



# Girlguiding

Buckinghamshire

*girls in the lead*

Annual  
Review  
2007



## COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S and PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Guiding aims to help girls and young women develop emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually, so that they can make a positive contribution to their community and the wider world.*

These aims are met by providing a safe, girl-only space where, working together in small groups, they share their feelings, grow in confidence, form strong friendships and know they are being heard. They are encouraged to govern themselves and make their own decisions. We can be confident of being relevant to our girls and young women, encouraging every one of them to have a voice, and to take an active lead, making decisions and selecting their own programme from ideas that are available to them. Challenges that have been introduced into our programme, extending beyond badges, encourage them to develop their potential.

This is why we have chosen our new strap line, "Girls in the lead". Guiding is a youth organisation. It is our girls and young women who contribute to, and direct our strategy and ideals.

*Rikki*      *Gill Vine*

*Rikki MacKenzie and Gill Vine DL*



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

*Thanks to the skills of our specialist teams, we have increased our resources and provided new opportunities for girls of all ages.*

- Improved new leader training and mentoring support
- Progressed our Recruitment Plan by attending more promotional events
- Increased support for leaders to recruit more volunteers
- Enabled over 60 girls to attend international events and the World Scout Jamboree
- Secured funding to increase our boating fleet and equipment
- Obtained planning permission for rebuilding work at our County Residential Centre
- Refurbished the Buckinghamshire Room at our regional training and activity centre
- Introduced a new award for Senior Section units
- Launched our County Arts Day
- Started planning for the centenary of Guiding in 2010



## RECRUITMENT and RETENTION

*We continue to improve training to support new leaders. Our older members are also encouraged to share their experience in a variety of ways.*

Trainer Linda Seaton heads a Leadership Support Team helping 250 new leaders working on their Leadership Qualification.

“We wanted to improve our system so that it works FOR the leaders. We’ve speeded up the admin process, strengthened communications between leaders, commissioners and mentors and emphasised the advantages of team working. We take a flexible view of mentor training by providing sessions when and where necessary and the refresher sessions encourage mentors to support each other too. The introduction of a badge and a personal letter from the Chief Guide is good. It acknowledges the importance of the qualification and that we really value our volunteers.”

Edna Parrett is a Trefoil Guild member in Taplow who set up a Guide trading depot selling uniforms, gifts, equipment and stationery. She offers a discount and the remaining profit is set aside to subsidise leader training.

“This job only takes up a few hours a month. Orders are collected from me or I can deliver - either way I meet the girls, leaders and parents who seem to appreciate having someone to deal with the orders. There have been a few challenges, of course. Managing the cash flow was quite different from doing unit accounts! However, still being involved in the team has kept me alert and active. I love being able to keep in touch with everyone especially when I’m invited to their concerts and pantomimes. It’s a different job - no uniform - but it’s still guiding. And over the past 14 years, I have supplied everything from a notebook to a tent!”



Fact:

*Girls and young women view their Leaders as their most constant source of information, trusted by 75% of 16-25 year olds*



## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

*We are involved in many community events and the girls' awareness of local and national issues is demonstrated by the huge amount of fundraising they do.*

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers have participated in the following local events:

- Bell ringing and carol singing
- Helping at information points
- Church cleaning
- Entertaining nursing home residents
- Providing tea for senior citizens
- Christmas tree and flower festivals
- Exploring the local area with the town crier
- Manning water stations for a Half Marathon
- Attending Remembrance Day parades
- Delivering leaflets for Village Day
- Working with residents and community associations
- Village Christmas card postal service
- Looking after gardens and the village green
- Planning and running a charity evening
- Sponsoring a Brownie Pack in Romania
- Local carnival processions and stalls

Sales, talent shows and sponsorship have provided funds for the following charities:

- Blue Peter Shoe Biz Appeal
- Breast Cancer Charities
- Calibre Audio Library
- Child Bereavement Trust
- ChildLine
- Children with Leukaemia
- Christian Aid
- Comic Relief
- Cystic Fibrosis Trust
- Elisabeth Svendsen Trust for Children and Donkeys
- Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity
- Guide Dogs for the Blind Association
- Hawk and Owl Trust
- Hearing Dogs for Deaf People
- Karibuni Trust
- Parkinson's Disease Society
- Pets As Therapy
- Rotary International
- Rotary Shoebox Scheme
- Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal
- RSPCA
- Society for Mucopolysaccharide Diseases
- Thames Hospicecare
- Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust
- Tiggywinkles
- Toy Box Charity
- WWF

Fact:

*Helping other people is considered very important to 79% of 16-25 year olds*



## GIRLS IN THE LEAD

*Girls can enjoy challenging activities knowing they are provided in a safe, girl-only space.*

Rosie Curtis is a 13 year old guide in Loudwater. In June she joined guides from all over the county at a Boating Day at Longridge Centre on the River Thames at Marlow.

