

Sources of Hope – Brownies and Guides

You may not have seen much of the Brownies in the last six months, but the unit has been very active! Within a few weeks of lockdown we were up and running on Zoom in our normal Friday afternoon slot.



We carried on through the Easter and half-term breaks, as the girls were very much enjoying our weekly meetings. In addition to adapted versions of programme activities, we enjoyed a few specials, such as a share-a-pet evening (stuffed animals for those of us who don't have live pets), quizzes and scavenger hunts, several national and international online events and challenges; and we finished off the summer term with a virtual sleepover, which saw me setting up camp under the dining table.

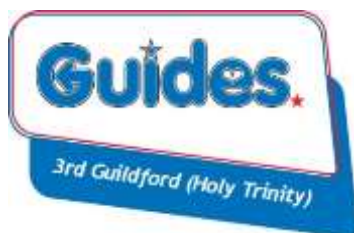


Last month, we met at a safe social distance in the churchyard (having jumped through quite a few hoops). As the evenings become darker and colder, we've reverted to Zoom for the time being. One of the activities we have undertaken is to compile a scrapbook of our pandemic experiences which will be donated to the archive at Guildford Museum.



Helen Lee

October 2020



On 19 March 2020 weekly Guide meetings had to cease owing to the coronavirus pandemic. Girlguiding UK stopped all meetings until further notice. From April we held our weekly meetings via Zoom. As leaders we had to adapt our normal resources and deliver the programme remotely. Challenges were also sent out to the girls, via their parents.

We have made snack packs to take on walks, filtered water, drawn up lists to think about when planning a holiday, made up dance routines, made cookies, had a quiz and built a robot – called The Beast – out of recycled materials. We started this particular meeting by looking at all our recycling material and telling each other their alternative uses. For instance, a plastic bottle could be a telescope or a backscratcher. Each girl was then given a

body part and off-air had to build that part of the robot. When we came back together the body parts were shown.



Although Girlguiding UK allowed face-to-face meetings to take place in the autumn term, the unit leaders decided to continue with the Zoom meetings. Over the summer units were able to apply for free Zoom accounts, meaning that we no longer have to log in again after 40 minutes.

This term we are doing the Virtual Camping badge. We have made pitta pizzas, which looked delicious, and armpit fudge; done stargazing; made dens, some of which were very elaborate complete with fairy lights; and learned first aid.

Our powers of observation were tested with mapping with a modern twist. Dashcam footage was compared to a traditional Ordnance Survey map. The girls had to discover where they were from a virtual 'drive' using satellite view in Google maps.

We have places in the unit for girls aged 10+. Please contact Ann Pierce (ann.pierce@ntlworld.com).

Ann Pierce

October 2020

(NB – both articles were written before the new restrictions came in on 5 November)