

GIRLGUIDING HAMPSHIRE WEST'S COUNTY REPORT 2014

WE MADE A DIFFERENCE

“We build girls’ confidence and raise their aspirations. We give them the chance to discover their full potential and encourage them to be a powerful force for good. We give them a space to have fun.”

In Hampshire West we support the aims of Girlguiding and in turn, we support our girls and young women by empowering them to be the best they can be. Giving our girls a voice means they can directly influence their local communities and the wider world. We give them a space where they can be themselves in a safe environment. We are for girls of all cultures and backgrounds and we are constantly reviewing and adapting our programmes and activities to give the girls and young women what they want.

Influence

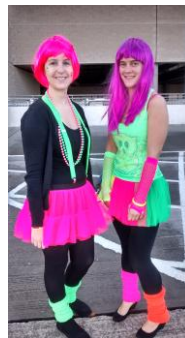


The views and opinions of our young members are strongly encouraged and this was widely demonstrated throughout the County when the Brownies chose their activities for the Big Brownie Birthday

Challenge badge. The Rainbows too worked on their roundabouts and the Guides on their Go For Its. Winchester City Senior Section group designed an ‘Are ye a pirate’ badge and put together a challenge resource in order to fundraise for their forthcoming trip to Our Chalet.

Voice

We encourage girls to speak out about issues that matter to them. Many girls participated in the Dove Self-Esteem Challenge, which addresses body image issues, and cultural and media influences. It sparked some interesting debate amongst the girls about media portrayals and how they can affect self-esteem in young women. We are steadily increasing the number of Peer Educators in the County to bring these important issues to the girls’ attention. Other topics included the importance of education for all children around the world.



Guiding was well represented at many local community events such as carnivals, Remembrance Day parades, conservation projects, summer fetes and Christmas fayres, all helping to raise funds for local good causes. Some examples were:

- 1st Milford-on-Sea Brownies ran the refreshment station for the volunteers cleaning the beach after the St Valentine’s Day storms as well as taking part in the beach-clean themselves.
- 3rd West End Brownies did a litter pick from their meeting hall to West End Copse as part of their Community Adventure challenge.
- Guides in Eastleigh took part in the annual Christmas SCRATCH project - sorting and packing toys for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Downs Rangers made 61 pillowcase dresses to send to Gambia.

Action



Delivering an exciting and challenging programme is always under review and to achieve this we offered excellent trainings for our Leaders to develop their skills and gain confidence to deliver great Guiding in a safe environment. Spring Training in March concentrated on bringing “Adventure” into the Unit programme and Autumn Training Week was based on “Science For All Ages”.

We were lucky this year to have some new 1st Response trainers within Hampshire West and we have made a

real effort to ensure that all Leaders are able to achieve or to update their qualification.

Young Leaders were not forgotten in the Learning and Development programme. Many Young Leaders attended programme training and 26 girls attended the basic Young Leader Qualification Training in November.

We offered great adventures for girls of all ages throughout the year. The Rainbows (aged 5 to 7) enjoyed the Alice in Wonderland Fun Day. Guides (aged 10 to 14) enjoyed Wipeout, along with the traditional Dorothy Everett and Pam Baker competitions, and members of the Senior Section enjoyed an Arts Day.



Around the County in Districts and Divisions, the list is endless: a teddy bear picnic, rainbow disco, trip to Marwell Zoo, visit to a fire station, making pizzas, movie night, chocolate night, crabbing at Hamble, geocaching, donutting at the Snow Sports Centre, star gazing, visiting Pets at Home, visit from Police officers, indoor sky diving and many visits to Sprinkles for ice cream! And so much more. Winchester Division put on a production of Dr Dolittle and 1st Peartree Brownies stepped out to perform Arabian Nights.

Residential trips included Rainbow sleepovers (Frozen was a popular theme!), Brownie Stay Aways to celebrate their centenary, Guide camps and international trips to Our Chalet in Switzerland. One of the Baden-Powell Adventure weekends was spent on SS Shieldhall where the girls took part in a range of activities including rib rides and fire-fighting tasks.



But the biggest event of them all was the Big Brownie Birthday centenary celebration. It all began with the launch at the Mayflower Theatre where the girls enjoyed watching the pantomime "Pirates of the Caribbean". This was followed by Party in the Park, an all-section day trip to Paulton's Park attended by over **2000** girls and **300** Leaders. One Rainbow said "it was the best day of my life" (all six years of it!) and a Brownie told her mum that she will be able to tell her grandchildren that she was part of the 100th Birthday Party! Over **500** Brownies stayed away at PGL where they enjoyed many adventurous activities including the giant swing, canoeing and zip wire. Then for "Look At Us" week they put their best foot forward to walk the County, all meeting up at Foxlease for a camp fire sing-along. And finally **600** Brownies slept 'under the stars' at Winchester Science

Museum for the Star Quest events. One very lucky Brownie, Erinn Gale of 4th Chandlers Ford Ramalley Brownies was chosen to have tea at Buckingham Palace!

