

The Formation of the Girl Guides in Goxhill

Below are some notes I made when Mrs Jackie Ellis and I started the 1st Goxhill Guides. I stayed with the Guides for about a year until my children's competitive swimming took more of my time. Jackie stayed a little longer before leaving to be Post Mistress in Worlaby. With the ending of the company in the village, I thought readers might find them interesting.

Jayne Bright

July 1971: Mrs Ellis and myself have been approached by Mrs Brawn of the Brownies with regard to forming a Girl Guide company (this was because she had learned that both of us had been Guides, although neither of us had continued with the idea of becoming 'Guiders' but both of us had enjoyed this time in our life).

7th September 1971: *Goxhill County School, 6.30-8pm. Number of girls expected: 10. Number that turned up: 9.*

After general greetings had been exchanged, we got the girls seated in a horseshoe formation for a general talk about Guides and Guiding. Surprised to find very few girls actually knew anything about the movement, which can, on reflection be a good thing as Mrs Ellis and myself have not only to remember our Guiding days but also keep abreast of present day ideas.

Girls were shown handbook, also old copies of the 'Guide' were issued to be read during the coming week and exchanged among themselves. We decided to split the girls into two patrols but not to decide on a leader and 2nd until after enrolment as we wish to observe girls' progress and work capabilities and not make this an age decision.

... Approximately halfway through the evening we went into school yard for games lasting approximately 20 minutes. After returning to schoolroom we explained the promise and eight points. This was not very easy as we only had two handbooks. We decided to set up the girls a task which would cover becoming a 'homemaker' and asked them to make their own beds for one week (this was greeted with silence and then 'we haven't made them before' from the majority of the girls). We next explained the necessity of looking smart and well turned out in uniform. This was done with the aid of a copy of 'Today's Guide' which showed a full page picture of a Guide in uniform. After a general chat we broke up for the evening, 20 minutes later than planned.

We let the girls decide for themselves what patrol emblem they would adopt. The patrol consisting of Shirley Lamming, Brenda Lammiman, Jacki Lamming, Margaret Finlay and Tina Burford decided on red, and the other consisting of Janet Dent, June van den Bos, Lynda Percy and Julia Shearwood decided on daffodil.

10th September 1971: Mrs Ellis and myself, plus Mrs Sims and Mrs Brawn of the Brownie pack have attended an 'at home' given by Mrs Wood our district commissioner during which she introduced Mrs Mollett who is to be our new DC. Mrs Frank of South Ferriby is to be her deputy. Had some quite useful conversations with various other guiders from the area. We also discussed the registering of our company (which has to be going for approximately three months), also the warranting of Mrs Ellis and myself and the enrolment of our girls. We understand that we have to attend at least one training session before we can be warranted and are thus hoping to be able to attend a local one, i.e. Scunthorpe or Grimsby. We had arranged to go to Waddow w/e 17/9/71 but this was not possible as no vacancies existed upon application. This will now have to be postponed until spring of next year as weather conditions will not be good during the winter and family commitments for Christmas will need planning.

If you would like to read more of these reminiscences,
they continue on our website www.goxhill-gander.com

And if you have stories of your time as a Guide in Goxhill over the past 37 years, we would love to hear them. Please get in touch in the usual way: goxhill-gander@fsmail.net

Reminder: All readers and residents are invited to the Gander's Annual General Meeting on Thursday 19th March at 7.30pm in the Parish Room.