A TERMLY NEWSLETTER FOR GIRLGUIDING HERTFORDSHIRE





Issue 46 Summer 2021





THINKING DAY 2021

Thinking Day Promise Renewal

A number of our members joined together across the generations to celebrate with their families. Here are just a few of them.

Carole Robson from Bushey has been a leader for 45 years and runs a Brownie unit with her daughter Suzanne and daughter-in-law Alison: 'As a family we have a lot of fun guiding together. We are thrilled to see the third generation starting in Rainbows and look forward to them following in our footsteps.'

Anne Johns in Watford said 'My mum, 94, was a Guide and a Guide leader in Derbyshire. She kept her Guide whistle and passed it on to my eldest daughter when she achieved her Queen's Guide award. Both my daughters are Brownie leaders, did their training with me and still come on unit holidays with us. In fact, without them we wouldn't be able to go!'

Ali Hampton is a Girlguiding Trustee and renewed her Promise with daughter Emily. 'I'm the first to do Guiding in my family, having been a Brownie in the 70's. I became a leader so that Emily's Brownie unit didn't have to close, and I'm delighted that she is now doing her Leadership Qualification with 3rd Rickmansworth Brownies.'

Heather Rawcliffe was delighted her mum could take part from Wales: 'My mum Anne, 86, was really looking forward to the event. She told me she would be saying the old Promise (serving the King) as that's what it was when she was a Guide during the war!'

Claire Holden from Stevenage explained 'Girlguiding has provided opportunities at different points in our lives. I was a Brownie, Guide and Ranger, and then came back when my daughter joined Brownies and they needed an extra helper. My daughter has since moved on to Guides and I am now training to be a leader. My mum didn't find guiding until her adult life, when friends encouraged her to join the Trefoil Guild.'

Carole Doherty: 'My daughter has been brought up attending meetings in Harpenden, and as a small girl often told people she was going to be a Rainbow, Brownie, Guide and then a leader. She is on track so far! Mum is still in Lancashire but joined us on Sunday in renewing her Promise with Girlguiding Hertfordshire.'

Four generations of the Hoy family have been Brownies: 'I think having three members of the same family being Brownies in the same unit, and now leaders together, is unique! My daughter Zara and I joined our Brownies to renew our Promise on Sunday, followed by an online meeting with a Canadian Brownie Group.'

Natalie Edwards went to Brownies in Greece, along with her mum who was a Brownie leader. She became a Young Leader when living in Brussels, and is now a leader in St Albans where her own daughter is a Brownie: 'We renewed our Promise on

Thinking Day together. I love guiding, and think it is so important for girls to have a different space to grow in confidence and have adventures.'

From Welwyn Garden City, Sally Settle concluded 'The Promise renewal was a lovely way to feel part of a bigger movement during a time that we are not able to see each other face to face.'

Hazel Carmichael
County Communications and PR Adviser











THINKING DAY 2021

Thinking Day Challenge Badge

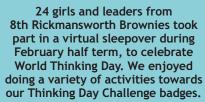
A new Challenge badge was created by Girlguiding Hertfordshire to celebrate Thinking Day 2021.

Activities included mindfulness and meditation, as well as making pasta trefoils, kindness paper chains, positive self-portraits and picture hugs or thank you

cards for care workers. They also enjoyed traditional favourites of armpit fudge, hot chocolate and campfire songs. Building dens was the highlight of many virtual sleepovers during half-term.

Here are just a few pictures from around our county of members enjoying the activities.





We started by making kindness paper chains, writing good turns to do for family and friends on each link of the chain. Next, everyone made trefoil shapes from pasta — learning about the meaning of our Promise badge which is worn by 10 million members of Guiding worldwide.

We relaxed with a mindfulness meditation before bedtime. We asked the girls to decorate their



Next day, the girls enjoyed creating 'positive portraits' of themselves, followed by a joint picture on the Zoom whiteboard of all the things they enjoy most about being a Brownie.

BADGES and FRIENDS

Hazel Carmichael Leader

17th Bushey Brownies

Thinking Day Meeting for Jewish Brownies across the UK

17th Bushey Brownies organised and joined with ninety-six Brownies and leaders from all over London, the suburbs and Manchester, at the Jewish Guide Advisory Council virtual Thinking Day meeting for UK Jewish Brownies,

The celebration saw the Brownies enjoying arts and crafts and discussing how they could build Peace. They also renewed their Promise.

Lucinda Glasser and Claire Sherman Leaders



THINKING DAY 2021

Thinking Day Challenge Badge

Bushey and Oxhey District

From 1 January, Bushey and Oxhey became one district and we were super excited to hold our first Virtual Thinking Day event.

