

## Junior Church Camp at Kearsney – 22<sup>nd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> July 2017



“Galaxies” made by the Starship Enterprise group

Our theme for this year was “Space” which gave plenty of scope to let our imaginations run riot. We ate in the Mos Eisley Cantina, worshipped in Deep Thought, and did arts and crafts in Starship Enterprise. This year we had 60 children of camp age (8 to 15) which is the largest number this century (so far!) With staff and children under camp age who came with their parents we numbered 108. For the second year running we had an introductory offer price of £50 for the week, for children coming to camp for the first time. It was very encouraging to find many of last year’s “£50 kids” returned this year paying full price – they had obviously enjoyed their first experience of Camp! We still have some money left from our New Growth Fund grant of a few years back, which we treat as “ring fenced”, and is used to pay, on a confidential basis, for children who would not otherwise be able to afford to come. This year three children’s Camp fees were paid this way.



Camp fire singalong on the first night



Bubble football on the sports field

On Sunday we played bubble football, which was tremendous fun, and Monday saw some epic jumping and clambering led by Parkour instructors in the woods on site (or The Forest Moon of Endor as it had been re-named.)



Fund raising and donations this year were very fruitful - the most successful event was an auction of promises, and the money raised and donated enabled us to increase our day trips out this year from one to two.

On Tuesday, we boarded coaches and travelled to Dymchurch, where we visited New Beach Holiday Park. The general manager of the park was the father of one of last year's "£50 kids", who was sufficiently impressed with his son's experience that he offered us sole use of their large indoor swimming pool for two hours, paying only the cost of the lifeguards. We ate a carvery lunch, played sports organised by the park's staff, with medals for all participants and a trophy for the team which showed the best teamwork.

On Wednesday, the 35<sup>th</sup> Great Egg Race was held at Kearsney Abbey, where despite inclement weather, an enjoyable time was had, as we watched our boats, each carrying a raw egg, negotiate this year's course.

On Thursday, we travelled by coach on our second day trip out to Betteshanger Country Park, where we cycled and attempted the assault courses on offer.

On Friday, we shot arrows at targets, guided by an instructor, and then entertained each other with our concert in the evening.



Parkour on the Forest Moon of Endor...



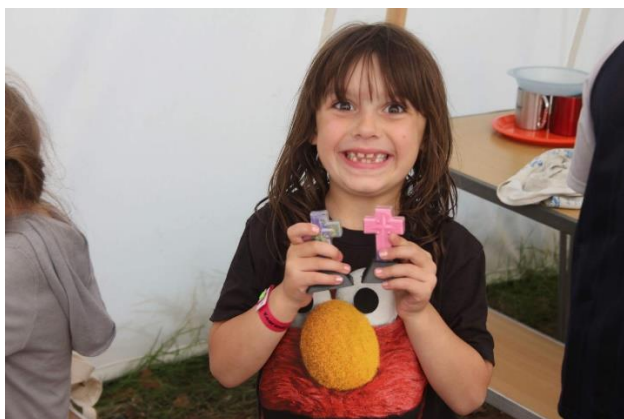
Sports afternoon at Dymchurch



The Great Egg Race at Kearsney Abbey



During our morning and afternoon worship sessions we looked at some of the things that Jesus said during his life. We linked this with our daily activities, with photo montages of the previous day opening each session, and we challenged the children to see worship as something ongoing throughout the day, and throughout our lives. As part of our worship we again split into three groups, Messy Church for the younger ones, Enterprise for the older ones also interested in arts and crafts with a little discussion thrown in, and Games and Chat in the worship marquee – the discussion on the Holy Spirit opening with a game of blow football... “the wind blows wherever it pleases.... So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” Which group they attended was left up to the children to decide, and some joined different groups on different days. For the first time, we had a prayer space adjoining the worship marquee, which both children and adults used during the week, and which was a welcome addition to Camp.



Messy Church coloured sand crosses



Archery on Friday



Cycling and the play area at Betteshanger Country Park

We welcomed quite a few visitors during the week, including members of the EKSA Pastoral Committee, and Rev. Roger Jones from the Synod Youth Camp. Tom Hackett our CYDO visited us twice, played bubble football on the Sunday, and returned on Friday to help judge our bivouac competition, to shoot some arrows, and to see the talent on show at the concert. We are grateful to him for all his assistance, and for providing staff safeguarding training before Camp. As people signed out on Saturday we asked them to complete a short survey – our thanks to Nigel Drake for designing it, and to Alison Bridgeland for analysing the results. The survey form and analysis are included as part of this report.

