

Go International

Welcome to the world of a County International Adviser and how you and your unit can be part of it.

January - Anglia Region runs a Leaders Briefing Day where the International team can help you plan a trip to take your unit abroad, including all those ghastly forms and working through the International Module for Camps and Holidays. Look out for the advertisements from Jeka and Venture Abroad in Guiding - Guides from Luton had a enjoyable time at Disneyland Paris.

February - Probably the busiest time of the year when everyone celebrates Thinking Day at all sorts of levels; perhaps in their district or by going to the service held at Westminster as did some of the Y.L.'s from Bedford. How about going to New Zealand next year - see the classified section in March Guiding.

This year I had a fastball opportunity for Senior Section members to go forward for Regional Selection to the 21st World Scout Jamboree in 2007 and the county had two successful applicants. Look out for these types of opportunities - you should hear about them at your division and district meetings when you discuss my county international report. Please make sure you let all the members in your unit hear about them - even if you aren't interested, they may be.

At the end of the month, I took four of my Guides to the launch of the new Girlguiding UK publication "Right Now!" which you can buy from Trading Services. This is a three year initiative carrying on from the WAGGS initiative of Rights and Responsibilities. All members from Rainbows to Senior Section can take part and there are six different badges you can work towards.

June - Are you interested in leading Region trips abroad or going on adults only trip to one of the World Centres such as Our Cabana, Mexico or Sangam, India? There's a selection day at Toft, Cambridgeshire on Sunday 25 June. If you don't fancy it this year, think about it for another year. Bedfordshire is also planning to take an all adult group to Sangam - are you already getting involved in the planning?

July & August - Another busy period where most units travel abroad, having completed all the preparation days and weekends beforehand plus fundraising in order to take part in the trip. This summer three Bedford Division Rangers are going on regional trips to Russia and Mexico, Brickhill Guides are off to a Jamboree in Taiwan plus I'm taking a group of young Guiders to Egypt. Last year Woburn Rangers did their DoE expeditions in Austria. If you don't want to go abroad, why don't you join in a jamboree in the UK such as Norjam or Poacher? Sometimes you can even visit for the day which some of us did last year to Eurojam in Essex.

Going abroad for your summer holiday and fancy meeting members of WAGGS in the country you are visiting? Why not contact me for an introduction card? They won't give you accommodation but perhaps you can meet up with them at a unit meeting or camp for the day.

Got some spare time - visit the Girlguiding UK or Scout websites and look up international, you can find opportunities to get involved as a member of an International Service Team (IST). There are also advertisements for house assistants at the World Centres such as Pax Lodge, London and Our Chalet, Switzerland.

October & November - Normally time for the various selections for Guides and Senior Section. Application forms to take part in GOLD (Guiding Overseas Linked with Development) are available now. A Guider from Dunstable is going to help in South Africa this summer. November is when Anglia Region hold their regional selection - each county is offered four places for girls to attend. Get your Guides/Senior Section members who are going to be 14 - 18 next summer to talk to me and fill in an I/N (international nomination) form. Details once again are available in my international report at the appropriate time of year.

All year round - I'm happy to come and visit your unit to run an international evening or to bring along my costume talk - many Brownies and Guides have had fun dressing up. I'm happy to help you with badgework, celebrating festival days, working with girls of different religions or cultures, and international initiatives including charities at all levels in the Guiding movement.

Look out for new resources - in the March Guiding it tells you all about how you can take part in the Alliouaga Challenge to help raise funds for the Montserrat Guide Association. Last year several members in the county took part in the Make Poverty History initiative.

Why not ask people to come in and talk to your unit? - in my last report I gave out details about contacting the Orangutan Foundation or could ask some one who has been on a previous international event such as Christina Russell who gave a talk at the Annual Review or myself who has been to Thailand and South Korea. If you approach the Trefoil Guild, I am sure there would be someone who would love to talk to you about their international experiences.

If you go to London, visit Pax Lodge, our youngest world centre or even stay there. A couple of us went from the county and had a lovely time joining in their 15th birthday celebrations. Look out for lots more events over the coming year.

