



Girlguiding

Buckinghamshire

girls in the lead



*good
guiding*



County President's Message



Over the last 15 years I have taken pride in seeing guiding in Buckinghamshire grow in every sense of the word. Membership has increased in many sections giving more girls and young women the chance to experience the wide-ranging, quality programmes of activities we offer. Leaders have found new ways of working together, like job sharing, making their workload lighter and providing greater flexibility.

The Public Relations programme has gradually impacted on the public's perception of us. Much of this is due to the superb publications produced nationally as a result of excellent research carried out amongst our young members. This has been widely covered in the quality press. At local level everyone has been encouraged to promote what they do, to make the media aware and show the general public what guiding is really about. As a result, I feel sure that our image has changed. More people are now aware of what we have to offer, and of the achievements of our members who are developing their potential and making a difference to the world.

I have enjoyed watching young guides grow and mature through their guiding activities and become leaders themselves, a wonderful example of 'growing your own!'

It has been a privilege for me to grow with you all and I thank you warmly for the many happy hours spent in your company. I look forward to seeing the Centenary events and assure you that I will continue to support guiding in the county in the years to come. I know my successor will enjoy her term of office, and that you will welcome her with the friendship you extended to me.

Gill Vine

Gill Vine DL

Our New President

The Countess of Buckinghamshire, Alison, is a Deputy Lieutenant of the County. She has been a schools governor in the public and private sector and involved in The Red Cross. Her guiding life started as a Brownie, then a Guide, in Edinburgh and she has fond memories of laughter, fun and camaraderie when she camped in a tepee tent in the Scottish Borders. Alison says "It's a pleasure to become involved again with the movement I enjoyed so much as a child and teenager and I look forward to supporting Sue Berry and meeting as many leaders and girls as possible".



County Commissioner's Message



I cannot believe that my term of office is complete and it's now time for me to hand over the reins to my successor - I am delighted to welcome Sue Berry into the role.

The strength of guiding relies on teamwork and I have been fortunate to have a remarkable team working with me over the past 5 years. Between us, we've achieved a huge amount and made a significant contribution to so many lives by offering a varied, interesting and exciting programme to girls and young women across the county. On the way we have also provided some remarkable and enjoyable events for our adults.

This Review covers the Academic Year 2007-2008 and shows some of the many opportunities we have provided for our members. I have chosen the theme of 'Good Guiding' to encapsulate our achievements during this last year. There is always a lot going on in guiding here in Buckinghamshire: activities and events, camps and holidays, days out, sleepovers, international opportunities - the list is endless. Good guiding involves all our volunteers doing their best to ensure that our core aspects are included within the programme. This is nothing new. Good guiding takes place every week of the year and would not happen without the commitment, enthusiasm and dedication of our adult leaders, advisers and supporters.

I consider myself remarkably lucky to have had such a fantastic team - past and present - and would like to thank you for your support during this time. I can honestly say that this role has been the best I have ever had!

Rikki

Rikki MacKenzie

Our New County Commissioner

Sue Berry is truly an international guide having been a leader in Surrey and New Zealand before coming to Marlow in 1985. More recently she has been a Girl Scout Leader in America. As well as holding district appointments she has organised several international camps when she was County Camping Adviser. For the past 5 years she has been Assistant County Commissioner. As she takes over her new appointment, Sue says: "I'm looking forward to this challenging role as guiding celebrates its Centenary and leading the county into its next 100 years."



County Commissioner's "End of term report"

Early in the year a team of commissioners and advisers attended a weekend at the national training centre in Hampshire and created our new Strategic Plan. This plan highlights the projects and ideas that will lead us forward into our centenary year in 2010 and beyond. The weekend not only enabled us to work on our plan but also gave us the opportunity to socialise.