Nearly 100 volunteers, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Young Leaders and their siblings were at the event on the 21 February where we completed

the Hertfordshire Thinking Day Challenge badge. The girls loved making the chocolate bark, flowers about themselves, giving a hug (which are being given to a local care home), meditation, and renewing their Promises. For some they were taking their Promise for the first time which was super exciting!

THE TOGETHER It was lovely to hold our first district event as Bushey and Oxhey and we can't wait to hold our next one.

Grace Bantin Bushey and Oxhey District Commissioner



COMMUNITY



24th St Albans Brownies

24th St Albans Brownies shared a Zoom meeting with a Girl Scout troop in St Albans West Virginia. As we were challenged to connect with another Brownie unit as part of our new Thinking Day badge, I sent messages around the world to other places called St Albans.

Someone from St Albans West Virginia alerted a local Girl Scout leader — so we exchanged messages and agreed to set up a special meeting for our girls to chat and learn a little about each other's towns. Eleven of our girls met up with eight of theirs and the most discussed topic was favourite foods.

Darcy: 'It was really interesting learning about a different country. We talked a lot about the different foods we have. I still can't believe they didn't know what fish and chips are!

Eleanor: 'I loved speaking to the Girl Scouts, to hear about what they do when they meet and the things that they enjoy. I showed them how lucky we are to have a big park.

It was very successful. We are going to send them badges from our St Albans, and they are going to reciprocate!

Pippa Pearson Leader

Virtual Thinking Day Sleepover

Girlguiding Hemel Hempstead NE District organised a virtual sleepover to celebrate World Thinking Day.



17th Bushey Brownies

116 Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Young Leaders took part, along with 29 leaders. It made for a big Zoom meeting!

Heather Pavlik, leader, 4th Adeyfield Rainbows explains 'Our theme was 'Around the World' celebrating all the countries that host a Girlguiding World Centre. 116 girls made stained glass doves for Pax Lodge in England, African necklaces for Kusafiri in Africa, pinatas from Our Cabana in Mexico, Mendi patterns for Sangam in India plus tortilla pockets with melted chocolate for Our Chalet in Switzerland.

'Packs were delivered to the girls prior to the event containing activities,

cooking ingredients and of course hot chocolate and marshmallows! Our thanks go to Hemel Tesco community support who supplied all the sweet treats.

Heather concludes: 'The girls also made friendship knots, took part in a scavenger hunt and we had a virtual campfire with a Promise renewal. I'm not sure how much sleep was had by the girls in their dens but they did a good job of building them in spare rooms, under tables or swapping rooms with siblings.

Heather Pavlik Leader

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Gabby wins a Guiding Star Award

We are very proud of Gabby, a ten-yearold Brownie from Hertfordshire, who has demonstrated whole-heartedly that she lives her Brownie Promise.

Throughout the lockdown period, Gabby has shown great resilience, helping her mum and little brother. Gabby explains. 'It was half term and my mum was really unwell with the virus and she couldn't even get out of bed, so I helped out with my little brother Luke. He's 6 years old — I made lunches for us too.'

Mum commented 'I'm so proud of Gabby she really took on the Brownie motto of 'thinking of others before yourself'. She played with Luke, fed and watered them both and kept him occupied with no arguments — they were both wonderful. Gabby even made me jam sandwiches which were delicious.'

Gabby took over the running of the house and looking after her little brother until her mum got better. She got him dressed, gave him a bath and read him bedtime stories as well as organised food for them all — sometimes making some very interesting concoctions!

Gabby's Brownie leader only found out about the situation when Gabby's mum emailed to apologise that she hadn't completed the activity for Brownies.

Mum added, 'I know there are lots and lots of children who have helped their parents and others and shown amazing kindness during the pandemic over the last year but this really was such an amazing thing that Gabby did for me, I am just so proud of her.' And so are we.

Jenny Maskrey County Commissioner

A year (almost!) in the life of 2nd Hertford Guides

SEPTEMBER We were so excited to be able to meet face-to-face. Individual fires in colanders, with s'mores of course!

OCTOBER

We walked down the Cole Green
Way, finding CDs with Disney characters. The first
letter of each character spelt out a film title.
We had Disney charades and a music quiz too!

NOVEMBER Guy Fawkes Night with sparklers and glittery keyrings.

DECEMBER Back to Zoom, with lots of games, meeting pets, and scavenger hunts.

