

BedsBuzz

January 2005



Girlguiding

Bedfordshire

Pastures New...

In March, my appointment as Membership Development Adviser comes to an end. Some might say my team has achieved very little over the past five years except make a big hole in the guiding budget! I beg to differ. Under Membership Development - with our three hats of community involvement, PR and recruitment we have: relaunched the County newsletter; had recruitment initiatives such as our BedsBugs (complete with adoption papers!); set up an award winning website; run the recruitment hotline to help with membership enquiries; run two postcard campaigns with local radio; run our charity of the year initiative; given you calendars of every shape and size (we'll find one you all like one day!); sent out County news releases, provided advice to guiders....

In my time as Adviser, I have been very proud to lead a team of enthusiastic, committed women (and one man!!) from all over Bedfordshire. They have not been afraid to try out new ideas and new approaches - and to listen to members' views on what has gone well (and not so well).

So what of the future? In Membership Development - if not guiding in general, I think it is important to have a turnover of volunteers. New people bring new ideas and different ways of doing things. In Kelly Quigley from East Bedfordshire we will have an excellent new Membership Development Adviser and I am sure you will give her the same support that you have given me in my role. She will, I am sure do things very differently - so look out for some new initiatives in Bedfordshire in the coming year. She will also need people to help. So if you are interested in making a positive impact in Bedfordshire through membership development, please contact her. Thank you for your support.

Denise Yates - County Membership Development Adviser

Haverings Extension Opening

The Haverings Extension Opening was a fantastic day, in spite of the weather (rather cold with a hint of rain). Each district had a different colour, red, green, yellow, blue, and the VIP's had white. Instead of clapping, we did Mexican waves, many times over, which everyone thought was brilliant (and helped to keep us warm!).

Our VIP's included Joy Hall, Regional Commissioner, and Betsy Marley Assistant County Commissioner, and the Mayor of Luton and his wife.

Deborah Bachini - Division Assistant deserves a special mention as she was the motivator behind us actually getting things started and keeping the momentum going. She was very pleased to receive a County Badge in recognition of her achievement.

We were also pleased to present an Ambassador badge to Sir Graham Bright for his continued support to Guiding in Luton.

After the children had left, the Guiders had a fish and chip supper and a campfire led by Jan Mackenzie, until darkness and tiredness sent us home. Thanks to everyone who helped and made the day so special for us in Luton South Division.
Kim Kem - Luton South Division Commissioner

Take Our Daughters to Work Day

In order to gain the Take Our Daughters To Work badge, we had to make the girls understand how surnames evolved, ie from the work the families, in the past, were involved in.

We talked to the girls about their parent's jobs and if they were 'Grown-up', what kind of a job they would like to do. This proved a fascinating discussion as nearly half the girls had not really thought about what kind of work their parents did and the other half seemed to role model on their mother's jobs. The girls then played a game by matching jobs with a surname and at the end of the meeting, the girls asked if they could bring their pets the following week. Having realised that not all the Rainbows owned a pet, we decided to organise a Cuddly Pet Show.

We arranged a day that fitted around the busy schedule of the local Vet, Hannah Reeve, so that she could come and talk to the girls about her job. She talked to the girls about the importance of correctly looking after their pets and the role a vet plays in caring for animals.

Login Area for Bedfordshire Guides

In our efforts to enhance the Bedfordshire Web site we have now set up a login area for Guiders, Adult Helpers, Young Leaders etc. We intend putting information in this section that needs to be away from the public areas of the site. At the moment we have published back issues of Beds Buzz and are looking for other items that users would find useful. To access the login go to the website.

<http://www.bedsguiding.org.uk/>

Click the small login button at the bottom of the left hand side in the password type **22feb** then press **submit**.

I would appreciate information from you on the type of things you would like to see in this area please email me and let me know.

Sue Champkins sue.champkins@ntlworld.com

Ran out of T Shirts at Camp or Holiday?

Want your Unit Helper to feel part of the Team?

Thought about a County T-Shirt?

