



Girlguiding

Buckinghamshire



Annual
Review
2006

surprise
yourself

'Accentuating the
Positive...'

'Accentuating the Positive...'

A message from the County President and County Commissioner

With a membership of nearly 8000, including over 1,000 adult volunteers, we are proud to be part of Girlguiding Buckinghamshire. More than 1,000 young people who want to become part of this growing organisation are on our joining lists. We have seized the opportunity to address this by developing some embryonic ideas with a more flexible approach to attract and retain our volunteers.



Taking on a voluntary role within guiding means yet another commitment for busy adults. We recognise the need to provide them with support, to consider different ways of dealing with the roles that need to be covered and to offer opportunities for training and self-development. With this in mind, we have concentrated our efforts in developing a strategy which will improve communications, encourage teamwork, support new leaders, use transferable skills, provide a myriad of training workshops and distance learning, as well as encouraging our non-uniformed supporters to assist us in a variety of roles.

We value all our leaders and supporters greatly, no matter what role they undertake. We thank all of them for their continued support.

We know we are doing something right because there are around ten million members worldwide. Together we can make a difference.

Gill Vine DL
President

Rikki MacKenzie
County Commissioner

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

This year we laid the foundations for reducing our waiting lists. We also increased training opportunities for leaders and made far-reaching plans to improve facilities at our county residential centre.

- In response to the national Project 50K initiative to address the shortage of leaders, we appointed a Co-ordinator, produced an Action Plan and made a start on this work
- Our wide range of training sessions are helping more of our leaders make the best use of their time and feel confident in delivering programmes to all ages
- We gave more girls the opportunity to experience residential and international activities
- We embarked on a major fundraising campaign to rebuild the kitchen at our county residential centre so that the best facilities are available to all who use it

During this year:

*10 new units
were opened*

*88 leaders
completed their
qualification*

*500 leaders
attended trainings*

*"You get to do stuff that you
don't normally do at home"*

Holly Arnold
North Chilterns Guide



RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION



Girlguiding UK is committed through Project 50K to reducing a national waiting list of 50,000 girls caused by a shortage of leaders. Buckinghamshire's Action Plan centres on the four aims of this initiative – Retention, Flexibility, Diversity and Recruitment.

Our new Project Co-ordinator, Guiding Development and Marketing & Communications Teams are working together to:

- improve and introduce processes to support and value new leaders
- achieve a higher standard of support for new commissioners
- establish a Commissioner Response Group to help groups find the right person to lead their teams
- focus on the 65+ age group's continued involvement in guiding
- demonstrate how highly we value our Ambassadors
- provide training at local level to stimulate confidence in tackling recruitment issues
- reinforce our efforts to make existing leaders feel valued



"We need more leaders so that girls on joining lists can share the fun of guiding. Project 50K can make that happen!"

Sue Napier
Project 50K Co-ordinator



Bucks' joining lists:

<i>Rainbows</i>	442
<i>Brownies</i>	536
<i>Guides</i>	185
<i>Senior Section</i>	12

This year, more leaders took advantage of the extended range of training sessions and resources available to enable them to work confidently and deliver balanced and varied programmes.

The 186 leaders who attended our main Training Day enjoyed sessions on topics relevant to all ages eg Healthy Eating, Finance & Gift Aid, Map Reading, Your Rights & Responsibilities, Putting Guiding on the Map. Our flexible approach to training has led to more local sessions taking place on eg Risk Assessment and six sessions especially for new leaders.

Our Leadership Qualification offers a sound induction to guiding, section programmes and awareness of policies, all necessary to run units effectively. The Leadership and Training Teams work together to ensure that training needs are met and encourage strong support for leaders from commissioners and personal mentors.

We've welcomed a new range of nationally produced "Reality Checks" leaflets which provide guidance on issues eg Smoking, Stress, Food, Risk, Domestic Violence. These valuable reference tools remind leaders of policies and direct them towards further information and advice.

