

Beds Buzz

October 2007



Girlguiding

Bedfordshire

Three days at the Great Escape!

It's not every day of the week that someone asks you to 'knock up a guillotine', (and that's not the paper cutting variety!). In the surreal world of County Camp, everything is possible. A full size Madame Guillotine was duly erected a day later from found, scrounged and borrowed materials. This one incident of many sums up my impressions of Bedfordshire County Camp. The resourcefulness of the Girlguiding movement never fails to impress me. It was my first large camp and I was a bit unsure about such large numbers and losing the small community feeling of a local event.

As a Girlguiding ambassador for Bedfordshire, I wanted to be in the thick of it, so opted to camp with my local guides. The theme of the Great Escape was an inspiration. The sub camps named after well known prisons gave ample opportunity for theming each camp - I have fond memories of the bright pink ASBO hats and hoodies from Feltham (even our VIP visitors wanted to wear them!) - and who could fail to laugh at the huge green shamrock hats and streamers from the Maze Prison!

In my three years as an ambassador I have met many guides at a wide variety of events and it was wonderful to walk over the campsite and bump into old friends. I have also made lots of new friends and

gone to sleep in our tent aching with laughter over a story related by someone about what happened to them that day. What is it that makes someone want to wear a bright pink furry beanbag cover? Who knows, but it brightens all our days.

I could go on forever about the amazing campfire, the camaraderie, the way the girls just carried on with things - even though it deluged for a day. Want your breakfast? OK, just put a shelter over the altar fire and we'll carry on cooking. The pothole system is a bit muddy and flooded - well, the rain will wash off the mud - makes it more fun!

I only managed three days at camp and wished I could have stayed for the week. I was most peeved to miss the wedding of camp mascots Asbob and Millie, the video is amazing and involved the entire county camp as guests, bridesmaids, officials - our County President even played the organ!

It was a huge event to organise and keep running smoothly. The main team worked ceaselessly to keep the wheels running and offer trips to go bowling, ice skating and swimming to name but a few. The logistics were unbelievable.

So well done Bedfordshire - this event gives me lots to talk and enthuse about and promote Girlguiding as the county, and the country's, premier women's organisation!
Diane Butler
Girlguiding Ambassador - Bedfordshire

Welcome to Autumn!

As you all know, I have just returned from Sangam which was fantastic. More in the next issue as this time we are featuring County Camp. It was a 'Great Escape' for everyone who came and camped in fantasy land. Everyone put a lot of effort into making the theme work with unbelievable outfits and events - the wedding - what can I say! Thank you to everyone who was involved - let's look forward to the next one!

Autumn has arrived and the new guiding term has started so have fun at all your events leading up to Christmas.

Kathy

*Kathy Carroll,
County
Commissioner*



An Ode to County Camp

We joined in the Great Escape
At this years County Camp
And though it did rain quite a bit
We coped with getting damp
Activities were really good
There was so much to do
On site, high ropes, climbing, potholing
Just to name a few.

Craft and music making
From bells to rock 'n, roll
Girls bands sang most ev'ry day
We NOW know 'Rock my Soul!'

Off site we swam and bowled and skated
Transported there by bus
And even when one bus broke down
There wasn't any fuss.

There were films to watch and disco night
And campfire singing too
Fun painting and line dancing
A football tournament too
We all had mascots to protect
And make them feel at home
We had to take good care of them
So that they did not roam.

The Guides all had a 'Chill Out Zone,
That was leader free
And leaders had the 'Drop in Tent'
Where they could get some tea.
The whole week went so quickly
And we all had so much fun
And all that we have left to say is...
THANK YOU EVERYONE !

*From the A-Mazing Sub Camp
South Beds - Chris Daniels*



Memories from camp...



Coming Down the Mountain

Natalie's filming day

Natalie is a Young Leader with 12th Luton Brownies and a Luton South Ranger. Here, she tells BedsBuzz about her acting role in the BBC drama 'Coming Down the Mountain' which aired in September.

