

OXLIP

SUMMER 2013



On 1st June in the LG Arena, Birmingham over 12,000 Girl Guides from all over the UK gathered to watch some of the biggest names in music, perform for them. Including singers like Katy B, Amelia Lily, Lawson, Misha B and Scouting for Girls- the Big Gig was an amazing experience for all the 1st Kennington Guides. After the long bus journey to the arena all the Guides had a picnic and talked about all the acts they were excited about seeing and how much they wanted to get into the arena and go to their first Big Gig! 1st Kennington Guides hadn't got tickets since 2005 so this was new to all the Guides. Next, after a quick toilet break, the Guides queued up to take their seats after going to the merchandise desk. The 1st Kennington Guides decided to buy some crazy clip on hair extensions which flashed different colours in the dark! So they trooped into the arena and eagerly awaited the arrival of Lawson who kicked off the show...

Bam! Suddenly the music started and Lawson strode out onto the stage greeted by the welcoming screams of their Girl Guiding fans. They sang a remix of Swedish House Mafia's 'Don't You Worry Child' and their single 'Standing in the Dark'. They were then followed by many other acts including Tich, The Vamps, Union J and The Loveable Rouges. However, in between those acts there was a special someone entertaining the audience; the host for the Big Gig 2013 was meant to be Helen Skelton from CBBC's Blue Peter but she was unfortunately ill. Westlife's Nicky Byrne saved the day and stepped in, he did an brilliant job and the crowd loved him. The final act was Scouting for Girls who sang two of their own songs at their 5th Big Gig! They finished the show with 'This Ain't a Love Song' and a song chosen by the audience: 'She's So Lovely'. Finally 1st Kennington Guides said goodbye to the arena and made the journey back to Oxford.

Laura

Girlguiding is the leading charity for girls and young women in the UK, with 538,247 members. Thanks to the dedication and support of 100,000 amazing volunteers, we are active in every part of the UK, giving girls and young women a space where they can be themselves, have fun, build brilliant friendships, gain valuable life skills and make a positive difference to their lives and their communities. We build girls' confidence and raise their aspirations. We give them the chance to discover their full potential and encourage them to be a powerful force for good. We give them a space to have fun. We run Rainbows (5-7 years), Brownies (7-10 years), Guides (10-14 years) and The Senior Section (14-25 years).



BP ADVENTURE



All Guides working for their Baden Powell Award have to attend an Adventure once they have completed at least 8 clauses of the syllabus and nearing completion of the Award. The Adventure offers the opportunity to make new friends with Guides from other parts of the county, to celebrate the time in Guiding, to try something new and to find out about future opportunities in Guiding. So far this year there have been Adventures to Bath and to Milton Keynes.

The most recent Baden Powell Adventure in June was attended by 19 Guides and was held at the Caldecotte Experience, Milton Keynes, where we had a weekend of water activities. There were two sessions on Caldecotte Lake - rowing and raft-building. Several Guides had previously tried rowing, but some found it more of a challenge. Teamwork was needed for the raft-building activity and some assistance was given to our 2 teams by Katie and Mandy, Ranger Guiders visiting for the day. The Guides were left to get on for a while, but the Instructor stepped in to give some instruction on how to tie a truckers knot (new to us all!) so that the parts of the raft were a bit more securely attached. All looked good, but once the rafts hit the water they started to fall apart, and had no chance once the Guides tried to get on them - the initial challenge for everyone to paddle out to a distant buoy on the lake was far too optimistic! More fun water activities at the Centre in the evening soon got everyone (except the Guiders!) soaked again, with a massive water fight to conclude the day. A good time to get into PJs and finish with hot chocolate and cake.



Thanks to Pauline Ruggles (who made great cakes) and Jane Barlow for helping on this Adventure - we also made new friends as we did not know each other before this weekend.

Congratulations to all the Guides who have completed their Adventures and I hope everyone has gone on to complete their Award - well done!

Rachel Lawmon, County Guide Adviser.



Way back at the beginning of the year, when it was all cold and snowy a group of ten Guides/Senior Section members and three leaders ventured west to the historical delights of Bath. We met at Didcot Parkway and travelled by train, which meant everyone could get to know each other before we let them loose in Bath. Thankfully it had stopped snowing!

