

Girlguiding Gloucestershire Newsletter - April 2017

Annual Subscription Payments Now Due

Invoices have been live for more than 2 weeks and invoices are due for payment as soon as possible. If you have not already sent your cheque off to Girlguiding please can you do this as a matter of urgency. If you are having any trouble at all in accessing your invoice, printing it or making the payment then please speak to your local Commissioner.

Many thanks to the 83% of units, districts and divisions who have made their payment so promptly.

From the County Commissioners

Anne's flip flops came out today which means that Spring is well and truly on the way. We know across the County there are plans being made for Brownie holidays & Guide camps as well as many other exciting adventures for our members. Please remember to use the online Guiding manual to check your fabulous activities are all being run in accordance with Girlguiding requirements. If you are interested in finding out more about taking your girls on a residential then both the indoor and outdoor residential teams have trainings coming up that are well worth taking time to get involved with. 'Going Away With' is really not as scary as it might sound. Bubbs Hill Bash, held at our own Deer Park campsite is a prime example of an opportunity to get your girls away on residential without the need for a license.

We're delighted to have had some interest from Leaders who want to get involved in running the Rainbows 30th birthday celebrations at Deer Park, so make sure the 9th July is firmly in your diaries. There will be more information coming once plans have been made. If anyone else wants to get involved (you don't have to be a Rainbow Leader!) then do get in touch.

The Division AGM season has also begun and Anne had the pleasure of attending the Forest South AGM last week and hearing about all the exciting things going on in their Districts. She also had a super time visiting Tewkesbury Division's Thinking Day service where we surprised 3 unsuspecting Leaders with long service awards. Karen was delighted to present Hannah Kiely with her Queen's Guide Award.

Thank you to the many units who sent in their annual membership subscriptions within days of 9 March.

We wish all those units going to Legoland, whether for the day or a sleepover, a fun time.

We look forward to sharing in adventures across the County over the Spring and Summer months.

Anne & Karen

Indoor Residential Training Day

Do you want to take your Unit away?

Are you hoping to take your 'Going Away' Licence?

Come and meet the Indoor Residential Advisers for a day of ideas and training on 6 May 2017.

Topics will include information on the 'Going Away' Scheme, how to complete the indoor holiday qualification, planning, budgeting, paperwork, catering & programme ideas.

Please [contact Sue](#) if you have any questions or [complete the application form](#) and return by 24 April.

Outdoor Residential 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:

- o Planning a residential event
- o Administering a residential event
- o Planning for the safety and security of yourself and others
- o Making health and first aid arrangements
- o Organising catering arrangements
- o 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.

Please complete the [booking form](#) and return by 20 April 2017

Campers Badge Weekend

Would you like the chance to gain a campers badge? Then come and join us at Bubbs Hill, Deer Park, Cowley on 12-14 May 2017.

The weekend will enable you to complete the [Campers Badge](#).

If you have already been to at least one Guide camp (in tents) and have spent at least 4 nights at Guide camp (in tents) and have gained campers badge you will be

able to complete the [Campers Advance Badge](#).

Or

If you have your Campers Badge and not yet ready for the Campers Advance come and gain more experience.

Please see the [Booking Form](#) for more info and to book your place.

Assessment for Senior Section and Guide Camp Permit

On 12 - 14 May there will be an opportunity for Senior Section and Guide members to be assessed for the Senior Section/Guide Permit in a friendly supportive environment.

You will have been working with an Assessor who has been seeing you regularly; negotiating training opportunities; talking through any areas of concern.

You will have the opportunity to be assessed by one of the Deer Park Assessors or your own Assessor.

The booking fee of £7.40 per person will cover the camping fee for the participants. You will deal with all other costs, expenses and forms as required by the permit and Girlguiding eg REN, Information and Permission Form, Health Form.

Please see the [Booking Form](#) for more info and to book your place.

County International Trip 2018

Leader Selection: We are looking for Leaders to come forward to plan and organize our County International Trip in 2018. Our trip Leader will need to hold the Going Away With Scheme (mods 1-7) for Guide or Senior Section (or the previous equivalent). They must also hold, or be willing to work towards, the International module. Trip Assistants do not need to be qualified but need to be willing to help share this side of things. Destination will be decided by the team and the County International Adviser. Have you ever fancied attending an overseas camp or visiting a World Centre perhaps? Full support is given and grants are given for Leaders.

Please [email Alison](#) for a chat if you interested or for further information.

Details for participant selection weekend will follow shortly. This year all girls/young women Y8 and above (aged 14 by August 18) are invited to attend (no Division selection required). They will need a recommendation from District Commissioners and approval from Division Commissioners. Forms will be on the County website soon.

