



Happy Warm Weather to you All!

Daylight is with us for longer and already there have been T-shirt days!! Lets look forward to lots of outdoor activities in the next few months.

At Bedfordshire Celebration 2005 we were looking back over the year, and what an action packed year it has been for Girlguiding Bedfordshire - would we expect anything else? The girls enjoyed the activities in the morning sessions and everyone went home much fitter having tackled all those steps! The afternoon was enjoyed by many Guiders, Affiliates, Vice Presidents, Trefoil Guild and invited guests. We must have done something right as one local councillor asked if they could have an invitation next year even though their term of office would have expired!!!!

Thank you to everyone who took part in the day, the working party who brought it all together, the people who helped in any way on the day, the girls for taking part so enthusiastically, the Leaders for giving up yet another precious Saturday and the Review audience and participants who made the day so memorable, and last but not least the people who were on their knees praying for fine weather on the day - it worked.

Happy Guiding

Kathy

Kathy Carroll, County Commissioner

Anglia Brownie Birthday Challenge

2004 was a special year for Brownies and we celebrated it by doing the Anglia Birthday Challenge. This took us all year and filled many meetings with more exciting activities. Our back-to-front evening was great fun and very confusing! We learnt how to quill and we cooked kebabs outdoors. We learnt about Fair Trade and we sorted harvest food. Our baby photos were amusing and cute, whilst the designs for Brownie uniforms of the future were inspiring!

Each girl also chose 9 personal challenges, which they completed at home. We were inundated with 90th birthday cakes (yum!), fantastic natural collages and coded messages.

This challenge was a great boost to our programme and an incentive to those girls who wanted to do more at home. We presented 15 Brownie Birthday badges in February 2005.

Well done to the Brownies and thank you to Sue Crosby, our unit helper who ran the challenge throughout the year.

We have 12 badges left over. If anyone else has done the Challenge and run out of badges, please ring. Janet, 12th Dunstable Brownies

Keech Cottage Fundraising Event...

Just prior to Christmas, Ampthill Rainbow Guides held a fund raising Christmas Carol Concert and Auction. The Rainbows had produced a number of works of art which, along with a number of items donated by the Rainbows families, were auctioned off after the Carol Concert in a fun filled evening attended by the Rainbows and their families and friends. During the auction a promise was made by one of the Rainbow guides parent's that their home furnishing business, Vanilla Pod of Ampthill, would match the sum raised that evening, pound for pound! Because of the generosity of all the parents and Vanilla Pod, the wonderful sum of £270.00 is to be presented to a representative of Keech Cottage Hospice at one of the Rainbow's weekly meetings.

Well done to all the Rainbows and a huge thank you to all the Rainbows families and friends as well as to Vanilla Pod.
2nd Ampthill Rainbow Guides

38th Luton Brownies Surprise themselves challenge '05

38th Luton Brownies earned their Entertainer badge by performing an adapted version of the film/ musical Grease. All the girls took part in Singing, dancing and acting and produced their own costumes, props and invitations.

The rehearsals began on a Christmas sleepover at Haverings in December, where the girls made lots of Christmas crafts and practiced their words and routines. We thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and rated the new refurbishment at Haverings very highly.

Originally the girls wanted to raise money for a local charity, but the Boxing Day Tsunami disaster clearly touched them and they organised a fund raising raffle using donated & unwanted Christmas gifts. In total they raised £82.97. Parents, Friends and guiders were impressed with the level of enthusiasm and talent shown by the brownies and everyone involved thoroughly enjoyed the performances.



Sue Champkins, 38th Luton Brownies

Anglia International Trip - Russia 28th July- 12th August 2004

Last year I attended the Anglia Region International selection weekend at Pax Lodge and just before Christmas I was offered a place on a trip to Russia.

The trip was to the city of Ufa to camp with Russian Girl Scouts and to Moscow, as a group of 10 Guides and Young Leaders from across Anglia with 2 group leaders. We met as a group only twice before our departure, once for the day and then for a weekend camp in Norfolk. We chose to have polo shirts and jumpers made and we designed a group logo, which we also had made into badges.

