



### Girlguiding turned Pink...

Many of you held "Pink Evenings" with your units in the summer term to support my fundraising for the MoonWalk.

The 15,000 walkers gathered through the evening at the huge pink marquee and were provided with a hot meal - walking that far demands lots of energy! There were some weird and wonderful bras, all very colourful with stripes and polka dots, sequins and silk, leopard skin and feathers. As a Senior Section Guider, mine was decorated in turquoise - fur, sequins, tassels and my promise badge. Yes the mind boggles and No, you won't be seeing any photos! We all had baseball caps, bright pink for those of us doing the "full moon" (the full marathon distance) and white for the half-mooners. I'm sure I wasn't the only one who wished that I was turning off at 10 miles to head back to Hyde Park, but I had a pink cap on and if I wanted that medal, I had to keep going.

There was an amazing atmosphere, and as well as the walkers, there were volunteer marshals who kept us on the right route, and handed out snacks and bottles of water. We were also cheered on by the hundreds of people who apparently roam the streets of London on a Saturday night.

It was a long, long way especially the last four miles when I could feel the blister on my right heel getting worse and worse. But it was a case of putting one foot in front of the other until I practically fell over the finishing line, to be rewarded with a medal, and hugs from Philippa Tolley (Brownie Guider in Bedford Park District) and her mum who were two of the many volunteers who helped make the event run smoothly.

This is the world's largest power walking marathon, where participants walk through the night, setting off from Hyde Park close to midnight and walking through the streets of London. Along with 14,000 other women, and about 1,000 men, a friend and I walked 26.2 miles to raise money for breast cancer research and cancer care. The event is famous for the fact that participants have to walk in bras, which they decorate in all sorts of fantastic ways, and that includes the men!!

My husband came to pick us up with flowers and croissants and bucks fizz for breakfast, which we were too tired to enjoy. We weren't great company on the journey home - asleep within two minutes. Getting out of the car was a struggle - I had already stiffened up. I literally crawled upstairs on my hands and knees (that blister was huge!) into a hot bath and then bed. What an experience!

But the best bit is this - with your fantastic support through badge sales, pink themed evenings, sponsorship and other donations, I have sent off cheques totalling £1405.09. A huge thank you! Entries have closed for MoonWalk 07, but they need 2000 volunteers to help run the event. Not sure if that is the easier option or not, but that's what I'll be doing on the night of 19 May next year.

Deirdre Anderson  
YL Guider, Bedford Division

## Happy New Year to you all!

New Year is here

The days are getting short

Please spare a thought for the

Guiders who are caught

If you haven't got a minute  
a second will do

If you've not got a second - then  
you must be a guider too!

*Kathy*

Kathy Carroll,  
County Commissioner

(with apologies to original author!)





# Denise Yates - Special Needs Adviser

Guiding is for everyone. That's how Girlguiding Anglia's special needs leaflet begins and I guess it's my belief in this that is the main reason why I took on the role of Special Needs Adviser when Kathy asked me (honest!) just over a year ago.

## *And it's been a journey of discovery...*

For a start, I'm the sad person who analyses all the special needs forms that come in at census time (and don't forget to send me your nil returns as they are as useful to me!). It gives me a really useful picture of what kinds of special needs we have in Bedfordshire - the high number of girls and adults with asthma for instance - and helps shape the kinds of specialist organisations we can work with in future.

I have also helped units with girls with special needs raise money for specialist equipment to help make unit meetings a bit easier (or what about a buddy for camp?) - just email me if you think I can help.

But most of my work is about trying to help units with specific needs - Guiders seeking help and advice where a girl has just joined with a specific need or where the adult volunteer has a need. Queries are wide ranging and can take a while to research. Examples over the past year include:

- Can an adult with a special need become warranted?
- What support does a Downs Syndrome Brownie need?
- Does a Rainbow with a special need have to go to Brownies at 7?
- What help can we give a Brownie who cannot speak?

Other areas I've been involved in include drafting a special needs leaflet and working on the special needs section of the Anglia website. So after all that - just what is special needs? In some Regions my role is still called the Disabilities Adviser. But as Special Needs Adviser I believe it is much more than that. It encompasses every special need a child, young person or adult volunteer may have.

*For example, I have had a gifted child in my Brownie unit. In the middle of every unit meeting she would start to wander round the hall. I worked out it was when she got bored. She'd come back when we did an activity that interested her. To meet her special need I asked her to be responsible for sorting out the activity or helping to run the game. What I did met her special needs.*

*I had another girl who had a phobia about balloons. To meet her need we didn't use balloons in the unit or used them when I knew she wasn't going to be there.*

Looked at from that point of view, every one of us is special and when there are special needs to be met I'm your woman! Before my term of office is over there are two initiatives I would like to get up and running here in Bedfordshire:

- I would like to create a network of Guiders who - either because of their domestic, work or guiding lives have experience of a particular special need - can act as special advisers in Bedfordshire. They would be people who I could put other Guiders in touch with when they have a specific query on supporting that special need. If you think you can help - get in touch
- An email group to keep people in touch with special needs issues in County - if you would like to help me run the group or if you would like to be a member, please contact me

Accepting a girl, young person or adult into your unit can be difficult and there can be issues - practical, attitudinal and emotional - which you will have to consider. But it can also be very rewarding and if Guiding really is for everyone isn't it essential?

