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Then complete the coupon, ask your Leader to sign it, and send it off to Webb Ivory.

If you do not wish to cut out the entry from your magazine,

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The draw will take place on May 29th. The first all-correct entry drawn will win the
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## HURRY

## YOUR ENTRY MUST BE IN BY MAY 22ND

#### RULES:

- 1) Entry is open to all Guide Units. Each entry must be signed by the Unit Leader.
- 2) Winners will be notified by post within 21 days of the closing date, and winners' names will appear in a future issue,
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Compiling a readership survey is easy. the hard part is collating all the answers you supplied. Thanks are due to the 200 or so readers who found time in the frantic whirl of Christmas to complete the questionnaire in December's GUIDING.

Your replies have all been studied and your comments noted. It was very rewarding to discover that 92 per cent find our Practical Pages useful — 'very, very useful' in fact, according to one enthusiastic reader.

The most popular item and one most people turn to first is our letters pages, so keep those letters coming. Readers also gave high ratings to opinion pieces like A Personal View and Talking Point, which provide an opportunity for ordinary Guiders to air their views.

Our readers emerged as a loyal lot. Some have been taking the magazine for over 30 years with one lady



## MAGAZINE UPDATE

clocking up an amazing 49 years. Most place a regular order with their local newsagent, although the number of readers opting for a subscription order is growing.

If you do have any difficulties with your suppliers, give us a call on 071-834 6242 and we'll investigate.

The survey revealed that most respondents read the magazine from 'cover to cover' and like what they see. One Guide Guider summed up many comments when she wrote: I find all of GUIDING interesting and enjoyable with an excellent balance of material both directly and indirectly connected with the activity of Guiding.

There were some useful suggestions highlighting areas we should cover in the magazine and ways in which readers felt we could help them achieve quality Guiding. Over the next few months we will be following these up.

Never forget that GUIDING is your magazine. We welcome your news, views and comments - we couldn't continue to grow without them.

> **NORA WARNER FDITOR**

 This month the Chief Commissioner's Comment is on page 21.

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## FRONT



Somewhere over the RAIN-BOW GUIDE EXTRA ... are Lucy Allen (left), Katy Towle (right) and Carly Hunter (back), all aged six, from the 1st Staunton Park Rainbows, near Havant in Hampshire.

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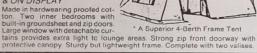
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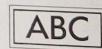
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## Round UP

## MASK-ERADE

◀Here are two sets of smiling faces — the 1st Premnay Rainbows and their homemade animal masks.

The Aberdeenshire Rainbows are looking happy because their handiwork had just won the District Rainbow Cup.

Each year Gordon District organises a different competition for all its units. This time it was a craftwork contest, and the Premnay Unit's skills with scissors and glue put them a cut above the competition.

## **QUIET PLEASE**

VRachel Davies of the 2nd Kenilworth Brownies hushes her chums during the Pack's sponsored silence.

All 22 members of the Warwickshire Pack managed to keep quiet for 30 minutes. As Brown Owl, Lyn Hancox, pointed out: 'Twenty-two Brownies in a room keeping silent for half an hour is an amazing achievement.'

The girls managed to raise £150 for the Hannah the Scanner Appeal to help buy a body scanner for the local hospital.



## Round UP

#### EASTENDERS

There was an extra special visitor to the 3rd Kenley (All Saints) Guide Company's stall at their local church bazaar — Tommy Eytle, alias Jules Tavernier from BBC's top show EastEnders.

The soap star, who lives just round the corner from the Croydon church, opened the bazaar and made a beeline for the girls' computer games.

All that 'zapping' and 'powing' helped to boost the total raised at the event to £1,250, which was divided between the church fund and local charities.





## FRY UP

◀ When Guider Irene Johnson set her girls a special cookery challenge, she never dreamed that some of them would end up behind bars.

Irene asked each Patrol from the 2nd Portsmouth (St James) Company to cook a three-course meal in the most unusual place they could think of. And, to her amazement, one Patrol chose the local fire station and another, Kingston Prison.

Pictured are the Orchid Patrol who cooked up egg mayonnaise, followed by roast lamb with rosemary and orange pancakes in the cells. PC Ken Boyd pronounced it 'quite delicious'.



## **BEAR POWER**

▲ Guides from the 6th Olton (United Reformed) Company were quick off the mark with their knitting needles, when their Guiders suggested knitting bears for the annual fundraising effort.

'We challenged every girl to raise £1, but we didn't tell them how. They had to use their initiative. Some were sponsored to knit bears and others sold the finished teddies,' explained Guider Sue Maskell.

In the end the Solihull Guides raised a total of £40. But that's not all. Bitten by the bear bug, several members of the Company are now well on

their way to gaining the Toymaker badge.

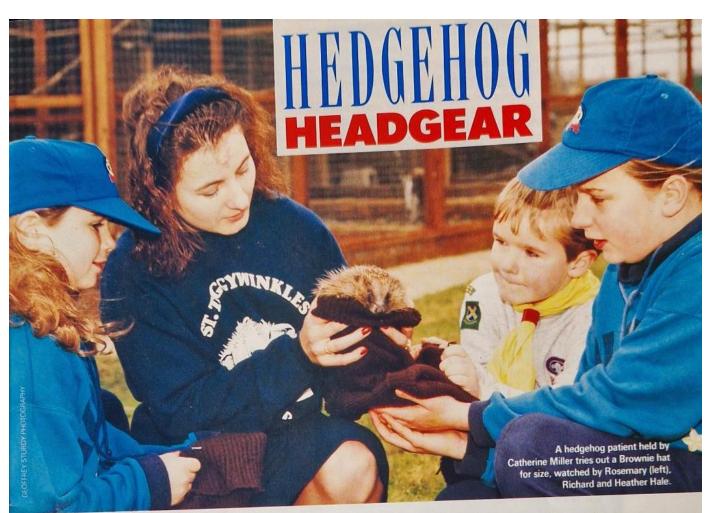


AWhen 5th Portslade Brownies celebrated their Silver Jubilee, Brown Owl had a great announcement to make. The girls from Sussex had been picked to appear on children's TV programme Top Banana

A month after the party, when they went on the show, the Brownies triumphed, winning records, a stereo system and the overall prizewinners' plaque.

Pictured sharing the party fun is Mrs Josie Goldsmith, the Pack's first Brown Owl.





When it came to keeping girls warm, the old-style Brownie bobble hats were the tops. But, it has been discovered, they're no good for making groggy hedgehogs happy.

This scientific discovery was made after 100 surplus hats were delivered to St Tiggywinkles, the hedgehog treatment unit at the Wildlife Hospital Trust, which is near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

The idea, which seemed a good one at the time, was to use the hats to keep the 'patients' warm in bed and speed up recovery.

Sickly hedgehogs are, however, prickly hedgehogs and prone to get their spines and claws hopelessly entangled in wool!

The experiment has, therefore, been abandoned and another, more conventional use found for the nearly-new Brownie hats. They are now being worn by Wildlife Hospital staff and by schoolgirls who come to St Tiggywinkles for work experience.

Sue Stocker, co-founder of the Trust with her husband, Les, explained: When it was suggested that we could use the hats to keep hedgehogs warm, we were delighted to accept them.

'Unfortunately the hats acted like traps and the hedgehogs were not so pleased.

But the hats have come in very handy, after all. We now offer them to young people who come to us from local schools under the work experience scheme and, invariably, arrive without any kind of headgear.

This can be essential for outdoor work because we are in a very exposed position and, in bad weather, it is bitterly cold.

'So cold, in fact, that sooner or later I think even the boys on work experience will be glad to put on a Brownie hat! Some of our staff wear them while working outside. They pull them down to their chins.'

The bobble hats were part of a large consignment of UK old-style Brownie and Guide uniforms collected by Countries and Regions after several Branch Associations asked for supplies.

Co-ordinated by the Trefoil Guide the project has been a great success.

More than 10,000 items have been collected and sent to 21 countries, including a large number provided by Midlands Region which were shipped to South Africa and Lesotho.

Uniform sent to The Gambia came from Scotland and Kent Weald. Many items have gone to the Caribbean, taken free of charge by the Geest line. Even far-flung islands like the Ascension Isles and Tristan da Cunha have benefited from the scheme.

Curiously, while old-style Guide hats were in high demand, no requests were received for Brownie bobble hats. Which is why the Trefoil Guide had about 100 of them needing a good home.

So the Trefoil Guide offered them to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in the hope that the hats might serve as woolly nests for poorly birds in care, being nursed back to health.

But the RSPB, knowing that workers had tried such things with little success while rescuing oil-soaked seabirds during the Gulf War, politely declined the offer and suggested the hats might be welcomed by St Tiggywinkles.

Well, so they were — but not by the hedgehogs!

DAVID JACK

 Other hats were later sent to victims of the civil war in Croatia. 'Because they have never heard of us, people think we are some kind of weird sect. But nothing could be further from the truth!'

The explanation was obviously one the Rev Beth Torkington, Minister of the Higher Openshaw Moravian Church, was used to making. She often pops in to see the Guides who meet in the church hall, and the evening GUIDING visited the unit was no exception.

As the 3rd Higher Openshaw (Wheler Street Moravian) Company opened their meeting, Beth told me more about the Moravian Church:

'Moravians are non-conformists, a bit like the Methodists really,' she said. The church originated in Moravia, which is now part of Czechoslovakia, about 500 years ago. Today there are 34 Moravian congregations in this country.'

There have been Moravians in this part of Greater Manchester since 1785. Just up the road from the Wheler Street Church is the village built by the first Moravian settlers. Its beautiful Georgian buildings and cobbled streets have been designated an outstanding conservation area.

Wheler Street itself isn't quite so picturesque. Round the corner is Coronation Terrace but it could be Coronation Street, for this part of Manchester looks just like the setting for ITV's favourite soap. It is lined with street after street of identical houses, blackened by smoke from the factory chimneys that loom above.

And the church hall itself isn't very smart. A hole in the ceiling is a grim reminder of last year's burglary. There's no heating, so the Guider, Joan Ball, has to bring along a heater from home to take the chill off the air.

But the girls don't let the surroundings get them down. Everyone was far too busy having fun competing in a 'mini olympics', cooking over candles and practising first aid to notice the cold.

Joan and her assistant, Janet McDonald, who are both Moravians, share the girls' enthusiasm.

Although she has to make a 36-mile round trip to get to meetings. Joan has run the unit for 30 years.

Janet started out as one of Joan's Brownies, and progressed through Guides and the Young Leader Scheme, before becoming her right-hand woman. Now, she fits in her Guiding between caring for her two children — three-year-old Carol and Sam, who's one — and running the local Cub Pack.

When the Company went on holiday

to Anglesey last year I was actually pregnant with Sam, Janet recalled. But I didn't tell Joan because I knew she would worry.

