

GUIDING

MARCH 1991 £1

**A SPOT OF
COMIC RELIEF**

**WOMEN:
POVERTY'S VICTIMS**

**FELINE
ATTRACTION**

**ARCTIC
ADVENTURE**

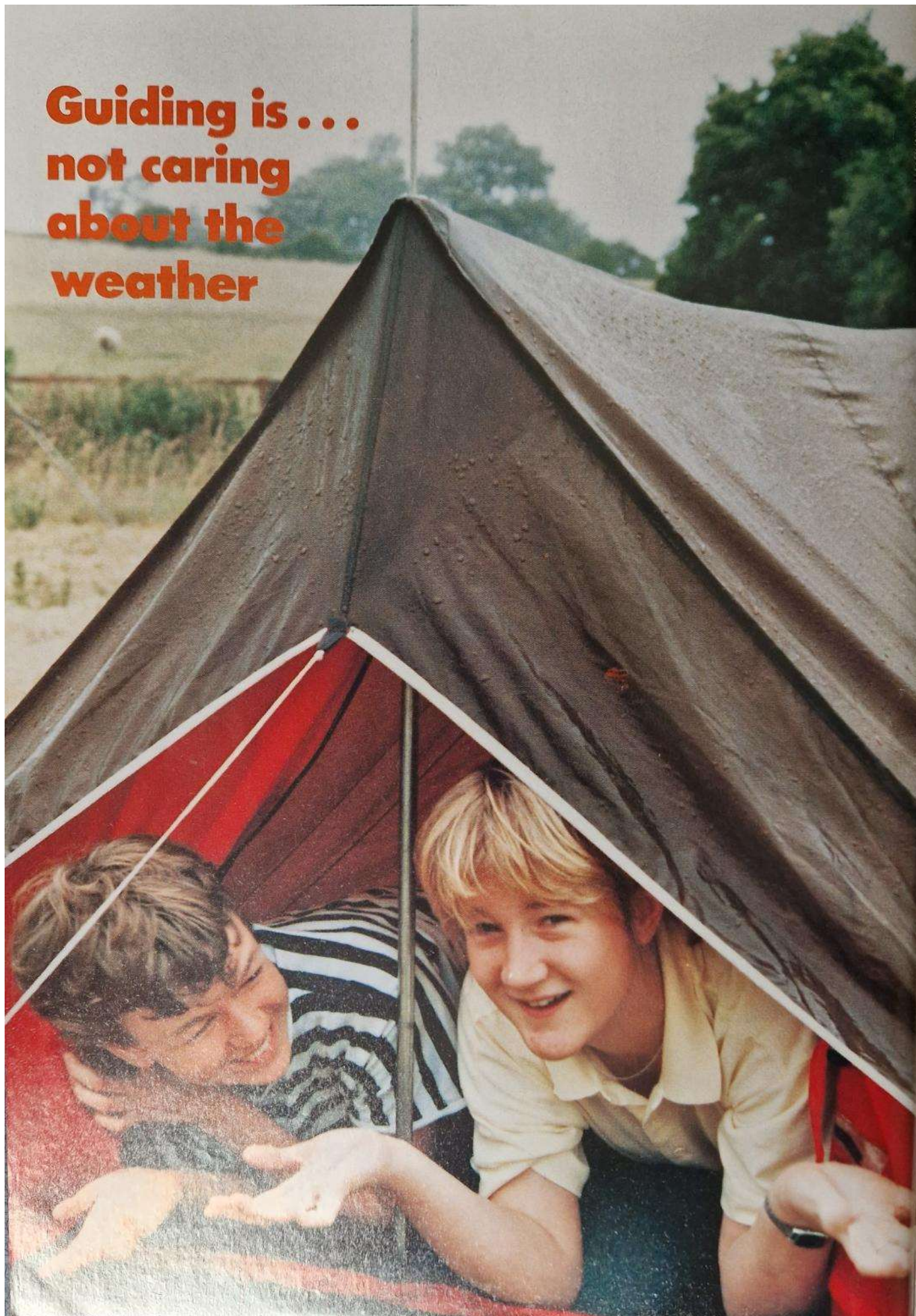
**CAN
SAVING
DRIVE**

**HELPING
HANDS —
THE GIS STORY**



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**Guiding is . . .
not caring
about the
weather**



GUIDING

VOLUME 80 NUMBER 3
MARCH 1991 £1

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COMMENT

Last month I suggested that we might make 1991 a year when charity begins at home. Well, the GGA has already been offered a wonderful opportunity by Tesco stores to do just that. At the same time we will be helping the environment by encouraging the recycling of aluminium cans.

So, instead of dropping your soft-drink cans into the nearest bin, save them up and take them round to your local Tesco store. Look for the GGA logo which will be displayed at the collection point *inside* the store (those outside are *not* part of the Tesco/GGA scheme). Pick up the special posters, which are to help you recruit more 'can collectors'. Take them back to your own area to display wherever you are allowed.

Everyone can join in this collection, from the youngest Rainbow to the oldest Trefoil Guild member. The more cans we collect, the more money we raise. The money will all be shared out through the Countries and Regions to help *your* Guiders and *your* units. With 700,000 members, we should be able to collect countless numbers of cans between March 1 and November 16, when the scheme ends. Read the article on p23 to find out full details of this Tesco scheme.

Remember, some cans may be dangerous and could cause nasty cuts if they haven't been opened correctly, so please encourage all young members to take care when collecting and handling cans.

Our grateful thanks go to Tesco for supporting Guiding and giving us this opportunity to help the environment by recycling waste at the same time as helping ourselves.

JANE GARSIDE
Chief Commissioner

FRONT COVER



When the 8th Tunbridge Wells St Augustine Brownies visited the studio for a photo session we discovered that it was Kathryn Green's birthday, so we threw an impromptu party for her. Katherine (left) is with pals, Rachel Bishop (second left), Anne Storr (top right), and Alice Emanuel (bottom right).

KIM TONELLI AT SCAGNIS STUDIO



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TONY FREEMAN PRESS AGENCY



SMILING SERVICE

Passengers arriving at Barnstaple railway station were greeted by a crowd of Guides eager to carry their bags.

The 1st Fremington Guides became station porters for a day to raise funds for the BBC's *Children in Need* appeal. They also offered weary travellers refreshments or a shoe-shine in return for cash.

SHAGGY DOG STORIES

These fun-loving Brownies helped put some laughter into other people's lives — and raised funds for abandoned animals.

1st Perry Hall Brownies from Wednesfield, Wolverhampton told a string of rib-ticklers in a sponsored joke-telling session. They raised £50 for the Wolverhampton-based animal rescue team K9. The money will be used to help house abandoned dogs and pay for female animals to be spayed.

The Brownies had their picture taken with Nelson, one of the abandoned animals rescued by K9.

EXPRESS AND STAR WOLVERHAMPTON

Round UP

MUM'S FOOTSTEPS

When she retired after 31 years as leader, Guider Mavis Stepney knew her unit would be in safe hands. For Mavis has handed over the reins to her daughter, Marilyn Stepney.

During her years as Guider, Mavis has encouraged girls of all abilities to take up a wide range of interests, gaining her Camper's Licence and QM Certificate in the process.

To mark Mavis's retirement as Guider of 1st West Blatchington Guide Company, Marilyn organised a

surprise farewell party, with help from fellow Guiders.

Many ex-Guides, former leaders and old colleagues were secretly invited. And members of Mavis's family travelled from as far as Lincolnshire and Portsmouth to join the celebrations.

People from all over the Movement gave Mavis gifts and there were stacks of cards and plants from well-wishers.

Marilyn has now taken over the unit and is following in her mum's footsteps with the same enthusiasm and dedication. She has already acquired her Boating Certificate.



THE BRIGHTON EVENING ARGUS

▼ COME ON DOWN!

After six years of dedicated fund raising, Cheltenham Brownies were invited to 'come on down' by television game show host Leslie Crowther to receive a top award.

It took Cheltenham 30th Pack nearly six years to collect £5,000 for the Save the Children Fund. They raised the money by knitting

blanket squares, holding jumble sales and coffee mornings. The money will be used for projects such as immunisation and water improvement in troubled countries.

Mr Crowther who was host on the television game show *The Price is Right* presented the Brownies with the Princess Anne Award in recognition of their fundraising efforts.



THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE EVENING ECHO



THE PRESS ASSOCIATION

▲ TIDY BROWNIES

The gardens at Sandal Methodist Church in West Yorkshire will soon be looking much brighter thanks to green-fingered Brownies.

Sandal Methodist Church Brownie Pack is helping to landscape and plant gardens at the church. The district council has given the Pack a £500 grant to do the work.

improvement scheme.

Parents, Brownies and Guiders planted shrubs and bulbs in the gardens, while contractors did the specialised work and church volunteers helped out with the heavier tasks.

Now the Brownies are responsible for keeping the gardens tidy as a service to the church and as part of their Conservation badges.

It was designed and made at the instigation of the 114th Glasgow Guides and Brownies as a tangible sign of the link that has existed between the 114th and South Shawlands Church since the unit's formation in 1923.

Yvonne Cochrane, District Commissioner for Newlands who, like her Guide Guider, Gillian Stobo, joined the 114th as a Brownie, explained how the window came into being.

To mark the diamond jubilee of the link with the church in 1983 we gave the church 150 new bibles,' said Yvonne. 'Since Glasgow was European City of Culture in 1990, we decided we would like to create another — and perhaps more permanent — visual token of the bond between us and our church.'

'Once we had decided to go for a window we had several meetings to come up with the basic design, bouncing ideas off the Guiders.'

All the stained glass work and assembly of the window was done by a local artist, Gary Ayres, who is building a stained glass business in the area.

The central part of the window depicts what is central to Guiding — the Promise Badge. The background is of two shades of blue in rectangles among which are five special emblems. One is an owl, for the Brownies. While others include a camp fire, for the Guides; a tree to denote the out-of-doors; and a thistle for Scotland. The fifth, at the very top of the window, is the Fleur de Lys, for Baden-Powell.

Around the Promise Badge Trefoil is a circular band of four colours divided into eight segments and the colours — yellow, green, red and blue — are repeated round the circle with a significance clear to all Guiders.

Lettering, in what has become known as the 'Glasgow style' — inspired by Glaswegian architect and designer, Charles Rennie Mackintosh — spells out: '114th Guides and Brownies founded 1923'. The entire window is edged with a band of scarlet — the colour of the 114th's neckerchiefs.

Yvonne was full of praise for Gary Ayres — 'a super lad, so helpful and enthusiastic that it was a joy to work with him.'

The dedication service was conducted by Yvonne, Gillian and Brown Owl, Ann Gray. The theme of the service was 'colour and light'.

Guides and seven of the older Brownies, wearing costumes in the various colours of the rainbow, sang *Coat of Many Colours*, from Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*.

Brownies also sang the Rainbow song from *Noah and the Amazing*

Window on the GUIDING WORLD

In Glasgow there is a church with a stained glass window depicting not the saints, the Virgin Mary or any biblical figures but the Guide Movement.

The window, 2ft 6in wide and 8ft 6in tall, was installed at the Church of Scotland, South Shawlands, Glasgow, last summer and dedicated at a special service in September.



Wearing rainbow colours, Brownies and Guides of the 114th Glasgow Pack danced to celebrate the window dedication.

Floating Zoo, while Guides presented a drama, *The Light of the World*. The organist was Yvonne's husband, Douglas Cochrane, a former Scout leader.

The church was decorated for the dedication in blue and yellow ribbons, with a floral display in the form of a rainbow. The Minister, Dr Thomas Macfarlane, closed the service.

Guiding in a

Many years ago, the cat show organisers found themselves short of helpers. Who did they turn to? The Girl Guides, of course! They got in touch with the local London North West District Commissioner. She had no trouble finding plenty of cat-loving girls, ready and willing to go along and help out. Every year since then, Guides have helped at the show.

This year, it was the turn of six Guides from the 23rd West Paddington (Methodist) Company — Susana Antelo, Perdita Armstrong, Tina Felton, Alexandra Newell, Emma Spencer and Joanna Waciorska. They were accompanied by Guider, Brenda Saddler, and Assistant Guider, Jenny Harris.

The girls didn't arrive at the National Hall along with the crowds in the middle of the morning. They had to be on duty at seven o'clock sharp, when the cats arrived. 'It was a real strain,' confided Tina. 'I've never had to get up so early on a Saturday morning.'

It is important that cats with contagious diseases are not allowed into the show. So, as they arrived at the hall, the cats were checked over by a vet. When the cats were declared healthy, each owner was given a clearance slip.

That's where our Guides came in. They checked these clearance slips off, against a list of entrants. Then, they gave the owners a numbered veterinary card for each cat. This has to be displayed on the cage, as proof that the animal is fit to enter the show.

The girls' job wasn't easy. 'There were hundreds of people with cats coming up to us, from all angles, at the same time,' explained Alexandra.

They had to work carefully ticking off names and allocating numbers and to do it quickly. All the 2,000 fantastic felines had to pass through their hands in just two hours.

When the registration was finished! The girls took time off for a well-earned cup of tea and off at top speed, to the next job.

Their attention was obviously not on cats, but on the people. There were fat cats, thin cats, black cats, white cats, grey cats, and many more.

All the cats — whether they were top class pedigrees or cuddly moggies — were in tip-top condition. Sleek, furry bodies shone, and beady eyes glistened.

Each cat had its own little cage, these stretched in lines from one end of the huge Victorian hall to the other. Next to each cage stood a proud, beaming owner, basking in the reflected glory and reaping the rewards of all the care and attention lavished.

favoured a fat, grinning tabby, while Emma fell for a pretty little Siamese. In the end, the competition had to be abandoned — the judges couldn't reach a unanimous verdict!

There was also the chance to meet the VIP cats — Willow, the *Blue Peter* puss, and Arthur, the star gourmet from the Kattomeat adverts. Tina and Alexandra were shocked to find their favourite felines seemed much fatter in real life than on the telly!

When they could 'ooh' and 'aah' no longer, the girls headed upstairs to investigate the stalls. They had pocket money to spend. I spotted them later clutching free carrier bags, which bulged with cat posters, models of cats, furry cats, cat paperbacks... cat anything and everything!

Luckily, the official judges, in their white coats, had had more success in coming to a verdict than our Guides. That meant it was time

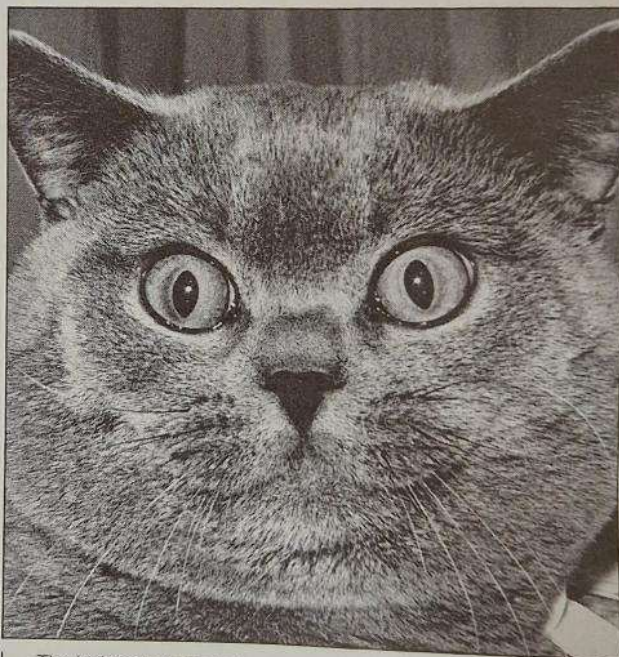
for the girls to get back to work. They had another special task to perform — the distribution of the winners' rosettes and certificates.

When the last rosette had been firmly tied in place, the girls collapsed in an exhausted heap. But, in spite of the early start and the battle against arctic weather conditions, the girls were all glad they'd volunteered.

Joanna summed up everybody's feelings when she sighed happily: 'It was wicked fun!'

But it wasn't just a super day out; the Guides had also given hours of very valuable service. Mrs Grace Pond — the show organiser — said: 'We simply couldn't have done without them!'

MARY RICHARDSON



ction

Exhibitors, hugging their precious pusses, had to battle through snow and freezing temperatures, to reach the 94th National Cat Club Show at Olympia. Sadly, some never made it. They were beaten by the storms that turned the country into a winter wonderland early in December.

But the howling blizzards didn't stop one keen group of Guides from getting through — they had a job to do.



His Majesty, King Arthur, accepts Guiding homage

MARC MENNIE



TRUST BREAKS THE CRIME CYCLE

When they're bored and fed up with having no cash, unemployed youngsters can easily drift into a life of crime. And, once they've got a criminal record, it's twice as hard for them to get a job. Meanwhile, the effects on the victims of their crimes can be devastating. Yet, once someone offers them the chance to break the vicious circle, many ex-offenders are keen to put something back into the community. As we discovered when we needed help to build a Santa's grotto at CHQ.

◀ Santa (Jim Bond) and his helpers (l to r) from our Personnel Division, Lisa Wigglesworth and June Nichols, with Sam Sykes of the 10th Barnet (St Stephen's) Guide Company

Members of staff were poised to grab a hammer and head down to the basement and have a go at creating a festive flourish so that visiting Rainbows and Brownies wouldn't be disappointed.

But our building talents weren't put to the test, as Guider Denise Yates came to the rescue.

Denise is director of the Apex Trust, a charity trying to rehabilitate former offenders and prevent youngsters getting into trouble in the first place.

'They have made the decision to put crime behind them.'

In the past, Apex Trust members have been involved with a variety of projects, including decorating the homes of blind and elderly people.

'But I must admit, we have never been asked to build a Santa's grotto before!' Denise said.

When the unusual task was put to them, Apex Trust members were only too happy to help out. Denise said: 'They were particularly keen because it involved doing something for children. Many of them have got kids themselves and they like to think they are putting something back into the community.'

Denise explained that some young people are law breakers by the time they are 15. 'Seventeen is the peak age for committing an offence. We find that if you can get them into a job, they will leave the life of crime and become useful members of society,' she added.

Most of the Apex Trust members are under 25. Some have been in prison, others have been unemployed for a long time and are in danger of drifting into crime. A large proportion are men, but women have always been accepted into the Trust.

Through the Trust many women have learned practical skills such as carpentry and upholstery and have helped manufacture equipment for community groups.

The Trust was set up 25 years ago by Neville Vincent, who was then chairman of Bovis, the building company. 'He had a bee in his bonnet

about offenders,' Denise explained. 'They were coming out of prison unable to get work. He wanted to break down the cycle of crime leading to unemployment and then back to crime.'

Apex started out with just a handful of workers but, over the years, numbers have grown to more than 200. Funding comes from the Home Office and private donations.

Companies, recognising the value of a committed and well-trained workforce, have also given financial support.



'It makes business sense for the industries to support us,' Denise said.

The aim is to prepare people who have been in prison for a new life in the community. Getting practical work experience helps offenders get a reference, which could lead to a job.

The Trust liaises with industry to find out what skills are needed in today's job market.

Some ex-offenders are given reading and writing lessons or learn office skills, while others receive some much-needed careers advice.

While some haven't been in prison, or are only 'in danger' of being lured into crime, workers are accepted on to the scheme regardless of the crime they have committed.

However, workers go through a stringent interview process and great

care is taken before they are sent out to work. Denise said: 'They have made the decision to put crime behind them. But we do take a lot of care and, for example, we would never place a sex offender anywhere where there were children.'

While the ex-offender benefits by making a new start in life, the community has reaped the rewards. So far Trust workers have built a play area for schoolchildren, made educational toys for disabled children, and removed unsightly graffiti from walls.

The Trust charges for materials and, sometimes makes a small charge for labour. But the work is entirely non-profit-making.

Of her job as director of the Trust, Denise says: 'I love it. I wouldn't want to do anything else for the world.'

But, when she took on the challenging position, Denise insisted on one condition — Monday nights had to be free.

For Denise is Brown Owl with 7th West Woolwich Brownie Pack in South East London. And they meet on Monday evenings. She also helps out with the 7th West Woolwich Guides, who meet later the same night.

Denise, aged 28, has been involved with the Movement since she became a Brownie at the age of seven. She is married and lives in South London but, at present, has no plans to have children. 'I haven't got the time!' she said. 'The 24 kids in my Brownie Pack and 15 Guides I help out with — they are my children.'

So, thanks to the Apex Trust workers who transformed our basement into a magnificent fairy grotto, crowds of young members and their brothers and sisters were able to meet Santa, and his sparkling fairy helper.

Altogether, £97 was raised, of which £50 was donated to the Trust and the remaining £47 to the Camphill Village Trust.

'It makes business sense for industries to support us.'

More help was given by London paint shop WH Newson and Sons, who came up trumps and gave us the paint for the grotto free of charge. Salesman Simon Keogh said: 'It was for a good cause and we were only too happy to help.'

NICOLA WHATMORE 11

The last two decades of the history of the world can be called the decades of development. The years between 1975 and 1985 in particular were devoted to the "advancement" of women. And, while there has been some progress and changes in the status and participation of women, the vast majority — especially in developing countries — have remained marginalised.

Seventy-five per cent of the world's women live in developing countries. They have high birth rates, low levels of literacy and education, fewer opportunities for gainful employment and less access to social and economic benefits and work long hours. Their life expectancy, on average, is only 58 years, which is 19 years less than the life expectancy of women in developed countries.

Worldwide, women grow about half the world's food but most own no land. They do two-thirds of the work but are only one third of the official paid work force and are concentrated in the lowest paid jobs. They are grossly under-represented in institutions of government. If they work outside the home most work a double day, bearing near total responsibility for child care and household chores regardless of their contribution to the family income.

Shanthi Dairiam went on to explain that the Washington-based Population Crisis Committee claimed that while the status of women varies enormously from one part of the world to another, nowhere do women enjoy equal status with the men.

The committee studied 99 countries — representing 92 per cent of the world's female population — measuring women's well being. Over 60 per cent of all women and girls were found to live under conditions that threaten their health, deny them choice about childbearing, limit educational attainment, restrict economic participation and fail to guarantee equal rights and freedom with men.

STATUS OF GIRLS

'Today the progress and improvement of the status of girls and women is more urgent than ever,' she continued. 'Studies show women make key contributions in food production, water and energy supply. In informal trade women have been supplying the basic needs of their family.'

'Food survival is now the world's most pressing problem, and women's groups, leaders and managers of communities have control to the ability to improve communities and nations.'

'The question is, therefore, essential to the future of the world.'

THE FUTURE IS FEMALE

One speech at last year's Commonwealth Conference was so powerful delegates asked for every word to be included in the final report. The speaker was Shanthi Dairiam, who was Programme Associate, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development, Kuala Lumpur. Her topic was the Education and Advancement of Girls and Women — a subject that concerns all members of the Movement. This month *GUIDING* is including extracts from Shanthi Dairiam's moving speech.

new creative solutions to the crisis. Furthermore, as bearers of children and also being responsible for their care and nurture, women need to be educated; to be in control of resources; to have earning capacity; and to have access to decision-making.

The costs of ignoring the needs of

women are: uncontrolled population growth; high infant and child mortality; a weakened economy; ineffective agriculture; a deteriorating environment; and, generally, a poorer quality of life for all.

Pointing out that there had been little change in women's lives, in spite

Mali, West Africa



MAGGIE MURRAY CHRISTIAN AID

of many global and national initiatives. Shanthi Dainam suggested that there were flaws in the national strategies for the advancement of women, which were 'aided and abetted by donor agencies'.

She continued: 'Many measures taken were mere tokens and were implemented in segregation or were catering to immediate needs.'

The rights and needs of women as a separate category were not understood. They were subsumed under the category of the poor, the workforce, the rural groups, the farmers.

The very role of women as being central to development was not understood. Women were seen as wives, mothers and dependents of the men; their status and needs seen merely from their function as child bearers.

The type of development policy adopted by most countries left the major portion of their population in impoverished conditions and women were affected most. Development was not planned for women, but women were used for development — the labour of women was exploited in the interest of development.

'Women are the poorest of the poor, but approaches towards eradicating poverty, while necessary, are insufficient to uplift the status of women. Women

have to be seen as a separate category. Their needs are distinct. Their biological function, and its attendant needs, creates a vulnerability in women.'

CHILD BEARING

The majority of women in developing countries are linked to children, held responsible for their sustenance and that of the family. This has serious consequences in their use of time, their health, general well-being and opportunity for development. Men do not experience these consequences. In many developing countries, women are still subject to early marriage, long years of childbearing, made dependent on men and subject to their control.

Hence women do not benefit from standard poverty eradication strategies. Their need for self determination and for control over their lives has to be recognised. They need maximum services that will release them from some of their responsibilities of child rearing.

There is need for flexibility in the employment sector — flexi hours, part-time work, provisions for re-entry into the job market, for skills training after childbearing years and for other measures that will take into consideration their lack of social freedom.

More women, she said, were needed to take part in policy formulation and implementation so that needs of women can be represented.

