

The Gazette

November 2007

News and views from Girlguiding Staffordshire

Bell Boat Regatta

The sun shone on the twelve teams taking part in the Bell Boat Regatta held at the Girlguiding Staffordshire Water Activities Centre at Manor Park, Kings Bromley. Many thanks to Margaret Smith and her team of instructors who ensured all the participants had a fun and memorable time.

The winners were:

Brownies race - Fradley Hulas (1st Fradley)
Fancy dress - Shiver Me Timbers (2nd Lichfield St Michael's)
Guides race & Fancy dress - Snow White and the Seven Dwarves (3rd Whittington)
Senior Section/Guiders race - The Tribettes (Whittington District)
Fancy Dress - Fabulous Fairies (Tutbury Rangers)



From the County Commissioner . . .

Hello everyone,

2 social occasions, 2 region events, 9 meetings, 1 CC induction weekend, 1 Division AGM, about 10 visits to individuals and the office staff, 10 new appointment holders and a steep learning curve on Beaudesert, the County Headquarters and county finances. This just about sums up the first 60 days as CC!

It might sound hectic, even exhausting, but when I think about the potential for the future it's exciting. I've had lots of experiences in Guiding but Staffordshire has always been 'where I belong'. I'll do my very best for the county but I will need your support and encouragement if the next 1720 days are anything like the last 60!

Pauline McKie



Copy date

for the next Gazette is 15th December 2007.
(To be published February 2008)

Articles should be a maximum of 200 words long.
Good quality digital photographs welcome.

Gazette and web site contributions to:
publications@girlguidingstaffordshire.org.uk



Girlguiding

Staffordshire

girls in the lead

Football Fever

Girlguiding Burton-on-Trent caught football fever when Brownies and Guides competed in a football tournament.



The competition was organised and refereed by staff from Shobnall Leisure Complex.

Families and Guiders sat in the sunshine and cheered on their teams. It was a very successful afternoon, both for the girls who took part, and for developing relationships with parents.

For help with organising your own Unit, District or Division football event you could try the following contacts:

- Your local council may have a sports development officer who can help.
- Graham Meigh, manager of Stafford Town FC Girls u14 is looking for new players. His email is graham@stepbeyond.co.uk.
- Kevin Staples is the Football Development Officer for girls and women in Staffordshire. He is offering coaching sessions / taster sessions to Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. Guides at Unity 2006 were offered coaching sessions and FA coaches have worked with Stone Division in conjunction with Stone Dominoes FC. You can e-mail Kevin at Kevin.Staples@staffordshirefa.com or phone 01785 256994.



July 2008 will see a party of six young leaders and two adult leaders going on a international adventure of a life time to our Guiding home Sangam in Pune, India.

We (Jess, Emily, Jess, Lauren, Jess and Gemma) plus leaders Sandra and Coral are going to a Event called 'Our world our Home'. We will be doing a

community action project to improve local conditions in Pune as well as looking at global environmental issues. After our ten day stay at Sangam we will be touring India starting with a 24 hour train journey visiting Agra, Delhi and Jaipur to include elephant rides and sari shopping.

As a group we have had a sleepover at Hixon to get to know each other. We had fun designing our badge for our tee-shirts, trying on saris and, get this, cooking an Indian meal from the raw ingredients. It was great fun, but Hixon now smells like a curry house!

In order for us to be able to go on this once in a life time opportunity we each have to raise

£2000. Already we have been busy bag packing, selling quizzes, holding cake sales, making handmade cards, organising fetes, running a market stall and holding smartie tube challenges with younger members of the Guiding.

As a group we are planning to hold a promise auction in Stafford, at the end of November. If you would like to support us in our fundraising please contact Sandra Collins and/or Coral Marshall. Thank-you.



Pax Lodge Opportunities

Are you between the ages of 18-25?

Are you interested in volunteering at Pax Lodge for 3-5 months?

Check out the Pax Lodge web site for more information.
<http://paxlodge.org>

Pax Lodge is the WAGGGS World Centre in London.

90th Birthday Dinner

To Norma, Pauline, Liz and all in the county team who organised our 90th Birthday Celebration last night. Thank you so much for a superb evening, it was a fantastic meal, great atmosphere, and for many of us a wonderful opportunity to meet up with guiding friends of many years.

