

Autumn Newsletter



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Summer 2010 sees further diversification

2010 was the first year Carlton remained open for the duration of the summer holidays. As a result, the centre hosted a real diversity of groups (both residential and day-visits), activities and events throughout this period.

The Triumph Rocket III Motorcycle Club used the centre grounds for a week-end camping event in July.



Triumph Rocket III motorcycles at Carlton

The clubs' members are from all over the country, and for some it was their first experience of North Yorkshire hospitality -and weather. The heavens opened on the Saturday and we were de-

lighted to be able to offer them use of the centres' catering facilities. Needless to say, they were extremely grateful and have booked for a return visit in 2011. Middlesbrough Football Club 'Playing for Success' ran a number of combined activity and study days in late July. Playing for Success is a partnership between the Department for Education, local authorities and a broad range of sports aimed at improving literacy, numeracy and ICT skills for those 10-14 yr olds at risk of underachieving at school. Thus at Carlton, half a day was spent building upon these foundation stones of learning, whilst the other half was spent engaged in outdoor activities including team problem solving and the high challenge.

Also in late July, the centre played host to Hartlepool's

who used the centre as a residential base in order to fine tune their fire-breathing, juggling and still walking skills in preparation for an appearance at the Hartlepool Tall Ships event.

In August, Viewley Hill schools' Go4It club had a day of activities involving archery and the high ropes course. This club had both parent/adult participants as well as children. Similarly, two family activity days -as advertised in the brochure- and two activity days for 8-11yr olds ran throughout the month

In a first for Carlton -and in conjunction with Marlow Foods- the centre hosted a Cancer Research UK charity gala day in late August (see below).

These significant departures from the norm all reflect the centres' willingness to embrace change.

Carlton News

At the time of going to press, the kitchen is undergoing a long awaited and major overhaul including essential LPG and electrical work. There are groups resident at the centre, but they are being fed by our catering team at the Watson Scout Centre in the village.



Kitchen overhaul

The website has been updated so that a subscription to the newsletter is now available. Also, data from the weather station is uploaded to the website and updates every five minutes.

Cancer Research UK Gala Day at Carlton

In August, Marlow Foods in Stokesley made an enquiry about using Carlton as a venue to host its annual charity gala day -this year for Cancer Research UK. Initially they wanted to hire the site only but through a spirit of collaboration and partnership the centre was able to offer them a lot more than this. There followed three weeks of intense organisation which included



Smiles on the High challenge course

numerous planning meetings and site visits. Sunday 22nd August was a beautifully sunny day and a real summer holiday atmosphere prevailed at the centre. As well as face painting, a bouncy castle and live music in a marquee complete with bar, there was a traction engine offering rides, various craft stalls and games and events throughout the afternoon. Even the East Cleveland Bee Keeping Association were present with a hive and jars of honey for sale. Notable features were the debut of the Carlton all-women 'tug-o-war' team, a bushcraft workshop -where fresh salmon was cooked-

and a raffle with some wonderful prizes. Amongst these was a plasma TV, a laptop and a spa day at Seaham Hall. Alongside this, Carlton instructional staff staffed various activities such as archery and the high challenge course. The day was a great success and the total raised -both on this day and through subsequent activities- was £9781.15.

This event also provided a valuable opportunity for local residents to come and see what was on offer at Carlton.

A special thank you must be extended to the deputy head of centre Graham Johnson for largely organ-

ising this event in liaison with Marlow Foods, as well as the Carlton staff who gave their time voluntarily to help make the day happen. Also thanks are due to the two squadrons of ATC cadets (2394 Redcar and 1869 Middlesbrough) who helped with the marshalling.



Traction engine at Gala Day

Camping returns to Carlton

Group camping returned to Carlton OEC in September when some courageous and enterprising teachers brought 43 Year 5s for an overnight camping



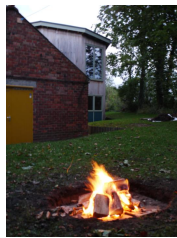
Putting up tents

experience.

The children from Bowesfield Primary in Stockton, took part in team problem solving activities, shelter building and bushcraft in local woodland during the afternoon of their arrival day. On returning to the centre they were shown

how to pitch tents -and then allowed to attempt this unassisted. Some tent groups were more successful with this task than others!

Once this had been achieved they were shown how to assemble 'Trangia' cooking stoves and then encouraged - under close supervision - to cook their own evening meal.



Camp fires re-lit at Carlton OEC

Afterwards, when all the washing up was completed and it was dark the group settled around a campfire, where marshmallows were toasted and there was a sing-song. This was a first in many years for the centre, and once again a departure from what is normally delivered. That the evaluation forms came back from the visiting staff with comments such as;

'An absolutely fantastic experience. Children and staff thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We will definitely be coming back', is testament to the professionalism of all involved.

Thanks to Summerhill and Hartlepool D of E for providing additional equipment.

Centre sees busiest day yet

During a normal working week in September the centre experienced what was undoubtedly its busiest couple of days. The centre was already at residential capacity with



Middlesbrough College team-building day

two visiting school groups. Middlesbrough College then arrived with 60 participants from their uni-formed services course. A comparatively late booking, the college was anxious to

set the tone for the new academic intake through a set of teambuilding exercises and personal challenges. Thus a suitable programme for the day was devised which incorporated group problem solving tasks, a navigational exercise and an exploration of comfort zones on the high ropes course.

This was repeated the day after with another 60 participants from the same course. Logistics for this second day were made even more challenging with the arrival of a further 40 primary children from Grange Primary School in Hartlepool who were also participating in team building activities. Plus an additional 10 day visitors.

Therefore, the total number of people catered for at Carlton on the second day was somewhere in the region of 170! All hands to the pumps indeed!

IOL workshop

The Institute for Outdoor Learning (IOL) hosted a training workshop at the centre recently. Entitled 'Nature Detectives', this one-day course was designed to enable instructors to weave environmental awareness into the fabric of their sessions.

It was delivered by Rupert Ashcroft, an instructor at Carlton and was attended by both staff from the centre and elsewhere. Additional IOL workshops are due to be held at the centre on Friday 10th December (New facilitation skills for experienced practitioners).



Setting small mammal traps

GNAS Training at Carlton

The centre hosted a Grand National Archery Society training and assessment course in September. The 4 day course



was well attended by both Carlton staff - permanent and supply- and others. There were 11 participants, all of whom passed.

Staff who had missed the previous Level 2 Health and Safety training were able to attend a subsequent course held at the centre at the beginning of September.

Request for workshop IDEAS

We are currently in discussion with the IOL to provide a number of workshop aimed at educational staff so if you have any ideas for workshops/training courses please do not hesitate to forward them to info@carltonoutdoors.org or give us a call on 01642 712229 and we look forward to hearing from you.

Food for thought

"Life is a bit like stairs sometimes they go up and sometimes they go down"

Phillip age 9