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CONTEST**

**AIDS —
THE
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WORLD:
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**DOG
DAYS**

**CAVALIER
WEDDING**

**GIRLS
ON
FILM**

**BUILD UP
IN GHANA**

MARATHON WOMAN



**Guiding is . . .
finding
the right way**



front PAGE

The Girl Guide and Girl Scout Movement gives so much to girls and women throughout the world and February 22 is the day when we think of the 118 member countries of WAGGGS. We also remember with gratitude, the two people who made it all possible — our Founder and his wife, the World Chief Guide, whose birthdays we celebrate on Thinking Day.

The idea of Thinking Day was first suggested back in 1926, when it was proposed that on this special day, Girl Guides and Girl Scouts all over the world would think of each other and send messages of friendship and love.

In 1932, a Belgian Guider suggested that we might like to give a 'penny for our thoughts', and so the Thinking Day Fund began.

In 1933, Lady Baden-Powell said: 'Thinking with the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts usually leads to action — wouldn't it be nice if we could give something as well as our thoughts to



COMMENT

help world friendship?

Since then, the Thinking Day Fund has been used to promote the Movement around the world and gives us an opportunity to help others. So February 22 is a day not only for thinking — but

also a day to act — by giving and sharing.

Many of our 118 member countries have to face difficult times, but they are determined to carry on, often at great personal risk. I am sure that we will be thinking of the Eastern European countries, where Guiding and Scouting is emerging — or re-emerging — at an exciting pace.

I will be thinking of you all on February 22 — thank you for all you do for Guiding.

This is an important time for the GGA. On October 31, 1992, the Association's General Secretary, Miss Marjorie Hayter, retires after seven years of service, and we are beginning the search for her successor. An advertisement covering the appointment appears on p14 and the name of the successful applicant will be announced as soon as the process is complete.

JANE GARSIDE

Chief Commissioner

GUIDING

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FEBRUARY 1992 £1.05

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Wherever you go you are sure to find a Guide — this saying is more true than ever this year as the Movement spreads through Central and Eastern Europe. This Thai Girl Scout was spotted by a former member of staff holidaying in that lovely country.

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GUIDING

Official Magazine of The Girl Guides Association
(Incorporated by Royal Charter)
Published on the last Thursday of each month
ISSN 0265-2706

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Published by

The Girl Guides Association

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London SW1W 0PT

071-834 6242

Fax No 071-828 8317

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2 Luke Street London EC2A 4NT

071-613 0717

Fax No 071-613 1108

Typesetting by

JJ Typographics Limited

Photographic Repro by

Argent Colour, in association with

Godfrey Lang Ltd

Printed by

Andover Press, St Ives PLC

Distributors

Seymour

Windsor House, 1270 London Road
Norbury, London SW16 4DH

Subscriptions

(Annual 12 issues) including postage, British Isles £16.68, Overseas £19.80, BPO £16.68, are to be addressed to:

Subscriptions, Financial Services Division, The Girl Guides Association, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT. Cheques/POs payable to The Girl Guides Association.

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HIGH HONOUR

Hayley Jenkins has been awarded the General's Award — the highest honour available to a Guide in a Salvation Army Company.

She is the first girl in West Wales to receive the award and her name is now entered in a special record book at the Salvation Army International Headquarters in London.

To earn the award, Hayley, of the 4th Llanelli (Salvation Army) Guide Company, had to find out about the Salvation Army's history and the life of its founder, William Booth.



As a General's Guide
 You have prepared yourself for service
 to God and your fellow men, and have
 shown yourself a worthy member of the
 great Guide Sisterhood. I pray, as
 you seek to follow the Great Pathfinder
 Himself, that God's blessing in all
 fullness shall be yours.

Eva Duxbury
 General
 The Salvation Army

Round UP

DARING DUO

▼ Susan Graham and Ceri Orford have proved they've got a real head for heights! For the daring duo abseiled down a 30ft water tower to raise funds for charity.

And while they were up there, the girls from Huxey, South Yorkshire, were invested as Rangers.

After making their promise at the top of the village water tower, the Isle of Axholme Rangers came back down to earth having raised £140 for Cancer Research.



THE DONCASTER STAR



SENSIBLE MARIE

▲ A Cornish Brownie who ran for help when her grandfather had a heart attack at the wheel of his car, has received the Association's Good Service Award.

Marie Smith had just been picked up from school as usual by her 77-year-old grandfather, Joe Jewell. They were going home, when he collapsed at the wheel and careered into a telegraph pole. Marie, then aged seven, thought her grandad had fallen asleep and tried to wake him.

When she realised he was seriously ill, Marie got out of the car, ran back into her school and shouted for help. School staff called an ambulance but Mr Jewell never regained consciousness.

Marie, of the 1st St Keverne and Coverack Pack was presented with her award by her doctor, Ian Wort, who was impressed by the common-sense she'd shown during the emergency. Her mother, Karen Smith, said the award had helped Marie understand that she had done all she could.

CORNISH WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS

OLD GIRL

► Former Guide Sue Holden had lots of Guiding memories to catch up on when she presented a cheque at the Felin Bach Guide Centre in North Wales.

Sue, who was a Queen's Guide and is now area manager of Shell Retail, presented a £600 cheque to Ann Hughes, Commissioner for Caernarfon.

The money was a grant from the Shell Better Britain Campaign, which has been awarded to the Caernarfonshire Girl Guide Association.

It will be used to buy timber for a walkway over wetland areas in the Felin Bach Guide Centre, Caethro.

DON WILLIAMS



The wedding guests could have been forgiven for thinking they had stepped back 300 years when they arrived, to see their local Brown Owl become Mrs Elizabeth Jewkes.

For when Elizabeth and boyfriend Kurt decided to tie the knot, they wanted their wedding to be just that little bit different.

The pair met at the English Civil War Society, whose members recreate battles, balls and banquets just as they happened in the 17th Century.

Elizabeth joined after hearing about the society from a friend she met in hospital while recovering from a minor operation.

Feeling pretty low after her operation Elizabeth liked the sound of parties, banquets and all the fun the society's members were having. She decided this was just what she needed to help her cheer up.

So, when she got out of hospital, Elizabeth joined her local branch and went along to a banquet. 'From then on I was hooked,' Elizabeth said.

It was back to the 17th Century the weekend Elizabeth and Kurt first met. They were both visiting the manor house where the society had turned the clock back to 1642.

Not that the future bride and groom were steeped in history when they actually met.

They came face to face in the 'time out room', a place where members relax out of the historical period they are recreating.

Girl noticed boy and, somehow, they kept bumping into each other. But Kurt was wary at first because he thought Elizabeth was probably married as she had two daughters. Then a friend explained that Elizabeth was divorced and soon the pair were dating.

As they wanted their wedding to be as authentic as possible, Elizabeth set to work researching the type of wedding dress worn by the daughter of a typical well-to-do 17th century family.

She got lots of information from the society, consulted museums and searched through books. She discovered that, traditionally, the bride wore black or red because these were the most expensive colours to manufacture at the time, and they symbolised a family's wealth.

However, Elizabeth decided black or red didn't suit her colouring and opted for a luxurious royal blue silk. The chief bridesmaid, however, was happy to wear the gorgeous black dress Elizabeth designed for her. And Elizabeth's daughters, Carina aged 11 and ten-year-old Hannah, were roped in as small bridesmaids in pale blue patterned gowns.

CIVIL CEREMONY

No cavalier behaviour was spotted on Brownie Guider Elizabeth Jewkes' wedding although all of the trappings were strictly 17th century!

Elizabeth made all the dresses herself using silk and sticking, as far as possible, to the techniques a 17th century dressmaker would have used. They weren't all handstitched, but there was no machine sewing showing,' Elizabeth explained.

The bride was given away by the Lieutenant of Musket from her 'regiment' and lots of the wedding guests turned up in 17th century dress. Elizabeth's Brownie Pack, 1st Childer Thornton, from the South Wirral, Cheshire, was there to watch.

Afterwards, the wedding party went back to a 17th century inn for a slap-up feast — with entertainment laid on by a 17th century band, of course!

NICOLA WHATMORE



Kurt and Elizabeth.



Photo call for bride, bridesmaids and Brownies

REV ALEC POTTER

REV ALEC POTTER

NIKKI BIRD



Right on target

The 1st Writtle Guides have come a long way since the first members met in a corrugated iron hut 70 years ago. Some of those original recruits were VIP guests at the Company's 70th birthday party last year. But the unit certainly doesn't live in the past.

Last summer the girls headed for Donau '91, an Austrian jamboree which brought together 5,500 Scouts and Guides from 29 countries.

The journey involved a long coach trip across France and Belgium. And when they finally arrived at the camp site there was a shock waiting.

Guider Nikki Bird recalled: 'Nothing could have prepared us for what we found!' Austria had just experienced its worst storms for five years and the country park in which the camp was held had been reduced to a sea of mud.

With heavy hearts the girls battled through the mud, anxious to find out exactly where they were meant to be camping.

Eventually they put up the tents, coped with sliding around in the dark while cooking supper, before squelching into their sleeping bags.

Next morning the sun was shining and the girls found they faced a three mile hike in the blistering heat to reach the camp supermarket. When they returned the Guides began planning their first item on their agenda: a

three day rock climbing trip.

All the Guides had been asked to bring water to put in the camp fountain as a symbol of nations joining together. Their offering was two litres of water from Writtle duck pond.

Later the girls spent an idyllic few days visiting castle ruins, playing rugby and abseiling down rock-faces!

Now they're back in Britain and planning their next big adventure with 31-year-old insurance claims assistant Nikki, who took over the Company nearly ten years ago. She first joined the Movement as a seven-year-old Brownie.

It is all a far cry from the day back in March 1921 when the unit, based in a small village near Chelmsford, Essex, was first registered.

Nikki has been told that the first event the new Company held was a social evening to raise funds for a Punch and Judy show. The Guides organised competitions, held mystery parcel games, sold refreshments — and a grand total of £14 15s (that's £14.75) was raised.

Then the girls met in the church hall



NIKKI BIRD

Guiding



Company afloat

NIKKI BIRD

in action



A new chapter in the unit history

on Friday nights. It was nicknamed 'the iron room' because it was made of corrugated iron. During wet spells, the noise of the rain pelting on to the roof was deafening. These days the tin hut is long gone and there's a new church hall in its place.

In the early days, every Good Friday, no matter how bad the weather was, the Guides packed sandwiches in their haversacks, setting out on their bikes to pick primroses in the woods to decorate the church for Easter. In those days, of course, picking wild flowers wasn't frowned upon.

The girls went to camp regularly until the Second World War disrupted their Guiding activities. However, the girls kept on with their Guiding and also did their bit for the war effort.

When the London evacuees passed through Chelmsford station on their way to the country, 1st Writtle Guides met them and handed out drinks.

The unit survived the war and went on to win a competition for the best float at Chelmsford Carnival. A browse through Company records shows the girls also went on rallies and were

'thrilled' to meet the World Chief Guide and the Founder.

In 1962 Rosemary Cooper became the Company's first Queen's Guide and by 1984 a further 25 girls had received the cherished award.

The Company continued to flourish in the 1980s. In 1986, when the Scouts finally allowed the Guides to take part in the Chelmsford Gang Show, they took the show by storm. Earlier, in 1984, they were third in Anglia's Adopt and Cherish competition, after cleaning out an old pond and rescuing the fish.

The decade ended with six Guides winning the top prize in the Square Mile Project. This competition, organised by Essex police, invited residents to look after a square mile of their local environment.

The Guides cleaned the village war memorial, revamped the local village hall and got a petition up when one of the town's oldest shops, which had fallen into disrepair, was under threat. Other Guides helped the six as much as they could and were delighted for them when they won a holiday in Australia and Hong Kong.

Lots of the old memories were revived on March 8 last year, when the 1st Writtle celebrated 70 glorious years. Now the girls are beginning a new chapter in the unit's history. The activities may change but the aims remain the same — to enjoy the great game of Guiding.

NICOLA WHATMORE 9



Maddy Darrall (right) takes presenter Frances Dodge through the script

TV TIMES

When the popular children's TV show *Ghost Train* pulled into Great Hautbois House, the Anglian Girl Guide Training Centre in Norfolk, lurking among the Anglia Television crew, were a couple of former Guides.



Aiming the camera was always Alison McIntyre's ambition

Maddy Darrall, *Ghost Train*'s 25-year-old associate producer, had always wanted to work in TV, but didn't think she'd make the grade. She explained: 'I think I put everyone who worked in television on a pedestal. I thought television people were better educated than me — people from private schools — I thought these were the types that got in, not people like myself.'

'But I've discovered that is rubbish. The majority are the most ordinary, friendly people you could meet, and there are lots of different ways in.'

Maddy got her first taste of television through her Guide Company at Whitchurch, Hampshire. She recalled: 'One of the first things I did in the Guides was go on an outing up to London to see the *Jim'll Fix It* show.'

'It was the first time I had ever been to a television studio. I remember we were all allowed to go backstage and get autographs.'

At Bristol University, where Maddy studied sociology and politics, she took her first steps in broadcasting by working for a children's hospital radio station. She also worked on a Bristol television programme called *The Really Wild Show*, after popping round to the studios and offering to help out.

After gaining a BA degree, Maddy

Trainee camerawoman Alison McIntyre also made the decision that she wanted to work in television very early. As a teenager she became so fascinated by camerawork, after seeing a behind the scenes programme on television, that she went to her local library and got a book out on the subject.

So she was fascinated when a camera crew turned up on the doorstep and asked her parents if they could stand in their garden to film a bowls match. Alison grabbed the chance to watch the cameramen at work.

After leaving school and her home in Aberdeen, Alison studied for a Higher National Diploma in television programme operations at Ravensbourne College in Bromley, Kent.

Since completing her course two years ago, Alison has been working as a trainee camerawoman for Anglia Television.

Alison said: 'There are more and more women coming into television now. But a lot of people don't really

took a course in radio journalism at the London College of Printing.

Maddy said: 'When I was at university doing kids' radio, that's when I decided that children's television was the area I wanted to work in. But it is very hard to get your first job.'

'After the radio journalism course I didn't have any work for three or four months and then a job with *Ghost Train* was advertised through a circular that went round all the television companies. I applied and I got it!'

Since then, *Ghost Train* has virtually taken over Maddy's life. She said: 'I've been working on *Ghost Train* for three years now. I don't have any social life at all. I live and breath *Ghost Train*, it just takes up so much of your time. I love live television.'

The show takes Maddy all over Britain and, sometimes, across the Atlantic. She explained: 'We have all the popular bands on *Ghost Train* and, for the first two years, I was a music researcher. This year I am doing all the pop filming.'

'Sometimes, if a band can't get to us and they're big enough, we'll go to them. I've just been to Los Angeles where we interviewed Paula Abdul. We also filmed Kylie Minogue filming her latest video. She was nice and thoroughly professional.'

'At the moment *Ghost Train* is the number three kids' programme. It's the most popular children's ITV programme and the second most popular children's television programme, next to *Blue Peter* — so bands and pop stars are fighting to get on it.'

*'You have to
be prepared
to give up
everything else
in life'*

Maddy explained: 'I'm normally in the office at around 9.30am and I never leave before 7.30pm. Sometimes it's as late as 10pm. It's a very long day.'

'We work in the London office from Monday to Wednesday and then we travel to the location. We go through the script while we're travelling on the train or plane.'

'In the evening, we all go out for a meal together. We've all been working together for three years, so we're like one, big, lovely family. I am very good

mates with one of the presenters, Frances Dodge.'

'On the Saturday morning when *Ghost Train* is filmed, I leave the hotel by 7am and go to the location. The presenters get themselves made up and I have to make sure everybody is in place and that they've got everything they need. Then we have rehearsals.'

Everything doesn't always go exactly to plan, however. Maddy recalled: 'When Jason Donovan was on the show the crew members were so excited.'

'They were all asking him to sign autographs, but when it came to the set, they weren't ready, and so the first thing the viewers saw was a close up of his backside! It was quite funny and fortunately he didn't mind.'

If you want to work in TV, you have got to be dedicated, Maddy explained. 'You have got to be able to get on with people and have a lot of patience. I think the only qualification you need is you have to be prepared to give up everything else you want to do in life.'

'I just don't see any of my friends and they've got used to it now. I've got my flat in Shepherd's Bush and I try to get back there to do the gardening. Eventually I'd like to give all this up and run a garden centre somewhere nice and quiet!' she said.

know what the job involves, they think it's all glamour.

'It is quite demanding, but it's a challenge and it's creative — you are creating pictures.'

She believes that enthusiasm and talent are rated higher than paper qualifications in the world of television. 'You don't have to have a lot of qualifications. If you have got flair and enthusiasm, then the crews will recognise that.'

'It is all a matter of trust. If they are confident you are capable of doing something, they'll let you do a bit more. But you have to have confidence in yourself,' she said.

As a trainee, Alison has to 'muck-in' with lowlier jobs as well as operating a camera, but 20-year-old Alison hasn't encountered much sexism so far. 'I haven't come across any really bad attitudes,' she insisted.

Some people claim it's difficult for women to operate cameras because the job involves moving heavy equipment, but Alison pointed out: 'Modern

equipment is getting lighter and lighter. And, if there is heavy equipment around, it takes two or three men to lift it anyway!'

The hours are long and Alison is expected to work weekends when necessary, although she does get time off in lieu.

*'When there's
pressure, you get
butterflies in
your stomach'*

She has to keep all her wits about her when time is tight and people are shouting out instructions. 'It can be quite pressurised and you have to keep a level head. When there's pressure, the adrenalin is going and you get butterflies in your stomach.'

'But there is also a lot of standing around as everybody isn't working at the same time,' she explained.

Alison was a member of 37th Aberdeen Girl Guides and earned her Pathfinder, Hostess, Homemaker and Swimmer badges. Now she lives in Norwich, close to the studios.

She loves working behind a camera and couldn't imagine doing any other job. Over the past couple of years she has filmed television stars such as Roy Marsden and Tim Piggott-Smith, some eminent politicians, a quiz show, *Cross Questions* and Channel Four's racing programme.

Filming the racing live at Newmarket was particularly nerve-racking. Alison recalled, because, of course, there's no second chance to film the winner.

'If you know it is being recorded, it is easier. But, whether it's live or not, if you are responsible for holding up the rest of the crew because of your mistake, you are not going to be very popular.'

AIDS is often described as 'everybody's worst nightmare come true'. 'Everybody's' is the operative word. AIDS isn't someone else's problem. It's yours and mine. Doubly so, if we're involved with young people: it's their future that's threatened.

They need the facts and, just as urgently, they need the opportunity to discuss and explore the issues so they can then make informed choices. Are we ready to help them meet the challenge of living in a world menaced by AIDS?

Last November, AIDS hit the headlines in a big way: rock star Freddie Mercury died from AIDS and basketball ace Magic Johnson announced that he was HIV positive. At the time, Health Minister Virginia Bottomley said it would add weight to the AIDS awareness campaign. Wishful thinking?

For a couple of days, of course, the two dramas did grab the nation's attention, but other news stories soon took over. And people chose to dismiss AIDS yet again, claiming 'it's got nothing to do with me — AIDS happens to other people'.

Mercury was bisexual and Johnson admits to having 'accommodated as many women as I could', so by everyday standards their lifestyles were out of the ordinary, reinforcing popular prejudice that AIDS belongs to drug-addicts, prostitutes, the promiscuous and, above all, gays.

HARD FACTS

Statistics tell another story. The World Health Organisation estimates, issued mid-1991, indicate that between 9 and 11 million people could be HIV positive, rising to 40 million by the end of the decade. More significantly, WHO also forecasts that, by the year 2000, around 90 per cent of global AIDS cases will be among heterosexuals. So much for the 'gay plague' and 'druggie disease' labels.

In the UK, the situation is equally grave. So far, since the disease was first reported in December, 1981, there have been over 5,200 cases of AIDS and around 3,250 have died. By the end of last year, some 16,500 people had tested HIV positive — with many more infected, but not diagnosed. And, reflecting world trends, the disease is now spreading most rapidly among heterosexuals.

Just five years ago, four per cent of AIDS cases and eight per cent of HIV cases were through heterosexual contact. Today the figures stand at 13 and 19 per cent — a three-fold increase.

Looking ahead, some experts predict that by the late 1990s, everybody will

know somebody who either has AIDS or who is HIV positive. Somebody like your partner, mother, father, brother, sister, child, friend, work colleague, fellow Guider... Maybe you.

The other grim reality about AIDS, apart from its relentless advance, is its high death rate. To date, there is no vaccine against HIV and no cure for either HIV infection or AIDS. So, until scientists succeed in developing a miracle drug, the only way to halt the epidemic is by prevention and information.

TEENS AT RISK

When it comes to AIDS education, young people have become one of the most important, and urgent, target groups — for two main reasons. First, as an investment for the future. If young people can be informed and motivated to make 'aware' choices before they become sexually active,

then the nightmare cycle of HIV transmission could be broken, and subsequent generations would grow up free from the AIDS threat.

Second, because young people constitute a high risk category. One person in four infected with HIV is between 10 and 25. Adolescence is a time of experimentation, usually with sex, alcohol, drugs... It's a time of powerful peer pressure, of rebellion, of pushing the limits and taking risks. Young people need to know some risks have fatal consequences.

In addition to Don't Die of Ignorance and other awareness campaigns aimed at everybody, various AIDS education materials have been produced specifically for use with young people — both in schools and in less formal settings.

Only last autumn, the Government decided to include AIDS/HIV in the National Curriculum. Yet, despite the TV campaigns, posters, documentaries,

AIDS

THE CHALLENGE



MARTIN KENNEDY/THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

The Princess of Wales receives a bouquet as she arrives at an AIDS fundraising event. By supporting such events and visiting AIDS patients, the Princess has raised AIDS awareness and helped combat prejudice against the disease.

videos, books, leaflets... all too often the AIDS message isn't getting through.

STARK REALITIES

Most youngsters know something about AIDS but, invariably, not enough. Along with a few facts, they've assimilated myth and misinformation. What's more, because they think they know more than they do, they're resistant to further information.

Others, although reasonably well-informed, fail to relate the facts to themselves and their behaviour.

Young people still see AIDS as something which affects other groups and this induces a false sense of security and invulnerability. Even if they do perceive themselves to be at risk, the danger is so long-term (HIV can take ten years or more to destroy the immune system) that it becomes unreal.

But, with half of all young people sexually active by the age of 16, the risk is very real. However, research indicates around four out of five teenagers have intercourse only within a committed relationship.

Yet that relationship often gives way to another, so that by the age of 20 it is not uncommon for a young man or woman to have had several partners. If each of these has had other partners who, in turn, have had other intimate relationships... the potential for infection is almost endless.

The other reality about teenage sex is that it tends to be unplanned and unnegotiated. Even if 'safer sex' rings a distant bell, the girl is often too tentative and unsure to insist on a condom, the boy too embarrassed and unpractised to use one. They frequently lack the skills — sometimes the vocabulary — to discuss their relationship, particularly sex.

MAKING CHOICES

Getting the facts across is an essential first stage, but for AIDS education to be effective those facts have to be translated into attitudes and actions —

AIDS FACTS

What is AIDS?

AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is the name given to a collection of life-threatening illnesses which can result from HIV infection.

What is HIV?

