



Birmingham Broadsheet

September 2013

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About Our New Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress

We really enjoyed being with the Jailbreakers and would have liked a bit more time with them, amazing adventures they all had.

Our scouting and guiding history : Mike was involved with scouts in his younger days and is now on the District and County Exec. I came to guiding as an adult when the group my daughter attended were in need of adult help. My daughter and I did our guide guider training together, I am with 5th Birmingham in Perry Barr as well as Trefoil Guild and our daughter has recently changed role to Rainbow guider in Bristol. We have another daughter who is a cub scout leader and a son who works with explorer scouts they are taking 70+ explorers to Japan next year to do their Explorer Belt.

My daughter, son and I are involved with Birmingham Children's Hospital, Onaway Scout and Guide Group. This group has been going for almost ten years. Mike has been involved in politics for over 40 years and to become Lord Mayor you have to be a Councillor, you can then put your name forward and the other councillors vote. This Lord Mayor was delayed for his inauguration due to health problem first diagnosed in New Zealand when we were on holiday in March. During his hospitalization in North Auckland the Trefoil Guild were alerted to our plight and I received several emails and met two charming Trefoil Guilders from down under.

Being Birmingham's first citizens is indeed an honour and an amazing privilege to see and meet so many lovely people. We go to schools and colleges and workplaces, we do fetes, events, theatre, sports, anniversaries and it is wonderful to visit people celebrating their 100th birthday. We particularly enjoy visiting guides and scouts. We also receive visitors to the Council House for recognition, celebration, AGM's or just a tour the diary is so varied. Lord Mayor has chosen four charities to support with joint Guiding and Scouting, St Mary's Hospice, Cystic Fibrosis and Debt Management in Brandwood. Lots of the people we meet are volunteers and we like to give them recognition for this. They work with the young and not so young and in parks and open spaces, volunteering goes on everywhere and can be very humbling to witness...

Information from Pauline Leddy

Our Jailbreak trip was the trip of a lifetime, with many trains, lift drama and plenty of ice cream. We visited Paris, Venice, Munich and Berlin, having a brilliant time seeing the sights and trying to complete the challenges we had been set.

One of the challenges was to try to get media coverage for our 'prison breakout': we not only got an article in the Birmingham Mail but we also got interviewed on BBC WM on Sior Colman's Sunday morning show, not once but twice. The first time was when we were in Paris via mobile phone and was outlining the purpose of the trip and where we were going. The second interview was at the end of the week when we had returned to Birmingham, and unfortunately included having to get up early on the morning after the party at Trefoil House.

Three members of the team went into BBC WM's studio in the Mailbox, where we were interviewed about the trip, our team and what we had learnt from the trip. We discussed what we would be asked beforehand with Sior (the interviewer) but the process was still quite nerve wracking, as we did not want to talk over each other but get our points across as well.

It was really fun going into the radio studio and we were shown different computers that they use during broadcasting so that they can play different song tracks and adverts between interviews. We also got to see a replica Tardis in the public part of the studios which, as Doctor Who fans, we loved. It was a great trip and gave us chances to try different things, which are not always possible on a regular basis. Francis James



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County Commissioner's Column

Hello everyone!

I hope you have all had a brilliant Summer, whether you have been on camps, holidays or sleepovers with your girls, or whether you switched off completely from Guiding to recharge your batteries!

Our County International trips during the break were a huge success: Our Cabana in Mexico; Jailbreak across Europe; the Jamborette in the Netherlands as well as participation in Region trips to Le Chateau D'Ebblesham in France and an Arctic trip to Sweden. Other groups went to the World Scout Moot in Canada and Kandersteg World Scout Centre in Switzerland.

I look forward to hearing all about them at the County International Evening on 23rd November.

Over the Summer break, Sue and I were very pleased to meet up with several Leaders who responded to my plea in the Bullet to become more involved in County teams.

The outcomes of these meetings were fantastic and we now look forward to welcoming these Leaders into various County teams.

