**June 2016 content for newsletter and website**

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County Commissioner's Report – Main Report

How time flies. 5 years ago, Girlguiding's amazing Centenary year had just ended and we were setting out as the first co-county Commissioners of Gloucestershire. Now we are stepping down and can look back on many wonderful events, people and opportunities that came with this leadership role. We have so many people to thank. First among many is Anne Cadbury, our President who is retiring after so many years of service to Guiding. We have been so fortunate to have had such an active, engaged and wonderful person giving her time to us all. We are also so grateful to the superb supporting teams of Trustees, team leaders, advisors and Commissioners who have been on the journey with us. They have helped us grow, provide superb opportunities for girls at home and abroad and develop our leaders so that today we can feel very proud of the quality of Guiding we see throughout Gloucestershire.

We've covered quite a few miles visiting all corners of the County meeting girls and leaders in lots of different settings and for both of us, Deer Park is a very special place. Mary and Sarah have given us a place to be so proud of, and one we both plan to continue to enjoy with our own units.

As we move on to our new challenges we wish Karen, Anne and every one of the over 1500 adults in Guiding and Trefoil in Gloucestershire well. Thank you all for helping change lives and give girls the chance to reach their full potential.

Helen & Carole

County Commissioner's Report – Meet the New County Commissioners

**Karen McFarlane**

I’ve been a member of GirlGuiding since I was 7 years old, am a Queens Guide and have been a leader most of my adult life - in 3 different Guiding regions: Cymru/ Wales, the North East and now the South West. I am currently a Guide and a Rainbow leader at Salem in Cheltenham. I have been a District Commissioner, Outdoor Residential Advisor and more recently County Growing Guiding Coordinator and Vice Chair of Deer Park Management Committee. GirlGuiding has been and is a huge and very valuable part of my life –and I feel it’s a great privilege to work with girls and young people, and so motivating to see girls develop and grow and have fun!

Outside Guiding – I am married with 2 sons in their twenties. I worked as a civil servant in information management for many years and now work part-time as an advisor to the Metropolitan Police. I am a Board Trustee and Deputy Chair for the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP). I was awarded a CMG (Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George) in 2013 for services to information security.

**Anne Anderson**

I have also been a member since I was a Brownie, taking a 5 years break when I finished my A levels and had to get a job in the big bad world that didn't fit with volunteering regularly each week. I returned when I moved to Dursley in 2001 and was helping at 1st Coaley Brownies within a couple of months. I have since opened or helped to open 4 other units in the District. I have been District Commissioner here for the last 7 years and have held appointments at all levels including Outdoor Activities Adviser, Outdoor Residential Adviser, Mentor and Lead Volunteer at National Events.

Away from Guiding, I work at Treetops Children's Centre in Dursley as a Volunteer Coordinator where I look after a team of around 25 volunteers. I am married with a 10 year old daughter, Satin, who is a Guide and I am sure many of you will meet in the next 5 years!

We are both looking forward to working together as Joint County Commissioner and building on Carole and Helen's excellent work - hard footsteps to follow! We're also looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible during our first year.

Anne & Karen

Activities & Adventure – Bubbs Hill Bash

<http://bubbshillbash.weebly.com/>

25th – 26th June 2016

Spaces are still available for the Bubbs Hill Bash, a team challenge for Guides in Gloucestershire held at Deer Park. £25 per Guide & £10 per Leader. No licence required, centrally catered, activities provided. Full details can be found on the special website.

All you need are girls, Leaders and tents!

The final deadline to get your bookings in for the Bubbs Hill Bash is 31st May 2016.

Activities & Adventure – Showtime 2016

The deadline for signing up to Showtime 2016 has been extended. Full details can be found on the County website. Please ensure all Leaders hand out the information to their units. Leaders do not have to be involved, just encourage our younger members. Thank you

Adult Support – Main Report

**Commissioner Training**

Monday 20 June 7.00pm Deer Park Cowley
Commissioners evening for Girlguiding Membership Systems advice and Leadership Qualification procedures. Commissioners come along and bring any leaders needing to do safe space for their LQ.

