

ESTIMATE FOR FRANCE TRIP MAY 1991

PLATT BRIDGE YOUNG WOMEN'S GROUP

Numbers : 6 Young Women, 6 children and 2 workers

Estimate Costs :

	£
Camp Site (includes facilities for children) 1990 price	640.00
Mini-bus Hire	130.00
Diesel (before oil crisis)	250.00
Insurance bus	100.00
Insurance people	168.00
Food (£5.00 per day adult)	400.00
Activities (£25.00 per person)	200.00
Ferry Crossing Bus (1990 prices)	65.00
Ferry Crossing Adults (£39 x 8)	312.00

	2265.00

Expected Income

	£
£25.00 per person	200.00
Already fund raised	500.00
Aim to raise	500.00
Residential money Platt Bridge	350.00

	1550.00

Balance = £2265.00 - 1550 = £715.00

Aim to raise balance of finance through International Aid
Women Workers to be approached also.

YOUNG WOMEN'S GROUP
BASED AT
PLATT BRIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICE CENTRE

MONIES TO DATE

	£
International Budget	500
Platt Bridge Residential Money	350
Young Women's Deposits	150
Money in Building Society	900

TOTAL	£1900
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FUTURE FUND RAISING EVENTS

EVERYONE Tuesday 27 November 1990 Tramlines Jumble Sale 4 pm - 8.00 pm
EVERYONE Saturday 8 December 1990 Christmas Fayre 10 am - 4.00 pm
EVERYONE Tuesday 18 December 1990 Christmas Bingo 7 pm - 8.30 pm
Bingo Raffle at least £5 worth each
Raffle at Riverside Date ??
Raffle at Women's workers do

DEFINITE LIST

Kerry + 3
Diane + 1
Tracy + 1
Joanne
Michelle
Julie + 1

RESERVE LIST

Hilary + 1
Theresa
Fiona + 2
Denise + 1
Marie + 2
Belinda Dutton
Michelle
Tracy
Helen
Julie Bantow

On Wednesday we meet at 11.30 to fill booking forms and set a date for going to travel agents. Can you please get a message to me if you know you are not going to be able to make it or not.

At last Wednesday's session it was agreed that the France trip should consist of young women who have been part of the young women's group and who attend regularly - Also everyone must try to attend ALL fund raising events, if unable to come let Marie or Maureen know as it makes others feel like they are being used as mugs!!!!

It was agreed that anyone who comes to the group can be put on the reserve lists - the people who have been coming longest, first and so on ... It was spelt out that they would have to take part in all coming fund raising events, fully understanding that they may not get a place. Although this may cause problems if they attend all fund raising events, while individuals on the definite list ARE NOT GETTING THEIR FINGER OUT?????

YOUNG WOMENS' GROUP

It was July 1989 and we were at Natlands in the Lake District when Marie Brookfield and Maureen Edwards suggested that we went abroad for a holiday, as most of us hadn't been abroad before and it would be a completely new experience. So we all decided that France was as good a place as any and when we got home, all the hard slog started. We had Prize Bingos, Jumble Sales, Raffles at Riverside and wrote nice pleading letters to different charities and this is the end result two years later.

19th May 1991

It is Sunday night and we were off to sunny France in the morning. It is the first time I have been abroad and our young women are the first group to take children, so I have packed everything bar the kitchen sink. I'm more nervous than the rest because my three girls are real little terrors and I'm hoping and praying that they're good.

Monday 20th May

Rise and shine, it's time to go, so I get us dressed and made our packed lunch. We all met at the Neighbourhood Service Centre at 10.00am and we set off at 10.30am. It was a long journey to Portsmouth, we made a stop at Birmingham, the kids were all right, we expected uproar with the kids, but they were o.k.

We landed at the dock at 8.30pm and we boarded the ferry. Everyone was a bit nervous but it was all right.

We landed at the campsite at 3.30pm, the sun was roasting, it was beautiful. That day we were all too tired to do anything, so we just had a look around.

Tuesday 21st May

We all stayed on the Campsite and enjoyed the sun and the swimming pools, we had a laugh, we had great fun. We played games all night, they were great fun too.

Wednesday 22nd May

We had a trip out to Vannes. It was a little village and it was great. We went into a cafe and ordered 10 sandwiches thinking they would be normal sandwiches, but they came to the table, with 10 massive long cob sandwiches! We were ashamed, we had to ask the waiter to wrap most of them up to take back to the campsite, then we took the kids to the pools, they loved it.