'I was pretty tired and, every time I went up to sing a lullaby to Carol, I fell asleep myself! Joan couldn't work out what was wrong with me. When we got back and I told her, she nearly collapsed'.

The week in Anglesey was just one of many activities Joan and Janet have arranged for their girls. In 1990 the Company went to the Isle of Wight and this year they are off to camp in the Lake District near Windermere.

Then there's weekend camping trips to the County camp site; monthly swimming sessions with the Scouts; weekend puppet workshops and Guide Awareness Days in the local Arndale Shopping Centre.

Of course, all these expeditions don't come cheap, and money isn't easy to come by in this area of high unemployment. But the two Guiders have ways of making sure costs are kept to a minimum.

Minibuses are borrowed from local schools instead of hired. Whenever there is a fundraising event, a little cash is put aside to subsidise the cost of the next adventure. Guides are encouraged to save up for the trips—putting aside a little each week.

Joan admitted she had been worried when the new uniform was introduced: 'It's not cheap buying a whole new outfit, so I thought it would be a long time before we were fully kitted out,' she said. 'But it's amazing, we've got a full complement already. The girls were so keen that they asked for uniform for birthday and Christmas

Running the unit is a real family affair. Joan's husband, Ken, and son, Graham, are often to be spotted loading up the family mobile home with camping equipment to accompany the unit to camp. Daughter, Tracey, currently studying to become a teacher, helps her mum when she's home from college.

What was it like having a Guider who is also your mum? Terrible, Tracey confided. She was twice as





Guides from the 1st West Bradford Company put in some paddle practice on dry land



# JOIN THI



It looked like a lot of fun. Youngsters were speeding up and down the river in their plastic canoes, the paddles splashing on the water as they tried to reach a ball.

I watched Guides and Scouts competing in a friendly game of canoe polo. This was for fun, the serious stuff started later when they got down to some tough training.

It was a chilly spring day but the members of Clitheroe Canoe Club had warmed up first with some exercises on dry land.

Every Scout and Guide in the area is entitled to join the club — and most of them do. In 1989 for example, more than 400 members of the two Associations enjoyed water activities arranged through the club.

Yet a few years ago, the club was in danger of sinking. Now it's back afloat and everything's going swimmingly, thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of Scout Leader Stephen Pietrzak and senior instructor David Herd.

The Clitheroe and District Scout and Guide Canoe Club started in Lancashire

enjoyed learning to use a cance at the club. In fact, the courses are so popular that in one busy week, a total of 110 girls who were staying at Waddow attended a course run by Stephen.

The club's aim is to provide canoe training and activities for Clitheroe District Scouts and Ribble Valley Division Guides. Qualified instructors teach youngsters basic canoeing skills and prepare them for exams.

## **FINDING FUNDS**

Sessions, each lasting around twoand-a-half hours, cost £2. There's no charge for equipment, that's all provided, including, of course, a life jacket.

Money is always needed. As the club expands, it requires more and more equipment. As well as the canoes and paddles, there are helmets, buoyancy aids, spray jackets, life jackets to buy... the list just keeps growing. Stephen estimates the club now owns about £25,000 worth of equipment.

Stephen isn't daunted by the task of fund raising. He said: We tend to buy

It takes beginners a few weeks to become competent canoeists. Stephen said: 'Most people just go round and round in circles at first — everybody does when they first start.

It takes them three or four sessions before they get used to canoeing in a

straight line.'
Safety is the first consideration. We teach them how to capsize in a canoe. If they can capsize once in the swimming pool, they can come out on to the lake. We don't like to put them straight out on the lake because they are better off capsizing in the pool where you can see them,' Stephen explained.

'Once they have capsized, you find they are not scared to canoe. It is like horse-riding, once you have fallen off, you lose the fear.'

After about six or seven weeks, it is possible to qualify for a One Star award. The awards, organised by the British Canoe Union, go up to Six Star. Then come the Proficiency Awards.

The club takes on youngsters from 11 to 20. There are some basic rules. All members must be able to swim. And Cubs or Brownies have to wait until they move up to Scouts or Guides before being allowed in the canoes.

## GLUB

nearly ten years ago. Numbers dwindled and the club seemed doomed to sink without trace until Stephen and two other Scout Leaders decided to act.

They began modestly with only 12 canoeists on the water. Then they organised an eight-week course at Clitheroe Baths, which was a great success with 145 Guides and Scouts taking part. A similar course which they ran in Blackburn was also well attended.

Since then the club has been using the water at Barrow Lodge, near Whalley. The site proved popular and, when classes started at the Lodge, in just eight weeks, 93 Scouts and Guides sampled canoeing.

There are usually more girls than boys wielding paddles as there are more Guide units than Scout groups in the area.

But the club isn't just for locals. Guides and Scouts from all over the UK try out the water. Youngsters from children's homes and youth centres, and a group of skiers from the Ski-ing Federation are just some of the recruits who have joined the club's courses.

Barrow Lodge is not far from Waddow Hall, the Association's Training Centre, and many Guides staying there have stuff and worry about raising the money for it afterwards. A lot of local businesses are very good to us.

'We don't say: 'We want to buy this, but we can't afford to pay for it.' We find that if you give people a challenge, they will get on with it.'

In fact, the Club recently raised the grand total of £35,000. And a new Portakabin is now being built to provide changing rooms and lockers.

The canoeists meet on Saturday afternoons. First there's a warm-up, a spot of canoeing on the river and a hectic canoe polo session before the serious tuition.

In the evening it's off to Clitheroe Baths for some indoor practice. The indoor pool sessions are aimed at young Scouts and Guides who have just moved up from Cubs and Brownies and are trying canoeing for the first time. The sessions are popular with youngsters eager to make a splash.

Although he loves being in a cance, these days Stephen spends a lot of his time on dry land. Dealing with all the administration and correspondence keeps him desk-bound.

He explained: 'I don't canoe so much now. You need somebody to do the organisation.'

## TOUGH COMPETITION

Some members also take part in other watersport competitions such as sailing, windsurfing, rowing and water ski-ing. And the club organises water weekends in the Lake District, where members can try out a variety of different water sports that appeal.

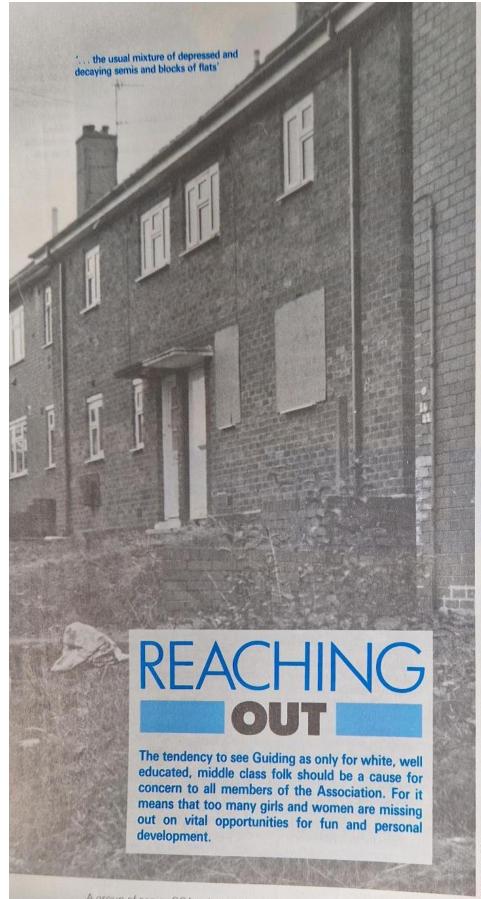
Scouts and Guides from all over Clitheroe and the Ribble Valley take part in canoe races held on lakes and canals. There's the Windermere Canoe Race; a Leeds to Liverpool Marathon; and the River Dee Long Distance Canoe Race for starters.

The canoe racers are trained by Jackie Woodward. Jackie has been canoeing for seven years, having become involved through the Cubs. Her son, Stephen, is now a canoe champion. I was conned into doing it!' she insists.

Once a week Jackie puts the club's cance racers through their paces. Her son has been National Scout Champion Canceist and North West Champion for the past two years.

He's just one of the youngsters Jackie has watched start out as novices and go on to become champions.

If you want more information about the club and its courses write to Stephen Pietrzak at: ADC Water Activities, Clitheroe and District Scout and Guide Canoe Club, 7 Moorland Crescent, Clitheroe BB7 4PY.



A group of senior GGA volunteers and staff met late last summer to discuss how the Association can combat this impression by extending and building on the valuable work already being done by the Community Involvement and Development initiative, Outreach.

From this meeting Revolution was born. We invited readers of *Hotline* to identify areas where Guiding hadn't reached, or to volunteer to spend time helping in a new area.

The Bentilee Estate near Stoke-on-Trent was one area suggested and Shirley Torrens, the Association's Brownie Adviser, offered to co-ordinate a pilot project there. It was to be Guiding with no holds barred, building on the essential aims and strengths of the Movement, without getting bogged down in detail.

Here Shirley and three women who live on the Staffordshire estate tell it how it is.

♦ Bentilee is a windy, isolated council estate clinging to the outskirts of the Potteries. It has the usual mixture of depressed and decaying semis and blocks of flats. Here and there you see a smarter property with freshly painted window frames and tidy garden.

There are other estates like it — places most of us drive through quickly and try to forget as fast.

Pause long enough to discover the facts about life on the estate and you can't forget it so easily. Unemployment stands at 62 per cent and there is almost no hope of anyone finding a job locally. The rows of dwellings stretch on and on, providing nearly 4,500 homes.

When this estate was built in the 1950s, it was the largest council estate in Europe. For the 14,000 residents life is merely long-term, low-income survival. And the strain shows on nearly every face you see.

What chance do children living on Bentilee have? The estate is condemned regularly by the local Press. Prospects and expectations are zero. At the moment, the favourite pavement games include stoning cars and loosening the wheelnuts of parked vehicles!

The estate has a huge proportion of single parent families and what sociologists call 'reconstituted families'. These are families where adult partners bring children from previous relationships together.

Sometimes children here seem to belong to no-one. There is very little for children to do, and the play areas are littered with broken glass and dog dirt.

Some mothers on the estate are very angry and are demanding a better deal. They haven't had many chances themselves, but they want better ones for their children.

They know the youngsters deserve safe and stimulating play opportunities, adults who care and take an interest, and the chance to grow and develop into useful fulfilled adults. Yet young people here are written off as failures before they have even been given a chance.

The estate's particular needs have been recognised by the BBC's *Children in Need Appeal* who have granted short-term funding for a worker with children aged between seven and 13.

I'm that worker and I believe in Guiding! There are volunteers here who are desperate to do something positive for the children on the estate.

I was approached by three mothers who wanted help to get a Brownie Pack started. If it surprises you that they want Guiding, it surprised me that they persisted, when there were so many obstacles in their way. From the beginning, they have been very clear why Guiding would fit in to such a deprived area and also that they want to do it themselves.

