

11 October 2013



Just How Many Shoes 18?

By Clare Davison

How many pairs of shoes do you need to take for one week of camping? I can tell you the answer is not 18+! I would also like to tell you why, along with the consequences of this action!

My love affair with tents, ghylls, lakes, mountains and muddy fields started in 2003 when I attended my first camp. Over this time I have gained a vast knowledge of appropriate footwear for all activities. With camp always being on the mind, I thought now would be a perfect time to impart my knowledge, give you some useful tips and

share my occasional lack of common sense.

Trainers/plim-soles: The day to day routine of camp involves walking whether it is to your tent to collect things for your activity or playing games on the field. You therefore need comfortable shoes for just 'kicking about'.

Old trainers: Everyone has a pair of trainers that are old, holey and dirty. DO NOT part with such a shoe! These are a campers best friend. I have owned a pair of New Look trainers that have been to 10 camps. One year at

Windermere when I was a member they suffered a major hole but luckily Mike Perry was on hand with cellotape and they lived to see another year (although were demoted to canoeing shoes).

Walking Boots/Strong soled shoes: As most of you should be aware the Lake District has many a 'hill'. Certain leaders are very fond of walking you up these so called 'hills' and it is very useful to have a pair of well fitted walking boots! As 12 year old I did not have a pair of

well fitting walking boots nor the prior knowledge of what the overnight expedition involved. The achievement of getting to the top of Blencathra was immense, the blisters were not.

Flip Flops: Shower. Not a necessity.

Dressy Flip Flops: Also not a necessity but look pretty when the sun is out!

Evening activities shoes: We all like to get a little bit more dressed up to go to the cinema or for the disco! Whether or not this warrants another pair of shoes is entirely up to the individual however I can tell you that high heeled shoes are not appropriate and will take up valuable room in your case!

Getting wet shoes: My favourite activities at camp are gyhll scrambling and canoeing, both of which involve getting wet. No matter how dry you try to stay there will always be a leader that gets you to Eskimo kiss the tip of your boat or fills a helmet with water at the top of the gyhll to pour over your head (yes, both have happened to me!). This however is all part of the fun and memory making.

Parade Shoes: These are a very important part of the shoe collection. The brigade uniform may not be the most fashionable item in our wardrobe but it brings us together as an organisation, a tradition and a

family. Black polished shoes complete the uniform.

Wellington Boots: We don't like to mention the 'R' word at camp but occasionally it does appear from the sky and living in a field for a week it can get quite muddy and wet. There is nothing I like more than trudging across the field on a morning in my lovely bright stripy wellies.

That completes my list of shoes and as you will have noticed I have not listed my 18 pairs. At the beginning of this I mentioned consequences of too many shoes, and this is where you find out.

Set the scene... It's raining; you are wearing open top trainers so run to your tent to put on your wellies... but only one is there. You search and search to then notice that only the right shoe of around 10 pairs are there, including my wellies! I had in fact had the left shoes stolen the day prior to this to prove the point that I had taken too many unnecessary pairs of shoes, nor did I realise fully until the last day when I had them presented back to me by Derick Jackson!

So there you have it, don't try and take 18 pairs of shoes to camp!



Music At Camp you can't manufacture inspirado

By Mike Perry

You will hear from time to time, "this is such a camp song" This doesn't mean its a bit fruity, a bit Graham Norton. No, in this context it is a song that, for one reason or another, reminds everyone of camp.

Far from the world of Top of the Pops, North East Camp has seen hits from Robbie Williams, James Blunt, LMFAO and Take That to name a few.

Over the years we have tried to hold onto the idea of the Camp Song. Making the official North East Camp album, 'Now That's What I Call Camp'. We have tried circulating the idea beforehand, "maybe this should be this years song?". Of course Facebook has its role to play, the question of the next camp song has often found its way onto our screens, but does it work?

The best of the best have been those that have happened by accident. Not on the first day, nor the last, but many weeks later. When the post camp blues have subsided and we are all back to our own routines; a chord will be heard that has our ears captivated, our interest peaked and memories lifted from their resting place. Then with a smile and a heavy heart we remember the tents, the smell of the canvass and a weeks worth of ups and downs condensed into three minutes nostalgic music.



I can tell you from first hand experience that it happens all the time. Time travel maybe a thing of the future but for the time being this will do.

The last night is the most emotional of the week. Mostly because people are very very tired by this stage. Nevertheless the end of camp concert, which has made quite the comeback this year, ends in almost the same way every year. Frank Sinatra and New York New York. The whole camp will come together into a big circle, kick to the left and right whilst singing at the top of their lungs to see out the last few minutes of the night.

Then that's it. Its back to the tents for the last sleep before you go home.

What better way could there be to remember such a great time than music.

I don't feel like I have answered the question, Can you manufacture a Camp Classic? I think i'll leave that to you to decide; let me know.



Amy Walker
St.Aidan's fundraiser

*Editors note: Note sure about the leaders relaxing, but thanks for the article

My 2013

By Amy Walker

2013 was my first N.E. Camp and it wont be the last. The fun I had was unreal. All the activities I did I enjoyed thoroughly; even though the overnight expedition which was a big strain for me, is an experience that will stay with me forever.

