

## February 2016 content for newsletter and website

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### County Commissioner's Report

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

We hope you are all enjoying being back with your units after the break. It was great to see all my Rainbows yesterday, to hear all their news, and to find out by means of a running game what they would like to do this term.

Look out for Region and National resources to help your unit celebrate the Senior Section Spectacular.

Senior Section units, have you booked your places at Alton Towers in June? There are only 600 places, so book soon to avoid disappointment.

As ever, we have a busy time ahead of us. The Adult Support team are looking forward to welcoming new leaders to their One-Stop Training weekend at Deer Park. We have our County Residential weekend at PGL Liddington to look forward to at the end of February. It promises to be a fantastic couple of days and a great opportunity for us to get together to train, relax, enjoy the outdoors, eat and drink. (Though we can't promise a Lego cake this time!)

We hope you all enjoy celebrating Thinking Day with your girls, reminding them that they are part of a world wide organisation. Spa Trefoil Guild are organising Thinking Day Activities at Deer Park on 20th February. Have you booked your places yet?

If you shop in Asda in Cheltenham during the rest of January and February, the Show Team would be delighted to receive your tokens in their box to help towards the costs of producing the Show in October this year.

Please could you all give some thought to any leaders you know who are deserving of an award? Helen and I would love to present lots of awards at our final Annual Review on May 25th. Kathleen Punchard is ready and waiting to help you apply for the right type of award.

I have been overwhelmed by all the messages, emails, cards and phone calls of support and congratulation I have received from so many of you on the announcement of my appointment in June as Region Chief Commissioner. Thank you, they mean a great deal to me.

Happy Guiding!

Carole and Helen

Additional: The Annual Review on the 25<sup>th</sup> May will be at All Saint's Academy, Cheltenham.

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### Activities & Adventure - International

<http://www.girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk/activities--adventure.html#International>

Val is very pleased to announce that Alison Frusher will be taking over at the County International Adviser as from 1 February.

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#### Activities & Adventure - Deer Park Report

<http://www.girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk/camps--holidays.html#DeerPark>

#### **Communication issues**

The end of 2015 and the start of 2016 have proved a little problematic with technology for Deer Park, firstly we lost all our communications and then the site laptop decided that it wasn't coming back from the Christmas break. We are all sorted but if there has been a delay in getting responses to emails and phone calls I am sorry and am trying to catch up, if you haven't received a response to a phone call or email you sent please do chase it up, just in case any got lost in the amongst the problems.

#### **Bookings**

I am taking bookings for 2016, May half term week is fully booked but we still have availability.

#### **Thinking Day - Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February - Rainbows and Brownies, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February - Guides and Senior Section**

As was sent out in the last newsletter the booking form for thinking day. The SPA Trefoil Guild will be running the event which will be based on the WAGGGS thinking day activity pack, as long as the challenge is completed then participants will receive the WAGGGS thinking day 2016 badge.

Arrival will be 9.30-9.45 for a 10am start and departure at 4pm. Squash and biscuits will be provided through the day, once booked additional information will be provided as to what the Girls need to bring with them, packed lunch, thinking day penny etc. If you are a loose end and would like to come along and help (there is a badge in it for you) then do get in touch the more leaders we have the better it is.

#### **Deer Park Friends day and Barn Dance - Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2016**

This year our Deer Park friends will be hosting an afternoon tea, and then in conjunction with the Deer Park management team a Barn dance. There will be a bar, food and some games along with dancing and for those wishing to stay they can make use of Deer Parks camping facilities and will be able to dance the night away. Further details will be in the February newsletter along with how to get tickets.

#### **Volunteers**

As always still looking for volunteers to run events or to give a hand up on site, if this appeals then do get in touch.

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#### Adult Support - Main Report

<http://www.girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk/adult-support.html>

Our County Training day will be on 16 April at Sir William Romney's School Tetbury. Application form will be circulated in February.

To book more safe space trainings please contact [adultsupport@girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk](mailto:adultsupport@girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk)

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#### Adult Support - First Aid Training

<http://www.girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk/adult-support.html#FirstAid>

27<sup>th</sup> February - First Response at St Mary's, Gloucester

16<sup>th</sup> April - First Response (at County Day)

Bookings via Rachel Jacques

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## Growing Guiding - Main Report

<http://www.girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk/growing-guiding.html>

### **SWE Growing Guiding Website**

It has lots of great ideas, including presentations and ideas from the National Growing Guiding conference at Warwick, and also from the Region Rainbow, Brownie and Guide Workshops - see [www.girlguidingsouthwest.org.uk/growing-guiding.html](http://www.girlguidingsouthwest.org.uk/growing-guiding.html).