Have you ever considered attending an international training at a Guide centre? Keep an eye out in the What's On Diary. In Bronerion in May there is an international gaining weekend for Brownie, Guide and Senior Section leaders. Sometimes there are international events being run at the Icando centre. Perhaps the Guiders in your district could go sail across to France for the day, visit Brussels on the Eurostar or take a coach to the German Christmas markets.

Do you and your girls feel part of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts? To find out more have a look through the publication "Trefoil Around the World." Trading Services have several publications available such as "A World of Ideas." Finally why don't you get everyone to wear a world badge? It is available in cloth or metal and can be worn in or out of uniform by any member of WAGGS. Wear it with pride to show you are one of over 10 million members from 148 countries.

If you want to know more about international or would like some help incorporating this aspect of the programme into your unit, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01234 352635 or email t david@routledge.fsnet.co.uk

*Julia Routledge
Bedfordshire County International Adviser*

Visit our website: www.bedsguiding.org.uk

Beds Buzz

Summer 2006



Girlguiding

Bedfordshire



Kathy having a swinging time at Haverings BP day!

Swinging into Summer!

Hope the good weather has arrived by the time you receive this edition of Beds Buzz. I always feel the summer term is when Guiding comes to the fore with all the outdoor activities, day trips, sleepovers, holidays and camps. Let the public see us out there in numbers and remind them that we exist; be enthusiastic, be passionate, be out there.

See you at Kathy's Camp III. See you at Hautbois See you out there!!!

Kathy

Kathy Carroll, County Commissioner

The 2005 Annual Review

This year's review was held in Leighton Buzzard and was, as usual, very well attended. We were entertained by television cook - Zena Skinner, who amused us all with her anecdotes about her early days in television - especially where to put the microphone!

A reading on inspirational influences during the Review triggered this letter from Lora Harvey which sums up the whole ethos of Girlguiding...

'I thought it would be appropriate to say that Gill Lake is one of the reasons I volunteered to join Guiding. I was a Brownie and a Guide when I was younger. I remember as a Guide going to Beds Sail Away Camp. I left Guides shortly after this but have always had fond memories of that week.

It was in February 2002 that I noticed an article in the newspaper about Thinking Day and saw that it was asking for volunteers, thoughts of my weeks camp came flooding back. I can remember thinking how much I had enjoyed it and wondered if it was still possible to enjoy that sort of experience again. I thought I was probably too old now to go on camps, but I thought I would like to be able to help others have fun and get that kind of experience.

I decided to visit the website and left my details as a volunteer. A while after I was contacted and soon went to help at my first Brownie meeting. I really enjoyed it and returned every week and after a while, started doing the adult leadership qualification. The next year also went to Bridges with my Young Leader where we spent a fab week on the Senior Section sub camp.

I had a really fantastic time and met so many great new people and also learnt that it was still not too late to have fun myself in Guiding, I also learnt about the Senior Section and Rangers - which I previously knew nothing about and joined a ranger unit in St. Neots.

Since this, I have done lots of things with the 7th Dunstable Brownies including the local carnival, Butlins for Funtasia, Pizza Hut, bowling, swimming - anything they say they want to do! As a Ranger I have been away on indoor holidays, camped in

Thank you everyone who sent in their wonderful pictures for consideration for the Annual Review. I could not use all of them but as you can see - I will use them in Beds Buzz over the next few issues - ED

Wales and Estonia, done an overnight incident hike and made many great friends. I also have my Ranger Guider to thank for accepting me, giving me information about the things which I knew nothing and for encouraging me to do the things I want to do.

I feel that I have achieved a lot in the few years I have been involved with Guiding, working for my pack holiday licence as well as receiving my Adult Leadership. I have helped open a Ranger Unit in Dunstable, started my Queens Guide Award. volunteered for weekends at Waddow Hall and Foxlease - including running the Senior Section Chill Out weekend. I took over the running of 4th Houghton Regis Brownies when their leaders left in December and encouraged two new people to help. A huge thing for me as well has been being selected for the GOLD trip to Africa.

