



# BIRMINGHAM BROADSHEET

Edition 4  
April 2011

## **EASTER SPECIAL MIDDLE EARTH TO MIDDLE ENGLAND**

### MIDLANDS REGION TRIP TO NEW ZEALAND JANUARY 2011 by Maggie Jones, Perry Barr Division Commissioner

I have just had one of the most amazing experiences of my life: a fantastic adventure with Guiders from Midlands Region! 38 of us toured the whole of South Island for 2 weeks in January. The journey commenced for me, the only representative from Birmingham, on 12th January, when I linked up with a small group from Staffordshire and we flew via Los Angeles to the Fiji Islands for a 5 day stay, which included a 3 day cruise around the Islands. We disembarked for a whole day on a real paradise island! Clear sea, white sand and 35 degrees!

At the end of the cruise all national groups had to entertain the other passengers, so of course being Guiders, we weren't backwards in coming forwards! In tour uniform, we led a traditional campfire, played some games on a nautical theme (making everyone join in, naturally!) concluding with the National Anthem, for which we received a standing ovation! We even helped out the Aussies with their item: "Kookaburra"!

The highlight of Fiji was meeting some Guides, Guiders and Commissioners in a local village. They performed their welcome 'Kava' ceremony (not the sort of Cava we are used to!) which included tribal dances by the girls and boys. They were such warm, friendly people and the girls were so proud of their Guide Unit and their education in general. By the time we left we felt we had made life-long friends: a truly humbling experience.

We finally met up with the rest of the group on 19th January in Christchurch, where we stayed for one night and were abruptly woken up at 6.00a.m. by an aftershock from the earlier earthquake before Christmas. It was very scary but nothing compared to what was to come later, once we had returned home. We travelled in a clockwise direction around the Island, visiting Dunedin, Invercargill, and Stewart Island in the far south. The flora, fauna and bird life were amazing. They are so proud of their conservation policy and even have a Government Conservation Department. They are particularly concerned with protecting and increasing the kiwi population, so vermin and rodents are eradicated, and European-introduced mammals are kept to a minimum.

Our journey then moved northwards through a series of National Parks (I now know why the fern is their national emblem!) until we reached Queenstown, a really up-beat, lakeside city providing lots of sporting and daring opportunities, none of which I participated in!!

We then travelled through Arrowtown (an old gold mining town), Lake Wanaka, through Haast Pass up to Mount Cook and the Fox Glacier - an awe-inspiring experience!

Our journey continued through Greymouth (the recent mining disaster town), Charleston and then on to Abel Tasman National Park in the north of the Island, through Nelson, Picton, in the heart of Marlborough Sounds, and then down to Blenheim, the wine making area.

The only disappointment was that when we reached Kaikora, we couldn't go whale watching due to poor weather/sea conditions. The final stop before returning to Christchurch was Hanmer Springs where we relaxed in 40 degree hot pools, in glorious sunshine! A fitting way to end our fabulous visit.

On 1st February we arrived back in Christchurch, where we met up with some local Trefoil Guild ladies from the Canterbury area; it proved difficult to meet Guides as it was still their summer holidays. We visited the national HQ in Christchurch, which had been damaged in the earthquake before Christmas, however we were still able to buy lots of goodies from their shop.

Christchurch is such a beautiful city; very English, with its wonderful cathedral, Botanical Gardens, punting on the river, fantastic shops and restaurants and warm, friendly people. It made it all the more heart-wrenching to hear and see the catastrophic news about the earthquake a week after I returned home. My cousin's son and his wife have lost their apartment but at least they are safe, which is the main thing.

At the end of the tour on 2nd February, we sadly said goodbye to the friends we had made over the last 2/3 weeks. Some continued to Australia, some to Singapore and I stayed on for another 2 weeks, visiting my cousin in Blenheim, where of course we went wine tasting, and another cousin in the Taranaki area on North Island, where she arranged a surprise for me to meet some Trefoil Guild ladies for lunch. She watched on bemused, as a non-guider, as we laughed frivolously about our past camp experiences, Brownie holidays and Pippin (Rainbow) adventures! You can't get that in a tour brochure!!

I flew back via Hong Kong, staying for 2 nights (what a culture shock that was!!) returning to the UK on 15th February having made new friends, lasting memories and confirming my view that Girlguiding is the second-best family in the world, because wherever you go, you meet new "sisters" who will open their arms and their hearts in friendship.



Girlguiding Birmingham, Trefoil House, Blucher Street, Birmingham B1 1QL

## SWIMMING GALA NEWS

A well done to all who took part and especially the girls from Kings Norton Division who came up trumps and won the Shield!