Thursday 23rd May

We decided to go to the beach in Penestin, the beach was covered in seaweed and the sand was rough, but the kids really enjoyed it. Diane and me went to see if we could get ice-cream for the kids, we found a cafe bar, so we went in, talk about hard work, we couldn't get the woman to understand what we were saying, so I just held out my hand and she took the money.

Friday 24th May

We all went to LeBaule, to look round the shops, it was really dear. We went into the shops and had a look round, I bought the kids some

hats and Nicola decided to chew a hole in hers!. We all went back to the campsite.

Saturday 25th May

We went to the beach and it was lovely and hot, we were all, sunburnt by this time, so we all played games and had lots of fun with the kids.

Sunday 26th May

We went to the market and had a look round, we all bought some cherries, we were looking at the prices of clothes, it was very dear. Then we all decided to have a bar-b-cue, so we got all the stuff for it, then we went back to the campsite and made our bar-b-cues they were good, but filling.

Monday 27th May

Marie and Maureen went out for the day, so we all did what we wanted to do, because Marie and Maureen deserved a break from us and the kids. We went to the pool, sunbathed and played games, then we went to the supermarket and got some shopping.

Tuesday 28th May

I asked Marie and Maureen would they mind the kids while me and Diane went for a meal, but they had to come with us because they needed to cash travellers cheques, so there was 5 of us who went for the meal altogether. We had great fun and the meal was lovely.

Wednesday 29th May

We all went for a meal in this restaurant, it was beautiful, the kids really enjoyed it, because there was mirrors on the walls, the meal was great.

Thursday 30th May

We went to a Hyper-Market and got all our things for a packed lunch, and we had a look round. Diane spotted some cream cakes and she bought them, so we sat in the van and ate two each, they were lovely. When we got back, we all packed our things ready to come home. We loaded the roof rack and cleaned our tents, so when we get up, we were ready for going. We set off on our way home. We got home at 1.0'clock.

Friday 31st May

Well it's 5.30am in the morning and we're just getting off the ferry and I'm not looking forward to travelling all that way home! But I know I'm nearer to my pillow, which I have missed more than words can say!!

A FINAL WORD

Thanks Marie and Maureen for the best holiday ever, which most of the young women and kids, especially mine, will never forget, because you are two very special LADIES.

TO: TONY TAYLOR
ADVISORY TEAM

PLATT BRIDGE YOUNG WOMENS' GROUP PROPOSED
VISIT TO FRANCE (BRITTANY)

Platt Bridge Young Womens' Group have undertaken many activities together, on occasion against the odds, we have managed to offer young women various opportunities, but we have been left in no doubt, that because young women are also young mothers, they are and continue to be, excluded from a wide range of Youth Service provision e.g. the full range of outdoor pursuits, expeditions and exchanges.

The Young Womens' Group in Platt Bridge have been together for three years, as with most groups their natural progression is to look at new challenges and opportunities. They have read with interest reports about various groups throughout the Borough undertaking exchanges and expeditions to other countries. The young women themselves have undertaken some investigations into the possibility of such a chance to visit another Country for themselves. They have contacted British Youth Exchange, who forwarded names of Young Womens(Groups who have been involved in exchanges but none including kids (too many kids). They have spoken to Marilyn about the visit to France from Double Seven. We have received one enquiry from a group in Barcelona and we are at the present time following this up. We are also exploring the links Wigan has with Angers. But, we are not deluding ourselves that our happy delegation, including too many kids, may not be at the top of a lot of peoples' lists and want the extra responsibility of planning a schedule to include kids.

We could call ourselves a real 'expedition' if we hitched side-cars onto the side of bikes for Gemma, Lauren and Gary and towed baby Rachel on a skate-board! (to name but a few).

Another option to enable the young women to experience another country and culture which would provide good child care facilities and where children would be made welcome would be to use one of the recognised tour operators, this could be the best and cheapest way. Our concerns with this are that this would then be viewed as "just" a holiday and then would not fit into the criteria laid down in most organisations where the young women could apply for services funding.

Since the idea of going to France was first put forward, the young women have thrown themselves into fund raising. After five Bingo Nights, A Christmas Fayre, Name the Doll, and raffles, we have raised the grand total of £177.00. One of our problems is that we are trying to raise money in an area where there is no money and we are in competition with other well established groups.

