

The Annual Venture Centre Outdoor Activities Trip

The Venture Centre, set in idyllic countryside at Lewaigue, Maughold is one of the Island's greatest educational assets. It is well organised and run by friendly, fully-qualified and very professional instructors. We have been taking older Buchan children there on residential courses, during the Summer Term for many years, to give them a wide range of opportunities and experiences.

2008 was the Venture Centre's 25th year of operation. In that time they have run courses for over 25,000 young people. Their activity programmes are tried and tested, and ideally suited to young people who want to do something different and more challenging. Every member of the group has something to gain from their visit and each individual is helped to fulfil their full potential in a safe, supervised environment.

Each group's programme is taken from the following list of activities:

Orienteering, archery, air rifle shooting, assault course, abseiling, climbing, canoeing, kayaking, coastal walk, gorge walking, sailing, ropes and poles, raft building, team building exercises, campcraft, off road cycling, wide game, aerial runway and map work.

In summer 2008, for example, fifty-two children from the top two years at The Buchan, accompanied by Miss Ashton, Mrs Ilott, Mr McGregor, Tara, Scott and Mr Foster, took part in a school week of exhausting, but very rewarding team activities. The children were fully involved in activities from 9am until at least 8pm daily. The week finished with a competition to comprehensively test team coordination and initiative.

The Venture Centre Instructors were once again very complimentary about the behaviour, enthusiasm and achievements of the Buchan children. At 4pm on the Friday happy but extremely tired children were collected by their parents. Each one had encountered new, worthwhile and often exhilarating experiences, developed new skills and increased their self-confidence. All of the staff survived.

LINK: <http://www.adventure-centre.co.uk/>

John Foster, September 2008.