Denise Yates  
Special Needs Adviser

## 1st Sandy Guides meet Alistair Burt

On a fine morning in April, just before the Guides went back to school we went to London to meet Alistair Burt MP for North East Bedfordshire. A trip that was part of Take Your Daughters to Work Day. Ten excited guides and two leaders were off for what promised to be a good day and so it proved to be with the relevant paperwork and passes to get us all into Parliament and the Palace of Westminster.

On arrival at the Palace of Westminster we were met by Lara, who had been my liaison for the arrangements. The first part of the day was a tour of the Houses of Parliament, led by our guide who proved to be a law student in real life, but did very well in making the tour interesting and relevant to the girls, relating some parts of the tour to things they had covered in history at school.

After the tour Lara met us and took us to a room where we could have lunch. She also confirmed that she had been able to get us tickets for the gallery. As we were finishing our lunch, Alistair joined us. The Guides had all been asked to have a question ready, and they all had - either on being an MP or about how Parliament works. Alistair was very good at answering their questions and relating to things they would know. He then asked some questions of his own about their views on the proposed changes to two tiers for the school system in Bedfordshire. Although many of the replies were prefaced with, 'My parents think...'

Time for a visit to the Jewel Tower, included as part of our visit. Then back to Parliament for our trip to the gallery after watching the Speakers procession with the mace. We spent about an hour in the gallery listening to questions to the Minister for Health. We had the relevant paperwork, so we knew what the questions were. They are not read out, but a screen shows which question is being answered. The MP's then spend a lot of time trying to attract the Speaker's attention so that they can ask supplementary questions. It was very interesting to see the process.

Our day finished with a Thames River Boat Trip and tea at Pizza Hut. It was a tired but happy group that returned to Sandy having had a very interesting day.

Ann Crome  
Guide Guider, 1st Sandy Guides





# BUZZING AROUND.....



## Visit to the Viking Kayak Club

On Sunday 17 September, the Bedford Viking Kayak Club invited us to help out at the Hasler Marathon competition on the River Great Ouse, which involved 600 paddlers from as far afield as Devon and Scotland.

It was a lovely hot sunny day as we set to work helping to organise the paddlers on the river ready for the start; a daunting task! It was quite a sight to see so many competitors on the river as they raced off and we soon got into the spirit of it, cheering them on. Later on, as the competitors exited the river, we manned the paddler's food tent offering them a choice of chocolate bar, crisps, fruit and a drink.

We all had a fantastic day out, although our feet did ache by the end of it. We would like to thank the Viking Kayak Club for giving us the opportunity to get involved in some community action.

**Cheryl Smith**  
Guider, 22nd Bedford Guides



## 'We were 90'

In 1916 Senior Guides were formed for Guides who were 16 and over. In the same year Cadets, forerunner to Young Leaders, were formed to train girls to become Leaders. Mrs Mark Kerr took on the responsibility for the Senior Guides. The first scheme was published in 1918 and the name Ranger became our official title. Sea Guides were also started in 1918. In 1927 Rangers, Cadets and Sea Guides became one branch. In 1936 the first Ranger Guide Handbook was published. During World War 2 Rangers helped in many and varied ways and could become a member of the Home Emergency Service from the age of 15, later in the war the age was lowered to 14. Land Rangers were set up in 1944 followed by Air Rangers in 1945.

In 1967 the Senior Branch became the Ranger Guide Service Section, with a new uniform for all, followed by a new programme in 1968. We became Ranger Guides and Young Leaders in 1973. Our uniform and programme has continued to move forward, with a new Look Wider update in 2007.

In Bedfordshire we set the girls a Birthday Challenge basing it on the decades of the 90 years. They had 'till December 2006 to finish and we will be holding a function to celebrate in the spring. We also held a tradition birthday party in October with fun games and party food, the jelly went down a treat.

We are continuing to grow in numbers with new Ranger units and more Young Leaders and very enthusiastic Guiders. We are still a strong part of Guiding and by the time we are 100 hopefully we will have more recognition.

**Jan Hooley**  
Senior Section Advisor



# Picture Gallery



*Some of my favourites - Ed*



*4th Houghton Regis Brownies trying on some uniforms from America.*



*STOP PRESS: Leighton Buzzard Guiders chat up eligible men at Royal British Legion Parade! Our reporter says that the Guiders expect exciting dates in London soon.*

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



## Mid Beds Division exciting autumn events

Mid Beds Division Brownie Revels "Brownie Bonfire Bash" took place in October and was very well attended by over 200 Brownies, Guiders and numerous adult helpers. The Brownies had a wonderful afternoon of fun and activities set within the superb camp site at Milton Bryan. The weather was perfect and the Brownies had an absolutely great range of activities, crafts and games to enjoy. The event was very well arranged and all the tremendous hard work put in by all the Guiders paid off. Each Brownie had to complete a passport to show that they had taken part in the activities and were awarded a special badge produced to celebrate the memorable event. The Brownies enjoyed drinks with hot dogs and the afternoon was rounded off with a brilliant campfire sing song with each unit demonstrating their own singing skills to the rest of the division around the "Bonfire". A very successful afternoon on a lovely October day.

