

FFWPU UK: Easter And Summer Family Camps In 2023 - Last Year's Summer Family Camp

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Diary Dates: Easter And Summer Family Camps In 2023 - Plus A Look Back At Happy Memories From Last Year's Summer Family Camp

Easter Family Camp: Thursday 6th to Monday 9th April 2023 (bank holiday weekend)

Summer Family Camp: Friday 28th July to Wednesday 2nd August 2023

As we look out at the damp mist and drizzle of rain in our gardens this week, it is clear that autumn is upon us. Perhaps it is a good moment to look back at some memories from our hot summer of 2022.

Reflection on Summer Family Camp 2022 - by David and Patricia Earle

In late July, we had the pleasure of attending our first Summer Family Camp, and bringing our granddaughter, Chloe, with us. We were blessed with good weather but, much more than that, we were blessed to be part of a really well organised, family-oriented programme, inclusive of all ages, where friendliness, respect and creativity were the order of the day. We found ourselves asking "Why didn't we come to this before?!" This was reflected in Chloe's experience. On the first morning, she was a bit reluctant to stay, talking about home, but by the end of our stay she was very reluctant to go, sad to leave and say goodbye to everyone, having made friends with young people of all ages.



Of course, the Summer Camp has been running for many years now, but it still takes a lot of organising by a very dedicated core group of both older and younger people. Witness the daily Tesco/Sainsburys etc

'home deliveries' arriving outside the main door of Cleeve House each morning, with enough food to 'feed the five thousand' for the day.

Unfortunately, staying in an air bnb, we weren't able to join the Hoon Dok Hae and then physical exercises at the crack of dawn, but we could see they were well attended and gave a nice, meaningful start to the day for all those taking part.

Mind / body balance. After morning service and breakfast, the main part of the day was usually taken up with a variety of team games, most of them created by the indefatigable Simon Rosselli, and implemented by Alex and Aryan, with some help from other young adults. There were no winners and losers, in the sense that all the different teams gradually accumulated points as the games went on through the week, but the striking thing was how all the team members were involved, and played their part, whether 8, 18 or 28 years old. (Or 68 in some cases!) The team leaders and their assistants did such a great job, in that respect. All the games were fun, especially those involving water and people getting wet, trying to catch water-filled balloons, or tripping up and falling into a plastic swimming pool while 'blindfolded' in search of a soft plastic baseball bat with which to smite other 'blindfolded' opponents in "Last Man/Woman standing". You can imagine the scene.



The team spirit was also abundantly evident in carrying out practical responsibilities during the day, particularly at meal times, with food preparation in the kitchen, serving everyone in the main hall, and even in the washing up. Those of us who are more advanced in years all felt so much warmth and love from the children and young adults serving, as we queued up to receive our breakfast, lunch and dinner. 'Food is love' as someone famous once said.

All good things must come to an end, and this experience came to a wonderful climax on the final, laughter-filled evening with each team presenting a well-prepared sketch, reflecting and summing up everyone's shared experience, both young and old. (Who will ever forget the re-cycled toilet paper!!!)

Everyone was thanked on the final morning before departures, and some individuals singled out for special recognition, but we would still say a big 'Thank You' to all involved in the huge effort to make the week so special for each person who came, and say without question "It was worth it!"

BIG thanks to Uinseann M. for late night picture and video editing

We don't have all the details yet but are very excited to announce the dates for next year's Easter Family Camp and Summer Family Camp!

The organisers will send out more information about the Easter camp by the end of November, but for now, in order to help work out formatting and logistics, they would be very grateful if you could inform them if you plan to participate and whether you would like to book a room. Those who book accommodation nearby to Cleeve House will only be charged for food costs at the family camp.

Email: simonlcooper@googlemail.com

Easter Family Camp 2023:

Arriving on Thursday 6th April after 5pm

Leaving on Monday 9th April by midday (we may shorten it to leaving on Sunday 8th afternoon/evening)

Summer Family Camp 2023:

Arriving on the afternoon/evening of Friday 28th July

Departure on the morning of Wednesday 2nd August