

April 2016 content for newsletter and website

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County Commissioner's Report

<http://www.girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk/for-leaders.html>

What a super weekend lots of us had at PGL at the end of February. From braving the Giant Swing to sending messages into space as part of a wide game to mark the Queen's 90th birthday, it was a great weekend to get to know each other better, work together on challenges and learn something new. It was also lovely to be able to meet with Solange Rebours and Sue Maybury who popped in on the Saturday evening especially to present Helen Welsh with a Girlguiding Laurel Award for outstanding service to Guiding.

Next month we have our County Day in Tetbury. Led by the same team who planned our PGL weekend, you can be sure it will be a great day so if you can make time for another day of Guiding, please join up with some friends, organise a carpool to this beautiful Cotswold town and join us there for more fun and learning. Please also think about bringing along young leaders and young adults if you've a spare seat so they can share their fresh enthusiasm and ideas with us all.

As Her Majesty celebrates her big birthday this year, we are delighted to be hosting a beacon fire at Deer Park on the evening of 21 April. We don't yet have information about the time of the lighting of the beacon, but we have a fun evening planned so we would welcome girls with leaders, girls with parents or other friends of Guiding to join us to celebrate this special event. Keep watching the web for more information. Congratulations too to Tidenham District who have been drawn out of the hat to represent Guiding in SW England at the big street party on the Mall in May. Let's hope the sun will shine for them.

Thank you to the many units who sent in their annual membership subscriptions within days of 22 February. This is such an important source of income for Guiding that it really does make a difference when every girl is counted and paid for and the money is paid promptly.

Happy Easter

County Commissioners - New County Commissioners

We are delighted to announce that from 1st June, Gloucestershire's new County Commissioners will be (drum roll!) Anne Anderson and Karen McFarlane. Congratulations and best wishes to you both, you will make a great team!

Carole & Helen

Activities & Adventure - Camper Badge Weekend & Guide/SS Permits

13th - 15th May 2016

This weekend will give Guides the opportunity to gain the Camper Badge, build up their nights away at camp enabling them to work towards the Advanced Camper badge, Advanced Camper badge or a Guide/SS Camp Permit. Full information on the website.

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!

Activities & Adventure - Camp/Holiday Match!

Would you like to take your girls away but you don't have a qualification?

OR

Are you going away and have spare capacity to take some extras?

We'd like to try and match up those wanting to take girls away with those with the extra room so why not contact your Division Outdoor/Indoor Residential Adviser, Val Thomas (County A&A Team Leader) or Sarah at Deer Park to see if they can match you up.

Or you can also post on the put County secret Facebook page

Adult Support - Main Report

Have you completed your on line application for County Day, 16th April, Sir William Romney's School Tetbury

It is not too late to join us at our annual training day, to meet up with other leaders, purchase essential Guiding supplies and get some new ideas for you unit.

Please complete you application by 31st March if possible, late applications may be taken but choices of sessions will be limited.

Adult Support - County Day

Everyone is invited to join us for our County Training Day. Whether you are a Leader, Assistant Leader, Unit Helper, Young Leader or Commissioner, we hope you will find a training session to help your continue to provide outstanding Girlguiding in your area of the County.

This year's County Day is being hosted by Mid Gloucestershire Division and will be held at Sir William Romney's School on 16th April 2016. For full details of the day and information about the different training sessions, please see the website.

Please complete the application form online and then send the appropriate payment to the Adult Support Team as detailed in the confirmation page. Alternatively a printable application form can be downloaded. A map and shop information can be found on the website.

Adult Support - Virtual Classroom

The virtual classroom is a way of taking part in Girlguiding trainings in your own home, in your PJs with a cup of tea if you so wish! More significantly, there is no need to leave the house on a dark , wet, windy night and no need to allow for travel time after a hard day at work.

You get all the functionality of a classroom like being able to ask questions, answer questions and vote on topics. You don't need state of the art technology to make it work but equally you can take part using a

tablet or smart phone.