After a bracing picnic for lunch, the BP girls went off in small groups to do a treasure hunt around Bath, and we met up in the late afternoon to visit the Roman Baths, and taste the water. We then walked up Bathwick Hill to the Youth Hostel - our accommodation for the night. Even though I had lived in Bath for a year I had forgotten just how hilly it is, and the Youth Hostel felt more like it was on the north face of the Eiger by the time we got there.

Sunday morning, and fully restored, we set off DOWN the hill, with a lovely view of Bath laid out below us. We visited the Costume Museum, and then went to the Pump Room for morning coffee (or in most cases hot chocolate), and cake. It's a lovely place to go, although we felt rather odd wandering in there with our rucksacks and 'sturdy' walking shoes. We had all bought lunch from that typically Georgian retail outlet, Tesco's, on the way from the Youth Hostel, so the BP girls were then able to have some free time around Bath (in groups), and to have their lunch, before we all met up again at the train station for the journey home.

The Guides and Senior Section were a real credit to themselves and their units, and it was a pleasure to be able to share this trip with them, and with the great help of Roni McGowan and Rachel Williams (not least for managing to cook and serve about a dozen pizzas with very little equipment!). Wendy Yeates

WHITE HORSE VALE DIVISION DAY



White Horse Vale Division held an afternoon of summer activities on Saturday 6th July at Shrivenham Military College.

All four districts of Faringdon, Grove, Tuckmill and Wantage had girls attending from Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Senior Section. In total about 200 were there playing games, catapulting wet teabags at each other

courtesy of the Oxfordshire Pioneering team, singing campfire songs and generally have a great time.

Evelyn Walker, Division Commissioner, said: 'It was a beautiful afternoon and I'm sure all the girls went home happy but tired. We were very grateful to the college for allowing us the use of their rugby pitch (and toilets, always a crucial consideration when taking lots of young ladies out!). I can't thank the leaders enough for giving up a Saturday afternoon and organising such a fun event.'

GOLD

Sam Addington from Abingdon Division recently met up with Guiding friends from a GOLD trip that took place 21 years ago in 1992! The project was to Czechoslovakia and involved supporting the Czech Guide movement to start again after many years existing in secret under the communist regime. A camp was held to teach Guiding and English skills to girls from all around the country. Great memories were made and many long term friendships were formed.

To find out how to take part in your own GOLD project and have the experience of your life, go to https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/about_us/international_guiding/gold.aspx



INTERNATIONAL COOKERY COMPETITION

73 members of Girlguiding Oxfordshire braved the unpredictable British weather to cook in the outdoors on Saturday 15 June at Jubilee House camp site. They were challenged in teams of up to six to cook a two course meal from another country. Dishes were to be cooked from scratch without packet mixes. The teams had two hours to prepare cook and present their meal, without adult interference (unless an adult team). Members of the county international team judged the event. Marks were awarded for team work, creativity, taste and presentation.



Mexico was very popular. Leah from 1st Bodicote guides said they had chosen Mexico as there was lots of bursting flavours. They made their own tortilla chips and chicken fajitas. The Trefoil Jellies cooked Mexican as members of the team had visited Our Cabana in previous years. The fresh made guacamole was yummy. Sophie from 2nd Witney Guides explained that they had chosen Mexico as there was an interesting choice of food. They made chilli con carne and rice pudding with cinnamon oranges. They had used a book from the library to find their recipes.

Hope from 12th Abingdon Guides explained they had chosen Greece planning to make the classic Greek dish dolmades, however vine leaves were not in season so they had substituted these with cabbage leaves and then someone forgot the mince. The carried on and produced a vegetarian rice stuffed green leaf dish. Josie Hill from 1st Bodicote guides explained that they had made chick pea curry and Bombay potatoes. Alice told us that they chose India as they liked curries. Courtney, Ellie and Louise from 2nd Woodstock guides were cooking Australian dishes their second team cooked tuna and sweet potatoes patties from New Zealand as their leader had visited the country with guiding. Leaders from Millbrook district went wild in the wild west. Sue explained that they wanted to do something a little different and very tasty with cowboy bean stew with sweet potato mash, key lime pie and apple punch. 12th Abingdon guides cooked meatballs and dough balls haven eaten similar food at an Italian restaurant. Mia explained that they used a cardboard box oven- a cardboard box covered in tin foil, to cook the dough balls.

