

Birmingham Broadsheet



Girlguiding Birmingham March 2012

THINKING DAY at the Birmingham Council House

On an unusually dry and crisp day for February, we once again had the privilege of our Guiding and Scouting Flags being raised from the Birmingham Council House Flag Poles; unfortunately the main flag pole on top of the Council House is currently being repaired so this was unavailable.

The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Len Gregory and his wife Gill joined us once for the second Year for the Flag Raising Ceremony and thanked both organisations for their participation in the Lord Mayors Deaf Awareness Challenge Badge with the following poem written by Gill Gregory:



Guides and Scouts, I think you'll recall,
As Birmingham's Lord Mayor, I challenged you all
To wear a badge **earned** by your work and care
To demonstrate you are now **"Deaf Aware"**.

We've met Rainbows to Rangers and we've joined in your fun
From Bowling to Bingo or eating burnt burgers in a bun!

On TV, St. Paul's Rainbows made their promise in Sign
There, many stars in the making, for future Gang Shows' frontline.

At...carol services, troop parades, fetes, concerts and camp,
Badges we have presented, - Your welcome always warm, the weather sometimes damp!!
And so....my heart is filled with pride

For almost **2,000** of you have succeeded, not just tried
To make your great City a much better place
For the Deaf—who communicate by hand and by face
Remember all you've learnt this year
And for your wonderful achievement,
Let us give a loud cheer!!!!



GO! TOP TIP

Please can everybody check that their Unit Meeting Place is on Go! correctly, including postcode, day and time. A new "Join Us" system will soon be in place, for recruitment of girls and leaders, and it will rely on this information. For further details please contact Gaye, County Go Coordinator, girlguidingbham@btconnect.com



RAINBOW WINTER WONDERLAND EVENT

Attention all Rainbow Leaders.....

Midland Region are organising a Rainbow Winter Wonderland Event, at Whitemoor Lakes Conference Centre nr Litchfield, Staffs, to celebrate the close of our Rainbow 25th Anniversary Year. You can choose to bring your unit on either Saturday 1st December or Sunday 2nd December 2012.

If you want to know more contact Ansley Stenning,

astenning@blueyonder.co.uk

more details will be announced later you just need to put the date into diary now. Come and join us for a Wonderful Winter Wonderland experience and join with other Rainbows from across the region.



Sarah Trinder County Commissioner

Hello everyone,

During the last month many of our members have taken part in a variety of exciting opportunities beyond their usual meeting place! Around 50 members of Girlguiding Birmingham joined with Birmingham Scouts for a week of snow adventure at Kandersteg in Switzerland and tried skiing, snowshoeing, curling, ice skating and tobogganing. In addition everyone had the chance to visit Our Chalet and enjoy Swiss fondue and chocolate! A great trip and an opportunity for Scouts and Guides to work together for our young people.

During half-term, an international-themed fun day saw 160 girls taking part in an arts fun day at Trefoil House. There were also two Thinking Day events - a Thinking Day service at Trefoil House organised by Highbury Trefoil Guild and flag raising outside the Council House with Deputy Lord Mayor Len Gregory and his wife Gill, which also celebrated that over 1000 Deaf Awareness Challenge badges have been earned by members of Girlguiding Birmingham. These events were all well supported and much enjoyed. Members of Perry Barr Division attended a Performing Arts day at Trefoil House, with 130 Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Senior Section, (not to mention leaders!) experiencing a variety of dance and music workshops. Hall Green Division continued their Coronation Good Turn with a Diamond Jubilee themed Elder Friends Party. Over 70 local older people were treated to a delicious lunch and were entertained during the afternoon by members of all sections.

Our website now has a section where we can record the impact members of Girlguiding Birmingham have on their local community. Have a look at www.girlguidingbirmingham.org.uk and submit your stories. We need to tell everyone about the wonderful things we all do in our local areas!

Planning is continuing for our Girlguiding Birmingham Midsummer Games event and more information will soon be provided to everyone via your Commissioners.

STOP PRESS Guide leaders - watch out for more information about a great challenge for your units, which we have been invited to take part in by Jaguar Land Rover!

We have a good selection of forthcoming events such as the County Walk on 24 March, why not visit the Girlguiding Birmingham stall at the NEC at Sewing for Pleasure on 22-25 March, help out at the Goodrest working day on 21 April, and date for your diaries... advance notice for our County Annual Review on 8 May.

