

## 'African Adventure' Update CYM

Imagine that you have been called upon to join a team that will assist in responding to a cry for help from a group of villagers in Africa. Men with guns have stolen the crops and animals. The land has been littered with dangerous mines. A lack of clean water has caused illness and even death. Your task will be to determine the extent of the problems and find practical solutions attempting to avert a catastrophic disaster. The villagers have been praying and they believe part of God's answer is you.

African Adventure is an exciting residential outdoor activities programme available to local primary schools and run by Christian Youth Ministries. For three of four nights pupils and teachers sleep in the lovely Sizewell Hall Conference Centre while solving problems, making sure the village is habitable, and on the final night they sleep in the African Village which we have constructed in the adjoining woods.

On their arrival each class is told that they are members of a disaster response team who have been sent to Africa to respond to a plea for assistance. During the week the children are immersed in a mixture of adventure, discovery, problem solving and education as they map the area, locate and purify water sources, build bridges and shelters, and hunt for food. Our vision is to be educationally excellent whilst at the same time distinctly Christian.

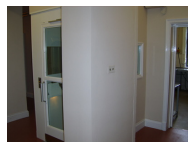


Rich (Dakori)



## Changes during the year.

The last year has seen many improvements to the facilities at Sizewell Hall. The lift has been the biggest improvement to the Hall and has made a tremendous difference to many of the groups who have visited us. Young and old alike have benefited from this facility. A young girl in a wheelchair was able to enjoy the African Adventure as a result of the lift being in place, as well as many others during the year.



The new potato peeler is much less noisy than the old one and is very efficient at peeling potatoes too! A new water heater in the kitchen has made life much easier for the chefs in the kitchen!

The new children's play area is greatly appreciated and is great fun too for the adults who dare to take part!



A new disabled shower room has been fitted out as a wet room on the first floor and other shower rooms have been or will be refurbished soon.

In August we installed a new coffee, bean to cup, machine, you can now get your latte, espresso, mocha, cappuccino, and chocolate just when you want!



Rooms have been decorated and new carpets have been laid in some of the bedrooms as well as corridor and stair carpets. During the past summer we have been painting the outside of the cottages, so it has been a busy time!

## NEW MID WEEK BREAK

We are offering a Mid week Walking Break visit [www.sizewellhall.com](http://www.sizewellhall.com) for details or ring 01728 830715. This follows on from the last three successful Mid week Golfing Breaks which is also running this year. Dates as follows Golf Break 13-15 May Walking Break 15-17 July.

## Feedback from those attending African Adventure.



"Fantastic Week. Well done guys. Keep up the good work and thanks for making a difference in these young lives!" "Good healthy food – many of the children tried things they don't normally eat!" "Patience was in abundance, children were valued for themselves and positively affirmed yet never left in any doubt as to who was the authority." "The activities at African Adventure stressed the need to work as a team and respect another's point of view. The leaders were inspirational and pitched everything perfectly." "This was a fantastic trip which we all enjoyed tremendously. The children loved it and gained so much from working together. Thank you." "Thank you for everything, I've had a great experience. I loved being part of a disaster response team." "The staff were all really funny and enthusiastic. My brother now wants to go but he has two years to wait." "Thank you for a brilliant time! I really enjoyed myself, especially the campfire. I can't stop singing the songs!" "I don't think you could make African Adventure any better." "Thank you very much, I didn't even want to leave and the food was so good. I'd love to have some more. Thank you."

## Kelly Garnham a Returning teacher.

I first had the pleasure of staying at Sizewell Hall in 1996. I was invited to go on a Christian weekend with other churches and chapels. I remember first seeing the hall and being overwhelmed by its presence on the edge of the shore.

I had a fantastic weekend of activities and sports with a strong influence of the Christian way of life. Sizewell Hall always stayed in my mind as a wonderful place for groups to come and enjoy its stately manner and friendly Christian welcome.

