

'African Adventure' Update CYM



2009 heralds the 5th birthday of African Adventure.

It is an exciting time and continues to challenge, inspire and encourage not only the children and teachers who visit but also the staff and volunteers who make it happen. Over the past 12 months 20 groups have utilised the African Adventure programme providing us with opportunities to meet and build relationships with over 600 children and 60+ school staff as well as making use of over 1,200 cable ties!

There have been a lot of laughs, a few tears and many answered prayers. God has been central in our hearts and minds as we share our faith through our service in addition to creative stories and testimonies related to the African story we tell. We continue to look for ways of improving what we do but are encouraged to read comments, especially when a head teacher says, "It's just about the 'perfect' residential." We are humbled to be a part of God's work in this area and are looking forward to seeing how the next chapter unfolds.

Thank you to everyone who prays and gives generously of their time and resources to make African Adventure so successful.

Rich (Dakori) If you would like to know more or to get involved please contact Rich Blake-Lobb (rich@c-y-m.org.uk / 01473 216712)

Rich has recently announced his engagement to Amy, we add our congratulations. They plan to marry during the year.

Planned Changes during the year.

The last year has seen many improvements to the facilities at Sizewell Hall. We have continued to improve the shower rooms and open them up into wet rooms. To date we have renovated 5 shower rooms.

Sizewell Hall has to continue to meet the needs of an ever changing world. During the next year we plan to build a new games room. Planning Permission will have to be obtained but the plan is to build a large room in the courtyard outside the washing up room. This will eventually become the table tennis room and also leave space for youth work to take place without the need to dismantle the table.

The current table tennis room will then become the Registered Office for Sizewell Hall. The current office space is inadequate for the needs of the additional work that will have to be completed at the hall, as well as additional people in the office. The new office space will be much better suited to the work of the centre as we go into the 21st century. The cost to provide this extra facility will be approx £35,000. If you would like to contribute to this project please send your gift to the management at Sizewell Hall marked **Building Fund**. During the last 34yrs. all the records have been kept at Victor's office in Drinkstone so a considerable amount of archived files will have to be kept at Sizewell Hall.

Suffolk Christian Camps are in the process of addressing the need to replace the marquee. They would like to construct a permanent building to hold the camp meeting in, this would be a tremendous facility. A permanent construction would also help to reduce noise which is always a problem during the summer months. If you are able to help with this financially, please contact Phil Sparkes (Chairman of Suffolk Christian Camps.)

Please pray too as we negotiate the rent review at the end of the year.

LOCAL TRADES SUPPLIERS for Sizewell Hall

We often ask groups why go to the hassle of bringing your own food. As a Centre we try to give as much trade to our local suppliers as possible. This helps us engage and support our local community. Here are just a few of our local suppliers that we use from around Leiston.

Challis Butchers Established in 1897, Challis Butchers traded until 1996 as J. Challis & Sons, rearing and slaughtering locally sourced beef, lamb and pork.

Taking over the business in 1996, David and Jacky Fisk continue to source all their supplies locally and remain traditional in the way their products are cut, prepared and presented. Sausages are made fresh daily and a selection of cooked meats are also available.

Over the years, Sizewell Christian Conference Centre and Challis Butchers have enjoyed a good working relationship and we look forward to this continuing.

David can be seen here in his shop.



Smith's 'Bakery'

Local fresh baked bread and an assortment of cakes and pies, all made to make your mouth water.

Geoff Platt 'Greengrocer'

Local seasonal produce from a local store. All your requirements delivered to the door.

The East of England 'Co-op'

Co-op are the largest community retailer in East Anglia. Their food stores and supermarkets offer convenient shopping close to home. Leiston store is open till late offering a wide range of products, everything you need right on your doorstep including many Fairtrade items.

Marybelle 'Dairy'

Bringing freshness closer than ever before. Milk, yoghurt, Cream and Ice Cream delivered to the hall daily. They now also deliver Kingsmill Bread.

Marybelle was a business move created out of necessity for the survival of our Pedigree herd of Holstein cows. The herd has been established for over 25 years The name 'Marybelle' was one of the very first features of the new business to be developed. It is comprised of the two names of the most influential milk providers

The Strachan family who own Marybelle Dairy, farm at Rendham Hall the home of Suffolk Christian Camps for many years.

MID WEEK BREAKS

We are again offering two Mid week Breaks this year. Visit www.sizewellhall.com or ring 01728 830715 for details.



Golf Break
12-14 May.



Walking Break
14-17 July.

Looking back over the years

EAST ANGLIAN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE



Early in the 1960's a group from Suffolk, Norfolk and Essex met together to set up an annual residential conference, similar to the one in the Bristol area, which would give women the opportunity for Bible study. This privilege is often denied to wives and mothers through circumstances, either caring for children, the elderly or because their husbands are involved in other Christian work.