Pale Blue Polo Shirts with County Badge

Cost: £10.00 each. P&P £1.00

Contact: Hazel Donald, 4 Oakwood Rd,
Shefford, Beds, SG17 5JZ

Phone: 01462 812575

Football fundraising

During this year Leighton Heath District in South Bedfordshire have developed a very successful relationship with Woodside Football Club in Leighton Buzzard. Initially the club offered us a fundraising opportunity, they needed help running a BBQ at a local football tournament and offered us 50% of the profit. Many Guiders helped with



cooking and serving bacon rolls, hot dogs and burgers throughout the day and were rewarded with a cheque for £200 to help with District funds. Following on from that the club recently ran a football coaching afternoon for

Brownies. The 13 Brownies were divided into 3 groups to receive ball skills training from 3 coaches, they rotated around activities, including ball control, dribbling and shooting practice. The afternoon finished with a 20 minute game, supported by several parents. The Brownies thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and some are now thinking of joining the football club.

Debbie Docherty - South Beds Division Commissioner

Make a Child Smile - Girlguiding Bedfordshire Challenge 2004/5

Congratulations to 5th Stopsley Guides and Caldecote and District Rainbows - the first units to take part in the Kids Out Challenge. Raising money for KidsOut can make a tremendous difference to the lives of young people in Bedfordshire. Examples of what they do include:

A Bicycle built for Two! - Maria cannot ride a bike on her own as she has physical and learning difficulties. She had a wonderful surprise from KidsOut, who gave a grant to

1st Leighton Buzzard Guides Diary

On Saturday 16th October, 10 of us attended The Big Gig at the Manchester Arena. We travelled by coach with other Guide Units. Leaving at 8.30am and getting back at 9.00pm was tiring, but definitely worthwhile. To see acts like Girls Aloud, V, Rachel Stevens, Lemar, Vs and Liz McLaren was great, along with a former guide as presenter; Natasha from Atomic Kitten. Overall it was a fantastic day and I would love to go back again next year. *Natalie*

Field of Hope Daffodil planting at Woburn Abbey

On 28th October, Cara, Nicole & Jenny accompanied by Sue and Cara's parents went to the grounds of Woburn Abbey to plant daffodil bulbs for the new Field of Hope for the Marie Curie Cancer Care organisation. We planted 450 bulbs between us. The ground was so hard to dig into to get the correct depth to plant each bulb that Nicole broke her fork! It was very rewarding and will contribute to the country life - we can't wait for the spring when we can return and see our fantastic bulb planting in bloom.

Overnight Hike and Sleepover - 29th October

Each girl took turns to map read - got lost when it was Becky's turn (Because the map was dodgy). A lot of mud and we were not impressed! Didn't like the hills - too much effort and very cold but liked the fireworks on the walk up. We enjoyed the ride to McDonalds with Carina - it was very entertaining because Becky was scared when the sheep (and horse) ran quickly towards her! The barn

buy a special tandem bike. Now she and her Dad go cycling together.

Football Crazy! Lots of kids love football, but many don't get the chance to play. KidsOut is working with local football clubs to give children the opportunity for some football coaching. Some of the children are blind, some are in wheelchairs, some could not afford to play if KidsOut didn't help.

Living a Dream Frances is 17 years old and has spina bifida. She is a great horse rider and loves to take part in dressage, putting her horse through lots of complicated moves. Thanks in part to a grant from KidsOut, she is now achieving her dreams, competing at a national level in both disabled and mainstream dressage competitions.

And what would the money we raise pay for?

£350 could pay for an exciting one day circus workshop for 60 kids with severe learning difficulties from a special school

£900 could fund 2 specially adapted tricycles for children with physical disabilities and learning difficulties - helping them to have fun and gain in confidence in their school playground.

Getting together to raise funds for KidsOut really does change lives. Girlguiding Bedfordshire could really help to make a Bedfordshire child smile in 2005.

Frances Culham, Deputy Development Director, is happy to come and talk to units in Bedfordshire about the work of KidsOut and how you can help. Contact her on 01525 385 252.

PS Did you see our partnership with KidsOut featured in December's Guiding magazine in 'News from the Regions'?