JANUARY
Our district Ready Steady Cook
competition was held via Zoom. Our team picked a
'confectionery' theme and baked cupcakes including
chocolate orange, Smarties, Toblerone cupcakes and
Oreo cupcakes among others! We were so thrilled to
win overall!

FEBRUARY Thinking Day, we shared our favourite things about Guides and made them into a word cloud.

MARCH International Women's Day. We talked about gendered products and non-gendered language.

We're back face-to-face and we've been very lucky to have a large public field next to our hut which is big enough for us to maintain social distancing, even with 30 Guides and 4 leaders!

we worked on our Camp Stage 3 skills builder in hopes we will be able to go on camp in the summer. We learnt what a 'camp gadget' is, and invented our own.

JUNE
Summer evenings are meant for wide games! Code-cracking and hunting for pegs and other 'normal' Guide activities.

Over the year, the Guides have earned lots of badges, skills builders, theme awards and even Bronze and Silver section awards — well done to them all!

From Pippin, Snoopy, Dougal, Kipper and the Guides at 2nd Hertford.

Katie Goodair Leader



A Rainbow on a mission

A Rainbow from 7th Oxhey (Methodist) Rainbows raised over £400 for Moorfields Eye charity over February half term break.

What started out as a challenge set by her leaders to help a charity whilst completing the Marathon Challenge badge led to Grace (aged 6) walking 26 miles — and she is still going! This is her story and how she wanted to give back to a charity that is important to her.

Grace was born prematurely at 28 weeks' gestation. After 98 days in hospital, she came home on oxygen but it wasn't until this was removed that her parents noticed that her eyes were always moving. She was referred to the ophthalmology department which diagnosed her nystagmus. 'This was very scary and we were told to prepare that our baby may never have good vision or even worse may not ever be able to see.

When Grace turned one, she was seen at a Moorfields satellite clinic for vision checks, which amazingly showed that she had near enough the correct vision for her age. This diagnosis continued and when she was $2\frac{1}{2}$ years old, further tests at the main London hospital in City Road looked for a cause for her nystagmus and checked if it was affecting her brain function. Tests were repeated three times to get an accurate result before it was decided she was suffering from idiopathic nystagmus (an unknown cause). As Grace has got older, started school and learned to read, she has 'normal' vision for her age but she continues to suffer from wobbly eyes and has a head gesture she uses to keep them still. She has undergone patch therapy over one eye to strengthen it and now wears glasses to help with her wobble.

Grace chose to raise money for Moorfields after a recent visit to the hospital. Mum explains 'The staff there are always so friendly and always put us at ease. When she was younger and had to have anything uncomfortable done, they were always so good at distracting her, and very quick to give out stickers! The hospital not only care for people with sight conditions but also researches into these conditions so that maybe cures or better treatments can be found.

This little Rainbow is on a mission to raise as much money as possible for a charity so close to her heart and a big part of her life even now. Her family and leaders are all extremely proud of her and her 3-year-old brother, who walked every step of the way with her. The leader behind the original idea, Grace Bantin, commented, 'When we set the challenge, we thought we would raise a couple of hundred pounds for some charities close to our girls' hearts but when I got the update form Grace's Mum I was blown away by her determination!'



If you would like to donate you can visit her Just Giving page.

Huge congratulations to all the other 7th Oxhey (Methodist) Rainbows who also completed the Marathon Challenge badge, raising money for Dementia UK.

Grace Bantin Leader



7th Oxhey (Methodist) Guide unit raised over £300 for charity while taking part in the Marathon Challenge badge.

The leaders of the unit, Grace Bantin and Claire McConville, wanted to encourage the girls to go out walking over February half term as they had spent a lot of time on screens during term time. The Guides were challenged to pick a charity of their choice and then walk 26 miles for that charity.

The girls and their families all enjoyed getting out in the local area while raising money for good causes.

They walked in the local fields, around Ruislip lido, over commons, around blocks and in the woods. The charities that benefited included:

• Dementia UK

Grace Bantin Leader



FLEXIBLE UNITS



1st Hertfordshire Flexible Brownies

Meet the first member of the newly formed Flexible Brownies.

Seven-year-old Zara from Abbots Langley is the very first member of the newly formed 1st Hertfordshire Flexible Brownies!

Sharon Hoy explains. 'Flexible Brownies is for girls who can't attend regular

meetings in their own area and want to continue with Girlguiding. We offer a variety of ways to take part — via email, post, or Zoom meetings. Zara has joined in with my 4th Welwyn Garden City Brownies while we wait for a few more to join the Flexible Brownies.'

'She has fitted in really well — you wouldn't know that she has never met any of the girls in real life. What I loved last week, is when we did an activity where girls were asked to write positive things about each other on the screen, many wrote Zara was brave because she joined our unit not knowing anyone.'

