

LONDON SOUTH EAST NEWS

Edition 1 - Nov 2011



Girlguiding

London South East

girls in the lead

Welcome to the first edition of our new county newsletter!

Dear All

We hope you have had a lovely half term holiday and are refreshed for the last half term of the year. We look forward to hearing what you all have planned to celebrate the festivities this year.

Looking forward to next year, we have the Olympics coming to London, something we're sure everyone will be talking about for years to come. We also have the Queen's Jubilee and Girlguiding UK and the Scout Association will be releasing some joint activities that you can use to celebrate with your girls. What an exciting year ahead!

We would like to thank you for your continuing support and for all the hard work that each and everyone of you puts into your units, Districts, Divisions and our County.

Pauline & Julie
County Commissioners

What is the London South East News?

The county newsletter is a place for you to find out what is going on in London South East County and hear what everyone has been up to.

It's your newsletter so we want to hear from you: Have you tried a new activity recently with your girls? Visited somewhere exciting or unusual? Had a visitor to your unit? Been on an international trip? We want to know what everyone in London South East has been up to and share your news.

Why not get your girls involved? It doesn't need to be serious journalism - poems, diary-style reports, drawings; all kinds of submissions are welcome!

If you have stories and/or pictures which you would like to see in the county newsletter or ideas for features please get in touch with Lianne by email:
lianne.howarddace@gmail.com

WAGGGS World Conference 2011

In July this year I spent a week in Edinburgh for the 34th WAGGGS World Conference. As part of the Girlguiding UK host team, my role was coordinating the opening ceremony. This was a really exciting challenge; we had one weekend to rehearse the numbers and the Monday was spent rehearsing in the venue, the Edinburgh International Climbing Arena, before it happened for real in the evening.

The ceremony started with Kirsty, a 14 year old local guide, playing the bagpipes from on top of one of the boulders in the arena. A pipe band then marched through the space playing some classic Scottish music.

The 80 strong cast then wowed the crowd with a big pop number, joined by the Girlguiding Renfrewshire climbing team releasing blue and pink banners down the climbing wall. During the ceremony the girls also sang the specially commissioned conference and danced with gymnastics ribbons to a medley of songs from around the world representing the 5 WAGGGS regions.

After the WAGGGS welcome ceremony, where new member countries officially joined the association, the ceremony finished off with a big number to Katy Perry's *Firework* with live singing, dancing, climbing plus confetti and streamers to set the conference off in style.

With my big moment over with I was able to join the service team and enjoy the rest of the conference. My highlights included the launch of WAGGGS "End violence against girls" campaign, handing over the World Flag to the 2014 hosts, Hong Kong, and the closing gala dinner at the Dynamic Earth Museum.

It was a amazing to meet so many women from guiding around the world and a wonderful experience that I won't forget!

Lianne Howard-Dace
1st Brockley Guides



All photos courtesy of Becky Tompkinson



World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
Association mondiale des Guides et des Eclaireuses
Asociación Mundial de las Guías Scouts

Celebrating in style!

Guiders from across London South East County came together on Saturday 22nd October for the first County Celebration and Afternoon Tea at Progress Hall in Eltham. The event was a thank you to all adult volunteers in the County for all their hard work throughout the year making Girlguiding in the County happen.

Everyone was treated to a fantastic spread of scones, cake and pastries (plus lots of tea of course) and live music was provided by two cellists. It was a lovely event and there was a great atmosphere - definitely one to look out for on next year's calendar.

During the afternoon Jean Hewitt and Brenda Johnson were presented with their 50 year long service awards. Congratulations to them and thank you for all you have given to Girlguiding over the years.



Would you like to help create the activities your girls will be enjoying in 2012?

We are looking for enthusiastic leaders to join our task and finish groups to help plan our County events for 2012

No previous experience of big events necessary just enthusiasm!

Task and finish are a short-term commitment. Groups will meet to plan and carry out the events and then your commitment will end (unless you're hooked!)

Interested? Curious? Please contact Pauline or Julie for more information:

pauline.mason13@gmail.com or julie_ann@tinyworld.co.uk