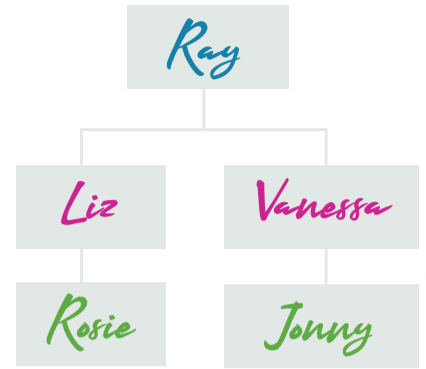


ONE FAMILY THREE GENERATIONS *of Outward Bound*



Ray's Story

1965

“

It wasn't in the eighteenth century, despite what my grandchildren think! It was the spring of 1965. I was desperate to get away; out of the big city, and on a big adventure.

”

1970

Reflecting with his family on a Zoom call recently, Ray Lane, Moray Sea School alumnus, recalled challenging formative years. However, the outdoors gave him his escape: “I had already done DofE, I loved camping too. I was 19 and needed focus; I hitchhiked all the way to Burghead!”

A place came up with the Birmingham Association of Boys Club, so he jumped at the chance. On the course, Ray flourished, “I knew I had been sponsored, I didn't want to let anybody down, least of all myself. The course was four weeks long, there were 13 of us, 15-22 in age, and we all shared a Nissen hut”.

1980



1985

1988

Liz's Story

Ray's eldest daughter, Liz, attended Aberdyfi in 1988, although at first she may not have been as keen as her father!

“

Mum and Dad just told me: 'You're going to Wales for three weeks!'. I was only 14 and terrified! Dad said it would be great for me and would do me 'the world of good!'. Talk about feeling pressured.

”

1990

1991

Vanessa's Story

It was Liz's experiences that were the catalyst for her younger sister, Vanessa, to attend a course in Ullswater three years later, in 1991. “I was also told I had to go as well!”, Vanessa recalls: “I was nervous, but looking forward to it. I had seen what fun Liz had; she came back so full of passion for the experience that I really wanted to go too. I was 16, I had the time of my life, the mountain climbing, and the camping were amazing. I felt all grown up going on my own and when I came home, I felt like I was able to cope



Ray explains his fellow course mates were from all walks of life, and they quickly discovered the power of teamwork, setting aside focus on personal and individual success.

Ray recalls the final expedition as if it was yesterday: “...beautiful snow covered mountains all around us. Our instructor showed us how to slide down the mountain on our cagoules, using the ice axe as a brake! It was exhilarating. Our exhaustion was forgotten. I learnt that you may feel tired and miserable, but we all have much more resilience than we think, and we can work through hardship”.

Ray describes his time at Moray as ‘the highlight of my life’. “After Outward Bound, I felt like there was nothing I couldn't tackle, and I was willing to take risks. I am convinced that my Outward Bound experiences helped me when I applied to the University Air Squadron and for roles in my career”. It was, therefore, perhaps no surprise when Ray suggested to his daughters they could follow in his footsteps!

Liz recalls the trepidation she felt traveling to the Welsh coast: “They made Gran and Grandad meet me in Birmingham when I changed trains! When I returned to the station three weeks later, they had to drag me off! I wanted to stay with my new friends. I wanted the journey to continue”.

On the call with her dad, Liz explains that she “left for Outward Bound full of fear but came back full of adventure”.



with anything that came my way. I love that I had shared experiences with Dad and Liz; we had things to compare and laugh about”.

Ray's commitment to paying forward the benefits of a course, extended beyond his own family. When Ray and his wife moved to Bredon in 1979, he discovered a local Outward Bound Association, a group of people who fundraised to send local young people on a course. After many years on the committee, Ray was invited to become treasurer: "Although I wasn't an ideal candidate for the role, I accepted the challenge, because I believe that any youngster who wants to, should have the opportunity to go on an Outward Bound course".



THANKS TO RAY'S VISION AND HARD WORK, 252 young people have been sponsored by the Bredon group so far, including daughters Liz and Vanessa.

FAST FORWARD 31 YEARS

2022

Jonny's (Vanessa's son) and Rosie's Story (Liz's daughter)

Jonny, Vanessa's son, and Rosie, Liz's daughter, are in Ray's kitchen, checking their train is on time and that they have all the necessary kit packed for their 14 day Outward Bound Summer Adventure at Ullswater. Rosie remembers feeling the nerves her Mum had felt, not necessary for the challenges ahead, but carrying on the family tradition:

“

It's funny thinking back, Mum had actually used the same words as Grandad 'it'll do you the world of good!'. She was right though, I made friends with people who quickly became close. I thought that was so unique, we bonded so quickly, encouraged each other and egged each other on during activities.

”



Rosie acknowledges that Outward Bound enabled a journey of self-discovery: "I was 16 and probably at a vulnerable stage in life. Asking those questions of 'who am I?' and 'can I do this?'. Well, I soon discovered I can, I am capable, and I will give it a go. I had the attitude of if I fail, I will learn for next time".

Jonny quickly became a leader on his course:

“

It was nerve-wracking, but I was excited to go with Rosie and for the activities, but it became so much more than that. You learn teamwork in a huge way. You can't finish until everyone has finished. You can't leave people behind. We all took something from it. It was good fun and definitely worth it.

”

Vanessa beams with pride as Jonny recalls a story of carrying a teammate's rucksack who was struggling, although Jonny insists the opportunity of sharing their packed lunch was a motivation!

Reflection

It was clear the Lanes are a close-knit family, this shines through, and a shared Outward Bound experience is a golden thread to their togetherness. Ray beams with pride when speaking with his daughters and grandchildren, hearing that they enjoyed Outward Bound and benefited from it.

Vanessa reflects that her dad and sister had paved the way for the family's deep connection to Outward Bound, and how it had almost become a right of passage: "I may have attended a different centre, but I knew it was a shared experience, a 'family treasure'. I felt this even more when Jonny and Rosie came home and spoke of their adventures too. We chatted for hours in the garden when they came back, laughing together, hearing of the experiences. It's like we were bound tighter together by Outward Bound".

The impact Outward Bound has had on the Lane family is clear; we hope to give this opportunity to even more young people this summer.

PAYING IT FORWARD

Outward Bound believes that all young people should have the right to an outdoor residential, so they can become strong, resilient and curious, and ready for the challenges of life. This summer 1,500 young people aged between 10-22 years old will attend an Outward Bound course ranging from 5 to 19 days at our centres across England, Scotland and Wales. They will be introduced to a world of adventure, in nature's playground, through activities like gorge scrambling, rock climbing, cutter sailing and canoeing.

This year, the bursary requirement is £350,000, we are once again reaching out to our Alumni to ask if you will consider contributing to the Alumni Adventure Fund. If you would like to, and are able to donate to this year's campaign, your investment will help remove perceived limitations young people have of themselves, as they embark on their own transformative adventure.

There are **Bronze**, **Silver** and **Gold** levels of sponsorship, however, and this is really important for the campaign to be successful, every single donation will make a difference.

This is former Outward Bound participants paying it forward for the new generation, creating a new community of Outward Bounders.

Thank you.