



Newsletter

October 2014

County President
Mrs Sylvia Smith MBE

County Commissioner
Mrs Deborah Phillips
ccgirlguidingsussexcentral@gmail.com

County Secretary
Mrs Lisa Barden



Dear All

I hope you have had a good summer, I know many of you have taken your units away on camps, holidays and days out. Three of the older girls from the County went on Region International Service Projects and a group of four leaders and sixteen girls went to South Africa with The Coco's Foundation. Many of you supported this group with fundraising, collecting textiles and gaining the challenge badge. The group worked hard painting, building a family home, planting a vegetable garden and entertaining many of the local children with crafts and songs. I am so impressed with them all and they should certainly feel proud of their

achievements. Thanks to the four Leaders who organised and led the trip and enabled the girls to have such a wonderful opportunity and experience.

During the summer term many of you celebrated The Big Brownie Birthday, I was lucky to visit many of you at your events and although you all celebrated in different ways, at all the events the Brownies were having a great time. Many of you attended our big County Sleepover at the Amex, it was certainly a fantastic weekend. The sun shone and it was so good to see 1000 Brownies having such an amazing time with so many activities to enjoy. Thanks to all those who planned the event over many months, all who came along to help, all the Leaders who came with their units and to the Brownies who made the event so special. My particular thanks to Natalie Denning and Pam Leadbeater, our County Big Brownie Birthday Champions, whose idea it was!

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Another very special event which was held in July was our County Awards Evening where we acknowledged the achievements of those who had gained their Baden-Powell Challenge, Young Leader Qualifications and Duke of Edinburgh Awards through guiding, along with a Queens Guide and a recipient of our special County Youth award. It was a lovely evening and thanks to all the County Co-ordinators and Leaders who encourage, enthuse and help the girls to attain these qualifications and awards.

I look forward to seeing many of you at County Day and hope you all have a good term. As always my thanks to you all for the time you put in to guiding in Sussex Central, we are certainly lucky to have such enthusiastic Leaders and helpers in the County.

Best wishes,

Deborah

County Directory 2014 Amendments

Please make the following amendments to your copy:



Girlguiding Sussex Central is now on Facebook!

Our page has over 100 “likes” so far, but lets keep it growing! This is a great way to promote Girlguiding and to share what we have been doing.

Why not like us at: <http://www.facebook.com/girlguidingsc> and invite your friends to do so to!



GO!

Is your GO! record up to date?

Please take 5 minutes to check:

- Your email address

- Your qualifications

- Your roles - are any missing? (Let me know)

While your unit records should always be up to date, this is the term to really check them in time for the trial annual subscriptions invoices which will be available around the end of the year. Check:

- Are all your girls on your unit?

- Is their main role correct - the “m” should be against their current role

- Are their photo permissions up to date?

- Have you entered any medical and dietary information?

- Have all those that have left been made inactive?

- Is the unit team correct?

- Have you added your Rainbow or Brownie helpers? - These are added as though you were adding a new girl to your unit

If you need any help with GO!, just ask me.



*Natalie Denning
County GO! Coordinator*



Trefoil Guild News

The Trefoil Guild has been very 'active'! Many of our members helped at The Big Brownie Birthday at the Amex stadium in various different roles - many helping with the craft activities - it was an amazing event!

We now have a chairman of our 'County wide activities' - Rona

Bingham - who will be coordinating future events. If there any activities you would like to see offered please contact her.

Our County wide activities have been well supported - with walks at Balcombe (led by Tina Shea) and to the Chattri - a war memorial - on the South Downs (led by Clare Brittain). Both walks were followed by a pub meal. These have been part of the 'LaSER walks miles' challenge. Special congratulations should go to Sheila Garman, one of our members, who has completed 256 miles on this challenge!



September saw our first Activity Day at Blackland Farm - where our members could be seen abseiling, zip-wiring and doing archery, as well as hand bells and many craft activities. We were joined by members of Sussex East Trefoil Guild.

Trefoil is 'Guiding for Adults' - who said only the girls can have the fun and these opportunities!!!

I should like to thank Honor Locke for organising a wonderful day!

For information about what each Guild has been doing each month have a look at our

website

<http://www.sussexcentraltrefoilguild.btck.co.uk/guilds>.

As many of you will know in October I am taking over as Chairman of the Trefoil Guild for LaSER. I have had a wonderful time as the Sussex Central Chair - and received fantastic support from members of Girlguiding and Trefoil alike. I would like to thank everyone for their support, kindness and fun. I am delighted that Jane Brown is now taking on the role, and will be bringing new ideas and skills to the role. I know that the Trefoil Guild in Sussex Central will be in good hands!

