

BedsBuzz

Autumn 2005



Girlguiding

Bedfordshire

Kathy's Bit

As you all know by now, Kathy has had a spell in hospital and is well on the road to recovery (we had to restrain her from leaving her hospital bed and coming to Kathy's Camp!). She has delegated her duties to a very supportive team as we found out when Kathy's Camp ran without a hitch - Thank you Nancy and your splendid team! I am writing this on her behalf and send you all her thanks for wonderful cards, messages, flowers and chocolates. She was overwhelmed with your good wishes.

I am sure you will all join me in sending her get well soon greetings and look forward to seeing her up and running again!

Diane pp Kathy
Kathy Carroll, County Commissioner

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

Your Public Relations Team

The Membership Development Team has changed its name to the Public Relations (PR) Team, but we haven't changed what we do for you.

The cross-county team of Guiders and volunteers deal with three main areas:

- public relations
- recruitment
- community involvement

Activities include sending press releases, designing Bedsbuzz, running the website, administering the monthly mailing, manning the recruitment hotline, delivering training sessions in PR and recruitment, liaising with the Charity of the Year and more besides.

Our main goal is to have a place available for every girl who wants to join Girlguiding Bedfordshire. Right now we have over 800 girls on County waiting lists and need to recruit over 100 volunteers. We can supply posters, leaflets and exhibition stands for local recruitment drives and give you advice on how to recruit new volunteers.

We also want everyone to know about the fantastic things that go on every week through Girlguiding. If your unit is doing something fun or fabulous that you want to shout about we can help you publicise it in the local media.

The team is always looking for new volunteers, particularly Division representatives. If you're interested in finding out more, please get in touch for a chat.

You can get in touch with the team via details in the County Directory or contact Kelly Quigley, County PR Adviser on 01767 310 395; email kelly.quigley@btopen-world.com

Did you miss Foxy Loxy?

... or even Barbara's Ranger Rap? ... or how about Nancy on her back in the carpark sucking through a long straw? Well, you obviously weren't at the county weekend at Foxlease. We talked, we walked, we sang a little, we gathered in small groups and big groups, we ate, we drank, we did so many things, but most of all we laughed.

We came from all parts of the county; young and not so

young, Rainbow guides, Brownie guides, Guide Guides and hangers on. We left our mark! - Thanks Kathy
¡Pass on the Passion!

Feast for Funds

On 13th May (and it was a Friday!) Jean Wain - County President waved her magic wand and fed the 40,000 - well actually 84 and raised a fantastic £1200 for Hautbois. It was a splendid evening with homespun entertainment. A great raffle (with lots of chocolate!) and a delicious three course meal topped off with a selection of puddings to rival the Ritz at three million calories a look. Well done Jean - It was great!

English Heritage for Free!

I have just booked for my Guide Group to go to Dover Castle and Tunnels for the day as part of our holiday WWII theme and was informed that as a group we can go for free as an educational tour and they also sent thought a booklet with over 250 other places that can be visited for free as educational visits with English Heritage.
Just visit: www.english-heritage.org.uk/education
Helen

ICE Following the bombings in London . . .

East Anglian Ambulance Service have launched a national "In case of Emergency (ICE) " campaign with the support of Falklands war hero Simon Weston.

The idea is that you store the word " I C E " in your mobile phone address book, and against it enter the number of the person you would want to be contacted "In Case of Emergency".

In an emergency situation ambulance and hospital staff will then be able to quickly find out who your next of kin are and be able to contact them. It's so simple that everyone can do it. Please do.

Promotion for Elaine!

Congratulations to Elaine Bentham who has recently been promoted to the position of Station Superintendent, based at Amphill. You will now see a large yellow 'Pip' on Elaine's shoulder. Elaine will continue to act as a paramedic. Congratulations and Very Well Done from all you friends in Guiding.

The day I went to St James Palace to meet the President

When I sent off the email applying for a ticket for the Presidents Reception, I didn't really hold out much hope of getting one. When I heard, weeks later, that others had heard that they had tickets, I just thought to myself, OK, it would have been nice, but no matter. So, when a large white envelope arrived, with lots of different bits of information, and a name badge, and a big white card, it took me a little while to get my head around what it all was. A personal letter, from CHQ, inviting me to be presented to the President at St James Palace, on the 19th May 2005. Wow, where did that come from! 20 individuals had been selected to represent Girlguiding across the UK - quite an honour. Made all the more special when I was told that each county had been invited to nominate one person for the presentation, and from those nominated 20 were selected. So... had to book a half days holiday, had to get something new to wear, had to think about what I should say - it is a complex business!

