

SUMMER CAMP 1976 WRAY CASTLE

Introduction

This is the official Troop account of the camp as it exists as in the Troop Log. The following is a copy of that account with additional comments added by Glip in 1976 to provide further explanations and rollections.. Any modifications within the original text are indicated in italics.

Abbreviations

APL: Assistant Patrol Leader

ASL: Assistant Scout Leader.

ASS: Advanced Scout Standard

BBQ: Barbeque

CSA: Chief Scouts Award.

DC: District Commissioner

GSL: Group Scout Leader

PL: Patrol Leader

PLC: Patrol Leaders Council

QM: Quartermaster

SC: Summer Camp

SL: Scout Leader

SS: Scout Standard

T&T: Training and Testing

THOSE IN CAMP^{1,2,3,4}

PADDINGTON PATROL (SCOUTERS)

Alistair B. Cram (*Skipper*)

Brian Scott (*First Aid Officer*)

Kenneth W. Paton

Colin C. Cuthbertson (ASL 56th R&I)

Graham L Patrick (QM Food)

Calum P Grant ASL (1st R&I)

CAPTAIN PUGWASH (Eagle)

John Paterson (*PL*)

Steven Haldane (*APL*)

Cameron Still

Peter McLean

Robbie Mochrie

DROOPY PATROL (Curlew)

David Terris (*PL*)

Graeme Brodie (*APL*)

Tommy Tully

Kenneth Wallace

Colin Hunter

PLUTO PATROL (Falcon)

David McCready (*Teddy*) (*PL*)

Paul Edgar (Eggy) (*APL*)

Guy Grant

Alistair Calder

Billy Forbes

WOODY WOODPECKER PATROL (Kingfisher)

Iain Calder (*PL*)

Hardy Lochhead (*APL*)

Charlie Mill

Bruce Black

CASPER PATROL (Seagull)

Alexander D. Eadie (*PL*)

Brian Scobie (Scooby) (*APL?*)

David Griffin

Calum Adams

CHARLIE BROWN PATROL (Tiger)

David McCallum (*PL*)

Jim Tosh (*PL*)

Brian Peacock

Douglas Haldane

GOOFY PATROL (Stag)

David Bolster (*PL*)

Stuart Patrick (Slip) (*APL*)

Colin Terris (Shugi)

Graham Soutar (Sooty)

SPIDERMAN PATROL (Fox)

Gordon Robertson (*PL*)

Rodrick Boyle (*APL*) (Soddy not????)⁵

Murray Brabender

Tommy Boag

Brian McCready

David Eadie

CIVILISING INFLUENCE

Moir T. Cram

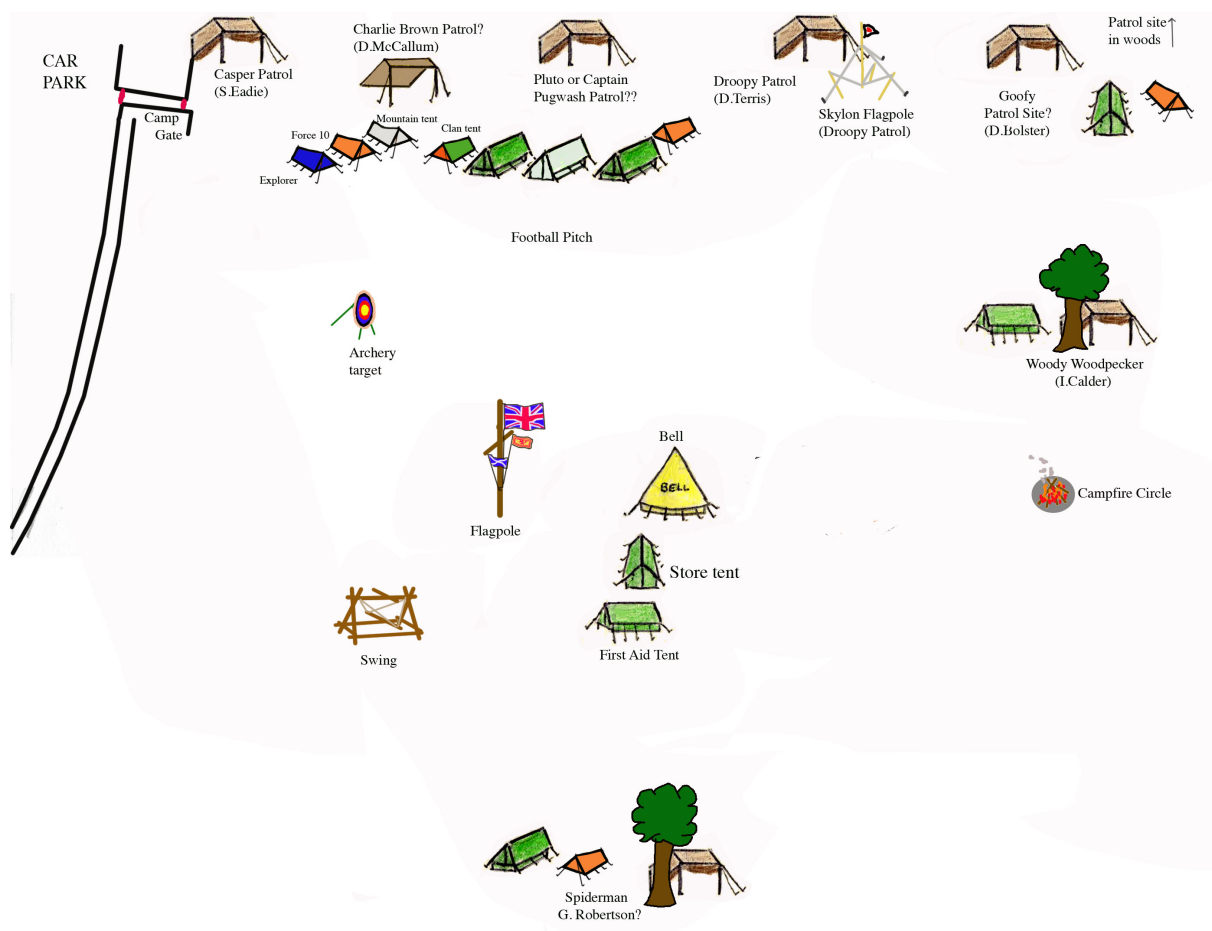
Fay M. Lamont

Cub Scouts (Weekend only): Andrew Wilson, John Kerr, Kenny Kerr and John Chalmers + Isabel McBride (Akela)⁶.

