



County Commissioner Chat ...

Well as 2009 gets under way an exciting time is ahead for us all, over the next two years. I'm sure you have all chosen your Changing the World Project and possibly moved onto the next one, don't forget to order your badges which I'm sure the girls will take great pride in wearing and the Community Cuppa which should be a great PR opportunity for your units.

Have you had a good look at the Ways to Celebrate booklet? It made me wish I was able to have a go at everything, how fantastic and there are the Region/County events as well. There are a lot of people working on your behalf behind the scenes to organise these events.

Well first things first by now you should have a had a flyer about the training day in March, Fran and myself would love to see you there; it's a day for meeting old friends making new and also learning new ideas. Then there is Netherurd in May, (should be a good weekend). It's a weekend where we can all get together in beautiful countryside and enjoy guiding.

There have been a lot of changes within the county already we have a lot of new advisors, along with their new ideas. I know the Outdoor Team is looking at new ways for you to enjoy the out of doors and how to help you with obtaining qualifications. There are also commissioner trainings taking place to help them with their jobs.

We also have Mercia Point which is being used for a lot of trainings and meetings. We are putting our mark on the building; all the rooms have now been painted,

new blinds up in the toilets etc. It will take a long time but will be worth it in the end. Thank you all for participating in our first County raffle which has raised £19,760 so far.

Hope to see you all soon.
Have fun and enjoy your guiding - it's not just for the girls but also for you.

Marion Watkins
Assistant County Commissioner

GRAND RAFFLE ...

The Grand Raffle to raise funds for our new County Headquarters took place at Mercia Point on Tuesday 2nd December:

1st Prize - £300 Mr H Jennings [Wordsley]
2nd Prize - £250 vouchers Mrs June Taylor [Tipton]
3rd Prize - £150 Emma Guest [Sedgley]

The Grand Raffle raised to date - £19,760

There is still a small amount of money to add to this total. The County Executive wants to pass on a HUGE THANK YOU for all your support, well done.

Have you tried..?

Are you an adult who enjoys craft and a coffee while making new friends, and then this might be right up your street...?

A warm welcome awaits you at Mercia Point with Mary leading a Crafting Session each Monday 9.45-12.00pm during term times. Cost £2 including Tea/coffee - please reserve your place by contacting Mary Harris on Tel: 01902 341754 or [email:marykharris@btoopenworld.com](mailto:marykharris@btoopenworld.com)



County..?

County Training Day... 'Bigger and Better'...



Are you sometimes stuck for ideas? Do you want to meet up with other Guiders? Are you approaching that Special Birthday? Then this is the event for you...

County Training Day at George Salter School on Saturday 28th March 2009. From 9.30-4pm. Kids Club places available. For more details contact Olwyn Grainger on Tel: 01902 893901. Closing date: 22.2.09.

This you must read ..!

The following BP Awards have been presented ...

A BIG WELL DONE to 5 Guides from 27th Wolverhampton [St. Jude's] Guides who have completed their BP Awards, which included a trip to Foxlease to complete their adventure. Alex Walters, Kate Craft, Bethany Craft, Alisha Freeman & Amy Leadbetter have all moved onto Rangers now. Also WELL DONE to 2 Guides from 1st Wall Heath Guides - Kate Mountford & Amy Horton, who have now become Senior Section members - keep up the good work and continue to have fun in Guiding. Please see County website for more information.

Congratulations to...

New County Appointments:

Donna Holmes - Commissioner Co-ordinator
Charlene Green & Denise Locke - Senior Section Advisors
Angela Bradley - Division Commissioner Wolverhampton South [Nov 2008]
Michelle Pyatt - District Commissioner Brierley Hill [Nov 2008]
Gaye Sampson & Heather Price - Joint District Commissioners Kingswinford [Dec 2008]
Jo Goldie - District Commissioner Penn & Pennfields [Jan 2009]

Have you seen..?

You should have received your copy of 'Ways to Celebrate' in January's Guiding Magazine. Inside you will find loads of ways to celebrate many based here in the Midlands, so get planning your adventures. Remember to let us know about what you and your girls get up to...

Guides website gets a makeover...

The website designed especially for Guides has been relaunched with many fun features including online games, Go For It's! and even an interactive soap! Not seen the new Guides website? Why not check it now at www.girlguiding.org.uk/guides



New Resource...

Guide Friendship Fund...

Make a world of difference with the new Guide Friendship Fund [GGF] Activity Pack.

Designed to raise awareness of the works of GGF, which supports projects overseas and units in need in the UK, the new colourful activity pack is brimming with fun ideas and activities for all sections. The pack is free to download from www.girlguiding.org.uk visit the 'Who we are section', click on International guiding then 'Guide Friendship Fund'. You will find the activity pack under 'More in this section' so get clicking to find out more.

Diary Dates...

County Training Day - Sat. 28th March, 2009
County Brownie Day - 25th April, 2009
Netherurd Weekend - 15th - 17th May, 2009
For more details contact Division/District Commissioners

Stop Press...

Have you looked at our new County website? www.girlguidingwestmercia.org.uk

For more information on 'Changing the World' www.girlguiding.org.uk/changingtheworld

Articles for West Mercia Shout should be sent to Pat Steward- patsteward@blueyonder.co.uk
Tel: 01922 693862 or 07986 208083.

Articles for next edition to be received by 3rd April, 2009 please.



