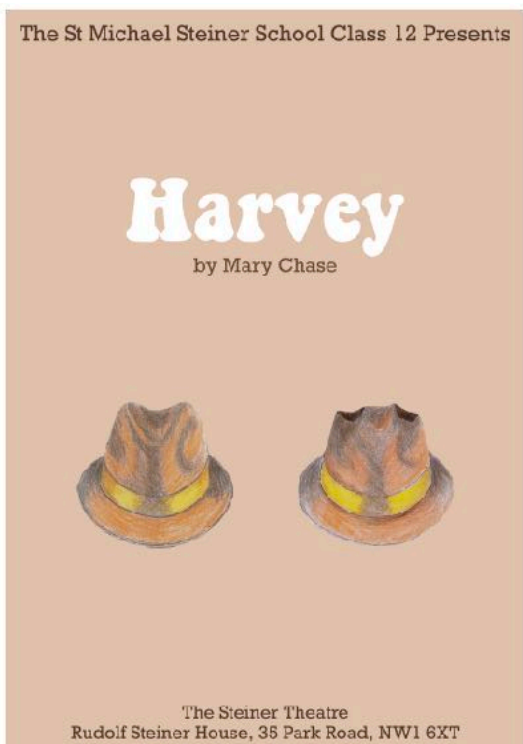




The St Michael Steiner School NEWSLETTER July 2018



Class 12's production of Mary Chase's *Harvey* was performed at Steiner House on 15th and 16th June 2018. We would like to extend a warm thank you to everyone who came to see the play, and endless gratitude to Class 10 for their support throughout this project. A full gallery of photos is now available to browse on the 'Galleries' page of our website (listed under 'Pupils' Work').

Stella Ottewill
High School English and Drama teacher





Class 12 Graduation



On Friday 22nd June parents, friends and teachers were invited to say goodbye to our Class 12 of 2018 at their graduation ceremony. It was a beautiful evening, and we would like to extend our thanks to everyone who helped make it so.

Our graduates have left the school with their Level 3 Certificates of Steiner Education completed and, for many of them, over ten years of Steiner education behind them. We are proud to say that each and every

one of them has exceeded expectations, showing a wide range of skills and knowledge throughout their time at the school. We are also proud to say that every student who applied to higher education courses has been offered a place at a university of their choice:

Ilana Lloyd: graduates with Highly Commended, specialising in Drama, Social Studies, Languages, and English, and is planning to take a year out while she applies to drama schools.

Phoebe Woods: graduates with Distinction, specialising in Drama, Social Studies, and Physical Education and Movement, and is also planning to take a year out whilst she decides which path to take next.

Ottaline Wallace: graduates with Distinction, specialising in English, Social Studies, and Drama, and is going to read English at York University next year.

Jasper Ferguson-Buonaparte: graduates with Distinction, specialising in Drama, Social Studies, and English, and is going to study Theatre Studies at Birkbeck College, University of London next year.

Inès Courtney-Guy: graduates with Distinction, specialising in Physics, Maths, and Social Studies, and after a gap year is planning to take up her place at Manchester University to study Physics.

Thomas Chok: graduates with Distinction, specialising in Practical Art and Technology, Social Studies, and Music Studies and is going to University of the West of England in September to study Product Design.

Maya Forster: graduates with Distinction, specialising in Biology, Social Studies, Languages, and Physical Education and Movement, and is planning a gap year before she goes to King's College, University of London to study Liberal Arts with Languages.

We wish them all the best for next year and beyond. They will be greatly missed, but we also look forward to seeing what they do next.

— Stella Ottewill, on behalf of the High School



News from the Early Years

The kindergarten summer has been full of sunshine and colour - buttercups and daisies now being surpassed by fragrant sweet peas, marigolds and huge courgette flowers. Our garden is blossoming and fruiting, with apples swelling, raspberries and strawberries ripening, beans ready to harvest, along with many children blossoming nearly into Class 1 !



Festivals this season have included Fathers Day, when children made bright wooden boats, their decks lovingly sanded smooth and colours carefully chosen and sewn by each child.

In the same week, we

celebrated the end of Ramadam. Hand painted blue paper cards were decorated with shining crescent moons and silver stars, and fruit kebabs prepared by the children were shared by all. Hands were beautifully decorated by Keesha and Sarka whilst the children sat SO still waiting their turns!