Additional Comments

- 1. Signatures were provided in the original log. Some nicknames have been added in brackets. David McCready, Gordon Robertson and Graeme Brodie appear to be the only Scouts who did not sign the log. However, there is a space left in the Woody Woodpecker Patrol that might suggest another Scout who did not sign his name.*
- 2. There were eight Patrols in camp. All eight PLs in the Troop were present plus Jim Tosh who was a PL in a Port Glasgow Troop. Seven APLs were present. There were 36 Scouts present in total from the 70th, representing about 75% of the Troop's membership (assuming that there were normally 6 Scouts in each Patrol).*
- 3. Traditionally, the Patrol Leaders at Summer camp chose unique names for their Patrols rather than their usual Patrol names. This was partly because the Patrols in camp often included one or more Scouts from different troop-night Patrols. Usually, a Scout would be allocated to a Summer Camp Patrol led by his normal Patrol Leader, but if that Patrol Leader was not present at Summer Camp, he would be allocated to one of the other Patrols. All 8 PLs were present at camp. The Patrol names provided in brackets represent the Patrol usually led by each Patrol Leader.*
- 4. There was usually some sort of theme when it came to choosing Patrol names at Summer Camp. On this occasion, the Patrol Leaders chose cartoon characters. The reason for choosing this theme is not recorded.*
- 5. The writing here was not decipherable.*
- 6. Other Cub Scouts may also have been present but have yet to be identified . One possibility might be Graham Bolster.*

Sketch Map of the Campsite^{1,2,3}



Additional Comments

1. The above sketch map was not included in the Troop Log Book, but was created by Glip in 2024 to indicate the relative positions of tents and kitchen shelters based on photographs taken on site. The kitchen shelters for six of the eight Patrols were situated along the edge of a strip of woodland. The other two were erected at two isolated trees elsewhere within the campsite. Trees were needed in order to raise the kitchen shelters as heavy canvas tarpaulins were being used. The guy lines at the front of each tarpaulin had to be thrown over suitable positioned branches in order to give it height and structure. At Wray Castle, one patrol (possibly the Charlie Brown Patrol) used pioneering wood to create a framework for their kitchen shelter.
2. One of the Patrols chose to pitch their kitchen shelter and tent within the strip of woodland itself behind the kitchen shelter thought to be the Goofy Patrol Kitchen Shelter.
3. The assignment of the Patrols to each of the patrol sites is based on photographs. There is reasonable evidence for the sites used by the Spiderman, Woody Woodpecker, and Casper Patrols. However, the assignments for the Charlie Brown, Droopy and Goofy Patrols are far more speculative. The patrol camping within the woods might have been the Pluto or Captain Pugwash Patrol.

Summer Camp 1976

Day 1

Date: Monday 2/8/76

An advanced party¹ of Patrol Leaders² woke on a dismal day at around eight o'clock. Brian³ had already begun to cook breakfast by the time the PLs had assembled at the Store Tent. After a hearty breakfast of rolls and sausages and coffee, the PLs settled down to playing with a football until a factor arrived with pioneering equipment (i.e. timber)⁴. We were told where we would get firewood⁵ and so four of the PLs left to get some. Not long afterwards, some PLs went out canoeing⁶ but returned early so that they could go and get their lunch in Ambleside. Brian bought each of us 2 chicken sandwiches.

We returned to the campsite at one o'clock to wait for the rest of the troop.

They arrived at around four o'clock and with our help unloaded the gear. We then began to pitch store tents⁷ and raise kitchen shelters⁸.

Our tea was prepared by the Scouters⁹. We worked until it was too dark to carry on and then, after coffee, we went to pit

Sandy Eadie¹⁰

P.L. CASPER PATROL

Additional Comments for 2nd August

1. The Advance Party had become a standard part of 70th Summer Camps and involved the PLs and Scouters travelling to the campsite a few days before the main Troop. The main aim of the Advance Party was to pitch the tents and kitchen shelters prior to the arrival of the troop. A 'bog pit' was also dug if the campsite was just a field, but toilets were available on site at Wray Castle, so there was no need for a bog pit at Wray Castle. Although there was a lot of hard work carried out when the Advance Party arrived, there was also spare time for activities and visiting places of local interest. The Advance Party was an invaluable bonding period for PLs and Scouters.

2. The Patrol Leaders were David McCready (Teddy), David Terris (Terry), David McCallum (Salem), Sandy Eadie (Seedie/Seadie), David Bolster (Bose), Gordon Robertson, John Paterson, Iain Calder and Jim Tosh.

3. Brian Scott was an older ASL in the 70th. He was also a member of the 'Deep Sea Scout Organisation' as he was a Chief Engineer on merchant ships. As a result, he was often away from Greenock for several weeks at a time.

4. According to Tommy Boag, the pioneering wood was purchased from the Forestry Commission who delivered it to the campsite.

5. It is not known whether firewood was provided on site or whether it had to be collected from somewhere else.

6. The Troop had acquired a number of old kayaks from the Lochgoilhead Scout Centre when the Centre updated their kayaks. Most of these were heavy, flat-bottomed beasts that were very stable, but very sluggish. However, there were also two 'Mistrals' that were less stable but faster.

7. The store tents probably refer to the hike tents used by each Patrol to store rucksacks and personal equipment. The Troop's Store tent housing food and equipment had already been pitched by this time.

8. *The kitchen shelters consisted of tarpaulins or old Patrol Tents. Ever since the 1950s, Patrols were encouraged to be as self-sufficient as possible during summer camp. Each Patrol was self-contained and chose its own campsite area, where it erected its Patrol tent, store tent and kitchen shelter. The Patrol site was sacrosanct and other Scouts were not permitted to enter the Patrol area without permission. Scouters also made a point of asking permission to enter a Patrol site. Each Patrol cooked all its meals over a wood fire under the supervision of its Patrol Leader. Scouters played no role in the running of a Patrol in camp but were available to assist if required (for example in helping to get fires lit when the wood was wet). Scouters cooked their own breakfast and lunch but visited different patrol sites as 'guests' for the main meal of the day. Points were awarded to each Patrol on the standard of meal, as well as the manner in which it was presented. If a Scouter believed that a meal had been prepared and presented to a high standard, he usually offered to clean a dixie after the meal. The purpose of the Scouters visiting the Patrols for the main meal was to ensure that standards were being maintained and that the Scouts were eating properly.*

9. *On this occasion, the evening meal was cooked centrally as the Patrol Sites took some time to become fully functioning.*

10. *Sandy Eadie (Seedie/Seadie) was aged 15 or 16 when he was PL of the Casper (Seagull) Patrol at Wray Castle, 1976. After Summer Camp, he joined the Venture Scouts. Sandy's younger brother (David) was also at the camp.*

Day 2

Date: Tuesday 3/8/76

We woke up at 8.30 am when the Q.M.s¹ were summoned² to get the eggs for breakfast.

