

The Blue *sheet*



Norfolk's guiding news

Christmas 2021



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Merry Christmas ♦ HODS at the ARC
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Christmas Wishes from the Division Commissioners



"Wishing all my sisters in Guiding peace and happiness this Christmas"

Lynne Gill,
Kings Lynn and Marshland
Division Commissioner



"Merry Christmas from Broadland Division (I couldn't find any real reindeer!)."

Linda Marquis,
Broadland Division Commissioner

"3rd Oulton Brownies and Leaders Wish all their Guiding Friends around Norfolk and UK a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

Pat Whittaker,
Lowestoft Division
Commissioner



"Merry Christmas!

Thank you all for everything you do to ensure our girls, young and old, have a smile to share."

Carin Pratt,
Wensum Division
Commissioner



"A huge thank you for all you have done to give girls an amazing Girlguiding experience this last year. I hope that you have a relaxing and happy Christmas!"

Sarah Carter,
Norwich Division
Commissioner Designate



"In this year of challenges we've been doing our best,

So Thank You, and Happy Christmas from all in North West!"

Catherine Leigh,
North West Norfolk
Division Commissioner



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



"Happy Christmas from the South East."

Helen Pye,
South East Norfolk
Division Commissioner



"Thank you for everything that you have done for Girlguiding in your area this year. I hope you enjoy a lovely relaxing Christmas."

Claire Lister,
South Division Commissioner



"Thank you to all the amazing Guiders and volunteers in SW Norfolk Division, for all your hard work and dedication over the most challenging of years. I wish you and your families a joyful and restful Christmas and may 2022 be full of new adventures."

Victoria Fonzo,
South West Norfolk Division Commissioner



"After making it through a very challenging year, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year."

Hannah Webb,
Great Yarmouth Division Commissioner

"Central Division wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

Lynn Elliott,
Central Division Commissioner



"North Norfolk Division would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

Julie Elliott,
North Norfolk Division Commissioner

GOLD - A Different Journey

Cast your minds back to July 2019, a very different time to what we've experienced recently, but super exciting for me! It was then I got a place on Go for GOLD, the selection weekend required to take part in a Girlguiding Overseas Linked Development project.

Fast forward to September and I was on a train to Polegate with absolutely no idea what was in store for the selection weekend... and to this day the experience still remains a secret!

I remember being at work one lunchtime when I saw an email with the subject line 'Go For GOLD - application outcome'. It was one of those do I/don't I moments as I took an early lunch break to read the email alone and little did I realise the journey I was embarking on. So, once I'd stopped squealing with excitement and signed the paperwork, I was part of Team GOLD Mexico 2021!

Next up was the first briefing, and little did we realise at the time, the only face to face briefing we would have. Again, a long train journey (Norfolk always feels so far from everything!) and I arrived on a cold dark evening in February 2020 at Tolmers camp site. A game of Dobble and quick introductions, and it was full steam ahead! Fuelled by tea and toast we had a full on weekend of team bonding, trainings and sessions on what to expect from our projects.

Then the pandemic hit and the email that followed confirmed our fears, GOLD 2020 had been postponed with our second briefing was going virtual - 2 days on Zoom! The training sessions happened and some team bonding too as we chatted and learnt from the comfort of our own sofas.

The postponement year was filled with social evenings of quizzes, cook alongs and scavenger hunts with the 7 other GOLD teams and before we knew it, it was nearly project time again!

With lockdown still preventing travel in early 2021 it was time for the heartbreaking email telling us that GOLD 2020 was now cancelled... or so we thought!

A quick Zoom chat with the team and we realised the fabulous GOLD HQ team had a plan... A virtual project! So team Mexico, never ones to give up, decided to give it a go!

We delivered 4 live sessions, including a campfire and reached 82 young members and 72 leaders! Our trainings were focused around Recruitment and Retention of girls and volunteers, Peer Education, keeping yourself safe and self worth and being unique.

We trained members from every section; Haditas, Girasoles, Mayores, Guías and leaders, creating activity packs which were



distributed among hundreds of other Guías De Mexico members, allowing us to train and support even more girls and leaders.

We couldn't of asked for a more engaged group of young women who sang with us, danced with us, laughed with us and learnt from us! We still learnt cultural traditions and achieved all of our aims and objectives, just via Zoom instead of in the Mexican heat!

I would highly recommend signing up to Go For GOLD, for a face to face or virtual project. You'll make life long friends, learn about guiding internationally and take part in something truly life changing!