Thank you to everyone for making me so welcome at the Exec, and in the County.

*Sarah Little
Retiring Chairman of the Sussex Central Trefoil Guild*





Girlguiding Sussex Central's CoCo's Foundation Service Project 2014 Mission Accomplished!



Well we did it!

The twenty members of Girlguiding Sussex Central, together with CoCo's Foundation Founder Chris Connors and Trustee Debs Spraget have returned from Mselini, South Africa, safe in the knowledge that the hard work, by the team whilst they were there, together with the tremendous support from around our County before the trip, achieved its objective.



From the time we left Heathrow until our return 17 days later the girls proved to be a credit to our County, and their parents. Whilst there we worked in the local community and supported the children in the Mselini Children's Home.



During our visit the girls helped complete building the house they had funded and painted another one, they cleared ground and planted a vegetable garden and maintained parts of the Children's Home. They also spent time playing with the children from the Home and running craft activities for them. In addition, the trip contributed to the cost of building a mother and baby unit. The girls attended a workshop which promotes support for those affected by bereavement and HIV. They also attended an after school club and sang in a Zulu Christian church.

From grants, fundraising and various other support, the team were able to leave knitted teddies, clothing and craft materials for the children in the Home and community. In addition 22 duvets, pillows, sheets, covers and mosquito nets were left to be used in the Home. The fund raising from the County Challenge badge has meant that the family whose house we built will have their own (outside)

toilet, a wardrobe, vegetables (we bought seedlings for their garden), and 10 chickens with feed for the next year to ensure they will have a fresh supply of produce and possibly have a some source of income from the sale of excess eggs.

It wasn't all hard work, there were opportunities for the girls to 'play' when they visited a safari and went whale watching. A fitting last day was a visit to the build where two Baden-Powell Challenge Awards and a County Ambassador badge were presented.



It was very humbling for all of us who come from such relatively privileged and comfortable backgrounds to witness firsthand the hardship so many people have to endure, through no fault of their own.

Each girl will take home her own personal memories, but all have been touched by the plight of the people they met, their commitment to education and despite being from different countries and cultures how much there is in common between them.

Some of the comments made by the girls:



I feel like I have made a real difference by building the house, and I know that the Coco's Foundation will be making sure the house is used in the best way possible.

It was amazing to provide so much for a family that have so little- I want to go back!

The whole trip was a life changing experience and I learnt loads- I would love to go back out again

The experience was incredible, we met the most amazing children and some really inspiring people

This trip has changed my outlook on life and given me so much maturity and experience which will benefit me for my whole life

I would like to return in the future to help the children and build more homes but in the meantime I will keep fundraising for the CoCos Foundation

A life changing trip that'll stick with me forever. Thank you Africa!

Chris Connors, Founder of CoCos Foundation said "I was amazed by the commitment and enthusiasm of such a young team"

Debs Spraget, Trustee commented "These awesome girls took me back to my years in Guiding and reminded me how much fun it was. I was blown away with their attitude and passion. They should be really proud of themselves."

The participants were

Burgess Hill Division -
Crawley Division -
East Grinstead Division -
Horsham Division -

Janet Samuel (**Asst Project Leader**),
Pauline Hyner (**Project Leader**), Ellie Cummings (3rd Pound Hill),
Janet Templeman (**Asst Project Leader**), Laura Meek (Sackville Rangers),
Alex Gallacher, Alice Fuller, Freya Mackins, Gigi Kuzminas, Jaida Thomas,
Louise Dufour (1st Roffey) Bessie Griffiths, Hannah Bates (2nd Horsham),
Rachel Clark (3rd Horsham),
Anna Moseley, Kitty Webb (2nd Henfield), Lucy Skepper (1st Partridge Green),
Maya Patel, Iona (Pickles) Davies (1st Lower Beeding),
Alicia Smith (**Asst Project Leader**)

Parkminster Division -

South Down Division -

Please do ask them to come and speak to your unit/ District / Division

If you want to see more photos please go to www.cocosfoundation.co.uk where you can also find out more information about the work of CoCo's Foundation

Don't forget it's not too late to take part in the CoCos County Challenge!

County Youth Awards Evening



On 21st July, parents and leaders gathered with the girls to celebrate those who had achieved their Baden-Powell Challenge, Young Leaders Qualification, or Duke of Edinburgh's Award in the last year.

After drinks in the evening sunshine, Deborah welcomed everyone present and Carol Stalley and Gemma Farley talked about the Duke of Edinburgh's award Scheme and Girlguiding's Queen's Guide Award.

Sylvia Smith congratulated each girl on her achievements, including Holly Farrage who was awarded the County Youth Award, and Lorna Newman who completed her Queen's Guide Award, presenting

them with a special County certificate to mark her achievement also. It was a lovely evening, and it is hoped this will become an annual event.



