



Girlguiding

Bedfordshire



BedsBuzz

Summer 2003

WHATS THE BUZZ-TELL ME WHAT'S AHAPPENING

All Unit Guiders should now be receiving a monthly mailing from County and Bedsbuzz is sent out with the January, April and September mailings. To bridge the time lag between issues we are launching a monthly "Diary Sheet" to list events in the forthcoming month, including local events such as District Meetings and Jumble Sales. The mailing is usually sent out on the second Tuesday of the month so items for that month and the following will be included. They should be sent by the first day of the month to BedsBuzz@Hotmail.com or 5 Harvey Road, Bedford, MK41 9LF.

Launch Evenings for anyone wishing to know about the new Brownie Programme including Leaders, Young Leaders and Unit Helpers. Arrive from 7.30 for coffee with the presentation beginning at 8pm.			
Wednesday 7th May	Windy Sayles	Dunstable	Attend whichever evening suits you Queries to Hazel Donald, Training Co-Ordinator on 01462 812575
Thursday 8th May	Havering Guide Centre	Luton	
Tuesday 13 th May	St. John Rigby Lower School	Bedford	
Wednesday 14 th May	Village Hall	Carlton	
Monday 19th May	Woodcroft Guide Centre	Luton	
Thursday 22nd May	Edward Peake Middle School	Biggleswade	
Tuesday 3rd June	Clipstone Brook Lower School	Leighton Buzzard	
Wednesday 4 th June	Hetley House	Flitwick	
There are lots of exciting new materials which will be part of the new programme and there is a Special Offer only available at the launch evenings Buy FOUR sets of Brownie Materials and get one set free (Only one special offer per unit) Girlguiding Bedfordshire is paying for this special offer, as it is very important that someone from your unit attends one of the launch evenings. Other new material will be available, so bring your unit cheque books with you.			

Bedfordshire Guiding and the Flora Light Challenge for Women

Last year a team of Guiders completed the 5km challenge in Hyde Park. This year I am going to complete and I am hoping that other members of Girlguiding Bedfordshire will join me. The 5km may be walked or ran, or a combination of both, with **the biggest challenge being to ourselves to commit to the event.** The sponsorship money goes to charity. Last year the Guiding participants nominated the World Thinking Day Fund, this year they are hoping to have a UK Guiding fund to support, possibly the Brownie Pack at Great Ormand Street Hospital. Please contact me if you are interested in joining me in for a stroll around Hyde Park on September 14th. Hazel Donald 01462 812575, or hazel_duck@hotmail.com

COME ALONG AND 'SURPRISE YOURSELF'

Bedfordshire Singing Circle Dates		
Haverings, Luton	Tuesday 20 May	8:00pm
Sandy Baptist Church, Bedford Road, Sandy	Wednesday 9 July	7:45pm
Windy Sayles, Whipsnade	Thursday 11 September	7:45pm
Hetley House, Flitwick	Tuesday 7 October	8:15pm
Woodcroft, Luton	Wednesday 12 November	7:45pm
St Marks Church, Calder Rise, Bedford	Friday 28 November	7:45pm
St Marks Church, Calder Rise, Bedford	Sunday 30 November 2003	3:00pm
CHRISTMAS CONCERT I need to know the name and address of the lady who helped us at last year's concert so I can send her some money for teas etc. Do you know who she is? <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Jenny Tomsett (01234) 838576</i></p>		

Baden Powell Challenge Adventure

More and more Guides are arriving at Baden Powell Challenge - this is a great credit to both Guides and Guiders. To keep up with the demand for places, please will Guiders register Guides when they BEGIN the Baden Powell Challenge so I can tell you of forthcoming weekends. **Guides must 'participate in an Adventure event designed specifically for the Baden Powell Challenge and no other event will do'**

Occasions have arisen when Guides of only 11 or 12 have taken part in a BP Challenge - this is inappropriate; in the syllabus for the challenge badge it does state that a challenge badge will take 12 months to earn. The total cost of the weekend in Bedfordshire is £50 this should be paid as follows: Guide £10, Unit £10, District £10, Division £10, County £10.

Who would like to experience a Baden Powell Challenge Adventure first hand? The theme is not advertised before the weekend but FUN is always on the menu. If you are interested in helping at a Baden Powell Challenge Adventure please contact me. I guarantee a good weekend!!! n.b. Guiders should not help at a weekend where they have Guides from their own unit participating.

