



# Girlguiding

Middlesex North West

## *Welcome to the 2006 Annual Review of Girlguiding in Middlesex North West*

This is a celebration of the best of Guiding in our County - a kaleidoscope of action from across the London Boroughs of Harrow and Hillingdon. The photos capture a vibrant and dynamic organisation with girls and young women thoroughly enjoying themselves across the full gambit of opportunities afforded by Guiding.

One of the reasons Guiding is successful in our neighbourhoods is because of the commitment of the trained adult volunteers to the girls and young women. We give our time, we take part in training courses, and "do our best" in the various roles we have. We do it because we believe in the value the Guiding experience offers to the 3,900 girls and young women in Harrow and Hillingdon.

Guiding is helping young women realise their dreams, we are helping young women learn the values of caring for others, of being part of a community, of coming together with different people from different backgrounds.

Guiding remains relevant to today's girls and young women because of the approach of the leaders, and because of the activities that Guiding offers. Guiding constantly introduces new challenges and programmes that encourage girls to develop their potential. Whilst our approach changes over time, our goal remains to help girls and young women achieve more than they ever thought possible.

This review gives you a window on the wonderful world of opportunities in Guiding. It is a fantastic experience - one that is enjoyed by one in three eight year old girls across the UK, and enjoyed by over half the women in the UK at some stage in their lives.

If you would like to know more about Guiding in Middlesex North West, please contact me at the address below.

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Registered Charity  
No. 1062138



## Units' First Ever Pack Holiday

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Eastcote and 4<sup>th</sup> Eastcote Brownie packs organised and attended their first ever pack holiday from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> February 2007 at the Willow Tree Centre and what a success it was. There was a pirate theme so when the girls arrived they found the rooms had seagoing names such as the Captain's Cabin, Quarter Deck and Poop Deck (for the bathrooms).

There was a ship in the corner of the activity room and pirate flags on the windows and doors. After they had arrived, chosen their beds and unpacked their stuff the girls made a pirate puppet each. Then it was time for the Cooks to make hot chocolate for everyone and listen to a pirate story. Although the girls then went to bed it was too exciting to actually go to sleep. After midnight Brown Owl (in her holiday guise as Captain Jack) had to intervene and persuade the girls that if they didn't go to sleep now tomorrow would be very boring indeed.

On Saturday we woke early and had a cooked breakfast of scrambled eggs, beans and bacon. The girls did the washing up and their chores including cleaning the bathrooms and tidying the bedrooms. It was a beautifully bright morning so we went for a walk around the grounds, stopping off at the adventure playground on the way.

After lunch and a rest hour the girls went on a treasure hunt solving ten clues to lead them to the treasure. More running around the grounds, scratching their heads as they tried to decipher the clues ensued. After some of the treasure had been eaten, the girls swapped groups and made jewellery or boats.

Tea was assembled by a new group of cooks and consisted of Captain Jack's pasta cheese with salad and garlic bread followed by apple crumble. Yum Yum. We then had a sing-along of pirate songs, another story and more hot chocolate. The girls managed to get to sleep by 10.30pm this time.



*"it was too exciting to actually go to sleep"*

Sunday morning started a little later than Saturday as we were all tired. We had some birthday cake provided by Holly and Layla and made our own pirate pizzas for lunch with ham, cheese etc. After eating these, there was just time to wash up and then go home. We had a fabulous time and once the leaders have recovered they might see if they want to go again.

## Rainbow Sleepover

Two groups of Rainbow guides took part in the first ever sleepover for 5-7 year olds in our Guide County. The 20 Rainbows from 2nd Hatch End and 8th Roxeth joined together for this challenge which is now part of the new Rainbow Programme. For many this was the first time they had spent an evening away from home and had slept in a bunk bed.

**It was such a success they cannot wait to do it again!**



## Quotes of the year

*"CAMP WAS AWFUL COS OF ALL THE BUGS AND MUD! AND IT WAS COLD AND RAINED NEARLY ALL THE TIME ..... BUT I'VE ALREADY BOOKED TO GO AGAIN."*

*"Who put a hill on the way to the toilets?"*

A tired Guider

*"MY MUM WOULD NEVER LET ME DO THAT!"*

(A walk in the woods in the dark)

*"Who would have thought I could stand that high up on a pole! Pleeeeease can I do it again?"*

## Don't wait until you're 65!

**Over 18? Never been in Guiding? You can still join! Something for everyone – guaranteed.**

The aims of the Trefoil Guild is to support Guiding events and do, anything they choose or decide. Each Guild has its own personality, interests and social calendar - theatre, music, arts, crafts, travel, walking – an endless list.



