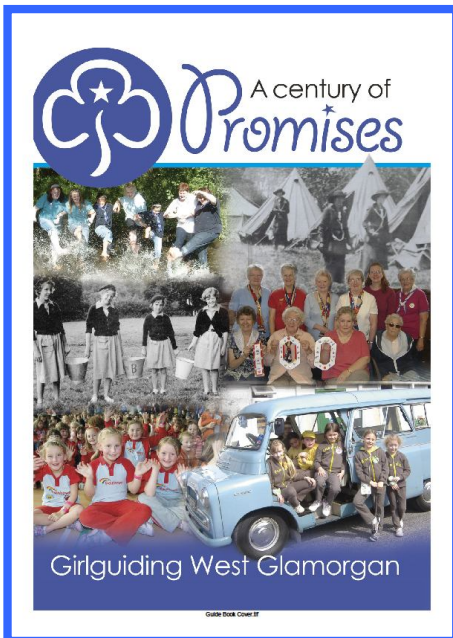




## County News



A number of years ago, the then archivist for Girlguiding **West Glamorgan**, Rhona Ray, assembled a great deal of information on the history of Girlguiding in the Guide County of West Glamorgan. She wanted to publish this as a book, to celebrate the centenary of Guiding in 2010. Sadly, Mrs Ray died in 2009. Because of her serious illness, she relinquished the post of County Archivist in 2007. June Shakeshaft took over from her, and felt that the book should be published, as a tribute to her.

More work has been carried out; making the book relevant to the members of the Guide movement today, and the book now includes pictures of today's members, as well as those of the past.

It also includes the celebrations which took place in the county last year, to commemorate the centenary of Girlguiding UK. The Centenary of Girlguiding West Glamorgan actually takes place next year (2012). The book is to be launched on 24th September of this year, at the Civic Centre, Swansea. It is entitled 'A Century of Promises', and gives many fascinating facts and photographs about Guiding in the past, as well as highlighting changes which have taken place to make the Movement relevant to the young people of today, and hopefully, those of the future. It is A4 size, portrait format, has 204 pages, and a hard cover.

The cover and two of the chapters are in full colour, and the rest of the book is in mono. Further information may be obtained from County Commissioner, Mrs Mary Knill.

Email: [maryknill1@aol.com](mailto:maryknill1@aol.com)



Many members of Girlguiding Cymru have undertaken the 'Beyond the Duck' challenge in which they had to achieve 100 points to gain their badge. Members of the Newport 4th (East) St Teilo's Brownies, **Gwent**, adopted three centenary ducks to help them with their challenge and Amber, the yellow duck named by Hannah, was chosen to accompany Richard (Church Warden at St. Teilos) on his trek in the Himalayas. Like Richard, Amber had to do lots of training to make sure she was fit enough to endure the 10 day challenge and even 'ducked in' to a Welsh Rugby Union training session during the Six Nations Championship where she had her photograph taken with Wales' Leigh Halfpenny.



To make sure that Amber was properly equipped for the altitude and extreme weather conditions, Brown Owl knitted her a woolly bonnet and a small bag to store her essentials, including her own passport and visa for Nepal. Thankfully, Amber made it through the stringent security checks at Kathmandu airport and although she left the armed security guards looking rather bemused by the whole experience, she didn't ruffle too many feathers!

The Brownies helped Richard's fundraising for *Dogs for the Disabled* by holding a 'Duck Drive' a fortnight before the trek. The Brownies and their parents had tremendous fun and raised a total of £90 for the charity - grateful thanks to all who took part and made it such a successful evening.

Amber was understandably nervous about leaving Newport to fly to Nepal. Although ducks can fly short distances, the 10 hour flight was a whole new experience for her. However, a drink in the airport bar before take-off gave her some confidence and also an opportunity to meet some of the trekkers who would be joining her.

The group of 30 trekkers looked after her throughout the 10 day trek and she became a mascot for the group - Amber appears in almost every single photograph with a smile on her beak! She also attracted attention from the Nepalese children we met in some of the remote villages who had never seen a duck high in the Himalayas before.

Amber explained that the hardest part of the trek was waking early in the morning to climb to the summit of Poon Hill (3,190m). However, the early start and the climb were worth it; Amber was able to watch the sunrise in the eastern sky with the mighty

snow-capped peaks changing colour in the distance.

Richard would like to thank Amber for her companionship during the trek and hopes that she will have cherished memories which will last her forever. Thanks also to Brown Owl and the Brownies for allowing Amber to leave her sisters, Maple and Rose, to accompany Richard on his fundraising challenge.

"I hope that the Brownies will all eventually receive their 'Beyond the Duck 2011' badge... perhaps I will one day have my own badge to attach to my rucksack, next to the Nepalese flag badge, to remind me of such a wonderful trip!"