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is the virus which can cause AIDS. It attacks the body's immune or defence system, leaving the body vulnerable to serious infections. It can take as many as ten years or more for HIV to damage the immune system seriously; during this time a person who is HIV positive — that is, infected with the virus — may look and feel quite well. Even when symptoms do develop, many people are able to maintain a reasonably normal life. But, eventually, a number of HIV-infected people go on to develop AIDS.

How is HIV transmitted?

HIV is transmitted when one of the following fluids from an infected person — blood, semen, vaginal fluid — enters the bloodstream of another person. There are three ways in which this can happen:

- through unprotected sexual intercourse (vaginal or anal) with an infected person
- through infected blood and blood products, including contaminated needles/syringes shared by drug abusers
- from an infected mother to her child before or during birth.

HIV is not passed on through everyday contact like shaking hands, coughing, sneezing, sharing crockery and towels, hugging, kissing, or from lavatory seats.

It cannot be caught like colds or 'flu, and you cannot get the virus from being in the same room as an infected person — or from insect bites.

often attempted via a litany of don'ts.

Experience shows, however, that trying to impose a code of behaviour

seldom works. What does seem to succeed is giving young people the opportunity to discuss the subject in small groups.

By talking through the issues, they can work out their own attitudes and values, recognising how the facts relate to them as individuals. Only when they come to realise that AIDS is their business (and not someone else's) will they readily move on to explore lifestyle options and make appropriate choices.

Such discussions can take place in health education classes or at special AIDS-awareness sessions, but they can occur in an informal setting — like a Guide or Ranger meeting.

All kinds of situations might trigger off a casual conversation: death of a celebrity from AIDS; a TV-documentary on drugs; prejudice against HIV children in the local primary school...

In a relaxed, supportive environment, conversations like these can evolve into helpful discussions. Not just dealing with AIDS and HIV but covering related topics such as how drugs and alcohol can affect judgement; how girls need to become more assertive and take more control of their lives; how to cope with peer pressure...

YOUR HANG-UPS?

Many of us find topics like these challenging, even difficult. Before looking at them with the girls and exploring their attitudes, it's crucial to check out your own position. Where do you stand on AIDS? Is it divine punishment on gays?... Inevitable outcome of permissive society? Do you know the facts? And what are your views on sex outside marriage; homosexuality; masturbation; drug abuse; free condoms on the NHS...

But finding the issues difficult, perhaps embarrassing, is not a licence to ignore them. AIDS is our concern. More importantly, we must help the young people in our care to accept it as *their* concern, too.

CATHERINE DELL

FIND OUT MORE

Various organisations publish helpful resource material on AIDS issues:

ACET (AIDS Care Education and Training) produces, in conjunction with the Association of British Insurers, *HIV It's Your Choice* — An AIDS education pack with full-colour booklet, questionnaire, worksheets and teacher notes. Available free from Education Liaison Officer, ABI, 51 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7HQ.

Brook Advisory Centres publish

Say Yes? Say No? Say Maybe?, a magazine-style publication on sexual health for young people. Available from Brook Publications Unit, 24 Albert Street, Birmingham B4 7UD; price £2 (inc p&p).

Health Education Authority publish a series of free leaflets on AIDS and HIV. Freephone 0800 555777.

Terrence Higgins Trust (Britain's largest AIDS charity) produces a range of materials about HIV and AIDS. Also publishes, in conjunction

with Barnardo's, a booklet for secondary-school age *What Can I Do About AIDS*. Tel: 071-831 0330.

Girl Guides Association has issued *Focus on AIDS*, a fact sheet giving basic information about HIV/AIDS, plus notes on first aid. You may already have a copy of this leaflet, if not ask at your District meeting. To be published in the future: a pack aimed at helping young people make wise choices about health and lifestyle; will include HIV/AIDS information.

**DON'T
FORGET**

**TO
VISIT
THE**

SCOTTISH



SHOPS

We supply all goods from the
Trading Service Catalogues,
Scottish publications and a wide
variety of souvenirs

**16 COATES CRESCENT
EDINBURGH**

**140 UNION STREET
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**6 PANMURE STREET
DUNDEE**

**15 ELMBANK STREET
GLASGOW**

We also run a mail order service from the
Edinburgh shop

HESLEY WOOD SCOUT ACTIVITY CENTRE

Hesley Wood Scout Activity Centre is set in some 98 acres of woodland and open meadow on the outskirts of Sheffield. It is in easy reach of junctions 35 and 35a of the M1 and is signposted from the motorway. There are frequent rail and bus links to Chapeltown which leaves a short walk to the centre.

Accommodation at the centre comprises of camp sites set in woodland glades or open meadow. Indoor facilities include the Howard Walker Training and Activity Centre ideal for winter activity residentials or pack/colony holidays. Jubilee Lodge is available for cooking and dining with camping facilities in front. This is ideal for Cub Camps and Guide Camps where equipment transportation is difficult.

New to the site in 1991 the Taylor Woodrow ablution block offers hot and cold running water with showers.

Activities on the site include climbing wall, canoeing, shooting, swimming pool, pioneering and orienteering as well as nature trails and fun trails.

Special Events this year include **CREWBOREE** an activity weekend for Scouts and Guides 5th to the 7th June and the May Patrol Challenges for teams of six. This is a sponsored event with some exciting prizes. For further details and an activity pack please write to:

Hesley Wood Scout Activity Centre, White Lane, Chapeltown, Sheffield, S30 4YH. Telephone 0742 467912. Address all correspondence to the Warden.



GIRL GUIDES

General Secretary

Due to the retirement of the General Secretary on 31st October 1992, candidates interested in filling this important post are now sought. Those who wish to be considered for this appointment are encouraged to write in confidence to

Ref G436012L

16 Connaught Place, London, W2 2ED

Selector Europe
A Spencer Stuart Company

Everything for Jane Smelt's wedding at Aylesford, Kent — from invitation cards to the marquee — came free of charge, supplied or organised by Rangers and their Guiders.

But Dad stumped up just the same, paying at commercial rates what he would normally have paid, putting more than £1,500 into Kent Weald's Gambia fund.

It was Mum's idea — Mum being County Commissioner Mary Smelt. She thought it would be a great way of boosting the fund, set up with a target of £20,000, to refurbish a primary school at Bakau, in The Gambia.

The Kent Weald International Ranger Expedition sets off for The Gambia this month to carry out the project.

Val Kitchen, a Tonbridge Guider, made and decorated the wedding cake. And very impressive it was, too, complete with flower-bedecked pink bridal slippers, all in fondant icing!

Not that Val found it unduly difficult. Although an amateur, she is a member of the mainly professional British Sugarcraft Guild and an instructor for the Confectioner badge.

Some of the sweet-tasting flowers that peeped so charmingly from the slippers were, in fact, made by Tonbridge and Hawkhurst Rangers, taught icing skills by Val.

The bridal car was provided by Joe Gifford, father of a Guide from Bearstead, Kent. He drove his beautifully-restored white vintage model T-Ford.

Wedding cards, bouquets and flowers for the church and reception were provided by Guiding friends at Tunbridge Wells. The photographer was Mike King, treasurer of Aylesford District.

Tonbridge Rangers organised the supply of crockery for the reception buffet, while napkin rings and favours were made by girls from Malling and Maidstone.

Rangers from various parts of the County helped to prepare food and decorate the marquees and the Smelts' garden with ribbons and garlands of flowers. Wearing their uniforms, they also waited on guests.

Said Mary Smelt: The Rangers learned much from working as a team. It was all great fun and turned out to be a great training exercise — thanks to our Ranger Adviser Angela Baker and Sally Reader.

In last May's *GUIDING*, we explained that it was Sally, a Maidstone Guider, who first became involved with the Guides of Bakau when she went on holiday to The Gambia with her husband, Malcolm.

The couple had planned a package holiday in the Canaries but Malcolm fell off their garage roof and broke his

MARY SMELT

ankle. The holiday had to be cancelled, instead they later went to The Gambia, where Sally met the Bakau Guides.

It was through them that Sally had the idea of refurbishing a poverty-stricken local school and making this the project for the Kent Weald International Ranger Expedition, 1992. Sally is joint co-ordinator with Angela Baker.

Four adult leaders, including Sally, will lead a party of 20 Rangers who have been given a crash course by professionals in the basic techniques of building repair and re-decoration.

A consignment of tools, equipment, paint and other materials has already been shipped to Bakau, in readiness for 'Operation Spruce-Up'.

The refurbishing party will be scraping, hammering and painting for three weeks.

When Sally Reader first saw the dilapidated school it had virtually no equipment. Sheets of corrugated cardboard served as blackboards. There were no pencils or crayons. Teachers

MARRIAGE LINES

When Jane Smelt exchanged vows with Stephen Ambrosio it was a close family affair. But the wedding preparations had an international history.



'Let them eat cake!'
chorus Jane and Stephen



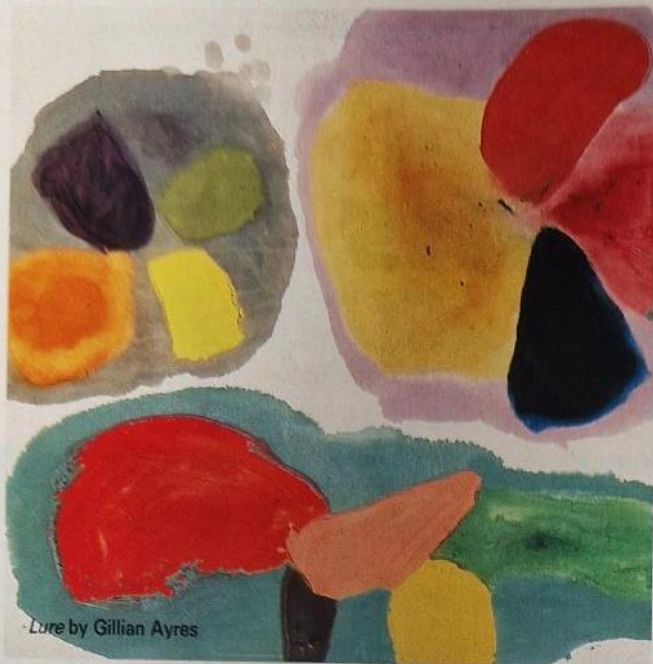
MARY SMELT

were rationed to eight sticks of chalk per term.

Since then Kent Weald Rangers and the 17th Maidstone Guides have been sending supplies of books and materials to the school.

*A tour
de force
in fondant
icing*

Network



Lure by Gillian Ayres

TIME TRAVEL

Take a trip into the past at London's newest tourist attraction, Tower Hill Pageant. Billed as the capital's 'first dark ride museum', its central feature is a journey, in automated cars, through 2,000 years of history.

The ride takes in life-like tableaux depicting the city's development from Roman beginnings to the Blitz. The museum complex also includes an archaeology display, shops and a restaurant.

The Tower Hill Pageant is open every day. Tickets cost £4.50 for adults and £2.50 for children. There are discounts for pre-booked groups of ten or more.

Details from Tower Hill Pageant, 1 Tower Hill Terrace, Tower Hill, London EC3N 4EE; tel: 071-709 0081.

GO GLOW

Every year, over 5,000 child pedestrians are killed or severely injured on Britain's roads. Many of these tragedies could be avoided if motorists drove more carefully through residential areas.

The accident rate would also drop if children were more easily seen in the dark. Glowdiscs could be the answer.

These features would reflect any child's car, making the car more visible in traffic.

Glowdiscs come in a pack, containing two discs, a badge and the road safety book *It's a great life — don't lose it*.

The pack costs £1.99 + 30p (p&p) with ten per cent of the price going to the charity Action for Sick Children.

Glowdisc Road Safety Packs are available from Bright Ideas Ltd, Westmead House, 123 Westmead Road, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4JH; tel: 091-770 1100.

SIXTIES ART

The Swinging Sixties were all about avant-garde fashion, innovative music... and exciting new art. For an overview of the decade's brilliant painting, go to London's South Bank where 30 pictures from the period — each by a different artist — are now on show at the Royal Festival Hall galleries.

The exhibition, *Ready Steady Go*, continues until February 23 and then goes on tour visiting Stockport (March 7-April 26); Wakefield (May 2-June 14); Burnley (Sep 26-Nov 8); Ipswich (Nov 14-Jan 3, 1993); and Coventry (Jan 9-Feb 21, 1993). Further details from 071-921 0875.

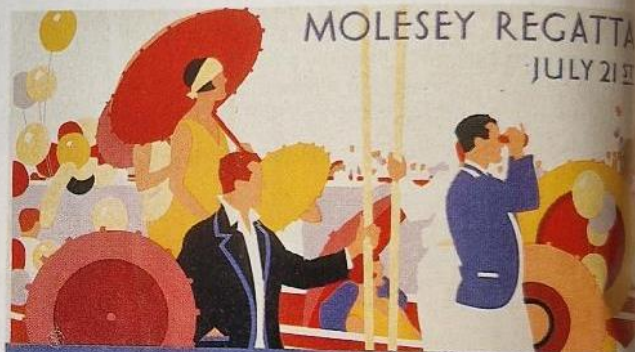
POSTER SHOW

The capital's river stars in the latest exhibition at the London Transport Museum. Called *Days on the River*, the exhibition features posters promoting Thameside locations and events.

The posters, in a wide variety of artistic styles, span 80 years. The earliest, from 1911, tempts travellers to Hampton Wick. The most recent focuses on London's Docklands Light Railway.

Entrance to the Museum (£3 adults, £1.50 children) includes the exhibition, which runs until April 26.

Contact LT Museum, Covent Garden, London WC2E 7BB; tel: 071-379 6344.



BY TRAM FROM HAMMERSMITH SHEPHERDS BUSH OR WIMBLEDON STATIONS UNDERGROUND

Doing business in a coffee shop



WALK A PUP

Do you like dogs? Are you at home most of the day? Would you like to help blind people in a practical way? Why not become a puppy walker?

Puppy-walkers take puppies into their homes for rearing until they are about one year old, when they're transferred to a centre for training as guide dogs.

Homes in built-up areas are preferred and it is essential that the puppy has experience with normal household activities, shopping and traffic.

The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, which operates the scheme, provides advice; supplies leash, collar and grooming equipment; covers vet's bills; and pays a daily food allowance.

Contact the Association at Alexandra House, Park Street, Windsor, Berks SL4 1JR; tel: 0753 855711.

Network

one or two weeks to spare, can apply to be a volunteer. Board and lodging are provided and UK travel expenses refunded.

Full details from the Volunteer Department, Winged Fellowship, Angel House, 20-32 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD; tel: 071-833 2594.

MUSEUM GUIDES

A new leaflet, *London's Museums of Health and Medicine*, features 13 medical collections ranging from the Museum of the Order of St John and the Chelsea Physic Garden to the Bethlem Royal Hospital Archives and the Florence Nightingale Museum. It gives a brief description of each museum, plus opening hours and travel details.

Health and Medicine is one of a series published by the London Museums Service to help people get the most out of the capital's collections.

Other titles include *Museums in Historic Country Houses*, *Museums in and around Docklands*, and *Museums and the Performing Arts*.

Copies are available throughout London in museums, libraries



A Pair of Boots, 1886 by Vincent van Gogh

YOUNG VINCENT

'I am looking forward very much to seeing London...' So wrote the 20-year-old Vincent van Gogh in 1873. The three years he spent in England had a profound effect on his eventual decision to become a painter.

The Barbican exhibition, *Van Gogh in England*, recalls those years and their influence on the painter.

As well as memorabilia, photos and documents, it features paintings by Van Gogh's favourite English artists. Of course, a selection of his own work — reflecting themes developed during his stay in England — is also on display.

Shown together with an exhibition of photos by William Eggleston, *Van Gogh in England* is at the Barbican from February 27 to May 4, open

daily. Telephone 071-638 4141 for details.

TRAVEL WISE

Belgium or Botswana, Italy or Indonesia, Poland or Peru... If you're under 26, plan your trip with *The Campus Traveller*.

Published by youth travel experts, Campus Travel, this easy-to-use handbook provides a wealth of information for all young travellers.

As well as covering essentials like insurance, maps, transport and discounts, it features a fact-packed guide to continents and countries worldwide.

Everything is listed — from what language and which vaccinations to climate, customs and cuisine.

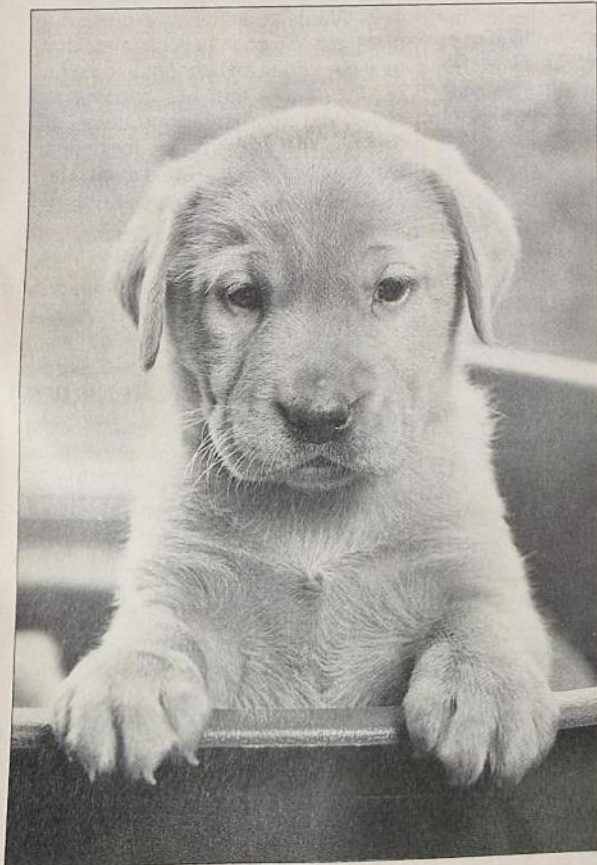
Copies available free from any branch of Campus Travel or from 52 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0AG; tel: 071-730 3402.

HOLIDAY HELP

Winged Fellowship Trust which runs holidays for disabled people, urgently needs more volunteer help at its five centres around the UK. Each year, the Trust relies on some 4,000 volunteers working alongside permanent staff.

Jobs vary from feeding, washing and wheelchair pushing to occasional domestic work. For those considering a caring profession, this can be a valuable experience.

Anyone, aged 17-75 with



JOHN DODDGE/GODBA

LONDON'S MUSEUMS OF HEALTH AND MEDICINE



© LONDON MUSEUMS SERVICE

ies and tourist information centres. Outside London, contact: London Museums Service, Ferroners House, Barbican, London EC2Y 8AA; but please supply a large sae.

dear guiding...

In December we told the story of eight-year-old Greg Phillips and his Guiding friends who helped bring about a 'miracle' — giving him the chance to break out of the small dark world of autism. Now Greg's father has written to GUIDING to put on record his thanks to those very special people from Wordsley District.



I am not sure if you include letters in your magazine from 'outsiders' but, if possible, I would be obliged if you would consider publishing this one.

Firstly, many thanks for your article *A World Apart* about our son. We are truly grateful to you for providing an opportunity for people to learn a little about the mysterious world of autism.

Secondly, I would like to pay tribute by telling you something of the incredible love and determination of Wordsley District Commissioner Janet Blakeway and her girls. Although their kindness was alluded to in your feature, I believe modesty would forbid the true depth of how much they care and have helped us from being revealed.

When I first met Jan our morale was very low. Not only were we expected to battle against the 'brick wall' they call autism, erected by Greg himself, which excluded us from helping him. But, if this was not sufficient burden, we were simultaneously expected to battle against the 'brick wall' erected by an education authority that was prepared to deny that autism even existed.

The latter situation might be better understood if one realises that the only way autistic children can be effectively helped is by them receiving expensive, specialist education.

Others may well understand that when a child is cheated and our faith in the future was annihilated by a

society that could place politics and finance above the future of a disadvantaged child. Did anyone care?

Janet Blakeway did! Through her leadership and dedication she and her girls united an entire village into demonstrating how ordinary people can care very much about a child like Greg. The power of love and caring they generated restored our faith in human nature.

To illustrate the dedication of Wordsley Girl Guides, I would like to share with you just how much they care. For the past 12 months Jan and her girls have turned up on our door step ready to play with Greg, sometimes drenched by rain, sometimes exhausted after a heavy day at work or school.

They bring their love, their smiles and laughter, to dance and sing and cheer Greg on, inviting him to interact and communicate.

Although we are starting to see some rewards for the hours of intensive, one-to-one, loving care, perhaps you would permit me to share with you the courage of these girls, as it was not always easy as anyone with experience of autistic children will know.

Sometimes their efforts would be repaid by Greg's rejection or worse, a pinch, a head butt or a bite. It takes a very special person to maintain a loving, accepting attitude when faced with such a challenge. But still they

came back week after week to share their love and help this little lost child. They refused to give in.

We are so very proud of Jan and her girls. Words could never express our gratitude. We shall never forget what they have done and continue to do for us. In a world that has become so selfish and is perhaps losing its way, all that I can say is thank God for people like Jan and the Guide Movement. May God bless them for helping and caring about others so much.

With kind regards and best wishes,

ALAN PHILLIPS

PS: Since we were interviewed for the article, Greg has continued to progress and has now spoken over 120 words since returning from America with our Option programme.

In his play-orientated teaching sessions he will sometimes interact with us for up to 90 per cent of the time.

It is said the Lord moves in a mysterious way, perhaps via your article on Greg, other parents of autistic children might learn that there can be light at the end of their dark tunnel and, perhaps, they might be inspired to search for their own 'Chance of a Miracle'.

Thank you.

a personal VIEW

Two controversial subjects — Is obedience a virtue?... and Are we making the best use of our Guiding talent? — are tackled by the two readers who share this month's soap-box.

I have been uneasy for some time about the Law — a Guide is obedient. I do not consider that obedience is necessarily a virtue, because it immediately poses the question: what is the order to be obeyed and who has given the order? Followed by: is the order legal, sensible or honourable? To my mind, the questions are too important for us to say: 'Oh well, a girl knows that it means she has to do what she is told.'

This Law also binds us as adults — do we obey all orders? We may say it depends on who gives the orders, for instance Patrol Leaders, Guiders, parents, teachers, and those in authority.

How then do we react to girls who are abused at home and told by the perpetrator to say nothing to anyone? For us as adults, in our democratic society, our duty is to speak out against inefficiency, waste, corrupt practice and wrong decisions whenever we find them.

Obedience as a citizen is not a virtue but informed — even if critical — responsibility is. Obedience by women in the past, and even today, has kept women subservient at work, in marriage and the family, in government, and in society. Obedience as a concept contains so many ifs and buts that it should be written out of the Guide Law. I think that the Law requiring us to be polite and considerate covers a girl's — and an adult's — response to an order.

My second subject is a more thorny issue and I do not want to be misunderstood. I refer to the wording of the second part of the Promise. I respect our present Queen, both as a person and as a symbol of our nation. Yet our duty to the Queen is not, surely, to her as a person but to her as a symbol. This involves a leap in our thinking from the personal to the abstract.

We, therefore, have to explain this to the girls who may have problems in understanding such an abstract concept. We have to explain that serving the Queen means serving our country and the people in it. So why not spell out in the Promise: 'I promise to serve my country', or 'I promise to serve the people in my country'? Guiders can then discuss with the girls ways in which they can serve this country.