'A change in any one aspect of women's lives for good or ill affects every other aspect,' she continued. For example, all institutions, religious or secular, have promoted the role of childbearing as essential for the survival of humanity. But this role can be the source of women's subordination. If high infant mortality prevails, or if economic structures do not provide social security or job opportunities, women will bring forth more children for assistance in old age or for economic activity. Under these circumstances, provision of family planning services will not induce women to control their fertility.

This explains why the poorest sectors have the highest fertility rates. Women whose status is the lowest, many at an early age, have the most babies. In turn they suffer from poor health, have no opportunity for self development and are unable to break from the cycle of poverty.

Male unemployment among poor families in developing countries forced women and children to be supplementary wage earners. Shanthi Dainam explained: 'Young girls are loaded with most of the domestic toil, and will not be released for uninterrupted education unless employment schemes guarantee

a poverty-line income to all adults, and the public sector provides "minimum needs" services. Building schools for girls will not bring about the required benefit.'

She explained that women's work often went unrecognised. In Africa, for instance, 22.9 per cent of women were considered to be in the labour force in 1985. But women are responsible for between 60 per cent and 80 per cent of the food grown there.

In Pakistan, where one survey of village women found them putting in 63 hours of work a week, only 13.9 per cent of women aged between 25 and 54 are considered to be 'economically active'. But the reality of women's lives and that of their families is that women have needed to earn a living and have been earning a living for a long time.

CHEAP LABOUR

Many of them are actually heads of households... but their lack of access to skills and resources has confined them to labour intensive tasks and they are segregated into the lowest rung of the wage sector. The myth that women are only secondary wage earners or not at all has to be debunked. Otherwise women will always be used as cheap labour.

But the fact that women put in so many hours of undervalued labour does not reduce the expectation of her childbearing role nor does it create the conditions that will lead to a reduction in her fertility rates. A change in employment patterns, which give women access to all forms of employment, will help immensely in improving the conditions of women.

She went on to explain how the development plans of most countries had tended to leave women as the 'poorest of the poor', reduced to unskilled labour, on which export-oriented industries thrived. Women formed the bulk of unorganised labour with little or no legal protection. Or migrated as unskilled labour to other countries, 'suffering untold miseries'.

The speaker said that the problems of women began in childhood. 'Discrimination against girls begins in the home, sometimes at birth. In developing countries there is a strong son preference. Girls are deprived of nutrition and medical care as compared with sons.'

Discrimination against girls continues as they grow older. In the developing world 37 per cent of girls were in secondary schools in 1985 compared with 48 per cent of boys. Many girls marry as teenagers... it is estimated that 40 per cent of all 14-year-old girls



alive today will have been pregnant at least once by the time they are 20. Young mothers, with very little development and coping skills, have the responsibility for the care and growth of their children. The cycle will repeat itself.

Turning to the law, Shanthi Dairiam explained that the United Nations had formulated five conventions to enhance the status of women.

The most comprehensive is the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women with a mechanism to monitor and enforce its implementation. To date, 102 countries of the world have ratified the convention. Women, she said, had to learn to use the law for their advancement.

Education too had a vital part to play in the advancement of girls and women. She explained: 'Education has the most serious implication for a woman. It has a tremendous impact on her confidence levels, her earning capacity and her fertility.

'It opens the mind, puts one in touch with others, and is a tool for awareness creation, for developing critical consciousness and creativity — education enables a person to control the situation they find themselves in.'

The speaker quoted a UNICEF official's view that: 'Literacy of women is the most important single factor in the reduction of mortality of children,' adding studies around the world demonstrated that educating mothers may be even more important to their children's health than flush toilets or piped water intake.

UPWARD MOBILITY

Education, she said, provides women with access to knowledge and skills and enables them to acquire upward mobility. But, within the last 20 years, many low income countries in the Third World have been forced to reduce their expenditure and their educational needs. 'If we accept education as the basic criterion of human resource development, these negative trends must be dramatically reversed.'

Several aspects of education needed to be considered, Shanthi Dairiam explained. 'Education for children would seem the obvious solution to the endemic problem of illiteracy. However, there are more than 100 million children in the developing countries who are not enrolled in school... enrolment rates are very uneven, and the quality of education tends to be very poor.'

Formal education for women were, she explained, 'the only way to their emancipation'.

In the developing world, girls were disadvantaged because of discrimination against them in the education system and processes. Texts encouraged male or female stereotyping, courses were gender typed and, even at the level of higher institutions, girls were discouraged from entering technical fields, she explained.

'At vocational training level there is gross discrimination against girls who drop out at secondary school level. They do not have the same access to vocational training that boys have. These girls finally end up as domestic helps and factory workers, both potentially exploitative situations. Vocational training options for girls need to be expanded.'

Girls, the speaker said, needed to acquire essential information and skills about a variety of issues that would be of practical value... but other people's attitudes and values also had to change, she explained. There are serious consequences if we leave out our male partners when developing ourselves. The men have to grow with us if they are to support us.

The advancement of girls and women needed to be seen in the context of the current development strategies, she said. 'We have to seriously address the economic and social value systems we find ourselves operating from. There is a need for change in the social relations of men and women, and a sharing and blurring of gender roles.'

National development priorities too needed to change so that they do not further marginalise women, increasing their burdens and tensions.

Women of all classes, she pointed out, needed to come together in sisterhood on the basis of their common experiences as women. The ideology of sisterhood needs to be used as a force to change social attitudes, to build up confidence in ourselves, to challenge conventional theories on development, and for asserting our needs as a united force.

Satisfying material needs was not enough to liberate and emancipate women. 'Even the best among us will recognise the taste of subordination. Even the best among us may recall that we were perhaps brought up equally, but not as equals, once we share our experiences with our sisters. This can be a powerful unifying force.'

FRESH ROUTES

The lessons that we have learned as women need to be publicised and used for formulating more effective strategies and for initiating change. The Guiding Movement provides an excellent forum to carry out the neces-

sary analysis and understanding of the lives of girls and women and to turn towards fresh directions.'

She urged delegates to monitor their country's progress in ratifying and implementing the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and its participation in UN Commissions and Programmes and the Advancement of Women.

'We should also have strategies aimed at removing the barriers that prevent us from reaching our full potential, bearing in mind that women in any country are not a homogenous group and face varying degrees of oppression.

'In particular our energies have to focus on promoting both education and health for women. These are two vital factors that have an impact on a woman's status... and one cannot be had without the other.'

Women, she said, should be recognised 'not only as wives and mothers but as valuable members of society, gaining status from our entire contribution to society rather than child-bearing. If this is not done the strategic position of women will not improve.'

'Social measures and services and development plans will have to be effected to preserve and develop this generation for the future of us all. The Guiding Movement is fortunate in that it has access to young girls at an impressionable age. Much can be achieved to educate, train and develop them, motivate them and raise their esteem as women.

'One of the most serious factors affecting the development of girls is early marriage, sexuality, teenage pregnancies and childbirth. The Guiding Movement needs to consider its role in influencing the lives of girls in this area and for the provision of viable options for girls.'

Shanthi Dairiam concluded by questioning if what was needed was more university places and more women professionals. Such success would not affect the vast majority of women. 'We should ask for nothing less than a world free of gender, class and racial bias. Our cry should be "From female infanticide and feminisation of poverty, to a right to life, dignity, justice and equality, self determination and the right to be valued."

The motto of the Guiding Movement "Be Prepared" is an inspiration to all women. It implies an orientation towards action. As a Movement, let us all come together and prepare ourselves to influence our own attitudes and that of our societies, so that we can value ourselves and be valued.'

The opportunity came after the 1990 gales, when 1,800 trees were lost on Brownsea Island — site of the Founder's first, experimental camp in 1907.

Parts of the island were devastated as trees crashed in all directions, bringing down other trees as they fell. Many Scots pines, which provide food and shelter for the rare red squirrel living on the island, were lost.

While the red squirrel had lost part of its habitat, the trees also represented a great loss for the many Guides and Scouts who enjoy camping there.

The devastating effect of the gales was not the only problem Brownsea Island has faced in the last few years. The National Trust has been trying to raise money for its Lagoon Wall Appeal, to provide a strong wall to keep the sea from flooding parts of the island.

And, when the island's water supply dried up, the Trust had to bore holes to

ENDING

DORSET ISLAND RISKS

Intrepid Guides from Dorset faced a long trek across Brownsea Island when they set out on a crisp, cold morning with a mission to accomplish.

Some of the younger Rainbow Guides got a little tired on the way but the Dorset Division was in no mood to give up. When these girls are offered a challenge, they don't pass it by.



Heading for home after a job well done.

find a fresh supply and lay new pipes. Guides and Scouts from all over the UK gave valuable financial help for these projects. Then came the gale damage.

As Brownsea Island is in Dorset, Helen Snelling, the County Commissioner, felt that the County had to help replace the lost trees as soon as possible.

After talking to Barry Guest, the senior National Trust warden on Brownsea, a challenge was sent to all units last March: 'A new tree for Brownsea Island will cost £5 — can you help?'

Helen thought they might 'scrape together about £1,000'. But the girls responded magnificently. Money poured in from all sections from Rainbows through to Trefoil Guild members. In

just eight months they collected more than £3,000.

Rainbows had a sponsored sandcastle build; Guides held garage sales; Brownies made up plays about trees and invited friends and families to see their performances.

As cheques poured in, the money was banked immediately to earn interest, as every extra penny would be needed. Each group was given a 'tree certificate' signed by the National Trust warden and the County Commissioner.

It was nearly a year after the gales brought the old trees crashing down, when the Guides walked across the island to one of the plantation areas. Their mission was to plant new trees, bought with the money they had raised. The local television station,



LESLEY WILLIAMS

TVS, sent a cameraman.

Tim Moore, the Wessex region land agent for the National Trust, thanked the girls for their 'valuable aid' to Brownsea. And, after the cheque had been handed over to Barry Guest — with repeats so the TV got the right shots — Lady Salt, the County President, planted the first of the Scots pines.

Then members set to work with spades and, in no time, the first two dozen trees out of 600 were planted.

Among the trees were Scots pines and sweet chestnuts — so the red squirrels' homes and food-source were also saved thanks to the Dorset Guides.

Rainbows lend a hand at Brownsea

Network

ZOO NEWS

London Zoo is offering guided tours for the first time. The hour-long tours, which are free, explain the plight of some of the world's most endangered species and show what the zoo's conservation scheme, Life-watch, is doing to help.

Initially, the tours will be available only to pre-booked groups but, if the scheme is successful, the zoo hopes to offer the tours on a regular basis.

For more information, phone 071 722 3333.

LONDON ZOO



thing, then contact them for a brochure. Write to North Cape (Scotland) Ltd, Munro Road, Springkerse Industrial Estate, Stirling FK7 7SW, Scotland. Tel: 0786 63983/64411.

CLEAN AND DRY

Nikwax, the waterproofing specialists, has teamed up with professional cleaners to offer an integrated service for clothing and equipment.

It is aimed at anyone who ever goes out in the wet, and has found that cleaning or washing their clothes meant leaky rainwear. The new process covers raincoats, anoraks, ski-jackets, waxed cotton jackets, sleeping bags and horse rugs, ensuring that they will come back both clean and waterproof.

As a special offer, Nikwax is offering *GUIDING* readers a 10 per cent discount, on production of this article, until the end of March.

For details of your local service centre, and the mail service, contact Norrie Hazell at Nikwax, Durgates Industrial Estate, Wadhurst, East Sussex TN5 6DF. Tel: 0892 88 3855.

WARM WELCOME

If you're planning a walk on the wild side, then North Cape clothing could be just what you need. The company offers a selection of garments designed to keep you warm and dry when out in the elements.

The activity-wear is used by organisations such as the British Antarctic Survey, and items range from silk underwear to reversible windsmocks.

If you want to find out more about North Cape's range of British-made clo-

SOUTH BANK CENTRE



Dance masks, Mexico

MOVING ART

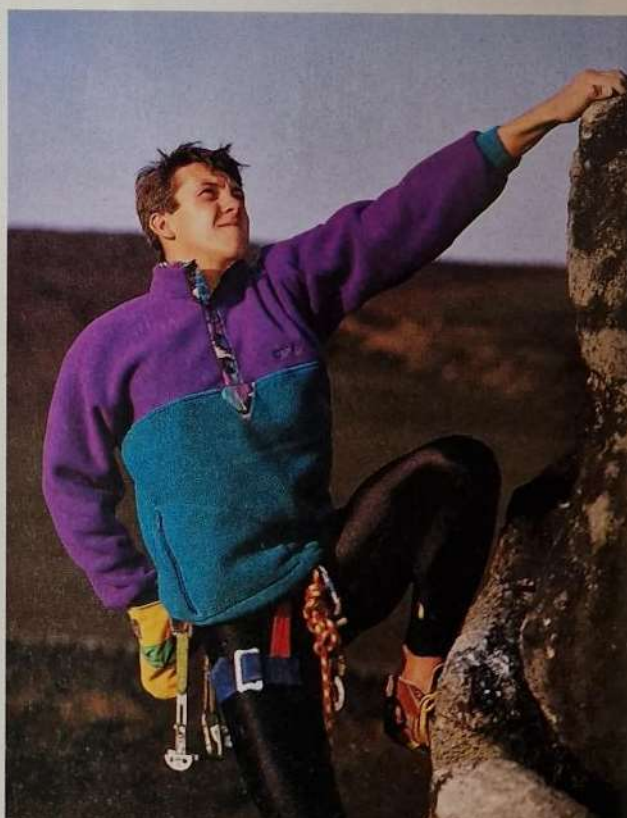
In this country, we are used to thinking of other cultures as exotic, but a new South Bank Centre touring exhibition turns the tables by showing how the people of Africa, Asia and the Americas regarded the 'colonials'. Exotic Europeans includes over 100 paintings, sculptures and other artefacts dating from the 17th Century to the early 1940s.

Whether detached or satirical, these images of colonials

are closely observed. Accessories such as clothing, watches, guns and bibles are singled out as distinguishing characteristics.

The exhibition is currently at the City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, until March 3. It then moves on to Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield from March 16 to April 28; Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery from May 11 to June 23; and the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool from July 24 to August 31.

NORTH CAPE



BRATBY BINGE

The National Portrait Gallery is mounting a major retrospective exhibition of the works by John Bratby. Hailed as the hero of the 'kitchen sink' school of the mid-1950s, his reputation has since fluctuated wildly.

The time is felt to be ripe for a re-examination of his work, especially his portraits, which formed a major part of his output.

The exhibition runs from March 8 to May 27, at the National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2H 0HE. Tel: 071 306 0055

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY



FRENCH LEAVE

French Railways, SNCF, has set up a division in this country to handle group travel to France and beyond, and is offering special fares for travellers.



Youth groups are offered reductions for parties of ten or more under-18s travelling together within France. Accompanying adults qualify for the same reduction at a rate of one adult for every ten youngsters.

Children aged four to 11 pay half the reduced fare, (the equivalent of up to 75 per cent reduction on the normal full fare).



For details of all group reductions from SNCF, contact French Railways Ltd, Group Travel Section, 179 Piccadilly, London W1V 0BA. Tel: 071 499 2153.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN

Because of its popularity, The Battle of Britain Experience exhibition is to



become part of Hendon Royal Air Force Museum's permanent display.

Originally planned as an exhibition specifically to mark the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, the project helped the museum to increase the visitor numbers by an amazing 50 per cent.

When planning such an ambitious project, it is always hard to predict public reac-

tion,' said Dr Michael Fopp, the museum's director, 'but I believe we have captured the essence of one of the most important periods of modern history.'

The museum is open daily (except December 24-25 and January 1) from 10am to 6pm. Group concessions are available and guided tours can be booked in advance.

FARE SALE

Eurotrain, the under-26s rail operator, has reduced the price of many fares to Europe.

Advance purchase tickets to Scandinavian cities have been introduced, which, for example, reduces the fare from London to Copenhagen from £129.70 to £96 return. Fares to Ireland are held at current prices, with the cheapest London/Dublin ticket costing £38. Fares on the popular routes to Paris and Brussels have also been reduced.

Explorer tickets, which allow you to make several stop-offs on a circular trip, have proved very popular since they were introduced in 1987.

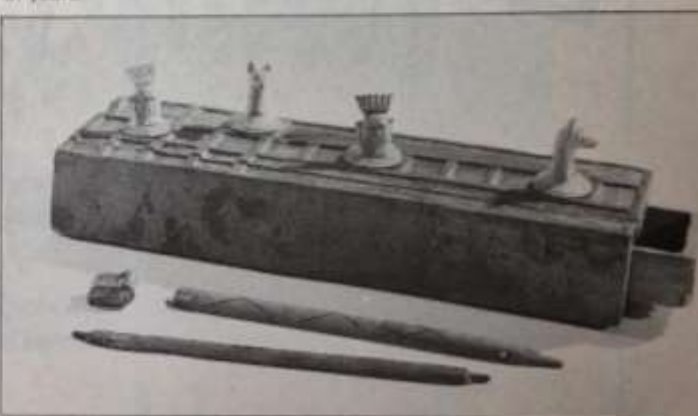
Now, with the opening up of Eastern Europe, an Eastern Explorer ticket has been introduced. Priced at £182.50, it covers up to 13 cities, including Berlin, Prague, Budapest, Vienna and Amsterdam. Stop-overs are permitted anywhere en route.

Tickets may be purchased at student travel offices, travel agents or direct from Eurotrain on 071 730 3402.

ANCIENT GAMES

An exhibition currently running at the British Museum can give us all food for thought.

Board Games of the World suggests that chess, backgammon, ludo and snakes-and-ladders may well outlast their new, computerised rivals. For, in many cases, they are versions of similar games that have been played with enjoyment for thousands of years.



This modest exhibition, running until March 10, aims to give some idea of the range and fascination of board games ancient and modern around the world. The exhibits come from the museum's collections and, in some cases, have never been displayed before.

The British Museum is at Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG.

UNICORN REFORM

The Unicorn Theatre for Children has become a repertoire theatre this season.

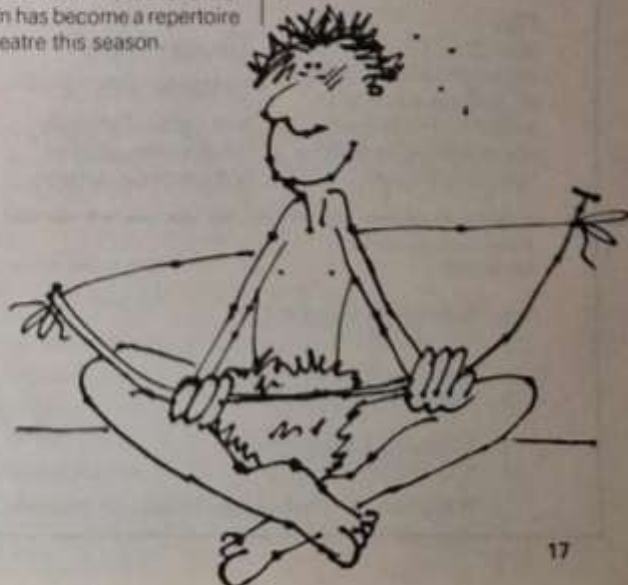
The plays *Frankie's Monster* (for the over-eights) and *Stig of the Dump* (for the over-fives) are running side



by side throughout the spring, giving a wider choice to families and schools.

On most weekends one play will be showing on Saturday, and the other on Sunday. Similarly throughout the week, the plays will alternate.

The Unicorn Theatre for Children is at The Arts Theatre, Great Newport Street, London WC2H 7JB. Tel: 071 379 3280.



Take part in the
Diamond Jubilee
Celebrations
at



Whipsnade

WILD ANIMAL PARK

TO celebrate our Diamond Jubilee in style we have introduced a series of special days for members of The Girl Guides Association.

The Park is set in 600 acres of beautiful open parkland and is the home to over 3,000 animals, many of which are rare and endangered species.

New Attractions

Tiger Falls, scheduled for completion in May, is a spectacular new animal reserve which enables visitors to view the tigers both at ground level and look down into the enclosure at different points.

Other new attractions this year include: *Children's Farm, Farm Gift Shop, Duck Island, Passage thru Asia, Wolf Wood and Chimpanzee Centre.*

Plus

World of Sealions, with regular demonstrations throughout the day. Elephants at Work, spectacular Bird of Prey flying displays, Meet the Animals, Run Wild Play Centre and much more.

And there's more...

The dates for your day at Whipsnade have been selected to provide even more entertainment and value for money. The following brief will give you some indication of the extra activities each day.

Saturday 4 May

'STEAM UP'

Celebrate the age of steam with traction engines, steam organs, model railway exhibits and much more.

Saturday 25 May

'DIAMOND JUBILEE'

Jubilee exhibit of Whipsnade through the ages, animal art exhibit, and major craft fayre.



Saturday 1 June

'EXPERIENCE AFRICA'

Enjoy the sights and sounds of the dark continent - the music, dancers and culture.



And last, but not least, we will create a 'Hunt the Diamond' animal trail competition with prizes for winners and runners-up each day - and for a special all inclusive price of only £2.70 per person.

(Please tick box to show date of visit)

☐ Saturday 4 May 1991
'STEAM UP'

☐ Saturday 25 May 1991
'DIAMOND JUBILEE'

☐ Saturday 1 June 1991
'EXPERIENCE AFRICA'

Whipsnade Wild Animal Park

Group Name

Address

Leader Tel. No.

Total in party at £2.70 No. of Free Adults

(One free leader with every ten children)

Total amount of cheque/postal orders encl: £

Whipsnade Wild Animal Park, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU6 2LF. Tel: 0582 872171



The Guides had an absolutely bloody evening last week. Quite literally! There was blood everywhere. They were doing First Aid the fun way — with the help of a large pile of clean chicken bones, plasticine, make-up, fake scars and theatrical blood. Several of the injured are now hoping to audition for the Casualty Union, or is it the Royal Shakespeare Company? Judging by some of the screams, *Macbeth* might be just up their street!

I had spent the previous week lurking in the high street toy shops, notably around the horror department — an area I normally avoid. It's a real eye opener, believe me! Horror has certainly progressed since the days when I was at school. Now anything is possible and the more revolting the better. All sorts of frighteningly dreadful masks, lurid scars and injuries.

But no bought horror could be quite so ghastly as boiling old bones for ages to get those beautifully clean chicken legs for mock fractures. The smell was quite awful so, despite the frost on the lawn, I opened every window. I was convinced that my flatmates would leave home the moment they caught the first whiff. Once boiled, the bones were banished to the garage to dry out completely.

But it was worth the effort. I handed over the bag of various goodies to

Jenny Wren with strict instructions to be ready to deal with fainting Guides but our girls are no weak-stomached Victorian misses. They had a field day, quite horrifying the Guiders in the process!

But seriously, I do think First Aid instruction is essential for us all. The girls learn through the practice we give them and from the experts we call in for the advanced work.

I've had my St John Ambulance Brigade Certificate for many years now and seem to be drawing on my training constantly. Not with the girls so much but with the general public, who always seem to wait for me to walk down the road before picking that very moment to faint, fall under a bus or be pinned under a heavy box. Why me? Do I look as if I need the practice?

A policeman once told me that all a

good First Aider really needed was a two-tone voice. One to gently reassure the patient that help was at hand, the other to firmly assert your right to manage the situation in the face of inexperienced — and sometimes dangerous — offers of assistance!

I have just that sort of a voice but it's not always such an advantage. Other Guiders give me the job of getting silence at a riot. I even get the job of calling the Guides back to shore at very large boating lakes.

I'm the perfect choice for a wide game when there's no loud hailer available. For there isn't a child who can honestly say she didn't hear clearly every syllable I uttered even if she was 100 yards away at the time. But I can assure you it is a perfectly useless asset if I'm holding a discreet conversation with a friend!

swallow's TALES

EXECUTIVE NEWS

The Chief Commissioner, Mrs Jane Gar-side, was unanimously elected Chairman of the Executive Committee for her five years in office at its October meeting. Mr Peter Lloyd-Owen, the Association's former honorary treasurer, has taken over as Chairman of the Refurbishment Working Group. It was decided to leave the question of rehangng the panelling in the Council Chamber until a decision is made about new furniture for the room.

A postcard version of a new 'smiling' photograph taken of the President by Sir Jeffrey Sharkeley will be available, as well as the official 'serious' shot, members were told.

Instead of proceeding with plans for an Association standard, it was agreed that the 'George' standard will be used by anyone representing the Chief Commissioner in the UK.

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held in the Mansion House, London, on May 22 starting at 3pm. The speaker will be Mrs Averil Burgess, Headmistress of South Hampstead High School.

Members heard that at present it is impossible to set up a data bank drawing on records held at all Country/Regions. When Association appointments become vacant every attempt will continue to be made to consult as many people as possible throughout the Country/Regions.

The GGA will not be assisting at this year's London Marathon, which means no guaranteed places will be available for members wishing to take part. The balance of the money from 1989 — £875.90 — and the £3,286 raised last year through sponsorship is to be divided

between the Country/Regions.

