

Holiday pleasure is doubled

by **Jonathan Isaacs**
AN extra 1,000 children from deprived backgrounds will have a holiday in Gower next year thanks to an ambitious scheme by the Manpower Services Commission's community programme.

Work started this week on renovating the St. Madoc youth club in Llanmadoc, where 30,000 socially, economically and physically handicapped

people from all over Britain have enjoyed holidays since 1945.

Each year 1,000 youngsters have joined the club's facilities and the work means double that number will have holidays there in future.

A total of 35 people will be hard at work improving the camp's facilities under the MSC's community programme which gives work to the long-term unemployed.

The site is formerly known as Hills Farm and was donated in 1945 by the owners, the late

Mr. and Mrs. James Burr.

They wanted a youth camp which would promote Christian youth work in churches, clubs and youth groups.

Deteriorated

The camp enables youngsters to be brought together at a price which they can afford and take part in various activities.

The site covers 70 acres on the North Gower coast and the buildings consist of dormitories, a chapel and ancillary buildings.

But over the years these have all deteriorated, hence the pressing need for the renovation work.

The project is being run by Swansea City Council with MSC funding.

Project manager, Mr. Colin Morgan, said: "Nearly all the accommodation dates from 1945 and the beds were in particularly bad repair."

"We're sending in a team to renovate the site so that we should be able to double the number of youngsters it can accommodate. At present

1,000 pass through the camps.

Charges for board and bed in the last 39 years have only been enough to provide essentials, with little left over for maintenance.

The CP scheme means that the dormitories, kitchen, dining room, furniture and bedding will be renovated and the grounds will be landscaped with better provision made for the handicapped.

The camp chapel will also be renovated and here the weather has caused some deterioration to the stained glass windows.