

David Yapp – Junior Camp Participant 1968



David came away with us on Junior in 1968, and in 2017 he found us again on Facebook!

Dave in his own words...

In around 1968 I had the chance to attend a PHAB camp at sharpness in an old army or navy barracks, which I managed to find again this weekend after so many years. There is not a lot left of it now. It was a terrific location and what was on offer at the camp was great. It had literally been an army or navy camp up to about two years before we were there. It had so many facilities. It was fantastic and I cannot believe I found it again.

I will never forget what a great time I had making friends and getting to know disabled people and the great memories.

The camp was arranged through my school – Marsh Hill Junior – and I went on the summer break between being there and moving up to senior school. One other person from my school went – **Geoffrey Burrows**. I remember making friends with the disabled kids at the camp, helping look out for them, and going on trips together. One trip was to Bristol zoo. I have never forgotten the week we had and it taught me so much.

It was probably only the second time away from home in my life and, with no real idea about spending time with people that were disabled, I was surprised how much everyone could do and enjoy so many things together and they sure did enjoy some wheelchair races!

One memory that stands out is **Dan Olson** playing his guitar before bed, singing a song that still brings tears to my eyes now which was 'We Shall Overcome', which relates to Martin Luther King.

It was the best £2 my parents ever spent on me sending me to the camp, and something I will never forget for the rest of my life. It gave me a chance to realise that you should never run disabled people down as we are all the same – particularly in our thoughts!

I went on to have a great life working in the motor trade as I still do now at 60, and could never retire. I've had an active involvement in motor sport both racing and running cars for people. Probably made a £million but spent it as well. I have three great kids and three grandkids and that's about it really. At the end of the day going on that 1968 PHAB camp taught me so much about disabled people and taught me to have respect for them.

Well done on 50 years and all the people you have helped along the way. Thanks!



Day out at the zoo in 1968, which Dave remembers



Disabled and non-disabled together in 1968