

County commissioners message - October 2016

Both of us have had a busy month representing Guiding within the County and beyond, from attending Gloucestershire Scouts AGM to a meeting with Honourable Company of Gloucestershire to investigate how their female members can support us. We have also just been away together on our County Commissioner induction training.

Thank you to all from across the county who came to the County Planning Day. We have come away with lots of exciting ideas for the next year and beyond - watch this space!

In the meantime there are several events coming up including our own Showtime 2016 - 'Once Upon A Time...' at the end of the month and also the Legoland Brownie sleepover and day visits for all sections 31 March - 2 April. Do check it out on the Region website - spaces will go very quickly!

The beginning of the new term is always a good time to reach new girls and leaders and we have had a successful taster /recruitment evening at Stroud Valley and also had a great response at University of Gloucestershire's' Fresher Fayre.

We are proud to be County Commissioners of so many wonderful leaders who give their time and energy to being their best. Particular mention this month goes to Gail Wager and Lexi May on their recent Region Compass Awards, and also to Holly Scrivener, a Cheltenham leader, who has just completed South West Coast Path over 8 weeks and has managed to double her expected fundraising for region.

Finally, it gives us great pleasure to appoint Rosemary Grimes as our new Growing Guiding Coordinator from 1 October.

Karen and Anne

Trefoil Guild October 2016

It is with much sadness that we heard of the death of Den Sollars at home on the 7th of September 2016.

When Mary was County Trefoil Chairman Den's support of her was exceptional, he went to most functions with her and we all looked forward to seeing him around the County.

He was a well loved and respected member of Gloucestershire West Trefoil Guild. We shall all miss him so very much. All of us send our love and best wishes to the family.

Skills Day:

Over 50 Trefoil Guild members joined together for a day of fun and activities. We learnt to make Japanese patchwork, the art of book folding, sugar paste flowers, cake pops, how save a life with updated 1st Aid skills, became more technically clever using our i phones and tablets, clog danced the afternoon way and made a purse using a felting process. We all took these skills away with us to share with

the other members of our Guilds. We were joined on the day by one of our new County Commissioners Anne Anderson.

Our thanks go to everyone who made the day such a success, especially Jean Bennett who masterminded the whole day for us and to all the trainers who gave up their time to share their skills with us all.

Report from Corinium Trefoil Guild - October 2016

For our May meeting a group of us went to London for the weekend. We stayed at Pax Lodge and on Saturday we went to the National Archives at Kew and researched our family histories. On Sunday we went to Camden Lock Market then took a canal boat trip from Camden to Little Venice, which is near Paddington. In the afternoon we walked through Hyde Park back to Victoria to catch our coach home.

Our June meeting was spent having supper as guests of E.A. (Mrs Pile). She cooked a delicious meal and there was a lot of good conversation and reminiscing around the table. We were planning a walk around her beautiful garden but even though it was June the weather was so bad we weren't able to do this.

Our July meeting was spent at Millets Farm walking the "Majestic Maze" after we had all found our way out of the maze we had a "bring and share" picnic lunch. The weather was kind to us this time.

The most recent meeting was held this week (Thursday 8th) - a car treasure hunt around Fairford and villages, organised to achieve a section for a Bronze Voyage Award. A light-hearted evening taking in several familiar spots (nothing too taxing!) - Macaroni Woods and a couple of points from the East Glos Guide Bazley Hike. Challenges were set as reminders our Guiding experiences - map reading, make a mini gadget and tie a sling. Embracing technology, camera phones were used to record tasks and a couple of geocaches were found. We were lucky with the weather and had a fun evening.

We have had some good meetings and we are now looking forward to our autumn trefoil holiday in October.

Deer Park is 50!

Meeting 1st November 2017 at Deer Park 7.00pm

Deer Park, Girlguiding Gloucestershire's residential and activity centre will be 50 years old in 2018. The celebration of this milestone will be a County Camp, with a proposed date of 26th August - 31st August 2018.

Anyone interested in being part of this event in any capacity are invited to the first planning meeting, if you are unable to make this date but are still interested in participating please contact Sarah at Deer Park.

This event will include activities for all sections from Rainbows to Trefoil Guild and we would love to have representatives from all groups. No experience, specialist skills or qualifications are required, we want people who will be positive, get stuck in and have fun.

We look forward to seeing you there,
Sarah Crocombe and Caroline A'Bear
Deerparkcowley@btconnect.com

Winter Camp 17th-19th 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. Can you state your interest by emailing Deerparkcowley@btconnect.com if you are interested by the 15th October so that we can gauge if there is enough interest to make this happen.

Senior Section Spectacular Display

To help with the marking of the Senior Section Centenary, a display was held at St Mary's Church in Newent during the Onion Fair. A large selection of old and current uniforms were on display, along with memorabilia, badges, books and flags. The oldest uniform was a Ranger uniform formerly worn by a Ranger from 10th Cheltenham Rangers. We had three flags on loan for the display, one of the flags was 1st East Gloucestershire Air Ranger Flight Flag that was kindly loaned from Jeannette McGhee.

