

## **GIRLGUIDING UPDATE 2024 – Clare Buxton**

1st Addiscombe Guides has been active since 1953. We celebrated our 70th birthday last year. 12th Addiscombe Brownies has been going since 1975. I suspect the 1st Addiscombe Brownies was a lot older but we kept the Wednesday pack on. As you know, Girlguiding is always oversubscribed and waiting lists are huge. I keep mentioning how many units we have lost since 2010. After the Pandemic even more closed. We are desperate for volunteers. But not just people who are willing to help occasionally, we are desperate for adults to take over the insurance, organisation and administration of the units which no matter how much easier it is made electronically, is still a big ask.

I have decided to celebrate the 50th Birthday of the Brownies in October and then step down at Christmas, since I have done this since 2001 and Ellie and Sophia will have gone to University.

We have had a lovely year. Brownies and Guides had an activity camp at Blacklands Farm in September followed by a Radcliffe Under the Sea themed weekend including a trip to Brighton sea life centre.

In the Autumn term the Brownies learned how to make Christmas Cake and ice it, they had a silent disco which wasn't silent... In the Spring we did a badge with the RSPB at Southwark Park: we made animal masks and played beetle drive and crazy chameleons. This term we pretended to be gladiators at Frylands Wood and learned practical first aid. We did our annual rounders match with families and a picnic in the park this week. We are doing a sponsored skip next week for the British Heart Foundation. We are always very busy and aim to do a range of sporting, crafting and cooking, which the girls love.

We have redone all the storage in the cupboard, removed the doors and put in better shelves. Plastic boxes with lids all match and all are labelled. The shed is also tidy. We have lovely resources - they are all used and loved. Anyone taking over would not need to spend much money at all. The bank accounts are healthy and all the planning is there and ready to use. I can share all my letters and organisation tips etc.

I really do not want our two remaining units to close I think it is too valuable!

### **RIP:**

1st Rainbows

5th Rainbows

1st Brownies

9th Brownies

9th Guides