Richard has already asked Amber if she would like to join him when he dresses like a dog to climb Pen-y-Fan to raise more money for *Dogs for the Disabled*... but she has told him that he must be 'quackers'! Hopefully she will be able to join him for the reunion on September 8th when the 'trekkers' will visit the *Dogs for the Disabled* centre in Banbury.



Richard and Amber on the summit of Poon Hill.

**West Glamorgan** held a County Fair at the end of June as part of fundraising to improve the Guides Centre at Parkmill, Gower. The President, Helen Murdoch came to open the Fair and judge the best stall, and although the weather was not great everyone enjoyed the day. The highlight of the Fair was the Duck Race. Division Commissioner Fiona organised the ducks into five heats because there were over 500 to set off! The heats were great fun with a lot of people all looking for their duck, and towards the end of the day the grand final

was held. Helpers all found themselves in the river catching ducks; only a few got away, and Helen was asked that if they are seen on Porthcawl beach to bring them back.



West Glamorgan Guides took part in a Circus Skills workshop. Pictured above is the County Secretary practicing her acrobatic and balancing skills.



## **Executive Snippets**

### **Appointments and Resignations**

Anne Faull and Maureen Davies have been appointed as Vice Presidents for Girlguiding Cymru.

Jo Spinks has been re-appointed as County Commissioner for a period of two years.

Delma Booth has resigned as Adult Support & Training Adviser.

Jen Lloyd is "caretaking" Girlguiding Gwent until a new County Commissioner is appointed.

Vivienne Grant, Cardiff, has agreed to become Girlguiding Cymru's representative for Young Dragons.



Jennifer Willot, Ceredigion, recently attended a celebration event at Rockingham Castle and was presented with her Queen's Guide Award by the Chief Guide. Seventeen girls from Wales are on the waiting list to attend a presentation of their award.



The Chief Commissioner informed members that she had received an email informing her that two MPs, Madeleine Moon (Bridgend) and Nia Griffith (Llanelli) had expressed an interest in volunteering for a day or two with Girlguiding Cymru during the Summer.



From 2012 all Trefoil Guild members will have to become full members. There will be no associate members of the Trefoil guild.

Trefoil Guild Wales' AGM will be held in Clwyd in 2012, and Trefoil Guild UK's AGM will be held in Cardiff.



"Guiding Conversations" is a new series of downloadable documents on the Commissioners pages of the Members area of the website. The resource aims to support Districts and Divisions to talk about issues such as youth participation or the girls' Attitudes Surveys during guiding meetings. "Guiding Conversations" can be delivered by Commissioners or other suitable members, such as Trainers.



A further mailing to parents (by email) from Girlguiding UK, will be taking place on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2011, informing them of events, etc.



Counties are requested to give sufficient notice to the chief Commissioner of their AGM dates in order that she can attend.





## What's On at Broneirion

### October

**7-9 October - International Opportunities for Leaders - by invitation only.** This weekend, open to Welsh Guiders from all Sections, will enable you to find out more about the challenge of being a Leader/Assistant Leader of a Girlguiding Cymru trip and gain the knowledge and skills required for such an adventure. Please contact your County International Adviser and County Commissioner for more information.

**8 October - Girlguiding Cymru Annual Meeting.** Hope Community Centre, Newtown. 2.30pm

**14-16 October**  
Bristol & South Gloucester County Weekend

**18-20 October**  
Trefoil Guild Executive

**21-23 October - Adult Leadership Qualification Weekend.** Open to all Leaders working on their ALQ, an opportunity for advice, action, activity, fun, flexibility and knowledge on how to complete your ALQ! Special rate of £25.00 for Guiders/Young Leaders working with Units in Wales.

**22 October - LQ Roadshow** - Join us and jump onto the Leadership fun bus.

### November

**4-6 November**  
Carmarthenshire County Weekend

**18-20 November - International Opportunities for Girls - by invitation only.** Do you enjoy camping, the out of doors and making new friends? Then you may want to consider the challenge of representing Girlguiding Cymru at an International event. If you are aged 13 plus and are guiding in Wales please contact your County

International Adviser and County Commissioner for more information.

### December

**2-4 December - Baden-Powell Adventure**  
Activity Weekend for Girls including Celebration Meal on Saturday night

**10-11 December - Friends Christmas Party**  
Friends of Broneirion celebrate the spirit of Christmas with friendship and fun. Join in the festive celebrations - come to the Friends' Christmas party at Broneirion.

## Friends of Broneirion

'Friends' support this year has been **incredible!!!** We have funded new furnishings for the library and the drawing room; helped with the very successful Civic Trust Open Door Scheme; had a great day at our Gathering in July and our membership has increased! Wonderful - many thanks to everyone.

A big 'friends' thank you to Jane Prigg and Helen Lewis. Jane, for donating and fixing the beautiful curtain poles in the library and. Helen for making and hanging the curtains. Big tasks for both - your efforts are greatly appreciated.

To the future and the excitement of Christmas.... ..join in the festive joy and fun at Broneirion!