One of last walks around the park was paused by the arrival of the tractor mower. The driver kindly had a 10 minute break and allowed the children to get right inside the cabin - truly exciting!

We will be celebrating our end of year Festival on Thursday 12th July, followed by a family walk and picnic in Bushy Park on Friday 13th July. Many thanks to all parents for your help and support of our work over the year.



*Katie Sharrock,
for the early years team*

More news from the Early Years

The older children in kindergarten have come together each Friday morning since February.

They have grown together as a social group in their work and play, and learnt skills including washing and carding wool, felt-making, sewing, finger-knitting, sawing, drilling and sanding wood, and finally completing their horses in these past couple of weeks.

Fridays have also included long sunny walks and picnics in the park, days they may never forget.



It has been a joy and privilege to share their lives over the past few years, some children since parent & child groups, others for just the past nine months. We wish them all love and happiness for their new school adventures.

The early years team.

From The College

Contact information

During the summer, the information we send out to parents will be updated. We would like to remind all families of the importance of letting the school know if any of your contact details (address, email address or telephone numbers) change. This is to ensure that you get included in all mailings and that the school can get hold of you in an emergency. We should be grateful if you would inform Grace immediately if any of your details change.

Goodbyes

At the end of this term we say goodbye to some members of staff:

One of our Kindergarten teachers, Katie Sharrock, will be taking a well-earned year's sabbatical from September.

Stuart Purdy, whose Class 8 will move into the High School in September, will be going to Michael Hall "for six terms" (his words) to take Class 7.

We wish them all the best and look forward to their return to us.

Two more permanent departures:

Marianne Romeo, who has been assisting in Class 8 this year will take Class 1 at Michael Hall in September.

And finally, Joel Schaad will return to Switzerland after two terms with us as an intern. You will find a letter from him in this newsletter.

To contact the College, email college@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk

WISH LIST

Every month we will publish a list of items that we need at school in case someone out there has them to give away, or knows where we can get them for not-too-much money. At the moment, we are looking for:

- Working hand sewing machines
- Large pieces of leather
- A potters wheel (kick wheel or working electric one)
- Craft tools - woodwork, leatherwork, metalwork
- A guillotine (for A3+ paper)

Contact Julia Wallace or Amanda Bell if you can help.

PS: A huge thank you to the Class 12 parents who have given us an electric kiln as a going-away present.

What is the College?

The school has no Head Teacher but is led and managed by teachers and administrative staff working as The College.

The College is made up of staff members who are able and willing to take responsibility for the leadership and management of the school.

The College meets, at present, on Wednesday afternoons from 4-5:30pm. Meetings are chaired by a member of the group; a new Chair is chosen periodically by the group.

The College oversees the general wellbeing of the school, ensuring that the aims and vision are kept in mind and reflected in practice, and is responsible for monitoring all aspects of the education offered by the school.

Current College members:

Pat Alexander
Amanda Bell
Dorothea van Breda
Peter Brewin
Julian Coxon (Chair)
Vicky Dunn
Leigha Hipkin
Sarah Houghton
Michèle Hunter
Eleni Karakonstanti
Birgit Möller (ex officio)
Stella Ottewill
Marta Pietrzyck
Stuart Purdy
Katie Sharrock
Julia Wallace

Community Craft Workshops

These workshops were organised by Jane Habib and Kristina Bitencourt.



Our pressed flower card workshop on 13th May was led by Tatiana Vedmediuc who was passionate about pressed flower card creation from early years. We opened our workshop with a beautiful story and then the magic of pressed flowers, leaves and grasses unraveled.

All children created their cards practicing their skill of space arrangement for a well-balanced end result. We divided the workshop into two segments. First we shaped the each child's initial letter using stems, flowers or leaves. In the second part of this work shop we made landscape cards.

We achieved the appearance of distant objects with the smallest of leaves, e.g. for background trees we

used tiny leaves, and the hills were created with larger leaves crossed over each other.

Our special thanks goes to Tatiana Vedmediuc, who assisted the children with their work, guided and explained the short cuts of the process as well as helping to frame every card for a better impact. She also shared with us her wonderful collection of materials, pressed over a few seasons.

Thank you to everybody who took part. With your kind help we have collected about £130 for our school.