We're publishing unedited extracts from their letters just as they were written to convey the depth and the urgency of the problem.

## Brown Owl, 42-year-old June Stubbs

On Bentilee Estate there is a great need for the children to have outside interests and a Brownie Pack would be beneficial to the girls on the estate and to show them interests which will benefit these children later on in life to learn them skills and to appreciate what things are important in life.

We are meeting on a Monday and are learning a great deal doing this. and hope that in the future we will be able to be more involved with other Organisations and we would appreciate any help which could be offered to us at this moment in time. Myself and the other leader have not got a great deal of knowledge but are learning week by

#### Tawny Owl Chris Jamieson is also 42. She says:

There is not meany fersilertys (facilities) on this eastat and children need something so we thought me and three others with the help of Shirley to start a Brownes at Bentilee primary and we have at the moment ten girls and it is very hard because the parents don't really understand we need a Brownes on this eastat to help the children to understand serton (certain)

I think they are not done any more in the class room theas values are important in later life in helping the old people on being honest and learning more about what goes on around

I desided to do the Brownes as I am allready doing a course to help children I find it very hard to find things for girls to do like crafts and makeing things it gives them a creative feeling

It would learn them to help other people and be more careing towards people how (who) need it so please help us to get goeing as we need this Brownes on this eastat ... it would be much apreshaded (appreciated)."

### Doreen, a 53-year-old widowed mother of four, has offered to help in any way she can. As treasurer she will 'fight local battles' and says:

We think ourselves that there is a big need for Brownies on this vast estate as there is nothing for boys or girls, we dont think there is any need for our Brownies to have uniforms as there are a lot of children here that are with just one parent and on income Support like myself.

'And we think that what are (our) children learn from our Brownies is to be very help full to other people, the elderly need more help now than they needed befor and we learn are girls this

6 Everything they say should remind members of the original ideals and energy that marked Guiding at the beginning of its history. These are the sort of leaders we need, who can reach out to children they know and offer genuine interest and a wealth of opportunities

But these women and others like

ideal world and by sticking rigidly to the accepted way of doing things, we waste too much. We miss out on the energy, the untapped skills and the new perspectives such streetwise volunteers can contribute.

We also fail to provide Guiding for children who need it desperately, while we wait for adult recruits who fit in to our current style. And we totally overlook the point that Guiding should be relevant to its setting and to current needs

Here on Bentilee we're involved in a small revolution.

It may not look like much at first but we will help June, Chris and Doreen in their determination to do something which will give girls on the estate the chance to enjoy Guiding. By training 'as we go', we are getting over and around the obstacles. We hold a meeting each Friday to sort out the programme for the following Monday. Look out for further reports from the battleground.

SHIRLEY TORRENS



them face real problems breaking into the charmed circle of Guiding. Remember that they've never had the chance to be part of the Movement themselves; that they have no spare money, are embarrassed because they find writing and paperwork difficult and their confidence is at rock bottom.

Would you, in their situation, be able to follow the route from first enquiry at the local library via the local Commissioner to a comprehensive and structured training? Would you soon have a smart and lively Pack - a shining example of youthful endeavour supported by parents and the District team?

On Bentilee we aren't living in an

 Shirley's is one of five pilot projects 'For the 14,000 called Reach Out, which will experiment with radical ways of introducing Guiding methods and ideals to more young people. They will complement the many outreach initiatives already running. Together all of those projects will help us find simplicity, flexibility and honesty in our approach to Guiding.

If you hear of a project group near you, get to know them, perhaps share a skill or an activity. But, above all, welcome those involved and give them your support - even if it doesn't look at first glance like mainstream

Remember, there are many ways of achieving the same goal.

is merely long-term, low-income survival'



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83501	Stormhaven		£387.00

Length 12ft Width 8ft Height 7ft Walls 3ft Weight (incl. poles) 77lbs

88484 Icelandic 11 £467.00

Length 13ft Width 8ft Walls 3ft Height 6ft 6in Weight (incl. poles) 80lbs

83485 Icelandic 1 £399.50

Length 10ft Width 8ft Walls 3ft Height 6ft 6in Weight (incl. poles) 70lbs

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These items are also available at any of the Girl Guides Association Shops at 5 Ryder Street. Birmingham B47xE Road. London SW1W D7T; 130 Green Lane, Palmers Green, London N135UN, 14 Faraday Street. Manchester M1 1F5, who can supply all your Guiding requirements.

Guiding's record-breaking disabled weightlifter Sarah Fairweather has been honoured for her courage with a McDonald's Child of Achievement Award

She was among 150 youngsters from all over the country, who received the award at a ceremony in London.

Sarah. 16, is a Young Leader with the 1st Failand Brownie Pack to which she belonged as a Brownie. She lives at Failand, near Bristol.

1 started weightlifting during a Guiding weekend at Stoke Mandeville hospital. Buckinghamshire, in September 1990, when they thought I did quite well, she said.

Quite well? She was a sensation! Sarah, a paraplegic, astounded instructors by lifting more than the then world record for the disabled. Last year, back at Stoke Mandeville, she broke the record officially by lifting 55kg.

Since then she has advanced to 62.5kg and hopes to re-take the now improved record at the World Championships in Chicago, this year.

Last summer Sarah took part in an international meeting for paraplegic athletes in Oklahoma.

Experts believe that Sarah has world champion potential but, at the moment,

## SARAH'S A SENSATION!

Pumping iron comes naturally to Young Leader Sarah Fairweather — despite the fact that she has to spend much of her time in a wheelchair.

Weightlifting by the disabled involves the contestant lying, face up, on a bench and lifting from the prone position.

Sarah was recommended for a McDonald's award by her Division Commissioner, Pam Clement, because of her 'enthusiasm and determination, despite physical disability, and her superb achievement with weightlifting'.

Although Sarah can walk short distances, aided by leg calipers and crutches, she has to spend much of her time in a wheelchair. She became paralysed from the waist down 12 years ago as the result of a heart defect

operation which went wrong.

Said Pam Clement: 'She really is amazing. Last year, Sarah attended our Division camp in her wheelchair, helping out with the Guides and taking part in outdoor activities, including swimming and canoeing.

'She needed a bit of help to get into her canoe, of course, but once aboard she was at no disadvantage, since she is very strong in the arms. Furthermore, Sarah would have been in no danger had she overturned because she is an excellent swimmer.'

As a Guide, Sarah gained a Baden-Powell Trefoil Award. She attends a Bristol comprehensive school, where she will take eight GCSEs this summer.



## Network



## GREEN ACTION

Once again it's Environment Week. All over the country, from May 16-24, people will be taking part in special projects to improve their local surroundings.

Last year's campaigns included clearing footpaths, creating gardens, setting up recycling schemes, building bird boxes, organising carfree days... This year, with over 3,000 projects, will be even busier.

Sponsored by BT and coordinated by the Civic Trust, Environment Week gives everyone the perfect opportunity to 'go green'.

Look out for events in your area and see how you can join in. Or, if you want to organise your own project, talk to Jean Ashton at the Civic Trust on 071-930 0914.

#### **MACMILLION**

▼During the second week in June, Britain will be stepping out in support of the Macmillan Nurse Appeal. The Macmillion Mile Challenge aims to get 1m people walking just one mile and then donating £1 — they don't need sponsors.





Those who think walking is too tame, could try jogging, skipping, roller-skating, doing the hokey-cokey... Why not get the unit involved and plan a fun Macmillion event?

Send for a registration form now. Once your group is registered, you'll receive a starter pack with mile ideas, stickers, posters, Macmillan green bows... everything to make your Macmillion Mile a runaway success.

The Macmillan Nurse Appeal hopes to raise £20m by 1993 to fund more cancer care

nurses, mostly for work in hospitals.

For a registration form, or further details, contact Macmillion Mile Challenge, 15-19 Britten Street, London SW3 3TZ; tel: 071-351 7811.

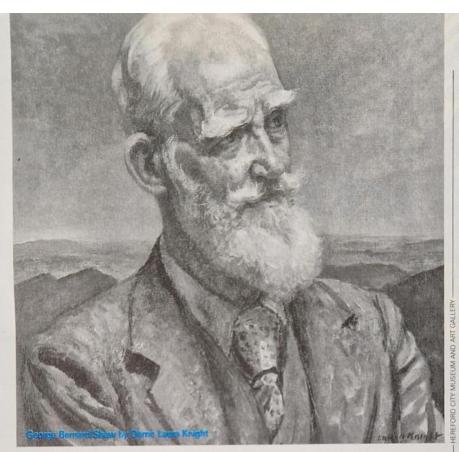
## SPRING ART

This year's national painting competition for professional young artists is all about spring. Entrants, artists aged under 40, may interpret the theme as literally or symbolically as they wish: a season; the 'year's pleasant king'; a leap; new

growth; a water source; the flowering of life . . .

Prize-winning pictures and around 60 commended will be exhibited at the Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh, May 1-17, and at London's Barbican Centre, May 23-June 14.

Last year's subject was 'Travel', the picture shown here won second prize. Adam & Company and The Spectator sponsor the competition, while the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh gets the commission on paintings sold.



#### **POSTER POWER**

▼ For more than 500m people around the world who cannot read, pictures are a vital source of information — especially for health education.

In countries as diverse as India, Sudan and Brazil, posters — tackling issues like family planning, nutrition and water pollution — can mean the vital difference between life and death.

The exhibition Health Images, now at the Com-

monwealth Institute, presents a selection of these posters and explains aspects of poster communication, such as symbolism, colour and the use of folk art.

The poster shown here, from Bombay, portrays the Indian goddess Kali holding four sources of Vitamin A. Every hour, 25 children around the world go blind because of Vitamin A deficiency.

Health Images continues until May 31; admission free.

## SUNRISE '92

▶1492 was a watershed year for the world — the beginning of Europe's exploitation of the Americas. As western nations mark the 500 years since Columbus' voyage, Cafod and Christian Aid are organising Rise Like the Sun, a festival of freedom and hope for '92.

The festival focuses on Latin America and the Caribbean and aims to celebrate the region's culture and its ongoing struggle against poverty and injustice. It also hopes to raise awareness of world economic structures that still encourage rich countries to exploit poorer ones.

Rise Like the Sun, which will feature workshops, worship, music, theatre, vigils . . . is happening at Bristol on July 17-19. For further details contact Festival '92, PO Box 100, London SE1 7RT; tel: 071-620 4444.

#### CAST ON

Booties or baby-gros, scarf or skirt... the Stroke Association invites you to enter its knitting competition. There are four categories, including one for the under-16s.

Prizes range from knitting accessories to a Brother 230

## Network

#### CHAW SHOW

Have you read Michael Holroyd's life of Bernard Shaw? Published over the last four years — there are three volumes — it has been called 'a triumph of British biography'. To celebrate both the book and its subject, the National Portrait Gallery — in collaboration with Holroyd — is staging a Shaw exhibition.

