

# The Blue sheet



Norfolk's guiding news

December 2024



## On the cover:

Houtbois Fest in Action!

## Inside:

Gressenhall . Remembrance  
Launch of Inspire . Service awards  
Museum Accreditation . Carnivals  
Guide of the Year

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



# Hello from the county commissioners

Between unit events, GGN events and Hautbois Fest the summer months were busy. We are lucky to have support from Girlguiding Anglia at some of the events including the Pride parade, Volunteers and Freshers week stands and of course this year, the takeover day at Pleasurewood Hills.

The changes in the Leadership Development

Programme, Young Leader Programme, and changes to safe space and DBS renewals are keeping everyone busy this term – if you need help, please ask – if you are not sure who to ask then contact Lesa at: ggnadmin@girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk

Thank you all for everything that you do to provide members of Girlguiding Norfolk with a safe, fun and

friendly place to be themselves.

*Fiona and Yvonne*



## Long Service Awards

### 60 years

Pat Pinnington

### 50 years

Ann Webb

### 40 years

Chris Phillips  
Heather Simpson  
Jill Annison  
Liz Lawford  
Margaret Kingston

### 30 years

Aileen Beck  
Lynne Wheeler  
Mitch Neville  
Sarah Griffiths

### 20 years

Claire Young  
Clare Smith  
Fiona Reynolds  
Margaret Paffett  
Nadine Sanders  
Polly Brown  
Toni Wheeler

### 10 years

Alison Thompson  
Anne Williams  
Caitlin Cooper  
Charlotte Knapp

Deborah King  
Emily Hodge  
Fiona Wilson  
Hollie Nichols

Jennie Cook  
Jordan Randle  
Linda Benton  
Lizzie Orland

Mary Clack  
Nicola Theobald  
Rai Grigsby

Sally Jayne  
Middleton  
Steven Thurston

### 5 years

Amy Goward  
Amy Woolmer  
Becky Walton  
Bev Smith  
Catherine Ward  
Charlotte Ranger  
Donna Cock

Daisy Chapman-Gardner  
Ellie Pantling  
Emily Noble  
Emma Webster  
Fran McCarthy  
Grace Prothero-Gibbs

Helen Chesney  
Kirsty Penfold  
Libby Brett-Reynolds  
Marianne Adamson  
Mary D'Souza  
Monika Verbickaite  
Polly Dixon

Rachel Walter  
Rebecca Taylor  
Sharon Woodrow  
Shaun Yeoman  
Sophie Payen  
Sue Crowe  
Vidette Clarke



## Chief Guide presents 60 year long service award

Pat Pinnington was presented with her 60 years long service award at the ARC celebration weekend. Chief Guide Tracy Foster made the presentation with Pat's family also in attendance.

As a previous GGN county commissioner, and now county president, an opportunity to hold the presentation with many who have known Pat during her many guiding roles was a wonderful surprise for her.



## Awash with poppies

The Royal British Legion celebrated its 100th anniversary in April this year and, as part of the centenary, Snettisham Girlguiding and Scout groups contributed to an enormous poppy installation on the archway entrance leading into the magnificent St Mary's Church.

Everyone in the village had the opportunity to sponsor a poppy in memory of a loved one and write a message on a laminated card, which was then attached to the giant nets of poppies. Every contribution went towards the Snettisham Poppy appeal, a testament to our collective commitment to this cause.



## GoGo Safari – Help!

ACC Doreen has a new addition to the household but needs your help, and that of the girls and volunteers in your units to transform her! Here is a sneak peak of her face!



Please help with the following:

- Ideas for names (email below)
- Volunteers to paint her in January
- Help to create a challenge badge along the themes of safari

If you would like to be involved in anyway, please contact [acc@girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk](mailto:acc@girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk)

## Your Girlguiding adult member policy

What does Girlguiding expect of me as a member? To follow Girlguiding policies and procedures.

As we will all be looking to complete unit, district, division and county accounts at the end of December, we need to be aware of our responsibilities. We encourage you all to submit your accounts to your commissioners by the end of February 2025. The finance policy has been recently updated – if you need support with any financial matters, please make your commissioner aware, so that we can provide the support you need in your units.