Permission was given for Irish Girl Guides to use the GGA's Rainbow-to-Brownie badge for their Ladybird Branch but with navy blue binding instead of brown.

The GGA is to run one-week residential courses for volunteers aged between 16 and 24 with the St John Ambulance Brigade. The courses will cover personal development, leadership, team building, problem solving skills, specific first aid qualifications and skills based on the Walking Safely Scheme.

Mrs Maureen Reid was appointed Chairman of Programme and Training, and the appointment of Mrs Sue Taylor as International Commissioner was noted as were two extensions. Mrs Jean Eburne will continue as Chief Commissioner for South West England until May 4, 1991 and Mrs Anne Dunford will remain Commissioner for British Guides in Foreign Countries until July 31, 1991.

FRIENDS WANTED

Membership of British Guides in Foreign Countries — BGIFC — has grown to around 7,000 Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers, Young Leaders and Guiders in more than 35 countries, since it began in 1911 with the formation of a Guide Company in Portugal. It provides an opportunity for British women and girls living

overseas to remain part of UK Guiding.

They follow the same programme of activities and badge work, make the same Promise and wear the same uniform. As a flourishing part of UK Guiding, BGIFC is organised in a similar way to a UK Country or Region with its own Commissioner, Mrs Anne Dunford and a secretariat at CHQ.

Friends of BGIFC exists to offer support. Friends with Guiding experience, perhaps as a Commissioner, Trainer or badge tester are always needed. So too are those new to Guiding who are willing to help with a range of tasks from administration to making training aids, or maybe by passing on any special skills.

Friends who live or travel overseas

may visit units by prior arrangement with the BGIFC Commissioner, to take and bring back news.

Friends also help by fund raising to assist BGIFC members in many ways, including attending international events. Last year's project was to help a Rangers/Young Leaders camp.

Anyone who would like to support this work will be warmly welcomed. Membership is open to anyone, male or female, not just BGIFC members. Friends are asked to pay a minimum subscription annually of £2. They receive a newsletter twice a year, the BGIFC annual report and a membership card. They are also invited to an annual get-together.

Please become a Friend by completing and returning the form to Dorreen August at CHQ.

I wish to become a Friend of BGIFC.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NO. _____

Please circle your age group

Under 17, 17-30, 31-45, 46-65, Over 65

Brief details of Guiding experience. Please indicate whether current or previous.

Previous/current connection with Friends of BGIFC (if any).

Please list any skills you can offer: _____

Do you visit any countries frequently or plan to visit any? Include dates if possible.

Cheques should be in sterling, made payable to Friends of BGIFC and sent to: Mrs D August, c/o BGIFC, The Girl Guides Association, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT.

Isn't it about time we updated our Promise? Do we honestly believe that everyone in the Guide Movement who has taken the Promise, believes in God? As a committed Christian I find this assumption rather hypocritical, and, to be honest, somewhat of an insult.

I truly believe that probably 75 per cent of Guiders brush aside that part of the Promise, just as most people in England put 'C of E' on any forms as their 'religion'.

'Duty to God' to some Guiders means taking their Guides or Brownies to Church Parade once a month. But they have no personal experience of God, which is what the Promise surely expects? 'Duty to God' means doing something for someone, and that someone is God. How can you do something for someone if you don't acknowledge his reality?

DILEMMA

As a Commissioner, I found this part of my job one of the most daunting: as I'm sure 50 per cent of Commissioners do, I touched only briefly on this part of the Promise: Who am I to judge whether or not a person has a valid belief? What could I say if a fantastic new adult leader trainee told me she didn't believe in God but believed in the Association's ideals? Or even worse, if she told me she was happy to take the Promise, but I knew she didn't mean it?

Enrolling children is a whole new ball game! For many 'God' is a totally new concept — rarely encountered in schools these days, and much less in most homes. Are we expected to give the child a crash course in Christianity — or whatever — in the six weeks or so

leading up to the enrolment? Or do we only open our membership to those from 'nice' religious homes?

Does a seven-year-old have any idea of what her 'Duty to God' is? At the church in which I worship, we spend years leading children into an awareness of God's love, and that's all we do! It isn't our responsibility as Guiders to 'lead children to Christ'.

If we are believers, this will undoubtedly become apparent as the children get to know us as their leaders, and their interest may thus become aroused. But I find it very difficult to tell a child that once she can promise to have a relationship with God, then, and only then, can she join our Association.

Is this what B-P wanted? When he evolved the Promise, England was a different place and basically a Christian country, which it now isn't — and I don't mean because of the non-Christian religions that are nowadays more apparent in England. I mean the lack of any religion in the majority of people who live in England.

WOOLLY WORDS

I find the wording on the Promise in publications such as the *Guiding Manual* extremely woolly: 'The Guide should do her best to seek spiritual fulfilment' (GM 1.3) — that doesn't mean duty to God, or any god. Yet elsewhere (GM

1.6; 1.8) she is expected to belong to a religion — and what for that matter constitutes a religion? Satanism? Witchcraft? ...

We are assumed to be a Christian organisation — but how can we be, when we are a Movement 'open to all girls and women irrespective of faith, race, culture, nationality or any other circumstance' (GM 1.1)? So, if we are decided that we are not a Christian Association, why mention God at all, if the majority of our members don't hold fast to this belief? Far better to cut out the hypocrisy and stick to what we are good at.

OBJECTIVES

One of our objectives is to 'develop a personal faith and values to give life meaning and direction' (GM 1.2). Does this necessarily have to mean God — why not promise, as the Belgians do: 'I promise on my honour to endeavour to serve a high ideal'.

The French Promise makes no mention whatsoever of any religious beliefs and they are part of our Association (translation taken from *Trefoil Round the World*).

Isn't it about time that we too could make a Promise to do something that we really can believe in?

SUSAN MATTHEWS,
Guide Guider

The views expressed in this article are not necessarily those of The Girl Guides Association nor endorsed by it.
The Editor reserves the right to edit any item received for publication.

All trails lead to Foxlease on Saturday, April 20 when a Grand Fête is being held there. So if you:

- are thinking of organising a District outing this year and want to fit it in before the camping season starts
- want to visit Foxlease again and be able to take all the family
- have never been to a GGA Training Centre and would like to see what it is all about ...

why not make for Foxlease at Lyndhurst, Hampshire. Take a coach-load or go on your own — either way you're sure of a warm welcome.

The fête runs from 10am to 3pm and is organised by the Foxlease Venue Committee of Trail '91 to raise money to help towards the cost of the many and varied activities planned for the Trail Camp in August.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the senior section, when national, regional and local activities will be taking place. The Foxlease fête is just one event planned.

It costs just 20p to go along and shop from stalls selling crafts, plants, pottery, leather goods, silk, cards, cakes and ceramics. Ploughman's lunches will be available, together with

FALL IN FOR FOXLEASE

a variety of other refreshments.

There will be plenty of opportunity to try your skill at the various games and sideshows and children can entertain themselves on the bouncy castle. You can also buy some tickets for a chance to win the top prize in the draw. Celebration '91 souvenirs will also be on sale.

For any further details don't hesitate to contact the Guider-in-Charge at Foxlease.

Notices

THE ASSOCIATION'S AWARDS GOOD SERVICE

BEAVER

MRS BERYL EVANS, County Commissioner, Gloucestershire.

LAUREL

MISS PAM FARRIES, Guide Trainer, London and South East England.

MRS OLIVE MONEY, Division Commissioner, Weston-super-Mare, Avon South.

MRS JOAN SLADDEN, County Commissioner, Essex West, and Assistant Brownie Guider, 4th Grays Pack.

MISS BRIDGET TOWLE, Chairman of The Association's Finance Committee, and County Commissioner, Leicestershire.

MERITORIOUS CONDUCT

STAR OF MERIT

SARAH BENNETT, Patrol Leader, 1st Welland Company, Worcestershire.

MRS LYN BROWNING, Division Commissioner, Bournemouth North, Dorset, and Dorset Lone Adviser.

GERALDINE EASTER, Brownie Guide, 3rd Chigwell Pack, Essex West.

JOANNE HOWARD, Guide, 1st Higham Company, Kent West.

MISS EMILY HYDE, Ranger Guide, 111th Bristol Unit, Avon North.

MISS ALISON JONES, Young Leader, 2nd Barnehurst (St Martin's) Company, Greater London Kent.

SHELLEY MORRIS, Brownie Guide, 3rd Stoneleigh Pack, Surrey East.

MRS MARGARET RATCLIFFE, Former Guide Guider, 23rd Rossendale (Trinity Baptist) Company, Lancashire East.

VANESSA SUTTON, Guide, 5th Mirfield Company, West Yorkshire South.

HELP WANTED

The warden of Blackland Farm camp site, East Grinstead, Sussex needs general help from Guides, Brownies or Rangers, and a few adults during the busy season. July 20-August 3. Please call 01243 712222.

It is useful if helpers can arrive on the Friday evening and preference will be given to those who apply in pairs. Travelling expenses and a subsistence allowance will be paid for this interesting service opportunity. Shop experience helps and a knowledge of camping essential.

Apply before March 31 to: Mrs M Martin, Blackland Farm, Grinstead Lane, East Grinstead, Sussex RH19 4HP, enclosing an A4 sae.

HONOURED

Dr June Paterson-Brown, the Chief Commissioner from 1985 to 1990, was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the New Year's Honours.

MRS PENELOPE CULLINGFORD

A Guide Service of Thanksgiving in honour of Mrs Penelope Cullingford (formerly Pen Wood-Hill) will be held on March 14 at 3pm at St Mary Abbot's Church, Kensington. Everyone welcome.

IDEAS-PACKED

Celebration '91 Challenge Packs are now available from GGA shops in London, Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool at £2. They can also be ordered from our Trading Service at Atlantic Street, Broadheath, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 5EQ at £2 plus 50p for post and packing, please quote code number 69203. Orders worth £10 or over are free of postage charges.

FEES REVISED

The fees charged by Association Training Centres have been revised. The new rates are:

Foxlease and Waddow: Single room £18.00; double room £15.00; shared room £13.50; deposit £9.00. All figures are per person per day.

Glenbrook: CHQ courses £24.00 per person per weekend; self catering £4.00; schools and so on £4.50; deposit £5.00. Figures are per person per night.

Blackland Farm: Equipped site £1.95; unequipped site 90p; Restrop and Wagtail Lodges £2.25; non-Guide surcharge 50p. Figures are per person per night and the minimum charge for Restrop is £37.00 and for Wagtail Lodge, £45.00.

BYPASS PETITION

A petition containing 10,147 signatures has been sent to West Sussex County Council opposing plans for a bypass to East Grinstead, which would cut through the middle of Blackland Farm. The route, one of several under consideration, will destroy one camping field and sever three other fields from the rest of the site.

The councils involved are assessing the various alternative routes in the light of the response from the public. Should the route affecting Blackland Farm be selected as their preferred route for the bypass, there will be a further opportunity to make representations about the effect on Blackland Farm. Until then no more action can be taken and no more signatures are required.

Our thanks to everyone who signed the petition at such short notice. We will keep everyone posted on the outcome of the councils' deliberations.

LICENCE

If you are considering whether to work for a Training Licence or help others to do so, we have just the information you need.

Towards a Training Licence gives you step-by-step information about the road to becoming part of a training team. Available through Trading Service, Guide shops and depots, the booklet costs 90p — remember to give the code number 64972.

AMSAG

It is 21 years since the Association of Methodist Scouters changed its name and admitted Guiders.

The historic occasion was recalled at the Association

of Methodist Scouters and Guiders' annual training conference, when a special birthday cake was served.

Called *Something to Celebrate*, the conference studied the way in which spiritual development could be incorporated in the Programme in 'new and different ways'.

The association will be holding a camp from August 9 to 14 at Beaudesert camp site in Staffordshire.

Anyone who wishes to join AMSAG should contact the secretary, Mr Laurie Mitchell, 5 Larch Close, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9PH, tel 069 173 724.

MR A W HURLL

The death at the age of 85 has been announced of AW (Fred) Hurll CVO, CBE. Mr Hurll worked for the Scout Association for 49 years, and was its first Chief Executive Commissioner.

SURPLUS TENTS

The warden of Blackland Farm, East Grinstead, Sussex wishes to dispose of a number of Patrol tents. The tents have been used for five to six seasons on the equipped sites and are now being replaced. For further details on type and cost please ring 0342 810493 or 0860 393026 between 9am and 5pm. You can leave your name and telephone number on the answerphone outside these hours.

TRUST FUND

On November 30, 1990 the value of a share in the Scout and Guide Trust Fund was:

for selling purposes... 234.91
for buying purposes 246.72
income yield... 3.99 per cent

The income yield is based on the previous two dividends paid and the price on the date stated.

STOP PRESS

Will all Guiders who have been evacuated from the Gulf please contact Anne Nimmo at the BGIFC office at CHQ. She will be able to supply up-to-date information and arrange for them to have the BGIFC Newsletter.

CANNED CASH

If you've ever wondered what you can do to help the environment, the GGA and those nice people at Tesco have come up with the answer. And there's a bonus — you will be raising money to help sister Girl Guides at the same time. For all the cash raised by the scheme will provide a little extra help for units throughout the UK.

On March 1, Tesco is launching an aluminium recycling scheme, which will run until November 16. Special collection points will be operating at nearly all the food giant's superstores.

And, even if your local Tesco hasn't got one of the distinctive collection points, the manager will still be happy to accept any cans you take along.

The cans will then be taken to Tesco depots, five of which are equipped with crushing machines. The crushed cans will be collected by representatives from a recycling company, who will keep Tesco up to date on the tonnage of aluminium recycled. Cheques will be presented locally.

The more cans you collect, the more money will be raised. And all of it will be shared out through the Country/Regions to help grassroots Guiding.

So now it's up to you. Ask your Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers and Young Leaders to start saving cans. Enrol all the Unit Helpers, assistants and other Guiders in your District.

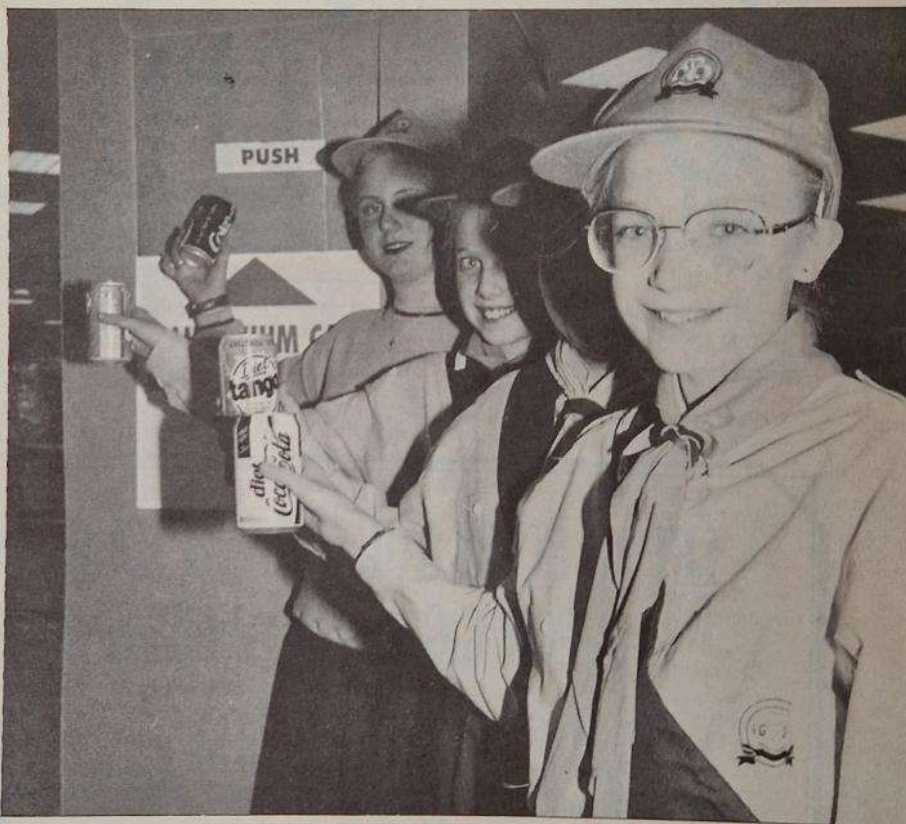
Tell your local Trefoil Guild. Encourage parents and relatives — yours and the girls — to get involved. Even nag the neighbours. It will be worth it.

When Tesco supported the BBC's *Blue Peter* Babylife Appeal in 1989, the initial target was to collect ten million aluminium cans for recycling.

The final figures were: 40 million cans collected and £660,000 raised. This wonderful sum was used to buy support equipment for maternity wards in 60 hospitals.

Just think what we could do with that sort of cash... and get collecting.

There is just one rule. The cans must be aluminium. There's a sound financial reason behind the request. A ton of aluminium cans — that's about 50,000 cans — is currently worth £400 but a ton of steel cans is worth less than £5. And out if your soft drinks can is aluminium use the fridge door — not the top — of the fridge. Along the magnetic strip on the fridge door. Aluminium is



HILARY SHEDEL PHOTOGRAPHY/TESCO

TESCO

not magnetic, so it won't stick.

Some cans already carry the Alu symbol, keep a look out for them.

Aluminium is an ideal candidate for recycling, as its chemical composition doesn't change during the melting process. It can be recycled again and again — very environmentally-friendly.

Unfortunately there are no Tesco stores in Northern Ireland which means Ulster cannot take part in this scheme.

Step inside your local Tesco store and you will find collection points featuring the special Guide logo. There are already can banks *outside* some stores but these belong to the local authority for a particular area and are *not* part of the scheme.

To help get the message across to your local community, there will be special posters for you to pick up near the collection points. The posters are to be displayed at your local meeting place, in the church hall or on the play group noticeboard to recruit more can collectors.

Tesco is backing the GGA as part of its commitment to recycling waste, saving the environment and playing a part in a local community life. Let's show them what the GGA can do.

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TRACY DAVIES

The re-emergence of Guiding in Eastern Europe is a welcome development and, as Gill Andrejev discovered on a recent visit to Czechoslovakia, it offers an opportunity to help our sisters overseas.

In just over a year, Czech Guiding has grown to a membership of 20,000 — a fantastic achievement in such a short space of time.

CZECH PAPER CHASE

Along with this success, however, there are inevitable difficulties, as Gill, Youth Liaison Officer for Cambridgeshire East, found out when she took a party of Guides to Czechoslovakia last summer.

When Gill asked Vlasta Mackova, Czech Chief Guide, if there was any way British Guides could help with the re-birth of Guiding the reply was a request for paper.

The reason? The last Czech Guiding handbooks were published in 1938, and not surprisingly, there aren't many left to go around! So why not print some more right away? The chronic distribution problems which have hit the headlines in stories about Russia also affect Czechoslovakia. There is simply no paper available for the handbooks.

On Gill's return to the UK her colleagues sprang into action. Anglia Region provided an interest-free loan to buy the paper, and Skoda (Great Britain) Ltd generously offered free transport. By late October 20,000 sheets of A4 paper had reached the Czech capital, Prague.

Guide companies contributed generously to the repayment of the loan, taking part in a sponsored 'Word Break' last autumn. The response was exceptional 'even by Guide standards,' says Gill.

Not only will the paper have been used, but there will be enough left to bring a Guider from Czechoslovakia to train at Pax Lodge,' she added.

Gill was very impressed with the

Czech Guiding she saw on her visit. 'It was impossible not to conceive great admiration for their leaders, who, having gone through the fire of repression and persecution, have emerged as most finely-tempered steel.'

Just how much Guiding suffered during the past was clear when Gill visited a unit at Bila Hora, on the outskirts of Prague. All Guide and Scout buildings in Czechoslovakia were confiscated by the authorities, those in Bila Hora being no exception. The unit there is now, with great difficulty, building its second HQ. The first, together with a considerable area of land, was confiscated and given to another youth organisation. To recover it means going to court, which the unit could not afford.

Despite the difficulties, Gill reports that 'the enthusiasm for Guiding is tremendous.'

She said: 'Their welcome was heart-warming and we were immediately made to feel completely at home, despite language difficulties and the terrific heat.'

'Lots of badge-swapping went on and it seemed as if the local Guides would be completely denuded of badges in their efforts to give their new friends swaps.'

'Having nothing except what they could make themselves, they were determined to give us everything they had. And the refreshments, by Czechoslovak standards, cannot have been cheap.'

This was a wonderful meeting, with photographs and singing, much enjoyed

by our Guides, and voted by them the most enjoyable day of their trip.'

As well as visiting the Prague unit, Gill and another UK leader also camped with a unit from Litomerice, and were most impressed. 'Everything was in apple-pie order,' Gill recalled.

The camp was beautifully sited in two grassy fields at the bottom of a tree-lined valley with a stream meandering through it.

The tents were built with a log base and log beds. There was an abundance of what could be made in wood, but anything manufactured, such as canvas or hessian, was in very short supply.

The Guides were delighted to meet the two UK Guiders and changed into their uniform — khaki with a brown necker — to formally welcome the visitors and sing them a song.

After a talk on the eventful history of Czech Guiding from their Chief Guide, during which the girls remained 'mouse-quiet', the Guides went swimming, leaving Gill and her friend with 41 autograph books to sign!

The Czechoslovak Association is keen to arrange further contacts with the UK, on a non-payment exchange basis. At first the exchange would probably be limited to two British Guides visiting a unit where the Guider speaks English.

The indomitable Guides and Guiders of Czechoslovakia, Gill believes, 'deserve any material help and support we in the richer West can offer them. Their own drive and enthusiasm will overcome all the obstacles which they can tackle themselves.'

TAKING STOCK

Having been the last Region to form a Regional Junior Council (see *Watch This Space*, March '89), London and South East England's Young Guiders' Forum has now successfully staged its second Young Guiders' Gathering.

The suggestions, ideas and constructive criticisms put forward by the delegates at the inaugural gathering in '87, were thrashed out by a sub-committee from the Forum — and YGG '90 was born.

THE DAY

Guiders spent the day listening to guest speakers, talking with County Commissioners and Public Relations Advisers about 'Guiding for Everyone' in our own Counties, and taking part in discussion groups led by members of the Forum.

The aim of this article is *not* simply to describe the day, but to establish that the previously stated aims for such a gathering had been met, and to study some other possible advantages in staging such an event.

OUR AIMS

- To encourage young Guiders to evaluate their contribution to the Movement.
- To provide young Guiders with an opportunity for stimulating discussion with others from the Region.
- To provide a chance for young Guiders from all Districts, Divisions and Counties in the Region to meet together.

Well, we certainly evaluated our contribution to the Movement on a local

level, when we discussed how we could implement the 'Outreach Scheme' in our own Counties. Judging by the high noise levels at lunch time, there was undoubtedly plenty of chance for stimulating discussion, and lots of young Guiders from London and South East England certainly 'got together'!

OTHER SPIN-OFFS

1 To give the Region's Young Guiders' Forum a higher profile among other young Guiders.

2 To facilitate recruitment of young Guiders to the Forum in the future.

3 To discuss topics and problems that are of particular importance to young Guiders.

4 To enable the Forum to collate ideas and feedback from a wider range of Guiders than is possible at District events or at the Young Guiders' Forum.

5 To give some Guiders the opportunity to speak out among fellow young Guiders in case they might not have sufficient confidence to express such thoughts at District Meetings/County trainings when 'more experienced' Guiders are present.

6 To give a specific biennial task and purpose to the Young Guiders' Forum.

7 To ensure that ideas put forward at the event will be collated and distributed both 'down the chain' to the Guiders who attended, and 'up the chain' to the Region Executive, Young Guiders' Forum, and to the speakers — some of whom hold Regional appointments. Hence the delegates will have made a direct link in 'the chain'.

8 As the delegates 'sing the praises' of the Young Guiders' Gathering and the Young Guiders' Forum, other members of the Association will be increasingly aware of the role of young Guiders today.

Other advantages include the opportunity to hear different speakers, to meet one's County Commissioner and Public Relations Adviser — in this instance — and to encourage young Guiders to attend a wider range of activities.

FEEDBACK

So far the feedback from the day has been very positive, both from the delegates and the County Commissioners. It would seem that our aims have been met, and there were even requests to hold the event annually.

A frequent question was: 'Can the age limit for young Guiders be raised to 30?' There are obviously many 24 to 25-year-old Guiders out there who wish to remain 'young Guiders' for as long as possible — we know how you feel!

WHERE TO?

The planning for YGG '92 will start soon — perhaps that helps to explain why we can't hold the event annually — and one County is planning its own Young Guiders' Gathering.

What about the other Country/Region Junior Councils? Wouldn't you also like to prove that you can get 200 young Guiders together?

We believe that the young Guiders in the Region and the Young Guiders' Forum gained immense value from the day. Perhaps our experiences could be used as a model for other such events in the country.

