

## **Girls just wanna have fun... and some have more fun than most! Be Prepared! ...to celebrate the Centenary of Girl Guiding**

**Hollytrees Museum, Colchester**  
**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010**

Girls just wanna have fun... and some have had more fun than most for 100 years. Now Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service have joined with Essex North East Guide Archive to celebrate 100 years of Girlguiding in the region. Come and enjoy our new, **free** exhibition which is opening on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March** at Hollytrees Museum in Colchester.

It was 100 years ago when a small group of courageous girls stepped forward at the 1909 Boy Scouts Rally in Crystal Palace Park and asked its Founder, Robert Baden-Powell, for 'something for the girls'. Girlguiding has come a long way since then. Visit the exhibition and explore 100 years of Girlguiding in Essex. This is a rare opportunity to see some interesting items from the earliest days of Guiding in Essex.

Susan Leng, Essex North East Girlguide Archivist, said *"This exhibition is a wonderful opportunity to display what has happened over the last 100 years in Girlguiding. This centenary is not only a celebration of Girlguiding's past, but also its future. It shows that the organisation has and always will be relevant to the girls of the day."*

Highlights include film footage of Princess Margaret's visit to the Guide Rally at Hylands Park in 1949, an original watercolour by Agnes Baden - Powell and a beautifully illustrated Log book which details all the activities of the Dedham Guides between 1931 and 1973. The display also includes log books, badges, uniforms, photographs and lots of local Girl Guiding memorabilia and much, much more.

Ciara Canning, Community History Curator at Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service said *"Many girls have been involved with Girlguiding at some stage in their lives, as Brownies, Guides or leaders. This exhibition gives us a chance to tell their stories and pass on the magic and history of Guiding to all our visitors."*

**In preparation for this exhibition**, rainbows, brownies and guides across Colchester have been busy building a toadstool and designing entries for a camp blanket badge competition.

During February, members of the 27<sup>th</sup> Colchester Garrison Brownies worked with artist Alison Stockwood to make a toadstool for the exhibition. Many of these brownies will be attending the opening of the exhibition and will take their promise around the toadstool, in the museum. The brownie unit will keep their toadstool after the exhibition has been closed to use in their meetings.

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides have been submitting their entries for designing a camp blanket badge competition. At the beginning of January Ali Naylor, Learning Officer from Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service set the challenge of designing a camp blanket badge which scouts, beavers, cubs, rainbows brownies and guides could use. Their design had to represent Colchester and Ipswich museums or what they meant to them. There were lots of fantastic and colourful designs; congratulations to the winner Eleanor Deal from 1<sup>st</sup> Tey Rainbows.

Ali Naylor Learning Officer Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service said *"This exhibition has given us an opportunity to work with the girls and display their work in the museum and learn more about the history of guiding."*

Hollytrees Museum, High Street, Colchester

**FREE admission**

Tel: 01206 282940

Opening times:      Monday to Saturday 10am – 5pm  
                             Sunday 11am – 5pm  
                             All year round

### **Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service**

Our vision is to create a museum service that is a source of pride, inspiration and fun.

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