You'll need to register to join a virtual training, just like you would sign up to attend a face to face training, so that the trainer knows who to expect. You can complete the online booking form to register.

Adult Support - Camp Training Weekend

The camping season is approaching. Would you like to take your girls away but don't yet have a qualification or experience? Then this is the weekend for you!

This year's training weekend offers you:

- Hands-on practical experience by helping to run a real live camp alongside theory sessions.

The weekend will cover:

- Planning a residential event
- Administering a residential event
- Planning for the safety and security of yourself and others
- Making health and first aid arrangements
- Organising catering arrangements
- Organising the care and maintenance of camping equipment

You will be camping for the weekend (tents can be provided) but will need to bring appropriate clothes etc. A kit list will be sent closer to the date once you have booked onto the weekend.

If you are unable to make the entire weekend then you are welcome for part of the weekend, daytime only or Saturday/Sunday you will still gain valuable information and experience.

Booking form available on the website.

Adult Support - Gift Aid

https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/pdf/GiftAidDeclaration2016_EnglandWales.pdf

Girlguiding's Gift Aid declaration forms have been updated to meet new HMRC requirements. New declaration forms and Starting leaflets are now available for you to download from the Girlguiding website. Please destroy any old forms you may have.

Adult Support - Go! Report

Subscriptions There are still some units that have not downloaded their live subscription invoice for 2016. Can you please do so immediately and post a cheque for the appropriate amount to Girlguiding as soon as possible. The whole amount became payable on 24/02/16 so is now considerably overdue.

Division and District Commissioners can monitor the progress of the subscription payments in their Division/Districts by accessing the subscriptions pages of Go! at their Division or District Level and selecting "Reports" from the menu on the side. This will produce a list of all the levels for which they are responsible with the current status of their subscription payments. If they wish to view the live invoice for an individual level they should double click on the Level's name in the list.

Young Leaders When adding a Young Leader to the Go! system please ensure that her email is changed to her own personal account, if she has one, rather than that of her parents which may have been holding on the system since she was a Guide. Once she has been registered she will need her own email details to gain her secure Go! password.

Adult Support Join Us Report

Until now parents have entered their child's details on to Join Us to make a new enquiry but have then been totally reliant upon Units making contact to update them on the progress of that enquiry. They have been unable to re-enter the system to check what is happening or to change any of the details entered, and have had to go back to HQ or Region if the Unit has not given them any local contact information.

Unless Units communicate with the parent, that parent has no way of knowing what is happening. Unfortunately, many Units, even if dealing with their Join Us enquiries, have not actually been communicating, so the parent does not know, for instance, that their child is on a Waiting List because places are not currently available. As far as they are concerned their enquiry has gone into a black hole!

From April 2016 a new system will roll out whereby enquirers and volunteers will be able to log back into the system to check their details and make any changes necessary (such as changes to their own contact information and preferred unit). It will initially only apply to brand new enquiries but will then be rolled out in a staged approach, to cover all existing enquirers and volunteers.

At the moment we have a total of 1,489 girl enquiries on the system for Gloucestershire. This total is made up of 1,078 on waiting lists, 146 on Assigned Enquiries, 119 on Enquiries Contacted, 145 on Meetings Arranged and the last one on transfer to Go!.

Excluding the Waiting lists, many of the existing enquiries have been on the system for more than a year and, bearing in mind that none of the 410 enquiries on the other sections of Join Us should have been holding for more than 21 days in each section, there is a large backlog to go through. I have no doubt that some of these enquiries have been dealt with and perhaps should have been moved along or even deleted - but they have nevertheless not been shown as such on the system.

Could all units please therefore access Join Us and deal with any enquiries outstanding for their own unit currently holding in the Assigned Enquiries, Enquiries Contacted and Meetings Arranged sections of Join Us. I appreciate that some of the enquiries are correctly in these sections but we need to move along (or delete) any which have got left behind.

Please deal with these as soon as possible. If you are unsure of what action is required please contact me and I will hopefully be able to help.

