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Press Release

GIRLGUIDING CENTENARY EXHIBITION OPENED BY 100 YEAR OLD FORMER LEADER.

On Friday 30th April 2010 Girlguiding Wirral, in partnership with Port Sunlight Museums, saw the official opening of their Guiding Centenary exhibition by former leader, Dorothy Procter, who is also celebrating her 100th birthday this year.

Dorothy, who will be 100 years old on 15th June this year, officially opened the exhibition '100 years on... Look at us now,' at the Lyceum Building in Port Sunlight. The exhibition, which runs until 31st September, is a fun and interactive exhibition which aims to show visitors a range of Guiding memorabilia from the past 100 years as well as showcasing what Guiding is about today.

Dorothy became interested in attending Guides after a school friend had pointed out that the Union Flag had been hung upside down. Dorothy, eager to find out more, soon joined her friend at the Emmanuel Guide Unit in Bootle, Liverpool.

After leaving Bootle, Dorothy moved to Willaston and later became a leader for 1st Eastham Guides. Dorothy remembers, with fondness, her times as a Guide and a Leader recalling how they would camouflage tents during the war, and holding meetings on a Saturday during the black out.

The exhibition, which has been partly funded by the Heritage Lottery Grant, is proud to be the biggest Guiding exhibition throughout the North-West showing a range of Guiding memorabilia, including badges, uniforms, camping equipment and much more. The exhibition is packed with a range of fun and interactive activities including the chance to try on old uniforms, listen to founder, Olave Baden Powell, on the telephone and a range of activities which will keep both the young and old alike entertained.

A local Brownie from 2nd Bromborough Brownies, said: "It is lots of fun and you get to learn lots. My favourite activity is definitely the giant board game."

The exhibition celebrates the achievements of local members from the very beginnings of the movement through to the modern day and demonstrates how guiding always has been, and still is relevant to today's girls.

County Commissioner for Girlguiding Wirral, Sue Dutton said: "It's a fabulous opportunity for members of the public to take a trip down memory lane see all the wonderful items on display and take part in the activities. With being close to the Port Sunlight Museums, visitors can really make a day of it."

Maggie Sparks, Chair of Port Sunlight Village Trust, added: "It's a fantastic exhibition and a great way to reminisce. It really shows off what Guiding today has to offer.'

The exhibition is open daily from 10am until 4pm and admission is free. Visitors are invited to come and look at what Guiding has achieved locally over the past 100 years and discover what the organisation offers today.