Best wishes,

Sarah Trinder, Birmingham County Commissioner

Virtual Bouquet

A big thank you to Karen Edwards and Paul Goon for all their Work organising the Birmingham Thinking Day Quiz.
Congratulations to everyone who has taken up the Lord Mayor's Deaf Awareness Challenge - this is a fantastic achievement by all our members.

To Rachel McMaster for distributing the electronic copy of the Broadsheet all year round and the February edition whilst she was on business in India.

Thank you to all leaders and helpers who organise opportunities to extend the guiding programme beyond the unit meeting, providing wonderful opportunities for challenge, adventure and discovery.

Thank you to Linda Bateman and Claire Storrie for organising and contributing to the success of the Kandersteg Snow Adventure week.
To Yardley Division for helping Coral fund raise for this trip.

Congratulations
Amy Jones on our lovely new website.



Leadership Qualifications

Congratulations!!

Lindsey	Goodyer	123rd Birmingham Brownies	Mod 1-3	Kings Norton	2012-01-25
Sarah	Hancock	272nd Birmingham Brownies	Mod 1-4	Northfield	2012-02-09
Jennine	Hall	247th Birmingham Guides	Mod 1-3	Kings Norton	2012-02-05
Elise	Yeomans	122nd Birmingham Brownies	Mod 1-3	Middlepark	2012-02-04
Sam	Priest	177th Birmingham Brownies	Mod 4	Kings Norton	2012-01-19





Letters to the Editor

Quilts 4 London

Last term, the 300th (St David's) Brownies did their bit towards the 2012 Cultural Olympics.

The Brownies designed a small banner each, this could depict anything they wanted, from those designs each Six picked out the best ideas and designed a six banner, these designed ranged from: beach chalets, Olympic images, a smiling Union Flag and mosaic patterns and one from our Unit Helper showing an owl.

I then made these up in fabric, some designs proved very challenging, transferring the Brownies drawing to fabric. The picture shows the Brownies with their finished banners. These were then sent off to the depot in London.

During the Olympics the 1000s of banners made will be on display in various venues and each competitor will be given one to take home. The Brownies toughly enjoyed designing and seeing the finished results and it's nice to think we have been able to give a small part to this huge event.

Julie Heathcote,
Guider Middle Park Division



Handsworth Gang Show

A big well done to all Guides and Leaders from Perry Barr Division, who participated in the Handsworth Gang Show in February half term, with members of Scouting from Tame Valley District.

It was a fantastic show, performed at the Crescent Theatre in Birmingham city centre, with lots of singing, dancing and laughs throughout! The boys, girls, young people, Scouters and Guiders clearly had an amazing time, but also showed amazing commitment, since they had been rehearsing twice weekly since September 2011. Congratulations to all, but especially the production team for getting the very best out of the talented youngsters from both organisations.

Thanks also to everyone who came to watch the show and give their support.

Maggie Jones - Perry Barr Division Commissioner

Editor's Notes—Contact suebutron62@blueyonder.co.uk

Well done all those eagle eyed folks who noticed my gaff—last Broad-sheet stating it was “January”

Edition— I must learn to proof read! My thanks to all those who sent out the Thinking Day Cards this year.

If you have any feedback I would be grateful.

Please take a few minutes to have a look at our new Website and support Amy by supplying photographs and articles:

www.girlguidingbirmingham.org.uk

If you would like to see one of your snaps as a poster in Trefoil House, then you need to get a good quality

photograph to me.

Your stories and achievements are Special—keep them coming in. Sue

Pat Herbert

Yardley Division

Yardley Division Commissioner Wendy Fear has asked that the death of Pat Herbert a Brownie Guider of 36 years in Yardley, be made known to all who knew her. She has been involved in Girl-guiding since she was a Brownie. She died on March 2nd after a relatively short illness.

