

From the County Commissioners

It's been another busy month around the county! The Senior Section have finished their Spectacular celebrations in style at a ball held in Swindon with Wiltshire North. Several of our members also slept over together after the evening's shenanigans. A huge thank you to Sarah Jones, Youth Participation Team Leader, and Liza Hadley, Senior Section Spectacular Champion, and everyone who has helped along the way for organising so many fantastic events for the Seniors throughout the year.

We have had representatives at Fresher's Fayres at Cheltenham University and Cirencester's Royal Agricultural University and were delighted to talk to lots of new potential volunteers. Please make them feel welcome if you are lucky enough to have one of them joining your unit.

We've enjoyed visiting events across the county. Anne has enjoyed a visit to the Trefoil Guild Skills Day in Avening and learnt how to do book folding; a skill which she has already used to run an evening with her own Guide unit. Karen enjoyed an afternoon with Tetbury District at a special event where 2 BP girls were presented their awards by Gill Clay, granddaughter of Lord & Lady Baden Powell. Such a memorable experience that we are sure they will never forget.

Tewkesbury Division had a fantastic sleepover for 160 Brownies & Guides along with 30 Leaders at @Bristol science museum. Firm favourites for the girls were the 3D planetarium and a demonstration of how to collect astronaut poo! (Not words we ever thought we would be writing for the county newsletter!) Sadly the event was marred by an unacceptable experience with the coach company. We would like to say a huge well done to Rebecca Fey and her team who did a fantastic job sorting out the issues that were thrown at them to ensure the girls still had an amazing adventure.

Our County Show, 'Once Upon A Time' is taking place this weekend and there are still tickets available for tomorrow (Saturday 29th October). The matinee is at 2pm or the evening show starts at 6pm, at the Bacon Theatre in Cheltenham. Please contact showtime.guiding@icloud.com if you would like to go. Tickets can also be bought on the door.

We were delighted to see so many girls on the list for the Legoland sleepover and day visits in March/April next year. Spaces for the sleepover are sold out but day visitor tickets are still available, however they are selling fast so if you're planning to go, get your applications in quickly.

Finally, we are pleased to let you know that Sue Cooper will be the new Division Commissioner for Cheltenham and Debbie Babbage has agreed to take on the role of BP Coordinator for the County. We welcome them both to the County team and look forward to working with them.

Anne & Karen

Youth Participation

This month we hear from two Girlguiding Gloucestershire members about their experiences at Use Your Voice, Girlguiding Laser's 2 day democracy festival for the Senior Section, held in September. There's also a report on the Senior Section Spectacular Ball, attended by 21 members from Girlguiding Gloucestershire. Coming up in November will be our next meeting of the Senior Section Youth Exec. This group 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 a Senior Section member who would like to get their views on the future of Girlguiding in Gloucestershire heard, then please come along to our meeting at 7pm on Thursday 24th November, in St Mary's Congregational Church in Gloucester (GL1 2QS). Finally, there's still time to register your interest in our Girls Learning to Lead training. Girls Learning to Lead is Girlguiding's Training Programme for Guide Patrol Leaders and Brownie Sixers, and we'd like to deliver the program in Gloucestershire in February 2017. We'll be offering one evening of fun activities for Patrol Leaders / Sixers and their leaders, but we need you to tell us when and where would be most helpful, so please register interest here.

Growing Guiding

Rosemary Grimes is our new Guiding Coordinator and has taken over the Growing Guiding email address (growcoord@girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk) from me.

Do you need an extra leader in your unit? I am 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 the June newsletter, I mentioned that we were working with the support of Viki, SWE Development worker, to reach more girls in Stroud Valley. We arranged a leaflet drop in the immediate vicinity of the meeting place 10 days beforehand and in September 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.

Karen McFarlane

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

County Co-ordinator: Rosemary Grimes

Email: growcoord@girlguidinggloucestershire.org.uk

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

Email: growvols@girlguidnggloucestershire.org.uk

Girlguiding Gloucestershire County Fellowship

The County Fellowship is for members who have retired from active Guiding, and served on the County Committee for a minimum of 5 years or have a National or County Award.

39 members of the County Fellowship met at Deer Park, for their Autumn Meeting and Luncheon on Wednesday 12th October. The retiring Chair Jeannette Morgan welcomed members and our new joint County Commissioner Karen McFarlane. Members started their day with coffee followed by their Triennial General Meeting, when they heard reports from the Chair, Treasurer Mrs Val Stead and listened to an interesting update on the activities, events and achievements of the young members of Girlguiding Gloucestershire from Karen.

