

Royal Reception - Another Mountain-Top Moment for our Centenary Champions

Just when our Centenary Champions Linda Harris and Margaret Henderson thought our year of celebrations couldn't get any better, they both received invitations to a special reception at St James Palace along with past County Commissioner Linda Taylor.

The reception, in November, was organised by CHQ for those people all over the UK who had worked so very hard during our special year.

Almost 300 attended the reception and everyone had a memorable day to add to their own individual Mountain-Top moments.

The day was even more special for Margaret as she was chosen to be among those presented to the Countess of Wessex, President of Girlguiding UK.



The new County Team were getting to know each other during a team building weekend at Harlow in March. They were set all sorts of challenges designed to find their strengths and weaknesses and perhaps more importantly, how silly they were prepared to be! Over the next few issues we shall be introducing various members of the team with a photo and pen picture to help you all get to know them. In our next issue there will be a full list of those pictured below and we hope soon to be able to post a full gallery on the website.



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Ongar and District Senior Section is taking part in the Royal Wedding challenge and as part of this, have set their own challenge. The girls taking part are Nathalie Elston-Hooper, Catherine O'Mahony, and Josie Weston.

The trio wish to experience a wedding of a different culture/religion, and to aid their search they contacted BBC Essex, to see if they would put out a plea.

To their surprise, they and their Leader were invited onto a show and were interviewed live on air.

This was a great experience but they were all glad they had researched 'other weddings' as the questions from Dave Monk, who is a Guiding Ambassador and Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Essex, came thick and fast!

The girls also spoke about wishing to see how diamonds are set, and see how a wedding cake is iced and decorated and by the time they got back to Ongar a jeweller had been found, by one of their Granddads, who had heard the girls on the radio!

They do intend to drag their leader up at the crack of dawn to take them to the Royal Wedding on the 29th of April.

**Nathalie Elston-Hooper,
Catherine O'Mahony, Josie
Weston.**

**Ongar District Senior Section,
Essex West.**



7th Gidea Park Brownies on the HMS Belfast. We went with the 5th Gidea Park Brownies and after spending the night on the Belfast visited the Tower Bridge Experience and the Museum of London in Docklands.

Barbara Felton



There are so many ways to communicate today, emails, texts, messages, newsletters, and in the last resort, we could even talk to each other!

Trouble is, if we don't read the emails or listen to the messages we end up not knowing what is happening around us.

The latest edition of the E-Bulletin was sent out recently to almost 900 members in the County.

The sad thing is when the last report was done on the E-Bulletin, fewer than 400 recipients have opened it and that means almost 500 members in the County have no idea what is going on!

It may be the bulletin was sent to the wrong email address so it's very important to keep your Go! record up to date so you and your girls don't miss out on all the latest news.

County Sleepover

The Olde Plough, Bulphan was again the venue for our Sleepover. 56 Leaders attended the Training which was very pleasing and there was a good range of ages and experience from across the County.



Our Trainer on Saturday was Carol Roberts from Essex South East and she had many fun activities based on communication and team work.

All good ideas for Leaders but also suitable for use with the girls in the Units.

On Sunday, Lynne Griffiths from Hertfordshire continued the theme with a set of different activities.

This event was a wonderful opportunity for Leaders to mix, exchange ideas and most importantly have FUN!

The 24 hour training session seems to be quite popular and we will hope to repeat this in the future.

Sylvia Partridge Training Co-ordinator



Find a new QUEST!

Girlguiding Anglia have produced a new publication called Quest, which is based on science investigation. On Monday 7th March about 30 Leaders and Young Leaders gathered at St. Peter's Harold Wood to play!



During the evening Leaders were able to try many of the experiments, so that they would be more confident to try the activities with their girls. Science and investigation in a fun way is a good way to make girls aware of their surrounding and how important this subject is for girls as well as boys.



Most experiments worked well, but a few needed adjusting slightly to make them work. Although frustrating, this was a good exercise for less experienced 'scientists' to show them how to get things to work. The booklet costs £5.50 available from Anglia or the County Office.



World Cruise for Thinking Day

Stanford le Hope north brownies and Rainbows had a wonderful time at their thinking day celebrations.

A Special service was held at the Methodist church attended by Trefoil guild, guide leaders and their units.

After lunch a cruise around the world was the theme and the girls visited countries such as Australia, USA Mexico, Italy and China and were back home in time for tea.

