

1st Wychwood Guides

The great Great Malvern adventure

Despite having the warmest March on record it still felt a little too chilly for camping when Tracy, Alison and I started planning a weekend away for the Guides. The next best thing seemed to be Youth Hostelling. So, with the help of Family Railcards and a special offer from the YHA, we chose Great Malvern for our trip. We met up with 14 excited girls, complete with rucksacks, at Kingham Station for the start of our adventure.

The journey to Great Malvern was delightful; I did not realise how pretty the countryside is and you see so much more of it from a train. We had been told that the hostel was one mile from the station, but it certainly seemed much further as we made our way there by foot. Those rucksacks were beginning to weigh very heavily by the time we arrived; if only Mums would just pack the bare essentials for their children and leave out the tuck bags!

By the time the girls had prepared pizzas for their supper, eaten and enjoyed them and then cleared up the kitchen it was almost time for bed. You can imagine the excitement when the girls realised they would be sleeping in bunk beds in 'dormitories' and the adults were along the corridor out of hearing (at least that is what they thought!)

Christine Halliday



The 1st Wychwood Guides on Worcester Beacon, the highest point on the Malvern Hills

I'm enjoying camp so far. It was hard to get to sleep since we were noisy. We arrived about 8:15 and made pizzas with our own toppings which was ever so fun

Anneka

No need for alarm clocks as the girls were awake soon after 6am but it still took them hours to get ready for

breakfast. Lunches were packed and we were on our way to climb to the top of the Malvern Hills. It was chilly to start, with a stiff wind blowing when we made it to the top of Worcester Beacon, the highest point on the Hills, but the views were worth the trek.

Christine Halliday

We went up into the Malvern Hills and eventually reached the top. We saw a red kite hovering over the grass. Some of us rolled down the other side.

Harriet

I was the first to reach the top and we took lots of photos. It was cold.

Georgina

It was difficult to get the girls to slow down to the pace of our Mum-to-be Guider and one adult who is definitely 'over the hill!' Heading downhill to St. Anne's Well was equally challenging. Unfortunately, despite

warnings, the Guides left the path and ran ahead and one fell and cut her knee rather badly. Tracy took her down into town to try to find a Minor Injuries Unit or on-call doctor but had to take a taxi into Worcester to the A&E Dept of the local hospital.

Christine Halliday

Today, Flo fell over. At the hospital we found out there was a sweet shop at the other entrance. Tracy got stressed with her husband because he took a battery out of her radio so she could not listen to the Grand National.

Alice

Today, I fell over and took a chunk out of my knee. Tracy, Alice and I went to hospital and the nurse thought Tracy was my Mum! The doctor took some loose skin off my knee; he said it wouldn't hurt. I didn't believe him but guess what? It didn't hurt!

Florence

Meanwhile, Alison and I found a park in Malvern for the girls to eat their lunch (ours had gone off to hospital in Tracy's bag!) They enjoyed some unusual equipment in the children's play area and then spent half an hour looking around the shops while Ali and I relaxed in a coffee shop. When we arrived back at the Hostel the others were there ahead of us and we were able to play in the large garden before the sun started to go down and thoughts turned to food again. There was just time to teach the girls to play 'Chase the Ace' before bedtime. You would think that after such an exciting day in the fresh

air they would fall instantly asleep but it never works that way.

On Sunday it was an early start as the rooms had to be tidied to perfection, breakfast prepared and we had a train to catch. We took the train to Worcester where we walked to the Worcester Porcelain factory, planning to 'paint a plate', but taxi fares for the hospital trip had eaten into our funds and time was getting short, so we decided to save that for another day.

We walked back along the river, fed the swans and found the perfect way to pass an hour or two – jumping the fountains set in the pavement.

All too soon it was time to catch the train back to Kingham and the parents waiting patiently on the station platform. The girls were a credit to the uniform that they were wearing as Guides.

Worcester has so much to offer that Tracy and Ali are already planning a day trip there. After all, we have to get our money's worth from the Family Railcards!

Christine Halliday

My favourites were the fantastic walk and all the great photos I took. Also the train journey was great and so was the food.

Lizzie A

I loved it all practically but my favourite has got to be walking in the hills and jumping over the fountains, then laughing when they whooshed up and caught someone by surprise.

Harriet.

1st Wychwood Guides meets every Wednesday evening during term time. 7.30pm-9pm in New Beaconsfield Hall



Splashing about in Worcester