SUSAN DANKS

Association Junior Council

SHARON MOONEY

Chairman London and South East England
Young Guiders' Forum

GOING SWIMMINGLY

Guiders who have taken part in the life saving training weekends which have been running at Foxlease for the last two years will be in for the experience of a lifetime.

26 trainees to take the life saving certificate, training will be intensive. Members stay in the Coach House.

House and enjoy 'cordon bleu' cookery from the two QMs.

Courses run from Friday evenings until Sunday afternoons. The Foxlease pool is used for training purposes with trainees travelling to the deeper Hounsdown pool for the exam. The water safety and resuscitation instruction is given at the Coach House. The ratio of trainees to trainers is four to one since

there is so much to learn.

The examiners arrive on the Sunday and the course ends that afternoon with the newly-qualified Guiders taking tea before joining in a Guiders' Own.

This year the Foxlease team remains unchanged. There will be two courses — April 26 to 28 and September 27 to 29.

If any of the 'old girls' from the 1988 course wish to renew their qualifications they should contact the Guider-in-Charge at Foxlease. The same team is waiting to welcome them back.

In 1990 the World Conference was held in Singapore, and Malaysia offered to host the Commonwealth Conference in Kuala Lumpur. Kuala Lumpur means 'meeting of the muddy waters'. Last year's was certainly a memorable meeting, with Commissioners coming from as far as the Falkland Islands, Canada and Guyana.

Out of the 50 independent countries and 17 associated States and Dependencies that make up the Commonwealth, 43 countries and 12 states have an active Guide presence.

As members of the Commonwealth, the lands represented all share a common language — English. So there was no danger of misunderstandings due to translation problems 'muddying' the flow of communication.

Rosemary Mills, Commonwealth Secretary, accompanied the UK delegation and describes her experiences.

We were thrilled to have our meeting in such an exciting, colourful country, and Kuala Lumpur, renamed City of Lights for 1990, glittered with a thousand illuminated palm trees, and every possible building lit.

Kuala Lumpur had recently hosted the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, and the Guides were determined that we would be treated with equal distinction. They christened us the 'mini CHOGM' and had gone to infinite lengths to ensure an unforgettable visit. The VIP treatment at the airport was most welcome after hours — or even days — of travelling, and their hospitality knew no bounds.

We were honoured to have the Queen of Malaysia open the Conference and smiling Guides lined every foot of the miles of red carpet that led to the conference building.

We were entertained to wonderful displays of Eastern dancing, and treated to tempting arrays of exotic fruits such as rambutan and mangosteen. Then there was the dreaded durian, once smelt never forgotten, which had a taste to match the aroma!

Malaysian menus include delicacies such as sausages made of dried and pounded fish wrapped in banana leaves, and fermented rice pudding. But this feasting was only in the evenings.

The days were reserved for hard work, with discussions on issues vital to girls and women everywhere on the agenda.

The delegates were very moved by a speech from Shanthi Daivism of the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development [read some of what she said in Live Issues, p12].

The Chief Commissioners spent some time after this session forming plans for their countries in an

effort to improve this situation for their members.

Joan Howell, the Canadian Chief Commissioner, led the discussion on another vital topic — the environment. She produced some water facts.

Did you know, for instance, that the water used by one person in *one day* in the West would last someone in the Sahara for *six months*? Or that 80 per cent of all sickness in the world is caused through dirty water, and accounts for the deaths of *ten million* people annually — 75 per cent of them children?

Australia's contribution focused on the necessity of tree planting. Their Chief Commissioner, Ann Millhouse, described the efforts being made to plant a Ribbon of Gold — of wattle trees — right around Australia.

Marjorie Sambudzimu, Chief Commissioner of Zimbabwe, and Aileen Burton representing Dominica, referred to or described environmental issues in their countries. And all Chief Commissioners drew up a list of actions which Guide Associations can take to control pollution and environmental destruction.

Time was spent discussing other issues of general interest, training and preparing for the World Conference. The delegates unanimously elected

FAMILY REUNION

On March 11, Commonwealth countries celebrate the extra-special relationship that binds them together. Guiding too has a bond that links Commonwealth Associations from all over the world.

Every three years the Commonwealth Chief Commissioners hold a conference. It is scheduled to take place just before the World Conference and in the same WAGGS Region.

**COMMON
WEALTH
CONFERENCE
1990**



Poetry in motion — dancers entertain after the official opening ceremony

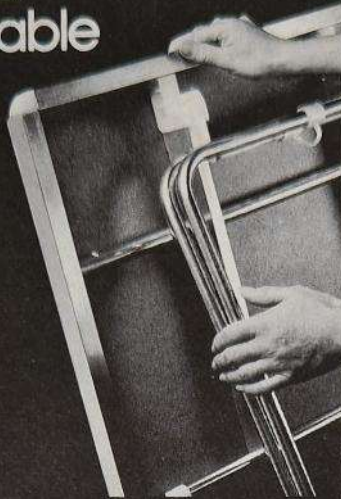
Mrs Jane Garside as Commonwealth Chief Commissioner until 1993.

Afterwards the Branch Association Commissioners held their gathering — a training-based meeting — with Mrs Margaret Banks, Commissioner for Branch Associations, while the Chief Commissioners travelled to Singapore for the World Conference.

● To mark the 75th anniversary of the senior section a Ranger from London and South East England has been asked to carry the British flag at this year's Commonwealth observance held in Westminster Abbey on March 11. And a Ranger from North East England will be presented to a member of the Royal Family who will be present.

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SCOUT ACTIVITY CENTRE

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Hesley Wood Centre offers a variety of camp sites and indoor accommodation units for the use of Scouts and Guides. Situated in the heart of South Yorkshire it is in close proximity to the Peak District and the cities of Sheffield, Doncaster and Rotherham all of which are steeped in history and offer a wide selection of places of interest and entertainment centres.

On site activities include archery, canoeing, climbing tower, shooting range as well as the standard scouting skills activities.

Special events for 1991 include the **CREWBOREE** an activity weekend for Scouts and Guides 7th, 8th and 9th June, 1991.

YORJAM... a very special International Camp for Scouts, Guides, Venture Scouts and Ranger Guides. 16th to the 26th August, 1991. This event includes a cultural festival as well as a whole host of activities.

For further details please contact the bookings office at the camp site.

The Girl Guides Association (Scotland) requires a Resident Assistant for its Training and Activities Centre, Netherurd House, Blyth Bridge, West Linton, Peeblesshire.

The successful applicant will

- ★ be 21 years or over
- ★ have experience as a GGA member
- ★ be able to work as part of a small team and be a good communicator
- ★ enjoy working with people, particularly adults
- ★ be adaptable and able to deputise for the Guider-in-Charge for short spells
- ★ hold a driving licence (it is advisable to have a car)
- ★ be available from May 1 1991

The job includes

- ★ maintaining and developing training equipment and programme support material
- ★ providing support for Guiders in camp and on Pack Holiday, to enable them to make use of the local facilities
- ★ helping with the day to day running of the shop
- ★ assisting with the maintenance of camp equipment

Letters of application should be sent to The General Secretary, Girl Guides Association (Scotland), 16 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7AH by March 29 1991.

Weekend World

She was describing the 'So far . . . and yet so near' weekend organised by Pauline McKie, the Association's Community Involvement and Development Adviser, and Sue Taylor, the International Commissioner, heading an enthusiastic and mainly youthful planning team.

We had asked ace lenswoman Sandy Everitt to cover the weekend and she was one of the hardy members who managed to beat the blizzards that hit Britain in December to reach Kings Park Conference Centre near Northampton.

Sue Taylor told her that the thinking behind the weekend was to provide an opportunity 'to give individuals wider horizons, an awareness of some issues which are relevant in today's world and a recognition that Guiding is addressing some of these issues.'

It certainly worked for Ann Lattimore, Guider with 2nd Steeple Claydon Company. She was 'plunged into an appreciation of the harsh mechanics of daily life in other countries and other cultures.'

The wide range of practical activities brought home to Ann the role that 'women in the under-developed world are forced to undertake.'

Outside specialists from agencies like Christian Aid and Save The Children took part in the various workshops, sparking discussions on the distribution of the world's financial and material resources and environmental attitudes, as well as the role of women.

Ann learned that 'women and girls do two-thirds of the world's work, yet earn just one-tenth of the world's income and own less than one per cent of the world's property.'

And she was left wondering if Guiders ought not be passing on such information to their girls and seeking their views on the issues. 'We were forced to re-evaluate our own ideas and positions,' she explained.

The keynote speech was given by Robert Smith, Director of UNICEF UK, who said that the upheaval in Eastern Europe had helped make 1990 unique in UNICEF's 45 years' experience. But new commitments there would not affect the agency's existing work in under-developed countries.

He described the ratifying by 57 countries of the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as one 'great leap for mankind', adding 'Sadly — the UK is not one of those countries.' And he urged Association members to help 'bring that about'.

Ann Lattimore commented: 'It seems that the UK should lag behind countries such as France, the USSR and even Romania, when the rights enshrined in the convention are only

The impact of a new-style training weekend on one of the 85 Guiders who attended was so great that she 'had' to tell GUIDING all about it. Ann Lattimore, a 37-year-old Guide Guider from Steeple Claydon in Buckinghamshire confided: 'The weekend was stimulating, invigorating and mind-stretching in a way I never expected of a Guiders' training.'

what all of us would want for our own children. Love, food, housing and education — surely these are basic rights?

And, to stress the need for action, a video outlining children's needs also recorded that 341 children would have died in developing countries during the film's 12-minute run.

David McKee, Deputy International Secretary for the Scout Association later commented: 'Some of us were left in an emotionally-drained state having done some of the development games and watched the UNICEF video.'

Britain's youngest diplomat, Rachel Kyte, challenged the GGA's attitude to 'political' subjects and found a sympathiser in Ann Lattimore. Ann explained: 'Rachel said that the GGA's deafening silence on so many subjects makes a statement of its own. I think she's right. We are one of the country's largest female organisations, surely we should be able to stand up and say "This is

wrong", when we feel the need.

'We have clout — let's be brave enough to use it when necessary.'

Others at the weekend praised the 'very professional' way it was run and one Trainer calculated she had gained a month's activities for her Rangers.

Were the organisers pleased? Pauline McKie felt that 'on the whole it had gone exceptionally well. If everyone takes away just one little idea which helps other people to look wider, to be more caring individuals — then it will have been worthwhile.'

Sue Taylor added: 'Guiding for adults is commitment to the girls in the unit and what they can take back for them, but there also has to be a development on a personal level as well. A weekend like this offers a chance for both of these things.'

But the last comment comes from Ann Lattimore: 'It was fantastic — and also a lot of fun. If it is repeated, I'll be there. Will you?'

Smiles from the organising team

SANDY EVERITT



TOWN VERSUS COUNTRY

Are you one of those discontented city-dwellers who dreams of living in the country? Do you see yourself cosily established in a pretty thatched cottage? Would you love to swap the hustle and bustle of the town for a sleepy little village, where everyone knows everyone else, and happy community life centres round the village pub?

If this is you, there are a few things you should know about the reality of life in rural areas today. It is very different from the idyll of the city-dweller's imagination.

TRAPPED

To start with, there are a lot of practical problems associated with living in the country. For example, just getting around can be very difficult. Rural bus services have been severely cut back. Many villages now have a bus just once a week to the local market town. Small railway branch lines have also been closed.

So, if you live in the country, you have to use a car for even the most trivial journey. This is not very environmentally friendly. And, of course, owning a car is very expensive.

Even with a car, getting around is not always easy — especially in winter. Getting snowed in is a constant winter hazard in many areas of rural Britain.

And, even in the weather, young people

often find themselves particularly iso-

lated. There are night buses

available in some cities but they are not

home and it's a long way to get

long, round trips out for a

doesn't always involve a which

NOT MUCH FUN

Even if you are mobile, there is likely to be a distinct lack of places to go. If you are used to the levels of entertainment available in most cities, you would be shocked to find out just how little amusement and intellectual stimulation is available in most country areas.

Fancy seeing a show? No chance. Theatres are virtually non-existent in the country and the nearest is usually a long car ride away. The quantity of petrol needed and the time spent travelling, makes any night out pricey. And it doesn't fit in with the early rising practised by most country dwellers. A trip to the cinema is also difficult and expensive.

There are other aspects of the 'rustic idyll' which prove to be less than perfect. For example, 99.9 per cent of the houses are actually *not* thatched! Most homes in the country are exactly like their suburban counterparts, only, perhaps, older and more prone to damp and rodent infestation!

And, the ideal of cosy village friendliness is also, in my experience, something of a myth. Everyone may know everyone else — but they also know everyone else's business! Gossip and 'fallings out' are rife in small villages.

FARM FEUDS

Many villages are also split by a strong animosity between 'real' country folk and 'in-comers'. The original inhabitants resent the newcomers who buy up properties at inflated prices that their sons and daughters can't afford.

Traditional village institutions are not doing as well as people fondly imagine. Country churches have dwindling, ageing congregations. Village pubs are likely to have been 'yupified' and 'mock-Tudored', to try and attract day-trippers from the cities searching for a traditional pub atmosphere.

But more serious concerns disturb

the rustic scene. Today there are deeply serious problems at the very heart of the rural economy.

Farmers are producing food that no one wants to buy. Farm incomes are falling, and farmers are going out of business. The system of food subsidies is under attack. Farmers use ever-increasing quantities of chemical fertilizers in order to try to maintain their incomes. And many are forced to think about putting their land to non-agricultural use.

Wealthy businessmen-turned farmers have acquired huge tracts of land as a safeguard against taxation, while the traditional, small-scale family farm is, sadly, becoming less and less a viable concern.

In any case, farming for the average small farmer or farm-worker is no idyllic 'good life' — was it ever? Only in advertising agency dreams do people who work on farms spend their time lounging picturesquely in hay fields swigging cider. Reality is long hours outside in the freezing cold mending machinery, or sweating in hot dusty barns shovelling tons of corn. And we shouldn't forget that farm workers' wages are among the lowest in the country.

SENTIMENTAL

I don't mean to paint a grim picture of country living. My home for 20 years was a small farm in a very rural area. So, I do know what I am talking about. And, of course, I appreciate the beauty that can provide an intangible bonus for those who live in the country.

It's just that I find our attitude to country life unsettling. It is part of a wider tendency to sentimentalise that seems to distort our whole way of looking at the world.

As R Hewison points out, in his book *The Heritage Industry*, we idealise and glamorise the past. We have a narrow museum-mentality which forgets about the squalor and brutality of years gone by, and sees only the glory and heroism.

There is a large amount of escapism in our desire to live in a chocolate box-style countryside. We imagine that life there will be safe, protected from the problems and tragedies of real life in the modern world.

But, if we move to the country, the homelessness, the pollution, the industrialisation, will not disappear just because we can no longer see them.

Would it not be better for us to stop fantasising and idealising, accept the real modern countryside as it actually is, and start trying to solve the enormous problems that face both town and country?

MARY RICHARDSON

Double figures — we actually made it! Ten years of the Junior Council. Everyone likes to receive cards and we are no exception, so I'd like to thank all those who sent us best wishes.

Our celebrations included a reception and dinner attended by two former chairpersons, Julie Limbrick and Penny Brown.

Also present were four members of the Ad Hoc Committee which recommended the formation of an Association Junior Council — Mrs Anne Dunford, Miss Marjorie Hayter (now the General Secretary), Mrs Ann Mitchell and Mrs Owen Walker.

The other ad hoc members — Lady Juliet Townsend, Dr June Paterson-Brown and Mrs Sheila Walker, were unable to be present but sent good wishes. As did two of the other three former chairmen — Dr Ishbel Hartley and Dr Gillian Turner.

Unfortunately, we were unable to trace the fifth former chairman, Pauline Hay, now Mrs Marshall.

We were also pleased to welcome members of the Europe Committee of both WAGGGS and WOSM and the

Association's CIAs, who were entertaining the committees to supper at CHQ.

At the tenth birthday meeting Anne Dunford presented a paper on the Junior Council's contribution to the Association's policy making. She referred to our input to discussions on the Young Leader Scheme; the GGA's image/uniform; the pre-Brownie age group; the Training Centres; the Queen's Guide; the Baden-Powell Trefoil; the Advancement of Girls and Women; the revision of POR; age groups; Co-education and Participation.

As we move into our adolescent years, we are boldly hoping to achieve greater participation for young Guiders within the Association, especially by developing links between and encouraging the growth of Junior Councils/Forums in the Countries/Regions and Counties.

We would like to thank all those who have nurtured us during our childhood and look forward to expressing ourselves in a more mature and experienced manner in the years ahead.

DENISE KING
Chairman

Extra hands are always welcome when it comes to cutting the cake.

happy



MICHELLE SMITH

BIRTHDAY

BRAVE BROWNIE

Ailsa Brown knew just what to do when the fire alarm sounded at the sheltered housing where her mother is warden.

Nine-year-old Ailsa didn't panic. She calmly led elderly residents to safety. Then bravely returned to the building several times to make sure all the old people were clear of the blaze. Finally, when everyone was safe, Brownie Ailsa helped to comfort the old people she had rescued.

A member of the 37th York (Acomb Methodist) Brownie Pack Ailsa was rewarded for her 'quick thinking and resourcefulness' at the North Yorkshire South County's annual general meeting. She was presented with the Chief Commissioner's Award by Mrs Pat O'Leary, North East England's Chief Commissioner. It was the first time that such an award had been gained in the County.

The fire started in the home of Mrs Turner, who was rescued by Ailsa.

Safe now — Mrs Turner and her rescuer.



YORKSHIRE EVENING PRESS

Rebuilding Peace

From 1945-52, the Guide International Service brought relief to the war-ravaged peoples of Europe and elsewhere. Its story is one of dedication and determination, perseverance and preparedness. This month and next, *GUIDING* retells that story, starting with an overview and continuing with reminiscences from one of the volunteers.

'It's beginning to be daylight, but the scene is grim and ruinous... Europe must be fed, must be clothed, must be put together again.'

(J B Priestley, May 1945)

Throughout the war years, many members of the Movement had foreseen that desperate situation. They knew that, in the overrun lands, the legacy of conflict would be chaos, with vast concentrations of homeless, destitute and sick people all in need of urgent help.

They anticipated that winning the peace would be just as hard as winning the war — but it was a challenge they wanted to take on. And so, just 50 years ago in the spring of 1941, a proposal was made for a Guide 'Army of Goodwill' to help relieve suffering in Europe when hostilities ceased.

In little over a year, the Army of Goodwill — renamed the Guide International Service (British) — had been set up and was one of 11 organisations registered with COBSRA, the Council of British Societies for Relief Abroad. Others included the Quakers, Salvation Army, YWCA and Save the Children.

With the aim of having fully-equipped, trained teams ready for action — wherever and whenever that might occur — the newly-formed GIS immediately appealed for volunteers. Wanted were members of the Movement, aged 21 or over, prepared to give service for up to two years, and recommended by their County as likely to be suitable in temperament and health.

...was overwhelming — included several candidates from Africa and New Zealand. The prizes soon had

cation — training courses and an ongoing self-training scheme. This scheme, for volunteers to do on their own, covered a variety of potentially useful competences and skills such as:

- Twice sleep on the floor (indoor and out) for seven consecutive days.
- Know at least two ways of purifying water.
- Be able to handle a boat.
- Know how to use a typewriter.
- Obtain practical experience in de-lousing heads.
- Learn how to handle a cow or goat.
- Obtain experience in bricklaying and necessary structural repairs to dwelling houses.
- Practise walking at night, preferably over rough ground.
- Study a method of filing papers.
- Accustom yourself to the use of the 24-hour clock.
- Know how to drive a car and understand its general care and maintenance.

The training courses, up to a week long, included specific 'relief work' sessions — lectures on subjects like vermin control, the psychology of fear and the effects of malnutrition, as well as classes in foreign languages.

There were also 'treks'. A group of volunteers plus trek cart had to endure difficult conditions, like Snowdonia in January, and face a series of unexpected situations. These could range from route-finding in desolate moorland, eating nothing all day except two slices of bread, night moves in the black-out, sleeping out on the mountainside or, with 13 others, on the floor of a horse's loose box.

The treks — unique in relief training to the GIS — were intended to build up confidence and test volunteers' progress, especially as regards their adaptability, good humour, initiative and stamina.

While volunteers were learning how to do the impossible and be prepared to meet the improbable', the rest of the Movement was raising money to equip

and finance them.

In October 1943 the Chief Guide, writing about the GIS to Brownies, Guides, Rangers and leaders, said: 'I know that it is your wish, each one and all of you, to share in this most urgent job that we as a Movement have ever tackled. Now — here is your chance! The volunteers are eager and willing to get to work, but there must be a large fund to equip and back them in the field. I know that we can provide that fund... And so — go to it.'

Britain's Guides certainly did 'go to it', doing all kind of odd jobs to raise money. They peeled potatoes, made toys, picked rosehips, cleaned shoes, gardened, looked after babies, ran errands, did paper-rounds...

And they gave up their pocket money, cut back on treats and walked to save fares. One Guider earning 50 shillings (£2 50) a week saved ten shillings (50p) every week for a whole

Trek cart work was part of GIS training; often the cart had to be dismantled to negotiate rough terrain



year and sent in £26. And, when double rations were allowed at Christmas, many Guides gave two shillings (10p) each, in gratitude.

Contributions also came from Guides in other countries — some as distant as Argentina and Uganda. For more than two years, the pennies and shillings poured in and, by the time the GIS Fund closed in January 1946, it had passed £111,000. Topping the original target of £100,000.

Some of the money was allocated to administration and training, but the main item of expenditure was equipment. Although the army supplied teams with lorries and ambulances, it was up to the various relief organisations to equip these vehicles. The GIS also offered each volunteer a personal kit allowance of around £30 and gave her ten shillings (50p) a week pocket money. In the field, the army provided billets, board and uniform.

Not only were Guides up and down the country raising money but, once the GIS teams were in action, they were sending off supplies to London for shipping to Europe. In 1946, the distribution of clothing was handed over to the Red Cross — there was neither the space nor staff at Buckingham Palace Road to cope. But we continued to handle specific requests from GIS teams — for items like needles and cottons, handicraft materials, stationery, remnants, pencils.

When, at last, the call came for relief workers to go abroad, the GIS was ready. Its first team went to Greece in January, 1945. A few months later

other GIS teams moved into Holland and then Germany. The following year, teams from New Zealand and Australia were sent to Malaya. This brief country-by-country summary gives only a glimpse of their work.

Greece. Devastated by the Italians and Germans and then savaged by civil war, Greece was in a wretched state. During their 16-month stay, the GIS volunteers helped distribute food and clothes to a starving population; rescued released hostages — taken by the rebel forces — from remote rural areas and cared for them in special hostels; looked after some 300 war-wrecked villages, taking them essential supplies, including medicines — often by mule up mountain tracks; re-organised hospitals; ran a transit camp for displaced persons; mostly disbanded soldiers who had no means of getting back to their homes, plus Yugoslavs and Italians waiting to be repatriated.

In their very first week, they were given charge of over 1,000 women political prisoners, who were herded together with insufficient food, no change of clothing, no proper sanitary arrangements and, in the bleakest winter, no heating.

Holland. By February 1945, South Holland had been liberated. GIS teams moved in and set up feeding stations and a hospital within three miles of the fighting still continuing over the border. Then, on VE-day, they travelled into North Holland, just six hours after the German capitulation. There, they were first based at Amersfoort concentration camp, caring for its emaciated prisoners

and also looking after the sick and starving from round about.

Within a couple of weeks, the teams were sent on to Rotterdam, to feed the bombed-out slum population — some 1,700 people, literally dying of hunger — to take on responsibility for a devastated dockside zone and, later, to deal with a serious epidemic of typhoid. Eventually, when the Dutch social services began to function again, the teams transferred to Germany.

Germany. In the summer of 1945 Germany was a country of chaos. In addition to its own population, dazed and demoralised by defeat, there were thousands upon thousands of displaced persons: political prisoners freed from gaols and concentration camps; slave-labourers, brought in by the Nazis from occupied countries; foreign workers, trapped in Germany since the outbreak of war; and refugees, fleeing from the Russian army as it 'liberated' the Baltic States. These DPs were urgently shepherded into huge camps, where they could be fed, clothed and receive medical attention.

GIS teams served in Germany for just over seven years and were mostly concerned with welfare in the DP camps. They distributed food and clothing; set up clinics, community centres, sewing rooms, kindergartens... supervised repatriation programmes, and, eventually, emigration schemes.

Malaya. Caught up in the aftermath of Japanese occupation, Malaya was served by GIS teams from New Zealand and Australia during a six-month period in 1946. The teams organised feeding schemes in Kuala Lumpur, delivered supplies to destitute villages in Malacca and were given charge of an up-country area where smallpox was spreading rapidly. They immediately set up vaccination centres in the jungle and, by injecting up to 1,000 villagers a day, managed to halt the epidemic. These volunteers then did all they could to treat and prevent the diseases prevalent in the area, especially cholera, malaria, TB and yaws.