During this year:

250 leaders worked on their qualification supported by 80 mentors

10 First Aid courses were held

27 leaders gained overnight, camp or holiday licences

"The qualification captured my leadership skills and my mentor played a big part in helping me work in the team. My service also counted towards the Millennium Volunteers Award."

Jade Johnson
Newport Pagnell Leader



RESIDENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES



Our own facilities have been well used for many residential and international events; and we increased opportunities on offer by hosting our own international camp.



Being part of a worldwide organisation provides a passport to many who apply to represent guiding at large international events. The selection process is challenging and we are confident that the leader and six girls who were selected to attend trips to Mexico, Egypt and Holland were excellent ambassadors for the county. Large events take much advance planning, and this year's process also selected nine girls and a leader who will represent Buckinghamshire at the World Scout Jamboree in 2007. Three more girls will attend as part of a regional group and some others will work on the Service Team.

Two leaders joined 128 others from seven countries on the Guide Friendship Train travelling 11,478 km across six Australian States and Tasmania. They shared a packed schedule and hospitality provided by their Australian hosts.



INTERNATIONAL CAMP

"It was an amazing once in a lifetime adventure. I met many great people and made friends for life. Thanks to an award from the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, I completed a project looking at recruitment and retention of young leaders and gathered information that I hope will help guiding in the UK."

Anne Marie Frohock, Buckingham Leader

Our international camp, ClockUs, held at Thornton College adopted the theme of time. 500 of our members were joined by guides and leaders from Kuwait, Pakistan, Thailand, France, Yorks. and Herts. to enjoy a week of challenging activities including archery, boating, cooking, conservation, fencing, drumming, pioneering, rock climbing and swimming. Evening events included a Barn Dance and Boy Band Concert with the X Factor proving to be a real crowd puller.

"I'm so impressed by the teamwork which has made all this happen."

Alia Ajandal, Kuwaiti Leader

At ClockUs:

£600 was raised for Cancer and Leukaemia in Children Charity (CLIC)

The shopping list included

*1544 bread rolls
1278 pints of milk*

Our photographer took 2188 photographs



yourself

THE GIRLS

Our dedicated leaders, helpers and friends give a huge number of volunteer hours to ensure girls have the best experiences possible. We'd like to say a warm thank you to them all.

862 Rainbows have enjoyed all four "pieces" of the Jigsaw Programme – Look, Learn, Laugh and Love. Coffee Hall and Loudwater Rainbows were two of many units which experienced the fun of a sleepover. And Chenies & Chalfont Rainbows took an active part in their community when they protested against plans to close their local library!

Our 3927 Brownies can choose from 53 interest badges including Circus Performer and Stargazer. Terriers Brownies worked on badges based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. A practical project on the Right to be Happy resulted in games and books being donated to the Children's Ward at Wycombe Hospital.



There's plenty of choice too, within the "girl-led" programme for our 1830 guides. Burnham Beeches girls celebrated World Thinking Day by talking to guides in Australia via shortwave and VHF radio equipment. Newport Pagnell guides turned their hands to model making and film reviewing as part of the national arts initiative "Watch It!"

Our Senior Section girls have always been an active bunch as research for their 90th birthday proved – so many challenge cups, awards and hikes! These girls are encouraged to expand their horizons. Five members helped shape the future of Girlguiding UK when they attended a national forum for young women and four others completed basic training for a national peer education initiative.



County Good Service Certificate

Sheila Beales	Ouse Valley
Christine Clarke	Aylesbury
Patricia McSweeney	Buckingham

National Good Service Brooch & Certificate

Barbara Clarke	High Wycombe
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County Thank-You Certificate

Jackie Hikal	Milton Keynes
Julie Larner	Milton Keynes

Queen's Guide Award

Claire Bennett

Guide Baden-Powell Awards

Amersham

Emma Maille
Emily Head
Eleanor Bradfield
Amy Butterworth
Laura Spriggs
Jo Stacey
Jess Brown