The story of the playwright's life and work is told through photos, paintings, memorabilia—like his Nobel prize, driving licence and exercise bike—and documents, including manuscripts, programmes and posters for his plays.

Coinciding with the exhibition, Shaw's Pygmalion (My Fair Lady without the music) has opened at the Royal National Theatre.

The Bernard Shaw exhibition continues at the National Portrait Gallery until July 5. Open daily, admission free.



machine for the most outstanding entry.

After judging, items will be sold to raise funds for the Association's action against stroke — the third biggest killer and most common disabler in the UK.

The competition's closing date is September 1, 1992. To enter, contact Maria Henry, CHSA House, Whitecross Street, London EC1Y 8JJ; tel: 071-490 7999.





## DRIVE TO LIVE

Kate Stone's home in the West Midlands was just five miles away from the church hall where she met her friends each week to prepare for taking the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

One evening, Kate's dad, Geoffrey, dropped her off at the hall for the weekly meeting. He never saw her alive again.

Kate, aged 17, died in a car crash. Her friend Claire, also 17, died with her. The driver was a 17-year-old plates she hopes learner and was being supervised by

Claire, who had just passed her test.





Kate, aged 16 celebrating bar

Vicki Stone

with the P

will save lives

Keep was to have been driven home the mother of another girl in the group, Instead, in a last-minute change of plan, she and Claire accepted a lift with one of the boys in the group who was a learner driver.

Witnesses at the driver's trial claimed that, in heavy rain, the boy indulged in 'a terrifying display of daredevil driving' before his car slid across the road and skidded into a concrete post at 60mph.

The side of the car was crushed and both airls were killed outright. The driver and another boy who had been in the car survived with minor injuries.

The driver was convicted on two charges of reckless driving resulting in death. He was sentenced to nine months custody and banned from driving for five years.

As she reeled from the shock of losing her only daughter, Vicki Stone began researching the background to Kate's death. She came to the conclusion that the British driving test is one of the least stringent in the industrialised

Vicki is particularly concerned about the attitude of young, male drivers. One in three young males below the age of 20 has an accident within two years of passing the test,' she says.

Research indicates that they show off in front of their friends and they have more accidents when they are with their friends.

Inquiries into the accident in which Kate and Claire died revealed that the driver ignored Claire's requests for him to slow down. She warned him he hadn't got the space to overtake but, because she was his age, he took

Vicki refused to just sit back. So she launched the Learn and Live Campaign, determined to change the law regarding learner drivers.

The campaign was a success and, in 1990, the Government announced changes to the existing law. It is now illegal for people under 21 with less than three years' experience as a qualified driver to supervise a learner.

But the campaign goes on because the deaths haven't stopped. Vicki has received hundreds of letters from families whose relatives have been killed in car accidents.

Vicki remains worried about the

attitudes of young drivers, particularly males, who, she believes, think it's 'macho' to drive fast and dangerously

The trouble is, Vicki says, once young men have passed the driving test, it's as if someone has rated them as skilled, competent drivers.

But, as Vicki explains: The test is a one-off situation. It is not necessarily a true picture of the way they actually drive once they have passed the test

Vicki believes that a major cause of accidents among the young is that these days many teenagers have their

Most people learn to drive in cars in the lower insurance groups. But, once they've passed the test, they are allowed to drive the most powerful cars available totally unsupervised and without having built up driving experience.

Britain is one of only a few countries where you are not taught to cope with motorway conditions while learning to drive. Vicki cites one horrific incident, where a young girl who'd just passed her test, drove on to a motorway but had no idea how to leave it.

In a panic she pulled out in front of another car and her vehicle turned over several times.

Vicki is still trying to get the law changed. She produced 'probationer plates' for newly-qualified drivers to display. The idea is that the plates give support to the nervous new driver and remind newly-qualified drivers that they are still learning.

In just a few months over 1,200 motorists across the West Midlands had backed the campaign, and fixed the P plates on their cars.

Under the reforms proposed by the Learn and Live Campaign, new drivers would be 'on probation' for two years. During this time they would have to take instruction on motorway driving.

They'd also be banned from driving high-powered cars and from carrying young passengers without an adult over the age of 21 in the car. After the probationary period, they would take an Advanced Driving Test.

When she first started out, few people imagined that Vicki's campaign would be so successful. 'Nobody believed that we would get anywhere, but we got people to write to the Government in their hundreds.

We have to make the Department of Transport do something and the only way to do that is by people keeping up the pressure, she says.

Do you agree with Vicki? If you want more details about the Learn and Live Campaign — or if you'd like her to talk to your unit - write to: Vicki Stone, PO Box 7, Kingswinford, West Midlands DY6 90Z



The Easter Challenge was for everyone to read our camp booklet. Campers or not, they will all need to make some sense of their training, whether it's for use in a real camp or for signing off a Trefoil Challenge.

Assistant and I think that they're lovely little books: an interesting story of life in camp neatly illustrated thanks to the Design Pack.

It's frustrating that most of them remained unread, having spent the Easter break in Patrol Boxes in the Guide cupboard, My own Easter Challenge was to repair the 'bulldog' torn sweatshirt for the camp box.

There are some benefits in having the 'next generation' in the Company, as the family is already indoctrinated on such subjects as plate bag, sponge bag and apron.

Julie made herself one of each complete with applique trefoil, so we hope that the idea catches on. Her mother volunteered to provide copies of the pattern for the rest of the Company and I raided my material box. I knew that the hoarding instinct would prove its worth one day.

With Spring Bank Holiday week approaching too rapidly, we started camp training with a 'fashion parade' — followed by an exchange of photos and stories.

I had in mind memories of singing round the camp fire at dusk, and watching the sun rise through the morning dew.

The Guides remembered the bedding gadgets in their constant state of 'collapsed again', and Vic waking up surrounded by crawling things the morning after she spilled a can of coke over her sleeping bag during the midnight feast.

We planned a long list of activities because, although we'll be camping near home, a field is a field wherever it is. And the outdoors is awfully big.

Whenever we camp, the outdoors is also awfully wet, so wet weather activities feature high on the list. Then we planned menus on a majority vote. With about 24 different opinions any two which coincided were the ones to write down.

We had a visit from Vic's father, who was most concerned about the stories of her behaviour he heard from a friend's mother. He offered to take her away from Guides if she was too

# D-I-A-R-Y

## GUIDE GUIDER

disruptive during meetings.

So, what did we say? 'Victoria's not that bad really!' A Guider is supposed to be honest and I could regret that rash statement for a long while!

Oh, the embarrassment. I know that everyone has to do it but it does not make the task any easier — standing in the supermarket and counting how many biscuits in a packet when buying something like 30 packets. I'm glad that QM was with me.

If I'd been left to my own devices I would have gone to three different shops for ten packets from each — or even ten different shops...

## Notices

## DATABASE

The publication of Camp Sites and Holiday Houses has been discontinued.

#### In future:

- Information on camp sites and holiday houses for use by GGA members will be compiled on a database held at CHQ.
- All site operators listed will this year be sent a printout of their details, as listed, along with an amendment form. No change in information will be made unless the operator returns an amendment form.
- In the autumn GUIDING will include a supplement which will list those sites for which information is available. The supplement will also contain an information request form to be used by the Guider who requires information about potential camp sites or holiday houses.
- Information may be requested on up to five entries, at no charge except for the cost of a sae (size C5) for return of print-outs.
- Requests for addition of new sites should be made via the Country/Region Outdoor Activities Adviser on the appropriate form.

## THE ASSOCIATION'S AWARDS

**GOOD SERVICE** 

LAUREL

Mrs Margaret Airth County Commissioner, City of Aberdeen.

Mrs Kathleen Chilcott Guide Guider, 5th Bebbington Company, Greater London West. Mrs Betty Sunley Assistant Guide Guider, 4th Kenilworth (St Nicholas) Company, County Chairman of Finance Committee, Warwickshire.

Mrs Hermione Youngs Guide Guider, 1st Cromar Company, District Assistant, Upper Deeside, County Outdoor Activities Adviser, Kincardine and Deeside.

MERITORIOUS CONDUCT STAR OF MERIT

Georgina Donaldson Brownie Guide, 3rd Cranwell Pack, Lincolnshire South Louise Lloyd Brownie Guide, 5th Dagenham (Parish Church) Pack, London-overthe-Border.

Lucy O'Grady Guide, 6th Twickenham Company, Greater London West.

Katherine Robinson Guide, 25th Colchester Company, Essex North East.

## GALLANTRY SILVER CROSS

Kimberley Hart Brownie Guide, 10th Bolton (St Anne's, Turton) Pack, Lancashire Border.

## WESTMINSTER CATHOLIC GUIDE GUILD

The annual Parade and Mass will take place on Sunday, May 17 at 2pm. It will be attended by the Chief Commissioner, as well as Regional Commissioners from London and South East England and Anglia.

All Catholic Guiders, Young Leaders, Rangers, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows, or those working with Catholic units, are invited to attend. Further details can be obtained from the Parade Secretary. 27 Doveridge Gardens, London N13 5BJ.

## **BANK CHARGES**

The Association is receiving a great many letters regarding the decision by banks to treat unit accounts as small businesses and, therefore, make substantial bank charges. This matter has been discussed by the Executive Committee and approaches are being made to the head offices of the main banks.

The levying of bank charges is, in many cases, still at the discretion of the local bank manager, and the quoting of the Association's charity number, 306016 (in England and Wales), can sometimes still ensure free banking.

The Association can also give written confirmation of charitable status on request. Letters should be addressed to Miss M A Fry. Director of Financial Services. The Girl Guides Association, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W OPT.

## HELP WANTED

Blackland Farm, the Association's activity centre near East Grinstead, needs help during the peak camping periods — from July 25 to August 29 — from Guiders, Young Leaders or Rangers of 16 and over.

Duties will involve helping with running the shop and issuing bread and milk. Travelling expenses and a subsistence allowance are payable for this interesting service opportunity. Shop experience is helpful.

For further details write to the Warden, Blackland Farm, East Grinstead, Sussex.

## THE GUIDING MANUAL

These amendments are to take immediate effect.

Para 25.22

Camps and holidays for Ranger Guides and Young Leaders.

a. iii Joint camps/holidays with members of the Scout Association.

ADD new final paragraph A Scouter deemed by the Scout Association to be a fit and proper person to lead girl Venture Scouts is considered fit to lead Ranger Guides, even without the presence of a Guider, provided that he/she is willing to accept responsibility for the Rangers and that the Ranger Guider is satisfied as to the competence and integrity of the Scouter and that the parents of those under 18 are fully aware and approve of the situation.

