

The Blue *sheet*



Norfolk's guiding news

Christmas 2020



www.girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk

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Wishing you and your families a peaceful and...

very happy Christmas. 2020 has certainly been a challenging year but in true guiding spirit, you have risen to that challenge and delivered some fantastic guiding to our young members and learned new skills along the way. That is what it is all about. Thank you so much!

Christine Martin, County Commissioner



From our family to yours, have a magical, marvellous, and a Merry Christmas!

Carole Smith,
Assistant County Commissioner



Be Prepared, what an appropriate motto for 2020! Thank you all for keeping going, being inventive and putting the girls first. I wish you joy and happiness at Christmas, and hope to really SEE you next year.

Carol Bundock, County President

Many thanks for all you have done as part of Girlguiding during this difficult year and for the support you have given to others too.

With very best wishes for a happy and safe Christmas.

Janet Leeson,
Assistant County Commissioner



Happy Christmas!

Linda Watkinson,
Assistant County Commissioner



Greetings for a Very Peaceful Christmas to all volunteers, near and far! 2020 has been memorable and challenging but also an opportunity for people to be creative and learn so much more than we knew before - we have a whole new vocabulary and as for our IT skills... It has been wonderful that some have had been able to invite the world into their home via computer.

We also think of those who do not have access to the technology many of us take for granted now, and hope that this Christmas season is truly special for you all. There may well be more appreciation for the smaller things - enjoy.

Love & best wishes from
Helen Green, County Archivist
& the ARC Team



Thank you for all you have done to support Girlguiding Norfolk in this difficult year. There were amazing activities taking place across the county - thank you for making them happen.

I hope you and your family will all enjoy a happy and safe Christmas.

Catherine Morrey,
County Treasurer



GGN Baking Competition

These photos show a selection of the cakes the talented bakers across Norfolk created.

Well done to everyone who took part and congratulations to the winners!



The winners...

Class 1 Decorated Christmas Cake
Emily H - 1st Long Stratton Guides
Nieve T - 3rd Attleborough Brownies
Larissa B - 1st Bunwell Rangers
Pauline C-M - adult leader

Class 2 Tunis Cake
Bethany C - 3rd Oulton Guides
Millie & Izzy L - 1st Toftwood Brownies
Catherine L - adult leader

Class 3 Christmas Yule Log
Hannah F - North Elmham Guides
Delilah F- 1st Hethersett Rainbows
Ellen G - 1st Hethersett Brownies

Class 4 Traditional Pudding
Beryl W - Norwich Trefoil Guild
Pyper W - 25th Norwich Brownies

Class 5 Decorated biscuits
Izzy H - Acle District Rangers
Imogen L - 3rd Oulton Brownies
Lily-Rose C - 3rd Oulton Rainbows
Maeve M - Ranger, Fleggs District
Sharon A - adult leader

The Big Sleep Out!

28 Brownies and leaders from 1st Toftwood Brownies enjoyed an Autumn themed virtual sleepover during October half term. Since the beginning of lockdown, the Brownies have been meeting weekly via Zoom - the leaders knowing it was important to keep the meetings going as a chance for the Brownies to see each other, have some fun and have something to look forward to, particularly when they weren't attending school.

Brownie holiday in August was cancelled due to the pandemic and the virtual sleepover held in its place was so successful they decided to have another one! Brownies collected craft bags ahead of the event and a kit list of things to pack. As well as Autumn themed crafts and games, the Brownies enjoyed making a chocolate fondue over a tea light, with

lots of parents and siblings joining in too.

They were challenged to sleep somewhere different than their normal beds and many took up this challenge, sleeping in caravans, campervans, hammocks, sheds and tents.

Katie, Brownie leader, said, *"It's been great to see how well the Brownies have adapted to a new way of guiding where we can all remain safe. We have had a number of new Brownies join since lockdown and have even held virtual promise ceremonies. The Brownies have worked towards and gained all sorts of challenge, programme and interest badges whilst guiding at home (178 in total) and parents have been incredibly supportive of their efforts."*

Katie Theobald, 1st Toftwood Brownies





Knowing Ourselves

4th Norwich Rainbows have been finding out about traditions whilst completing their Reflect Skills Builder badge. We talked about traditions that occur around the world, in our families and in guiding before talking about different traditions from the different seasons. We ended our meeting by making a beautiful autumnal wreath.

To gain some UMA time for the same theme we also made finger print poppy fields for Remembrance Day, learned about the guiding family by making paper chain people and virtually travelled the world visiting the five World Centres. Each Rainbow was challenged to write a postcard to a World Centre telling them about their favourite Rainbow activities - we look forward to a response...!

Claire Everson, 4th Norwich Rainbows



1st Freethorpe Guides Virtual Camp

In the summer Girlguiding Freethorpe members had a virtual camp in the back garden.

We learned how to put a tent up, light a fire safely, sang songs around our campfire and had smores and a barbecue. It was so much fun being able to spend time with my family and I really enjoyed how my leaders set different activities every hour or so

including magic, rhymes, riddles and rambles and loads more. I always love going on Guide camp so was really pleased we could still do this even though we couldn't be together. Our parents all shared photos of us on our unit Facebook page so we could see what everybody else was doing too.