In Platt Bridge throughout the three years we have endeavoured to work in an innovative way with young women and have had to take in our stride the extra work of organising and coping with children e.g. the

holiday at Natlands involved taking an extra mini-bus full of equipment for kids, extra meals, nappies etc., On a day to day level we have kids constantly under foot. I think it is fair to say that the young women would not have been able to take part in the various activities if we didn't organise in such a way.

I am left feeling frustrated, and angry that groups engaging in exchange expeditions are legitimately able to tap into resources but from my position receive more recognition and respect, while the young women would be seen to be having only a "holiday".

Up till now we have tried to cope with the situation feeling as if it's our problem but in retrospect, this coping is actually coluding with the oppression of working-class young women.

The Youth Service has a Curriculum Statement, there have been lengthy discussions about equal opportunities. We would appreciate ideas and support from the Advisory Team, that can bring about changes, and enable young women who are young mothers to have the same opportunities as other young people.

Originally the young women envisaged going to France in September 1990. We have now reweived the situation and feel it would be more realistic to plan the trip for the Spring of 1991. We have already explained some of the reasons, one other reason is that from September until Christmas a lot of the workers and young womens' energy was put into fighting for the post in Platt Bridge. The young women losing out yet again.

MARIE BROOKFIELD
MARY ATKINSON
MAUREEN EDWARDS

PENESTIN. FRANCE. 1991

2 Workers (Wonderful, marvellous, super beings!!!)
6 dynamic young women
6 adoring children.

Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st May.

All the young women met up at 10.am at the N.S.C. but the youth workers were late. Set off about 11, and nipped to Wigan for Travellers Cheques. Finally set off at 12.0'clock. The trip to Portsmouth took just over 6 hours, arriving at the clock at about 6.30pm, we had three stops on the way. Had a quick drink at the dock, then went through passport control. Got on to the ferry (Duchess Ann) at about 8.15pm and made our way to our seats. Had a good tea on the ferry, then tried to get to sleep, kids got off to sleep o.k. but not us adults. Couldn't get a comfy position and it was freezing. Up nice and early, boat a bit rocky and was sick. Had a good breakfast. Boat docked at 9.30am our time, and 10.30am in French time. All climbed back in the bus, and drove through passport control with no problem. Drive to camp seemed to take forever, stopped a couple of times for directions. Reached camp about 4.00pm and was showed our tents. Threw kids in tents and unloaded the bus. Had our tea, settled in our tents. Had a quick look round camp, then put kids to bed. Had a play on trampoline and climbed into bed at 11.30pm.

Wednesday 22nd

Got up at about 9.00am and made breakfast. Weather really nice. Got myself ready and went to sample the pools. Three really good pools, but fairly cold - nice and refreshing though. Stayed round the pool all day. At night gave kids a little party, because four of them had their birthdays before we came. Got them all settled in bed, then we all sat down to a Spaghetti bolognese tea. Washed and tidied up, then went to play on trampoline, and had a drink in the bar. Climbed in bed 12.mid.

Thursday 23rd

Got up, washed and had breakfast. All put our dinner up. Got in the minibus at 11am and headed for Penestin beach. Another glorious day of sunshine. Got ourselves settled on the beach. Kids loved it, making sandcastles. Sea was a bit dirty and absolutely freezing. In afternoon weather was too unbearable, so decided to go back to the camp. Went and sat round the pool, and had a good dip. Back to tent for tea, then got kids settled down. Few went to bar, some of us stayed behind and played rugby. Then had a good game of dare - was a laugh. Went to bed at 12.mid.

Friday 24th

All woke up early, and got ready. Set off at 9.00am, and went to Vannes town centre. All split up, and had a walk round shops. Some good bargains and spoilt for choice. Was an old town, really good. Had some dinner in a cafe - chance to speak some of my French. Met back at the mini-bus at 2.00pm. Drove to supermarket for food, then to camp. Had a cuppa and juicy cake. Me, Gemma, Marie and Maureen went to Penestin beach about 4.00pm had a nice long walk along beach then back along cliff top. Back about 6pm. Had tea. Chatted for a while and bed about 11.30pm.

