

The Gazette

February 2008

News and views from Girlguiding Staffordshire

Baden Powell Adventure

A total of 36 girls and 5 leaders went to Chester for the weekend. We had girls from all over Staffordshire and 1 girl joined us from Bewdeley Division.

We caught the train on the Saturday Morning and arrived in Chester at 10.00 am. When we arrived we got straight into our walk of the walls quiz which ended at Chester Racecourse where we all stopped and had lunch. The weather was very kind to us and the sun shone. From the racecourse we walked to the Youth Hostel and got settled in. After everyone was settled in we walked back into Chester and shopped! After shopping we walked back to the Hostel for our evening meal. We then walked back into town for the Guided Ghost Walk. After this, back to the hostel for a light supper and then bed. In all we worked it out that we had walked approximately 20 miles on the Saturday.

On Sunday we were up early in order to get breakfast and then sort the rooms and pack our bags. We thanked the Hostel staff and got on a bus... 41 people on a bus is not only a lot of bus tickets but a lots of people. We got into town and then caught the bus to the zoo. I have never paid £61 to get on a bus before and I had a whole pile of tickets! The girls had a wonderful time at the zoo, we caught the bus back into town in order to get the train back. Trains weren't running so we had to get on another bus to take us to Crewe where we were able to get a train back to Stafford where the girls were all collected.

The girls were a credit to Girlguiding Staffordshire and many friendships have been made.

*Kim Martin
Whittington District, Lichfield*



From the County Commissioner . . .

This week's hot news is that Margaret Wright has agreed to be Girlguiding Staffordshire's County President! This is wonderful - some of you may remember that Margaret is a former Midland Region Chief Commissioner and Chief Guide of Girlguiding UK. When I spoke to her she said, "It's going full circle, I started as a Brownie Guider in Staffordshire and now I'll be County President". Margaret has so much to offer in the way of support and experience and she will be a great friend to all of us too!

Your Commissioner will have lots to share at your next Division or District Meeting. We have planned a number of events for this year and the information will be available after 21st February via your commissioner and the county website. We have also started work on the 2009 programme, hopefully all Brownie Guiders will have heard about the proposed Brownie Holiday to Pontins.

Lots of work is going on for 2010. We've seen the draft plans from Girlguiding UK and are now waiting until our Centenary Champion,



Continued on page 2 . . .

INSIDE:
Help your Unit to
'Change the World'

Join the
'Rainbow Romp'



Girlguiding

Staffordshire

girls in the lead

Congratulations

The Midland Region Chief Commissioner's Award is awarded to active warranted appointment holders at Unit level for outstanding service to local Guiding. Awards were presented on Sunday 4th November at Middleton Hall.

Congratulations to:

Pauline Cox, Lichfield
Sandra Ashton, Longton
Sue Dawson, Longton
Margaret Davis, Newcastle
Ivey Leese, Longton
Glenda Lockley, Newcastle
Sandra Nevard, Lapley
Fran Strange, Burton



If you know of someone who deserves the Award please speak to your Commissioner as now is the time to make nominations.

A Handful of Songs

Brownies, Guides and Senior Section girls from Stone Outward Division are now in rehearsal for their biennial show 'A Handful of Songs' and they can be heard humming new and familiar tunes and spotted muttering words to themselves. From 25th–29th March more than 70 girls will be singing, dancing and entertaining in a show which will, as always, be entertaining for all ages and will contain some surprises as well as the more traditional scenes.

Please log onto their website -

www.handfulofsongs.org.uk - for further information and a booking form.

Groups welcome, but book early - tickets are selling fast.



A New Zealand Experience

My name is Sally Cragg and this Christmas 2007 I had the chance to go to New Zealand. It was one of the best things I have ever done and I got so much out of it. We spent our first week in Kaikoura, in a youth hostel and our second week at a scout camp, celebrating 100 years of Scouting. The camp was absolutely amazing, we did so many fantastic activities and the Scouts really made us feel at home. I have found new friendships in people that I will definitely make sure last, and I have seen the Scouting side of life and have also picked up the New Zealand way of living. I am a Young Leader at 9th Methodist Brownies in Lichfield but when I got chosen to go to New Zealand I was in Guides. New Zealand was an event that meant I was representing my county, Staffordshire, and I was the only person from my county going. At first I was a bit apprehensive but once meeting the people I was going with, I knew I would have a great time. I want to thank everyone who helped make it possible for me to go on this once in a life time event, I had an amazing time!

Photographer wanted

Can you take a good photograph?

A photographer is needed to take pictures at the Duke of Edinburgh Award Presentation evening on Friday 4th April at the Quality Inn, Penkridge.

If you can help please contact Barbara Coope (D of E Adviser) or e-mail publications@girlguidingstaffordshire.org.uk

Centenary blooms

Stafford Trefoil Guild have already booked the **display garden** in Stafford Park (with the Borough Council) for a display for 2010.



If you want one in your local town, now's the time to be making contact with your council.

From the County Commissioner . . .

Continued from page 1.

Denise Healey, attends the CHQ launch day in March for the latest information. At the Region meeting last week we agreed dates for Region events. In the county, work has begun on the preliminary planning for the county activities we have in mind. All this information will be presented at the Commissioners and County Advisers Day on 26th April. After this I will be looking for volunteers for the various planning teams. If you want to get involved in 2010 please contact me but let me know which section you enjoy working with and your particular interests e.g. performing arts, outdoors, organising etc.

Happy Thinking Day.

Pauline

Join the



The Giant Sleepover 2008 is taking place on Saturday 14th / Sunday 15th June when groups from all over the UK (and the world) will be sponsored in an attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the "Biggest Simultaneous Sleepover across Multiple Venues", which currently stands at 34,000 people.

