

ELLESBOROUGH GUIDE CENTRE



Girlguiding Buckinghamshire own just one property, Ellesborough Guide Centre situated at the heart of the County at the foot of Coombe Hill part of the Chiltern Ridgeway. The building was originally the village school built in 1839 with grounds of almost two acres and part of the Chequers Estate. The school closed in 1969 and Bucks Guiding leased it for Brownie Pack Holidays, the Chequer's Trust enabled us to buy the property in 1984 and after some renovation work it was possible for all members to use the building for residentials, training, meetings and two campsites were incorporated.



It has become a much-loved site and many girls have experienced their first stay away from home, first camp, and new leaders their first training, parts of the building still retain some of the feel of a Victorian School. We have direct access to the Ridgeway from the rear of the field, so the site has become an immensely popular venue with other youth organisations from all around our County and further afield to use as an overnight stop for Duke of Edinburgh. Schools also from a wide area and including those whose young people have additional needs use a mix of camping and residential to enable them to complete their D of E whilst feeling far away from their urban areas.

It has been incredibly sad not seeing the site used this year, we have exciting plans to upgrade the facilities, replace the old Victorian toilets and incorporate them into a new building with 21C facilities for all our members, including a multipurpose room that can be used properly for meetings and activities. The Management Committee cannot wait to get going and see the site buzzing again with activity.