Para 25.34a
Life Saving Qualifications/
Watchers
Chart
ADD to Watchers' column
of new Category of Safe

Para 26.4
Awards
— For Outstanding Service
DELETE
The Beaver Award
Text and Illustration

Patrolled Beaches: 30

## BY-PASS

The East Grinstead By-Pass route which would have cut Blackland Farm in half has been rejected by West Sussex County Council. The Council is proceeding with a detailed study of one of the alternative routes, which does not threaten Blackland Farm.

Thank you to the 10,000 people who signed the Association's petition.

## SPORTS WEEKEND

There's still time to book for a special sports weekend for Guides. Rangers and Young Leaders at Stoke Mandeville Sports Centre.

The Centre caters for people with physical disabilities which limit usual sporting activities. They may or may not use a wheelchair.

For the special Guiding weekend from September 18 to 20, girls of ten or over with such a disability are asked to bring along a Guiding friend to enjoy the variety of sports on offer.

A similar weekend was held two years ago, when 120 girls took part. This year's event costs £40 per girl. For more information write to the Training Administrator. Guiding Activities Division (Stoke Mandeville), 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W OPT.

### **PHOTO FIT**

If any reader knows of a Guide Company who met at the National School, Chiswick in October, 1935, we need your help.

Our Archivist, Margaret Courtney, has been asked to identify a photograph taken of the Company at that time.

Please call her on 071-834-6242 ext 255 or write to her at 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W OPT, if you can help.

## **ANNUAL SERVICE**

The Jewish Guides Advisory Council is pleased to announce that the annual service will take place on Sunday, May 10 at 3pm at St John's Wood Synagogue, London NW8. For further information please contact Mrs Nicky Mitchell on 081-958 6440 or Mrs Lorraine Jonas on 081-958 2049.

## COMMENT

Last November The Council asked me to form a small Working Group to oversee the appointment of a successor for the General Secretary, Miss Marjorie Hayter, who is due to retire on October 31.

I invited Mrs Margaret Banks, currently a member of the Association's Executive Committee and Commissioner for Branch Associations, to chair the Group. Mrs Banks has worked as a volunteer at Commonwealth Headquarters for many years and, therefore, has great experience of the complexity of the current General Secretary's job.

Other members of the Group are Mrs Margaret Wright. Chief Commissioner for Midlands Region, also a member of the Executive Committee, who is able to bring a Region view to the Group; and Mrs Patricia Noble, a past County Commissioner, former Chairman of the Trefoil Guild, a past member of the Association's Staffing Sub-committee and currently Chairman of the Pax Lodge Committee, whom I knew would be invaluable to the Group because of her wide experience.

I felt strongly that we also needed the broader view, so I invited Lady Wilcox, a former Guide and a great friend of Guiding, currently Chairman of the National Consumer Council, to join us at the final interviewing stage, together with Miss Jenny Ashmore, the Chairman of the Association Junior



Council. We are looking to the future, so it is essential that someone is able to represent the view of our younger members

These five people, plus myself, make up the Working Group. From the beginning, we have sought the advice of professional consultants who have specialist knowledge of this kind of appointment. Spencer Stuart, part of the Selector Europe group, are market leaders in their field. They have been engaged by the Association for other senior staff appointments within the recent past and are, therefore, known to us.

We have spent much time with the professional consultants deciding exactly what sort of person will be able to tackle the demanding role of Chief Executive. This has led us to an understanding of what the Association will need to pay, in order to attract the calibre of individual who can help to

take the Association into the next

We are happy that we have sought the best advice in this area and have had to accept that, in today's world, the qualities we are seeking come at a price.

We are acutely conscious of the cost of management and we will expect an exceptional contribution from the person we choose. It is our belief that this person will have the necessary skills to improve the quality of support to the membership. This is certainly what we are looking for.

During our work over the past few months, we have kept the present General Secretary fully informed at all stages. She has been consulted by the Working Group and the professional advisers and is totally supportive of all we are doing.

Under the terms of her contract, the present General Secretary is 'the Chief Executive and Administrative Head of the Association', and so there is no fundamental change to the role of her successor.

I am confident that we shall all benefit from the appointment of the Chief Executive. Our Association, with its 700,000 members, must continue to move forward, confident that the Girl Guides Association is able to offer the very best for tomorrow's girls and women.

JANE GARSIDE Chief Commissioner

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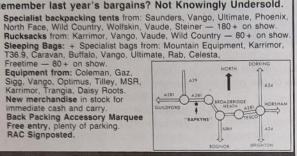


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Further particulars are available from:

The Guider-in-Charge, Great Hauthois House, Hauthois Road. Coltisball, Norfolk NR12 1JN

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I am the Assistant Brownie Guider of the 193rd Liverpool Unit, I am 26 and hold no national, Regional, Divisional or District position in Guiding, yet I am a member of the delegation to the European Scout and Guide Conference in Sweden this month.

Until last year my international Guiding experience had been limited to writing to a Finnish Guide Patrol as part of my Guide Friendship badge, although I have long been captivated by the thrill of travelling and discovering new places. I have worked in Switzerland, lived in France and travelled extensively throughout North America and Western Europe.

Following an INTOPS weekend last year, I was asked to represent the UK at a seminar in Paris organised by the Guides de France. This was my first international Guiding event, and I was thrilled to be invited. I was even more astonished to be asked to be a member of the UK delegation to Sweden, especially as my Swedish is so far limited to 'sauna' and 'smorgasbord'!

I didn't really know a lot about the conference when I was asked to go. My images of European/World Conferences were drawn from photographs of excursions to historic sites and I imagined them attended by the upper hierarchy of Guiding. I had little idea of the real purpose of the conference.

However, when the delegation met for the first time in January, I was relieved to meet a bunch of happy, smiling, normal — if Guiders can ever be classed as normal — people from across the Countries and Regions and across the sections. We're a pretty good representative sample of Guiding throughout the UK, all with varying backgrounds and experiences.

We were given a preview of the week's programme and, it would appear, any visits to historic sites will take up very little of our time, if any! Breakfast is timetabled for 7.30am and events last until 10.30pm, although the more experienced international eventers assured me that 10.30pm is a massive understatement!

WAGGGS and WOSM hold a joint conference for four days and then we take part in a WAGGGS-only forum for two days. The conference will be attended by 400 people from all over Europe, including Eastern Europe, each with different needs and aspirations.

It's going to be an exciting time considering the needs of Associations re-emerging in Eastern Europe, and also discussing the single sex/merged question.

The resolutions passed at the conference will help shape Guiding and Scouting across Europe in the next

# IN CONFERENCE



Assistant Brownie Guider Sally Robinson

The European Scout and Guide Conference in Sweden this month is a chance for ordinary Guiders to help shape Guiding and Scouting in Europe. One delegate explains her role.

three years. Some of the resolutions have already been proposed, and we will have to consider them before we leave. Others will only be proposed in Helsingborg.

And that's what makes it so exciting, because, although the conference may seem far removed from individual Companies and units, for the first time Guiders who are not part of the delegation have a chance to put forward their ideas.

As explained in February's GUIDING, four workshops were to be held across the country, giving a unique opportunity for anyone who attended to have their views on Guiding put forward in Sweden. It provided a chance for

everyone interested in the international aspect of Guiding to be part of the conference.

I'm looking forward to Sweden immensely. It will be fascinating to meet with and talk to other Europeans, especially those from Eastern Europe. I think I'll learn much more about the UK GGA simply by mirroring its views to other Associations.

I hope I'll come back more understanding, more tolerant, and more appreciative of the rest of Europe. And, most of all, I hope I can relate some of my experiences to the Brownies in Liverpool, because, after all, that's the reason I'm in Guiding.

SALLY ROBINSON

# EHIND THE

How many times over the last 22 years have you switched on your television set to hear the headline: 'Trouble in Northern Ireland today ... '? And, how many times have you sat there watching the horror and the tragedy that for some is life and death in the Province splashed across the screen? Haven't there been times when you've just shrugged your shoulders or shaken your head wondering why, only to decide what's the use, why bother?



For many members of the GGA, and certainly the younger members in Northern Ireland, those headlines have become part of their birthright. But, make no mistake about it, their attitude is not one of submission or defeat. Guiding principles prevail: they make the best of all circumstances.

Indeed the GGA has done just that and gone from strength to strength. The Association in Ulster is vibrant and very much alive. Indeed, we have much to be alive for. For it is possible to paint a very different picture of life in Northern Ireland.

If you look at the map you'll see we've marked on it what could be classed as several flashpoints.

#### FLASHPOINT: BELFAST

Nestling in the hills around Belfast Lough, Belfast is fast becoming not only a major commercial centre but an attractive one with excellent shopping facilities. Many fine buildings abound, one of the most striking is the city hall.

Three university campuses are within hailing distance of the city centre. The River Lagon affords the chance for water sports like rowing and canoeing. as well as scenic walks.

Entertainment facilities abound, the main focal points being the superb Grand Opera House, plus a fine zoo and museum. Naturally one of the most important buildings is 38 Bedford Street — Ulster Headquarters!

In County Down the superb road network allows fast escape from the city. Just down the road towards Bangor, passing en route Belfast's second airport, various yacht clubs and the folk museum, stands magnificent Lorne. This outstanding building has superb grounds with great facilities for Guiding and is surely worth a visit from all Guiding Regions.

Further down the road you reach the seaside town of Bangor with its new marina. Once it was the main centre of Christian learning, where missionaries left Ireland for the untamed lands of Scotland, England and Wales.

Motorists who continue the drive can commune with nature all round the beautiful Ards peninsula and along the shores of Strangford Lough.

## **FLASHPOINT: NEWRY**

Newry is the gateway to Southern Ireland and has what can only be described as an over-indulgence of beauty. From the National Trust Headquarters at Rowallen, through the historic drumlins of Ballnahinch and Downpatrick, to the magnificent Mountains of Mourne sweeping down to the sea. If you want another plus point golf clubs flourish.

## FLASHPOINT: ENNISKILLEN

Enniskillen is the county town of the lakeland County Fermanagh. Angling and boating, Guiding and Scouting relaxation opportunities abound and for the culture seekers, this is Yeats' country.

## FLASHPOINT: OMAGH

It is amazing that a Province as small as Ulster could have contributed so much to history, not only Irish and British history, but the history of America and New Zealand, too. Visitors to the American Folk Park can trace Ulster's links with Presidents and folk heroes like Davy Crocket and Jim Bowie. And a walk through the tranquil forest parks is highly recommended.

#### FLASHPOINT: LONDONDERRY

Londonderry is the maiden city on the banks of the Foyle. Historically famous for the siege of Derry against King James. Where Clancy lowered the boom, boom, boom. .... Today the city with its new river bridge and shopping precincts is the gateway to the rugged beauty of Donegal in the South.

### FLASHPOINT: NORTH ANTRIM

From Londonderry a traveller heads towards a matchless wealth of golf courses, beaches and places to fish and one of the 'wonders of the world'. the Giant's Causeway.