5th Chinnor Guides who came third had chosen the Democratic Republic of Congo. Lauren told us that they had chosen the country together and then looked at recipes to choose their dishes by thinking about what would appeal to different people. For dessert they made topsy turvy pineapple cake in a frying pan on a camping stove. A second team from 5th Chinnor made rosti from Switzerland. Ellie told us that they had boiled potatoes then added onions and bacon before finishing in a frying pan.

In second place 1st Adderbury guides chose France as they like the country and they learn French at school. They cooked boeuf bourguignon and crepes, finished off with fresh bread and cheese. 6th Abingdon Guides had also cooked French dishes. Rosie told us that three of the team had looked at recipe books that previous Guides had made and chose French onion soup and ratatouille pasta melts.

The winners were Lucy, Katherine, Zoe and Anna from 1st Hanney Guides who cooked Chinese food. They chose china as their guider had been to china. Lucy told us that their leader had, had some good experiences and they wanted to share some of the tastes. They prepared Chinese hot pot, strawberry wantons and chocolate dipped strawberries (very popular with the judges).

Quotes

Alice Gardner (1st Bodicote Guides), "Team works makes the dream work".

Ellie (2nd Woodstock Guides) said "We need to get the presentation perfect". Courtney responded with, "But presentation does not taste nice!"

On Saturday 15th June 16 teams from Oxfordshire Girlguiding met at Jubilee House, Stanton St John, for an International Cooking Competition. Each team had chosen a country and had to produce a two course meal to be cooked outside using portable Gas cookers. The competition was won by 1st Hanney Guides whose theme was China and chose "Posh Pandas" as their team name.

Hanney Guides chose China as their theme as their leader had been to China on holiday and enjoyed a regional speciality called Hot Pot. All the ingredients for the Hot Pot need to be cut very thinly, and then they are put into the "Hot Pot" on the cooker, which contained a thin broth. This idea had appealed to the guides as they could choose foods they liked to put into the "Hot Pot". The guides used chicken and then added mushrooms, shallots, peppers, carrots, baby corn on the cob, broccoli, green beans and sugar snap peas.

However, the real attraction of their menu was the strawberry wantons they made, and decorated with Chinese characters in chocolate, for dessert. Many of the adults at the event, including the judges, were very keen to sample these!

The guides were judged on working as a team, presentation, clearing up, creativity, and taste. All the teams scored full marks for teamwork and clearing up. Hanney guides scored 83 out of 100, beating the second place team by 2 marks. They scored their best marks for presentation and creativity.

Comments from the Hanney Guide team included:-

Zoe (aged 12) "I enjoyed learning how to prepare and cook new dishes"



Katherine (aged 10) " Enjoyed making the strawberry wantons despite the heavy downpour of rain whilst waiting for judges decision."

Anna (aged 11) "Enjoyed making the strawberry wantons and getting wet in the heavy downpour!"

Lucy (aged 12) " Liked messing around with chocolate, including getting some on Anna! I learnt more about Chinese culture and will cook Hot Pot again as it is good vegetarians."

The photograph shows Anna Wilkinson, Katherine Kent, Zoe Smith and Lucy Evans from left to right.

CAMP NOTICES 1951 - I have just received the donation for the archives of Oxfordshire Camping notices for 1951 and thought it would be of interest to show some 60 years later some things never change whilst costs move on..... Eileen Hawkes - County Archivist.

County Camp Advisor, Miss C Bowen Headington School.

West Oxfordshire CA and County Camp Site Secretary, Miss Maud Logan.

Camp training at Beanwood 11 and 25 February from 2 - 4pm and guiders who are intending to come to the training camp are asked especially to attend those trainings. No fee payable but bring a picnic lunch if required.

Training Camp at Beanwood 22 - 27 March testing for licence, camp permit, QM and campcraft certificates. Open to Guiders, Cadets and Rangers acting as Guiders.

Fees - 2/6d [12 1/2p] a day and 10/6d [52 1/2p] for whole training. Guiders who are taking tests will be expected to stay a minimum of 3 whole days.

All those attending will sleep in cottage [bring camp beds or lilos] and cooking will be outside when possible.

Equipment - usual personal kit plus hymn book, rope, oilskin man or cape.

Rations - sufficient rationed foods for the time in camp. Except please bring a small tin of meat not fresh meat and it would help if those who can will bring an extra egg.