Speaking for myself I feel no personal loyalty to the Queen beyond my loyalty to this my country, and to the people who live in it. If I lived in a republic I would feel the same about the head of state.

HEATHER McMILLAN

In spite of the recent moves to establish databanks of women with particular skills and expertise who could be suitable to take up Association appointments, the process is still very much hit and miss.

We tend to go for a familiar name or a personal contact — the GGA equivalent of the 'old-boy-network'. There is evidence that, in some cases, approaches to particular individuals are blocked at Country/Region or County level.

There is also an inherent flaw in the procedure of using the outgoing appointment holder to make a recommendation. I suspect it is a natural human weakness to be unwilling to see one's self succeeded by anyone who *might* do the job better!

In recent times, the Association has made tremendous strides in the approach to recruitment and selection of its paid staff. We are using much more professional criteria to ensure the best possible appointments for the Association.

So it seems obvious that we should

be applying the same sort of procedures currently used for the appointment of staff to that of Association volunteers.

We receive a professional service from the Advisers and it is only, therefore, right that we should use a professional procedure for their recruitment and appointment.

I'd like to see this procedure including:

- Job descriptions for all Adviser appointments.
- Terms and conditions of Adviser appointments to reflect accurately what's involved in terms of time, commitment, expenses and staff support available.
- An advertisement in *GUIDING* magazine which would emphasise the 'person specification'.
- Shortlisting of written applications.
- An interview panel, which would include the Association's Personnel Officer, and the current appointment holder.
- Take-up of references.
- The appointment to be for a limited time.
- Induction training.

Such a procedure would, of course, require forward planning to enable advertisements to be placed in *GUIDING* in plenty of time.

I would suggest that this scheme could be piloted and evaluated to see whether it would achieve the aims envisaged, which are:

- To promote the advancement of all women within the Association.
- To support the democratic process and encourage a greater degree of participation.
- To employ a more professional approach to senior volunteer recruitment.
- To tap new seams of talent within the Association

JANE LEWES

Notices

WORLD VIEW

There will be Thinking Day Celebrations held at the Commonwealth Institute on Saturday, February 22 for Brownies and Girl Guides.

The celebration will be at 12 noon and 3pm. These sessions will last for about an hour. There will be a fee of £1 per person.

Please contact the Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London W8 6NQ, tel: 071-603 4535 ext 283.

THINKING DAY/FOUNDER'S DAY SERVICE

The service will be held at 11am on Saturday, February 22, in Westminster Abbey, St Margaret's Church and Westminster Central Hall.

The following hymns will be used at the Service: Jubilate Everybody (Mission Praise); One More Step Along the World; For the Beauty of the Earth; As Your Family, Lord — to the tune of Kum Ba Ya (Hymns and Songs).

WORLD ASSOCIATION THINKING DAY FUND

1990.....£44,129
1991.....£45,238
1992£?????

Contributions by cheque or postal order, payable to The Girl Guides Association — not cash — should be sent to: Financial Services Division, The Girl Guides Association, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT.

Please mark the envelope Thinking Day and include the name and address of the sender and the unit, District and so on to which the contribution relates.

A sae must be enclosed if a receipt is required.

THE ASSOCIATION'S AWARDS

SERVICE

Johnston Brownie, 1st Crosby Pack; Registrations Secretary.

LAUREL

Mrs Mary Main Former County Commissioner, Northumberland. Now Commonwealth and International Adviser, BGIFC.

Mrs Judith Morley Guide Guider, 9th Solihull Company; County Commissioner, Warwickshire.

Miss Helena Thomas County Registrations Secretary; County Commissioner, Breconshire.

MERITORIOUS CONDUCT STAR OF MERIT

Lucy Jackson Brownie, 30th Blackpool Pack, Lancashire West.

Mrs Sylvia MacAndrew, District Commissioner, Longstanton, Cambridgeshire East.

Mrs Carol O'Neil, Brownie Guider, 3rd Hoylelake Pack; Guide Guider 6th West Kirby Company; Trainer, Wirral.

Abigail Richards, Rainbow, 2nd Marford Unit, Clwyd.

Karen Sixsmith, Brownie, 12th St Helens, Toll Bar United Reformed Church Pack, Merseyside.

BABY CARE

Further to last month's feature on cot death prevention, we hear that the Department of Health has published *Reducing the Risk of Cot Deaths*, a free advice leaflet for parents. Contact Freephone 0800 100 160 for a copy.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Sangam World Centre is looking for Guiders to join the staff as volunteers during the Event Season from June, 1992 to March, 1993.

A Programme Leader is needed for the full season. She must have training skills, programme planning experience and some knowledge of international Guiding.

There are also vacancies for two Programme Assistants from June to September and two Programme Assistants from October to March.

To apply for any of these positions you need a strong Guiding background, a love of people with sensitivity for their needs, flexibility and initiative. But, most of all, you should have a belief in

the basic principles of Guiding, in order to spread the Guiding spirit through your contacts with international Guiders during your time at Sangam.

Volunteers work as a team and as a large family, including all the Indian staff, who strive to make all welcome in their country, and to share their culture.

To make further enquiries contact: Margaret Morgan, Guider-in-Charge, Sangam WAGGS, Alandi Road, Yerawada, Pune 411 006, India.

SHORT TERM INVESTMENT SERVICE

Monthly interest rate after deduction of management commission

September, 1991.....
.....9.641 per cent
October, 1991.....
.....9.513 per cent
November, 1991.....
.....9.438 per cent

An additional 0.5 per cent per annum for deposits of £2,500 and above.

TRUST FUND

On November 30, 1991 the value of a share in the Scout and Guide Trust Fund was:

for selling purposes.....
.....254.58p
for buying purposes.....
.....267.38p
income yield ...3.95 per cent

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

THISTLE GATHERING

The Joint National Committee of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has pleasure in inviting all members of IFOFSAG to the 18th West European Region Gathering on September 12-18 next year in Edinburgh.

The Thistle Gathering will be held at the Edinburgh Conference Centre, an integral part of Heriot Watt University. Accommodation is in standard single and twin bedrooms.

The programme will include an opportunity to discuss some of the topics which affect all members of

the International Fellowship with emphasis on 1992.

There will be one full-day tour and at least two half-day tours of the Scottish countryside as well as places of interest. There will also be an opportunity to visit the Castle, the Palace, take a guided tour of the Royal Mile; or learn something of Scottish industry, with a visit to a whisky distillery, crystal glassworks or woollen mill; or join in a walk over the nearby Pentland Hills with fine views of the city.

To round off the Gathering — a banquet and dance will be held on the last evening.

The £300 cost will cover six nights accommodation, all meals, tours, entertainment and administration.

Registration forms are available from January and can be obtained through your International Secretary or direct by writing to: The Thistle Gathering, The Girl Guides Association, Scottish Headquarters, 16 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7AH.

PLAIN SAILING

The winners in August's sailing video contest were:

Mrs LA Bugg, Chelmsford, Essex; Margaret Fox, Arlesdon, Frinton; S Giles, Chard, Somerset; Brenda Collins, Southend-on-Sea, Essex; Mrs Lesley Somerville, Broomhill, Glasgow; Mrs H Cottrell, Northfield, Birmingham; Mrs C Owens, Newbury, Berks; Mrs J Cross, Camberley, Surrey; Miss Liz Bartlett, Fareham, Hants and R M Cook, Wrexham, Clwyd.

STAMP OF APPROVAL

The Scout and Guide Stamps Club will be holding their annual exhibition at Baden-Powell House, Queen's Gate, South Kensington, London on Saturday February 22 from 11am to 5pm. The exhibition will be held in the library of Baden-Powell House, which is on the second floor. Entry is free.

A wide range of Scout/Guide stamps, covers, postcards and other philatelic material will be available.

FORUM FOR DEBATE

No more Junior Council (Scotland) — the Scottish Forum has arrived!

A year ago, it was decided to disband the Junior Council (Scotland) for a period of two years and introduce the Scottish Forum to the young women of Scotland.

This was decided after the successful Speak Out Scotland (SOS) conference, when delegates asked to be given a more active part in the decision-making of the Association. That's when the Junior Council (Scotland) recommended its terms of reference be put in abeyance for two years.

The first meeting of the Scottish Forum took place in September last year in Perth. Each County was asked to send two representatives, plus their Public Relations Adviser. The Scottish Programme and Training Adviser was also there, representing the Scottish Chief Commissioner, to help the representatives see the wide range of opportunities available for them to participate in decision making at all levels. The steering group, which consisted of members of the Junior Council, with Mrs Barbara O'Donnell as chairman, co-ordinated the meeting.

At first, the delegates present were quite unsure what their roles were in the forum. The question why, where, when and how were, however, positively answered by the end of the day.

The body of the meeting was challenged by the steering group to decide which form they wanted the forum to take. It was decided that a forum was a great idea but, for the communication network to succeed, it had to consist of Regional/County forums which would reach every 16 to 25-year-old. These forums have now been established.

The enthusiasm of each group has been superb, showing the commitment of each person to making the forum work. We must, however, continue to work closely as a team, with the full support of County personnel at local level and the Scottish appointment

holders at Scottish Headquarters. The young women who were at Perth in September were eager to be part of all these teams and want to be successful in having their voices heard.

In an effort to maintain communication between us all, a newsletter has been produced which not only passes

the members. It is up to them to decide what they would like to discuss; where and how they can take action for improvement; and how they can bring about changes at local and Scottish level.

We are experiencing the range of opportunities available to the young



on information to those who may not be directly involved in the forums, but also provides an ideal opportunity for members of different forums to swap ideas and share experiences.

Our Scottish forums can be used as a base for productive discussion on any issue at all. What happens is up to

women of Guiding and the success of the establishment of the forums indicates that they can only go from strength to strength.

**HAZEL ANDERSON AND
AILEEN RUTH**

GGA Junior Council Members
for Scotland

RUNNING COMMENTARY

As all over the country men and women prepare for that annual test of endurance — the London Marathon — a Welsh District Commissioner describes how she shaped up to take part in her dream event.

Ever since the first London Marathon was staged, I wanted to take part. I wanted to be there, to be part of the atmosphere and fun — just to be part of such a great event. Some readers will understand; most will, I suspect, think I'm nuts, particularly those who know me.

I must admit that I don't like running. Oh, I did athletics at school and played hockey... even ran cross-country. But only because I wanted to win, not for the love of running.

I applied once, for a place, but was refused in November, 1989. The following March my County Commissioner asked if I was still interested, the GGA was being given 20 places and did I want one? ... Oh boy, suddenly, the most important thing in my world was taking part in the next London Marathon. I was in.

Everybody helped me. I was equipped with training manuals, diet sheets and, most important of all, the correct footwear.

My first run was half a mile down the road — I had to walk home! I had seven weeks before the event to go from nothing to 26-plus miles. All the books said it takes three years to train properly, but I only had seven weeks.

I tried to run every day. Either a short, fast run or a slower, longer one.

After two weeks I was up to five miles, averaging a ten-minute mile. I had found my pace.

Another week and I was capable of running eight miles without stopping. No one can believe the feeling of absolute well being when you exercise regularly. I had a spring in my step, I was alive. No time to sit watching TV or cat-napping in between household chores. Then disaster struck.

As I had half-an-hour to spare, I decided to dig the flower bed. Instead of changing into more sensible footwear, I kept on my sandals. I stuck the gardening fork straight through my foot — in the top and out the bottom — there was blood everywhere.

I was taken to the hospital and told it would take six weeks to heal. They gave me a tetanus shot and antibiotics. Within six days I was running again. I must have missed hitting all my important little parts like bones!

My last run was 13 miles long a week before the big event. By now my knees were aching whenever I ran or went up, or down, the stairs.

The doctor said it was because my muscles were developing faster than the ligaments holding them. All I needed to do was to rest, but there was no time.

I was sick to the back teeth of pasta

and baked potatoes. The only time I wasn't eating was three hours before a run, the rest of the time I was constantly consuming.

My friends all used to buy extra biscuits when I'd visit and, in between chatting and talking, I'd be munching away. The wonderful thing was I was still losing weight. The only regret: I was also still smoking. It sounds crazy but I'd cut down from 20 a day to about five and couldn't cut down any more.

That last week was spent on an exercise bike, in the swimming pool and on the weights. No running, thank goodness.

I drove to London the night before to stay with friends. I was disappointed not to be able to rendezvous with the other 19 Association runners but no arrangements had been made for us to meet, which was rather sad.

I slept well and set out the next day with no doubts at all in my mind that I

would finish the course, even if I had to crawl. I was rather anxious about how long it would take me to cross the line.

The rain was coming down in straight lines an hour before the race. I was cold, wet, and shivering but still excited at what lay ahead. I met some lovely people at the start, where we all took off our outer clothes and stood in the downpour waiting for the off. At last we were moving...

Running the first three miles was like an obstacle course, trying to avoid the black bags others had discarded at the start.

Next it was gloves and hats that came off, then jumpers. It made one wonder what was coming next!

The people of London and all the spectators were absolutely fantastic. They encouraged, coaxed, shouted and generally kept all of us running — or at least moving in the right direction!

I ran about 13 miles; ran and walked the next six miles; walked and ran two more and the last five miles I walked.

Because I was near the back of the field, by the time we got to the watering stations there were piles of empty plastic water bottles everywhere. You had to be careful not to fall. By 21 miles even the zig-zag yellow markings on the road were making me stumble — perhaps they're higher in London than South Wales!

Finally, walking down the Mall, I spotted the empty stretchers lined up along the road. But I was still moving, even though it felt as though all my joints had been unscrewed.

The best sight of all was the finishing line. I managed to run the last 100 yards — everyone manages that — and had the medal placed around my neck.

It had taken me over six hours but I'd done it. I felt wonderful.

I drove back to South Wales that night, stopping at one of the motorway service stations. The only place to have coffee was upstairs. I managed to get up all right, but had to slide down the banister on the way back!

Nothing is impossible if you really want to do something. I ran the 1990 London Marathon because I wanted to, and was lucky enough to be given the opportunity to do so.

I may be 37 with three children but that doesn't mean I can't follow my dreams.

I will always be grateful to all my friends and colleagues who helped and supported me, even those who knew

I was nuts. ♡

JANET JOHNSON

Jan with supportive family,
Craig, Sian and
Kimberley



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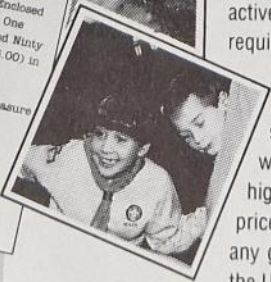
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Dominican Scout Unit.



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EXECUTIVE NEWS

For the first time in the history of both Associations, the Chief Scout, Mr Garth Morrison, attended a meeting of the Executive Committee.

At the meeting in October the Executive Committee learned that the leaflet it had requested — Focus on AIDS — is now available. Supplies of the leaflet, which can be photocopied, have been sent to all Countries and Regions.

The GGA's nominees for WAGGGS' Committees are: World Committee, Mrs Margaret Banks, Commissioner for Branch Associations; Europe Region Committee, Mrs Judy Ellis, Midlands; Finance Committee, Miss Kirsty Gray, Scotland; Constitutions Committee, Mrs Joan Whiteside, Ulster; Sangam House Committee, Mrs Jane Smart, Wales.

The developments taking place in Eastern and Central Europe have created both opportunities and respon-

sibilities for WAGGGS and WOSM. The GGA has been asked to be responsible for the Russian Federation, which would involve offering resources to help Guiding develop in the area and to support the work of Judy Ellis, the WAGGGS link with the USSR.

In view of the cost involved and the difficulty in organising the operation, the Executive Committee decided not to go ahead with printing the 1991 amendments to the *Guiding Manual*. Instead the Guiding Manual Review Group has been asked to look into the feasibility of producing a revised edition every three years.

A small working group is to be set up to produce policy options covering the Association's Training and Activities Centres.

Members were informed that plans are in hand to celebrate next year the 50th

anniversary of the formation of the Trefoil Guild. The aims of the celebrations are to publicise the Guild's achievements, promote its commitment to Guiding and Scouting in the community and its intention to be ready for the demands of the 21st Century.

The following appointments were announced: Deputy Chief Commissioner London and South East England, Mrs Frances Drake; Assistant Arts Adviser (Vocal), Mrs Pat Belringer; Assistant Arts Adviser (Orchestra) Mrs Vivienne Limb; Adviser for Members with Disabilities, Mrs Doreen Sporle (re-appointed for a further two years); Adviser (Designate) for Branch Associations, Mrs Sheila Mathieson. Mrs Margaret Venables resigned as Assistant Arts Adviser (Music).

It was decided that in 1993 and 1994 there will be four meetings of the Executive Committee — in January, April, June and October.

LYN JOYNT

The death has occurred of a former Director of the World Bureau, Miss Lyn Joynt MBE. At her request no Thanksgiving or Memorial Service was held or flowers allowed at her funeral at St John and St Paul Church, at Alresford in Hampshire.

Instead friends were invited to send donations to the Thinking Day Fund. Jan Holt, the Director of the World Bureau, commented: 'This just underlines her total commitment to World Guiding.'

During her period as Director from 1971-1979, membership of WAGGGS increased from 82 to 98 countries.

More recently she served as consultant to the Olave Baden-Powell Society. She was also a Vice-President of Hampshire North County.

Miss Joynt is believed to have

started her Guiding career in County Fermanagh, Ulster. The Chief Commissioner for Hampshire North, Mrs Doreen Piercy represented the Chief Commissioner and Ulster's Chief Commissioner at the funeral.

MARGARET THEODORA MAINWARING SIMMONS

Miss Margaret (Peggy) Theodora Mainwaring Simmons, who was a member of The Council from 1961 to 1971 has died.

She served on the Executive Committee and was awarded the Beaver in 1956.

A clergyman's daughter, Peggy helped her father in his parish at Stifford, Essex after her mother's death.

She became a Guide in 1929 and,

two years later, became an adult leader first with the Brownies and later the Guides at South Stifford. Shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War, Peggy started the Stifford Rangers, which she ran until her retirement.

Her achievements as a Trainer took her to Aden, India, Pakistan, Canada, America and Germany and she led the Falk Memorial Training at Our Chalet.

She served for two periods as Extension (now Members with Disabilities) Adviser for England and later held a similar post with the newly-formed Anglia Region for five years.

As part of Celebration '91, Stifford Rangers held a reunion and a service — planned by Peggy — in the local church.

A JP, Peggy served as Chairman of the Juvenile Bench. She was also a member of the Victim Support Group.

I didn't bother with a New Year resolution, apart from the usual vow to slim, and promising to 'count to ten lots of times every Guide meeting'. It only spoils the new diary when I have to record failures. However, we had challenged each Patrol to come up with a resolution for the start of term PLC. We thought it might give them an insight into setting targets. Then we thought again!

For Thinking Day we don't have to 'do' anything this year for the Division Service except be there, so we can explore a Company event. The idea came from Rachel's Patrol who had been looking at her postcard collection.

She's almost finished it but won't even think of a test until she has achieved her aim. Luckily that's been modified to postcards from 50 different countries. As there are apparently about 224 in the phone book she should manage that.

I'm actually quite close to a solution since one of the international sales reps at work let it slip that she was an ex-Brownie Guider — she was really keen to work on it for me!

Robins want to be 'in charge' for Thinking Day. I think they have a power complex and I just wish they'd go and play Action Plus or tackle the Baden-Powell Trefoil. They tell me that they have invented an idea with maps and candles — I know it's a bit like saying they invented the wheel. Each Guide has to find out three facts about a different country, which country is to be specified by the Robins. *Trefoil Round the World* will be my secret weapon when the Guides can't find any answers!

Assistant and I are making six tapes, one for each Patrol per week. Five will be games, including the Maori Stick game using newspapers instead, and the sixth will be *The World Song*, so we will soon see who reads their Hand-book!

All we need to do is find five more tape recorders or we could be daring and trust the Guides to bring their own — and take them home again. The hall after every meeting looks like the aftermath of a jumble sale.

I think we could boost funds doing a lost property box with a fee for retrieval of goods.

Our first meeting of term was full inspection and Vic achieved what must be a Company record when she scored minus points. As we start with ten points and deduct one for each error, you can guess what an achievement that was.



D·I·A·R·Y

OF A

GUIDE GUIDER

Having told the Brownie Guiders last term we had no spaces, we still had two new arrivals. One was a complete surprise but we had been forewarned about the other by Claire, although we tried to forget that we knew. It's the sister she reckons she always fights with, so she will definitely be encouraged to join a different Patrol, in spite of mother's assurance that they want to be together!

Just as Claire is growing out of being a problem, Hazel is growing into being one. I have fortunately only seen *The Simpsons* once, but Bart's motto seemed to be to opt out and Hazel has

the same idea.

It is never convenient for her to do what everyone else is doing. She's got away with it so far because she does it quietly, but now there seems to be a definite problem for Assistant to deal with — we tossed, she lost.

Hazel has to bring things to Guide meetings to be 'looked after': cuddly toy, OK; little Brownie sister, don't do it again; gerbil, it's cruel because of the cold and the noise; baby brother, we will take him home immediately!

It's enough to drive this unmaternal Guider to drink — hot chocolate, of course.

Thoughts for Thinking Day



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GIRL GUIDES  ASSOCIATION



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|--|---------------|--|---------------|
| 60475 Brownie Cut-Out Doll | £0.95p | 64261 Thinking Day Card | £0.35p |
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| 62687 Set 1 | £1.40p | 63735 Thinking Day and International Guiding Pack | £1.95p |
| Brownies Around the World | | To help you with your Thinking Day and International Guiding programme activities. | |
| Colourful illustrations and interesting facts about Brownies in other countries. | | 63255 Planning A Service for Thinking Day | £0.30p |
| 70078 No.1 72991 No.3 | £4.75p | The outline of a Service which could be used for Thinking Day. | |
| 70086 No.2 74252 No.4 | £4.75p | 70334 Brownie Badge/Uniform Chart | £3.35 |
| 60327 Games From Many Lands | £0.80p | A new set of colour charts featuring World Brownie Uniforms and Badges. | |
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| 75432 Special Thinking Day Card | £0.19p | New design. | |

There are many more items available from the Association's Trading Service on a Mail Order basis, or direct from our Branch Shops or Guide Depots. Don't be short of ideas and information order now.

When you buy from the Movement, we all benefit

Please complete the order form below and send to: The Girl Guides Association Trading Service at the address shown.

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14 Faraday Street, Manchester M1 1FS,
who can supply all your Guiding requirements.

This month's Talking Point is supplied by a Young Leader from Nottingham who has some answers to the thorny question of why girls drift away from Guiding. Her views could surprise some Guiders.

As a Young Leader and a regular reader of *GUIDING* — I read my Brown Owl's copy once she has finished with it — I have finally decided to answer a question which gets asked every month: 'Why do so many Guides leave the Movement?' I wonder if those leaders who seem so puzzled ever put this question to their girls?

Most older Guides could write a long essay on the subject and, even if they never voice them, they all have their own ideas. Personally, I shocked my leaders something rotten when I was 14 and a half by telling them the truth. They were young and motivated, but they still couldn't work out why, after me, the next oldest Guide was only just 13.

Surely it doesn't require a degree to work out that many Guides leave in their first year of 'big school', after moving on from the comfort of their smaller primary schools. That's when 'fitting in' is all-important. So if one 'popular' person says 'Guides is a no-go', then everyone quits. Perhaps for no other reason than fear of being teased by everyone else.

