



Girlguiding

Sussex Central

girls in the lead



County Commissioner Report 2008



During 2008 all our members continued to follow the five essentials of Guiding in their own way; working in small groups, making their own decisions, a balanced & varied programme, caring for the individual and sharing a common standard all with the underlying theme of having FUN!

In the spring our youngest members celebrated 21 years since the first UK Rainbow unit began. Throughout the County many parties were held, giving the girls the opportunity to have fun, games, craft activities and eat **CAKE** in a variety of ways and venues! In addition we participated in the Region's competition to design an outfit for Olivia, the Rainbow mascot. Our entry from Parkminster Division was one of the 6 runners up.



1st Henfield Brownies celebrated their own birthday with a 50th Anniversary party for members from now and yesterday including two previous Brown Owls.

Rainbow & Brownie units participated in a variety of outings ranging from trips to the zoo, pantomime, bowling with the local cubs, circus days at Blackland Farm, Chessington World of Adventures and ICANDO (the Activity Centre at CHQ).



Guides also participate widely in activities outside their usual meeting place with the most senior in the unit taking part in the Baden Powell Challenge which includes a residential weekend, which is often oversubscribed. In 2008, the County ones were held in and around Arundel with Guides also independently going to Blackland Farm, ICANDO, Foxlease, and indeed joining with other Counties in their challenge weekends.

Residentials are always a highlight of Guiding and are open to all members in one form or another no matter what the age group. In 2008 all had the opportunity to achieve the newly introduced LaSER Nights Away badge.



Apart from these 'normal' nights away, Sussex Central participated in WS 2008, (our International Camp) where nearly 2000 Guides & Scouts from West Sussex and abroad had the chance to camp, play, meet old friends and make new ones and show that the spirit of Lord & Lady BP is still very much alive. This number swelled when the younger members of both movements joined in the fun for a day.

Many take advantage of the International opportunities offered and our girls have travelled widely abroad. Apart from unit visits to Europe, individuals have gone to New Zealand, South Africa and Thailand as part of Region expeditions.

All are encouraged to 'go' international on Thinking Day and in February 2008 a County event to celebrate the joint birthdays of our founders Lord & Lady Baden Powell was held in Crawley, giving all ages of the movement a chance to renew their promise. Guiding continues to join our Scouting friends at Thinking Day on the Air at Christ's Hospital, where they make radio contact with other members of the movement in both this country and abroad.

Our most senior members enjoy a full programme with many opting to participate in Queen's Guide and achieving Duke of Edinburgh Awards at Bronze & Silver level; others are content to support their own units as Young Leaders or enjoy their own meeting as Rangers.

During 2008 our 'GO' team have been working hard to implement a safe and secure state of the art computer system from Girlguiding UK, which will streamline all our data. This combined with the launch of our very own website surely proves that we are a 21st century organisation.



2009



2009 sees the launch of the Centenary of Girlguiding UK with many of our adults spending many hours planning events for the County which are in addition to those offered by Region & Headquarters. As a preliminary, Girlguiding UK's 'Changing the World' has provided an opportunity for our girls and adults to support and learn about one of 19 charitable groups, in an activity which began in September 2008 and concludes in August 2009.

Our units though, do not need the Centenary to prompt them to think of others and during the year many thousands of pounds have been donated to a wide variety of good causes together with numerous community projects such as entertaining our senior citizens.

In addition to the time our leaders spend organising meetings, they also participate in training provided by the County/ Region and CHQ teams to support them in their roles.

Each year we welcome and say goodbye to many adults. Sadly a number of our members have passed away and we greatly mourn the loss of these fine ladies who gave so much to Guiding in Sussex. In particular, I would like to mention Molly Andrews and Jackie Shoebridge who held office not only in our County but within the Region.



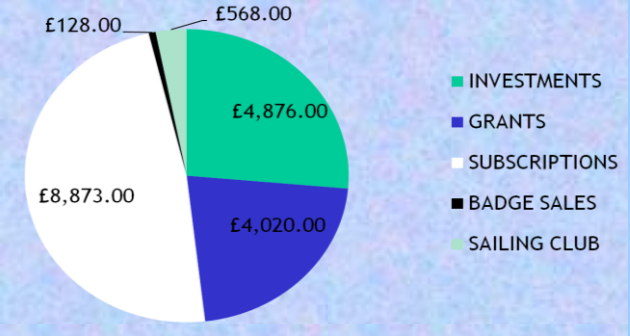
In conclusion, on behalf of the young people in Girlguiding Sussex Central, I would like to thank all adults who have been associated with our County.

Census figures 2008

Rainbows	478	
Brownies	1922	
Guides	1056	
Senior Section	153	
Adults	481	

FINANCE

INCOME 2008 £18,465.00



EXPENDITURE 2008 £15,705.00

