

## January 2016 content for newsletter and website

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### County Commissioner's Report

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

We hope that you all enjoyed the festivities with your units in the run up to Christmas, and have enjoyed a wonderful Christmas break with family and friends.

As we look forward to 2016, we know that already plans are being made to give girls and young women of all ages exciting opportunities and adventures in unit meetings, residential opportunities, days out and more.

We hope that all Senior Section members take the opportunity to join in some of the wonderful events being planned in County, in the Region and in other Counties to celebrate their Centenary.

At the end of May, Helen and I will have completed our 5 years as County Commissioners. With this in mind please put WEDNESDAY MAY 25th in your diaries for our Annual Review, handover to the new County Commissioner(s) and to say thank you to Anne Cadbury for all she has done for us as County President. We look forward to sharing the evening with as many of you as possible. Watch out for venue details soon.

We would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Carole and Helen

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### Adult Support - Main Report

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

All leaders and Young Leaders registered for the Leadership Scheme, please send your applications for the one stop weekend as soon as possible.

Cost for the weekend is £5, and £2 if you just come for a day. Have a look at the programme which is included with the application form to see which sessions you need to do.

Please contact Helen Murphy, [adultsupport@girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk](mailto:adultsupport@girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk), with any requests for safe space or other training events.

Looking forward to seeing you all at training events in 2016.

Safe Space training St Oswalds Church Coney Hill Gloucester 28 January 7.00pm

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### Adult Support - ALQ Report

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

I look forward to meeting those working on the ALQ at the One Stop weekend in January, it will be a great chance to get lots of sections signed off.

Please can mentors make sure that any completed books are sent to me as soon as possible and once Commissioners get the book back from me, please update roles on Go so that service records are accurate.

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### Activities & Adventure - Main Report

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

### **Campers Badge weekend 2016**

13 - 15 May 2016.

This weekend will give Guides the opportunity of gaining the:

- Campers Badge,
- Additional nights enabling them to work towards the Advanced Campers Badge
- Advanced Campers Badge
- Camp permit

More information will be included in next month's newsletter and on County website.

### **WALKING**

#### **SWE Region Walking courses 2016:**

15 - 17 July:                      Level 1 at Deer Park Cowley

23 - 25 September:            Level 2 Dartmoor

18 - 20 November:            Level 3 Black Mountain

For more info on any of the above contact:

Val Thomas

[walking@girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk](mailto:walking@girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk)

### **DUKE of EDINBURGH'S AWARD**

Open to every girl aged 14 - 25. If you would like to find out more about completing the D of E please contact

Cathy 01452 531361

[dofe@girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk](mailto:dofe@girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk)

### **INTERNATIONAL**

Amy is stepping down as the Adviser. I would like to thank her for all she has done over the last few years to promote International in the County.

We are now looking for leaders for the County trip in 2017.

### **County INTOPs Selection**

There will be a selection for girls wishing to be considered for Region/County trips for 2017 and 2018. The selection will take place Sat 7 - Sun 8 May 2016 at Deer Park. More details will be sent to Division Commissioners in the New Year.

**Region** is planning to visit European destinations in 2017 and a Wider World location in 2018. The adults' selection weekend will take place from 6th - 8th May 2016 at Foxlease. Visit the region website for more information. Closing date for applications is 31 March 2016  
<http://www.girlguidingsouthwest.org.uk/events-and-training.html>

If you are interested in anything to do with International please contact Val Thomas  
[outdoor@girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk](mailto:outdoor@girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk)

## **WATER SPORTS ADVISER**

Katy has stepped down as the Adviser. I would like to thank her for all she has done for us.

We would like to hold a **County Water Sports** day next year. Are there any leaders out there who would like to be involved in running this day?