We are being asked in County to **Review the Guide Renewal**. If you are organising any event with a wide selection of members together (ie adults, trainers, commissioners, PLs, BP Guides) and you are willing to discuss this issue please let me know and I will let you have the format.

Please let me have your comments on any aspect of Guiding

Kathy Carroll, County Guide Advisor

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Tel. (01462) 711345

News from the Membership Development Team

<p>Thank you to everyone who sent in the World Thinking Day Postcards. Both Chiltern FM and Three Counties Radio played some requests for the girls - sorry if yours wasn't one of them. The Nick Lawrence Show mentioned us all morning, claiming to have received over 8,000 postcards, and they even slotted in a five minute interview to further publicise Girlguiding Bedfordshire. Well done to everyone who was involved!! So the question now is, what can we do next year to keep up the momentum? Suggestions to Bedsbuzz - a small prize for the idea we adopt next year!</p>	<p>My Brownies had a fantastic time promoting Brownies for Brownies and Biscuits for Brownies in our local supermarket. They set us up with a table and some samples near the entrance and we handed out some free samples we had made for the public to try. A very good PR opportunity and a huge success. We have been invited back to do an Easter event and possibly work with them on other things in future. Why not think about it for your Brownie Unit?! If your store does not stock these mixes then ASK for it to be ordered. If enough people do the same, the store will soon get them in. Please let me know which stores you have seen it in.</p>	<p>A huge thank you to all those people who sent photographs and material for the Annual Report. The quality of photographs is getting better every year but fewer people this year sent in reports of what they had been doing. I know that Guiders are busy but I am not looking for much information - a list of special events in the Unit, District or Division or a girl or volunteer who deserves a mention. The deadline, as always is 31st December but if you would find it easier to send articles, snippets, minutes of meetings and photographs throughout the year, please do so as it helps to avoid the panic at the end! This is particularly the case with girls receiving awards eg BP awards.</p>
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Denise Yates, County Membership Development Adviser

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Start thinking now if you want to recruit student helpers at your local college freshers fayre - last year we recruited 31 adults in Bedford. Contact me or Philipa Tolley for advice.

Girlguiding Bedfordshire's Charity of the Year 2003/4		
To raise the profile of Guiding service in the community, we are seeking a charity that we could work in partnership with for a year on various activities. We have had several nominations and now we would like your unit to vote for ONE from the top three suggestions.		
Keech Cottage Hospice is a children's hospice being built near Luton. More than 300 children living in Beds or Herts have a life limiting condition. This hospice will provide support to them and their families.	DeafBlind UK is a national charity which provides a range of support services to deafblind adults and their carers. It also campaigns on behalf of deafblind people. In the UK an estimated 24,000 people are deafblind.	Hearing Dogs for Deaf People is a registered charity that trains dogs to alert severely and profoundly deaf people to sounds they cannot hear such as the alarm clock, baby cries, and smoke alarms.
In your units, vote for the Charity you would like to support over the next year and then let us know which charity received the most votes in your unit. Send your nomination to BedsBuzz@hotmail.com or 5 Harvey Road, Bedford, MK41 9LF. Closing date for the vote is FRIDAY 30 th MAY.		

Leighton Buzzard Trefoil Guild has now been re-established and welcomes new members. For more information contact The Chairman, Carina Wallace on (01525) 756913.

Linda Elliot, Guider of 1st Luton Guides is **looking for a QM** for her licence Camp at Mollivers 5-7 September 2003. If anyone can help please telephone her on 01582 720134.

Surpr!se yourself stamps available from Economy of Brighton www2.rubberstampsUK.co.uk

Innovate 2003 will be held in Edinburgh 27-29 June. It is a forum for members aged 16-25 to enable them to contribute towards the future development of Girlguiding UK and provide opportunities for personal development during an interactive weekend. For further information log onto the Senior Section pages at www.girlguiding.org.uk
Apply to CHQ in London for a booking form or email SeniorSection@girlguiding.org.uk

Design the new walking badge for Girlguiding Bedfordshire using only four colours and no words and to fit within a circle with a diameter of 7.5cm. The competition is open to all members under 18 years old. Send your design with your name, Unit and Section to Walking Badge Competition, 49 Manor Road, Upper Caldecote, Biggleswade, Beds, SG18 9DA by 24th May 2003.