Sussex Central County Associates Celebrate 21 Years

Sussex Central County Associates celebrated their 21st birthday this year. Many of our members attended a tea party in Sylvia and Alan Smith's garden in June, sadly the weather was not kind to us but the delicious cream tea made up for it.

Sue Gillings



Remembering Ruth Hayllar 1979 - 2014



Sadly, Ruth Hayllar passed away in June this year, following the recurrence of cancer. Her peaceful funeral at Clayton Wood Burial Ground was attended by friends from many facets of her life, including guiding friends from Worth and from Crawley.

Ruth was involved in guiding from the earliest point possible and was a Brownie, Guide and Ranger whilst growing up in Somerset. She continued her guiding adventures whilst at university in Newcastle and then she and her husband Tony moved to West Sussex.

Ruth was a Guide Leader in Horsham and at 2nd Crawley Down, and also County Arts Adviser from 2007-2011. In 2011 she became a Rainbow leader in Crawley, helping establish a new Rainbow unit in Furnace Green, then moving to support Pound Hill Rainbows in 2012.

Ruth and her family all attended WS 2013 and her daughter Hope was one of the youngest children staying at the campsite.

Ruth was first diagnosed with Bowel Cancer in August 2011. She was treated at East Surrey hospital and in Guildford and in April 2012 she was given the all clear. Her daughter Hope was born in April 2013. By October 2013 the cancer was back and this time it was inoperable. Ruth died in June at St Catherine's Hospice, surrounded by her family.

Ruth leaves behind her husband Tony, Isaac aged 5, Imogen aged 4 and Hope aged 1. She was an amazingly strong woman, who battled this awful disease so bravely.

She was passionate about raising awareness that people are never too young or too old to be affected by Bowel Cancer, and was constantly asking people to be Bowel aware and to seek advice from their doctor if they were concerned.

She was an enthusiastic guiding leader and was keen to show girls that there should be no boundaries to them achieving their dreams. She was a very special friend to many and will be deeply missed by us all.



Remembering Joyce Chewter 1933–2014



It was with sadness that we learnt that Joyce Chewter, a long serving member of Girlguiding Sussex Central and of East Grinstead Trefoil Guild had passed away, although latterly she had been too unwell to attend meetings.

Her funeral was well attended with leaders from Sussex Central, County Associates, Worth and East Grinstead Divisions, plus several members from the Guild. The service, at St John's Church in Felbridge, was a gentle, family occasion that ended with everyone standing and singing taps.

Joyce had served guiding in several capacities, when approximately forty-two years ago she started with 6th East Grinstead Brownies, helping Miss Simmonds. Shortly after she learned that the 6th Guides were closing as the leaders were retiring and after pleading from her daughters and a request from the Commissioner she agreed to take on another challenge. She gained her Camp Licence in the eighties. In 1989 she took over Felbridge, (St John's) Guides who were in need of help, she then formed the Felbridge Rainbows and gained her warrant in 1992.

In 1996 she semi-retired and returned to the 6th, where she remained as an Assistant and then an occasional helper. During these years craft became one of her greatest hobbies, she made badges at the Crystal Palace celebrations for the 75th Anniversary, where she discovered Fantasy Film, she took up glass engraving and painting, card making and paper roses, so it was no wonder in the nineties she became County Arts/Crafts Adviser. She attended every WS camp from 1980 -2008 where she camped and ran craft sessions for the participants. Thank you Joyce for all the time you gave to the girls over the years. I could go on but I think I will close by saying it was a joy to see her at our Guild card making session earlier this year, doing what she enjoyed most, craft.

*Rona Bingham
East Grinstead Trefoil Guild.*

The Big Brownie Birthday

Pam and Natalie would like to thank everyone who helped to make our County Big Brownie Birthday event such a successful and memorable day.

We received many positive comments from those that attended as well as activity providers and staff at the Amex who were impressed with the event as a whole and how tidy we left the stadium!

Thank you to those who send us wonderful thank you cards, they were really appreciated.

*Pam Leadbeater and Natalie Denning
The Big Brownie Birthday Champions*



**On 21st-22nd June 2014,
over 900 Brownies and 200 volunteers
took over The Amex Stadium to
celebrate The Big Brownie Birthday!**



Copthorne & Haywards Heath Brownies tackling the assault course



The fantastic range of activities, included circus skills, fairground games, drumming workshops, dance activities, an inflatable assault course and Spider Mountain. The girls also enjoyed crafts ranging from pop-up cards to milk bottle elephants, from felting flowers to friendship bracelets.