In 2006 I was appointed as the Class 4 teacher at St Margaret's CEVA Primary School. I was overjoyed to learn that as part of the school year I had the opportunity to take my class on a three day residential trip. My excitement grew as I learnt that Sizewell Hall was to be our residential accommodation. The school has a strong Christian ethos and I learnt from colleagues that had been before, that Sizewell Hall perfectly matched our own beliefs and needs.

As a newly qualified teacher it was a bit of a daunting task organising the trip. However my life was made easier by the continued support and assistance I was given from Peter and his colleagues at the Hall. This continued throughout our trip and a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere enabled the children to have a fantastic time. All the children gave wonderful feedback. We were all very impressed with the food throughout our stay and even children who are known to be fussy eaters asked for seconds. The facilities within the Hall are excellent for groups of any age. We made the most of the conference room for assemblies, the shop for presents and sweets, the beach for games and fun. Most importantly the field for football. All the children slept well after a few reminders that it was "lights off."

I am thrilled to be returning to Sizewell Hall next May with my new class and I am looking forward to an equally fantastic trip.

## Meadow Way Chapel.

It is impossible to convey in words the joys that we have experienced at Sizewell Hall over the past seventeen years. Our chapel family weekends have always been great - the facilities are ideal for a family based group - but we have been especially blessed at our annual over 50s week-long holiday which we started back in 1990.

The majority of our 'over 50s' are, in reality, well over 50, with some even in their 90s like Mabel Pretty (97) seen here in the photograph with her cousin Kathy Moore (90). These two ladies have been guests at nearly all our holidays over the years and it has been a privilege to take care of them and many others, giving them a break by the seaside which they would not otherwise manage on their own. In practice, the younger over 50s take care of the older guests and the organising team are themselves over 50.



The running of our holiday is a real team effort. The accent is on laughter, good food and friendship with Christian teaching and musical entertainment high on the agenda. We have a regular kitchen team producing three good meals a day in Sizewell Hall's great kitchen, a washing up team working hard in the specially equipped washing up room. Then there is a team 'out front' organising the programme with outings and events, providing endless cups of tea and generally taking care of the frailer guests. Their job has been made much easier by the new lift that enables the elderly and disabled to reach their bedrooms without having to be helped or carried up the stairs.

For the past few years the 'master of ceremonies' has been arguably the funniest man in East Anglia, Derek Cate. He it is that keeps the guests laughing from morning to night - and laughter is such good medicine! He also provides games and quizzes and a nightly epilogue. Other regular features of the holiday are the early morning prayer meetings and the daily 'thought for the day' led by a guest speaker. There is an outdoor fun afternoon with games and competitions and we must not forget the obligatory feeding of the ducks at Thorpeness. The Sizewell Hall shop is also very popular for the purchase of gifts to take home to family.



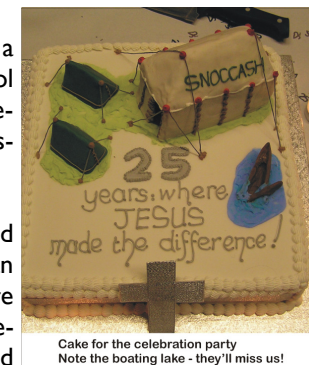
Every evening the whole team joins together for musical entertainment, with gentle musical exercises, instrumental solos, and songs, including the traditional and popular topical songs with humorous references to various guests. The writer of these instant verses is supplied daily with the 'low down' by spies who report on the happenings of the day. On the last night there is a special entertainment in the form of a music hall, or songs from the shows etc. We are joined by guest singers for this and it makes a fitting end to the week.

Finally it is a special pleasure each time to see Carol, Paul, Lynne and Peter, the managers who look after us so well and have become our great friends over the years. We all look forward to our next 'Over 50s Sizewell Break' in June 2008.

## Looking back over the years

### 25 years of SNOCCASH (South Norfolk Christian Camp at Sizewell Hall).

Audrey and I started SNOCCASH as a weekend away for our 9 Sunday school children and never dreamed it would develop and last for 25 years. We never assumed there would be a next year.



Cake for the celebration party Note the boating lake - they'll miss us!