Our clay craft workshop took place on 30th May. The organisers Jane Habib (school parent) and Kristina Bitencourt (German teacher) offered this work shop in order to create mandalas from clay and decorate them with colourful beans and seeds. For lotus flowers we used a light pink clay. Every child managed it to make a lotus flower with its eight petals.

After the mandalas and lotuses were taken home, everybody could see how the clay became hard and how

the quality of the beans and seeds remained unchanged.

We enjoyed nice weather and spent a wonderful time together starting as usual with a story and ending with playing and chatting. This community event raised £108. We are thankful to everybody who joined us and supported our school.

Kristina Bitencourt



EURYTHMY NEWS

Dear All,

Extra Eurythmy Club and Parents Eurythmy Club will continue next year.

My warmest gratitude goes to the parents who took on a new initiative with the ice Lollies and have raised so far around £500 for Eurythmy during this half term alone.

The Youth Eurythmy Festival promotional film is now out so please share widely when you find it on FB.

The films for the YEF this year are now available. I will be sending these shortly (I am still missing a couple of classes to make our school complete).

Next year dates are Thursday 28th, Fri 29th and Sat 30th March 2019.

Put these dates in your diaries ahead of time so there are no disappointments. Russia and

Germany are already interested in coming so we will be growing beyond our capacity again!

Eurythmy Retreat for all, families and friends:

For those of you who are interested in doing my eurythmy retreat in eurythmy, I will be holding one next year late summer in the Lake District. You can start saving now! More details in the Autumn.

Have a wonderful summer,

Michèle Hunter



Class 3 Trip to Plaw Hatch Farm

One of the highlights of this school year for Class 3 was the camping trip to the Plaw Hatch farm that the children enjoyed last week. After learning about farming and gardening during the previous Main Lesson blocks the children finally had an opportunity to try some of the farmer's activities by themselves. Everyone enjoyed feeding the chickens, collecting eggs and milking cows, even if some of these activities took place very early in the morning! We would also go for walks through the forest and pastures lit by the rays of the sun that was shining brightly every day of our trip. At the end of each day before going to sleep in our tents we all sat by the fire, have hot chocolate and marshmallows, listen to a story and wonder what exciting things the new day would bring.

Marta Pietrzyk





Class 7

Proud work of class 7 - Left: the fruits of their labours from the chemistry Main Lesson, the lime kiln and below: at Queen Mary Reservoir safely back on dry land having earned their Stage 1 Sailing Certificates!

Pat Alexander



Class 6 Trip to
Hadrian's Wall
2nd - 6th July





Class 5 went on their Olympics camping trip at the end of June. More than 300 children from Steiner schools from all over England and Scotland camped and trained together for three days.

It was an absolutely amazing experience for the children. They participated in the traditional ancient Greek sport events (discus, javelin, high jump, long jump, marathon, wrestling, dash) made some new friends and had a wonderful time overall.

Eleni Karakonstanti



**Class 5
Olympics 2018**



Class 8 say farewell “forever” to Lower School...

Class 8’s final summer Term has been a busy time. In their Chemistry Main lesson they made their own sourdough leaven and delicious rye bread, as well as their own bars of soap.



An actual human pyramid.

Lyre Making Workshop

28 - 30 September 2018



This is an impulse coming from Pan Liang Ho, the school's music teacher with aims to bring hands-on woodworking and music together in the creation of the 12-string diatonic lyre. Pan Liang has personally observed the therapeutic effects of playing the lyre in children. The resonating, clear and light tone from the lyre reaches one's nervous system very quickly and calms it down to bring it into a state of peace and relaxation. In today's media saturated environment, the lyre is becoming increasingly relevant to bring children out from their over-stimulation to a state of calmness and balance. In terms of music pedagogy, the lyre encourages deep listening when the tones fade slowly into silence but yet one can still hear the tones clearly within.

Woodworking builds a sense of care and respect to our surroundings. Through woodworking, one learns that things can be made with one's own hands, broken objects can be repaired instead being replaced in today's buying culture.

In this workshop, we are pleased to invite Jason Pond to lead and teach lyre making. The wood and strings will all be provided. Each participant will go away with a 12-string diatonic lyre made with their own hands which the children can play on. Lyre playing lessons are also available from Pan Liang Ho if there is interest.

