



# Poppy Planting

1st Dinton Guides voted to mark the 1914 centenary by planting poppy seeds in our community.

On Wednesday, 19th March 1st Dinton Guides were helped by Ralph Tebby and Tony Lisk to scatter poppy seeds around the war graves at St John's Church, Stone.

In commemoration of the 1914 centenary.



The poppy plants will flower from June - August.

We also plan to meet the church yard working party to sow poppy seed at St Peter & St Paul Church, Dinton.

Our Girl Guide Law focus this term has been 'A Guide respects all living things & takes care of the world around her'. It seems fitting that we are planting poppy seeds from Sutton's Wildlife Sanctuary range, they are good pollen producers & bee friendly.

Why not take a look at what we have been up to? [www.dinton.info](http://www.dinton.info) Dinton Guides



## Girl Guides Voluntary Work During WW1

In common with the many voluntary organisations that demonstrated extraordinary community spirit during World War I, the Girl Guides asked 'How can we help?'

The formation of the Girl Guides was a mere 4 years prior to the First World War yet they did a remarkable amount of service for their country. Girl Guides were even employed by MI5 as messengers, passing on classified information orally, even serving as messengers at the signing of the peace treaty in Versailles.

In a speech by the Director General of the Security Service on 15<sup>th</sup> Oct '09 at Bristol University, Jonathan Evans said "during the First World War Girl Guides were employed by MI5 as messengers within the building. The initial plan had been to use Boy Scouts but they proved feckless and noisy and the Girl Guides were a more reliable alternative. The Guides were required to be "between the ages of 14 and 16... of good standing, quick, cheerful and willing". They were allotted marks each day by their patrol leaders and at the end of the month the patrol with most points was awarded a prize picture which was theirs to keep for the following month."

The First World War failed to prevent the spirit of the Girl Guide Movement from blossoming. Girl Guides/Girl Scouts offered their services as volunteers in many countries including the United Kingdom, Austria and Poland. New groups emerged in France, Switzerland, Belgium, Czechoslovakia and Luxembourg.

**Did you know?** During World War I, members of the Girl Guides:

- made surgical dressing, rolled bandages and prepared stretchers.
- set up convalescent homes for the wounded & raised funds to set up and equip rest huts for soldiers.
- prepared khaki cloths and made shirts and other articles of soldiers' clothing.
- knitted socks to send to the front.
- collected waste paper for the Red Cross funds.
- assisted in the distribution of leaflets for war relief societies.
- raised awareness and funds for animal welfare, particularly horses.
- collected fruit to preserve.
- worked in munitions factories.

This meant that there was little time or access to equipment to make interest badges, so they hand embroidered them!

Harebell Patrol,  
(Patrol Leader E.K.Goddard)  
This picture was taken in an Ipswich Photographic studio, in 1918, during the last months of WW1.

