gas and water
P.J.S. with 2 at 3-45 p.m.

Tasks completed at Easter Camp 1974.

1. Tent Roof: cleaned, tarred and hessianed.
2. Cottage Roof: missing and broken slates replaced and secured.
3. Front Gate: gate post replaced, re-capped; gate rehung.
4. Front Door: striker-plate repaired to ensure security.
5. Nissen: broken window replaced.
6. Tent Roof: inside repainted with two coats of gloss white.
7. Kitchen: Calor Stove supplied and fitted.
8. Tool Cupboard: start made on preparation; hasps and locks supplied & fitted.
9. Pantry: inventory of food made.
10. Miner's Cottage: chimney repointed and shuttering rustproofed.
11. Ladies' Toilet: Eisan emptied.
12. Kitchen: Polythene cover on outside skylight removed to give more light.
13. Outside boiler: Chimney Hockage cleared.

Campers

Campbell Year 4
Hutchins (Advance party)
Roberts
Rhodes
Terry
Whyte

Ashley Year 3
Gomes
Winston
Gleasons (Advance party)

Green Year 2
A. Heaven
Shields
Sumner (as from p.m. 28th)

Balderson Year 1
Hawkes
Heaven G.
Longman
Maycock
Woodin

Masks : M.T. Barstley (fill a.m. 30th) ; R. Peck (25th + 26th)
P.N. Jones
S.D. Roberts
P.J. Smith (Advance party)

Old Central : D. Donaghan (25th + 26th Day).

WHIT 1974

Friday 24th May : a.m. P.T.S., I. Jeomans + W. Hutchins
drove up as advance party in heavy
Stiltsentide traffic (4 hour journey) in P.T.S.'s car. Set on
journey, fine + sunny late. 3 in camp.

Saturday 25th May : Jeomans + Hutchins continued camp chores
(Hutchins anything finger), P.T.S. shopped.
D. Monaghan (old lateral) arrived from Rhyll via Sulch y Groes
(+ Welshpool, by misnavigation).
R.P. arrived with minibus, boat + 9 boys. Mr Green,
son Kevin (11, of Sheldan Heath) + 8 boys arrived by hand
river.

All took an evening walk via Diners' Bridge, Precipice Walk,
Seidre ex-Chapel, Nature Trail (Short) + home back.
Mr Green + Kevin left for Birmingham 20.45.
Weather warmer, sunny spells. 22 in camp.

Sunday 26th May : all campers out in Mini-bus + cars
to Hafren Forest + source of the Severn,
with snack lunches. Instructions left for preparation of
convenience food evening meal which PNT, MTB
+ BSR carried out on their arrival (in RP's car) in
mid-afternoon.

Walkers arrived back, sun-burned + foot-sore :
PNT + MTB took the boat away with the minibus to
rig + test the boat + enjoy the yacht club barbecue.

*

After signing affidavits attesting to their having
witnessed P.J.S. drop his right molen in
Hafren Falls, where three boys bathed.

* R.P. + Denis Monaghan left, in opposite directions to South + North Wales respectively after tea.

B.S.R. + boys went for soft-ball on the Gelli field. Back for supper and 10.30 bed.

P.N.J. + M.T.B. on their return took a midnight walk to the Tinsler's bridge and alarmed the guard dogs + wakers on the dam.

Weather: warm + sunny. 23 in camp.

Monday 27th May: early + efficient start - P.N.J. + M.T.B. + 11 sailors off to lake by 9.30, all chores done + breakfast eaten. P.N.J. + B.S.R. walked with the rest through Plasbedd Farm, past Van School; had a look at the old mines above Van; Penycastell; down across fields to Van Post Office, then followed the foot-path along the track of the old railway - (an easy + level walk for the flagging) to Crist, then by roads to Llyn Ebyr, resting in Smith's Coppice. (Llyn Ebyr free of flies). Homeward journey the same path in reverse but Van Terrace instead of Penycastell. (N.B. noted King Edward VII post box adapted for private use at gates of Cliffron above Van Mine) P.N.J. + M.T.B. laid out an orienteering course using map references for points near the railway ches, on the water trail + along the hair's brush.

