

## **COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT 2009**

Thank you Lady Scarsdale. On behalf of Girlguiding Derbyshire I would like to thank you all for coming along to share this evening.

In my second year as County Commissioner we have seen changes taking place at all levels within Guiding.

Across the county there were 8752 members that met regularly either as Rainbows, Guides, Brownies and Senior Section. Many activities took place across the county such as water sports, tree planting, residential and camping holidays, international visits, performing arts, sleepovers, health and fitness activities.

As we all know most of a girl's time in Guiding is spent in her weekly meetings. Girls continue to work on badges and qualifications, but also develop life skills. Girls are active and busy: they play games, dance, sing, take part in adventurous activities and go on hikes and rambles. They consider conservation and environmental issues and how they contribute to their own community. They think about issues such as healthy eating and bullying. Such a wide variety is on offer throughout the County

To help reduce paperwork and allow more time for "active guiding" training and support was provided for all leaders across the county to enable them to use the new computerised system which was made available during August 2009.

GO – Guiding Organiser - From the initial training last February at Foxlease it has been incredible to see the new database system called GO being rolled out. Despite the concern and anxiety we have been able to collect census this year and I do believe that it is enabling all leaders and members to spend less time doing paper work and more time with the girls.

Technology has definitely arrived in Derbyshire with the launch of the Website to help facilitate the GO system last year.

As more and more people access the internet the County newsletter also has been sent out by e-mail and is now available on the website. For those who still would like to receive Signpost this is available by post.

Consultation took place about the future of the County Office which showed that many people wanted to see the Office expand and develop to provide the support they need. Thanks to the persistence and determination of Margaret Day, Ann Medcalf, and Kate Ibbitson the legal negotiations took place during November and December which meant that we finally moved in early January.

October through to February saw significant consultation with representatives from Districts and Divisions to look at the governance and committee structures. The results of this consultation will start to show benefits after the Finale in October although preliminary work will start earlier.

Darting Around Derbyshire has been a fabulous initiative set up by the Walking Team and has seen girls and women visiting different and unusual places in the County which has varied from the depth of Buxton Treak Cavern to the dizzy heights of Chesterfield Crooked Spire.

Individual initiatives have resulted in the Detective CD and the Nights Away Badge. Thank you Hannah Foxon and Sarah Pollard for giving us these wonderful resources.

Young girls and women have been busy with Baden Powell weekends, Duke of Edinburgh (Bronze, Silver and Gold) expeditions, Queen's Guides, international travel to New Zealand, Sweden, France, Germany, Holland and even lobbying Government to give "women a voice".

Many new people help "Guiding to Grow" by becoming new leaders, taking on the challenge of a holiday, overnight, camp qualification, music, walking, activity qualifications or international modules. It simply amazes me the amount of time and commitment people give to enable more activities to take place in and around Derbyshire.

After many years of John Queening being the County Commissioner for Scouts, Tom Stoddart took over in September. Tom and I have a number of shared views which include closer working. I hope that Girlguiding Derbyshire will continue to share ideas, trainings and enthusiasm with our Scouting Friends for many years to come.

Peak 2010 is nearly upon us and I know that both Stuart Groom (camp organiser) and Ann Medcalf (deputy camp organiser) have been working with their teams to ensure the best camp for the young people and adults takes place this summer at Chatsworth. Thank you Stuart and Ann for taking on this massive task for organising the camp – we all send our best wishes.

As we all know last September saw the launch of our Centenary celebrations. At 12.01 I was sending a message from Gill Clay (great granddaughter of Lord and Lady Baden Powell) in morse code at the top of Shatton Moor with some other leaders and Senior Section members to people at Glenbrook.

Sue Siddall and I spent the rest of the weekend visiting events ranging from camping, parties, crafts, belly dancing, walks to the top of Mam Tor, BBQ's to name just a few. In total over 6,000 members and friends "launched the Centenary" in Derbyshire – well done.

December saw a superb event at Markeaton Park where 100's of Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Senior Section, leaders, friends and families all came together to plant over 1,000 trees to commemorate the Centenary.

Plans to ensure that the centenary is a success have been developed throughout 2010 I am confident that the events and activities that have been planned will give everyone the opportunity to experience a "Mountain Top Moment".

Take a little time to read the Annual Review and see the exciting achievements that have taken place.

As we spend time as volunteers giving something back to a movement that we all treasure let's ensure we support and nurture the new people that will take the movement forward. 2010 will be a time to celebrate so enjoy yourselves.

In closing I want to thank everyone who has supported the County either as a leader, helper, adviser, co-ordinator, commissioner, mentor. The fantastic team spirit in the County ensures that events, activities and opportunities exists. Thank you to each and everyone of you.