**July 2016 content for newsletter and website**

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County Commissioner's Report – Main Report

We are settling in well to the new County Commissioner role and working together. It was lovely to see so many of you at the Annual Review last month, and we hope to get out and about to get to know as many of you as possible in the months to come. If you'd like to get in touch with either of us, then we're now sharing the cc@girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk email address. There were a few teething problems, but we're now up and running! For those that Tweet, you can follow our adventures on Twitter; @AnneGlocCC and @KarenGovtKIM. We've also taken on the administration of the Secret Facebook page. We've got over 300 Leaders and Senior Section members in the group already thanks to Helen and Carole, but we'd love to see it grow even further. If you would like to join, then send us an email with your Facebook email address, and we'll let you in!

We have already begun getting out and about with our first official engagement being to the Trefoil Guild's AGM where we were inspired by a talk from the Bishop of Gloucester. This week we were invited to West Division's 'Boree'. According to their President, Mrs Cottle, the term comes from Lord BP himself as a form of meeting or gathering. Next week we are looking forward to visiting Cheltenham Division for their AGM.

It’s been great hearing about all the different ways Gloucestershire has been celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday. From local patron lunches and tea parties, a 90th birthday Brownie sleepover attended by the Lord Lieutenant (the Queen's representative in Gloucestershire), to watching the Trooping of the Colours in London. And of course - the 10 members from Tidenham District, Forest South, who represented SWE at the Patron's Lunch in the Mall.

We have a new Team Leader for Marketing & Communications and are delighted to have Clare Fletcher join our County Team. She has been a member of the M&C team for a while now, and her experience and enthusiasm will help drive this area within the County forward. We are also delighted to welcome Jess Creech & Helen Bereton as Joint Outdoor Residential Advisers for the County. They have a wealth of camping knowledge between them and a passion for a County Camp in the not too distant future! Watch this space!!

As we throw ourselves headlong into the new role be sure to stop and say hello if you see us.

County Planning Day 2016

We would like to invite any adult members of Girlguiding Gloucestershire to take part in our County Planning Day this year. It doesn't matter whether you have a year of Guiding experience or 40 years, we'd like a range of people to help us plan the year ahead, and everyone has different ideas that we can add to the mix. We will be asking for your input so come armed with ideas for events, training, activities, etc. and ready to have your say!

The day will take place on Saturday 3rd September at Deer Park. The County Exec will meet from 9 am with everyone welcome from 11 am to 4 pm. A light lunch will be provided. If you would like to attend then, please email us at cc@girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk with your name, unit, Division and any dietary requirements by 6th August.

Anne & Karen

Activities & Adventure

RENs

It’s that time again when thoughts move to residentials and camps. Please remember to send the REN to your Commissioner in good time. Although the form states for a licence holder allow at least 2 weeks, do consider that your commissioner may be away for those 2 weeks prior to your event and therefore not be in a position to sign it.

“Complete as much of the form as you can. Some elements may not have been finalised when you first submit this form; through ongoing communication with the Commissioner and relevant Adviser you will be able to complete it in full as your planning progresses”.

Although authorising the event is the responsibility of the Commissioner, please remember that It is the Leader's responsibility to check the Centre they're planning to use has the appropriate qualifications for the activities they are going to be undertaking and that risk assessments have been carried out. It is better to send a partially filled in REN out to your Commissioner to get the dialogue started in good time as sometimes it can take time to complete the checks require by both the Commissioner and Leader. Hope you all have fantastic camps and residential events over the summer period.

Adult Support.

First Aid Course – Friday August 19th 2016 – Gloucester Full and Half Day 1st Response.

INSET training events Autumn 2016, come along to a training evening as an alternative to your Unit meeting in that week.

Thursday 8 September Trefoil Centre Hucclecote,

Programme sessions, Rainbow Jig Saw, Brownie Adventure, Guide Zones and Go for its.