Uncrowded roads, leisurely driving, good food are features of the route all the way round the Antrim coast taking in Dunluce Castle and the Brownie House, before heading back to Belfast through the commercial port of Larne. And the last glimpse a visitor often gets is the view from the plane of Lough Neagh, the biggest inland lough in the British Isles and well worth seeing.

While natural beauty, history, architectural and epicurean delights abound. by far the most striking feature of Northern Ireland is its people. The hospitality, warmth and friendliness shown to all visitors is well known.

We can confirm that in Belfast today they're still smiling!

SHIRLEY JOHNSTON KERRY RICHARDSON Ulster Junior Council

## Girl Scouts in the Philippines can carry on their work with earthquake victims thanks to an £8,000 boost from the Girl Guide Friendship Fund.

Last year's GGFF Christmas Good Turn Appeal set out to help Filipino Girl Scouts in their work with victims of the natural disasters that have devastated their country.

Units up and down Britain took the appeal to their hearts, organising events ranging from sponsored parachute jumps to lace-auctions; brass cleaning sessions to gang shows. And their efforts have meant that within a few months the grand total of £8,000 had been raised.

Some of the Brownies and Guides who helped in the fundraising effort were invited to CHQ to hand over the money to representatives of the government of the Philippines.

Brownies of the 1st Woodley Green Pack, Berkshire; Guides from the 1st Keymer Company, Sussex and 1st New Thundersley Company, Essex; plus Learnington Spa (St Mark's) Guides and Brownies all made the trip to London for the event.

All the visitors were keen to make the most of their day out. So, after the presentation ceremony, a trip to London Zoo was the next stop for the girls from Keymer. We've adopted a penguin and we want to go and meet him,' they explained. The party from Leamington Spa were looking forward to seeing Buckingham Palace.

Four Brownies: Sarah Quinn and Ellie McNab from Leamington Spa and Hannah Ryan and Julia Gee from Woodley Green were the lucky ones chosen to hand over the giant cheque to Mrs Estrella Berenguel, Minister-Councillor and Consul General, and Consul Mrs Yolanda Serrano, from the Philippine Embassy

Mrs Berenguel thanked the girls for their hard work and assured them the money would be put to good use. Lady Crowther-Hunt, Chairman of the Friendship Fund Committee, added her own words of praise and Mrs Patricia Teagle, a member of the Committee, told GUIDING how special she thought the achievement was: 'In this day and age, when there isn't much money about, and there are so many other local causes to raise money for hospital scanners, special wheelchairs and the like — I think it's wonderful that the girls can still raise all this money for Guides on the other side of the

Everyone admired the display of beautiful, hand-made Thinking Day

# GUIDING'S GOOD TURN



cards sent for the Filipino girls by units in Panfield District, Essex.

Also attending the presentation was Letty Aranilla of the Asia Pacific Executive at the World Bureau. Letty, who comes from the Philippines, gave a talk and slide show about the work of the Girl Scouts in the Philippines.

She described the troubles her country had seen: 'In 1991 Mount Pinatubo erupted, 700 people were killed and many thousands made homeless. The country had no chance to recover before it was struck by flash floods in which 7,000 more died.

Then she explained how the Girl Scouts' project - known as Tulong Bata, which means 'Help the Children' - was set up to provide care and comfort for children caught up in these tragic events.

She produced photographs of the girls organising play schemes, lessons and parties for children in the giant tent cities where thousands of people are now forced to live.

Letty explained that the area worst

hit by the eruption used to be known To Tulong Bata as the rice granary of the Philippines. but that it is now barren. It will be at least 15 years before the land can be used again, so the Girl Scouts' project must continue for many more years.

This is where the GGFF contribution will help. With the money raised many more people can be trained to make craftwork for sale; many more children can be given health education lessons; and many more toddlers entertained in play schemes, leaving parents free to earn money.

Letty concluded by thanking the girls for their support. Your help will go a long way,' she said. 'Your help will touch the lives of many.

## MARY RICHARDSON

 Contributions to the GGFF should be sent to the GGFF, c/o Rosemary Mills. The General Secretary's Department, The Girl Guides Association, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W OPT. Please make sure that cheques are made out to: GGA (GGFF).

with love

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# a personal VIEW

Last week, at Brownies, my daughter was asked to look up the Country Code in her handbook. She couldn't, she's dyslexic. You may not be sure what dyslexic means. It is an inability to read, but also much more is involved.

It affects more boys than girls and is probably hereditary. Dyslexia can be experienced as mild through to severe, and has as many variations as a mild chill through to double pneumonia.

So what symptoms do these children show? Besides their reading problems, some have visual interpretation problems, although they can have perfect eyesight.

Somehow the image received by the eye isn't decoded properly by the brain, letters actually move on the page, or look back to front. Sometimes they may see and, therefore, write in 'mirror image'

They have little or no short-term memory and can't remember instructions for a game. Nor can they recall Guider's instructions such as: Tell mummy about the outing' ... 'Don't forget Thinking Day money' ... 'Have you got your hat, coat, handbook, money?' ...

You tell them a word at the top of a page, and they will have forgotten it two lines later.

It may also affect their co-ordination, so they will trip over a matchstick. One boy I know, is so left-sided, he can only swim in a circle!

A lot of children don't have their problems recognised until they are 11 or 12. For some it is even later and for the unlucky, it is never.

If you forget things, or can't do things that others of your age can, you

are called stupid, thick, cack-handed, even naughty. And no one wants you on their 'side'.

Eventually you believe you are stupid and clumsy and don't bother to try. It is easier not to try, than to try and fail. Yet these children often have higher-than-average IQs.

They are often verbally very bright, which is why people get annoyed because their written work doesn't match up with their speech. Sometimes people think they are 'having them on'.

Often they are good at art, sport, maths and many other things, but they need encouragement.

These children need multi-sensory teaching. They have to write it, see it, say it, and hear it over and over again, until it goes into their long-term memory. Then there it stays, rarely forgotten.

Dyslexia is termed as a *Specific* Learning Difficulty. Downs syndrome, and mental handicap are *Severe* Learning Difficulties. Both are usually abbreviated to SLD. It's not unknown for mistakes to be made.

There is an Education Act, which says that children with Specific Learning Difficulties *must* have the appropriate teaching. But this costs money, which, as we all know, is in short supply. Therefore, it's often easier for an education authority to say that dyslexia doesn't exist, than to find the money needed.

So what can we do as Guiders? Look out for these children, make sure they are listening when you're explaining anything. Give them constant reminders, even get them to draw a little reminder. Perhaps you could pin it on a girl's sash, so mum will notice. If the other children ask why, explain the reason.

Before a dyslexic child leaves, check she hasn't forgotten anything. If she gets things right, or has tried hard, particularly with written work, then give her praise and more praise.

Yes, it's difficult if you've got 24 or 36 to cope with but it's sometimes the 'odd' ones we're here for.

I had an idea my daughter was dyslexic when she was only four, but thought I was being silly. When she started infant school, her teacher said there couldn't be anything wrong, as she was too 'bright' not to be able to read. She thought my daughter was having us all on ... she was then only six years old.

I had her assessed, privately, when she was seven. She was found to be dyslexic, a cross lateral, and had not formed a reference eye — causing mirror writing. Yet her IQ is in the top six per cent.

That was a year ago, she is now in junior school and has a marvellously supportive teacher. She has private lessons from a trained dyslexia teacher, and is improving rapidly.

My daughter is much happier now she knows that there is something wrong and that she isn't 'thick'.

Out of interest, some of the better known dyslexics were/are: Leonardo da Vinci, Albert Einstein, Duncan Goodhew, Susan Hampshire, Roald Dahl and Michael Heseltine.

For further information contact: The Dyslexia Institute, 133 Gresham Road. Staines, Middx TW18 2AJ. Tel: (0784) 463935 or 463851.

A private assessment costs about £140. The Institute will also be able to give you details of your nearest dyslexia association, which provides a goldmine of help and information.

Rainbow and Ranger Guider Middlesex

The views expressed in this article are not necessarily those of The Girl Guides Association nor endorsed by it.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any item received for publication.

## WEEKEND OF ADVENTURE

Due to popular demand, another exciting adventure weekend is being staged by Anglia. The last weekend for girls with disabilities was so popular that another has been organised from July 3 to 5. And this time arts and drama activities will be on offer too.

The 1990 event at Greshams School in Holt, Norfolk, proved really popular with the girls who attended.

For many it was the first time they'd ever attempted to use a trampoline or tackle a climbing wall. Then there was canoeing, swimming to music, orienteering, archery and badminton to try. Not forgetting getting hooked on crab catching at nearby Blakeney.

In the evenings they gathered round a camp fire, and enjoyed a barbecue and disco. On Sunday there was a thanksgiving service in the school's chapel. 'Seeing it all come together was moving, memorable and fun,' said Doreen Stripling, Anglia's Adviser for members with disabilities.

Paula Hewitt, Anglia's Chief Commissioner added: The girls got so much out of it — but the main thing was that they all had so much fun!

'It's a great opportunity for a girl with a disability to invite an able friend away for a fun weekend.'

For more details of this year's event ing Anglia Girl Guides on (0638) 665481.



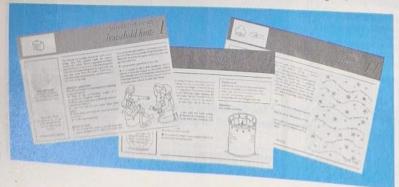
## GUIDE GUIDERS' PACS

Calling all Guide Guiders. If you are looking for new activities and games for unit meetings then you need *Guide Guiders' Practical Activity Cards*, which are crammed full of ideas grouped into the following sections:

- openings
- closings
- ceremonies
- indoor activities for Patrols and Companies
- outdoor and camp activities
- themes and seasons
- Patrol games
- the Promise.

Pairs is one of the game ideas from *PAC 3* that can get your meeting off to a good start.

You will need: Pieces of thin card about 10cm square (there should be twice as many cards as girls).



#### Preparation

Divide the cards into two sets. On one set write a different occupation or hobby on each card. On the other set name a tool or article associated with the occupation or hobby. Examples of cards could be gardener/trowel, golf/putter, carpenter/hammer.

Divide the girls into two separate groups. Give the 'occupation' cards to one group, so that each girl in that group has one card. While you give the other group the 'tool' cards, the girls in the first group think of a mime to demonstrate their 'occupation'.

On the word 'Go' the two groups mix and using only mimes, that is no talking, they try to find their other half. When everyone has matched up with her pair the cards are returned.

Remember to keep the 'occupation' cards separate from the 'tool' cards. The game can be played again but those girls who had an 'occupation' card should have a 'tool' card, and vice versa.

GUIDE GUIDERS' PACS 1, 2 and 3 are now available from the Trading Service or Guide Shops. When ordering please quote for PAC 1 - 63529; PAC 2 - 64386; PAC 3 - 64980.