*Poppy George,
Acle District Rangers and
1st Freethorpe Guides*

Was it different to what I signed up for? YES!

Did it take longer to plan due to being virtual? PROBABLY!

Did we have the best time? YES!

Would I recommend it? ABSOLUTELY!



A Tale of Intrigue, Team Work and Success!

What do you do when you hear that an important guiding document is up for sale on an online auction site? You check it out quick - even if you are in Portugal!

This is what happened recently to Carla Andrews, leader of 1st Sandringham Guides and it was the beginning of lots of detective work and negotiation.

The original plan was to watch the item, which, although it was being sold as the signature of Lord Baden Powell, was actually the original registration certificate of the 1st Sandringham Guide Company dated 29th July 1927!

Although there is documentation which proves that the unit was in existence from 1920, our County Archivist has discovered that the unit was temporarily closed down in February 1926, when a new leader could not be found. It seems that a shortage of volunteers is not a new thing! However, happily the unit was resurrected in May 1927 and the certificate was issued in July of that year.

It soon became apparent that there were other items too, including several photographs, one of which related to the 1st Sandringham Guides distributing food parcels sent by Guides from Sandringham District in Australia to people living alone in Sandringham and surrounding villages in 1947. A press cutting using the exact same photograph is in the Sandringham Guides Logbook, kept in the ARC. Carla and Catherine Leigh, Division Commissioner, decided they had to go all out to secure these items so that they could become part of the Girlguiding Norfolk Archive.

To begin with, the seller did not appear to appreciate the importance of the items to Girlguiding Norfolk; he was placing more emphasis on the signature of Baden Powell and was keen to stress that this signature can reach high sums. Happily, following some correspondence and negotiations with Carla, in which she stressed that she was not interested in the monetary value and just wanted the items to be kept safely for the future as part of the history of Sandringham Guides, he did become amenable and agreed to end the auction.

By a stroke of luck the seller was found to be local, so the items could be safely collected. The sum agreed upon was paid by the local Depot, thus securing the certificate and the framed photographs for the future.

Grateful thanks to the eagle eyed person who alerted us to the sale on eBay and to Helen Green, County Archivist, for her help and advice through this process.

Linda Watkinson, Assistant County Commissioner



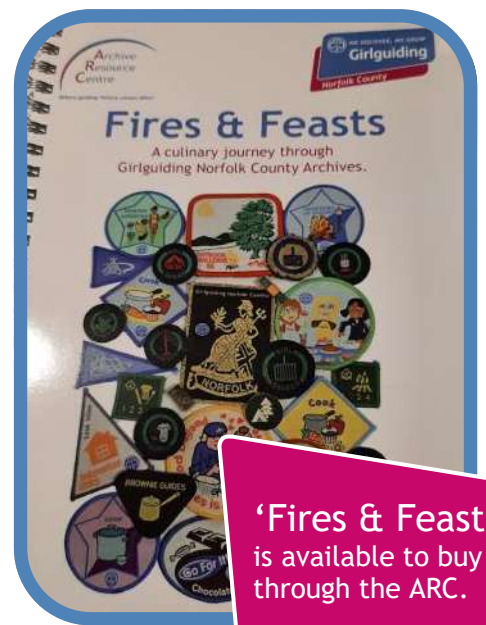
Heritage Open Days at the ARC

On the 19th and 20th September, the ARC hosted visitors in the grounds of Patteson Lodge to mark Heritage Open Days, a festival of history and culture that takes place all across England. It is always exciting to take part. The theme for this year's open day was 'Edible England' so there was lots of cooking and delicious food.

The main activity for the weekend was outdoor cooking; there were cardboard ovens, buddy burners and tinfoil cooking. In the weeks leading up to the weekend, ARC volunteers learnt how to cook using these methods so they were able to deliver the sessions. We cooked camp donuts and cheese dreams, both traditional guiding camp food. There was also camp pizza made in the cardboard ovens. As well as recipes cooked using traditional camp methods, we made armpit fudge and s'mores. These were a favourite with some of our younger visitors.

As part of the preparation for the weekend we were able to use the archives at ARC to find old camp recipes published in Guiding books. As a result of finding so many recipes, some ARC volunteers put together a cookbook. This book includes the favourite camp recipes of volunteers as well as some from the archives.

This year we had a focus on getting more young people to visit us. ARC volunteer Jasmine had the opportunity to take part in New Wave, a project run by Heritage Open Days that helped to teach participating organisations about how to get more young people to visit. Jasmine said, "Participating in the New Wave project gave the ARC a valuable opportunity to collaborate with young adults and make use of their wide range of skills. The weekend proved to be a success and showed that the ARC's collection and activities can be enjoyed by visitors of all ages and backgrounds."



