

FFWPU UK Easter Family Camp at Cleeve House

Michael Balcomb
April 10, 2023



Members from across the UK celebrate together Easter at Cleeve House with the Easter Family Camp.

The Easter Family Camp took place from the 6th to the 10th of April at Cleeve House having members from across the UK gathering in companionship and fun. The schedule had a variety of activities for all ages, from Hoon Dok Hae in the morning to sports, fun activities and outings which pleased all participants. During the camp there were plenty of opportunities to relax, catch up with friends and even serve others through the different clean up or cooking duties. See below a report from our very own Simon C:



72 of us met for the second Easter family camp. And for the second year running we were blessed with a very good window of 3 days with virtually no rain and plenty of sunshine. Considering the rain and storms either side of the bank holiday weekend we did feel like someone was watching over us.

There is lots to say, but probably most important is that each time we meet in this environment

and with a culture to spend time together we see relationships and bonds growing deeper and new friendships being made.



The range of ages, from 12 months up to mid 60s, also helps us to experience the cycle of life. People who were being carried around by bigger kids just a few years ago are now playing and taking care of the little ones, and so on and so forth. Our identity is always impacted by those around us who look up to us just because they are smaller or those who place a friendly hand on our head because they are bigger. And for parents to spend time together, cooking in the kitchen, racing each other in the races or just sitting by the fire reminiscing or talking about their future plans, it is a time to nourish their souls and minds. The food was inspired as usual and the final breakfast was off the charts.



We were grateful to have Vladimir who prepared all the content for the morning study and discussion for any early risers. He made some profound points over the four mornings. The one that stuck with me was when he said how all our scriptures are essentially sign posts for our daily life. While it may inspire us in the moment, it's most useful when we follow it up in ordinary everyday situations.

He said that while driving to Cleeve House when he sees the junction to come off the M4 there is no point getting excited by the clarity of the signage if he fails to actually indicate and turn off, but instead carries on up the motorway. He would never get to the family camp.



Summer family camp will be from the end of July into the first couple of days of August. Same location. Find out more about that [here](#).



COMMS@FFWPU

March 23, 2023 | Announcements | Blessed Families, Cleeve House, Family Camp, Testimonies

Diary Date: Summer Family Camp 2023

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

Summer Family Camp 2023:

Arriving on the afternoon/evening of Friday 28th July
Departure on the morning of Wednesday 2nd August

More details coming soon...

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 & 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 & 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 Arwen, with some

team games, most of them created by the inderatigable Simon Rossein, and implemented by Alex and Ryan, 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

SHARE THIS POST



OTHER ARTICLES YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN



Learn How To Navigate The Legal & Practical Challenges Of The Blessing

PR@FFWPU | 5 April 2023

The European Blessed Family Department is inviting all officially matched and newly-Blessed couples to a webinar that aims to tackle the legal and practical challenges



Introducing The Blessed Family Network: An Easy Way To Stay Up-To-Date On Blessing 2023

PR@FFWPU | 4 April 2023

The Blessed Family Network is an online platform open to all Blessed families. As we approach the Blessing 2023, a group has been opened within



The Annual Gathering Festival Date Is Out!

Alma Gaina | 15 March 2023

We are pleased to announce the Annual Gathering Festival 2023 will take place in June and is an event to look forward to! On the



+44 (0)20 7723 0721

Business Hours:

Monday to Friday
09:30 - 17:30

comms@ffwpu.org.uk

43 Lancaster Gate

London
W2 3NA
United Kingdom

SUPPORT

[Donate](#)
[Gift Aid](#)
[Affiliates](#)
[Share Your Story](#)
[Contact Us](#)

RESOURCES

[TogetherAll](#)
[Books](#)
[Educational Videos](#)
[Articles](#)
[History](#)
[Gallery](#)

FFWPU

[Meet The Team](#)
[Mediation Team](#)
[National Strategy](#)
[Update Your Profile](#)
[Trustee Board Minutes](#)
[Job Opportunities](#)
[Website Policy](#)
[FFWPU-UK Policy](#)
[European Website - familyfed.eu](#)

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

[SUBSCRIBE HERE](#)