"I went with my friends but made some new friends too. There were games and we practised a lot. We were on our own in the kayaks and in pairs for the open boat canoeing. I found balancing difficult. I'd been boating before, so this time I learned to steer and how to paddle properly. We really had to work as a team for that. The group sizes made it easy for the instructors to communicate with us and they were with us all the time. They helped us a lot but splashed us too when we did something wrong! It was good to learn by ourselves. If boys had been there we'd have been worried about how we looked and whether our hair was OK!"



Girls from Chesham and Dinton experienced a 'Kip on a Ship' when they both spent a night on board HMS Belfast. They learnt about the ship's history and how the sailors would have lived. The girls polished the ship's brasses and slept in the bunks, breakfasted in the galley and one guide made her Promise on the gun direction platform.

Leader Sue Napier says *"The girls had a great time and thought the steep ladders were fun."*

Fact:

*75% of  
5-7 year old  
girls like to  
spend time  
together  
without boys  
being there*



*Our programmes are relevant to girls whatever their age.*



Harriet Lewis, aged 14, from Buckingham talks enthusiastically about what she's done this year and the special event she attended along with 25,000 other guides.

"I wanted to try the scuba diving because I hadn't done it before and jumping on the tackle bags at the rugby training session was fun. We talk in groups about what we want to do and make suggestions, so it's interesting for everyone. And we always get some surprises too. But The Big Gig in Manchester was amazing!"



Even on the walk from the coach park there were girls everywhere - all along the pavements - and the atmosphere just built up. The stadium was full. We were near the front and we didn't sit down! It was too exciting, especially when my favourite, McFly, opened the concert. The artists were all big names and you normally get one with a backing group but we got all of them! Most of them said they'd never done a concert for girls only before. It was a great night; the music, the noise, the confetti showering over us and all those fluorescent 'bunny ears' glowing in the dark."



Monks Risborough Guides were challenged to understand how a hot air balloon works for their Science Badge. Their leader, Debby Scott, says: "Rather than make a model of the balloon ourselves, we asked a local contact if we could watch an 'inflation' and he agreed to do this in the local park. The guides were able to assist with the exciting inflation process, which was topped off with a chance of a lifetime ride in the basket! They were thrilled."

Fact:

*Friends and fun are the main goals of 10-25 year olds*

## *Guiding is for everyone and we promote equal opportunities for all.*

9 year old Jemima Lomax from Gerrards Cross worked with other Brownies on the Disability Awareness Badge.

“The lady from the Hearing Dogs for Deaf People brought her dog and told us how he warns a deaf person when something is wrong. It took a long time to train ‘Merlin’ - he’s clever. We also learned the deaf alphabet and I can sign some words. We put on blindfolds and tried to discover what was in the ‘feely bags’ but it was confusing as some objects felt the same - and we didn’t get any clues! Then we went to the park to see if the play equipment was suitable for someone in a wheelchair and decided it wasn’t. So we designed a swing, which could be used without having to get out of a wheelchair. People think disabled people can’t do anything and ignore them, even though they can do a lot and want to be treated like normal people. I learnt that I shouldn’t assume I know what to do till I ask how people want to be helped.”



1st Chenies & Chalfont Brownies explored their own individuality and rights and how to respect other people’s opinions as they worked on their Right2BMe Badge. Leader Julie Pickard says:

“We ‘travelled’ through the syllabus using a passport where the girls recorded their experiences and feelings when they did something for the first time. At the world food tasting evening many girls said that they’d been asked to comment on food before but had never discussed how they felt about sampling new tastes. They also realised that everybody’s opinion counted. The girls enjoyed collecting comments about themselves and this made them realise the importance of thinking carefully what they wrote about others. So the passports have been kept as they contain treasured comments from their friends”.



Fact:

*81% of 16-25 year olds believe that women can do any job they choose*



*Across all age groups girls are encouraged to express opinions and influence decisions.*

Some of our youngest girls, the Rainbows, collected vouchers for equipment as part of the Sainsbury's Active Kids Challenge. Leader Gill Hart of 1st Widmer End and 1st Hazlemere says:

"The girls were excited about choosing what to spend the vouchers on. There was lots of discussion and a vote taken before they selected a huge pump-up ball and ball game from the list. This wouldn't have been the leaders' choice so, while the girls will have a marvellous time, experimenting with it will be quite a challenge for the leader!"



Fact:

*Four out of five 16-25 year olds feel politicians and the media are more interested in stigmatising young people than helping them to succeed*

17 year old Hannah Draper is a Ranger in Princes Risborough. Her unit has been involved in preparing an application for funding to fit out the kitchen at Ellesborough Residential Centre.

"The Chairman outlined the project, gave us some ideas and asked us to make recommendations, find suppliers and submit costs. We made a plan and then split into groups each looking at different types of equipment. To meet the specification, we visited training kitchens to look at equipment and took expert advice so that our suggestions complied with Health & Safety regulations. We also had to think about how disabled people would use the kitchen. We're now ready to make our proposals to the committee. We've never had a chance to be involved like this before. We all like staying at Ellesborough; the Brownies love to go there and other groups use it too. If the kitchen isn't good, the centre might not be used as much and that would be a shame because we're so lucky so have such a super place."



