

The Blue *sheet*



Norfolk's guiding news

October 2020



www.girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk

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Welcome to our second online edition of the Blue Sheet...

Once again this edition is crammed with all the great activities and opportunities that have been taking place across the County. So do take time to sit and have a read.

It has been great to hear how units have been enjoying outdoor face to face meetings over the summer. The feedback I have heard always focusses on the excitement of meeting in person and the pleasure the girls and leaders have got from catching up with one another. 'We all just sat and chatted, at a social distance and it was great,' said one leader. That definitely makes all the preparation and form filling worthwhile!

As we move towards the darker and colder nights, many will be looking to return to indoor meetings if they can, and again I am sure everyone will benefit from that social interaction that has unfortunately been missing for much of this year. I know that not all units have been able to meet outdoors or will find it difficult to meet indoors and that is understandable. We must all do what we can and what we feel comfortable with.

Reading about the 4,000+ badges that have been awarded during lockdown makes me feel so proud. Girlguiding in Norfolk has certainly adapted to the situation we have found ourselves in and risen to the challenge of delivering virtual meetings via Zoom and other online platforms. A blended offering during the next few months is what we need to focus on now as we do what we can to ensure all girls continue to access good guiding across the County. If you have any ideas of how we might achieve this then please get in touch.

I am very much looking forward to seeing the entries to our Christmas Baking Competition but am naturally disappointed that there will be nothing for the judges to taste! Do look out for how to order our gorgeous GGN 2020 Christmas badge via our new online County Shop which we hope will go live in mid November.

I would like to say a personal thank you to every one of our great volunteers (not forgetting their families and friends) for giving so freely their time and energy to Girlguiding Norfolk. The next few months will continue to be difficult and challenging on many different levels, but for me, and hopefully you agree, being a member of the Girlguiding Norfolk family which offers friendship, help and support when we need it, is something that I would not want to be without.

Now to go and practice making a Tunis cake...

Christine Martin - County Commissioner



Please note our new email address:

ggnadmin@girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk

which replaces office@girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk

Christmas Cake Comp!

Think you have what it takes to be crowned a Girlguiding Norfolk Star Christmas baker?

Then get your aprons on, your mixing bowls out and the oven on. All the details on how to enter are available on the website. Open to all members from Rainbows to Trefoil Guild.

Happy Baking...



Christmas Badges

Our Christmas Badges for 2020 will be available through our new Girlguiding Norfolk County Online Shop from mid November at a cost of £1.00 each + P&P.

Our Online Shop will be a great platform to increase sales and profit for Girlguiding Norfolk County branded items. We are not able to sell items only available through the Badge Secretary.

Any orders for Shirley Robinson, our County Badge Secretary, can be emailed to retail@girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk.



North West Norfolk Division Discoveries Weekend

Girls and adults in North West Norfolk have had the opportunity to discover more about their Division.

A whole weekend of activities for Rainbows to Rangers, parents and volunteers was on offer. The activities came from every town and village in the Division with a unit and were submitted by the local leaders.

The weekend kicked off with a welcome video and new locations were introduced with a clue every couple of hours. Activities were posted on Unit Facebook groups or emailed out so everyone had the chance to join in.

Among lots of things on offer, Rainbows and Brownies had the opportunity to make a hobby horse (Fakenham), try construction (Docking), make duck food (Massingham Trefoil Guild) and make a sea creature from plastic waste (Wells).

For Guides, Rangers and adults, there was bread making (Gayton), ice cream in a bag (Hunstanton), model making (Dersingham), make a swing braided torc (Snettisham), an origami natterjack toad (Syderstone), walk and draw a letter 'P' using a tracking app (Pocahontas - Heacham) and lots more!

Carla, Sandringham Guides leader, visited the ARC and made a socially distanced video about the history of the unit which is 100 years old this year!

A big thank you must go to all of the local leaders, who submitted such fun and engaging activities and supported the girls to take part.