Thank You to all who helped organise the event.

Maxine Lovegrove  
Kings Norton Division Commissioner

1st

**WINNERS KINGS NORTON DIVISION**



I would like to say a big well done to all those girls who took part in the County Swimming Gala and what a proud moment you all had in representing your Division, at this fun event!!

A huge thank you goes to ALL the County support team who helped with the running of the event, the Division Guiders who helped with their own teams and everyone else who helped and supported the event before and during the event with out you these events would never happen!

Now here come the serious bit the overall winners defending their title yet again well done goes to KINGS NORTON hurray!!

Sue Nunn  
Water Activities Advisor

Thank you to Sue Nunn and her team who put in a huge amount of effort to host the county swimming gala.

The girls from Edgbaston division who took part had a fantastic evening and it was really great to see them supporting and encouraging each other.

Whilst as in all things it is the taking part and not the winning which counts the girls were delighted with their medals, of which we seemed to receive a good number and the brownies overjoyed when they found out they had won brownie shield. At the end of the night we had to settle for second place but at least it gives us an aim for next time!

Emma James  
Edgbaston Division Commissioner

2nd

### KINGS NORTON DIVISION TREBLE WINNERS

Who'd of known on a cold Monday night in January when holding our gala trials we would be selecting the team who would go onto win the gala for a 3<sup>rd</sup> time. On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March a nervous group of girls entered Stetchford Cascades for the gala, each one of them hoping to win and determined to do their best for the team. During previous galas we've usually had an idea of how we're doing but this year was different, we just didn't know what was going to happen.

As the evening was drawing to a close the anticipation and nerves started to set in, during the final presentations of the night Kings Norton Division were crowned with the Senior Section shield, which we were thrilled with, then came the big one - the overall winning division for the gala. When Kings Norton were announced the winners we were overwhelmed! This victory was only made possible with the dedication from the girls, (several have swum in all three gala's), their parents who came to support and cheer us on and the behind the scenes team who put it all together and made Kings Norton treble winners. **Written by Katherine Morgan**

## HERE AND NOW!

### TABLE TOP SALE—SATURDAY 21ST MAY 2011 AT TREFOIL HOUSE

Roadside parking with meters and pay and display car park behind building off Blucher Street.

In November 2011, 17 adults from Girlguiding Birmingham County will be taking a trip to our world centre, Sangam, in Pune, India.

To raise awareness of Sangam and its needs, and to raise money to take with us to support its programmes, we are planning to do a Table Top Sale.

Toys  
Books  
Cakes  
Crafts  
Jewellery  
Bric a Brac

Doors will be open to 'buyers' from between 11:00am and 3:00pm  
Refreshments available including cakes and bacon butties.

Please keep the date in your diary encourage your friends and family to come along as buyers too!

Anyone can book a table at the cost of £5.00 each and can fundraise for whatever they choose. Set up for 'sellers' will be from 10:00am  
For more information about the Sangam trip or the fundraising events please contact

Linda Bateman on 0121 358 0593 or [lindabateman517@btinternet.com](mailto:lindabateman517@btinternet.com)  
Do you want to raise funds for your unit or for an international holiday? Why not book a table at the Sangam Table Top Sale on May 21st?  
Contact:

Linda Bateman on 0121 358 0593 or [lindabateman517@btinternet.com](mailto:lindabateman517@btinternet.com)

## SARAH TRINDER COUNTY COMMISSIONER COLUMN

Hello everyone,

March has passed in a whirl of activities and events. Many of our members from Rainbows to leaders took part in our County Swimming Gala on 12 March at Stechford Cascades. From fun relays and non-swimmer races for the youngest of our members to two lengths freestyle for Senior Section, girls and young women had the opportunity to take part in a fun event, represent their local area and see that guiding is bigger than just their unit meeting. Thank you to all who helped make this such a special event, in particular to Sue Nunn and the organising team. Congratulations to Kings Norton Division, who were the overall winners for the third time.

Hall Green Division held their annual Elderly Friends Party and were joined by Cllr Michael Wilkes, Deputy Lord Mayor. Guests from the local community enjoyed a delicious lunch and were entertained by Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Senior Section and the Trefoil Guild to dances and songs from around the world.

We raised our profile at the NEC Sewing for Pleasure and Hobbycraft show, selling items from the shop and providing crafts and activities for young visitors to the show.