Diane Scott, Stone and Eccleshall Division, 12/10/2007



HQ Makeover

A big thank you to Margaret Hodson and her team of helpers who revamped Owl's Nest - the home of Penkridge Rainbows, Brownies and Rangers - over the summer. Margaret applied for a grant from Local Government funding and was able to purchase tables, chairs, shelving and new carpets to refurbish Owl's Nest. Then her dedicated team moved in to clean and decorate in time for the start of the new term. Well done and thank you from all the Brownies, Rainbows and Rangers that use Owl's Nest.

Are you an adult leader in Guiding?

Do you know how to find your way about a PC?

Do you email?

Could you make a purchase on line?

Could you show someone else how to do the tasks above?

We may need your help.

Please contact Sue Smith, County Secretary,
on 01889 270757

or email county.secretary@girlguidingstaffordshire.org.uk

Thinking Day Postcard Exchange

It's time to sign up for the 2008 Thinking Day Postcard Exchange!

2008 will be the eleventh year - last year 3145 US troops, and 675 international units from 43 countries took part.

To learn more about the program or to register, please visit www.mythinkingday.com and click on the Where are you? link and fill out the registration form. If the site shows a blank page it is because the site is busy with so many trying to access it so please keep trying.



Thank you, Norma and Liz

Norma Oldham and Liz Joy have completed their five year term of office as County Commissioner and Assistant County Commissioner respectively. They have both given many, many hours to ensure Guiding in Staffordshire continues successfully. They were thanked at a recent evening held in their honour.

INFORMATION

Potteries Orienteering Club
(POTOC)
"Come and Try It" Event

Sunday 10th November
Downs Banks, Barlaston
OS Map 127 SJ900 365

Registration 10.00 - 11.30

Cost: Adults £3,

Juniors/Students £1

To ensure sufficient maps are available and for further details please contact Barbara Farr or Geoff Hollins.

Their details can be found on the POTOC web site

[http://](http://www.sisyphus.demon.co.uk/)

www.sisyphus.demon.co.uk/

Flower Arranging for Christmas - Tuesday 20th November

7.00p.m. for 7.30p.m. - 9 p.m.

Create a beautiful Christmas Arrangement at County HQ, Hixon.

Demonstration from Mrs Diana Scott followed by a 'Hands on Workshop' to make a lovely arrangement to take home.

Please bring a pair of secateurs or similar.

Hot punch and shortbread will be served.

Cost £8 per person.

Contact Glenda Lockley by Thursday 8th November 2007

Playaway Project

Girlguiding Staffordshire has joined the Community Council of Staffordshire's Playaway Project. Three membership cards are held at the County Office. This can be used at 'Playaway Stafford' or 'Playaway Stoke' where you can have unlimited access to the scrapstore, take advantage of free toy hire (800 toys for ages 1-18) or borrow 'Big Kids' items such as bouncy castles, sumo suits and marquees at competitive rates.

For more information contact

county. secretary@girlguidingstaffordshire.org.uk

Girlguiding Staffordshire Training Opportunities

Programme Training

1 November 2007 - Wolstanton

Sessions for Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Senior Section @ Wolstanton Methodist Church

6 November 2007 - Stafford

Sessions for Rainbows, Brownies @ Girlguiding Staffordshire HQ, Church Lane, Hixon

15 November 2007 - Stafford

Sessions for Guides, Senior Section @ Beacon International Centre, Stafford Technology Park, Beaconside, Stafford

Mentor sessions

15 November 2007 - Stafford

This will take the form of 'Come and find out about - discussion/airing and sharing' @ Beacon International Centre

All sessions will be from 7.30 to 9.30.

Please use County application forms, published on the website, to be returned to Janet Kemp.



In order to celebrate the launch of the Midlands Region very own Go For It resource pack, Guides are invited to GO BONKERS AT CONKERS!

Watch out for the details being mailed directly to all Guide Guiders in the Midlands region for this fantastic adventurous event on 7th June 2008 at Conkers, near Ashby de la Zouch - get the date in your diary now! A mega assault course, mud sculptures, willow weaving, pioneering, 'off the couch' sports, the enchanted forest, orienteering and many more activities will be available for the guides to choose from, ending with a burger n' boy band celebration. Tickets will be on a 1st come, 1st served basis so make sure you get yours.

Thinking of sending in a photo?

Please ensure it is clear and in focus, the subject is close up, it's interesting (action shots are far better than posed groups).

Please make sure parents of under-18s have given permission for their daughter's image to be used.

Digital photos preferred.