Andy Russell

On behalf of the Core Leadership Team

# URC CAMP SURVEY

FOR EACH QUESTION, PLEASE CHECK ONE ANSWER WITH A PENCIL OR PEN.

**1. How long have you been attending the URC camp? (CHECK ONE BOX.)**

- ☐ First year   ☐ Second year   ☐ Third year   ☐ Fourth year   ☐ More than Four years

**2. Are you a... (CHECK ONE BOX.)**

- ☐ Junior  
☐ Senior  
☐ Adult

**3. How would you rate the camp overall? (CHECK ONE BOX.)**

- ☐ Excellent   ☐ Good   ☐ Fair   ☐ Poor

**4. Now rate the day camp on the following items below. (PLEASE CHECK "GREAT," "OK," OR "NOT GOOD" FOR EACH.)**

- A. The activities..... ☐ GREAT   ☐ OK   ☐ NOT GOOD  
B. The adult leaders..... ☐ GREAT   ☐ OK   ☐ NOT GOOD  
C. Chances to learn to do new things..... ☐ GREAT   ☐ OK   ☐ NOT GOOD  
D. Chances to make new friends..... ☐ GREAT   ☐ OK   ☐ NOT GOOD  
E. Being outdoors..... ☐ GREAT   ☐ OK   ☐ NOT GOOD  
F. Food ..... ☐ GREAT   ☐ OK   ☐ NOT GOOD

**5. Overall, was camp more fun, less fun, or about the same as you thought it would be? (CHECK ONE BOX.)**

- ☐ More fun than I expected   ☐ Less fun than I expected   ☐ About what I expected

**6. How would you rate the safety of camp? (CHECK ONE BOX.)**

- ☐ Excellent   ☐ Good   ☐ Fair   ☐ Poor

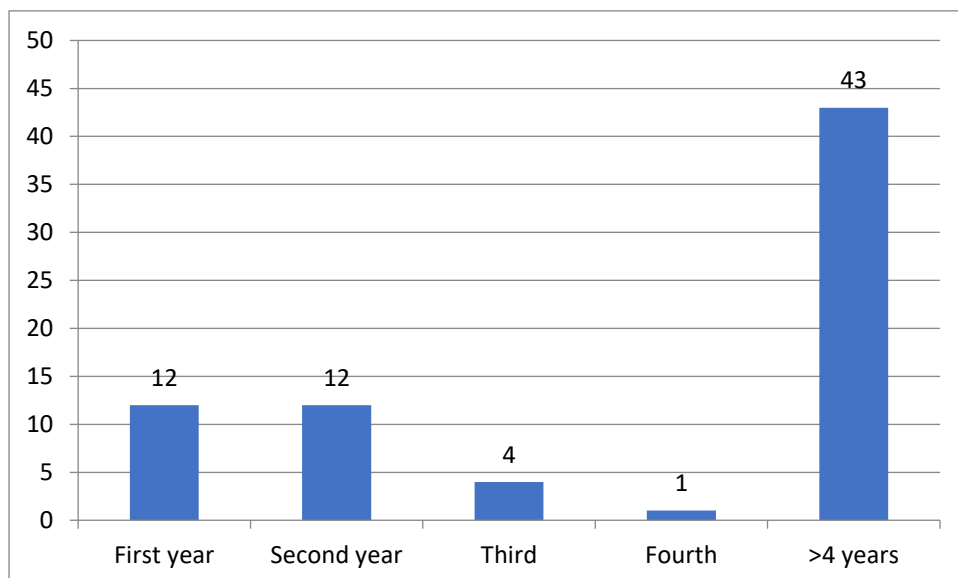
**7. Would you attend this camp again or recommend it to a friend? (CHECK ONE BOX.)**

- ☐ Yes   ☐ No

### **Feedback from Campers in 2017**

The survey was conducted at checking out on the Saturday morning of camp, when some people had already left, for various reasons, some planned and others unforeseen. Altogether 63% of children that attended camp completed a feedback form, whilst 71% of the adults completed one.

