

WORCESTERSHIRE HOSTS THREE COUNTIES CAMP TO CELEBRATE GIRLGUIDING UK'S CENTENARY

More than 700 girls from across Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Shropshire have spent a week (Sunday 1 - Saturday 8 August 2010) taking part in archery, camp challenges, sport, environmental activities, and making new friends with guides from Russia, to celebrate Girlguiding UK's centenary.

The girls, along with more than 200 adult volunteers, spent the week in a tented village at Ombersley Park by kind permission of Lord and Lady Sandys.

Jo Chester, the County Commissioner for Worcestershire says the centenary camp was a wonderful way for guides in the three counties to celebrate the centenary: "To have an event like this takes a huge amount of time and effort to plan, but it's worth it when you have an amazing week like the one we have just had. The girls and all the volunteers from across the three counties have met old friends and made new, and have celebrated our centenary at a place where there are close links to Lady Baden-Powell - the founder of the Girl Guides."

She goes on to explain: "Lord Sandys' mother was the travelling companion and close friend to Lady Baden-Powell so its wonderful to be able to have our camp here, and have a direct link to the history of Girlguiding."

Lord Sandys adds: "Lady BP, as she was always known, was appointed World Chief Guide in 1931 and was passionately enthusiastic that Guiding should be enjoyable and fun, while at the same time stretching and rewarding - something that I have been delighted to witness here this week."

Over the course of the week, girls from across the three counties, and some visiting guides from Russia, have taken part in a range of many and varied fun activities and challenges.

This camp was one of a series of events organised by Girlguiding Worcestershire over the last 12 months to celebrate Girlguiding's centenary year, which continues until October 2010.

NOTES FROM LORD SANDYS:

Lady Baden Powell was a close friend of my mother for nearly 70 years, and accompanied her on some of her early post World War 2 missions to France, Holland, Greece and Switzerland from 1945 onwards.

Our centuries old oak in the park where this Camp has been held has witnessed many events - from military parades in 1807 of the Worcester Volunteers and a centenary later the Worcestershire Yeomany held regular annual camps. More recently the National Championships of many Field Archery Clubs from all over the country and two years ago the very successful Camp Enchanted for Brownies was held on the same site.