[www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-volunteers/policies/finance-policy/](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-volunteers/policies/finance-policy/)



# Celebrating Museum Accreditation

The ARC opened its doors for Heritage Open Days transporting visitors back in time for a journey through the extensive archives. We were proud to welcome Chief Guide, Tracy Foster, to the event and invited her to cut the cake made in recognition of the ARC's achievement of becoming an accredited museum.

On arrival visitors collected their ARC express train ticket and boarded the train for the 1940s.

First stop was camp cooking; making a 'cheese dream' or a pineapple upside-down cake. At this station you could even try the Tenderfoot test!

The next stop was the Tree Circle, a quiet space to remember (or learn about) key people involved in the ARC from the past.

On to Lady Mayhew Woods. Here you could take a moment to have a sweet treat before trying the Escape Tent! Chief Guide, Tracy Foster, joined us here for a s'more break!

Our Escape Tent was set in a train station heading to HQ... but before the train leaves you had to find the trophy! Using the clues and morse code you had to find the answers to escape!

Patteson Lodge was the guiding history hub featuring fascinating displays, a mice history show and Whistlestop Café where you could enjoy a cuppa and scone.

Next station was Portrait Place where you could see uniforms through the ages, some from the 1900s and some which feature in our new ARC Trumps card game. Try them on and recreate some old guide photos!

ARC Central - The final stop on our journey and bursting with memories of the past.

Lots of hard work was needed behind the scenes and on the day to bring the event to life. ARC volunteers had many tasks to do in order to prepare. The ARC has come such a long way, and we are grateful to all those who have helped us along this journey.

Thank you to everyone who visited; we had some lovely feedback...

*"So impressed by the whole theme and how much work you'd all put in to make a really exciting experience for visitors."*

*"You've worked so hard for this. Shoe box to show case!"*

*A wonderful Norfolk museum."*





# Happy Birthday Old Catton!

1st Old Catton Brownies turned 70 in October and celebrated with a term of special treats!

- Pottery painting where they decorated a unit plate.
- A pamper night with facials, foot spas and nail painting
- A trip to Lush to make bath bombs
- Most importantly -a birthday party for Brownies and families!

The party included refreshments and activities celebrating each decade. We had a trefoil Hama bead craft, old uniforms to try on, mini woolly hats to make, owl craft with the promise on, poem writing, bracelet making and fete games. We had a birthday cake and sang happy birthday to the unit!

A commemorative badge designed by the Brownies is now proudly displayed on their uniform. It was quite the term!



There are some badges available for £1.50 if anybody would like to purchase. Please contact: [brownies-1stoldcatton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:brownies-1stoldcatton@hotmail.co.uk)

## Martham Carnival Fun

In July, Martham Brownies ran stalls at Martham Carnival. They included a tombola, throwing games and a 'Teddy name tag' stall, where the girls donated their pre-loved teddies and soft toys and renamed them all for the new owners to win. A teddy every time!

On Sunday, 2nd Martham Guides joined us on the 1980s themed float for the carnival parade. We were all dressed as Rubix Cubes and the leaders had made Rubik cubes to decorate the float. Everyone had a fantastic time which was made even better when we won best in parade!

*Eagle Owl, 1st Martham Brownies*





## Scarecrow Success

1st Alington units took part in the local scarecrow competition.

There were 50 scarecrows entered and we got nearly 275 votes. The model was designed and made by the Guides, who won a £50 prize.



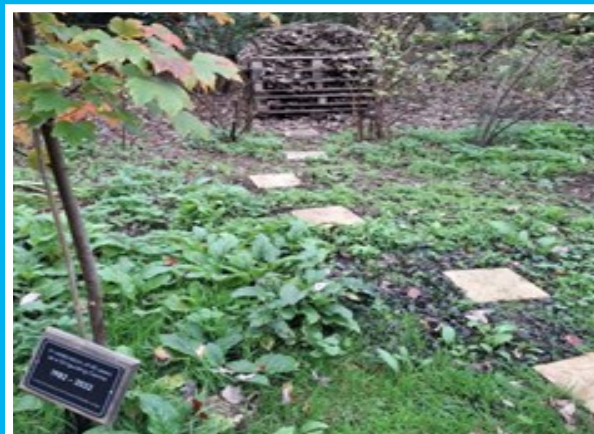
## Patteson Lodge

Residents have moved into the new bug house, ready for winter! The area behind the 40th anniversary tree was starting to look quite overgrown, so work to cut back gave us a chance to add a bug hotel.