We left from Heathrow on 28th July, flying to Moscow, where we spent the next three days. We arrived just after midnight and I then discovered that my bag had been delayed. It did not arrive until 8 days later, half way through the camp!



We stayed in the 1980 Olympic hotel and whilst in Moscow we visited the Red Square, Lenin's tomb, the Kremlin, a Russian Orthodox monastery, a craft market and the Bolshoi Theatre where we saw Swan Lake.

Late Saturday night, we left Moscow on an internal flight for Ufa, where we were met by Russian Girl Scout leaders. We stayed with the leaders and their families for 2 days. I stayed with three others from our group with Albina, Bulat and their 6-year-old daughter, Alijah who lived on the

edge of the city. We went into Ufa and spent the evening picking cherries in the garden.

The next morning we travelled on buses to the camp, which was being held in a school to encourage local school children to join Girl Scout units. We stayed in dormitory rooms in the school building and outside there was a stage basketball court, surrounded by a forest.

The camp lasted 8 days and there were 90 participants including 3 American leaders. We were split into patrols to do activities and every evening we put on plays or other entertainment on the stage, including Snow White as a pantomime! Every other night we had a campfire and on the last night we found our secret friends, whose name we had given on the first day to look out for all week. We visited a museum and one afternoon a group of dancers in traditional dress came to the camp. They showed us a traditional wigwam like home, dress, crafts and even made us drink horses milk! We also visited a geyser and showed the Russians songs, games and activities from England.

After the camp, we spent 2 more days with the leaders and their families, during which we were interviewed by the regions news programme. We spent another day in the city before going to a room in the basement of a block of flats where their unit meetings are held to say goodbye to our new-found friends before leaving early the next morning, arriving home the following evening.



Katy with a Russian dancer

Katy Eagle - 1st Kempston Guides Young Leader

***Congratulations to Katy on winning Young Citizen Award for Bedford and Surrounding Areas**

KidsOut Sponsored Walk

On Thinking Day Henlow District Rainbows, Brownies and Guides did a sponsored walk for Bedfordshire Girlguiding's favoured charity KidsOut. The girls all walked with Girlguiding Bedfordshire balloons to remind us of the charity's logo after a bracing walk we all finished at Henlow Parish Hall for some Thinking Day cake, a re-affirmation of our Guiding promise and an energetic and cheerful singsong led by Katherine Sulch.

Competition!

Send in your best suggestion for a Girlguiding Car Sticker to philipa2000@hotmail.com by 10th of June
Winning Entry gets an Amazing Prize!!!

Arlesey Brownies are Stars!

The Brownie Star is the latest effort from Arlesey Brownies. They have produced their own newsletter of which they are justifiably proud.

I went to their meeting with Kathy where she was interviewed (or should I say - professionally grilled) by three brownie reporters on the editorial section. I then talked to the pack about design and production techniques and we had a very lively discussion about content.

They have created and produced this newsletter on their own - with a little help on final publishing and have achieved a wonderful four page informative document.

Well done Arlesey Brownies (and Julia) I think my days on Beds Buzz are numbered - ED



Have you visited our website yet?
www.bedsguiding.org.uk

1st Dunstable Guides at Pax Lodge for Thinking Day and Logan Hall for 'One World, One Love' service.

On Sunday 20th February, early in the morning, myself, 8 Guides, 2 Rangers & 6 Guiders embarked on a trip to London - equipped with our pink kneckers! It was very cold and we snuggled together - trying to keep warm and not lose anyone among the crowds of people in London's train stations.

Our first expedition took us to Pax Lodge - one of the world centres. Here we learnt about different guiding in other countries, did some aboriginal painting and dancing with drinks cans! (empty of course).