**December 9<sup>th</sup> 10a.m. - when we finish!**  
'Friends' will be busy decorating!

Y Bwythyn will be transformed into Father Christmas's Magical Grotto and Broneirion elegantly adorned with festive decorations.

**December 9<sup>th</sup> 6.p.m. - 7.30.p.m.**

'Carols, Pies and Punch'- Come and join the Celebration in Broneirion and sing many well loved Carols. Community Carol Singing around the Broneirion Christmas Tree.

**December 10<sup>th</sup> - 10.30a.m. - 4.30.p.m. Y Bwythyn**

Hooray! Father Christmas is in his magical Grotto - come and see him! He's looking forward to seeing you and will have lots of lovely presents for all boys & girls. Cost £4.00





per child - adults can relax & enjoy some festive refreshments.

**EVERYONE WELCOME TO BOTH EVENTS - BRING ALL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.**

**COME TO BRONEIRION. JOIN IN THE SPIRIT AND FESTIVE SPARKLE OF CHRISTMASTIDE.**

**December 10/11** - A highlight of the 'Friends' year - our Christmas party. 'Christmas Cracker'

We look forward to an equally 'incredible' year in 2012.



## **Rights Challenge Badge - Childrens Commissioner for Wales**



A Challenge Badge has been launched to mark the tenth anniversary of the Commissioner's Office in Wales; the badge will enable Scouts and Girlguiding members of all ages to learn more about children's rights and about their Children's Commissioner.

The Challenges will enable children and young people attaining the badge to have fun, to be challenged and, more importantly, learn something about the areas covered. The activities are varied to cater for most abilities and are designed to provide leaders with an

instant programme, along with lists of equipment required and how to carry out the activities. Only one of the activities needs to be used to achieve the result, but you can, of course, take part in as many as you wish.

Details, an order form, activities and supporting information for Unit Leaders can be downloaded from the [Girlguiding Cymru website](#) by clicking on the relevant links or from [Children's Commissioner for Wales Website](#)



## **The Commonwealth Jubilee Time Capsule**



The Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS) is running the world's largest history project to mark Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. The Jubilee Time Capsule is an innovative, cross-cultural, online engagement project. See here for more details: [www.jubileetimecapsule.org](http://www.jubileetimecapsule.org)

### **How can Girlguiding be involved?**

This is a tremendous chance to develop your troop's creative media, communication skills and promote inter-generational understanding. It will also help the Girl Guides to learn about different cultures and countries across the globe, as they compile this people's history of the past 60 years. Taking international issues or personal moments, the Girl Guides can creatively discuss a range of events and help us to build this unique social history that will be available online for future generations!

If you are interested in finding out more

information and how you may be involved visit the [Girlguiding Cymru website](http://Girlguiding Cymru website).



## Big gig

The BIG GIG is set to return to Wembley on 1 and 2 October. It's a great opportunity to remind the public about the exciting things that girls (and adults!) can do through guiding. The PR Team are looking for spokespeople and enthusiastic members to help us shout out about the BIG GIG in the media through local radio phone-ins. If you know about any groups who are heading to the performances this year that have a particular story to tell or are very excited about the event then please email [pressoffice@girlguiding.org.uk](mailto:pressoffice@girlguiding.org.uk). The PR Team will work with any participants who come forward to find possible local media opportunities.



**Girlguiding Cymru**  
*merched ar y blaen girls in the lead*

**Leadership Qualification Weekend at Broneirion**

Do you want to be an Leader Girlguiding UK's qualification to become a Unit Leader.

16 or over, come on your own or bring a friend or your leader or your mentor....

New or nearly new - know your LQ, Advice, Action, Activity, Fun

21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct 2011  
"It's only £25"  
Discounted Weekend

**Don't Forget**

To book contact  
Broneirion Training Centre  
on 01686 688204  
admin@broneirion.com



**Thank you** to all who have sent articles and reports for Dragon Tales. The deadline for the Winter issue is 31st December, 2011. Please send reports of your Section or news of interest from your County, details of forthcoming events and photos to us at the address below.

Email: [Walesreg@girlguiding.org.uk](mailto:Walesreg@girlguiding.org.uk)  
or send to

**Girlguiding Cymru, The Coach House, Broneirion, Llandinam, Powys. SY17 5DE**

"Join us and Jump onto the Leadership fun bus"

Cardiff 01-10-11  
Carmarthen 02-10-11

Please bring own lunch — drinks provided

5 locations around Wales  
10 am to 4pm  
Open from 9.30

Pack your LQ bag

Risk Assessment  
Website  
LQ Surgery  
Evidence

Safe Space  
Finance  
Forms

Promise + Law  
Gift Aid  
Section Training

Cardiff 01-10-11  
Nth Wales 15-10-11  
Llandinam 22-10-11

Girlguiding Cymru  
*merched ar y blaen girls in the lead*

