



The Children's Centre  
Children, Young People and Families First

Date 19 August 2010



Pictured – The Year 5 pupils from Anagh Coar School, their teacher and three Playworkers and “Wizard”

## Educational Camp Fun!

Dam building, river walking, bug hunting, hiking, exploring, rope swinging, den building, kite making, fire making, cooking, water play, modelling, storytelling, ghost hunting, camping, laughing and sharing good times and memories that will last a life time! It doesn't sound like a normal day at school does it? Well that's because it's not – welcome to The Children's Centre's first Educational Camp!

On the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2010 a group of Year 5 pupils from Anagh Coar School, along with their class teacher, Miss Kennaugh and 3 members of staff from The Children's Centre's playwork team set off for two days and one night of camping fun, delivered in The Children's Centre's own unique way! The first port of call for the excited group was a walk around Sulby Reservoir which in some cases pushed the youngsters to their own limits and helped them to overcome their fear of heights! Having climbed the embankments around the reservoir, the children returned to the water's edge to skim stones and to find out more about how the reservoir and dam are used.

A team building activity of building a stone bridge across a stream followed, in which the children were split into 3 teams. It became apparent to the young people that they had built dams and they were able to further understand why the water began to rise behind their walls. They then had a further walk back to the dam and at its summit enjoyed their lunch and shouting down the valley to discover just how amazingly their voices echoed!

After lunch the youngsters were transported to Sulby Glen for a walk down to their campsite where they would be sleeping for the night. At the entrance to the campsite the children explored the Native American Ti-Pi and loved having the rope swings to play on. The children were then shown by a playworker how to light a fire using a flint. The children were encouraged to further learn about fire by helping to cook their



## The Children's Centre

*Children, Young People and Families First*

dinner on the BBQ. The rest of the evening was spent with activities such as fire sculpting, sharing ghost stories, light writing, lantern making, toasting marshmallows and many more. The evening was called to a close at 11pm with all involved ready for sleep to help recover from all of the day's activities.

The next day started with a breakfast of juice, cereal and pain au chocolat at 7am! After the ghost stories of the previous night, the youngsters wanted to explore the ruined farmhouse over the road from camp discussing what it and the derelict equipment may have been used for.

The children then returned to camp and spent the morning further exploring the elements through various projects that had been set up around the camp, such as den building, bug and wild flowers collecting and building an irrigation system. The children learnt all about the rich Manx countryside and the history of those who had worked the landscape for generations. "They all learnt lots of different things without even realising they were learning and had a good time doing it" said Miss Kennaugh their class teacher. The children were eventually reluctantly returned to school, tired but very happy!

Playworker, Chris Gregory, went into school a couple of days later to gauge what the children had learnt, and all the youngsters were presented with a copy of a DVD of their time at camp along with a portfolio of pictures. Chris said, "Adults often put little emphasis on the importance of children's play, yet it is one of the fundamentals to positive child development. Educational camps were set up to encourage children to direct their own learning through play. What the children learnt at the camp about the environment, the elements and themselves is immeasurable and there is no doubt in the minds of the children, parents and all involved that the camp was a massive success."

The whole camp was sponsored by Irish Nationwide, Carlton Freegard of Irish Nationwide said "We are so proud to be involved in such an exciting and interactive educational camp; it was brilliant to see all the children having fun and learning without realising that they were!"

One parent said "We really hope that you are able to continue running these camps as we're sure lots of other children would benefit from them – living in Douglas and without transport at the moment we are rarely able to get out into the countryside so it was great for our child to be able to run freely and explore in a safe environment."

One child at the camp said "It was the best trip I have ever been on" and based on the success of the camp, The Children's Centre have plans to run further camps next year. If you would like further information about the camps or about any of the work that The Children's Centre does, please contact 676076 or visit [www.thechildrenscentre.org.im](http://www.thechildrenscentre.org.im)

Ends

For further information please contact Lorna Trevethan on 01624 631919



# The Children's Centre

Children, Young People and Families First

## **Notes to Editor**

The Children's Centre develops, manages and pioneers a variety of community initiatives and services aimed at enabling children, young people and families to realise their full potential. We are an independent Manx charity – undertaking our own projects and working with others – to put children, young people and families first.

The Children's Centre Ltd  
Registered charity number 921

## **About our Services**

As the Isle of Man's leading children's charity, The Children's Centre works directly with over 1,000 children, young people and families each week. We run 15 vital services across the Island, each working to address a different recognised need. We put children and young people first by offering childcare, play, adventure activities, learning opportunities, residential care and support services to enable them to realise their full potential for the future.

For families we offer support to parents from pregnancy through to dealing with the teenage years. Often little attention is paid to preparing people for this vital role, yet parents are key to giving children a happy and stable childhood. We provide first class services that offer practical advice on a wide range of issues such as: divorce; contact; child behaviour and budgeting; whilst at the same time offering a helping hand, and the opportunity to meet other parents.

Safe and progressive communities give everyone the freedom to flourish and are vital to the wellbeing of children and their families. Our work in communities throughout the Isle of Man aims to ensure that the needs of all children, young people and families are put first, regardless of where they live.

## **Press Enquiries**

The Fundraising Team  
The Children's Centre  
94 Woodbourne Road  
Douglas  
IM2 3AS

Tel: 01624 676076

E mail: [fundraising@thechildrenscentre.org.im](mailto:fundraising@thechildrenscentre.org.im)