When the last volunteers left Germany in 1952, GIS work in the field was over but it was not until 1954 — 12 years after its inception — that the GIS officially came to an end. Its spirit, however, lives on... in the many service projects undertaken by members of the Movement, in the Girl Guide Friendship Fund and in schemes established by ex-GIS volunteers (or through contact with them) — schemes like the Ockenden Venture, Cala Sona, a community for DPs with TB set up in Scotland, and the Sue Ryder homes.

CATHERINE DELL 33



HULTON PICTURE CO

Open Door

LIVE FOR TODAY

'Consider the lilies of the field...' — from the Sermon on the Mount — must be one of the happiest passages in the New Testament. Partly for the joyous picture it evokes — maybe a flood of flowers across spring meadowlands, maybe a scattering of blooms along a summer pathway... And, partly, for its reassuring message that anxiety about the future is needless.

Yet, even though we know that worrying about tomor-

row achieves nothing — except raise stress levels — we do it all the time. We fret about that dental appointment, extra work at the office, kids' exam results, District meeting, baking for the home-made stall, Gran's postponed op...

If we're not agonising over tomorrow are we perhaps switching back into yesterday, troubled by its failures and shortcomings? Again, this serves little purpose except to undermine the present.

These two reflections, one Hindu, one Christian, emphasise the value of living in the here-and-now:

Look to this day! For it is life, the very life of life... For yesterday is already a dream and tomorrow is only a vision; but today, well lived, makes every yesterday a dream of happiness, and every tomorrow a vision of hope.

(From the Sanskrit, 3rd Century)

I was regretting the past and fearing the future.

Suddenly God was speaking:

'My name is I AM.' He paused.

I waited. He continued.

'When you live in the past, with its mistakes and regrets, it is hard. I am not there.

My name is not I Was.

When you live in the future, with its problems and fears, it is hard. I am not there.

My name is not I Will Be.

When you live in this moment, it is not hard. I am here.

My name is I AM.

(Helen Mallicoat © Argus Communications, Allen, Texas)

News Focus

IN GUIDING APRIL

Nepal Revisited:
taking sewing machines to Tibet

Breaking down Barriers —
the Irish connection

War's Victims
Part two of the GIS story

Suicide
A cry for help or the final solution?

Putting Guiding First
Pax Lodge job tempts Pauline

Try This
Pack Holiday theme ideas

IN TODAY'S GUIDE APRIL ►



Environmentally Friendly
How you can help save the planet

Mexican Bean Feast
Hot tips for fantastic food

Get Smart
targets the tootsies

Keep Smiling
Oral hygiene hints

Homelessness
It happened to them

IN BROWNIE MARCH

Know your weather symbols
How clued up are you?

Conserving the Rainforest
The dangers explained

Spot the dangers
A super double-page game

Recycling paper
It's easy if you know how

Stylish extras
Tassel trims

Coming Next

HELEN KEEPS ON RUNNING

A week before she was due to take part in a charity fun run, plucky Guide Helen Warner fell over in the school playground. At first it was suspected that she had a broken arm.

Helen was just 11 years old when she'd decided to take part in the fun run.

sort of thing, she said her mum.

Helen, aged 11, completed the mile of the run and raised £60.

though she hadn't been advised to give her arm a chance to heal.



to practise as she'd been advised to give her arm a chance to heal.

Helen, of 2nd Hale Guide Company, Farnham, Surrey, decided to take part because she'd enjoyed the run so much as a Brownie the previous year.

Janet was amazed when, just days before the fun run, Helen came home with more than 30 names on her sponsorship form. And the event's joint organisers, Stephen and John Lawson, were overwhelmed by the amount Helen raised.

The money went to her local newspaper's appeal to send disabled children on holiday.

HIGHLIGHTS

DEVELOPING THE PROGRAMME WITH YOUR UNIT

FOXLEASE:

April 5-7

Trainers: A M Plume, S Allen, M Garman

Are you running short of ideas to introduce to your Rainbows, Brownies and Guides? Having difficulties with some of the skills related to the Programme? Perhaps you would like a refresher? Why not come to a Developing the Programme with your unit?

There will be lots of help for everybody, a chance to exchange skills, ideas and problems whatever your experience. Those who are new to Guiding are most welcome.

MAKING THE FIVE ESSENTIALS WORK

FOXLEASE:

April 12-14

Trainers: J Hancock, J Lamb (CHQ Training Team)

WADDOW:

May 31-June 2

Trainers: J Lewes, J Lamb (CHQ Training Team)

This is your opportunity for a fresh look at your role in line with the changes in attitudes in the *Guiding Manual*. We aim to help you gain confidence in the reality of Guiding in your area and renewed inspiration to take your Division into the 1990s.

BUILD ON YOUR TRAINING SKILLS

FOXLEASE:

May 10-12

Trainers: CHQ Training Team

Calling all Commissioners, Trainers and Advisers. Here is a chance to try out new ways of training. Learn about group dynamics, experiment with the overhead projector, chart, etc.

You will have the chance to train others and to receive feedback in a non-threatening atmosphere.

ASSERTIVENESS FOR GUIDERS

WADDOW:

May 31-June 2

FOXLEASE:

October 8-10

Trainers: CHQ Training Team

Open to anyone in Guiding.

Do you find it difficult to say no? If so, come and practise being assertive. You will have the chance to look at yourself and learn the art of effective communication.

DEVELOPING THE PROGRAMME WITH YOUR UNIT

FOXLEASE:

May 14-16

Trainers: M Carden, S Lake

Are you running short of ideas to introduce to the girls you work with? Having difficulties with some of the skills related to the Programme? Perhaps you need a refresher? Why not come to this special mid-week Developing the Programme with your unit?

There will be an opportunity to try your hand at a large number of different activities, with prepared notes and instructions for you to take away.

There will be lots of help for everybody, a chance to exchange ideas, skills and problems whatever your experience. Those who are new to Guiding are most welcome. Why not organise a small group from your area to come together.

BCU PLACID WATER SKILL 1

FOXLEASE:

April 26-28

Trainer: J Chittock

Here is an opportunity to gain an introduction to placid water canoeing. On the

course a complete beginner should be able to achieve the Skill 1 Award, which will introduce the basic strokes and a knowledge of safety and access.

The cost of the course is £50 per person for the weekend. This includes course fees, food and accommodation. The weekend is open to any Ranger/Young Leader/Guider who can swim 50 metres and stay afloat for five minutes in clothes. Bursaries may be available, apply to Training Manager, CHQ for details.

Places are limited, so early application is advisable.

FIRST AID: STANDARD RENEWAL

FOXLEASE:

April 26-28

Trainers: British Red Cross Society

This course is for those holding an 'in date' Standard First Aid Certificate issued by any society recognised by the Health and Safety Executive, and will renew that certificate for a further three years. The cost will be £27 + VAT plus the usual Foxlease accommodation fees.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

WADDOW:

May 10-12

Trainers: R Sara and team

FOXLEASE:

October 18-20

Trainers: R Sara, H Reilly, S Urquhart

Science and technology are part of all our lives. We cannot avoid their effects upon us in everything we undertake.

Would you like to try your hand at an egg race? How about solving a problem by working as a group? What ways are there to present activities like these to the girls in your unit?

If you want to find the

answers to these questions, and more, then these weekends are for you. There will be fun and activity without it being too high-powered a look at the 21st Century.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR DISTRICT

WADDOW:

May 17-19

Trainers: A Lampson, D Yates, F Rabone, M Burniston

This weekend will concentrate on the benefits that can be gained from working together as a District. It will provide an opportunity to look afresh at the day-to-day activity of local Guiding and enable the District to make plans and carry out future projects.

It is an ideal chance to get to know each other in a relaxed, happy atmosphere and to exchange ideas, skills, problems and experiences. Working as a team can be fun and the support it brings may last for many years.

District Commissioners are asked to bring a group of Guiders from all sections in the District and of all levels of experience. If your District has no Ranger Unit, invite a Ranger Guider from the Unit which serves the District.

RANGER GUIDERS

FOXLEASE:

April 12-14

Trainers: J Morris, R Hill

This weekend will provide an opportunity for Ranger Guiders to consider the Ranger Programme with particular reference to:

- the widening of the age-range
- *Action Plus* in the Ranger Unit
- decision making
- environmental issues
- committee procedures
- planning expeditions

There will be something for everybody whatever your experience.

TRAINING DIARY

ADVENTUROUS ACTIVITIES

For Brownie Guiders

GLENBROOK:

July 12-14

Trainers: J Young and team

This weekend is to help any Brownie Guider who is not a sportswoman (ie most of us!) to cope with requests from her Brownies for a more exciting programme.

The activities included will all be of the type that can be tackled on Pack Holiday or an Activity Day whether for unit or for District. Walking safely will feature too, but not for advanced mountaineers! The weekend is for the Guider who feels that her Brownies need a little more challenge on the out-of-doors, the 'or' choices of the Journey Challenges, using resources beyond the unit if necessary.

DEVELOPING THE PROGRAMME WITH YOUR UNIT

WADDOW:

June 14-16

Trainers: M Flinders, M Campbell, L E Hunter

This weekend is a chance to look at the Programme in your unit and to learn how to extend the boundaries by broadening your horizons. Sessions will place emphasis on the development of the Guider, her helpers and, therefore, the girls.

RANGER GUIDERS

WADDOW:

June 21-23

Trainers: W Goodhind and J Morris

This weekend is a chance for Ranger Guiders to gain an opportunity to develop their Ranger Programme.

- In particular the following will be covered:
- the widening of the range
 - the Queen's Guide Award
 - Action Plus in the Ranger Unit
 - expanding the Ranger Programme

There will be a chance to

consider any changes in the Programme as a result of policy changes.

LEADING YOUR TEAM

WADDOW:

November 29-December 1

FOXLEASE:

April 16-18

Trainers: CHQ Training Team

There are many elements of a Commissioner's job which can cause headaches. We will concentrate on running meetings, handling the paperwork and implementing the Adult Leadership Scheme. We aim to help you tackle these by developing the potential of your team.

CANOEING/CLIMBING/CAVING

GLENBROOK:

June 7-9

Trainers: H Robertson, L Travell

Have you always had a secret ambition to try pot-holing, climbing or canoeing? If so, here is your opportunity. With skilled and patient instructors, this weekend will provide a chance for you to try your hand at any two of these activities or perhaps concentrate on only one.

This weekend is open to Guiders, Rangers and Young Leaders.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR DISTRICT

FOXLEASE:

May 17-19

Trainers: H Took, M Eddolls, J Mason, E Tomlin

Is there something for you at District meetings? What contribution do you make to your District? Find out how you can be more involved and what support you can receive from your District.

Sessions will include ideas for planned events across the sections and using local resources. There will be an opportunity to see how to work with other groups, to find out about their personnel and understand their responsibilities. The importance of

effective communication within the District will also be considered.

Come and share your ideas and experience, learn from others and get to know your District.

DEVELOPING THE PROGRAMME WITH YOUR UNIT

WADDOW:

June 18-20

Trainers: E Harvey, V Mellor

This special midweek opportunity has been arranged for those unable to attend residential training weekends. You will be given an opportunity to consider the Unit Programme in a new light and with fresh ideas.

There will be activities for Brownie and Guide Guiders as well as time to explore the links between the sections. An ideal chance for Brownie and Guide Guiders to share together.

ASA/RLSS LIFE-SAVING COURSE

FOXLEASE:

April 26-28

September 27-29

Trainers: V Morey, M Beaumont, V Boatman, P Fry, S Mabbett

The aim of this weekend is to gain the ASA/RLSS Life Saving Certificate which is the minimum GGA requirement for life saving in public or private swimming pools where no official lifeguard is provided.

The course is intensive and physically quite demanding, but good fun! The exam fee is included in the cost and there has been 100% success rate to date.

If you enjoy swimming

and could use this qualification in your Guiding — come along and have a go!

INTERMEDIATE WALKING SAFELY

Including Rangers, QGS and D of E

GLENBROOK:

May 3-6

Trainers: J Simpson, A Ault, A Southall

Are you a Ranger or Guider working on your Queen's Guide Award, Duke of Edinburgh's Award (all levels) or intermediate walking safely training scheme.

If so, why not attend this training weekend, which will be specially tailored to your individual needs? There will be sessions covering

- clothing and equipment for walking/back-packing
- lightweight campcraft
- route planning
- casualty code
- planning and purpose of expeditions

Every day you will have the opportunity to walk in a variety of areas to build your experience in

- practical map and compass work
- navigation (good weather/poor visibility)
- party organisation and management
- safety

There may be the chance for Rangers to plan and carry out a practice expedition.

For full details of future trainings please send a sae to the Guider-in-Charge of the appropriate centre. Applications to attend any of the trainings mentioned should be made to the Guider-in-Charge of the appropriate centre, enclosing an £9 deposit and a sae.

GLENBROOK

Bamford
Nr Sheffield
S30 2AL
Tel: (Bamford) 0433 51567

FOXLEASE

Lyndhurst
Hants
SO43 7DG
Tel: 0703 282638

WADDOW

Clitheroe
Lancs
BB7 3LD
Tel: (Clitheroe) 0200 23186

NETHERURD

Blyth Bridge
West Linton
Peeblesshire
EH46 7AQ
Tel: (Dolphinton) 0968 82208

LORNE

Craigavad
Co Down
Ulster
BT30 0BS
Tel: (Holywood) 02317 3180

HAUTBOIS

Great Hautbois Road
Coltishall

Norwich
Norfolk
NR12 7JN
Tel: (Norwich) 0603 737357

BRONEIRION

Llandinam
Powys
SY17 5DE
Tel: (Caersws) 0686 688 204

BLACKLAND FARM

East Grinstead
Sussex
Tel: (Sharpthorne) 0342 810 493

TRAINING CALENDAR

FOXLEASE

MARCH

- 1-3 Greater London West
8-10 South West England
15-17 Leicestershire
22-24 The Promise in action
28- Easter working
April 1 weekend

APRIL

- 5-7 Developing the Programme with your unit
12-14 1. Ranger Guiders
2. Making the Five Essentials work
16-18* Leading your team
19-21 Essex South East
26-28 1. BCU placid water skill 1
2. First aid renewal of standard course

MAY

- 3-5 ASA/RLSS life-saving course
Birmingham
3-6
10-12 1. Build on your training skills
2. International
14-16* Developing the Programme with your unit
17-19 Getting to know your District
24-28 Family period
31- London South East
June 2

JUNE

- 7-9 Training for Advisers
14-16 Getting to know your District
21-23 Putting adventure into the Programme (Guide Guiders)
Friends of Foxlease
27-
July 2

JULY

- 5-7 London and South East England
13-20 BGIFC
26-28 Family walkabout at Foxlease

AUGUST

- 2-11 Celebration '91: Trail UK camps
16-27 Holiday period
29- 1. Walking at
Sept 2 Foxlease
2. Pursue a hobby

SEPTEMBER

- 5-9 Herefordshire
12-14 Working together in the youth service
27-29 Getting to know your District



GLENBROOK

- 27-29 1. The practical Promise
2. Towards 2000
3. ASA/RLSS life-saving course

OCTOBER

- 4-6 South West England
8-10* Assertiveness for Guiders
11-13 Isle of Wight
18-20 1. Science and technology
2. Rainbow resources
25-27 London and South East England

NOVEMBER

- 1-3 Warwickshire
8-10 1. Management development for Commissioners
2. Training for Advisers
15-17 Hampshire North
22-24 Insite
29- Midlands
Dec 1

WADDOW

MARCH

- 1-3 North East England
5-7* Leading your team
8-10 Junior Council
15-17 International: on top of the world
22-24 1. Games with a point
2. Look after yourself
28- A fun weekend at
April 1 Waddow

APRIL

- 5-7 Waddow Singing Circle
12-14 YLS: for Young

- Leaders and interested adults
19-21 Let's make music
26-28 West Yorkshire North

MAY

- 3-5 Training for Advisers
10-12 1. Science and technology
2. Trefoil Guild local history and walking
17-19 Getting to know your District
24-27 First aid course
31- 1. Assertiveness for
June 2 Guiders
2. Making the Five Essentials work

JUNE

- 7-10 Friends of Waddow
14-16 Developing the Programme with your unit
18-20* Developing the Programme with your unit
21-23 1. Ranger Guiders
2. Outdoor activities for Rangers, Young Leaders and Guiders
North East England
28-30

JULY

- 2-4* Learning to listen
5-7 Greater Manchester West
12-14 Rainbow resources
19-21 Rafting and pioneering for Guiders, Rangers and Young Leaders
26-30 Walking at Waddow

AUGUST

- 2-11 Celebration '91: Trail UK camps
15-29 Holiday weeks

SEPTEMBER

- 6-8 Developing the

Programme with your unit

- 13-15 North West England
20-22 Staffordshire
27-29 Cumbria South

OCTOBER

- 4-6 North East England
11-13 1. Keighley Division
2. Lone Guiders
18-20 Durham South
25-27 Merseyside

NOVEMBER

- 1-3 Sefton
8-10 North West England
15-17 1. Tutors
2. Durham North
22-24 Worcestershire
29- 1. Community involvement and development
Dec 1 2. Leading your team

GLENBROOK

MARCH

- 8-10 Advanced walking safely

APRIL

- 12-14 Trefoil Guild walking, exploring and natural history

MAY

- 3-6 Intermediate walking safely including Ranger, D of E and QGS

JUNE

- 7-9 Canoeing/climbing/caving

JULY

- 5-7 Walking for all, including the family
12-14 Adventurous activities for Brownie Guiders

AUGUST

- 2-11 Celebration '91: Trail UK camps

SEPTEMBER

- 20-22 Canoeing/climbing/caving

OCTOBER

- 7-10* Trefoil Guild

NOVEMBER

- 22-24 Advanced walking safely

PRACTICAL PAGES

RAINBOW GUIDERS

Be honest! Are you as fit as you should or could be? Very few of us are — and that goes for children too.

FIT FOR FUN?

Today's youngsters get lots of rides in cars to and from school, to Rainbow Guide meetings and family outings. Television commands their

ing food diaries, finding out about good and bad food, dental health, keeping fit, fighting colds and personal hygiene.

FOOD FACTS

Start your campaign by having a look at food. Ask your girls — and the Guiders — to make notes for a few days, showing which foods

local health visitor help? Perhaps you know a dietician who could advise.

You could take a look at what you offer your Rainbow Guides when you go on trips together. You could substitute fruit for sweets or crisps and offer pure fruit juices instead of fizzy drinks.

See if the girls can identify 'good' and 'bad' foods.

VITAL DENTAL KNOW-HOW

Children are encouraged to visit dentists from a very early age so that they are soon aware of the routine and have nothing to worry about. But that doesn't stop many of us from still being scared by a visit to see a dentist.

Do the girls go for regular check-ups and are they aware of how to brush their teeth correctly?

Again, you may feel like getting some expert help — you will probably find your friendly, local dentist will be only too eager to spread the word. You may be able to persuade him or her to visit a Unit meeting and have a chat with the girls about looking after their teeth. Or the Health Education Council could be a useful point of contact.

Try playing some games which involve sorting out which kinds of food hurt teeth and which help teeth — the 'hurters' and the 'helpers'.

FIGHTING FIT

Go for the burn! Work off those post-Christmas pounds! Well, at least have an energetic evening at Rainbows once in a while!

With the lighter nights you could take the girls to the park for a runaround.

BEAT THOSE COLD BUGS

I'm sure you don't need to be told how quickly children pass cold germs around. They only just seem to shake

off one cold, when another starts doing the rounds.

Everyone will be grateful if the girls could learn a bit about preventing the spread of germs.

Here are some things you could talk to them about:

- Coughs and sneezes really do spread diseases — always cover the mouth when coughing.
- Babies and small children are particularly susceptible to catching cold bugs.
- Throw-away tissues are best.
- Always take any medicine prescribed.
- Fresh fruit helps to keep the bugs at bay — especially citrus fruit.

How about making some posters showing how to keep colds at bay — your local library, school or community centre might like to display them.

KEEP CLEAN

Girls of this age always have lots to chat to their friends about which can mean they forget simple rules like always washing their hands after a visit to the toilet and not messing with hair after washing hands before a meal. So you might like to give them a gentle reminder.

But also chat to the Rainbows about looking after their hair and not biting their nails.

KEEP WELL

Do the girls know when to tell mum or dad if they are feeling unwell? Some children will complain at the least little thing, but others may just carry on, especially if they are absorbed in their play. Have a chat and see if you can all come up with a symptom checklist.

AND YOU...

Perhaps the mini keep fit campaign will inspire you and your fellow Guiders to try some serious keep fit! Good luck.

GILL PAWLEY

A Rainbow fit for fun



attention when they're indoors and, of course, there are the combined horrors of sweets, pop, crisps and burgers!

How about going on a mini fitness campaign this evening? Suggestions we have for you could include keep-

they eat — including sweets and biscuits.

You could then talk about which are the things that everyone likes — and which foods are better to eat than others.

If you feel you need some help with this, could your

BROWNIE GUIDERS

Lighter evenings will soon be here and with them the opportunity to think 'outdoors' again. Have you ever considered a Green Venture to promote awareness of issues?

GREEN BROWNIES

Until the warmer weather arrives, there is much that can be done indoors. Discuss in Pow-wow the various causes you could support, then take a vote. Here are a few ideas:

- Recycling
- Anti-Litter
- Thrifty use of resources
- Wildlife preservation

In Week One each Brownie makes a poster to display in a window at home.

The following week, get the girls to do one of the following:

● Start collecting bottles, cans, newspapers, silver foil, having first found out where you can take them for recycling* and where you can store them safely. Brownies make a growth chart, and take turns to colour in a section for every carton of paper/foil or every ten bottles or cans collected.

● Take a large map of your area to the meeting and ask the Brownies to point out any places they know which are especially littered. Warn them to bring warm outdoor clothing next week.

● Start a collection of 'useful junk' — yoghurt pots, margarine tubs, lengths of string, polybags, washed plastic cups, card stiffeners from tights and shirt packings, greetings cards... Discuss how these items could be re-used.

● Make bird pudding. Although their need is greatest in winter, wild birds will welcome extra food. Ask the Brownies to mix breadcrumbs, cake and bread, bacon rinds, sunflower seeds, dried coconut, rice, meat scraps and chopped apple. Spoon

the mixture into a halved orange or grapefruit skin. Then you pour some melted fat into each skin and allow it to solidify. Knot three lengths of string together with a central knot to form a cradle, place the orange skin in the centre and knot all six ends. Suspend your bird pudding from a branch or other suitable, safe place

and leave it to dry overnight. Next day, your recycled paper can be peeled from the mesh, ready to be shown to the Brownies.

OTHER IDEAS

Equipped with bin-bag and disposable gloves — small polythene bags will do — clear a littered area near your meeting place.

Conservation Volunteers, the Tidy Britain Group, Friends of the Earth and the Groundwork Foundation.

Learn the Country Code together. Go for a walk and see if you can spot people keeping or breaking it.

Plant sunflower seeds, which provide good food for birds in the nearest suitable spot to your meeting



RECYCLING

Now it is time to have a go at recycling paper. For each Six you'll need newspaper, starch, a large bowl, eggbeater, flat pan, and a mesh screen slightly smaller than the pan. Tear one sheet of newspaper into tiny pieces for each Six and soak them in water for one hour before your meeting.

Brownies take turns beating the mixture for a total of 15 minutes. Mix in two tablespoons of starch. Add this to the pulp, stirring well to strengthen it.

Pour the pulp into a flat pan containing mesh, which becomes evenly coated with pulp. Place mesh on the open newspaper and fold the newspaper over it, pressing down hard. Now fold back so the pulp is visible

Using your junk collection, make decorated bulb bowls, plant pots, bookmarks, soap dishes, gift tags, notelets...

Visit a piece of overgrown ground. Show the Brownies how the vegetation provides food and shelter for insects and birds. Point out that insects themselves become food, this being a necessary part of the food chain in which we are.

EXTRA NOTIONS

Borrow a fleet of prams and pushchairs to take your recycling cargo to a collection point, if near enough.

Invite a representative of a green organisation to visit the meeting and chat to the Brownies about their project. Suitable groups are the Royal Society for Nature Conservation, the British Trust for

place. Keep an eye on their growth.

Ask each Brownie to tell the Pack about one way to conserve energy or materials, for example not wasting water or electricity, using the last scrap of soap, taking care of clothes, re-using envelopes and plastic carrier bags.

Finally, why not suggest a look at the Conservation badge, one which any Brownie should be proud to display on her new sash?

*See p23 for details of our special can collections.

GILLIAN ELLIS

Don't forget to order BROWNIE from your local newsagent for your girls. The magazine is a supplement to their handbook.