Over 50 leaders attended our County Training Day on 26 March, to keep up to date with the current section programmes, find out more about mentoring, and enjoy sessions including craft activities on a shoe-string, webwise, no-cook cooking and musical activities. There was a real buzz about the building and the trainers who travelled from across the Region to be with us commented on the great atmosphere and friendliness of the day. Thank you to Janice Price and the Adult Support team for organising such an important and fun day in our County calendar. (Don't forget Sarah's challenge for the year - for all our leaders to attend at least one training - there may be a cream tea for you at the end of it! See Jan Broadsheet for more info)

There are lots of events coming up soon - more details elsewhere in the Broadsheet. We hope many of you will be able to come to our Annual Review on Tuesday 10 May, in particular to support many leaders and helpers who will be receiving Long Service Awards.

Wishing you a very happy Easter,  
Sarah and Ruth



Sarah Trinder  
County Commissioner



Ruth Smith  
Assistant County Commissioner

## VIRTUAL BOUQUET



To all the leaders who organised and those who helped run the 2011 County Swimming Gala. Special thanks to Rosemary Plevy and Margaret Leigh without whom the event would not happen.

For Jean Mason and Chris Edge for helping to clean Tuptonia ready for a new season of lettings.

Thank you to everyone who helped on the stall and with the craft activities for the NEC Hobbycraft event, in particular to Sue Burton for coordinating our volunteers.

Well done, Hall Green Division, for over 50 annual Elderly Friends Parties an amazing achievement!

Wishing Dorothy Lines a speedy recovery from her ankle injury.

A special Easter Bouquet for all our readers!

## BROWNIE HOLIDAY QUALIFICATIONS—HAZEL MEGAHEY BROWNIE HOLIDAY ADVISOR

Congratulations to Victoria Fear of Yardley Division on gaining her Brownie Holiday Licence. Congratulations! County Brownie Holiday Advisor

### CHALLENGES GALORE!

If you need a new Challenge for 2011, check out the following:

- The Lord Mayor's Deaf Awareness Challenge
- Girlguiding Birmingham and Birmingham County FA Football Challenge
- Midland Region Get About Challenge

Copies of all are available from Gaye in the County Office, please call 0121 643 3686 or email [girlguidingbham@btconnect.com](mailto:girlguidingbham@btconnect.com).



## EDITOR'S NOTES

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Email [sueburton@btconnect.com](mailto:sueburton@btconnect.com)

Dear Readers

What an inspiration the RNLI knitting Grotto was at the NEC over 2000 knitters made the most brilliant piece of knitted art to raise funds for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and this is the inspiration for the wool appeal opposite.

My thanks to the team of leaders who gave their time to represent Girlguiding and sold approx £500 worth of merchandise. Thanks to the Arts Team and a team of leaders from Kings Norton for providing the activities for the Childrens Activities Area.

We look forward to Kingswood Activity Weekend and seeing you all at the County AGM with all those Wonderful Long Service Awards!

Contact: Sue Burton  
[sueburton@btconnect.co.uk](mailto:sueburton@btconnect.co.uk)  
07990 592 120

I was inspired by the RNLI knitting at the NEC and am going to try my own small project as part of my Discovery/Dark Horse Awards with the help (I hope) of some Perry Barr TG members.

Could I put out an appeal through the newssheet for any spare wool that anyone has lying around please? It can be any thickness, colour and amount. Things are still in the planning stages at the moment but I have great ideas!!

Lin Jenks

Perry Barr Division

Please contact Lin via email:

[linjenks@btinternet.com](mailto:linjenks@btinternet.com)

Or leave wool at Trefoil House marked for the attention of Lin Jenks, Perry Barr Division either via The Guide Shop or in the Foyer.

**COUNTY TRAINING DAY** was a real success with lots of learning, fun and laughter, 65 keen and enthusiastic leaders were buzzing with new ideas, confidence and energy by the end of the day, having done a range of sectional, mentor and activity based sessions. The feedback was very positive and the trainers from across Midland Region all said they felt very welcome and would come back any time to train here again.

There were many positive and helpful comments in the evaluations and some good ideas suggested for future events but the comment that stood out was made by an experienced Leader who has been to many trainings over the years and she said 'it was the best County day I have ever been to' So it just goes to show there was something for everyone.

## TIME OUT!

Cole Valley leader Amanda Burford gave birth to a little boy on Wednesday, she is a leader with the 54th Brownies and her last meeting was Monday 13th March and he was born on Wednesday 15th March. That's commitment for you!  
**Diane Candelent**

## HARBORNE TREFOIL GUILD

Harborne Trefoil Guild welcome

New members

Age no restriction

25-95 come along and join in with the fun

Contact Eve Billson

Email: [Ebillson@talk21.com](mailto:Ebillson@talk21.com)

"158th Brownies invited their parents to an evening of fun and games. They all made badges, learned about Guiding with a Handbook quiz and played lots of silly games.

