



Girlguiding

Bedfordshire



BedsBuzz

Autumn 2003

THE BIG ADVENTURE BEGINS!

It seems like its been forever coming but, finally the new Brownie programme can be put to the real test - using it with the girls! Hopefully all the Brownies in the County will be starting the new adventure in September. Brownies who have seen the new resources are very enthusiastic and I hope the Guiders will be as keen on this new, easy to administer programme. When you read through the books you will find many challenges that you can use at unit meetings or the girls can do individually, set out in a way that appeals to girls of Brownie age.

And the excitement doesn't end there for Brownies this year! We are having a birthday - 90 years of Brownies. Division Commissioners have details of our competition to design a badge (County level judging will be at County Training Day in October). Keep your ears open for any special events that Brownies can be involved in during our birthday year. I am sure there will be some special things happening to celebrate.

Any queries about the Adventure? I am happy to help if I can! Happy Adventuring ...

Katherine Anderson, County Brownie Adviser

TOO BUSY GUIDING TO KEEP YOUR OWN HOUSE IN ORDER? CHECKOUT www.flylady.net

Keech Cottage Hospice has been voted as Girlguiding Bedfordshire Charity of the Year.

Keech Cottage Children's Hospice helps over 100 families who are facing the loss of their child. The aim at Keech Cottage is to enable families to make the most of the precious time they have left with their child. There is ample provision at Keech Cottage for play and recreation, as well as specialist facilities for therapies and learning. All of these help to ensure Keech Cottage is a place for living.

We are hoping that our partnership will include

- making things needed by the hospice
- carrying out service projects
- fundraising

We have asked Keech Cottage Hospice if they can come up with ways in which we can get involved in the coming year - look out for details in your monthly mailout.



Keech Cottage community fundraiser, Kate Haagman, has said she would welcome opportunities to come out and talk about the work of the hospice and to raise awareness of their needs. So why not book her and get your unit involved in a worthwhile cause this year? Contact her on (01582) 497849 or email: khaagman@pasque.org

Whilst you do not have to be involved in this County-wide project, wouldn't it be great if all our efforts could buy something of lasting benefit to the hospice? Is there one idea we could all do around the County to raise money? To coordinate our work this year, the Membership Development team are looking to set up a small Steering Group of interested people prepared to work together until August 2004 on this project. If you feel you would like to get involved with this work or even have an idea for a project for the hospice, contact Denise Yates on 01525 381 474 (e-mail denise@yatesda.fsnet.co.uk)

The hospice is having an open day on Tuesday 23rd September from 11am - 7pm and anyone is welcome to visit and have a look around during these times.

Census & Capitation: As promised, County will not be making any increase this year to the capitation which will be due in February when we collate the annual census. However both CHQ and Anglia Region have increased their amounts by £1 each, making a total of £19 due in February for every enrolled member. The reasons for this are vast increases in insurance charges at CHQ and the redevelopment work at our Region Training Centre, Great Hautbois House, from which we can all benefit.

Don't forget to apply for Gift Aid - a considerable amount of money could be yours simply for filling in a few forms. If you are unsure of what to do contact Gill Lake who would be pleased to help.

My best wishes to you as you start the new Autumn Term
Margaret Johnson - County Commissioner

Many of us were pleased to see **Sylvia West** at Haverings in July. She writes that "I do enjoy your publication and the news it brings of Beds Guiding" and she asked us to publish her change of address: 10 Trimpley Court Ellesmere Shropshire SY12 ONY (01691) 624385

If you are a Warranted or Affiliated Member of the Association and still do not receive your copy of **Guiding Magazine** please contact CHQ direct. Young Leaders who are enrolled on the Leadership Scheme and working towards their Adult Warrant are now entitled to receive Guiding magazine.

John Grooms have asked Girlguiding Bedfordshire for volunteers

The Lifestyle Choices Project is a free service for adults with physical or sensory disabilities living in the postal areas of LU1 to LU6. To help them to become involved in leisure and educational activities locally, they are looking for volunteers to commit 1-2 hours a week to help their clients with activities such as going to the cinema, or attending college.

