

OFF TO THE PALACE!!!

HOORAY, I'M OFF TO THE PALACE to visit Princess Margaret, the President of the Guide Association. After three years of meeting the challenges presented by the Queen's Guide syllabus it gives me great pleasure to call myself "A Queen's Guide". During the summer of 1990 when I, Alison Naish was a 17 year old student at Burford School, Leah Fowler, the District Commissioner of Charlbury Brownies and Guides recommended me for the Queen's Guide.

I began the task by helping to organise a County camp for seven hundred people, held at Ditchley near Charlbury. I made some very special friends that week. Included in the Queen's Guide syllabus are eight clauses that aim to inspire girls within the movement to greater endeavour. These clauses are: Service in the Community, Service in Guiding, Service in the Home, Service Overseas, Service as a Citizen, Enterprise, Completion of the Young Leaders Scheme or Ranger Pre-Investiture Challenge and finally a presentation to a County Assessment Panel. All these clauses must be completed within three years.

I was responsible for the household meals for a weekend, redecorated a room, created an evening outfit for myself as well as holding a Public Relations display at Burford School and becoming a First Aider which came in very useful for the Summer Guide camps. I visited many places of interest, the Commonwealth Institute in London proved to be very educational, a weekend trip to Portsmouth with two other Young Leaders gave us the opportunity to see HMS Victory and the Mary Rose.

Yet the most interesting was the guided tour of the Houses of parliament. It's gold-leaf ceilings and chambers of great decision making were indeed an inspiration, to mention just a few of my activities.

I completed my challenge in August 1993. On Wednesday 5th January 1994, Christine Halliday, Guider of 1st. Wychwood Guides presented me with the Queen's Guide Badge and Certificate in the new Church room. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have supported me and made it possible for me to become a Queens Guide, especially my parents and Christine, not forgetting the guides in the Wychwoods. Guiding will always mean a great deal to me and long may it continue.

Alison Naish

What Alison is too modest to say is that she is the first Guide in Wychwood Division, an area covering the Districts of Charlbury, Chipping Norton and Woodstock to complete her Queen's Guide Award. This highly prestigious award reflects Alison's hard work and determination to achieve her ambition. Despite hiccoughs and set-backs along the way she never lost sight of this goal and remained cheerful and positive throughout.

She was a Brownie and Guide with 1st. Wychwood and then became a highly valued Young Leader before going to college in South London. She now helps to run a Guide unit in Wimbledon. All her family and friends are very proud of Alison's achievements and wish her every success in the future.

Christine Halliday, Unit Guider,
1st. Wychwood Guides.



Alison Naish, Queen's Guide.

FOXHOLES NATURE RESERVE OPEN DAY **Sunday 15 May, 2 - 5pm**

Take this opportunity to enjoy an afternoon out in the countryside with teas to look forward to at the end of your walk. The 160-acre nature reserve at Foxholes, managed by Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Naturalist Trust, is open to everyone, with a way-marked route through the woods posted with guides to provide information. This is the best time of the year to see the semi-natural woodland as the usual spectacular display of bluebells should be at its most breathtaking.

Tea and cakes are on sale in the garden of Foxholes House, where there is also a pond-dipping for children, a BBONT sales table and plant stall. Entry is £2 per car which includes a map of the reserve showing the marked trail.

The reserve covers a variety of habitats — woodland, watermeadow and scrub — which support a huge and diverse population of plants, mammals, birds and insects. If you are not already a visitor to Foxholes, you will find the reserve along the unmarked lane off to the left just a few hundred yards before Bruern Abbey School.

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