We had a lot of visitors viewing the display, including the town Mayor, many visitors reminiscing their time as a Ranger, and we also attracted more young girls and potential leaders wanting to join either here in Gloucestershire or out of county. Two other special guests were Thelma and Tony Newell co-authors of The Consolidated Catalogue and List of U.K. and British Empire Girl Guide Badges who travelled from Devon. Their book was invaluable in helping to identify Ranger/Senior Section badges for the display.

A very big thank you to Ricola and Carenza who helped during the display and talking to our many visitors. Without their help the display would not have been such a success. Another big thank you is to Carole Pennington, S W England Regional Commissioner, Helen Welsh, Helen Murphy and last but by no means least a huge big thank you to Jeannette for allowing me to raid her Guiding archive and loan us many wonderful items for the display.

Jane Atkins PRA Tewkesbury Division and Pat Fazey Newent District President

Youth Participation

We are recruiting new members for our Youth Executive Committee. The Youth Executive meets a few times a year, and their views are fed into the County Executive. In the past, members have planned Senior Section Events, made decisions on grant applications and given their views on future plans for the campsite at Deer Park, and on County communications. If you are, or you know a Senior Section member who would like to get their views on the future of Girlguiding in Gloucestershire heard, then please get in touch with Sarah.

Tribute to Mrs Betty Rogers 1937 - 2016

Sadly our dear Guiding friend Betty Rogers from Chipping Campden, North Cotswold Division, died on July 15th 2016.

Betty was treasured throughout North Cotswold Division and was known with affection by members of the County Trefoil groups and County Fellowship.

We were so lucky to have had Betty as part of our Division team. She had a wonderful, generous, cheerful nature. She was much loved by everyone, always chirpy, friendly, kind and ready to help anyone or give support and assistance whatever the task.

She really did live according to the Guide Law and Promise. She gave time, commitment and dedication and no-one worked harder than Betty - her energy and zeal were endless.

Betty had been part of Girlguiding for forty years. She came into Girlguiding to help when her daughter became a Guide - a familiar story. It wasn't long before Betty became a Guide Leader at Chipping Campden. Thus Betty's exceptional guiding life began.

As Leader at Chipping Campden Betty offered girls so many opportunities and fun. Parents and girls over many years still have fond memories of those times Betty's camps are legendary - never to be forgotten by the girls lucky enough to participate. They were full of fun and friendships.

Camps that were held in so many different places including; Scotland, The Isle of Wight, Weston Super Mare, South Coast, France and Gloucestershire. Betty was always QM, and the guides were always treated to wonderful food. Betty was supreme in any kitchen. At camp, she always cooked the traditional way - no Calor for our Betty.

Having been Guide Leader at Chipping Campden Betty became District Commissioner. A job she carried out perfectly, encouraging the District to look outwards for Girlguiding opportunities in the Division, County and Internationally. She then became Rainbow Leader for Chipping Campden and also played a leading role in Trefoil Guild activities, being both Chairman and Secretary.

In all these tasks she was wonderful at recruiting and persuading people to support.

Betty was a great cook and her contribution to any Division events where food was involved was amazing.

We all long for Betty's shortbread chocolate recipe tips! These melted in your mouth and were always a feature at any fundraiser.

The breakfasts provided after the Thinking Day Dawn Vigil at Dover's Hill every year were just what were needed.

We all too remember the wonderful lunches Betty provided when North Cotswolds hosted County Days - delicious memories.

Betty was also part of the team that initiated and raised money to build the Baden Powell Centre at Chipping Campden. Betty did endless fundraising at car boot sales, cake sales and by making beautiful greeting cards. After the opening of the centre, Betty worked for many years keeping the hall in good condition, - appreciated by all those who used the hall. For her contribution to the project, Betty received a Gloucestershire Girlguiding County Award.

In addition to all her Guiding activities, Betty also worked tirelessly providing food for the Cotswold Wardens lunches and teas. She cooked for the WI and many others. Everyone appreciated her cooking. At home Betty was always busy, knitting, making cards and doing cross stitch embroidery. She seemed never to stop.

I could continue with many anecdotes and stories. I am sure as you all read this you all will have your special memories of a very special lady.

Betty was also part of a very loving family, and we thank Bert, Corrinne, Anthony and Alistair and the grandchildren for sharing Betty with Girlguiding and thank them for supporting her in all she did. Our love, prayers and sympathy are with them all.

Memories of Betty will always bring joy and a smile. I know I miss her as do many others. Betty was one of life's gems and will be sadly missed.

Thank you, Betty, from all in North Cotswold Division.
Go Well and Safely.

Carol Redmond (Division President)