

December 2016 content for newsletter and website (In no particular order)

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County Commissioner's Report

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

Some good news re census subscriptions, at a recent county exec we agreed to reduce the county subscription by 50p to £8.50. The total census will be £30 plus any District/Division levy. (See below for more info.)

Congratulations to our newest Queen's Guide - Helen Pritchard from Forest North.

It's been another busy month around the county! It was fabulous to see a range of girls from Rainbows to Senior Section being given the opportunity to take part in Show Time and having such fun. There were 3 really enjoyable performances. We also had 14 Gloucestershire Guides taking part in the Region's pilot ICE (International Community Experience) weekend, some of whom may be selected to take part in an international event next October.

It's great to see so many of our units signed up for Legoland.

As a county, we were invited to attend the Royal British Legion's Gloucestershire poppy appeal launch at GCHQ, with one of our new Queen's Guide Hannah Kiely taking part with a reading. It was good to see so many of you helping girls to understand and appreciate the meaning of Remembrance Day and to see pictures of smart, respectful groups taking part in services, parades or unit activities.

We expect many of you are preparing Christmas activities with your units, and we want to thank the many units who help others in need at this time of the year whether its sending Christmas Boxes to children less fortunate than ourselves, carol singing or other thoughtful actions.

We both wish you all a very happy Christmas, and hope that you all enjoy a well-earned break.

Anne and Karen

Growing Guiding - Update

Do you need an extra leader in your unit?

We are working with the Honourable Company of Gloucestershire to identify opportunities where they can help us reach new volunteers. So, I want to map our volunteer requirement across the County. Can you help by letting me know the units in your local areas that would benefit from having extra help?

Record of unit's maximum number on GO!

Let's give potential volunteers and girls waiting to join a warm welcome this term by linking them up with units that need them.

You can now record the maximum number of young members you and your team are happy to run the unit with. Recording this does not stop you from having more, but it will help guiding locally to start spotting gaps and helping to fill them. To add this, click on 'Additional Details' on your unit's record in Level Management.

It would be really helpful if all leaders in Gloucestershire could record your maximum capacity on GO, so that we can see where there are spaces.

Calling New Units

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

Successful Recruitment

We have had a successful 2 months recruiting girls and leaders.

In September, following a leaflet drop we held a successful Growing Guiding Extravaganza event in Stroud

Valley which now has a unit of 12 Rainbows and 5 new Guides have started. We also reached more volunteers through our presence at the Fresher's Fayres at both University of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham in September and Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester in October. We had 30 students signing up to volunteer with us from the University of Gloucestershire and 5 from Royal Agricultural College. To welcome new student volunteers in Cheltenham, we joined with Spa TG in mid-October to jointly host a mixer event of a cream tea. This was a great opportunity for the students to get to know the local Girlguiding team and to meet other student members. Our experience, over recent years, has been that a quick follow up with students, an early placement and a warm welcome (with cake included) is an approach that works.

Adult Support - Update

Safe Space trainings

Keep an eye on the website for new training dates.

First Aid

First Response and Update Training - 14 Jan 2017 Lydney

First Response - 28 Jan 2017 Deer Park

Update Training - 29 Jan 2017 Deer Park

First Response and Update Training - 11 March 2017 Cheltenham

One Stop Weekend for Leadership Qualification

Friday 3 - Sunday 5 February 2017 [Click here](#) for more info and to book.

New County Expenses Claim Form

There is a new expenses form to be used for all county appointment holders, events, etc. Please download it from the County website on the [Downloads page](#). All expenses need to be signed off by the budget holder so please complete your claim and send it, along with relevant receipts, to the budget holder who will sign it off and forward it to the treasurer for payment. Claims sent directly to the treasurer or without the appropriate receipts will not be paid

Girlguiding provides a 'Mental Health Boost' for life!

A study has found that people who were guides or scouts as children have better mental health in later life. It shows that what you do now, as Leaders, has a lifelong impact and you should be really proud! [Read more here.](#)

Annual Subscriptions

The Annual Subscription levies have now been set for National £13.10; Region £8.40 and County £8.50, making a total of £30. Very shortly you will be informed whether your Division and/or District will be adding a levy too.

Please ensure you have enough funds available in order to pay your invoice no later than Thursday 13 April 2017. Remember that the annual subscription provides the support you need and enables even more girls to enjoy the benefits of guiding. [Click here](#) to find out more about where the money is spent.

The dates for the 2017 subscription process are as follows:

- Noon on Tuesday 24 January - Trial invoices will be available to view and amend.
- Noon on Tuesday 7 March - No further changes can be made to trial invoices.
- From noon on Tuesday 7 March - noon on Thursday 9 March - The role management area on Go! and transfer from Join Us to Go! will be unavailable.
- Noon on Thursday 9 March - Official invoices will be available to download and send with full payment.
- Noon on Thursday 13 April - All official invoice payments must be received in full.

Deer Park News - Update

Winter Camp 17-19 February 2017

We are looking to see if there is interest to run a winter camp for Guides aged 12+ and Senior Section. Girls will be sleeping under heavy canvas (we are looking to supply this to groups who don't have it) but will have meals inside. We will be planning onsite activities plus some additional ones depending on take up for the camp. This is an opportunity for guides to camp with Senior Section so they can see what awaits them and hopefully make them eager to move up. Leaders will need to camp with their girls but you do not need to have a licence.