This attitude persists until about your last year when friendships are firm and people aren't afraid of being individuals. Then you find out that Joe Bloggs, who teased you all the time about being a Guide, is actually still a Scout. That's the way it goes, but try telling a first year that!

However, you may ask why Guides was judged a 'no-go'. Well, from my own experience and talking to ex-Guides, it stems from unfortunate disasters. I remember when I was new to the area, I was brave/foolish enough to go to District camp. I found out that I was the only person there who had been on camp before. The others were all either 11 or only just 12.

At 13 I grew up very fast. I recall helping with endless bedding rolls because 'that woman' got cross when no one could understand what she was telling them to do. And I found myself explaining simple camp procedures, such as not walking across the table, so 'that woman' wouldn't start shouting again.

I comforted most of the other Guides one time or another during the four days, as 'that woman' shouted and drove everyone to tears. If you were to ask those girls what they remember from that camp, few will mention the

changing THE guard

Guider, although most of them had imagined murdering 'that woman' many times.

Luckily, most of them will recall the time when Lucy fell in the mud or how much stew Rachel ate. Yes, we forget the bad times. I do it myself. When I left Guides I could have written a very long essay. But every day I grow older, the essay gets shorter. I find myself only remembering the good times, which is by far the best way.

But how many girls quit Guides after that type of treatment? If Guiding is to keep its Guides, I think it has to start educating its members. Yes, it needs to attract new Guides but it also needs to educate its leaders on how to treat girls both new and old.

Guiding, I am pleased to say, is moving with the times, but some girls in the Movement would find this hard to believe. The following extract from the diary I kept of my Patrol Leader's Camp Permit test gives a good example of what I mean:

'As a Patrol we were suddenly pulled together as we fought to have a good time and still beat the testers and leaders, who must have come from the Stone Age. We had all thought that these sort of ideas had been buried with the body of William the Conqueror. Yet I did teach my Patrol one important lesson: when you think you've met the worst Guide leaders in the world, there are still some even worse!'

I'm not complaining about all older Guiders. I know loads who do brilliant jobs. It's just the few who still need to be dragged into this century. Unfortun-



nately that is often how our Movement is seen by young people — as old-fashioned and dogmatic.

We don't need to change. I and many, many others have — and still do — get a lot out of Guiding. It is not the majority of adult members who need to change, just the few old guard who are letting down the Movement. I have a brilliant Brown Owl and other leaders have supported me as a Young Leader, not forgetting my Brownies who I love and who make it all worthwhile.

Once we have changed some attitudes, it will be time to start educating the general public so that Guiding will, at last, have the image the majority of us have been trying to portray.

TALKING SHOP

*The pace is hotting up in the preparations
for the seventh European Guide
and Scout Conference taking place from
May 24 to 29 in Helsingborg, Sweden.*

Your delegation to the conference has already begun considering the business to be conducted. Background papers and material are sent by the Europe Office at the World Bureau to the International Commissioner at CHQ, which are then distributed to delegation members.

It is proposed that the delegation should also meet with the Scout Association delegation to discuss matters of common interest concerning the Europe Region WAGGGS and the European Scout Region.

One of the most crucial and far reaching matters to come before this conference will be the proposal from both the Europe Committee WAGGGS and the European Scout Committee for the creation of a European Guide and Scout Region.

This Region would have as its aim the continued development of the co-operation between WAGGGS and WOSM in Europe, in order to meet more effectively the needs and aspirations of young Europeans through the practice of Guiding and Scouting.

The principles will remain those laid down in the constitutions of the two world bodies and the proposed agreement will respect the freedom of each national Guide or Scout organisation to adopt the structure of its choice.

Of course, Guiding and Scouting work closely together in Europe now, and have done so increasingly over the past 20 years. Many European countries have merged or joint associations, with their girls being members of WAGGGS and their boys members of WOSM. Individual units decide how they wish to be mixed or separated, and there are plenty of

examples of all the possible choices in every association.

However, the proposal to formalise the co-operation at Europe Region level between Guiding and Scouting will not have any knock-on effect. One of the key principles will be the freedom for national organisations to decide their own structure. The GGA is an organisation for girls and women, which believes that the needs of girls are best served by providing opportunities in a mutually supportive female structure.

One of the most visible signs of co-operation between Guiding and Scouting in Europe are the regional seminars that take place each year on a wide variety of topics.

During February and March these seminars will cover:

- **Equal Partnership** — the role of Guiding and Scouting in securing equal opportunities for men and women in Europe.
- **Spiritual Dimension** — examining the relationship between values and spirituality in the lives of young people.
- **Scouting and Guiding for 16-20 year-olds in a Changing Europe** — analysing the youth programme, contemporary

issues, European institutions and how programmes change to meet needs of members and society.

The GGA will be sending people to all these events. They have been asked to take part because of their special knowledge of, or interest in, the subject area. All are well-briefed and will have the opportunity to pass on what they learn, which can be incorporated into the development of our programme and resources.

Seminars planned for later next year include one which will be concerned with community development and environmental issues, and another on the Rainbow/Beaver sections and their programmes.

If you feel that any — or all — of these topics interest you, then why not attend one of the European Workshops taking place this year.

They are open to any Ranger, Young Leader or Guider — and they're free. All you have to do is book through the appropriate Regional office.

The workshops are: March 21 — Commonwealth Headquarters, London, bookings through London and South East Region; March 28 — St Andrews Methodist Church, Filton, Bristol, South West Region; March 28 — Blacon High School, Chester, North West Region; April 11 — The Mount School, York, North East Region.

Leaflets with more information and booking forms are available from your County International Adviser.

The next article in this series will provide more information about the Europe Committee and the elections that will take place at the Conference.



SUE TAYLOR

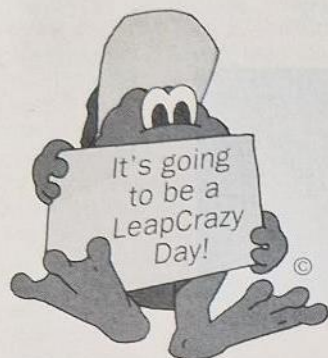
It's time to take a gigantic leap for mankind... or at least to jump to join in the latest fun way to raise cash for Oxfam.

This year Oxfam celebrates its 50th anniversary and its birthday wish is to create a fairer world.

As 1992 is a leap year, Oxfam wants everyone to devote their extra 24 hours — their LeapTime — to some 'daft froggy fun'.

Froggy fanatics are planning leapathons, leapfrog marathons, green garment knit-ins or lively hop-till-you-drop sessions.

Celebrities like screen heart-throb Jeremy Irons, *Bread's* Jean Boht and



HOPPING MAD

television stars Rik Mayall and Nick Ross have promised to leap to it.

Oxfam is hoping that youngsters — and the young at heart — will support fundraising stunts like a 1,000 mile sponsored LeapFrog; the O-leapic Sporting Challenge; High Street Frog Races; sponsored dives and dancing at the local hop.

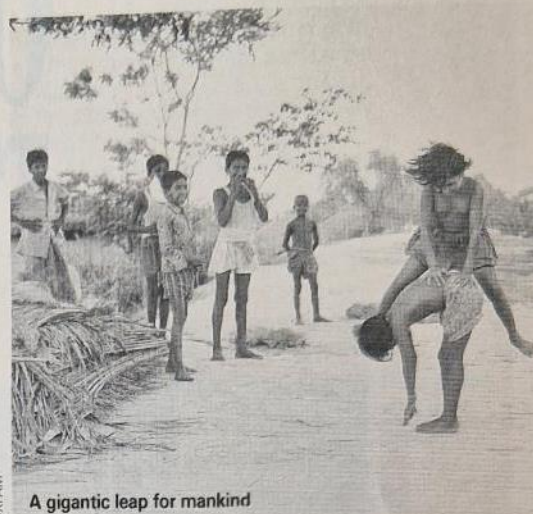
Of course, there is always scope to think of your own money-making scheme. You could use the extra LeapTime knitting squares, learning about development issues or sorting out goods to contribute to your local Oxfam shop.

Every minute of time spent helping the LeapFrog initiative and every penny raised will count towards Oxfam's special anniversary year appeal for a million days.

A Leap Day Action Pack bulging

with brilliant fundraising ideas can be obtained free by either writing to Oxfam LeapDay Room SL92, Mayfield Road, Oxford OX2 7GQ or ringing 0865 313131.

Look out for the green frog logo.



A gigantic leap for mankind

Fifty Years
OXFAM
Working for a Fairer World

Throughout 1992, Tommy's Campaign on behalf of The Baby Fund, will offer a programme of fun events and activities for everyone. Tommy's objectives are to help babies in the UK to be born healthy and to promote the value and importance of parenthood.

Every year in the UK over 60,000 babies are born too soon and too small. Thousands more are lost before birth and one third of premature babies either die, or suffer some degree of handicap for the rest of their lives. In spite of this, there is no centre in the UK which is dedicated specifically to combating these heart-breaking problems.

Tommy's Campaign is setting out to change this. By raising just £3.5 million, a centre of excellence will be established to enable top doctors and medical scientists to develop ways to help parents have healthy children.

Tommy has already persuaded some of Britain's best-loved celebrities to support his Campaign, including Dennis the Menace who will be fronting a special week for Tommy.

In a special interview with *GUIDING* Tommy said: 'We are delighted that Dennis the Menace has agreed to support the Campaign and very much hope that the Girl Guides will join in the fun as well. There are lots of ways you can help.'

CHILD BENEFITS

● For those with a wacky sense of humour there is *Tommy's Potty Club*; membership allows you to apply for an official licence to be potty in the name of a good cause. As a certified member you could, for example, get into 'potty training' and run a race backwards or

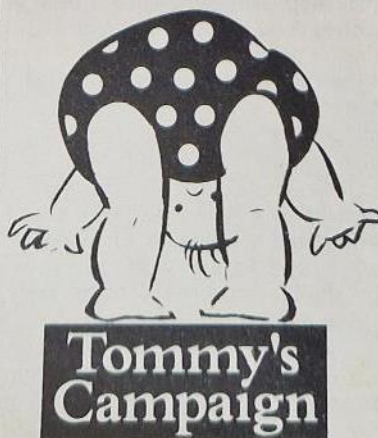
three-legged. You will be given a badge stating 'It's Official — I'm Potty' and could be a contender for the Golden Potty Awards.

● For *Beano* fans there will be a *National No Menacing Week*, which will be held from March 29 to April 4. Dennis has produced a free exclusive membership with lot of fun ideas on how to join in.

Those taking part could win the National Good as Gold Award for the most fun and original ways in which to help make life easier for their parents.

● For Guides and Brownie units there is a free *Parent Application Activity Pack*, with a wide range of discussion and study topics focusing on families. The pack contains worksheets, covering a range of themes such as Family Life 100 Years Ago (history); The Family of Man (geography); What Makes a Family (whether at home, at school, or as part of a group or community such as the GGA).

If you want to join in the fun, contact Tommy at his special address for further details: Tommy's Campaign, London SE99 6RDD. Tel: 071-620 2654.



GOING TO THE DOGS

We're all agreed the British are a nation of dog lovers, but one Guider's passion for pups has given her a wow of a time collaring prizes at numerous shows.



Linda Payne with Tasha

FOTO HERITAGE LTD

Linda Payne makes no bones about it — she got into dog showing by a sheer stroke of luck. But, soon she found she was bitten by a fascinating fun hobby which she can recommend to Guides and Guiders.

It came about after some sadness with the family's Great Danes, at Luton, Bedfordshire, where Linda lives with her grandparents.

However, it just so happened that the vet had a litter of Border terriers of the right age and suggested that the family should have one.

Linda, who is Assistant Brownie Guider with the local 1st Wardown Pack, wasn't keen. She had already decided in her mind that the Payne household would remain dogless.

Her grandfather did not feel that way but, he explained, he did not want a small dog, although terriers, being hunting dogs, are usually regarded as a 'man's breed'.

That might have been the end of the matter had it not been for Linda's grandmother. Fortunately, she saw them both off.

Linda takes up the tale: 'Gran won the battle and we fetched Tasha at six weeks old. The vet had recommended her and said that if we wanted to show her, she would be the one to choose.

'Five months later we had Tammy, another puppy from the same vet. Yes, you've guessed it. Grandpa and I had been won over.

'We had been given a show schedule

but, as we did not know anything about showing, we had not entered. Then we saw an advertisement for an "exemption" show in the local paper, so off we set — Tash at only nine-and-a-half months old and little Tammy at four months.

'We entered the terrier class. Tasha was placed third and Tammy was placed fifth in the class "Dog the judge would like to take home". I was hooked.'

Linda and her pets went on to win titles at numerous shows including best puppy in breed, best of breed and best in show.

Meanwhile, the 'litter' has grown, with the addition of Topaz, another Border terrier, and Zannah, a deerhound.

Well, as Linda explained, deerhounds may be rather large but they're so gentle and, after all, her grandfather said he wanted a *big dog*!

Fun dog shows are sometimes held at events like fetes and gymkhanas, when any 'Heinz' mongrel can be entered. But for a show to have any real meaning and status, it must be licensed by the Kennel Club.

Before any dog can be shown at a Kennel Club licensed show, other than an exemption show, it must be registered with the Kennel Club by the breeder. There are currently 188 breeds eligible for registration, in six groups: hound, gundog, terrier, utility, working, and toy.

Shows are graded and, having ensured that your dog is correctly registered, it is best to start, like Linda, at the lower end of the scale, with exemption shows, and work your way upwards to the more demanding shows.

Exemption shows are small, local shows, often held to raise money for charity. They may include 'fun' classes in which both pedigree and non-pedigree dogs can take part as well as classes for pedigree dogs only, and novelty classes for say, 'waggiest tail' or 'prettiest bitch'.

Since exemption shows are primarily for novices, dogs which have won a Challenge Certificate or any award that counts towards the title of Champion, may not compete in these events or in certain other kinds of shows.

It's a long pad to reach the excellence required for championship shows or, indeed, that show for champions of champions — Crufts. But Linda, now into unrestricted open shows, is on her way.

Meanwhile, as secretary and treasurer of Luton and District Group of the National Canine Defence League, Linda is into organising her own small dog shows for charity.

A village show she held near Luton, which raised £155 for the NCDL, even had a fancy dress class, as well as waggiest tail. A show Linda put on for a local church raised more than £100 for a polio victims' hostel in Tanzania.

She also travels around her locality to various other kinds of events, where she sets up a stall, selling goods in aid of NCDL and distributing literature. In addition, Linda helps to run the East Anglia Border Terrier Club, based in Newmarket, and writes the junior members' page in the club newsletter.

But even all this, on top of Guiding, doesn't make Linda collapse on the mat. Employed as a book-keeper with a local firm, she has obtained her law A level as a step towards a law degree, by studying at night school, and is now studying for A level history of art.

Some Guides and Brownies may be interested to know that there is a Kennel Club Junior Organisation. The KCJO was set up by the Kennel Club to encourage young people between the

Scheme.

The Junior Handling Association, Linda points out, aims to encourage children to handle their dogs skilfully in the ring, and provides classes in ringcraft.

Linda hopes she will inspire others in Guiding to start roaming the country with their dogs. 'You make some great friends, your dog enjoys the outings, and suddenly weekends become very boring if there is no show to go to'.

Providing your dog has a reasonably good 'family tree', dog showing could prove a howling success for you, too.

For dog-lovers starting from scratch, Linda advises writing to: the Kennel Club, 1 Clarges Street, London W1Y 8AB, for a *Beginners' Guide to Dog Shows* (an A5-sized sae will speed a



Tasha, Topaz and Tammy

ages of eight and 18 to be interested in the care and training of dogs and enjoy activities connected with dogs.

Members go on visits, organised regionally, to shows, trials, dog training centres, local kennels and dog sanctuaries, and are able to learn more about the care and training of dogs from experts.

Many annual events take place, including the Agility Dog of the Year Competition. There is also an Agility Grand Prize during the year, to find the KCJO team which will compete at Crufts, and a Junior of the Year Award

reply). For information about the KCJO write to: Wendy Johnson, manager, KCJO, at the same address.

For information about the JHA, write to: Liz Cartledge, Ryslip Kennels, Binfield Park, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 5NL. For further reading Linda recommends: *Take Them Round, Please*, by Tom Horner; *How To Show Your Own Dog*, by V.T. Nichols; and *All About Showing Dogs*, by David Cavill. All available from Hobby Books, 3 Farrier Road, Lincoln Industrial Park, Lincoln LN6 3RU.

DAVID JACK

LEADER OF THE PACK

Linda almost missed out on being a Brownie. She didn't join the 17th Luton (St Andrew's) Pack until she was nine-and-a-half, going on to become a Guide at St Andrew's.

Her parents had already parted when four-year-old Linda's mother died from multiple sclerosis.

Fortunately her grandparents were able to look after Linda, who is a bronchial asthmatic. At times she was an extremely sick child and says she owes

her life to the care they gave her.

After leaving Guides when she was about 14, Linda had a break of a year or so from the Movement before she really got her teeth into Guiding again by joining the Wardown District Rangers and 'loved every minute', being the only member of the Unit to gain three Service Stars.

At 16 Linda became a Young Leader with her old Brownie Pack. Just before her 19th birthday she became the Pack's Brown Owl and held that position for

seven years, before becoming Assistant Guider with the 1st Wardown Pack in 1989.

Now 28, Linda works as a receptionist and assistant in the offices of a Luton engineering company where, she says, she does 'everything from the wages to the washing-up'.

While Linda is devoted to her dogs and her new-found hobby, there is no question of Guiding being left to the dogs. It continues to be a very important part of Linda's busy life.

Open Door

TAKING ROOT

Once we arrive at Thinking Day, according to the seed packet, I should be sowing my parsnips. I shall probably wait a little. There is no point in choosing the earliest possible moment, if the soil is still too cold and hostile for the seed to germinate.

Like every gardener, I shall be hoping that this year will bring a better yield. The extraordinary weather conditions in 1990, for instance, decimated my normally abundant harvest. It was, perhaps, a timely reminder that no matter how much time and care I devote to my crops: watering, weeding, hoeing and even talking to them, there is one, far mightier, in overall control and my

influence is very small indeed.

I see a parallel to all this in my Guiding activities. I choose with care the moment when a new member is introduced into the unit, so that she has the maximum chance of survival and growth. I invest a great deal of my time, my energy and myself in the running of the unit, so that she may achieve her potential. Yet, so often, I seem to have failed. It is then that I find it strangely comforting to be able to recognise that the ultimate responsibility lies in the hands of one far greater than I...

Now you may well ask why, if our success or failure depends on the predetermined decree of a supreme

being, we try to do anything at all. Let us return to the parsnips. Before they can germinate, even in the best of all situations, I need to transfer them from the packet to the soil.

I have a similar role to play in every situation in my life. I may not always know what it is. Indeed, I have the faith to allow my maker to use me for His purposes and to realise that my apparent failure is part of His overall plan for the greater good of all.

Now parsnips, like some children, can be very slow to develop. As I dig the mature roots of last year's crop for my Sunday lunch, I can see among them some smaller plants which only germinated with the mild rains of autumn

and are of no culinary use. I shall soon uproot these and use the ground to grow another crop.

Is this something we are guilty of doing in our units? I am sure that we do not consciously uproot the late developer, the child who is different, or who in some way fails to conform. But do we sometimes cease to stimulate growth by failing to provide a suitable programme laced with encouragement, approval and understanding?

Many years ago I was planted in an environment where I might grow in faith. Germination took nearly 30 years and even now I am vulnerable to the hoe of discouragement. Thank God I'm not a parsnip.

News FOCUS

HIGH FLIERS

These two Rangers' dreams came true when they were invested in a Hercules aircraft which had been used in the Gulf War.

Caroline Hancock (pictured left) of 1st Melksham Rangers, wanted to be invested in a Hercules because she had watched the transporters fly over her home on mercy missions taking supplies to famine-stricken parts of Africa and on the way to the Gulf War.

So she was thrilled to be invited to RAF Lyneham to see the planes close up and to tour the base near her



High fliers, Caroline and Emma

home in Melksham, Wiltshire.

It was Caroline's Ranger Guider, Mrs M Barnes, who wrote to Group Captain I S Corbett, the station's commanding officer, asking if Caroline's dream could become a reality.

When Caroline, fellow Ranger Emma Browne (right) and a group of family and friends arrived at RAF Lyneham, they were welcomed by Flight Lieutenant Ted Querzani, who gave them a guided tour of the aircraft.

Then it was over to the flight deck where the girls were invested. 'It was really good fun,' said Caroline.

Coming NEXT

IN GUIDING MARCH

Operation Raleigh

surviving the steaming jungles

Knotty Problems

cracking the pedigree cow hitch



Water Sports

training on board a narrow boat

Taking the Calls

an achiever at British Telecom

Working Together

a family group success story

Cookie Week

catering for cash in the USA

IN GUIDE PATROL MARCH

Badge Work

hints on taking the Com-

monwealth and Accident Prevention badges

Just the Job

adding that extra quality

Trading Places

pop star becomes a Guide

Mother Love

make her feel special

Plus Fiction, Action Plus and lots of activity ideas.

IN BROWNIE + RAINBOW GUIDE EXTRA FEBRUARY

Keeping Your Place

a special bookmark for

Thinking Day

Special Messages

tackling Morse Code and semaphore

Nature Notes

caring for gerbils

Little Women

an extract from Louisa M Alcott's famous tale

Don't miss the first issue of the eight-page pull-out for Rainbows. There's a chance to meet Rainbow Rabbit, read the story of the two clouds and learn how to make an open sandwich. Order your copy now.

HIGHLIGHTS

SENIOR SECTION INTO EUROPE

FOXLEASE:
February 21-23

A weekend for Ranger Guiders and Advisers and Young Leader Advisers and members aged 16-25, to take a closer look at the new opportunities for all Europeans. You will be given a chance to explore these changes and their effect on Guiding — and you!

Topics such as:

- independent travel in Europe
- working in Europe
- Youth Exchange Centre
- under-26 Youth Card
- Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union
- Europe as a part of WAGGGS
- international opportunities
- European institutions will be looked at.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

FOXLEASE:
February 28-March 1

This weekend is open to any adult member of the Association who is interested in being involved in producing new resource material. If you like writing and collating ideas, then this weekend will provide an opportunity for you to join with others to put together a pack to help Guiders from all sections to try science and technology ideas in their units.

NINE YEARS OLD AND WANTS A CHALLENGE!

FOXLEASE:
March 13-15

Brownie Guiders are you looking for new ideas to help the older girls in your unit make the transition from Brownies to Guides? This weekend offers stimulating new ideas and activities that will guarantee Brownies aged 9+ — and all the Pack — real excitement.

LEARNING TO LISTEN

FOXLEASE:
March 31-April 2

These trainings are open to anyone in Guiding who is interested in learning more about the skills of listening and effective communication.

Sometimes it is hard to tune in to receive messages and to respond effectively. *Learning to Listen* will help you communicate with both teenagers and adults.

These trainings will cover the following topics:

- active listening
- paraphrasing and reflecting
- blocks to communicating
- asking questions
- summarising what you've heard.

FAMILY PERIOD

FOXLEASE:
April 16-20

Do you find it difficult leaving your family for a residential training or do they wonder what you get up to when you go away? Why not bring them to Foxlease so they can find out?