Wednesday 22 September Lydney Community Centre

Programme sessions, Rainbow Jig Saw, Brownie Adventure, Guide Zones and Go for its, Senior Section Octants.

Wednesday 28 September Coaley Village Hall, West Division

'Programme planning for the Outdoors indoors, to include risk assessment corner and Rustle, Bustle and Squeak Cafe.' Leaders will leave with the confidence to get outdoors safely and a pocketful of ideas to support girls to take the lead.

Watch the website for additional events.

Leadership Qualification

Monday 4 July Deer Park Cowley, one day mini one stop event for Leadership Qualification.

 9.30am till 4.00pm, safe space will run again in the evening if there is sufficient demand.

Safe space training

Wednesday 5 October 7pm, Springfield Chapel, Springfield Road, Lydney GL15 5LT

Deer Park.

Bookings

The Deer Park website shows available dates and is kept as up to date as is possible. We have a few dates left before the Summer holidays but plenty during. Bookings are coming in for the autumn term so do get in touch as soon as you can to avoid disappointment.

Evening Sessions

You can book evening sessions for your units now for the summer term; we have our normal onsite activities (see deerparkcowley.com) along with Backwoods cooking sessions for Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Senior Section. We can organise trails, and wide games and costs are £1.50 per person participating.

We hope to see many of you up on site and if you wish to book evening sessions then do please get in touch to book. We are still looking for help on site; it could be a working party or groups or individuals or if you have a specialised skill you could help us with.

Growing Guiding.

We continue to grow in Gloucestershire. We now have 1138 Rainbows, 2810 Brownies, 1310 Guides, and 111 Senior Section and we have 1467 volunteers who empower these 5376 girls and young women to discover the best in themselves and make a positive difference in their communities.

Calling New Units

Don’t forget we have a small Growing Guiding grant for new units (application form in downloads)

Record of unit’s maximum number on GO

You can now record the maximum number of young members you and your team are happy to run the unit with. Recording this does not stop you from having more, but it will help guiding locally to start spotting gaps and helping to fill them. To add this, click on 'Additional Details' on your unit's record in Level Management.

If you need more help with any Growing Guiding aspects then please contact Gloucestershire’s Growing Guiding Team:

County Co-ordinator: Vacant

Email: growcoord@girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk

County New Volunteers Meet and Greet Co-ordinator: Judith James

Email:growvols@girlguidnggloucestershire.org.uk

Marketing & Communications.

I am really excited to be getting started in my new role as Marketing and Communications Team Leader. I have a lot of ideas for ways that we can grow the presence of Girlguiding Gloucestershire within the local community and am already getting started on some of these ideas with the team.

The role of this team is to promote Girlguiding in our County to the public and also to keep all of our members informed about what is going on within the County that they can get involved in. We are still looking for people to join the County team to help with the website, newsletter and social media. As well as these roles many Divisions are also in need of Public Relations Advisors who can help to promote Girlguiding in their local area. When there is no one in this role the job of promoting the Division falls to the already very busy Division Commissioners. For all of these roles, the only prerequisite is a passion for telling people about Girlguiding. Full training and guidance will be given and roles can be flexible to suit your skillset. So if you think you would like to help please get in contact with me at pr@girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk

Clare Fletcher, Marketing and Communications Team Leader.

Youth Participation.

Senior Section Gliding:

As part of the County Camp, we'll be taking Suki and Sian gliding. Every Senior Section member (not just those camping) is welcome to come to glide. You'll get one flight, of approximately 15 minutes in a two seater aircraft, with an instructor. You'll need to be over 7 stone to fly. We'll be having a barbecue too.

 The full details are:

 - Date: 28th July

 - Time: 6pm - 10pm

 - Place: Cotswold Gliding Club

 - Cost: £17 (under 18); £27 (over 18); £2 (spectators - barbecue only)

Limited Edition Senior Section Spectacular Neckerchiefs have been made by Frances. They 2 tone blue with bright orange ribbon one side and bright pink on the other. They are for sale for £4.00. To order one please contact youthparticipation@girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk

Hampshire North Badge

As part of their Spectacular celebrations, Hampshire West has created a resource / badge on Secret Places in London. Any group heading to London may want to take a look.

