

## 1st Wychwood Guides

Having decided to hand over the running of Wychwood Guides to a younger team it took some time to find somebody prepared to help Tracy Wilks with the task. Tracy managed to persuade her friend Sally Summerhill to join her as Assistant Guider and these two have now been running the Unit since January.

Just running the Unit was not enough, Tracy decided to gain her Camper's licence to enable her to take the girls to camp each year. To gain this qualification she had to plan, organise and run a camp, submit all her plans for scrutiny and be inspected on site by two testers from 'County'.

Tracy and Sally ran a most successful camp at Kingham Hill School in July. Eleven girls enjoyed an action-packed four days (and nights) in perfect weather and beautiful surroundings. For many (including Sally) it was a first experience of camping but everyone pulled together as a team to complete camp tasks (fetching water, cooking on a fire, emptying and cleaning lats. etc.!).

Tracy and Sally had organised a variety of activities, including an eight mile hike and swimming - thank you to Mary Smith for acting as life-saver. Everyone joined in the fun and work with great enthusiasm.

As the time for the important test approached the girls all went and gave their tents a final tidy and put on their Guide tops so that all was 'ship-shape' for inspection. At the end of their visit the testers declared it the best camp they had seen in a long while and awarded Tracy her licence.

Our photo shows the girls enjoying a last-night party to celebrate the purchase of their own mess-tent. In the past we have borrowed one from the Scouts but this year our dates clashed with the County Cub camp at Cornbury. It cost £750.00 of precious funds to purchase this major piece of equipment but is worth every penny. Now we must do some serious fund-raising to top up our depleted bank balance. After the party all the girls slept together in the tent as a final treat.

To complete our equipment we now need to replace the QM's ancient frame tent, which has served us well over many years, If anyone is thinking of selling a frame tent please let us know.

I would like to thank and congratulate Tracy and Sally for all their efforts with Wychwood Guides, for their energy and enthusiasm (they both have full-time jobs and homes to run) and to wish them every success in the future. We should all take pride in these young people prepared to put back into our community and to give them our support in all their endeavours.

Christine Halliday.

P.S. Although I do not run Guides any more I am still around when needed and involved at District and Division levels as treasurer.

Oh, and I was the one doing the cooking at camp.



The Guides in party mood

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## **The Open Door Scheme**

The Open Door Scheme enables people with learning disabilities to join Community Education Classes with the support of a volunteer.

If you have a learning disability or you know of someone who has and would be interested in the Scheme or:-

If you would like to help by offering transport or support to a student please contact:

**Sue Lee on 01993 708799**