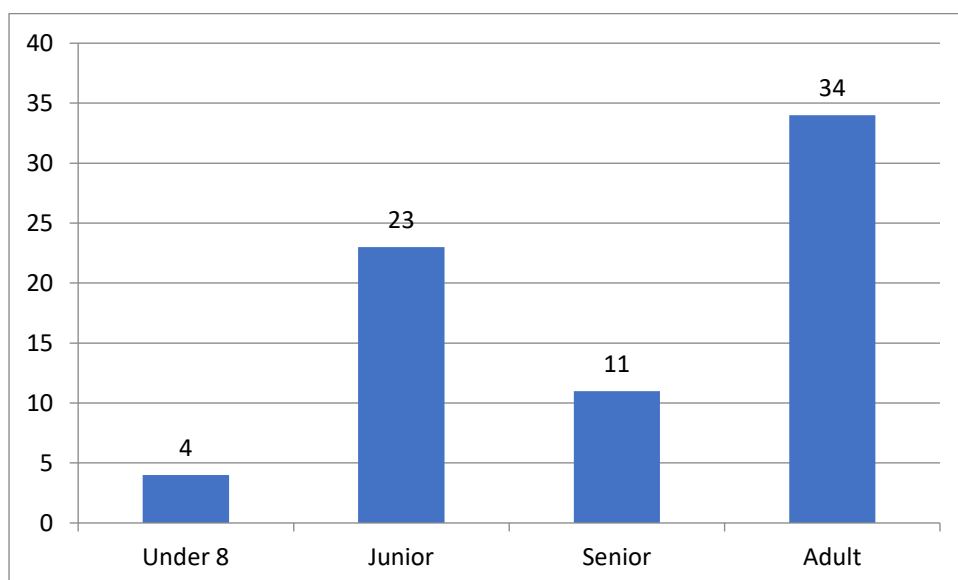
#### **Graph 1 shows the length of time people have been attending camp:**



As we know camp attracts many return campers, i.e. the largest cohort were more than 4 years. The increase in first timers and second year returners could be explained by the £50 offer for first time campers.

If we were to conduct this survey again next year, I think the options could investigate the demographics of more established campers and their views on how camp has changed over the years; for better or for worse!

#### **Graph 2 shows the breakdown of ages:**

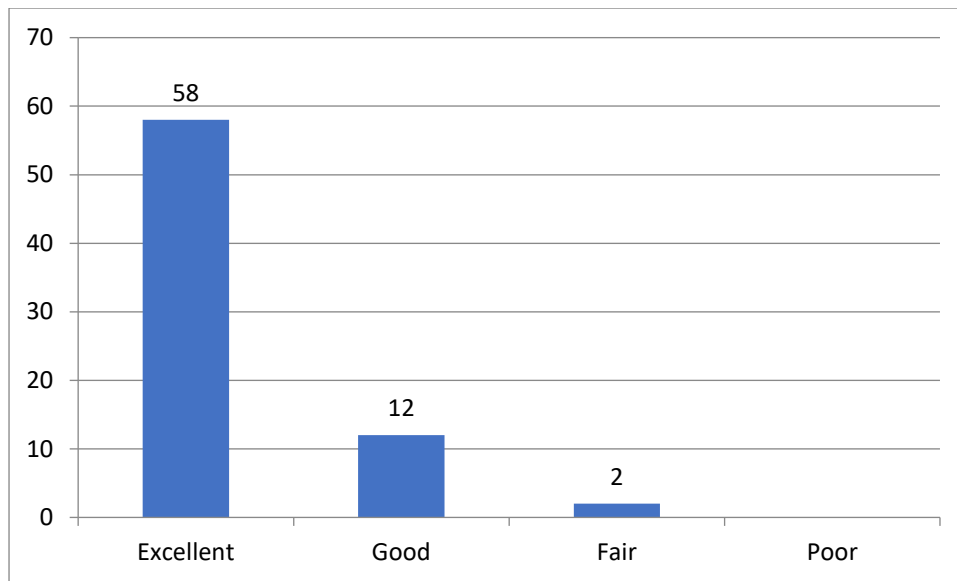


There is a significant increase in juniors this year, with more children under 18 than adults. This is an encouraging statistic, as numbers of new children had been declining over the previous years, which instigated the introduction of the new campers reduced fee..