If anyone else wishes to get more involved in County matters - whatever your age, experience or specialism - please contact me by phone or email and you will be made most welcome.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Lord Mayor, Councillor Mike Leddy, and his wife, the Lady Mayoress, Pauline. Mike has already visited some units and events in the County as he has a particular interest in Guiding and Scouting in the city; Pauline is a Guide Leader in Perry Barr Division and their daughter is a Scouter in the same area.

We look forward to working very closely with them both as there are some exciting events afoot! Watch this space!!

I am looking forward to the beginning of the new academic year and meeting as many of you as possible at the wide variety of County and local events planned for the coming year.

Thank you, as always, for all you do for Girlguiding Birmingham.

Best wishes *Maggie*

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Fun Day at Sandwell Valley Country Park

On Sunday 21st July 2013, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and their families arrived at Sandwell Valley Park for a fun family activity morning in partnership with Birmingham FA County. Though the day was overcast and grey the girl's happy faces brightened the day and were ready to run the football coaches off their feet, especially the rainbows!!

The girls enjoyed learning various football techniques, playing football games to develop their skills and having some mini matches against each other; They somehow still managed to fit in time to get their face painted, make football badges and most shocking of all having permission to draw on the tablecloth. At the end of the activity morning there was the award ceremony though with so many promising girl guiding footballers to choose from it was no easy task, but overall regardless who won a prize at the award ceremony, all the girls were winners.

Article by Nicola Smith





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What are the BAG's up to?!!! Do you know we pop up at most of the County Events to help? Do you know there are 28 of us? Do you know that a lot of us still have County appointments? We do a variety of different activities; so far this year we have spent a day soaking up the history of Birmingham at BMAG. A guest speaker gave us a talk about the history of Blakesley Hall in readiness for our trip to Sarehole Mill and Blakesley Hall. We went behind the scenes at the BBC Mailbox and recorded a short play. Spent an evening at Goodrest Campsite creating hanging baskets, then sat down and enjoyed our barbeque supper. In June we spent 2 lovely days on Tuptonia until the heavy rain came and thoroughly soaked us on our last part of our journey. On a very hot July evening we experienced a leisurely walk around the old 'Perry' finishing up with a meal. BAG's members have helped at County 'Fun Days', joined working parties at the Campsite, worked in the shop, even silver-service waitresses. The list is endless; our next task is to polish the bodywork of Tuptonia. This is just a taster of BAG's, if you would like to find out more come to our next meeting on Monday 23rd September 7.30pm at Trefoil House.	Congratulations to Jaime Church (Northfield) and Balyjot Kaur (Middlepark) on completion of the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Expedition  Christmas Card Competition Winners: Congratulations to: Rainbow Winner: Poppy Meagher from 23rd Sutton Coldfield Unit—Vesey Runner Up: Constance Buck from 11th Sutton Coldfield Unit—Vesey Brownie Winner: Lydia Moore from 122nd Brownie Unit—Middlepark Runner Up: Shriaya Patel from 122nd Brownie Unit—Middlepark Guide Winner: Azaria Faber from 172nd Birmingham Unit—Edgbaston Runner Up: Katy Talboys from 172nd Birmingham Unit—Edgbaston

Exciting Opportunity to Showcase Guiding in Birmingham

Girlguiding Birmingham are joining forces with 5 other uniformed youth organisations to put on an event in Centenary Square, Birmingham, on 31st October. Each organisation will be providing activities for young people to get involved in, as well as having the opportunity to showcase what is great about their organisation in a central 'arena' space. How can you get involved?

We are looking for groups to come and deliver 'showcase' activities in the main arena throughout the day, as well as people to help provide small, quick, activities that can be done in the gazebo area. With the arena activities we are looking for a mix of traditional and modern activities that reflect all the sections - it would be great if we could have some activities that make people think '*I didn't realise Girlguiding did that!*' It could be things like traditional Parade and Flag raising, circus skills, Flash-mob style dance or singing, demonstrations of specific skills, tent putting up competitions between districts etc, and any other ideas welcome! Does your area have a band/choir who could come and perform? Anything that makes us stand out. As for small, quick activities for the gazebo area, can you do face painting? Or jewellery making? Any ideas are welcome!

