

Tuesday 9th April 2013

Birthdays, Sun and the Big Gun.....

A bright and sunny day dawns, the Scouts are enjoying a lie in as today Gareth Celebrating his 14th birthday. Full English for breakfast and then off to Fort Rinella (www.fortrinella.com) for a day of education? A windy bus trip to the end of the line and we were there. First stop the latrines where Amy managed to fall down the stairs, a grazed knee and a bruised pride were the only injuries, and then onto the DVD presentation escorted by a British soldier, after this it was onto the signalling platform for a demonstration of communication between forts (Morse, Semaphore, Body Movements) with detailed reasons and examples for each. Lunch was taken under the hot Malta sun in presents of the worlds only 100 tone muzzle loading gun (painted an attractive shade of pink). After lunch we joined the main tour for the day, this evolved explanation and demonstration for drilling and firing exercises used by the British army. Gareth was volunteered to fire the Martini-Henry breach loading rifle (original and the type used during the Zulu war). We also saw demonstrations of cavalierly drilling and saw the Howitzer artillery cannon fired. Overall a good visit was had by all. Homeward bound as time was ticking and some of the Scouts had started of singe around the edges so no beach... An evening meal of gammon cooked in Kinney (no Coke) was topped by ice cream cake complete with birthday candles.

The Scouts eye view:

Ross' Bit

First off, after a thankful lie in due to the fact it was Gareth's birthday, we went of to fort Rinella. Home of the 153 tone gun, the 53 extra being the part that moves the gigantic cannon from side to

side, which Will could *apparently* move... or so he said. After the fun of watching the people in full army uniform, march to a strict discipline in the boiling sun, (thank god they didn't ask for volunteers to do that), we watched a demonstration on how they communicated over distance, (watching grown men flap wildly to some one a long distance away), and a firearms demonstration. They showed off loads of varied guns, they asked if anyone wanted to volunteer to fire the newest type of gun they had. To everyone's surprised Lorna proclaimed that there was someone from the scout group who wanted to do this, *event*. It was even more of a surprise to Gareth, who was volunteered because he was, "the birthday boy". We continued to be shown more amazing stuff, like horse riding, the firing of the cannon and what happens when the fort is being attacked. After an amazing adventure, we should have gone to the beach. That did not happen because some of the girls got sunburned at the fort, (*hmph*). Overall, it was personally, one of the best days of the camp!







