



Girlguiding

Royal Berkshire

girls in the lead

Annual Review 2007

'We give girls
and young
women a voice!'

'We provide a
unique girl-only
space!'

'We promote
equality and
diversity!'

'We're
relevant to
today's girls!'

Mission: Girlguiding Royal Berkshire, as part of a world-wide movement, enables girls and young women to fulfil their potential and to take an active and responsible role in society through its distinctive, stimulating and enjoyable programmes of activities delivered by trained volunteer leaders.

Statement of Purpose: Girlguiding UK enables girls and young women to develop their potential and to make a difference to the world



County Commissioner: Miss Susan Kidd
53 Heywood Avenue, Woodlands Park,
Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 3JA

County Executive Committee

Mrs. Margaret Edgington, MBE
Miss. Susan Kidd
Mrs. Jill Nicholls
Mrs. Karen Burrows
Mrs. Judy Wilson
Mrs. Patricia Spence
Mrs. Sue North
Miss. Jennifer Parsons
Mrs. Jennifer King
Mrs. Karen Dwyer
Mrs. Sue Jones
Mrs. Penny Knight
Dr. Lesley Ashton
Mrs. Sandra Smith
Mrs. Margaret Long
Mrs. Beverly Ayers
Mr. Michael Green
Mrs. Cynthia Simmonds
Mrs. Helen Durrant

County President
County Commissioner
Assistant County Commissioner
Bulmershe Division Commissioner
Donnington Division Commissioner
Forest Division Commissioner to July 2007
Maidenhead Division Commissioner
Reading Abbey Division Commissioner (joint)
Reading Abbey Division Commissioner (joint)
Reading Riverside Division Commissioner (joint)
Reading Riverside Division Commissioner (joint)
South East Division Commissioner
Swan Division Commissioner
Valley Division Commissioner
Windsor Division Commissioner
Wokingham Division Commissioner
County Treasurer
Chair of Finance Committee
Chair of Programme Committee

Contents

Programme: Rainbows	4
Programme: Brownies	5
Programme: Guides	6
Programme: Queen's Guides	7
Adult Training: Outdoor Activities	8
Adult Training: Commissioner Conference & First Aid	9
Trefoil Guild	10
International	11
Properties	12
From the County Commissioner	13
Bulmershe	14
Donnington	15
Forest	16
Maidenhead	17
Reading Abbey	18
Reading Riverside	19
South East	20
Swan	21
Valley	22
Windsor	23
Wokingham	24
Awards	25
Census	26
Accounts	27

Contributors

We thank the following Advisers and Consultants who have provided content to this report:

Caroline Smith
Tracey Gillingham
Cyndy Price
Tamsin Phipps
Heather Dunford
Marion Heath
Lynne Patrick
Laura Kimber
Pauline Fothergill
Rosemary Tocock

And all the Division Commissioners

Designed and created by:
Janet Russell
Sarah Temlett



Programme

Rainbows

In October Rainbows from across the County celebrated their 20th Birthday in two different venues; Newbury and Bracknell. Great fun was had by all!

Kennet Vale District Rainbows celebrated their 20th Birthday with a Circus day held at Thirtover Place. Professional circus skills people were there to help and all the Leaders dressed up, so much so, that many of the girls didn't recognize their own Leaders!!

2nd Kennet Vale Rainbows began fundraising again to ensure their success in 2006 was followed through, when they sponsored two girls from Uganda to attend school for a year. This year they raised a staggering £158 all out of 20p pieces saved over the term. £120 goes towards Ellon and Prize's education and the remainder is being put towards the construction of a chicken coup. What is special is that the Rainbows see where the money is going and Ellon and Prize have very much become part of the Unit despite the vast distance between us.

