

Tramlines, Young Womans Group. Residential !



Bettws Cottage,
October
24 - 27

BETTWS COTTAGE

Bettws Cottage residential, all snowballed from one of the young women, Julie, she mentioned how she had been to Bettws a year or so back, to help decorate and had really enjoyed it, and wouldn't it be great if we could all go. The suggestion was put to the workers and Dot, we all agreed it was a good idea, but there may be one or two snags. Dot mentioned that children had not stayed at the Cottage, but she saw no reason why they couldn't go. After the workers, and Dot had agreed on the date, Marie put the plan of action to the creche workers, explaining that on our last residential, we just got on with it, but if we had had a creche worker, the young women would have got a bit more time to have a go at outdoor pursuits. Marie gave them time to think (but not too long) the answer came back that Linda would come. Knowing Linda was coming really altered the weeks planning for Dot, she would be able to fill full days in. So at the next Young Women's Group the dates were put to the Young Women, they all agreed this was o.k. Then we also mentioned about children having never been there, so there were no cots - 'no problem, we'll bring carry cots!' Everyone will have to share the big bedroom 'O.K.' and we expect everyone to pull their weight with Cooking, Washing up, Minding the kids 'Fair enough' So it seems Bettws is on the way. Next was Finance - we'll need money for petrol, extra food and little extras. A jumble sale was suggested, so the young women agreed to all meet one afternoon at the Neighbourhood Services Centre for a planning programme - The meeting was well attended, and they really got their act together. Marie was on hand if they needed any help, but they knew what, where and when about this jumble., leaflets were made advertising the jumble sale and another made asking people for jumble and where it could be dropped off. It was a really well planned and packed afternoon. The day of the Jumble Sale, the women got together in the afternoon and set up tables, sorted jumble out and got refreshments ready, the committment by these women was really great, they were determined that this Jumble Sale was going to be a success and that is just what it was, they raised a fair amount of money and it went like clock-work I will give them 20/10 for organization and effort. WELL DONE!!

There was jumble left over, so Marie suggested they phone the ragman to collect it. Cheryl phoned up and he offered her £2 - 'is that all' she said 'all right, I'll give you £3 for your cheek!' (Bargaining at the jumble has paid off!)

Next part of the planning was the routine for the holiday itself i.e. what time do we leave, what group will be doing what, etc., So another afternoon was set.

Again it was well attended. Marie explained what we had done when we went to the Lakes - split into groups - one cooks - one washes up - one minds the kids. So they got together and split us all up and a rota was set, it looked very impressive on paper, but will it work?

Well, the big day has arrived. Weather is great. The women started drifting in, but where is Marie? Marie had been on her travels around the estate and had met one of the young women who she had been trying to get to come to the Young Womens afternoons. Kerry was a bit down, so Marie asked if she would like to come. She said that she had not money - even more reason to come. She said that she did not know anybody and Marie replied that she had 5 hours travel ahead of her to get to know us. So, she threw clothes in a bag, got the kids dressed and away she went!

When we got back, Dot had arrived and the women had started loading the buses up. The directions were checked and stoff offs agreed - Away we go!

Lucille was driving our bus and we had Kerry, with 2 children, Tracey and Kyle (one of the young womens kids) in our bus, just nice - as we said with our 5 hour drive ahead if gave us time for us to get to know Kerry and her us. Well I'll tell you this, she isn't shy! She settled down great, in fact we couldn't shut her up!! (we didn't want to really) We met the other group at Welshpool - time for a brew, stretch our legs and swap drivers for the next leg of our journey. Time was getting on and it was getting dark when we finally got to the cottage, everyone got out, running to the toilet or for a drink. It was suggested that one group mind the kids, another unload the bus, the other start tea. Tea was ready and everyone was really hungry. After dishes were washed and put away- everyone was quiet (tired really) so they decided to watch telly - after videos had finished - it was time for bed!

