



Girlguiding

Bedfordshire



BedsBuzz

Autumn '04

Happy New Year to You All!

It seems more appropriate at this time of year to use this greeting! I hope that you all had a good rest during the summer and are refreshed to enjoy all the opportunities ahead of us this year.

Activities planned include County Training Day (October 9th)- a superb opportunity for us all to learn new skills, network, meet friends old and new and to give ourselves a good energy boost for the New Year.

At the other end of the year is Fox lease (June 10 - 12 2005) - a fun filled weekend where you can recharge your batteries ready for the summer break.

And in between lots of activities in Sections/Divisions and Districts.

Enjoy your Guiding and do remember to tell us all about what you are doing - shout it from the roof tops, put it in BedsBuzz, advertise it in advance in the mail shot, get it on the web site, write to Guiding magazine, tell your local paper.....

Pass on the Passion!

Kathy

Kathy Carroll - County Commissioner



KATHY'S CAMP - I lived to tell the tale

Being a Brownie Guider, I always swore that I would never camp - "it's not my thing". But when I was co-erced into (sorry, asked to)organise a craft activity at Kathy's Camp, I reluctantly decided to have a go.

I arrived on Friday evening with pictures in my mind of everyone sleeping sardine-fashion on hard, lumpy ground in a green ridge tent and having to use a lat. Not a bit of it. I slept on an airbed, in my own pod, sharing a frame tent with only one other guider. Sheer luxury!!

I had also been warned about cold nights, so I left my t-shirt on under my fleecy p.j.s and wore socks (everyone else knew better and wore a tracksuit) and awoke Saturday morning, surprised that I had had a good night's sleep (apart from a cold nose!) and to find a welcoming cup of tea waiting for me, made by early riser Pam Andrews.

Guiders continued to arrive and set up tents of all sizes during Saturday morning and were then arranged into patrols and given their duties for the weekend (wood, water and health). The activities were well planned and everyone went off to do the physical outdoor things or the quiet indoor crafts and these were then discussed or shown off at break times.

Meals were superbly cooked and served indoors by Jeanne Wain and her team (another shock as I was prepared for the char-grilled burger-type meals we produce at our annual Brownie cook-out!) and coffee and cakes came at regular intervals all weekend. Saturday evening finished with singing round the camp fire (a real bonfire compared with our Brownie effort) and the odd glass of something to help us sleep.

I had survived my first camp at 50-something and went home on Sunday afternoon feeling tired but really pleased with all my new achievements, which included being part of a colour party and helping to strike camp.

I have my plate bag, and several items I didn't take this time, ready for the next camp. So I hope that Kathy and Nancy have a date and venue in mind for next year. Who knows, a few more sceptical guiders like me and we could perhaps take over the whole camp site!

Janet Locke, Stopsley South Division.



Back by popular demand...

...following its great success...

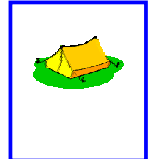
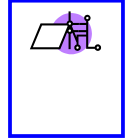
...there will be a second Kathy's Camp next year —

9th, 10th and 11th September, 2005

Book the date now, so that you don't miss

the opportunity to share in the fun and activities over the weekend

There will be lots of new activities as well as many favourites



VACANCIES

We are looking for membership development coordinators in the following areas: North Bedfordshire, Dunstable, South Bedfordshire, East Bedfordshire, Mid Bedfordshire and Bedford. Job will involve: attending 4 meetings of the Membership Development group a year, coordinating media work and getting involved in other membership development work. Exciting post - person needs enthusiasm for Guiding but need not be in uniform. Full training given. Interested? Talk to your Division Commissioner or contact Denise Yates for further information (01525 381 474 or denise@yatesda.fsnet.co.uk)

Type of special need – main categories	Per cent of units
Arthritis	1.8
Asthma	54
Autism and related	2
Behavioural difficulties	5
Cancer	2
Diabetes	7.3
Down's Syndrome	1.8
Dyslexia	11
Eczema	11
Epilepsy	5
General allergy	1.4
Hearing impaired	9
Lactose intolerance	2
Learning Difficulties	17
Limb related	4
Mobility	5
Nut allergy	6
Other	5
Penicillin allergy	1.4
Pollen allergy	2
Speech/language disorder	0.9
Spina Bifida	0.9
Stomach/bowel related	1.4
Visually impaired	10

54% of units in Bedfordshire have members with asthma - and that's official.

218 units returned their special needs questionnaires and the results have now been analysed. For a copy of the summary report, please e-mail Denise Yates on denise@yatesada.fsnet.co.uk.

Key findings

- 54% of units have one or more members with asthma ranging from mild to severe
- 17% of units have members with learning difficulties
- 10% of units have members with some sort of visual impairment
- 9% of units have one or more members with hearing impairment
- Guiders are doing a good job supporting members with a range of special needs but feel they could do more with more support and information about how to help

Girlguiding Bedfordshire will be doing some work on special needs in the unit in the coming year on the basis of these findings.

Feedback from Guides on Boyds Field Activity Days

We really enjoyed all 3 activities. We enjoyed climbing because we got to abseil down. We also enjoyed canoeing because we played lots of games and we ran across the canoes and jumped in. We really enjoyed archery because we got to use bows and arrows. We really hope that you run this next year as it is so much fun! We highly recommend you join in if you get a chance!

From Danielle, Johanna, Victoria and Claire, Maulden and Ampthill Guides.

I thought the archery was really good and I learnt how to do it properly, even though I've done it twice before.

Amy, 1st Langford Guides.

