



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

30th July 2010

First Children's Week goes down a treat!

Last week, the Isle of Man saw its first Children's Week. Similar days or week are held in 54 countries across the world, but 2010 was a first for the Isle of Man. Lots of different events took place across the Island from 17th – 23rd July; from BBQs to concerts, to BMX racing and cake sales.

Children's Week was kicked off with The Children's Centre's Dance-A-Thon at Vagabonds Rugby Club on Saturday 17th July. This was a really fun event, even if a little damp – Represent Dance Company and Cookie the Clown put on a really good show! A torrent of water fights was unleashed from Douglas and headed to Castletown, Peel and Ramsey; it was 'Smoothie Saturday' at Cafe Laare with special offers on fruit filled beverages; the music group Bree were busking in Peel as part of the Yn Crunniaght and raised money for the National Autistic Society; and, the Venture Centre ran a taster session. On Sunday, Kirk Michael Methodist Church had a pirate themed Family Fun Praise, complete with a treasure hunt and a horn pipe jig; and, the Lion's Club sponsored BMX racing at Mooragh Park, with the rain holding off just long for 35 children to show off their biking skills.

On Monday 19th July, the Rounders Tournament in Castletown was postponed due to the rain, but this didn't stop the Onchan Entertainers taster session and the Ramsey Beach Bash! The Douglas and Western Neighbourhood Policing Team were out and about visiting Ballacloan and Willaston Schools, and Kirk Michael Badgers. Tuesday was The Children's Centre's 'Cakes for Kids' fundraising event which saw cake sales going on across the island – this has so far raised over £700! The Community Bus was stationed at the NSC with healthy eating advice from Health Visitors and School Nurses and advice on staying active from the skipping lady. Kirk Michael School hosted a 'Summer Gala Concert' featuring the Intermediate Youth Orchestra and the Young Magicians of Mann.

Wednesday was 'Warm Coffee' day at Cafe Laare; The Children's Centre After School and Holiday Club held an Open evening; and, Laxey Youth Club had a 'Proud to be Laxey Kids' Beach BBQ. On Thursday, the Community Bus was parked outside



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Cronk y Berry School, packed with healthy snacks such as bananas, apples and grapes – there was also a queue to jump into the Double Dutch ropes! Manx National Heritage put on a 'Sunset tour of Peel Castle', with a real life Castle Guard (complete with armour and weapons); and, the Youth Club Beach Clean and BBQ at Hango Hill made a real difference to the beach at Derbyhaven, and was good fun! Friday was Frappe Friday at Cafe Laare and the Western and Eastern Neighbourhood Policing Team dropped into the Philip Christian Centre with 'Westy', and dropped into Laxey and Onchan Youth Clubs.

Throughout the week, Douglas Neighbourhood Policing Team organised 'CSI: Isle of Man', crime scene investigation events. Sergeant Wendy Barker said "We staged CSI events at St Ninian's, Park Road, and Ballakermeen High Schools. The students spent a morning learning investigation techniques to solve a crime, eventually identifying the offender and making an arrest. Assistance was also offered by the Police Dog unit. It was fun, like all the events in Children's Week, but it was also about building relationships with the children, and showing that the police also offer support."

Children's Week has been spearheaded by leading charity, The Children's Centre, to celebrate children and to raise awareness of issues affecting their well-being and development. With an amazing variety of events, Children's Week 2010 has been a great success. Children's Week Coordinator, Chrissy Cannell says "This year has been the start of something great! With so many different organisations involved, and with the support of the Department of Education and Children and the Isle of Man Constabulary, it can only go from strength to strength and will only get bigger and better in the years to come. A massive thank you to everyone who got involved and supported Children's Week!"

For more information, and to see all the pictures, or to suggest something for next year, check out Children's Week on facebook or contact Chrissy Cannell, childrensweek@thechildrenscentre.org.im or 01624 631918.



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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

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