

Beds Buzz

May 2008



Girlguiding

Bedfordshire

girls in the lead

Just some of the fantastic **Tea in Beds** pictures you have sent us!



Welcome to Spring!

The fine weather is now here so lets look forward to lots of outdoor activities through the summer.

Thank you to everyone who participated in Tea in Beds - almost every unit in the county. Please keep sending in your pictures and reports on the event and how much you raised. We will be judging them for a fantastic prize later in May.

Well done the PR Team for a very successful project.

Kathy

Kathy Carroll, County Commissioner



1st Meppershall Brownies try out new resources for HQ!

Brownies from the Anglia region were invited to take part in a testing session for a new leaders resource. We were allocated eight places at the event in Cottered on April 12th. We joined other Brownies who had come a great deal further than us - from Kelvedon, past Dunstable and Little Paxton. Altogether there were twenty six Brownies. The girls were put into groups and quickly made new friends.

The event was run by two staff from Girlguiding UK's HQ in London. They explained they had been working on a new book for Brownie leaders which could be used by them in pack meetings and wanted to try these activities out with leaders and Brownies. These were the only testings that would take place and everyone's opinion counted.

What happened is told by the Brownies who went :

"We all did different things in different groups including: quizzes, making desert islands from meringues and chocolate flakes, making balloon rockets, cracking codes, generation game, snake draft excluders, alphabet games, playdough creatures, compass game, lion badges, name game, crystal growing, jam jar music, etc.

Outside we learnt new games. One was wolf tag - the first time you were tagged you carried on playing but kept making the noise of a puppy, the second time the noise of a dog and the third time you stood still and howled like a wolf - very noisy but great fun. We also played mousetrap which was new to us.

We finished off with pizza, chocolate mousse, yoghurts, fruit and cake and when we left we were given a Brownie mug and a certificate. Most of all we all had fun!"

Bryony, Maya, Katie, Chloe, Abbie, Niamh, Megan & Georgia



Helen (left) and friends

Helen's marathon achievement in Barcelona

Last year I decided it was time to get fit again. The aim was to do this in my own time, at my own pace but then somebody said "why don't you do a marathon?" Obviously my first reaction was to laugh, but then you see the 'seed had already been sown' and before I knew it, it became my goal. I tried for a place in the London marathon but to no avail so decided to go for Barcelona instead.

The training started in earnest the first week in December and I followed a twelve week schedule (to the letter!). Before I knew it the day of reckoning had arrived and there I was in amongst 9,500 runners of all different nationalities. It was a tough mental and physical battle but I came out the other end with a medal and finishing time of 4 hours 6 minutes and feeling completed elated. I had also used the excuse 'this is my first marathon' to raise some money for charity which amounted to £1000 for the Richard House Childrens Hospice charity. All in all a fantastic, rewarding experience.

Helen Wuidart, 1st Shillington Guides

Rainbows Get a Lifeline...

The 1st Leighton Buzzard Rainbows held a Promise Ceremony for seven new members in February. For the pack this is a major achievement due to the fact that only two months ago it looked like the pack were going to have to close.

Following the departure of their leader, Laura Smallman, at the end of last year a new leader has been found. Sue Stallard took over the role at Easter. The weekly meetings have been co-ordinated perfectly by two young leaders, Dolcie and Emma with support from the district guiders and unit helper Carol. They have done a superb job with a lot of enthusiasm and energy.

In the period between January and Easter we secured the services of Julie Matthews, a local Brownie leader. Julie says "Dolcie and Emma have made my job very easy - I just have to turn up, they have everything organised and are brilliant".

We were delighted to perform the Promise Ceremony in front of some very proud parents and the girls worked extremely hard to learn their promise to perfection. Well done everyone.

Julie Matthews on behalf of 1st Leighton Buzzard Rainbows



Come and Join us - we still need PR team members!

No experience necessary!

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 a small, friendly team running the recruitment hotline, overseeing www.bedsguiding.org.uk, writing and designing Beds Buzz 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.