"I was reading the Down's Syndrome magazine when I saw they were asking for young people with Down's Syndrome to audition for a part in a BBC drama. I wrote off and was asked to go to London for an audition.

After the audition I had to wait so I kept my fingers crossed, then my Mum said to me that I got the part - I was so excited I could not believe it. So I went up to London again to do my read through and to meet the rest of the cast.

Filming day was on 22 of March. I had to get up at 5am because the car came at 6am to take us to Cuffley. I was really nervous but I was all right. A lady showed me and mum to a caravan with my character's name - Natasha - on it and she told me to try on my costume. It was a short denim skirt with a pink top and a little cardigan and green shoes. Next we had breakfast and then I had my hair and make up done.

I had to wear a tracksuit because it was very chilly and we went to the house where I was filming. There were cameras about so we had to be quiet. I had to wait for a long time and I was getting bored, but then I was pleased because I got to say my bit and went over my lines with the other actors. At last I sat next to Ben, my boyfriend in the play, and best of all Nicholas who played a character called David and who I really like a lot.

At 1pm we had lunch at the caravans (I had roast lamb and ice cream) and then went back to the house for more filming. I had to say my lines over and over again about 20 times. This was because the cameras had to film all of us around a table from lots of different angles.

At 4pm we had to go home again. I was really tired but it had been a fantastic day and Nicholas gave me a hug and said bye. When I got home my sister was really jealous. I told all of my friends to watch out for me on the TV in September - I always wanted to be an actress!"

Natalie and friends



Pirates Ahoy!

A 60-strong band of buccaneer Brownies from Leighton Heath District had a Saturday afternoon of pirate fun at Grovebury Road Scout Hut.

The Brownies and their leaders all dressed up as pirates to take part in treasure hunts, have fun with water games and make palm trees, treasure maps, pirate hats and puppets. The Deputy Town Mayor Cllr George Rolfe and his wife Cllr Maureen Rolfe joined the Brownies for some swashbuckling fun. The afternoon finished with tea and ice-cream in the sun and everyone went home with a special badge designed by Marni Cosby from 3rd Leighton Buzzard Brownies, who was presented with a certificate and prize by the Deputy Mayor.

Debbie Docherty





County Rainbows celebrate 20 Years

Party on Rainbows

South Bedfordshire Division Rainbows were joined by Eaton Bray Rainbows for a special celebration party with a Disney theme.

Happy Birthday was sung while a Rainbow from each unit helped to blow out the candles on a huge birthday cake, ceremonially cut by our two VIP guests - Marion Prior, County President and Adam Fahn, Leighton Linlade Town Mayor. Kathy Carroll, County Commissioner, presented the prizes and announced the winner of the party badge competition as Jessica Byfield from Cranfield Rainbows. At the end of a lovely afternoon all went home with fantastic party bags.



Birthday Rainbow Roundabout

A fabulous celebration was had by Mid Bedfordshire Division Rainbows from Ampthill, Barton and Flitwick at their international theme party. Rainbows took part in arts and craft activities and sport events arranged by the different units. The girls were able to 'visit' countries including the Philippines, United States of America, Greece and Mexico. Sunny weather meant that the mini Olympics event being held outside felt like it could have been in Greece!

After the activities we enjoyed an international picnic and a wonderful sing song to end the day. Each Rainbow was awarded a unique badge and the day will be fondly remembered by everyone who took part. Thanks to all those who worked very hard to make it a very special occasion. Here's to the next 20 years of Rainbows!

Wild West in East Beds

Henlow Lower School echoed to the sounds of the Wild West when over 70 East Bedfordshire Rainbows celebrated 20 years with a cowboys and Indians party. The Rainbows were able to enjoy the great outdoors as they painted wigs and a totem pole.