Valley Division

5th Thatcham Brownies launched their flood victims' appeal in conjunction with the town's Mayor, and all the girls did helpful things to earn money to put into a smartie tube. Meanwhile 4th Thatcham Brownies were busy adopting a Hippo at Whipsnade Zoo. Helen Groves (ABG) hit the big 40 and as she is "Hippo" the Brownies decided to adopt a hippo for her but of course this meant they also had to go on a trip to the Zoo to visit it too!! 7th Thatcham Brownies set off down the river. Many units have had activities outside their meeting places, and spread the Guiding word as many got into the local paper too.

3rd Cookham Brownies did a 24 hour Book review and went live on BBC Radio Berkshire to talk to Henry Kelly about their findings and featured on the home page of the radio stations website for a while!

The Brownie Programme review of 2005/6 came to fruition in 2007. Many of the ideas given by the Guiding community have been incorporated into the updated programme. In September and October over 120 Guiders and Young Leaders attended trainings on the updates to the programme and were also given ideas on how to get the Brownies involved in planning. Using the girls' ideas to build a programme is both important to their development and helpful to the unit team. After all it is supposed to be "girls in the lead".

Caroline Smith - Brownie Adviser



Programme

Brownies



Programme

Guides

The year got off to a great start with the Berkshire final of the national Guiding Star Competition. Becky Hutt and Lauren Killner were in joint first place and went on to the Regional Final. Unfortunately that was the end of the road for them but they both did extremely well against some very tough competition. Well done to them both! The organisation of this event showed Berkshire Guiding at its best!

In October, 2nd Newbury Guides fulfilled many girls dreams and held a car washing day with the Newbury Firemen! They were raising money towards a trip to Switzerland they have planned for 2008.

In 2007 there were two Baden Powell Adventure Weekends. The first in March was held at Thirtover Place and the second in October took place at The Guide Centre, Bracknell. The Adventure Weekend in October was the first to be run by Lynne and Laura. The theme for the weekend was 'Fashion on a Shoestring'. Eighteen Guides took part, and in groups they had to create their own outfits based on a theme of their choice, and then put on a fashion show for parents and Leaders. The Adventure was a success and enjoyed by all.

Having only taken over as Guide Advisers in May, we are looking forward to the coming year and being able to give many more Guides the opportunity to take part in new experiences!

Lynne Patrick- Guide Adviser
Laura Kimber- Assistant Guide Adviser

Another memorable year for Berkshire Queens Guides: Emma Wilcockson (Swan Division), Jemma Lindley (Forest Division), Lizzie Tailby (Forest Division) and Jaqueline Cass (Valley Division) were presented with their Queens Guide Awards by The Countess of Wessex on 1st November at St. James' Palace, London.

Jacqueline was on BBC "South To-Day" programme in August to receive an Award from them for her work with Thames Valley Vikings Wheelchair Basketball Team in Thatcham. Congratulations! I was also on Radio Berkshire in December talking about the Queens Guide Award and the girls achievements with Tracey Gillingham our PR Consultant..

Jo Lovell (Maidenhead Division) completed her Award in October and is now awaiting her presentation. As I have another 26 registered for the Award, I have recruited Bex Hall and Jemma Lindley as assistants to help me keep the girls on track, so I hope to be handing the reins over to them eventually. Half of the girls currently registered will be due to complete in 2010, so Margaret Edgington has affectionately called them "Our Centenary Girls".

During my five years as Queens Guide Adviser, the number of girls registered for the Queens Guide Award in SW Region has doubled from 75 to 150. A high proportion of these come from Berkshire - so well done to all who take up the Award and to those who support them.

Marion Heath (Orinoco) - Queens Guide Adviser



Queens Guides

Adult Training

Outdoor Activities



Residential

There have been over 24 Residential Awards made for 2007, however we are still waiting for the paperwork to be submitted for over 30 files. It has been another busy year for the team, with an increase in Guiders/Guides taking qualifications and 42 being assessed during the year. A taster day for adults to have a go at climbing/abseiling and archery was held in June and as a result our County Climbing Adviser is to run a Level 1 Training course.