Mornings will be spent in training sessions while your partner looks after the children. Afternoons will be free for family outings and everyone can join in the evening activities.

STANDARD FIRST AID COURSE

FOXLEASE:
May 1-4

This four-day course will lead to successful candidates gaining the British Red Cross Standard First Aid Certificate. You will be trained by the British Red Cross Society throughout the weekend and on the final day there will be an examination.

The certificate is valid for three years. Guiders wishing to gain this qualification for use at work may also gain the First Aid At Work Certificate. This is also a most

useful qualification for those adults wishing to act as First Aiders at camps and holidays.

NINE TO FIVE

FOXLEASE:
May 8-10
WADDOW:
November 27-29

These trainings are for any Ranger, Young Leader or Guider who is going out to work for the first time. If you are about to leave school or college this would be just what you need to give you more confidence in finding your first job.

It will give you the chance to think about how you can improve your employment prospects, whether you've already had a Saturday job or are entering the world of work for the first time.

Topics to be covered will include:

- preparing a curriculum vitae
- handling interviews
- presenting yourself well
- finding your place
- managing your time.

EXPLORE DERBYSHIRE

GLENBROOK:
May 1-4

A weekend for anyone in Guiding. Glenbrook is ideally situated for exploration of the Peak District. As well as walking we can arrange canoeing, local visits, pony trekking and cycling.

This weekend will be tailored to your requests and you will be able to decide how energetic you want the weekend to be!

JUST THE JOB

FOXLEASE:
May 12-14 (midweek)
WADDOW:
September 15-17 (midweek)

These midweek trainings are for any adult in Guiding who, for whatever reason, wishes to embark on or return to paid employment. They will also be useful to

those considering career changes.

Whether you are entering, or contemplating a return to, the world of paid employment you will be provided with an opportunity to enhance your employment prospects.

Topics to be covered will include:

- preparing a curriculum vitae
- interviewing techniques
- effective presentation
- standards in the workplace
- time management.

ASA/RLSS LIFE SAVING COURSE

FOXLEASE:
May 8-10
September 25-27

- Are you over 18?
- Are you interested in swimming?
- Do you wish to gain a basic pool life saving award?

Then the ASA/RLSS Life saving Certificate is for you!

This informal training uses the covered swimming pool at Foxlease; trainees are accommodated in the recently opened Coach House.

The course is intensive, but fun and culminates in an exam on the Sunday afternoon.

There will be training in:

- land and water based rescue techniques
- dealing with unconscious casualties
- pool safety
- first aid and CPR.

THE THINGS THAT MATTER

for 16-25 year-olds
WADDOW:
February 21-23
May 22-24 (Bank Holiday weekend)
FOXLEASE:
November 13-15

Are you aged between 16 and 25 and a member of the Association? If so, these weekends are for you!

You will be given an opportunity to explore some of the important issues which

TRAINING DIARY

directly affect your life.

Topics will include:

- independent living: *home or away*
- healthy lifestyles: *it's your choice*
- developing self-confidence: *make your point*
- exploring relationships: *loves me, loves me not*
- the Promise: *only for Guiding or for life?*

There will be guest speakers, discussion groups, videos, outside experts, practical activities and *fun!*

ASSERTIVENESS

WADDOW:

March 3-5 (midweek)

FOXLEASE:

October 13-15 (midweek)

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

The aim:

- to discover what being assertive really means
- to gain confidence in dealing with awkward situations
- to practise effective communication
- to explore how to look and behave more confidently.

These trainings are open to anyone in Guiding and count towards the requirement of the Adult Leadership Scheme (Stage III).

INTERMEDIATE WALKING SAFELY

GLENBROOK:

April 3-5

This weekend for Rangers, Young Leaders and Guiders is specially designed to provide an opportunity for you to develop or brush up your walking skills and gain confidence in leading groups walking in 'greenfield' areas.

It also meets expedition training requirements for the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze or Silver Awards and the Queen's Guide Enterprise.

The training will be tailored to meet your individual needs and will include practical and theoretical sessions. Topics which will be covered

include: preparing your

walk or expedition

- looking after your group
- finding your way

ADVANCED WALKING SAFELY

GLENBROOK:

February 28-March 1

November 13-15

This weekend is specially designed to meet the needs of Guiders in developing their skills and confidence in leading groups in upland areas.

The training will be tailored to meet your individual needs. Theoretical and practical sessions to be included are:

- map and compass work
- route planning
- navigation skills
- party organisation and management
- safety factors.

GUIDERS, COME AND TRY IT!

GLENBROOK:

May 1-4

Would you like to visit Glenbrook and try all kinds of fun activities — without the responsibility of looking after your unit.

- Enjoy the beautiful Peak District.
- Try walking, canoeing, climbing or caving.
- See Blue John Show Cavern.
- Explore local history and legends.

You can choose to be as energetic — or as gentle — as you wish. Whatever you choose, you will have a fun Bank Holiday weekend!

FUN AND ADVENTURE FOR GUIDES

WADDOW:

April 16-20

Leap Into Europe

An opportunity for Guides to enjoy Easter at Waddow. They can come along alone or with friends. We will include activities, events and crafts from different parts of Europe.

This is an indoor event with lots of outdoor activities, for example riding, skiing,

archery and canoeing. Great fun is guaranteed.

GROOM GLENBROOK

GLENBROOK:

March 27-29

- Make new friends from all over the country, or renew former friendships.
- Join in with working parties.
- Let us help you with a service project or Service Flash requirements.
- Have a go at archery or walking — there will be plenty of time to!
- If you're not too exhausted in the evening, join in with the

camp fire or quiz.

There will be lots of fun and frolics for everyone!

Places are limited on this popular weekend — so early application is advisable. Join us and have fun!

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 a £5 deposit and sae for Glenbrook and a £9 deposit and sae for Foxlease and Waddow.

TRAINING DATES

FOXLEASE

FEBRUARY

14-16 1. Adapting Programme ideas 2. The Promise for Commissioners

21-23 Senior section into Europe

28-March 1 Science and technology resources

MARCH

13-15 Nine years old and wants a challenge!

31-April 2* Learning to listen

APRIL

10-12 International

16-20 Family period

MAY

1-4 Standard first aid

8-10 Nine to five

12-14* Just the job

JUNE

26-28 Rainbow Guiders

GLENBROOK

FEBRUARY

28-March 1 Advanced walking safely

MARCH

27-29 Groom Glenbrook

APRIL

3-5 Intermediate walking safely

MAY

1-4 1. Explore Derbyshire 2. Guiders — come and try it!

JUNE

5-7 Canoeing/climbing/caving

WADDOW

FEBRUARY

21-23 The things that matter

MARCH

3-5* Assertiveness

APRIL

16-20 Fun and adventure for Guides

24-26 Team building

MAY

22-24 The things that matter

29-31 Look after yourself

JUNE

19-21 Science games for Brownies and Guides

* — Midweek

GLENBROOK

Barnford
Nr Sheffield
S30 2AL
Tel: (Barnford) 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

RAINBOW GUIDERS

This is a great month for Rainbow Guides. They now have their own section in the very successful *BROWNIE* magazine that goes into over 26,000 homes throughout the UK. Where subscribers have young sisters or cousins this will encourage them to join the Rainbows or, if they are Rainbows already, they will now have their own share of big sister's magazine.

THE DEVIL AND THE FROGS

This game comes from Japan. Draw on the ground the outline of a big lake with a very irregular shoreline. It should have lots of bits of land jutting out into the water and many inlets.

One girl is the Devil who cannot enter the water. The others are frogs who cannot go on to the land. The Devil runs all around the edge of the lake trying to tag the frogs, as they leap around. When a frog is taken it goes ashore. The last frog caught is the new Devil.

WHERE'S IT FROM?

Go through your own store cupboard and select a number of items from far-away places. For instance a banana from Jamaica, tea from India, coffee from Kenya, an apple from France... Take these foods to the meeting along with a big map of the world.

Using the map, show the girls how far these foods have travelled. Ask the girls to involve their parents in finding foods which have travelled a long way to reach the shelves of the local shops.

WORDS

Do any of the girls know words from some language other than English? Perhaps their parents can tell them the words for 'Hello' and 'Goodbye' in different languages. Travel guides are a

good source of ideas if you are stuck for the right words.

Write up the words on a large sheet of paper and let the girls try to repeat them. They could try them out to greet each other and at the close of the meeting.

Can any of the girls speak another language? If so, let her show her skill to the others and, perhaps, teach them a few words and simple sentences.

FOLK-TALES

Choose a folk-tale from a different country to read to

moose or a panda.

See if you can find a folk-tale about the animal as well as factual information.

Let the girls draw pictures of the chosen animal or make paper plate masks. They can pretend to be the animal as they walk about the room.

WEATHER NOTES

To give your weather talk an international note, you might look at the temperatures given in some daily papers and tell the girls what the

about Brownies, Guides and Rainbows in other lands.

GAMES AROUND THE WORLD

The theme this month throughout the Movement is an international one with the high point of the month being, of course, February 22 — Thinking Day.

Ask any parents or friends who were brought up in a different country to tell you about the games they played as children.

I, for example, spent many of my childhood years in



the Rainbows at each meeting during the month. Show the girls the countries from which the tales come on the map. Try to choose a story from each continent.

The girls might like to act or mime one of the tales, or draw pictures inspired by the story.

LOOKING AT ANIMALS

At one meeting you might talk about an animal which comes from far-away. Choose one that catches the imagination like an elephant, a giraffe, a zebra, a

weather is like today in some of the places they have talked about during the month.

SING ALONG

Teach the girls a song from a different land. You might teach them *Frère Jacques* in English and then in French.

A THOUGHT TO TAKE HOME

Let the girls think of all the things and the people that come from far-away and make their lives more interesting and happy. Think

Canada, so the games I played would be new to many British children. Introduce any games from other countries with a brief explanation of the place where it comes from. Don't be surprised if some of these 'foreign' games are not new to you. Games, like stories, travel all over the globe!

NEXT MONTH

The theme for March will be Growing, as spring comes and begins to show the signs of the new life and the summertime ahead.

DEBORAH MANLEY 37

CANDLES

- In December's Theme Evening we referred to the menorah as a nine-branched candlestick — it actually has seven branches. The candlestick holder used in the Jewish festival of lights has eight branches for candles and the ninth branch — the servant candle — is used to light the other candles.

BROWNIE GUIDERS

The build-up to Thinking Day is here again. Do make it a really special occasion for the Brownies. Encourage them to wear their World Badge or Promise Badge on February 22 and to tell other people why they are doing so.

OPEN HOUSE

You could also consider putting on an open evening for parents at the meeting nearest to Thinking Day. Make it an on-the-night occasion — your visitors might like to join in.

For instance, you could provide materials and instructions for some overseas crafts, with one table and, if possible, one leader for each.

Individuals can then try whatever activity appeals to them. Parents could help their daughters where necessary, taking the pressure off the Guiders. Here are a few ideas to get you started.

INDIAN MOSAIC

You will need a 15cm square of strong cardboard, tracing paper and pencil and plenty of sticky paper shapes for each Brownie. Provide some simple pictures or geometric designs, also rulers and circular shapes of various sizes.

Brownies either draw an original design or, if less confident, trace a design or picture on to card, then fill in the outline with paper shapes to create a mosaic effect.

MEXICAN STAR WEAVING

This ancient craft began as a religious tradition, known as God's Eyes. One star was made for a child on each of its first five birthdays as a prayer for protection. Presumably the child was thought to be self-sufficient thereafter!

For each star, you'll need two equal sticks, about 10mm in diameter, glue, wool of various colours and

an assortment of beads, buttons and feathers.

- 1 Tie wool around the centre of one stick.
- 2 Place sticks across each other at right angles.
- 3 Weave wool around as shown in diagram.
- 4 Keeping wool flat and close to the previous round, continue weaving till wool is about 3cm from the end of the sticks.
- 5 Secure end firmly.
- 6 Glue on beads, feathers

Provide chunks of foam rubber, thickish blue poster paint, white cardboard 'tiles' about 15cm square and aprons or old shirts. Brownies dab blue paint round stencils to make Dutch-style tiles.

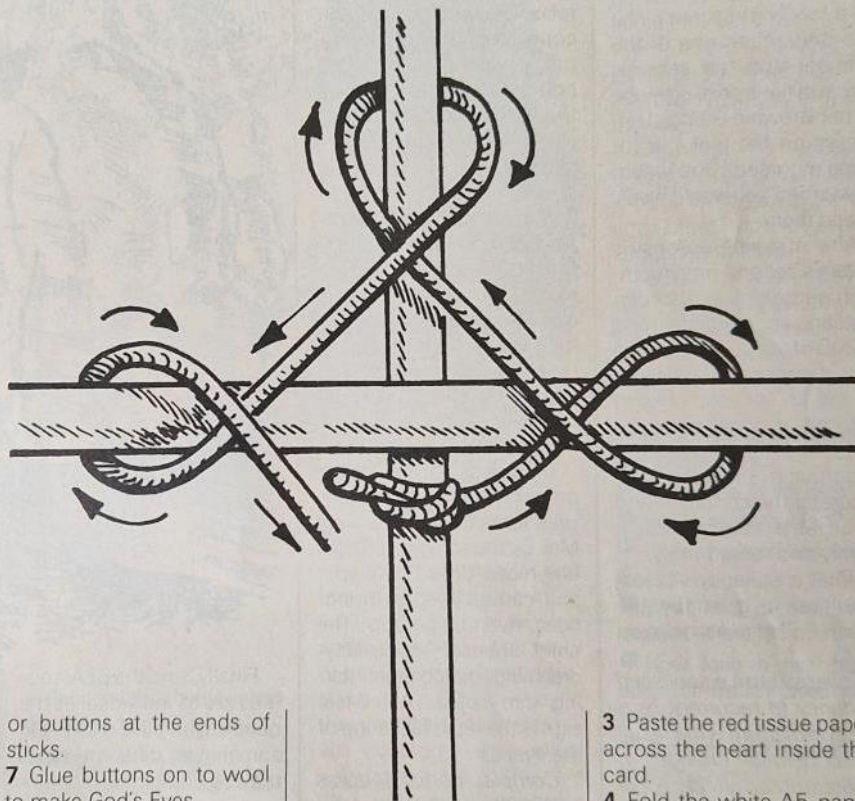
And don't forget February's most famous saint, St Valentine. We're not absolutely sure *which* Valentine, as there were a number of saints in the early Christian church who bore that name. But the most likely contender

entire cards, usually for parents, but these days... who knows? Try this simple but effective idea.

VALENTINE CARD

You will need: dark coloured sugar paper; red tissue paper; white paper; heart template; glue and scissors.

- 1 Fold A5 sugar paper in half.
- 2 Using template, cut a heart in the centre of the front.



or buttons at the ends of sticks.

- 7 Glue buttons on to wool to make God's Eyes.

Brownies can vary the wool colour, weaving a new colour in by the side of the old. If you wish, the activity can be expanded to make mobiles, balancing different-sized stars against each other.

DUTCH TILES

Prepare plenty of card stencils of tulips, windmills and clogs by cutting out their shapes from thin card. Both cut-out pieces and the remaining 'holey' cards can be used to give positive and negative effects.

for the honour is a 3rd century Christian who died for the faith on February 14, 270.

There is a legend that, having miraculously restored the sight of his jailor's daughter, he wrote her a farewell note on the night before his execution, signing it 'from your Valentine'.

The Feast of St Valentine came to Britain in the Middle Ages, when young men drew lots to decide the lucky recipient of their attentions.

Brownies love making Val-

- 3 Paste the red tissue paper across the heart inside the card.

4 Fold the white A5 paper to fit inside the card. Put some paste around the edge of the inside front and stick white paper over it, taking care not to get any paste on the heart.

- 5 Write a Valentine's greeting on the other half.

GILLIAN ELLIS

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

EPILEPSY

Clare paused mid-sentence and stared straight ahead, body absolutely still, save for the gentle fluttering of her eyelids. The other Brownies waited, unaware of Clare's momentary 'absence', to hear her Pow-wow suggestion. Clare's eyelids ceased to flicker, her face became animated, and the rest of the sentence followed as if there had been no pause at all.

Indeed, for Clare, there hadn't. She had no idea that for a few brief seconds she had undergone one of the frequent absence seizures typical of her type of epilepsy. As her Brownie Guider, I am always on the look-out for these moments. But, unless forewarned, you would hardly notice them.

After migraine, epilepsy is Britain's second most common neurological disorder, affecting approximately one in 200 of the population. So the chances of a Guider having an epileptic child in her unit at some point are quite high. That's why it's important to understand the nature of the condition and to be able to deal with it calmly and reassuringly.

What is epilepsy? A clear definition is given by the British Epilepsy Association (BEA):

Epilepsy is an established tendency to recurrent seizures. The seizure is the result of biochemical changes in the brain. It can affect people of all ages, backgrounds and intelligence levels. It is not a disease or illness but may be a symptom of some physical disorder. However, there may be no identifiable cause, especially in the young. Having one seizure does not necessarily indicate epilepsy. By definition, epilepsy means that a person has recurring seizures.

SEIZURES

There are several types of seizure, also called attacks or fits. Some are easier to recognise than others, but

all have the same cause: a brief malfunction in the brain's biochemistry. They fall into two main groups: *generalised*, affecting the whole brain; and *partial*, originating in one part of the brain.

Of the former group, the more obvious — and unnerving — are *tonic-clonic seizures*, formerly termed Grand Mal. The sufferer may cry out and fall suddenly. Her muscles first stiffen then relax, followed by vigorous, convulsive jerking. Her skin may develop a bluish tinge, and saliva could appear around the mouth, sometimes flecked with blood if she has bitten her tongue or cheek.

She may become incontinent, although it is rare to lose bowel control, owing to muscular contraction. Tonic-clonic seizure may last several minutes before the epileptic regains consciousness. She may then feel dazed and confused, and may wish to rest or sleep.

Much less alarming to the onlooker are *absence seizures*, formerly known as Petit Mal. By the same token they are more difficult to spot and can easily pass unnoticed, even by parents. The child appears to be day-dreaming, immobile and staring into space. A tell-tale sign is the rapid flickering of the eyelids.

Complex partial seizures occur when only part of the brain is affected. The sufferer appears to be conscious but may not be able to respond as usual. Behaviour may be confused or there may be involuntary, jerky movements. She may pluck at her clothing, smack her lips or walk around aimlessly in a dazed condition.

In a *simple partial seizure* you may just see the jerking of a limb, or there may be a disturbance of senses and perception without apparent loss of consciousness.

A *sub-clinical seizure* is

almost impossible for the 'once-a-week' Guider to detect, though a teacher is in a good position to observe this one, which is indicated by an unaccountable drop in standards and attainment.



Finally, says the BEA, seizures are as individual as the people who have them. And sometimes different types may be combined.

HOW TO REACT

Vigilance and understanding are all that are needed in the case of an absence seizure. When Clare's eyelids flutter, I move quietly to her side, just in case. I'm ready to take her arm but she never needs me. She is back with us in seconds. We smile at each other and life goes on.

If I observe more than one attack during a meeting, I mention it to her parents. If an absence occurs during some vital instruction, I repeat the sentence for Clare's

benefit. Half the Pack probably wasn't listening anyway!

A similar response is needed for partial seizures. Don't try to stop the child's irrational behaviour during the attack, but remove any harmful objects and talk reassuringly to her.

Obviously, there is more to dealing with a tonic-clonic seizure. If you have this type of epileptic in your unit, you absolutely must be prepared for action. Your calm behaviour will also reassure the other children who will undoubtedly be frightened by their friend's attack. Follow these BEA dos and don'ts.

DO

- Let the seizure run its course.
- Keep calm.
- Ensure the child is safe, moving her only if there is danger from sharp objects, heat or electrical appliances.
- Cushion her head with some-

- Put anything at all between the teeth.
- Give anything to drink.
- Send for a doctor or ambulance, except for suspected *status epilepticus* (see below), or if alternative instructions have been given for the individual child.

away from their friend if possible, and explain the basic problem. Stress that epilepsy is *not* an illness but a relatively common disorder. Tell them how their friend feels after an attack, and discuss how they would like to be treated if they felt that way.

Drop your planned programme and teach them how to deal with the situation they have just seen and invite their opinions on those

situation which occasionally arises... *status epilepticus*. This is when a seizure shows no sign of stopping after a few minutes, or when a series of seizures takes place without the child properly regaining consciousness in between.

In this situation, send for an ambulance after five minutes has elapsed, especially if there is a history of status epilepticus. Also, emergency medical care should be sought for a child who is not a known epileptic, even if the seizure stops naturally after a few minutes.

Strange as it may seem, parents do not always tell us about these disorders, sometimes because they have become so much part of their lives that they forget to mention it.

Often asthma, epilepsy, diabetes or even heart problems only show up on the child's first Pack Holidays or camp health form.

As soon as you know you have an epileptic in your unit, you should ask the parents the following questions, recommended by the BEA.

- What type of seizure does she usually have?
- What does it look like?
- How long does it last?
- Does she have any warning?
- What kind of first aid is required, if any?
- How long a rest period does she usually need afterwards?
- Are there any known triggers to her seizures?
- How often must she take medication?
- Are there side effects?
- Does she have any other condition?
- Does she understand her epilepsy and its treatment?

Sympathetic treatment of the epileptic child is undoubtedly an area in which Guiders can be of service, and one in which our Guiding motto really comes into its own.

GILLIAN ELLIS 41



Lynda Shearby

thing soft.

- Loosen tight clothing around the neck, but do this gently, as it could frighten a semi-conscious child.
- Turn the child into the recovery position.
- Wipe away saliva from around her mouth.
- If there has been incontinence, cover the child to save her embarrassment.
- Be reassuring and supportive during the confused recovery period.
- Arrange for rest or sleep if needed.

DON'T

- Try to restrain convulsive movements.

- Send the child home unless she wants to go

Having dealt calmly with the epileptic child, a Guider must then turn her attention to the rest of the unit. In the case of a tonic-clonic seizure girls of any age may have quite strong and varied reactions, ranging from curiosity through fear, excitement, nervousness or tearfulness to real panic.

Some may even laugh, but don't imagine they find it amusing. A common reaction to fear is nervous laughter, your girls won't really find anything comic in their friend's seizure.

The best plan is to sit the girls down quietly, ideally

who might see an attack as something to be mocked.

Having seen one seizure, and the subsequent recovery of the child who has undergone it, most girls — even the youngest Brownies — will overcome their initial adverse reactions. They are likely to be most supportive and helpful during future seizures and are often first to spot the onset of another and quick to produce a tissue and show a caring, concerned attitude.

It is these qualities that will help to dispel the myths and fears which have in the past been associated with the word epilepsy.

EMERGENCY

Although a matter-of-fact approach is right for most types of seizure, there is, however, one emergency

GUIDE GUIDERS

Over the past few years environmental concerns have become much more prominent, and with this has come a greater awareness of the need to look after the world in which we live. For Guides this is nothing new! In the Guide Laws, we have always had care of the environment... a Guide respects all living things. Sometimes though it helps to emphasise this through the unit programme.

Guider/Young Leader, to check the matching. A follow-up to this would be identifying the plants which grow in the area. Resource books will be needed especially for different grasses, mosses and lichens.

LITTER BUGS

Challenge the girls to create a litter 'bug' using packets and cans, which they collect at home and bring to the

use 'rubbish'.

