

Guiding: Party at the Palace



Months of planning came to fruition on May 15th /16th as *Girlguiding UK Oxfordshire* celebrated 100 years of Guiding with a big party at Blenheim Palace. This 'Party at the Palace' was enjoyed by approximately 4,000 Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Senior Section members, who came together to try a whole range of activities from Zip Wire and Synchronised Swimming on Land, to belly dancing and street dancing, Archery, Rocket Making and Circus Skills and not forgetting the more traditional Guiding activities such as Outdoor Cooking and Semaphore. The

Duke and Duchess of Marlborough made us very welcome, even allowing a helicopter from RAF Benson to land in the grounds to become a static attraction. The whole day, amid glorious sunshine, drew to a close with a Giant Picnic and Sing-Song.

The Guides and Senior Section then held a huge sleepover, (or not sleeping in most cases) under the stars, having spent the evening listening to various bands and enjoying a Hog Roast. At 5.07am on Sunday morning, just as the sun rose above the trees some members renewed their Promise. Finally, after an early breakfast the very tired girls were reunited with their parents and returned home.

How privileged we all were to be part of such a once in a lifetime experience. May Girlguiding go from strength to strength so the girls of the future can continue to enjoy the camaraderie and challenges that Guiding has given so many girls.

Irene Gough

Wychwood Division Commissioner

Leaffield Guides win Malvern Challenge 2010

The Malvern Challenge is a major national Scouting and Guiding Challenge event held each year on the last weekend of June at Cleeve Hill near Cheltenham. The competitors have to undertake an eight mile hike completing challenges en route for which they are marked on accuracy and team work. This year the challenges included First Aid, Mapping, Abseiling, Rifle shooting, and practical problem solving. There were around 2,000 competitors in 480 teams of three to six people on the hottest weekend of the year so far. A team of three girls from Leaffield guides; Kim Bishop, Jessica Myatt and Emma Biggs won the competition with a score of over 2,900



points. This is a huge achievement and they are a credit to themselves, their unit and Girlguiding Oxfordshire. Well done!

Jane Digby,

Leader 1st Leaffield Guides