For further information and to **SIGN UP FOR ALL THE FUN** please visit www.giantsleepover.com

How to 'Change the World'

One of the Key Projects leading up to the Centenary is a community action project known as 'Changing the World'. Running nationally from September 2008 to August 2009, all units will be able to take part in as many of the projects, fun activities and other programme ideas as they wish to do during the year.

As an introduction, on **17th May 2008** all Staffordshire Guiders are invited to take part in a day of workshops and training activities all of which will have an international or community action flavour. There will be something for everyone - whatever their section. A provisional booking has been made for the Stafford Campus of Staffordshire University which offers very impressive accommodation.



Girlguiding UK:
Changing the world

Visit the Girlguiding UK website to find out more about the 'Changing the World' challenge.

Don't miss out -
further details about the day from International Advisers, Division Commissioners and www.girlguidingstaffordshire.org.uk

Book the date now - Saturday 17th May 2008

Rainbow Romp

Rainbows from all over the county will be gathering at Kibblestone Scout Camp on **Saturday 14th June 2008** for the 'Rainbow Romp'.

It is going to be a wonderful day, full of imagination, colour and good fun! The theme is 'Princesses', and these Princesses are from Disney films and of course, exciting things happen to Princesses in the fantasy world!

There will be four lands: Cinderella, Aladdin, Ariel (Little Mermaid) and Snow White.

Many Rainbow Guiders will wish to be with their girls, so we're going to need lots of 'other' Guiders to support the activities.

If you are not already involved with one of the lands through your Division but would like to help please contact Gaynor Satherley. Leave a message on her phone if she is not at home.

Information packs for Rainbow Guiders are available now, distributed via Division Commissioners.



Blue Cross animal talks

How can we reduce the number of pets that are neglected, abandoned or need rehoming? This was the question that the Blue Cross animal charity posed several years ago. The Blue Cross is a national animal welfare charity and rehomes thousands of animals each year. We also provide free veterinary care for the pets of clients on low incomes. The answer to animal welfare issues is always by educating people and so in 2005 we began our children's education programme.

Using volunteer speakers, we visit children in primary schools and youth groups to tell them about responsible pet ownership and safety around dogs. Many of our speakers have temperament-tested dogs who visit too. To date we have visited over 50,000 children.



Our talks are free and can easily fit into any badge work you may be doing with your groups.

If you are interested in finding out if we have a speaker in your area or would like to find out how to become a volunteer speaker then please email education@bluecross.org.uk or ring 01993 825541. Also visit our website www.bluecross.org.uk

Tracy Genever
Children's Education Officer

 **THE BLUE CROSS**
Britain's pet charity

INFORMATION

BCU BELL BOAT HELM COURSE

Saturday & Sunday 7th & 8th June 2008

9.30am to 5pm

There will be a **maximum of 8** places on the course being run by the British Canoe Union at Staffordshire Guides water activities base at Manor Park, Kings Bromley. The course is open to all leaders over the age of 18 years and will qualify you to take groups of Guides or Brownies on the Bell Boats at Manor Park. The only pre-requisite is that you hold a valid First Aid or First Response certificate at the time of taking the course. Cost will be £17.50 to cover registration to the BCU and Bell Boat Helm certificate. Please bring a packed lunch on both days. Hot and cold drinks will be provided.

To secure your place please contact Margaret Smith by email: Margaret@thesmiths82.fsnet.co.uk or mjsmith_82@msn.com



Please note I will not be available by telephone between 20th January and 5th May 2008.

What's on?

March

1st Commissioner Training
9th Camp/Holiday Training Day
13th International Advisers Meeting
14th–16th B-P Challenge Weekend
15th Staffordshire Trefoil Guild AGM
15th Region Singing Day

April

4th Duke of Edinburgh Presentation
17th Commissioner Support Meeting
19th Region Under-35s Conference
24th Commissioner Training
26th Commissioners / Advisers Day

May

10th Guides Water Dabble Day
17th Changing the World
20th International Advisers Meeting
28th/29th Stand at County Show

June

7th Region Guides Bonkers @ Conkers
11th Commissioner Training
14th County Rainbow Romp
22nd Vice-Presidents' Tea
23rd County Campfire/Sausage Sizzle
27th Bon Voyage Party

July

5th Bell Boats for Brownies
12th Survival Camp for 13+ Guides

See the County Web Site for the complete calendar and further details of events.

CAMP & HOLIDAY LICENCE TRAINING FOR BROWNIE AND GUIDE LEADERS

Sunday 9th March 2008, County HQ, Hixon

Your newly appointed but very experienced County Outdoor team will be organizing this training for all leaders interested in starting their Camp and Pack Holiday licenses this year.

This training is your opportunity to find out what's involved in Camp and Holiday licenses in readiness for summer 2008. Handouts outlining all aspects of the training will be available on the day.

Full details from:

www.girlguidingstaffordshire.org.uk/guidersinfo

To check availability of places contact:

Julie Tanner - Brownie Pack Holiday Adviser on
01785 220853

OR Rachel Aston - Camp & Holiday Adviser for Guides on
01785 254570

IMPORTANT NEWS!!!

This is the last Gazette which will automatically be distributed to everyone as a paper copy.

Help save the planet and get the latest Gazette sooner -

- read / download the Gazette from the County website
- sign up to have the Gazette e-mailed directly to you (e-mail publications@girlguidingstaffordshire.org.uk with the subject line 'Gazette' and stating your name, Unit and Division)

Guiders without internet access can request a paper copy - but you must contact your Division Commissioner by 1st April 2008 at the latest.

Copy date

for the next Gazette is 1st April 2008. (To be published 26th April 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

www.girlguidingstaffordshire.org.uk