

From the County Commissioner



Do you remember this little booklet that fell out of your spring guiding magazine?

'Being our best' is the new national strategy for the next 5 years for Girlguiding. There is a focus on 4 separate areas of development - excellence, access, voice and capacity. You might have seen these little icons that represent each of the areas appearing next to articles in guiding magazine or on the website.

At Topstones I met Guide Leaders who were making the most of a section training. They had worked on the program and were trying new skills such as backwoods cooking, bushcraft and archery in the glorious afternoon sunshine. Leaders who take up training opportunities will benefit the girls in their units with their up-to-date knowledge, new skills and good ideas suggested by other Leaders on the training. Going on a training is a great way to work on excellence. Have you been to a training recently?



Across the county new Rainbow and Brownie units have been opening this term. Thanks to support from the Growing Guiding team at Girlguiding Midlands and enthusiastic local Leaders, girls in inner city areas will be offered the opportunity to be part of guiding now that there is a unit near to where they live. There is an example of access work



going on in our county - have a look at the article on page 5 about a new Rainbow unit opening in Melton.

Members of The Senior Section have made their voice heard whilst tweeting about the Anthony Nolan bone marrow donor register. Girls tweeted about the #passiton campaign which ran during September. Make your voice heard on social media. Shout about all the good things you've been doing in guiding.



Which leaves capacity. This area focuses on processes and admin. All leaders are trying to work smarter, especially using Go! as a tool to help them.

The beginning of term has seen leaders printing off their data forms and checking their girls' details. The photo permission needs extra careful attention as it has changed recently.



I'm definitely working smarter, as Tawny Owl has taken on the updating of the data on Go! I'm not sure that Tawny Owl feels the same though!

Rachel Webb-Jenkins

Rainbow Leaders Training Day

Saturday 21 November
 10 am to 3.30 pm
 Thornton Community Centre
 Main Street, Thornton, LE67 1AH

Open to all Leaders and Leaders in Training
[See the website](#) for more details or to book

Brownie Leaders Training Day

Saturday 14 November
 Palmer Tomkinson Centre
 Wanlip Lane, Birstall, Leicester LE4 4GH

Open to all Leaders and Leaders in Training
[See the website](#) for more details on this and our Sixers and Seconds day



Senior Section News

The Senior Section Spectacular

In 2016 we will be celebrating 100 years of The Senior Section and lots of exciting events are being planned.

All members of The Senior Section will receive a booklet with the full list of events on offer from Girlguiding Leicestershire - this will be sent out via Commissioners in November. A digital version will also be on www.leicestershireguides.org from November 12.

A taster of some of the things being planned for 2016:

- **1-3 July:** The Senior Section permit weekend/Charnwood preparation camp at Topstones
- **3 July:** Challenge day at Topstones



- **19-21 August:** Carnival Fever at Blackwell Court (Girlguiding Midlands event)

- **Autumn 2016:** Adventurous activity day, location TBC

We'll also be getting involved with supporting the Teenage Cancer Trust throughout the year

Plus more to be confirmed ... look out for the booklet!

The Clothes Show

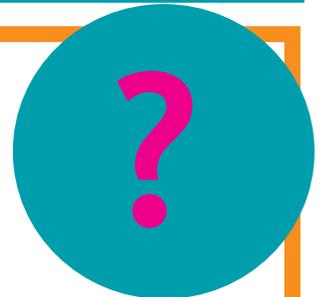


There are still some tickets left for the Senior Section trip to The Clothes Show at Birmingham's NEC on 6 December.

The cost is £35 which includes coach transport there (from 2 pickup locations in Leicestershire) and entry to the show.

For details on how to book, [see the Girlguiding Leicestershire website](#) - but you'll need to be quick, tickets are going fast!

Badge Design competition



Plans for all our exciting Senior Section Spectacular events are underway, but we need your help designing a Spectacular badge to go with them!

Be as creative as you want with your badge design, but it will need to include "Girlguiding Leicestershire" and a blue trefoil on it somewhere.

The competition is open to anyone in Girlguiding Leicestershire aged 14 - 25 and entries need to be emailed to meganrthomas@live.co.uk by 31 December 2015.

The winning design will be made into a badge and sold in our County Volunteer Shop next year.



International Roadshows

The International team would like to invite you to an **INTERNATIONAL EVENING** of fun, games, craft and activities as well as an opportunity to find out more about international guiding in Leicestershire and beyond. The evening is for all Guides and members of The Senior Section with or without their Leaders (you will need an ICE form—please contact County International Adviser Tracey Ball for more details—traceysim64@hotmail.co.uk

You will be able to find out lots about International Opportunities in the UK, Europe and further afield by talking to the Leaders that have run trips and the young women who have taken part in them.