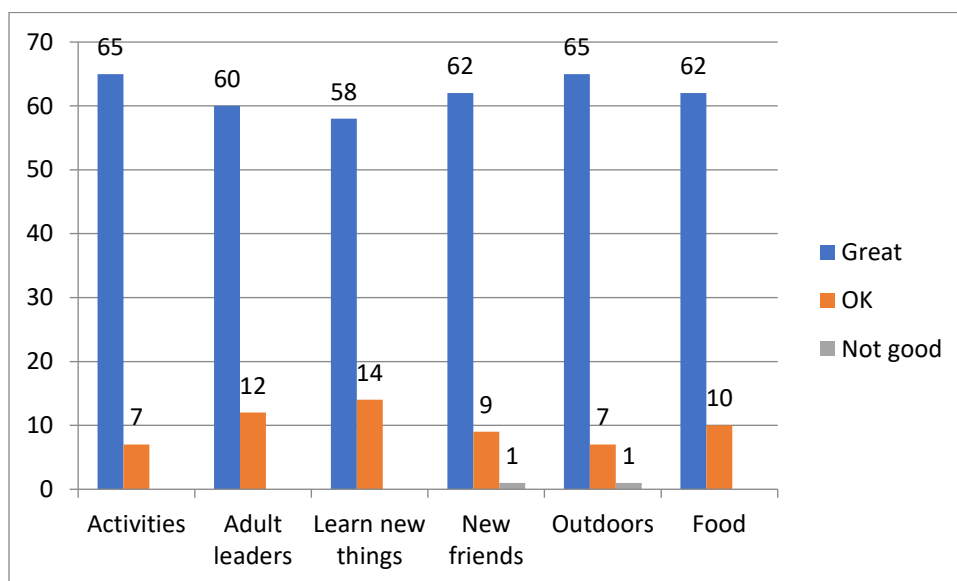
It will be interesting to watch this trend over future years and aim to plug any gaps.

Maybe we can canvas opinions on why less seniors attended this year?

**Graph 3 shows how people rate camp overall:**

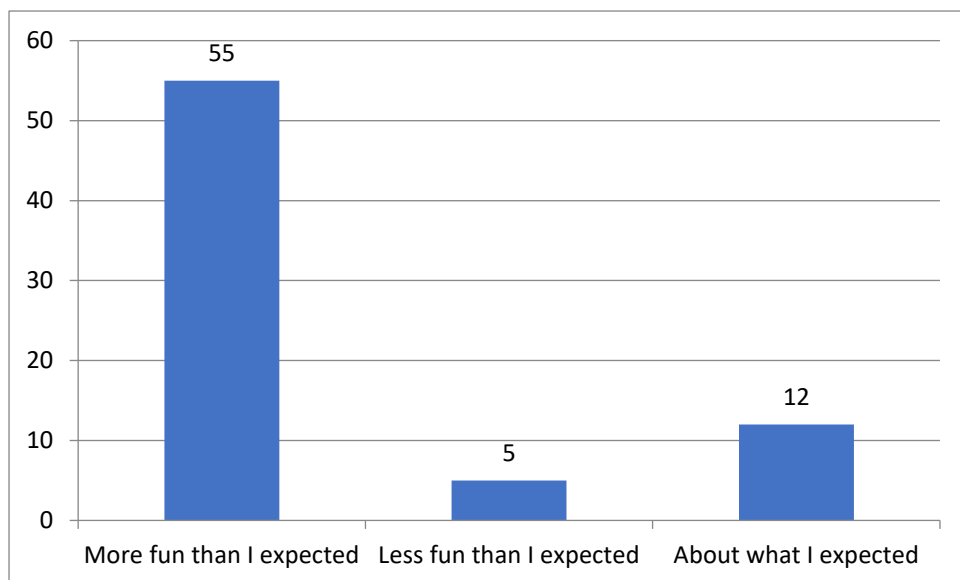


**Graph 4 shows how people rated the individual categories:**



The rating is good, but we could possibly look to what new things people would like to do in order to introduce a new activity which would address this slightly lower score.

