

So, I'm crap at openings so I'm just going to start.

On the Friday, My whole family, including me, Bjorn, Sam and my Grandmother, set off in the car for Ullswater.

NOTE*

I was squished between a giant bag and with food underneath my feet, so NO leg space at all.

We arrived at Ullswater around four, and pitched up our massive tent. You can fit around 12 people in that! That evening, we had a small paddle in the Canoes. I was in a kayak with Elaine and Jenny. It wasn't too cold and it was relaxing to have a little paddle around, exploring the lake. At the end, everybody decided to have a little wet session, and splash around.

Tom and I (smaller Tom) tried out a seesaw with the canoes, but sadly, our weights were imbalanced, and the seesaw didn't go too well. After everyone was either bored or freezing, we took our boats back up, got changed and hoped our clothes would dry for Saturday. Luckily, I had brought 2 wetsuits and 2 cags. So I was pretty much set for tomorrow.

After a delicious meal of Ratatouie (thank you Tom!), we all gathered round in a circle and decided to tell stories!

Each person had to say a sentence for the story. So, we passed round a long candle and when you were holding it, you told a sentence or two. I can't remember the entire story, but I know one was vaguely about a tandem kayak going around the world, with a man eating mouse and frog. It also involved some flesh eating ovens and the Lib Dem Party, and of course the highlight, my Dad's German 'JAAAAA' at the start of his sentence. I guess it was around Midnight before we got to bed. Though I woke again at 2:30, to find my Dad was planning to drive back my grandmother and mother back home, because of the cold. Everyone seemed to complain the next morning about the cold....I slept in my hoodie, with two top quality down sleeping bags cocooned around me. So I was pretty toasty.



Saturday

Saturday was a beautiful day, nice and warm. I went on a sea kayak, an Explorer LV. We simply paddled up the lake, keeping in sight of the canoes. Craig showed us some (lovely) forward paddling and Bjorn showed us how to use the skeg, and the theory behind it. We all experimented by closing our eyes and paddling and then explaining why we ended up where we did. Turns out it was the wind! Your boat turns into the wind, and if you put down your skeg your kayak will try to face the other way! Then, towards lunchtime, Craig decided to try sailing. So we all rafted together, Craig and Bjorn got out some bags and we held them up between us. It didn't work. The wind decided to take a sudden break! Then we headed up to the bank, where the canoes had already started OUR Lunch. Craig was yelling at us to do beautiful forward paddling, just to kiss up to Tom. (To show what an 'amazing' coach he is.) After some pitta bread, hummus, carrot sticks, biscuits and a toilet, we started to head back. We did a little bit of wet stuff, just before we went in.



That night we had the most amazing dinner. It was, restaurant standard! It was Succulent chicken, bathed in creamy mushroom/onion sauce. With Pesto Pasta and lovely salad with a delicious dressing. And then, to top it off, a fruit salad, for a pudding. Which had mango, melon and quite a lot of pineapple in it. I was so full! Scott, Joe and I, then headed to a corner to plan our first stage of our KeyFund project. At around 11:30 I headed to bed and I slept like....something that sleeps really well. (a sloth maybe?)

Sunday

Today we took down our tent, and packed up ready to go. Then everyone headed out onto the water, and had a little paddle. It ended in a major wet session, where Scott triumphed in his first roll! Bjorn and I larked around, which involved me standing on his shoulders, whilst in a canoe!



After that, we got changed, had some lunch, then everyone started to head back. We were back around 5:00.

I really wish it had been on for longer! It was amazing!
A family fun weekend, for sure. ☺

Xx Shoam xX