In the autumn many of our units attended the Big Gig and some girls from Buckingham District featured in the national Guiding magazine article about the event. Pantomime visits and other Christmas preparations and events also took place. We

celebrated World Thinking Day countywide and, in Chepping Wycombe Division, Kadie Plumridge was presented with the prestigious Star of Merit Award. Our 80th Annual Banner Service in May was a particular highlight as we welcomed The Chief Guide Liz Burnley to the Buckinghamshire sunshine and to our service.

We have enjoyed the usual programme of pack holidays, camps, sleepovers, talent shows, boating activities, harvest festivals, remembrance services and community service. Grendon Underwood Guides camped at Brownsea Island while others went further afield to Disneyland Paris, Venice and Milan. North Chilterns Division held a Teddy Bears' Picnic and a Roald Dahl Day, and High Wycombe Division celebrated 80 years since its formation with a weekend camp and a giant birthday party. We have continued to support other charities in many ways - including raising money for cancer relief, assistance dogs, hospice and animal charities.

We have completed training for personnel to use the new 'online' registration for Criminal Records Bureau checks which will improve the speed with which we welcome new members. Further training has also been initiated in preparation for 'going live' on our new, internet accessible, members' database ('GO').

The old kitchen at Ellesborough Guide Centre has been demolished to make way for the new and improved kitchen. Fundraising continues as we take the opportunity to update several other parts of the centre during its closure for refurbishment.

Whilst we continue to provide a varied and active programme, our minds are already turning to our Centenary in 2010 and the appointment of our Centenary Champion will ensure that we monitor and advertise all the exciting and challenging opportunities that will be available to us.



"It was our idea and the karting was "wicked". We were so close to the ground and it felt like we were going really fast!"

Zoe Dexter, Guide, Marlow

Guiding is... Fun (and safe)

3rd Marlow Guides had a thrilling time at the karting track in Aylesbury. After a safety briefing and donning overalls and helmets, they quickly overcame a nervous start to speed round the track at 15 mph.

The Rainbows' 25th Anniversary was marked with a party at each end of the county. Nearly 200 Rainbows had a great time playing games, making crafts, singing and trying to blow out the single candle on a birthday cake cut by the oldest and newest Rainbow. The oldest Rainbow is now a leader!

The hands-on element of a Reptile Evening presented brownies and guides of 1st & 4th Taplow and Hitcham with some challenges, but they plucked up courage to touch the snakes, turtles and lizards placed on the open display of vegetation. During a talk by a representative from Reptile Celebrities, each reptile was "introduced" to the girls and everyone had a chance to ask questions.

Suffering from a rare genetic disorder didn't stop Josie Drake of Newport Pagnell enjoying Brownie life. For her Fire Safety Badge, she toured the local fire station learning about all aspects of fire safety and prevention and prepared an escape plan for her home. She was tested on her knowledge by Firefighter Andy Harding who showed Josie all the equipment on board the fire engine.

Commuting to new schools highlighted personal safety issues for 4th Gerrards Cross Guides who received advice from an expert on using websites safely. A local policeman talked to them about travelling safely, sources of help if they felt threatened and how to avoid making themselves targets. Talking about staying in touch with parents led to the parents sponsoring the girls to teach them how to text!



“Not your usual day trip. We couldn't tell the girls where they were going until we found the flights.”

Gill Lawrence, Leader, Downley



Guiding is... Out and about

It was only when Downley Rangers reached the airport that they discovered their "Mystery Day" would be spent in Venice. An action-packed 24 hours included a canal trip, visit to the Doges Palace, St Marks Basilica, the Rialto Bridge, the Campanile, shopping and, of course, sampling Italian ice cream. It was such a success they're wondering where to go next year.

Thanks to a grant of £7890 from Awards for All to improve our boating fleet, we now have 16 kayaks and 8 open canoes with supporting safety kit and equipment, including 3 trailers. The new boats were launched at Longridge with the help of Brownies, Guides and Senior Section members and a mini regatta and picnic followed. This expanded fleet and our own team of coaches, who have achieved the required qualifications, will allow up to 32 members on the water at any one time. We can now offer canoeing to very young Brownies, disabled members as well as extending our programme for leaders and older members. We've come a long way since the gift of the first canoe some years ago. (See Page 8).