WEASELING

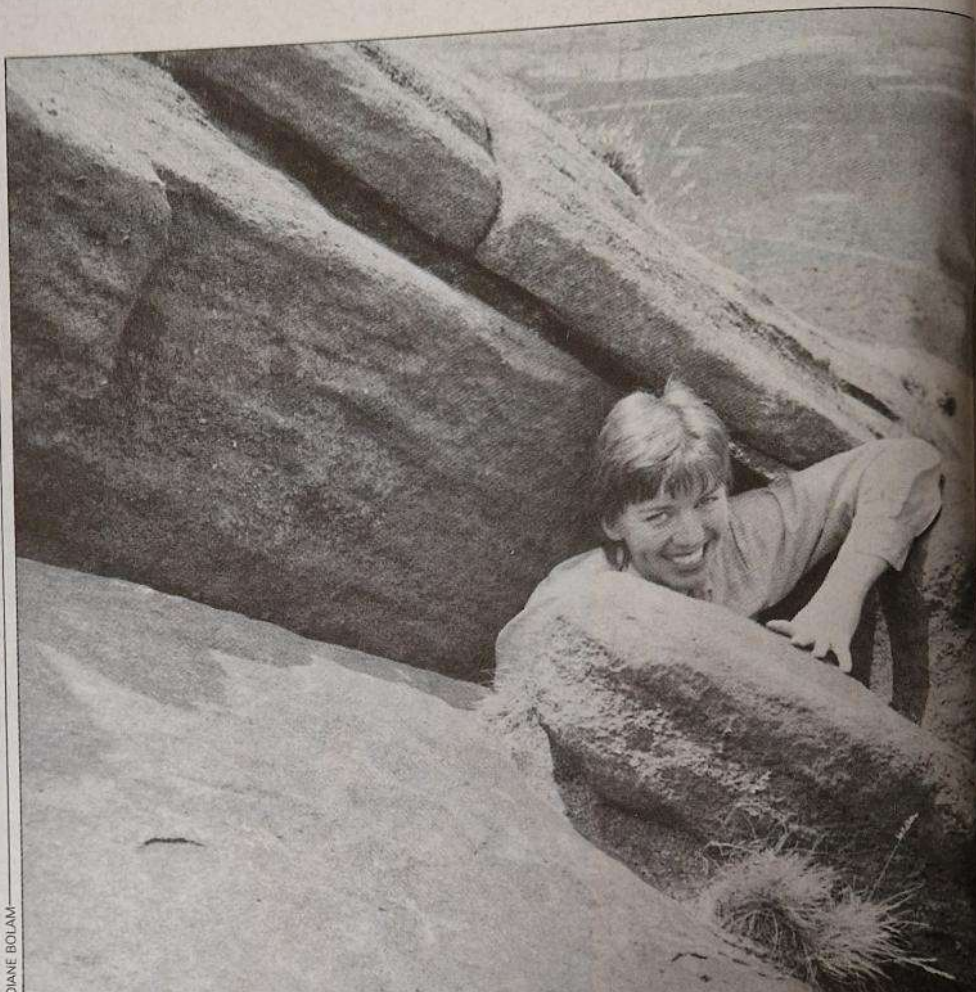
Never heard of weaseling? Well, it's hardly new. This great outdoor, healthy fun activity was undoubtedly indulged in by youngsters who lived around Derbyshire's ancient fort of Carl Wark in the Iron Age.

Weaseling has, in fact, nothing to do with that small carnivorous mammal that preys on rats and mice. And nothing to do with *Pap Goes the Weasel*, either.

Addicts like Ann Evans, Camp Adviser for West Division County of Sheffield Girl Guides, will tell you that it's a skilful, cunning combination of scrambling, sliding, squeezing, climbing, crawling, turning, twisting and wriggling to insinuate your way not *over* rocks but *through* rocks. Just the way a weasel gets through narrow spaces while hunting a mouse.

Ann had never heard of weaseling until a 1988 visit to the Sheffield Girl Guides' Outdoor Activity Centre at Whiteley Woods, on the edge of the Peak District. Weaseling, she discovered, was all the rage round there, the Guides' centre having been introduced to it by Rod Hyde and Kim George, of Sheffield education authority's outdoor education activities base, nearby.

Knowing that most children love crawling through cracks and crannies, they introduced weaseling to youngsters as an alternative pastime when the weather was too bad for rock climbing. Eventually they started weaseling as a sport, and it became a common activity for all the children.



DIANE BOIAM-

The advantages of weaseling, it was found, were that the children keep warm even in rain, snow and gales because they are constantly on the move. They enjoy it because all of them are continually active. They develop what Rod calls 'spatial awareness' — an ability to assess at a glance the size and shape of a space — and 'body orientation' — knowing how the body can be turned and manipulated to pass through a narrow confine. As an all-body exercise, Rod reckons, weaseling is as good as swimming.

Because it is demanding not only physically but also psychologically — dealing with the fear of being trapped — girls can show superiority. In Rod's experience it is often the skinhead toughie who chickens out, not the

apparently 'timid' girl. No specialist skills training is required, nor is special equipment needed. But the activity is very hard on footwear, outer clothing, fingernails, hair styles — and egos!

You can't go weaseling without the right rock formations, of course. They need to have suitable clefs and cavities through which human bodies can pass. And, obviously, the smaller the bodies, the smaller can be the voids.

Children, once they have acquired the techniques, can therefore always beat adults at this game. The rocks can be anywhere in the country but they must be absolutely stable. If there is the slightest possibility of rock movement there must be no weaseling.

There is no shortage of

suitable rocks in the Peaks, where Rod and his team have devised a number of 'challenges' — of the climbing sort. They have descriptive names such as 'The Safety Pin' — a U-bend with a catch at the end, 'The Somersault' — a headfirst somersault in a narrow cleft, 'The Cheesepress', 'The Corkscrew', 'Jaws' and 'The Nutcracker'.

Each challenge is different, requiring the participant to think out the approach, work out the orientation and body-shape and then execute the manoeuvre with care and cool courage.

The challenges are tackled in a set sequence, with each slightly more difficult than the last. Some eventually have to be abandoned because they become too easy. This is where a dimension of the hole is formed by

Busy doctor and Guide leader Karen Appleyard finds time to squeeze in a fun activity

ing. No one tackles a hole on their own. Each weaseler looks after the one following and does not pass on until the one behind is safely through to the next stage. The golden rule is: if you get stuck, don't struggle — relax and keep calm. No one ever gets jammed permanently!

Ann Evans went a-weaseling the summer she learned about it at Whiteley Woods. Right away she became hooked, returning again and again to the rocks at Higger Tor for more. Often she was accompanied by young Guiders like Claire Johnson and Cheryl Martin who, at the time, were students at Sheffield University. Sometimes she has taken her children and their pals.

TEAMWORK

'We do it as a team, in snake formation, with everyone feeling supported and instructed as to their next move,' she said. 'We never get anyone

can go ahead almost regardless of the weather, provided the party is not too big and that there are warm, dry facilities and hot drinks available at base.

If you could only meet some of the shapes and sizes I have encouraged through the most unlikely situations, I know that they would tell you that weaseling is wonderful,' Ann added.

Lesley Garvey, Guide Guider with the 25th Leigh (XII Apostles), Lancs, whose Company held its summer camp at Whiteley Woods Activity Centre last year, became another enthusiast after being introduced to weaseling there. 'As my Guides entered the first tunnel there were shouts of "I don't like this" and "It's horrible down here"'. But these were soon replaced by squeals of delight as the girls changed into brave explorers,' she said.

'Each hole demands new

clothing will ball up and cause jamming. So should helmets or hard hats be worn? The idea has been considered and rejected, said Rod. The hats would be a risk-creating impediment and drops are never more than a few feet, anyway, so there is little risk of serious injury.

His advice to leaders is: stress the teamwork factor and the principle that everyone looks after someone. Explore possible passages through boulders first before taking anyone through. Don't let anyone in your care weasel off on their own. If someone wants to opt out, avoid spending too long persuading them to have a go.

Official weaseling badges for Guides may be some way off yet but Rod, meanwhile, sets test pieces and awards 'Weasel Certificates'. But beware — he is a great leg-puller with his talk of a non-existent regulatory



Ann Evans (left), Karen Appleyard and Kim George 'encourage' a weaseler out of a hole

the ground on which the rock stands and the soil is crisscrossed by hundreds of scrabbling weasellers.

Teamwork is the key to safe and successful weasel-

really stuck and we use the fun approach at all times. Clothes that have seen better days but still give good protection to elbows and knees are essential, as are shoes with a good grip. Old trainers are fine.

With the right outdoor clothing — hats, gloves, gaiters and so on — plans

thought. A stance which proves to be correct for one hole may be totally wrong for the next. It is even necessary to lie down and wriggle backwards through some, but that only adds to the enjoyment.

As Rod Hyde explained, a lot of weaseling has to be tackled head first. Otherwise

authority called the British Weaseling Association and the Guides' Weaseling Carnet!

If you and your girls fancy a bit of weaseling, contact Kath Sorsby, Sheffield Girl Guides Activity Centre, Common Lane, Whiteley Woods, Sheffield S11 7TG tel: 0742 302434.

DAVID JACK 41

GUIDE GUIDERS

Have you ever asked yourself who runs your Guide unit? Who puts forward the ideas? Who plans the programme? It is either you, you and your team of adult helpers, the Guides themselves, or perhaps a combination of all three.

IN CHARGE

Every experienced Guide Guider in the country would probably agree that a Guide unit would be so much easier to run, if only she were allowed to handle all the organising and make all the decisions.

But then that wouldn't help budding adolescents learn how to make their own decisions and accept responsibility for them.

So the Guides are consulted about what they want to do. It is, after all, *their* unit, and the adults are there to help make it all possible. The most productive programme-planning is done as a result of team-work.

A DRAFT

Rather than present the Guides with the prospect of filling a completely blank term's programme, it is more helpful if you arrive with a partially-completed programme. This might be a large sheet of poster paper on which is marked out the term's diary. On this you would have marked in the dates already spoken for and the occasions on which you would like to do something specific, for example a Trefoil evening, Promise Ceremony or an overhaul of camp equipment.

BLANK DATES

Filling in the blank dates can present enormous problems. Some inexperienced Patrols or units will come up with few, or even no, ideas at all. Some Guides will have a few ideas. Some will have a lot of ideas. Some will have a little.

problems that your unit experiences, try some of the ideas below. They give the Guides some direction in concentrating their thoughts. Let's imagine in each case that there are six blank dates to be filled on the draft programme, and that you are asking each Patrol to go away and discuss how they would like to fill them.

THEMES

You can suggest a general theme for the term on which all the unit's activities are going to be loosely based. This adds a touch of cohesion to a collection of otherwise unconnected items. Give the Guides a choice of one or two themes, and decide on that first.

Then have a unit brainstorm to come up with as many different activities as possible, which could be included in this theme heading. Be ready with ideas of your own to get them started. Once you have collected, and written up, a long list of ideas, send Patrols away to decide on six activities they would like to do.

Often the theme just acts as a catalyst and, once the ideas start coming, the Guides eventually hit on something that the whole Patrol really wants to do. It doesn't matter if, at the end of the day, the chosen activities don't really fit into the theme. The most important thing is that the Patrol is really keen to carry them out and that the ideas are suitable and practical.

ONE OF EACH

Ask Patrols to choose one item from each of these six sources, each item to take no longer than one meeting night to complete.

1 An activity found in *TODAY'S GUIDE*.

2 An activity from one of the sets of PIP cards.

3 A clause from an Interest Badge.

4 A clause from a Service

Badge.

5 A clause from a Patrol Interest Pennant.

6 An activity from any other GGA book.

Get them to agree on six different activities which should include:

1 Something that has to be done out-of-doors.

2 A craft from a different country.

3 Using string or rope.

4 Inviting someone to demonstrate an activity to their Patrol.

5 Helping other people or doing a good turn for the community.

6 A completely new experience to all of them.

BAG OF TRICKS

Empty a bag of tricks on a table in the middle of the room and challenge each Patrol to decide on six activities, which include the use of at least six of the items. Your bag of tricks could contain all sorts of things. Try some of these and see what your Guides come up with:

ball of string, art straws, matches, tea-bags, ball of wool, Silva compass, set of billies, first aid kit, newspaper, street map, postage stamps, candle, bag of flour, torch bulb, tent peg.

As long as there is a wide enough selection of objects on offer, each Patrol will be able to find suitable activities to reflect their own interests.

OUT OF THE HAT

If you have lots of ideas that you would like the Guides to carry out, then why not try this method of gentle encouragement. Write out each activity on a piece of paper or card and ask Patrols to take turns to pull them out of a hat.

When each Patrol has six different activities they can go away and discuss them. If there are any that they really don't want to do, they can exchange these for new

ones.

It doesn't matter if they don't want to do any of them, as long as they can come up with suitable alternatives. And, of course, it is perfectly OK to alter the suggestions or to adapt them slightly. You will need plenty of ideas. Look through badge clauses, *Best of TODAY'S GUIDE 1* and 2, PIP cards, Trefoil syllabuses and so on for ideas. Here are just a few to get you going:

1 Make a Danish heart basket (*TODAY'S GUIDE*, November 1990).

2 Experiment with leaf prints (*PIP Set 3* card 11).

3 Make a wind orchestra (*Best of TODAY'S GUIDE 1*, page 12).

4 Go on a Patrol cycle ride to a place of interest (Cyclist badge, clause 3b).

5 Light a fire and cook on it (Green Trefoil clause 3bi).

P L COUNCIL

Once all the Patrols have chosen their six activities — it is advisable to give them a time limit — you can hold a short Patrol Leaders' Council to collate all the decisions.

When you have heard the various ideas that your Patrols have come up with, you can start filling in the blank spaces on the draft programme. If you feel you need a bit of peace and quiet for what may appear a complicated task, there is nothing to stop you taking it home to fill in.

It really doesn't matter if every Patrol wants to do something completely different on each evening. As long as they can organise it, and it doesn't require more adults than you have to supervise, it should be all right on the night!

TODAY'S GUIDE is, of course, available by direct subscription from CHQ or by placing a regular order with your local newsagent and not through the Trading Service.

A WEATHER STATION

Part 1 of this article can be found in last month's edition of *GUIDING*. In this final section we complete the weather station.

CLOUDS

Clouds are the most reliable of weather signs. Understanding cloud formations can make all the difference between pitching your camp safely before the heavens open — or getting soaked. Go outside and see if you can spot any of these formations with your unit.

● **Cirrus** are fine, white, wispy clouds formed from ice crystals. Seen high in fine weather and called 'mares tails'.

● **Cumulus** are fluffy white clouds indicating fine weather. If they become large or form 'streets', this can lead to showers.

● **Cirrostratus** have white veils which produce a halo effect around the sun/moon. This usually means rain.

● **Cumulonimbus** are low thunder clouds — dark and angry, continually changing shape. Known as 'anvil top'.

When the air is warm and dry and there is a build up of pressure in the atmosphere, the humid air cools rapidly, leading to thunder and rain.

A RAIN GAUGE

To make a rain gauge

- 1 Place a plastic funnel over a glass jar; a jam jar will do.
- 2 Mark an inch or metric scale on to a piece of sticky paper and place on the outside of the jar.
- 3 Place gauge outside, away from buildings. Record rainfall at the same time each day. Jar must be emptied after each reading.

Weather maps produced by the Meteorological (Met) Office link areas of equal pressure with a line called an isobar. An area of high pressure brings dry, settled weather, whereas low pressure brings cloud and rain. The Met Office uses thousands of sources worldwide

DATE	PRESSURE	TEMP	RAINFALL	WIND	SKY	COMMENTS
AUG 26	Noon	Noon	Noon	NE	Cirrus	Sunny and settled
	1016	18°C	5mm	2		
AUG 27	Noon	Noon	Noon	E	Cumulonimbus	Thunder and stormy
	940	22°C	2mm	4/5		

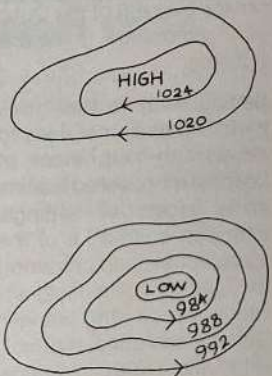
to collect data to measure the air pressure, including satellites, radiosondes (miniature radio transmitters) and balloons. Fortunately air pressure can also be simply measured using a domestic barometer.

Ensure that any instruments brought in from home are handled with the greatest care. Readings should be taken in the shade.

Keen, scientifically-minded Guides may wish to experiment and construct one or both of these instruments. Refer them to the books below, which may be found in the public library.

A vast selection of books, photos and film about the weather and meteorological instruments can be found at the National Meteorological Library and Archives at Bracknell, Edinburgh and Belfast. Material is available on loan and may well answer questions your Guides may have.

Your nearest weather centre will also supply information and may even allow small groups to visit. The telephone number can usually be found in the front of the telephone directory.

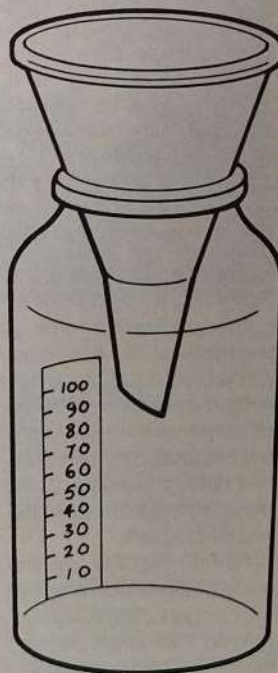


WEATHER LOG

Record all the information gained at your weather centre in a weather log. This needs to be updated by the Guides on a daily basis at noon or twice daily — am and pm. After a month see how accurate the log information is to help forecast the next day's weather.

The Guides may wish to build on this study and take the Weatherman badge. It will also help them with their Green Trefoil or Woodcraft Emblem. If you have a Guide or Young Leader, who wishes to find out more about a career with the Met Office write to: Personnel, Meteorological Office, Room 615, London Road, Bracknell, Berks RG12 2SZ.

JACKIE TEVLIN



BOOK LIST

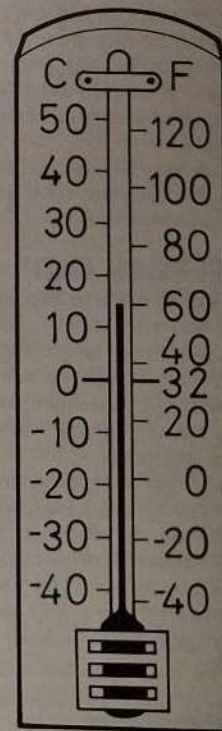
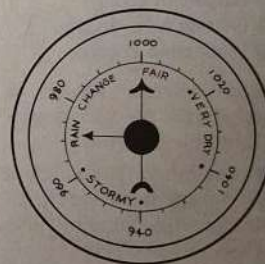
The Weather, Ladybird Books.

Practical Weather Forecasting, Frank Mitchell-Christie, Lulacombe.

Reading the Weather, Ed Catherall, Wayland.

Weather, Michael Gibson, Hodder & Stoughton.

The Guinness Book for Young Scientists, Marsh, GBR.



RANGER GUIDERS

The Action Plus resource pack should be in the shops this month. If you are hesitating about buying it for your Unit, ask yourself why it came into being. The main thrust came from the older Guides and younger Rangers who have been consulted about what they would like in their Programme. Most of the activities are tried and tested ones, but it is unlikely that all have been brought together in one resource before.

SERVICE IDEAS

Action Plus Community is the section which brings out the variety of service opportunities that a Ranger might develop. There are four parts:

- Getting ready to help
- Helping in action
- Getting ready to lead
- Leadership in action

Action: When service is included in the Unit programme, check on:

- how much time is spent on preparing individual Rangers to acquire new skills;
- how much time is spent on searching out opportunities for the unskilled;
- how useful/safe/caring are those who are unskilled in giving service to other people;
- how much pleasure those on the receiving end get from the skilled help.

HELPING OUT

In **Getting ready to help** you will find that some of the ideas included are on the Cap-Handi fact sheets, while others are ideas relating to a less specific group within the community.

Add-on Activity: Next time you are in the local park, challenge the Rangers to pull themselves to the top of a tree without using their hands or feet. The one who gets to the highest point wins. This is a first restriction.



Ready to taste leadership in action

This section does give the Rangers a chance to think through what skills they might need if they are going to help within the community in a specific way. Most Rangers, who have also been Guides, will have been involved in helping in a variety of ways. So they will probably have some idea what they enjoy doing — sadly, for some, service is seen as something that they 'have' to do, almost a chore.

Helping in action is where the Rangers get the chance to put to good effect some of the new skills they have gained, some of the information they have gathered or some of the new experiences that they will have had time to evaluate, using the suggested format at the end of the pack.

Add-on Activity: At the next residential activity which the Rangers attend, try suggesting they might develop the idea of a 'secret friend', a

person who they will look to help in an unobtrusive way throughout the event. Let the Rangers develop this idea as they wish.

LOCAL IDEAS

The list of ideas in Action Plus is quite short, but service opportunities are often peculiar to the area in which people live. And Rangers, either working as individuals or as a group, may find it easier to come up with their own ideas. For some this section may fit in with the service element of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Getting ready to lead gives the Rangers some ideas to develop to help them to become more skilled leaders in a variety of settings, although quite a lot of the ideas do relate to preparing for leadership in Guiding. Leadership in the Ranger Unit is often quite informal, with the role changing

according to the demands of the job.

This section links in with the passing-on skills idea in the Ranger Pre-Investiture challenge. It gives some ideas for activities, which could equally well be developed by the Rangers for use on other occasions where they may impart skills or information. For example, in Sunday school, at Beavers, or on work experience schemes.

GOOD LEADERS

Tasting leadership in Guiding is something that we know that lots of the Rangers not only enjoy doing, but are good at. By the time the girls have become Rangers they are often past wanting to act as small group leaders in the way they worked as Patrol Leaders.

It may be they have particular skills that they could pass on to a small group, are good at organising a particular type of activity or have only a limited amount of time available at particular periods of the year.

This section gives the young Ranger, who wants to start looking around to decide where she would like to take up a leadership training role, a chance to visit each of the other sections before committing herself to any one. It gives those who like to help and enjoy leading but who, for all sorts of reasons, don't want a long-term commitment, an opportunity to do so.

The emphasis throughout the whole of this part of Action Plus is on getting fun from giving service. If the giver is able to show confidence and gains pleasure in the giving, then more will be contributed to the well-being of those who receive.

For those new to Rangering it gives them a real opportunity to look at service in the community in the light of their extended Ranger Promise.

DELEGATION

This month we're suggesting ways in which you can cut down on the stresses and strains of running a busy unit.

How do you see yourself in your Guiding surroundings? Are you the one who has to do everything because no one else will ever volunteer? Is the burden becoming unbearable, with a physical and mental breakdown spinning ever closer?

The danger, especially in a voluntary organisation, is in one willing person being over-worked simply because she doesn't like to ask for help. A feeling of pride might be linked to a particular job, so we agree to do it as a boost to our ego. But, if we already have more than we can cope with efficiently, we must think carefully before accepting another challenge, which may be the last straw.

One way to be involved without being over-burdened is to delegate some of the work to others. This is not always easy. We wonder if others can do the job as well as we'd do it ourselves. And if they can, will they perhaps 'steal our thunder' and collect the credit?

LETTING GO

Delegation is an essential part of being a good leader, an art that it is both beneficial and useful to cultivate.

Why should we delegate? There are many excellent reasons like...

- Working together means a shared load and less responsibility on each individual.
- It gives others a chance to show their capabilities.
- Those who may feel unable or too reticent to volunteer, may well be able to cope with some, if not all the responsibility if offered.
- Confidence can be built through a small job well done and could encourage someone to volunteer next time around.
- The leader can assess the capabilities of the helper in

a particular role and encourage her to develop skills for the future.

TIMING HELPS

So when is it necessary to delegate?

- When the task is too large for one person to deal with efficiently and effectively, for example, planning a camp or running a bazaar or community project.
- If the time available is very short — more hands make light work.
- To broaden the experience base of girls or staff. Patrol leaders will never learn to organise their own Patrol activities, if the Guider always does it for them. Similarly the Guiders in a District will only appreciate the administration work involved if they are allowed to help with it.

for there are many people only too prepared to help, but who hold back until they're asked. Or perhaps they may need convincing that they have something you feel is worth offering.

Map out in your mind — or on paper — all that is involved in the exercise. List the various jobs to be done, and when they need to be completed.

Make a list of the people available and their strengths, matching the jobs to the people.

If the project is large, invite all the helpers together for a meeting. If only one or two are involved, a personal approach may be better. Remember to explain why you have chosen your helper and what you expect of her. An important part of the art is choosing the right person for the right job. And, if

not being given enough to do. They may not volunteer next time, if they feel their time has been wasted or under-used.

A little praise goes a long way. Remember to acknowledge a job done well, and make sure others know who did it.

Everyone given a job needs to evaluate her contribution, whether it's to the Pack meeting or the conference. Was her part vital to the whole? Did she perform efficiently? Has she grown from the experience?