The Dads especially were wonderful and didn't mind in the least when they were left as the Old Maid!

We held a small raffle and made £31 towards our Division charity - Hamstead Housebound Action. Even better was at the end of the evening one of the adults asked if she could help out on a regular basis. We must be doing something right."

Lin Jenks

## SHOP INFORMATION:

Shop closed

until Saturday 30th April 2011

Open from 10.00am until 3.00pm

Telephone: 0121 643 0764

## BROWNIE GRADUATION

All Brownies that attend Hillstone Junior School ( Shard End District) attended Birmingham University last week and were given the honour to graduate. Cap and Gown, the lot. There were a lot of proud parents there.

**Digital Broadsheet:** If you would like to receive the Broadsheet by email, please contact Rachel McMaster: [mcmasterrachel@gmail.com](mailto:mcmasterrachel@gmail.com)

## TALL SHIPS ADVENTURE

Talk available on the most fantastic Tall Ship Adventure by Janice Barnett—donations towards the Tuptonia Narrow Boat Fund. Contact: Janice Barnett—Telephone 07971578854 or Email: [janicebarnett50@gmail.com](mailto:janicebarnett50@gmail.com)

**DON'T FORGET THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CHALLENGE  
- TO COME TO A TRAINING IN 2011.**



## OUT AND ABOUT!

### **BRUMJAM 2012 - INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC AMBOREE**

Sat. 28th July - Sat. 4th July 2012  
Blackwell Court International Scout  
Centre, Bromsgrove  
Camp Fee: £160 (*food and equipment  
not included in cost*)

*A week of fun for Scouts and Guides  
from all around the world giving the  
opportunity for an active and  
energetic programme of activities  
and events.*

Bookings are now being taken on  
[www.brumjam.org](http://www.brumjam.org)

### **INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEADERS 2012**

International travel with Guiding is a  
wonderful experience and we are look-  
ing for either individuals or teams to  
work with Girlguiding Birmingham and  
Girlguiding Midlands to give our senior  
section members a life-changing  
opportunity!

Claire Storrie (International Adviser)  
Tel: 0121 459 9172 or 07813 280302  
Email: [c.storrie1@btinternet.com](mailto:c.storrie1@btinternet.com)

We are pleased to announce some great forthcoming  
Senior Section Events:

### **"POSH PICNIC IN THE PARK"**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at Cannon Hill Park from 7.30 p.m. until 9.30 p.m.  
Come along with your picnic goodies and spend a relaxing evening in the park  
along with other Senior Section members from across the county.  
Strawberries and cream and some bubbles will be included for only £2.00 per  
person. Non uniform. (Posh Frocks would make the evening that extra bit  
special and add a touch of elegance if you feel like dressing up but the  
choice is yours!) More information to follow but put the date in your diaries  
NOW.

### **NORTH WORCESTERSHIRE CHALLENGE WALK**

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2011

(10-4pm approx - exact timing to be confirmed)

Planning has started for this challenge walk which will be open to teams of  
Senior Section members, come along and participate in a circular route  
around the North Worcestershire Way area, including Lickeys and Clent  
(there will be a trophy!!) Make sure you are 'up for the challenge' and put  
the date on your calendar now and watch this space for more information.  
Application forms available soon.

### **KENYA PROJECT (FOR YOUNG WOMEN AGED 18-25 YEARS)**

A Girlguiding Midlands International Opportunity 2012

Dates: August/September 2012 (*-to be confirmed*)

Duration: 2 weeks—Cost: £1800-£2000

*An exciting opportunity for 10 young women from Midlands Region to work  
with young people in Mathare, North Kenya - one of the world's largest  
slums. You will have the opportunity to enhance the learning experience and  
development of 900 plus street children and vulnerable children that attend  
Brainhouse Academy.*

Application forms for this trip are now available from me!

Need to be returned to Region by end of May 2011.

Claire Storrie (International Adviser)

Tel: 0121 459 9172 or 07813 280302

### **HOLIDAY AFLOAT! TUPTONIA BOOKINGS 2011**

We are now taking bookings for 2011 and have vacancies in June, July, September and October, with an odd weekend  
free at other times. Contact Lynne Alexander if you want to make a booking, either by phone (0121 427 8313) or  
email [lkalexander@waitrose.com](mailto:lkalexander@waitrose.com). You do not have to have been on the boat before we can provide a skipper for  
you, but you have to have the relevant qualification to take your girls away!

