

The Blue *sheet*



Norfolk's guiding news

October 2021



www.girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk

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Once again, this edition of the Blue Sheet is...

crammed with lovely, positive reports of the many exciting and varied activities our young members and adult volunteers have been able to enjoy over the summer. After so many months of not being able to meet in person, how thrilling must it have been for those little Rainbows when they met at Eaton Vale Scout and Guide Activity Centre for an evening of grass sledging and go-karting?

And how exciting for Toftwood Brownies to get a Zoom call during their Harry Potter themed sleepover from Percy Weasley himself (aka Chris Rankin, actor)? Acle district certainly had a fun filled day at Hautbois Activity Centre judging by the photos on page 5. As for Brownies in Lowestoft going out on a jet adventure boat - how cool is that?

I could go on - but you know what, the best thing is for you to sit down with a nice cup of tea and read all the articles for yourself! I hope you will be as impressed as I am by the range of activities and also the dedication of all the leaders and unit teams who made these happen. A lot of hard work goes on behind the scenes and even more so in the present climate with all those dreaded risk assessments that need to be completed!

As I write this we do not know what the annual subscription will be for 2022. This information will be shared with commissioners and unit leaders as soon as we know it. Please be assured that we do not want anyone to be worrying about how they will be able to pay their subscription invoices in February 2022 - there will be financial assistance available to help. The first part of call should be by the local district commissioner. I do want to take this opportunity to thank all our commissioners who have worked so hard over the past few months. Again a lot of that is behind the scenes and is not always very popular but is vital to keeping us moving forward and ensuring we offer a safe and secure environment for our young members.

Looking forward to 2022 we are starting to plan how we will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the opening of Patteson Lodge in early July. Were you there at the opening? Do you have any special memories of staying there? We would love to hear from you if you have.

And finally, do you remember our gorgeous 2020 Christmas badge? Well, I have had a sneak preview and I can tell you that the 2021 version is even cuter. Watch out for more details of how to order over the coming weeks.

Christine Martin
County Commissioner



Outdoor fun for Rainbows

4th Norwich Rainbows had loads of fun at Eaton Vale Activity Centre when leaders surprised them with an evening of grass sledging and go-karting (*see front cover photo*). The girls loved racing around the go-kart track. It took a while to get the hang of the pedalling - it's quite tricky with little legs - but once they had mastered it, there was no stopping them! Over at the grass sledging hill, the leaders had braced themselves for the journey back up, dragging the sledge behind, but the Rainbows surprised us all by attempting the return to the top on their own.

We had a super summer term with the first half on Zoom and the rest mostly in Eaton Park. We offered a variety of activities from the Skills for your Future theme, including a Catwalk Craze Skills Builder, floating Rainbow bugs on the boating lake and making underwater fireworks which enabled 3 of our girls to achieve their Gold Award.

We also enjoyed activities from a bear fun badge which included playing Bear Guess Who on Zoom, completed the Anglia Buzz Challenge, held a celebratory tea party for the Queen's 95th birthday and played mini golf.

We've welcomed 9 new Rainbows this term and are looking forward to what the Autumn term brings!

Claire Everson, 4th Norwich Rainbows



Queen's Guide

In December 2018, with great determination, I decided to attempt the Queen's Guide award and complete it within a year, since I was turning 26 years old in December 2019.

Amongst the jostling around the minimal available time with the addition of full time work as an archaeologist, I managed to accomplish this feat with the additional help from friends within guiding and outside.

A lot of the award comprised supporting Girlguiding including attending unit meetings, running camps and helping at a larger residential event, Sparkle and Ice, at Blackland Farm, West Sussex. These were great to attend as it meant I met more people within the Association and I accomplished my adult leader qualification. A significant part was Element 4, that outlines

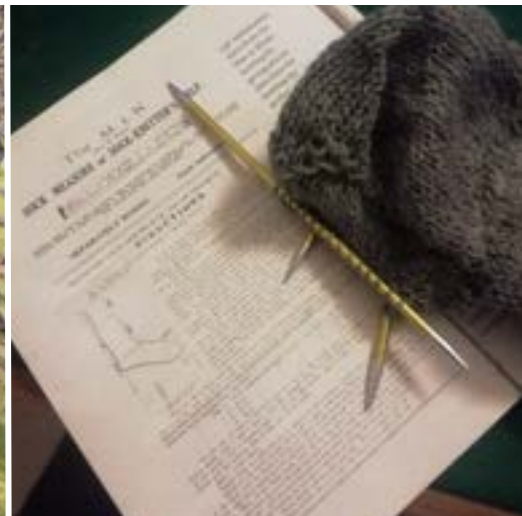
getting involved with a Girlguiding issue. My concern has always been the welfare of all Girl Guides, including those of an older ilk. I created a reminiscence box that was camp themed and could be presented to older Guides to remember times of old when they attended camps. This was with the incentive for other boxes to be created with alternative themes.