We have a budget for resources and for travel expenses. Attendance is not restricted to the Youth United target areas - it is open to everyone - as the publicity from it will be reaching across the city and we are keen to have a high presence of girls and guiders in uniform in attendance on the day.

It is going to be a big event, with Birmingham wide publicity, funded by Youth United, and with high profile guests in attendance. It is a great opportunity for us to tell the people of Birmingham how great Guiding is.



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Trefoil Guild News

Birmingham Trefoil Guild members together with those from the other Counties in the Midlands Region celebrated our 70th Anniversary with a garden party at Shugborough Hall. Everyone was suitably lured and dressed for the beautiful weather and setting in July. Staffordshire Service Team in their purple outfits provided efficient and helpful transport of gazebos, picnic furniture and food with their vehicles and trailers from the car park to the huge lawn in front of the Hall, and the Shugborough transit coaches and train provided a welcome lift for us.

We found our locations and set up 'camp' and explored the huge marquee where the beautiful cakes made by each County were displayed. Our County cake maker had made 2 cakes, so later on we had a choice of sponge or fruit! Entertainment was provided by 2 bands of young people playing their brass instruments extremely well - the afternoon ones were only 10-11 years old and were excellent. We all received a cloth badge to remember the day.

During the day members were able to go into the Hall and were made most welcome by the National Trust staff.

At mid-day a young woman in a motorised hang glider circled overhead and waved to us.

Cynthia Pigeon, our new County Chairman, was able to come at the last minute as the weather was so good and transport was available and she enjoyed meeting so many members from around the Region.

At the end of the day all our equipment was collected by the Service Team and safely delivered to the car park. The organisation by Staffordshire was brilliant and we caught the Shugborough transport back to our cars.

A truly memorable day.

Article by Joan Cain

Last month saw 147th Birmingham Brownies celebrating their 60th birthday. The unit, based in Hodge Hill, has been opened for a full 60 years, apart from different leaders are running it now of course! In true guiding style, celebrations were held throughout the month of June, including an open evening for the community and a very special trip to London for the Trooping the Colour parade. We were delighted to receive allocated tickets for the Queen's Trooping the Colour event, to celebrate her 60th birthday in London on the 15th June. At 6.30am we met at New Street Station, not so much bleary eyed and tired (apart from the leaders!), but already buzzing with the day's exciting event ahead of us. The early start was worth it, and in true 147th style, we secured a front row pitch during the parade. It was such an amazing experience and the atmosphere was mind-blowing. Seeing the queen, meeting soldiers, watching the red arrows and seeing the London sights was definitely a day to remember. We even managed to fit in a visit to the Sealife Centre! Crazy as we are for attempting London with a group of 10 Brownies, it was worth every second to see their faces lit up with beaming smiles the whole day. We were definitely proud to be representing Girlguiding Birmingham, and of course we showed it! **By Heather Smith, leader with 147th Birmingham Brownies**

Thank you so much,
thank you for saving me.
For without you,
I wouldn't be the girl you see.
When I first started Guides.
I was being bullied every day.
Guides was a paradise,
where I could hide away.
It made me smile,
I made me strong inside.
It let me make new friends,
Here I didn't need to hide.
Every week there's something new,
here I continue to flower.
There's always a challenge,
Guides has given me the power.
Here I could recreate myself,
I could be someone totally new.
At school I was a scared little girl,
but that changed when I got dressed in blue.
Thank you so much,
I love Guides.
It's made me love life again.
I love you guys. **Chloe Grant 22nd Sutton Coldfield Guides**



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

By the time you read this all three of the County International groups will have returned from their International adventures in Holland, Mexico and the European Jailbreak Challenge and Charlotte Atkins and Heather Smith (Cole Valley Division) are back from attending the World Scout Moot in Canada!!! And what a fabulous Summer our young people and leaders have had...they have experienced so many wonderful and amazing opportunities and made friends with Scouts and Guides from all around the World!!!