C E Bowen C.C.A.

GORING GUIDES HIT LONDON

On a cool spring morning 1st Goring Guides boarded the 8.12 train to London. Sixteen girls equipped with bags and raincoats (some of them) went to Paddington and through the underground to Embankment.

Our first stop was the London Aquarium where the girls loved walking over a glass floor which clearly revealed all the sharks circling below. The pods which simulated hurricane conditions were also a great success; the shrieks and screams as they tried to keep their hair in place could probably be heard back in Goring.

Unexpectedly the event that the girls enjoyed the most was lunch at Pizza Express. Without the loving restraint of parental control the girls were free to choose whatever they wanted and some of them certainly went to town! Olivia Delaney was particularly impressed that the pizzas were proper Italian pizzas and the dessert was presented beautifully. Lucy Hurrell was so overwhelmed with the size of the cheesecake that she now wants to live in London!



After lunch we went on the London Eye where the girls were extremely pleased to have a capsule to themselves. Several girls made their promise; a spectacular setting for an event which they will hopefully never forget. Nancy Cammell said 'I have never been on the London Eye before, so to do it with my best friends was REALLY fun'.

The day was an all round success. I'll leave the last word to Ebby Gardner: 'We had an amazing time with Guides in London and I can't wait to go on a day out with them again!'

Gail Rainsden and Jacqui Gray

WILLOW MEADOW

Last year Brize Norton and Carterton District Girlguiding planted saplings at Willow Meadow, Carterton to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. On Sunday 9 June 2013, we gathered to unveil a plaque and to see how the saplings were growing. Most of them were growing well. We took clippers and cut the grass from round them and then our youngest member Mya Farbrother who is a Rainbow unveiled the plaque and Rev Bill said a prayer for us all. We would like to thank Cllr Roger Crapper and Mrs Gill Crapper for their help with this project.



OUR CABANA

Back in February, 18 members of Girlguiding / Trefoil Oxfordshire ranging in age from 18 to 75+ met at Heathrow airport full of anticipation and excitement of what lay ahead for the next 14 days. Some of us had been lucky enough to celebrate Thinking Day at Sangam two years earlier and now we were looking forward to celebrating it at a second World Centre, Our Cabaña.

We safely arrived in Mexico City and settled into Ticalli, a Girl Guide and Girl Scout hostel owned and operated by the Guías de México. For the next couple of days we enjoyed the local sights of Mexico including a guided tour of the main tourist destinations in the area. We visited the archaeological site of Teotihuacan, the Sun and Moon Pyramids, where we bumped into a group of Mexican Scouts and then the following day spent time recuperating by taking a well earned rest cruising a local canal system at Xochimilco. Then it was on to the main destination of our trip, Our Cabaña.

Our event, 'Thinking Day and The Monarch Butterflies', was planned to be non stop action for nine days. We were introduced to Mexican culture and traditions, participated in a drama presentation about the history of Our Cabaña, and also took part in sessions on the WAGGGS Stop Violence Against Girls and Women MDG. We spent numerous hours in the famous craft house and of course all had a dip in the fabulous swimming pool. As part of our community work we were pleased to welcome 90 senior citizens to the Cabaña for a morning of crafts, musical exercise, games and hand massage. This was then followed by treating ourselves to lunch at Las Mañanitas. The gardens were magnificent, the peacocks entertained us and the world famous dessert was savoured by all. After our return to Our Cabaña we learned to Salsa Dance with Marico - putting a fitting end to an exhausting day for everyone. We had a wonderful day in Taxco visiting the silver shops, craft markets, and Santa Priscilla. Those who rode the taxi to the top had a thrilling ride in a beetle bug. Some of us rode the cable car for a great view.

Also included was an overnight trip to visit the Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary. Each year, millions of butterflies migrate from the northern United States and southern Canada to spend the winter months and reproduce in the state of Michoacán, Mexico. The sights are spectacular and well worth the climb up through the mountain paths to see them clinging to the trees. For some of us this really was one of the highlights of the trip. It goes without saying the other memorable event was celebrating Thinking Day with Guías of Mexico. Our Cabaña welcomed Guides, Brownies and Rainbows from the local area - we all got the opportunity to work with small groups of girls - singing, dancing, playing games, making crafts - just a few of the activities going on in the idyllic grounds of the World Centre. There was a special thinking day challenge which everyone took part in. The smiles and laughter from the girls made it all worthwhile - even struggling to explain instructions in Spanish made us smile as the girls appreciated us trying their language and in the end everyone understood one another so a good time was had by all. The final part of our Thinking Day celebrations was the International Fiesta put on by the participants on the Our Cabaña programme who set up tables ready to swap items and then also supplied an entertainment typical of their country for our guests. I think I talk for all from Oxfordshire by saying we will remember this day for a very long time. What a special place to spend Thinking Day!