Boating

It has been a busy year but activities were significantly curtailed due to the river conditions in the early part of the summer. When such river conditions prevail it is not advisable to put beginners out on to the water. However, the opportunities to take the girls out on the water are increasing in Berkshire and units should be actively encouraged to take up these opportunities. Watersports have been and still are an ideal way of enabling girls to experience an outdoor activity that can not only challenge themselves but helps with social and personal development even when using watersports eg canoeing as an activity to go and view wildlife.

Narrowboating

More groups from Berkshire have taken advantage of a Youth Trust Narrowboat which is based at Aldermaston, Berkshire. Activities on the Narrowboat have been from a days outing to a weekend away involving staying overnight on the boat. Julie Myers (Brown Owl, Woodley) has been very instrumental in actively encouraging the Guiding organisation to use the boat. Narrowboating is tremendous fun and an ideal weekend pack holiday. I can say that as I took my Brownie Pack away and we had a truly memorable weekend.

Heather Dunford - Outdoor Activities Adviser
Tamsin Phipps - Boating Consultant

Another Commissioner Conference was held in January and started with a great presentation from Tracey Gillingham and Sarah Temlett on two Girlguiding initiatives from Headquarters called Project Perception and 50K. Members of the Trefoil Guild provided a sumptuous lunch, after which commissioners could attend one of three workshops - CRB training, updates to the Brownie programme or 'taking your unit abroad & fundraising for it'. Victoria Wheeler ended our conference by giving a short presentation on the new Senior Section resource.

Diane Lister - Commissioner Support Team Leader

First Aid

We have continued to provide regular 1st Response trainings throughout Berkshire which are always very well attended. All those who help with the delivery of first aid training make sure they provide a very relaxed environment, and provide a great deal of support to those attending the courses.

The on-line training is completed and hopefully should be piloted during 2008. This should make training of first aid more accessible to all members of the organisation. My team have been very supportive to me and my family during our difficult time with family illness and I would like to thank everyone for their kindness.

Cyndy Price - First Aid Consultant



Adult Training

Commissioner Conference
& First Aid



Trefoil Guild

After 5 years as Chairman, Ann Hardiment passed 'the reins' to me last summer. On behalf of all Trefoil Guild members I would like to thank Ann for all the time and effort she has given to the Guild over the years and we all hope that she will continue to join in all the future events. Thinking Day was an opportunity for Guilds to join together and celebrate with International evenings. The County Trefoil Guild AGM was held in Earley, and we had an interesting talk on Reading in the 19th Century.

The Singing Circle meet regularly on the first Wednesday of each month, in a different area of the county. It is good to see members from most Guilds joining together to sing some of the 'old favourites' as well as learning new songs. Thank you to Jen Guy who keeps us all in order and provides the music - and harmony, for the very enjoyable meetings. Last year the annual Carols and Readings afternoon was held in the Emmanuel Church in Reading. Due to the very wet weather, the numbers were not so large as previous events, but everyone present enjoyed the singing and readings and also the refreshments afterwards.

Guilds have made visits to various places of interest within the county including Newbury Weekly News Office and Henley Rowing Museum. Many groups now have regular walks. Riverside members have been walking regularly for 10 years and have produced a calendar with pictures of members on the walks.

Many Trefoil Guild members enjoyed helping with the county Rainbow birthday celebration at Bracknell and Newbury as well as the many swimming galas and sports events. Berkshire was represented at both the Region and National AGMs last year and we are now looking forward to the Region Trefoil Trails which will culminate at Swindon in May.

Janet Shurmer - County Chairman

Bookings for all Properties have been good, with the promise from advanced bookings already received that this will be a good year to come. If you haven't visited any of our sites recently, and are looking to spend a fun day, weekend or mid week break with your Unit, take a look at any of these fully equipped sites, all within reasonable travelling distance.