Bubbs Hill Bash!

24-25 June 2017

Spider Mountain and Climbing wall to return for this years challenge.

This will be running again this year Bookings are open via the [Bubbs Hill Bash](#)

[website](#). If you have Senior Section group who would rather participate than do service please do feel free to complete a booking form for them.

Deer Park News

Bookings

We do have spaces available for bookings, there are a couple of weekends still available for indoor residential weekends and plenty of camping space please check the website for indoor dates and get in touch for camping availability.

Barn Dance 8 July 2017

We will be running the barn dance again this year, leaflets and tickets are available from either your Division Commissioner or directly from Deer Park. The cost this year will be £10 but will include a drink and either a burger/hotdog or pork roll. Additional food and drink is available at very reasonable prices. Please share our [poster](#) with leaders, friends, and family, everyone is welcome! Camping is available on the main site field once again.

Rainbow 30th Birthday activity afternoon - 9 July 2017 at Deer Park

We now have a team working on this and more information will be sent out to Rainbow leaders shortly but if you can get this date in your diary so you and your unit can come and join us to celebrate. Any more volunteers from any section will be appreciated - (if coming to the Barn dance and staying, Breakfast and Lunch will be provided).

Adult Support

Safe Space trainings

Keep an eye on the website for new training dates.

First Aid

First Response and Update Training - 11 March 2017 Cheltenham

Update Training - 23 March 2017 East Division

Update Training - 27 April 2017 North Division

First Response and Update Training - 13 May 2017 Dursley

Update Training - 8 June 2017 Highbury, Cheltenham

First Response Training - 10 June Highbury, Cheltenham

First Response and Update Training - 15 July St Marys, Gloucester

BOOKING REQUIRED as places are limited. Please contact [Rachel, First Aid Trainer](#) or fill in the [online booking form](#).

BP Adventures

The next County BP Adventure weekend will take place from 22-23 April in Bourton

on the Water. To register your interest in the weekend, please complete the [booking form](#) and return it to [Debbie](#).

Mentors Get-Together

There will be a 'Mentors Get-Together' for anyone currently Mentoring or who is interested in finding out about Mentoring on Wednesday 17 May 2017 at Ashcroft Methodist Church, Ashcroft Road, Cirencester, GL7 1RA from 7.30 to 9.00pm. Come and share your experiences. Please R.S.V.P. to [Janet](#).

Trefoil Guild

At the beginning of April two County teams will be down beside the River Wye preparing and serving refreshments to canoeists taking part in a slalom. We hope that we will be able to raise some money towards our County event for the 75th birthday celebration of Trefoil Guild.

We have also been working hard on preparations for the County Annual Meeting on the 18 May where we hope to see many of you.

The new Gloucestershire Trefoil Guilds cloth badge is now available to buy at a cost of £2.50. If you would like one please let us know. They will be on sale at the Chairman's meetings and also at our Annual Meeting.

Well done to Ann Jackson who managed to be the first to puzzle out what Charlton Kings Guild had been up to as printed in last month's newsletter and we have a small prize for her.

Congratulations go to Sian Green on gaining her Silver Voyage Award.

[Click here](#) to read the Guild's full reports.

Royal Forest of Dean North Trefoil Guild.

We are looking forward to welcoming all Gloucestershire members to the Spring Walk on the 19th of April, as the Forest is coming to life, and we have put in a request for a lovely Spring day.

Our future programme looks exciting, and we are looking forward to welcoming Ede in April to speak about her Australian visit.

We have several new young members, so our programme has been arranged to suit everyone.

I am sure we will all enjoy new challenges, as we try to hit the target at our archery session, and try our hand at computers at our IT evening. Let's hope also that our cruise on the River Wye is uneventful.

Margaret Duberely Chairman

Tewkesbury Guild

Guild trips out on our bus passes.

We started our trips out on our bus passes and the first one we enjoyed was to the Wilson Museum in Cheltenham, just costing us the price of a cup of tea and a cake.

The second one was through the villages of Evesham where you get views from a bus.

We hope now to be adventurous as a day trip to Stratford - upon- Avon is planned. This means we take two buses so we will see what happens.

Would you like a challenge? Do something you have never done before? Achieve a dream? Plan and take part in an event? Learn a new skill? Then why not sign up to do the Voyage Award. This award is open to any Trefoil Guild member.

The award has three levels - Bronze, Silver and Gold. Each level has five sections (Service, Myself, Teamwork, Skills and Explore my World) and these categories apply to each level. Obviously you have to complete one level before going on to the next. The hours required for each section vary and there is a minimum but not maximum time to complete each level.