Organisation



To achieve these amazing experiences for the girls, our structures and processes are constantly evaluated in order to respond to the needs of local guiding. Divisions have benefitted from a reorganisation to a section-based structure, rather than District-based. One advantage of this is that it improves communication and Leaders' skills and strengths can be put to better use.

Opportunity



During 2014 we increased our membership by 4.5%. Leaders across the County worked hard to find ways to grow our membership and take specific initiatives to welcome more girls into Hampshire West. Girls were also encouraged to move through the sections. A new Rainbow Unit and Guide Unit opened and a Rainbow and Brownie

Unit merged offering flexibility for both Leaders and parents.

- 2724 enquiries from girls were followed up in 2014. 249 adults contacted us interested in volunteering within the County.
- We dealt with new enquiries faster, the average reply time decreasing from 34 days to 5 days for girls and 42 days to 10 days for adults.
- We decreased the number of small Units by nearly a third, thereby offering more girls the chance to experience guiding in larger Units and utilising our Leaders more efficiently.

Support



Hampshire West is committed to include members with disabilities or additional needs and to ensure they receive a great guiding experience. We support and advise Leaders on subjects such as epilepsy to nut allergies.

We introduced a Commissioner Support Group as we found that both new and experienced Commissioners often need support from Mentors and other Commissioners. The Commissioner Conference was also an opportunity for them to network and find out what works well in other areas and how they

can use those ideas effectively for their own local needs.



At the heart of what we do in Guiding is the promise to serve others in the community and many units held fundraising events. 2nd Hedge End Guides took part in an 'Apprentice'-style challenge in which each patrol was challenged to make a product to sell to raise funds for a charity of their choice. Other Units raised funds for the Blue Cross, Cancer Research UK, The Guide Friendship Fund, RNIB, Children with Cancer, Animal Rescue, helping a school in Riwa, in Africa, Gift of Sight, local Basics Bank, Wildlife Trust, Children In Need and Save the Children.

We supported too the large-scale Region and National events and incentives: Zoom, the Regional Big Brownie Birthday event at Wincanton, the national Big Brownie Birthday event at Alexandra Palace, Wellies & Wristbands and the Big Gig. Milford Brownies and Guides attended the Rustle, Bustle and Squeak day at Boldrewood learning all about fungi and gaining an RSPB badge.

Awards

30yr Long Service

Brenda Bax, Southampton Itchen
Sue Brimelow, Winchester
Sue Coatham, New Forest Avon
Sonia Craig, Winchester
Kay Davies, Itchen Valley
Elaine Hicks, Southampton Central
Sharon Hussey, New Forest Waterside
Janet Malcom, Hurst Castle
Cheryl Phillips, Winchester
Sue Thomas, Romsey
Maureen Tucker, Southampton West
Vivien Trollope, New Forest Waterside

40yr Long Service

Jinty Williamson, Chandlers Ford

Hampshire Rose

Janet Blood, Chandlers Ford
June Flux, New Forest North
Elaine Hicks, Southampton Central
Cynthia Hockley, County Secretary
Janet Malcom, Hurst Castle
Marilyn Moy, Southampton Central
Cheryl Phillips, Winchester
Jane Rawlinson, Chandlers Ford
Maureen Tucker, Southampton West

County Good Service

Janet Blood, Chandlers Ford

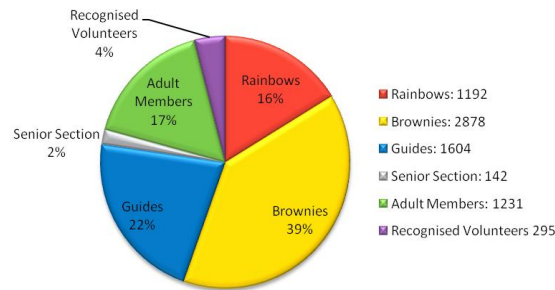
County Thanks Badge

Gavin Babbage, Website Manager
Elaine Smith, Hurst Castle
Tracey Smith, New Forest North

Queen's Guide

Emma Treadwell, New Forest North

Membership Statistics



Finance

Total Income 2013/14 = £196619.40



Expenditure 2013/14 = £165739.48



Every week girls of all ages from Rainbows to Rangers are being challenged and given the chance to grow and develop through Guiding whether that is trying a new sport, taking to the stage, making new friends, helping in their communities, taking part in a discussion or exploring an issue that affects today's girls. All of this would not be possible without our amazing volunteers, Trefoil Guild, Friends of Guiding, parents and friends who give up their time to make these experiences possible for over 5000 girls who choose to be a part of Girlguiding in Hampshire West. My heartfelt thanks go to all of them.

Anne Falconer
County Commissioner

If you are not already involved in Guiding in Hampshire West and would like to discover for yourself what it is that attracts girls to the largest organisation for girls and young women, go to www.girlguidinghantswest.org.uk to register your interest.

Contact details:

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County Secretary
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“The girls are so lucky to have such dedicated leaders who help create amazing memories for them”
A parent

“The best night of the week is Brownie night!”
A Brownie

(Wipeout) “Can we do it again?!”
A Guide