After having meal all boys went off orienteering in teams of 3 or 4 while the staff washed up.

All teams but one (the idlers - in this instance - Yeomans, Abbey, Winston + Gones) tackled the whole course + team bars went to the fastest team back (Rosets, Campbell + Shirley).

Weather - overcast, little sun, sufficient breeze to please the sailors, cold in the evening. 23 in camp.

Tuesday 28th May : an early start after a good fried egg + beans breakfast cooked by PNT + MTB. Sailors off in indifferent weather at 09.30. PJS (transport) then in mini-bus + then down to town to buy a new hat, do the shopping, argue with the bank manager and receive a mild complaint from a dam official about boys descending Cromlow over fences. The boys + BSR did the chores + then, on PJS's return in a 90p cloth cap, took the minibus to Dyflife. Stopped en route at widened road to try to see the Pendant Falls but they are now hidden by the road shoulders.

The 7 walkers + PJS + BSR parked the minibus opposite the Star, had a poke about in the Dyflife workings + then walked south west, making for the Y Gong workings in the Agedog Gorge.

The walked inadvertently itself too far to the west

and the walkers crossed the high land + down into the Clywedog river bed in heavy rain, with gusts of hail and strong westerly winds.

Walking west along the Clywedog gorge the walkers came out at the Y Spring workings, stopped briefly for sandwiches + then followed the old road for the nearest return to Dyffryn.

Back to camp, wet + cold, in minibas, where PJS lit the fires + he + the boys prepared sausage (intended for a barbecue), mash + peas; timed plums + baked rice pudding. B.S.R. took the minibas on to collect the sailors, who had had an exhilarating day's sailing with strong breezes and ~~the~~^{two} capsizees: PNT + MTB (white goose-winged with the cork-board up; Campbell, A. Heaven + Whyte).

PNT took to the water (in his wet suit) to assist two other sailing club capsizees.

After tea + drinks the boys had a free evening - roasting drying clothes at the kitchen fire; washing books; playing bagatelle + making progress with the darts + table-tennis tournaments.

Mr + Mrs Sumner arrived, via Welfpool (where there was heavy traffic going back to the Midlands), with daughter Linda, small son Christopher,

Mr. John Holywell from the Newton branch of MANWEB surveyed the situation and quoted an estimated price of approx £45-00 for installation plus a fixed standing charge per ¼ annum of 70 units (or thereabouts). The installation of meter would be in the existing pantry via the woodwork above the window and the price would be further reduced by our putting in a cooker circuit and an immersion heater circuit (N.B. not the appliances necessarily). He stated that C.G.S. must seek permission from the Landlord for same & that MANWEB would obtain permission for the extra "peg" needed - in the cottage garden.

and flr. delayed camp per Jeremy. They had coffee, walked down to down + left J. Sumner 1st make the 24th number of camp. Weather not, but clearing in the evening (as forecast).

Wednesday 25th May: an early start after breakfast again organized by PNT + MTS.

Weather much improved so 14 sailors (+ PNT + MTS) were on the water soon after 0930 hrs. BDR acting as dike + going on to Llanidloes for shopping. PJS staying at camp to finish chores, with 6 walkers.

Start of walkers delayed by arrival of MANWEB man, in response to PJS letter, to quote for bringing in debris - (See report by PJS opposite).

12.30 PJS, BDR + 6 walkers left in minibus (parking near-burn calf of Davies') for parking space on road widening works - a mile short of Dylipe. Walk was to look at the two Pendant water falls - following high track on Y Foel (east side of Twymyn valley) to bridge at Cilcwm farm, then back along west side, stopping for boys to down the stream, paddle, splash + throw sheep turds at one another, to path that zig zags 500 feet up beside cascade to plateau above Dylipe where back to minibus + cottage.

PJS organized dinner - Abbey ham + Christmas puddings, flambés, with rum custard. BDR collected sailors.