[www.trefoilguilduk.org.uk](http://www.trefoilguilduk.org.uk)

## London Fun Day

**Hayes Brownies have fun finding some unusual facts about London**

On Saturday 14th May, 2006, as their annual Fun Day, Hayes South District Brownies embarked on a walk along the Thames in London. Thirty girls and eight Leaders did a circular 3 mile walk from London Bridge Station to Hays Galleria. During the walk they had to answer a quiz, which involved looking for various interesting and unusual things along the route. They were also given facts about the places of interest they passed, which included Southwark Cathedral, the Golden Hinde, the Globe Theatre, the Tate Modern, Festival Hall, St Paul's, the Monument (with the option of climbing to the top), the Tower of London, Tower Bridge, which they crossed, and HMS Belfast. There was also an optional Treasure Hunt and Tube quiz. Each group was also given a disposable camera to take some specific photos plus any others that took their fancy.



**"It was a fantastic day enjoyed by all our brownies! Such a lot of work must have gone into the planning of it and they should be proud as it really paid off! Thank you Pam & Sue!"**

**"Our Brownies thoroughly enjoyed themselves on the day – it was a long way, but they didn't moan, and kept talking about it for weeks!"**

## Now Boarding Flight No. BRRA06

Just to note BRRA06 stands for BR(Brownies)RA(Rainbows)06.

71 Rainbows and Brownies attended their annual district adventure out day. With a team of 16 Leaders and Young Leaders, the girls travelled the five countries within the five Girlguiding Regions.

It took place at St Andrews Church in Eastcote. The hall had been decorated with each corner and the kitchen resembling the five regions of Girlguiding with an inflatable world in the middle to highlight that the girls were travelling around the world.

The girls when they arrived walked through the aeroplane to add a sense that they were travelling. The girls were also given a passport pouch, which contained their passports. Upon entering each region, they entered a specific country where they were given a stamp in their passports by the leaders who were acting as passport control and took part in making crafts about that country:

The girls were split up into colour groups and travelled the regions in these groups. When it was time to fly onto another region, the girls were given a souvenir from the country.

The day ended on songs and dancing around a real size aeroplane which was made out of cardboard. We had made clouds and birds to go around the aeroplane to increase this feeling.

*"I didn't know Guiding was so big. We really are part of a big family"*

## Evacuees return safely to Northwood

Based on a diary submitted by Freya Brown with additional material from Isobel Cotterel & Sally Boulton.

### Sunday 9th April

On Palm Sunday a crowd dressed in yellow and brown gathered in Kewferry Road. Surprisingly, they were all issued with gas masks and labels were tied on to them. There were tearful good-byes, wondering when they would see their families again. Even though this does sound reminiscent of the Second World War, don't panic, it was just 1st Northwood (Holy Trinity) Brownies going on an exciting adventure.

### Monday 10th April

We went to the park and took our skipping ropes that we made. Tonight's activity was making parachute men, which was great fun, out of beads, pipe cleaners, fabric and string. It was tricky.

### Tuesday 11th April

With our ration books we enjoyed every meal, thanks to our brilliant cook, 'Auntie Helen'. In our four groups we all lent a hand with all the jobs- cooking, waitressing, health (toilet and sink cleaning) and helping (brushing and cleaning floors). We learnt lots of new skills including first aid. Every few days we would go for walks. These soon became known as mud walks since when we came back from these walks you couldn't tell one Brownie from another because we were so covered in mud from the river and mud slide. Tuesday was a special day because it was Emily's 8th birthday.

### Wednesday 12th April

Obviously, being wartime evacuees, we had to entertain ourselves. This included doing shows of well known stories, French Knitting, making Jam (after collecting the blackberries) singing songs, making and eating Easter eggs, playing Jacks and marbles, making Easter chicks and writing letters home. I think we all thought that in actual fact the bomb sirens were the best (but we would not have thought so if they were real).

### Thursday 13th April

We finished our jam by squeezing all the juice then scraping it with a spoon. We put it in a pan and added A POUND OF SUGAR (what a lot of sugar). The brownies and I went for a walk to Motte and Bailey field and got really muddy! Our dustbin baths were really needed.

### Friday 14th April

On our last day, the German bombers attacked two of our bomb shelters. Fortunately, during the week we had all been learning first aid skills that we were able to use to help the wounded Leprechauns and Elves. We all had a great time and just a bit sorry to return to the 21st century.

### Saturday 15th April

At the end of the war we were reunited with our families and went home to get clean and have some sleep. We would like to thank Auntie Owl, Auntie Helen, Auntie Nina and Auntie Rachel because they made all this happen and they also made it great fun and allowed us to get wet and muddy and dirty without ever worrying about it.

## SUMMER FESTIVAL

Wealdstone Division Guide Units

On 23rd - 25th June over 120 girls took part in our version of a mini Glastonbury at Willow Tree. During the day there were crafts such as Henna painting, Modroc, Fantasy flowers, Jewellery making, T-shirt dyeing and much more. Bands played throughout the day and we had a boy band in the evening with entertainers such as Jugglers, Fire Jugglers and people on stilts.

