



Bedfordshire Businesswoman of the Year

Skills gained from a long Guiding career have helped Jenny Tomsett run two successful businesses - and win the coveted title of Bedfordshire Businesswoman of the Year 2007.

Jenny runs Unipalm, based in Willington, which deals with the export of oil palm seeds - an ingredient in many everyday products - from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Her nomination outlined some of the challenges that Jenny has undergone in order to develop sales despite civil war and unrest over the last eight years, and her ability to convince clients that product quality and supply is not compromised.

Receiving the award at a glittering ceremony held at Woburn Abbey's Sculpture Gallery, Jenny dedicated it to the workers in Congo who, under very difficult and sometimes impossible conditions, have managed to maintain the quality and delivery of oil palm seeds to destinations worldwide. *continued on p2*



Happy New Year to You All

I hope that you have all recovered from the festive season and are rested enough to take on another Guiding Year. It can be exhausting taking on responsibility of Guiding in whatever form - running a Unit, Assisting in a Unit, Treasurer, Commissioner, Adviser. All these appointments are to be fitted in around lots of other daily/ weekly/ family/ work commitments.

The time and effort you give to Girlguiding Bedfordshire is greatly appreciated and I thank you all for everything you have done in the past and continue to do.

2008 is the springboard for many initiatives - Streamline, Centenary Celebrations and Senior Section Programme Renewal are probably the most prominent. Rainbows also celebrate their 21st birthday this year.

Prepare for another year of exciting Guiding and I hope that you will all find time in your busy schedules to enjoy what Guiding offers to you as an adult.

Kathy

Kathy Carroll, County Commissioner

Living History in Leighton Linlade

Camp doughnuts and campfire songs attracted hundreds of people to South Bedfordshire Division's display at Leighton Linlade's Living History Day in October. With a theme of popular pastimes and hobbies, the display included a traditional ridge tent, a modern lightweight tent and an altar fire. Photographs and log book and the county collection of historical Guiding uniforms completed the setting.

The wood smoke attracted a steady stream of visitors - as did the camp doughnuts, with 480 given out and many people asking for the recipe. Many Brownies and Guides tried on the historical uniforms and visitors enjoyed spotting themselves in photographs. Many others just enjoyed reminiscing about their time as a Brownie or Guide.

We handed out numerous PR leaflets - people didn't dare to say no when an angelic Rainbow was thrusting them into their hand! - and handled numerous enquiries from parents looking for Rainbow and Brownie places. We also met two people interested in becoming leaders, two who wanted to join Rangers and four potential Trefoil Guild members.

One visitor was a Girl Scout Leader from America who plans to make contact with us via the website when she gets home, and another wanted to donate her mother's Guide uniform to the County archives. All in all a very successful day.

Debbie Docherty



Bedfordshire Businesswoman of the Year *Cont. from p1*

Jenny says, "I had been a guide in Stanmore in Middlesex where I grew up and then joined as a young guider in 1967 at the age of eighteen, running a Guide unit for 28 years starting in Luton, then moving to Bedford and Great Barford. I was District Commissioner for Sandy District for 8 years before I retired from guiding. However I did not give it up completely. I became Secretary for the Bedfordshire Singing Circle and I still enjoy doing that today. It keeps me in contact with something that I loved doing, and also with the many friends that I have made in Guiding. A lot of the leadership skills that I now use to run my businesses I learnt from my guiding years - and particularly at the many trainings that I attended. I will always be thankful for the experience it gave me through a very special part of my life. Guiding is all about thinking of others and I have made that a part of my everyday working life too, which is why the Congo is so important to me."

Congratulations Jenny, we're all very proud of you!

Wanted - PR team members

If you're interested in promoting local guiding, helping to recruit and retain members and making sure that current members are kept abreast of opportunities, why not join the Bedfordshire PR Team?

We're currently a small, friendly team running the recruitment hotline, overseeing www.bedsguiding.org.uk, writing and designing BedsBuzz and the Annual Report, helping to publicise local guiding to Bedfordshire's media and much more.

We're looking for people who are passionate about, and want to promote, local guiding. You don't need any experience and we can help you find a role that you'd like to take on. Being part of the team would be a great addition to any CV - and can be a lot of fun!

For a chat about what you could offer to the PR team, and what we could offer you, contact Kelly Quigley, PR Adviser, at kelly.quigleyhicks1@yahoo.co.uk or call 01767 310395.



Tea in Beds

Is your unit taking part in the Tea in Beds World Thinking Day challenge 2008? There's still time to plan your unit's tea party to take place between Monday 18 and Sunday 24 February.