I hope to achieve many great things from Guiding in the future - I'm really enjoying it and want to help others enjoy it just as much, if not more.

Anyway, my point of telling you all of this is that I don't think I would have volunteered had I not had the fantastic experience at Beds Sail Away and feel that it is appropriate to say a huge thank you to Gill Lake for this...'



3rd Leighton Buzzard Brownies learning morse code

Thinking Day Celebrations

Guiding South Bedfordshire celebrated World Thinking Day at Woburn Parish Church. Rainbows, Brownies, Guides Senior Section and adult members from Leighton Buzzard, Linslade, Woburn, Woburn Sands, Aspley Guise and Cranfield joined together for an informal service supported by Revd Steve Nuth, vicar of Woburn. Many members took part in the service by reading poems and prayers and parading flags and banners.



In the weeks leading up to the celebration units had been raising funds to buy gifts from the Oxfam Unwrapped catalogue. They had worked very hard at bring and buy sales, coffee mornings, bingo evenings and sponsored events and raised over £2000, a fantastic total. The units have chosen a variety of gifts including goats, donkeys, school dinners, water supplies and even toilets which will go to Third World Countries to help families and children.

After the service a range of activities took place including games, crafts, quizzes and singing. Two members of the Leighton Buzzard Trefoil Guild, Dolly Harmer and Joan Slow together with Peter Palmer a Leighton Buzzard Scouter dressed in costume as Agnes Baden-Powell, Lady Olave Baden-Powell and Lord Baden-Powell and entertained the younger Girlguiding members with stories about Guiding and Scouting in the past in the past.



Baden Powell Challenge

Foxlease Weekend

My name is Megan Cusack and I am a member of 1st Westoning Guide Unit. On 13 January this year, Terri Ann Toombs and I travelled to Foxlease Guide Centre in Hampshire to complete our Baden Powell Challenge weekend.

The theme was Australia, so I set off with my boomerang and koala, ready for fun. The food for the weekend was great and the house was brilliant. We stayed in dorms and while we were there met lots of new friends - all there to complete their Baden Powell Challenge.

We went outside to make dampers, took part in team building skills and practised putting up flag poles. We had quizzes round the house and grounds and also did lots of craft. On the last night we had an Australian Feast. We all dressed smartly and drank fruit cocktails. We also sang songs and clapped along to music using Australian instruments.

It was a brilliant weekend and a great chance to meet other Guides. Thank you to everyone who helped organise it.

Megan Cusack - Aged 13

BEDFORDSHIRE SINGING CIRCLE

Haverings, Luton - Thursday 18th May 7.45pm
Sandy Baptist Church - Tuesday 4th July 7:45pm
Windy Sayles, Whipsnade - Wednesday 13th Sept. 7:45pm
St Marks Church, Bedford - Monday 27th November 7:45pm
Haverings, Luton - Tuesday 16th January 2007 8:00pm

Shillington Guides are Radio Stars!



As part of their Watch It! Challenge, 1st Shillington Guides visited BBC Television Centre in February. A two hour tour took us around the studios. We learnt about the history of the building and looked into the studios. We saw them cleaning up the Dick and Dom in Da Bungalow set after the show had finished and doing the sound checks in the 'Two of Us' studio.

We learnt the secrets of how they do the weather using blue screen effects and ended the tour by playing in our own interactive studio. Some of us played around with the sound effects, some of us ran the video tape and some of us even had a go at being on Newsround and the Weakest Link.

At the end of the tour we bumped into a producer who asked for four volunteers to be interviewed. Our visit had coincided with the announcement of Girlguiding UK being awarded a grant from the Big Lottery Fund, and Radio 4 was covering it. Aneka, Lucy, Sophie and Beth were given headphones and sat down in the studio. They were interviewed by Carolyn Quinn who asked what they thought about trying to make Guides open to girls from different religions and cultures. They recorded the conversation and played some parts on the PM programme later that day.

BBC tours are open to anyone nine years and over, and operate Monday to Saturday. There is a separate CBBC tour for those aged seven and over, that only operates Monday to Friday. Visit: www.bbc.co.uk/tours

Guide Evaluation - Moving the programme forward. *Summary of the new publications and additions*

G File - A5 format, clear and easy to read. More information and record page structures to make completion easier.