### **Successful volunteer recruitment**

In the last month we have several responses from volunteers to our online adverts:

- 2 volunteers from *Indeed.com* - 1 for Gloucester Div and 1 for West Div;
- 2 volunteers from *Do.it.org* - 1 for Coopers Hill Div and 1 for Tewkesbury Div who attended Rainbows at the beginning of January.

We are also about to start advertising vacancies on *GAVCA (Gloucestershire Association for Voluntary and Community Action)* website. So please continue to let Judith and myself know of any volunteer vacancies you may have so we can advertise online.

In December, we have had about 8 more University of Gloucestershire students expressing an interest in volunteering in Cheltenham and Gloucester.

We have also had stands at the University's Opportunities Showcase at Oxstalls campus on 18 Jan and Francis Close campus on 22 Jan. We will also be present at the University's Volunteers' Fair on 23 Feb.

If you need more help with any Growing Guiding aspects then please contact the **Gloucestershire's Growing Guiding Team**.

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## Growing Guiding - Go! Report - Subscriptions 2016

<http://www.girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk/growing-guiding.html>

Trial invoices are already available on the subscriptions system and must be used immediately to check your invoice. Please ensure that members who have left are made inactive with a correct "valid to" date and that all new members are added. Remember that new young members should be pushed to Go! from Join Us after attending their second meeting.

All changes must be made before noon on Monday, February 22nd 2016.

The system will close from noon on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and be unavailable until noon on Wednesday, February 24th. The Role Management area of Go! and transfers to Go! from Join Us will not be available during this period.

Please ensure that sufficient funds are held in your bank or building society account to cover the subscription amount and that a cheque signed by the appropriate signatories is held in readiness for the final invoice which will be available from noon on Wednesday, February 24th 2016. These invoices **cannot be changed** and are **payable in full immediately**. Cheques should be sent to the address provided on the invoice.

Receipts for paid invoices will be available until Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 and should be printed off for your Unit accounts.

All members can help to improve next year's process by taking part in a survey which is open until Friday, 31st May 2016.

If there are any problems please contact me immediately.

Jeannette

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Youth Participation - BP Adventure

<http://www.girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk/youth-participation.html#BPAwards>

Hosted by Girlguiding Oxfordshire

5th - 6th March 2016 at Macaroni Wood, Near Cirencester

The theme is The Apprentice - "You're Hired" and the cost is £25. The adventure is being organised by Girlguiding Oxfordshire but they have offered a number of places for Gloucestershire Guides who have completed all the clauses of their BP Challenge. All forms and further information can be found in the Download section.

The closing date for applications is 12th February

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#### Youth Participation - SS Administered Grant

<http://www.girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk/youth-participation.html#Grants>

The County Youth Executive Committee are able to award small grants (up to a maximum of £120) to individual young members of Girlguiding Gloucestershire. The grants are designed to help individuals to participate in Girlguiding activities. Applications may be made to fund transport and accommodation, unit or individual trips and uniform. Grants will not be awarded for unit running costs, building or refurbishment costs or for County or Region INTOPS trips (where separate County grants are available). In the past grants have been awarded to:

- help with the cost of participating in the National Scout and Guide Orchestra
- help with the cost of attending a World Scout Jamboree (as a Service Team Member)
- to cover the cost of an Australian Leader's uniform for a Senior Section member on a gap year.

Any young member (up to the age of 25) can apply using the form. Parents or Leaders may apply on behalf of members aged 14 or under and on behalf of those with learning difficulties or disabilities. Applications will be acknowledged by email and you will be informed of the result of your application with one month.

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#### Trefoil Guild - Main Report

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

Dear Fellow Trefoil members.

It's 2016 and another New Year. I wonder what it may have in store for us all. I am sure that each of our Guilds will have planned an interesting and exciting programme and I know that there are several County - and Region occasions for us to meet up with other like-minded folk. I hope we will all get involved, perhaps embark on 'Venture', and encourage others of our friends to join Trefoil. We are our best ambassadors!