Every leader should look for opportunities to give others the chance to share in the job. The art of administration is delegation. So a good administrator must be able to delegate — whether it is little, routine tasks that a junior can easily cope with, or the important matters given to assistants, who may themselves be developing into capable new leaders.

No Guider should be expected to be Superwoman. Don't be afraid to entrust authority to a deputy. There are times when even the most efficient of us cannot cope. It is nothing to be ashamed of. We must make good use of our time — use it to help organise others to develop their skills.

Remember the best Patrol Leader is usually the one who looks idle, while all the rest of the Patrol are usefully employed around her. Organising a team is in itself a skill. The co-ordinator of any project may appear to be doing nothing herself. But she carries the burdens of direction, leadership, continuity and evaluation. With her is the responsibility for having made the right choice in her delegating.

The mark of a good leader is when, at the end of the day, the helpers feel they have done everything themselves — and got some of the credit for it.

KATE HARDING 45



FIRST STEPS

For the leader nervous of relinquishing the reins for the first time, it may be best to involve people you know well. Some of them may actually volunteer, so, if they want to help, make sure they do have something worthwhile to do — or they may not offer again.

Others you may have to approach and encourage,

things go wrong, in being able to tactfully re-select.

AND THEN...

Don't forget, having delegated, to let your recruit get on with it! You must have had confidence in her ability, otherwise there would have been no point in asking for her help in the first place. So don't interfere.

People who offer to help soon lose interest if they are

YOUNG LEADERS

If you are a Rainbow Young Leader then stories will play a large part in your life. Your Rainbows will most certainly tell you lots of stories about what they do at school, at home or on the way to Rainbows. And, as most Rainbow themes have at least one story in them, you will have already taken your turn at reading or telling the stories.

STORYTIME

Brownies too enjoy listening to a good story and not just on Pack Holiday. Guides may not admit it but they too will enjoy listening to stories.

telling them an alphabet yarn to get them involved.

The story-teller begins: "Once upon a time there was an She then points to one of the listeners who has to say something beginning with the letter 'A', for example 'aardvark'.

The story goes on: "Once upon a time there was an aardvark and this particular aardvark was special because it was The story-teller points to another person who supplies a word beginning with the letter 'B' and so on until the end of the alphabet is reached.

sentence or statement that is repeated, as in *The Three Little Pigs*, when the wolf says: "I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house down."

Sometimes you can deliberately repeat a sentence or a catchphrase to encourage participation — and your listeners will begin to anticipate when the phrase is coming.

Why not use story-telling as a way of passing on a little of our Guiding history? You could tell stories of the life of B-P — did you know he was a spy, for instance? Or introduce an air of romance and tell the story of how B-P and the World Chief Guide first met!

Often it is in listening to stories of what other people did/do as Guides that encourages others to join us. I wanted to be a Guide because my mother often told me stories of the things she did when a Guide. Could you tell stories of your Guiding experiences to your Guides, Brownies or Rainbows, encouraging them to graduate to the next section?

Around the camp fire or just before bed on Pack Holiday are obvious places and times for story-telling but others can be equally good. Often candlelight creates a good atmosphere.

One of the best story-telling sessions I've known was in a draughty hall on a cold evening at the end of November sitting around a candlelit table drinking soup and eating oatcakes, and listening to the stories of Andrew the fisherman and the five barley loaves and two small fishes.

Choose a story that is meant to be read aloud. If you look at children's story books the sentences are quite simple. There isn't a lot of elaborate description. So choose your book carefully, and you can always add your own bits to the story.

Know the story well enough to be able to look

up from time to time. Eye contact with your listeners is important, even if it is only to make sure that they have not all gone to sleep or silently faded away to play a game. It's a good idea to practise before you read the story for real.

Checklist:

- 1 Read the story several times to yourself before you read it aloud.
- 2 Make sure everyone is sitting comfortably — including you.
- 3 Check that the pictures are large enough for all the group to see.
- 4 Look up from the book occasionally.
- 5 Choose a story that is written for reading aloud.
- 6 Avoid any distractions.

If you are stuck for ideas consult GGA fact sheet on story-telling; Baden-Powell's *Scouting for Boys*; Printforce's *Storytime* in book and audiocassette; Hans Christian Andersen's *Fairy Tales*; November's *GUIDING* Rainbow Guider page; Bible Stories; Stories of the Saints (try the local library); Celtic folk stories; King Arthur legends; Norse folk tales; GGA Trading Service catalogue and the children's librarian at the local library.

● Don't forget the Young Leader weekend at Waddow from April 12 to 14. Book now by writing to: Miss Margaret Firth, Guider-in-Chief, Waddow, Clitheroe, Lancs BB7 3LD.



Are you sitting comfortably?

Before launching into a story make sure:

- they are sitting comfortably
- you create the atmosphere.

It is vital to get the listeners involved and beware of losing their interest. You should tell short stories rather than long, involved ones, first making sure there are no distractions.

BEGINNINGS

"How do you begin your story?" "You sit comfortably, then I'll begin."

46 a problem

The more often you tell an alphabet yarn the more skilled at it you become and you will be able to backtrack, go off at tangents and, sometimes, even manage to get the next person to say just the word you wanted to take the story along.

Among the advantages of this type of story is:

- It needs no equipment or preparation.
- It can be used when you run out of material/activities, for instance before the end of a meeting, when the coach breaks down, on a rainy day in camp or Pack Holiday.

JOINING IN

Young children will join in story-telling quite spontaneously, especially if there is a

remnants

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GETTING TO KNOW YOU

It can be fun to have a session in which each girl concentrates on the other members of the unit. Try these quick and easy ideas to find out how observant your members really are!

My name is Polly and I am a Guide. Any section can play this, substituting the section name for Guide. The girls are all blindfolded, then leaders take them at random to sit in various parts of the room. The leader touches a girl, who says 'My name is Polly and I am a Guide'. Anyone who thinks she can identify the voice puts up her hand, and the leader chooses who shall have first guess. Patrol points are scored for correct guesses.

Whose leg? One Patrol goes into the corridor and a blanket is stretched across the top of the open door to approximately knee height. Ten girls picked from those remaining are chosen to stand barelegged in the doorway one by one. The Patrol in the corridor must write down whose legs they think they see. Each Patrol takes it in turn to go out.

Whose foot? Everyone draws round her bare foot and cuts out the outline, naming it on the back. A leader collects the cutouts and lays them name down on the floor, numbered consecutively. Girls try to identify the feet, writing their guesses on a numbered sheet. Sit round the circle of paper feet and reveal all!

Whose hand? A variation on the last game, but this time allow the girls to look at each others' hands to try to match up hands with cutouts.

You can carry both the above games further by comparing the cutouts to see who has hands or feet of similar size and shape. Will any hand fit exactly over another... and who has a brown left or right hands?

Just call me Van Gogh! Girls sit in a circle. Give each girl

a large piece of sugar paper and some coloured chalks, and ask her to produce a portrait of another person in the room without making it obvious who she's looking at. Then set up a portrait gallery, and invite everyone to guess who's who! Stress that this is not an art exam, just a bit of fun.

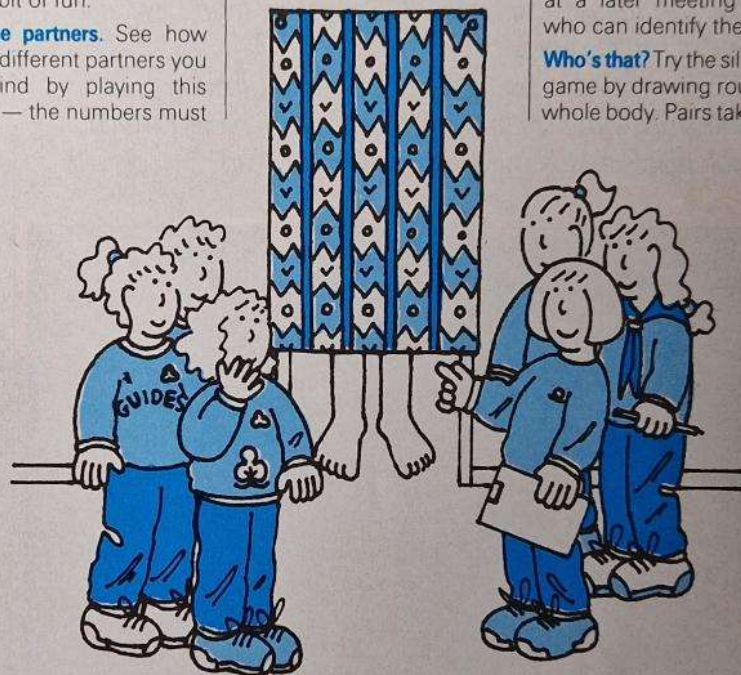
Change partners. See how many different partners you can find by playing this game — the numbers must

ject at school.

- 11 The same colour eyes.
- 12 Born in the same local hospital.
- 13 The same number of grandparents still living.
- 14 The same height exactly.
- 15 The same Patrol or Six.
- 16 The same items of uniform on at the moment.

the shadow of a girl's profile is clearly on the paper. Draw round this shadow, then cut out the silhouette, naming it on the back. Do this for everyone in the unit, preferably 'borrowing' the girls one by one during a suitable activity. Put away the silhouettes and produce them at a later meeting to see who can identify them.

Who's that? Try the silhouette game by drawing round the whole body. Pairs take turns



be equal. A leader gives the following instructions, and the girls must change partners each time. Everyone left without a partner collects a penalty point. Speed is essential!

JUST LIKE US

Find someone with...

- 1 A birthday the same month as you.
- 2 The same colour hair.
- 3 Exactly the same shoes or trainers on.
- 4 A house with the same number as yours.
- 5 The same number of brothers (nil returns count).
- 6 The same number of sisters (nil returns count).
- 7 The same number of both brothers and sisters.
- 8 The same school.
- 9 The same favourite colour.
- 10 The same favourite sub-

ject at school.

17 Had exactly the same for breakfast this morning.

18 Hair the same length.

Who does what? Ask each girl in turn to name one hobby and write it on a blackboard or large sheet of paper on the wall. Much later in the meeting, give all the girls pencil and paper and ask them to write down the hobbies beside the names of their friends, without communicating at all.

Shadows. Pin a white sheet across the room and arrange a strong light so that someone standing behind the sheet casts a clear shadow. Divide the unit into two and each half challenges the other to identify their silhouettes.

Paper silhouettes. Pin a piece of white paper on the wall and arrange a lamp so that

to draw round their partners as they lie on a piece of wallpaper, cutting out and naming the silhouette on the back.

I never knew that! The girls take partners and are then asked to find out something about their partners they didn't know before, such as their favourite book, pop star, what foods they love or hate. As they invariably rush for their best friends, this may not be as easy as it sounds! They then sit in a circle and each girl in turn tells the unit the new fact she has discovered. It's as well to warn everyone that this will happen, so they won't pass on anything they don't want everyone to know about.

To Russia WITH LOVE

It was a proud moment for the Guide Movement when the Minister for Nationalities stood up in the Supreme Soviet and thanked us for helping the children of Chernobyl. To have that thanks acknowledged by a wave from President Gorbachev was an added thrill.

This exciting event took place at the evaluation of the 'Solidarity with the children of Chernobyl' project which took place in Moscow in December last year.



Some of the Chernobyl children during their UK visit

Among the group of Guide and Scout Associations' representatives was the GGA's former International Commissioner Judy Ellis.

Children who live in Chernobyl, site of the world's worst nuclear power disaster in 1986, aren't allowed to go out much during their school holidays, because radiation levels are too high.

'The children cannot even go out, let alone sit on the ground, and they can't go into the forest because of the radiation. During the school holidays the Russians like to get the children away from the area,' said Mrs Ellis.

Last year, Girl Guides, Girl Scouts and Scout Associations in 15 European countries provided holidays for 1,230 children from the worst affected areas.

As the *ANGLO-AMERICAN* readers learned, the children enjoyed

outings of all kinds. It cost about £20,000 to bring 70 Russian children to the UK — money which came from the humanitarian Swiss fund, Pro-Victims.

Some children were sent for holidays in other communist countries such as Cuba. But, as Mrs Ellis explained: 'We were the first capitalist society to do it, so it meant a great deal.'

When the party arrived in Moscow and later travelled to Minsk, they were warmly received. The group was given treatment equivalent to diplomatic status — enabling them to see places ordinary Russian citizens aren't allowed to visit.

They were invited to the Supreme Soviet, the Russian equivalent of our Parliament. This was when President Gorbachev waved to the group.

Guiding and Scouting was banned in Russia in 1917 after the Marxist revolution, as it was considered to be 'bourgeois'. It was replaced with a communist youth movement called the Pioneers.

This youth movement is now crumbling in Russia Mrs Ellis said. 'The communist youth movement is losing its credibility because it is too closely associated with the government.'

During the visit it was made clear that Guiding and Scouting as youth organisations would be welcome in the Soviet Union, particularly because of what was done for the Chernobyl children.

So, WAGGGS is looking into the possibility of developing Guiding and Scouting in the USSR. 'But we would need to make sure the Movement was not placed under government control,' Mrs Ellis explained.

The biggest problem facing urban Russian people at the moment is the lack of food. As gifts for their hosts the British Guiders took presents such as dried milk, because it is virtually impossible to get milk in Moscow.

The Russian people were amazed to hear that Guiders do not get paid. In Russia, youth leaders are paid for the hours they do — they can't afford to give their spare time for nothing.

After work, much of their free time is spent queuing at the shops. Mrs Ellis said: 'You have to queue for two or three hours a day to get your food.'

She explained that it was possible to get food in the tourist hotels but it isn't lavish and one had to make do with what was available, and this was sometimes unusual. Peas for breakfast, as an accompaniment to rice pudding and boiled eggs, for example!

However, the group found that the Russian people were incredibly hospitable and willing to give anything they had, even when they could ill afford it. Mrs Ellis said: 'They will give you anything they have got. They want to give as they feel we gave their children a great deal last year.'

There are plans to send more Chernobyl children on holiday this year, but they have not yet been finalised and money is needed if the project is to go ahead. It is hoped, Mrs Ellis said, to give Russian children holidays in Britain for up to three weeks.

Units interested in sponsoring the project should contact their Country/Region headquarters to see if the scheme is operating in the area. Mrs Ellis advised. If not, donations can be sent to CHQ and the money will be passed on to a participating area.

Mrs Ellis added: 'If every unit put in £5 we would have enough to pay for this project and ensure it continued.'

MIDNIGHT SUN SEEKERS

'Finally we were here, we touched the end of the world' were the words said to have been spoken by the explorer Guiseppe Acerbi when he reached Nordkapp, in the far north of Norway, the most northerly point of Europe, and saw the midnight sun for the first time.

They describe exactly how Veronica Rees, District Commissioner for Riverhead felt, she says, at seven minutes to midnight on Saturday, June 23, last year. Because that was precisely where she was at that time — with the sun still in the heavens.

**ONE
WORLD**

ONE WORLD

It was one of those once-in-a-lifetime experiences shared by a party of Kent West Guiders who had accepted a challenge to join Joyce Bowden, Division Commissioner for Holmesdale, and Veronica on an expedition to the Land of the Midnight Sun and Nordkapp (North Cape).

To reach it the intrepid 25, whose ages ranged from 19 to 65 and upwards, passed through Lapland where they crossed the Arctic Circle at Rovaniemi. There, warmhearted Lapps gave them all an authentic Lapp baptism and certificates to prove they had crossed into the Arctic.

How does a Lapp baptism differ from any other? Well, as the party



A Lapp chap ready to 'baptise' his visitors

discovered for themselves, you enter a Lapp tent and kneel while a Lapp, in traditional costume, cuts a vein in the back of your neck (or at least nowadays pretends to) to release evil spirits. Then you drink reindeer milk from a kuksa cup, carved from a bulbous growth on a tree. Once in Lapland you must have no evil thoughts, speak no evil and leave no evil behind.

The adventure, which took two-and-a-half years to plan, was a natural step forward from a successful trip to Adelboden which Joyce and Veronica had organised for Kent West Guiders in 1987. There they renewed friendships made earlier at the Leigh camp celebrating 75 years of Guiding. Those who had taken the trip all agreed that they had enjoyed the challenge — somewhat daunting at the time — of the North Cape and



Veronica meets a friendly native

Said Veronica: 'During all the planning it never once occurred to me that we would not experience the unforgettable sight of the midnight sun. I now know that only about one in five visitors to Nordkapp actually see it because it is so often foggy or cloudy as it was on the nights before and after our visit.'

The scenery at Nordkapp is one of sheer beauty — such a vast wilderness. It exceeded all our expectations and no photograph can do it justice. All of us became members of the North Cape club while we were there and some of us made use of the club's balcony to reflect on life, realising that to create something as magnificent as this there has to be a force greater than man!

Another highlight was shooting the rapids — white water rafting — which they all found exhilarating. They paddled boats holding between six and ten people on a river between Finland and Sweden, with guides steering the course through the swirling torrents. They were, of course, all correctly kitted out. Coffee, in a wooden kuksa cup, and cakes round the camp fire made the perfect ending.

Some of the party actually struck gold in the Arctic. Not enough to make

their fortune but a few grains to prove they'd tried their hand at a bit of gold panning. Others, recalls Veronica, had plenty of mosquito bites to prove where they'd been!

Then some of them tried tobogganing — another 'hairy' experience best tried after some fortification with the local drink made from cloudberry which, according to Veronica, is delicious.

Helsinki they found enchanting and favourite memories include the enormous fish in the market, a boat trip around the archipelago, the tranquillity of cathedrals visited and Finnish 'doughnuts', stuffed with mince and rice.

Here are a few of the many other things some of them tried: met Father Christmas, saw reindeer, visited a wildlife park and a Lapp open-air museum, went on a boat safari, hiked to a mountain top, celebrated two birthdays.

The Nordkapp adventure cannot be topped, Veronica and her friends have already decided, and they aren't even going to try. But the next trip, planned for 1992, should be exciting enough, all the same — the Outer Hebrides. Who's game? Veronica is waiting to hear from you.

DAVID JACK

MUTUAL AID

It is now 27 years since the Girl Guide Friendship Fund was launched and almost immediately became involved with the WAGGGS Mutual Aid Scheme. Guides and Guiders throughout the UK began raising cash to bring a ray of hope and happiness to those less fortunate in other parts of the world.

Often the sums requested by the needy Guide Associations have been modest enough by our standards — £150 for handbooks in Rwanda or £296 for tools in Fiji. But, between 1964 when the scheme was launched and 1977, the GGFF gave a total of £16,000 to get many projects started.

It was in 1979, during the International Year of the Child, that UK Guiding first became involved with a project in Bangladesh. The link was to last nine years and to raise more than £7,500 to transform the lives of a small group of girls in a country where Brownies are called Yellow Birds.



Gambian stylish batik fashions

Originally the GGFF agreed to raise £1,700 to build a local-style house for the girls where they could be looked after by a housemother, who would provide them with regular meals.

The scheme was known as the Bangladesh GGA Vagrancy Project because the young girls it was designed to help were, in fact, living the lives of vagrants. Aged between five and seven, some were orphans, others the daughters of rickshaw pullers.

They were rescued from misery, given clothing and nutritious food to restore them to good health. Local Rangers helped to teach them to play and sing. They attended primary school and most of them enrolled as Yellow Birds.

So much money was raised that it was invested and sent as instalments together with interest earned. The final cheque was sent only recently. Curiously enough, the Vagrancy Project was not, in any way, speaking, part of the Mutual

Aid programme but the GGFF was proud to be part of it nevertheless.

Mutual Aid projects are normally 'one-offs' and the current limit in aid that an overseas Association can receive for a project is £5,000. Often the request is for a sum well below the total cost of the project. From Sierra Leone, for example, has come a request for £5,000 towards a £50,000 scheme to set up new headquarters and expand Guiding in the country.

Last year the GGFF sent £2,000 through Mutual Aid to the Gambian Girl Guides Association for a vocational school, although the Gambian Guides had only asked for £1,750.

The school is part of a multi-purpose centre that includes a Guide headquarters at Bakau in The Gambia.

TRANSFORMS LIVES

It transforms the lives of the youngsters who attend. For most Gambians formal education ends at 13 and there are no opportunities to continue with any form of further education.

The course on offer at the centre lasts four years and sets out to equip the girls with ways of earning their living and to make a contribution to 'national development'.

As well as improving literacy and numeracy skills, the girls are taught

training. Future plans include opening a cafeteria and providing the food for weddings and other ceremonies at a competitive rate.

As well as growing their own vegetables and planting fruit trees, the girls also raise chickens. The birds are then sold and the money ploughed back into the project.

This year the Mutual Aid project which the Friendship Appeal has chosen is in Paraguay, where the Association of Girl Scouts hope to complete the building of a new headquarters at their permanent camp site, Vya Raity. Started late in 1988, construction work has already begun. The total cost will be £6,400 and £3,200 is needed to complete the project.

The GGFF Committee would also like to support a project in Eastern Europe but, at the present time, this would be possible only in Czechoslovakia, welcomed back to WAGGGS at the 27th World Conference last year after nearly 50 years of enforced exile. Since none of the other Eastern European Associations in existence has yet joined WAGGGS there cannot, at the moment, be Mutual Aid for them.

However there are many worthy projects on every continent that deserve your support. Helping GGFF to help sister Guides is an excellent method of

Gambian batik skills



new techniques and skills. They learn handicrafts like rug and doll making, batik, knitting and sewing with a machine, so they can make goods that will appeal to the tourists.

The centre has a staff of four full-time and two part-time teachers. Last year they took on another full-time member of staff to cover catering

giving service.

The Friendship Mutual Aid Appeal runs from April 1 until the end of June, which means the time for fund raising has almost arrived. Send your donations for the Appeal to the Girl Guide Friendship Fund, The Girl Guides Association, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT.



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YOUR LETTERS

Offers of help are still coming for the 'Ordinary Brown Owl'.

HELP ON OFFER

Each year our Brownie Pack raises a small amount of money as a Christmas Good Turn. This year the Brownies could not decide upon a recipient for their fundraising, so I read to them the letter by 'An Ordinary Brown Owl'.

They felt that, if possible, the money should go towards helping this unit, if we are not too late.

Could you please put me in touch with the lady who wrote the letter so that the Brownies can offer their donation?

JOYCE CANHAM

Brownie Guider

3rd Bilton (St. Joseph's)

● Sadly we do not have the address.

SETTING AN EXAMPLE

I read the article on sex education in August's *GUIDING* and would like to add three names of helpful organisations to the list. They are: Order of Christian Unity, 58 Hanover Gardens, London SE11 5TN; National Council for Christian Standards in Society, 68 Warwick Square, London SW1V 2AL; and Family and Youth Concern, Wicken, Milton Keynes MK19 6BU.

I am sure any of these bodies would send a speaker to a Guide Company if asked. I would also recommend *Real Questions Real Answers* by Dr Margaret White, published by the Order of Christian Unity.

I must admit that for some time I have been concerned about some of the letters and articles I have read in *GUIDING*. I have the impression that teenage pregnancy, sex

outside marriage, living with boy friends, and so on are accepted by modern Guiders as acceptable behaviour.

And there is also a Guider who does not think it necessary to believe in God.

I find this evidence of the lowering of moral standards in Guiding very disturbing. Instead of bowing to the decline in standards shown by the general public, I would far rather see the Guide Movement setting an example by maintaining high moral standards.

MRS D G PARRY

Westgate and Birchington
Trefoil Guild

NO BELIEF

In response to 'Seek Help' in December's letters. In the Guide Company that I run, we have one Guide who does not believe God exists.

She made her Promise at a different Company, where one Guider did not know her beliefs.

When she told me that she felt there was no God I was unsure of what to do. But looking at the Promises from different countries helped me greatly. Some countries have two Promises, one for believers and another for non-believers.

I did consider asking her to renew her Promise using one of these. After we discussed it, I saw no need, as she was Christian-like in her thoughts and actions. This Guide is a great asset to our Unit as she is kind and considerate.

Should I have told her to leave Guides because 'an unbeliever has no place in Guiding'? No! So why should a Guider who does not believe resign?

She can do as much to help the spiritual

development of the Guides as any other Guider, as long as she does not force her views on them.

As the Guide I mentioned said: 'The Bible just seems so unreal it doesn't relate to what's happening today.' This is the reason that fewer people — young people especially — are going to church. It's just those people who are brave enough to say they don't believe are the ones that get condemned. They are better people than those who pretend to believe.

JANETTE WYNNE

6th Whitehaven Guides
Cumbria

SUPERB SUPPORT

In response to the letter, A Record, in December may I admit to having equalled 'the record', although I had never previously thought of it that way. I gained the Queen's Guide (old regulations) aged 12½; the Baden-Powell Trefoil aged 13½; the Queen's Guide, just one day before my 18th birthday; and the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award aged 17.

I frequently hear the comment that it is unfortunate the 'new' Queen's Guide age limits coincide with GCSEs and A levels. But, in addition to tackling the above 'challenges', I also completed the Young Leader Scheme and Ranger Challenge Certificate as well as three A levels. I do not consider myself to be exceptional, but I do admit to enjoying a challenge!