Jason has been teaching craft at Elmfield Steiner school for 7 years and more recently have been setting up his own Community workshop in Bewdley in the west midlands. The details of the workshop are as follows. This workshop is mainly for adults but children (class 4 to 8) are welcome to come together with one of their parents and make the lyre together over a weekend.

September 28-30 (whole weekend needed)
7-9pm on the Friday evening
9.30am - 5pm on the Saturday and
9.50am - 4.00pm on the Sunday.

Cost will be £225 for each participant. A parent and child pair will also be charged at £225 with no extra. With a minimum of 5 and maximum of 10.

Please kindly sign up with Pan Liang Ho at hopanliang@stmichaelsteiner.com for this lyre-making workshop if you are interested. Spaces are limited and will be confirmed after payment.

Chemistry in the Middle School

I have the pleasure of teaching in class 7 & 8 chemistry this term. It is so fun going into these classes and seeing their eyes light up to what experiments are put in front of them. I would like to share two keystone experiences with you.

Firstly, Soap making in class 8 as part of their chemistry block the class made soap. This an important process relating to the combination of fatty acids (these soaps don't contain palm oil but a lovely mix of babassu oil, shea butter, olive oil, coconut oil and sweet almond oil) and alkali. Each pairing had to work closely together balancing the temperatures of their two parts until the temperature of each was the same and in the correct range then they could mix their soap to trace, this was an interesting challenge for them as they had to really work together. Each pair added particular essential oils and petals/herbs to their soaps; as you may have seen at the End of Term Exhibition. Did you smell their wonderful creations...? Lavender and lime, pure white peppermint, lavender and rosemary, peppermint and grapefruit, lavender and frankincense with rose petals were chosen.

If you would like to purchase some soap or in the future attend a soap making workshop with me before Christmas then do email me to express your interest and a suitable date, I am willing to do a workshop at any time on a weekend. Note soap takes three weeks to cure before use.

Sarah Houghton
Science and Outdoor Curriculum Teacher

GARDEN WISH LIST

- 4 sheds: 1 for gardening tools, 1 for games, 1 for fairs/trips and 1 for general storage;
- More garden tools and wheelbarrows;
- Top soil/compost;
- microscopes;
- clipboards;
- a double cooker for the kitchen;
- a small fridge/freezer for the lab;
- sand pit for the sandpit!

Gardening/water rota; if you have time to water the gardens over the holiday I would love to hear from you: sarahhoughton@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk

Sarah Houghton

From the Summer Fair Team

Dear Friends and Families

Wow what an incredible community we have.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to the amazing Summer Fair. We had it all.

We can't mention all the wonderful people who did so much but we are incredibly grateful to all of you.

We are so lucky to have received such generous donations for the Summer Fair from the following companies:

Mr and Mrs Ainsworth

<https://www.originalstormtrooper.com/>

Tim Frankel

<http://www.maggie-jones.co.uk/>

<http://www.pouleaupot.co.uk/>

Helen Browning's <https://helenbrowningsorganic.co.uk/>

<http://riversidevegetaria.co.uk/>

Ocado

Waitrose

Co-op

<http://www.stoneage.co.uk/en/>

<https://www.happyglastonbury.co.uk/>

A huge thank you to all who organised the donations.

On top of the joy and fun of all being together, we made around £5,400 for the school.

Have an incredible Summer filled with laughter and fun.

Love

Jasmine Sterianos

On behalf of the Summer Fair Team

Gardening help needed

Dear parents,

Are you up for a bit of planting/digging? Then today/tomorrow and Friday is your time! After a successful grab of plants from the Grow Your Own garden at RHS HC we have acquired a beech hedge and a variety of plants which need to go into the ground asap.

Please do come find me at school and join in. We need you!

Sarah Houghton

High School Science and Outdoor Curriculum Teacher

A letter from Joel

Joel Schaad joined us in January as an intern. He volunteered for the rest of the year, throwing himself wholeheartedly into the life of the school, and making himself indispensable. However, we will now have to find another way to fill the space as he is now returning to Switzerland. This is his farewell letter to the school community.

Dear children, teachers and other amazing people of the St Michael Steiner school

I was granted the favour to be part of your school for the last 6 months, and I have to say, I am sad to leave! Much has happened in this brief period of time, and the memories are still vivid!