## **Get Wet and Wild at Wimbleball 2016**

Open to Guides and Senior Section members. To be held at Wimbleball Lake on Exmoor from 8th - 10th July 2016, a weekend of activities, crafts, and much more. For more details:  
<http://www.girlguidingsouthwest.org.uk/events-and-training.html>

For further information on anything Water please contact Val Thomas  
[outdoor@girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk](mailto:outdoor@girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk)

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## Deer Park - Thinking Day Events for all sections

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

We will be running Thinking day events at Deer Park on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of February in conjunction with the SPA Trefoil Guild group. The 20<sup>th</sup> February is for Rainbows and Brownies and the 21<sup>st</sup> for Guides and Senior Section. We are still finalising the activities but the booking form is available for completion. Spaces will be limited so if you would like to bring your girls along please complete the form and email across to [Deerparkcowley@btconnect.com](mailto:Deerparkcowley@btconnect.com). We will email out the details of the day once we have them, but rest assured it will consist of craft, games, outdoor activities and most importantly food! However if anyone would like to help out at either or both days please do get in touch, could go towards a variety of qualifications and awards.

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## Growing Guiding - Main Report

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

**Gloucestershire continues to grow.** According to region's figures - we have increased by 600 members from beginning of 2012 to now - from 6200 to 6800 members. We have also just opened a new Senior Section unit in Coopers Hill.

We've been successful again in advertising on *Volunteer Gloucestershire* and *Do-it.org*. We now have a new volunteer who's interested in volunteering with Innsworth Rainbows.

We have also had 5 more students from University of Gloucestershire contact us looking for volunteering opportunities in Cheltenham.

## **Situations vacant/volunteers wanted**

Do you know someone who would be interested in helping with the following current **adult volunteer vacancies**, if so please contact me?

- 12<sup>th</sup> Gloucester Brownies, Gloucester Division, Tuesdays (link)

- 1st Winchcombe Rainbows, Tewkesbury Division, Mondays ( link)
- 2nd Tewkesbury Brownies, Tewkesbury Division, Wednesdays ( link)
- Proposed new Winchcombe Brownies, Tewkesbury Division, Tuesdays, Thursdays or Fridays ( link)
- 1st Winchcombe Guides, Tewkesbury Division, Mondays ( link)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Severn District Rainbows, Quedgeley, Gloucester Division, Thursdays (link)
- Proposed new Quedgeley Rainbows, Gloucester Division, Mondays ( link)
- 19<sup>th</sup> Gloucester Brownies, Longlevens, Gloucester Division, Thursdays (link)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Quedgeley Guides, Gloucester Division, Mondays (link)

In November I attended the **SWE Region Growing Guiding conference** along with several others from the County including Helen, Carole and Helen Murphy. Each County was asked to produce a **Growing Guiding Pledge for 2016**. Ours is =

We will do our best to:

- Develop even more opportunities for flexible Guiding
- Enhance training opportunities by making better informed decisions on how, what, where, when ...
- Find ways to share best practice through meetings and online vehicles

I picked up several **Growing Guiding hints and tips** at the conference, including

- Availability of PR material as loan items is great for shouting out how great Guiding is
- Flexible volunteering is all about embracing what people want to give
- Development of the volunteer leader and saying thank you are crucial to volunteer retention
- Involving parents when doing taster sessions for girls can help with volunteer recruitment
- A warm welcome is critical in attracting new volunteers to join. Great welcomes include great cake and conversation. (We recognise that in Gloucestershire!)
- The importance of following up with potential volunteers ASAP - in the 'next day delivery' world we have to respond quicker to potential volunteers
- Transition between sections is important

If you need more help with any Growing Guiding aspects then please contact the **Gloucestershire's Growing Guiding Team**. Please note our new County emails:

**County Co-ordinator:** Karen McFarlane

- Email: [growcoord@girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk](mailto:growcoord@girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk)
- <https://twitter.com/KarenGovtKIM>

**County New Volunteers Meet and Greet Co-ordinator:** Judith James

- Email: [growvols@girlguidnggloucestershire.org.uk](mailto:growvols@girlguidnggloucestershire.org.uk)

**UYSAF Development Worker:** Viki Gardiner

- Email: [viki@ggswe.org.uk](mailto:viki@ggswe.org.uk)
- <https://www.facebook.com/Growingguidingbsgg>
- <https://twitter.com/growguidingBSGG>

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**Marketing & Communications - Jen's Farewell**

<http://www.girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk/marketing--communications.html>

I would like to say how much I have enjoyed the M&C Team Leader role but I am off for a new adventure with the pitter patter of tiny feet expected soon. Thank you to the team and I know they will continue the fabulous work. Keep the newsletter queries and website suggestions coming to the [news@girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk](mailto:news@girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk) email address.