Marching on

March Events:

Tuesday 20th March

County Singing Circle 7.30-9.00pm
Trefoil House

Contact Peggy 0121 350 3444

Wednesday 21st March

Self Defence for Senior Section
Trefoil House

Contact Karen 07540 953 065

22nd—25th March

NEC Sewing for Pleasure Show

23rd-25th March

Contact Sue 07990 592 120

A4 Basic Training Weekend London

Contact Fliss 07708 949 408

Saturday 24th March

County Walk Long Mynd

Contact Mel 0777 556 1276

April Preview:

14th-15th April

County International Opportunities
Weekend at Goodrest Campsite

Contact Claire 07813 280 302

26th April 7.00m—9.00pm Trefoil Hs

Moving On—Guides to Senior Section
Together We Can—all sections

Contact Janice 07795 511 099

County Singing Circle

Would you like to join a group who meet bi-monthly to sing old camp fire songs and learn new ones.

We meet from 7.30pm-9.00pm in Trefoil House, have a coffee or tea break—sometimes we eat as well!! All adult members are welcome also Young Leaders.

Why not come and try us and HAVE FUN. Contact Peggy 0121 350 3444

Your Turn to Sparkle.....

Looking for a new adventure?

We are looking for a team of enthusiastic Brownie, Senior Section and adult volunteers from all over Birmingham to prepare for an exciting Brownie Centenary 2014. Why not be part of our organising team and make 2014 an memorable year in the Brownie calendar?

Contact Gaye in the County Office
girlguidingbham@btconnect.com,
0121 643 3686



Deaf Awareness.....

At the 50th Brownies and 4th Guides at Aston Parish Church, Aston, the Deputy Lord Mayor and his wife joined in a carousel of activities and games, using only sign language or gestures. What a quiet night that was!

Everyone made an owl from fabric, taking instructions from a member of their team, who was not allowed to speak! The Deputy Lady Mayoress was thrilled with hers and has since told me that she has shown her grand children how to make them!

Once again the girls all signed their Promise and they were congratulated as they were presented with their Deaf Awareness Challenge badges by the Deputy Lord Mayor.

Many thanks to Guiders Ginny Adams and Margaret Griffin for organising the event.

On both visits the girls were shown some new signs to aid to their repertoire.

Many thanks again to Len and Gill Gregory for tirelessly giving their time and support to units across the city.

Maggie Jones - Perry Barr Division Commissioner

Kandersteg Adventure

I had long wanted to go skiing again since a school trip back in the dark ages when I was 14. So when I saw that there was space for leaders to go to Kandersteg International Scout Centre skiing I jumped at the chance. I didn't really know anyone else who was going, and as a guider traveling without girls I was put as a leader with a scout group. I must admit I was a bit nervous how they would react to me joining their group but I needn't have worried, I was soon like one of the family.

Setting out on the Friday of half term in freezing conditions by coach for Switzerland, my adventure had begun. The next eight days brought excitement, challenge and so much fun. The stunning scenery and beautiful blue sky heralded our first day skiing and the trip was worth it just for the view. We had trips to Berne and Our Chalet, a hike through the Gemmi pass, a Campfire in the snow an evening torchlight walk (with the chance to reflect on the scouting guide ethos), we built an igloo and on our last day we snowshoed amongst the pine trees and then sledged all the way down the mountain. It was awesome.

I went on this trip amongst strangers and came back as an honorary scout and with so many new friends. We all faced different challenges everyone returned with a sense of achievement and self worth. Links between scouting and guiding were strengthened and we were all united as one big happy family. This could not have gone ahead without the organising team of which our own Linda Bateman and Sarah Trinder were key and thanks to them we Guiding members have had a wonderful experience never to be forgotten. I could say so much more but the limited space restrains me. So if you are reading this think about taking part in an International experience, you won't regret it. Coral Redpath



Goodrest Request

Calling all friends, campers and able bodied volunteers

Goodrest Campsite Working Day

Saturday 21st April 9.30–4.00pm

Come along enjoy the out of doors and help get the campsite prepared for a new season of camping and out door activities.

Contact Dian Morgan

0121 458 5422 for more details

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

We are in the process of reorganising how we carry out and deliver the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme within Girlguiding Birmingham. We anticipate that the Award will be locally organised, for example, in Ranger units or within Divisions, with additional expertise available within the county to help with aspects of the award such as expeditions.

A meeting is being planned for **Tuesday 1 May** for leaders or others interested in running the DofE scheme in their units or local areas, to explore this new way of working and to provide further information.

To register your interest in setting up a group, or if you would like more information, please contact Gaye in the County Office (0121 643 3686 or email

girlguidingbham@btconnect.com)

or Claire Gibson, DofE adviser
claire@claireoctober.co.uk