If you get the chance to travel internationally then this opportunity should be on every Guiding person's list!!

WENDY FAULKNER



WORLD THINKING DAY



Every year, World Thinking Day has a different theme based on an issue that affects girls and young women around the world. The themes offer a focus point for World Thinking Day activities and provide an opportunity for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to learn about and take action on issues that are likely to matter to them. For 2013 there is a double theme: "Together we can save children's lives" and "Every mother's life and health is precious". These are based on Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 4: Reduce child mortality and MDG 5: Improve maternal health.

Over six weeks 1st Bodicote Guides have taken part in a number of activities to learn more about these themes and to develop a greater understanding. This have included learning about how quickly disease can spread, the importance of hand washing, some of the simple things that can be done to protect people from infection, how exercise can help you to stay healthy and how a healthy mother helps to ensure a healthy child. The finale was making baby bonnets which were then donated to our local special care baby unit.

Chloe said "she enjoyed making the baby hats as she knew where the end product was going to."



Emily said "I liked tying the knot in the hat as it was fiddly and a challenge."

Josie said "I learnt how to sew in different ways things like seams and using a sewing machine."

Lauryn said "I learnt how rapidly people die as it is every 30 seconds someone dies of malaria."

Leah "I learnt about the terrible conditions people live in."

Izzy said "It costs so little to get a net to protect people from flies, it's sad the amount of people who can't afford them."

Chloe said "We played a game called let's get active that was fun."

Brize Norton and Carterton World Thinking Day Celebrations 2013 **St Johns Church, Carterton on Saturday 23rd February**

Our celebrations this year were traditional style and were held on the afternoon with the Guiders arriving at the venue to prepare the hall. Each unit had chosen a Country and provided food and crafts from this Country. Once the girls arrived they were seated in the church and the girls carrying the flags and Olivia's lined up. A procession was made into the church and flags and Olivia's placed around the altar. Tracy, the DC welcomed everyone and the informal service began. Hymns were sung; prayers were written and read by two Leaders in Training. Each unit provided a girl to light a candle for their chosen country and another to carry a collection to be placed on top of the World flag. The Laws were read and Promises renewed. To end the service the Vicar gave us a blessing. After the service we were all able to sample the wonderful food representing different countries. Whilst the girls went back into Church to sing some traditional and new Guiding songs the Leaders cleared away any left over food and put out crafts, at three different levels, to be tried and enjoyed. To end the afternoon there were thank-yous, everyone received a Thinking Day card which had previously been made in the units and each section sang their "Goodnight" song. We were very pleased to welcome our County and Division Commissioners, Division Assistant and Treasurer and a Division Trefoil President. Feedback from the girls came in words such as "awesome, brilliant, fantastic, great etc", and the afternoon was deemed a big success. Pam Howard



GROVE GUIDES

The 1st St Johns the Baptist Guides in Grove have been busy working on the Jubilee House water challenge.

They spent a very enjoyable evening at Waitrose in Wantage where they tasted samples of the different waters they sell. They have completed a survey of the public toilets in the town, been on a walk following the brook through Grove and Wantage and have a water games evening planned at their meeting place.

They also had a very successful bag pack at the Co-Op in Grove where they raised money for Jubilee House and this year's coming summer camp at Glenbrook in the Peak District.



Annual Easter Egg Delivery

Every year Grove Rainbows, Brownies and Guides enjoy taking part in a community service by delivering eggs and Easter cards to the Senior Citizens of Grove.

The money for the eggs is raised by the units and all of the eggs are locally sourced. Girls also make Easter cards in their unit meetings.

1st Grove Rainbows delivered to Groveland court where they also sang Easter songs to the residents. 1st Grove Guides were joined by Hanney Guides for the delivery.

The girls get great enjoyment by being able to do something for the community and meeting the senior citizens.