I thoroughly enjoyed the canoeing as it was fun and exciting. The best parts were playing Sharks and Minoe. My most memorable part was running along the kayaks and jumping in the pond! I really really enjoyed it. I hope there will be another one. Archery is also dead cool and fun although after a while your fingers begin to ache, but you get used to it! TRUST ME.

Michaela Dicker, 1st Maulden Guides.

I really enjoyed the kayaking because I did a headstand in my kayak and we played games. I also enjoyed the archery. I learnt a lot and managed to get quite a few in the gold and even pop a few balloons. I am hoping that the climbing will be just as much fun.

Laura, 1st Shillington Guides.

I enjoyed archery because I'd never done it before and it was a good experience. I'd done canoeing before and that helped me decide to go again. If this happens again I would definitely go.

Hannah Molyneux, 1st Maulden Guides.

I thought that the canoeing was great fun! Especially when you get wet and play games.

Naomi, 1st Shillington Guides.

I really enjoyed the canoeing. It was really fun! My favourite part was running along the noses of the canoes then jumping off the end!

Rachel Wood, 1st Maulden Guides. *P.S. I hope there will be another!*

We enjoyed the canoeing the most because we played lots of games and got to jump in!!! We also enjoyed climbing and abseiling!!! So we enjoyed EVERYTHING.

1st Ampthill Guides and one 1st Flitwick Guide.

I really enjoyed the whole day! It was Great. The canoeing was really fun, as we played lots of games. The archery was really good. I had climbed before and I enjoyed it just as much here. I hope there is another one soon because I would love to come.

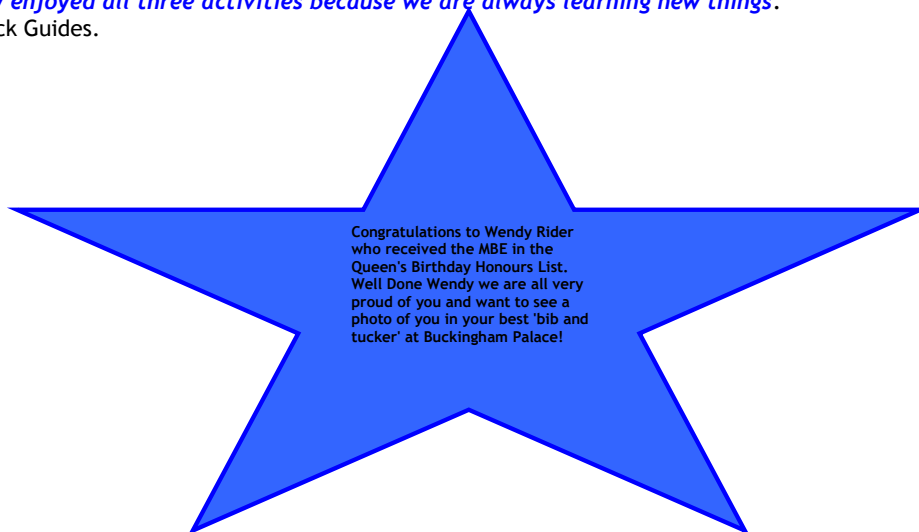
Claudia Mayr, 1st Maulden Guides.

I really enjoyed the kayaking. I got soaked. It was really fun!

Ella, 1st Shillington Guides.

We really enjoyed all three activities because we are always learning new things.

1st Flitwick Guides.





Update on Keech Cottage Hospice

Although our partnership with Keech Cottage Hospice has now formally ended, units are still welcome to carry on fundraising for this worthwhile cause. At the end of August, we had raised a grand total of...

£4270.83 to support local children with life threatening and life limiting conditions. **Well done to everyone who took part!**

Cakes For Childline

ChildLine East Midlands & East celebrate their 18th birthday in Cakes for ChildLine - to bake, in children's helpline. By baking and selling any cake your unit will be helping ChildLine reach its aim of answering every child who calls our helpline. You can organise a raffle to win a cake, make and sell a ChildLine cake or choose one of our ideas for fundraising from the Cake For ChildLine pack - the choice is your! You can help raise funds for ChildLine for as long as you want - be it on Childline's birthday itself, during their birthday month or throughout their 18th birthday year! And ChildLine will provide each group who registers with a fantastic pack that includes a recipe sheet, posters, collecting boxes and a press release so that you can promote your Cakes for ChildLine event. If you would like more information about ChildLine, their 18th birthday celebrations or Cakes for ChildLine contact them on 0115 924 2544.



Anglia has contacted us to ask us to help them Childline Day on 15th October by getting involved sell and eat cakes to help raise money for the



Make a Child Smile Challenge—2004-5

KidsOut, the national charity based in Leighton Buzzard, is our charity of the year for 2004/5. We have been working with them over the last few months to develop an exciting partnership which reflects the fun and friendship both organisations believe are important for today's young people. One of the elements of this partnership is our Make a Child Smile Challenge - a range of fun and fundraising activities using the balloon - the KidsOut logo. For each unit completing the Challenge there will be a certificate (which can be photocopied for each person taking part). We are also hoping that later in the year there will be badges available and some fun activities we can take part in with KidsOut itself. The Pack itself will be available on our website or can be e-mailed from Denise Yates (denise@yatesda.fsnet.co.uk) on request. Details of how to get hard copies will be available in the monthly mailout.

One other practical way you can help support KidsOut is by recycling your used printer cartridges. We will be sending out bags for you to use if you want - additional bags can be obtained from KidsOut - 01525 385 252

Caroline Nash has finished her term of office as BedsBuzz editor. On behalf of everyone in Girlguiding Bedfordshire a big THANK YOU for getting our newsletter off the ground again and doing such a great job. We'll miss you!

Kathy Carroll

PS Diane Butler one of our Ambassadors has agreed to take over as Editor from the next edition - watch this space!