For many years volunteers have cared for Thirtover Place and maintained the house and grounds taken bookings. But after considerable thought and fund raising it was decided to appoint a warden to deal with the day to day maintenance and general running of Thirtover Place. The warden's lodge was opened by County Vice President, Mrs. Theresa May, MP. The day was a great success and gave visitors the opportunity to see what type of activities go on at the site too.

Friends Of Thirtover Place County Report

As always the year has been busy BUT FUN. The Christmas dinner and the quiz were well attended and the latter increases in number each year.

With the warden now in place, the role of Friends is changing. However, along with the warden, regular maintenance days have taken place, with a huge amount of work and laughter.

Pauline Fothergill - County Properties Manager,
Rosemary Toccock -Chairman, Friends of Thirtover Place



Properties



International

Lesley Dentry and Carrie Green took over as the Berkshire International team from June following the great work done by Chris Francis over the past 6.5 years - thanks for all your hard work Chris!

International Selection took place in the autumn term, 17 guides attended the weekend. Fiona Hulley (Bulmershe), Kirsty Smith (Forest) and Bryony Robinson (Maidenhead) went forward to Region selection and are now preparing for their trips. In 2008 we hope to encourage more units to take girls away, develop international selection to make it smoother and raise the profile of international opportunities. So far we have two units booked to go to Switzerland and a third to France. Bon Voyage!

In 2007 Berkshire Guides went on international trips to Brazil with the Berkshire Experience team and others to New Zealand thanks for all your hard work Chris!

Maidenhead Ranger, Cara Guest, was selected to attend the Haarlem Jamborette in Netherlands, and had a wonderful time. Charley has recently returned from an expedition to Everest, and Bex has been selected through Region International Opportunities to lead a SW Region trip to Iceland this coming summer. Toni Gowland will be leading a Region trip to Thailand this year.

Lesley Dentry - International Adviser
Carrie Green - Assistant International Adviser

Growing Guiding in the Royal County

It doesn't seem like a whole year since my last message for the Annual Review. How quickly time marches on! And how much have we as a County done since then as the reports from the Divisions and the Advisers show! My thanks to you all for the time and energy you give to make Guiding in Berkshire an enjoyable, challenging and exciting experience for all our members. You are a huge part of what makes Guiding in the County special.

Our focus last year was on Growing Guiding, both in terms of membership and in enabling our girls and young women to take on new challenges and responsibilities. The Rainbows celebrated their 20th Birthday by holding Princess Parties across the County. The Brownies have welcomed the challenge the changes to their programme have brought. The Guides have been involved in piloting new resources which challenge the way they think about themselves and the world around them. The Senior Section has a new look programme. We as leaders have been challenged to examine our Guiding image and the way we are seen by those outside the movement.

As we move towards the Centenary in 2010 it is more important than ever we celebrate what is really great about Guiding. We should be proud of the fact that we give girls and young women a voice; we provide a unique girl-only space; we promote equality and diversity and we are relevant to today's girls. Girl-led Guiding is at the centre of what we do and we can truly say that in Berkshire we aim to have girls in the lead.

Sue Kidd - County Commissioner



From the
**County
Commissioner**



Bulmershe

The highlight of the year has to be our Division Brownie Day when 170 girls joined together to take part in five zones of activities and gain their Brownie Traditions badge. We had singing, dancing, making Union flags, a toadstool trail including some of the 'older' traditions Brownies used to do, and a chance to design a brownie uniform of the future. What a fantastic day was had by all - girls and adults!

Taking the girls away is as ever popular with a Brownie pack going on a narrow-boat and Guides going on an assessment camp having to 'Be Prepared' and change site at the last minute due to very wet and muddy conditions. As always everyone who went away had a brilliant time. Fiona Hulley will has been offered a chance to go to Iceland in 2008 following the Regional International Selection event.

Another opportunity to involve the whole Division was when our 'design a Division patch badge' competition was launched. We had so many fantastic entries the judging was unbelievably hard, but there could only be one winner and a Guide from Woodley had her design made into the Division badge.