Travelling down from Hitchin to London on the train with Kathy Carroll and Jeanne Wain, Kathy reminded me of all the things I should say - the attributes that are unique to Bedfordshire, you would be surprised what we have that other counties don't - but that is another story. As this was going to be a special day, we decided to have tea at Fortnum & Masons, just to get us in the right frame of mind. It was very nice too, we were in a prime position, able to watch everyone coming and going, and we were not the only Guiding group with the same idea. Then we browsed in the shop on the ground floor - the sort of establishment where if you have to ask the price - you can't afford it.

It was raining. The paperwork had said that the doors at St James' Palace would not be open before a certain time, so we waited until we thought it would be reasonable time to get there, but Kathy had a call from Paul Hunt saying that the rest of the Bedfordshire contingent were already in the queue, and he suggested we joined them as soon as we could, as the end of the queue would soon be out in the rain. So, we dodged the puddles and hastily walked down to the Palace. There were 100's of people there already. My letter had advised me to make myself known to those on the door, as the presentation itself was to take place just before the Reception started, so I pinned on my badge and doors opened before my eyes - the effect was quite impressive.

The Presentation was to take place in the Council Chamber, which was through all of the rooms where the reception was to take place. The splendour of the Palace is spectacular. It could have been quite overwhelming, had I not been so nervous. Several of the select few were in the Council Chamber already, and we were greeted as we arrived and briefed that we would be given advice on etiquette when we were all there. Soft drinks were available, but when they saw how anxious we were all looking, they brought in some wine. I'm not sure if that was a good idea or not. Guiders had travelled from all over the UK, one from Edinburgh, another from Leeds, several from Wales (did you know that there are over 20 counties in Wales?). There was a Young Leader who was really excited, what a tremendous experience this all was for her. The administrator from the BGIFC office in Stockport was there too. Such a diverse selection.

The etiquette bit came next. Your Royal Highness first and then Your Highness, no need to curtsy. Smile. We were put in our places (alphabetical order - naturally) and then we waited. 'She is running a bit late' we are told. The original plan gave HRH and the Chief Guide half an hour in the Council Chamber. By the time The President arrived, she was half an hour late. She was surprised when she walked into the room - 'Gosh, there's a lot of you!'. The President shook hands with all of us

saying 'Nice to meet you', but she only had time to speak to three or four of us. A bit of an anticlimax really, but saying that, it was still an exceptional experience. When the Presidents party left the room, they moved on to go through the main reception, which was divided over three rooms.



Meeting the Countess of Wessex

The Throne Room was next door to the Council Chamber and the size of the throne was incredible. Henry VIII type size. Huge paintings hanging from the walls and the place was buzzing. Guiders and guests alike, mingling and greeting each other. Friends who hadn't seen each other in a long time, and Guiding colleagues who had lost touch. Meeting up with the others from Bedfordshire, nearly everyone had met someone that they hadn't expected to see. I met someone who I had contact with in 1987/88, when I was Guiding in BGIFC Cyprus. It was an amazing afternoon.

As we made our way out to leave, various queues formed for the Ladies and if you have an opportunity to speak to Kathy, I am sure she will be only too happy to share her unique 'Ladies in St James' Palace' experience. It had stopped raining by the time we got outside, and again, we had time to look around us and try and envisage the historical events that may have happened in the area. St James' Palace is not open to the public - as I have already said - it was a special day - a very special day.

Kate Briscoe

The Other Throne Room!

Maureen, Nerissa and myself applied for tickets hoping we would be able to attend. We had a tense 3 hours on delivery day before we knew we could all go. The phone started to ring as other guiders were asking which colour tickets we had, indicating which rooms we would be in at St James Palace. Great Excitement!

The big day arrived. We went by train to London, duly dressed for the occasion and travelled across a rather damp London in a taxi. The atmosphere in the queue increased as we got nearer to the entrance. We sorted out our ID and at last, having had our bags searched, we were inside.

Our cloakroom attendant was a gentleman Nerissa and I had met at the Royal Mews last year. We had a friendly conversation with him before going through the ornate red and gold foyer, then up the staircase to the first floor, where we were shown the way to the reception rooms. Drinks and canapes were served, and then the noise hushed as Sophie, Countess of Wessex and Jennie Leach came through very fast, talking to a few guiders on the way.