Chris Smith



Fran Creasey of the 2nd Buckhurst Hill Guides received her Baden Powell Challenge Award from District Commissioner Margaret James. Fran has now become a Young Leader with the unit



Citizen of the Year

On Sunday 13th March Joyce Barclay of Epping Forest South Division Trefoil Guild was presented with the Award of Citizen of the Year by Loughton Town Council mayor Cllr. David Wixley at the annual Civic Service.

The award was made in recognition of her many years of service to Guiding in the town where she has been an assistant leader in Brownies and Guides and District Assistant to two Commissioners.

After she reached 65 she helped in any way that was allowed, looking after a handicapped brownie, being an extra pair of hands at camp and as treasurer of the Trefoil Guild, the last being a role she still has now at age 81.



Girlguides gain their First Aid Badge

The 1st Cranham Girlguides completed their nine week First Aid badge in December 2010.

It was hard going for the 30 girls in the unit. The course was run by a member of St John Ambulance Divisional Superintendent Steven Gibson of 458 Rainham and South Hornchurch Division and Officer Paul Levine from the Essex Ambulance service.

The course was very intense and covered many topics such as: Asthma, bites, stings, resuscitation, bleeding, Primary survey and many more subjects.

The girls were faced with an exam at the end of the course, D/S Steven Gibson arranged for independent assessors to come in and examine the girls.

The feed back that was received from the assessors was that the girls passed with high standards.

The girls were presented their badge by Chris Beales borough officer for St John Ambulance and Office Paul Levine the parents were proud to watch their daughters demonstrate some of the topics they had learnt during the course.

Parents commented that children should be taught these skills in school, first aid is a good subject to know.

I would like to say a big thank you to D/S Steven Gibson for giving up his Wednesday evening to come to the unit to help the girls gain their badge.

Guide Leader Linda Gibson



Hi I am Mary Gill, new County Rainbow Adviser. I have been a Rainbow Guider in Theydon Bois for about twenty years and I love the energy and enthusiasm of this age group. Rainbows will be celebrating their 25th birthday in 2012 so I am hoping we can arrange a County event to follow on from the success of the Princess Party. The girls who came were amazed that there were so many other Rainbows and I think it is great for them to realise that they are part of a much bigger organisation. I would love to hear news of Rainbow Units going on Overnights, or new Units opening.

A Brownie Rap

Brownies, Brownies, are unique
We meet together every week
Together, united, all as one
We earn badges and have fun

Brownies, Brownies are the best
We are better than the rest
Brownies, Brownies are the best
We are better than the rest

Been together for one hundred
years

All together facing our fears
We are friends forever and ever
Dis-respecting each other ...
NEVER!

Brownies, Brownies are the best
We are better than the rest
Brownies, Brownies are the best
We are better than the rest!

BROWNIES 4 EVER

Written and performed by:
Grace Watts
Georgia King
Libby Revell

Of
4th Stanford-le-Hope Brownie
Pack



Just before Christmas, 1st West Horndon Rainbows, Brownies & Guides were lucky enough to be receive a grant from the Howard Memorial Trust (West Horndon) that went a good way towards the cost of kitting out the girls currently enrolled with a new uniform necker for 2011 to replace the Centenary necker.

Maria Spiller on behalf of the Leaders Gillian, Karen, Teresa and Maria

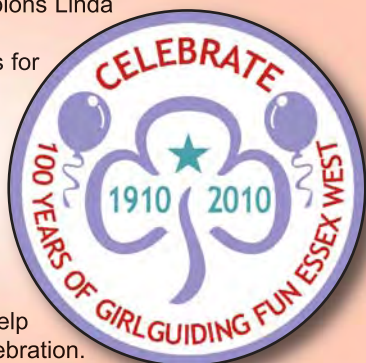
Do you have a spare County Centenary Badge?

Our Centenary is now over and our County Champions Linda and Margaret are putting together a Centenary Scrapbook which will go into our County Archives for future generations to enjoy.

The scrapbook contains pictures of all our events plus samples of all the badges produced by the various sections for their events plus, of course, our very own Crystal Bear.

One item missing is a County Centenary Badge and if anyone our there has a spare we would be delighted if you would donate it to the Scrapbook Project.

Please contact the office if you think you are able to help complete this memorable record of our year of super celebration.



Civic Honour for Dunmow Girlguiding

Dunmow District Commissioner Jenny Wolff is pictured receiving a Great Dunmow Town Award from the Town Mayor. Also with her is Elizabeth Dodd. The award by on 7th December 2010 on behalf of the people of Great Dunmow, in recognition of the organisation's outstanding contribution to the welfare and enjoyment of the young people of the community over many years, in this special centenary year.