Patrol X-tra - Introduced as a means of increasing support for the patrol and Unit Guider. It contains information, games, ideas and activities. The patrol does not need to write in the file and no activity requires photocopies.

Badge File - This can be kept at the back of the Patrol x-tra or in a separate file and has been designed as a unit, patrol or individual resource.

Challenge Badge - Same clauses but have been re-ordered to emphasise the twelve month period for completion.

Baden Powell Challenge - The clauses have been revised to include more individual challenges, badge work and community action. As before there are not compulsory clauses and the pre-requisites remain the same.

Baden Powell Challenge Adventure - Now called the Baden Powell Adventure to emphasise that the event is for celebration and a taste of Senior Section. The girls do not have to leave Guides after doing the challenge weekend.

Community Action Interest Badge - Additional section has been added that includes 'Take action in Girlguiding UK' to encourage Guides to help at Rainbow and Brownie Units.

Active Response Badge - Covers skills and knowledge that will help a Guide keep safe and deal with emergency situations.

Guide Camp Permit - Now follows a module format so that Guides may use their prior learning when taking the Senior Section Permit. Girls can start this when they are 12, but need more supervision and support. They need to be 13 before they can camp away from the unit.

BUZZING AROUND.....



"Surprise Yourself" ...

...and this is certainly what Luton North Division did on 12 November 2005 at Lealands High School. What had just been an idea at a Division meeting to raise money for Woodcroft (our Guide Activity Centre), flourished into a show of dramatic proportions.

"Surprise Yourself" was a gangshow under another name. This was mainly because we felt unable to meet the stringent rules for the naming of a gangshow. Each District, and the Trefoil Guild, performed an item of about 10 minutes. This resulted in items from "Grease"; songs and dances about "Food"; a panto from the Trefoil Guild; songs about animals; songs from a typical camp fire and various songs from musicals.

We started our show with everyone singing "Meet the Gang" (from "It Ain't Half Hot Mum") and finished with "Crest of a Wave". In all about 200 girls and nearly every leader from our Division took part in some way. Many hours were spent in rehearsals, and Elizabeth Auker (a very talented young leader) taught everyone the starting and closing songs, with actions, at a packed church hall on the Friday night before the show.

In all we raised £1200 for Woodcroft. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was involved. It was a spectacular achievement, and one I think we may repeat in the future. (mainly because we had so much fun!).

Anne Gibbons - Division Commissioner for Luton North Guides

Double Celebrations for 1st Houghton Conquest Rainbows

Bedford South Ouse District is delighted to announce that they have a new Rainbow Unit in Houghton Conquest, which opened early November last year. The Rainbows celebrated their new unit at their Christmas party and had a great time playing games and dancing. The older Rainbows made the party extra special by being the first to take their promises. We are especially grateful to Sara Cliff who without previous Guiding experience rang her District Commissioner and volunteered to start up the unit.

Well done Sara, we need more like you!!

Helen Dove - District Commissioner Bedford South Ouse

2nd Ampthill Fashion Show Success



Each six were a different season and they designed and made all the tops themselves. The Blue is the Hedgehog Six who had the theme Summer and they danced to Summer holiday.

BP Celebration evening for Rachel Hamon

Our first Guide to ever achieve a BP Challenge badge in 5th Stopsley Guides, which Sue Champkins presented at her celebration evening in November 2005.



Put these dates in your diary now!

12-14th May - Hautbois Weekend

16-18th June - Kathy's Camp

7-9th July - Queens Guide Weekend at Haverings

October 7th - Big Gig

Picture Gallery



Brownies getting ready to perform in the South Beds Division Gang Show

Guiders performing in the Leighton Heath District Gang Show



Snakes alive! A boa constrictor came to visit 2nd Wootton Brownies South Ouse District and made its way round a Guide who helps out

Breakfast at Woodcroft during a pack holiday in the summer



Winter walk in Shillington proving outdoors is not just for the warm weather!

Send your articles and comments to:

BedsBuzz

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