**Mini One Stop Training**

Monday 4 July9.30 till 4.00pm Deer Park Cowley

One day mini one stop event for Leadership Qualification.
Safe space will run again in the evening if there is sufficient demand.

**Safe Space trainings**

Monday 20 June7pm, Deer Park Cowley
Friday 10 June 7pm, Trefoil Centre Hucclecote

Wednesday 5 October 7pm, Lydney or Bream (TBC)

**Inset trainings**
The events around the County proved popular last year and feedback suggests that parents were happy that we should attend development sessions instead of unit meetings. We cannot put on events at every meeting time/place but hope that you will be able to come along to one of the sessions and please feel free to attend this instead of your usual unit meeting for that week.

We are asking Divisions to request topics this year and some plans are already in place as follows;

* 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 outdoorssafely and a pocketful of ideas to support girls to take the lead.
* Wednesday 22 September, Forest Divisions, venue to be confirmed
Programme sessions, Rainbow jig saw, Brownie Adventure, Guide Zones and Go for its, Senior Section Octants.

Watch this space for more dates

Adult Support - Data Protection Adviser

**Important – use Bcc field when emailing your girl’s parents or carers**

DO NOT send group emails without using the Bcc field. All recipients should see only their own email address and no other.

Remember that parent’s email addresses are personal data and it is Girlguiding policy that all personal information will be used for guiding purposes and should not be passed to anyone outside the organisations without consulting.

Therefore, if you are **sending an email to more than one person**, make **use of the Bcc field** at the top of the email to enter the email addresses. This ensures the recipient sees only the senders’ email address.

Also remember that **you should not contact members under 14 directly** - communication should be with the parents (or carers).

You can keep **parents’ mobile numbers on your phones**, but only if you have explicit permission to do this, including an agreement of how long the information will be kept

See also the Girlguiding leaflet **Keeping Data Safe** <http://guidingmanual.guk.org.uk/pdf/8089_DataProtectionGuidanceForMembers.indd.pdf> which all leaders received earlier this year.

Deer Park – Main Report

**Onsite activities**:

**Bubbs Hill bash 25th – 26th June**

See the website for information about this year’s fantastic challenge camp.

**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](http://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 onsite, it could be as a working party or groups or individuals or if you have a specialised skill you could help us with.

Growing Guiding – Main Report

Streetlife: Recruiting new volunteers

Girlguiding has had great feedback from leaders who’ve used the local social network **Streetlife** [https://www.streetlife.com](https://www.streetlife.com/). Have a try and see if it could work for you.

Transition tip: Brownies to guides

One Guide unit sends round its **unit newsletter** to the local Brownies turning 10. They have been successful in attracting more Brownies to join Guides

Lead into Guiding

Check out the **Lead into Guiding** page under **Growing Guiding** on Girlguiding website <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/members_area__go/growing_guiding/reach_more_adults/lead_into_guiding.aspx>

The 'Lead into guiding' pack is a tool to help recruit young people into guiding as volunteers and potential Leaders

Marketing & Communications – Main Report

We would like to introduce Clare Fletcher, our new Marketing & Communications Team Leader. She has been part of the M&C team for almost a year and has lots of experience in this area outside of Guiding as well. I know she is full of ideas so I'm sure you will see lots of good things happening in the months to come.

Youth Participation – Senior Section County Camp

We are organising a Senior Section County Camp to celebrate the centenary, a chance for you to complete a service day and have fun with other senior section from across the county. The camp is going to be very flexible to try and make sure everyone can get the best out of the camp. There is no need to come with Leaders, just sign up and come along, although Leaders are welcome! We are running from the 27th to 31st July at Deer Park, Cowley. Saturday will be a dedicated service day. Options for attendance are: the full 5 days £65, Fri-Sun £35, Sat-Sun £20, the service day only £5 and if you need more flexibility just email and let us know what you need.

A form for signing up will appear on the County website very soon.