Karen Burrows - Division Commissioner



Another busy and successful year in Donnington. Several new Guiders have joined us and Leadership qualification, camp and holiday licences gained, and a Ranger unit re-opened. Our 3 Wash Common District Commissioners completed their term of office at the end of 2007, and I would like to thank Jayne Roch, Irene Hanbury and Helen Greenhalgh for all their hard work, and welcome Joan Patrick in their place. On a sad note, Flossie Oliver, a Young Leader died. Despite being confined to a wheelchair she always managed to take part in all activities.

We held a successful Brownie Pirate Party at Thirtover Place in the summer, and Rainbows enjoyed their Birthday Party at Northcroft in October. Units took part in the Guiding Star competition, and showed a lot of talent. Guiders and Presidents came to a Barbecue at my house. We left my husband outside barbecuing in the rain and he said that he could tell that it was Guiders because of all the happy chatter and laughing!

Units have taken part in a full range of activities, highlights of the year have included- Rainbows - have had lots of fun with a pyjama party, and teddy bears picnic. Brownies - they have had an action packed time, tried Irish dancing, made pottery, tried lots of craft activities, held concerts, worked on their allotment, helped at the village fair, visited Ambulance and Police Stations, and Cadbury World and London. Guides and Senior Section - whenever the opportunity arose they managed to do lots of outdoor activities, including canoeing, hiking, camping and visiting new places, and lots of Go for it challenges have been completed. Units have raised funds to 'Buy a Goat', sent money to the brick campaign for Honduras Guide Headquarters, and to Gloucestershire Guiding members who lost their equipment in the flooding.

Judy Wilson - Division Commissioner



Donnington



Forest

One of the Guiders in Sandhurst District, Gail Tudor, completed her Basic Explorers Leaders Course including night navigation. Sharon Hatherley, is off to Luxembourg in April to train BGIFC Rainbow Guiders.

Jemma Lindley received her Queens Guide award and in recognition of this achievement she was awarded a certificate of achievement from Sandhurst town council at their annual civic service and community awards presentation on Sunday 27th January.

Sandhurst District

Our year started with very successful Rainbow Riots with a pantomime theme when we also celebrated 20 years of Rainbows with a Birthday cake.

Cookham and Maidenhead Central District took part in the BT Giant Sleepover with a Go Green theme and over 80 girls staying overnight raised £100 for Childline. There have been Guide and Brownie holidays to Coddlesdon and Thirtover Place. Various Brownies took part in the Science Museum Sleepover, and Brownies from Wargrave enjoyed a narrowboat holiday. Knowl Hill Guides and Rangers ventured to Lorne in Ireland for their summer trip.

Guides across the Division enjoyed the facilities at Longridge, trying their hand at Kayaking, Sailing, Canoeing and Dragon Boating. Maidenhead Rangers (and some of their mums) swung through the trees at Go Ape in Bracknell, Brownies and Guides enjoyed Legoland and one Brownie group a trip to Cadburys World.

The highlight of the year was the invitation to join Maidenhead Scouts at their Centenary Camp in Cookham for May bank holiday weekend. The Guides and Rangers camped and the Brownies visited for a day. Despite the torrential rain, they all enjoyed lots of fun activities including an aerial runway, archery, crate climbing, circus skills, chalk carving, crafts, and a disco.

I must thank ALL the leaders who have made it possible for the girls to have such wonderful opportunities and to share in all the fun.

Sue North - Division Commissioner



Maidenhead



Reading

Abbey

Our three Districts although very different in size continue to thrive and give excellent opportunities for many girls living in Reading. We took part in the 2020 youth provision at Reading Town Hall and made many useful contacts, and we also found it a great way to promote ourselves. Our contacts with Reading University make a real difference in our Division and we are pleased that we have twelve Guiders who are currently studying at Reading. One Guider received a Christmas card saying "If it hadn't been for you and all the lovely Guides I know I wouldn't have stayed at University - thank you for all your support and friendship." Anna is now teaching in Bournemouth and of course, running her own Guide unit.

