

Guiding through the Years

Memories from 1949

In 1949 aged eleven I joined a newly formed Guide Company. I hadn't been a Brownie but 3rd West Oxfordshire Company was started at the church I attended, St. Paul's in Botley, so I joined them. I always knew I would be a Brownie or a Guide. After all, my mother (who is still alive and will be 99 in May 2010) had been a Guide and a Guide Captain in East Oxford. In her sixties she ran the Cubs in Woodstock.

Later, we lived in a very small village, North Hinksey, near Botley, and I went to school in North Oxford. There were no other girls my age living in the village at the time so my trips to Guides once a



week were very important to me.

I remember in 1951 going to London by train to The Festival of Britain with the Guides and in the early 1950s to a Guide Jamboree in Oxford's Morrell Park. I remember that the Chief Guide Lady Baden Powell was there.

When I was fourteen I went to a new school which had its own Guide Company. This was great fun, especially when one summer we went for a whole week to Pangbourne, to a wonderful campsite on the banks of the River Thames! Our parents were invited in the middle of the week but it was much too good to share with them and we managed somehow to put them off! **Jane Hills**

First Wychwood Guides in 2009

Last September the 1st Wychwood Guides and Senior Section joined other units from the District for a fun day at the Wildlife Park in Burford to mark the start of a year-long celebration of 100 years of



Guiding. A mass picnic of hundreds of Rainbows, Brownies and Guides was followed by an address from the various Guiding dignitaries before two Young Leaders led everyone in some action songs. After this it was the Guides' turn to take part in various activities; including playing the didgeridoo, making masks, playing with a huge parachute and seeing if we could get round an assault course. Everyone took home a 'goodie bag' full of items commemorating 100 years. Celebrations for the Centenary continue. We have now learnt a Scottish dance called *A Hundred Thousand Welcomes*. Representatives from the Stow Scottish Country Dancing Club offered to teach us this and gave their time over several evenings. The dance was created by Guides in Scotland, has four couples and includes forming the number 100 to mark the Centenary. 1st Wychwood Guides performed it at the Ceilidh held in Milton Village Hall before Christmas. We are performing it again at the Thinking Day Celebrations in Chadlington at the end of February. **Charlotte Redman**
1st Wychwood Guides