BUZZING AROUND.....



1st Ampthill awards

During November 2007, Sara Andrews, District Commissioner for Ampthill presented four Guides from the 1st Ampthill Guide Company with their BP certificates and badges. Well done to the four Guides pictured here!



Tea at the Ritz

On a lovely sunny day we set off for Tea at the Ritz. Arriving early we sat and watched the world go by in Green Park. We met my cousin and her husband just before 1.00pm and entered the Ritz. Reception told us where to go and we were shown to our table. There were many selections on the menu and having made our choices the waiter brought the tea and coffee pots followed by a three tiered cake stand to the table. On the bottom plate were four assorted sandwiches and an egg roll each. The middle tier was empty, and the waiter explained that this was for our scones which he would bring out warm when we were ready. The top tier was covered in small fairy cakes.

1st Ampthill get the bird...



1st Ampthill Guide company had a very interesting visit to The English School of Falconry at the Birds of Prey Centre at Old Warden Park, Biggleswade. Amongst the many birds that they saw were a beautiful Barn Owl called "Dibley" and an equally magnificent Bengal Eagle Owl called "Boo". Here some of the guides are seen posing elegantly with the Owls. The Guides found the visit fascinating and thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience.

South Beds Division Quiz Night...



The tea and coffee pots were filled constantly and the sandwiches replenished if we wanted, as were the scones and cakes. A pianist played throughout. It was a very special occasion and we thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Afterwards, we walked down to the Thames and enjoyed the sunshine and in the evening we went to the theatre to see 'Gaslight' - a thriller which was excellent. A very memorable day, thank you.

Jeanne Wain

BP adventure!

During the Easter Holidays, we both proudly represented Bedfordshire Girlguiding on a fantastic trip to London for our Baden-Powell Adventure. It was a brand-new London /Brighton visit, based at the Girlguiding ICANDO HQ in Buckingham Palace Road, along with ten other Guides from all over Britain.



On arrival, we ventured out into the streets of London and completed many challenges and activities, took photos and explored lots of different places, such as Downing Street, Piccadilly Circus, Trafalgar Square and Oxford Street, on the way sight-seeing the London Eye, Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament and much, much more! At the centre, there were plenty of interactive games and computers to keep us occupied, as well as fun indoor activities and crafts. We spent the night in an indoor tent, with realistic canvas, trees, campfires and spooky light illusions!

The next day we caught the Brighton train, and experienced a totally different environment. With the streets full of tourists like ourselves, souvenir shops and the shining sun, there was a real holiday seaside buzz. We had a spell of shopping, and a morning of sight-seeing and photo-taking. In the afternoon we went to a Sea-Life centre, and saw huge sharks, exotic fish and creatures, as well as a massive sea turtle called Lola! In the evening we visited the pier, the beach, and went on some scary roller coaster rides, and then for dinner we had fish and chips on the beach.

After another late night in the indoor tent, we had to sadly say goodbye to all our newly-made friends and leaders, but we came away with memories of a fantastic few days, and some brilliant experiences that we won't forget in a long time! We would like to thank everyone involved in organising the event and everyone who financially assisted us for us to take up this fantastic experience. We both recommend that all Guides try out the Baden-Powell Award Challenges and Adventure, because the experience is superb and we really wish we could go back and do it all again!
Emma Dove and Gemma Monger, 1st Kempston Guide Unit South Ouse District

...We won't ask

SINGING CIRCLE DATES SPRING 2008

Haverings, Luton	Thursday 22th May	7.45pm
Sandy Baptist Church	Tuesday 8rd July	7:45pm
Windy Sayles, Whipnade	Tuesday 16th Sept.	7:45pm
St Marks Church, Bedford	Monday 24th Nov.	7:45pm
Haverings, Luton	Tuesday 20th January 09	8:00pm

Send your articles and comments to: BedsBuzz

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Next Issue: Summer Copy Deadline - 10th Sept. 08

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

Mayor's award for Jeanne, Deborah & Sue

Jeanne Wain, Deborah Bachini and Sue Hunt all received awards at The annual Mayor's Awards evening on 25th January 2008. These Citizenship awards recognise local people's achievements and involvement in a range of good works including services to the community, long service in volunteering, work with young people and commitment to fundraising for charity. All three were nominated for their work in Guiding. (All their achievements can be seen in full on the Bedfordshire website).



