

What place does adventure have
in our future?



THE FISHERMEN KNOW THE SEA IS
DANGEROUS, AND THE STORM TERRIBLE,
BUT THEY HAVE NEVER FOUND THESE
DANGERS SUFFICIENT REASON FOR
REMAINING ASHORE

VINCENT VAN GOGH

For me, some my most rewarding, rich and vibrant experiences have taken place as exciting adventures.

Perhaps a new job, going to live abroad, paddling or climbing trips.

Our context within contemporary society?

Change, change , change

Ambiguity

Volatility

Uncertainty

Regulation

Communication

No communication

Digital

Global

Cost effective

Faster

Leaner

What many perceive to be a society increasingly becoming influenced by a mass media steering us towards safety and security.

At work we have to navigate the realities of health and safety, regulation, deal with constant change, face up to risk ,create meaning, fulfilment and energy ... great potential for exciting adventures or perhaps a scary, stressful ,dull or just boring place to exist.

“You’ve got to be prepared to take some risks, they might be physical, or financial or business–related and whether you’re an artist or a mountaineer it’s good to get out of your comfort zone and do something different...

But at the moment we have a society that seems frightened of doing anything that might be dangerous.”

Chris Bonnington

ad·ven·ture

noun \əd-ˈven-čər\ : an exciting or dangerous experience

Full Definition of *ADVENTURE*

1

a: an undertaking usually involving danger and unknown risks

b: the encountering of risks <the spirit of *adventure*>

2

an exciting or remarkable experience <an *adventure* in exotic dining>

3

an enterprise involving financial risk

(Oxford)

Adventure can be seen as a bold undertaking, with into unknown outcomes. Finding the right path in today's **VUCA** world is certainly challenging and demanding .

Volatile

Uncertain

Complex

Ambiguous

‘An **adventure** is an exciting or unusual experience. It may also be a bold, usually risky undertaking, with an uncertain outcome.

Adventures may be activities with some potential for physical danger such as skydiving, mountain climbing, river rafting or participating in extreme sports.

The term also broadly refers to any enterprise that is potentially fraught with physical, financial or psychological risk, such as a business venture, a love affair, or other major life undertakings’

(Wikipedia)

Having given it much thought, my understanding of adventure is an experience that provides an opportunity to step forwards into something worthwhile with feelings of excitement and self doubt.

Part of you wants to retreat to safety while a greater part pushes you forward into the unknown. Inherent in the richness is the satisfaction of overcoming an internal struggle; having made the move it becomes an internal resource to be used in the future.

These experiences are found all the time within work and everyday life, we can choose to step into the adventure or remain safe. Sometimes we have a need to stay safe , but part of us shrinks if we stay there all the time eroding our confidence to fulfil our true potential. You know what is required, the acid test of often having the courage and support to do it.

By providing opportunities for people to experience adventure we provide people with inner resources, knowing they have the strength and strategies to meet future challenges. We invite conversations that explore risk, challenge and real achievement.

Who am I to say what an adventure is for others? Sometimes I can create adventure using the outdoors, I suspect some experiences innately have the potential for adventure while others do not.

Furthermore, as many authors suggest it's more about how we do and view things, than what we do..

Helen Keller, author, political rights activist and lecturer, known around the world as a symbol of courage in the face of overwhelming odds steers us away from adventure as an activity, to a way of being in the world.

Helen inspires us to live life to the fullest, including work, and not letting our need for security inhibit our human experience.

“Security is mostly superstition. It does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it.

Avoiding danger in the long run is no safer than outright exposure.

Life is either a daring adventure or it is nothing at all.”

Helen Keller

All too often adventure is seen to be represented by people participating in extreme feats which we can't relate to, author William Gordon connects real adventure to how we play out our lives...

“I believe that all of us have the capacity for one adventure inside us, but great adventure is facing responsibility day after day.”

William Gordon (pen name of Ralph Conner)

Adventure as an inner resource

“You have plenty of courage, I am sure,” answered Oz. “All you need is confidence in yourself. There is no living thing that is not afraid when it faces danger. The true courage is in facing danger when you are afraid, and that kind of courage you have in plenty.”

L. Frank Baum (Wizard of Oz)

As a state of mind we can call on

“I have found adventure in flying, in world travel, in business, and even close at hand... Adventure is a state of mind – and spirit.”
Jacqueline Cochran

As a mechanism for self discovery/mastery

*“It is only in adventure that some people
succeed in knowing themselves – in
finding themselves”*

Andre Gide



Confidence to take on new challenges



Viewing life as an
exciting journey



Shared experiences



Finding support when you need it



Connecting



Reflection



Creativity



Determination to keep going



Sharing with friends

Adventure as a development medium is no less relevant today than it ever has been, some would say more so.

Perhaps we need to find new approaches in sales and delivery and at the same time remembering and utilising the old.

Adventure is stretching yourself;
mentally, physically or culturally.
It is about doing what you do not
normally do, pushing yourself and
doing it to the best of your ability.

You do not need to be an elite athlete, expertly trained, or rich to have an adventure.

You don't need to fly to the other
side of the planet to find challenge
or fulfillment.

And, you probably can't go on huge adventures all the time. We all have to pragmatically juggle the commitments and constraints of our "real lives".

True adventure is close to home in the challenges we face, how we work together, support each other and reflected in what we achieve, and how we live our lives.

As with anything of great importance
there's often more questions than
answers, and much conversation to
be to held.

Some the of following might be worth
considering:

What place does adventure have in
your future?

How would you like your adventure
to unfold?

How does adventure relate to your work?

How does adventure fit in within
your modern context?

What created your most powerful
adventure?

And what about the one you're
about to have?

What is it that you want?