The aims for the last few years focussed on bringing together small rural Christian youth groups, with their leaders where possible, to develop the relationship between campers and God, their leaders and each other. We have been amazed that so many different denominations can come together in harmony for an event like this! Throughout the year we encourage inter-church support and friendship via InRgr8, an initiative which grew out of camp, so young Christians can come to realise they're not alone.

The camp catered for around fifty 13-18 year olds and was not particularly evangelical but saw numerous young people give their lives to Christ through the extensive Bible teaching and worship. We focused heavily on camper participation in music, no matter their standard, so that they could gain confidence at camp and take their improved talents back to their church.

None of this would have been possible without the sacrificial giving, in every sense, of the volunteer leaders and the huge amount of help and goodwill we received from the Sizewell Management team (we did make a lot of noise!) and Suffolk Christian Camps.

Sadly 2007 was our last SNOCCASH camp. The change in next year's school holidays rules out Sizewell as a site. However, others are prepared to take up the mantle to do something else as there is undoubtedly a demand for this type of work. It was wonderful to finish with a baptism in the sea of a long-term camper who is now off to uni to study Christian Youth work. The impact on so many of the 400 or so who have been through SNOCCASH (not as many as you might think for 25 years because we have had a very high return rate) can be summed up with an extract from an e-mail we received after this year's camp and which makes us feel every single camp was worth it:



(I've left the names out)

Thank you for infecting my family with the Jesus virus. Yes even before my oldest daughter came to camp I was a Christian, but I had just drifted to a safe distance!! Then gradually with my oldest first, and then the younger two, through camp, Jesus has come to be the centre of our lives. It impacted on us all, helping to fan my fire back into life, rekindling the flames and bringing my wife to faith. I know God did the work but you were the instruments. THANKS.



Roger & Audrey Pye.

### Engagement announcement at Sizewell Hall! 15th Dec 07

How romantic Nathan came with his church for their normal Christmas bash. At the end of the evening entertainment, Nathan said he would sing but instead of singing "He told them all how great Layla was!" On bended knee he pops the question. "Layla will you marry me". Layla said "Yes", Oh how sweet! Another new hat!!!



# SIZEWELL HALL CHRISTIAN CAMPING & CONFERENCE CENTRE

The management team consists of Victor & Meg Jack, Mark Beaton, Graham Brown, Ivan Fenning, Steve Fenning, Ted Jack, Colin Rushbrook, Matthew Warnock and Mervyn Wood.

In this issue we have asked both Colin and Graham to tell us a bit about their work and involvement with Sizewell Hall. Colin is on the left and Graham is on the right of the picture.



## Introducing Colin Rushbrook

I joined the council of management 20 years ago, as the first of the "new boys" on the council, following the passing of David Golding. This had a somewhat humbling effect upon me as I soon was aware of the faith of those great men of God, who had pioneered the commencement of the work at Sizewell Hall. It is much easier to follow in the footsteps of others who have already cleared the path ahead.

Dear Morton Mudd greeted me at my first meeting with these words " We have never had any trouble on this committee", not that he thought I might cause any, but there always had been unity, as there should be when the purpose is to see God's work succeed. In turn I now welcome new members with the same words.

Sizewell Hall has always been a blessing to my family, with my children Amy and Robert rating it above Euro Disney, when they were small. It's aura, a place where God's presence is always felt and where He never fails to speak, ensures that they will be back at the next opportunity.

Nowadays, I am more often in the kitchen my wife, Linda ministering to the needs of the body! God didn't call me to be a preacher, and some might think he didn't call me to be a cook either, but someone has to do it!!



**Introducing Graham Brown** Thirty Years visiting Sizewell Hall. It was only this year in September whilst my Church, Battisford Free Church, were at Sizewell Hall for our annual family weekend that we realised that it was 30 years since we first visited Sizewell Hall as a Church group. This was quickly verified by a review of the 1977 visitors book to see who was there back in 1977. It was great to see names appearing who are still part of the Church and still attending the weekend and of course some names that have since moved away or been called home to heaven.