Of course, we must not forget that we have a great deal to offer to other sections of Guiding, and especially this year as the Senior Section celebrates its' Centenary. I've been talking to groups of young people and Guiders in my area and I am amazed at how little many of them know about Rangers (all branches) and especially Cadets. We can contribute a great deal to their special year by sharing our reminiscences - don't wait to be asked, but invite your local group to join you. I am sure we all have photographs and other memorabilia hidden away which we can share with them. In this way, Guiding will perhaps see us as a useful resource and not just ladies who make tea!

Thinking Day is not far away and I look forward to meeting many of you at our Annual lunch at Bowden Hall.

Whatever your hopes are for 2016, I wish you all a happy and healthy year and fulfilling year.

Yours in Guiding,

Margaret Dale

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#### Trefoil Guild - Christmas Reflections from Double Gloucester TG

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

We all need time to stop, to have a rest and spend time with friends and this is just what we did here in Gloucester. Double Gloucester and Gloucester City Trefoil Guilds joined forces at our regular December

meeting and shared a delightful evening together. We had the opportunity of singing the wonderful carols that tell the Christmas story and we sang the traditional 12 Days of Christmas song with great gusto.

It is always good to increase our knowledge and we heard that the carol **In the Bleak Midwinter**, based on a poem by the English poet Christina Rossetti written before 1872 has been set to music by both Composers, Gustav Holst and Harold Edwin Darke. As Holst's setting **Cranham** is titled after Cranham here in Gloucestershire we enjoyed singing the carol to this tune reminding us of its roots

Friendship is so important and this is reflected in the life of a Guild. In Double Gloucester Guild a small group of members meet regularly for a knit and a natter. How lovely.....What a surprise when we were all given a gift of a beautifully crafted miniature Christmas tree. The gesture spoke volumes and demonstrated that in our guild we are all appreciated

Christmas thoughts were shared about St Nicholas .....

The true story of Santa Claus begins with St Nicholas. His wealthy parents brought him up to be a devout Christian and after their deaths he used his inheritance to help the needy, poor and the sick. Nicholas died 6<sup>th</sup> December. There are many stories that have been told of St Nicholas' life and deeds. The custom of children hanging out stockings eagerly awaiting gifts from St Nicholas occurs worldwide. For the children that have exhibited exemplary behaviour, gifts are found in the stockings but sadly for other children there was great harshness and cinders or coal would be found. Interestingly, one can purchase from Fortnam and Mason luxurious Chocolate Coal. Widely celebrated in Europe, St Nicholas feast day, December 6<sup>th</sup> is kept alive and in the Netherlands, St Nicholas is celebrated on the 5<sup>th</sup>, the eve of the day by sharing candles, chocolate initial letters, small gifts and riddles. The thought behind this being, giving gifts at Advent allows opportunity on Christmas day to focus on the greatest gift of the Christ child.

Double Gloucester Guild wish all readers a happy, healthy and exciting 2016.

Double Gloucester TG will be celebrating Burns' night later in January when we have a traditional celebration complete with The Ode to the Haggis. (Unfortunately a recording as none of our members can speak in the Gaelic Tongue.) The Haggis, having been processed around the circle of tables, is then speared before being served with the traditional neeps and tatties. We have Cloutie Dumpling to follow. Our Haggis is brought down to England courtesy of Avril.

More or less straight after this we take to the floor for Scottish Dancing, with our very own Margaret Dale as the caller but unfortunately, since no live band would come near us, we have to make do with "canned" music. Many people seem surprised that we appear to take very little notice of the caller and mainly do our own thing. She tries hard, but we are trying too.

Edith Holyhead and Sue Plowman

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[Trefoil Guild - Gloucester City TG](http://www.girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk/trefoil-guild.html)

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

In December as we were represented at the Peace Light service at St Mary's which was very nice, we then joined Double Gloucester for their Carol/Gift evening on the 17th December this is a lovely evening with good home-spun entertainment interspersed with Carols and followed up by delicious food and Secret Santa bag, provided by both Guilds.

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[Singing Circle - Dates for your Diary](http://www.girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk/dates-for-your-diary.html)

<http://www.girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk/dates-for-your-diary.html>

Wednesday February 10<sup>th</sup>

August - No meeting

Thursday March 10<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday September 14<sup>th</sup>

Friday April 8<sup>th</sup>

Thursday October 13<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday May 11<sup>th</sup>

Friday November 11<sup>th</sup>

Thursday June 9<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday December 13<sup>th</sup> (possibly plus Peace Light Service)

Friday July 8<sup>th</sup>

All meetings are at St Mary's Congregational Church, Gloucester, starting at 7.30pm.