During the past year there have been many exciting activities - Guides took part in the 10 mile London Bridges walk for charity and the Brownies had a super day helping at the Donkey sanctuary in Oxfordshire. Some of the best times are the holidays and camps, and Coddlesdon Lodge remains a favorite destination for pack holidays. Other members went further afield - Katharine O'Halloran went to Mexico, and her presentation at our AGM inspired many of us to do the same.

We also produced another badge "7 ideas for 2007" which proved popular. We hope it gave units new ideas for their weekly meetings. We have also been working towards our Beryl Whittaker Shield competition "Our World" which takes place in March 2008.

We would like to thank our Division Team for all their support and we would especially like to record our thanks to Cynthia Simmonds and Helen Durrant. Special thanks also to Ann Jeffery for running the Plot at the Warren, Caversham for canoeing, kayaking and rowing.

Jenny Parson and Jenny King - Division Commissioners

The search for new leaders has been high on the agenda of many of our Districts this year but thanks to warranted Guider and parent rotas most units have been kept open and busy as ever.

A number of Districts held Thinking Day events with crafts, games, singing and entertainments, and some Brownies still talk about joining the celebrations at Westminster Central Hall in February. Units have played games, solved problems, learnt dances and invited guest speakers. Rainbows found out about world festivals and celebrations. Food activities feature in all sections. Units and individuals worked on badges with a number of Guides gaining the BP Award and Senior Section members completing Chief Guide's Challenge. Trips out have ranged from visits to the local police station, a District visit to Paultons Park and a number of units going to the Panto.

Residential events continue to be popular and have included a sleepover at the science museum, PGL holidays, camps and pack holidays, with Rangers attending 'Zero 7'. One Brownie Unit holiday held on the weekend before Christmas meant one Brownie was so worn out her mother reported she had to be woken up on Christmas morning! Unfortunately some Summer holidays/camps were cancelled or activities limited due to flooding - we hope for better weather in 2008.

As well as visiting units, District events and presenting leadership qualifications, highlights for us as Division Commissioners have included going to the Region heats of Guiding Star where Becky did the Division and County proud, and listening to Sarah and other Senior Section members enthuse Guides and Brownies with presentations of their travels abroad.

Karen Dwyer and Sue Jones - Division Commissioners



Reading

Riverside



South East

Funding from the Local Area Network Fund gave us the means to run a splendid training event for Young Leaders, Guiders and Unit Helpers in the Division in June. The evening kicked off really early and some people came straight from work to join in the first wave of activities, including Circus Skills, Skipping, Art and Craft, How to be a super woman (time management skills), Managing unit accounts and Guiding opportunities for Young Leaders.

Supper was served in the dining room at Easthampstead Park Conference Centre and then we shared some key information about the Division and Kate Hill gave some important pointers on Child Protection. Two young Leaders; Holly Harmes and Isobel Hambleton both from 1st South Ascot Guide Unit, were presented with their Commonwealth Awards.

The evening was rounded off by a singsong 'Campfire' style led by Sue King and Michelle Howell. The only sparks flying though were the ones full of ideas, enthusiasm and optimism!

There was also lots of fun around the District. One hundred Bracknell North Brownies and Guides enjoyed a fantastic fun-packed activity afternoon at the John Nike Centre, Bracknell in October. Then, after a quick break, the Brownies and Guides headed outside for a couple of hours on the slopes. As it began to get dark, the event drew to a close and everyone went home with the knowledge that they'd had a brilliant time - it was definitely a case of smiles all round!

Penny Knight - Division Commissioner

We have had many successful Division and unit events.

The Guides started the year with a January Christmas party, then a day at Longridge taking part in many different activities and ending with camp fire singing. We had a day at Windsor Boys' School where they had junk music, science and drama. We also took part in the Guiding star competition as well as raising money for various causes. A coach full of Guides, and one Rainbow, from the Division went to the British Museum for the 'Imagine' experience. For our Rainbow, Erin McDowell, it was a wonderful experience as she got to renew her Promise on stage with the Chief Guide. One of our Guide Companies had an exotic summer trip, to Banyoles, Spain instead of their normal week in camp! Water trekking was definitely their most popular activity of the week.

