

The past year has been a busy one for the Guides with a very varied programme of activities.

We did our annual church cleaning session in May 2017 and will be spending part of an evening doing that again later this month. This counts towards the Guides' annual Community Service.

The summer of 2017 was one of our best ever for good weather and long sunny evenings. We were able to get out onto the Playing Field for evenings of outdoor games. We also had several successful cookouts, gathering kindling and cooking our suppers the traditional way over open fires. This remains one of the favourite Guide activities and we are looking forward to being able to do this again later this term.

In the Autumn the Guides did a quite long craft project and each of us made a fairy house lantern out of recycled plastic bottles and newspaper. This took longer than perhaps we'd expected but the results looked very pretty when they were lit up with battery T lights. The Guides decided they'd like to hold a candle lit Promise Ceremony for new girls to which all parents were invited and for families to see all our Fairy Town on display and lit up.

In between crafting each patrol was also working on activities they had chosen themselves which counted towards badges. We ended the Christmas term with a party.

In January we lost a couple of the older Guides, but a new girl joined. Some of the girls and families went on our annual trip to see the Pantomime in Bridgwater.

February meant more patrol activities and involved girls doing all sorts of varied things they had chosen. Some made bath bombs while others cooked popcorn or tried making models of hot air balloons. We had to cancel Guides at the beginning of March because of the snow. The end of the term meant making chocolate Easter nests and Easter Cards.

Over the Easter holiday Sue had the opportunity to join an adventure to Mexico staying in the World Guiding Centre in Cuernavaca near Mexico City. This was in a group of 22 women and girls mostly from Wells Division. After this we held a Mexican evening for Chilton Polden Guides where they were shown a few photos of pyramids, a sea turtle sanctuary and other interesting things Sue had seen. They tried Mexican food (we had several new converts to that because of the tastings) and started some Mexican themed crafts. The Guides have all painted some small papier mache animals with traditional Mexican designs and are making bracelets out of fake turquoise stones made out of dried potato chunks (this looks more authentic than you'd think!).

Last week the Guides had a talk from a Guide Leader who hopes to start a Ranger Unit in Bridgwater which would give our girls somewhere to go after they get to 14.

Our Guides have also been offered various opportunities to take part in activities such as sailing or being messengers at the Bath & West Show. Sometimes only a few girls take up these offers but it is good for them to realise we are part of a much bigger organisation which does more than our Unit can do alone.

We are a smallish Guide Unit at the moment, with 10 girls, one Young Leader and two Adult Leaders. There is another adult who hopes to join us as a helper in a few weeks. This will be useful because Sarah Burne now works away from home quite a lot and must miss quite a lot of meetings. Within the next couple of years Sue wishes to retire from running the Unit and Sarah will also be moving on to other things. Sue has done 23 years as a Leader and Sarah nearly 12 so both feel it is time to let others have a turn. We will be advertising soon for volunteers who might be interested in finding out about Guiding and who might be prepared to train to take over eventually. We do not want the Unit to close down but we do need new Leaders to replace us both.