They need people with good communication skills, a positive and open minded attitude towards people with a disability who are reliable and able to travel locally. In return, the Lifestyle Choices project will provide extensive training, ongoing support and the chance to gain valuable experience. This would suit Senior Section members or older Guides in a unit looking for a service project.

For further details contact Tracey Brimmel, volunteer coordinator on 01582 470906 or at Disability Resource Centre, Poyntors House, Poyntors Road, Dunstable Beds LU5 4TP.

Guides, brownies, adults and a toddler from Luton South Division took part in **Channel 4 Timeteam's "Big Dig"** celebrations in at Haverings. The event was organised by Vicky Osborn, Guider from 7th Stopsley Guides who is also an archaeologist.

Four metre square pits were dug, turf removed, drawings made and "finds" gathered at 10cm depth stages in each pit.

The highlight of the dig was when Vicky found a piece of medieval pottery over an inch square. Other "finds" included a shoe heel and of course a tent peg. The dig will be featured on the Timeteam website later in the year.

Everyone had a great time, not realising that digging could be so much fun and it was good to take part of a national event, knowing that all over the country there were people as mad as us, hunting for treasure.

Building work has finally begun at Haverings after eight years of fundraising and a little help from a legacy and a grant from Anglia. This Training and Activity Centre in Luton was built in 1970 and has been in need of an extension and modernisation for some time.

A "First Dig" ceremony was held on Friday 18th July. A Rainbow, a Brownie, a Guide, a Ranger, a Young Leader, a Guider, and a Trefoil Guider were invited along to the event along with the other members of the Division and County and of course the builder. Armed (or should I say footed) with spades, the first digs were made to the sound of popping champagne corks.

Work will continue for about 18 weeks - or until the money runs out! We are having to put some of the work on hold until we have raised more funds but to get started is a dream come true for those who have been involved in Haverings for many years.

Kim Kemp, Division Commissioner, Luton South

BADEN POWELL CHALLENGE ADVENTURE WEEKENDS

We have now had 4 very different Baden Powell Challenge weekend Adventures:

- 1) International theme at Pax Lodge
- 2) Outdoor theme at Phasels Wood
- 3) A Show in a Weekend in Bedfordshire
- 4) Challenge and outdoor theme at Hautbois House (see box on right)

The next Baden Powell Challenge Adventure Weekend will be held at WOODCROFT, LYGETUN DRIVE, LUTON and around Bedfordshire October 3RD - 5TH

If you have Guides who will be eligible to take part please let me know.
Cost as always will be £10 each from Guide, Company, District, Division and County

We visited Hautbois House in Norfolk as part of our Baden Powell challenge. The food was excellent and the grounds around the house were spectacular. On Friday we had dinner and then went straight to bed as it was late. On Saturday we went to the beach and had a barbeque. We also did a town quiz which was quite fun although we got lost! Sunday was full of challenges and we also had a Guides Own. The challenges were difficult and required teamwork but we got through most of them. One difficult one was where we had to get a tyre over a pole which was quite high and we almost dropped someone! Other activities were: Aerial runway, obstacle course, moving team from barrel to barrel using planks, tightrope walking and making a leprechaun trap. Overall it was a fun but challenging weekend.

*Christina Russell and Katy Eagle,
1st Kempston Guides*

Kathy Carroll, County Guide Advisor kathy@carroll61.freeseve.co.uk Tel. (01462) 711345

TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS TO WORK DAY 2004

We are organising an exciting careers event for Take Our Daughters to Work Day 2004. Planned for Saturday March 27, we're looking for Guiders and other women who have an exciting career and are who willing to enthuse Guides, Rangers and Young Leaders.

Could you prepare a thirty minute career scenario or demonstration that gives girls a flavour of what you do on a day-to-day basis? It could be setting a bone for a Doctor or preparing a meal for an elephant if you're a zookeeper! Whatever you do, we want girls to be able to come away with a real impression about your career.

After feedback from Senior Section we would like girls to encounter the following careers:

Accountant Actor Acupuncturist Archaeologist Architect Artist Builder Decorator Dentist Drama Therapist Doctor Electrician Engineer Environmental Scientist Event Coordinator Estate Agent Farmer Fashion Designer Firefighter Forensic Scientist Footballer Fundraiser Interior Designer Journalist Judge/Magistrate Landscape Gardener Lawyer Librarian Linguist Nurse Optician PA Paramedic Pathologist Personnel Officer Pilot/Cabin Crew Plumber Police Officer Politician Press Officer Professional Athlete Psychologist Physiotherapist Radio Producer/Presenter Radiologist Researcher Retailer Set Designer Speech Therapist Teacher Television Producer/Writer Vet Vicar Writer Zookeeper
And any other interesting job that's not on our list!



