



# Girlguiding

Middlesex North West

*girls in the lead*



COUNTY NEWSHEET

September 2009

Issue No.47

Available to Guiders, Senior Section and Trefoil Guild members and Unit Helpers

Welcome at the start of this exciting Centenary year. We hope you are all planning to celebrate in some way. Attached with this Newsheet are two flyers, one about the Quiz Night and the other regarding the Working Day at Willow Tree. In addition there is an invitation to the County AGM.

## TRAINING SESSIONS AND EVENTS

### September

Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> - Singing with your unit at Willow Tree.

Applications to Jenny Le Gall

[pt.ruislipnorthwood@girlguidingmiddxnw.org.uk](mailto:pt.ruislipnorthwood@girlguidingmiddxnw.org.uk)

Wed 30<sup>th</sup> - County AGM Invitation attached.

### October

Sun 4<sup>th</sup> - First Response full course at Uxbridge Guide HQ. Applications to Caroline Davies

[pt.harrowpinner@girlguidingmiddxnw.org.uk](mailto:pt.harrowpinner@girlguidingmiddxnw.org.uk)

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> - County Day at Haydon School

Wed 21<sup>st</sup> - Mentoring for new Guiders

7.45 pm at Willow Tree

This is the first of three evenings and will be an excellent opportunity to discuss the leadership scheme, plans to complete the scheme, opportunities for development and guiding in the county structure. The evening is aimed at those who do not have a mentor, but those who do will also be welcome. To discuss further or book a place please contact Gill Hodgson on 01895 621503 or [leadership@girlguidingmiddxnw.org.uk](mailto:leadership@girlguidingmiddxnw.org.uk)

## LOW ROPES CHALLENGE COURSE

Following the meeting of the Willow Tree Management Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2009, I am delighted to tell you that from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010 the lower age restriction on the Low Ropes Challenge Course will be reduced to 10 years to enable Guides and Scouts of this age and upwards to use these facilities.

The management team have been aware for some time, from comments and evaluation reports from Willow Tree users both in and outside of County, that the current age limit is too restricting, and meant that many guide units could not use this facility. We hope that this reduction in age will allow many more units to enjoy the challenge of the Low Ropes Course.

Guide leaders wanting to try out the Challenge Course are reminded that they must have two qualified instructors and therefore must book the site with Christine Mills then send an Activity Booking form to me, Christine Fellowes. Please allow sufficient time to book the instructors. 24 girls in two groups of 12, each with an instructor is the ideal number to get the best out of the equipment in the time allowed. It is usual for one group to do the low ropes and the other to do the swing ropes and possibly the spiders web which is why we suggest that you book both pieces of equipment, then if you have more girls they can do the nightline.

Please bear in mind that if you have a very large unit it won't be possible for all your girls to get on the Low Ropes Course in one 2 hour session and that you would need to book more than one session if you want all your girls to have a go. It is recommended that you book other activities at the same time so that none of the girls get bored waiting around, we have rounders, football, basketball and assorted games equipment to keep them happy. We also have archery but that can't be booked at the same time as the Nightline for safety reasons.

The Management Team at Willow Tree hope that this change in the age range will allow a lot more units to use the equipment so I am looking forward to receiving lots of bookings for 2010. If you have any questions relating to activities at Willow Tree please contact me on [PR.secretary@girlguidingmiddxnw.org.uk](mailto:PR.secretary@girlguidingmiddxnw.org.uk). Christine Fellowes, Activity Bookings Secretary, Willow Tree Centre

## WILLOW TREE NEWS

### WELCOME PRAISE FOR ALL TO SHARE!

During the summer months we were host to a variety of out of county groups.

The following comments were received:

- "In thirty years of camping in various scout and guide camps this is the best centre ever! Congratulations to all."

- John Chilton School - "I wanted to write to you and tell you how much it means to our pupils to be able to use the facilities of the Willow Tree Centre. As you know we are a special school for children with physical and medical disabilities located only about five miles away in Northolt. In the future we hope to be able to use the facilities even more than in the past."

- Hillingdon Manor School - "Thank you for supporting Hillingdon Manor School through Willow Tree Centre. The venue was successful and the pupils had a great time!"

### WEB SITE

Our new web site is progressing and we shall inform you when it is launched

### THANK YOU

To: Ruislip-Northwood Trefoil Guild for their kind donation

All Parents and Friends who made donations towards the carpet tiles.

6<sup>th</sup> Ruislip Brownies for donating items for the Sports Equipment.

We appreciate your kind support and if anyone is interested a new Wish List has been put on the notice board in the activity room.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September.

Working Day. 9.30am - 12.30pm We do need your help please!

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November.

Quiz Night 7.30pm - Supported by Barclays Bank. Why not enter a team?

Dawn Palmer

Chairman of Willow Tree Management

## HOLIDAY NEWS

Congratulations to Jackie Smith (Ruislip-Northwood Division) for gaining her Brownie Holiday licence and to Karen Harrison for gaining her Senior Section holiday licence.

We have arranged two special residential/camping trainings for Guiders who would like to gain their licence so that they can enjoy the experience of taking their girls away in the Centenary year.

The first training, which is on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2009, will give all the help and information needed to get started, and the second session on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2009 will give all the practical ideas for making a successful holiday/camp. Both sessions will be held at Willow Tree Centre.

Guiders who have evidence folders still to complete are welcome to come along on either evening to see their Division Holiday Adviser and to have their folders signed off.

If you are thinking of taking your holiday licence please contact your Division Holiday Adviser first so that she can give you any support and help you may need.

Liz Overall (County Holiday Adviser)

[countynews.ed@girlguidingmiddxnw.org.uk](mailto:countynews.ed@girlguidingmiddxnw.org.uk)

Deadline for next issue is 19<sup>th</sup> October 2009