Aylesbury East

Melanie Doyle
Rebecca Longhurst
Roz Nicholls
Kirsty Latto
Harriet Emmerson
Louise Warr
Madeleine Walters
Amy Bednell

Bletchley

Jemilla Humble

Buckingham

Fiona Pitt

High Wycombe

Camille Howard-Sorrell
Portia Hansen

Kingswood

Meriel Britton
Rebecca Gilchrist
Claire Sinton
Charlotte Dorme
Kay Sharpington

North Chilterns

Jessica Smee
Sally Armstrong
Rebecca Armstrong
Anna Sheldon
Tamara Grannell
Lucy Watson
Sarah Torrance

Thames

Ailsa McIlwaine

Burnham Beeches

Beverley Holmes
Bethany Sullivan
Emily Miller
Abigail Whyte
Nicole Williams
Gemma Bryant
Lucy McLean
Amy Sutur
Claudia Carpenter

Chief Guide's Challenge

High Wycombe
Leanne Tozer



"I really enjoyed working for my Queen's Guide Award; each clause required different abilities but all gave me fantastic memories. The amazing presentation day with the Countess topped it off wonderfully."

Claire Bennett, Marlow Young Leader

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Bronze

Rebecca Dann
Rebecca Phillips
Sarah Bishop
Melanie Mellor
Alison Dykes
Joanna Dykes
Hannah Tricks
Naomi Graham
Vicky Croser
Abigail Nye
Clemency Nye
Sarah Pogson
Philippa Hood
Linette Burdett
Claudette Fowler

Silver

Sarah Bishop
Philippa Hood

Gold

Jennifer Willott
Freya McAteer
Heather England

ELLESBOROUGH

Our residential centre is a superb asset for young people in Buckinghamshire and beyond and we continually strive to keep the facilities up to date.

Ellesborough House can accommodate up to 30, has two large rooms, two dormitories, showers and a fully equipped kitchen. Outside, the field is large enough for 60 campers with a toilet/shower block and wet weather shelter. The centre is occupied most weekends for camps, holidays and training sessions. The meeting rooms are also booked by non-guiding groups.

An ongoing maintenance and improvement programme has resulted in retiling the main roof, repairs to the shelter and refurbishment of the internal shower room and toilets. Since the existing wooden

construction needs so much renovation, we now plan to rebuild the kitchen. The centre is self-sufficient in meeting all running and maintenance costs but funding for this major capital expense, estimated at £58K, has to be sought elsewhere.

Hérons Lodge, Milton Keynes' own purpose built centre, consists of a hall, dormitory, leader rooms and toilet block. The campsite has space for 30 people. The Trading Depot here has become one of the most successful in the UK with eye-catching product displays and sales in excess of £40K. The Depot operates weekly and has become an impromptu rendezvous for leaders to relax and exchange ideas.



During this year:

*Over 1000 girls used
Ellesborough*

*MK Depot sold 9900
badges*

*25+ holidays were
held at Herons Lodge*

*"We sell Brownie wear by the
bucketload! ... sending out the
cheques shows the difference
we make to local groups."*

Karyn Evans
MK Depot Manager

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

In 2005/6 due to good housekeeping we were able again to increase our overall reserves, so that our liquid assets cover almost 36 months of expenditure.

The accounts are drawn up in accordance with Girlguiding UK requirements and follow Charity Commission guidance.

The summary contained herewith may not give sufficient information to allow a full understanding of our financial affairs. Should a copy of the full accounts be required, please contact our County Office.

The Accounts were approved by the County Trustees on the 27th April 2006 and were independently examined by Antoine & Partners of Amersham.

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.

Mission & Vision

Girlguiding UK, as part of a worldwide Movement, enables girls and young women to fulfil their potential to take an active and responsible role in society through its distinctive, stimulating and enjoyable programme of activities delivered by trained volunteer Leaders.

Our Vision is to have sufficient adult volunteer Leaders to enable every girl and young woman to have the opportunity to join Girlguiding UK.

Photos: Girlguiding UK, Martin Poole, Joan Powell



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