

# The Gazette

November 2008

## News and views from Girlguiding Staffordshire

### Staffordshire Prepares to Change the World



On Saturday 11 October 2008, 170 Guiders and Young Leaders attended the County's Changing the World Day at Staffordshire University in Stafford.

**Girlguiding UK's Changing the World project challenges every Guiding unit and group to complete a community action project in the next 12 months. This will ensure that we can launch our Centenary celebrations in September 2009 knowing that what we do does make a difference and that Guiding can change the world.**

The day was well received and there was lots of positive feedback on the evaluation forms. Thank

you to everyone involved with the organising of the day who worked very hard to make it so successful. *Jo Ross - County International Adviser*

Read an extended version of this report on [www.girlguidingstaffordshire.org.uk](http://www.girlguidingstaffordshire.org.uk)



### From the County Commissioner . . .

**As I write this I'm thinking about the Annual Review and all that has been achieved this year.** In the last two months alone so much has happened. An unforgettable Brownie Guiders weekend at Waddow and the launch of the Change the World project in the form of a training day, an evening for mentors, the International debrief evening and a SCVYS networking evening.



When I think about all the activities in Divisions, Districts and Units as well as County, I am inspired by the amount of enthusiasm and willingness shown by all our volunteer leaders. During October it was a pleasure to thank Ann Wheeler for all her years managing the Craft Depot and then to meet Jose Harvey, a sprightly 90 year old from Oulton, Stone, who has been involved in Guiding since the age of 7!

A huge thank you to everyone for all you do, my wish is that you all enjoy a happy, and perhaps restful, Christmas.

*Pauline McKie*

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Thinking Day postcard exchange 2009  
To sign up or to learn more about the  
exchange, visit [www.mythinkingday.com](http://www.mythinkingday.com)

How did you celebrate Thinking Day in  
2008? Please e-mail publications  
[@girlguidingstaffordshire.org.uk](mailto:@girlguidingstaffordshire.org.uk)



## Brownies' Radio Visit

I was one of the Brownies chosen from my unit, 7th Hanley to visit signal radio on Saturday 18th October.

We all met on the Signal car park and it was really cold whilst we were waiting and I was very nervous and excited - I had never been inside the radio station before.

Once we got inside which seemed to take forever, we met Louise from the breakfast show. She was really nice and tried to remember all of our names! (She was better than the Guiders!) When Louise met us she told us that she had told Chris that there were Brownies in reception and he thought that Louise had been baking and was going to come out and eat us cause he thought we were chocolate!!!!

We went on a tour of the radio station, we went into the Signal 1 studio and met Chris who was live on the radio, and told all of his listeners that we were there! We then went to Signal 2 studio and learnt how some of the computers worked!

After this we went to meet Darren who was waiting for us in another studio, where we started to record ourselves. We did a warm up and voice checks and our own '7th Hanley Jingle' then we started to describe things for 'little kidders' which **was great fun! We got to describe 3 things, but I can't tell** you what they are otherwise that would be cheating and you could win a trip to Blackbrook Zoological Park!!!

I had a great time at Signal Radio. All of the presenters who **we met were lovely and I can't wait to go again soon!**

Thanks to Louise and Darren for having us.

*Chloe - 7th Hanley Brownies*



## Bell Boat Regatta 2008

**This year's Bell Boat regatta attracted 10 teams in all. Two Brownie teams, two Leaders teams and six Guide teams took part in very windy weather conditions.** 1<sup>st</sup> Fradley Brownies beat Whittington Brownies by 5 seconds to retain the shield for a second year, they also won the fancy dress competition as the Whizzing Witches. In the Leaders race Whittington District beat their old rivals Uttoxeter Division; but Uttoxeter, who entered as Team UGB, won the fancy dress.



3<sup>rd</sup> Whittington Guides (Winter Wonderland) won by 2 seconds overall beating 1<sup>st</sup> Uttoxeter (Baby Belles) into second place. Other teams taking part were 1<sup>st</sup> Whittington (Punk Fairies), 7<sup>th</sup> Lichfield (Chads Chavs), 2<sup>nd</sup> Uttoxeter (Insane Insects) and 1<sup>st</sup> Rocester (The Smarties). 3<sup>rd</sup> Whittington also won the fancy dress competition. A very difficult decision for the judges as all teams made a real effort with their costumes.

Thanks to Mike Twitchen, Mick Jones, Ivor James and Keith Hill for their help and support on the water throughout the day.

*Margaret Smith - County Boating Adviser*

## All because of Girlguiding . . .

*Here's an extract from a letter written by 5th Cannock Ranger Emily Church as part of her Chief Guide Award.*

'When I told my friends I was going to America they were all really excited for me, then I told them it was with Girlguiding . . . They were all gob smacked! "You get to go on trips abroad?" They all said. "I thought you just did crafts and things? Wow! That's cool!" I don't think people out of Girlguiding realise how much there is to offer in this organisation.