Training with top women's footballer Kim Stenning was a highlight for many of the Brownies, as she coached them in ball skills and teamwork.

The girls followed their fun-filled afternoon with an energetic disco and then chilled out with a movie on the big screens, before settling down to sleep beneath the stands of the stadium.

"There's hundred of them, there are sleeping bags everywhere!" one security guard was overheard saying

Breakfast was generously provided by Sainsburys, after which the girls decorated birthday cupcakes. The girls filled the upper east stands for the closing ceremony, enjoying action songs before thanking the volunteers who made the event possible, and renewing their Brownie Promise.



Crawley Brownies making masks

**"I liked Spider Mountain and
dancing and sleeping on the floor"**
Charlotte, from Haywards Heath



Maidenbower Brownies enjoy the dance mats



Haywards Heath Brownies practicing their football skills

"I am having lots of fun, my favourite is the circus because the lady is really funny and nice. I'm excited for the sleepover with all my friends"

Kitty, from Horsham

"I have achieved my lifelong ambition - to tightrope walk"

Emily, from Hurstpierpoint



East Grinstead Brownies enjoying drumming



Horsham Brownies practicing football skills

"The football was my favourite because the people running it were really funny and nice"

Mia, from Burgess Hill



Kim Stenning, the football coaches and Brownies



THANK YOU
to all the volunteers
who made the event
possible. In particular
our Big Brownie Birthday
Champions;
Natalie Denning &
Pam Leadbeater



The Big Brownie Birthday

In addition to the County sleepover at The Amex, members from across the County have been celebrating in many different ways...

East Grinstead

One Hundred Not Out

What better way to celebrate The Big Brownie Birthday than by sharing memories with other former Brownies - fifty of them to be exact - who all enjoyed a superb afternoon tea at Chequer Mead Arts Centre on a warm July afternoon.

The idea for the event came about after the local paper traced the girls on an old black and white photo which Commissioners Janet Templeman and Lorryne Parrett found in the archives when they were organising a Big Brownie Birthday display for the library. The group were traced to Copthorne and were the first to be invited along and were delighted to meet up with old friends and look through the many photos brought along by their fellow guests.



Says Janet "Many brought along photos of themselves as Brownies, and they were added to the mementoes on display. It was lovely to see ex Brownies who are now young mums and hopefully with future Brownies in the making."

Haywards Heath



Perrymount District Party

Perrymount District Leaders and the Birthday cake which the Brownies enjoyed. The girls were entertained by a magician and following a delicious tea, danced the night away!



Lindfield Village Day

Lindfield Brownies joined in the fun at their Village Day. Their efforts won a prize! What a huge cake!

Brownies Around Town

Haywards Heath's Mayor Sandy Ellis invited the Brownies to help in the unveiling of the new World War I memorial. This was a very special honour linking the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the Great War and the beginnings of a new youth programme!

Brownies from the 1st, 3rd, 4th, 8th and 9th Haywards Heath Brownie Units did their part in helping as they planted flowers at the Yews in Haywards Heath. The Yews is a base for many local charities which help children through to Senior Citizens. This was one of several projects which Brownies participated in during their Big Brownie Birthday!



10th Haywards Heath Brownies Fun Day and Sleepover

10th Haywards Heath Brownies went to Blackland Farm to celebrate 100 years of Brownies. Our families joined us for some old fashioned games, a yummy BBQ and songs around the campfire. Robin (Leader) made a lovely cake to celebrate 100 years of Brownies. Our families then went home and we enjoyed a sleepover (complete with midnight feast!) Thank you Leaders—it was the best two days!

*Natasha Norkett
Brownie—10th Haywards Heath Brownies*

Parkminster

Henfield District Brownies Celebration Sleepover

In Henfield District, Brownies and their leaders were joined by members of Henfield Trefoil Guild and guests to celebrate the Big Brownie Birthday. Photos and scrapbooks from the 1960's onwards were on display along with old Brownie uniforms and more recent photos showing what we had been up to in 2014. The bouncy castle was popular and we had big games to play with and marshmallows to toast, we dressed up and had photos taken, before cutting the birthday cake. After our visitors were gone it was time for our BBQ, before dressing in party gear for a disco. Sleeping out in the marquee was a first for many Brownies - I say sleep...

*Lisa Barden
3rd Henfield Brownies*



Cowfold District Brownies Activity Day

Cowfold District Brownies celebrated The Big Brownie Birthday with an activity day at Blackland Farm in July. Starting with a packed lunch, each Brownie then took part in two chosen activities including zip wire, rock climbing, abseiling and crate challenge. The afternoon finished with signing led by Paddy one of our Division Commissioners, Lee, our other Division Commissioner joined in too, and each girl was given a hand decorated birthday cupcake to take home with them. (And the rain held off until everyone had left!)