Abingdon Angels Senior Section group were joined by Helen Money to talk about nutrition. They followed up a useful talk by making a Healthy Stripy Snack. One of the most useful pieces of information we learned that one brazil nut a day contains enough nutrients to stabilise hormonal mood swings!



<http://www.helenmoneynutrition.com/>

TUCKMILL DISTRICT CAMP



A year ago I persuaded my fantastic group of leaders to undertake our first District Camp over the May Bank Holiday weekend down in the New Forest involving all of our Units (2 Rainbow, 3 Brownie and 2 Guide Units from Shrivenham, Defence Academy, Longcot and Uffington); a year later all the planning and hard work came together.

A small group of adults arrived on the Friday afternoon to put up tents, arrange accommodation and sort out the catering. It started well with our first tent going up in just over 15 minutes and having achieved 4 in the first hour we were well on our way then the rain and wind set in trying to put up the remaining 14 tents - which had turned into overgrown kites proved challenging however not to be deterred we carried on and by the time the 75 Brownies and Guides arrived along with the remainder of the adults we were just putting in the last few pegs of the last tent.

We woke up the next morning (for some of us I am not sure we had much sleep the first night) to a beautiful day and the activities then started. Over the next two days the girls took part in canoeing and raft building in Crocodile Lake, (so named because of the number of croc shoes stuck in the mud in the bottom!), zip wire, crate challenge, orienteering, swimming and archery. They also took part in some craft activities including designing bags, making their own Tuckmill Teddy bear and decorating jars.



One evening we glammed things up and the girls took to the catwalk hosted by Fashion Freddie, our very own compare. Prizes were given out for the most Glamorous, Colourful and Best Shoes outfit. All girls had the opportunity to have their pictures taken by our camp photographer and drank blue, green and red lemonade. Some girls then took to the karaoke machine whilst others tired from the day's activities retired to their tents or beds.

The Sunday saw our youngest members the Rainbows arrive; they too enjoyed swimming, crafts and a treasure hunt before joining the rest of us for a campfire in the evening. Then all too soon Monday morning arrived and it was time to pack, take down the tents and load the coach to return home...



I would like to say a very big thank you to all the adults including the Guiders and the parents who gave up their bank holiday weekend to come on the camp without them it would not have been possible to have given

Anne Lynn

KENNINGTON GUIDES

5 go mad in the New Forest!!

5 Guides from 1st Kennington Guides were lucky enough to go to the New Forest, and they had a blast! The Guides and their Guide Leaders camped at a local Scout hut on a 4 night camp, where they had a chance to do things they never thought they would do!

DAY 1

On the first day, the Guides pitched their tents, made a swing out of ropes and wood to learn a few handy knots. The Guides also learned to tie-dye and made beautiful T-shirts! They also took part in a scavenger hunt to find a cake thief!



DAY 2

After a rough night's sleep in the comfy (yet freezing!) tents, the girls woke up to sunshine and frost, and took turns in making meals and doing their duties. Afterwards they spent the whole day at Blashford Lake sailing, rowing and canoeing. They all had a wonderful time!

DAY 3

The Guides went hiking today and learned some new navigation skills using maps and compasses, they even saw ponies! They went to Vereley Wood and did team games like the spider web and an off-ground rope course!



DAY 4

The Guides went to the heart of the guiding and scouts movement, Brownsea Island. They were very excited to go and meet the wildlife of the island, many peacocks and even two red squirrels!

LAST DAY

On the last day the Guides were sad to say goodbye, but not before having some fun! They all went to Moors Valley, a forest where fun is definite, many wooden structures were made to play on and they did a scavenger hunt for wildlife, sunshine wasn't easy to find though...

All around, every one of the Guides and Guide Leaders had a brilliant time! They would definitely go again given the chance, this camp has been adventurous and fun, they laughed, sang and really got to know each other!

1st Kennington Guides enjoyed the sunny Bank Holiday weather, walking along the Thames Path from Kennington to Abingdon, learning about survival skills, tranga cooking and geocaching.



SOUTHMOOR GUIDES

On 13-14 April 1st Southmoor Guides went for a weekend away at Jubilee House, a Guiding Centre in Oxford. Our theme was a Bond Girl Bonanza and our first activity was the assault course, it looked exciting but the wall was hard to get over and was challenging for some Guides.