Melissa P, Guide, 1st Freethorpe Guides



Girlguiding Norfolk County Remember...



Girls at Old Catton took part in a virtual service before laying stones at Old Catton memorial.



Thorpe St Andrew Brownies planted these eco-poppies (made from plastic bottles) in the churchyard.



Girls from all sections paid tribute at Mulbarton Church.



43rd Saxlingham Nethergate Rainbows placed their wreath on the church door.



Stalham found two family bubbles that could represent all sections at their Remembrance service.



4th Norwich Rainbows undertook the Poppy Fields UMA to commemorate Remembrance Day 2020.

Fabulous Fundraising!

31st Norwich and 6th Norwich Rainbows have had loads of fun working together to raise money for Children in Need and Girlguiding raising over £270!

The Rainbows have been meeting together on Zoom since the start of the pandemic and this was a great opportunity to celebrate this special friendship by combining the amount of years the two units have been meeting and walking the 33 miles. Each Rainbow taking part did their share of the miles, one Rainbow had so much fun they even chose to walk their 5 miles every weekend in November!

Rainbows and their families have enjoyed getting out to exercise and improve wellbeing while raising money for great causes. Cleo, age 6, a Rainbow said, *"I really liked it because I got to spend time with my family and raise money for charity, it was really fun I got to walk everywhere!"* Bee, age 5, a new Rainbow in the unit said, *"I did the walking because it made me feel happy, because I care about Children in Need making money, and looking at the beautiful leaves."*

9th Norwich Guides have raised nearly £700 for Children in Need and Girlguiding walking 65 miles!

The unit, which celebrates it's 65th birthday this year, encouraged Guides to walk their share of the 65 miles and get sponsored doing so. The picture shows sisters Freya and Matilda from 31st Norwich Brownies and 9th Norwich Guides walking their miles.

Milly, a Guide said, *"I really wanted to take part in the walk for Children in Need and Girlguiding because some children are not as lucky as me. They need support but cannot get it so please continue to donate if you can. I love helping other people."*

Cheryl Glinwell, 9th Norwich Guides



Getting Our Voices Heard in Parliament Week

November saw 9th Norwich Guides celebrate Parliament week. It was great to get the girls talking about issues they really care about. Our Guides have been working in two groups split by age on Zoom. Both groups learned about how parliament works and how their voice can be heard in parliament through videos we shared with them on our unit padlet. They made bunting or postcards that not only shared the issue they cared about but what action they wanted taken.

We finished by them making a tweet about the issues which we shared on the unit twitter page.

#PWUK make my journey to school in my wheelchair safer with wider paths, dropped kerbs and no cars parked blocking my way!

A tweet from Ella a Guide in the unit.

Cheryl Glinwell, 9th Norwich Guides



Covid doesn't stop GOLD!

If you think back to March when lockdown was first announced, it seems a long time ago doesn't it? Little did I realise back then that it would change my plans for GOLD Mexico 2020.

Fundraising was almost non-existent

with bag packs and bingos cancelled and there was absolutely no way we were going to board the plane to Mexico.

Our team have had virtual briefings and trainings, including webinars and an entire briefing weekend... Online!

We've written activities to send to our sisters in Mexico for them to be enjoying whilst we can't travel, as well as Acle District



Rangers 'zooming' across the world for a virtual meeting in English and Spanish where we learnt a Spanish song, taught them British Taps and the Penguin song and learned how they release turtles into the wild as part of a community action project!

I'm very much looking forward to travelling to Mexico in summer 2021 - keep an eye out for upcoming virtual fundraisers!

*Poppy George,
1st Freethorpe Guides*

Guiding Overseas
Linked with Development (GOLD) enables young women to develop their potential and make a difference in the world.

From joining campaigns to end violence against women and girls in Malawi, to encouraging young leaders in Latvia - GOLD empowers young women to work in partnership with other guide associations around the world.

GOLD has been working with member countries of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) for nearly 29 years. So far, we've given over 900 members of Girlguiding the adventure of a lifetime!

Girlguiding Graduation

In October, after nearly 7 months away, 1st Gunton Brownies returned to indoor meetings, having spent August and part of September enjoying outdoor meetings until the sunset finally beat us and we had to revert to meeting on Zoom until permission was given to meet indoors again.

Unit helper Gemma was due to graduate from UEA in July with a 2:1 degree in history but, like all events, it was cancelled due to COVID, or so she thought...

What she hadn't reckoned on was the determination of Snowy, Barn Owl and Little Owl to give her the ceremony she missed out on (albeit an abridged version!) with six months of plotting and planning resulting in a very special evening for everyone.

It was possible to borrow the exact robes and mortar board that matched the UEA Arts faculty colours so at the end of the evening, after the Brownies had been presented with their awards, Barn Owl 'dressed' Gemma in her graduation robes in front of the Brownies and she was presented with her own personalised graduation certificate, proclaiming that she was now known as 'Wise Owl' - her name being chosen by the Brownies.

After the meeting Gemma's parents and sister were invited to the hall to have the official family photograph taken with her in her robes (another secret we had kept from her), along with her three enormously proud fellow Brownie leaders.

Katharine Apps, Leader, 1st Gunton Brownies