'Zara made this collage about her favourite Brownie activities as part of the Thinking Day Challenge badge.

She renewed her Promise with us on 22 February, and then we all got to meet a Brownie unit from Canada!

The girls chatted with each other, compared their badges and Brownie Promises, as well as playing games together on Zoom.'

Zara's mum is delighted her daughter is part of such an active unit. She will move back to a local unit in Abbots Langley when there is a space.

Sharon Hoy Leader





New Flexible Rainbow Unit Opens

Eleven girls from the new Croxley and Rickmansworth Flexible Rainbow unit all made their Girlguiding Promise for the first time on 22 February. This was extra special because their Promise ceremony actually fell on World Thinking Day.

The girls started together in January, when the Flexible unit was set up in response to long waiting lists for places in established local Rainbow groups. All meetings take place on Zoom.

The girls have been following the Girlguiding programme enthusiastically — enjoying activities such as 'time travelling' to learn about Girlguiding in the past, designing robots, and making and looking after a stone pet for a week.

Alison Hampton Leader

Celebrating Gwen's 61 years of Guiding in Baldock

The whole county has joined together to celebrate Gwen Keech for her amazing contribution to Guiding in Baldock over the past 61 years.

Gwen first made her Promise to King George VI as a Brownie before later becoming a Guide. After moving to Baldock, Gwen continued her adventures as a Brownie leader, Ranger leader, Young Leader adviser and eventually the district commissioner. Today, Gwen is active within the Trefoil Guild that she established in her home town.

In recognition of her contribution to Guiding in the district over so many years, the Baldock Guide HQ will be renamed in her honour. In the meantime, Gwen was presented with flowers and a Thank You badge and certificate.

Gwen has kindly shared three words that she feels sums up her guiding experience. They are Responsibility, Friendship and Travel.

Responsibility — Gwen has enjoyed and embraced having responsibility for the girls and adults who attended her units, followed by being responsible for all the units and their needs in the Baldock district.

Friendship — Guiding has given her so many opportunities to make friends over the years, some of whom have become lifelong friends.

Travel — Guiding has presented opportunities for her to travel. She recalls visiting Switzerland on several occasions, including to Our Chalet, and went to Austria. The travel continues with Trefoil around the UK.

Joanne Newton Baldock District Treasurer



Lockdown and beyond

1st Birch Green Brownies

1st Birch Green Brownies met on Zoom during the lockdown until meeting for the first time outdoors in early June. The girls were so happy to see each other and made happy faces from natural materials they could find on the field.

We achieved a lot during lockdown and ended up with Ruthie, Millie, Ashley, Lily and Annabelle all gaining the Gold award and most others now have at least a Bronze including two who only joined during lockdown.

One of the highlights was a virtual visit from Teaching Talons with their animals and joining with Letty Green Cubs when a virtual magician came visiting.

Kate Maguire Leader



1st Watton-at-Stone Guides

1st Watton-at-Stone Guides have been very lucky with the weather and have made the most of it in our outdoor meetings.

Jam-jar fishing was great fun!

Nikki Smith Leader





2nd and 3rd Hertford Brownies enjoyed kite flying and a Brownie 'Taskmaster' game.

All Rainbows in the Hertford District were invited to join outdoor meetings during the Autumn term. Here they are playing games.

Sian Morgan Hertford District Commissioner







As a unit we hadn't been together face-to-face for more than a year and so were really excited when we headed out to Whippendell Woods for a walk and a litter pick!

More than half of our current unit joined during lockdown and we had only met them on Zoom up to this point, so it was extra special to start getting to know them all and also to see our older girls again too!

Sadly, the weather was against us and it rained throughout the evening! However, I am proud to say that we still had 25 girls who had fun using the litter pickers and enthusiastically picked up many bags of litter during our walk! A good evening's work.

Grace Bantin Leader





MARATHON CHALLENGE 2021

Trefoil Marathon Walkers

Congratulations to Hitchin Evening Trefoil Guild members who have embraced the Marathon Walking Challenge this year.

Recognition must be given to those who have completed five marathons over the past few months:

Rose de Roeck, Brenda Easton, Chris Cowles, Ann Cook, Jo Clinch, Anne Howard & Gwynne McColl.

Pictured are just a few of our members enjoying their walks all across Great Britain.

Gwynne McColl Hitchin Evening Trefoil Guild Full details of the Marathon Challenge badge can be

https://www.girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk/getinvolved/challenge-badges/#marathon

THE MARATHON CHALLENGE 2021

PATHON CHALLENG We started the challenge the 2nd of Feb, And printed the sheets off the Herts Guiding web. There were times when the warmth of the house was a pull, After all there's no pressure, a year was the rule.

