



Girlguiding

Durham North

girls in the lead



Annual Report 2011



www.girlguiding-durhamnorth.co.uk Tel: 0191 4236286

County Commissioner's Report

Towards the end of the Centenary celebrations the Brownies enjoyed a Sleepover at the Baltic. It was an excellent event with activities provided by the in-house artists. To add to the magical atmosphere, the staff put fairy lights in the sleeping area and opened the sail across the window so that the brownies could see the glittering view across and down the river.



The centenary year ended and the next year began with the 'Vision' events where everybody in the County had the opportunity to attend an event where they could both reflect on the year of Celebration, but also look forward to the next 100 years of Guiding. Venues included the Stadium of Light, Gibside Chapel, Beamish Museum and Moor House.

Following on from the Centenary year, there have been more opportunities for the girls and the leaders to take part in a variety of exciting activities and events.

World Festival day took place at St Roberts School in Washington in March where we celebrated World Guiding through a variety of fun activities for Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Senior Section members. The theme for the World Thinking Day was 'Gender Equality and Empowerment for Girls and Women' and the girls had a fabulous time taking part in activities such as Bollywood dancing, storytelling, African drumming, origami, Tai Chi and Chinese masks.



In May we had a lovely evening at the George Washington Hotel where we had an opportunity to celebrate Pat Bennet's 5 years as County Commissioner and to thank her for everything she had done for the County. The County standard was then handed over and after the formal part of the evening was concluded, leaders were then able to socialise while taking part in a 'Murder Mystery Whodunnit'.



Girls in the senior Section had an opportunity to find out about Peer Education and then to go on to attend a 4 Basic Training weekend at Camp House. This was an event to train the girls to become In4mers, who are then able to run sessions for their peers on topics such as Bullying, Media Awareness, Healthy Eating, Eating Disorders, Disability Awareness and Self Esteem. At the end of the weekend the County now has 9 fully fledged In4mers.



The Rainbows had a special Rainbow Fun day in June where the theme was Animal Safari. They took part in many exciting activities including storytelling, making animal purses, making Rainbow fizz and doing a Treasure Hunt. A highlight of the day was seeing the Birds of Prey. Although the weather wasn't perfect, it certainly didn't stop the Rainbows from having a great time.



Hannah Ratcliffe attended the Outward Bound course, which was made possible owing to the support received from the Sir John Priestman Trust.





Several brownies had a fantastic 'Water Activity Day' on the River Ure at the Aldwark Water Activity Centre near York.

The County would like to thank the Shafto Trustees for their generosity in gifting us land at Camp House. It will enable us to give further opportunities to our young people. Our thanks must also go to Phil Kreczak of Ward Hadaway for ensuring that the legal side of the matter has been carried out meticulously.

Work in the grounds and in Camp House itself continued throughout the year with volunteers working very hard to clean the house, help with maintenance and repairs, and manage the grounds.



We also enjoyed another wonderful 'Strawberry Tea' at Camp House where we enjoyed strawberry tarts, shortcake and scones. It was also an excellent opportunity to taste the wide variety of Christmas Puddings including the new variety of 'Wild Strawberries and Cream'!

Eight South Shields Division Guiders decided to have their own mountain top moment - in the form of a hot air balloon ride. This had been postponed from last year owing to adverse weather conditions, but the day finally arrived. One fine day they 'took off' from Beamish and 'flew' over Stanley and Consett, coming safely to rest in Lanchester. They then enjoyed a well-deserved glass of champagne!



The County training camp at West Hall gave leaders the opportunity to get started on their Camp Licence and enabled them to have practical experience in planning, risk assessment and the programme. It was by all accounts a very enjoyable experience despite the torrential rain!

Four guides had a fabulous time at Curtain Up! in West Yorkshire where they had great fun participating in a production of Oliver! They spent a weekend rehearsing ready for the grand performance on the Sunday afternoon when we were treated to an excellent show.



