

The story of our year

Brassington Brownies Annual Report 2014

We started the dark nights of the year with the Stargazer Badge, star gazing outside the Hall, making umbrellas with the constellations marked inside, acting out the stories of the constellations, and making a live solar system, with Brownies going round the sun as planets and moons.

For Thinking Day we joined the District in the Russia Challenge, making headdresses, decorating spoons, beading, decorating eggs, learning ballet, and travelling through Russia.

This year we focused on the Big Brownie Birthday, celebrating 100 years since Brownies started. The Big Brownie Birthday Challenge included activities from 'You', the 'Community', and the 'World', from across the last 100 years.

For the 'World', we went on an insect walk, then made insect homes. Each Six painted a dragon boat for Chinese New Year, we had races in them, and then turned them into an art installation at the Village Hall. Snowy Owl had a six week adventure across the USA, so we followed her progress on a map with regular postcards and messages. For New York we decided on a Six code of conduct, and each girl wove one of the symbols of America. We visited Hollywood, and awarded 'Olivia's' rather than 'Oscars' for acting. In San Francisco we did the All American challenge. In Savannah we had a Girl Scout night and campfire to celebrate the birthplace of Girl Scouting. When Snowy Owl came back she brought us Girl Scout cookies and badges.

For the 'Community' we joined in Starquest days in Derby and Chesterfield, and Ashbourne District Big Brownie Birthday party and camp. We had indoor and outdoor campfires, and invited Ashbourne and Brailsford Rainbows to visit us for the evening. The Brownie Sixes made chocolates with the Rainbows, and entertained them. For 'You', we grew plants, cooked dampers, marshmallows and breakfast on campfires, made happy boxes, played on an inflatable, and re-made our Brownie Promise in an unusual place (at camp).

We collected a record number of Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers and the Brownies chose body balls, a mini parachute, a target and other fitness equipment.





In the summer we did the Moo and Oink badges, making chocolate pigs in a pond, finding out about milk, designing

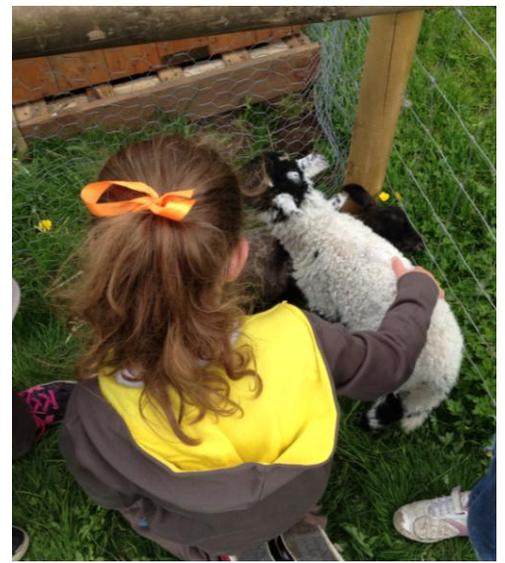
a new type of cow, and visiting a farm on Open Farm Sunday, where we met some calves and lambs, and watched cows being milked.

Our camp was great fun, spending the day in the Past, Present, and Future, with tracking trails, bottle rockets, traditional crafts, and lots of games, including an inflatable pirate assault course. Captain Jack Sparrow joined us for tea, and we had a traditional campfire before the day visitors left, and the campers settled down in their tents for the night.

We finished the term with a football coaching session from Wirksworth Colts, an evening thinking about how we could help others to feel good, a craft night including loom bands, and a Pyjama Beach party (the Brownies couldn't agree on a theme!) where they made tropical fruit mocktails, and limbo'ed.

Over the Summer Brownies worked on the 'Looming Marvellous' badge, then in the autumn we did the Cooks and Cooks Advanced badges, where the girls made fun foods, and cooked a meal for their group.

Our Pack Holiday was very exciting, as we took six Brownies to London by train for the weekend in November, staying at Pax Lodge, one of the Guide World Centres. We visited the poppies at the Tower, had a cruise down the Thames, and played Halloween games. We did the London Challenge which included travelling on as many means of transport as we could. On Saturday we had permission to watch the Changing of the Guard from inside the railings, a great privilege. We had a picnic in the





park, went to the Guards shop, then on to Evensong at Westminster Abbey, where we saw the Baden-Powell memorial. We went to Pizza Hut, and played games on Saturday evening, and then on Sunday we saw the Jacqueline Wilson exhibition at the Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, looking at Harry

Potter's luggage trolley on the way home.

We worked on the Poppy Challenge during November, meeting the father of a serving soldier and trying ration packs, sending a parcel to a helicopter pilot in Afghanistan, making a poppy wreath, poppy cupcakes, and watching a British Legion film about men and women who serve now, and during the First World War. We visited Brassington Church to lay the wreath, and practiced for our service to celebrate 100 years of Brownies and 30 years of Brassington Brownies. The service was planned by the Brownies, who welcomed people, took the collection, did readings, sang, spoke about being a Brownie, and did refreshments.

We joined the District for the Christmas Challenge, went ten pin bowling, did lots of Christmas crafts, decorated cakes, finishing the year making biscuits in our initials and St. Nicholas boxes at a Dutch Christmas, and finally Santa came to our Christmas party.

Our numbers increased during the year from 21 to 28 Brownies, so teamwork and leadership were important, as the Brownies worked and played in groups, chose activities, and the Sixers and Seconds learnt how to lead and work with their Sixes. We started the revised Brownie Programme, working in groups on Adventure, Adventure On, and More Adventure badges. Towards the end of the year we recruited a new leader, Barn Owl (a former Queens Guide), and we also have Dove working on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme with us. Our excellent young leaders Parrot and Puffin led groups and activities throughout the year. Tawny Owl was doing her own recruiting, and knew by the end of the year that she was expecting a Rainbow!



Brownie Leaders: Wendy Slater, Louisa Brotherhood, June Baldwin. Karen Bowen