

## An Ilam Hall Interview

### **Q What sort of activities were there?**

A There were three long walks (or route marches) – up Thorpe Cloud, over Bunster Hill and around the mountains near Castleton. We cycled mountain bikes on the Tissington Trail and visited an underground cavern. There was a trip to Chatsworth House and Gardens and a *whole day* at Alton Towers.

### **Q Did you have to do all the walks?**

A Yes, we got no choice and they were all uphill! If you decide to go, make sure you take the proper clothing because some girls really struggled as their trousers were dragging on the ground. 😊 You might not realise it at the time but the walks are really good fun. Watch out for the field of bulls and the savage farm dogs!

### **Q Did you have to take your own bikes?**

A No, they wouldn't have all fitted on the coach. All the bikes were hired and we cycled on a disused railway line. When you go take care you don't cycle too close together or your wheels will collide and you'll end up in the nettles like Bradley and Elliott (ouch!).

### **Q Was Chatsworth House boring?**

A No, in fact we could have done with more time there. We looked around inside at our own speed and then went out into the gardens. There's an amazing maze – and it's seriously very difficult to find your way out. We had great fun splashing around in the cascades although it's possible you might get soaked to the skin and have to dry out your undies back at the hostel!

### **Q Would I have to go on all the rides at Alton Towers?**

A Everyone gets into a group of 9 or 10 with an adult. You choose an adult that likes the same rides as you. If your idea of fun is Squirrel Nutkin's Treetop Ride choose Mrs. Parsons. If you prefer Oblivion or Nemesis choose someone else!

### **Q What did you eat?**

A Food, mainly. The hostel meals were excellent – there's a huge choice and massive portions. Breakfast is the best and you'll need to build up your energy for everything else you do later in the day.

### **Q Did you get much sleep?**

A Not much at first – too much to talk about - but it got easier as the week went on. After that you're so tired you fall asleep as soon as your head hits the pillow. You have to be in your dormitory at 9:30pm and lights out by 10:00pm.

### **Q Are there any showers?**

A Yes, and the staff insist you take one at least once a day – they find out by checking if your towel is wet. There are also regular room inspections and if your room is messy you are not allowed outside until it is cleared.

### **Q Would you recommend the trip to us?**

A Definitely. It's an excellent way to learn about your friends as well as yourself and a special memory to take away as you leave West Leigh. Make sure you look on the West Leigh website because you'll find all the information you need as well as some photos of our trip.