Trefoil Guild – Main Report

We have had another lovely County Trefoil walk organised by Stroud Guild where over 100 of us joined together for the day. Some walked the Canal and the River and had wonderful views from Rodborough Common over the Stroud and Severn Vale whilst other Guild members had an interesting talk by the Canal Trust. We all met up for lunch at the Bowls Club. Once again the weather was really good to us and members were able to sit outside and eat their lovely lunch.

We have had another successful coffee morning at Deer Park where money was raised for our funds.

The new Trefoil Thanks & Recognition Brooch and Certificate is proving very popular and several members have been awarded them by their Guilds for their service to Guiding and Trefoil.

Guild members attended the South West England Trefoil Annual Meeting in Basingstoke on the 14th May and enjoyed catching up with old friends and hearing all the news from South West England. The guest speaker was a Revenue and Customs Officer who had worked out of Heathrow Airport, so yes you are being watched when you go through the nothing to declare Green Channel so don’t look too suspicious.

He was very entertaining and gave us a good insight to life of a Customs Officer.

Our Annual Meeting on the 18th of May was well attended and we all very much enjoyed our guest speaker The Rt. Revd. Bishop Rachel Treweek. She spoke of her route to becoming Bishop of Gloucester. She gave us some background of where she had worked and about the time she spent in London and when she became Archdeacon in Northolt in 2006, moving on to Hackney in 2011. Bishop Rachel was a Brownie and brought along the interest badges she gained in Gnome Six.

A big thank you to the host Guild Double Gloucester for organising this year’s Annual Meeting.

Many Guilds are enjoying Tea Parties and events to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen’s 90th Birthday and some Guild members went to the beacon lighting at Bubbs Hill.

This month will see members off to Harrogate for the National Trefoil Annual Meeting, we are spending a long weekend there and look forward to visiting the area around Harrogate.

The Voyage award is going well with many members now doing their Silver Award.

Congratulations go to Sian Green, Carol Evans, Ann Jackson and Janet Kemp who have gained their Bronze Award recently.

**Trefoil Guild – Charlton Kings TG Report**

We are a small Guild at present with just eleven members. We meet on the second Friday of the month, usually in St Mary’s Church Parish Centre. Our programme this year includes “A night at the movies” when we went to the Charlton Kings Film club in Sacred Heart’s Church Hall and saw the film “100 Steps Journey”.

In March we held an African Drumming evening and invited the Guiders of Charlton Kings, Cheltenham Spa Trefoil Guild, and welcomed Linda Ragget and friends from other guilds. Frances Parrett came with Jane and 25 drums. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening and we gained a new member from the local Guiders, which was the idea behind the meeting.

In April we celebrated the Queen’s 90th birthday a little early with a Tea Party, and a cake decorating demonstration. We then had the task of eating some of our creations!!

Other evenings planned are: A Fish and Chip Supper with Bingo, Garden visit to Prinknash, Garden Party, and Theatre visit.

New members are most welcome, please contact Meg Broome, Chairman.

Trefoil Guild – Cheltenham TG Report

Our May meeting was a day at Cowley where we met up with our friends from Hall Green Trefoil Guild. On their arrival they were welcomed with tea/coffee and cake before joining in the activities that we had arranged. The first was a walk to the village following a village trail which proved to be very popular. This was followed by a superb Buffet Lunch thanks to all Cheltenham Guild members. A walk to the tented village area on Bubbs Hill was available for those wishing to go. The rest of the afternoon was spent doing craft, games and quizzes which proved to be very competitive, with lots of laughter, chatting and generally catching up. The weather was also kind to us so all in all it was a successful day enjoyed by everyone. It was lovely to meet up with our friends again and we look forward to visiting Hall Green in the future

Macaroni Wood – Open Day

Celebrating 50 years as a Brownie Holiday

Thursday 16th June 2016, 11am until 4pm

Campwood House, Macaroni Wood, Eastleach, GL7 3NF.