Trefoil Guild – Main Report.

June the 17th saw us board our coach for Harrogate for the National Trefoil Guild Annual Meeting.

The speaker Gervase Phinn, who was a School Inspector in Yorkshire, was both entertaining and enlightening, and we looked forward to hearing him. Ann Gibbons, our Programme Adviser, arranged the whole trip for us. Besides attending the National Meeting Ann included in the itinerary an evening of entertainment ‘An Evening of Music, Verse and Song’, a visit to Harlow Carr RHS Gardens and on the way home a visit to Haworth and Bronte Country, which we were all keen to visit. We also had free time programmed in for sightseeing around Harrogate or spending time eating and drinking cups of tea in Betty’s Tea Rooms. Our thanks go to Ann for arranging it all so well for us. Ann is finishing her time as County Trefoil Guild Programme Adviser and once again our thanks go to her for everything she has done over the last few years we have all appreciated it so much. Pauline Merchant is to take on the role for us, and we look forward to working with her in her new role.

Many Guilds have been enjoying ‘Lunch & Tea Party Celebrations’ for the Queen’s 90th Birthday, many included the wearing of hats and of course some lovely afternoon teas. What a great way to spend the summer, even if on some days the weather let us down but does that defeat Trefoil Guilds, not a bit.

Dates

Autumn Coffee Morning 14th September 2016 Deer Park

Skills Day 24th September 2016

Autumn Ramble 3rd October 2016

County Chairman’s Meeting 20th October 2016

County Chairman’s Meeting 23rd March 2017

Trefoil Guild – Tewkesbury

As a Guild, we make cakes and sell them on the 3rd Sunday of the month in the ‘Touching Souls’ Coffee Shop at Tewkesbury Abbey. We wear aprons that are blue with the World Badge printed on them and we have a Trefoil Badge and a Tewkesbury Standard Brooch on them as well. Wearing these give us a talking point as visitors ask who we are and what we do. Great PR for Guiding and Trefoil. By doing this we are putting money back into the Town, for instance, there is a tub of flowers being planted up for Tewkesbury in Bloom, which has advertising for the Trefoil Guild. We also give a donation for the Christmas Lights.

Jeannette Morgan

Trefoil Guild – Bishops Cleeve

Bishops Cleeve Trefoil Guild meets in the afternoon on the 2nd Thursday of each month. We have a very happy time with just over 20 members enjoying a variety of talks and activities. In January, we met for morning coffee at a local coffee shop which saved members coming out in the late winter afternoon. ‘1940’s Those Were the Days’ was the theme for February, our speakers bringing items which brought back memories of life during the war that either our parents or we experienced. In March, Mr Paul Treble talked about the work of Dart, canal boat holidays for the disabled, for some this is the only opportunity to get away and see the countryside.

It being Anzac Day on the 25th April our meeting for that month had the theme of New Zealand. Members dressed up as the All Blacks Rugby Team and brought items of interest connected to New Zealand, which we used for Kim’s game. We were treated to pavlova and hokey pokey biscuits with our tea. A fun afternoon was had by all.

We have had a quiz afternoon testing our general knowledge, remembering childhood nursery rhymes, Queen and Royalty and the final set of questions was on Guiding. We worked hard that afternoon!

In June our speaker gave an interesting talk bringing county items to show us that were used in days gone by, we were impressed by how well made these implements were and how they had been so well looked after.

Our Guild like many others has an ageing membership, and there are now fewer members who drive.