This could be linked to the Conservation badge, the Blue Trefoil clause 3C.2, or could lead on to a service project involving recycling.

WHAT GROWS OVER HERE?

Another clause in the Conservation badge asks the girls to study a small area of a park, a verge or waste ground and find out what grows there. Sometimes we forget that even in a patch of grass there are lots of different plants. Challenge the girls to study a metre-square area and to identify what is growing. Which is the champion Patrol area?

URBAN AWARENESS

Looking after the environment is just as important in towns as it is in the country and, after all, most units meet in towns. Ask the girls to list ten ways in which their area is being spoiled.

Challenge them to think of ways in which they can help prevent it. Can they come up with a Town Code, similar to the Country Code? Can they invent a game to help teach it? Games like Snakes and Ladders and Trivial Pursuit can be adapted.

WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

Most girls can identify birds by appearance, but do they know the songs? Put on to tape ten well-known songs and ask the girls to list what they are. The RSPB produces tapes of bird-song, which could be used for this game. This might help them to be more aware of the sounds of town and country.

The same game can be played using other sounds. 'Where am I?' can be the question to answer for sounds of a tractor, a stream, a waterfall, a petrol pump, or other noises associated with your own area.

ENCOURAGING WILDLIFE

We are supposed to be 'friends to animals' and yet much of what we do frightens them away. One way to encourage the return of wildlife is to provide safe homes. In the Red Trefoil clause 3C one option is the making of a bird or bat box. Most Patrols will be able to find somewhere to put this. But if it is not possible, challenge them to think of practical ways in which they could encourage birds or animals into their area, or prevent the disturbance of those already there.

PREPARING FOR CAMP

For most girls, camp is a time when they become more aware of the world around them.

Are your camps environmentally-friendly?

These are some points to consider:

- What do you use for gadgets? Do you still cut wood for this or have you found an alternative? Can the girls suggest one?
- Do you teach the girls careful rubbish disposal? Do you buy Green products? Perhaps the Patrols could do a local survey to balance economy with environmental concern.
- Do you encourage careful use of water and so on at camp? What fuel do you use for the cooking? Is it the best method for that area?
- Perhaps you could include conservation within the programme, and in the challenges!
- Care of the environment and protection of the resources is related to attitudes. Are you helping the girls to develop a care for the world and its resources?

CAROL HORNE

● The RSPB is at: The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL. They have other ideas for games and activities. Ask for information.



SANDY EVERITT

SCAVENGE HUNTS

These are easy to do wherever you meet. Instead of collecting plants and flowers, however, the emphasis should be on finding where they are, but leave them to continue to grow.

Try getting the girls to match colours. Paint cards from DIY stores, give a good variety of shades. Give one to each Patrol and ask them to find natural materials that match. The browns and greens are possible, even in urban environments.

When they have found the place and so on, swap the cards and appoint a

meeting or which you supply. They can be judged on beauty, creativity, inventiveness and so on.

GOODBYE RUBBISH

Ask the girls to discuss the best way of disposing of the rubbish collected at home. You could give them a list of typical products. These might include newspapers, cereal packaging, bread wrappers, tins from vegetables, milk packets, drink cans, vegetable peelings, plastic bottles...

After the discussion try challenging them to create a poster which shows safe ways to dispose of, or re-

CARD-SHARP

Did you know there's a great way of making terrific three-dimensional cards? And because it involves no drawing or paint, even the least artistic members of your unit can produce dazzling results.

MARGARET WHITTAKER

There's no need to be a great artist to create these cards because they're actually made with pictures taken from wrapping paper.

If you think your girls would enjoy this simple — yet striking — artwork, you will need a quantity of wrapping paper.

The paper doesn't have to be brand-new. This is an excellent way of making use of those sheets of paper it seems such a shame to throw away after unwrapping birthday or Christmas gifts.

You need the type of paper where the same picture is repeated several times on each sheet. Any fairly simple design will do, but pictures of small animals are probably the easiest to start with. They're bound to be popular with the girls too. We took a teddy bear as our example.

Make sure you obtain sufficient paper for each girl to have three identical animal pictures. You will also need some sticky pads — those foam pads, made by companies like Pritt, that have glue on both sides.

Everybody will also need a window card mount and coloured card to stick her picture on. Card mounts are available from good stationers and craft shops at about 20p to 45p a piece. Buy ones that'll be big enough to hold the wrapping paper pictures you have chosen.

BACKGROUND

Step one is to make a bright background for the 3-D picture by sticking a piece of coloured card behind the window in the mount. Just cut an oblong of card that's slightly larger than the window, glue it carefully round the edge, then stick it in



position behind the window.

Next, each girl picks out her favourite 'furry friend' from the wrapping paper, and carefully cuts out three identical pictures of it.

One of these cut-out creatures must be left whole. The second is cut up into sections — arms, legs, feet,

head... And the third is cut into smaller pieces — ears, nose, whiskers... These pieces are needed to make the picture three-dimensional.

The animal photo which is still in one piece must be stuck on the mount. Position it on the coloured card in the middle of the window in

the mount and glue down. Now for the three-dimensional fun.

Decide which areas of the picture need to be brought out in relief — made to 'stand out'. With animals this is quite easy — just pick the prominent parts that stick out like the head, tummy, leg, arm...

CUT-OUTS

Now take one of the larger cut-out pieces — in this case teddy's head — and put a sticky pad on the back. Peel off the backing paper and stick the cut-out head on top of the complete bear's head. For a real 3-D effect, position this second head shape slightly to one side of the original one.

After that, stick on the leg, arm and tummy from the second bear in the same way.

For the third and final layer of bear, pick the most prominent parts — nose, ears, pads on paws — and stick on the cut-out versions of these in the same way.

If the pieces are smaller than the sticky pads, simply trim the extra away carefully from the pad.

Again, for a real 3-D effect, position the pieces slightly to one side of the same shapes on the original picture.

By now the picture on the front of the card should look stunning, standing out in real 3-D. Press the layers firmly together to make sure everything is properly stuck down, and you've got a really unusual greetings card.

To add the finishing touch, add a message inside the card in script.

These extra-special cards would be just the thing for a special celebration. A card featuring a 3-D Easter chick for Easter, and a bunch of flowers, worked in the same way, would be marvellous on Mother's Day.

MARGARET WHITTAKER 43

SLOPING OFF

Package holidays and school trips have brought skiing holidays within the reach of ordinary families. But these days you don't even have to head for the piste; since the arrival of the dry slope, skiing has become a sport for all. And a session on the slopes can be a fun day out for both leaders and girls.

Dry slope skiing was introduced to this country 20 years ago. Since then, skiing on an artificial slope has proved very popular with people preparing for holidays on the 'real' slopes.

A spokeswoman for the Ski Club of Great Britain explained: 'Going to a dry slope gives you a great insight into what skiing is like. You can get the feel of it before you get anywhere near the snow.'

'It can save you a lot of money too. After all, it's better to discover that skiing isn't your thing before you pay out for an expensive skiing holiday abroad.'

As there are now about 100 dry slopes in the UK, there's bound to be one in your area, or within fairly easy travelling distance.

An artificial slope is made by spreading a huge plastic 'mat' across a hillside. The surface is covered with nylon bristles to enable the skis to glide over it. The purists may claim that skiing on a dry slope does not feel the same as skiing on snow, but the artificial surface is perfect for beginners.

Dry slope ski centres vary in size. The larger ones generally have a main slope of between 150m and 200m with a Poma tow to pull skiers back to the top of the hill. There's usually a selection of smaller trainer slopes, bump slopes and nursery slopes too.

Some of the more basic centres, however, are only equipped with a single slope and a basic safety system to help skiers down the

According to Ray France-Coe, manager and instructor at the Sandown Ski School, Esher, the bigger the centre, the better the skiing conditions will be.

WHEN TO GO

Artificial slopes can be used in all weathers so, unlike 'proper' skiing that relies on real snow, this type of skiing goes on all year round. In fact, most ski centres are open all day and every day. They even have floodlighting so that skiing can carry on late into the evening.

Centres are extra busy from November through to March, as ski fanatics warm up for their holidays on the piste. Busiest of all is the period between Christmas and the end of February. If you fancy taking a group on to the slopes during this peak period, then it is vital that you book at least a month in advance.

Even in the summer season it pays to plan ahead. Most ski centres divide skiing time into lesson periods and open practice sessions. So you could discover that the time you had planned to visit is designated as a practice session for experienced skiers only. When booking,

it is advisable to have a list of alternative dates ready.

For safety's sake, ski centres will not allow you to take complete beginners on to the slopes unsupervised. Therefore, unless you happen to be a qualified ski instructor or have a unit of expert skiers, the first visit you pay to a slope must be for a lesson.

In this first lesson girls will get to grips with basics like putting on boots and skis, side-stepping up the hill and learning to snow-plough. Other lessons will cover how to turn, brake and use a lift.

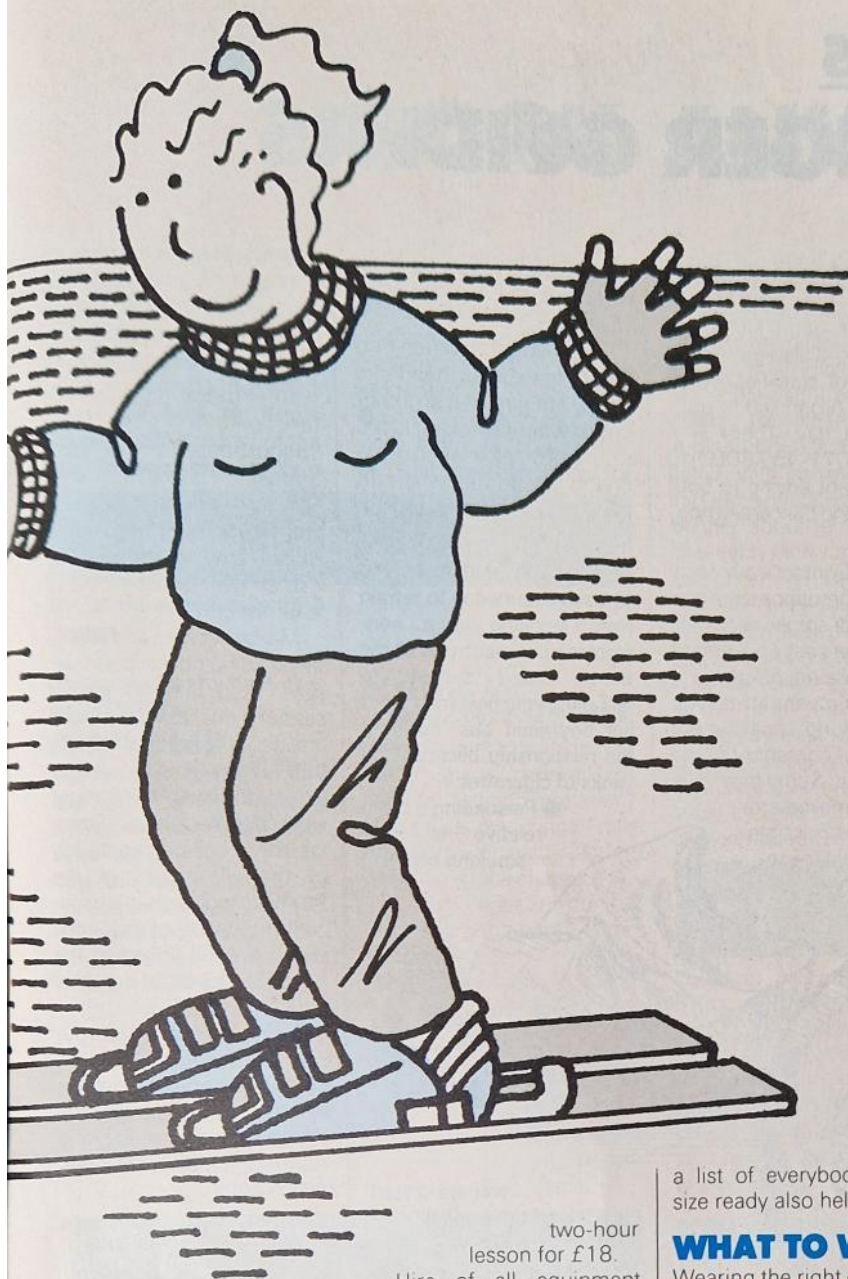
Most beginners will need a course of several lessons before they are skilful enough to take to the slopes in an open practice session.

WHAT IT COSTS

Lessons can be expensive, but discounts are usually available for groups, people under 16 and those who ski during the day. For example, the John Nike Ski School at Binfield in Berkshire charges £8.20 per person per hour for group instruction, with a



GETTING OUT



two-hour
lesson for £18.

minimum of eight people in
each group.

Pricing systems do vary,
of course. At the Hillingdon
Centre in Uxbridge private
lessons cost £20 per hour
for the first person, then £7
per person for each extra
pupil (at weekends). At the
Hemel Ski Centre at Hemel
Hempstead, in Hertfordshire,
those under 16 can have a

Hire of all equipment
needed — skis, boots and
sticks — is usually included
in the cost of lessons.

It will probably take a long
time for 20 youngsters, who
are grappling with skis and
boots for the first time, to
get their equipment on.
When making your first expedi-
tion to the slope, it is
advisable to turn up at least
half an hour before the
lesson is due to begin. Having

a list of everybody's shoe
size ready also helps.

WHAT TO WEAR

Wearing the right clothes is
vitally important when you
take to the slopes. Emma
Toose, of the John Nike
Centre, has some good
advice for potential skiers.
'Wear old things because
the plastic surface of the
slope can be tough on
clothes. A tracksuit is ideal.
But, whatever you wear, it's
got to be loose fitting and
have long sleeves.' Emma
also recommends that all

skiers wear gloves.

Ray France-Coe agrees
that gloves are vital. And he
suggests plenty of warm
clothes because 'it can get
pretty chilly up on the slope'.

When it comes to skiing,
age isn't a factor. Youngsters
can begin almost as soon as
they start to walk. At Binfield
the smallest ski-boot available
is a small size eight. And, as
Emma says, 'Anyone that is
big enough to fit in those
can have a go!'

At the other end of the
scale, Ray France-Coe recalls
giving lessons to a couple
who were in their seventies.
'It took them a bit longer
than young people to learn,'
he confided, 'but they got
the hang of it. And they
must have enjoyed them-
selves because a month
later they sent me a postcard
from a ski resort in Austria!'

According to Emma, even
the not-as-fit-as-they-used-
to-be can slip on a pair of
skis: 'Absolutely anyone can
have a go.'

Although skiers often do
special exercises to get their
leg muscles toned up before
they hit the slope, Mr France-
Coe says there should be no
need for Guides to do these
before visiting a dry slope.
'Children are supple anyway,'
he says, 'and their school PE
programme should keep
them fairly fit.'

The instructor recom-
mends skiing as a great way
to keep healthy and active. 'I
am a retired PE teacher,' he
said, 'so I was pretty fit when
I started my job here. But I
still found that my legs had
become much stronger after
a few weeks on the slopes'.

But the best reason to try
dry slope skiing is simply for
the fun of it. As Mr France-
Coe says 'Kids just love
skiing!'

MARY RICHARDSON

USEFUL ADDRESSES

The Ski Club of Great Britain
produce a leaflet called *Going
Skiing*, which lists all dry ski
slopes in the country. To
obtain a copy send a 50p
coin and a sae to: The Ski

Club of Great Britain, 118
Eaton Square, London
SW1W 9AF. Tel: 071-245
1033.

The Ski Club offers a wide
variety of benefits to its
members — including dis-
counts at 16 dry slopes.
Membership details are avail-

able from the same address.

The Sandown Ski School,
Sandown Park, More Lane,
Esher, Surrey KT10 8AN.
Tel: 0372 467132.

The Ski Centre, The John
Nike Leisure Sport Complex,
John Nike Way, Amen
Corner, Binfield, Berkshire

RG12 4TN. Tel: 0344
860033.

Hemel Ski Centre, St
Albans Hill, Hemel Hemp-
stead, Herts HP3 9NH. Tel:
0442 241321.

● Please note these prices
were correct when the article
was researched.

RANGER GUIDERS

Even though February has one extra day this year — and incidentally have you considered special 'Leap Year' active activities — there are events in March you may well become involved with needing long-term planning. Planning that needs to start *now* if the Unit is to make good use of the opportunities.

SMOKING CHECK

Do you know how many — if any — of the Rangers smoke? Do you know how many of them have to live or work in areas in which many of the adults are smokers?

Most Rangers are aware of the dangers of smoking,

which might help someone with part of the Ranger Challenge, or the Fit for Life Certificate. It also gives suggestions of activities which might be organised to publicize the day. There is a Quitline (071-487 3000) to offer instant advice to both smokers and concerned non-smokers.

Activity: Contact your local Health Promotions team and arrange for someone to help the Rangers set up a fitness testing session. Ask them to include a means of testing not only lung capacity, but also the content of the exhaled air. Some may have a 'smokemeter'.

If this is possible, it does help those

have. Others may arise from concerns that haven't been raised yet.

Often young women find it hard to express their fears if they are part of a group or family where smoking is the norm. To give them the chance to do this when an expert is present would be reassuring.

Activity: Role play situations:

● Asking someone to refrain from smoking in a non-smoking compartment of the train.

● Telling your best friend that her boyfriend has 'finished' the relationship because she stinks of cigarettes.

● Persuading a close relative to stop smoking because

bye in the title.

Would the Rangers be able to take on the organisation of such an event, perhaps inviting other Units or youth groups in the town to take part. If none of the suggestions in the pack appeal, perhaps your Rangers could come up with something that would make other young women in their peer group stop and take notice.

Maybe activities and awareness raising on this particular day could lead to further sessions relating to the wider issues of personal health and fitness. This would link in not only with the Ranger Challenge, but with the Promise too. Looking practically at the wholeness of the Promise and, perhaps, especially to the last of the Guide Laws, can be linked to the negative aspects of personal abuse of the body.

If you feel this is too heavy an issue for your Rangers, then link it to more vigorous activity sessions, so that the recovery period at the end could be a time for quiet discussion.

Activity: A series of fitness sessions for the first, or last, 30 minutes of the evening followed by coffee. Perhaps someone who is doing aerobics or keep fit as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme would share her new skills with the Unit.

Make the most of the publicity surrounding what has become a nationally recognised push for No-Smoking. Make use of some of the suggested activities and pass on to your Rangers all the relevant information.

There will be some among you, and among your Rangers, who will not want to know, who see such a day as an invasion of personal choice and liberty. They may seem positively to hate the idea that other people might actually be concerned about their well-being. What a good source for vigorous debate!



you are scared of the results.

Such activity will allow the Rangers to verbalise fears or dislike of smoking and will also give the Rangers a chance to behave assertively.

Could you take the awareness-raising beyond the Unit?

What would be the results of a Woman Smokers' survey at a Guiders' training day, or a training weekend at one of the centres?

Could the Rangers be involved in extending the message and the information beyond their own Unit?

KARAOKE

The message for No-Smoking Day this year is 'Kiss it Goodbye'. One of the suggestions for an activity evening is running a karaoke session with songs including smoking, or kissing, or good-

who don't smoke but

who frequent smoky environments to appreciate just what happens to the passive smoker'.

This might well lead on to positive discussions among members of the Unit. Topics could include:

● The effects of smoking on the unborn child.

● Educating smokers at home.

● How to cope with smokers in the work place.

● Would you let your child smoke?

● The effects of smoking on women.

Some subjects might well be suggested by information you or the Rangers already

as far as their own health is concerned. Many are also concerned about the well-being of family and friends. Could the Rangers take positive action to promote activities on No-Smoking Day?

No-Smoking Day is on March 11 — to be involved with activities that will really count, plans need to be made now.

Action: Contact the No-Smoking Day Office, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9TX for details of the No-Smoking Day event. It includes specially at young people. Also includes

LOOK ALIVE

Brownies are wide awake, Guides think for themselves, Rangers develop their minds. Whichever way you put it, observation skills have a place in our Programme. But don't always fall back on Kim's Game to fulfil this part of the girls' training. Instead try a

strips and mixed up in an envelope.

- Each Six is given an envelope and asked to arrange the strips in the correct sequence.

- Each Six acts out the story in its own corner.

- Sixes are then asked to

paper, glue and pens. Give each Patrol the first section of its picture, which is then glued to the paper. The girls discuss their ideas of what the whole might be, writing down possibilities, suggestions and questions on the paper with arrows linking the appropriate picture.

- After about ten minutes, give each Patrol its second section, which is then glued in place next to the first. Discussion takes place again, this time taking into account the information available.

- The third piece is then added to reveal the whole image. Patrols can discuss their various ideas and the steps by which they arrived at their deductions.

girl checks her potato and negotiates with the others to exchange, if some have been wrongly claimed.

In the discussion afterwards it should be noted that potatoes may all look alike to the casual observer, but each one is different in detail. Can the girls relate this observation to people, especially people of different races and cultures?

For girls of any age:

TAG FREEZE

To encourage observation of others' needs, co-operation, and an awareness of interdependence.

You will need: plenty of room!



few of these activities for a change.

First some ideas for Brownies:

PICTURE ANALYSIS

The aim is to develop critical analysis, encourage empathy with others and improve observation skills.

You will need: pictures of children in various situations, from different countries and backgrounds; large sheets of paper; felt-tipped pens.

Give each Six two photographs, contrasting if possible, mounted on a sheet of paper and surrounded by several bubbles. Ask the girls to discuss what is happening in the photographs; to describe what the children

think of a similar problem to act for the rest of the Pack.

SHAPE UP!

To develop observations skills.

You will need: a large picture (old calendar pictures are ideal) for each Six, preferably all in similar colourings. From the centre of each picture cut 12 irregular shapes, mixing straight lines and curves, but leaving the frame of the picture intact.

Each Six is given a frame. All the cut-out shapes are mixed and put in the centre of the room, face up. Sixes are numbered from one to six and, at a signal, each number one runs to select a shape which she thinks will fit into her Six's frame.



You can try giving each Patrol a different picture, but if you use photocopies of the same one this will produce an interesting discussion. People's perceptions are often widely varied... a valuable lesson to drive home at any age.

KNOW YOUR POTATO

To lead the girls to consider issues concerning commonality and individuality.

You will need: a potato for each Guide; a box for each Patrol.

Working in Patrols, each girl chooses a potato. For two minutes, she feels her potato, observes it from all

Choose two, three or four people as chasers. The rest run around. When a girl is caught, she stands with legs apart and arms outstretched until rescued by someone crawling between her legs.

Point out that the more people there are running, the less likely it is that the chasers will concentrate on any particular individual. This means that as well as helping captives by releasing them, the girls will be helping themselves.

GILLIAN ELLIS

SOURCES

Picture Analysis *Co-operating for Change* from the Council for World Education Development (CWED).



The Tale of Two Donkeys

angles and notes its characteristics. The potatoes are then mixed up in the box.

- With eyes closed, each girl describes her own potato.

- Still with eyes closed, she finds her own potato by touch.

- Now with eyes open, each

opment (CWED). The Two Donkeys *Getting on with others* available from The Woodcraft Folk, 13 Ritherdon Road, London SW17 8QE (£5.70 inclusive of p&p).

- Adapted from material used at the *So far... and yet so near* training weekend.

