

## **I went to tea with Lady Baden-Powell...**

During the last week of July 1970, Oxfordshire celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of Guiding with a large camp at Barton Abbey. The VIP guest for the last campfire was the World Chief Guide, Lady Olave Baden-Powell who was 81 years old at the time. It had been arranged that Lady B-P and her driver, Gladys, would spend the night of the campfire with the local District Commissioner, Miss Cecily Hacon whom she knew through mutual friends.

At the time of these celebrations I was a Lieutenant (now known as Assistant Guider) with 1<sup>st</sup> Bloxham Guides (Cherwell Division). Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the camp as I was recovering from glandular fever and was not well enough to go. Miss Hacon very kindly invited my mother and me to join her and her famous guest for tea on the afternoon of 27<sup>th</sup> July, to make up for my disappointment at not taking part in the camp. Needless to say, I was thrilled to have the opportunity to meet the World Chief Guide face-to-face and not just a view from afar!

My mother and I presented ourselves at Miss Hacon's cottage at the appointed time. I wore my specially pressed Guider's uniform and tried to think of something entertaining to say, if spoken too. Tea was a very traditional affair - soft boiled eggs, bread and butter, and fruit cake. I needn't have worried about conversation as Lady B-P held the floor with many amusing tales of her experiences and adventures in Guiding over many years. She congratulated me on gaining the Queen's Guide Award and asked me what I wanted to do in my future Guiding career. I was a fairly new Guider and my knowledge of the opportunities available was small at that time. I replied that I would like to become Captain (Guider-in-charge) of my own Unit, to become a District Commissioner and visit Our Chalet\*. Lady B-P shook my hand, as we left, and wished me 'the most tremendous' success in achieving my ambitions and for my future life.

What an experience!! I have thought of that meeting many times during my Guiding life and been inspired by the memory of her truly remarkable personality and presence.

Sue Addison  
(County Registrations Secretary and Asst. Brownie Guider)

*\*I managed to achieve these ambitions and enjoy many more opportunities along the way.*