**I've done so much in the past few years that it would take me too long to write them all down. I've been to London, Beaudesert, campfire evenings, Alton Towers, white water rafting, to a Broadway show, enrolled on the top of the Empire State Building, stayed at an American Girl Scouts house, to Philadelphia, taken part in gang shows, Duke of Edinburgh, been an ugly sister in the Rainbows 21st Birthday Party and lots more! And all because of Girlguiding!'**

## International Opportunities..... A leader's perspective

Late last year, I was asked to lead this year's County Jailbreak team, appropriately named 'The Staffordshire Stowaways'. At first I found the thought of leading the trip and gaining my international licence daunting, however with the support of my Division, County and having a group of brilliant girls I successfully lead the trip this summer.

Leading an international trip is something that I would recommend to leaders from all sections.

**The experience is both challenging and rewarding and it's amazing to see how much the girls develop as both individuals and team members over such a small space of time.** Leading an international trip also provided me as a leader with new opportunities to develop my leadership skills and to share my knowledge and experience with others.

There are many International Opportunities out there which will suit any and every leader and with the support from the County International Team other people can experience these fantastic opportunities too. Finally, we should take **advice from the Guiding ethos and 'Go for it'.**

*Helen Nicholls, Guide Guider, Uttoxeter Division*



## Austrian Adventure

My name is Beth Parker and I am a member of 1st Cheadle Rainbows, Cheadle 1st Guides and 1st Kingsley Holt rangers. This year I was selected to take part in an international Jamboree to Austria with a Midlands Region group. The Jamboree was called AQUA! 2008 and was held in St. Georgen, Austria. The aim of the camp was to promote awareness of water usage around the world. While I was there I took part in many different activities such as assault courses and swimming in lakes. I was also interviewed by 2 Austrian radio stations! I had such an amazing time in Austria, I have so many memories that will last me a lifetime! I want to say to anyone thinking **of going on an international trip, you must do it! It's a once in a lifetime opportunity and it's something you can't afford to miss, you will have the time of your life!**



Read reports and see pictures of many of the 2008 international trips at [www.girlguidingstaffordshire.org.uk / international/tripreps](http://www.girlguidingstaffordshire.org.uk/international/tripreps)



Find out how these eggs became 'friends' at the International Selection Weekend at

[www.girlguidingstaffordshire.org.uk/news](http://www.girlguidingstaffordshire.org.uk/news)

## Walking News

A wonderful walking season has just finished with many activities for girls including Rucksack Rambles and Night Hikes as well as Adult Trainings. Many congratulations go to Brigette Geyer on passing her Level 1, well done!

The new walking scheme training booklet is now available priced £5.00. Top tip - order from your depot to avoid postage costs.

County Walking Weekend 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> May at Gradbach Scout Cottage on the Roaches.



There are 18 places available for an adult only Level 2 walking weekend, partners are invited to attend but places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Walking on the Roaches is suitable for anyone looking at gaining experience for a Level 2 qualification and we will be walking for pleasure. £30.00

Level 1 Walking Training 29<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> May at Hixon

A weekend training for any leader wishing to take girls out a little further from their meeting place. Suitable for any leader who walks regularly, no knowledge of maps or compass is necessary as full training will be given on this, basic outdoor first aid and the Out and About guidelines. £30.00



Both flyers are available from [www.girlguidingstaffordshire.org.uk](http://www.girlguidingstaffordshire.org.uk) or from your Division Outdoor Adviser.

# INFORMATION

## What's on?

2008

November

- 24th International team meeting  
26th Performing Arts Evening.  
An opportunity to share ideas for performing arts in the programme. Hixon from 7.30pm  
29th GO trainings for Division Commissioners

December

- 6th GO trainings for Division Commissioners

2009

January

- 14th Commissioner Training  
21st **Meetings: Staffordshire's Got Talent and Centenary Launch Party Teams**  
28th Adult Leader Training: Five Minute Fillers  
31st County Exec meeting

February

- 7th Food Hygiene preparation  
28th Commissioner Training

*See the County Website for the complete calendar and downloadable application forms for trainings.*

## Website Success

Are you reading this Gazette on your computer? Perhaps you visited the Girlguiding Staffordshire website to download it. If so, you are not alone.



The County website is being used by more and more people every month.

In October 2008 there were 1272 visits to the site.

221 people accessed the Gazette online after receiving a notification e-mail. If you would like to be sent your own e-mail telling you when the next Gazette is available just e-mail your name, Unit and Division to [publications@girlguidingstaffordshire.org.uk](mailto:publications@girlguidingstaffordshire.org.uk) If you are already on the e-mail **circulation list, don't forget to tell us if you have changed your e-mail address so you won't miss out.**

And finally, did you know . . .

- the most popular time to access the website is 10p.m. (The quietest hours are 1a.m. and 6a.m. **but it's still being used!**)
- the 20<sup>th</sup> most common search term for finding the site from a search engine is **"throwing a scrabble party"**!

# Happy Christmas!



Copy date

for the next Gazette is

10th January 2009.

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Articles should be a maximum of 200 words long.

Good quality digital photographs welcome.

Gazette and web site contributions to:

[publications@girlguidingstaffordshire.org.uk](mailto:publications@girlguidingstaffordshire.org.uk)

[www.girlguidingstaffordshire.org.uk](http://www.girlguidingstaffordshire.org.uk)