*"Everyone really chilled out and enjoyed themselves"*

## The Cardboard Box Challenge

Ruislip Windmill Rangers chose to be homeless for the night of Saturday 29th April 2006. The Rangers, always ready to help, wanted to raise money for "The London and Slough Run" who provide food, clothing, hygiene products and medical care for homeless people. The Cardboard box challenge itself was a fantastic experience. The Rangers split in to two teams half using old tent parts and ground sheets to protect us from the wind and possibly, but fortunately not - rain! The other half meanwhile used cardboard boxes and newspapers to make a surface to lie on, which would hopefully keep us from getting too cold. Creating the shelter was great fun, partly because it was a new experience, but also because it was one that involved the whole team working together on one job.

Overall the camp was a huge success; the homeless people had more clothes and other products, and the Rangers had a brilliant time. It was a different but a memorable experience and all of the Rangers want to repeat it.



## I declare this garden open!

The Mayor of Hillingdon Cllr. David Routledge MBE together with his wife, the Mayoress officially opened the 'Tranquil Garden'. We were honoured to have at the opening the Chief Guide of Girlguiding UK Liz Burnley who said 'It is a beacon for girls and a great example of what we are doing in guiding in the UK'. She added 'This is a special place. It is a symbol of the caring we share in our guiding community. It says a lot about what we need today and it will act as an oasis of calm in our busy lives'

All sections of the guiding movement in our County were represented as too representatives from Paradigm Housing and 'Awards for All' whose financial donations completed this project.



## Last year, 7,641 young people took advantage of the facilities at Willow Tree.

The number using the residential house were the same as the previous year.

The number of groups and campers using the outdoor facilities increased and for this reason we have been able to completely equip a further camp site with new tents and equipment giving more opportunities to those wishing to camp. For this we should like to thank the London Borough of Hillingdon.

Willow Tree was officially opened in 2000 and we are pleased that schools, youth groups and other organisations catering for those with special needs are using the Centre. One of the advantages for us is that not only do we have the satisfaction of giving other young people the opportunities of using Willow Tree but they usually have midweek bookings.

50 unpaid volunteers keep Willow Tree running smoothly and play an important part in the upkeep of Willow Tree Centre. We can never have enough volunteers so please contact us if you would like to be a 'Checker' or join one of Service or Environment Teams.

With limited resources, we are grateful to the parents, leaders and children for attending our 'Family Working Days'. They get great pleasure and a sense of ownership when participating on these days. For the second consecutive

year 'Bovis Lend Lease' carried out a Staff Community Day'. With 20 employees they supplied labour and materials to carry out much needed maintenance including the painting of the floors in the barn shelters. Barclays Bank continues to 'match fund' quizzes and other fund raising initiatives. We are indeed very grateful to them for their support.

## Willow Tree - catering for those with special needs

As Assistant Head for the John Chilton School in Ealing we always enjoy staying at the Centre. The outdoor space is used as much as possible because it is safe and there is enough space for the pupils in wheelchairs to get around the building as independently as possible.

The excellent kitchen allows students to prepare meals and work in the kitchen.

They have to clean the living spaces and because the centre is very accessible it is easier for us to work with them.

In conclusion I should like to add how much our students and staff benefit from being able to use Willow Tree Centre



## Girlguiding

Middlesex North West

Middlesex North West Guide County is made up of girls and women in the London Boroughs of Harrow and Hillingdon.



Rainbows age 5-7  
41 Units. 502 Girls



Brownies age 7-10  
92 Units. 1777 Girls



Guides age 10-15  
52 Units. 1047 Girls



Senior Section age 14-26  
7 Units. 173



Adult Leaders age 18-65  
Uniformed 404  
Non Uniformed 140  
Districts 24  
Divisions 5  
**Total Membership 3903**

Full accounts can be obtained from:  
County Treasurer  
County HQ  
Willow Tree Centre  
Breakspear Road North  
Harefield Middlesex UB9 6LZ

[girlguidingmiddxnw.org.uk](http://girlguidingmiddxnw.org.uk)

## A BIG THANK YOU

We should like to thank the following for their support in giving us much needed items from 'The Wish List' or providing financial support during 2006. Their contribution has made a great difference to Willow Tree Centre.

BAA/Colne Valley – Environment Grant  
Barclays Bank – Match Funding  
Buckinghamshire Building Society  
Bovis Lend Lease – Labour & Materials for 'Community Day'  
County Trefoil Guild  
Gallifordtry  
Girlguiding – Heathrow Division  
Girlguiding – Harrow & Pinner Division  
Gwen Guy & Joan Fawdry  
Harrow & Pinner Music Festival  
1st. Hatch End Brownies  
June Jones  
Kodak  
London Borough of Harrow  
London Borough of Hillingdon  
Nikki Dodd  
North Harrow Townswomen Guild  
Paradigm Housing  
1st Roxeth Brownies  
Ruislip Guide Shop  
Ruislip Lions  
2nd Ruislip Manor Guides  
Uxbridge United Welfare Trust