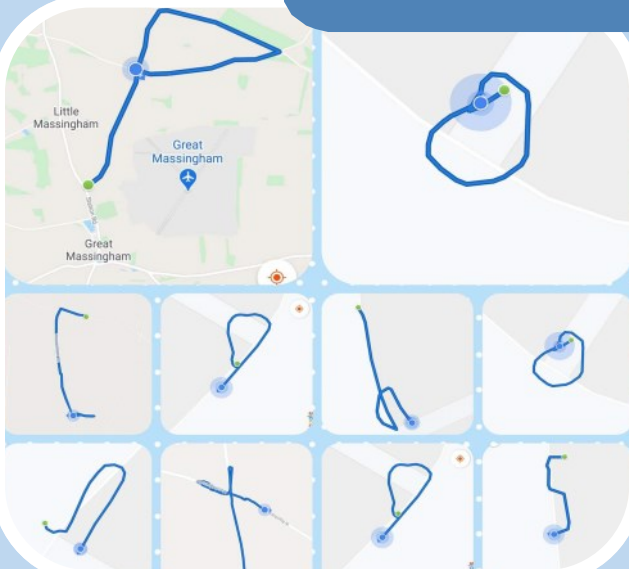
Everyone who participated received a free badge, courtesy of the Division Depot.

Feedback was very positive, everyone loved the activities and the adult volunteers liked the opportunity to come together virtually. A big part of Guiding locally is working as a team and many have missed this recently. This definitely brought the Division together.

*Linda Watkinson,
Assistant County
Commissioner*

A PDF booklet of the activities and badges (£1 each + P+P) are available from Catherine Leigh, Division Commissioner.

Email: calf67@btinternet.com



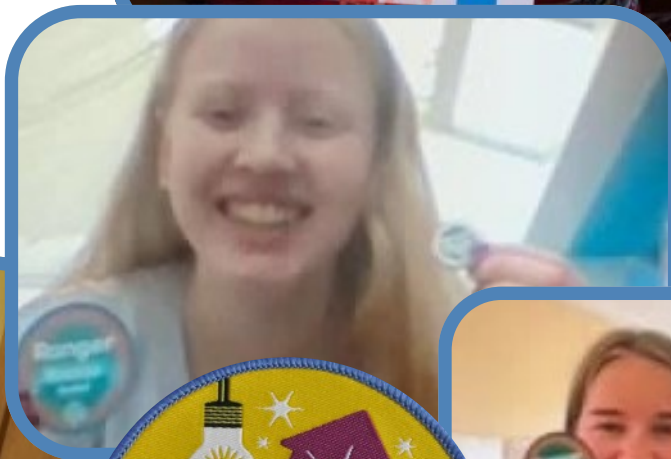
Girlguiding Norfolk County a Success During Lockdown

During lockdown, when schools have been closed and most other activities for young people paused, including Girlguiding, volunteers have helped Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers have (virtual) fun and adventures and achieve over 4000 badges as well as taking part in Girlguiding's 'Adventuresathome'.

While not able to meet in person, hundreds of local volunteers have been keeping their young members busy by organising virtual meetings, games, camps and sending out experiments and craft packs. It's given them a sense of normality and a safe space to meet friends, gain new skills and keep healthy in mind and body. Many adult volunteers also say it has helped them to stay sane.

As part of #Adventuresathome Girlguiding has also been encouraging the girls to continue to earn badges, many of which are designed to be done in their spare time and at home. Badges for girls include Vlogging, Agility, Animal Lover, Mindfulness, Mixology, Upcycling, Construction and Self Care.

"The biggest misconception about Girlguiding by the general public is that we are old fashioned. But we know that is not true," said Helen Green, County Archivist.



What our Members Said...

"As a person who has been shielding, guiding has been a great way for me to stay creative and connected in lockdown. I looked forward to each session and I was even able to make my Ranger Promise online. The leaders put in lots of effort and we really appreciate all that they have done for us."