The first East Anglian Women's Conference was held at the beginning of March, 1963, at a hotel in Felixstowe, with the express purpose of helping women to spend time with God's Word, to equip themselves better to follow the Lord and to serve His Church. For several years this hotel was used, then another larger one, next door and then Hengrave Hall.

When Sizewell Hall opened it made an ideal venue and the conference moved there.

Initially the weekend was advertised but this quickly became unnecessary as the demand for places became so great. In response to the obvious need some members of the committee moved off to set up similar groups for other areas.

At first it was feared that Sizewell Hall would not afford the "special treat" feel of a weekend in a hotel and that the catering might not be successful. These worries proved unfounded as many people have freely given of their time and talents to provide very excellent meals. In the early days it must be admitted that there were occasions when the cold easterly wind blowing off the sea was felt in the conference room. Not so nowadays!!



The popularity of the opportunity to take time out to be with the Lord led to the committee deciding in 1988 to arrange two weekends each year, one in March and the second one in the autumn. Both are always fully booked. At the most recent one Angela Mills, from Carnforth, shared lessons from the life of David and the Saturday evening session focussed on the work of the local Town Pastors.

Sizewell Hall provides an excellent venue. Teaching takes place in the main hall whilst other facilities are used for discussions and the beautiful surroundings encourage quiet reflection and response to what has been taught. Meal times are a good time to relax and share friendship and free time on Saturday afternoon is a chance for some retail therapy!



Over a period of 45 years it has been a pleasure for many women, not only to benefit from being at Sizewell Hall, but also to contribute to the ongoing work of this special place.

Margaret Cook.

Well, it all started "**back in the summer of 1999**"

The two of us went to the Leiston Pathfinder Venture, both coming through C of E... churches from different parts of the country. We don't remember each other or whether we even spoke, but there's a group photo on the stone steps with both of us in!

We both went back as leaders three years later and met properly for the first time.



THANK GOD FOR SIZEWELL HALL

We hold, so we're informed, a rather special record! We brought the first group to Sizewell Hall on its opening in May 1975 and apparently we've brought the most groups in the intervening years - a record we're delighted to hold. It has come to feel like a second home! Not that we wish to boast (of course) but it reflects the important part Sizewell has played in our own ministry, and the value of its relaxed and welcoming atmosphere for all ages. I've lost count of the number of people who've spoken of an almost tangible 'sense of God' in their stay.

Walking, eating, and talking together, taking time to 'step aside' from the routines and pressures of everyday, these were all prominent features of Jesus' ministry. Over the years we've had plenty of evidence that they are still important, and effective, both for those who present the Gospel, and for those who are listening and learning... and maybe seeking. Perhaps Sizewell Hall's greatest contribution has been that it provides for these requirements *par excellence*. Such facilities offered, as they are, prayerfully and in Jesus' name, make an ideal setting for discipling, worshipping and fellowshiping together.

As we look back, the high points are invariably linked with people engaging with God in different, and often unexpected, ways. A few 'snapshots' from the album...

- a 12 year old boy remains, quiet & thoughtful, in his seat after a communion service; 'I can't leave', he says, 'until I know my sins are forgiven.' And what he's just seen enacted in the breaking of bread opens his heart to receive the Saviour.

- a 70 year old man comes to the '50+' week with his Christian wife, determined not to attend any of 'the spiritual bits!' In fact, he gets involved in everything, and the years of cynicism and unbelief begin to melt away. On Easter Sunday we have the joy of leading him to Christ.

- a 40-ish Dad is dragged, resisting loudly, to Family Camp. Everything (including the bad weather and a family row!) has conspired to make it an inauspicious start, but the welcome he receives and the camaraderie of camp totally disarms him and he's ready to listen. At the end of the week he acknowledges Jesus as Lord.

Nothing can match the pleasure of being involved 'at the sharp end' of such encounters with God. But would these have happened without the initial vision for what might be? Or without the 'here for others' spirit of those who continue to implement that vision?

We thank God for Sizewell Hall, and for the people that make it the place it is.

Andy & Mim Jelfs

We got on famously, but we were still young and lived far away from each other so we remained friends and saw each other mainly at Leiston each summer and at the various reunions and leaders' meetings throughout the year.

Through 'coincidence' we found ourselves going to the same University at the ages of 18 and 19, at which point we re-kindled our close friendship up in Nottingham. After another 2 years I finally got my act together and asked Jen out; the first of our Leiston's in a relationship with one another was surreal, and a long time coming! Fast forward to this summer and Leiston '08 - my 10th in total - was a very important week for Jen and I. Over the preceding months I had been thinking and praying about whether I should propose to Jen and over the course of the week I felt God give me clarity on the relationship and it suddenly seemed like the right thing to do. Just over a month later I had hatched a plan to get Jen back to the place where it all began.....