All the best, Jen.

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

- **Four Capitals Adventure - Last Chance to Register**

*What is it?* The four Capitals Adventure is our main County Senior Section Spectacular Event. It is a four day team challenge that connects all 4 UK Capital Cities. It is a great chance for all Senior Section members, to travel throughout the UK and meet other Senior Section members on the way!

*When is it?* Tuesday 5th April - Friday 8th April 2016 (Four days, three nights)

*Where is it?* The first two nights are spent in a UK Capital City of your choice (Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh or London). On the Thursday, all teams travel back to Gloucestershire HQ (Deer Park Camping Centre), for a night of celebrations.

*More information* is available at <http://spectaculargloucestershire.weebly.com/the-four-capitals-adventure.html>, or by contacting [sss@girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk](mailto:sss@girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk). Sign-up is required ASAP, and NO LATER THAN 31st JAN

- **Region Takeover Alton Towers**

Celebrate next year's Senior Section Centenary with a camping weekend with added thrills! Senior Section Members aged 14 - 26, their Leaders, and Adult Leaders under the age of 26, are invited to join us for the weekend of Saturday 25th - Sunday 26th June 2016 at Alton Towers Theme Park. Tickets cost £65.00 per person and will include two hours' exclusive use of the Water Park on the Saturday evening, and a full day in the Theme Park on Sunday. Also included in the price is overnight camping on the lawns of Alton Towers; meals on Saturday night and breakfast Sunday morning; and an event badge and water bottle bearing our Senior Section Spectacular logo. Sign-up here (<http://www.girlguidingsouthwest.org.uk/the-big-news.html>) as soon as possible to guarantee your place.

We will organise **free transport** from the County for this event - if you would like to take advantage of this offer, please contact [youthparticipation@girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk](mailto:youthparticipation@girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk)

- **Senior Section Service Challenge**

We will be launching the syllabus of the challenge in the New Year - but if you would like to be involved in helping to organise a Service Day for Senior Section members, please contact [youthparticipation@girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk](mailto:youthparticipation@girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk)

- **Save the Date: Senior Section County Camp - Deer Park Cowley - 27th - 31st July**

- **New Dates for the Diary:**

Spark - Spectacular Launch Event - 20th and 21st February - add the link? (<http://spectacular.girlguiding.org.uk/event-activity/spectacular-spark/>)

8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> July: [Wimbledon- Wet and Wild](#) - A fully catered watersports weekend for Guides and Senior Section, in Exmoor. Cost is £95 per person. Book by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Senior Section County Camp - Deer Park Cowley - 27th - 31st July

31<sup>st</sup> July - 7<sup>th</sup> August: [Challenger Sailing Challenge](#) - Sail a 72ft racing yacht in the English Channel. Apply by 31<sup>st</sup> January. Cost is £750. Phased payment is available.

3<sup>rd</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> August: Roverway

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### News Article - Italian Themed Baden-Powell Adventures

<http://www.girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk/news/italian-themed-baden-powell-adventures-november-2015>

On our Italian themed Baden Powell Adventure Weekend, we covered a wide range of activities, including pasta making. The pasta was very enjoyable, but unfortunately our pasta carrying skills were not as good as our pasta making skills and some ended-up on the floor! We got to discover the many different ways of booking a holiday by planning a virtual trip to Venice. As patrols we got to experience the responsibility of handling our own money and ordering our own food at a restaurant, which was very enjoyable and was a great chance to get to know one another. One of our outdoor activities was geocaching in which we were let loose in the countryside on our own to find boxes of treasure. We then spent our final hours making Venetian masks which showed us a snapshot of the culture of Italy as well as letting our creativity flourish. All in all the weekend was a great success and a lovely way to celebrate our achievements and get to know others who have done the same.