What has brought me, a Swiss student, here in the first place? Let me explain: One part of my study programme in English Language and Literature at the University of Berne, Switzerland, is a "stay abroad", working or studying *anything* in an English-speaking country. Through relatives, I came to apply for an internship at the St Michael Steiner school. My first Skype-call with Amanda Bell was exciting, to say the least. I had no idea what I was getting myself into! I arrived in London on a cold January evening, still recovering from Christmas' and New Year's eve's feasts, but excited to start the experience. I have no Steiner background at all, so everything was very new to me in every aspect.

The first few suspicious glances from students and teachers alike, saying "Who is *that* guy?" quickly turned into a warm welcome by everybody. Soon I knew my way around the school and could make myself useful, while still learning the ways and workings of a Steiner school.

I helped out in the Games lessons of classes 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10+12, seeing enthusiastic kids and youths running and leaping, playing and having fun disregarding the weather conditions. I even could contribute with a few "pocket games" myself, games that don't require any material to play.

For class 8, I was asked to organize an Orienteering course. I drew a map of the school grounds for training, and a larger map of Hanworth park for a larger course. Everybody had a great time, whether running the course as intended or taking the opportunity to go for a leisurely stroll – it was amazing!

I also could help in the garden, working with class 3. Together, we prepared the beds for seed planting and built a shelter. The children had to cut logs, chop off branches and make foundations out of clay and horse manure. Later, the children weaved branches through the supporting logs to make a roof. In the winter, we built a fire to keep us warm, boiled herb tea and on one occasion we even had snake bread, a tradition that I love, as a long-time scout leader.

For class 12, I was asked to prepare and teach a block of French. As a Swiss from the German part of Switzerland, this was not an easy task – but with enough preparation, I think I managed to light the spark of interest for the variety of French in the three students. I was amazed and delighted to see such reliable and independently working students.

With three class 10 students, we did a very short, but intense block of French, brushing up on grammar rules and vocabulary, conversing about all sorts of topics and reading a short play. Everybody in the small class was very eager and motivated, everything I could hope for. Thank you very much for these few hours with you!

Before and after my lesson blocks, I never had to worry about getting bored. Ms Houghton would always have some task ready to be accomplished; was it assembling a shelf or building an outdoor classroom-shelter, or building another one, or cleaning up the back yard, cutting down trees or mending fences, there was always something I was glad to take on. I enjoyed working outside as a balance to the mind-heavy classroom work. I'm especially happy to see the shelters being put to good use by class 7 as break-time hangout space!

I was asked to accompany class 5 on their trip to the Olympics at Michael Hall. I have to say, I did not expect such a big and beautiful event! The weather was hot and all of it worth every drop of sweat (and there were a lot of drops). It was a delight working with all the children from all over the country practising the javelin throwing and the relay during the training days, and even more so with the St Michael class 5. What a wonderful group you are! At night though, you had to take care that the werewolves did not eat you... Thank you, Ms Karakonstanti and Madame Dunn, for the wonderful experience and the lovely time with you!

I also got the chance to join class 6 for their trip along Hadrian's Wall. Taking our hiking boots and the good weather up north, we dived into Ancient Roman culture. I got to spend a week – a holiday almost! - experiencing a beautiful landscape, a part of British history and a lovely bunch of refreshingly naughty children. It was wonderful to come back to the Hostel in the evenings, seeing all of you enjoying the meals I was asked to prepare for you! Thank you, Mrs Van Breda and Mrs Dunn, for trusting my hiking guidance and bearing with me when I got impatient. It was great!

To say the least, I had a blast at St Michael Steiner school! I am grateful for the trust of all the teachers, parents and children in me, having me for this short time. Many, many thanks for all the support and help I received planning and holding my lessons, for all your patience explaining the smallest details to me and to give me the opportunity to bring in my own experiences, knowledge and interests. I am deeply grateful for all I could learn at your school, for the meaningful and joyful discussions and encounters with teachers and parents. And last, but not least, thank you very, very much dear children and youngsters from all classes, for all the laughs and questions and games and all the joy you bring to school!

I'll miss the drowsy morning walks through Hanworth park, the portacabin being too cold in winter and too hot in summer; I'll miss the relaxed atmosphere at school and the passion everybody brought to their lessons, I'll miss the most beautiful school building I know (and the most crammed one, too), I'll miss the amazing class plays I could watch - but most of all, I'll miss you, children and parents and teachers!