In the morning, we tidied up and made more gadgets.³

This was followed by a filling lunch of pea and ham soup and pears.

In the afternoon, some of us departed to Ambleside⁴ with pockets loaded with money and returned *with* evil looking knives.⁵ And the rest of them who stayed at camp went canoeing.⁴

When the parties came back from the town, we had our dinner accompanied by a willing scouter.⁵

When we cleared up after dinner, we had a choice of activities which were archery⁶, canoeing⁷, swimming⁷, ballooning⁸, tie dyeing⁹ and pioneering¹⁰.

We then had a joyous sing song round a campfire.

Cameron Still¹⁰ 1st Scout, Captain Pugwash Patrol

Additional Comments for 3rd August

1. Each Patrol allocated one Scout to act as Patrol QM. His job was to collect stores from the Troop's Store Tent when they were issued. Each Patrol QM had to bring a basin and dixie to carry the supplies back to his patrol site. The role of Patrol QM was usually given to one of the younger Scouts in the Patrol. There was usually some kind of reward for the Patrol whose QM arrived first at the Store tent, in the form of points or extra goodies. Some Patrols tried to anticipate the signal for Stores. As a result, there was a rule that the Patrol QM had to be within his own Patrol site before sprinting to the Store Tent.

2. Two whistles were blown to summon (Patrol Quartermasters to the store tent to collect stores. Three whistles was the standard signal both in camp and during troop meetings to summon the patrols. In camp, the patrols would then form up at the main flagpole with their PL standing in front of his patrol. Other signals used in camp included one whistle (PLs only summoned to the flagpole) and 4 whistles (Camp shop open at the store tent). Six whistles summoned the whole camp as a result of an emergency. However, the editor cannot remember this signal ever being used.

3. Gadgets involved building or creating items such as an altar fire, chopping area, table, seats, dresser, basin holder, bin bag holder, wood pile, wet pit, oven, mug rack, fencing, patrol flagpole, washing line etc etc. The idea was to make the kitchen shelter and patrol site as comfortable and functional as possible.

4. Transport was needed to get into Ambleside. The Troop had a fawn-coloured dormobile-style minibus with a sturdy roof rack at this time. It could probably carry about 11-14 Scouts.

5. In 1968, the Scout Association banned Scouts from wearing sheath knives when in uniform. However, in 1976, it was still acceptable to wear sheath knives in camp. Moreover, laws against possessing knives were far more lenient in 1976. Laws against carrying knives in public were introduced in 1988.

- 6. The 70th had its own archery target, bows and arrows. Archery was one of the activities introduced by Alistair Cram. It's not known when it was first introduced, but it was certainly present at the Tarbert Summer Camp of 1974.*
- 7. All swimming and canoeing took place in Lake Windermere with a Scouter in attendance. The Lake was immediately downhill from the campsite and can be seen in several of the photographs on the website.*
- 8. This was probably the creation of small hot-air balloons made out of crepe/tissue paper with a candle underneath to provide heat.*
- 9. This activity involved tying up a T-shirt and putting it into a dye solution. The resulting T-shirt would have a rather 'jazzy' pattern as the dying process would not be uniform over the whole shirt.*
- 10 'Heavy Pioneering' was restricted to the older Scouts and involved creating large-scale pioneering projects such as the camp swing seen in some of the photographs on the website.*
- 11. Cameron Still was aged 13 when he was at Wray Castle in 1976. He had previously been to Summer Camps in Tarbert (1974), and France (1975). After the 1976 Summer Camp Camron was promoted to APL and participated in the 70th's Summer Camp held in Denmark in 1977. He also participated in the Area Flag Competition that year. He left the Troop in October 1977.*

We camped beside:-¹

P.D. Clarke	S/L 4th Knowle Sea Scouts.
HR Clark	CSL 4th Knowle Cub Pack
?? ² Moreton	Scout
?? ² Hancock	Sea Scout
John Christian	4th Knowles Sea Scout
Andrew Wileshew? ²	4th Knowles Sea Scout
Andrew Nash	4th Knowles Sea Scout
Guy Taylor	4th Knowles Sea Scout
Kevin Brooks	4th Knowles Sea Scout
Mark Haynes	4th Knowles Sea Scout
Carl? ² Dell	4th Knowles Sea Scout
Richard Austin	4th Knowles Sea Scout
Mark Allen	4th Knowles Sea Scout
Kenneth Bate	4th Knowles Sea Scout
Mark Fisher	4th Knowles Sea Scout
Carl Williams	4th Knowles Sea Scout
Ian Burdetts? ²	4th Knowles Sea Scout
Mark Crees	4th Knowles Sea Scout
Martin Watts	4th Knowles Sea Scout
Simon James	4th Knowles Sea Scout
T.T. McCann	Warden, Wray Castle campsite. I hope we meet again. ³

Additional Comments

1. The Scouts and Scouters of the 4th Knowle Sea Scouts signed this page. Unfortunately, some of the signatures were hard to decipher. The 4th Knowle Sea Scouts are still in existence (as of 2024).

2. It was not possible to decipher this signature with any certainty.

3. That hope was fulfilled as the 70th revisited Wray Castle in 1980.

Day 3

Date: Wednesday 4/8/76

The day started at 8.30 with stores for breakfast, which was sausages and cereal, and tea and chits¹ as usual. The sausages were the cheapest ones around, and they disintegrated when they came in contact with the frying pan.

After flag and inspection, there was an inter-patrol hockey match which was won by the Captain Pugwash². The aforestated winners then went on to thrash the Paddingtons³ who had previously prayed to a totem pole⁴ and breakfasted on marmalade sandwiches⁵.

After that, there was time for finishing off our kitchens then lunch. This was oxtail soup and Scotch egg salad.

After lunch, everyone did activities such as archery⁶ and canoeing⁷ except for 1 patrol (which shall remain as nameless as possible) who had to finish their kitchen. This they did supremely well.⁸

Dinner consisted of soup, haggis, potato and turnip, and fruit and custard, and all the scouters claimed to having been well fed.⁹

Much of the evening was spent watching and/or playing in a challenge football match against an English troop¹⁰. We won 19-15, with a great comeback from several goals down.

There was a short PLC and the rest of the troop went to pit¹¹. The PLs retreated to the newly erected PLs tent for a while, then joined everyone else in pit.

David McCallum¹²

Joint P.L. ¹³ Charlie Brown

Additional Comments for 4th August

1. 'Chits' were basically bread and jam or bread and marmalade.

2. PL John Paterson, APL Steven Haldane, Cameron Still, Peter McLean and Robbie Mochrie.

3. This was the Scouters Patrol. It is doubtful whether they all played. It is quite possible that Kenny Paton opted to act as referee. Alistair Cram may well have opted to act as Trainer while Brian Scott may well have acted as medic.. If so, the team would have consisted of Colin Cuthbertson, Glip and Calum Grant.