Daniella and Josie

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### News Article - Christmas Entertainment

<http://www.girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk/news/christmas-entertainment-november-2015>

A Senior Section member from Bishop's Cleeve organised a Christmas Celebration afternoon for the Leaders and Trefoil Guild members in the area. They really enjoyed themselves having tea, cake and sandwiches while watching 2nd Bishops Cleeve Rainbows and 1st Bishops Cleeve Brownies entertain them.

The girls had been hard working on a range of entertainment to go towards their entertainers badge (for brownies) and festivals badge (for rainbows). There were musical instruments such as violin, guitar and piano plus there were poems, dancing, gymnastics and acting. There was also some group songs that both the rainbows and Brownies sang together- 'Jingle bells' and a '12 Days of Christmas' Brownie Version, finishing off with 'We Wish You A Merry Christmas'. They also sang The Rain song which is where you use sounds like rubbing hands together, clicking, patting your legs and jumping, to make it sound like a rain and thunder storm - it sounded really good. The Leaders and Trefoil guild enjoyed the performances and were pleased with how well the Rainbows and Brownies behaved.

Later we also had a short Christmas quiz and a raffle.

Michelle says "The event was for my phase 3 Service in Guiding element for my Queens Guide Award. I had to take an active part in planning an event which involves at least 2 units. I did this by taking lead role for the event. I had help planning it with 1st Bishops Cleeve Brownie Leaders, Shirley & Dawn, and Bishops Cleeve District Trefoil member, Mary. They helped me with the catering, setting up the hall and the preparation leading up to the event. Also helping me on the day was Katherine (Bishops Cleeve District Rangers) and Jess (2nd Bishops Cleeve Guides) who helped serve tea and coffee and hand out raffle tickets while I ran the event. They also baked cakes too! And thanks to Dawn (one of Bishops Cleeve District commissioners) who also helped a lot with the catering for my event; baking cakes and helping make sandwiches. Please could you say a special Thank You to these people."

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### News Article - Upton St. Leonard's Royal British Legion Fundraising

<http://www.girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk/news/royal-british-legion-presentation-december-2015>

Upton St Leonard's Rainbows and Brownies held a Christmas Concert and presented Sarah Jones from the Royal British Legion with a cheque for £800. The girls raised the money by making and selling in the region of 500 crocheted and knitted poppies to family and friends. Well done girls!

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### Queen's Guide - Mental Health Working Group

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

My name is Zoe Mitchell and I am a young leader from Dursley working towards my Queen's Guide Award. For part of this award I am setting up a working group to help raise awareness of mental health in guiding. This is something that I hold a big interest in and I believe strongly that we should try and help remove the stigma from mental illness and work towards promoting good mental health. This is especially prominent in Gloucestershire as we are the county with the worst suicide rates in England and the mental health trust, Zgether trust, has one of the lowest satisfaction ratings in England of 1.5/5.

I would really appreciate if you could pass this message on and spread the word to any who might be interested in being part of this group. For any people working towards Queen's Guide this would go towards element 4 of Service in Guiding. However, people don't have to be doing their Queen's Guide to participate. Anyone who is interested or wants to help can!

If you would like to get in touch with Zoe please email Anne, District Commissioner, on [anne@lesoftco.co.uk](mailto:anne@lesoftco.co.uk) As Zoe is under 18 Anne will connect you but will then need to be copied in on communications.