Please can all units who have/ or plan to do a WALK THE WORLD, please send a brief report (with photos if available) to Jane Seymour (i.seymour@ntlworld.com) by February 2005. The County Walking Advisors would like to present this as a short report at the County Review

was warm and we could see cow poo in the walls. We eventually got used to the smell and our sore feet and blisters. It was hard to sleep because the dog was always barking and the cockerel crowed very loud! Overall we had a great time! Next time we go on a hike we should go with the Scouts and it could be a competition. *Zoe, Becky, Alison, Tracey, Sheridan, Nicole, Shelby, Sasha, Rachael, Ashleigh, Tammy & Emma*

9th Leighton Buzzard Brownies Halloween Party

On 2nd November we went dressed up to to the 9th Brownies Halloween Party. We played a game with green spaghetti - it was in a bowl and you had to get sweets out of it. Then we played a number game - if you were left over, you were out! Then we had hot dogs, jelly and bats blood to drink. We played one more game and it was time to go home. *Alana*

Remembrance Sunday - 14th November

The 1st Leighton Buzzard Guides, along with the St. John's Ambulance cadets, Army cadets, RAF cadets and some real war veterans, paraded down the high Street in remembrance of those who died in all wars. It was very moving and interesting. We stopped at the war memorial and watched the wreaths being laid. Our District Commissioner laid one of the many poppy wreaths, and then we went into All Saints Church for the service with hymns. The morning was good and we enjoyed it even though it was in aid of something sad. *Danielle, Anna, Jamie & Sofie*

HELP...Am I insured when wearing pyjamas???

A recent conversation has uncovered an insurance myth. It seems that some Guiders think that Girlguiding insurance only covers people whilst wearing uniform. **THIS IS NOT TRUE!**

Picture the scene, our County Commissioner is sleeping peacefully at Guide camp, on hearing a spooky noise she creeps out of her luxury County Commissioner tent to bravely investigate, she trips over a guy rope and is discovered unconscious in her fluffy pink PJ's.

What would your first action be? Changing her into uniform so she is covered by insurance? I hope not.

The Guiding manual 4th edition page 89 clearly states:

'The policies for Girlguiding UK cover all members and other persons associated with Girlguiding whilst on recognised guiding activities. Members do not have to be in uniform for the policy cover to operate.'

Have fun when planning and carrying out your activities. Always be mindful of practicalities and consider the Association's risk assessment policy, Being Prepared. Wear uniform when appropriate, we are after all a uniform organisation. But whatever you wear all those involved in guiding activities, whether members, parents, helpers, children of members or instructors, are covered by Girlguiding UK insurance.

Pages 89 - 95 in the Guiding Manual cover insurance and notification of accidents, if you have any queries speak to your Commissioner.

Pic 'n' Mix is the new resource for Brownie Guiders from Girlguiding Anglia - Look out for it from the end of November 2004 **Price £5.00**

All the activities in this book have been provided by Brownie Advisers and Guiders from all around the Region.

We hope that you will find the activities in this book thought provoking, for yourselves and the Brownies, and most of all we hope that you will have lots of fun playing and working together.

Each activity has a box called "Extra Ideas" containing suggestions to extend or change the activity, but we are sure that the Brownies are so full of enthusiasm and imagination that they will think up much better ideas that we can ever think of - we are only 'owls' after all! Although the activities contained in this book are aimed at girls of Brownie age they can be simplified or extended to suit other age groups.

Boxes similar to those in The Adventure File have been included on each page so that you can mark which Adventure area (You, Community, World) you have covered and which method of delivery you have chosen (Arts, Community, Out of Doors).

All that is left to say is please 'pic' some activities and 'mix' them up with the Brownies and have lots of fun!!!

Chris Smith - Girlguiding Anglia Brownie Advisor

Did you know that part of being a Brownie, guide or Rainbow means attending Church Parade regularly?

What - I can hear you say - since when? Well, never actually. Girlguiding is NOT a Christian organisation, or based on any single faith. It certainly does NOT require girls or adults to attend regular Church Parade. One off civic services including such things as Remembrance or St. Georges Days are different and usually of a more ecumenical nature.