Bedfordshire guiders met up and then came the next highlight of the evening. 'Matron' as we called her was ushering us to the toilets. We were instructed to follow her, and she hoped we didn't mind using the Victorian thunderbox! This turned out to be an old fashioned polished wooden country privy type toilet with a lid. It caused great hilarity as in turn we used the toilet and pulled the handle up at the side to give it a Royal flush. We then made an elegant exit down, holding on to the velvet handrail on the grand staircase, gave our thanks, and went out to enjoy a meal, happily chatting about the evening.

Carina Wallace



Chick Party for Kelly!

On 28 April, 1st Potton Brownies had a Chick Party (Brownies are a bit young for a Hen Party!) to celebrate the forthcoming wedding of Assistant Brownie Guider, Kelly Quigley. The Brownies decorated slides with funky foam and heart sequins, made heart shaped fudge and played games on a wedding theme.



Baden Powell Challenge

On the 26th of June, 15 Guides from around Bedford, Luton and Suffolk arrived at Woodcroft for a weekend of activities. The aim of the weekend was to meet a challenge as the final step towards getting the Baden Powell award, one of the highest awards you can earn as a Guide. When we arrived, we didn't know what we were doing, or with whom we were doing it. Some of the Guides had come with friends from the same unit, others, like me, were on their own. We were informed that we were going to be putting on a party for about 20 children aged 3 to 10. We would be planning it, shopping for it, and running it on our own. What's more, most of the children would be deaf.

Over the course of the next 2 days, we planned food, games, and activities. We learnt sign language (which wasn't easy!). We made posters, party bags, and decorations. We had help from our Guiders and a number of people who visited. One lady came to give us ideas on the planning, some story tellers showed us how we could tell a story with few props and without many words. Some deaf people also came in to help us learn sign language and to give us ideas for games we could play and alterations we'd need to make such as turning the lights out when we turned the music off in musical bumps. It was hard work but we enjoyed it.



Shortly before the guests were due to arrive at one o'clock, we finished putting up the posters and set out the face paint, the games, the decorating cookies, and the crafts tables. We set out the table for the food.

To begin the party, we had a treasure hunt and a game of musical bumps. Our aids of lights and stop and go signs worked well and it was a very funny game. The children could then choose what they wanted to do, the cookies and face painting were definitely the most popular. Then food! This was one of the easiest parts to do as everyone knew exactly how to eat! All too soon, three o'clock came around and it was time to go home. Everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves, Guides and guests. I know I did and I would certainly like to have the chance to do something similar again.

Elizabeth Dathan

Hertfordshire Brownie Adventure Resource

This has been put together from the ideas of Brownie Guiders in Hertfordshire and contains Adventure Plans for over 40 meetings.

Available from: **Sue Beswick, 15 The Brickfields, Ware, SG12 0AZ. Cost £6 incl p&tp.**

Poetry Corner!

Let's all have a moan
It's easily done -
Nothing is ever
As you want it done.
Too many people
Not enough cash
All of this stress
Brings you out in a rash!
You can't cope any longer
Enough is enough
How do people manage
When the going gets tough?
The answer we're seeking
Is always elsewhere
We try very hard
But no-one else cares

Relax

Take a deep breath
Look at what you have done
How many girls
did you see smiling today?
They were there because you were
And they wanted to play
A part in your meeting
And enjoy what you'd planned
You are the reason
For this happy band
Your team all enjoy
Your company and time
In fact - if you could
Bottle the good feeling
And serve it with lime (?)
You'd be on to a winner ...

Kate Briscoe

Ranger Rap

Being a Ranger is wicked and cool
Something to do outside of school

Bowling, Skating and camping too
Makes you feel solid through and through

Don't like people bossing you about
Come and see - we'll hear you out

Something for everyone, whatever your style
Go away from home even - for a while

Chavs, ladettes and even goths
Welcome to all who are at a loss

Guider's don't understand a word we say
But they're always here to save the day!

Winner!

The lucky winner of our car sticker competition in the last Beds Buzz is:
Alice Wood - 7th Stopsley Guides
Her winning caption:

Don't Hide in the Dark - Come & Light a Spark!

A special prize is on it's way to Alice and the 7th Stopsley Guides

The Kathy's Camp experience!