After we finished at Pax lodge, we found our way back to the station to take us to Russell Square where we ate our lunch on the park benches in the snow! At 1.30 pm we went to Logan Hall to join in with the Thinking Day Celebrations. The theme was 'One World, One Love'. It included lots of singing and dancing! At the end of the service everyone was dancing around the hall - forming long conga type chains. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

Rachel Carey - Ranger/Young Leader

Enlightenment of Sarah Fisher
A Trip to London - On Thinking Day
London was very fun! We started our journey at 8.30am Luton train station where we caught an underground train to London. Then we caught an underground train to visit Pax Lodge which is one of the world centres. At Pax Lodge we did some activities from different countries, such as Australia, there we did some aboriginal painting. There were we talked about different lands and South Africa. There we learned to dance with a can. After Pax Lodge we went to Logan Hall for a Thinking Day service. We did songs and dances throughout the service.

The End

On the 20th February we went to London to Pax Lodge we went to different rooms and found out about different countries. There was a shop there and we could buy things. We went to a thinking Day service and we sang Black eyes peas. We travelled by train. We had fun in the park and chased pigeons.

It was a wicked Day

We had a great time when we went to London. The day started when we met up at Luton Parkway Station early in the morning - too early! We got on and off lots of trains and the underground, even that was a laugh! After a short walk we arrived at Pax Lodge - one of the world's four guiding centres.

We did lots of activities, representing different countries, these included aboriginal painting, music and dancing from Africa and games from Finland. It was really good and everyone enjoyed it.

After a while we went to Russell Square where we had a quick lunch - but spent most of the time chasing greedy pigeons!

At 1.30pm we were due at Logan Hall for the Thinking Day Service. At the beginning we did not know what to expect, but we soon got into the swing of things with lots of singing and dancing. It was great!

We made our way back to Luton by train and said our goodbyes. It was a great experience and we'd love to do it next year!

Jenny & Hannah - 1st Dunstable Guides

Harlington Units Raise £260 for a Polish Orphanage

A chance comment at our Village Hall Christmas Fayre resulted in an amazing £260 being raised by Harlington's Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Trefoil Guild members at a Bring and Buy Sale.

"What's your stall for?" "Oh, it's for a new toilet and shower block for an orphanage in Poland which my sister is hoping to help," replied the lady. "We might be able to help in some way" I replied engaging my mouth before my brain! "You see we usually have a joint event for Blue Peter but they're not having Bring & Buys this year, so I'm sure everyone would still like to get together and help" From previous experience I knew that if they could, all the Guiders would agree and we would just have to fix a date and everything would just happen.

And so it did! On the morning of Saturday 5th March we all arrived at the Parish Hall with mountains of cuddly toys, bric-a-brac, cakes and much more which had been donated by the girls, their parents, families and friends, and villagers. We opened the doors at 10.00 a.m. and for two hours worked feverishly to sell as much as possible, serve teas and coffees with some of the lovely cakes, persuade everyone to buy raffle tickets. At the end of the morning everyone pitched in to help tidy up and leave the hall as we found it.

During the week before the sale Noreen Bavister, the lady who visits the orphanage, had dropped into the Brownie and Guide units and told us about her experiences and how she came to be involved (That's another story!) Noreen was presented with a cheque for £260 on her second visit to 2nd Harlington the following week. She was so thankful and we all enjoyed having our photographs taken to mark the occasion. We promised to help again if we could.

I would like to add my thanks to all Harlington Guiders without whose help and efforts this would not have happened.

Judy Harfield - Brownie Guider, 2nd Harlington Brownies.

The Senior Section Movie Challenge 2005

For all girls/adults between the age of 14 to 26 birthday. They can work on it individually, in groups or with their units. To be judged for an award they have to complete a minimum of 10 challenges and all entries have to be submitted by 30 September 2005.

The participants have to be registered either individually or as a group, as we will be sending out invitations to our Gala Dinner to be held on October 15 2005. Every unit will have had a Challenge booklet so we hope these were passed on to all Young Leaders, and Young Guiders or older Guides.

Please contact the Senior Section team if you have any queries.
Jan Hooley Senior Section Advisor.