While writing may I say what a privilege it has been to be a member of the Movement in Gloucestershire. It is a superb Guiding County, and I cannot thank everyone enough for all

the support and encouragement I have received and the opportunities offered to me, locally and internationally, since I made my Brownie Promise 12 years ago.

LESLEY ADAMS
Cheltenham

PLEASE THINK

Having read the January edition, I was very pleased about the article 'My feet ache' and I hope you continue suggesting help for particular problems involved with disability. I know I probably feel strongly about coping with disabled people, for I am dyslexic.

As Guiders we are asked to take disabled girls into our units, which I am more than willing to do, but what annoys me is that we cannot cope with disabled Guiders! I am very enthusiastic about going to trainings and have been to quite a few since gaining my Adult Leader's Certificate but I have seen a few very sad instances at trainings.

For instance, all sections of the County were represented at a training. All the rooms where the lectures/discussions were held were up one or two flights of stairs. I followed a disabled Guider who had trouble walking on the flat, let alone up stairs!

At another training a deaf Guider was split up from her helper while learning a new game. This game led to another played in teams where names are called out in a story. This poor Guider had to explain to someone who she'd never ever seen before, that she was deaf and could someone tap her on the shoulder when it was her turn.

If any lessons are to be

learned from this they are: check on steps and accessibility, and find out first if anyone is not able to learn a game by doing it.

**MISS K P JENNINGS
(BADGER)**

5th Chesham Brownies
Buckinghamshire

NOT TOO OLD

I read Diana Wallace's article on pony trekking with great interest. I have been taking Guides and Rangers pony trekking in the Black Mountains for the last four years. Unfortunately this has rather taken over from our annual camp.

Our unit always had lively camps with enthusiastic Guides eager to learn many outdoor skills. Recently we have found Guides only keen on camping, if there is plenty of ready-made entertainment and all mod cons.

We stay at a youth hostel at Capel yffin, one of the few which provide pony trekking from the hostel itself. Six or more hours riding a day is demanding and combining it with camping may prove too much for some Guides — and Guiders.

Hostelling still develops comradeship, domestic skills and an appreciation of the countryside, but allows for a hot shower and drying facilities, both essential after riding.

For those Guiders reluctant to try this venture, think of it as a personal challenge. I rode for the first time at 40-plus and am now totally hooked. It is better than a dose of tranquillisers to relieve stress because you are too busy admiring the views and staying aloft.

VALERIE GEORGE

7th Belvedere Guides
Kent

STEEL CANS

aluminium cans. This is an admirable idea as the industry can offer a cash incentive to collectors.

However, let us not forget the humble steel can. Making steel for steel cans requires about half the energy needed to make the metal for other types of can. There are far more steel cans recycled than any other type of can in the UK and, indeed, in mainland Europe. There are 26 sites in the UK that operate magnetic extraction plants and recycle all the steel cans from an estimated 5 million people.

If your local authority does not operate a magnetic extraction plant it is possible for your steel cans to be recycled in a Save-a-Can collection scheme.

Save-a-Can make a donation to a local charity for every tonne of cans collected — the borough of Reading has been able to 'purchase' its fifth guide dog for the blind thanks to the cans collected in Save-a-Can skips.

So come along, Guides and Brownies, don't just recycle aluminium cans but help the environment and recycle your steel cans also. Find out if your town does it for you, if not then use a Save-a-Can skip.

Wash it — squash it — then — trip to the skip.

VAL BIRD

County Adviser for Science
and Technology
West Glamorgan

● Read about the super
Tesco/GGA aluminium can
drive on p23

VISUAL IMAGES

Congratulations on the two articles on the animal experiments debate. They showed that there are valid arguments on both sides: the need for animal experiments should be lessened by more sensible approaches to health and health education; equally, experiments on animals are vital if we are to understand the cause of

many diseases in order to prevent them or develop treatments.

However, I was horror-struck by the half-page picture of two chimpanzees at the start of one article. Any journalist knows that one good picture is worth a thousand words. This picture was entirely unrepresentative and misleading as an illustration of experiments on animals.

The point is made clear in the text of the second article: 'Large apes — chimpanzees, orang-utans and gorillas — have not been used in the UK for over ten years.' But that will go unnoticed after the vividness of the visual image.

So I make a plea — look up your November and December *GUIDING* — read the text of these articles carefully. The subject is complex and highly emotional.

Conclusions can be made only in the context of human beings' wider relations with other animals. For instance, if we eat eggs and cheese and drink milk, what should happen to all the chickens and calves which will grow up to be cockerels and bulls? Alternately we might just ask: 'Would I refuse to have my child vaccinated in an epidemic of polio?'

DR W A BLYTH

Chew Magna
Bristol

Correspondents get younger every day. The members of 4th Moor Allerton Guide Company were challenged to see which Patrol would be first to get a letter published. The honours are shared between the Chaffinch Patrol and Samantha Craig (Bambi). Here are extracts from both letters:

TRADITION

At our Guides we have a tradition to name our Guides after animals. This originated from the Tapawingo tribe, with

whom our Guider leader, Teddy, stayed for a while.
LUCY, SARAH AND NIREE
the Chaffinch Patrol

THE BEST

At one of our weekend holidays we were set a challenge about the Loch Ness monster as it was a Scottish weekend. We have a Guide leader who can make lanyards for Patrol Leaders and Seconds. Our Guide Company is the best!

SAMANTHA CRAIG

4th Moor Allerton
Company
Leeds

● That's enough letters,
girls.

MUMS COUNT

When I saw the item about eight South Fife Guides who had gained B-P Trefoils it immediately struck a chord. I applaud these Guides' achievement but, bear in mind, each one had a mother in Guiding. Does it follow that the converse is true — that no Guide achieves a B-P Trefoil whose mother is not deeply involved in Guiding?

I have long been concerned about the startling difference in achievement by girls in North East Herts who have strong parental backing, resulting from involvement in Guiding or Scouting, compared with girls whose parents' interests lie elsewhere.

Is this experience confined to South Fife and North East Herts, or is it to be found across the length and breadth of the United Kingdom? If this is a general trend then it is unhealthy.

When weighing the attributes required to succeed with the B-P Trefoil a zest for life can be balanced with common sense and determination, but should a Guider-mother be a requirement also?

HOLLY BEAN

1st Stevenage Guides
Hertfordshire

COMIC RELIEF

It's here again — Red Nose Day. That time when the country goes a little crazy for charity. And, as everyone knows, girls and Guiders are always ready to help a good cause, the Comic Relief team has sent us a special appeal. Here Rowan 'Blackadder For My Sins' Atkinson personally announces Comic Relief's Red Nose Day Three — The Stonker!



Dear Reader

Comic Relief is back on March 15, with Red Nose Day Three. The Stonker, and I'm begging and pleading that every single one of you should get involved. We need to raise a huge amount of money for projects in Africa and the UK, and we want you to have more fun than ever doing it.

In 1989, crazy events like eating jelly with chopsticks, custard pie-throwing competitions, Lenny Henry look-alike contests, cartwheeling across the Severn Bridge and holding dinner parties in the scoop of a digger or the deep end of a swimming pool all helped us to raise £27 million!

I am sure you can do even better this time and come up with even more whacky, inventive, brilliantly funny ideas to help us raise even more cash.

To reward you after your efforts, Red Nose Day Three then climaxes with the *Night of Comic Relief* — five-and-a-half hours of scalding hot comedy on BBC1. Among other things, I'm knocking off a special *Mr Bean*. We seem to have rigged an astonishing encounter between



French and Saunders and *Birds of a Feather*. Children's BBC are preparing a totally red-nosed afternoon, and 122 celebs have just stuffed into our studios to record 54 special sketches.

As well as this, Tony 'Not At All Like Baldrick Really' Robinson has made a film in Malawi about refugees, and Griff Rhys Jones has been to Kenya to look at some brilliant long-term projects we support there.

And at Radio One the fab crew are putting on their red earphones for five weeks of aural madness.

In fact, every bloomin' person in the country has a cunning Red Nose plan. There's going to be a special week of sport for Comic Relief — March 9-16, so if you're doing anything sporty at all then please, go Red Ball crazy for us.

We've even invented a new game — Throll — where you throw the golf ball instead of hitting it.

And for dancing action afterwards, Hale and Pace have been perfecting their carefully-choreographed dance called The Stonker.

So the message is — whoever you are, whatever you do — please put on your bright red thinking cap and think of some great stunt to pull for Comic Relief. And, while you're doing all these brilliant things, don't forget why we are asking you to do them.

Two thirds of the money raised will be spent on projects in Africa working in agriculture, health, water, education and famine relief — particularly crucial with new famines forecast in Africa.

One third stays here in the UK where a lot of people also need help. We spend our cash on young people with disabilities, and youngsters who are homeless or having drug or alcohol-related problems.

Up and down the country we are helping groups of pensioners to draw attention to their needs and improving their rights. It's vital work and really deserves your support.

So please come on board this year. If you want any more information, want to tell us what event you're doing or if you want our very-amusing-indeed participation pack, contact the lovely Pam Milman at Comic Relief, BBC TV, Room F11, Wales Farm Road, London W12 6UU. (Enclose a normal-sized sae.)

So please, put on your red noses, your big smiles, amusing voices, false mustaches and silly hats and get down for Comic Relief. If you don't love you forever, if you don't, Baldrick will!

Rowan

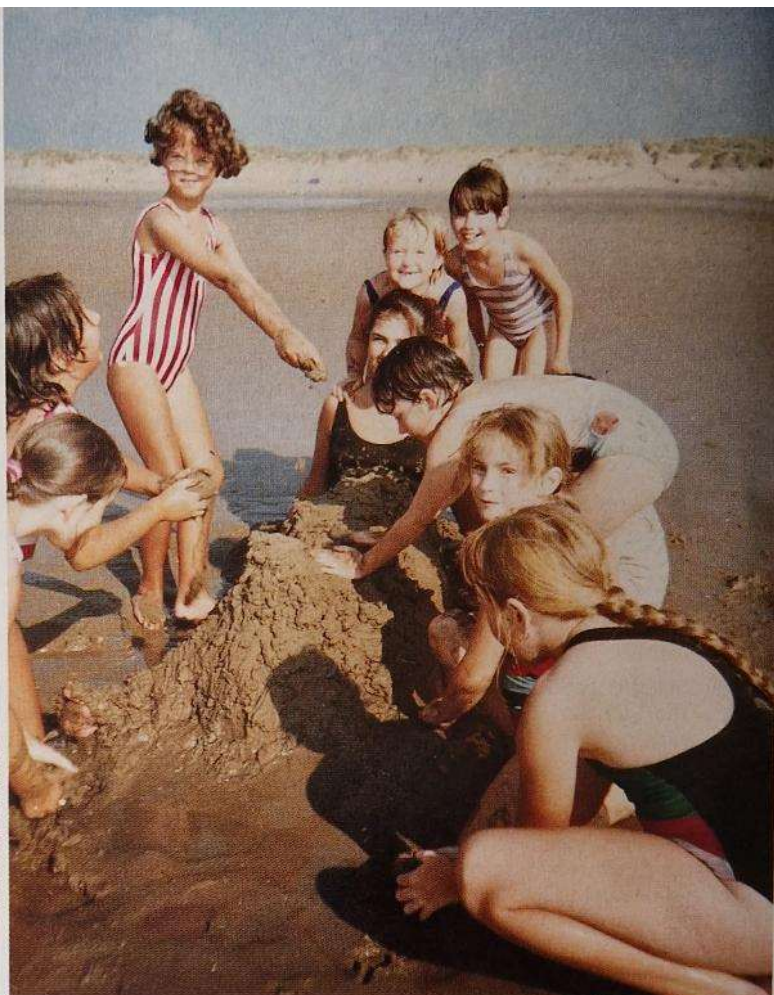
PEOPLE *and* PLACES

HEI THERE!

▼ Underneath the muddy anoraks and hard hats, some of you out there might recognise these Norwegian Rangers enjoying a caving expedition at Durham Doorway '88. The photo has only just reached us from Norway from a Ranger who wants to say 'Hei' to her English pals.



IRIL K. SCHAU JOHANSEN



SUSAN ORTH

HAPPY DAYS

▼ It was big smiles all round when this happy threesome from 1st Redhill Rainbows sampled the fun on offer in the great outdoors during a visit to Guide camp in Dudsbury, Dorset.

BURIED TREASURE

▲ It's not often you get a chance to bury your Assistant Guider alive. So the Brownies from 22nd City of Coventry South Pack made the most of their visit to the beach at Southport.



£10
WINNER

OVER THE TOP

► She's half way there but it's a long way down! And there were another 149 Guides from all over Suffolk waiting their turn on the gruelling assault course at Orwell Park, Nacton.

STICKY MOMENTS

▼ Cooking an omelette is tricky stuff but imagine having to master the art of eating it with chopsticks. Nicky Webb, a Young Leader from Camberley Heathside District, doesn't look defeated by the task. She's sporting a kimono and sampling the local cuisine on a visit to Japan.

COURTESY OF THE EVENING STAR, IPSWICH

MARGARET JEFFREYS

JENNY CHARLWOOD



SLEEPY HEADS

► They're friends for life — and yet two weeks before this picture was taken, these Guides, Elizabeth Tilson and Danielle Howe, hadn't even met. They were snapped snoozing on the bus returning from an international camp in Vienna, Austria.



ENGINEERING

A HAPPY CAREER



Hard hat and pearls... Elizabeth proves it's not a man's world

Ask undergraduate Elizabeth Ellis whether engineering was her lifelong ambition, and she'll deny it.

'I'd no idea what career I wanted,' said 22-year-old Guildford. 'At the eleventh hour, I found myself under the gun with the deadline nearer the end of the day.'

58

In an elimination process, Elizabeth asked herself some logical questions

Do I like working alone or with others ... indoors or out ... mentally or physically ... home or abroad ... seeing an end product ...?

It proved a sound system, with engineering emerging as a clear winner. Then it was simply a matter of deciding which branch. Now, over two years into her training, Elizabeth marvels at the last minute decision which swept her towards a career she knows she will love — civil engineering.

Many people still see civil engineering as a man's world but Elizabeth vehem-

ently refutes this outdated view.

'More and more women are coming into engineering,' she explained. 'So far I've found nothing in the course which a woman can't do just as well as a man. Girls should be encouraged to enter the profession. It's brilliant, exciting, exciting and rewarding.'

Elizabeth chose the Surrey University 'thick sandwich' course, and was delighted to be awarded a place. She's now in her third year, one of eight women among the 40-plus 'brickies', but you won't find her in Surrey at the moment.

'Guildford's great, but Paris is better!' she said with a grin. 'Industrial year

opportunities are terrific. Surrey offers student placements all over Europe, as well as South Africa, the Far East and the USA.

Elizabeth chose France because she's a devout Francophile. Her French is fluent as she previously worked in Paris as an au pair. Working hours are spent speaking French, while English is the leisure time language of the expats, au pairs and *stagiaires* (temporary employees) with whom Elizabeth spends her weekends.

*'It's brilliant,
exacting, exciting
and rewarding.'*

'I didn't intend to return to Paris this year,' Elizabeth said. 'I thought I'd try somewhere new — Lyon, Geneva or Brussels. I visited an engineering firm in Lyon who are extending the Metro system. It was really interesting. But my tutor said the Paris job would be right for me, so I took his advice. I'm glad I did.'

Elizabeth has been working for Soletanche Entreprise at Nanterre, west of Paris, since July, last year. Soletanche (literally 'watertight soil') is a foundations engineering firm originally specialising in grouting, now expanded to involve all underground engineering, and a world leader in its field.

Elizabeth works on the design of diaphragm walls, which are retaining structures used to support the soil during underground construction.

'I calculate forces,' she explained. 'It's all to do with loads, stresses and deformations caused by the mass of material surrounding the excavation. Each job is individual — different problems, different solutions. It's fascinating.' Industrial year students are given responsible jobs, though naturally their work is supervised.

'My first job was to calculate the depth of a diaphragm wall in Bangkok!' Elizabeth recalled. 'It felt great to be putting theory into practice. Since then I've been involved in similar design for other sites in the Far East and in France. We occasionally go "on site" but it's mainly office work.'

Elizabeth loves the job. She is faintly sorry when Friday evening comes and excited at the prospect of Monday morning.

'I don't suppose that'll last for ever,' she admitted. 'But I'd loathe crawling to work unwillingly every day. That must be terrible.'

Elizabeth likes living in Paris. She has a pleasant second-floor flat in the 15th *arrondissement*, inherited from her *stagiere* predecessor. With two rooms, kitchen, bathroom, constant hot water and all services included, it's inexpensive by Paris standards. That's important as Elizabeth's one niggle is the low annual salary paid to *stagiaires* in France... approximately £6,500.

'Industrial year students in Britain are better paid,' she explained. 'But there are perks. I buy a good lunch at work for £1, and French employers go halves on travel costs. A monthly pass covering a wide area of Paris only costs £23.40, because it's already

walks, sight-seeing or just chatting over endless cups of black Parisian coffee.

'French people are friendly enough, but they keep their working and social lives in separate compartments,' Elizabeth said. 'My work colleagues are lovely, but they're my weekday friends. I spend evenings and weekends either with church friends or with the Paris group of IFES (International Fellowship of Evangelical Students) where I meet students of many nationalities.'

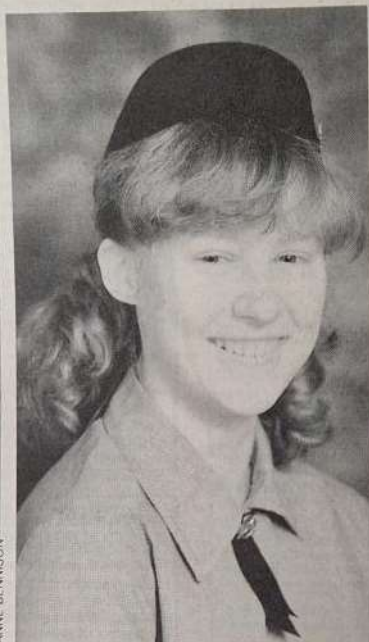
Elizabeth joined the Guide Movement at seven. After Brownies, she was a Guide with 3rd Cheadle Hulme in Stockport County run by Guider Morene Morton.

'I've a lot to thank Skip for,' Elizabeth said. 'She encouraged me to try new things and accept responsibility. She ran brilliant camps and great meetings.'

Rangers followed, then a spell in Ventures, Elizabeth's only break from Guiding.

At 18, she became Assistant Guider with 15th Cheadle Hulme, the unit where she'd been a Brownie. She's still attached to the 15th, paying CHQ subs and attending meetings whenever possible, because she doesn't want to break her Guiding links.

'I love Brownies,' she says. 'When I'm in a permanent job, in whatever country, I'll still be a Guider. Guiding's given me some of my happiest times. There's no doubt it's helped me develop from a shy child into a relatively confident adult.'



Guiding means a lot to Elizabeth

heavily subsidised. So I can travel all over the city by any form of transport for £11.70 a month. Can't be bad.'

Officially, Elizabeth works from 8.45am to 5.30pm from Monday to Friday, but rarely leaves before 6.30pm.

'It's different here,' she explained. 'Hardly anyone clock-watches. It's quite normal for the entire design office to be hard at it over an hour after finishing time.'

'Nobody thinks anything of giving the firm a few extra hours. Of course, if there's a particular reason for leaving on the dot, I can. But I wouldn't do it too often. I don't want the reputation of being an unwilling worker.'

Elizabeth leads a full social life, mainly centred on St Michael's English Church. She sings in the choir, and has many friends among the young Christians, who congregate at every conceivable opportunity for meetings, studies, discussions, parties, barbecues,

*'I'd loathe
crawling to work
unwillingly every
day.'*

Elizabeth's advice to anyone hoping to follow her example is to go ahead. She says civil engineering is fascinating, absorbing and rewarding. Engineers are very much in demand and engineering is an essential part of today's world. Candidates need A-level maths, physics and one other subject.

Elizabeth thoroughly recommends the University of Surrey course, though it's very hard work, involving long hours of study. She loved every minute.

As far as Elizabeth's concerned, the more women in engineering the better. 'A man's world? Not a bit of it! Come on, all you scientific women; let's show them what we can do!'

GILLIAN ELLIS
(Elizabeth's mum!)

DISCLAIMER REMINDER

Inclusion in this section should not be taken to mean that the Association has checked out and endorses the site or accommodation advertised. Guides are reminded that they should obtain permission from their Camp or Pack Holiday Adviser and their District Commissioner before making a booking and should complete the appropriate forms.

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Map reference - Sheet 125-086 243.

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SCOUT HOLIDAY HOMES TRUST

EARLY AND LATE HOLIDAYS

Any Guiding family is welcome to book a holiday in our self-contained chalets and caravans. Our holidays are usually for families with a handicapped member, but obviously we would like all vacancies filled.

For the latest information, our brochure and price list, please contact: Scout Holiday Homes Trust, Baden-Powell House, Queen's Gate, London SW7 5JS - Telephone 071-584 7030

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SCOUT AND GUIDE SHOW

BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE
2nd, 3rd, 4th May, 1991

Tickets -
SAE Box Office, Opera House,
Buxton. Phone 0298 72190

BILLERICAY WICKFORD & BASILDON GANG SHOW '91

Towngate Theatre Basildon
2nd-6th April, 1991

For details telephone
Mrs Hagger, 0277 622182

SPEN VALLEY GANG SHOW

10th-13th and 17th-20th
April 1991

Details telephone
0274 879766

SCOUT/GUIDE EXPEDITION WEEK, A year ago, 14-25, and having difficulty in arranging an expedition for 2nd & 3rd, Queen's Guide Enterprise, Queen's Scout or any other award? Then join us on a Darnbrook 10th-17th August, 1991, Cost £34. Apply to D. Hunt, "Greenhery" Woodwater Lane, Water F42 5JG.

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MARY MAIN FROM NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

She is 55 and County Commissioner for Northumberland and has been in the Association most of her life.

“My friend was going to Brownies and I thought it sounded very nice, so I went along too. I think I was hooked from the beginning. We really got very involved. I was a First Class Guide.

Funnily enough there are still people from that area in Guiding. I think it may have something to do with the Ranger Unit we were in. The ex-County Commissioner for Newcastle was a Fenham Ranger and so was the County Commissioner before her.

There was some magic about. If you get with a group of people who feel the same as you do, you just carry each other along.

After being a Brownie, Guide and Ranger, I went on to become Tawny Owl, District Secretary, District Commissioner, a Trainer, Pack Holiday Adviser and, currently, I am County Commissioner.

By profession I trained as a secretary, so I don't get fed up with the admin that goes with this job, as admin tends to be something that comes easily.

I think one of the jobs I've really enjoyed was being a District Commissioner, possibly because then I don't think it carried with it as much respon-

sibility as it does now because the nature of the job has changed. I liked the contact with adults as well as children. However, I can honestly say that I like my present job and that I've enjoyed being County Commissioner.

My County Secretary calls me Boss and has given me a special hat to wear. She is very efficient and helps me a lot.

At one time I lived in the Border country at Coldstream but now I am back in the area where I was born and bred. I am a lecturer at South Tyneside College of Further Education in South Shields.

These days we teach Teeline not Pitman's shorthand but I just love Pitman's and if you gave me some dictation now I would take it down in Pitman's.

I haven't had any children to go into the Movement. I was married but my husband died. I did have step-children but they were too old to join.

Until two years ago I held an Assistant Guider's Warrant in a Brownie Pack. But really it is very difficult when you have meetings and things to go to for the County, and that's where your first responsibility lies.

LIFE style

The job takes up quite a lot of my time but I do like to go to the theatre and go out with friends, or perhaps have people in.

In the last two or three years, I've tried not to do quite so much Guiding because I could easily do it 100 per cent of the time and it creates great pressure on you.

I've seen great changes in the Movement and, in lots of ways, they are for the better. You do have to try to be a bit more flexible in your outlook now and desperately try not to say "We did it like that in the old days".

For me the outer trappings of Guiding — the changes in the uniform — are relatively unimportant. It is whether we are basically sticking to the principles of the Promise that is most important. Training young people to be courteous and good citizens — they are the aspects that count and what they are wearing is matterless.

Guiding has had an enormous effect on my life. Without it I certainly wouldn't have done the things I have done. It's given me an enormous amount of confidence.

I probably did have leadership qualities as a child — I was always anxious to do things and never minded being asked to do something at school or Guides. So the qualities were there, but it is the Association that brought them out. I firmly believe that your life is shaped by the effect other people have on you.

Having been in Guiding so long people from the past keep popping up. When I'm standing at supermarket checkouts people will say "I know you", and it turns out they used to go to Brownies. Occasionally, of course, one of my girls becomes famous. Trish Williamson who did the weather reports on television was one of my ex-Brownies. ♡

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Or telephone (0772) 51773. Last date for nominations is March 1, 1991.

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