Tim proposed on the beach and Jen said yes!! How lovely, we pray God's Blessing on them in their future lives together.



SIZEWELL HALL CHRISTIAN CAMPING & CONFERENCE CENTRE

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

In this issue we have asked Ted to tell us a bit about his work and involvement with Sizewell Hall. Also we will catch up with the previous managers of the Hall. Don & Heather Gee and Mike & Janet Stafford.



Ted Jack

Former Managers

Don & Heather Gee "...and the earth was without form and void" and that's how the Bible describes the beginning of the world.

Well, when we first saw the Hall, it had form but was void of what we see today! Those were the days of Saturday work parties, volunteer help and the vision and drive of Victor and the members of Sizewell hall committee.

But in the space of 6 months things began to take shape and soon we were open for the first house parties – and the end of the beginning of the vision. So although there would still be on going practical work the focus moved from physical construction to spiritual re-construction as people young and not so young came and met with God and encountered His resurrection power. Praise God for the building and all those who gave so much time and money to get it off the ground, but praise Him more for lives that have been changed for ever!

Don.

Don & Heather are now Pastoring a church in Littleport and still visit Sizewell Hall to speak for groups.

Michael & Janet Stafford Since leaving Sizewell Hall in November 1987, we have been involved in the work of Torch Trust for the Blind based in Market Harborough.

Janet serves as International Leader, and Mike was Production Team Leader until semi-retirement last year. He now works four mornings each week, transcribing library books into giant print for partially sighted people, and overseeing the magazine editing.

Both of us are involved in Malawi, the 10th poorest country in the world, where Torch has a base at Blantyre with a team of Malawian helpers, producing braille and giant print books for African countries. We visit at least twice each year to help support the work, and to visit blind people. God is at work despite the many hardships that the people have and we see it as a great privilege to be part of the growth of God's Kingdom in Malawi and Mozambique.

Janet & Mike.



Don & Heather



Janet & Mike

Introducing Ted Jack

My first memory of Sizewell was as a boy being taken there for swimming lessons from Leiston Grammar School. Little did I think then that for 34 years of my life I would be associated with Sizewell Hall as a member of the Council of Management. It has been a wonderful experience to be part of all that God has done over the years in that place.

I was born just 10 miles from Sizewell in a farming family. Agriculture has been my life and I have been privileged to do what I always wanted to do. I was in farming for 51 years. 10 years with my father and a further 41 years when I married Margaret and moved to our own place. We were blessed with a son and daughter who are now both married and have 2 children each. I retired 2 years ago.

My parents were Christians and Christian principles pervaded the home and the business. I owe a great deal to godly parents and I thank God for them. Church was a 'must' and in my younger years Sunday School and Bible Class were compulsory!

Happily as a result I trusted the Lord as my Saviour at the age of 11 and have sought to follow and serve Him ever since. I taught in Sunday School and was later Bible Class Leader. I still get a real 'buzz' from seeing some of those Bible Class pupils still going on with the Lord and becoming Leaders in their own Churches.

I have had a Preaching and Teaching ministry across East Anglia for 50 years and served as an Elder in local Churches for 40 years. I was connected with Suffolk Christian Camps for over 30 years serving as Chairman of the committee for 25 years. Counties Evangelistic work has also been close to my heart particularly as I have 2 brothers associated with it and I served 2 terms as Chairman of the Regional Fellowship. Another rewarding experience of my life has been the Golden Sunset Homes Trust which set up a Retirement Home for elderly Christians in Felixstowe 30 years ago. The home is now closed but we still have 2 Full time workers serving the Elderly in Felixstowe.

Life has been full with both joy and sadness. It was a big blow when my wife Margaret died of cancer at only 54 years old. Through the tears God was very real and very close and the scriptures took on new meaning for me. Six years ago God gave me a new wife, Karen, and together we seek to serve the Lord, in our retirement now we are living in Ipswich.

Ted Jack.

Please also continue to pray for the summer camps where each year in the UK approximately 50,000 children and young people attend summer Christian camps. Pray that many will come to know and understand the Christian message for themselves.

Why not in June organise a special prayer time during your church service to **Pray for the Summer**. We could help with presentation material, please give the managers a call.



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Executive Advisor Victor Jack
Resident Managers

Paul & Carol Golding, Peter & Lynne Warnock.

A Recent picture of the Sizewell Hall Committee.

SIZEWELL HALL CHRISTIAN CAMPING & CONFERENCE CENTRE

Jan 2009 Issue 5

'Renewable Energy'

Various Memories 2008.

