



The start of the summer term saw a new leadership team in charge at Hemsby Brownies, three adults & two Young Leaders, all with some guiding experience. So it was not long before everyone got to know each other and the weekly meetings settled into a routine.

The Brownie programme is called the 'Brownie Adventure' & is based around the areas of You, Community and World, so all meetings, outing & activities should fit into one or more of these areas to enable the girls to achieve their Adventure badges. With this in mind the programme for the summer term was to work towards their 'Out & About' interest badge. This included learning in a fun way about the serious topics of the Green Cross, Country & Water Safety codes and what precautions to take against bad weather or being caught out in the dark. They all practiced how to use a compass, read, set a map and walk on a compass bearing. All these skills were put to good use on several occasions when we were out & about in the community; a photo scavenger hunt made us explore & be more observant in the area around our meeting place; a mini hike took us along the beach from Hemsby to Winterton and the girls planned using a map then undertook a walk going further afield.

We also enjoyed a visit from Cotswold Clothing who brought a variety of clothing for the girls to try on & learn about what to wear & how to pack a rucksack. The tents they brought provided some real fun when they announced a race between girls & leaders to pitch them. The pop up tent was also a hit until the time came to pack it away, the girls wanted to sleep the night, & we had great difficulty getting it back into the bag. When time allowed we also made the most of the fine evenings by enjoying some parachute games on the field.

We welcomed Macey a much needed new member to the unit swelling our numbers to eight. A Promise Celebration for Tayla & Eleanor was held on 15th July, when their parents came along to join in this special occasion. The girls made Promise bunting for each to take home and we also enjoyed food provided by the Holli, Ellen & Megan who were taking their Hostess badge. All girls having completed the five required clauses were awarded their "Out & About" badge.

Our final evening which was a warm sunny one, was a treat provided by Richard Hurst who drove us around his farm by tractor & trailer. We all learnt about the crops he grows, the wild life meadow, came face to face (well almost) with his herd of cattle & looked for wild life in the ponds. Thankfully, without anyone getting wet.

After the summer break we are now back to regular weekly meetings, the first half of term we are working towards the Season badge (autumn section) which includes learning about animals that hibernate, star constellations, making a collage & some cooking using autumn fruits. Not giving to much away we also have planned some games evenings with a difference, a community project & a traditional Christmas party. We are also offering a sleepover in October which will be the first time any of these girls have been on a Brownie residential, what an adventure to look forward too. The girls can also join with others from Gt Yarmouth & Gorleston at the Christmas Dabbles Day to try their hand at some Christmas crafts. A visit to the Gorleston panto Goldilocks & the Three Bears is also being offered by the Fleggs District of which the girls are part.

If all this is not enough next year is going to be a very busy one for Brownies as it is the 'Big Brownie Birthday' when we are all celebrating 100 years of Brownies. A variety of exciting adventures are being planned and the unit hope to join in some if not all.

All of this of course takes money of which the unit is rather short. The girls obviously pay a subscription which covers the basics running costs but we would like to increase funds to help pay for part of next years special events. Thanks go to Hemsby Parish Council who kindly donated £100 and Hemsby bingo who are donating the profits from their monthly meeting on 20th September. Please come along to meet & support us then. Any other fundraising events we will advertise nearer the time.

More girls would also make the unit more cost effective so we are wanting to increase our numbers slightly. The girls have made some posters to put up & cards to distribute to their non Brownie friends. So please watch out for these or visit the Girl Guiding web site (www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested) to find out more or register an interest in joining the unit.