South Down

2nd Hassocks Brownies enjoyed a fun filled summer term.



Everyone that attended really enjoyed the Brownie sleepover at the Amex Stadium. Luckily the sun shone and we were able to participate in various activities inside and out. A highlight of our term was an evening of rock pooling at Rottingdean. We had glorious weather and the Brownies enjoyed looking for and finding mussels, sea snails, anemones and small crabs. I think the best bit for the Brownies was when the leaders opened the packets of biscuits and the girls descended on us like Gannets!! At the time of writing we are in the process of planning our new term which starts off with a weekend trip to London Zoo, as part of the Friend to Animals badge, and a sleepover back at the hut. We can definitely promise the girls an exciting autumn term!

Kate Harding

Leader in Training, 2nd Hassocks Brownies

Worth

Star Quest at Blacklands Farm - Sunday 18th May 2014

Our Star Quest event for The Big Brownie Birthday saw 116 girls and 40 leaders enjoy a fabulous day at Blacklands Farm starting with brunch for the brownies and culminating in a wonderful campfire with Paddy Smith doing her usual excellent job in getting all sections joining in some great camp fire songs.

Brownies and Guides took part in all nine activities depicting Past, Present and Future, most of them being done outside in the fresh air as the weather was so warm.

They made stars in all forms, climbed the boulder wall, were challenged by the low ropes, had great fun on the treasure hunt, blasted off rockets and really enjoyed splashing the paint about on our futuristic wall hanging. Leaders were thanked for all their hard work and the East Grinstead Trefoil Guild provided fantastic help as always. When the Rainbows arrived at the end of the day they joined in a couple of activities and for many the experience of a real camp fire was a first.

Thank you Brownies for inviting us to join in your special day.



Division News

Burgess Hill

Promise on the Beach

In May, nine members of 1st Martlets Rangers, and their Leaders, renewed their Promise on Brighton beach.



Brownies Build Bears

The 1st Burgess Hill Brownies enjoyed a trip to the Bear Workshop in Brighton as part of our 90th Anniversary celebrations. Our unit was registered on 22 February 1924 and we have been celebrating all year!



Waitrose Raises funds for Guide Hall

The 1st Burgess Hill Brownies wrote to Waitrose and asked if they could help them raise funds for the new conservatory on our Guide Hall.

We were lucky to have the green coins collected for our unit and raised nearly £300, this money was used toward the Guide Hall. Waitrose also donated us some old notice boards after their refurbishment at the Burgess Hill store, which we have cut down to fit on our cupboard doors for all units that meet in the Guide Hall.



County Social

On 16th July, leaders from Burgess Hill Division enjoyed a relaxing evening at Nowhurst at the County BBQ and Social.

Crawley



August Bank Holiday weekend started off beautifully sunny, as 25 girls and leaders from 4th and 9th Crawley Guide Units set off for “Wellies and Wristbands”, a festival for 2000 Guides held at Foxlease this summer. Getting there was easy - we travelled by train with only day-bags then found the coach to Foxlease - whilst my valiant husband drove all the kit down in our somewhat overloaded car!



By mid afternoon the guides were exploring the site, before enjoying a range of bands entertaining us from the main stage. As a leader, the whole event was easy - each day the girls had both a ticketed activity and access to a fantastic range of drop-in activities, and the meals were all centrally catered for us (no washing up!). We discussed ground rules and gave the girls their freedom, meeting up each meal time to catch up with what they'd been doing.

Although the headline activities were ticketed - kayaking, abseiling, fencing, tunnelling, climbing and many more - the range of drop-in activities was equally varied, and included inflatables, crafts, hot tubs, drumming, skating and the pamper zone. Leaders (and leaders children) could also join in, which added to the informal feel of the event.

Elizabeth (a Young Leader) commented on the relaxed pace of the weekend - “Its great, we made friends with two guides when we were kayaking, so then we all went to the hot tubs together”.

The evenings were the highlight for many girls, with an array of live bands to fall in love with. Musical styles were varied, many groups had the crowd on their feet dancing, and from the girls squeals of delight “I've got his picture”, “I've got his autograph”, many of the groups were a great success.



After a weekend of glorious sunshine the weather turned, and we did need our wellies as we struck camp in torrential rain - Wellies and Wristbands indeed!

*Kathy Bennett
Leader, 9th Crawley Guides*



East Grinstead

Young Volunteers Recognised

A very proud Fiona Watkins, leader with 6th East Grinstead Guides, was a guest at the first Mid Sussex District Council Young Volunteer of the Year Awards in June, held at the Mansion House at Wakehurst Place to coincide with National Volunteers Week, which annually celebrates the valuable contribution volunteers make to their communities.

