



Girlguiding

Sussex Central

girls in the lead

2007 Annual Report



www.girlguidingsussexcentral.org.uk



County Commissioner's Report

I am delighted to be writing my first annual report for Sussex Central. There's so much to include from 2007 that I apologise to any unit or event which has been overlooked. It is the regular weekly meetings held all over the County where the Girls of Today are guided to be the Women of Tomorrow.

The introduction of our new County Awards by my predecessor, Christine Cheesmur, for out-standing service (Butterfly brooch for ladies and Martlets Badge for men), has brought great pleasure, not only those who receive it but also to those presenting it! Thank you to all the adults who have worked so tirelessly with the girls and supported the leaders. My special thanks to those who have moved on from Guiding and a very warm welcome to our new leaders and advisers.

Around the County

Horsham Division excelled itself by representing Sussex Central County in the Lord Mayor's show. Having shadowed the previous year's parade the organising went well with commemorative sweatshirts and badges. The theme of 'Fit for the Future' gave plenty of scope for Guiding themes to show through.

Many units celebrated birthdays during the year; in particular 1st Lower Beeding Guides marked 90 years with a church

service and then later in the year, a tea party at South Lodge, the home of their first Guiders the Miss Godmans.

East Grinstead Division celebrated their 90th anniversary with a variety of events; a trip to an Ice Show at Brighton Arena, a fantastic celebration camp at Blackland Farm, which involved over 300 people from all Guide units, together with Rangers, Brownies and with Rainbows and Trefoil Guild members joining them during the day.

Throughout the County many units celebrated the Centenary of Scouting, further forging the excellent links with West Sussex Scouts with plans to continue with WS2008 International Camp.

A number of leaders and girls from the County participated in the World Scout Jamboree, meeting fellow members of the Scout and Guide movement from around the world.

The County were also fortunate to have members travel on International trips as far a field as India, with others selected for New Zealand, South Africa and Thailand for 2008.

Numerous units participated in residential events at home in the form of camps, pack holidays and sleepovers and although the weather was not always kind, many had an enjoyable time.



Brownies

Guides

Senior Section

Thinking Day is always a special event. In 2007, Divisions chose to celebrate in their own way. Some girls had the opportunity to participate in Thinking Day on the Air in February at Christ's Hospital with many completing clauses for their Communicator's badge. Others met together at their local churches for special services, with Parkminster Division taking the opportunity to dedicate their new Division Standard.

The 'Big Gig', the Association's pop concert, continues to be well supported by girls around the County, with many making the long coach journey needed to Birmingham.

Naturally, Girlguiding Sussex Central supports both the local community and national charities, with thousands of pounds being raised by a variety of fundraising events.

Our '9th' Division; The Trefoil Guild, continues to thrive with eight guilds around the County. The support provided to our units whether by 'stepping-in' in an emergency or involvement in specific activities is immeasurable. In addition, they organise an exciting, fun and challenging programme for themselves.

County advisers work hard to provide the 'extras' for the everyday meetings and 2007 was no exception, with a Rainbow Day held at Woodsmill; Brownie Revels, which was a great success despite torrential rain; Guides regularly participating in BP Challenges and Senior Section working towards Duke of Edinburgh and Queen's Guides Awards.

The County training team and all Divisions work hard to support their leaders at all levels, by providing many training opportunities and a County Day. In addition, the leadership scheme is supported by a group of skilled mentors, there are also social events, and the two were admirably combined at a valuable Foxlease weekend in the autumn.

The profile of Guiding continues to grow within the County through the hard work of the leaders, and the PR team raising awareness at events such as the South of England Show and general press coverage. Many new units are opening throughout the year with more girls on joining lists simply waiting for adults to open units.

2008 will see the completion of our County website and WS 08 our joint Camp with Girlguiding Sussex West and West Sussex Scouts.

The planning begins in earnest for Guiding Organisation 

the transfer of all guiding UK records to computer in 2009 and of course the Centenary of Girlguiding UK in 2009/10.

In conclusion, when I took over from Christine Cheesmur I chose 3 words to sum up my feelings about my new role which were apprehension, excitement and privilege. I had no need of the first, the welcome and support from the grass roots leaders to the County Team has been overwhelming. There has certainly been a great deal of the second, with a variety of activities as can be seen from this report. Finally I can wholeheartedly say, it is indeed a privilege to lead the adults and girls of Girlguiding Sussex Central and it is a tribute to Christine that the handover was so 'painless'.

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