If you are one of the above or know someone who is and you/they would be willing to take part in Take Our Daughters to Work Day 2004, please contact to Kelly Quigley, 42 Berkeley Close, Biggleswade, Beds, SG18 8SY.

kelly.quigley@btopenworld.com



The **Toddington/Harlington District Craft Competition** included cooking, writing, drawing, model making, flower arranging, plate gardens and vegetable animals. The girls could enter one item in as many categories as they liked and we were pleased with the number of entries. The ideas and skills that the girls displayed were very encouraging but it did make the judging extremely difficult. Certificates for entrants and for winners were awarded at the end of the afternoon when parents and girls came together to see each other's efforts. Having a District that spans two villages, this was a very creative idea to bring the girls together and worked very well and I'm sure we will do it again.

Dunstable Division recently held the Annual **Winnie Blake Challenge**. Winnie was part of the movement for some 70 years and we celebrate those years by this award. The Brownies (one from each Pack) had five challenges to complete: to make a passport, design and write a post card, cook on a barbecue, learn some words in a foreign language (German) and complete an 'international' Kim's game. Judged by ladies from our Trefoil Guild, the overall winner was Hannah Mitchelmore from the 4th Dunstable Pack who received the splendid Winnie Blake Cup to keep for the year. It was later discovered that the 4th Dunstable had been started by Winnie, so Hannah was a very appropriate winner. The girls enjoyed the challenges and were awarded the World Traveller Badge for taking part.

Dunstable Division Annual Thinking Day Service was held in the lovely Catholic Church of St. Mary in Dunstable where the banners, pennants and flags made a splendid display church. This year was very well attended and the presentations very creative and we heard from Rainbows, Brownies and Guides how Thinking Day began and why we were celebrating. Each of the sections were invited to renew their promise and reminded us all of the promise we have made to the movement. We sang beautifully together and ended with the Guide Hymn while the colours were collected, quite a sight. A collection was made during the service of £280.43 and was donated to Keech Cottage.

There were some Guides from Harlington 1 st Who came the very opposite of worst When at WISE They won first prize For composing this following verse:	Some Guides went to camp in North Scotland Which was not a very hot land The put on a kettle Which was made of fine metal And danced to some music from Scotland.
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For **Take Our Daughters to Work Day March 2003**, Rebecca from 2nd Stopsley, Lisa from 5th Stopsley and Rachel from 7th Stopsley Guide Units in Luton South Division visited the House of Commons with Margaret Moran, MP for Luton South. We were met at Portcullis House by Ewan, Margaret Moran's secretary, who told us a bit about the building on the way upstairs to her office. The Guides then had a chance to ask Margaret Moran some questions which they had prepared beforehand. She then took us across to Westminster Hall and told us some of its history, and we went to watch a debate from the gallery above the House of Commons. We lunched at the café in Westminster Hall and after a quick visit to the Guide Headquarters came home. The guides all agreed that it was a wonderful experience and had thoroughly enjoyed their day.

Deborah Bachini, Guider 2nd Stopsley Guide, who accompanied the Guides to London

See inside for how you can help with the 2004 Take Our Daughters to Work

The **County Archives** have recently acquired Molly, one of the models from the old Heritage Centre. I had been told that 'Molly' was "about 4'6" tall" but when I saw her standing in the storeroom I could not believe my eyes. She stands head and shoulders over me. I managed to dismantle her and along with my family we each carried a part of her down the road to the bus stop (getting many strange looks along the way). I now have her standing in the corner of my dining room dressed in 1920's uniform, and I'm sure she will become a regular visitor to county events in the future.

Please don't throw away anything connected to Guiding, whatever its condition without asking me first to see if it can be stored in the county archives for the girls and leaders of the future. I am also available to bring things along to your meetings or the girls to see.

Paul Hunt, County Archivist