"Three of those nominated were Guides with 6th East Grinstead and have gone on to become Young Leaders with local groups of Rainbows, Brownies and Guides." She explains. "I was a guest of Ellie Charman (6th Rainbows and Guides), Claire Louise Thomson (6th Rainbows) and Helena Smith (3rd Brownies) and each of them shows enthusiasm, commitment and great leadership skills for the future. I nominated two of the Young Leaders, but was Guide leader to all of them."

All Nominees received a Certificate of Thanks and got to sit down for a delicious afternoon tea and a chat with Councillor Marples.



"Today is a very important event in the calendar, when we honour the young members of our community who have done so much to make Mid Sussex a great place to live."

Cllr Gordon Marples

Chairman of Mid Sussex District Council

Bring on the 'A' Team



East Grinstead Guides were well represented in the annual Scout and Guide Marathon, with nine teams taking part in the competition which involved working closely together and using a compass and a map to get from one place to another, before cooking an evening meal and camping over night ready to finish the marathon the following day.

All East Grinstead's teams did very well but huge congratulations go to a delighted 6th East Grinstead Guides 'A' Team who were the overall winners of the event.

Longtimers

East Grinstead Division held their annual summer get together in July and took the opportunity to honour retiring Brownie leaders Sandra Jones and Jan Lane (12th East Grinstead) and Lin Challis of 10th East Grinstead. All were thanked for their dedication and presented with a special 'Brownie Rose'.

Sandra was also a recipient of a 30 year Long Service Award, together with Lorraine Parrett (40 years), Pippa Hadlow (10 years) and Amy Matthews (5 years) which were all presented by Deborah Phillips, special guest for the evening. The evening concluded with Deborah presenting the county silver butterfly to Linda Hare in recognition of her work as Division Commissioner, as a trainer and her key role as activity organiser at WS 2013. Unable to attend Karen Kemp received her 30 year long service award at a later date, as did Sarah Eveson and Tracey Poole for 20 years long service and Alison Merricks for 5 years. Lizzie Whitlock was later awarded her Leadership qualification and is now off to university.



Haywards Heath

9th Haywards Heath Guides Fun Weekend at Weavers



Girls and Leaders from 9th Haywards Heath Guides spent a fun weekend in Weavers Lodge, Blackland Farm. We took the theme "Owls" and concentrated on crafts. The girls hand sewed a stuffed owl, then designed and made a cover for their phone or tablet in felt. Then they all tackled the sewing machine and made an owl themed needlecase. We took the afternoon off to attend the pantomime at the Hawth, which all agreed was excellent, and rounded off the weekend by decorating a wooden coaster using a woodburning technique and finally a decopatch owl clock. All the girls went home very pleased with their efforts, and felt they had learned new and useful skills.

*Brenda Heald
Assistant Leader—9th Haywards Heath Guides*

Rainbows Fire Station Fun

On 16th May the 8th Haywards Heath Rainbows visited our local Fire Station. Four girls had lots of fun trying on a fire suit and looking over a fire engine and a mobile command bus. Our host Fire Officer also demonstrated the alarm system, having warned the station that it wasn't for real, however, the warning did not sound in the gym so one fireman came rushing in to find out where the call out was!

The highlights of the trip were being the first people to visit the new command room (where calls are received for fire services in Sussex and Surrey) and of course, the chance to spray water all over the place and get themselves wet! The Rainbows thanked Phil the fireman very much for showing them around and he was given some biscuits for the watch.



*Viv Newman
Unit Leader—8th Haywards Heath Rainbows*

New Flags for Cuckfield Brownies!



Evelyn Stenning, who has always lived in Cuckfield and is an active member of the Royal British Legion Women's Section, used to be involved in guiding, approached us about our flag and lack of flag!!

Every Remembrance Sunday when we are on parade, she very kindly comes down to show our flag bearer how to do it properly.

We have only ever had a flag for 3rd Cuckfield Brownies and not one for 2nd, so earlier this year she approached me offering to pay 50% of the cost of new flags (she had looked on the website and found they had dramatically changed). We then asked parents for donations for the "other half" of each flag and we were delighted to show the girls the flags at the end of last term.

Parkminster

Wellies and Wristbands 2014

If you fancy a relaxing Bank Holiday weekend with your Guides and Senior Section we suggest you sign up for Wellies and Wristbands next August!

This year, 9 Guides from Partridge Green and Cowfold did.

Apart from getting the girls to Foxlease and helping them pitch their tents, the activities were all arranged and they were free to pick and choose what they liked to do, from spending time in the hot tubs, to the pamper area, trying out face painting, henna designs, hair braiding, then off to crazy golf, inflatables and zorbing, not to mention crafts.