In the meantime I have attached a copy of the FAQs for Units and a copy of the help file which will be issued to new enquirers for your information

Adult Support - DBS Report

Legal Name Can all Verifiers remember that a DBS check must be completed using the candidate's correct legal name. If the legal name is not the one holding on Join Us or Go! then those systems must be changed to hold the legal name and any other name by which the volunteer is known (such as a shortening or a second name) can be entered as the "Preferred name" on Go! once the record reaches that stage.

Completed DBS checks cannot be attached to a volunteer's Join Us or Go! record if all the personal details such as name, date of birth and address do not agree so any discrepancies between the systems must be corrected before the DBS is submitted.

If a change to the personal details needs to be made and the record is in the "Awaiting Recruitment Checks" section of Join Us please contact Jeannette McGhee with the correct information and she will be able to amend the details.

Deer Park - Main Report

Onsite activities:

Queens 90th Birthday Beacon - Thursday 21st April 2016

We will be lighting a Beacon at the top of Bubbs Hill on the 21st April at 7.30pm for the Queens 90th Birthday celebrations. Other activities will available on site as well so look out for details.

Barn dance - Saturday 21st May 2016

Deer Park friends will be running an afternoon tea followed by a Barn dance on the 21st May, see attached flyer. Why not come along as a unit, division or district? We will have a bar and bbq and will offer free camping to those attending if you wish to stay onsite.

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) 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

Taster sessions -tip

Have you thought of running taster sessions for girls and also inviting their families along as well?

This has worked really well - giving out information on volunteering opportunities and also speaking directly to parents.

Calling New Units

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

Online recruitment

I mentioned in the last newsletter that we were having some success with online adverts. It gets better - since January we have had 7 people come forward to volunteer with us in response to our adverts on *Indeed.com* and *Do-it.org*. To date, at least 2 are now already with units and I am awaiting feedback on the others.

We have also advertised for volunteers at the recent Gloucestershire SkillsFest.

Situations vacant/volunteers wanted

Do you know someone who would be interested in helping with the following new **adult volunteer vacancies**?:

.3rd Cam Brownies meeting on Wednesdays

Growing Guiding - Main Report

Successful volunteer recruitment

We have had positive responses in February from our online adverts on www.Indeed.com, www.Do.it.org and via University of Gloucestershire. So please continue to let me know when you have vacancies and I will advertise the roles. We were also present at the University's Volunteers' Fair on 23 Feb.

If you need more help with any Growing Guiding aspects then please get in touch

Karen

Trefoil Guild - Main Report

<http://www.girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk/trefoil-guild.html>

Guilds are looking forward to the Spring Walk in Stroud on the 20th April and hopefully the weather will be kind to use again.

Our congratulations go to Ann Jackson of Cheltenham Guild and Carol Evans of Stroud Guild in obtaining their Bronze Voyage award. I look forward to meeting up with them soon to present their brooches.

We had a printing error on the invitations for the Gloucestershire Trefoil Guilds Annual meeting. Please amend your invitations and diaries to **Wednesday** 18th May, not Thursday as printed.

Trefoil coffee morning on 13th April at Deer Park is another date for your diaries and we hope lots of you can come.

Details of the County Day sessions and the application form have been forwarded to your chairman and Secretaries for you all.

Some members around the County have been presented with their Trefoil Thanks Brooches by their Guilds. The brooch is a rather pretty design and comes with a certificate signed by the National Chairman. If you would like to present one to a member of your Guild please apply to Babs Hannis County Badge Secretary and she will order them for you. The cost is £4.75 plus p&tp.

Dates for your diaries.