Ella, Alington Rangers

"I only started Guides in January so I hadn't really got to know everyone that well but we've just had so much fun on Zoom. I've made pizza, done scavenger hunts around the house and been part of a few virtual camps where we completed activities and challenges. I've got lots of badges too!"

Freya, 9th Norwich Guides

"I love guiding and was so pleased that we continued to meet over Zoom in lockdown. I got to see my friends and our guiding leaders and the sessions were the highlight of my week."

Poppy, Alington Guides

"I have absolutely loved my Brownie Zoom sessions during lockdown. I really loved all the cooking and craft we did and learnt a lot as well like first aid. Even if it was online I could still see my Brownie friends each week and felt really part of my Brownie unit."

Molly, Alington Brownies

"it's stopped me getting bored while I've been stuck at home. I did loads of badges and got my Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. They're really special!!"

Matilda, 31st Norwich Rainbows

"I have really missed Rainbows but we have been doing online meetings which have been really, really fun. I really enjoyed seeing my friends, doing the online camps and getting the activity packs dropped at my door - they were so exciting!"

Scarlett-Rose, Cromer Rainbows



Finally Back Together!

A chilly night didn't stop 4th Norwich Rainbows from meeting up as soon as face to face outdoor meetings were given the go ahead.

Eaton Park was the venue and 6 leaders welcomed 18 Rainbows which we split into 2 sub groups in order to see them all. They were brilliant at social distancing, using their water bottles as a guide on where to stand!

We played some games and threw a virtual ball around the circle during Rainbow Chat to encourage 'one at a time' talking as everyone was very chatty! Squeezing 6 months of news x 9 children into an hour was an achievement in itself!

Towards the end of the meeting we enjoyed presenting all the badges earned during lockdown including Easter, Midsummer Sleepover, Adventures at Home and a Unicorn Challenge. Two Rainbows made their Promise and one received their Pot of Gold badge and certificate.

Claire Everson, 4th Norwich Rainbows



Busy Brownies

38th Norwich Brownies have been meeting weekly via Zoom since lockdown began. We've enjoyed various games including bingo, scavenger hunts and 'What's in the Bag'. We've completed loads of UMAs, Skills Builders and other badges as well as just chatting, having fun and bringing some normality to everyone's weeks.

About 20 Brownies join the weekly Zooms and feedback has been really positive from the girls and parents.

We recently looked at the Brownie Promise and Law and chatted about what good turns the Brownies had done that week. We then listened to the traditional Brownie story and chatted about the similarities in the tale to our own Promise ceremony. Then Primrose made her own Brownie Promise virtually - a 38th Norwich Brownie first!

The next mission was to prepare for our Brownie sleepover.

The Brownies were challenged to make a den to sleep in for the night. We loved seeing their creativeness - there were tents in gardens, sofa dens, beds under kitchen tables and in other nooks and crannies of the house.

We met on Zoom to play games and undertake various traditional crafts including crafty campfires. Golden Owl made a song book with some great call and repeat songs and we ended the zoom with campfire singing, s'mores and hot chocolate before going offline to watch a film and sleep.

Brown Owl posted Facebook live videos on the closed Facebook page and parents shared pictures of what their daughters got up to as well. Other activities included crafts, science investigation, outside scavenger hunts and creative arts!

*Samantha Hubbard,
38th Norwich Brownies*



Outdoor Guiding Returns to Dersingham

During lockdown in Dersingham we have found ways to keep guiding alive.

Members of 1st Dersingham Rainbows, 2nd Dersingham Brownies and 1st Dersingham Guides have been receiving many different badges and activities to complete at home including Drawing, Painting, Fixing, Helper, Let's Get Brekkie Ready and a Woolly Sheep challenge. There will be a lot of sewing on of badges when we are meeting properly again!