Each unit wore a different colour - a theme that continued into headdresses and facepainting. When the skies did darken, we went into the school hall to sit around the totem pole. After enjoying rainbow coloured cakes we were entertained by Gerry Pope and sang lots of songs.

The Rainbows had a great time, and special thanks must go to the Guiders and helpers who organised the day; Anne and Adrian Maynard who cooked the hotdogs and hamburgers and special thanks to the school's headmistress for allowing us the use of the school at very short notice, when we decided it was not worth the risk of rain at Boyd Field.

Barton beach party

Although Barton isn't known for its coastline, the district held a fantastic beach party on a sweltering Saturday in July.

The Rainbows and Brownies arrived looking very cool indeed in their beach party outfits and had great fun making sand ornaments, beautiful leis and shell jewellery.

On a day with such great weather there had to be a water race and beach games also went down a treat! Wonderful refreshments were served up and a great sing song marked the end of a very fun day.

Ocarinas for sale

Brand new ocarinas for sale. If you're interested please contact Jean Weir, 5th Stopsley Guides, on (01908) 375191 or JeanEMiller@HotMail.com

Luton South celebrate Veterans Day

Guides from Luton South Division and Paul Hunt, County Archivist, took part in Luton's Veterans Day Celebrations in St. George's Square this July, with a war-themed Girl Guiding display.



Paul describes the day: "After a minor hiccup first thing in the morning (the Territorial Army had forgotten to bring any tents for exhibitors!) a tent was provided and I set up the display. It was well received and a number of people showed interest in it. As I wandered around the other tents one Normandy Veteran recalled how, on returning to Luton with his regiment, he was 'dumped' in the middle of a park. It was the Girl Guides that came to the rescue and managed to get them all food and drinks from nearby houses. It is small facts like these that need to be recorded as time will pass and they will be lost forever.

The Guides and Guiders set up an area where the public could come and have a go at crafts. The Mayor of Luton, Cllr Norris Bullock, was one of the first to come along and toast a marshmallow on our tea lights. We also offered peg dolls, making Union Flags, fairy banners and jointed card figures. A number of local children also came and joined in the fun. Thank you very much to everyone who took part."

Paul Hunt

Congratulations Deborah

Deborah Bachini from Luton South Division took part in the British 10K London Run in July raising money for Girlguiding UK. The run started from Hyde Park Corner and, after a pleasurable run along the river to St Paul's and back, ended at Horse Guards Parade.



Deborah says "I started running in September 2006 to get fit and by April 2007 had increased my distance to 5K, so to do 10K in July was a real 'Surprise Yourself' challenge. I plan to give 40% of the total raised to

Girlguiding Luton South Division for Haverings, and 10% for Girlguiding 2nd Stopsley Guide Company. The remaining 50% will go back to Girlguiding UK for the Guide Friendship Fund."

Well here's the proof she did it. Well done Deborah, Luton South is proud of you!

Sue Champkins

Top tip • Top tip

From an idea used at South Bedfordshire's Patrol Challenge day

For blindfold activities swap scarves for painted swimming goggles - the girls stand no chance of cheating!

Do you have any top tips for activities or crafts that can save time, money or effort - why not share them with the rest of the County through BedsBuzz! See below for copy deadlines and contact details.

Send your articles and comments to:

BedsBuzz

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Next Issue: Autumn Copy Deadline - 30th November 07

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

Dunstable Trefoil Guild

A chance encounter with someone I knew from Guiding some years ago led to an invitation to a Dunstable Trefoil Guild meeting. I was forced to give up running a unit some years back due to a long commute from work, without remembering that the Trefoil Guild was open to any adult over 18. I did not consider at that time that I could keep in touch with Guiding by attending Trefoil Guild evening meetings.

My first Trefoil meeting after years out of Guiding! I felt a little nervous at turning up alone but I need not have worried. The camaraderie of Guiding was immediately in evidence and I was made very welcome. I think I have only missed one meeting since!