Girlguiding Gloucestershire East invite all their friends to come and share their memories. A chance to chat and enjoy the peaceful surroundings. Come for morning coffee, have some lunch and stay for afternoon tea.

Lunch from 12 noon, afternoon tea from 3pm

Raffle and bring & buy

News Item – Newent District TRAC weekend
Girls from the Newent District Girlguiding have returned home from an exhilarating weekend trip to TRAC in Malswick.
They took part in a host of exciting adventures during their trip including aiming to complete 100 of many tasks such as learning 100 words in other languages, completing 100 burpees and 100 star jumps. The weekend also included pedalos, zip wire, go karts, yoga, zumba, crafts and the more traditional guiding events such as campfire and a wide game.
Nearly 100 members of Newent District Guiding joined together to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Senior Section last weekend. From the youngest section of Guiding, Rainbows (aged 5-7), through Brownies and Guides to Senior Section (ages 15-26) and their leaders (ages 26 to 71).
When asked what her favourite part had been, Celete, a Rainbow from Newent, aged 6, replied that the best thing was meeting all the different people.
The group’s leader, Sian Green, said: “The trip to TRAC was a great chance for the girls to get away and make new friends, and enjoy each other’s company in a safe, girl-only space.
“All the girls told me how much they enjoyed themselves.”
The group of 5 who learnt the most languages could say 129 words! 14 different languages were learnt by another group.
"In total 2557 star jumps, 247 push ups, 121 ski jumps, 181 tricep dips, 254 burpees, 751 superman stretches, 207 shuttle runs and 524 forward rolls were completed, so they certainly succeeded in the aim to complete the centenary!" said District Comissioner, Sian Green.

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 could prospective volunteers 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.

County Team Vacancies

NEW County Outdoor Residential Adviser
On the 1st June we welcome not one but two new Outdoor Residential Advisers. Jess Creech and Helen Brereton, both from Mid Division, will be taking on this role jointly and we would like to thank them for taking on the challenge. The Outdoor team are in safe hands. We would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Caroline who is stepping down after 3 years of fantastic work embedding the camp training weekends and supporting Val with the Camper Badge weekends. Thank you.

**NEW Marketing & Communications Team Leader**

We are delighted to announce we have a new Marketing & Communications Team Leader starting on 1st June. Clare Fletcher, from West Division, has been PR Adviser there for a while and part of the County M&C team on social media. She's spreading her wings to look after this team for us. Thanks Clare and welcome aboard!

Other vacancies
Peer Education Coordinator - Contact Sarah

Secret Facebook Group

Have you joined our secret Facebook Group yet? If not, why not!? Just email the county commissioners with your Facebook email address and they will add you to the group. You'll never look back!

[Friends of](http://www.girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk/news) Deer Park Open Day and Barn Dance
On 21st May The Friends of Deer Park held an Open Day and Barn Dance to raise money for our County HQ. Despite the heavy rain during the day, many Leaders, friends, family and supporters of Girlguiding came ad danced the night away to the live band. Thank you to those who organised these events and everyone who came to support them.

Awards

During this years Annual Review a number of people were honoured for the hard work and effort they put in to Girlguiding Gloucestershire.

County Award

Val Thomas

Alison Frusher

Karen McFarlane

Good Service Brooch

Sarah Crocombe

Lexi May

Helen Murphy

Caroline A'Bear

Sarah Jones

Jeannette McGhee

SWE Silver Oak Leaf

Carole Pennington

SWE Thanks Badge

Anne Cadbury

SWE Young Leaders Award

Belinda Murphy

Charlotte Moore

Hannah Griffin

Emily Green

Queens Guide Award

Catherine Hartell

40 Years Long Service

Marion Paisey

50 Years Long Service

Lynne Cassells

Janet Kemp

Thanks Badge

Steve Pennington

Bill Welsh

County Annual Review

There was a fantastic turn out this year with Leaders and guests from across the county as we said thank you and farewell to Anne Cadbury, our President of 25 years, Solange Rebours, our Region Commissioner and of course Carole Pennington and Helen Welsh, our County Commissioners.