I first visited the Hall in 1978 as a teenager, as a guest of BFC, before I became a member at the Church. I believe that I have been there at least once a year for our Church weekend as an attendee, youth leader or "clip board man" every year since that. Sizewell is a special place for me as I have seen lives changed and people grow closer to Christ over the years, and also at the Camp, where both of my sons became Christians whilst attending Junior camp. The blessing continues in 2007; This year after the evening service that concluded our ministry on "Heaven", our theme for the weekend, a young lad in our Church committed his life to Christ. I count it a privilege to serve on the Sizewell Council as it enables me to view the work of the Hall from both sides; its management and as a group leader. Here's to the next 30 years!

When not at Sizewell Hall I work for SIM ( Serving in Mission) which is an Interdenominational Christian Mission organisation working in Africa, Asia and South America. My role is in the area of finance and accounting – I am the missionaries bank manager sort of! I look after the collection of support donations and ensuring they receive their allowances as well as general help and advice to Donors and Churches who support our work around the World. I have had the privilege of visiting many of the countries where we work to see at first hand how the money given to take the Gospel around the world is being spent. You can find out more about SIM at our website [www.sim.co.uk](http://www.sim.co.uk)



## A brief report from Suffolk Christian Camp Last year Sizewell Hall had 6 weeks of camping weeks during the summer.

Another fantastic 2 weeks of getting closer to God, having a huge amount of fun in the process and developing friendships that last the whole year through. 64 young people, 25 adults leaders, a lot of activity, Bible study, music and laughter all go together to make an excellent experience whether you know God well or perhaps are exploring what all this Christianity lark might mean. Junior Camp is great for the young people and us adults that lead them during their week. Whatever your denomination or background we think you'll have a fantastic time if you come - well we're biased - we lead it!! **Andy & Amanda Kirk. Junior Camp 9-14yrs**

**Summer Madness** was almost full this year. With 59 campers booked in there were only 4 spaces left for boys. There was the usual mix of campers, from those who were looking forward to receiving as much teaching as possible to those who don't go to Church, or do attend but don't particularly want to hear anything from God at the moment. It was good to see campers and leaders working and praying through various issues. Matt Levett spoke on a range of relevant issues centred on the word "EIKON" and how we are all images of God. Lots of fun was enjoyed and the weather was wonderful!! **Chris & Louise Ryall**

**Family Camp week 1**, was full with a good atmosphere, good teaching, good fun, good weather and many people growing in their relationship with God. We had the joy of baptising a lady who became a Christian at camp last year. **Family Camp week 2**, had almost unrelenting rain all week yet this seemed to bring the campers together and God really worked amongst them. 2 Teenage girls and a man became Christians. There was lots of fun, food, sport and again excellent teaching. **Rodney & Debbie Cook & Andy & Mim Jelfs.**

**Note from the Editor.** *Toby the camp milkman* was very impressed each morning as he delivered the milk to see the campers and leaders having their own quiet times he thought it was fantastic. He often spoke about the wonderful atmosphere here at the Hall.

Please pray that it will continue to speak to him as he has moved to Sweden.

For more information on camps visit [www.suffolkchristiancamps.org.uk](http://www.suffolkchristiancamps.org.uk)

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# SIZEWELL HALL CHRISTIAN CAMPING & CONFERENCE CENTRE

Feb 2008

'A different viewpoint'

## Various comments in the book of Memories.

I love spending time with my friends but the weekend goes too quickly, Sizewell is Fun. **Emily**

Sizewell gets better each time I come. **Ellie**

A sanctuary where we meet with a majestic God. **Jean**

Father I thank you for the gift of this weekend and your amazing love for us. **Chrissy**

My first time at Sizewell. I really enjoyed it here. I felt really at peace a lovely tranquil place. **Jennifer**

What a wonderful week. My highlight was to have Marilyn Baker come for a concert. What a blessing. **Carol**

Thank you for such a wonderful time of spiritual refreshment. I have a family. **Rachel**

God was in the building and stayed with us too! Many thanks for this excellent resource, and the vision to use it for God. **Tony**

As I walked along the beach I was reminded of His power, love and splendour, He is mighty. This will probably be the only time we visit as we move back to the US in the fall! What a glorious weekend worshipping the Lord! Thanks for this ministry. **Jodie**

First time at Sizewell. What a fantastic place. I found God and let Jesus into my life. I hope to come back next year a fully fledged Christian. **David**

The picture on the front page gives us a view of Sizewell Hall that none of you will have seen before. It gives us a totally different perspective of the Centre and it's surroundings. It reveals a view from above rather than below, and it makes us stop and think about how God looks upon all that takes place at the Hall, instead of how we see things from our human perspective.