Other gardening projects are also taking place; Millefleur, a Trefoil Guild, visit once a month to recreate an area with plants that would have been on the original site when the Patteson sisters were growing up. Lady Mayhew Woods produces a carpet of Bluebells in May, so in 2025, we will be holding open days between 30th May–1st June so that many more of you get to see them.

Do you know anyone who is interested in horticulture? GGN has a grant available for anyone studying – and we would be interested in supporting them with further projects within the Estate.

Contact [PL@girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk](mailto:PL@girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk) for details.



## Donation from the Round Table

The King's Lynn Vancouver Round Table 114 held a Cider and Beer festival in August to raise money for local charities. Girlguiding King's Lynn South District was lucky enough to be one of the chosen charities and in November Sean, David, James and Andy from the Round Table visited the Beacon in North Lynn to present them with a cheque for £500.

This money was very gratefully received and will allow the district to run events next year like the giant pyjama party for world thinking day in February 2025.

*Ruth Fox,  
King's Lynn South Secretary*





## Pull's Ferry news

Once again, Pull's Ferry opened its doors and welcomed visitors for the annual Heritage Open Days in September.

Over 700 visitors from all over Norwich and countries including America, France, Australia and Ukraine, learned about the history of the building right from its construction in medieval times through to the renovation of the building in the 1940s by Norwich Girl Guides.

There was also a colourful display showcasing guiding opportunities today and numerous recruitment postcards were given out to potential new members!



## Pleasurewood Hills

Girlguiding Anglia organised a takeover event at Pleasurewood Hills and 2700 members responded – and had an amazing time!

1st Ashill Brownies, like many others, had a photo with Woody Bear and one of the county commissioners Yvonne Kemp, but Woody was obviously the star!



## Growing guiding

Girlguiding Mulbarton recently welcomed 7 new Guides to the group.





# "A Guide smiles and sings under all difficulties"

The original eighth Guide Law was definitely obeyed at the 1st Norfolk 1940s Guide Company summer camp this year when Storm Lilian hit with high winds and driving rain. It was a real challenge to keep cheerful, warm and dry!

*"We certainly learned why tents need to be storm-lashed and how to repair canvas,"* said camp Captain Aileen Beck. *"A variety of weather conditions were admirably managed, to the delight and respect of the Gressenhall staff."*

The event at Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse Museum in August was led by volunteers from the ARC

(Archive Resource Centre) and saw Guides, Sea Rangers, Cadets (the equivalent of Young Leaders) travel back in time to camp as if they were in the 1940s.

Specially made forties-style uniforms were worn and there was a full programme of 1940s activities, challenges and badge work.

*"One highlight was having a retired firefighter join us to work through the 1939 firefighter syllabus, including techniques and rescue procedures of the time,"* said Aileen.

The Guides and Sea Rangers worked with the farm animals, grooming Suffolk Punch horses and clearing

manure from their fields. They made ice cream without any electricity and learned about the ARP (Air Raid Precautions) and Land Girl duties.

*"On top of all that, we worked towards the Tenderfoot Test, Second Class, First Class and Able Sea Ranger Test, with the 18-year-olds working on their Cadet Test,"* she added.

Sea Ranger Zoe was the recipient of the Anne Carter Award for outstanding achievement at camp.

Camp numbers swelled on Saturday when a group of evacuees arrived – in the shape of younger Guides – and, despite the rain, enjoyed camp challenges and Blitz cooking.





Sophie W, who was on her second 1940s camp, said it was interesting to learn about the badges and activities done at the time. *"I liked meeting other Guides from the county and my patrol have kept in touch since camp,"* she said.

Molly was also a returning camper and loved seeing her friends from last year.