'Fires & Feasts'
is available to buy
through the ARC.



Jasmine, New Wave participant toasting a pair of marshmallows! She deserves them!



Chris, Norfolk's haybox Queen... what was cooking? It was yummy stew, so so tasty.



Fancy a bit of French toast? Absolutely the best... on a tin can over a buddy burner.



Lots of cooking methods here, for everyone to reach, and camp donuts are the winners!



It's been hard work and lots of fun... so let's have a rest... a la Empress Eugene's circle. What a FAB team - well done all!



How to light a match and then light the charcoal inside the cardboard oven - used to cook mini-pizzas and scones!

Having hidden a clue for BBC Radio Norfolk's Treasure Quest we enjoyed a visit from Julie and the team. Being on the radio was very exciting and it was especially fascinating to see how a show like Treasure Quest is made. We were able to share what the ARC does and present the hosts with Time Traveller badges.

The lovely weather gave HODS visitors the opportunity to explore the mosaic trail that runs throughout the grounds of Patteson Lodge. The original ten mosaics were made to commemorate Girlguiding's centenary in 2010. They feature designs that are special to guiding in Norfolk and were made by a local artist. The latest mosaic was added this year and hangs on the ARC building. There is now a colouring book that accompanies the mosaic trail as well as QR codes that can be scanned to learn more about each mosaic. Of course, there is also a badge for completing the trail!

Overall Heritage Open Days was an amazing weekend for both volunteers and visitors. When reflecting on the weekend, volunteer Kit said *"Heritage Open Days was a chance to indulge my passions of Guiding and Heritage, whilst being outside sharing the experience with friends and members of the public. I enjoyed the experiential learning opportunity by putting into practice the cooking skills and techniques gleaned from books safely housed in the ARC. Safe to say I had a great time. Would I do it again? Definitely!"*

If you are interested in anything the ARC has to offer; a cooking session, the mosaic trail, reminiscence boxes, to name but a few, please do get in touch. Email archivist@girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk

*Sophie Ridge-Ahmed,
ARC Angel*



Asha is a Guiding Hero

It was an emotional last evening of the autumn term when Asha Squires was presented with the Guiding Hero Award.

Earlier this year, Asha had saved her mum's life by her initiative and quick actions. Asha's mum collapsed at home following a blood clot caused by Covid-19. Asha was the only person at home and she quickly called an ambulance and for a neighbour to help. Terrifyingly, Asha's mum soon became unconscious and stopped breathing and the neighbour had to perform CPR.

It was an incredibly traumatic experience for all especially as everything Asha had been told about calling for an ambulance didn't happen. The first time she called the number was engaged. When she got through to the emergency services they did not stay on the line with her and when she called again they refused to confirm how long help would be despite the neighbour performing CPR.

Despite this, Asha's actions saved her mum's life. Her family, friends and all the leaders at Long Stratton Guides and Brownies are all very proud of her. Asha's mum has recovered well and we were delighted to welcome her at the presentation.

Michelle Horne, 1st Long Stratton Guides

Birthday Celebrations

As part of Anglia's 50th birthday, 1st and 2nd Attleborough and 1st Harling Rainbows held their own party. The girls took part in a variety of activities including pass the parcel, decorating cupcakes and making bunting, birthday cards and pom pom bees. Towards the end of the party, the girls gathered in a circle, sang 'Happy Birthday' and blew out their individual candles.

At the end of evening, birthday cards were swapped and badges, deservedly earned, were handed out. A great time was had by all.

Nicola Macrae, Attleborough Rainbows



"Thanks to all the adults who organised and ran the event."

Visit to Gaia

In October, 2nd and 7th Norwich Brownies had their own private visit to see the Gaia art exhibit at St Peter Mancroft church. They were able to watch the 6 meter diameter representation of the Earth rotate, spot countries and oceans they knew, learn about our solar system and think about what they could do to help save our beautiful home. At the end of the evening lots of girls made their Promise standing under Gaia which is something they will always remember.

*Sarah Carter,
Norwich Division Commissioner (Designate)*



Christmas Robins

4th Norwich Rainbows finished the term with a Christmas party and creation of these super robins which can top a cupcake or biscuit. Eva couldn't wait to eat hers!

We also presented a number of interest badges, skills builder badges and section awards.

Merry Christmas everyone!

*Claire Everson,
4th Norwich Rainbows*