The Brownies had a Shrek day in June, unfortunately the rain stopped some outside activities but the day was enjoyed by all, especially making the weed rats.

Rainbows went to ICANDO early in the year and had a great time, and many girls enjoyed the Rainbow Birthday party in Bracknell.

Jean Beckett - Division Commissioner



Swan



Valley

In Kennet Vale District our 3 Rainbow Units joined forces during the year and celebrated 20 years of Rainbow Guides. A wonderful Circus day in May was had by all.

Carols around the Campfire were planned for December. Inclement weather forced us indoors at Thirtover Place, but it was made memorable by dimming the house lights and singing carols by torchlight. Highlights for our Guides have included Lauren Killner winning the Berkshire 'Search for a Guiding Star'; Alice Aubrey going to New Zealand with a group from South West Region; Hannah Thompson and Kimberley Sams going to Brazil with a County group. However the thing that sums up this year is the Thatcham Youth Quiz. We didn't win but took part with a generous spirit.

Ridgeway District opened another Rainbow Unit in September and hope to start a Senior Section in April. Both our Guide Units took part in the local heats of Guiding Star and Bucklebury Brownies experienced their first Narrow boat sleepover. Other activities have included visits to museums, pantomimes, pottery decorating, pack and under canvas holidays, charity fun runs with monies raised for good causes.

This year the Guide Units in Pang Valley have included a visit to the local vet surgery, bringing a friend to a unit meeting and an overnight camp in the ranger hut at Thirtover Place. The leaders bravely camped outside, whilst the guides had fun with a pillow fight! Pangbourne Brownie Unit sold crafts at the local Victorian Market, Theale Brownies had a bowling event and 1st Beenham Brownies enjoyed a games and quiz evening linked to the Royal Family. The Rainbows proudly made Christmas crafts.

Sandra Smith - Division Commissioner

2007 saw a growth in members at all levels in Windsor. We welcomed new Guiders, Unit helpers and Young Leaders and reopened Windsor Rangers and Wraysbury Guides. This has meant that more girls are attending our weekly unit meetings. Division events included a Thinking Day service, sharing the St. Georges Day celebrations with brother scouts, a New Year get together for all Leaders and Young Leaders at Old Windsor and a Brownie Art Day. More are planned in 2008.

Old Windsor District took part in the Old Windsor May Fair and carnival and worked well with the Scouts to raise a good sum of money. As much of the summer as possible was spent by units up at Wickwood, where Brownies made bivvies and that was very popular.

Central Windsor District really enjoyed the PGL in November and each unit has done many activities. Dedworth District, amongst other events, created a CD of the new Lindisfarne carol to raise money for rebuilding local community halls. Wraysbury Guides and Brownies continued to hold their meetings at the local church whilst waiting for their usual hall to be rebuilt.

We all look forward to something great in 2008

Maggie Long - Division Commissioner



Windsor



Wokingham

The first Division Event in the year was our Thinking Day Celebrations, each section had their own individual event which included various activities, games, cooking, eating and generally having fun.

Unfortunately the bad weather in the summer meant a last minute cancellation of our popular Battered Pot competition for the Guides and Wicked Whisk event for the Senior Section. However, in the winter term the Brownies and Guides enjoyed a swimming gala and all sections enjoyed taking part in the Procession in the Wokingham Winter Carnival. Our hard work on our float was rewarded by winning the Junior Section Prize. Rainbows celebrated at the County Birthday Parties and our Young Leaders have had various fun evenings including a Treasure Hunt around Reading, cooking and crafts.

