



Saint Joseph's workshop - Gouarec

The Saint-Joseph hospice was created in 1986 and welcomes disabled people. The sewing workshop is part of the occupational activities of this home. The creative sewing activity was put in place more particularly in 2001, on my initiative. Since 2001, this activity has developed according to the residents' abilities. We've noticed that there was a much potential, and that they were able to do lots of things and, little by little, we have developed our achievement according to their apprenticeship and ability.

Sheelagh And how many people work in.....come to the workshop?

Reply Nowadays, there are around 23 people participating in the workshop, including home residents, but also retired home employees who live now in the senior home. One group participate in the morning, the other group, in the afternoon. There are 2 groups. Consequently, certain residents are coming several times a week according to their choice and wishes.

Sheelagh. We have some of your residents with us today so can we..... They've been showing us the objects tthey've been making for Christmas. Make-up bags.... a very ingenious bag for carrying a tart..... I don't know how you'd describe this..... a hanging pocket for a single flower.

(appreciative and informative comments)

Sheelagh. I think you make theatrical costumes. Can you tell us a little bit about..'

Reply For some years, we made costumes for outside celebrations whether for carnival or traditional celebrations. Since 2001, we have made around 200 costumes. Consequently, last year we made the choice to put costumes rentals in place for outsiders. People living in the surroundings, associations, families etcetera. Now, if certain people want to rent a costume, they just have to come to the workshop and we rent it out for 10€ a week-end. This money is used whether for the self-financing of trips or the purchase of fabric. So, do not hesitate.

Sheelagh. What projects have you got coming up for next year?

Reply We plan to move more towards making out African costumes as there are different Sisters from Burkina Faso in the community. So we'll work together with them in order to achieve a full collection of costumes that will be used to organize a celebration at the hospice.