*"It was different but a good experience for me as I have type one diabetes and had to manage that through the different sort of diet we had."*

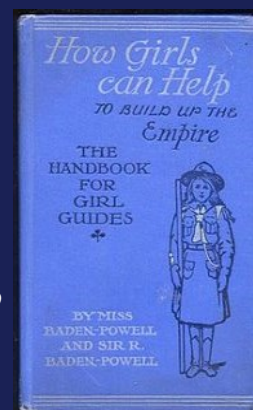
The 1940s menu included mince and dumplings, corned beef hash and haybox porridge – a camp favourite.

The sun did eventually shine once the storm had passed, and many visitors were welcomed and given a guided tour of the campsite by members of the company.

*"It was another week of fun, friendship and laughter for all, whether new to camp or returning,"* said Aileen. *"I've heard stories of their authentic 1940s promise badges being worn with pride and comments to the parents on pick up of 'we survived the storm!' and 'see you next year!' We must, of course, thank the farm staff for all their help and support before, during and after the event."*

At their pre-camp training day, Aileen read participants one of Agnes Baden Powell's favourite fables from the first Guide handbook. It involves two frogs and a bowl of cream – and the moral of the tale is that if you smile and sing when things look bad you will come through alright. That was certainly true of the 2024 summer camp!

*"Want to know the rest of the story?"* asked Aileen. *"Take a look at Agnes' handbook, 'How Girls Can Help to Build up the Empire'!"*





# Get involved in these events around the county!



**Girlguiding**

**Keswick campsite**



Girlguiding Norwich Division are hosting a

## *Snowdrop Morning*

to be held at the campsite, Low Road, Keswick, Norwich, NR4 6TZ

**On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

*10 am to 12 noon*

Come and walk around the campsite and woods to see the display of snowdrops and the daffodils too, if they're flowering.

Refreshments available in the Hut, Keswick wood items, mugs and badges plus preloved books and jigsaws for sale.

Proceeds to Keswick Campsite, Girlguiding Norwich.

Please note parking will be on site via shared drive with Keswick Cottage. Please drive carefully and respect our neighbours.

Alternatively park on the road between the Reading Room and Fir Hill on the Reading Room side where there is a pavement. Take care crossing the road and walk up the shared drive.

The Reading room car park is unavailable that morning.

Thank you and we hope to see you there!!

## GIRLGUIDING NORFOLK INTERNATIONAL SELECTION

FOR THOSE AGED 11-17 ON 18TH JULY 2026

SATURDAY 22ND TO SUNDAY 23RD MARCH 2025  
AT 2ND DEREHAM TOFTWOOD SCOUT HUT

£40 PER PERSON



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT CARIN  
OR KATE - THE INTERNATIONAL ADVISORS AT  
[INTERNATIONAL@GIRLGUIDINGNORFOLK.ORG.UK](mailto:INTERNATIONAL@GIRLGUIDINGNORFOLK.ORG.UK)  
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

CLOSING DATE FOR ALL APPLICATIONS IS FRIDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2025



DON'T MISS IT!

## A CARNIVAL OF FUN!

Join thousands of Scouts & Guides for an epic week  
jam-packed full of activities, adventure and  
memories at the Norfolk Showground.

**9TH - 16TH AUGUST 2025**

@NORJAMJAMBOREE

**NORJAM.ORG.UK**



**Brownies and Cubs  
Challenge Hike**

**Brownies hike:** 4th-5th April 2025  
**Cubs hike:** 5th-6th April 2025

Join us for a hike in the dark with  
challenges along the way!  
Followed by an overnight stay at  
Eaton Vale, and breakfast the next  
morning.

**£24** per young person  
Leader places at discounted rates

For more information and to book visit:  
[www.eatonvale.co.uk](http://www.eatonvale.co.uk)



# Ho Ho Ho! enjoy a reduced rate at Patteson Lodge during Jan 25

Contact Rachael to find out how we can help you take advantage of our reduced rates and short notice offers [PLmanager@girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk](mailto:PLmanager@girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk)

a new year event?

HOW ABOUT A SLEEPOVER?