Had a great time. Sizewell's the best ever. **Chloe.**

Over 50's ! Blessings Abound. **MT.**

What a wonderful weekend, a real feeling of the Holy Spirit in our presence. **Derek & Margaret.**

Another fantastic stay. God has really blessed me through being here again. **Mark.**

Great stay as always. **The Horrex Family.**

Sizewell has been amazing as always. **Kymmene.**

This year it is 20yrs since we came for the first time. So lovely here, such Blessings to fill us, because the Lord is here to comfort and give fresh courage always. **Helene~**

Thank you for this wonderful place – may the Lord continue to Bless you, this place and all who meet with Him and each other. **Anon.**

Thank you dearest Lord for the blessing of this beautiful house. We have all been truly refreshed. **All St. Newmarket.**

I really like this place. I am happy to be here. **Susi. Loja Ecuador.**

Where broken hearts are mended and life's problems transformed. Sizewell Hall is a super place where God provides His love and Grace.

A rehearsal for entering Heaven. God is here as our Father encouraging us to grow in our faith. **Jean.**

A little bit of Heaven on earth. Spiritually uplifting. **Anna.**

I love coming to Sizewell with all my friends. We have so much to do over the weekend. I love Sizewell. Please keep going! **Laura.**

Those who have visited Sizewell during the last few months will have noticed a great deal of construction work taking place near the two power stations, Sizewell A and Sizewell B. Many of you must have wondered what was taking place while others have probably thought that all this ground work was in preparation for Sizewell C. So let me put you in the picture.

An offshore wind farm is being developed around two sand banks in the North Sea, off the Suffolk Coast, known as the Inner Gabbard and The Gallaper. This involves the installation of 140 Siemens 3.6MW wind turbines, which will form the largest offshore wind farm in the world. Cables will carry the power that is generated offshore to the electricity substation at present being constructed at Sizewell. This will eventually be fed into the overhead transmission lines in the area. Construction offshore will commence mid 2009 with completion expected by the end of 2010. This project is one of the major initiatives to be developed by the Government and will go a significant way towards meeting their renewable energy targets.

When people have asked me where Sizewell Hall is located, I have often replied by saying; "it is near Sizewell Nuclear Power Station, but that Sizewell Hall is the real power station a little further down the beach." It is here that lives have been wonderfully transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. Now we have the Governments 'renewable energy' project alongside our centre, which is a good description of what takes place in the hearts of so many who come to stay in the hall, and on the camp site. Those who feel worn out by the pressures of work and everyday life, and who take time out at Sizewell Hall to rediscover their God and the purpose for which they were created, become spiritually refreshed and renewed.

God promises us, through the prophet Isaiah, that 'Those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint.' Isaiah 40. 31 So many over the years have spoken of the way in which they were inwardly strengthened and renewed as a result of staying at Sizewell Hall.

Times of worship and prayer, bible teaching and fellowship with other Christians have reinvigorated them spiritually and enabled them to go back to their homes and places of work with 'renewed energy' and joy in the Holy Spirit. This has been happening on a regular basis over the last 34 years.

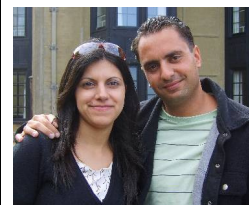
How beautiful is the invitation that Jesus extends to all of us who know what it is to feel worn out and to be on the edge of burnout. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11.28-30

So if you want to be renewed in your Christian life, then come to Sizewell Hall and allow the Lord to refresh your spirit and restore your soul.

Victor & Meg



Louiza and Nabil Kort. Photo taken during their visit in the summer.



It has been eleven years since my first visit to Sizewell Hall, My sister and I had attended a youth conference at Easter. Eleven years ago when the Lord had changed our lives and made us His own forever. My second visit to Sizewell Hall was this year 2008 in June, when Nabil (my husband) and my self with our three month baby boy (Rafael) visited England to spend some time with our friends.

Visiting Sizewell Hall was very important for me, I wanted so much to see the place where we stayed last time, where the Lord touched my heart. As I was walking in the building, all my great memories came back so fresh in to my mind. I remembered how we used to have time for prayers and sing to the Lord, I remembered seeing the youth just like me, had a real zeal for God, which challenged my faith.

The dining room where we had our meals with great friends, those memories filled my heart with joy and a longing so much to see them all. It was great experience this time as well the first to be here, I strongly believe that the Lord is using this place for His glory.

As for my life now, I work at the Garden Tomb, Where the Lord has given me the privilege to share His words with Arabs, mostly Muslims, My husband Nabil is a tour Guide, so when ever you want to visit Israel you will have a guide with you.

Both my husband and I are involved in ministry, We have opened our house for God by hosting a new believers bible study and prayer time. We are also members of a local praise team, where we visit different churches around the country, plus doing an outreach for non believers.

Our vision is to have a Christian center in our Muslim village. Prayer request, please pray for us as a family, that the Lord would use us more for His glory. For an open door to have a center in the village where we live.

New year Blessings **Louiza**