Our promise requires that we love our own individual God - whether this is done privately or publicly, it does not mean that units impose a requirement to attend Church Parade. It has come to my attention that some units are sending these sorts of messages to their members. Please, please STOP.

By promising to love our God, as an association, we are publicly acknowledging that we are a multi-faith organisation in a multi-cultural society. We must not therefore require or expect even semi-regular attendance at a christian church service.

Sue Tyler - county Training and Development Adviser

BADEN POWELL CHALLENGE AWARDS

A Reminder to Guide Guiders:

As soon as girls start working towards their BP Challenge, they should complete a BP Challenge registration form and send it to me. Contact me if you don't have one.

The girl needs to work out a time plan of when she expects to complete each clause and it's a good idea for the Guider to talk the time plan through with the girl as soon as possible. The Guider should keep a copy and she can then keep a check on how things are progressing. At least 4 months before the girl is due to complete her 10th and final challenge the Guider should contact me so that I have plenty of time to arrange a residential challenge. The residential challenge must be arranged through me to keep consistency in the standard of the challenges.

BP Challenge badges can only be ordered through the County from now on and I hope to set up a system for this very soon. If anyone has any questions about the BP Challenge please get in touch.

The Baden Powell Robin Hood Challenge at Haverings in November is fully booked with girls that have finished or very nearly finished all their 10 clauses and I hope to be able to report back on it's outcome in the next mail shot. It's good that so many girls in our County are keen to complete this award. Guiders are obviously very good at encouraging and keeping their girls.

Well Done Bedfordshire!

Thank you, Deborah Bachini - (dabachini@yahoo.co.uk)

A plea from the Senior Section Team TO ALL GUIDERS

Senior Section is a collective name for all girls/adults between the ages of 14 and 26 years. They can be Guides, Rangers, Young Leaders, Guiders, and girls doing D. of E.

Please pass on any information that comes to you, that is for this age group. Often there are activities/youth forums for the 16 or 18 plus girls especially, Intops, Gold, Innovate, International, Queens Guide, and it is important that this information gets to them. Gold and International are often looking for young Guiders to go aboard. It is a shame if they do not get the opportunity to participate in the activities that County, Region or H.Q. supply.

Jan Hooley - Senior Section Advisor

Put this date in your diary now!

9-11th September 2005 - Kathy's Camp
More details soon!

Christmas News

The Sunday before Christmas, 26th Luton Brownies and 1st Luton Guides sang carols at "The Mount" home for the elderly in Luton. The Vicar of St Paul's, Rev Tony Sellers, led the service. Sandy/Potton District kindly let us borrow their hand chimes and after just one practice we were able to play carols to the residents and staff. The Brownies made a large Christmas Card which was presented to the residents.

The 1st Caddington Brownies had a very interesting evening learning about hedgehogs. A lady who looks after injured hedgehogs told them all about the way she cares for them. As the Brownies were very quiet she brought one into the meeting and let them hold it once they had put gloves on.

Well done to Vicky Weedon of the 1st Caddington Guides who gained her BP award. This was presented by District Commissioner Linda Elliott at a special celebration evening on 13th October 04. Vicky is now helping at the 1st Caddington Brownie unit. Also on the same evening, Louise Forder, 18 year old Young Leader who had completed her pre-warrant training was presented with her warrant and appointment card as Asst Guider of the 1st Caddington Guides.

On the 13th November an Activity Day was held at Strathmore Ave Methodist Church Hall, when the Strathmore Rainbows, 26th Luton Brownies and 1st Luton Guides were all invited to bring along a friend who may be interested in joining the units. Everyone enjoyed the day and several new girls were recruited. The cakes that were made during the day were sold to parents in the afternoon and the proceeds were used to buy chickens, blanket and toys through the charity Samaritans Purse. *Gillian*

Charity of the Year News

A group of Luton Guides presented a cheque for £4270.83 to Keech Cottage Children's Hospice, our first 'Charity of the Year' in October

Sue Champkins, Leader of the 12th Luton Brownie Pack lead the group of local Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Young Leaders and Guiders. After the presentation, the girls and leaders toured the hospice to see first-hand how the money will support local children with life threatening and life limiting conditions.