They also had the chance to try activities such as fencing, archery, bush craft, kayaking and tunnelling - just to name a few of the ticketed activities on offer.

The Leaders aren't left out either - having cream teas in Foxlease House and a chance to "knit and natter" (Eileen Blann knitting 4 squares to Lisa Barden's 1)

Evening entertainment such as the Loveable Rogues headlining as well as local bands, played music to suit all ages. All food was catered for and the portions improved as the weekend went on - and no washing up!

It would not have been a Festival without the rain, which arrived whilst we slept on Sunday night - it did not stop during our striking of camp nor as we headed home on Bank Holiday Monday. Ah well you can't have it all!



South Down

Wolstonbury District on Parade

On 5th July hundreds of people turned out to take part in the 701st St Lawrence Summer Fair in Hurstpierpoint.

Wolstonbury Rainbows, Brownies and Guides paraded through the village all dressed in costumes they had created during their meetings - the theme this year was 'carnival'.

Many local youth organisations are involved in the parade and the fair plays an important part of village life for local residents.



This year we were delighted to see a fantastic turn out from our members, who represented Guiding in our village extremely well.

Most notably we were so proud of our two Brownie units who won the 1st prize in the walking parade for their carnival themed woodland animals, elves and The Big Brownie Birthday walking float - including a giant birthday cake!

Congratulations 1st and 2nd Hurstpierpoint Brownies and well done to everyone who took part.

Charlotte Stevens
Wolstonbury District Commissioner

Summer Fun in South Down Division

In South Down we have had a very busy summer making the most of the lovely weather: walks, campfires, outdoor cooking, visits to our local Washbrooks Farm and to the beach to name but a few. Many units participated in The Big Brownie Birthday Challenge badge, as a result of which the 1st Hurstpierpoint Brownies hosted a tea party for past members of the Guiding Movement.

The Brownies went off to the Amex to enjoy the County Big Brownie Birthday celebrations and had a marvellous time, travelling by train, car and coach. Their highlights were the dance mats and spider mountain. They were also delighted to try so many different craft activities.

Four of our Guide units held camps at Nowhurst during the summer holidays and had lovely weather (and at least one thunder storm!) to enjoy all the outdoor activities planned.

We had several girls at the Youth Awards evening. Damaris Couch for her Young Leaders Qualification, and Amber Grierson and Emily Price for their Baden-Powell Challenge. It was a lovely evening, the girls found it quite inspiring and gave them ideas of how they could take their guiding journey forward.

*Judy Leech
South Down Division Commissioner*

Memories around the campfire

On July 14th about 50 members from Hassocks gathered round the campfire at Hassocks Guide Hall to remember two of their Guide leaders who have sadly died in the last 18 months. Leaders, girls and families enjoyed the friendship of singing round the campfire and remembering Mary Gates and Anne Eastham. Anne was a leader with 2nd Hassocks Guides whose enthusiasm spilled over into all she did with the girls. Mary was District Commissioner and is also remembered as both a Guide leader and a Brownie leader, as well as for the Gang Shows which she produced over the years. Her sense of fun and her caring nature made her a special person in Guiding.

During the evening two plaques were placed beside the roses which had been planted in Anne and Mary's memories, and two of the leaders who knew them well spoke about all they had given to guiding. During the evening lots of memories were shared as we sang songs and recalled all the fun we had together. The evening concluded with hot chocolate and marshmallows toasted over the fire - something that both Anne and Mary would have enjoyed. Mary's grandchildren were each given a camp blanket with her badges on as a way of remembering all the good times she enjoyed in guiding. It was a happy gathering, with friendships renewed and tributes paid to two special people.



Clare Brittain

Worth

2nd Crawley Down Guides Baden-Powell Challenge Celebrations

In June 2014 three enthusiastic girls from 2nd Crawley Down Guides successfully achieved their Baden Powell Challenge and were lucky enough to be presented with their achievements by our County Commissioner Deborah, Worth Division Commissioner Philippa Weekes and a Selsfield District Commissioner Gill Crook. The girls were given gifts and a personally designed cake to congratulate them.

We are very proud of these Guides as they have showed dedication and determination to complete the challenge and have been the first in the Unit for many years.