Sailors had had a day of little wind - so some capsizing drill + three first formers sent out alone.

Three boys walked all the way back from the sailing club, MTB from the viewing point, being desperate to replenish his cigarette stocks ('40 not having lasted him his stay as he had worn).

After dinner, softball - PNT's XI v MTB's XI - PNT cheating + winning.

Weather suddenly improved, warm + sunny, but rather too still for sailors. Cool in the evening.

Abby junior, a source of mischief all week (including last night painting pink spots + toothpaste on the sleeping faces of Campbell + Woodin) was removed from the Nissan and incarcerated in the steel tent for the night.

24 in camp.

Thursday 30th May: an early start - again - the day of MTB's departure with PNT in PNT's car - PNT 150 return after running his water-ski course in Birmingham. After breakfast 'make + mend' - PNT very energetic with axe. Wood bins all filled. PNT + MTB left about mid-day.

There being no sailing today all the boys were to be involved in a 'scaled - odds, treasure - hunt, map - reading walk. They were ferried out in five teams of 4 boys (two mini-bus journeys) to predetermined map references near Carno + Clatter

with maps, first aid boxes (+ in the case of the Carno group only, compass) with sealed orders instructing them to make their way back from where they were dropped to Bryntail via the top of Van, collecting as many items beginning with letter 'T'. On top of Van they would find a can with 'further instructions' - in fact a packet of spangles each.

Groups 1, 2 + 3 were dropped off about 1.30; groups 4 + 5 about 2.30 p.m.

Group 3 (first formers Green, A. Heaven, Shirley + Sumner) came back from above Clatter, mainly by road walking, for 5.15 and later were rewarded with sweets.

Group 4 (Roberts, Rhodes, Whyke + Longman) from the same dropping spot (2nd load) got back for 6.25 with 27 objects + also received a prize.

The last groups came in at about 7.00 p.m. BDR placed the can of sweets on Fan + walked home; PJS shopped + paid up in Llanidloes.

The boys enjoyed this venture, not only because of the independence it gave them. Longman showed great enthusiasm + ingenuity for the treasure hunt. The first form group claimed to have navigated by lying Heaven flat in the road + orientating themselves by the compass rose design on his T-shirt. The 3rd formers -

Abbey, Winston (whose turn it is to spend a night in the tent), Yeomans + Gones claim to have lowered their trousers (at a safe distance) at the challenge of some Inupiat wenchies, but their predictable efforts to thumb a lift failed + they came in last, but cheerful, hopefully with some of the mischief out of their systems.

Dinner of stew + fruit salad + cream was followed, for the boys, by an hour and a half's free time, followed by supper and lights out 10.30.

Weather fine, dry, sunny, turning cold in the evening.

PNT returned in the early hours after a long + energetic day.
 23 in camp.

Friday 31st May: taken breakfast, followed by chores, then 4 recent sailors + PNT were taken to sailing club + the rest of the morning was spent in arrangements to ferry the remaining campers to Lhanidloes for gift shopping, make them all do some walking, + get them all eventually to the sailing club for sandwich lunch.
 PNT spent the day on final chores + bathing + felling paraffin.
 23 + 6 walkers walked back from the

ailing club the length of the hair brush on the scenic walk - nature trail.

After a latish dinner PNT + BSR took the boys on an exploration of Sweedledum + Sweedledee caves. Campbell took a backward fall on the river bank, but sustained no major damage. (However a rope is clearly needed to assist explorers down to Sweedledee (or dum)).

Walkers, minus Campbell + his escort, scrambled home late from Port Neuf via the woods on the north bank of the Alywedog to Bryantail Thine.

Supper and lake lights out - boys suitably tired + grubby - no defaulter in the tent.

Water running very low.

Weather fine, sunny, but again too still for the raptors until 1/2 lake afternoon.

23 in camp.

Saturday 1st June: Staff up at 7.00 a.m. to prepare breakfast, run taps to accumulate some water etc. Boys, still sleeping, called at 8.00 for breakfast + warned not to use too much water - which they did by avoiding washing.