**Graph 5 shows how much fun people had at camp compared to what they expected**

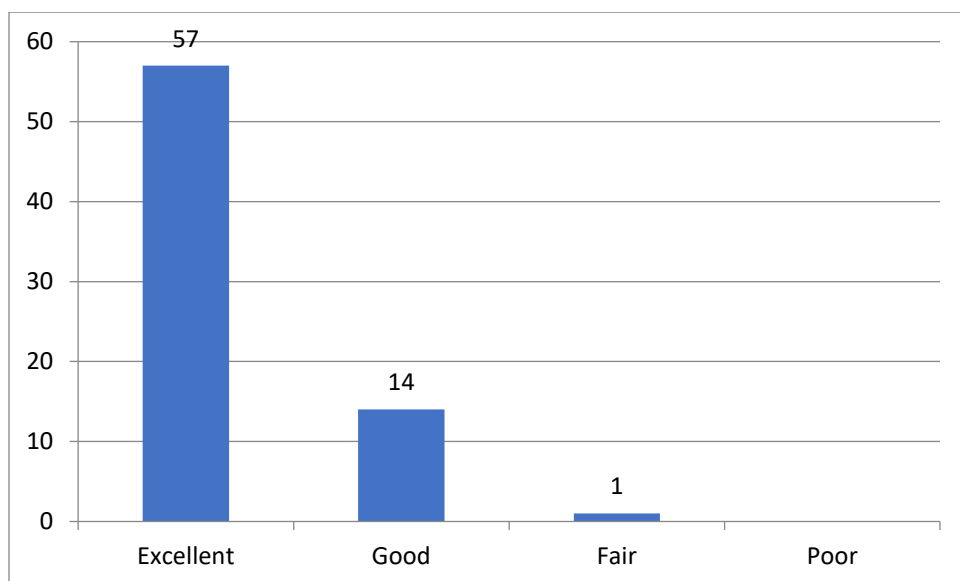


With a lot of returners, it is surprising that the category 'About what I expected' was not larger, possibly indicating that the camp was more fun than in previous years?

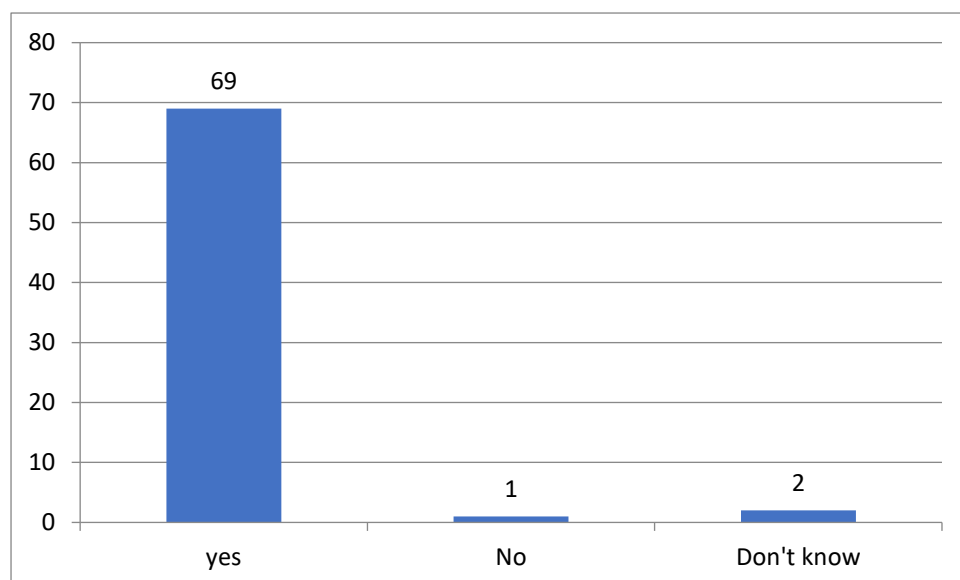
The people who voted for less fun, did not comment on why they put that, so this cannot be further investigated.

Maybe we could ask for specific comments if answered less/no in future surveys.

**Graph 6 shows their views on safety this year at camp**



Graph 7 shows if people intend to return



A good return rate!

I had a very good week, enjoyed doing the workshops.

Had a great week lots to do, had some amazing trips which were very well organised. Just a great team to work with. Well done to all.

Yet another fantastic camp enjoyed by myself, wife and baby (first camp). Lots of activities for all ages and abilities. Great food, Great company, Made lots of new friends. Especially enjoyed the trip to Dymchurch.

Amazing dedication of staff. Their commitment to the children's well being, enjoyment, safety and development is incredible. Thank you to everyone, long may camp continue.

The staff are amazing. I am always made to feel loved, camp is very important to us as a family, and we now have a baby daughter, 4 weeks old this camp and we hope to let her grow up surrounded by the staff and friends we have made here.

You have all stood very tall on the shoulders of past giants, all of whom would be truly amazed to see the organisation and attention paid to every detail. You have stepped up and laid good foundations for the future. On a personal note, mealtimes can always be a problem, and delays are inevitable, maybe at peak times those adults not on meal as other duties might look to the younger ones who might be bored and getting out of hand - sit and talk with them perhaps! And perhaps adults like me could offer their musical (etc) services to encourage more younger ones to take part in the concert, to avoid it being too adult dominated, however good, Just thoughts.