The Brownies and Guides have sadly not been able to enjoy their annual Holiday and Camp, but they have taken part in a Virtual camp where they had to sleep 'somewhere other than their own bed'. The girls rose to the challenge sleeping in different rooms in the house, tents in the garden, dens indoors and even the caravan on the driveway. On Brownie holiday the Pyjama Parade is a highlight on the first evening and the girls were challenged to hold their own parade with their family.

All the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides had the opportunity to join in with the Girlguiding Anglia Midsummer Challenge which involved camping and midsummer themed activities. We have also taken part in our own North West Norfolk 'Division Discoveries' Challenge (see page 3). In Dersingham, there are two trees which, when in full leaf, look like an elephant - the Dersingham Elephant - so our challenge to the Division was elephant themed.

During the summer, as lockdown lifted, we offered the opportunity to meet outdoors. Multiple meetings were organised over the summer and it was wonderful to see the girls again and give them the opportunity to share all the badge work they had completed, play games and to enjoy being a Rainbow, Brownie or Guide again. It also gave us a chance to present badges earned since March. The girls also received the commemorative VE day badge and the Adventures at home badge.

Lynne & Elizabeth Wheeler, Dersingham Leaders



ARC Time Traveller

I have really enjoyed being one of the ARC Angels to help create the Time Traveller badge.

The regular online meetings were so lovely to stay connected through lockdown and we were all able to choose topics to research that really interested us. Working with different age groups gave us the chance to learn from each other and enthuse the whole team with different ideas. My favourite part was creating activities that will teach girls about uniform history and challenge them to design a future Promise Badge!

The ARC Angels also took part in the 'Museum in a Jar' project led by Rachel Duffield aka Lady Baden-Powell. It was great to see her again and view our mini-museums in an online exhibition!

Jasmine Downes, ARC Angel



Information about the 'Time Traveller' syllabus and how to purchase your badges will be available shortly.



Patteson Lodge Open for Weekly Meets!

Patteson Lodge opened up its outdoor space (campsite field, woodlands and toilet block) in September, giving local guiding groups somewhere to meet. We have currently had 5 different groups enjoying the outdoor space.

As from October our indoor space (main hall and toilets) is available to hire for a minimum 2-hour booking.

We have carried out COVID-19 risk assessments and updated signage around the site.

We have additional cleaning, handwashing with standing hand sanitising stations in place on both the campsite and inside the lodge. We have our unique QR code for all visitors to log into the venue via the NHS trace and track app. All procedures are in line with current guidance to help people stay safe.

Sharron Hunt, Patteson Lodge Centre Manager



Keswick Campsite Reopens

Keswick Campsite is currently available to hire for meetings. Hire includes the field, disabled toilet and water tap.

After some delays we are hopeful that the new hut will be handed over soon and we can prepare to make it Covid safe and ready for let.

Please contact keswick@girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk for further details.

Back to Rangers!

September saw my first Ranger meeting at Patteson Lodge campsite in Coltishall.

The evening was dark and it was raining but this didn't dampen my spirits as I was looking forward to attending! My bag was packed with clipboard, pen, paper, torch, cooking utensils and some strawberries as we were making pancakes and cooking bacon over a lit fire for our supper!

We were split into 2 groups and I was with my friend from another Guide group. First task was to collect wood for the fire before lighting it and swapping groups to make the pancakes. We used metal camping tins and buddy burners made the week before. Once the pancakes were cooked we added our choice of toppings! They tasted very good!

As the evening drew to a close we put our dirty dishes into a bag, folded our chairs and made our way to the car park ready for our parents. I had a great time at Rangers and really look forward to our next meeting!

Many thanks to Helen and Susan for such a great job organising the evening! And to Diana for the previous evening.

Alanna Wright



Old Catton Ranger leaders have invited Guides along to get them started on their Ranger journey.

The return to face-to-face guiding has happened at Patteson Lodge, with the ARC supporting activities.