In addition to camping and hiking activities being offered widely, many girls have experienced other exciting challenges outside the meeting place. 1st Hughenden Valley and 7th Chesham Guides joined up and spent a day at Phaselswood Activity Centre in Herts where they climbed the wall, threw themselves down the Cresta Run and completed the adventure trail.

The excellent facilities at the Caldecotte Project in Milton Keynes provided 1st Stony Stratford Guides with the chance to scale telegraph poles, fly through the air on the trapeze, climb the high ropes and explore the caving tunnels.

Guiding is... Opportunities

An application to join in the National Scout & Guide Orchestra course in Ipswich resulted in an amazing year for Nina Sparks, a Young Leader with 2nd High Wycombe Trinity Guides. As well as a week of intense rehearsals, the orchestra performed a new symphony at two concerts in Suffolk which was later recorded on CD at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. The final performance a few months later was at Live 07, to celebrate the best in Scouting, in the O2 Arena in London.

Senior Section groups and individuals competed again for the Rikki Awards to produce the best entertainment film. Judging took account of costumes, music, directing etc. as well as imaginative interpretation of the topic. The winners were 1st Marlow Bottom Rangers for their version of "Snow White and the 7 Height Challenged People". The girls filmed throughout the year, making the most of their meetings, visits to the countryside and even incorporating their day out in Milan.

High Wycombe Scout & Guide Gang Show goes from strength to strength and this year's show boasted the largest cast of over 120 brownies, cubs, scouts, guides, rangers and leaders. The show, crammed with comedy and drama, was a great success and the proceeds went to Rosie's Rainbow Fund, a charity which provides music therapy on children's wards in local hospitals.

2nd Maids Moreton Brownies were thrilled to be invited to meet HM The Queen when she visited Stowe School in Buckingham. The unit has maintained a 20 year link with the National Trust at Stowe to provide trees for planting and participating in Grow for Stowe Days by planting bluebells, snowdrops and primroses.

Brownie Anna Bevington was chosen via the unit's own "royal selection process" to present the official posy to HM The Queen.

“What a year! I recorded a CD, played the world premier of a specially written symphony and played in the O2 Arena in front of 29,000 people.”

Nina Sparks, Young Leader,
High Wycombe



“The training day was excellent - full of ideas and opportunities to share. I always take away something new and helpful each year.”

Sue Napier, Leader, Dinton



Guiding is... Learning and skills

Over half our leaders have attended a variety of training sessions including unit management, programme planning, first aid, challenging behaviour, safety, practical science, relieving stress etc. While most topics are guiding-related, we're keen to stress the transferability of skills gained in guiding to the workplace and personal life of a busy leader.

Attending a training gives leaders a chance to obtain advice and network with others. Those who can't attend trainings can keep up to date with new initiatives via the national website where many resources for activities and unit admin are available, including a new accounts package. Our own county website now contains training application forms and we plan to expand this to include more new leader information (which will also be available on CD) and offer activity ideas.

A strong team approach is the key message to those who support new leaders working on the Leadership Qualification. Commissioners and mentors have been made aware of their important roles and two "Air and Share" sessions for mentors were held.

2008 Statistics

- 722 Leaders
- 124 Adult helpers
- 209 Young Leaders
- 92 Rangers
- 1859 Guides
- 3748 Brownies
- 820 Rainbows

Skills & Qualifications gained

- 250 Leaders on Leadership Scheme
- 75 Mentors
- 331 Leaders trained
- 1 Rainbow Overnight Licence
- 13 Brownie Holiday Licences
- 1 Brownie Camp Licence
- 7 Camp Licences
- 2 Catering Certificates
- 2 Large Event Endorsements

Boating

- 1 Coach Level II
- 1 Coach Level III
- 2 Expedition Leader Awards

Over 1500 girls went overnight to camp or pack holiday

9 girls selected for overseas trips
90 girls and leaders went abroad on group visits

500 girls, including those with disabilities, and 20 adults used our boating fleet



“These members have a wealth of talents and experience to share in a practical way and we need to keep them involved in local units.”