Take our Daughters to Work 2005

On 7th March, thirty two of us went to the Leighton Buzzard Garden Centre to take part in 'Take our daughters to work'.

It was really fun. Chris who met us has been working there for a couple of years and hopes soon to be the manager. He told and showed us what they do there, and what products are popular at certain times of the year.

On our way round we saw plants, seeds, pots, compost, shrubs, fencing, tools, garden furniture, paving slabs and gnomes. We also saw the café. Chris took us to the plant nursery where we were able to set some flowering plants in a pot to take home. This was our favourite part - working together. It was a fun activity and we gave Chris a card to thank him.

1st Leighton Buzzard Guides

Put these dates in your diary now!

9-11th September 2005 - Kathy's Camp
More details soon!

Mentor Meeting

The next mentor meeting will be at Chapter House
Amphill Church Amphill. Thursday 23rd June
7.45 for 8pm start.
All mentors and interested parties welcome.

Bedfordshire Broaches have been awarded to:

Betty Young - for her work in Dunstable Division and especially at Windy Sayles where she helps in the running of the shop, is active in the maintenance, and meets and greets all users to Windy Sayles. She has also been District and Division Commissioners, Camp Adviser and Young Leader Adviser

Nellie Young - she has been involved with Guiding for 84 years, all of it in Luton

Edna O'Dell - has been involved for 77 years and was National Brownie Adviser

June Cooper for her work with Special Needs groups and for her many floral displays at events

Barbara Wilkins - Work with Special Needs Groups and for her marvellous woodwork.e.g. yellow trefoils which lead us to events

Sue Stallard - Guider

Priya Shah - Young Leader

Katie Hughes - Young Leader

These three attended a First Aid scene where a gentleman had collapsed. They rang for help, kept everyone calm and performed CPR for 35 minutes until Emergency Services arrived.

Kathy

It's Wedding Bells for
Kelly Quigley on 7th May
Good Luck and
Congratulations from all
of us!
...*Surprise yourself!*

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Next Issue: Autumn 05/ Copy Deadline - September 13th

Thanks for all your articles and pictures - keep sending and I will print all I can fit in!

Letters to the Editor...

May I just pass a comment on Sue Tyler's article about Church Parade. I fully agree with what she says and really appreciate the inclusiveness of Guides to girls of all faiths and none, but where a unit meets on church premises I feel we owe it to the church, who probably, let us use their premises for next to nothing and consider the unit as part of their work with girls in the area, to encourage the girls to attend church parade.

From my own experience, the girls are merely encouraged and no differentiation is made to those who attend and those who do not.

Mrs Barbara P Thatcher
Unit helper 5th Stopsley Guides & 6th Stopsley Brownies

Mollivers Working Party 15th January 2005

On a nice sunny Saturday in January we had our first working party of the year at Mollivers. Guiders, girls and their parents turned up to help with the upkeep of the woodland area and the building. Armed with secateurs, gloves and plenty of enthusiasm we all set to work. Brambles were pulled out, the ivy cut from the building, plenty of chip-pings moved to cover the paths and the kitchen given a good clean. A very successful day and a huge thank you to everyone who took part.

Mollivers Management Committee

Annual Review 2005

It was on the 12th March, a chilly day, but all we thought about was the activities to come. There was me and 11 brownies plus another of our young leaders. The activities that our brownie group managed to do was: Make a bookmark, Recycling Bus, Fair Trade, Hand Chimes and lots more but best of all our brownies had landed a part in the actual review. They got to dress up in uniforms from the 1940s to the present day. As they went on stage they read out a description of the uniform they were wearing. They spoke out loud to the whole hall, which had important guests. They were brilliant. After the show they got changed into their normal uniforms. They then went down to the other hall where there were campfire songs were going on but sadly we had missed them. So then it was time to go home. They all said that they had a brilliant day. The only thing they didn't like was that the day was too short.

Kirsty Champkins, Young Leader, 12th Luton Brownies.