4. The wood used for the totem pole (Totie) was contained at a summer camp held during the 1960s. It was subsequently carved and painted (possibly by Ian MacFarlane). The totem pole was about 2 feet high and may still exist. At several summer camps, there was a session of bowing to Totie to show one's respect and possibly to summon good weather (See Web site for West Loch Tarbert Summer Camp (1966).

5. Fans of Paddington Bear will be aware that he eats marmalade sandwiches, so it seemed apt that the Paddington Patrol should do the same prior to this important contest.

6. See note 6 for the 3rd August regarding archery.

7. See note 7 for the 3rd August and note 6 for the 2nd August regarding canoeing.

8. *It seems likely that the 'nameless patrol' was the Charlie Brown Patrol.*
9. *Each Patrol had to host a Scouter during dinner. Points were gained for quality and presentation of the meal.*
10. *This might well have been the 4th Knowle Sea Scouts.*
11. *'Pit' was the term used in the 70th for sleeping bag or bed. It's known how it came about or when.*
12. *David McCallum (Salem) was PL of the Charlie Brown (Tiger) Patrol in camp. He was initially placed in the Seagull Patrol when he joined the 70th in April 1971. He was aged about 16 at Wray Castle and joined the Venture Scouts at the end of August 1976. The origin of his nickname has not been discovered as yet.*
13. *The other PL was Jim Tosh who may have been a PL in Colin Cuthbertson's Troop (56th).*

Day 4

Date: Thursday 5/8/76

We started the day with an excellent breakfast of sausages and then prunes¹.

After this, we broke the flag² and had an inter-patrol game of football which Captain Pugwash³ won. The rest of the morning was spent on badge work⁴ during which I was building a bivouac⁵ which was later to be wrecked⁶.

For lunch, there was ravioli which we all enjoyed.

After lunch, there was an inter-patrol Scouting competition which had plaster casting⁷, archery⁸, baking⁹ and triangulation¹⁰. Others kept on making their bivouacs.

For tea, we had backwoods gammon steaks and potatoes followed by pineapple rings.¹¹ We had Glip¹² for tea and of course, he washed all the dishes.¹³

After the meal, we played football and archery⁸ and some of us went canoeing¹⁴.

To end the day, we had a joint campfire with the English¹⁵ and we had sausages and apples.

Graeme Brodie¹⁶ APL

Droopy

P.S. Bruce¹⁷ proved how much he loved the English by throwing an apple across the campfire into some English boy's eye.

Additional Comments for 5th August

1. Prunes, beans or rhubarb were regularly present in Summer Camp menus during the 1960s and 1970s, presumably to encourage the Scouts to be 'regular'.

2. Flagbreak was held every morning in camp. It was traditional to erect a large flagpole about 20-25 feet high. Each morning the Patrol Leader of the Duty Patrol would prepare the flag by folding it in threes, then rolling it up before hoisting it to the top of the flagpole ready for breaking. Once the Troop had assembled around the flagpole, everyone would come to the alert and the Duty Patrol Leader would march over to the flagpole from his Patrol and tug the lanyard, hoping furiously that the loop holding the rolled-up flag would release properly and the flag would unfurl and be fully visible (breaking the flag). If successful, the PL would take one step backward and stand at attention as he saluted the flag. This was the signal for everyone else to salute the flag. The PL would then perform an about turn and march back to his Patrol. Everyone would then be told to stand at ease.

3. PL John Paterson, APL Steven Haldane, Cameron Still, Peter McLean and Robbie Mochrie. This was the second time running that the Captain Pugwasj had wone the football.

4. Badge work was also called 'Training and Testing' (T&T). In camp, this principally covered the tests related to Scouting skills. Those tests counted towards the various badges associated with the progressive Scout Training Scheme [i.e. Scout Standard (SS), Advanced Scout Standard (ASS) and Chief Scout's Award (CSA)] or towards specific Proficiency Badges.

5. This involved creating a shelter from natural materials (wood, bracken etc). Each shelter was built such that 2 or 3 Scouts could spend a night in it and hopefully remain dry. In 1976, the risk of being bitten by ticks was insignificant. Building a bivouac and sleeping in it was one of the tests that counted towards the Advanced Scout Standard (the third of the four badges making up the Scout Progressive Training Scheme).
6. It is not known how the bivouac came to be wrecked. However, Graeme Brodie's record card shows that he successfully built the bivouac and slept in it.
7. In the 1960s, plaster casting usually involved taking a cast of a footprint or animal print. However, by 1976, it was more common to use a mould. The most common mould was one of the Scout Badge. Once the plaster cast had dried, the Scout would then paint it. There is a photo of Charlie Mill painting one such plaster cast on the website.
8. See note 6 for the 3rd August regarding archery.
9. It is not recorded what was baked. However, it is likely that all baking involved the use of camp ovens. This involved digging a hole in an embankment and placing a biscuit tin or other such container in the hole such that there was a space underneath for the fire. The camp oven was covered liberally with mud as insulation, leaving a hole at the back for a chimney – usually a tin can. As a result, there was a through draft for the fire. Successfully baking a cake or other such product passed one of the tests in the Advanced Scout Standard badge.
10. Triangulation is a method used in map making. It involves taking bearing from three different points on different objects. This allows a map to be created using the bearings obtained. This activity counted towards the Map Makers Proficiency Badge.
11. Backwoods cooking at Summer Camp usually involved wrapping the food in foil, then placing the foil packets on fire embers. It was important that embers were used and not flames as the latter caused the food inside the foil packets to char. Usually, each gammon steak was wrapped up in the foil with one slice of pineapple before cooking.
12. Glip had been a Wolf Cub and Boy Scout with the 70th during the 1960s and ended up as PL of the Fox. He joined the Cloch Venture Scout Unit in 1970 and gained his Queen's Scout Award during the 4 years he was a member of the unit. In 1974, he rejoined the 70th as an ASL, along with Kenny Paton.
13. Scouters normally helped with the washing up if the meal had been well prepared and presented. However, there was no requirement to do so.
14. See note 7 for the 3rd August and note 6 for the 2nd August regarding canoeing.
15. This might well have been the 4th Knowle Sea Scouts.
16. Graeme Brodie was APL of the Curlew Patrol and aged 14½ at the time of Summer Camp. He had already attended summer camps at Loch Etive (1973) and Tarbert (1974). He was also a member of the 70th Patrols entered for the Shannon Cup in 1975 and the County Flag in 1976. After summer camp, he was promoted to PL of the Curlew Patrol and was a member of the 70th Patrol entered for the Area Flag in 1977. He also attended the 70th's camp in Denmark during 1977 and completed his Advanced Scout Standard at that camp. He left the troop in September 1977, but it is not known whether he joined the Venture Scouts or not.
17. Bruce Black was aged 13½ when he attended Summer Camp in 1976. He was promoted to APL after Summer Camp, then to PL in September 1977. He also gained his Advanced Scout Standard. It is not known whether he joined the Venture Scouts or not.

