

Beds Buzz

Spring 2006



Girlguiding
Bedfordshire

HAPPY NEW YEAR

I hope you have all had a great break and are ready to face the New Year with renewed energy and enthusiasm! We have an action packed year already set up in County including Commissioners Day Jan 28; Annual Review March 18; Hautbois Weekend May 12 - 14; Kathy's Camp June 16 - 18 and lots more to come in both Districts and Divisions. However you choose to spend your extra time in Guiding I hope you get a lot of fun from it. Last year was very eventful in more ways than one and I have to say a very big Thank You to Betsy for taking the helm and steering the county so well for the last 6 months. I am now fit and well and back with a vengeance - although unable to drive until the middle of March!!!

Keep Passing on the Passion - we will often never know the influence we have on the young girls of today who are the young women of tomorrow.

Kathy Carroll, County Commissioner



The Big Gig 2005

A party of girls and leaders from 12th Luton Guides joined thousands of Guides from all over the UK to take part in this years Big Gig. As it was being held in Birmingham we set off from our meeting place at

Haverings in Luton to travel to Birmingham. The girls were very excited to be travelling to the Gig and to see many stars including Friday Hill, Liberty X, Jenny Frost, Jo O'Meara, Simon Webbe, Tony Christie, Lee Ryan and Girls Aloud. We arrived at the Birmingham NEC Arena with plenty of time to buy light wands, badges, bears and t shirts.

Once inside the Arena we took our seats and waited for the Gig to start. All of the Guides were in fine voice waiting in anticipation for the first act.

Tony Christie was the first act and things got better and better during the evening with Liberty X followed by Girls Aloud ending the evening. 2 1/2 hours of top class acts and lots of Guide participation in singing, clapping, screaming etc.



At the end of the evening it was back to the coach and the drive home to Luton arriving home at about midnight with tired but very happy girls. It is a pleasure to take part in an event with so many members and to see them all having such a good time.

Sue Champkins

South Beds Division Brownie Football Tournament



During the summer Girlguiding South Bedfordshire Division held a football tournament for Brownies. Over 70 Brownies from packs in Leighton Buzzard, Linslade, Heath and Reach, Woburn and Cranfield took part. The teams were divided into two leagues with the eventual winners and runners up going

forward to the semi-finals. All four semi-finalist teams played very well. On pitch one the 9th Leighton Buzzard scored three goals and 3rd Linslade scored two while on pitch two, 5th Leighton Buzzard beat 3rd Leighton Buzzard three nil.

The final was very closely contested, both teams had plenty of support from parents and families. The play moved quickly from one end of the pitch to the other with plenty of good shots at goals but after full time none had hit the back of the net. During extra time 9th Leighton Buzzard scored an excellent goal which turned out to be the winner. The winning team were presented with the Girlguiding South Beds Division Brownie Owl Trophy.

All the Brownies really enjoyed the tournament and played very well with many discovering new footballing skills. A local football club, Woodside, organised the tournament and supplied the hard working referees. The association with Woodside Football Club has been very beneficial. They are keen to attract more girl players and have also helped us by running football sessions at our Division camp, with joint fundraising activities with one District and plans are already being made for a Brownie football tournament in 2006.

Debbie Docherty
Division Commissioner
Girlguiding South Bedfordshire Division

2005 Movie Challenge

And the winner is...

The red carpet was out on Saturday 15 October as over forty Rangers and Young Leaders attended an awards ceremony where the winners of Girlguiding Bedfordshire's 2005 movie challenge were revealed.

Award nominees had rock climbed like James Bond, designed shoes like Cinderella, held beauty pageants like Miss Congeniality and organised dream weddings like The Wedding Planner to be in with a chance of winning a golden statuette.

Dressed to kill, the Rangers and Young Leaders enjoyed a gala dinner before the nail-biting award ceremony. Sixteen statuettes were presented on the night, with many of the categories closely contended.