Sheila Gurnett, Third Age of Guiding Adviser



The Third Age of Guiding

Several strategies are being put in place so that we can capture the experience of older leaders when they retire from active uniformed guiding. A Skills Directory listing details of recently retired leaders is being compiled and widely publicised. Commissioners are being asked to include these ladies in local events and meetings where they can share their expertise. A social event is planned to make all those recently retired aware of new roles available to them and they will be presented with Certificates of Appreciation. A leaflet outlining new opportunities has been created and will be distributed to all leaders on retirement.

One option for recently retired leaders is to join one of our 19 Trefoil Guilds where they can continue to enjoy a variety of activities such as camping, quiz nights, travelling, hiking as well as offering support to local units. This year's Spring and Summer Gatherings attracted large numbers who shared many craft skills, fundraised for a Romanian project and both events were rounded off with splendid lunches. Carol McCutcheon, the new County Chairman, looks forward to an increase in the number of guilds and sharing the skills Trefoil members have to offer as we approach our Centenary.



Bring on 2010

We're getting ready to celebrate our Centenary with a year long programme of events and activities to be launched at parties across the UK in September 2009. Our County Centenary Champion, Emma Thorogood, is responsible for relaying information about the 44 fabulous ways in which Girlguiding UK plans to celebrate and says, "Once regional, county and local events are added, there will be at least 100 ways to mark the occasion. From adventures to art, community action to the Centenary Spectacular, there will be something for everyone and we're aiming to offer each member a 'mountain-top moment'".

Awards

County Good Service

Beverley Botting
Doreen Green
Gill Lawrence
Barbara Miller
Linda Seaton
Kate Smethers

County Thanks Certificate

Ian Miller

County Thanks Badge

Jean Smith

Queen's Guide Award

Alison Barber
Emma Botting
Heather England
Fiona Jacques
Laura Nohavicka
Sarah Nohavicka
Nicky Seymour
Liz Tranter
Gemma Wilson

Chief Guide's Challenge

Alison Barber
Sarah-Jane Huxtable
Katie Muschallik
Elizabeth Tranter
Caroline Truss
Gemma Wilson



Guide Baden-Powell Awards

Lauren Bagley
Imelda Barlow
Joanna Bartlett
Rebecca Boast
Amelia Bradley
Sarah Brown
Claire Chapman
Ella Clements
Elizabeth Comer
Alexandra Curson
Claire Duchezeau
Laura Doody
Hannah Eckersley
Isobel Edwards
Sophie Evans
Yasmin Farnand
Lydia Garmon-Jones
Natasha Grawl
Alison Jenkins
Lucy Jennings
Vanika Jethwa
Nina Jones
Daisy Lord
Natalie Mellors
Louise O'Hara
Olivia Ogle
Letitia Powell
Rosemary Powlesland
Abigail Robertson
Heather Saxby
Gretel Scott
Katherine Scott
Jenny Shemmings
Daisy Skinner
Rachel Smale
Stephanie Smith
Hannah Taylor
Saskia Trewavas
Rebecca Turner
Kitty Walker
Elizabeth Waters
Millie Yeomans



Duke of Edinburgh's Award Bronze

Annie Baker
Tom Barkel
Portia Hansen
Jenna Hughes
Rosie Johnson
Emma LeMarchant
Jessica Nicholls
Daisy Patten
Rosie Powlesland
Katherine Scott
Hannah Taylor
Nicole Williams

