

# 1st Cotton and Bacton Girlguiding units report

May 2024



Our youngest members are 1<sup>st</sup> Cotton and Bacton Rainbows, a group of 4 to 7-year-old girls, who meet for an hour in the early evening and participate in a programme of activities which are lots of fun, usually very loud, sometimes rather messy, and with hopefully a little learning thrown in.



1<sup>st</sup> Cotton and Bacton Brownies are our 7 to 10-year-old members, who work together in small groups to make every activity an adventure



1<sup>st</sup> Cotton and Bacton Guides are our 10- to 14-year-old girls who use the Girlguiding programme as a basis to plan out their own activities, either as individuals, in small groups, or as a unit, all chosen by the girls with advice and monitoring from their leader.

1<sup>st</sup> Cotton and Bacton Rainbows, Brownies, and Guides all meet on a Wednesday evening in Bacton Village Hall, moving the playing field at Cotton Village Hall for the last few weeks of summer term, so that we can do our outdoor activities such as water games and scavenger hunts. Currently we have 46 young members.

We have been very grateful in the past year to receive a donation of £300.00 from The Bacton Charities. We have also been given the opportunity to raise £330.00 at The Bacton Fayre and £78.00 at the Church Jubilee fete and £75.00 from The Community Circle Café of Cotton in 2023. This money is split evenly between the 3 units and helps us keep costs to parents at a minimum. As our annual subscription cost to Girlguiding this year is £2,550.00 and then we also need to pay rent and buy badges, books, programme resources, craft materials etc this extra money has been hugely welcome.

All of our units were proud to participate in The Remembrance Sunday service in Bacton in November 2023.

The **Guides** create a programme for themselves using Girlguiding resources, and they have enjoyed a lot of food orientated badges.. They have also been introduced to some traditional Guiding activities by the leaders such as sewing badges on a camp blanket and making armpit fudge.

The **Brownies** have completed their Languages and Painting badges. They learnt Japanese from a fluent speaker and taught us some words from other languages that they had investigated. They have had a visit from a local artist who showed them many genres of art and introduced them to some painting techniques before they had a chance to experiment with paint and create some master pieces of their own. The girls also had the opportunity to learn about tools and gained hands on experience using hammers and screw drivers under the watchful eye of a local builder. This term they are looking into various Charities and have had the opportunity to design their own tie dye t-shirts.

The **Rainbows** have worked on their Book Lover and Drawing badges this year. The girls had a trip to Stowmarket Library to find out how a library works and to discover some new books, they have created art work and done some exciting experiments with everyday items. This term the Rainbows are working on the Recycling badge and have so far made puppets from old socks, thought about how to best reuse items and look forward to making bird feeders.

All of the girls from aged 4 to 14 will be having an outing in July to go Tobogganing in Ipswich and look forward to the annual water games evening.

All of our groups are looking for new volunteers as the current team will be stepping back at the end of July. 1<sup>st</sup> Cotton and Bacton Brownies first opened in August 1967, Guides in 1969 and Rainbows in 1991. We are hopeful that Brownies will be able to continue as we have a volunteer prepared to take on the leadership role and work towards gaining all the necessary qualifications to run the unit ,and we also have volunteer who is able to attend the meetings to help maintain ratios. We only need to find one more volunteer who will be prepared to take all the qualification required, help with some planning and to assist at meetings. Sadly, we have had no interest for Rainbows or Guides so they are both looking to close at the end of July.

Kind regards,

Rainbow, Brownie and Guide Leaders

1<sup>st</sup> Cotton and Bacton units

