

Account of Purley on Thames

Guides and Brownies

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The following item appeared in the Purley Parish News of January 1933:-

GIRL GUIDES

The 1st Purley (Berks) Girl Guide Company was started in June 1931, and now has two warranted Guiders, seven Guides and three Recruits. Three members of the company and one guider went to the Divisional Camp at Ramsbury (Wilts) in August last, and fortunately came in for the beginning of a heat wave. The other Guider went to a training camp at Exmouth. The Rose Bowl, which was given for annual competition amongst the companies in the Pangbourne District has been won by the 1st Purley Company.

As the company is the smallest in the District and it is the first time they had competed, it is a very gratifying result. A very successful concert was organized by the Guides with the help of Mrs Tidbury and her school children on December 3 last. A sum of £4 5s was taken and I should like to thank all those who came out and so generously gave their support.

H Mole (Captain)

Bill Fisher had moved into Glebe Road in 1932 with his family and recalls that among the guides were Mabel Tidbury, Joan Tidbury, Phyllis Rawlins and Phyllis Leath. Joy Day would have been 11 at the time and he recollects that she joined in 1933. Other guides of the time were Peggy Watwick and Joan Aberly and Mary Lister was a Guide Lieutenant. (ref *a)

The following extract by Lynne Barnes is taken from Purley Parish News of December 1965:-

BROWNIES AND GUIDES

The Purley Guide Company is re-opening. Come back in all you overgrown Brownies, Be Prepared is our motto. Let us be prepared to face difficulties, to learn with open eyes and ears, to work hard, to do our best to serve God and other people, and to seek and find something of the excitement and inspiration that Guiding conjures up in the minds and memories of those of us on whom it casts its spell. Guiding is a game, the emphasis being not on competition but on enjoyment. And enjoy ourselves we will or bust!

Lynette Barnes

Purley and Pangbourne Guides

In 1967 the troupe was renamed 'The 1st Purley and Pangbourne Guide Company and Brownies Pack' and had 16 members. (ppn 5/67)

In 1985 Freda Horton of Orchard Close was the Guide leader. This was the 75th anniversary year of Guiding. among the activities were:-

District Thinking Day on 24 Feb;

Anniversary camp at East Grinstead on 24 May;

a service for the County leaders on 23rd June;

a special candle from Buckingham Palace carried on a 125 High Speed Train on 24th June

and a birthday party at Newbury on 29th June (ppn 2/85).

Another project of the guides was a walk along the Thames tow path. This was done in sections of around ten miles or so a day and many groups of guides passed through Purley during the year.

Brownies

Inaugurated shortly after the scouts in 1937. Miss Mole was Brown Owl and Mrs Walden was Tawney Owl. (ref *a)

The Brownie Pack was transferred to Pangbourne in December 1965 their new Brown Owl being Miss Hanlon of 10 Mile House Tidmarsh Road. They were taken to Pangbourne by car leaving at 5.15 from the River estate but had to catch the 7.30 pm bus home.

In 1970 the Brownie Guider (Mrs Huntingford) was about to emigrate so an appeal was made for a replacement (ppn 8/70)