Our next event was the "Rainbow Roundabout" in November. It was very well attended by Rainbows from each unit in the Division. The event took place indoors at Maulden and the Rainbows took a wonderful ride on the "Roundabout" of activities, crafts and games. The theme was "Nature" and each activity had its own nature theme. The Rainbows enjoyed drinks and snacks and towards the end of the afternoon all got together for a Rainbow sing song. There were plenty of old favourites sung and the different Rainbow units all took turns to take centre stage and sing their own favourite songs. Each Rainbow was awarded a "Look, Learn, Laugh, Love" badge at the end of the event and it was really wonderful to get all the Division units together in one place and have such a fun-filled afternoon.

A big thank you to all the Guiders involved in making both these events so enjoyable and successful and for making Mid Beds Division such a great place to be a Guider!

**Sandra Grant**  
Mid Beds Division  
Public Relations  
Representative  
Girlguiding UK



## President's Lunch

Vice Presidents, County Team Members, Ambassadors and Guiders approaching a change in their Guiding lives were treated to a delicious lunch at Haverings in October. The meal was provided by our County President Jeanne Wain and her loyal band of kitchen helpers. This was also an opportunity for friends to chat and catch up on all the news.

Several Guiders were thanked by Kathy Carroll, County Commissioner, for their service to Girlguiding Bedfordshire and were each presented with a card and plant.



## Bedford Trefoil Guild (...a year in the life of)

In **January** we had a talk on the neo natal Unit at Bedford Hospital, by Sister Carol Warden, which resulted in quite a few tiny garments being knitted by the members. Come **February** an international quiz organised by members to celebrate Thinking Day. **March** found us doing armchair aerobics to get fit for the summer activities. Our AGM in **April** was accompanied by the opportunity to try out handbells. **May** and time to get outside and explore a bit, with a visit to Moot Hall and Abbey, followed by a cream tea at the Bunyan Meeting House. A very busy month, as we also had a coffee morning at Mollivers in aid of the Hautbois lift fund. This was very well supported by other Guilds, Guiders and the village. The result - over £400 to swell the funds. We were quietly quite pleased with ourselves! **June** and back to the past in more ways than one with a wide game in the woods based on World War 2, involving trapped parachutists, food parcels and secret messages - great fun. In **July** we had a BBQ in the woods until the heavens opened, then we took to the hall. Other Guilds from the county joined us and despite the weather, we enjoyed the good food and company. **August** found us making our way to the Hatton Centre at Warwick to admire crafts and of course indulge in some retail therapy. Our birthday lunch in **October** was enjoyed at the Fordham Arms at Sharnbrook, and in November we enjoyed a talk by Make me Beautiful which has had us examining the colours in our wardrobes. In **December** we are getting ready for Christmas with craft activities and seasonal refreshments.

It seems that all we do is enjoy ourselves but this is only part of our programme. We are always willing to help units with badge testing and to make things for use at meetings. In the past we have repaired toadstools, made Guide sashes and games. In the new year we are making a rainbow for Rainbow Promise Ceremonies. We have just planted bulbs in pots for St. John's Hospice at Moggerhanger ready to brighten them up in the New Year. We are planning another coffee morning for May 07, this time in aid of the Mollivers Bunkhouse Project.

In the wider world of Guiding, members have enjoyed the Anglia Trefoil Guild Gathering at Stopsley in June, and two members went to the National AGM in Belfast. We also attended the Bedfordshire Guides Annual Review and have enjoyed visiting other Guilds in the County for a canal trip, a quiz and a late, late breakfast in aid of Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

Having read this, I'm sure that you can't wait to join us. No need to wait until you retire. If you are 18 years plus - contact your local Trefoil Guild and join the fun NOW!

**Pam Andrews**  
Chairman - Bedford Trefoil Guild

## New Ranger Unit for Luton South

Luton South Division has recently opened a new Ranger Unit. We meet every two weeks at Haverings. So far we have had a party to celebrate the Senior Section turning 90 where we also had a take away delivered. Last week we had a bonfire with fireworks and did some outdoor cooking. We are currently working on the Look Wider scheme. We have eleven rangers after only four meetings. We have a website which is now up and running the address is [www.look-wider.piczo.com](http://www.look-wider.piczo.com) please visit the site and sign the guestbook. Let us know what you think of the site and things we may be able to improve on.

**Sarah Hunt**  
Leader, Luton South Division Rangers

**HOT NEWS... STOP PRESS...** Congratulations to Kelly Quigley, Bedfordshire's County PR adviser, who was runner-up in the Young Communicator award at the Chartered Institute of Public Relations East Anglia PRide Awards 2006/2007. Kelly used Girlguiding Bedfordshire's Annual Report as an example of her work in her award submission and spoke at length about guiding at her panel interview. In their comments, the judges said that they "particularly liked the fact that Kelly has taken up the role of PR spokesperson for Girlguiding Bedfordshire."