PRACTICAL PAGES

YOUNG LEADERS

Does your County produce a news-sheet for Young Leaders? If so, do you send your Adviser contributions for it? The news-letters come in all shapes and sizes and include up-to-date information for Young Leaders concerning County and Division events and trainings. But there are also plenty of ideas for unit meetings.

diagonally, unfold, and lightly fold diagonally the other way.

2 Unfold and cut along each line to within 2cm of the middle.

3 Pick up alternate points and take them to the centre, using a clip to hold them.

4 Cut 1cm off the end of a straw, and place on a clip

Stick them on to cards of equal size to make a variation of the game Happy Families. Explain that this game helps them to know their country better and so serve the Queen.

BEAR TIME

Stage a teddy bear theme evening. You'll need teddy bear goodies such as sandwiches filled with bear favourites like marmalade, honey and peanut butter. Make gingerbread teddy bears, or even a large teddy bear cake. Everything should be very dainty. Work out how to make miniature versions of the things children particularly like to eat.

HIDE THE CLOCK

All leave the room while the leader hides a loudly ticking alarm clock. At a signal the children return and search for the clock. The first to find it is the winner and can hide the clock next time.

Brownies will enjoy:

WORLD TRIP

As each girl comes in she buys a plane ticket — this could be with subs or some money brought along or raised for a special overseas charity or the Thinking Day fund.

She 'flies' to the first stop in one part of the hall to play a game from another country. At a second stop, she makes a collage of the scenery in another country; at the third, samples some food; at the fourth, hears a story and so on for as many stops as you have time to make.

You will need help in planning this kind of evening, perhaps a couple of you could get together and do the same for both units, or better still get the girls to help.

STORYTIME

You will need to prepare a text for the story of how

Mummy Bear goes shopping.

The girls sit in teams and each is given the name of an item required for a picnic, for example sandwiches, crisps, drink... You begin telling how Mummy Bear prepared for the picnic. Each time items like sandwiches, crisps and so on are mentioned the respective girl runs round her team and back to her place. Points can be awarded, but it is just as much fun without.

Guide-age girls will have fun with:

SILVER DOLLAR HUNT

You will need:

- a wide open space
- silver bottle tops or equivalent
- a compass.

The Guides spread out over the playing area and each one places a milk bottle top at her feet. Each Guide chooses a bearing up to 120 degrees, which she walks on for 50 paces. She then adds 120 degrees to her original bearing and walks another 50 paces. By adding a further 120 degrees and walking 50 paces each person should find herself back near a silver dollar. The Patrol to collect the most dollars is the winner.

TEDDY BEAR TRAIL

Several teddy bear symbols are cut from card for each group. The groups are given the name of famous bears such as Paddington, Pooh, Rupert... which are written on their bear symbols.

Before the game starts the trail must be laid and each group told which bear to follow. They collect the cards as they go round having been told how many they are looking for. On return they turn the cards over and on the back of some will be letters. These reveal where the treasure is hidden.

MARGARET FOSTER



These are some activities used by Young Leaders in South-West England. You can adapt the ideas for the age group that you work with, and cut them out and add them to your games book. If you don't want to use them now, they could be a useful resource in the future.

MAKE A SIMPLE WINDMILL

This is a fun activity for all ages.

You will need:

- pieces of sugar paper 15cm square
- 4 drinking straws
- 4 pieces of card that fold back

1 Cut the sugar paper in half

behind the windmill.

5 Push clip through the straw.

6 Cover clip with blob of Plasticine. Use Plasticine to secure the windmill in upright position.

The following games are suitable for Rainbows.

THIS ENGLAND

You will need:

- a selection of holiday brochures for England (or Scotland, Ireland, Wales...)
- a selection of picture post cards
- scissors and glue.

Cut out the pictures and make them into sets of four, for instance four castles, four seaside towns, four rivers, four cathedrals...

You are cordially invited to attend the biggest tea party in the world... and to help secure Broneirion, the home of Welsh Guiding, for the Movement.

The house which doubles as a residential training centre and the headquarters of Guides Cymru is now up for sale. And Guides Cymru has until March 1993 to raise the £500,000 needed to secure the house and grounds, as well as provide for future maintenance.

A monster tea party is just one of the money-making schemes being planned. The Broneirion Appeal was officially launched in January and organisers are confident they will reach the target.

Until now the house has been leased to Guides Cymru for a nominal rent. Broneirion, near the village of Llandinam in the valley of the River Severn, was built in 1864 by David Davies.

In 1944 the grandson of David Davies, the father of the present Lord Davies,

succeeded to the title just two weeks before he was killed in action in the Second World War.

His young widow, Eldrydd, was a great friend of Hether Kay, Wales' Chief Commissioner. Knowing that Hether had a vision of a training centre for Welsh Guides, Eldrydd offered Broneirion.

In 1947 the house was officially opened by the World Chief Guide — at last Welsh Guides had a home.

The current treasurer, the Hon Miss Gwenllian Philipps, was involved with the house committee in the early days. There was no money, and it was a time of food rationing,

clothing coupons and utility furniture. They scrubbed the house from top to bottom and borrowed what they needed,' she recalled.

Broneirion is set in approximately five acres of well-maintained garden. There is a holiday house for Brownies in the grounds.

Its 17 bedrooms can hold over 40 visitors. Each bedroom is named after a hill or mountain in the County which takes care of it. Snowdon, being the highest peak in Wales, is naturally at the top of the house!

When the opportunity arose to buy the house, the Treasurer had no doubts. Many of the pioneers are still alive — surely we cannot let them down, but show as much courage and determination as they did. Broneirion is not only our training centre, but our headquarters and our heart,' she said.

Guiders throughout Wales were consulted before the decision to go ahead and buy was taken.

An Appeal Committee has been set up to promote Broneirion and raise funds outside the Movement. It is, however, the Liaison Committee, whose purpose is to coordinate fund raising with the Counties, which has proved to be the enthusiastic driving force.

A national raffle is being organised with a car as the main prize, tickets sell at £1. The draw will take place during the Broneirion Flower Festival held from September 17 to 20.

A lovely card has been designed suitable for children to raise funds by selling 'bricks'. It is intended that 'Buying a Brick for Broneirion' should be fitted into individual unit programmes and the card can be entered in a



colouring competition.

The monster tea party on Saturday, March 28 hopes to tap the support already promised by members outside Wales. And the organisers hope to qualify for a place in the *Guinness Book of Records*.

Supporters don't have to turn up at Broneirion. Tea parties can be organised in Divisions, Districts, units or by individuals at any level from Rainbows to Trefoil Guild. Tickets will be sold at £1 each before the day. However, all the parties must be held at the same time, starting at 3pm on that Saturday. The menu should also be the same: sandwiches and cake, and the same entertainment or games has to be organised.

A strict record of numbers must be kept by issuing cloakroom tickets to all guests attending. Authentication of numbers at each venue is required from two independent witnesses of some standing in the community, and photographs and newspaper cuttings are needed as corroboration.

So who will help us create a record and buy Broneirion at the same time? Further details should be available in your area through your County Public Relations Adviser.

SUE KIRBY

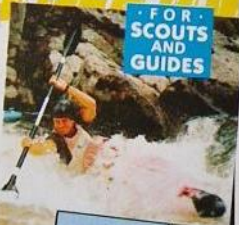
Public Relations Adviser
Guides Cymru

49

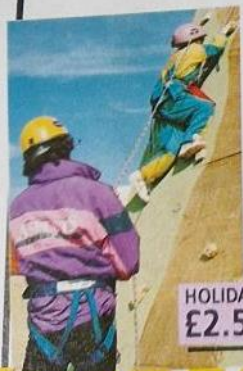
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HOST OF POSSIBILITIES

Launched nearly 60 years ago, Experiment in International Living sends 'experimenters' all over the world to get to know other nations and their cultures by living with host families.

It may not be everyone's idea of having a whale of a time but, when Ranger and Young Leader Nicola Sengalow went to Thailand she witnessed a bowel cancer operation, a hysterectomy, the removal of a kidney stone and a Caesarian — all in the same day!

Which goes to show that anything can happen if, like Nicola, you go on an Experiment in International Living (EIL) trip.

EIL's success and popularity has increased with modern travel and the Association strongly supports the scheme.

Nicola, 16, attending a sixth form

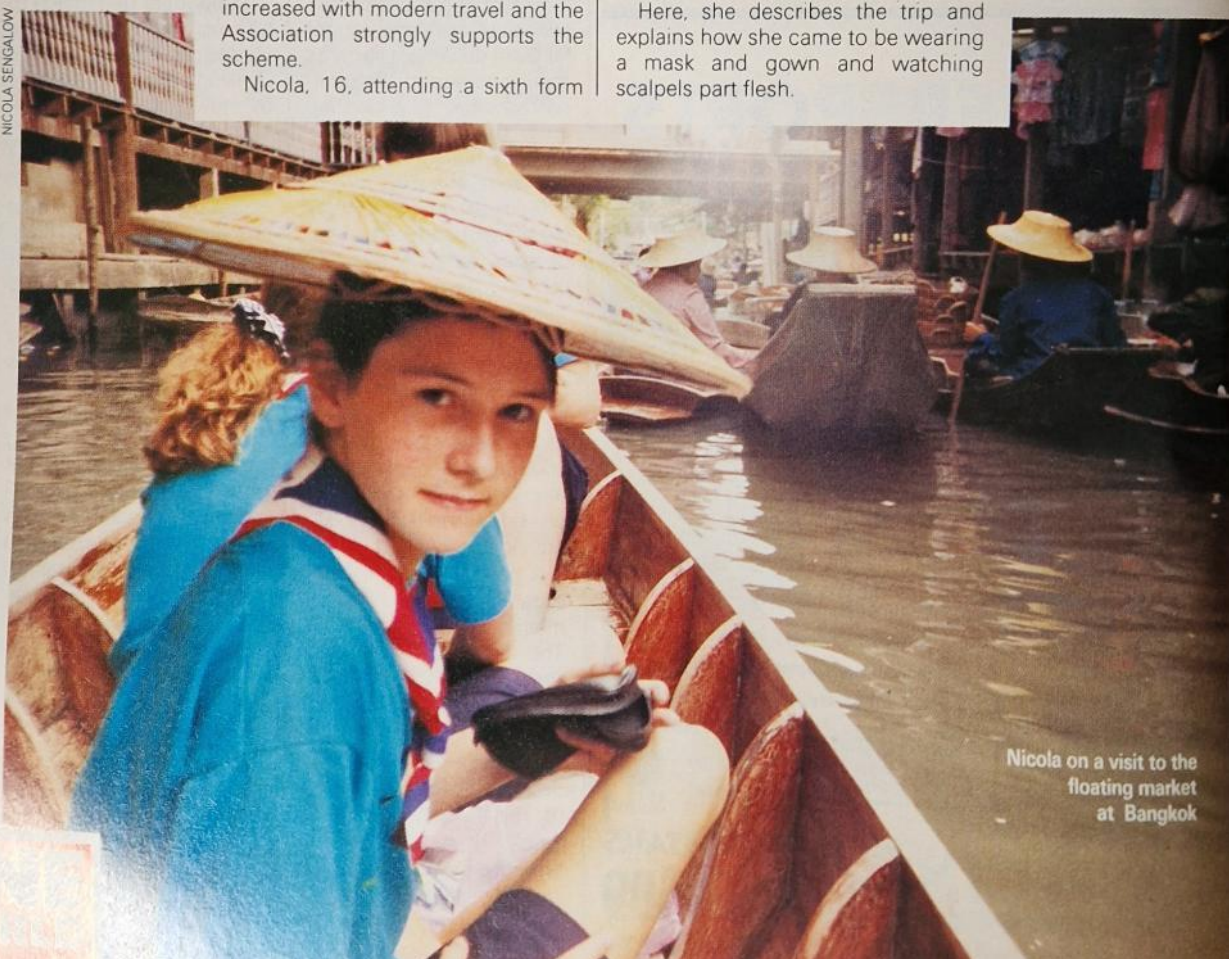
college, is a member of the 1st Hartlepool Rangers. She helps to run a Brownie Pack at West Park, where she lives, near Hartlepool, Cleveland.

After a series of selections at Divisional, County and Regional level, she was chosen as the North East's representative.

'Since the age of seven, as a Brownie, I have had many enjoyable times in Guiding but none so exciting as my visit to Thailand,' Nicola said.

Here, she describes the trip and explains how she came to be wearing a mask and gown and watching scalpels part flesh.

NICOLA SENGALOW



Nicola on a visit to the floating market at Bangkok



Pupils wear Guide or Scout uniform to school

We arrived in Bangkok after a 21-hour flight, tired but keyed-up with excitement. I had home stays with three different families in different parts of the country and experienced a lifestyle totally different to my own.

I was given a very warm welcome by each family and immediately felt relaxed.

Before going on the trip I had tried to soak up as much knowledge as I could from books about the country and Thai customs. I had also learned a few words of courtesy which I found very useful. English is, in fact, quite widely spoken.

I had no difficulty in adjusting to the food and enjoyed trying new dishes. Thai cuisine is a blend of Chinese and Indian. I ate lots of different fruits which I had never tried before, such as durian, mangosteen, rambutan and various kinds of bananas.

There are, I discovered, about 200 varieties of bananas, with a wide range growing in Thailand. My favourite was a small variety known as finger bananas.

At a silk farm I visited, I ate cooked silkworms. Thai children eat them as if they were sweets and fight over them. I can't say I developed a craving for them. The taste is hard to describe — a bit mouldy and meaty is the best I can manage.

I did not sample any of the crocodiles I saw by the hundred on the crocodile farms I went to. And not one of them, I'm glad to say, had a mouthful of me! Being rather more dangerous than silkworms, they are kept in secure pens and never once did I feel I was to be dish of the day.

Because those providing the home hospitality were mainly teachers, I had the opportunity to visit several schools and even tried teaching some English in class.

It came as a surprise to learn that, in

Thailand, Guiding and Scouting are, in effect, compulsory!

Every schoolchild has to be either in the Movement or in the Red Cross. Guiding and Scouting form part of the school curriculum and, instead of wearing a school uniform, pupils wear Guide or Scout uniforms to school.

The schools have their own units which hold meetings in school-time. A lot of British Guides would, no doubt, consider this an excellent arrangement!

One of the "musts" among the tourist attractions was, of course, the river Kwai and its famous — or perhaps I should say infamous — bridge.

But we didn't just see the river — we stayed on it, spending a night in a chalet which was part of a floating village. From there I saw a train travelling on the Railway of Death. The village, on a platform like a large pontoon, was only a few miles from the bridge.

It was in Bangkok, however, that we had what was for me an amazing

experience. It came during a visit to a hospital where, to my surprise, I was given a mask and gown and invited into the operating theatres to watch surgeons at work.

I saw a bowel cancer operation, a hysterectomy and a kidney stone being removed. I also had the wonderful opportunity to see a baby born by Caesarian section. To me, it was incredible — a chance I may never have again.

I enjoyed the home stays with my host Thai families enormously. They were warm, friendly and extremely generous. I learned much about their culture and lifestyle, feeling very comfortable and "at home" with such kind people.

It was a once-in-a-lifetime trip which I will never forget. I was proud to be an ambassador for Guiding and I am grateful to all my friends in Guiding who helped to make it happen.

● Next month Young Leader Susan McCutcheon describes the different lifestyles she encountered on an EIL trip to Mexico.



A handicraft session, Thai-style

CALLED TO ORDER

A Guider from Kent wrote to tell us what she does with her copies of *GUIDING* — she tears them up!

The Practical Pages are the first to go, particularly those for Guides,' she wrote, 'although I never overlook those written for Brownies and Rangers. After all, ten-year-old Guides aren't far from Brownie-age and, at 14-15, older Guides appreciate a challenge.'

That Guider has the right idea. She listed all the other sections that get the same treatment and which she puts to a variety of uses.

Our magazines aren't meant to be kept pristine for posterity. They are there to be used, whether cut up, photocopied or just passed round.

Don't miss out on a valuable resource, designed to make your life easier. Order regular copies today of *GUIDING*, *GUIDE PATROL* and *BROWNIE* and get out the scissors.

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YOUR LETTERS

TOO COSTLY

I realise that a working Guider would appreciate extra paid leave for Pack Holidays or Guide camps, but why should an employer be assumed to be sympathetic to the interests of Guiding?

Many employers must already be under pressure due to the difficulties caused by the legal requirement to offer maternity leave to women employees and the demands for creche facilities.

Although staff working conditions are important, the employer must also consider his customers or clients. I doubt whether many customers would patiently tolerate poor service because staff were on Pack Holiday.

I understand that in the past, being involved in Guiding has been considered an asset for a potential employee. Would this be so if it presented the possibility of needing extra *paid* leave?

Giving time off to Guiders would be the thin end of the wedge. Scouters would want time off for Scout camps, others involved in charity or voluntary work would be justified in expecting time off for their work on behalf of the community.

Most things have both advantages and disadvantages. This is the case with being an employed woman. One needs to consider whether having the financial security provided by employment for 52 weeks a year outweighs the disadvantages of having limited time off.

All Guiders make sacrifices for Guiding, (so do their families) but, although we come back from Pack Holidays, camps and other Guiding

activities feeling exhausted and probably wondering whether our sacrifices and efforts have been appreciated, we must also have an inner feeling that it has been worthwhile — otherwise we wouldn't do it again.

We have, after all, 'done our best', as we promised to do when we made our Guide Promise.

CHRISTINE PROUDMAN

Assistant Brownie Guider
22nd Doncaster Brownies
South Yorkshire

FIGHT ON

I would love extra leave to be able to take the Guides to camp.

I work full-time for a local police authority and my 24 days leave has to be stretched every way possible so that I can see my fiancée, who is serving in Germany, for the 36 out of 365 days that he is home.

The Guides still have activities such as cook-outs, tent pitching and hikes. But if a day off work is necessary then I'm not able to go.

We are able to work overtime for days off 'in lieu', but only to a maximum of 15 hours. Unpaid leave is not possible — the computer is unable to cope.

I hope your lobby succeeds.

HEATHER DADSWELL

Guide Guider
10th St Leonard (St Ethelburgas) Guides
East Sussex

Several readers were stirred to defend the inclusion of science and technology in the Programme. Here are some points from their letters:

VITAL ROLE

Guiding can often sow the seeds of interest in a *fun* way, which may even stand many a child in

good stead for a future career.

The National Curriculum is seriously failing our children today and I do realise that teachers are inextricably wound up in its implementation,

whether they agree with every last principle or not.

I, too, am concerned that seven-year-olds know how to build suspension bridges when they have not yet mastered reading, let alone writing.

I do, however, feel it is wrong of teachers to knock any sparks of enthusiasm the GGA manages to fire in the children.

Let our Movement serve its purpose in exposing the children of today to as many different experiences as possible, with the emphasis on fun and the unpressured environment of adults willing and able to devote time to individuals.

Everyone's idea of fun differs and I, for one, am glad that I had the courage to stick with my Brownies' decision that we should become 'science investigators'.

JANICE BROWN

Assistant Guider
27th Carlisle Brownies

ALL ASPECTS

In Guiding we are trying to develop the individual girl's potential — morally, socially and academically. To do this we should be concerned about all aspects of the culture and environment that we live in, not just the traditional Guiding ones.

It is understandable that we should see so much in *GUIDING* about science as we have few publications which provide suitable ideas for unit meetings.

Girls in Guiding need science as *part* of their

experiences but remember, as with every aspect of the Guide training, it is important to strike the right balance.

JANE THOMPSON

Sale, Cheshire

MORE PLEASE

The GGA has *always* been *practical*. It is the schools which have become less academic and more practical, with emphasis on finding out by doing rather than being given loads of facts to learn. For the girls, Guiding has always been about planning and working things out, often burning their fingers while doing so.

Too many Guiders forget to make use of that very special aspect of Guiding which makes it so different from ordinary youth clubs — self-programming!

There are far too many of us who plan the meetings over a cup of coffee in the peace of our own homes without sharing our thoughts with the girls. That may be why we lose some older members.

If we Guiders would only step back and lead from the wings, as needed, I'm sure the youngsters would keep coming back for more.

KATE HARRIS

Guider
Wiltshire North

GIRLS' CHOICE

I read Ruth Black's letter in the December issue with great interest. I am a BCU senior instructor and, over the past 12 years, have taught many children aged seven to ten to canoe in swimming pools. Only about ten per cent of them have been girls, but the proportion is increasing.

Currently I have a seven-year-old girl who is an excellent canoeist, using an adult canoe! I find that girls generally decide for themselves whether they wish to canoe, in contrast to boys who tend to do it because their friends do.

While girls are usually more timid than boys, once they gain confidence their skills can be as good as the boys.

If conditions and equipment are suitable, perhaps in the future Brownies could be allowed to canoe. For me, however, this is not the main problem. Far too few Guides have the opportunity at present!

Most Guiders find this a difficult activity to offer and, although the BCU is willing to help, many BCU instructors are also voluntary youth workers and are already heavily committed.

There is an urgent need to encourage members of our Movement to become BCU instructors themselves.

Only in this way will we be able to offer this exciting activity to a reasonable proportion of our girls.

JEAN BOATMAN
Pang Valley District
Commissioner
Reading

PARTY TIME

Were you a Brownie, Guide, Guider or Unit Helper with 4th Lamarbey (Holy Trinity) Brownies or Guides?

If you were and would like to join us for our 50th birthday celebration in March, then please contact Mrs Deb Bettesworth, tel: 081-302 5985 for more information.

D BETTESWORTH
Sidcup, Kent

DRIP DRY

Jim Bettesworth thought of the Guide's dress off on a rainy day and whose name was I

a Monday evening.

I came home and threw my sweatshirt and pants into the washing machine Sunday evening but it rained on the Monday.

As they are not able to go in the tumble dryer, I was thankful I still had my old uniform to wear for Brownies.

BARBARA CARTWRIGHT
Brownie Guider
1st Brown Lees Pack
Biddulph, Staffs

MARY'S MITE

There must be Guiders all over the UK who, like me, have spent happy and rewarding days at Broneirion, the Guides Cymru Training Centre.

I went there first as an eight-year-old Brownie, then as a Guide, Ranger, Young Leader and Guider.

To keep Broneirion for the Movement, Guides Cymru has taken up the challenge of raising £500,000 in two years.

I shall be sending a contribution on the principle that 'every little helps'. Perhaps other Guiders outside Wales would like to do the same.

MARY McSPARRON
Martock
Somerset

● Ways of helping to buy Broneirion are described on p49.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

I wonder why so many Guiders are bent on academic activities. My co-Guider and I started our unit two years ago, as there were no Guide units in Looe. We do not make our Guiding academic, if we did I would leave!

We try very hard to get our girls to 'think for themselves' as required in the Eight Points, plus we encourage them with their Trefoil work. Nowhere does this suggest academic activities. The nearest you'd get the need for academic work is in the B-P Trefoil, and even then there is an alternative.

In my last Company I had a Guide with severe learning difficulties but she managed to achieve her B-P Award, which surely proves that Guiding does not need to be academic to achieve the highest award.

Perhaps the girls of today have changed and prefer to be spoon-fed rather than think for themselves.

It saddens me to admit that in our non-academic Company we also lose our older Guides. When asked, they say it is peer pressure that stops them staying.

We live in a small community so everyone knows if you're a Guide or not. My son is still a Scout at 15 and his troop does not do as much as we do. So I'm at a loss to know why we are losing our girls.