Day 5

Date: Friday 6/8/76

The day began with breakfast which was made of an egg roll and whatever you wanted to eat. Flag was broken¹ and inspection² carried out while the Scouts played football. After this game, Advanced Scout Standard and Scout Standard³ work was completed and lunch followed.

Unfortunately, I cannot remember what was had for lunch.

However, after the unknown meal, we changed into uniform and gathered round the flagpole to listen to Skipper⁴. During this, the Cubs⁵ arrived, but we were leaving for the National Park at Brockhole⁶, so we didn't see them until tea time.

At the National Park, we went through an exhibition of the area and then fed ourselves in a cafe. After a film, we left to search the grounds. Some managed this, others stayed around the cafe. After a long wait, which included swapping badges etc with English Scouts, the PLs and Cubs left leaving the others to discover the nicer things of area.⁷ Eventually, we all appeared back at camp for tea. We had Pid⁸ and 'nearly Mrs Pid'⁹ for tea which was roast chicken. It was here we met our cub¹⁰ and soon we had finished tea.

Some Venture Scouts from England played some of our Scouts at a muck about game of football and then it was time for pit.¹¹

Slip¹² APL

Goofy¹³

Additional Comments for 6th August

1. See note 2 for the 5th August regarding flagbreak.

2. Inspection always followed flagbreak and involved the Scouters going round each Patrol to inspect Patrol Tents, hike tents and kitchen shelters. Marks were awarded for tidiness and cleanliness, especially in terms of plates, mugs, cutlery, frying pan and dixies. The chopping area was also inspected to ensure there were minimal wood chippings lying around and that both axe and saw were safely masked. The campsite in general was checked to make sure there was no litter or residual food waste. The Scouts personal kit was meant to be laid out neatly in the patrol tents with the groundsheet partially folded back. On dry days, marks were awarded if the tent was properly brailed. Within the kitchen shelter, the binbags were inspected to ensure that they only contained non-burnable items that had been suitable washed or burnt. There also needed to be a tidy, well-stocked wood pile and at least one filled water container. Marks were also awarded for well-constructed gadgets such as fencing, patrol flag, altar fire, tables and seats, binbag holder, larder, notice board, chopping block, saw holder, mug tree, dresser, basin holder, etc etc. At the beginning of the inspection, the Patrol stood in a line with the PL in front. The PL brought his Patrol to the alert and saluted the Scouters. The PL then accompanied the Scouters during the inspection while the Patrol stayed in line. The Scouts themselves were occasionally inspected to make sure that they had washed their hands. In the 1960s, the Scouts were normally in uniform from the waist up, but by the 1970s, this was rarely insisted on. Moreover, not all inspections required the Scouts to be present. At Wray Castle, there were 8 Patrols to inspect and this took 20-30 minutes, so it made sense to have the Scouts play a game while inspection took place.

3. The Progressive Scout Training scheme was designed to ensure that all Scouts developed various skills related to Scouting activities. During the 1970s, there were four badges, each involving a variety of Scouting

skills. These were the Scout Badge, Scout Standard, Advanced Scout Standard and Chief Scouts Award. All Scouts had to earn the Scout Badge before they were formally accepted into the Troop and this was usually passed within a month of joining. All Scouts were expected to gain their Scout Standard within a year of joining. The Advanced Scout Standard was meant to be achieved within 1-2 years and ideally Scouts ought to have achieved the ASS before being considered for promotion to PL. In practice, it was not uncommon for Scouts to be promoted to PL before they gained the Advanced Scout Standard. The Chief Scout's Award was the final badge and only a minority of Scouts within the Troop were likely to gain it.

4. The Scout Leader (SL/Skipper/Skip) was Alistair B. Cram (ABC) who had taken over the troop from Bob Miller in 1966. He was instrumental in successfully adapting the Troop to the revolutionary changes that took place as a result of the Advance Party Report of 1966. The new uniform, age ranges, and training scheme were readily adopted, without losing the ethos, spirit and 'magic' of traditional Scouting. In particular, Alistair promoted the Patrol system which was seen at its best at the annual summer camp. Alistair had been a 70th Wolf Cub and Scout himself and had risen to become Troop Leader and gain his Queen's Scout Award.

5. The visiting Cubs were not identified in the Troop Log. However, photographs show that they included Andrew Wilson, John Chalmers, John Kerr and Kenny Kerr. There may have been other Cubs present who were not present in the photos taken.

6. Brockhole is situated due east of Wray Castle itself on the other side of Lake Windermere. It is about 3-4 miles south of Ambleside. Some form of transport would have been needed to get there, but it is not recorded what that was. It was possible to catch a ferry across the Lake from Wray Castle to Brockhole, but it is likely that the Troop's minibus was used.

7. It is not recorded what these 'nicer things' might have been.

8. Alan Riddell had been a popular Scouter with the 70th during the late 1960s and early 1970s, both within the Troop and the Venture Scout Unit. He was originally a schoolteacher in Greenock Academy teaching history and economics. In 1974, he resigned as Venture Scout Leader from the Group as he had gained promotion to Head Teacher of History at Eyemouth. The Venture Scouts presented a gift to him at Tarbert Summer Camp that year. In 1976, he left teaching and joined the Civil Service in London where he rose to quite a senior position. Alan Riddell and Robin Crawford were both present during the Troop's first visit to Denmark in 1970 and both Scouters did sterling work throughout the expedition, especially during a horrendous sea passage back home (see the website entry for Denmark 1970).

9. 'Nearly Mrs. Pid' was Barbara who was engaged to be married to Alan.

10. Unfortunately, it is not known which Cub joined the Goofy Patrol. Each visiting Cub joined a different Patrol and slept and ate with that Patrol during their 3-day visit. The visit was an opportunity for them to get a feeling of what Scouting was like before they joined the Troop. Therefore, the Cubs visiting were older Cubs likely to be joining the Troop after the summer.

11. 'Pit' was the term used in the 70th for sleeping bag or bed. It's known how it came about or when.

12. Stuart Patrick (Slip) was the younger brother of Graham Patrick (Glip). He was aged 14 at the time of the 1976 Summer Camp and had been promoted to APL of the Stag Patrol. After Summer Camp, he was promoted to PL of the Patrol. Stuart had already attended Summer Camps at Loch Etive (1973), Tarbert (1974), and France (1975). He also attended summer camps at Denmark (1977), Logie (1978), and Inverness (1979).