The people I have met will also be with me throughout life. Everyone at Camp is like one massive family, we just bounce off each other and everyone gets along; if someone is feeling down there's always someone there.

At Camp I started my young leaders training which I am really looking forward to, I liked helping the

younger ones on camp and on activities. I get along with all the other young leaders, they made me feel welcome and made sure I was happy.

I am so happy I came to camp because it was good to see how much work goes into it, and to see all the leaders relax and have fun*. It was fantastic to see everyone in uniform and looking so smart. It was my first parade and I loved marching with all the other companies.

If you ever have a chance to go to Camp, take it. It will help you come out of your shell and make you a more confident person. I feel a lot better about myself after going to camp.

Camp is "Wet"

By Brian Perry

In the weeks preceding camp we are all keeping an eye on the weather forecasts and hoping for a week of brilliant sunshine. However this is the Lake District, I wonder where that name came from, maybe something to do with water.

On the first day of camp there is much talk about always having waterproofs with you, supposedly to keep you dry when out on activities. Then during the morning instruction were told we will get wet and to take a towel and spare dry clothes !!!!!

Then off we go in our groups - ghyll scrambling - no chance of staying dry here.

Canoeing, during which there is the inevitability of an early bath in the lake.

Raft building - barrels and logs held together with string - not quite as strong as the Titanic, no icebergs here but they still capsize.

Then we have the lovely sunny days with activities on site. A chance to dry out you might think ! So what happens we create an obstacle course with freshly prepared mud and end up being hosed down and wetter than if we had been in the lake.

So what is the purpose of waterproofs ? Answer to keep the wind off your soggy wet body.





Adrian Dines at Grizedale Forest, Night Navigation.

Brian Perry



The Long Journey

By Adrian Dines

It started for me in 1978 when we went to Isle of White. The problems started when Graham Bloss realised the mini bus had been double booked. We had to travel by train and on the underground; yes the London underground and a ferry. That, by all accounts, was a nightmare. I was only 9 at the time and my memory of the event is sketchy, but i am assured that the most amusing part of this epic journey was Simon getting his bass drum caught in the doors on the tube. The boom of the doors closing on the drum was shortly followed by hoots of laughter from the lads and other passengers alike.

The long journey has been made every year like migrating wildebeest ever since, though over the years it has become much easier. Gone now are the days of squeezing 20 odd lads and girls into a 17 seater minibus with bench seats and younger members sitting on the floor between the legs of the older ones. The days when all the Brightlingsea Lads jumped off the bus with their leather jackets and a fag hanging out of their lips with wacky perms (Terry Doherty). The 12 hour journeys that should have taken 7 hours have

gone too, as well as the justification of 'safety first'. Such a justification is more amusing when you consider my earlier point about the packed 17 seater minibus.

Now I'm all grown up (I'm pausing for a appropriate smirks.) physically if not mentally! I am the one that makes that journey. I still don't understand how it took 12 hours.

So why do we do it? Well; tis not just for the crack, or to sleep in canvas tents or even to get wet all week. It is to renew decades old friendships that have been forged from the first time any of us made the long journey; and to ensure that those friendships continue for decades more. It is the most excited that many of us get all year and that is a feeling I never want to lose.

I won't mention the journey home as it always upsets me. So my last words are these; Bon voyage to all and I hope to see all the old faces next year as well as many new.

God, You're Good to Me More Than Just a Song

By Tom Glover

I think if I took a straw poll of what was your favourite song on camp then this year's newbie "God, You're Good to Me" might come quite near the top... I was delighted to hear our members at Fram singing it as they disembarked the minibus after a three hour trip home! But there's more to this song than just a catchy tune and lyrics, and that is that heart of the song reminds us that God is good to us. As the song tells us, God has sent his son Jesus to show us how to live, and through following his example we can truly know the goodness and love of God.

But if God is good to us then how can we be good towards God? Sometimes we might be tempted to think that the way we can be good to God is by following a load of stuffy rules which are (allegedly) written somewhere in the Bible and that will lead us to live stuffy boring lives. Fortunately, nothing could be further than the truth. As the song reminds us, God's love has "set us free". It has set us free from all those things which might hold us back to become as much like the perfect

**"GOD, YOU'RE GOOD TO ME
YOU GAVE ME LIFE AND SET ME FREE
YOU HEARD ME KNOCK AND OPENED
UP THE DOOR"**

selves that God has made us. When we come to camp we do so many different things throughout the week, some fun, some challenging, some messy, some exhausting. Yet I was struck at this year's camp just how much everyone put their entire selves into all the different things we did – it made it the best camp in my memory. As the song reminds us: "I will try to be the best that I can be", and indeed this is the best good gift you can give to yourself, to others and ultimately to God.

And so every time this song comes into our heads between now and next summer (and no doubt it will – lots) let's not only remember the great times we had singing it at camp but also the fact that God loves us, is good to us, and wants us to be the best that we can be.

Tom in a service at
North East Camp
2013

Tom and St.Aidan's
Senior Corps Girls
prepping for the
overnight
North East Camp
2013

