

## County Commissioner Chat ...

There is so much to be excited about in Guiding! The plans for the County's Centenary celebrations are well under way and EVERYONE will be involved. The opportunities are mind blowing within the County, Region and nationally, so get ready! I want every single girl and adult in West Mercia to have the time of their life between September 2008 and October 2010. You can make it happen.

It hardly seems five minutes since I made my Promise as a Brownie, and I well remember the Guiding Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Little did I realise then that I would be the County Commissioner some 37 years later. Marion and I feel really privileged to hold our posts, and you can be sure that we are working hard to make the changes we feel are necessary to take the County forward in to the next 100 years.

One of the great things about being C.C is meeting girls and Guiders and chatting to them. To enable us to find out how you and the girls want to celebrate 2010 we held a "Have Your Say Day" to which every Division was invited. This was a great success, the Brownies being particularly vocal! We may repeat this if you liked it. Let me know, as I am keen to ensure that we do have "girls in the lead" in West Mercia. This is our strapline and should be something that we strive for at unit meetings, as well as at District, Division and County level. Communication is a problem for all organisations but we all need to be heard, so do not be afraid to speak up at your meetings. Remember what the strapline says - " girls in the lead" **NOT** " girls on a lead!"

Happy Guiding  
Frances.E.Burton

## We need your help ...

### GRAND RAFFLE ...

September see's the launch of West Mercia County 'Grand Raffle' to raise funds for our new County Headquarters in Wolverhampton. West Mercia County is asking for each of its 7,500 members to sell one book of five tickets to help us raise £35,000. The books should be available from Division Commissioners in early September. The prizes are excellent, 1<sup>st</sup> Prize is £300, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £250 of Debenhams Gift Vouchers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £150, 4<sup>th</sup> Prize £50 and many more prizes to be won. Please support West Mercia County to raise this money by getting all our members involved.

### Have you tried..?

This is a new area where we invite anyone from Leaders to Guides to share ideas, such as good places for day trips, camps, resources, useful websites, games and craft ideas etc. Please share your ideas. Contact details at the end of the newsletter.

### Did you hear..?

'Changing the World' was launched on 28.8.08. There are 19 projects to choose from and introductory sessions are being run near you, contact your District Commissioner to book your place.

Wolverhampton & Tettenhall Divisions  
Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> Sept at County Headquarters.

Himley, Dudley & Warley Divisions  
Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> Sept at Sledmere School, Dudley.

Wednesbury and West Bromwich Divisions  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Oct - venue to be advised.

Walsall & Bloxwich Divisions  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Oct at St. John's Methodist Church, Bloxwich.

## What's happening around the County..?

### How did you celebrate 21 years of Rainbows..?



#### Walsall North Division...

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 110 Rainbows went by coach to Cadbury World. They thoroughly enjoyed the Cadbury Experience, doing the Cadabra Ride, having a go at chocolate writing and bouncing with bubbles in the interactive area. They also had a picnic and played in the playground but most of all they loved sampling lots of chocolate.

### This you must read ..!

#### West Mercia Jailbreak 2008...

Congratulations to West Mercia's Jailbreak Team who succeeded in completing their challenge and visited Edinburgh, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Lapland, Finland and Estonia. The team consisted of Chantel Cresswell, Leanne Marlow, Sarah Greatrex, Alyson Norwood, Abbey Bunn, Natalie Dean, Becky Bleakley and Hannah Bleakley. Hannah Bleakley said the girls were great and a true asset to West Mercia County and the Girlguiding Movement. We had our ups and downs but in the end came out stronger and became a closer group for it. To find out more about the trip and the places they visited please visit the County Website.

#### "Thanks a Bomb! ..."

County Day at George Salter School on 12<sup>th</sup> April was a great success. The numbers attending were considerably up over last year.

All of the sessions were very well received, but the 'Mad Scientist' went "down a bomb" with everyone giving glowing reports. I think we can expect a glut of Science badges being awarded by Guiders this year.

I would like to thank the Trainers and Training Reps who did such a splendid job and the school for their wonderful co-operation and help.

Olwyn Grainger  
Adult Support

## The following awards have been presented during 2008 ...

### Congratulations to...

#### 40 year Award

Patricia Skidmore	Himley
Ann Bissell	Walsall West
Sheila Slater-Woodall	Wednesbury

#### 30 year Award

Patricia Wilson	Himley
Lynn Bowater	Himley
Julie Pain	Himley
Fiona Stone	Walsall West
Joy Wood	Walsall West
Margaret Cole	Wolverhampton South
Joan Wiseman	Walsall East
Chris Bailey	West Bromwich

#### New County Appointments:

Annette Southall - Awards Chairman  
[Dec 2008]

Norma Jukes - Outdoor Activities [Sept 2008]

Hannah Bleakley - Sports Advisor [Aug 2008]

This is a new area where we invite you to let us know about someone in Guiding who deserves a special mention, such as a Long Service Award.

Contact details at the end of the newsletter.

### Stuck for a venue...?

Did you know there are rooms available which cost £10 per evening at County Headquarters? Bookings can be made by contacting Pauline Paley on 01902 755951.

### Diary Dates...

Following the success of this year's County Day, next year's event is planned for 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2009. Book this day in your diary!

### Stop Press...

Have you looked at our new County website?  
[www.girlguidingwestmercia.org.uk](http://www.girlguidingwestmercia.org.uk)

For more information on 'Changing the World'  
[www.girlguiding.org.uk/changingtheworld](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/changingtheworld)

Articles for West Mercia Shout should be sent to Pat Steward- [patsteward@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:patsteward@blueyonder.co.uk)  
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