Members welcomed their speaker Marion Beagley who gave an amusing and informative talk on 'Pearly Kings and Queens' and the real Cockneys of London, passing around her own Pearly Outfit for members to try!

Before sitting down to lunch, Jeannette announced the result of the nomination for the new Chair of Fellowship Mrs Carol Redmond, and the new Vice Chair Mrs Sue Simpson.

Members enjoyed a lunch supplied by the caterers Regal Cuisine and re-kindling friendships from guiding known to each other from their many years of service to Girlguiding Gloucestershire.

Trefoil Guild Report

Once again Trefoil Guilds were blessed with beautiful weather on their Autumn walks. Many members of all ages walked around the beautiful Berkeley area on a variety of walks. Leading our walks were local people who gave us all a great insight into the history of the area. We visited the beautiful Berkeley Church and had a quick look through the gates into the Castle courtyard we were then joined by a Guide from the Castle who gave us some historical facts about the Castle, the Church and the people who lived and worked there. A visit there would be another good day out. We all thank Gloucester West Guild for arranging these lovely walks for us and for the great lunch and those wonderful puddings. Our congratulations go to Teresa Baddeley on gaining her Silver Voyage award.

Dates for the diary.

Thinking Day Meal 22 February 2017 Bowden Hall.

County Trefoil Chairmans Meeting 23 March 2017 St Mary's

Spring Walk in the Forest Wednesday 19 April 2017 Cinderford start

Region Annual Meeting Saturday 13 May 2017 Torquay

Trefoil County Annual Meeting Thursday 18 May 2017 Cheltenham Guild to Host

National Annual Trefoil Meeting 10 June 2017 Brighton

Friends Day Tuesday 20 June 2017 Deer Park

Trefoil Camp Monday Friday 30 June 2017 Macaroni Wood

Cotswold Trefoil guild.

Well, another year has flown by! We continue to do our best in Cotswold Trefoil!

Cotswold guild has welcomed two new members Frances and Trish.

We enjoyed a trip to Swindon indoor golf and played crazy golf! Apparently the ladies that played got the giggles!

(We plan to go there again)

We celebrated Thinking day with a meal at Fosseyway Garden Centre! Moreton in Marsh. Some members and other guiders and a brownie attended a dawn vigil in Chipping Campden on Dovers hill, watching the sun rise (actually saw it for the first time in years).

In June we were invited to Moreton guides for their Queens birthday tea.

One member Audrey celebrated her 90th Birthday this year.

At our August meeting we met up at Fosseyway garden centre for coffee and cake! Our special guest was a Guiding friend Anna Saunders, whom has traveled abroad for the warmth! We were lucky she dropped into the Cotswolds that week. Our annual outing this year was to Slimbridge wetlands trust. We were very lucky with a beautiful sunny day

We have had many speakers to our meetings,

We have helped with donations to:

- Guide dogs for the blind Association.
- Acorns children's Hospice,
- Gloucestershire Street Pastors.
- and several young girls taking their D of E awards and INTOPS to assist with trips to India, Switzerland and Finland.
- Andoversford Rainbows needed help with funds to buy equipment.

Loads of plushies have been knitted and tiny hats are ongoing for charity shops, and lots of crafts inc bird feeders and origami, numerous have been made!

Because of transport difficulties and distances, we haven't been able to attend as many Trefoil and guiding events as we would like to have done.

We have had many happy times this year, but also some sad ones, losing two very dear friend's.

Peggy Crozier and Betty Rogers were both long standing members Betty was an excellent cook and a very special lady to a lot of people, I remember queuing up at the cooks tent at camp, many years ago, and being amazed at what Betty would have been cooking in a field! They are both greatly missed.

We look forward to another year with our guiding friends we finish off this year with a Christmas shopping trip and a party!

Adult Support

Safe Space trainings

Keep an eye on the website for new training dates.

First Aid

First Response and Update Training - Saturday November 19th 2016, Gloucester
COURSE NOW FULL

First Response and Update Training - 14 Jan 2017 Lydney

First Response and Update Training - 28 Jan 2017 Deer Park
First Response and Update Training - 11 March Cheltenham

One Stop Weekend for Leadership Qualification Friday 3 - Sunday 5 February 2017

Deer Park News

Deer Park is 50!

First planning meeting 1 November 2016 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 26 August - 31 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.

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

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.