ADVANCED NOTICE: If you would like to hear all about their wonderful adventures then please join us at the County International Presentation Evening at Trefoil House on Saturday 23rd November 2013 at 7.00pm.

RUSSIA 100 - an opportunity for members aged 18-30 years to work with Russian Guides to organise a camp for 100 children from a rural orphanage in Volgograd during the Summer of 2014. Application forms are available from the Girlguiding Midlands website and closing date for applications is the 10th September 2013.

Football/Activity Day - Sandwell Valley.

Thanks to everyone who turned up to the free activity day on 21st July. A great time was had by all sections. It was good fun, incorporating various football skills led by coaches from Birmingham County Football Association and craft activities led by our own County team. Look out for more of these days over the coming year.

Virtual Bouquets:

Congratulations to Rebeka Pior from Weoley Hill Guides for completing a two week work placement with ROSPA and conducting a research project on your girls safety and risk.

To everyone who Silver Service Waitressed for the Jailbreak Teams at Trefoil House.

To Ginny Adams for the beautiful Bee Cakes handed out at the Jailbreak Presentations.



Mexico Group



LOOKING FOR A PLACE FOR YOUR YOUTH GROUP OR SCHOOL TO STAY!

THE 'FED' CAN MEET YOUR NEEDS FROM CAMPING THROUGH TO A



The Bilberry Hill Centre (B45 8RT)

Set in the beautiful Lickey Hills 500 Acre Country Park about 9 miles from Birmingham's City Centre. Sleeps 64 and includes a range of activity rooms includ-

Earlswood Log Cabin & Camp Site (B94 5JP)

7 acres of wonderful woodlands near Earlswood Lakes. Introduce your young people to camping!

Bring your own tents or hire our Tent Village, sleeps 106 or use the Log Cabin that sleeps 20.



Highball Country Centre (WR8 0DX)

Close to the majestic Malvern Hills with plenty of space in the grounds for youngsters to let off steam. Sleeps 60 in dormitories. Close to the historic cities of Worcester, Gloucester & Hereford.

(Bookings managed on behalf of the Highball Trust)

**For more information check our website @
www.birminghamclubsforyoungpeople.btck.co.uk
www.highballcentre.org or
call 0121 453 3531 (9.30am-3.30pm)**

IF YOU AREN'T LOOKING FOR A RESIDENTIAL EXPERIENCE AND SPENDING SOMETIME IN THE COUNTRYSIDE IS THE ORDER OF THE DAY THEN WE HAVE TWO FACILITIES THAT MIGHT FIT

THE DAY VISITOR CENTRE

Part of the Bilberry Hill Centre with its own entrance, small kitchenette, showers and toilets with disabled facilities. Spend the day on the Lickey Hills and use the centre as a base to undertake fieldwork.



THE NORMAN KING CENTRE

Part of the Log Cabin and Campsite offering a small classroom and kitchenette, showers and toilets with disabled facilities. Surrounded by woods and a quarter of a mile from the attractive Earlswood Lakes creating opportunities to explore the outdoors.

CAMPING IS AN UNTRIED EXPERIENCE FOR MANY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE. PERHAPS RECENTLY RESETTLED COMMUNITIES MAY HAVE HAD A DREADFUL TIME IN REFUGEE CAMPS BEFORE COMING HERE. OUR FACILITY AIMS TO GIVE YOUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AN ADVENTUROUS AND ENJOYABLE TIME LIVING TOGETHER AS A GROUP IN A RURAL ENVIRONMENT



THE TENT VILLAGE— A fully equipped independent facility with the large roomy group tents fitted with bunk beds and those for the staff kitted out with single camping beds. The marquee has a full size kitchen with piped gas, electricity and water. The dining area has tables