The morning was spent in a flurry of clearing-up chores by teams led by the 4th formers.

After elevenses, PNT drove away in minibus, towing boat, with passengers BSR + Hutchins, Gones, Winston,

Roberts, Jerry, Longman, Campbell (was OK.), Rhodes,
+ Whyte.

Heaver, A+G, Green, Sumner, Shirley, Maycock
Balderson, Hawkes + Woodin stayed to be collected
by Mr Green in his land rover, late afternoon.

The final shutting down party was to be
Abbey, Jeomans + PJS, to travel home in
PJS's car in the evening.

23 away: camp left to the finch who
was always present at washing-up time; the mice;
the starlings in the eaves (who defecated all over
Heaven's' Housers - left to dry on the washing line);
the sheep, the wild animals + the birds.

To PJS. largely unexpected but keenly felt by us
all - who had enjoyed another excellent camp - our
deepest gratitude.

PJS.

SUMMER 1974.

Participants:

- Form 4. D. Groves, I. Yeomans, ~~A.~~ A. Wright.
Form 3. A. Green, S. Bogle, T. Evans, P. Harrison.
Form 2. J. Raisin, P. Teft, S. Ball, C. Coles, J. Shirley, S. McKay.
Form 1. T. Brewer, C. Foulsham, N. Fuller, G. Kesterton, D. Lancaster.

Old Boy: Trevor Phillips.

Members of Staff: M.D., G.T., P.N.J., C.P.H., B.F.H., R.P., P.J.S.

Cader Idris for day's walking.

Friday 26th. P.N.J. and C.P.H. sailed, G.T. to seaside at Towyn. R.P. paid bills and balanced books.

Saturday 27th. P.N.J., G.T. transported boys home. R.P. cleared up and handed over chattels to P.J.S. who arrived later for a week's holiday.

SUMMER 1974.

[The final "conventional" Bryntail Camp before the new regime steps in to reorganise and revamp the Cottage as an Outdoor Pursuits Centre.]

There follows an outline summary of activities for the week.

Friday 12th July: Arrival of PJS and BH by car (1630hrs). They opened up and discovered that the usual drainage was non-functional. Excavations revealed a blockage which was cleared; the new plastic pipe was set in place and cemented.

Saturday 20th. GT brought MD and remainder of party (Mr. Green and Land Rover also) (by 1530hrs). Evening walk for all via Bryntail summit, Bwlch y Gle, Cerist, Fan Pool, Bidfalld and return via main road.

Sunday 21st. GT and party of nine travelled out by minibus to Casno church - and walked over the hills to Llauer y Glyn, Bwlch y Gle and so back to Bryntail; PJS and another party of nine walked to Casno and rode home. Each driver used a set of keys, although both parties met

Monday 22nd. MD and party walked from Glaslyn back to Bryntail, having been taken out by minibus; GT and party drove to Hafren Forest and attempted walk to Severn Source; Brewer twisted an ankle and the party returned quickly to its base.

Tuesday 23rd. Odd jobs during morning; early lunch; boys + GT walked to town to shop and billiards in Council Billiards Room; PJS transported all home by minibus and softball was played in the evening.

Wednesday 24th. GT took a group by minibus to Cwm Rheiddol; PJS walked via Miners Bridge, Crowlyn Road to Horseshoe Fm, Glyn Bridge, Glyn Fms and directly back to Bryntail during a.m. RP, PNT, CPH arrived and sailed. PJS and BH departed with MD.

Thursday 25th PNT, CPH sailed; GT and RP rode in minibus to

The final contribution to LLYFR COCH BRYNTAIL was written in July 1974 at the Close of the Summer Camp.

On 1st September 1974, Central Grammar School for Boys was amalgamated with Byng Kenrick Grammar School for Girls to form Byng Kenrick School and a new chapter, in the life of Bryntail Cottage and its associated buildings, was started.

Henri Guerra.	1915 - 27.
N. Lloveridge.	1928 - 47(39).
E.A. Faulkner.	1947 - 71.
P.J. Smith.	1972 - 74.