We then did a cookout and cooked our lunch on open fires. We had chicken and vegetable kebabs, rice and pittas. It was good fun, but a bit wet, so quite hard to keep the fires going.

Afterwards we had chocolate fondue indoors, as it had started to rain by then. We all had showers after lunch as cookouts are a bit smelly, there were only 2 showers so there was a bit of a queue.

After dinner we played a baby photo game and bingo, We then made cocktails which were lush, one had pineapple, strawberry, raspberry and lemonade in, another had banana, ice cream, coconut milk and lemonade. We made 6 different ones and tried them all. We then got ready for bed and played nail polish roulette, Amelia won and took home some new nail polish as her prize.

We did not get to sleep until about midnight and the first girls woke up at 6.30 am, so we were tired the next day. After tidying up and having breakfast, we went abseiling, two of the leaders Hazel and Sally, did it as well. It was quite scary but the instructor was good. Some of the girls said "it pushed me to my limits".

We had sausage and mash for lunch and then all had to help clean the house, even the toilets. It was good though when we all worked as a team. Our last activity was geocaching, which our young leaders, Rachel and Louise, set up. We all went home with a prizes of a desk tidy, sweets and a Jubilee House Badge. The weekend was a great success and we had a fab time.

Taken from reports written by Jordan Huggins and Sophie Cox for their Baden Powell Challenge.



WANTAGE GUIDES

Girls from 4th Wantage Guides spent an afternoon with the Wantage Blind Club. They served members with afternoon tea using sandwiches and cakes which they had prepared and brought with them. Entertainment was provided in the form of singing and a raffle.

The Wantage Blind Club is a registered charity, run by volunteers, which offers help and social activities to partially sighted and blind people living locally. Parties are held on the second Saturday of each month in the Wantage Day Centre where members socialise over afternoon tea. Secretary of the Wantage Blind Club, Mrs Hazel Aldred, said: 'The girls have done a marvellous job serving the tea and chatting to the members. Everyone enjoyed their singing. They brought all the cakes and sandwiches and did all the washing up! We'd love to invite them back next year which will be our 60th anniversary.' Sally Matthews, Leader of 4th Wantage Guides, said: 'They are a remarkable group of girls the way they have looked after everyone. I'm really proud of them.'



DEDDINGTON GUIDES

We recently held a surprise presentation / celebration for Tilly Neal and Sophie Preston. Both have now gained their Baden-Powell Award. They completed 10 challenges across the spectrum, showing that they can work well as individuals or as part of a team. They also showed leadership skills and their commitment to guiding and their unit and fellow guides.

Amongst many activities they have camped, slept in a bivouac - which they built themselves. Between them both they planted trees, decorated and decoupage furniture, used wound make up to teach first aid, taken an adult first aid course (She completed it!), learnt about fair trade, written recipe books for outdoor cooking, put on a Christmas party for the local rainbows, led international guide meetings, keeping fit activities... the list goes on- demonstrating well rounded skills and interests, and willing to do something new.

A highlight was an exciting weekend spent at Foxlease, they were the youngest but some of the tallest, they had the opportunity to meet other guides from all parts of the UK- including the Channel Islands. They joined in a variety of activities in this beautiful house in its glorious New Forest setting... Both girls said the food was amazing and the staffs there were very kind, and the hot chocolate at night was delicious.

Congratulations to Tilly and Sophie! We are very proud of them - they accepted the challenge and succeeded. Mrs. Vivien Pleydell-Bouverie made the presentation. (In itself a little bit of history as Vivien had also presented the same award to Tilly's mum - Hazel Neal- who is now the leader at 1st Barford and Deddington rainbows). In addition Maggie is Hazel's mum and Tilly's very proud Gran!! 1st Deddington guide leaders are: Maggie Rampley, Marion Trinder, Catherine Blackburn.

Two Outings for the County Standard

Dedication of new Region Standard



On Saturday 5th February, a coach full of excited leaders, Trefoil members, Senior Section members and Guides set off for Ely Cathedral for the Service of Dedication for the new Anglia Region Standard. It was a cold but bright sunny day and we arrived in good time for those taking part in the dedication service to run through rehearsals after which there was just enough time for some lunch in the Lady Chapel of the Cathedral.