The other part of the award comprised personal skill development. Firstly, I chose to do an expedition in North Yorkshire, encompassing the old Iron Works at Rosedale Abbey and the Railway Line between Goathland and Grosmont. Although the expedition was completed in December the walk was good fun, albeit challenging due to the lack of sunlight.

I have a personal interest in the First World War, which resulted in two elements of the award being in connection with the period. These elements were knitting a pair of socks to an original pattern for a soldier and community action that was researching munitionettes and presenting the findings at a living history event. Both were successful and I continue to use the socks and information that I had sourced.

The experience of doing the award within a year was a great personal accomplishment because I had to focus and be organised, with the added time constraint. The information I learnt and the people I met made the experience more enjoyable and I highly recommend giving the award a go, but perhaps not within a year!

Frankie Wildmun



"Due to Covid-19 the presentation of the award had been postponed until this year when it was presented at the Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome. A wonderful surprise and the perfect place and company for receiving the award.."

Toftwood's Harry Potter Themed Sleepover

Over 20 girls from 1st Toftwood Brownies took part in a special Harry Potter virtual sleepover during the summer holiday. Before the event, all of the Brownies and leaders took a quiz to determine which House they were in; Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, Slytherin or Gryffindor. This would then determine the colour of some of the activities that they were to make.

Some of the Brownies came dressed for the occasion, in their House uniforms or in Harry Potter t-shirts. The sleepover started with a very special video message from Percy Weasley actor, Chris Rankin. He was impressed to hear how well the Brownies had coped during the pandemic and how they had adapted so well to virtual guiding. He awarded them 50 house points each and was interested to learn

what crafts they would be doing on the sleepover.

At the first meeting, Brownies made House themed bookmarks and Hama bead magnets, whilst at the second meeting they made pine cone owls, pringle tube characters and played bingo. This is one of the leader's favourite things to do and she came up with special calls for each picture.

In the last session Brownies made 'Monster book of monsters' post it notes, a special hanging plaque and house themed friendship bracelets. They were all awarded with a wizarding badge and certificate. The Brownies and leaders all enjoyed themselves and it was a lovely way to finish off the summer term.

Katie Theobald, 1st Toftwood Brownies



Acle District Enjoy Hautbois Activities

On a surprisingly dry August day, Acle District enjoyed a brilliant day at Hautbois Activity Centre in Coltishall.

60 Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers and 20 leaders spent time together taking part in some of the adventurous activities on offer.

Everyone had two sessions and a choice from archery, climbing, paddle boarding, monkey climbing, zip-wire and an obstacle course.

The day was finished off with a campfire hosted by two of our very own enthusiastic leaders. Everyone joined in with some well known campfire songs, as well as learning some new ones.

The staff were great, the girls happy and the leaders thankful they could facilitate such a fantastic day of fresh air and fun together, after such a long 2020 apart.

*Sharon Rowsell,
A very proud
Acle District Commissioner*



Ranger Golds

Sophie and Moira of Earlam Rangers both achieved their Ranger Gold Award in July and completed their Young Leader Qualification on the same night!

I'm very proud of their commitment to guiding.

*Jasmine Downes,
Earlam Rangers*



Celebrations in Wicklewood

There was much to celebrate at Wicklewood's Guides last meeting of the summer term - not only have we managed to meet face to face this term (normally a BBQ to end the year but this year we went for pot noodle in a can!), we also celebrated three of our Guides gaining their Bronze Awards, the first for our unit! Well done to Amelia, Sophia and Freya!

We were also honoured to have our DC Jayne present Janice Plunkett with her 40 year long service bar. It was lovely to have Jay come to visit. As our former unit leader she has done, and continues to do, so much for the unit and Girlguiding Forehoe District. Congratulations Jay!

*Charley Purves,
1st Wicklewood
Guides*



Flexible Guiding

Loddon Guide Unit celebrated with Becky achieving her Gold Award, which was presented virtually by Julia Ward, Brooke and Loddon District Commissioner. A fitting end to Becky's Guide adventure, which started in 2016 when she took her Promise during a Guides trip. She had completed one challenge badge under the old programme but once the new programme came in set about achieving her Bronze, Silver and ultimately her Gold award.