Tuesday 3 November

County Office

97 Princess Road East
Leicester, LE1 7DW

From 7 pm – 9 pm everyone welcome

International Opportunities Weekend

*Friday 8 April - Sunday 10 April 2016
Topstones County Campsite*

Are you interested in travelling abroad with Girlguiding? Do you want to find out what International Opportunities there may be for you in 2017?

Apply for a place at our action packed International Opportunities weekend and you will have the chance to be put forward for your dream International guiding trip in 2017!



We are looking for Guides and members of The Senior Section who will be aged between 14 -18 years by July 2017. You must be at least 13 years old when applying to attend the weekend.

To apply to take part you need to complete an application form—which will be available from County Office or for download from the Girlguiding Leicestershire website on 1 December.

If you have any questions and for more information about the event, contact Tracey Ball *County International Adviser*, (traceysim64@hotmail.co.uk).

We need Leaders too!

If you are an adult Leader and are interested in attending an International Adventure as a Leader, we want to hear from you as we need your help.

Save the date for West Midland Safari Park



On Sunday 12 June 2016, [Girlguiding Midlands are taking over West Midland Safari Park with a day of fun for Brownies, Guides and their Leaders.](#)

We will be organising coaches from Leicestershire for the event and more information will be available in the January Bulletin.



1st Uppingham Guides complete Richard III Challenge



1st Uppingham Guides are the latest group to complete the Richard III Challenge. The girls started working on the Richard III badge last term and finished it off with a camp. The girls took

part in activities including visiting both Bosworth Battlefield and exploring Leicester city centre with a Richard III trail as well as eating medieval food, making stained glass windows and re enacting the battle.

Guides enjoy trip of a lifetime to Switzerland



Members of 2nd Syston Guides enjoyed the trip of the lifetime exploring Switzerland this Summer. Leaders Jo Burton and Amy Glover led a 29 strong group - reliving the same trip they had both enjoyed as Guides.

The group spent 10 days exploring the country and taking part in activities including travelling on cable cars, visiting a local woodcarvers, exploring a cave, climbing through Trummelbach waterfalls and tobogganing down a mountain!

“Our jam packed schedule was so full of new adventures for the Guides to enjoy. All of the girls got stuck in whether it was mountain fun games or climbing up a high tower! We were amazed by the girls’ enthusiasm to try something new,” said Ella, Young Leader.

The highlight of the trip was visiting ‘Our Chalet’, one of the WAGGS World Centres. “The tour of the chalet was wonderful and really brought into perspective the importance of being part of a movement as positive as Girlguiding,” said Ella, adding “I feel privileged to have been part of such an extraordinary trip and would like to thank the organisations that kindly donated money for our activities and also our Leaders Jo and Amy for their hard work and dedication.”

Oadby and Wigston Division Rainbow Day

A ‘Colour Chameleon’ Rainbow fun day took place on 19 September 2015 at Oadby Trinity Church. The day was organised by Alex Whitehouse for her Queens Guide Award, and involved songs, games and crafts for over 60 Rainbows from Oadby and Wigston Division. It was a busy afternoon and lots of fun for all the girls who got the Colour Chameleon badge at the end.



TOPSTONES NEWS



We are delighted that over 2500 people have camped or stayed at Topstones this year.

If you are not one of them, why not arrange a visit to see the great facilities and just how many activities are available? With the exception of Archery, they are all included in the overnight fee so it is not only a great place to stay but also represents great value for money.

The camping pods are proving to be more and more popular and over the winter we are hoping to install electricity so there will be a fridge and lighting in the new camp kitchen (pictured below) which has been installed in the 'Swift' wet weather shelter to make life even easier.



A group of enthusiastic volunteers meet every Tuesday morning to keep the site looking ship shape and develop new initiatives. There is nowhere more relaxing especially when the sun is shining – why not join us for some fun, friendship and fresh air – everyone is welcome.

Contact Jacky Brooks for more information (jackyandron@btinternet.com)

Coffee evening raises funds in Melton Mowbray

A coffee evening in Melton Mowbray raised over £200 for good causes. The Rangers, Guides and Brownies that meet at Sandy Lane Methodist Church worked together to host the event, which raised funds for The Guide Friendship Fund, The Red Cross and Age UK Gloucester House.

The Rangers took the admission while the Guides ran stalls, and Brownies served refreshments and provided entertainment to their guests while earning their Hostess badge.

Family, friends and members of the church congregation supported the event, and were also joined by Division President Rosemary Routen.