I booked onto the camp in July with a little trepidation as I knew no one else who was going and although I enjoy camping, I find camping in September normally cold. But as time went on I started to look more and more forward to it, well when you get the opportunity to spent two nights away from three children how can you not look forward to it.

So we (I discovered that a guider from Flitwick district was going) set off on Friday night following a torrential down-pour with plenty of clothes and a tent. We arrived to be greeted by friendly faces and two huge marquees (courtesy of the scouts); these marquees were the life saver as it was at times very wet. Having put up the tent in the dark, a feat in itself, we went off to the hut for a delicious supper of Fish and Chips, washed down with wine. This was followed by a quiz, where somehow our team seem to do rather well; having no music or sports rounds I think helped. Then off to bed.

The following morning everyone was in bright spirits, despite the rain over night, cooked breakfast was served in the marquees which was followed by patrol duties. Our patrol was on camp fire duty, which required us to move the wood down from the wood pile to the camp fire , as it turned out due to the rain that evening we did not have a real camp fire (only an imaginary one) we had to move the wood back to the pile the next day.

Then it was time for session 1, lots of activities were on offer from canoeing to card making. I choose to do climbing and abseiling, partly as I knew that my Daughter (a guide) had failed to get up the wall so I had an incentive to get to the top and because 25 years ago I shied away from abseiling and have had a fear of doing it since. I was one of six who had chosen this session and soon we were all strapped up in some very attractive (I don't think) safety harnesses , obviously designed by a man as they did not take account of the women physics'. I went off first before my courage failed and within 5 minutes I was up the top, with a little help from the instructor. Soon the others were joining me and then it was time to go down the other side. This time I was fourth, so I had a little time to start worrying, but it could not have been easier and I now I can not wait to try climbing again. My thanks go to the instructor who had the patience of a god.

Session two followed, where I made a woggle for my camp scarf, but again the activities that were available were very varied from self defence to manicures (very useful after the climbing), we sat down to eat another lovely meal. The afternoon session was again very flexible with more craft & camp activities on offer, I choose to play the chime bells, and by the end of the session we were playing 'my bonnie lies over the ocean' to an audience of guiders.



Put these dates in your diary now!

19th November - 1st Response Course -
St John Ambulance Biggleswade £30
contact katebriscoe@hotmail.com

After a fabulous roast dinner, with the choice of over 8 different puddings, we had singing around the camp fire (well the marquee pole actually), which for someone who has not been in guiding very long was a wonderful experience and an opportunity to get to know everyone else better, learn 'old Mac Donald fish farm' and you will see what I mean.

By then we were ready for hot chocolate (provided by a lovely group of ladies who provided a non stop coffee shop all weekend) and bed

Sunday morning brought better weather and the opportunity to get to know your patrol better as we had to cook our own breakfast, the fried eggs were perfect. This was followed by our last activity session where I choose to build a raft, under excellent guidance we learnt how to ties the poles together and ensure that the raft sat neatly on the oil drums; we then went paddling down the Ouse without any mishaps.

After another lovely meal (the catering team were tireless) it was time to break camp and say goodbye to all my new friends.

On reflection the weekend was one of the best things that I have done in guiding an opportunity to meet new people, no responsibilities and learn some new skills, not to mention the winning and dinning. I would like to thank everyone involved

who helped to make it so enjoyable for me and to Kathy for introducing the concept to Bedfordshire guiding

Sophie Dackombe
2nd Ampthill Brownies

Carry on guiding at Reading Uni!

Do you know any Young Leaders or young Guiders in your County or Area who have started university in Reading this term? If so, why not let them know how they can stay involved with Guiding after moving up here!

Reading University Guides & Scouts (RUGS) is a newly formed society with strong links with the University, scouting locally, guiding locally and the Student Scout And Guide Association. We can help people to get involved in Guiding locally, help out in local groups or just to have great fun with other scouts and guides studying at the university with a wide range of activities.

For more information, visit www.ru-gs.org.uk
email rugs@bcnsn.org.uk

Snippets!

Guides & leaders from 1st/4th Linslade & 1st Leighton Buzzard Guide Units became part of a world record of 33,000 people at their sponsored sleepover on June 18th.

In July flitwick District Rainbows, Brownies & Guides celebrated the 20th birthday of their District Headquarters - Hetley House. They enjoyed Brownie Revels with builders and trades people as their theme. 1st Westoning Brownies won the district Shield. Thanks to all who helped plan the event.

Send your articles and comments to: **BedsBuzz**

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