Three things in the picture caught my attention. In the distance you can just see the nuclear power station which is over a mile down the beach looking north. Here radium is converted into electrical power which is then transmitted by cable to different parts of the country for the benefit of many people. While most of us have little knowledge or little concern as to how this conversion process takes place, we all would rather live in the light than the darkness. We often say that Sizewell Hall is the real power station on the coast, because it is here that so many people of all ages have been converted over the last 3 decades, through the life transforming power of the Christian message. We may not always understand how the Spirit of God works, but we have seen the effect that the power of the gospel has had in the lives of individuals, bringing them out of darkness into His marvellous light.

On the chimney on the left of the picture there is a lightning conductor, which makes sure that when lightning strikes from heaven with its powerful surge of electrical power, all the energy is diverted into the ground rather than damaging the building. God has all power at His disposal, both to destroy and to bless. This is clearly seen in the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, the fire that consumed Elijah's sacrifice and the tongues of fire on the day of Pentecost that were sent from heaven to bless God's people. Nothing thrills our hearts more in the work at Sizewell than to hear that God's power has been channelled into people's lives, breaking hard hearts, demolishing walls of rebellion and pride, bringing repentance and faith, healing and forgiveness, hope and the gift of eternal life. We rejoice every time we hear of individuals being touched by the power of God.

From the picture you can also see how close the sea is to the building. We are often asked if the Hall is in danger from the encroaching tides. Before we signed our last lease we had a meeting with the Nuclear Inspectorate and the Suffolk Coastal authorities. They assured us that the equipment they had off-shore, tracking the flow of the sand and stones, indicated that although land would be lost to the sea to the north and the south of us, there would be little change in our

area before the year 2070! We are grateful too, that the recent high tides did not affect us.

This has been another good and busy year at Sizewell Hall during which over 6,000 people have come under the influence of Christians leaders, good Bible teaching and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. While we are grateful that the Hall is still fully booked for over two years ahead without any need to pay for advertisements, our main concern is to see God at work and to know that we have His approval on all that takes place. His hand of blessing has certainly been on the place since we first opened the doors to the public in May 1975.

It has been a privilege to chair the Sizewell Council for another year and to be a part of such a united team. It is always a joy to work harmoniously with our managers and their wives who are totally dedicated to the work and selflessly give of their time and energy to care for our guests. We are grateful too, for all the leaders who organise the visiting groups and we continuously thank God for those who give generously and pray regularly for the work at Sizewell Hall.

**Victor Jack, chairman.**



## Each year, Youth For Christ, formerly Covenanters visit Sizewell Hall. The following is a brief report from their visit in August 07.

Enjoy lots of sport, spend the week soaking up the sun on the beach, or do both. Stunning food includes lunchtime BBQs and a mid-week 4 course banquet. Most importantly, the holiday provides time to explore Christianity and to develop your relationship with Jesus through relevant and challenging Bible teaching, lively music and plenty of opportunities to discuss important issues. **Anthony & Sarah Holmes (Leaders of a team of workers)**

## Feedback from the group.

"It was my first year at Sizewell but the relaxed atmosphere made it easy to make friends and feel at home. I would recommend it to anybody."

"Sizewell has always challenged me in my faith. Sizewell is an incredible place to come together with like minded people of your own age who actually care about what they believe. If you need to relax, have a laugh or rejuvenate your 'spiritual batteries', it's a perfect place to do it."

"Sizewell is a fantastic place to make new friends and to discuss openly any issues which are often hard to talk about. The whole week was very encouraging, challenging and supportive."