13. The Goofy Patrol consisted of PL David Bolster, APL Stuart Patrick, Colin Terris and Graham Soutar.

Day 6

Date: Saturday 7/8/76

The day started with omelette and grapefruit segments. The inter-patrol game was hockey¹ and the winners were the Goofy Patrol². The sun came out and everybody went down on the beach and dived in³. Mostly everybody washed and dried off in the blazing sun.

Lunch time came along. It was the PLs' choice and the meals varied from Patrol to Patrol. After lunch, everybody put on their uniforms and headed down to the small pier⁴ and onto the boat⁵ which took us all to the town of Bowness⁶.

Everybody was given 50p⁷ for our tea. Everybody ate at different places but of course, the PLs ate in a high-class coffee house. Some Scouts wanted to go to the pictures⁸ and so the others would get back to camp on the half-past eight bus. Because of large numbers wanting back at that time, the PLs had to wait for a later bus. The last bus was at half-past ten and the remainder of the troop came in, got out of uniform and went to pit⁹ after an expensive day.

Teddy¹⁰ PL Pluto¹¹

Additional Comments for 7th August

- 1. The Troop had a supply of hockey sticks that were used at Troop nights and at summer camp. A tennis ball was probably used as the ball.*
- 2. The Goofy Patrol consisted of PL David Bolster, APL Stuart Patrick, Colin Terris and Graham Soutar.*
- 3. See note 7 for the 3rd August regarding swimming.*
- 4. It is not stated where this pier was located. However, Tommy Boag remembers the Troop walking from the campsite through the trees and along a coastal path to a small pier. This would have been Low Wray Pier just north of Wray Castle. Current maps show that ferries depart from that point to Ambleside and Brockhole, but it is possible that a ferry might also have sailed from there to Bowness in 1976. Alternatively, the ferry might have been taken to Ambleside in order to catch a different ferry to Bowness.*
- 5. A photo taken from the ferry is present on the website.*
- 6. Bowness is on the eastern shore of Lake Windermere, about a couple of miles SW of Windermere and five miles south of Ambleside.*
- 7. 50p in 1976 had the equivalent value to £4.50 today (as of 2024)*
- 8. The 'pictures' probably refers to the Royal Cinema, which opened in 1927 and is situated on Lake Road in Bowness. The cinema seats about 600 people. It's not known what film was watched. One possibility that was released in 1976 is 'The Eagle Has Landed' starring Michael Caine.*
- 9. 'Pit' was the term used in the 70th for sleeping bag or bed. It's known how it came about or when.*
- 10. David McCready (Ted/Teddy) was the eldest of three McCready brothers to join the 70th. Their nicknames were 'Ted', 'Mini-Ted', and 'Micro' respectively. David was probably aged when the Wray Castle Summer Camp was being held. He was PL of the Pluto Patrol in Camp and had been PL of the Falcon Patrol during the*

previous year. He joined the Venture Scouts after Summer Camp was over. Unfortunately, his record card has not been tracked down so it is not known how far he progressed in the Scout Training Scheme or how many camps he attended. However, it is known that he was an APL at the Tarbert Camp held in 1974.

11. *The Pluto Patrol consisted of PL David McCready, APL Paul Edgar, Guy Grant, Alistair Calder and Billy Forbes.*

VERY IMPORTANT NOTE

Please read and be suitably impressed!!

Let it be recorded that Skipper, Kenny and Calum¹ dispensed with a tent and slept under the stars for a few nights. Kenny² was even persuaded to dispense with his airbed!!³

A PC from the Venture Scouts in camp at Lochgoilhead⁴



Addressed to

70th Renfrew & Inverclyde Scout Troop, Wray Castle Campsite, Cumbria, England

(Additional comments probably added by Post Office – ‘Not Wray, Lancaster. Try Ambleside’. ‘Ambleside’)

Message on the postcard

‘Weather at Lochgoilhead. WET! We are surrounded by Welsh, English and some nice looking Guides. We have got the job of breaking the flags every morning. Benny⁵ and I⁶ went out in one of the double canoes yesterday – Nae Burra! Give our regards to Piddle⁷.

Dim, Benny, Donny, Cowboy, Fred⁸

P.S. Fred has an itchy B.U.M. ⁹

P.P.S. We hope Brian SOCF¹⁰ has everything under control.’

Additional Comments

1. *Alistair Cram, Kenny Paton and Calum Grant.*
2. *Kenneth W. Paton (KWP) had been a Scout and Patrol Leader in the 45th Renfrewshire Scout Group during the 1960s and went on to become a teacher of history and religious studies at Greenock High School. He joined the 70th Scout Group as an Assistant Scout Leader in 1974 at the same time as Glip, when Alistair Cram was Scout Leader. When Alistair resigned as Scout Leader in the summer of 1981, Kenny took over the reins of the troop. Kenny went on to organize regular Summer camps during the 1980s and 1990s and was the 70th's longest serving Scout Leader. He remained affiliated with the 70th Scouts until 2024.*
3. *This was probably the biggest mystery of camp.*
4. *The Postcard was posted from Lochgoilhead, but the date is not decipherable. It was delivered to Wray in Lancaster and posted on to Ambleside on 5th August. It arrived on the 6th August, and the website has a photograph of John Paterson pinning it to the Camp Notice Board,.*
5. *Alistair Bennett (Benny) was Peter Bennett's younger brother and was aged 16 or 17 in 1976. He was Cub Scout with the 70th for three years, then a Scout for 5 years. During that time, he was promoted to APL, PL then SPL. He also led the 70th Patrol that won the Shannon Cup in 1975. He joined the Venture Scout Unit in August 1975.*
6. *It is likely that Douglas Morrison (Dim) wrote the Postcard. He took over from Alan Riddell as Venture Scout Leader in 1974 when Alan moved from Greenock to Eyemouth.*
7. *See note 8 for the 6th August regarding Alan Riddell (Piddle, Pid).*
8. *Douglas Morrison (Dim), Alistair Bennet (Benny), Donald Thornton (Donny), Alistair Cowe (Cowboy) and Guy Phillips (Fred).*
9. *The significance of this may have been obvious at the time, but it is not obvious now.*
10. *It is assumed that this relates to Brian Scott. The significance of 'SCOF' is not known. The writing is very small and it may not be as deciphered. Brian Scott certainly had a reputation of taking charge whenever he was around.*

Sunday 8th August.