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#### Event - Gloucester District Scout Council 43rd Cotswold Marathon

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

6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> February 2016

For information and entry details, visit the website: [www.cotswoldmarathon.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldmarathon.org.uk)

Or request details from: [entries@cotswoldmarathon.org.uk](mailto:entries@cotswoldmarathon.org.uk)

21st Glos Guides are already training, so if you want to join us contact [guides21stglos@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:guides21stglos@hotmail.co.uk)

Viv Weaver, 21st Glos Guides, Cotswold Marathon Guide Representative

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#### Event - Quiz Evening

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

Quiz Evening - Saturday 6th February 7 -9pm Salem Church, St George's Road, Cheltenham. £10 for a team of four (individuals welcome £2.50, we can put you together into teams!). Raising money for Salem Guides INTOPS trips.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

2015 has been a good year for bookings, we were pleased to welcome old friends for their annual visit and make new friends as they joined us for the first time.

Thank you to all the units who helped with the spring-cleaning at the start of the year. Due to everyone's hard work, it was all achieved on time. Many thanks to Phil Warner for his many hours of painting!

**SPRING CLEANING FOR 2016 is again planned for just 2 Saturdays, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January.**

A team of volunteers from Nationwide, Swindon spent a day helping to clear the outside, and Jean and her team have spent many hours during the year, attacking the garden and bringing it under control. It all looks so much tidier, thank you. Thanks too, to Sally and Neil Woodhouse, for cutting the grass, and for keeping the wood boxes full.

This year we needed to spend funds on some larger maintenance. Unfortunately, the wooden front door couldn't be made watertight, so we have replaced the door and surrounding woodwork with UPVc, matching the windows; our thanks to Chris Trinder, SGS Fairford, for his advice and understanding of the building. Also, the chimney top was rebuilt and made safe, thanks to Mike Rixon Builders, who we can always rely on to look after us. Thank you all for your continued support.

Open Day 2015, was held on a lovely sunny June 18<sup>th</sup>, the Macaroni magic working again. Many of us enjoyed our lunch in the very warm sunshine. It was lovely to see so many friends, although we all greatly missed Muriel and John Merrett, who, sadly, both passed away in the March, and we held a minute's silence in their memory.

We would like to thank Muriel and John's family for their very kind donation of £1000, and in Muriel and John's memory we are pleased to have purchased 4 picnic benches. We hope to have them fixed in place, on the front lawn, in time for Open Day. We have many pictures of Nan, Muriel and John enjoying their "working lunches" outside on the wooden bench, and hope they would be pleased with our plans.

2016 is a special year for Camp Wood House - it is 50 years since Nan Sainsbury, Pat Stallard, Pat Carpenter, Muriel Merrett and others held the first Brownie Pack Holiday in the house, courtesy of Sir Thomas Bazley, who agreed we could rent the property solely for the use of the Brownies and Guides. It was very different inside the House then, as some of you may remember, it having started life as hospital quarters for the RAF during World War II. Over time, Nan and her team had wood and canvas bunks made by friends from the Bazley Estate, equipped the kitchen, and found furniture for the lounge and dining area. The scrap books show all their hard work over the years. Sue and Sheila both began staying with Brownies in the early 1980's and remember the "old House" very well. Spring cleaning was very hard work, having to deal with the damp, and scraping peeling wall paper off the walls. Oh, the surprise when we uncovered the pictures on the walls in the lounge. Although we left these uncovered for many years, it was decided to re-cover them to preserve and protect them, when we insulated and cladded all the internal walls. They are not damaged and could be uncovered again. Pictures are hanging in the lounge to remind us. Although many things have changed over the years, one thing hasn't - it is still a wonderful place for children and adults to stay, and enjoy the peaceful countryside. It is our intention to keep Camp Wood House as Nan, Muriel and team first worked to create - a place filled with fun and laughter, but also a place to relax and refresh our energies, to reflect and to plan for days ahead and the next holiday!

**Open Day 2016 is JUNE 16<sup>th</sup>** and we will be holding our "Golden" Celebrations, so do come and join us. Put the date in your diary now.

The House is open February through to December, we just keep January free! To make a booking at any time, contact Pauline (details below) for availability - we will always try to offer you a suitable date, and we occasionally have a cancellation to be filled!

Enquiries and bookings - contact Pauline Slade 01285 644809 or email [paulineslade@sky.com](mailto:paulineslade@sky.com)