Sue Champkins said "It's fantastic to be able to present such a significant sum to Keech Cottage Children's Hospice on behalf of all members of Girlguiding Bedfordshire. Congratulations to everyone who joined in with fundraising and thank you to everyone who contributed to our final total."

Our Charity of the Year 2004/5 is the Leighton Buzzard based national charity **KidsOut**. If you haven't already downloaded your fun balloon ideas pack, visit www.bedsguiding.org.uk today or contact your Division Commissioner to get a copy.

Sandy District walk for the World

Brownies and Guides from Sandy and surrounding villages raised £900 walking from Willington to Potton at the end of September as they took part in the Walks for the World

Send your articles and comments to: **BedsBuzz**

Editor - Diane Butler • 3 The Old School • Church Street
Shillington Hitchin • Herts SG5 3LJ

Next Issue: April 05 - Copy Deadline - March 31st

Thanks for all your articles and pictures - due to unprecedented amounts of copy, I have had to use the Editors scissors - Sorry to those cut short - keep sending and I will print all I can!

challenge. Half the money raised will now go to Girlguiding in the Sandy area and the other half into developing guiding across the world.



Over 100 Brownies, Guides, Leaders and parents walked or helped out on the eight mile walk. Ann Crome, Sandy District Commissioner said "The District was inspired to take up the challenge to do something together to support guiding both in the UK and worldwide. Well done to everyone who took part and thank you to all the sponsors who helped the girls raise such an impressive final total."

In Brief

Bird Box Brownies

1st Potton Brownies enjoyed a morning at the RSPB reserve in Sandy putting up bird boxes they made earlier this year.

Pottery Mad

1st Potton Brownies visited The Kiln in Bedford for a night of pottery painting in October. In a first for The Kiln, a promise celebration was held. Since then, a request has come in for a copy of the Brownie Promise which could be seen on the wall of the shop very soon!

Kelly Quigley - Communications Manager

Big Gig 2004

The coach picked us up at about 8.00am - a bit early for a Saturday morning, but we were all excited and looking forward to the trip. The journey seemed to take forever, but when we stopped at the services there were loads of other coaches full of Guides on their way to the BIG GIG.

We had great seats just a few rows from the front of the stage. We hardly stopped screaming and waving our arms throughout the whole concert, my throat was sore by the end! My favourite groups were VS and the 411, but Rachel Stevens and Girls Aloud were good too! It was amazing being there surrounded by thousands of other Guides all having a good time. (And some of the Guiders were getting a bit carried away too...) Unfortunately, the concert did end, and we still had that long walk back to the coach - and the long drive back. We got back to Bedford at around 9.00pm, it was a very long day, but it was fantastic. Thanks for organising it, mum!

Jenny Lake - 3rd Brickhill Guides

Leighton Heath District Girlguides

Girlguiding in Leighton Heath District celebrated the opening of a new Rainbow Unit at Beaudesert School this week, by holding a Promise ceremony, followed by cake and nibbles. Anyone interested in joining Rainbows or helping in Girlguiding can ring the Hotline on 0780 384 5588

It is with great sadness that we announce the death at 90 years of Thirza Galloway, past "Tawny Owl" with 1st Heath & Reach Brownie Pack. Thirza was a true friend to Guiding and she will be sorely missed.

STOP PRESS • STOP PRESS • STOP PRESS

Congratulations to Girlguiding Anglia President Vivien Pleydell-Bouverie who has been awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours List.

STOP PRESS • STOP PRESS • STOP PRESS

Joy Hall retired as Chief Commissioner for Anglia in December. Her replacement is Tricia Dundas (County Commissioner Herts) and Tricia has announced her Assistant Chief Commissioner as Rosie Spencer (County Commissioner for Cambs West)

PS Pots of Art in Hitchin are now open until 9 every Thursday evening.