

Going Away With Part 4

May

So imagine this – You're one day away from the first holiday you've had for 3 years and you get an email. It's from the accommodation provider Docklands Scout Project and the email subject line is *8 May 2025 – Docklands Scout Project – Situation Report*. Mysterious, I thought.

Turns out they were updating us that – through no fault of theirs – they have had to cancel our booking for accommodation on their ship. Their landlords in their Canary Wharf location are the Canal and River Trust. I don't know enough about the situation to comment fully but it seems they are getting a poor deal on their new lease – higher cost and more restrictions. Cue small panic.

What was I going to do? Where are we going to stay? What am I going to say to my members?

I immediately messaged my friend, Lara for help. Thankfully Lara is very level-headed and great in a crisis. We came up with a plan, phone Girlguiding HQ first of all and post on the Facebook forums asking for London accommodation recommendations.

The Facebook post was inundated with recommendations, including a lady who had been in our exact position a month earlier. She chose to stay in YHA Earl's Court and said they had a lovely time and of course Girlguiding HQ got multiple recommendations. After many more hours getting quotes and checking maps, we narrowed it down to these two options. I rang Girlguiding HQ and left a message and also sent an email. They got back to me about 5 hours later with a quote for staying with them, incredible we were so lucky they had a spot! They were the same price but we would be sleeping on their floor mats and need to bring a sleeping bag, a bit of a downgrade from our dorm rooms, kitchen and hot drinks on tap! YHA could also fit us in, they had space at two branches and the Earl's court location

was better suited for what we were looking for – sadly it would mean needing to charge the members a little extra to make up the extra.

In order to make sure we had a member-led and parent informed decision, I put the dilemma out to the parents. Told them the issue, followed up by the solution:

- A. No extra charge, bring a sleeping bag and stay in Girlguiding HQ?
- B. £45 extra charge but we will have beds in dorm rooms?

Unanimously the members and their parents voted for option B. I got onto the YHA, confirmed the quote into a booking and breathed a tentative sigh of relief.

June

With the accommodation drama resolved, I focused on my last big fundraising push. I needed approximately £200 to cover what I had budgeted to need. I had been prepping for this stall since February, diligently making bracelets with Guide and Ranger across them, laiting 8 stranded friendship bracelets in Guides and Rangers colours and thinking of other ingenious ways to try and raise some funds. The fundraising stall (at county camp Guystonbury) came on the stipulation that all good cost less than £2 so I had to make sure that whatever I was doing was cost effective and have good margins for profit.

At the stall we had:

- Chocolate Tombola
- Guide and Ranger bead bracelets
- Friendship bracelets
- Crocheted mini items by one of my Guides, Lydia
- Chocolate tombola (prizes brought by the guides and rangers attending the trip)

- Adopt a mini turtle



had the best stall helpers at Guystonbury! By this point all the chocolate tombola had sold out!

Examples of the bracelets to inspire your own! Mixture of glass, clay and plastic (letters) beads.





Making our most popular item – the adopt a turtle, give something a cute name and people will want to take it home! I had 42 left at the end of the camp and they sold within the unit to members who couldn't come!

July

Straight forward month. I only needed to book one more thing which was the Uber boat tickets, I did it online and at least 7 days in advance so we got a pretty good discount! Had, one last meeting with my mentor to check over everything and then wait "patiently" for the week to roll around.