

## County Commissioner Chat ...

Last week I went out with a Guiding friend who was a Brownie and Guide in London, and we were exchanging memories about the things which really stand out in our minds from all those years ago.

For her, it was the great parades she took part in through the city and down The Mall, and the celebrations for the Diamond Jubilee. For me, it was meeting Princess Margaret and, not surprisingly, our Diamond Jubilee celebrations also. I can recall dressing up in my uniform and then proudly putting my "costume" for the day over the top. I was a playing card and our celebrations had an Alice in Wonderland theme.

Now, I'm not saying that I do not have any memories about weekly meetings but it's THE BIG THINGS which stand out.

We are about to offer ALL of the girls and leaders in West Mercia some once in a lifetime opportunities and I do not want anyone to miss out. I am asking you to just try to put yourself in to that little Rainbow's place as the Disney Princesses walk towards her or look through the eyes of a Brownie for a few minutes when she realises just how many other Brownies there are at the holiday camp, and try to imagine how she will feel being part of Centenary. Unless you have experienced anything like it yourself it might be difficult to visualise but, take it from me, you have to give each and every one of the girls in the County the chance to make these memories.

Can you imagine the conversations in schools on the Monday following the Great Guide Getaway if any of your girls find out they missed out?!?! I would not like to be in your shoes.

It's not up to you or me to decide what the girls do - you have to give them and their parents the choice. We are there to open

doors and enthuse and encourage them - not put a dampener on everything!

By the time you read this the Brownie Centenary team will have been to Wales to finalise their weekend, the Senior Section team will have hammered out the details for "Lift Off", the Rainbow team will have had another 2 meetings, the Guide team will have more members and the adult team will have finalised their application form for their first event. Please support them as they are all working incredibly hard and want to make a real success of this most wonderful time in the girls' lives.

## Happy Guiding

**Frances.E.Burton - County Commissioner**

## Have you registered yet?...

What is your unit doing for your 'CHANGING THE WORLD PROJECT?' The website is full of ideas, including an on-line forum, picture gallery and lots more. To register your project and find out more, please visit

[www.girlguidinguk.org.uk/changingtheworld](http://www.girlguidinguk.org.uk/changingtheworld)

## Residential Events at Waddow...

Waddow is hosting three residential events in August 2009 for Brownies, Guides and Senior Section members with or without leaders, costing £64. The events are themed on the Environment, Music and Health using resources from Changing the World, it promises to be a fun time where girls can really change the world. For more information follow the above link.

## Attention all Senior Section ...

GGUK are on the lookout for media-savvy Senior Section members to become part of the Centenary Camp Media Team. It's a great opportunity for anyone interested in a media career to get some great work experience and make new friends on the way. For more details see Centenary Camp page - volunteers at [www.girlguiding100years.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding100years.org.uk)



## This you must read!...

### Check your guide wear!...

A Senior Section, Guider, Commissioner or Adviser wears her Promise badge on her tab on the right breast or on her left collar.



In addition to the Promise badge, she may wear up to FOUR other badges RECOGNISED BY GGUK - NOT FUN BADGES or out of date Guide badges e.g. Brownie 90th Birthday, 75 years, Queen's Jubilee etc.

e.g.

- metal County badge
- World Badge
- Long Service Brooch
- Qualification Badge or Bar
- an Association Award
- Commissioner Badge
- Queen's Guide
- D of E

Note that as from September 2009 the items designed by Jeff Banks will no longer be considered Adult Leader wear.

The items affected are the light blue knitwear, polo shirts, sweatshirt, and zip style sweat top, the blue and white striped blouse and skirt and the jogging bottoms. These items were introduced in 1990 and can be recognised as they will say "The Guide Association" on the label or feature the old style Trefoil.

## Have you seen?...

Did you attend the County Day? Did you see the display showing some of the souvenirs and merchandise that West Mercia County are selling? These items feature the County logo and some will also have the Centenary logo. They would make a lovely memento or to put in 'goody bags' for the Centenary Launch parties. We have the following items mugs, flings, soft footballs, rock, cloth badges, woggles, and glass-ware with more to follow, Order forms available shortly from Division/District Commissioners, SO WATCH THIS SPACE...

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

Remember to let us know about what you and your girls get up to...



## Do you read it or do you bin it?...



Have you looked at your April edition of Guiding Magazine? This magazine is a great way to catch up on all the Centenary News and the resources for each section are brilliant when planning your weekly programmes. So please give it a read instead of leaving it un-opened in the plastic wrapper. I challenge you all to be the first unit in West Mercia to get a photograph in the picture gallery and put our County on the map!!

## County Day 2009...

The Day was successful with approximately 180 people attending at George Salter Academy, West Bromwich. Guiders told me that they enjoyed the Day and the opportunity of meeting other Guiders from within the County.

This year we were fortunate to have thirteen trainers from Midland Region, as well as our own Trainers, providing a wide range of interesting sessions.

The Kids' Club proved very popular with Guiders who have children being able to safely leave their children while they attended the sessions.

I would like to thank everyone who helped to make the Day a success.

**Olwyn Grainger - Adult Support Chairman**

## Diary Dates...

County Guide Day - Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2009

For more details contact Division/District Commissioners.

Scrap booking Sessions - dates to follow.

## Stop Press...

Community Cuppa is West Mercia's own Community Action Project - for more ideas and resources a CD is available from Mercia Point at £1 each - WHAT A BARGIN...

Articles for West Mercia SHOUT should be sent to Pat Steward- [patsteward@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:patsteward@blueyonder.co.uk)  
Tel: 01922 693862 or 07986 208083.

Articles for next edition to be received by 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2009 please.

