



## **Woodlarks for ever!**



A large, stylized signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and lines, positioned above the author's name.

**By Jack Wright**



## Woodlarks for ever!

We are campers from Woodlarks. If you can't hear us we tell you louder everywhere we go.

Woodlarks is a camp for disabled people. The name of the camp owner is Nick. We are the best camp in England you can find. We've got the best camp leader. His name is Martyn. He will give you a really wicked week. Bob is his deputy. Bob is wicked. Our driver is called Camp David! We do backwoods cooking and campfire and many many more things.



I got up. I am excited because I am going back to camp. Wicked camp! We pick up Tom, my cousin who is going to camp with me. When we get there we meet Darren. He is my mate from camp. He's my best volunteer. I shake hands with Emily who is Darren's girlfriend. We have tea. Darren helped me eat. Darren helped me unpack. I sleep in a tent with Darren and Tom and Mike. We got wicked guys in the tent.

We are split up into patrols. Each patrol has eight people. My patrol is called Pecker patrol. We are the best patrol in camp. Darren is the leader of the patrol, and I am his number 2.



On Saturday night we did campfire. Martin started it up and it was magical.

We also sang a song called "He jumped without a parachute" which goes: "40 feet high, glory glory what a way to die, he's not going to jump no more."

We had hot chocolate and marshmallows that was nice.

Then we had more songs like Cum By Ya My Lord and Ging Gang Goolie and drank some beer. And some more beer. Then we went to bed. We are back in camp!



On Sunday we all went in swimming. We all went in the pool. It was wicked but it was cold. It was good to be back.

We also went for a midnight hike!

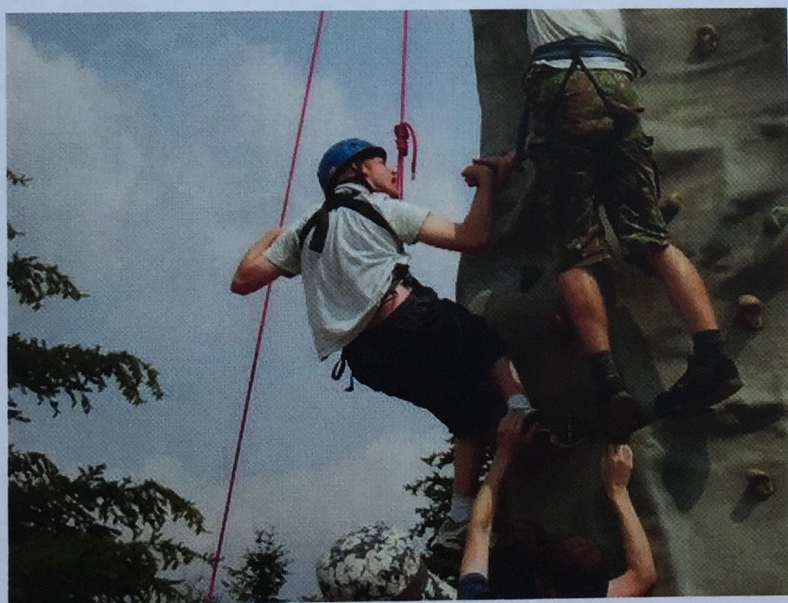
Martin walked in the lead and we were behind him. It was very dark, there was a moon and stars. It was wicked.



On Monday we went swimming again, the weather was nice, the sun was shining. In the evening we did a campfire again.

So for a campfire we'd have Coming Round the Mountain, He Jumped Without a Parachute, Cecil Was my Caterpillar, Nobody Loves me Everybody Hates Me Think I'll Go and Eat Worms, I'm A Little TeaPot, I've Caught A Little Baby Bumblebee, Little Rabbit Fru Fru, Quartermasters Stores, Oh You'll Never Go To Heaven, Have You Seen My Funky Chicken, Oggy Oggy Oggy, Everywhere We Go.oooo ... Singing in the Rain, Green Grow the Rushes Ho, and Cum Ba Ya My Lord.

On Tuesday morning we went to Alice Holt all morning. It's a forest. It's nice. It was very boiling. We looked around then we went climbing on a climbing wall. It made me sweat going up. Darren helped me get up and climb, it was wicked. Martin was watching me and taking pictures.



Next we went back to camp and went swimming. All afternoon we were in the pool. It was hot in the pool.



We also had a water fight. Martyn let us go mad! Fru Fru got me wet and Darren but we got Fru Fru. It was good. Mark got me wet.



We had another campfire and sang some more songs like "She'll be coming round the mountain":

#### *Verse 1*

*She'll be coming round the mountain when she comes  
She'll be coming round the mountain when she comes  
She'll be coming round the mountain, coming round the  
mountain*

*Coming round the mountain when she comes*

#### *Chorus*

*Singing ay i yipee yipee i  
Singing ay i yipee yipee i  
Singing ay i yipee, ay i yipee  
Ay i yipee yipee i*

#### *Verse2*



*And we'll all go down to meet her when she comes (Hi babe)*

*Verse 3*

*She'll be riding 6 white horses when she comes ( whoa back)*

*Verse 4*

*She'll be wearing silk pajamas when she comes (scratch scratch)*

*Verse 5*

*And we'll kill the old red rooster when she comes ( chop chop)*

*Verse 6*

*And we'll all have chicken and dumplings when she comes (yum yum)*

*Verse 7*

*And we'll all have indigestion when she comes (urghh urghhh)*

*Finish with chorus*

*We also sang Kum By Ya My Lord and we went to bed late.*



On Wednesday morning we went bowling at Spectrum in Guildford. It was wicked. I was team leader, Darren was under me. Em was under Darren and Tom my cousin under Em. Our team won!

