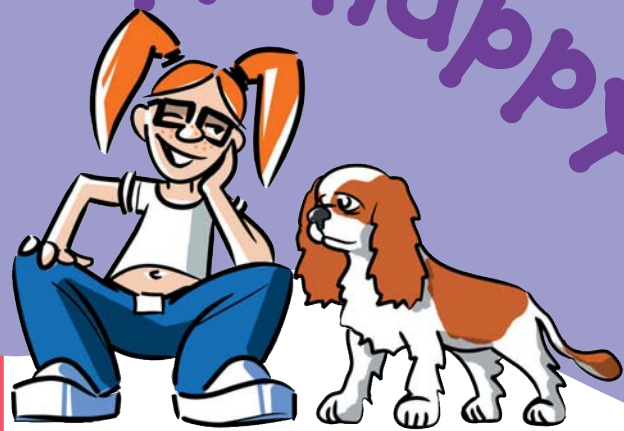


# A happy ending



A few weeks ago, Genie and I splashed our way to Brownies through yet another downpour of rain. It had rained every day for a week and the puddles were almost up to the tops of our wellies.

As we ran up to the Brownie hall, Genie gasped and pointed to the doorway. 'Look at our sign!' she cried.

We had a great sign that said 'BROWNIES' in bright colours and had pictures painted all round the outside. An old Brown Owl (that's what Leaders used to be called) and her Pack had made it years and years ago. Except that now, someone had sprayed all over it with black paint, and it was wrecked.

Sue, our Brownie Leader, was really upset. 'That sign's been here as long as the Brownies have been meeting in this hall, but I think it's beyond repair. I'm not sure we can afford to get a new one either,' she said.

Even though we did some good activities and had a tasting of unusual fruits (mmm, pomegranate!), the mood that night was definitely glum.

Genie and I were talking about the sign as we waded home. 'It won't be the same without the sign. Why do people do such mean things?' said Genie. Mum overheard what we were saying. 'I'm sure we can do something to help,' she said, and smiled to herself as if she'd already had an idea.

The next morning when I got up for school, Dad was out in the shed. He was banging and crashing about. 'What's he up to?' I asked Mum. 'Just you wait and see,' she said. Well I didn't have to wait long! That night Dad came

home from work with a big piece of wood under his arm. When he held it up, it had been cut into the shape of the word 'Brownies'.

'I knew I had an old piece of wood in the shed. I drew the word and took it to the wood merchants in town. When I explained about the old sign they agreed to cut it out with their special jigsaw for free. They even gave me some special weatherproof paints so you Brownies can decorate it,' he said.

I couldn't wait to tell Genie! I've never walked to school so fast. Mum said Genie could come round for tea so she could see the sign.

'It's really cool,' said Genie. 'I bet that'll cheer Sue up, and we'll all be able to paint a bit and make it look really special.'

The next week at Brownies you should have seen Sue's face when Mum gave her the sign. I thought she was going to cry! 'Come and look at our new sign, Brownies. Isn't it fantastic? Let's get to work painting it,' she said.

We took it in turns to paint, so everyone could do a bit. Genie, Mia, Samina and I did the 'B', and I must say we made a nice job of it! We spent two whole meetings getting the sign finished.

'I think we should have an official ceremony to put up the new sign,' Samina suggested. 'Great idea,' said Sue. 'We'll do it next week. Would your dad like to come along Dot? After all, we wouldn't have a sign if it wasn't for him.' Dad was really excited when I told him. He even decided to write a little speech (groan!) in case Sue asked



him to say a few words. Mum told him to make sure it was VERY short!

The ceremony turned out to be really good. Sue asked the caretaker to put up the new sign before we arrived, and she'd made a little curtain to hang across it.

We all stood in a big circle and Sue made a speech about how sad we all were when the old sign was vandalised and how happy we were to have a new one. She asked Dad to pull the string on the curtain to unveil the sign and then she said: 'What do you think of the girls' handiwork, Bill?'

Dad went BRIGHT red, which was really funny, then he gave a big cough and pulled out the piece of paper he'd written his speech on. At least he thought it was his

speech. Turns out he'd picked up the shopping list by mistake, so he just said: 'I think they've done a marvellous job. Well done Brownies!'

The caretaker also had a surprise for us. She'd managed to buy some special anti-vandal spray for the sign.

'If anyone spray paints on this one it should just wash off,' she said. Coolio!

Seeing the bright colours of our new sign shining in the sun (yes, the rain had finally decided to stop) made us all feel great. A few outdoor games, then a treat of drinks and fairy cakes made by Sue, rounded off the evening nicely. With everyone laughing and having fun, we were a much happier group of Brownies that night!

## Wonky words

Unscramble these words to make Dot smile...



IGLEGG

NIRG

UAGLH

UNFNY

PYAPH

The answers are on page 77.

## Visit Dot

To find out more about Dot, pay her a visit at [www.missdorothy.com](http://www.missdorothy.com). You can read her diary, meet her friends and join her on some exciting adventures! Why not email Dot while you're there — she will send you a message back.



Web safe

## Having a laugh

Why not try out these jokes on your friends? You're sure to get a giggle!

What's big and grey and protects you from the rain?  
An umbrellaphant!

What's red and flies and wobbles at the same time?  
A jellycopter!

Where do hamsters come from?  
Hamsterdam!

Why do polar bears have fur coats?  
Because they'd look silly in anoraks!

If two's company and three's a crowd, what's four and five?  
Nine!

What goes 99-clonk, 99-clonk?  
A centipede with a wooden leg!

How many rotten eggs does it take to make a stink bomb?  
A phew!