**BEACONFIELD** booking for 2011. Ideal for all camping activities, cooking evenings, brownie revels, rainbow days and of  
course time to meet up for a chat or division meeting. Contact **Mandy Hall**, 42 Cliff Rock Road, Rednal, Birmingham,  
B45 8QE. 0121 694 4585 or 07891737472 email [captain289th@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:captain289th@yahoo.co.uk)

### **PLACES STILL AVAILABLE ON COUNTY WALKING WEEKEND**

County walking weekend for Adults

3rd-5th June 2011

Flyer in January Broadsheet

Deadline for applications extended to 30 April.

Contact Mel Hurst for a flyer or more information

[melaniedmason@hotmail.com](mailto:melaniedmason@hotmail.com)

Send applications to new address above.

Mel Hurst County walking Advisor

07775561276

### **Change of Address**

Mel Hurst

20 Dellow Grove,

Alvechurch,

Birmingham

B48 7NR



## OUT AND ABOUT!

### COUNTY TRIP

We are hoping to send a group of 12 senior section members from Birmingham County to 'Drop Into Poland - 2012' a scout and guide camp taking place in a district south of Warsaw. The camp is from 31st July - 9th August 2012.

**We are looking for 3 leaders from the County to lead the trip!**

There will be a leader selection day for this event (*details to be confirmed very soon*) but if you are interested in applying or would like more information about what is involved in leading a group abroad please contact me.

Claire Storrie (International Adviser)  
Tel: 0121 459 9172 or 07813 280302  
Email: [c.storrie1@btinternet.com](mailto:c.storrie1@btinternet.com)

### REGION TRIPS

The trips being organised by Midlands Region for next Summer 2012 are;

- 'Roverway' Finland - a scout and guide camp (**2 leaders required**)
- 'Sangam' India - learning about India and Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting whilst staying at one of the Guide World Centres (**3 leaders required**)
- Kenya Project - a community based project (**2 leaders required**)
- Russia - participate in a young womens forum in the Volgograd Region plus the opportunity to experience home hospitality (**3 leaders required aged 18-30 years**)

If you are a leader who is excited about the above ventures and keen to learn more about what is involved in being a leader on the above opportunities then please contact me! I can then send you a copy of a booklet that contains more information about the Region trips and an application form. Forms need to be returned to Region by 30th April 2011.

Claire Storrie (International Adviser)

Tel: 0121 459 9172 or 07813 280302 Email: [c.storrie1@btinternet.com](mailto:c.storrie1@btinternet.com)

### BP CHALLENGE WEEKEND

29th April to 1st May at Goodrest - all forms have now been sent to the girls registered, if you have a Guide that has completed 8 or more of her challenges and needs to complete a challenge weekend, please contact me ASAP as places may still be available.

Anne McGibbon,  
BP Challenge Advisor  
[anne.mcgibbon@btinternet.com](mailto:anne.mcgibbon@btinternet.com)  
or 07773 394423

### TRANS-SIBERIAN TREKKER BADGE

- suitable for all sections

Help support Herefordshire & Worcestershire's L.O.V.E project trip to Volgograd Region, Russia this summer by having some fun, learning about Russia and getting a great badge!

*The aim of the L.O.V.E project is to support and develop Girlguiding in the Volgograd Region (which is twinned with Midlands Region). In 2013, Birmingham County will be joining Worcestershire County to take part in the L.O.V.E project.*

If you would like a copy of the Trans-Siberian Trekker badge booklet please contact me.

Claire Storrie (International Adviser)

Tel: 0121 459 9172 or 07813 280302 Email: [c.storrie1@btinternet.com](mailto:c.storrie1@btinternet.com)

**GOODREST WORKING DAY REMINDER** - Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April, from 09.30am - all welcome (and appreciated) even if its only for an hour !! Goodrest Camp Site 0121 458 5422 Diane Morgan

### THE NEXT TRAINING EVENTS ARE

**Wednesday 18th May** Mentors training at Trefoil House for those who did not get to County Day .6:45 for 7 start, 9 pm finish.

Let Janice Price know 0121 373 6471 or email [janice.price@gmail.com](mailto:janice.price@gmail.com) by Friday 6th May

**Saturday 11th June** International Activities from the 5 WAGGS regions Drop in 10.30-1 at Trefoil House - we also have an outside trainer joining us for this, she is very experienced and enthusiastic so it should be a good session. Come for as long as you like at a time that suits you.

The Training Team are looking forward to seeing you.