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## IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE

Guiding, as well as big business, needs to advertise from time to time. And the BGIFC feel that the time has come to advertise the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

Some members do not know, others have forgotten, that the Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards are open, through Guiding, to the 14

to 25-year-olds overseas.

The GGA has been an operating authority for the Award Scheme since girls first took part in 1958. It is an appropriate interest for all Lone Young Leaders and Ranger Guides.

At the moment BGIFC leaders are involved in discussions with the Award Scheme's head office staff in the hope of increasing the availability of the scheme to girls in overseas situations. More information should be available for Guiders attending the BGIFC training/conference at Pax Lodge in July.

Members of the GGA work to exactly the same conditions as other UK residents working for the Award — in some cases the requirements for a part of the Award are the same as, or similar to, those for a Ranger Certificate. For new Guiders, the GGA Adult Leader Scheme can be used as the service requirement for the Gold section of the Scheme.

To quote the Duke of Edinburgh. The philosophy of the Scheme is neither very profound nor very complicated. It is simply this: a civilised society depends upon the freedom, responsibility, intelligence and standards of behaviour of its individual members and, if the society is to continue to be civilised, each succeeding generation must learn to value these qualities and standards.

'Above all, it depends on the willingness among younger generations to find out for themselves the factors which contribute to freedom, responsibility, intelligence and standards of behaviour. These are all rather abstract concepts. The Scheme has attempted to bring them down to earth, to give individual young people the opportunity to discover these ideas for themselves through a graduated programme of experience.'

This may sound difficult but, as with all things in Guiding, with a little help from a friend you can achieve your goal. Anyone wanting to take part can be sure that if your Guider doesn't know how you can start on the road to Gold, she is sure to know a 'woman' who does!

Maureen Smelt, Co-ordinator for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme within the GGA, hits the export trail.



#### CONDITIONS

The age range for the scheme runs from a candidate's 14th to 25th birthday.

There are three types of award: Bronze, Silver and Gold.

For each Award, those taking part have to complete the requirements of each of four sections: service, expedition, physical recreation and skill. For the Gold Award there is also a residential project to be completed.



D of E candidates brave the elements

Bronze and Silver Award Certificates are generally presented at some local suitable occasion. But the Gold Award is special. In the British Isles all Gold Certificates are presented either at St James's Palace, London, or Holyrood Palace in Scotland and Prince Philip is present.

Suitable arrangements will be made for girls in other countries to receive their Gold Award Certificates.

Guiders will have access to all necessary information from the July Pax Lodge conference. Or you can write to Deborah Meadows, who is to be the BGIFC Duke of Edinburgh contact. Her address is: Darenth, Beech House Lane, Bembridge, Isle of Wight, England PO35 5TA.

I look forward to meeting the members from Lones and BGIFC at Pax Lodge in July and hope reading this 'advertisement' opens up new opportunities for you wherever you are in the world.

MAUREEN SMELT

Deciding to hold a large scale two-day event is easy, making sure it will work out all right involves a lot of effort, as Middlesex South West's County Commissioner points out.

Considering how Middlesex South West would celebrate our entry into Europe produced little response from the Programme and Training Committee. At the end of a long silence someone casually suggested. We could "do" something at Syon Park". The meeting closed.

The idea, however, fermented in our subconscious and, from then on, grew

and grew and grew

Our first task was to discover if the Duke of Northumberland would allow us to use part of his estate, what the event would entail and whether we could afford it. Permission was given for a field to be used over the weekend of June 27-28

Next we needed to discover what the field looked like. Did it have any special features, what things did we want to put in it anyway and, most important of all, could we afford it?

Total commitment from everyone in the County would be necessary we'd have to work together and hard. We put it to the next County Executive: Could we afford it? Although a bleak financial climate engulfed us, we were certain that our cause would be worthy of sponsorship. The Executive agreed. It was all systems go.

The aims of the weekend - to be called GUIDES INTO EUROPE — were targeted. It would provide an opportunity for everyone, from Rainbows to Trefoil Guild members (and the public), to acquire a greater understanding of the European Community and to learn about the differences in culture between the countries.

Each Division would mount exhibitions covering two or more countries. highlighting aspects which appealed to them. They would offer games or activities 'peculiar' to those countries for all to try and show the differences in dress. Notes were hastily scribbled: 30 what do Belgian Brownies wear?



For the more energetic, a number of additional, typical Guide activities would be offered. This threw up more questions. For instance, if we had abseiling how would we build a safe tower from which to do this? . How tall should it be?... Could we encourage qualified instructors to help for the two days?

The field, we were glad to see, had a line of trees — this sparked off the idea of having an assault course and asking the Scouts to help.

All this, we hoped, ought to put Guiding on the local map. Naturally we'd need a PR and Recruitment marquee — perhaps we could persuade others to join us to give the best of Guiding to the girls.

We agreed to sell programmes in advance - money coming in early would help the bank balance. After all, the firm providing the loos wanted their money before leaving their valuable trailers in our care!

We opted for an extra Family Special ticket to encourage families to come. So, of course, we'd need a babychanging tent!

The amount of canvas seemed to be growing alarmingly — would there be

enough room? We pored over a large scale map of the field. The cut-out pieces of graph paper had a mind of their own and insisted on moving positions. We closed the window and concentrated our efforts again. Perhaps there would be room for a bouncy castle, if the archery fitted in that section, we decided. After all - it wouldn't matter if the arrows went into the river, would it?

Of course, we'd have to cordon off those areas. Security fencing was considered and quotations obtained. Good news - the firm would erect the fence and remove it afterwards.

A 'sleeping policeman' offered his services — he would bring his caravan and remain on the site for the whole weekend.

Realising it was a good idea to keep the Scout involvement in high profile, we felt car parking might come within their remit.

By early spring we were enquiring whether the Divisions were coping with their brief. Would there be some uniformity between the countries? We decided we'd have to see their floor plans and have a dummy run of their exhibitions leaving time for amendments and additions before they are finally erected. As they can't transport all their equipment to us — the organisers will have to tour round.

The telephone calls and paperwork generated by this event are growing daily. Nights are spent agonising over the next move and the backlog of tasks doesn't get smaller. Can it possibly all be all right in time? How do we encourage people to come? Without support we may be holding jumble. sales for evermore!

JO ARTINGSTALL

 Guides into Europe will be held from 10am to 6pm on Saturday, June 27 and Sunday, June 28 at Syon Park, Brentford, Middlesex,



# PAINTING BY NUMBERS

Church services are lively affairs in Nigeria, as a group of Rangers from Croydon, South London, discovered, when they went there to smarten up the decor at a leper colony.



Nicola Handley, of the Croham Valley Joint Unit, discovers that a lick of paint works wonders

"Uzuakoli '91' was a real paint job—a social project that kept 29 Rangers and Venture Scouts, slapping on paint for most of three weeks."

Here, Jane Kilmister, Ranger Guider of the Croham Valley Joint Unit, recalls an unforgettable experience:

It wasn't quite as bad as painting the Forth bridge. At least, when we eventually finished we didn't have to start over again. But it was a massive task which caused a nasty outbreak of painter's elbow.

We had lots of fun. The people were marvellous and we found Nigeria fascinating. We are already thinking about our next project at the Uzuakoli leprosy centre.

It came about because the Rev Charles Meachin, minister of St Paul's United Reform Church, where our Unit meets, has a son, Michael, a Methodist missionary, who is project officer at the leprosy centre.

We were looking for a worthwhile project. The minister put us in touch with Michael, who explained that he had just the thing for us!

When we set off from St Paul's church hall it was pouring with rain — a harbinger of what was to come. In Nigeria it was winter, the rainy season. And when it rains there, it's usually a stair-rod job, as we were to discover.

At Port Harcourt airport we got through customs in no time — thanks to a supply of pencils.

If you're going to Nigeria take plenty of pencils and ball-points — preferably with snazzy logos. They are very effective in easing your way past all kinds of bureaucratic obstructions!

Uzuakoli is a small town about twoand-a-half hours' drive from Port Harcourt. On the evening of our arrival at the leprosy centre we were guests of honour at a welcome reception given by local people and patients. There we had our first taste of kola nuts.

These nuts are a traditional token of welcome and before they were given to us they were blessed by the local chief. They have a tough, leathery skin and a bitter taste.

With a big smile, you take a bite, and, if the taste is not to your liking,



discreetly pocket the remainder of the nut. You may be offered several kola nuts on these occasions. It would be impolite to refuse, so make sure you have plenty of room in your pockets!

We travelled everywhere in a Mercedes Benz. Not as posh as it sounds because this turned out to be a bright orange, open-topped lorry and we rode in the back.

## Kola nuts are a traditional token of welcome

This type of vehicle, known to all as a "911", is widely used as public transport but we drew stares because the locals were not used to seeing 29 whites in the back of a lorry. They expected us to be in a fleet of limos.

Uzuakoli and the larger neighbouring town of Umahia were right in the thick of Nigeria's civil war, during the late 1960s. We visited the Biafra war museum which, surprisingly, gave a balanced view of the war, presenting the losing side's case quite objectively.

After this we went into Umahia for our first suia—a fiery hot, spicy kind of kebab. The meat was very scrawny and I preferred not to know what it was. Meat in Nigeria is always in short supply and extremely expensive.

Saturday night is video night in Uzuakoli. So back we went to the leprosy centre to enjoy a viewing of Top Gun with the residents.

The centre has its own church and, on Sunday, we went to our first church service — quite an experience!

Church services last from a minimum of two hours and are all-singing, all-dancing affairs, apart from lengthy sermons delivered with considerable passion and fervour.

With lots of hot-gospelling and dancing in the aisles, fervent worship may continue non-stop for up to five hours at a stretch!

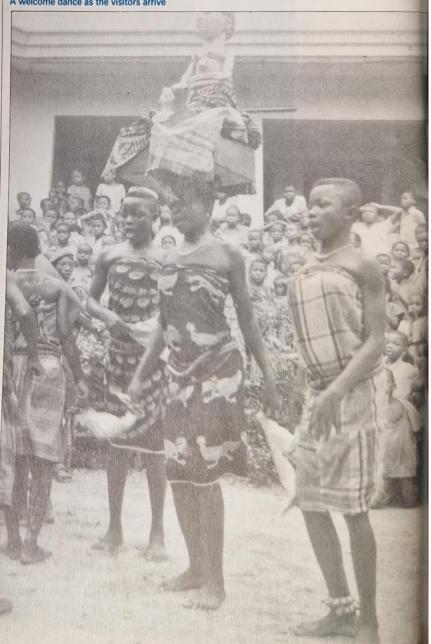
When it came to the collection, we danced our way down the aisle to throw our offerings into the platter, clapping rhythmically as we went.