May our paths cross again some time.

Tschou zäme!

Joel

Welcome!

There are some exciting developments on their way to St Michaels. Thank you to the school for introducing the Parent-College meetings. They have been a great springboard for introducing some initiatives which I hope will enhance the experience for the St Michael's families and Teachers as well as make introductions easier for new and potential new parents to the school. There will be more information from September but here are a few bite-size portions!

I am delighted to announce the new **Parent Welcome Body**. We are here to assist and support families and will do what we can to help by offering a listening ear and introducing parents with families who are happy to chat, drink tea and arrange playdates! If you are new or know of a new parent whom would benefit, please pass our details on: Lucy St John lcstjohn@hotmail.com 07903 047 350 and Hollie Holden hollieholden@gmail.com 07917 654 050

If you are a Facebook user and have not already joined, you are invited to join the St Michael Steiner Virtual Café. Just pop the title into the search box on Facebook. It is a great space for thoughts, ideas, buying, selling and sharing amongst parents. Please remember to abide by Data and Child Protection when posting pictures of children. In other words, ask permission from parents!

Have a lovely summer and well done for all the achievements this year.

Lucy St John

On behalf of the Parent Welcome Body

OFSTED REGISTERED CHILDMINDER

- St. Michael's Kindergarten parent
- Breakfast before school from 7.30am
- Pick-ups from school at 12.30pm or 3pm
- 10 minute walk to and from the school
- Home cooked, healthy food
- Large garden
- Dogs, cats and chickens!

I am now taking bookings for September 2018 so please get in touch if you would like to reserve a place.

email: elizabethlee0101@gmail.com

tel: 07879 401911

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in Great Britain**
Registered Charity No. 220480
Rudolf Steiner House, 35 Park Road, London NW1 6XT
Tel 020 7723 4400 Email doris.bailiss.rsh@anth.org.uk

A House Development Manager is required to support the development, and oversee the daily operations of, Rudolf Steiner House in London. The post requires excellent events management and organisational skills, sound judgement and good interpersonal and communication skills. It carries a high degree of responsibility and requires a collaborative way of working with the Board to develop Rudolf Steiner House as a vibrant venue for anthroposophical Steiner-inspired activities.

Applications are invited for the following vacancy. NO agencies please

House Development Manager

- Permanent – minimum 32 hours per week (days and times to be negotiated)
- Salary range £31,600 to £37,750 pro rata depending on experience
- Based at Rudolf Steiner House in London
- Anticipated start date: October/November 2018

Closing date **Friday 31st August 2018**

The job description, person specification, application form and information about the Anthroposophical Society is available on request from the General Manager, Doris Bailiss: doris.bailiss.rsh@anth.org.uk. Fully completed application forms (CVs on their own will not be accepted) should be returned to Doris Bailiss by the closing date Friday 12pm 31st August 2018

A Story That Could Be True

Men and Boys Camp 5-7th October 2018

This is for fathers and sons, godfathers and their godsons to spend a weekend in adventure and fun with stories and campfires together. The weekend includes activities for boys, time for men as well as shared projects and a cooking / washing up rota. It will be a gentle weekend with an emphasis on simply being together for the greater good and masculine creativity. Sons need fathers and fathers need sons! This weekend offers an opportunity for the exchange of gifts between generations.

Stepdads, mentors and godfathers with boys and stepsons are most welcome within your specific family arrangements. Age for boys: 9 - 19. Accommodation is in shared cabins with a couple of camping spots. Limited to 20 people. Food is included in the price.

Where: Avon Tyrell UK Youth Outdoor Centre (in the New Forest) Bransgore, Hampshire.

Times: Arrive from 16.00 Friday for dinner at 18.30, leave 15.00 Sunday.

Cost: £250.00 per father and son, godfather and godson.

To book:

find out more email or call:

Elmer Postle: elmerpostle@gmail.com / 07785926796

Dan Kidner: dkidner@yahoo.com

Webpage: <http://www.owlcranial.com/home-page/men-and-boys-camp/>

To reserve your place, pay the full amount or a non-refundable deposit of £75.00 via bank transfer: marked as 'Fathers/Sons' to, Lloyds, Sort Code: 30-80-37 Account No: 31243260