We had a picnic for lunch and in the afternoon we went into Guildford. Then we went back to camp. Then we went swimming again. We had tea, I had a burger, Darren fed me.

That night I got out of my head. We had karaoke. Me and Darren and all the cooks did karaoke, we sang Come on Jeanie. I sang My Shadow by Greenday. I sang it for Darren and Em because they are my shadow.



On Thursday we went to the Ski Centre in Aldershot and slid down on doughnut rings. We were all in a line. I was next to Darren who was in a ring. Emily, Tom and Darren we all went down the slope together, Darren fell out! I laughed. We all got to the bottom at the same time. It was wicked.





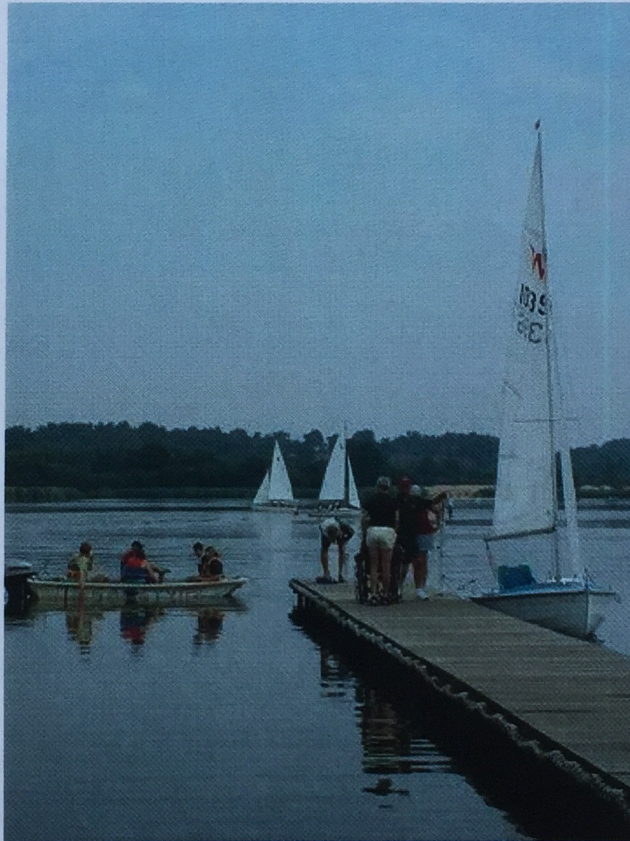
We went in the pool again on Thursday. On Thursday night we had another campfire.

On bits of days we went on the aerial runway. Fru Fru and Mark and Darren run it. This is high up in the trees on the campsite. It was wicked fun. Some idiot got me with a gun – but it was a water gun!





In the morning Camp David lifted me onto the bus. Darren sat next to me. We were going to Frensham Ponds to do sailing. Camp David came on with me and Darren and Tom. I went with my patrol. I would do it again.



Some of our meals we had done by backwoods cooking. This is cooking on a fire outside. Come on, it's camping! What do you expect?





On Friday morning every year we get together with the buddies we made during the week and have our photo taken with our buddies and our patrol and everyone. We make friendships.



On Friday afternoon we go shopping in Guildford. Now we come back to camp and get ready for the last campfire. I was a bit upset about our campfire, last campfire. We clapped Martyn and Bob for a wicked week. I mean that.



I'm not joking. On the last night our patrol slept outside. We were awake forever. We were in a circle and I was next to Darren. I kicked him in my sleep but I didn't mean it.



We got up on the last morning. We had breakfast. Mum came to get me and Tom. I said goodbye to Darren and Em. That was hard for me. I was holding back my tears. I said bye to Bob and Martin. I was holding back my tears. I got in my van. Darren helped me get my bag in and Tom's. I waved big and Tom. I cried all the way back home and Tom cried too. That night Tom and I went out for a walk and phoned Darren to say I miss him.

Another year over and another camp! Next morning I felt down because for 48 hours I was away from camp and Darren and Em. For a couple of days I just could not stop thinking about camp and all the guys and girls. I love camp always and for ever. I mean it. I will remember my camp days but I got one more year – 2007!

THE END



## About Woodlarks

Woodlarks is a campsite for disabled people set in a forest location in Farnham, Surrey. Woodlarks Camp Site enables children and adults with disabilities to have the time of their lives doing activities they may never have thought possible. Woodlarks provides a permanent camp site for people with disabilities of all ages.

Seven week-long camps are open to all comers according to age etc. For example, there is an Adventurers camp for boys aged 10 – 18 years and an Explorers camp for girls of the same age.

Mums and Dads don't need to worry about their children because they will be looked after by the volunteers that work very hard all week. All campers are well cared for, and if there is anything they are worried about, there is always someone to help. There is a nurse on site whose name is Linda.

I have been going to Woodlarks for six years since 2001 and I like it a lot. In my first year I didn't want to stay. At the end of the week, I didn't want to come home! In the second year, I met Steve and he helped me get settled in. In 2004 I met Darren and Emily. In 2005 Tom my cousin came with me. It was Tom's first year. Tom didn't like it in the beginning. By the end of the week, he liked it. In 2006 Tom came again. He liked it.

For further information about Woodlarks, you can see me as I am the co-ordinator here at Treloars and at camp. Or you could visit their website [www.woodlarks.org.uk](http://www.woodlarks.org.uk)

Jack Wright