Silver

Linell Burdett
Vicky Croser
Alison Dykes
Harmeet Grewal
Helen Robertson

Gold

Laura Keil
Rebecca Phillips
Sophie Poore

The Scout Association Medal of Merit

Rikki MacKenzie

MBE

Olive Mulley, High Wycombe
(for services to Girlguiding
Buckinghamshire)

National Good Service

Rikki MacKenzie

National Star of Merit

Kadie Plumridge

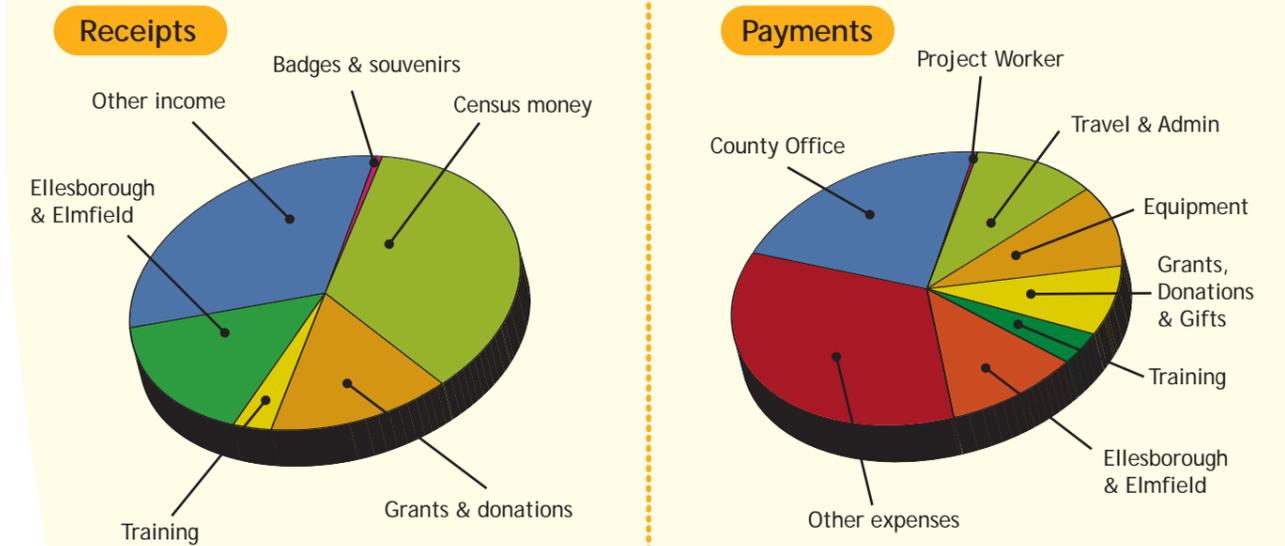
“We can't thank our supporters enough. Their generosity, along with our reserves, means we have the funds to develop what we offer.”

Money Matters

I am pleased to say that the County Accounts remain very sound, and I have no reason to believe that this will change over the forthcoming years. The Ellesborough Committee's fundraising has continued and work on the building has now commenced. The County will be supporting the venture with financial help, but this will have the effect of increasing the value of the property which is our main County Fixed Asset.

As this is my final report after 10 years as County Treasurer, I wish to thank the Executive Committee, the Finance Committee and the Sub-Committee Treasurers for their support over the years. I know they will give the same support to my successor, Wendy Buckley, and I wish her every success in the future.

Pat Kimber, County Treasurer



This summary is extracted from the Annual Accounts approved by the County Executive on 28 April 2008 and independently audited by J R Antoine & Partners of Amersham. It may not contain sufficient information to allow a full understanding of our financial affairs. Please contact us at the County Office for a copy of the full accounts. The Annual Accounts and a copy of the Trustees' Report have been submitted to the Charity Commission.

Girlguiding Buckinghamshire wishes to acknowledge and thank Buckinghamshire County Council and Milton Keynes Council for their generous support and use of resources throughout the year.

Working in partnership to support local guiding



STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

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

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