The Service began with a parade of all the Standards including those from other Regions and Countries followed by the Counties of Anglia, I was very proud to walk behind our Standard ably held and escorted by members from Horizon Rangers. Each County performed a piece connected with their symbol on the Standard, Oxfordshire's was the Book and girls from 5th Chinnor Guides acted out a mime representing Oxford's famous authors and stories including, Lord of the Rings, Alice in Wonderland and Inspector Morse and the world famous Mini built at Cowley!

It was a great day enjoyed by all who attended as you can see some of us managed to have our photo taken with the Region Standard, County Standard and the Chief Guide!

Buckinghamshire Banner Service

In May I was invited to attend Buckinghamshire Banner Service and took along our County Standard. It was an amazing afternoon, every Division and District in Buckinghamshire has its own Banner and it was a splendid sight to see them all on parade forming the Guard of Honour for guests as they arrived. The Banner Service was first held in 1928 in Aylesbury Parish Church and has been held nearly every year since with a few exceptions during wartime. I can't believe I have been lucky enough to walk behind our Banner representing Oxfordshire twice in one year!



Andrea Oughton

Youlbury Scout Activity Centre recently celebrated its centenary with a special weekend of camping and activities. The new Centenary Lodge was opened by UK Scouting's Chief Commissioner Wayne Bulpitt.

Emily Nutt of 1st Kidlington Guides lead the renewal of the Guide Promise, alongside Cubs and Scouts.

Kennington Guides had a great time enjoying activities.



TREFOIL GUILD



At the end of April, 4 members of Grove and Hanney Trefoil Guild formed part of a District team of 6 to take part in the SWIMATHON at Wantage Leisure Centre. The team swam a distance of 5K between them and raised almost £400 for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Mrs Rosemary Wilson or Wedge to many of her Guiding friends in Oxford, was involved with the South Oxford St John's Guides for many years during the seventies and the eighties. Wedge took over the unit from Mrs Joan English and continues to build on the thriving unit taking part in many local activities. Wedge also took part in many Guide camps and activities at District and Division level. Wedge was a very busy lady at this time; she had a family and was a District Nurse in South Oxford for many years. On leaving South Oxford Guides she became Division Commissioner for Oxford City II Division, an appointment she enjoyed. Among her other roles was Vice President for the County. Wedge is a member of the Kennington Trefoil Guild.

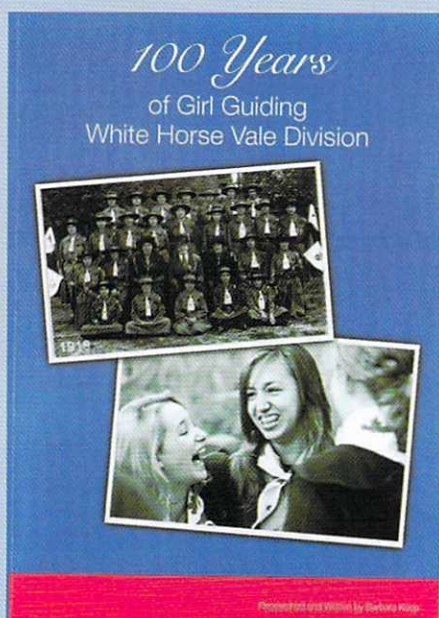
Sadly, at the beginning of this year, Wedge lost her husband Eric after a long illness. She has now decided to go and live in Yorkshire to be near her daughter.

We all wish Wedge well in her new surroundings, and thank her for all the good times and all she did for our young people.

Doreen Buckland.

We were sad to learn of the passing of Derek Copcutt. He was for very many years Treasurer of Jubilee house, whilst his late wife Lilian was Bookings Secretary - both were great supporters of Girlguiding Oxfordshire.

100 years of Girlguiding White Horse Vale Division, researched and written by Barbara Keep has been published. The book full of interesting pictures and memories is on sale for £10 per copy. Copies are available from Wantage Museum. Barbara Keep will also post them out for £1.60 (1st class), £1.40 (2nd class). Her details are 1 South View Villas, Challow Road, Wantage OX12 9DP. Telephone 01235 225949.



DEADLINES

31 October 2013

28 February 2014

If you would like to see your contribution in future issues please remember the following:

Submit articles via email, with text as an attachment in a WORD document (not more than 400 words) and photos as attachments to the email.

Thank you!

oxlip@oxfordshiregirlguiding.org.uk

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