Sometimes we were wary: the forecast was icy When fingers were blue and footpaths were dicey. But through sun, wind and snow, and occasional rain We'd put on our boots and set out again, To go for our walks, just "My Husband and I" Now what was the weather? We'd glance at the sky.

For Boris's rule, we kept to five miles Just finding a route where we need not climb stiles! We dodged all the cyclists and those who MUST jog, And slithered and slipped in the mud and the bog. We saw kites and some buzzards that soared on the wing, Now this was more like it, the promise of spring. In woodlands we walked where the snowdrops drift through And the blossom appeared as grey skies became blue. The daffodils bloomed, leaves appeared on the trees And the brook down the lane was now up to our knees! But then there was litter, fly tipping nearby, 'Oh where is the pride in their county?' I'd cry. The fields turned from brown to green shoots by the day And animals out of their barns could now stay. The horses and sheep, cows and pigs by their sties, But best was the goat with its kid — a surprise.

Sometimes towards town through the footpaths we'd roam. Then over the by-pass to make our way home. My knees were complaining and hips, they replied. Oh! where were the legs that I had when a Guide?

Five marathons done, time to put up my feet? I'll just keep on going 'til ten are complete. For in lockdown it's good for my mind and health's sake 'Cause waiting at home is a cuppa and CAKE!!!

Brenda Easton



Florence

Brenda Easton

Florence, at 3 years old, is the youngest person to complete the Marathon Challenge badge. Her brother, Seb, has one more marathon to walk! Julia Davis Leader 2nd Radlett Guides





Chris Cowles

Anne Howard



See E-newsletter or website events page for details.

2021 18 September

Social Walk, Aston, Stevenage

2 October

1st Response Course, Hemel Hempstead

9 October

Sensory Safari (provisional), Broxbourne

10 October

Social Walk, Ver Valley, Radlett

16 October

Great Patrol Hunt 2021/2022 Round 1, Borehamwood

2022 26 March

Great Patrol Hunt 2022 Round 2

24-26 June

Great Patrol Hunt 2022 Round 3, Letchworth

Due to current Government advice, please check the county website events page www.girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk/events/ and monthly newsletters for up-to-date information as to whether event/course is taking place.

DEADLINE for the next edition of Share Magazine

Please send your submissions for Share 47 to share@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk by Friday 24 September 2021.

When emailing submissions, please provide the article wording, the author's full name and role together with photographs and relevant photo permissions.

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Photographs

For photos submitted where individuals featured are identifiable, please complete, sign and return a photo permission form which can be requested by emailing share@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk or visiting www.girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk/get-involved/share/ Please note photos may be cropped/edited/deleted where permissions are not provided.

Photos submitted may be used for Girlguiding Hertfordshire publicity.



A special "shout out" to:

TRISH BOTTEN for all her work as Guiding Development Adviser

SALLY SETTLE & KARIN HUNTER for creating and running our Welcome Events for new volunteers

THE GROWTH AND RETENTION TEAM AND PR TEAM for their collaborative work on the recruitment campaign

CLAIRE AND SHAUN for their amazing efforts in moving our equipment and furniture from Bentley Heath to HGC

THE WALKING TEAM for encouraging us to get outside and keep healthy

ELAINE WILSON for her perseverance and dedication to refunding the European Jamboree participants

LISA THOMAS, HANNAH MASKREY & RUTH WILLIAMS for designing some of our lovely county badges

HOW TO SUBMIT PHOTOS FOR SHARE MAGAZINE

We love receiving your photos to include in *Share Magazine* and it wouldn't be the magazine it is without them. To ensure we have the best quality photos to include in *Share*, here are some helpful steps:

When submitting photos, please email them to share@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk in their 'original size' ideally between 1-3MB if possible. If smaller than 1MB (e.g. 100kb) the quality of the photo will be compromised when transferring to *Share* Magazine and may not be able to be used.

If sending multiple photos, we would suggest emailing them separately to avoid them being condensed/made smaller.

Most mobile phones try and make photos smaller

when sending by email so they get sent quicker. If prompted (see illustration opposite from iPhone), please tick the box that highlights 'Actual Size'. Again, if sending multiple photos, it may be automatically condensed without giving an option to send in its actual size so best to send photos individually.

This message is 2.0 MB. You can reduce message size by scaling the image to one of the sizes below.

Small (149 KB)

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Actual Size (2.0 MB)

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