I recall my impression of Trefoil members from my earlier Guiding days as being the older ladies who made tea everywhere! Maybe I am now viewed as an older lady, but I discovered that the age span of Dunstable Trefoil is 34 years. One of our members joined when she was pregnant and has been coming ever since, another was only ever a Brownie.

Some of our meetings are very much linked to Guiding. For example, Lora Harvey, a Ranger and Young Leader, came to tell us about her exciting GOLD trip to South Africa (Guiding Overseas Linked to Development) where she demonstrated and encouraged the use of condoms to help combat the spread of Aids.

There is always a traditional Thinking Day meeting and our evenings have also included talks on personal welfare such as home safety awareness and other subjects such as Dogs for the Disabled - when Denny the Labrador enjoyed the chocolate biscuits on offer! In July some of us went to Milton Keynes theatre for a backstage tour, followed by a matinee performance of 42nd Street. It was very interesting to find out what goes on behind the scenes and see how much washing and ironing gets done backstage.

Dunstable Trefoil Guild is organised by a committee of six or so members and our booking secretary had received an offer from 'That's Entertainment', a group that entertain to raise money for charity. Invitations come from other Trefoil Guilds in the county on a regular basis, some for daytime events and some for weekend or evening activities, so we decided to reciprocate and invite others to join us for an evening's entertainment.

The committee agreed that we would include a meal and so planning began. "I'll do the table decorations" offered one, "I'll make a sweet" said another, "I can bring such and such" said another. How nice it is when you are in the chair to hear these offers made so willingly. Many hands make light work they say, and how true that is when there is a mountain of washing up to be done and chairs to be put away.

That's Entertainment were superb, entertaining us with a mixture of comedy, serious and popular songs. Everyone joined in the old well-known songs and the evening went well. Yet another enjoyable evening at the Trefoil Guild!

Tricia Litton

Chief Guide Challenge Award



Sue Champkins, Division Commissioner, Luton South Division was delighted to present the Chief Guide Challenge Award to Sarah Hunt of Luton South Rangers at her unit meeting in July.

To receive the award Sarah completed phases one and two in all eight octants of the Look Wider scheme, and phase 3 in some as well. She has been working on it for three years on and off at Rangers and Guides.

Congratulations Sarah!

Division Patrol Challenge Day

Fourteen Guide patrols from across South Bedfordshire took part in a Division Guide Patrol Challenge day at Milton Bryan camp site recently. Challenges included climbing and abseiling, rescuing frogs, a blind trail, catching 'fish' on the lake, feelie boxes, walking the plank and loads more.

After a rainy start we were blessed with fine weather and all had fun with the challenges and team work. The winning patrol were from 2nd Leighton Buzzard with the runners up from 3rd Heath and Reach. All participants received a special Patrol Challenge Go For It! and a prize. Well done to everyone who took part and thanks to all the Guiders and parents who helped.



A bug's life

As part of the Anglia Outdoor Challenge, 3rd and 5th Leighton Buzzard Brownies held a special bugs evening at Stockgrove Park this summer. The park's rangers took the Brownies pond dipping and bug hunting.

Pond dipping went well, with the Brownies catching the biggest waterboatman the rangers had ever seen! The girls weren't so keen on bug hunting, holding nets under trees and shaking the bugs out of the branches, then ... sucking the bugs into special pots! Once the Brownies realised they couldn't swallow them all was well. A great evening was had by all.

Debbie Docherty

Fun at Flitwick and Ampthill

Well done to the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows who took part in the annual Flitwick Fun Day and Ampthill Festival. Costumes were made and stalls run, competitions entered and won. A great time was had at both events.



South Beds Guides at the Women's FA Cup Final at Nottingham Forest.



2007 Giant Sleepover

Bedfordshire Guides at the World Jamboree



BEDS SINGING CIRCLE St Marks Church, Bedford - Mon 26th Nov. 2007 7:45pm Haverings, Luton - Tue 15th Jan. 2008 8:00pm

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