We have, however, managed to attend and be represented at County Events, the Thinking Day Lunch, rambles, coffee mornings and AGM’s. We have enjoyed meeting with Guild members from around the county and our neighbouring Guild Tewkesbury. For many years, Bishops Cleeve has had an informal ‘twinning’ with Reading Riverside and Oxford Guilds. Once a year we either visit or host our friends. We are hoping for kind weather in July when we host a lunch at Deer Park.

Mary Hughes & Linda Ankcorn

County Team Updates/Vacancies.

Marketing & Communications Team Members.

We are currently looking for people to join both The News Team (newsletter and website) and The Social Media Team (Facebook & Twitter). No experience necessary. Please contact The M&C Team Leader, Clare Fletcher for more details. pr@girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk

Cheltenham Animal Shelter.

We often host talks of up to an hour long at the animal shelter during the summer months Monday-Friday from 5:30 pm, with the latest start time for around 7 pm. We provide the children and their leaders with a tour of our facility, and educational talk as well as the opportunity to hand feed the small animals, cuddle the cats and meet a dog while learning how to do this in a safe manner.

We are a charity, so we do ask for a small donation of around £30 or £1 per attendee and ask that supporters/leaders accompany the children during the session which lasts 45-60mins. There is of course also the opportunity for them to complete a fundraising event in our honour if they would prefer.

We cover the whole of Gloucestershire, providing, of course, they can get to us at the times advertised above, and they are happy to make their own way here. We do also complete visits to clubs such as after school, college clubs, etc. out of hours, but then we are unable to show them the shelter and of course the animals they do interact with in these sessions are much more limited, though as much fun I am sure.

If you are interested in arranging this for your unit, please contact The Education Department (Jen Protheroe or Debbie Morgan) on education@gawa.org.uk for any bookings or 01242 548772.

Cheltenham Animal Shelter, Gardner's Lane, Cheltenham, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, GL51 9JW

http://www.gawa.org.uk / education@gawa.org.uk

Cheltenham Half Marathon.

 We are currently looking for groups to volunteer for Cheltenham’s Half Marathon event. This year the event returns on 25th September, and we’d love to get Girlguiding involved! We’re looking for groups of 15+ to man the baggage area and water stations - please see the attached information sheet for full details.

We’d offer a donation to each group, as well as t-shirts to keep and food on event day.

It’s a great opportunity to get involved in a local event!

I look forward to hearing from you.

Jennifer Graham

www.go2events.org.uk

cheltenhamshalf@go2events.org.uk

1 Palace Yard Mews, Bath, BA1 2NH

Advocate is recruiting!

We're recruiting eleven new members for the Advocate panel. Advocate is the national youth panel for Girlguiding – a group of 18 Girlguiding members aged 14 to 25 from every C&R, who discuss the issues girls and young women care about and seek change. They speak out about issues that are important to them and fellow young members; these have included: body confidence, representation of girls and women in media, intersectional feminism, sex and relationships education, violence against women and girls, young people's mental health and loads more!

Being an Advocate is a great opportunity for anyone interested in building their skills and confidence to take social action, speak out, campaign, and to learn more about politics and current issues facing girls and young women. No experience is necessary, and you don’t need to have been in guiding long, but applicants must be members aged 14-25 and passionate about Girlguiding, speaking out and giving girls and young women a voice. Applications close Sunday 17 July 2016. To ensure a diverse and inclusive panel, we actively encourage applicants from minority groups. http://new.girlguiding.org.uk/latest-updates/opportunities-with-girlguiding/join-advocate

EX PRESIDENTS' THANK YOU

I am still reeling in amazement from the incredible Annual Review evening.

I came well prepared for the Commissioners retirement and regarded the evening as theirs, but some people had other ideas as to how it should go which changed my plans and humbled me considerably.

The enormous warm friendship and camaraderie which I have received from Gloucestershire Girlguiding over 25 years is something which can only be felt, but I know that I have received more from all of you than I can possibly have given.