The winners of each category were:

Action (two awards): Bushmead Rangers and Stopsley Rangers

Chick Flicks (two awards): Buzzard Rangers and Amy Stickings and Claire Chidley, Young Leaders with 4th Dunstable Brownies

Comedy: Natalie Cameron, Young Leader with Flitwick Guides

Drama: Bedford Division Rangers

Fantasy: Dunstable Rangers

Kids: Bedford Division Rangers

Musicals: Buzzard Rangers

Thriller (two awards): Leighton Heath Young Leader Group and Nikki Lake, Young leader with Bedford Brownies

Best group entry: Dunstable Rangers

Best single or duet entry: Emily Diver, Flitwick Young Leaders

Best presented entry: Dunstable Rangers

Overall winners: Amy Stickings and Claire Chidley, Young Leaders with 4th Dunstable Brownies

Highly commended: Young Leaders from 7th Stopsley Guides

Senior Section adviser Jan Hooley and her team created the movie challenge to test the ingenuity and creativity of Rangers and Young Leaders in a fun way. The girls chose up to ten challenges from a range of film genres. Action, chick flicks, comedy, drama, fantasy, kids, musicals and thrillers were all covered.

Speaking after the ceremony, Jan said, "This movie challenge has proved yet again what stars our Rangers and Young Leaders are. The judges had some tough decisions to make as the quality of the entries was so high. Congratulations to all our award winners who we hope will all take part in next year's challenge - to be announced soon!"



The superstar winners!

40+ years of guiding!

On 21st November, 13th Bedford Brownies (St. Andrew's) pack had an evening of newspapers. The meeting was led by Ms Woods who has been Guiding for over 40 years!

Sadly in a few months time Ms Woods will only be a visitor to our meetings, this is not due to wanting to leave but because her warrant will expire.

Ms Woods' impressive guiding record is a rare commitment to Guiding and should be recognised as a great achievement. Ms Woods has run hundreds of exciting activities over the years which have ranged from making cakes; going to the panto; origami ducks; paper daffodils; and trails around the park.



Bedford Brownies and all those who have been involved with Ms Woods over the years know exactly how much work she puts in, not only at pack

meetings but else where across the county. We would all like to show our appreciation and say a big Thank You!

*Sharon Jeffrey and Victoria Brookman
13th Bedford Brownies Assistant Guiders*

HAVE FUN - Gang Show



The Raven Theatre Cedars School was the place to be last weekend. Guides, Brownies, and Rainbows units from Leighton Heath District all gathered for their gang show 'Have Fun'.

The show consisted of sketches, songs and dances. Young Leaders and members of the Trefoil Guild also put in appearances and a great time was had by all.

During the weekend £300 was raised for Children in Need.
Thank you to Parents Girls and the Leaders who worked so hard to make the show a success.

2nd Maulden Brownies, Fundraising

The Brownies visited their local children's Hospice, Keetch Cottage in Streatly, Luton. This is a hospice that offers respite care as well as care for children with life limiting illnesses.



The Brownies have been very active in fund raising for the hospice including charity auctions and a sponsored walk. Here the Brownies are seen enjoying some refreshment after the tour of the hospice.

The Brownies were also involved in a 'Bring & Buy Sale' hosted by another unit within their District. This was to raise funds for 'Genes for Jeans'. Here the Brownies are seen with all their goodies that they brought to be sold and 2nd Maulden Brownies together with 1st, 2nd and 4th Ampthill Brownies raised over £150 for the charity selling each other toys and other items they had donated.



*Sandra Grant Brown Owl
2nd Maulden Brownies*

Camp Report - 1st Kempston Guides

We enjoyed a fantastic week at PEAK 2005 an International camp held in the grounds of Chatsworth House in Derbyshire. During the week long camp the guides made many friends and enjoyed endless activities. The highlight of the week was an unexpected and unscheduled visit to 1st Kempston camp by the Chief Guide.

The guides had been playing a game called 'Pegs' which involved each patrol having a quantity of pegs with their patrol colour on. The idea was - whilst out and about during the camp to secretly peg individuals (not necessarily the first boy scout on site!), which invited the camper back to the camp for a chat, sign a camp log and all received something edible from the goodie bag.

We had so many interested visitors to our camp during the week not only from guides and scouts from across the world but members from the camp fire brigade (who came back daily to top up our paddling pool), site team, bog squad, the Mayor of Chesterfield and many more.

International Trip to Germany

In the summer holidays I went on an International trip to Germany with five other guides and two leaders. We started off the trip in Berlin and saw the sights of the city then we moved on to go camping in another part of Germany. There we did team-building activities in our subcamp groups which included using our bodies to make famous landmarks and working as a government with different political parties. We also did health and well-being activities like aerobics and folk dancing and learning a bit about Germany itself.