Day 7

The day started with a quick breakfast then, being Sunday, we went to the camp church¹ where we sang hymns with Kenny² on the organ. After church, we returned to the camp where some of us went swimming³ and sunbathing. Dinner consisted of soup and Angel delight. After dinner, we watched the PLs build a swing⁴. Then we played football and some played golf⁵, while others went out canoeing⁶. Later on, the groundsheets were taken out to air and rake the grass⁷. After that, we had a typical afternoon at camp. For tea, we had spaghetti bolognese and custard. After, we mucked about and then, to round the evening off, we had a campfire and a drink of hot orange. We were all in our pits⁸ by 11 o'clock except the patrol leaders.

Murray Brabender, ⁹ 1st Scout (Spiderman) ¹⁰

Additional Comments for 8th August

- 1. Sunday mornings at Summer Camps involved visiting church to meet the 'Duty to God' aspect of the Scout Promise. The Troop were in full Scout Uniform and the Troop's colours were paraded both to and from the Church. The church attended in 1976 was called St. Margaret's Church and was built in 1856 to serve the family and estate workers of Wray Castle and its estate. As it was an Anglican service, most of the Scouts and Scouters present were a bit at sea when it came to responses etc. Kenny Paton was the only one present who was familiar with the Anglican-style service. Tommy Boag remembers the Church being 'Baltic' because it was in the trees and out of the sun. The Church is no longer used for services and is closed to the public (as of 2024). When the Troop returned to Wray Castle in 1980, they opted to attend a Methodist church in Ambleside instead.*
- 2. See note 2 for the Postcard page regarding ASL Kenny Paton.*
- 3. See note 7 for the 3rd August regarding swimming.*
- 4. This was a heavy Pioneering project. A photograph of the swing can be seen on the website.*
- 5. This might have been plate golf, the object being to throw plates like frisbees to hit a stick acting as the hole.*
- 6. See note 7 for the 3rd August and note 6 for the 2nd August regarding canoeing.*
- 7. It was important to take groundsheets out of the Patrol Tents at some point during the camp to give the grass underneath a chance to recover. Nevertheless, by the end of camp, the grass was usually discoloured and took a few weeks to recover.*
- 8. 'Pit' was the term used in the 70th for sleeping bag or bed. It's known how it came about or when.*
- 9. Murray Brabender (Pucker) was aged 12 when Summer Camp was held at Wray Castle in 1976. He was also present as a Young Leader at the second Summer Camp held at Wray Castle in 1980. He was promoted to APL in June 1977, then to PL of the Fox Patrol in March 1978. He then joined the Venture Scouts.*
- 10. The Spiderman Patrol consisted of PL Gordon Robertson, APL Roderick Boyle, Murray Brabender, Tommy Boag, Brian McCready and David Eadie*

Monday 9th August

Day 8

Menu	Breakfast	- Porridge
		- Toast
		- C. T. & C. ¹
	Lunch	- Hike ² and Climb ³ (<i>Packed Lunch</i>)
	Dinner	- Soup
		- Tuna steak blobs ⁴ , chips ⁵ , beans, peas.
		- Custard and peaches.

We woke at 8.30 and had a quick breakfast. Then the climbers who were going up the Old Man of Coniston got changed into proper clothes⁶. The weather was yet again very sunny so the Scouters advised us to wear shorts. By this time, the 12-mile hikers⁷ were getting ready and arguing about who should carry the food and tents.

At 10 o'clock, the climbers set off complaining of sore feet for some reason. We eventually reached Coniston and the Old Man towered above us. It is 2,631 feet. We split up into 3 groups, a Scouter leading each.⁸

Glip⁹ took the front¹⁰, then Colin^{11,12}, then Calum^{13,14}. For the first 1,000 feet, it was pretty easy having a pretty flat road to walk on. Then it became steeper.

Eventually, we reached the peak and to our surprise found about another 20 people there also. Some of us were very glad to reach the bottom again. The weather beginning to go cloudy.

We reached camp and it begins to rain. Then it pours and there is panic as everyone digs trenches.¹⁵

We have a large tea and then do wood carving¹⁶ all night. Then PLC¹⁷. Then Kip.

Harry Lochhead¹⁸

A.P.L. Woody Woodpecker¹⁹

Additional Comments for 9th August

1. Possibly cup of tea or coffee.

2. The hike refers to the 12-mile overnight hike. Unfortunately, no details of the route have survived.

3. The climb was the Old Man of Coniston (2,631').

4. This was the first time that Tuna Steak Blobs were made at Summer Camp. This tasty dish was introduced by Glip who was QM Food for the camp. The recipe was an ancient traditional one obtained from Glip's

Grandmother and involved mixing up a couple of tins of tuna steak with breadcrumbs (about 1 loaf) and a couple of eggss to produce a suitable consistency for moulding golf-ball size 'blobs'. These were then fried in a saucepan and eaten with chips, peas and beans.

5. The chips were prepared in the camp ovens.

6. The 'climbers' included the following: Glip, Colin Cuthbertson, Calum Grant, David McCready, David Terris, Colin Hunter, Tommy Boag, Gordon Robertson, Tommy Tully, Harry Lochhead, Peter McLean, David Bolster, Stuart Patrick, Cameron Still, Jim Tosh, Murray Brabender, Kenny Wallace, Alistair Calder, Sandy Eadie, Guy Grant, Iain Calder, Stuart Patrick

7. The 12- mile overnight hike was a requirement for the Advanced Scout Standard. Unfortunately, it was not stated in the Troop log who undertook the hike at Wray Castle in 1976. Surviving record cards indicate that Steven Haldane and Colin Terris were two of the hikers, but the others have still to be identified.

8. The exact route was not recorded, but photos indicate that the climbers started from Walna Scar (Grid reference 288971) and made their way by unsurfaced tracks and paths up to a small mountain tarn called Low Water to the east of the summit. From Low Water, a path led to the summit. The same route was taken on the way back down. It is believed that Glip (and Paddington Bear) climbed the mountain earlier in the camp (possibly when the Advance Party first arrived) in order to check out the route.

9. See note 12 for the 5th August regarding Glip.

10. The front group consisted of Glip, David McCready, Colin Hunter, David Terris, Tommy Tully, Tommy Boag and Gordon Robertson. There is a photograph which suggests that the groups were shuffled about after lunch such that the Glip's group was Kenny Wallace, Murray Brabender, Colin Hunter, Tommy Tully, and Tommy Boag.

11. Colin Cuthbertson was an ASL from the 56th Renfrew and Inverclyde Scout Troop. This was the only 70th Summer Camp which he attended, and he was probably invited by Alistair Cram. It's possible that Jim Tosh came from the same Troop.

12. Colin's group consisted of Colin himself, Harry Lochhead, Peter McLean, David Bolster, Stuart Patrick +Cameron Still + Jim Tosh

13. Calum Grant was an ASL from the 1st Renfrew & Inverclyde Scout Troop. He may have been invited to the 70th's Summer Camp by Alistair Cram. A Calum Grant was in the 70th Troop between 1969 and 1972, but it's not known whether this was the same person. If it is, he would have been aged 18 at Wray Castle.