In her time as a Guide she has enjoyed District and Division events, camping, trips, unit meetings, NORJAM, winning GG competitions and all the usual guiding activities. She is looking forward to her Guiding adventure continuing as she transfers to Rangers. Well done Becky, a great achievement.

Julia Ward, Brooke and Loddon District Commissioner



Bunwell Brownies News

Congratulations to Erin Wright of 1st Bunwell Brownies who received her Brownie Gold Award at her final Brownie meeting before moving on to Guides. Erin loves to earn badges and set her sights on the Gold Award as soon as she discovered it in her Brownie Badge book.

Molly saw 'Brave the Shave' advertised on the TV and knew that she wanted to do it to raise money for Macmillan. So far she has raised £1145 and earned a well deserved Charity interest badge.

Imogen Sparrow, 1st Bunwell Brownies



Jet Adventure

1st Carlton Colville Brownies set out on a jet adventure boat for a tour of the harbour in Lowestoft. The girls loved it! We also presented Captain John with a Brownie adventure badge.

*Susan Medley,
1st Carleton Colville Brownies*



Three Sash Sophie!

Sophie took advantage of every single Rainbow opportunity offered to her. She was at every meeting before lockdown, completing interest badges from day one. She was at every Zoom meeting, Zoom camp and finally back to face to face!

The amount of badges achieved has filled three Rainbow sashes - amazing!

Her mother said "I am so proud of her". We at the 43rd Saxlingham Nethergate Rainbows are too!

*Helen Pye,
South East Norfolk
Division Commissioner*



Colander Fires

2nd Mulbarton Guides enjoying being back to face to face meetings with socially distanced colander fires.

Pam Tancock, 2nd Mulbarton Guides



Come and Join Us!

Heacham and Hunstanton Trefoil Guild are looking for new members to join us on the first Thursday of the month. We're a social group - here we are on Old Hunstanton beach celebrating Girlguiding Anglia Region's 50th birthday and more recently we attended the Millefleur afternoon tea at Patteson Lodge.

Email: mary-harpley@hotmail.com for details



Packing for Posterity at the ARC

August saw volunteers flock to the Archive Resource Centre and Patteson Lodge to undertake a residential week called 'Packing for Posterity', the purpose of which was to move forward a number of ARC projects...

Alongside many other volunteers I attended Packing for Posterity to help the ARC with a number of initiatives including organising donations, packing boxes, practicing cooking for the upcoming Edible England Heritage Open Days and completing the digitisation of the first Sandringham Log Book.

I enjoyed using the digitisation equipment - it was the first time and a skill I had wanted to learn. I also enjoyed the cooking activity

in which we successfully cooked a range of foods over buddy burners and cardboard ovens - a brilliant practice before offering sessions to the public for Heritage Open Days.

One of the best parts of the week was being able to spend time with people I had met before while also meeting many new people, some of whom I had only ever met through a computer screen.

Jess, UEA Volunteer

My first evening was spent cooking mini pizzas using handmade cardboard ovens - they turned out really delicious! We experimented with the depth of the cardboard oven, and found the taller boxes worked a lot better than the shorter ones. We also got to try food cooked by other groups using other cooking methods such as cheese dreams made on buddy burners or

banana with marshmallow and chocolate made in tin foil parcels.

Throughout the event we had fun creating TikTok content showing what we were doing including digitisation and advertising HODs.

It's so nice to be able to volunteer and be involved with the ARC, even though I'm now away at University!

Izzy, ARC Volunteer

When I started my Queen's Guide Award, I was worried about finding a project for element 4 of the Service in Guiding section (a project on a county, regional or national level). My mentor suggested I contact the ARC and I've had so many amazing experiences since.

My project was about interviewing people about guiding experiences in order to record oral histories of guiding in Norfolk. The ARC had some heritage lottery funding for this project and we worked with the Norfolk Record Office to make sure we were recording everything properly. This project became known as Share My Story.

We have recorded more than 10 people's guiding stories, mainly over Zoom due to the pandemic, and it is really interesting to hear how guiding has changed (and stayed the same) over the years.

For the Queen's birthday we did a series of mini interviews with people who had met members of the royal family through guiding - it was really fun to hear about the different events people had attended and Queen's Guide presentations. I particularly enjoyed hearing about how their awards had been achieved.

We've developed a training session so Guides and Rangers can be involved in the interviewing process. We delivered this session to the ARC Angels and hope to get more young members involved soon. We also got to design a badge which was very exciting!

The ARC has been very supportive of my Queen's Guide Award and I have got to do so many new things and meet new friends in addition to my project.

Sophie, ARC Volunteer