## SAVE THE DATE(s) A CARNIVAL OF FUN AWAITS!

### NORJAM CUB & BROWNIE DAYS

MONDAY 11TH & WEDNESDAY 13TH  
AUGUST 2025

[NORJAM.ORG.UK](http://NORJAM.ORG.UK)



Girlguiding  
Keswick campsite



Girlguiding Norwich Division are hosting a

## Quiz Night

to be held in the Alec Bussey Centre,  
2 Rowington Rd, Norwich, NR1 3RR

On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

*Arrive from 7pm; Starts at 7.15pm*

Teams should be between 6 & 8 people and the cost is £5.00 per head.

Bring your own bottle and nibbles, tea and coffee will be available during the interval and we will also be having a raffle.

Proceeds to Keswick Campsite, Girlguiding Norwich.

Please call or text Janet on 0784 3818 372 or email [keswick@girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk](mailto:keswick@girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk) to book your team.

Thank you and we hope to see you there!!



## Bingo! What a fundraising success

In July, 1st Freethorpe Guides hosted their, now annual, bingo fundraiser. This year the proceeds helped towards our Guides Norjam 2025 camp costs and buying new tyres for our trailer!

With over 75 locals attending, and people driving from as far as 45 minutes away for their chance to win, we fundraised a huge £543.21!

As always, we ensured prizes were practical from cleaning sprays and toilet rolls to fresh eggs and homemade cakes and a yummy fresh fruit hamper!

Our prize raffle had over 50 prize donations!

A huge thank you goes to the Guides who worked tirelessly ensuring all bingo players were kept hydrated throughout! Alongside a BIG thank you to British Sugar, Cantley, who not only let us use their venue for the

fundraiser but also donated a raffle prize. Without the support of local businesses we wouldn't have been able to raise such a huge amount, and of course a big thank you to everyone who attended!

*Poppy George,  
1st Freethorpe Guides*



## Goodbye to Brown Owl

38th Norwich Brownies went on an owl themed Brownie holiday to wave goodbye to their current leader who is taking a break and hanging up her wings after 17 years as Brown Owl..

The girls designed the badge to mark the Brownie holiday with a picture of a brown owl - *"It has to have sunglasses on as you always have sunglasses on your head,"* said the Brownies.

The weekend consisted of canoeing, zip wiring, campfires, singing and a surprise visit from some real owls! We would highly recommend Evies Owls who came to visit; they were very reasonably priced and Evie, who is just 12 years old, spoke to the Brownies all about the different owls before letting all the girls hold them. The girls loved the owls.

It was a lovely weekend full of lots of surprises, the main one being a 'this is your life' style video from all of the leaders who have helped me over the years at 38th Norwich with messages coming from as far as the USA! It was a holiday full of fun and laughter and, whilst I'm not sure whether it will be goodbye forever, if it is I feel like it was a memorable last event.

*Samantha Hubbard, 38th Norwich Brownies*





# Hello from Hautbois

You may have noticed some extra activity happening over the summer months at Hautbois Activity Centre as we continue to work hard in creating more opportunities and experiences for young people and the local community.

Over the summer, families joined us to take part in some of our activities including kayaking, paddleboarding, climbing, zipwire to name a few; camped on-site and enjoyed our holiday club. We also had over 35 youth groups and organisations join us for some summer fun.

In August we also hosted a brand-new event: Hautbois Fest, where we welcomed over 850 Guides, Rangers, leaders and volunteers from Girlguiding Anglia to experience a weekend of activities, craft, live music and a light and firework show. We are very excited for Hautbois Fest 2026!

We've also enjoyed Bats and Bonfires; our annual bonfire and firework display in November; Brownie wizarding weekend and a guiding adult Christmas weekend. We will be keeping the community updated on forthcoming events via social media channels and our website.

We appreciate all the support we receive in helping to offer these amazing experiences to young people and the wider community and know firsthand how important they can be. If you would like to learn more about our centre or become a Friend of Hautbois, please visit our website: [www.hautbois.org.uk](http://www.hautbois.org.uk) – we hope to see you soon!





# Acle Royal British Legion Guide of the Year

In July we were lucky to be visited by members of the Acle Branch of the Royal British Legion. 1st Freethorpe Guides are a British Legion affiliated unit and each year they visit to present one lucky Guide with the 'Guide of the Year shield'.