The aim of the challenge is to promote guiding locally and raise funds for local units and the World Thinking Day Fund. A special commemorative badge is also available which will look fantastic on any sash or camp blanket.

The Tea in Beds activity pack has been available at www.bedsguiding.org <<http://www.bedsguiding.org/>> since last month, but a copy has also been included in the January mailshot. The pack - with foreword from the Duchess of Bedford - gives lots of ideas for party themes, activities and fundraising.

Whether you hold a Mad Hatters' Tea Party or Teddy Bears Tea Party, you're sure to have lots of fun. The PR Team will be working hard to promote guiding in local media during World Thinking Day week, so do let them know what you're planning to help maximize coverage. And don't forget to send your pictures and tea party stories in to Bedsbuzz!

Funding your dreams

Grants of up to £2,000 are now available for Anglia Girlguiding Members aged 10-25 to help get their dreams off the ground. The money is available from Project Switch, a new lottery funded initiative in association with Girlguiding UK.

You can find out more online at www.projectswitch.org.uk or by contacting Bedfordshire's representatives on the regional panel - Claire Wilmot at sunshine7399@hotmail.com and Christina Hunt at cutie_ceed@hotmail.co.uk

Claire and Christina are happy to answer any questions you may have, help with applications and visit units and meetings to promote this fantastic opportunity.



Giant Sleepover Award Winners - Best Recycled banner

There was a great deal of excitement at 1st Wootton Brownies when an email arrived announcing them winners of the Best Recycled Banner award at this year's Giant Sleepover.

A great deal of effort had been put into the project - the back of the Giant Sleepover banner was transformed into a scene of good and bad recycling. All of the girls walked across the banner and left their painted footprints in the stream and sky. We then had a go with potato printing to create the tree and other effects. The overall picture was completed by sticking on artwork showing what makes up good and bad recycling. Finally, the sun was added to shine down on the righteous side of the project.

It must have impressed the judges as they gave us the award.

A down side to winning, though, was that none of the leaders were able to take the girls to the BT Centre in London to collect the award as they were on the County trip to Sangam (this was an absolutely fantastic trip to India). So some parents were persuaded to take the girls along and a wonderful time was had by all. The prizes were a DVD player and a complete set of books.

*1st Wootton Brownies
South Ouse District, Bedford*





Our newest recruit!

Congratulations to Kelly Quigley-Hicks and her husband Graham on the birth of Olivia Rose, Girlguiding Bedfordshire's newest recruit. Olivia arrived on the fifth October weighing 7lb exactly, and is looking forward to joining Rainbows in just under five years time.

As well as her new arrival, Kelly is also celebrating being named Outstanding Young Communicator at the Chartered Institute of Public Relations' East Anglia annual awards. Runner-up last year, she emphasised her guiding PR role in her award application and sent the latest Annual Review as an example of her work.

Well done Kelly!



Pirates ahoy



1st Flitwick Rainbows enjoyed a pirate evening, each wearing an eye patch to raise money for the Tall Ships Race.

Ahoy there me hearties!

Giggles for guiders at Big Gig!

Celia and friends enjoying themselves at this year's Big Gig!



Spotted in Shillington

A group of guides seen camping in the County commissioners garden during the Shillington Scarecrow festival this summer!



Carnival prizewinners

A lot of imagination and hard work this summer saw first prize in the Children's section of the Leighton-Linslade Carnival carried off by 1st and 5th Leighton Buzzard Brownies.

The carnival theme was "Leighton-Linslade through the ages". After discussions with the girls we decided to celebrate Leighton-Linslade's War effort, in particular the Vimy Bomber, Gossards making parachutes and the Land Army.

Despite the windy conditions we had a good day and the girls had great fun trying to hold things down in the wind!

A lot of effort went into decorating the float and creating costumes, but it was all worth while when we found out that we had claimed the top prize!

Maggs Bambrook

1st Leighton Buzzard Brownies

Rainbows lay wreath

The picture below shows 1st Linslade Rainbows laying a wreath at this year's Remembrance day service.



Farm Visit

1st Caldecote and District Rainbows enjoy a visit to Hamerton Farm.



SINGING CIRCLE DATES SPRING 2008

Haverings, Luton - Tuesday 15th January 8:00pm

St Marks Church, Bedford - Monday 31st March 7:45pm

Haverings, Luton- Thursday 22th May 7.45pm

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**Thanks for all your articles and pictures - they are great !
 keep sending and I will print everything I can fit in!**

Celia visits Pax Lodge!



Golden Girls

Congratulations to Biggleswade Trefoil Guild on reaching their Golden Anniversary.

