

Early Days at Benllech Playgroup

Freda Kelbrick

In 1968 I moved from Manchester to Benllech on Anglesey with my husband and our little girl Abigail aged two years. I found out there was a lot going on in the village as most of the people (apart from those retired) were, like me, away from the extended family.

I soon made friends when our daughter went to Benllech Playgroup. When I had my second daughter people were happy to take Abigail to Playgroup for me and do my rota duty.

During my time on the committee I started a co-operative buying powder paint amongst other things and selling it by the pound. I had to weigh it out and it would fly everywhere, up my nose and cover my hands. I thank my lucky stars I had a shed to do it in!

I did a few courses with Veronica Hanson and Julia Parry. One in Reading University, which was rather grand and one at Aberystwyth.

Veronica and Julia are the two people I remember most from the early days, they worked so hard to keep the Playgroup going.

We had a great social life through the Playgroup. Fundraising always involved a meal or a dance. People were very generous with time and the dances became very popular. The Glanrafon Hotel kindly let us use their ballroom and let us self cater, which allowed us to make more money. My husband worked at Wylfa along with a lot of other young fathers and people would always ask, 'Are there any dances coming up?' and he would sell tickets to those interested.

My three daughters all enjoyed playgroup. It was, and still is, a wonderful way to meet people and for children to learn social skills.