In my opinion the structure of Guiding, the Eight Point plan and Trefoils are fine and it's up to individual Guiders to interpret them according to the needs of their girls.

MRS LORNA GOMM
East Looe
Cornwall

FIRE RISK

I now have an explanation for the candle incident I wrote to you about. I was told that during the manufacture of cotton garments of a brushed or fluffy nature such as sweatshirts, a very fine layer of microscopic fibres is left on the surface.

Should this layer be exposed to a naked flame, the effect is the spontaneous combustion of all these fibres, leaving the garment undamaged.

Several similar incidents have apparently been reported. But there is no legislation covering these garments in respect of fire.

I feel that the implication of this phenomenon for Guiders is quite horrendous. Although the Fire Service

described it as a 'cold' flame, the thought of what could have happened had the Guide had long hair, or had panicked, is terrifying.

MARY TOLSON
Baildon Shipley

● A copy of Mrs Tolson's letter has been given to the Uniform Panel.

BATTERY CHARGING

I agree wholeheartedly with the Guider who wants Guiding activities to be 'fun'. The number of subjects being taught is increasing all the time and, therefore, the pace of school life is incredibly fast. Guiding time is a time to have fun and breathe again, for children and adults alike.

I, too, am a teacher. One who had to test 27 children over a six-week period. I had to rely on my two Guiders to plan and run the meetings during that time, although I attended each meeting.

Pack Holiday followed at Whitsun, so all plans and charts were made during the Easter holidays. Never was I so glad to get away for Pack Holiday!

However difficult it may be, I will never give up my Guiding. With a good team behind me, I found the strength to carry on, despite having a 15-hour day many times during the testing six weeks.

My quality of life would indeed be poor if I had to give up Guiding (I am also a District Commissioner.)

Indeed, where there's a will, there is a way.

GILL RULE
Brownie Guider
1st and 2nd Attleborough
Packs, Norfolk

Letters should be kept as brief as possible and the Editor reserves the right to edit any contribution. Letters must carry the author's name, address and, if possible, a daytime phone number, although this information will not be published if requested.

You probably already have the three videos produced by CHQ's Communications Division in your Districts — but have you thought about how to use them most effectively? Perhaps, you didn't realise that they put over different messages — and that they are, therefore, best used for different audiences.

Two of the videos — both directed at an adult audience — *Welcome to Guiding* and *Leading the Way*, are rather similar in that they both include something about the history of the Movement, and show new adult leaders finding out about the Association.

Leading the Way, through the experiences of four different women, illustrates the sort of people we are looking for to become part of Guiding, what they can give to the Movement, and what it will give them in return. *Welcome to Guiding* follows one young woman through her first few months on the Adult Leadership Scheme.

Setting the Pace is quite different. It is aimed at both adults and girls. It is action-packed and features girls from all walks of life being challenged through Guiding and emphasises the enjoyment and benefits the girls themselves think they get from it.

No talking heads in this one! The commentary explains the adult perspective, but the pictures tell the real story — Guiding is active, adventurous, up-to-date and fun.

The tools are available, you just have to suit them to the job. There are a number of occasions when it is useful to show a video, but the one you run has to be the right one for that particular audience.

New Guiders, perhaps watching at home, or at a meeting arranged for newcomers, would welcome the chance to see *Leading the Way*, if their interest in Guiding is relatively recent. Perhaps, they will recognise themselves in the four women featured, reflecting their skills, interests, or even their worries about joining the Movement.

However, if a potential Guider has been in the organisation as a Guide, Ranger or Young Leader, she will already know much of the information contained in it; for her, *Welcome to Guiding* would be a better choice.

Few people would need to see both because their messages overlap. If you are going to show these two videos try to find out about the background of your audience before making the choice.

Setting the Pace is the ideal video if you need to show Guiding in the 1990s to the public. A Public Relations Adviser will come to regard it as one of the best tools available.

A District Commissioner called upon to talk to a local group will make it her

SCREEN TEST

Videos are one of the most effective tools to be added to the Trainer or PRA's range of resources. Jan Miskelly, British Guides in Foreign Countries' PRA for Benelux and France, evaluates the Association's latest support videos.



first choice as an audio-visual aid — it will do much of the talking for her.

A Guider wanting to attract new youngsters to her unit, will find it useful too — it is girl-orientated, action-packed, and the stars are girls from inner cities, as well as from areas where Guiding is traditionally popular.

So which one is best to take to, say, the county show? *Setting the Pace* fits the bill — ideal to dip into as a potential Guider drifts past your stand, as yet blissfully unaware of how she could give a little time to Guiding.

Later on, if she seems interested, find out what she knows about Guiding. For someone who has been a member, *Welcome (back) to Guiding* will be the

next choice, while for someone who hasn't, *Leading the Way* will do the job nicely.

If you don't already have all three videos in your Guiding tool-kit get in touch with the Trading Service at Atlantic Street, Broadheath, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 5EQ. They have just what you need to help you find those extra pairs of hands.

JAN MISKELLY

● *Welcome to Guiding* (64659) and *Leading the Way* (64642) cost £7.50 and *Setting the Pace* (64741) costs £7.75. When ordering from Trading please quote the codes shown above and add 50p for postage and packing for orders under £10.

Featuring girls from all walks of life

PEOPLE *and* PLACES

WHAT A HOOT

▲ Dads don't mind making a bit of a pratt of themselves when it comes to promoting a good cause. Here Colin Prichard, alias Brown Owllet, puts in a head-turning appearance in the fancy dress class at a horse show held at Barcombe Mills, Sussex.

Astride Elvis (Snowy Owl) are Colin's daughters nine-year-old Claire and seven-year-old Ella, members of 1st Barcombe Brownie Pack.



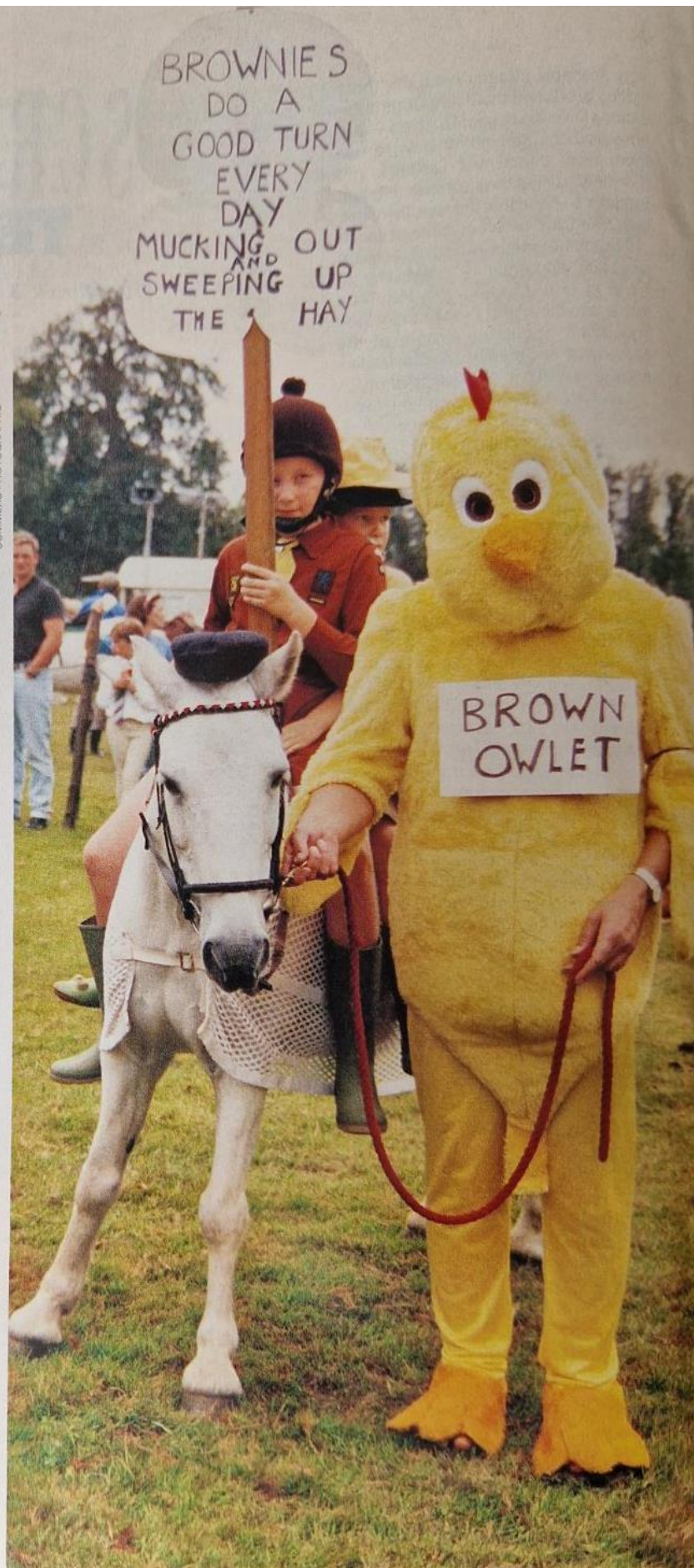
COLD COMFORT

▲ Believe it or not, this photo was taken in August. Members of the 1st North Pemberton Guides were spending ten days in the Austrian Tyrol and hiked eight miles up into the Alps, spending a night in a high-altitude hut.

Guide and 20-year-old who has wanted to make the 100th anniversary 100 years' links arms with Guide and 100-year-old Helen Barker.

SUMMERS PHOTOGRAPHIC

D BRIGGS





SAFETY DRILL

▲ There was no chance of anything going wrong at the first investiture ceremony for the re-formed Tobermory Ranger Unit. It was held on board the new Tobermory lifeboat; suitably life-jacketed, the girls from the Isle of Mull, were taken on a 'spin' around the bay.

UP FOR THE CUP

► The eyes peeping over the cup belong to ten-year-old Amy Knowles. She's struggling to hold the Morson trophy won by her unit, the 10th Durham City (St Margaret's) Guides in a series of outdoor challenges organised by Durham Scout and Guide Club.

MARGARET WHITTAKER

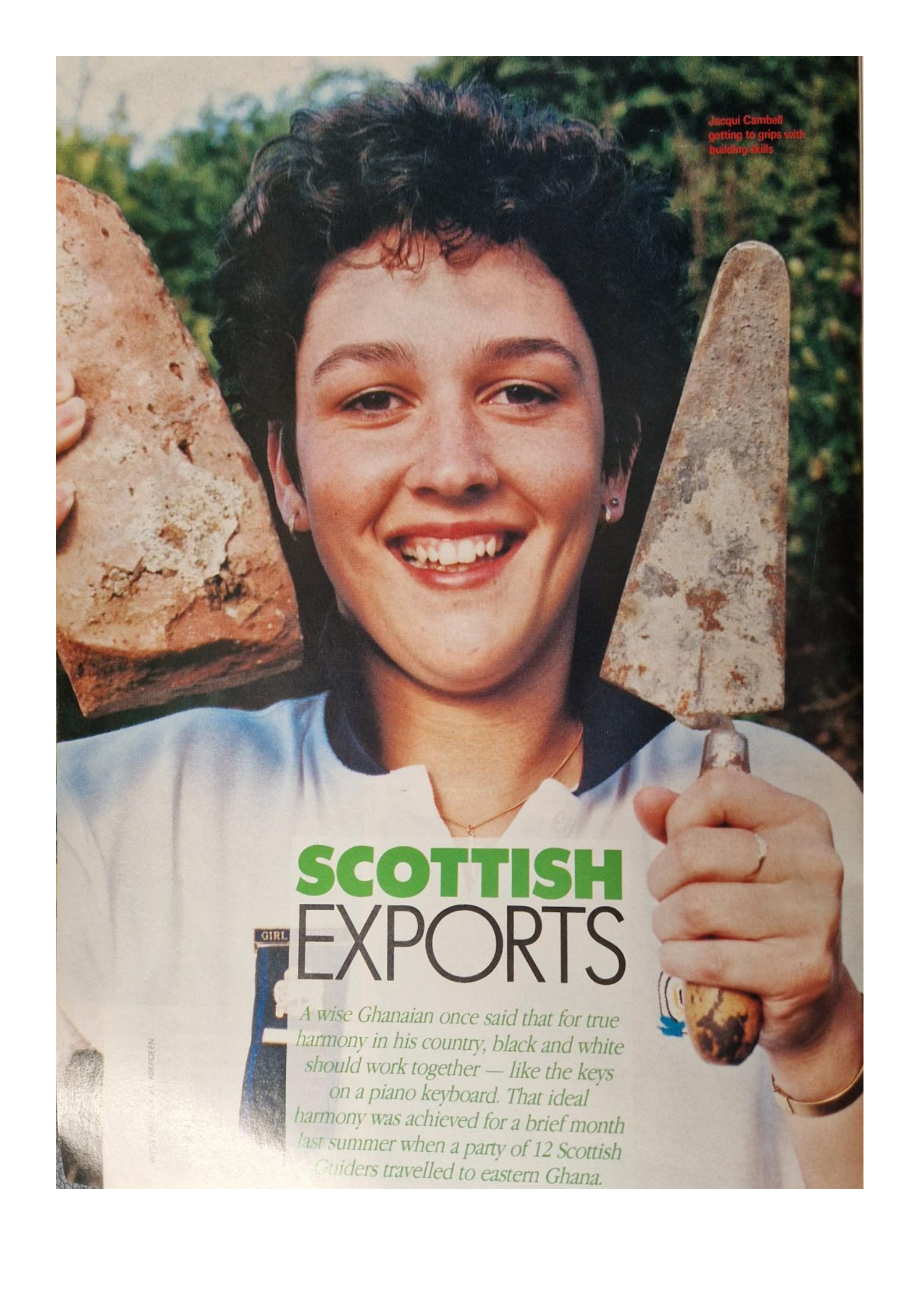


CAUGHT NIBBLING

◀ It's hard to be patient when you're Rainbow-age and the birthday cake looks delicious. A roving cameraman caught Carley Bamber poised to nibble part of the cake trimmings at Much Hoole Rainbow Guides' first birthday party. Also in the picture are three other peckish Lancashire lasses: Jennifer Johnson, Claire Herbert and Hayley Alston.

LANCASHIRE EVENING POST



A young woman with dark, curly hair is smiling broadly at the camera. She is holding a large, reddish-brown brick in her left hand and a metal trowel with a wooden handle in her right hand. She is wearing a white polo shirt with a dark collar and a thin gold necklace. The background is a blurred green outdoor setting.

Jacqui Cambell
getting to grips with
building skills

SCOTTISH EXPORTS

A wise Ghanaian once said that for true harmony in his country, black and white should work together — like the keys on a piano keyboard. That ideal harmony was achieved for a brief month last summer when a party of 12 Scottish Guiders travelled to eastern Ghana.

Arriving in the remote village of Alavanyo-Agorme expedition leader Morna Ferguson experienced a real sense of déjà vu. Morna, who is now County Commissioner for Lanarkshire West, first went to Ghana 20 years ago as a VSO maths teacher.

She was already an Assistant Guider in Scotland and, during her spare time, became involved with Ghanaian Guiding. When she returned home to Scotland she kept in touch with people in the area.

So, when Scotland's Chief Commissioner Jean-Claire Schaw Miller suggested an international effort, Morna contacted her Ghanaian friends. They suggested a suitable project — building a school in Alavanyo-Agorme.

The villagers had started building their school back in 1965. But their money and enthusiasm ran out when the walls were just three feet high and the unfinished school was abandoned until last year.

Months of preparation went into the expedition. After a selection weekend at Netherurd, the Scottish Training Centre, nine Guiders were chosen from the original 29 applicants. The black and white keyboard and the theme 'Keyed up for Ghana' were reproduced on T-shirts, badges and leaflets to be used in a massive fundraising effort.

Each of the selected Guiders was asked to raise £500 but, in fact, they far surpassed the target. Scottish generosity proved so overwhelming

'It was very hot and very heavy manual work'

that the party was not only able to contribute to the cost of building materials, but also to provide blackboards, tables and desks for the completed classroom.

When the party finally boarded the plane, the luggage was crammed with gifts for the hosts — everything from Guide uniforms and tents to special badges for the Ghanaian Guides to wear during their 70th anniversary year.

A few days to acclimatise in Accra did little to prepare the party for the situation they met in the village. But it did give them time to meet the Ghana Chief Commissioner and President and hand over the gifts they had taken.

When the party first reached the village, the task seemed impossibly daunting. How were they to build a classroom when so little work had already been done? And where were they to find the materials?

At least the party had been warned about conditions in the village — no electricity, no running water and a toilet that was just a hole in the ground. But, on the plus side, as Morna Ferguson put it: 'The villagers treated us like royalty.'

'We gained their respect really quickly'

Nothing could have prepared the Scots for the heat. 'We had thought we could work every day,' explained Morna, 'but we found we could only work for two days and then we had to have a day off.'

The Scottish party had already done some homework. Everyone had tried to get in some building practice. Morna Ferguson fitted in a little cement-mixing during school holidays. Jacqui Campbell, Guider with the 3rd Westhill Company, built a barbecue in her garden with the help of a local builder. And Emma Whitelock, Assistant Brownie Guider with the 1st A Kilbarchan Pack, took a six week building course, which made her the expert of the party.

But Ghanaian building techniques were rather different — to cut costs the villagers used very little cement and as much sand as possible. So, the Guiders had to learn on the job.

Most of the building materials were found locally — sand came from the roadside and water from the local pump. Other bits and pieces were bought with money raised in Scotland and through a local tax.

Everything — sand, bricks and water — had to be carried in bowls on the head. For the villagers, who start learning the skill as toddlers, this was no problem. The secret lies in keeping your back really straight. But it's obviously not as easy as it looks — Morna Ferguson admits that she never mastered the art.

And, as Jacqui Campbell recalled, 'It was very hot and very heavy manual work. The bricks weighed two-and-a-half stone each. And we were up scaffolding doing the building ourselves.'

The village elders ordered everyone to help. So, the men did the building, while the women did the carrying. Local Scouts and Guides, wearing uniforms given to them by the Scots, helped out and even the children did their bit.

'It wasn't a case of us doing the work,' Morna Ferguson explained. 'It was very much a joint project. They couldn't have built it without us. And we couldn't have built it without them.'

The Guiders' willingness to tackle 'men's work' gained them many admirers. The sight of the 12 women rolling up their shirt sleeves and getting stuck in proved an inspiration to the villagers.

They were really surprised to see what they saw as rich, white people mucking in, getting cement on their clothes and carrying bricks on their heads like they did,' said Jacqui Campbell. 'We gained their respect really quickly.'

But it wasn't all work. Days off were spent sight-seeing and soaking up the Ghanaian culture. One of the highlights was a trip to the impressive 300 ft high Wli waterfall. After all the heat and hard work, the Scottish party even welcomed the tropical rainstorm that cooled them down during the visit.

And for Morna Ferguson there was one moment of particular personal satisfaction, when one of her former pupils turned up out of the blue. She'd heard of the party's arrival on the radio and travelled out to Alavanyo-Agorme to meet Morna again.

Finally the walls were finished, one classroom had been roofed and it was time to celebrate. Local Scouts and Guides, Chiefs and the Minister for Education got together for a Durbar (a

A willingness to tackle 'men's work' gained admirers



special rally) to mark the occasion.

Special guest David Burton, Second Secretary at the British High Commission, unveiled a plaque to commission the building. And he had special praise for the friendly co-operation between Scottish and Ghanaian Guides.

But that isn't quite the end of the story. Plans are already being made for another Scottish Guiding project in Ghana in 1993.



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Map Reference: Sheet 125-086 245

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PACK HOLIDAY. Fully equipped own field suitable Brownies, Guides, S.A.E. Mrs. J. Round, 2 Church Green, Hershaw, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, KT12 4JA.

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JOAN HARLE FROM HARLINGTON, MIDDLESEX

For nearly 20 years Joan Harle has been the GGA's own special courier at London's Heathrow Airport.

They call me Airport Joan because I have this job of meeting, on behalf of the GGA, foreign Guiding visitors who have flown into Heathrow to attend conferences or international camps in the UK. I don't have to go far — I live in Harlington, at the end of the runway, so to speak.

I can't remember exactly how it started but, a long time ago, I was asked by CHQ to meet a party arriving at the airport from abroad and, from then on, it became one of my regular tasks.

Mine is one of those unofficial posts in Guiding — it's not like being Commissioner-in-Charge, London Airport, or anything like that — and my "appointment" was quite informal.

But I suppose I am quite well qualified to be the Association's receptionist at Heathrow because, until my retirement in 1984, I worked there for 22 years.

For a newly-arrived foreign visitor Heathrow can be frightening — it is so vast. But, as you can imagine, it holds no terrors for me.

Throughout the time I was employed at Heathrow, I worked in British Airways' load control department, compiling

the loadsheets for the aircrews.

Before joining BA I had a spell in the merchant navy as a children's stewardess with P&O, serving on the *Empire Fowey*, a troop ship, and the *Strathnaver*, an emigrant ship.

On the troop ship I was looking after officers' children in the ship's nursery and play-area, making several trips to the Far East as well as to Cyprus.

But I also enjoyed my time with BA because I was able to travel a lot by volunteering to escort unaccompanied children on flights to many destinations.

I came into Guiding in a rather peculiar way. I was never a Brownie or a young Guide. This was probably because, in those days, my church — St Thomas's, at Boston Manor, West London — did not have a Guide Company or Brownie Pack attached to it. But it did have a youth guild, to which I belonged.

But when the bombing of London started in 1941 and many of the children were evacuated, the youth guild was disbanded. In 1942, however, the vicar asked me to start a Guide unit and a Brownie unit.

I had been in Guiding for only three

LIFE style

years, having joined a local Guide Company as a sort of senior Guide because, at 15, I was too young to be a Ranger.

It did not take me long to pick up the essentials of Guiding and soon I had formed my own Patrol of six senior Guides, which later became a Ranger Unit. It was an unconventional way of coming into Guiding!

I was 18, bursting with self-confidence and enthusiasm. Then I became Lieutenant of the newly-formed 8th Hanwell Guide Company and a Captain was found for the unit. At 20, I became Captain.

In April, this year, the 8th Hanwell (St Thomas's) Guides celebrate their 50th anniversary. Some of my original Guides now have grandchildren on the waiting list to join our Rainbow Unit.


Although I still go to Brownie meetings as a helper, I am officially retired from Guiding.

But I still perform my role as Airport Joan whenever I am required to do so. I put people on buses or trains, arrange accommodation for them, take them to camp — whatever is needed to make bewildered visitors happy.

Whenever I go to Heathrow I wear Guide uniform. That draws my quarry to me, like a magnet. I never hold up signboards.

Sometimes a visitor whom I've never met before may fail to find me. But even if they're not in uniform I can instinctively pick them out.

In 14 years I've never missed anyone yet. Although when they send the Association the wrong details, I may have a very long wait at the airport — like all day!

But I don't mind. After all, it's my way of giving something back to Guiding in return for what it has done for me. 

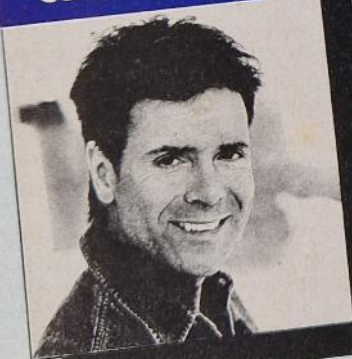
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