*Gemma Farley
Unit Leader, 2nd Crawley Down Guides*

The Great Worth Cupcake Challenge - Saturday 10th May 2014

Open to Guides and Rangers with teams of 4-6, the challenge was to bake four cupcakes and decorate them, package and present in a container on a table decorated with folded napkins. Ingredients, recipe and instructions were supplied with a test cupcake being delivered on a plate identified only as team A, team B etc. to the 'Judges Chamber'. Twelve teams took part and Guides from 2nd Copthorne, 2nd Crawley Down and 1st Copthorne were awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd certificates. It was a very successful challenge and the girls worked really well together in their teams with no outside help from leaders. The only regret was that the 'bake your cake and eat it' mindset meant that there were no cakes left at the end of the day for other teams and parents to admire!



County Diary 2014–2015

Saturday 18th October

County Day at St Paul's College, Burgess Hill
County Review at 2.45 pm.

Thursday 23rd October

Senior Section Ten Pin Bowling at Horsham
7.15 pm for 7.30 pm, contact Lisa Barden

Saturday 25th to Sunday 26th October

BP Challenge weekend, contact Vicky Cobb

Saturday 29th November

Inter County Quiz and Bake Off at The Montefiore Institute, Hazelwick Road, Three Bridges, RH10 1NA.
7.30 pm - 10 pm details out soon.

Wednesday 3rd December

County Exec
Programme and Training Christmas meal.

Saturday 7th February 2015

Morning trainings at Downlands School Hassocks
- flyers out soon.

Thursday 12th February 2015

County Exec

Saturday 21st March 2015

County Trefoil Guild Review at Copthorne.

Monday 18th May 2015

County Exec

Friday 10th July 2015

County BBQ and Social

Monday 13th July 2015

Proposed date for County Youth Awards, subject to venue availability

Long Service Awards Presented

Jean Virgo and Jane Brown's friends, family gathered to celebrate them both having completed 50 years of service to Girlguiding.

Jean had received her award previously at a Burgess Hill event, however Jane had no idea and the evening was a total surprise! Jane's family (including her daughter Suzanne who was visiting from Australia) and guests had managed to keep it a surprise.

Sarah Little hosted the evening at her house and they each had an amazing cake, relevant to them, made by Jan from Burgess Hill.



During a County Associates visit to Sedgwick Park, Betty Brand - chair of associates - was presented with her 40 year long service award by Deborah.



Sussex Central Roll of Honour

Good Service Brooch
Judy Fuller

40 Year Long Service Award
Betty Bland

BURGESS HILL

Adult Leadership Qualification
Olivia Sasson

Baden-Powell Challenge
Jasmine McLeod
Ella Ward

CRAWLEY

40 Year Long Service Award
Helen Dowling

30 Year Long Service Award
Jackie Stammers

20 Year Long Service Award
Jo Dart

10 Year Long Service Award
Tracey Butler
Denise Pope
Louise Smith

5 Year Long Service Award
Kelly Carey
Sandy Coles
Lucy Dorkings
Tina Goss
Gill Lightfoot
Melissa Pitts
Louise Redgrave
Fern Such

Baden-Powell Challenge
Elizabeth Bennett
Cicely Cole
Emily Pratt
Emily Sellis-Pole
Katie Tyson

EAST GRINSTEAD

Silver Butterfly Award
Linda Hare

40 Year Long Service Award
Lorraine Parrett

30 Year Long Service Award
Sandra Jones
Karen Kemp

20 Year Long Service Award
Sarah Eveson
Tracey Poole

10 Year Long Service Award
Pippa Hadlow

5 Year Long Service Award
Amy Matthews
Alison Merricks

Adult Leadership Qualification
Lizzie Whitlock

HAYWARDS HEATH

Adult Leadership Qualification
Leanne Bithell
Hayley Buchanan
Nikki Miller

Going Away With Licence
Sophia Stone

Baden-Powell Challenge
Natasha Jordan
Amy Maitland
Charlotte Maitland
Olivia Pitcher
Isabelle Searle
Mairi Smibert
Francesca Weekes

HORSHAM

30 Year Long Service Award
Joka Hotze

PARKMINSTER

50 Year Long Service Award
Jane Brown

5 Year Long Service Award
Liz Rogers

SOUTH DOWN

40 Year Long Service Award
Elizabeth Trott

20 Year Long Service Award
Kim Bateup

5 Year Long Service Award
Alison Bishop
Emma Wells

Adult Leadership Qualification
Rachel Dennett
Charlotte Stanbridge

Going Away With Licence
Liz Hollingdale

Young Leader Qualification
Morwenna Bunt
Megan Winton

Baden-Powell Challenge
Katie Eastham
Eliza Freestone
Jessica Snape
Sorrel Wilson

WORTH

10 Year Long Service Award
Kristina Parsons

Baden-Powell Challenge
Amelia Barton
Isla Holden
Bryony Jenner

Items For Next Newsletter should be emailed to the Editor at: ggsnewsletter@gmail.com
by **Friday 16th January**

Registered Charity No. 283700