Anglia Region International Selection Weekend will take place on 21st - 23rd November 2003. There are four places for Bedfordshire - if more than four people apply we will hold a County Selection Event. If any Guide, Ranger or Young Leader is interested please contact Julia Routledge. Girls must be 14 years old by 1st July 2004.

We are now beginning work on the new **County Standard** – if you who would like to be a part of this project in any way Marion Prior on (01234) 303254 or e-mail her at marionprior@hotmail.com (please contact her even if you have previously volunteered). Remember this will be our new County Standard and anyone who wishes to help will be most welcome – we are hoping to have it finished in time for dedication at next year's Annual Meeting. Sounds like a challenge!



Have you ever wondered what goes on at a County Exec Meeting?

Have you ever wondered how "those up there at county come up with up with such ridiculous ideas"? Would you like to sit in on a meeting and find out? Contact Margaret Johnson and she will arrange it.

World Thinking Day Parade, Westminster Abbey

When Erika Marshall, Philipa Tolley and I entered Westminster Abbey for the rehearsal none of us had been in the Abbey before, and man, we were impressed! I think that that is when the fear really hit me. Westminster Abbey is absolutely massive and we would be there in roughly eighteen hours carrying the World Flag.

We were to be second in the Parade, following the Union Jack, the only two flags walking straight down the central aisle; the others were walking around the side aisles before hopefully converging to continue into the Sanctuary in our original order. Surprisingly it seemed to work very well and there were only a few things to be tweaked. We went over the route quite a few times so that we all felt confident. It was scary enough just doing the rehearsal, when nobody was in the congregation.

Back at the Youth Hostel, it was really lovely to be able to meet so many Guides and Scouts from different places. We were intrigued by the way our room-mates stored their kilts rolled up in a pair of tights to keep the pleats. They had flown all the way from Glasgow; we felt that our train journey from Bedford seemed a little pathetic in comparison.

Next morning at the Abbey, we had a look outside and I was shocked to see that the queue to get in led a few abreast all the way down the road and around the corner and apparently stretched even further. The group who had come up from Bedford to support us were at the very front, which meant that they had to wait in the cold for quite a long time - now there's dedication for you! It was good to see them.

We had one last rehearsal without flags but including all the other people in the service. It was finally coming together. Then the doors were opened and people started coming in, and they just kept coming and coming! Sitting waiting was the worst part, we kept running through everything, and reminding ourselves of everything we needed to remember, how many steps we had to wait after the previous flag before we began to walk, sometimes two, sometimes four.

Standing at the back looking at the magnificence of Westminster Abbey, whilst trying to breathe steadily and stay standing as my legs were shaking so much, all the things that could possibly go wrong were going through my head. We had stood there for ages, my legs seemed to have locked solid. Finally we had the cue to actually start, but my legs were so wobbly I was so worried that they might collapse! As we walked I began to get in to the swing of it, and started to shake less. Everything went exactly how we wanted it to, nobody tripped, we stayed in time with each other we all used the same feet walking up the steps and we all arrived in the right place in the right time and took our seats and joined in with the singing, except that I couldn't sing as I had only just caught my breath after hardly breathing on the whole walk down! The service was really enjoyable although I was still a little concerned as we did still have the return journey to make.

The time came for us to collect the flags, we took our cue, everyone got the right flag back and it all ran very smoothly. We had several pauses on the way back, but it was on the final bit as we were walking towards the back again, that I really began to enjoy it and couldn't stop myself grinning, it was such a good feeling to walk in time with the music, with so many people there enjoying and taking part in the service. It was worth every bit of worry for that last moment.

We reached the end and as we stood at the back in a semicircle while the flowers were laid and the dismissal was given, we were able to really relax. I loved this once in a lifetime opportunity and I was so glad I got the chance to do it.

Sophie Parry-Okeden, Bedford Division Rangers.

Sincere thanks to all who were connected in any way with organising WISE– the two day International event inspired by Julia Routledge. This was put on at comparatively short notice after a great deal of very hard work by a relatively small group of people, and then carried out over two very busy days of the most pleasurable Guiding proving to us that we had certainly made a “wise choice” in deciding to stage the event. Well done everyone.... I am being asked will we do it again - well will we?

Margaret Johnson