Saturday 25th

Had a lie in, well 9am! Went for a wash and had breakfast. Me and Gemma went to the pool, water really cold. Sunbathed for a bit. Back to the tent and had dinner. Relaxed outside tent, then all climbed into the mini-bus about 3.00pm. Drove to a place called Le Baulle. It is a seaside resort, beach really nice. Another glorious day, so got the kids settled on the beach. Two stayed behind to mind the kids, while rest of us went for some tea. We must have walked for an hour trying to find a shop that sold food, nowhere open till 7.00pm. Managed to find a Creperie, wasn't too bad, but I wouldn't go mad on them. Got back to beach, collected kids and stuff and jumped into mini-bus. Drove back to camp, and made our tea. Sat round, played a few games, got kids to bed then went to bar for a quick drink. Bed about 12.00 mid.

Sunday 26th

Got up at 8.30am, and got ready. Went to put kids in creche but booked up, so all dragged ourselves off to Penestin market. Was a little bit disappointed with it, was expecting a really big market, but only about 15 stalls on. Got two nice pictures for myself. Got some stuff for a barbecue.. Back to camp and had dinner. Went round pool for an hour. Put kids in creche. Gemma went in really well, good creche with loads of toys. At last time to ourselves, all had a good mess about round pool. Picked kids up at 5.30. Had a barbecue, mine wasn't very good though, because I burned it a bit. About 6.30pm went to beach for a game of rounders. At first kids joined in, then they got bored, and went for a toddle. The beach is at the bottom of a cliff, and they decided to climb it. Gemma started falling, ran over to help them, they had got up a fair way. Took me ages to get them down. Joanne came over to help. Back to camp about 7.30pm. had a chat and cuppa, then put kids to bed. Some of them went to the pub, me and Joanne played cards outside tent. Went to bed about 11.30pm. Rest came back from the pub about 12.30am, they started arguing with some people across from us because they were being dead noisy and waking kids up. Finally got to sleep about 2.00am.

Monday 27th

Woke up at 8.30am. Got everyone up, all were knackered, because of last night. Mad rush for everyone to get ready. Got on bus about 9.15. My turn to direct. We were going to a Safari Park called "Branfere" near Muzillac. Managed to get us there all right. Weather nice, but a bit windy. Walked round Safari Park. Was interesting to see strange and different animals. Kids had a good day out. Got back to camp about 12.30. Had dinner. Put kids in creche - the creche is a Godsend - few hours of peace - only wish started using it at the beginning of the holiday. All went round pool again. Marie gave Hilary and Kerry a swimming lesson. Picked kids up at 5.30pm. Got ready, in mini-bus at 6.00pm and went to La Baule for our tea out. Found a nice little restaurant. Most of us had chips, because not had them all week. Finally finished meal about 9.15pm. Back to camp about 10 and kids straight to bed. Had a cuppa, and read for a while. Early night tonight, bed 11.15pm.

Tuesday 28th

Had a nice long lie in today, only got up at 10.am. Marie and Maureen had gone out in the mini-bus to spend time on their own and get away from us noisy rabble. Me, Gemma and Danial had our breakfast and got ready. Lazy Hilary only got up at 11.am!! Did some washing and ironing. Lazed around tent. Made our dinner, well, made chicken rice and bought chips. Tidied up a bit and then sat outside tent. Weather was nice again, so me and Gemma went round the pool. No creche today, creche workers day off, what a pity! Back to tent, did a bit of packing. Had tea and washed up. Played bat and ball outside tents and played twister. Got kids settled in tents. Some went to pub for a drink and some just chatted outside tents. Went to bed about 11.30pm.

Wednesday 29th

Got up about 9.00am. Just on way for a wash, when Marie dragged me into her tent to blow some balloons up. It was for a surprise party for Joanne, it was almost her 18th birthday. After blowing up balloons, went for a wash and got ready. Joanne didn't know where to put her face, when she cam back in mini-bus and found the tent all decorated. Had some champagne and croissants. Then tidied up outside tents, and sorted out all stuff in tents, bits of our stuff were missing, knives spoons etc., Had dinner then took the kids to the creche. Really hot day again. We all climbed into the mini-bus and went to a Hypermarket. Our last chance to spend our money before going home. I bought wine, chocolates and a pair of dungarees for Gemma. Got back in bus and went to garage to pick up the tyre that had been taken off minibus earlier to be repaired. The fella in the garage spoke very little English and it was really funny watching Marie and Maureen trying to