The award is presented annually and kept by the lucky recipient for one year.

The shield is presented to someone who upholds their duty as a member of Girlguiding by always doing their best and being true to themselves.

This year, the leaders decided to present the shield to someone who jumped into guiding with both feet, attending all fundraising events, is always present at Guide meetings and takes every opportunity with both hands.

As leaders, we've watched this young lady grow in confidence since becoming a member and taking part in everything from archery to paddle boarding!

As a Guide she always offers help to the leaders, embraces and respects the

views of others and always ensures everyone is encouraged to do their best and get involved with every activity and meeting.

Whilst being a fabulous Guide, always trying hard and giving everything a go, this individual also finds time to compete in National swimming competitions, showing determination and resilience to the sport, and putting in many many hours of training a week.

We are exceptionally proud to announce that our Guide of The Year this year is

Lola Sharman-White and all of the leaders would like to thank Lola for being an absolute credit to our unit and Girlguiding, and for always trying her best in every aspect of life.

We are exceptionally proud of what Lola has achieved both in guiding and outside of guiding and we are so pleased to see Lola's name engraved on the shield this year.

Many congratulations Lola!

*Poppy George,  
1st Freethorpe Guides*



## Moana 2

Along with over 50,000 guiding members from all over the country, 27th Norwich Brownies had a great morning seeing Moana 2 at the cinema. They thought the film was great and Moana a strong person. They were very comfortable in their reclining seats and cannot wait for the next one.

*Pam Lacey, 27th Norwich Brownies*



# Norfolk launches Inspire

In August, Girlguiding Norfolk launched Inspire, the programme dedicated to members of guiding aged 18–30. It's designed to be fun and flexible and offers outdoor and adventurous activities, opportunities for overseas trips and the chance to build leadership skills.

Sasha, GGN Inspire lead says, "We launched Inspire during Hautbois Fest in the summer where we had a full display and interacted with hundreds of members. It was a great event and many people still

did not know what Inspire was so it was great to show them all about it. It was also a really collaborative event and we are hoping to have loads more fun events in the future for Inspire."



November saw the first Inspire Anglia event, held in Cambridge. I was super proud that seven members of Girlguiding Norfolk attended.

We had a fun, festive day with lots of Christmas crafts as well as chatting and meeting new members.

I'm planning to do a Norfolk event next year so if you're not already signed up for updates please let me know you're interested by emailing me at [inspire@girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk](mailto:inspire@girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk) or on our Facebook group Girlguiding Norfolk Inspire (18–30 years) or follow us on Instagram @inspirenorfolkgg





## Solar Panels

Girlguiding Norwich's Keswick Campsite has taken another step towards becoming more sustainable by installing solar panels on the roof.



## Run Norwich 2024

Norwich division, assisted by members from South East and Lowestoft ran a water station at the Run Norwich event in September. There were shouts of 'thank you Brownies' as the runners dashed by and lots of enthusiastic cheering from the girls. Afterwards there were plenty of water bottles and used cups to collect – good fun!



## Brownies earn water safety awards

4th Norwich Brownies recently had a swimming lesson with 'H2O Let's Go'. The girls worked through the Water Safety badges which included a verbal discussion and activities in the water – safely climbing in and out, holding their breath and swimming. All girls received at least one Water Safety badge – some achieved more. Brownies also earned some Rainbow Distance Awards.

The session was enjoyed by all and is something the unit is going to do annually as water safety is such a vital skill to learn and the girls had so much fun!



## Seasonal activities for Rainbows

4th Norwich Rainbows have been busy this term completing challenges and craft activities on an Autumn and Winter theme.

Girls have enjoyed making owl magnets, fox pencil toppers, Christmas wreaths and polar bear biscuits as well as playing hiding hedgehogs (Rainbow UMA) and Christmas bingo.



## Share your guiding news with Norfolk!

If you write a piece for a local newspaper or simply upload some photos to your guiding Facebook page, please also send them to [bluesheet@girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk](mailto:bluesheet@girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk)

Make sure to check photo permission and please send high quality images!

