Official opening of the Polish scout centre funded by the St Briavels Fund

Wye Valley Woodside Centre

On Sunday 22 September we had great pleasure in welcoming many guests, benefactors and donors to Stanica Harcerska St Briavels – our Polish scout centre now known as Wye Valley Woodside Centre. Having had a special blessing ceremony at the end of May we have already had several bookings including hosting two of our own two-week cub and brownie camps this summer. We are delighted with our new facilities.

Despite the rainy weather, where the use of our hall came into full use, we were able to conduct the opening ceremony outside simultanously at three doors:

> At the main front door the white and red ribbon was ceremoniously cut by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire and our Project Manager hm. Andrzej Borowy. They were assisted by a rainbow brownie and cub scout who represented our Polish scouting future.
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> The balcony door ribbon was cut by the London Region Consul General of the Republic of Poland Mr Mateusz Stąsiek and a representative of the NGO who supported our applications for funds from the Polish Senat Ms Tatiana Čepukoit. They were assisted by one of our Polish scout leaders asp. Wojtek Długołęcki who represented our Polish scouting present.
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> The ribbon at the third door under the balcony was cut by Mr Czesław Maryszczak, Chair of the Polish Ex-Combatants in Great Britain Trust and Ben Bowker and Stefan Horowskyj from Architects Morgan Horowskyj. They were assisted by hm Ewa Petrusewicz who represented our Polish scouting past and the generation of our scout and guide leaders who established our centre in 1962 and developed it for over 50 years.

We celebrated the day together with members of the South-West Region Pomorze and Szczecin units, other friends in scouting, neighbours and friends. The day started with the celebration of Holy Mass followed by the opening ceremony and lunch prepared by our Friends of Polish Scouting. In the afternoon the weather was too unpredictable to be able to sit outside by the scouting camp fire, so we raised the roof of the new large hall with our traditional Polish scouting songs. This was also the time for for a long list of 'Thank you's' to all the organisations, scouting units and individuals who have supported the St Briavels Fund and without whom our dreams for the centre would not be bearing fruit.

The afternoon ended with a final word from our young Pomorze Region leader Wanda Osmond who reminded us that we have completed two phases of our project and that the famous 'White House' now awaits our attention.

The St Briavals Fund continues and we hope that you will continue to support us. We hope you enjoy the photographs of the day below.

Official opening of the Polish Scouting Association (UK Region) new accommodation building at St Briavels 22 09 2019. Stanica Harcerska St Briavels – Wye Valley Woodside Centre. www.stanicastbriavels.uk