- Trefoil Chairman's Meeting 24th March, St Mary's Gloucester
- Spring Coffee morning 13th April, Deer Park
- Guide County Day 16th April, details in the newsletter
- Spring Walk 20th April Stroud, forms in to Stroud Guild by 20th March please.
- Region Annual Meeting 14th May, Basingstoke.
- County Trefoil Annual Meeting 18th May, Kings School
- Friends Day & Barn Dance 21st May, Deer Park
- Trefoil Camp 27th June-1st July, Macaroni Wood

Trefoil Guild - Spa TG Report

Spa TG had a couple of busy months planning and running the county Thinking Day event at Deer Park in February. The day was based around the WAGGGS Thinking Day badge, and Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from all over the county came along and took part in activities including swaps crafts, superhero outfits, 5-minute challenges and an outdoor treasure hunt. At the end of the event, our two newest members Jodie and Hannah made their TG Promise.

We were kindly invited to join Charlton Kings Trefoil Guild for an evening of African drumming in March, and had an absolutely brilliant evening meeting other local TG members and leaders, and having a go on the drums!

We've now just started working towards the SWE Region Senior Section Centenary Challenge badge. We recently made sock octopuses towards the craft section, and have some great activities planned, including a penny hike, tearoom trip and geocaching. We'll also be running a unicorn-themed craft session and promoting Trefoil Guild at Evolve, the region Young Guiders' conference at the end of April.

News item - Laurel Award for Helen Welsh

Helen Welsh was presented with a specially-designed solid silver brooch in honour of her inspirational efforts by SW England Region Chief Commissioner Solange Rebours at a ceremony last weekend. Helen first became involved in guiding when she joined as a Brownie in Hampshire aged 7, became a Gloucestershire Girlguiding adult volunteer after moving to Cheltenham in 1981 and has volunteered ever since - providing amazing opportunities for girls and young women.

Helen's highlights during her time with Girlguiding include taking a group to a camp in South Korea, celebrating its Centenary with her Ranger Guides at the top of the Empire State Building, waving off a member of her unit who took part in a Tall Ships Race, and seeing many hundreds of girls grow in confidence and self-esteem as they completed things they didn't know they could be capable of. More recently Helen has been leading a pioneering Holiday Brownies project giving girls waiting to join Brownies the chance to experience all that Brownies has to offer. Run by local students, many of whom are former members of Helen's units, this new and flexible approach to Guiding is now spreading nationally. Helen's current unit is also breaking new ground as it is a joint unit made up of local teens and students from the Star College. When Helen is not busy with her Gloucestershire Guiding, she also works on the world guiding stage training leaders, and helping them find ways to grow the organisations in their own countries.

News Item - 1st Woodmancote Brownies

1st Woodmancote Brownies had an exciting trip recently. They travelled to Bristol on Saturday 19th March by train and spent a fun day at @Bristol. They then enjoyed a sleepover at the Benjamin Perry Boathouse and returned to Cheltenham by train the next morning. A fantastic time was had by all.

News Item - Tidenham District (Forest Edge) Celebrating Queens 90th Birthday.

Tidenham District have been lucky enough to be selected to represent Guiding in SW England at the big street party on the Mall in May to celebrate Her Majesty The Queens 90th Birthday. We are looking forward to seeing some pictures and reading all about when they get back. Congratulations Tidenham District!

News Item - Girlguiding Identity Guidelines.

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/PDF/Girlguiding%20Identity%20Guidelines%202013.pdf>

If you are creating any sort of Guiding publication, such as a letter to parents then make sure you are following Girlguiding Identity Guidelines. Did you know there are specific fonts and colours that you should use? Did you know that the logo is supposed to go in a specific direction depending on where it is placed? Follow these simple guidelines to make sure your unit is instantly recognisable as part of the brand.

County Team Vacancies

County Outdoor Residential Adviser

In June 2016 Caroline will be standing down as County ORA and so we're seeking to appoint someone new into this role. You will work with a team of Division ORAs to provide help and support to Leaders undertaking the Going Away With scheme for camping as well as coordinating training in this area and overseeing events at a County level that involve camping.

If you would like to find out more contact Team Leader Val

Other vacancies

Marketing & Communications Team Leader - Contact County Commissioners

Water Sports Adviser - Contact Val

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!