14. Calum's group consisted of Calum himself, Murray Brabender, Kenny Wallace, Alistair Calder, Sandy Eadie, Ian Calder and Guy Grant.

15. If it rained really hard, there was a risk of the ground becoming waterlogged, resulting in the tents getting flooded. Small trenches about 6" deep and 6" wide were sometimes dug around a tent in an attempt to collect water and channel it away from the tent. This worked best if there was a slight slope that allowed the water to run away.

16. It's uncertain whether wood carving was actually carried out or whether this entry refers to pyrography, whereby words or pictures are burnt into a flat piece of wood using a red-hot nail. Pyrography was a common activity during this period.

17. Patrol Leader Councils (PLC) were often called at the end of each day to discuss how the day had gone and to discuss what was to happen the next day.

18. Harry Lochhead was APL of the Kingfisher Patrol prior to Summer Camp. He was still 13 when he was at Wray Castle in 1976 but turned 14 the following month. Harry was one of the 70th's more active campers and had been to Summer Camp in Tarbert in 1974, and numerous weekend camp, including a night camped

halfway up the Cobbler in December 1975. He was also part of the Shannon Cup Patrol entered for the Shannon Cup in 1975. He was promoted to PL of the Kingfisher Patrol immediately after Summer Camp when he was still 13. He left the Troop in January 1978.

19. *The Woody Woodpecker Patrol consisted of PL Iain Calder, APL Harry Lochhead, Charlie Mill, and Bruce Black.*

Tuesday 10th August.

Day 9

The day started with flag-break¹ and inspection² as usual. This was followed by the presentation of two Advanced Scout Standards³, Stuart Patrick, "Slip"⁴ and David McCallum "Salum".⁵ Following this was another presentation of a chocolate cream pie to Calum Adams⁶ who just happened to be born today.

The Advanced Scout Standard hikers⁷ were due back in the middle of the afternoon and that thus did arrive.

In the evening, there were activities such as canoeing⁸ and tie-dying⁹.

Later, there was a campfire and then pit¹⁰ time.

Calum Adams⁶, 2nd Scout, Casper¹¹.

Additional Comments for 10th August

1. See note 2 for the 5th August regarding flagbreak.
2. See note 2 for the 6th August regarding inspection.
3. See note 3 for the 6th August regarding the Progressive Training Scheme in Scouting.
4. See note 12 for the 6th August regarding Stuart Patrick.
5. See note 12 for the 4th August regarding David McCallum (Salem/Salum)
6. Calum Adams turned 13 when he was at Wray Castle and was big for his age. He had joined the 70th from the 22nd Scouts the previous year and so this was his first summer camp with the 70th. He was promoted to APL in March 1977 and to PL of the Stag Patrol in March 1978. He also attended 70th Summer Camps at Denmark (1977) and Logie (1978).
7. The ASS hikers included Steven Haldane and Colin Terris. However, it is not known who else was involved or what route they took. The ASS hike included an overnight camp where the Scouts cooked their own meals using stoves (possibly a Trangia).
8. See note 7 for the 3rd August and note 6 for the 2nd August regarding canoeing.
9. See note 9 for the 3rd August regarding tie dying.
10. 'Pit' was the term used in the 70th for sleeping bag or bed. It's known how it came about or when.
11. The Casper Patrol consisted of PL Sandy Eadie, APL Brian Scobie, David Griffin and Calum Adams.

Wednesday 11th August.

Day 10

It started off with an early breakfast and then flag-break¹. After the kitchen shelters had been tidied and the Scouters had been round to see them², the PLs, APLs and two other Scouts left in the minibus³ to Ambleside where they got on a boat⁴ which *cruised* down Lake Windermere. The boat stopped at Lakeside⁵ where they got on the steam train which took them to Haversthwaite.⁶

While all that was going on, Brian and Skipper⁷ were taking the younger scouts to Fell Foot Park to have lunch with the other party.⁸

After lunch, the younger Scouts went off to *the* station⁹ where they got on the steam train which took them to Lakeside, where they got on the boat to go up the lake. The first stop was at Bowness and then it went on to Ambleside where we *got* off to find that Brian¹⁰ was waiting for us to take us back to the campsite to where the PLs and APL's were back and in swimming¹¹. We put the steak and kidney pie on and the home-made soup on and had tea. After tea, we just played around and had a hot drink, and we went to our pits¹².

Cameron Still¹³, 1st Scout, Captain Pugwash¹⁴

Additional Comments for 11th August

1. See note 2 for the 5th August regarding flagbreak.
2. See note 2 for the 6th August regarding inspection.
3. At the time, the troop had a fawn-coloured dormobile minibus that could probably carry about a dozen passengers. However, the account provided suggests that 18 Scouts were transported.
4. This might have been the MV Swan which has been sailing up and down Lake Windermere since 1938 and is still going strong (as of 2024).
5. Lakeside is at the very south end of Lake Windermere
6. An old-fashioned steam train runs on a single-track line between Lakeside and Haversthwaite Station - a distance of about 2-3 miles.
7. Brian Scott and SL Alistair Cram.
8. The younger Scouts were first driven to Ambleside then driven south down the A592 on the east side of Lake Windermere to Fell Foot Park, situated near the south end of the Lake on the eastern shore. The Scouts would have been dropped off at the Park, and the minibus would have then driven on to pick up the older Scouts at Haversthwaite Station to bring them back to join the younger Scouts at Fell Foot Park for a packed lunch.
9. The minibus would have driven them from Fell Foot Park to Haversthwaite Station.
10. See note 3 for the 2nd August regarding Brian Scott.
11. See note 7 for the 3rd August regarding swimming.
12. 'Pit' was the term used in the 70th for sleeping bag or bed. It's known how it came about or when.

13. *Cameron Still was aged 13 when he was at Wray Castle in 1976. He had previously been to Summer Camps in Tarbert (1974) and France (1975). After Wray Castle, he was promoted to APL and attended Summer Camp in Denmark (1977). However, he left the Troop in October 1977.*

14. *The Captain Pugwash Patrol consisted of PL John Paterson, APL Steven Haldane, Cameron Still, Peter McLean and Robbie Mochrie.*

12th-13th August

Days 11 and 12

And so the camp came to a close on the 13th. The 12th was spent in last minute shopping- although I suppose we should have been shooting on the Moors! A most successful camp with wonderful weather.

ABCram S.L. 70th

Honours list 1975-76

GSL's Cup for Best Scout - Tommy Tully

GSL's Cup for Best Camper - Tommy Tully

Novices trophy for camping - Robbie Mochrie and Graham Soutar.