Growing Guiding : New Rainbow Unit to open in Melton Mowbray

A new Rainbow unit is to open in Melton Mowbray following a successful recruitment drive over the summer.

A stall in the market place promoted Girlguiding in Melton, and those interested in volunteering were invited to a cream tea and summer punch evening.

Four new Leaders signed up which means a new Rainbow unit can now open. The events were held with the support of Girlguiding Midland's Development Worker Laura Price.





Still time to Register

There's still plenty of time to register your group for Charnwood 2016 — registration will remain open until we can't fit anyone else on site! [See the Charnwood 2016 website](#) for more details.

Take your Rainbows and Brownies to visit



Bookings are now open for CRBBC - Charnwood 2016's program for the younger sections. Over the day everyone will take part in three activity areas : adventure, creativity and a main site visit—a chance to have a taste of the Charnwood experience.

You choose the day, Monday – Thursday, 10am – 4pm

Costs £15 per child with accompanying adults free within a 1:5 ratio – Additional Adults for £5

Includes exclusive CRBBC Badge

[Download a booking form from the Charnwood website.](#)

#BePartOf the Staff Team

Charnwood 2016 seeks motivated and enthusiastic volunteer staff to create memories of a lifetime for thousands of young people and adults from all over the world.

Come and #BePartOf an international staff team at an International Scout and Guide Camp that enjoys a great reputation the world over. Our 8th event is returning to the grounds of Whatton House – a site that definitely has the WOW factor!! Join experienced team members in providing a home from home for a week for young people aged 10 – 18 as they face new challenges, make new friends, and have the “time of their lives”.

Our staff also have the “time of their lives” – they work hard, but they also play hard, and there's nothing that compares with the satisfaction they will feel at the end of the week seeing the happy faces of the young people, many of whom can't wait to come back “next time”.

All of our campers enjoy the best toilets and showers that we can afford. Our staff may choose to eat in our staff restaurant where they can enjoy not only great food, but great company. Staff will camp in our adult staff sub camp which will also house areas for relaxation when “off duty”.

Staff Applications are invited from 18+ Leaders/ Parents/Supporters of any section. All of our staff must be DBS checked through Scouting/ Girlguiding.

All of our vacancies are [listed on the website](#) Questions? Email staff@charnwood.org or come to the [Staff Showcase on November 1st](#).

We look forward to welcoming you to what we know will be “the best Charnwood yet”!! :-)



Waste, Water & Me and Arts Explosion Challenge Badges

Don't forget to order any Waste, Water & Me or Arts Explosion Challenge badges from Girlguiding Midlands before 30 November.



Last Chance to order Challenge Badges



Nights Away and 4 Seasons Camping Challenge badges

Nights Away badges and 4 Seasons Camping badges are still available to order for the foreseeable future.



Upcoming Trainings

Places must be booked in advance for all trainings. You can book using the form in the Bulletin, requesting a form from Count Office or online [via the website](#).

Safe Space

Tuesday 20 October, County Office
6.30 pm - 9.30 pm

Basic

Bushcraft Training Day

Saturday 14 November 2015

10 am to 3 pm, Topstones County Campsite

A fantastic opportunity to learn simple Bushcraft skills to be able to pass on to your girls. We want to train Leaders to be able to deliver Bushcraft activities both at our County Campsite and out in the unit meeting places.

Learn how to:

- Use knives, axes and saws safely and teach their use to the girls
- Build a fire and light it without matches
- Carry out safe and fun activities on a fire
- Care for Bushcraft equipment

The cost is just £25, which includes your own personal Bushcraft equipment package to take away with you.

Intermediate Bushcraft Training Day

Sunday 15 November 2015

10 am to 3 pm, Topstones County Campsite

For those who already have some knowledge and are confident in using fire strikers and bushcraft knives. An ideal follow-on day from our Basic Bushcraft training day.

Explore:

- Preparing and cooking a 3 course meal on a wood fire and charcoal, including baking a cake. Roast Chicken anyone?
- Create fire without matches using the sun (hopefully) and friction
- Tarpology - the art of creating sleeping shelters with Tarpaulins
- Snoozing in a hammock
- Collecting and purifying water

After this day Leaders can go away confident to deliver the bushcraft elements of the Guide Survival badge.

The cost is £15 which includes dinner.

To book for either of the above, download a form from the website

Girlguiding Leicestershire, 97 Princess Road East, Leicester, LE1 7DW

Tel: 0116 254 5290

Fax: 0116 254 2587

Website: www.leicestershireguides.org

email: office@leicestershireguides.org