1st Stockwood Brownies meet The Queen

We were very excited to be chosen in March to attend the Commonwealth Observance Service at Westminster Abbey in London attended by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh. The week before, we all received letters for school to get permission for the day off (as if our teachers would say no to the Queen!)

We left Luton early for London and Westminster Abbey. We had our photo taken at Westminster tube station and in front of Big Ben in the rain! Once Snowdrop and the other Brownies arrived we were allowed in. We were body searched and had to walk through a security gate. Like the airports our bags had to go on a conveyor belt and even Ranger Bear was checked over! We were met by 'Judy' who was to stay with us all day to show us around and tell us about our job! We didn't know we had to do a job that was a shock to everyone including Snowdrop but we come from Luton South Division in Bedfordshire and we took it all in our stride.

Judy introduced us to 'David' who was going to be carrying the Commonwealth Flag and we were going to be his escorts, after lots of rehearsing and walking up and down the Abbey we went for lunch, we had to get three taxis to get us all across to CHQ where we were taken to the ICANDO centre for drinks and then next door to a restaurant for lunch. We ordered whatever we wanted from the menu and CHQ were paid for everyone!

We had an hour in the ICANDO centre where Lily was interviewed for Guiding magazine on what she liked about Brownies and all about our day in London. Snowdrop and Moley were interviewed as well so we might get into a future copy of Guiding. Then back into the taxis to get to the Abbey for the service itself where Snowdrop made sure we were all extra smart with tidy hair. Judy took us off to do our escort work. The Abbey was full of people and there were lots of cameras filming us .

The Queen arrived on time with the Duke of Edinburgh and we saw her as she was introduced to guests. Then off went David with the Flag and we escorted him down the Abbey to the altar (even Ranger Bear got to take part!) At the end of the service we escorted the flag and Queen out of the abbey and spoke to the Duke of Edinburgh.

After our really busy day, Snowdrop thought we would sleep on the train home but we were all really really bouncy and couldn't wait to get to Brownies to tell all the others about our day.

Henlow Trefoil guild

At our monthly meetings in the Gardens Community Hall in Henlow we have recently enjoyed some very interesting speakers including a talk about life in the merchant navy in the late 1940's and the trade between Australia, Hong Kong and the Far East plus a fascinating slide show about an extended visit to Kenya, delving into the native lifestyle and climate extremes.

We paid an interesting visit to Stotfold Mill, learning about the history and it's restoration after being destroyed by fire. Our evening ended with a lovely cup of tea in the Mill's Tea Rooms.

In October & November we fill shoe boxes and always have extra boxes donated by friends and members as far away as Ravensden and Bedford. Many of our members knit beautiful jumpers for the children of Sangam and at every meeting there is always a member with another jumper to hand on.

We all go out for dinner on our anniversary and at Christmas and always invite the Guide leaders to our annual camp fire which is very popular.

Some of us have visited Pax Lodge, the London Eye and the Millennium Dome and look forward to many future opportunities.

Dorothy Oakley, Chairman Henlow Trefoil Guild

It might have rained a lot, been very windy, but we didn't care - we had fun, we met the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh and had a really really good time. Snowdrop was very proud of us and we were all treated like V.I.P's for the day which was great fun. We all received a copy of this photo from CHQ and two brownies even got their photo taken with the Queen which snowdrop is waiting to arrive in the post even our mascot Ranger Bear managed to get into the photo!

1st Stockwood Brownies :- Lily, Brionne, Sophie, Mica, Lucy Y, Moley, Snowdrop and Ranger Bear