Visit the Deer Park [website](#) for details on [how to book](#) daytime or evening sessions such as backwoods cooking, wide games or trails for your units

Marketing & Communications - Update

Do you have any fundraising events coming up? Do you want to shout out about one of your young member's achievements? The marketing & communications team are here to help you with any aspects of promotion you might need. We can help arrange marketing materials or the use of our County branded gazebo, write press releases for local papers and publicise your events or just offer advice on how to get the best out of your promotion. Please don't hesitate to [contact us](#) and see what we can do to help you.

The M&C team are still looking for more people to join our team. This is a fabulous opportunity to help to promote Girlguiding locally and is also a great experience for anyone looking to pursue a career in marketing or PR. Full training will be given, all that is required is a passion for telling people about Girlguiding. So if you think you would like to help please send me an [email](#).

Clare, Marketing and Communications Team Leader.

Trefoil Guild - Update

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

The year has flown by and the Trefoil Guilds have been really busy doing such a variety of activities that I don't know how they fit them all in.

The Guilds besides enjoying their own 'Guiding for Adults' also raise money for many charities Worldwide, National, and also their own special local charities.

I have been lucky enough to see many of these fund raising activities in action and have enjoyed meeting the Guilds whilst they raise money for such good causes.

One National fund raiser that we all know about is 'Children in Need' and Double Gloucester Guild put on an evening of fun to raise money for this charity, children are at the heart of all we do so it was good to support them.

Guests and Guild members were invited to dress in something from their childhood and bring a photo of themselves as a child, guess who was a topic of great discussion.

We had an evening of such fun where we were very young again and played games from our childhood (and I am ashamed to say we cheated badly at times whilst eating jelly beans, dolly mixtures and smarties). We ate food from our childhood, had a story about Noddy read to us as 'Listen to Mother' was read to us when some of us were children, we were then given a great treat watching an original version of 'Andy Pandy' and this made many of us laugh so much, it made us realise just how much technology had come on. But the serious bit of the evening was to raise money for the Children of this County and around the World. We all had such fond memories of our childhood it would be great to give the children of today these lovely memories to keep as well.

The Guilds I am sure will continue to raise money for all the good causes in this County and around the World so thank you Trefoil Guilds for making a difference to so many people.

Have a Happy Christmas with your families and friends and we all look forward to enjoying our Trefoil in 2017.

Gloucestershire East Trefoil Guild

From a very small Guild who meet in the afternoons of the 4th Wednesday of the month at a 'Community Room' on the outskirts of Cirencester

We have been going some 25 years and are a group of ladies who have been Guiding all over the country so we don't share Gloucestershire guiding as such. One of our favourite meetings is to 'Share Memories' so we can all know each others history and develop common ground.

For our birthday in April, we went to a Garden Center to have our tea. Our Division Commissioner came as well as a representative of the Corinium Guild. A most enjoyable time was had.

In June, we went on a verbal trip to Borneo with additions from one of our members who had lived there for a while. We had visits to the Trefoil Guild Camp at Macaroni Woods, then to the Macaroni Open Day celebrating their 50th anniversary and also to Friends Day at Cowley.

July was the month to visit one of our member's gardens in a house to which they had recently moved. A lovely afternoon with the husbands/drivers meeting in a group of their own.

September was a great event with a minibus trip to catch the steam train at Toddinton to go to Cheltenham station and back. A lovely day with lots of people to help with our wheelchairs etc. Then to tea in the station cafe. A First Class day out.

Despite our difficulties with getting older, we do get out and about - even managed a few of us to Skills Day in September. Next month is skittles with Minchinhampton and Nailsworth Guild at a local pub.

Lots of fun and the best sandwiches you can find
Hurrah for trefoil

Youth Participation - Update

This month we welcome Debbie as the new Baden-Powell Award Co-ordinator. Thanks are due to Rosemary Grimes, for all her hard work, and wonderful adventures over the past few years..

News Item - Dursley District lights up the sky.

<http://www.girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk/news/girlguiding-dursley-district-light-up-the-town>

Girlguiding Dursley District hosted the town fireworks display on 5th November and raised an incredible £8000+ for local charities and Williams Syndrome Foundation. Well done to everyone involved!

News Item - New County Map

<http://www.girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk/units.html>

We are pleased to announce that we now have a new interactive map on the County website. This exciting new feature will let you see all of the Units within the County, where they meet and when. It also shows each Division in a different colour, making it really easy to see other Units near you.

News Item - Remembrance Parades and Activities

<http://www.girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk/news/remembrance-parades-and-activities>

Lots of our members took part in remembrance parades all across the county. Many groups have also been undertaking their own acts of remembrance in their weekly meetings. Below are a selection of photos from some of today's parades

News Item - Introducing our new County President

<http://www.girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk/news/introducing-our-new-county-president>

The County Team are pleased to introduce our new President Sally Pullen

Volunteer Vacancies within the County

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.

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!