## AWARDS

### County Good Service Certificate

Barbara Randall Burnham Beeches  
Christine Southam Burnham Beeches

### National Good Service Brooch & Certificate

Margaret Moody Thames  
Helen Nicholls Thames

### Chief Guide's Challenge

Emma Thorogood  
Helen Fox  
Corinne Franklin-Young

### Queen's Guide Award

Holly Cooper

### Guide Baden-Powell Awards

#### *Amersham*

Francesca Barnett  
Eleanor Silman  
Frances Pells  
Natalie Cook

#### *Aylesbury*

Laura Dell  
Hannah Twinberrow

#### *Aylesbury East*

Briony Everett  
Olivia Coulton  
Rebecca Ashton  
Grace Witherden  
Alex Loose  
Ceri Saunders  
Emma Hardman

#### *Aylesbury Vale*

Alexandra Ballantine  
Jessica Ballantine

#### *Bletchley*

Rosie Johnson  
Rachel Russell  
Katie Parsons  
Sophie Collins

#### *Buckingham*

Rebecca Flint  
Rachel Try

#### *Burnham Beeches*

Alice Foulkes  
Emma Young  
Lauren Smith  
Lisa Williams  
Sian Lipscomb

#### *Chepping Wycombe*

Charlotte Richardson  
Kim Warner  
Christine Lynas  
Jane Paton  
Sarah Jane Mason  
Rebecca Miller

#### *Milton Keynes*

Nicola Pedder  
Jessica Griffin  
Nikita Carleton  
Eleanor Guppy  
Victoria Clarke  
Amy Hewitt  
Katie McIntyre

#### *North Chilterns*

Sophie Burton  
Sophie Morris  
Rebecca Tricks

#### *Ouse Valley*

Francesca Curtis  
Beth Lloyd Jones  
Emma Walton  
Kim Clarke  
Kathryn Myers  
Lauren Wilson  
Jody Tearle

### Duke of Edinburgh's Award

#### **Bronze**

Harriet Emmerson  
Rosalinde Nicholls  
Charles Gorton  
Elizabeth Comer  
Rebecca Turner  
Amelia Bradley

#### **Silver**

Sophie Poore  
Rebecca Dann  
Grace Hansen  
Hannah Tricks  
Clemency Nye  
Marcelle Fowler  
Rebecca Phillips  
Abigail Nye  
Elizabeth Howard  
Victoria Howard  
Jennifer Heath

#### **Gold**

Jessica Smith  
Hannah Leonard  
Laura Perry  
Emily Skillen



# MONEY MATTERS

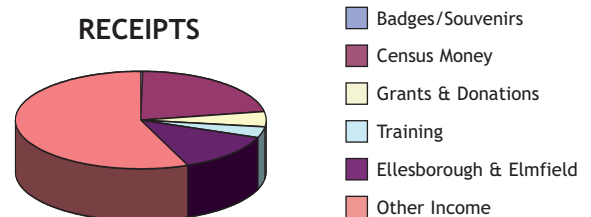
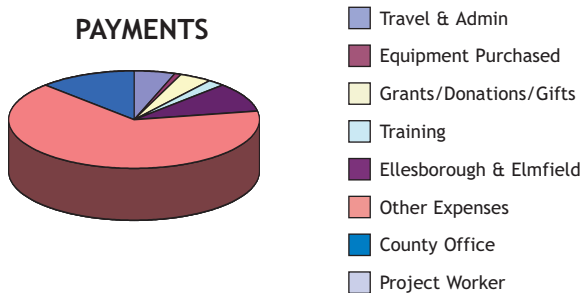
*We are grateful to all our supporters for their generosity. This support, along with reserves, enables us to provide enjoyable activities for girls and support for our volunteer leaders.*

Yet again I am able to report that our County Finances show a continuing healthy position. It is for this reason that we are able to increase the grant given to each of our Divisions, and grants have been given to a number of our members to assist them with fund raising towards their trips to an International Camp or Gathering. We have also supported our party of guides and their Leader who attended the 21st World Scout Jamboree.

The accounts were approved by the County Trustees on the 24th April 2007 followed by an independent examination by Antoine & Partners of Amersham.

Should a copy of the full accounts be required please contact our County Office.

**Pat Kimber**  
County Treasurer



Girlguiding Buckinghamshire wishes to acknowledge and thank Buckinghamshire County Council and Milton Keynes Council, through their Youth & Community Services, for their generous support and use of resources throughout the year.

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

*Girlguiding UK enables girls and young women to develop their potential and to make a difference to the world.*



Photos: Martin Poole, Girlguiding UK, Gill Hart, Maggie Pringle, Debby Scott  
Facts taken from "Girls Shout Out" Girlguiding UK Research Document 2007

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