Individual Units have enjoyed day trips out, themed evenings, visits to the Theatre, Pamper Mum evenings, and a variety of other events. We had a successful year for Guides gaining their Baden Powell Awards, Guiders completing their Adult Leadership awards, Camp Licences and Brownie Holiday Licences. Thank you to all the Guiders, Young Leaders and Unit Helpers who are committed to give all the girls in Wokingham a memorable time in guiding.

Beverly Ayers - Division Commissioner

Long Service Awards

Chris Francis 30 years
Sue Kitchener 30 years
Pat McLintock 30 years

County Commissioner's Certificate of Commendation

Marjorie Briggs
Enid Griffith

Good Service Certificates

8 Good Service Certificates were awarded

Commonwealth Knowledge Badge

Isobel Hambleton
Holly Harmes

County Standard Brooches

Caroline Andrews
Jennifer Burcher
Julie Dennis
Rose Harley
Emma Lister
Jo Lovell
Terry Mountjoy
Julie Myers
Jill Newcombe



Awards



Census 2007

BY SECTION	Bulmershe	Donnington	Forest	Maidenhead	Reading Abbey	Reading Riverside	South East	Swan	Valley	Windsor	Wokingham	TOTALS
Rainbows	131	44	115	94	39	74	170	73	78	40	91	949
Brownies	443	216	446	360	281	457	531	256	369	205	264	3828
Guides	197	101	249	189	193	222	194	115	200	82	186	1928
Rangers & other SS	4	1	20	19	11	8	9	0	7	3	0	82
Young Leaders	38	21	37	17	14	35	47	8	22	12	29	280
Guiders & Commissioners	94	49	99	75	68	98	103	51	83	36	73	829
Appointment Holders & other adult helpers	12	5	17	8	12	7	20	9	8	2	4	104
County staff												18
TOTALS	919	437	983	762	618	901	1074	512	767	380	647	8018

Statement of financial activities

for the year ended 31 December 2007

	Total 2007 £	Total 2006 £		Total 2007 £	Total 2006 £
Incoming Resources			Resources expended		
Membership subscriptions			Running costs of county centres	102672	32364
Received	130832	123677	Grants	875	1166
Paid to South West Region	88944	85654	Training course expenses	6735	1078
	-----	-----	Leadership scheme and training costs	2587	5207
Retained=County subscriptions	41888	38023	Activities expenses	12529	11720
Donations	4376	56204	Fund Raising costs	893	367
Training courses	7462	2277	Administration expenses	14265	13152
Activities receipts	6200	8135	Purchases of badges and sundry items	5288	6214
Income from facilities at county centres	42001	35308	Depreciation	19194	22482
Fund Raising	1916	1054		-----	-----
Sundry income	1798	2288	Total resources expended	165038	93750
Sales of badges and sundry items	6560	7374		-----	-----
Interest	4125	4644	Net incoming resources before transfers	-48712	61557
	-----	-----	Gross transfers between funds	0	0
Total incoming resources	116326	155307		-----	-----
	-----	-----	Net movement in funds	-48712	61557
			Total funds brought forward	756469	694912
				-----	-----
			Total funds carried forward	707757	756469



Girlguiding

Royal Berkshire

girls in the lead

www.berkshireguiding.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 300496

A new experience ...

There are moments in your life that will stay with you all your life. Starting school, going on pack holiday, playing splat with bananas...

This weekend seventeen of us came here to the guide centre Bracknell to be chosen for an international trip. Despite a bit of awkwardness to begin with, it now seems that we have known each other for years.

If I had to be honest, I was dreading this weekend! My week was probably one of the worst in my life and the prospect of spending it with complete strangers was somewhat daunting. But the leaders and the other girls have made my rubbish week so much better. I can't remember the last time I laughed so much.

Although I hope I get chosen it's not the end of the world if I don't. I have loads of ideas to take home to my brownie pack and most importantly, I've made some amazing friends who I hope to keep in contact with. I would recommend this experience to anyone because this has been one of the best weekends of my life.

Victoria Barnes
Woodley Green