This is a great honour as only two awards were given this year.



Saplings and Chips for Saffron

3rd Saffron Walden Brownies got twenty trees free from Sainsbury's when collecting their vouchers. We then planted them in national planting week and we planted them in Saffron Walden.

With great partnership working in mind we planted the trees on Claypits Plantation site with the local BMX riders group that use it being very helpful and digging the ground for us. It was minus two degrees and my brownies were out there planting! The group didn't end up planting any trees as my brownies were so eager to do it themselves!

The Brownies also held a chip eating evening which was linked to Aim High. While talking about healthy eating we discussed what was in chips, how healthy they were and what made the best chip.

For this, in the weeks before they made score cards for each chip shop with a selection of questions they decided themselves. At the end we had a certificate for the best chip shop. I have never seen girls eat chips so quickly but by the time they got to the last shop they were definitely getting slower!

We did have very interesting discussions about chip eating and also how they thought it would be great fun to eat chips all the time but the reality was that it would be boring!

Gerri Cowell, 3rd Saffron Walden Brownies

Walden Brownies



Upminster Division Guides invite you for

Afternoon Tea and Walk in the Gardens



On Sunday 17th July 2010, 2-5pm
Barnards Farm, West Horndon
£10 per person

All proceeds to the refurbishment fund for Went House
Send money with SAE to Linda Harris
15 Isis Drive, Upminster, Essex, RM14 1LJ



1st Brentwood Guides Launch Party



On the 22nd January 2011, on a rather cold and damp Saturday, the temperature was lifted with a launch party to celebrate the opening of the 1st Brentwood Guide Unit which officially opened its doors on 2nd November 2010 at the Brentwood County High School.

Unit Leader, Katrina Carter and Assistant Leader, Fiona Coleman, had ensured an open day full of campfire songs, fun and activities suitable for every age in addition to memorabilia from the District depicting the changing face of Guiding from the 1910's right up to the recent centenary celebrations.

The Unit was delighted to welcome as guests for the day the County President, Avril Brampton and the County Commissioner, Jan Knight. The Mayor and Mayoress of Brentwood, and the Deputy Mayoress of Brentwood, joined the Unit for the morning and demonstrated some promising semaphore skills. Division and District Commissioners and Guiders from local Units, together with friends and family, took the opportunity to take part in quizzes from a selection of the current Guide

Go For Its! and got themselves tied up with some tricky knots whilst testing their abilities. The Unit was grateful for the support of Erika Cooper who provided the refreshments and kept those who joined the Unit to celebrate the day, feed and watered.

The Headmistress of the School, Mrs Carol Mason, was unable to join the launch party and sent her good wishes to the Guides and the Guiders of the Unit with the following statement; "We are delighted to support the development and functioning of the 1st Brentwood Guides group. It is always good to see the School facilities being used by the community outside of the school day and I am delighted to welcome the Guides to our School. I hope that it will encourage youngsters to be involved with such worthwhile and enjoyable activities in their spare time and I look forward to a long and successful partnership with this group of young people and their leaders. I wish the 1st Brentwood Guides the very best of luck in their venture".

The culmination of the day's events saw the girls making their Promise as Guides and joining an ever increasing population of women in Girl Guiding. With a flurry of ribbon and cake cutting, the Unit was officially declared open with cheers and good wishes from everyone present. The Unit and its Leaders are all looking forward to making and becoming a part of the next centenary of Girl Guiding, and we would like to thank all those who have been instrumental in helping to set up the Unit and to those who helped to make the day so memorable.

Fiona Coleman, Assistant Leader



Hornchurch East District Guides have gained the following: Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award:

5th Hornchurch Guides- Lianna Murray

6th Hornchurch Guides - Helen Jones, Emma Cooper, Liza Fisher

6th Hornchurch Guides - Baden Powell Awards: Rebecca Metcalfe, Holly Conroy and Olivia Powell.

The Guides were invited by the Mayor of Havering to join the New Years Day Parade in London when 2 leaders and 18 girls joined the parade.



Recruitment Boost

Essex Forest South Division boosted its leadership numbers following a successful adult recruitment campaign which included a stall on the Loughton Farmers' Market. The Brownies were very enthusiastic handing out balloons & leaflets and talking about Guiding. They also created a trefoil of donated coins & £51 was sent to the Guide Friendship Fund.