You need to find a Mentor to support you in your activities/challenges. This must not be a friend nor a relative but someone who has an interest in your section. It is important that the Mentor is kept informed about your challenge by looking at your evidence and filling in a record book. The record book must be filled in fully including dates, record of activities, hours covered, the Mentor's signature, dated, her/his role and a comment.

Many of our members in the County have signed up to do the Voyage Award. Why don't you join us? Do contact me or download an application form and further details from the website.

Teresa Baddeley

Volunteer Vacancies

Marketing & Communications Team Members

We are currently looking for people to join The News Team (newsletter and website). No experience necessary, full training will be given. Please contact M&C Team Leader, [Clare](#) for more details.

Division Public Relations Advisors

A number of Divisions are still without a PRA meaning that the job falls to the already busy Division Commissioners. If you have a passion for promoting Girlguiding in your local area please speak to your Division Commissioner or contact County M&C Team Leader [Clare](#). Full training will be given.

Divisions requiring PRA's are Cheltenham, Coopers Hill, Cotswold North, Forest North and Glos East.

Commissioner Conference

District and Division Commissioners from across the county come together at the Girlguiding Gloucestershire Commissioner Conference to share ideas and learn new skills to help them in their roles. Several new commissioners were also presented with their badges by the County Commissioners - congratulations!

County Commissioner, Anne, says "It was fantastic to see so many of our Commissioners coming together. Lots of fun was had as well when they joined in with my Hippopotomus game! Thank you to each and every one of our Commissioners across the County for the vital role they play in helping us to Be Our Best."

Brownie Science Fair

To celebrate National Science Week 2017 we teamed up with Cheltenham Science Group who organised a wonderful science fair for Brownies in the County. 5 Units were visited by CSG for 2 weeks this term where each Six learned about and demonstrated science experiments. It began with an evening of fun hands-on science activities. The girls experimented with harmonicas, investigated chromatography and modelled lungs. Then they had to come up with their own science demonstration. Following heats within their own pack, five teams qualified for the grand final that was held in Coronation Square during British Science Week. The girls explained their experiment to a judging panel including Prof. Adam Hart from the University of Gloucestershire, Countess Bathurst, High Sheriff of Gloucestershire, Steve Mitchell from Business in the Community and Alex Chalk MP.

Before the event, Diane Paton from Ashchurch brownies said, "We are very excited about this and the girls have been working hard on their experiments." The girls explained how pond skaters move across the water by using a paper clip to demonstrate surface tension. The judges thought it was an original idea and were impressed that the whole team were involved in the presentation. Lady Bathurst announced that this was the overall winner as it was the experiment that had taught her some new science.

Dr Lucy Clarke from Emmanuel brownies in Cheltenham says, "The girls have absolutely loved doing the science experiments." Their entry to the final was an exploding rainbow. Birdlip brownies showed us how to clean copper coins and Bourton brownies created and painted a fantastic volcano so they could show off how vinegar and bicarbonate of soda react.

The competition was funded by a £1000 grant from the British Science Association as part of British Science Week. The second phase of the project will see each of the 5 packs visit the science centre in Coronation Square once it has been populated with exhibits. The Cheltenham Science Group team will also run a training session open to all Girlguiding Leaders to embed STEM activities into the Brownie programme.

Five Year Service Awards

"Bernadette and I have had the privilege of volunteering with 2nd Coleford Brownies for 5 years now! Last night we were both awarded with our 5 year award at our Division AGM & tonight we celebrated with Zumba!

I can't tell you all enough what a privilege it is to work with Magic Owl on a weekly basis & to have Girl Guiding as a family! It's so important that we continue to encourage and empower the girls we work with, no matter their age.

We all do such a fantastic job and I just want to say a big THANK YOU to you all for giving up your time (which is much more than just an hour a week), your money and, most importantly your energy. From someone who has been a part of Guiding since she was 5, the girls you work with are, and will be, grateful - I brownie promise!

PS. The girls loved our outfits!"

Charlotte Butcher, 2nd Coleford Brownies, Forest South Division

Campwood House Macaroni Wood

Have you ever heard of Macaroni Wood but never visited? Come and find out more about our pack holiday house in the woods. We are holding a few days in April where anyone is welcome to come and look at the house, have a tour from Guiders who use the building with a view to maybe booking a Brownie or Guide Holiday in the future or just to have a look and see what we have to offer. The house will be available to view on Sunday 9, Monday 10 or Tuesday 11 April. Bookings can be made via [email](#).