Our County training weekend at Waddow Hall in September was a weekend to remember. 'Lights, Camera Action' was a fantastic opportunity for leaders to recharge their batteries, learn new skills and benefit from the vast expertise of the three inspirational trainers. Everyone agreed that they learnt a great deal while having a great deal of fun!

The members of the Trefoil Guild have had a very busy year. Activities have included helping in Units, touring the Country, singing, making Easter bonnets, teaching brownies to knit, quiz nights enjoying the summer weather and having a barbecue to name but a few.



I would like to thank everyone in Durham North for working so hard to make Guiding such a wonderful experience for our girls. It is only with your commitment, enthusiasm and dedication that all these opportunities are possible.

Patricia Jakeway County Commissioner

Thank you and congratulations to all those who have gained qualifications and awards over the last year.

40 year Service Award

Margaret Humble
Mary Lisle
Denise Sim
Jean Thompson

30 year Service Award

Rita Blakey
Gertrude Gardner
Janet Gardner
Christine Mantle
Anne Page
Alison Smith
Sylvia Thompson
Pamela Walker

20 year Service Award

Joan Beattie
Jayne Behenna
Yvonne Butler
Beatrice Coyles
Brenda Day
Jean Hart
Elizabeth Miller
Eileen Spinks
Diane Stewart
Isabel Wilson

10 year Service Award

Fiona Bell
Sarah Cockram
Sarah Dixon
Elizabeth Feetham
Linda Fernandez
Lynda Fullerton
Fiona Johnson
Rachel Kirton
Beth Meldrum
Jo-anna Millward
Kathryn Taylor

5 year Service Award

Catherine Arnold
Helen Bain
Leanne Baxter
Jennifer Beadle
Helen Butler
Kate Doughty
Grace Ford
Catherine Garrett
Abigail Green
Sarah Johnson
Alison Lavery
Stephanie Marsden
Ashleigh Palmer
Bethany Ramsey
Sarah Richards
Amy Richardson
Nicola Ridley
Susan Spurr
Kathryn Sutcliffe
Rachael Taylor
Clare Thompson
Christina Wright

5 years Service Certificate

Stephen Carr
William Cram
Susan Jopling
Robert Lewis
Janet Sawyer
Julie Simpson

Good Service Awards

Yvonne Corr
Julie McCann
Ann Sewell
Christine Shovlin

Chief Commissioner's Award

Merry James

Leadership qualification

Brownie Holiday Licence

Jane Eddy
Sarah Vincent
Lisa Young

Guide Camp Licence

Jennifer Brown
Donna Robinson
Christine Willcock

Guide Holiday Licence

Wendy Coyles
Gemma Ferguson

Senior Section Holiday Licence

Sarah Johnson

Senior Section Holiday Permit

Ashleigh Mitchinson

Queen's Guide Award

Sarah Johnson
Laura Richardson

Durham North has 3676 members

If you would like to join us or help in any way, please contact:

Girlguiding Durham North County Office
Design Works
Felling
Gateshead
NE10 0JP

Tel: 0191 4236286

E mail:

office@girlguiding-durhamnorth.org.uk

COME AND JOIN US.....

Membership is open to all girls and women irrespective of faith, race, culture, nationality or any other circumstances, provided they are able to understand and are willing to make or work towards making the Promise.

Girlguiding UK is non political, believes in being fair, open and inclusive, membership is voluntary.

WHERE TO FIND US:

Rainbow, Brownie, Guide and Senior Section groups meet on different days of the week in Blaydon, Derwentside, South Shields, Gateshead, Jarrow, Sunderland North, Whickham, Sunderland South, Washington and Houghton .

SAFEGUARDING

Girlguiding UK operates a 'Safety and Safeguarding' policy to safeguard its members while participating in guiding activities. All adults helping with meetings or events are requested to abide by this policy.

All those with unsupervised access to members undergo a volunteer registration process.