On our last evening we decided to go back to the Hard Rock Café which we had visited last time we were in Berlin - which turned out to be a good choice because later in the evening the staff had everyone on their chairs doing the Y.M.C.A! It was a fantastic atmosphere throughout the restaurant and a perfect way to end our trip.

My experience in Germany has taught me to get to know people easily and be myself. It has helped me to build relationships with other people, even if they don't speak the same language. The trip has made me far more independent as a person. I'm so lucky to have had the experience that I did, it has been the time of my life and will stay with me forever.

*Christina Russell
1st Kempston Guides*

Two guides managed to peg Jenny during her visit and were over the moon when she arrived in our camp just after lunch. Jenny spent about 20 minutes signing camp logbooks, chatting and having her photo taken with the guides. She commented about how friendly, lively and enthusiastic they all were.

We were even more surprised when we read in the September Guiding magazine the Chief Guides report on her visit to PEAK 2005. Of all the things she could have written, she chose to write about the 'Peg Game' and her visit to 1st Kempston guide camp.

Sandra Cove



Have you visited our website yet? www.bedsguiding.org.uk

Snippets!

Wilden Rainbows dig tree planting!

Girls from 1st Wilden Rainbows in North Bedfordshire had fun in October planting hedgerow trees they had received in a grant from the Woodland Trust. In the spring they put the trees in pots, which were kindly looked after by local nursery My Garden Friend until a site could be found to plant them out. A Wilden farmer generously gave them space to plant the trees, which include hazel, hawthorn and blackthorn, and the girls happily got very muddy digging holes and planting the trees. The Woodland Trust has some activity ideas and information about trees at: www.treeforall.org.uk



Busy time for Trefoil Guild

'Woodcroft' Trefoil Guild, Luton North Division had two very busy occasions. In October we arranged our annual 'Late Breakfast for Breakthrough Breast Cancer' and raised £303.50p. Friends, family and Guiding members came from around the county to enjoy a full English breakfast which was served during the evening. This is our eighth year and so far we have raised £1,766.50p.

After all that, eight members were part of the 'Surprise Yourself' Show put on by the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides in November. Snow White will never be quite the same after our performance. One thing though, it did give the audience a good laugh.

Margaret Chalmers

County Archivist

I have been asked to write an article for Beds Buzz about my role as County Archivist and what I do. I personally find the 'job' very interesting but that is possibly because I have an interest in history which is the reason I volunteered to take the job on some four years ago now.

There are a few different parts to the role of archivist. The first is obviously accepting items for the archives, I have a policy that I never say NO to anything, so if you are ever thinking of throwing anything away or have items that are surplus to your requirements please do get in touch as I would be only too pleased to take it/them off of your hands. Once I get items home that I have been given I sort them and catalogue them before putting them in to their correct storage location. Often I am given items that I need to carry out research on in order to find out a bit more information, this could be an old photograph with no explanation at all of what it is or who is on it. I use the uniform to get a rough idea of the date and then can look at other old photographs from that era. Alternatively I take them along to meetings and always get help from people who remember those in the picture!

Hopefully many of you have seen me at the displays I put on at County events. This is one of the ways in which I bring the archives out for you to see. The other is by coming along to your meetings. I often get asked to go along to Brownie meetings to cover parts of the 'Traditions' badge. I usually bring along old Brownie uniforms and badges and talk for a few minutes about them before letting the girls 'dress up' in them (Brownies ALWAYS enjoy doing this). I then have a few 'old' games that I can get your girls playing (I have only just started doing this part!!) so you can more or less have a 'night off' and let me do all the work!!

I have also been along to some Guide meetings and a few Trefoil Guild ones. I will always try and make the visit what you want it to be. If you have an event planned that you would like archive items at (i.e a unit birthday party and you would like a uniform from the early days of the unit) but don't want me to come along then I can lend certain things to you if you would like them.

So if you feel that you would like to give your girls a 'history' evening then please get in touch on 01582 619482 or email lutonpaul@ntlworld.com. I can interest all girls from the youngest rainbow to the oldest Trefoil Guild member!!!

Paul Hunt



The Scout Holiday Homes Trust

The Trust's holidays are available for any family with special needs or low income and full details can be seen on its website



www.scoutbase.org.uk/hq/holhomes or ring Lynda Peters at their Gilwell Park office on 020 8443 7290

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

Put these dates in your diary now!

28th January - Commissioners Day

18th March - Annual Review

12-14th May Hautbois Weekend

16-18th June - Kathy's Camp