You have always been so welcoming, and everything has been fun - I have loved it all and am going to miss being in contact with you. I have appreciated the lovely cards which I have received, and last years' 90th birthday cards, flowers and presents took my breath away - I loved all the cards so thoughtfully put together by Brownies and Guides and still have the pile which I can enjoy on miserable days.

My affection and respect for members of Girlguiding Gloucestershire with their varied abilities knows no bounds - abilities which they use in a most professional way albeit they are total volunteers who still find time for their families, husbands’, partners, careers and other responsibilities.

If I have one regret, it is that I didn't get to know you all and work with you sooner.

My grateful thanks to you all for a wonderful experience and for the marvellous array of gifts which came my way that evening.

Long may Girlguiding Gloucestershire grow and flourish.

Anne Cadbury

Chloe’s Dream – 3rd Hucclecote Rainbows & 4th Hucclecote Brownies

We would like to say a big 'Thank you' to all Guiders that have bought decorated bags and keyrings to support 'Chloe's Dream'.

We were fundraising to help Chloe have a series of operations to help her regain her independence and hopefully walk.

We held a cake and craft sale at our unit meetings at the beginning of May and have so far donated £400.

We are extremely pleased to say that Chloe has had the first operation and is now working hard in her physio sessions in hospital. Chloe is a very brave Brownie indeed and although she has a long way to go with possibly more operations; she always has a smile on her face.

Everyone at Hucclecote Wednesday Brownies and Rainbows are following her progress closely.

Dilys Hadley, Guider

On behalf of

3rd Hucclecote Rainbows and 4th Hucclecote Brownies.

Holiday Brownies

Please could all Rainbow leaders who have girls turning 7 by August ensure they have received a Holiday Brownies leaflet in a hard or soft copy by the 7 July. Whether they have a wait to join a Brownie Unit, aren't sure about moving on to Brownies or would just like to try it out, they are all welcome.

Tidenham District at The Queens Patrons Lunch

A group of Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Senior Section and Leaders had an early start on Sunday 12th June setting off from Forest South Division at 6 am to head down to London for The Queens Patrons Lunch. Ten of the lucky members had been selected to attend the Patrons Lunch on The Mall representing Girlguiding SWE. All those invited to The Mall received an individual hamper to keep and a shopping bag of goodies. The rest of the group went to St James’ Park to watch the event on the big screens. The wet weather certainly didn’t dampen any spirits and a fantastic time was had by all.

Highnam Court Event – Help Required

Plans are being built for a large scale Brownie activity afternoon on 9 October 2016 at Highnam Court. A team will be needed to make it happen, and it is hoped that this will particularly appeal to younger adult leaders and young leaders giving them the chance to be part of something special and develop their experience and skills.

Please, can prospective volunteer’s contact Helen Welsh at helen\_rangers@yahoo.co.uk as soon as possible so we can set up a visit to Highnam to help us come up with ideas and look at the practical things we'll need to arrange. The more of us there are, the less work each of us will need to do.

Senior Section Spectacular

Want to know more about the history of the Senior Section? Why not visit our display at St Mary’s Church on Onion Fayre Day – 10th September 2016 from 10am. Ranger Uniforms, badges and memorabilia will also be on display. To make the display more relevant to Gloucestershire, I’m looking for photos and stories of Rangers/Cadets/Young Leaders over the past 100 years. If you can help me with this please contact Jane on girlguidingtewkesbury@gmail.com

DofE Diamond Challenge

As part of the DofE’s Diamond Anniversary celebrations, everyone is invited to take the DofE Diamond Challenge. The Challenge, inspired by the DofE Award, asks you to take on your own adventure, personal or skill challenge.

Your challenge can be as big or as small as you like, from kayaking the Zambesi to learning to knit. If it’s a challenge to you, it counts. And the best part is, it’s open to anyone of any age, anywhere!

So if you never had the chance to get involved while growing up, if your kids are doing it now, if you’re doing your own DofE or if you’re just looking for a reason to get out of your comfort zone, seize the day!

https://dofediamondchallenge.org/about/