



**YORKSHIRE DALES**  
National Park Authority

## Gold Award Residential Experience, Stainforth, August 2007

### What was it?

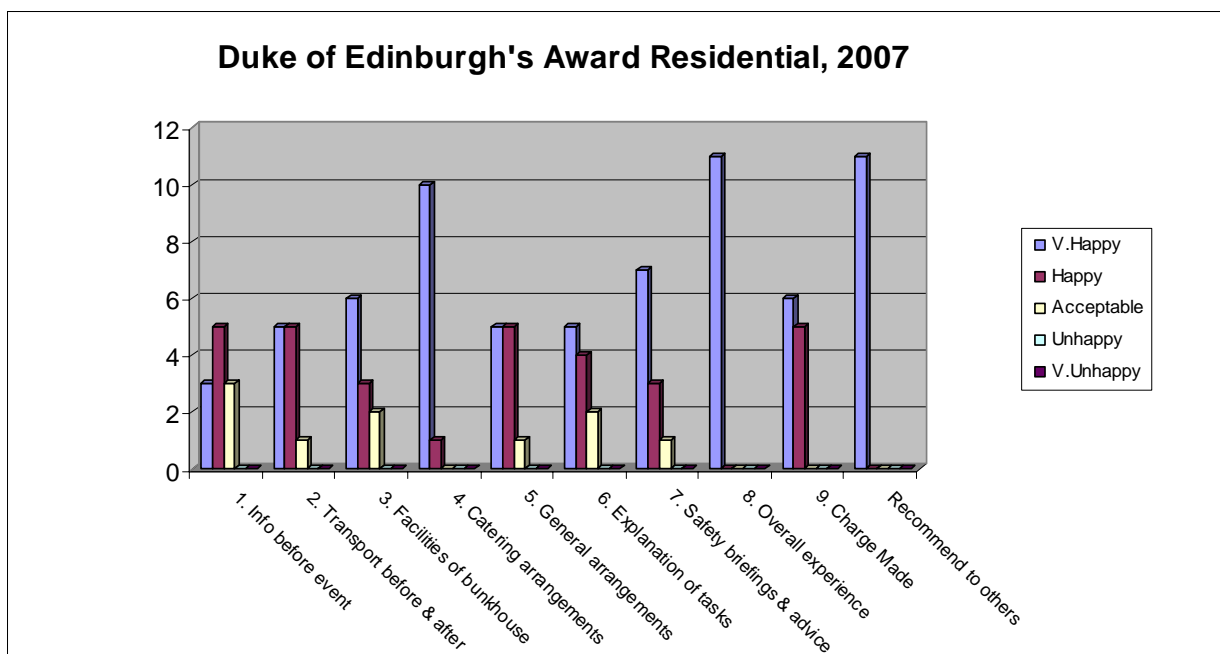
The residential event took place at the same time as the Yorkshire Dales D of E Expedition Panel's 'Open Gold' expeditions, also using Hornby Laithe bunk-house barn, near Stainforth, as their base. All participants arrived on Saturday afternoon and went walking on Sunday. The practical projects were: Monday – painting railings near Tarn House and cutting willows on Tarn Moss, at Malham Tarn, for National Trust; Tuesday – path surfacing on the 'Three Peaks' path, through Ingleborough National Nature Reserve, for Natural England; Wednesday – beech felling and cutting up at Cleatop Park Local Nature Reserve, Settle, for Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority; Thursday – removal of fallen scree from path into Gordale Scar, then other minor repair tasks for the National Park Authority (from Ragwort-pulling, to walling). Expeditioners and 'residents' shared and illustrated their experiences on Thursday evening and went home on Friday morning.

### What did participants say? 11 responses (i.e. 92%)

Chart summarises responses on

- 1 Admin. / Information provided before event
- 2 Transport arrangements before / after
- 3 Facilities / conditions at bunk-house
- 4 Catering arrangements
- 5 General arrangements during stay
- 6 Adequacy of explanation of purpose of tasks
- 7 Adequacy of safety briefings and advice
- 8 Overall residential experience
- 9 Charge made

Also: 'As it was run, would you recommend this to others?'



Which of the day-time activities should we definitely **keep in** a future programme?

tree-felling 7 painting railings 6

Which of the day-time activities should we definitely **cut from** a future programme?

clearing scree 6 'shovelling' 3 painting railings 1 'none' 1

What new, relevant, day-time activities should be added?

dry-stone walling	9	tree-planting ( <b>What, in August??</b> )	3
left blank; i.e. no suggestion	1	(included the thought that the 'conservation' work had been destructive, rather than constructive)	

How did you travel to the event?

With family, by car	8	(7 cars: Stockton / T., Ulverston, Darwen, Harrogate, Ashton \ L., Skipton x 2, inc alternating car-share),
Public transport (both ways)	1 (King's Lynn)	
With family by car, but return by public transport	1 (Burton / Tr.)	
Accepted lift, but return by public transport	1 (Burton / Tr.)	

Should evening activities have been organised?

Yes = 1 No = 5 'First evening only' = 5

Suggestions:

a quiz (etc), on the first evening, as an ice-breaker	4	football	1
more card games	1	just chillin'	1

**As it was run**, would you recommend this residential to others, if it ran next year?

Yes 11 No 0

Summary of responses to invitation to make other (helpful) comments:

very enjoyable / fantastic week / second to none	6	'Thank you' and variants	2
12 was a good group size	3	food good, but not enough of it	1
staff were friendly / nice / nice atmosphere	3	had a good laugh	1
made new friends / good friends	3	would stay another week	1
was run well	2	showed importance of team-work	1
left blank	2	main barn facilities brilliant, but other	
food good / superb cooking	2	barn v. cold; needed heating	1
need more than one drink carton for the		better boots	1
day / should have brought a water bottle	2	better spades	1
'Tony was a total beast' / 'was a chiller;		a TV that works properly	1
he should definitely be working here'	2	DVD player	1
'Adie's hair was perfect' / 'was incredibly perfect,		new darts (2 broken)	1
every day, never out of place for any		better snooker cues	1
occasion, even tree-felling. I think		ping-pong balls	1
we can all take lessons from this man.'	2	more power points	1

Some quotations:

“My Residential Experience was absolutely second to none. At first I was a little dubious, but as soon as we started to complete our set tasks, together, I felt the team bond and began to have a really good time. I love to meet new people and, because of the Residential, I have made some amazing new friends.

“The experience has taught me, even more, the importance of being able to work in a team, together, in order to be able to make a difference. It also aroused in me a new determination to succeed in all aspects of my life.

“Overall, it was fantastic and I can’t wait to get home and tell my tales. At the same time, I would happily stay for another week, especially because of the superb cooking.”

J.B., Burton on Trent

“Staff were nice; new friends were good; had good laughs.”

A.H., Darwen

“It was run well; the staff were friendly; overall a very enjoyable week.”

M.W., Stockton on Tees

“The atmosphere at Hornby Laithe was really nice and relaxed. The way things were run was smooth and slick, which meant that we could just concentrate on enjoying the experience. I’ve made some very long-lasting friends and had a fantastic week. Thanks to the organising team for making my residential very enjoyable and worthwhile.”

L.H., Burton on Trent