Fifty years ago, three guiding friends saw an advert in the local paper for a meeting to encourage more ladies to join the Trefoil Guild. Following the meeting, they joined up with three more friends to form the Biggleswade Trefoil Guild.

On 4 June this year the Guild celebrated its 50th anniversary at St. Andrew's Church, Biggleswade. Judith Thatcher, Guild Chairman says, "We received cards and were given a commemorative bookmark by the 1st Biggleswade Brownies and a professional photograph was taken in the church grounds. Many a tale was told and much laughter was had looking through memorabilia which members had bought along. The evening went by so quickly, but there was still time to enjoy tasty refreshments and a quiet moment of reflection when cutting the cake."

The Guild first met in members' houses, then in various halls until 1988 when meetings began to be held in the new Chapter House of St. Andrew's Church. Judith says, "We have spent many happy hours testing children for their badge work - cookery, needlework and other activities including folk dancing - and Members will recall many hilarious moments whilst helping at Brownie levels.

"Fundraising has always been an important aspect of our guild, and we have always supported units in this way. One of the projects we helped with was providing money to buy a flag for the Methodist Guide company.

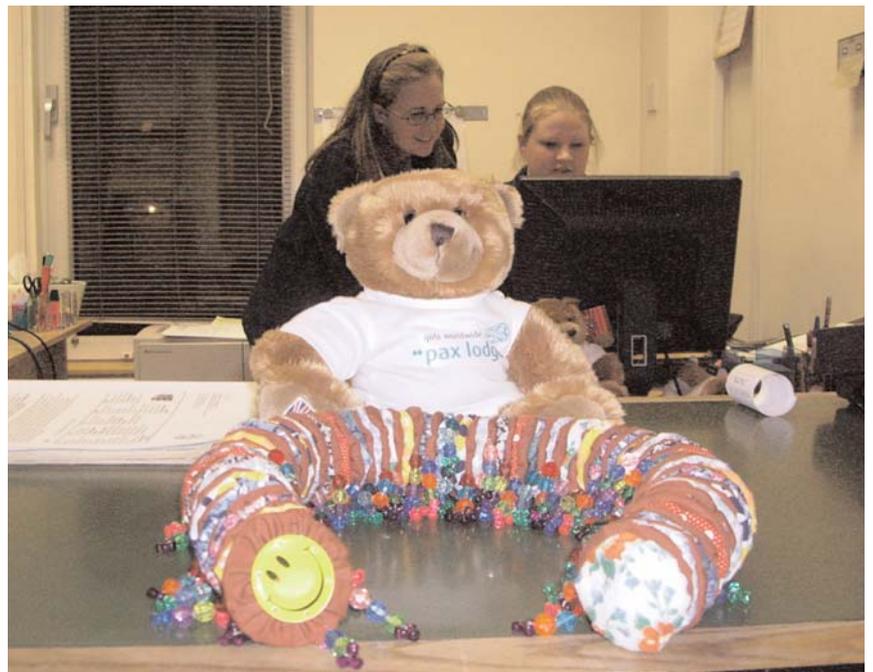
"One of our annual highlights is of course, World Thinking Day, which has always been well attended with members always keen to help in any way. Our annual anniversary dinner is always well attended and throughout the year we enjoy welcoming speakers and taking part in craft evenings.

"We have been on many outings including a visit to Hautbois House, Pax Lodge, the London Eye, the Millennium Dome and the Cotswolds, plus a memorable visit to Switzerland and Our Chalet with guild members and husbands from around the county which was a wonderful experience.

"Taking part in county events, treasure hunts, walks, swimathons and gang shows has been challenging and given us wonderful opportunities to meet other members of the guiding and scouting movements. Here's to another 50 years!"

Judith Thatcher

Chairman, Biggleswade Trefoil Guild



Celia joined in the Regional International Opportunities weekend at Pax Lodge. here is a picture of her at the booking in desk making friends with a Pax Lodge Bear - she was admired by all the girls and leaders there...and collected 4 cloth and 1 metal badge for her camp blanket - note that one of the pax lodge badges is a special edition as the colours were printed the wrong way round - a collectors item for the future...

So despite being only 3 months old Celia has already visited 3 World Centres!
Gill Lake

Firefighter Brownies



2nd Maulden Brownies enjoyed a very exciting visit to their local fire station in Ampt Hill, as part of their fire safety badge.

Fire officers gave a presentation and demonstrated special outfits and breathing apparatus. The girls also got to use a fire hose on the training ground. The officers were very impressed with the Brownies' fire safety knowledge and signed the badge books before the girls left to the sounds of sirens and blue flashing lights.

Sandra Grant