Eventually we slipped quietly away — unnoticed, we hoped. We later learned that this service had lasted a mere three hours.

Painting started on the Monday morning. We had a huge task ahead of us. The contingent was split into three groups. My group had to paint, inside and out, the living quarters in the female camp, consisting of about 30 one-roomed concrete huts.



Jane Kilmister presents a T-shirt to Chief Oti A welcome dance as the visitors arrive



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**NEWSAGENT** 

Do you, or members of your unit, have trouble getting hold of your GGA magazines?

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The paint, a frightening quantity of emulsion in pink and blue for the walls, and grey oil-bound paint for the woodwork, was waiting for us.

As for the walls, they'd been waiting far too long! They were in a bad way and we quickly discovered that we needed twice as much pink paint as blue to cover the unsightliness.

At the end of our first working day the 30th Bende Scout Group held its meeting in the centre and entertained us with the Guitar Song.

They sang in English, with miming actions, to a guitar background. I think some English visitors, or maybe Australians, taught the song to some Scouts way back and it has become part of their heritage.

Soon the painting was coming along well. We borrowed a cassette player and sloshed away to strains of Dire Straits and Madonna.

For a break we visited the Golden Guinea brewery in Umahia, run by a German. After a guided tour, we were given complimentary crates of beer.

It sells for four naira a bottle about 20p. For a Nigerian on the national average wage of about 200 naire a month, it is not cheap.

In Umahia's market we bought fabric in sizzling colours for tailored shirts, which we had made up locally. All the way back to the leprosy centre, on the back of the lorry, it rained - and how! We were soaked to the skin.

## The pot-holes in Nigeria are spectacular

The following day we visited the Scout Leader's home village. Our driver had to negotiate great gaping chasms in the road. The pot-holes in Nigeria are spectacular.

On our arrival out came those kola nuts. Then we were entertained by traditional Nigerian dancers. Back at Uzuakoli we were invited to join the minister for supper - chips!

It was during the last few days of painting that one of our team encountered our first snake. It was, in fact, about 10in long and harmless. But, as in fishermen's tales, in the telling, it gradually became a monstrous serpent of at least ten feet.

By this time we had finished the interiors and started painting the extenors. So we visited the Empire Carpet factory, at Oge, a town about 90 minutes' drive from Uz - "You-Zed" as we called the place for short.



To our surprise we found it was managed by a man from the North of England. But he'd brought his home comforts with him and lived in a bungalow with all mod cons.

We finished painting at last and any free time we had left was spent on other, smaller projects. Some of us helped at a motherless baby unit at the centre, others worked at the centre's hospital. I helped with what was called the drug dispensing but the "drugs" turned out to be cod liver oil capsules.

We were coming to the end of our trip and so decided to put on a gang show for patients and locals. The governor of Bende came to see it. The village particularly liked our rendition of the Guitar Song.

At the end of the show we were presented with a wooden elephant on red wheels. The governor of Bende came back to see us the next evening with gifts of woolly hats and shirts.

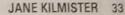
On our last evening in Uzuakoli we gave a special supper for the villagers who had helped us during our stay and handed out contingent shirts with

Part of our final day in Nigeria had to be spent in the airport hotel at Port Harcourt because, for safety reasons, we could only travel by road during daylight. At night you may be ambushed by bandits. At 5.30am the next morning we caught the one-hour flight to Lagos and then flew on to Heathrow.

Uzuakoli was unforgettable and we are planning to return when we have paid off our debts.

Meanwhile, we are sending back copies of GUIDING to the Scout Leader at Uz because there are plans to start a Guide Company there.

Put 'em up then!: a local voungster takes on the camera





#### THE JIGSAW

I was on the sofa, resting a badly sprained ankle, when Joyce, my neighbour, arrived with a jigsaw puzzle.

There, she said, triumphantly, 'that'll keep your mind off Guiding for a bit. Although, knowing you, you'll probably imagine that each piece resembles one of your Guides and spend ages wondering if you've put her into the right place!'

lignored her remarks and the conversation moved on. But, as soon as she went, I tipped the jigsaw pieces on to a large tray and began the task of putting it together.

By tea time I had made considerable progress. All the outside pieces were in place revealing a cottage with a colourful garden occupying the centre.

All the pieces that remained were either the monotonous blue of the sky or nondescript greens and browns of the vegetation.

I suddenly realised that I was tackling the jigsaw in the same way that I plan my Guide meetings. The pieces that I had considered first were those with straight

edges that would provide the framework, as in Patrol time, prayers and subs.

Then I had put in the colourful and interesting pieces — outdoor activities, and things involving food — and the ones that were easy to identify and fit in.

Those pieces that seemed difficult — like the Promise — tended to get passed over until later.

And yet, when it was finished, each piece would be of equal importance. If even one was missing, the whole picture would be spoiled.

I suppose, when you think about it, we are all pieces in the vast jigsaw of life. Some of us are decidedly irregular in shape and many of us need to be handled carefully, or even stood on our heads, before we will fit into our appointed places.

The overall picture is probably too vast for most of us to imagine. But the important thing is that we learn to work closely and compatibly with those nearest to us, so that the whole will be enhanced and will glorify the Creator.

EE



#### A CLEAN SWEEP

District Commissioner Kath Wiley has an unusual claim to fame. She has *swept* for the Queen!

Yes, that's right. Kath, on one historic occasion, grabbed a broom and actually swept a flight of steps and a pathway for Her Majesty to walk down.

It happened last year when the Queen visited Hesley Woods Scout camp site, near Sheffield. Kath, invited along by the Scouts, was asked to give the place a bit of a brush-up before Her Majesty arrived.

It was, of course, a great honour and privilege although, whether that now entitles Kath to call herself a royal sweeper is a moot point in the Wiley household.

All her daughter, Assistant



Guider Rachel Wiley, knows is that Mum once swept for the Queen and no-one, as far as Kath is concerned, is ever allowed to forget it!

That's why Rachel wrote to *GUIDING*, begging us to publish a picture of the royal sweeper in action on the Great Day.

Rachel explained: 1 thought that if you printed her beloved photograph we might get a little peace.

We're all in favour of happy families so *GUIDING* is happy to oblige.

The royal sweeper, by the way, is District Commissioner for Charlton Brook, North Division, Sheffield County. According to Rachel, who's with the 197th Angram Bank Guide Company, there are a lot of folk who are hoping to hear a little less of the DC's reminiscences about the day 'I swept for the Queen'.



#### IN GUIDING JUNE

CASTING OFF braving the briny ON TOP OF THE WORLD Guiding in Nepal

LIVE ISSUES looks at when to say

BLAST OFF Thinking Day rockets ACHIEVERS a nurse at war BOOT GIRLS

BOOT GIRLS

cashing-in on junk

# IN GUIDE PATROL JUNE

OPEN AIR EATING building a barbecue PATROL TIME

star gazing
SMILE PLEASE

tips for taking the Photographer badge

CRAFTY IDEAS woodcraft lore ACTION PLUS

preparing a Patrol games

#### PITCH IN

cracking the Camper badge

# IN BROWNIE

## FACTS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

making a telephone and address book

OVER THE RAINBOW

a colourful explanation FIRST STEPS

ballet positions
MEASURING UP

for the record

#### SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

don't miss our super contest

#### And in RAINBOW GUIDE EXTRA

RAINBOW RABBIT IN THE GARDEN STORYTIME

Twelve Dancing Princesses

FIGURE FOOD

number biscuits

RAINBOW RACE

a special game just for you

# HIGHLIGHTS

#### SCIENCE GAMES FOR BROWNIES AND GUIDES

WADDOW: June 19-21 FOXLEASE: October 16-18

- Are you looking for something different?
- Do you want some new ideas for your programme?

Why not come and enjoy a weekend of fun, exploring new ideas? This training is open to any Brownie or Guide Guider. However, if you work with another section many of the ideas can be adapted.

This weekend will:

- supply you with help for those girls working on science badges
- give you ideas to try with the girls — and to put science into your programme
- enable you to have a go and try something new
- provide you with the chance to ask that question "Why..?".

This training counts towards the requirements of the Adult Leadership Scheme (Stage III).

#### RAINBOW GUIDERS

FOXLEASE: June 26-28. WADDOW: November 27-29

This weekend is open to all Guiders working, or hoping to work, with Rainbow Guides. Topics will include programme planning, Prom-

ise and other ceremonies, music and musical activities, crafts and story-telling.

ADVENTUROUS ACTIVITIES FOR BROWNIE

GUIDERS GLENBROOK: July 10-12

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

The activities included will be of the type that can be tackled:

- on Pack Holiday
- at a Unit or District Activity Day.

This training is for the Guider who feels her Brownies need:

- a little more challenge in the out-of-doors
- to help with the 'or' choices of the Journey Challenges.

This training counts towards the requirements of the Adult Leadership Scheme (Stage III).

#### HOLIDAY PERIOD

FOXLEASE: July 26-August 7 WADDOW:

August 20-September 2

Have you ever wanted to have more time to explore Foxlease or Waddow, and the surrounding area? Here is your chance to relax in the grandeur of a large country house.

It is an opportunity to spend time:

- walking
- swimming (Foxlease only)
- reading
- or just chatting with friends in a holiday atmosphere.

There will be a chance to visit places of local interest — but most of the time is yours to fill as you wish.

The holiday is open to any member of the Association. So come with your mother, your District, your Trefoil Guild — or even on your own!

#### LEADERSHIP FOR COMMISSIONERS

WADDOW: July 3-5 FOXLEASE: September 4-6

Leadership has been defined as winning the hearts and minds of people to achieve a common purpose. How effective is your leadership? How do we win the hearts and minds of our team members to achieve the common goal of good Guiding? Can leadership be learned or is it something we are born with?

Come and find out more about leadership at Foxlease and Waddow. These trainings aim to assist all Commissioners gain greater awareness of the importance of leadership in their role. And to encourage them to develop confidence in determining an appropriate style of leadership for themselves.

These weekends are for any Commissioner who feels she would benefit from this type of training. It would be especially useful for Commissioners Designate.

#### ONE DAY TRAINING FOR COMMISSIONERS

WADDOW: May 30 and 31 FOXLEASE: July 4 and 5 From 10am till 4pm

Are you unable to give up a whole weekend? Do other commitments mean you can't attend a residential training? Then this is for you. The day will aim to help Commissioners be more effective in their Guiding role, and will include:

- exploring the Five Essentials as a means of quality control
- managing the Adult Leadership Scheme effectively
- increasing confidence in taking group decisions.

You can come on either day, and uniform will not be required.

#### CANOEING/ CLIMBING/ CAVING

GLENBROOK: June 5-7 September 18-20

This weekend offers the opportunity to take a BCU 1 or 2 Star Certificate in canoeing, or you may like to have a go at caving or climbing. Alternatively you can try a

combination of any 2 of these activities during the weekend.

Skilled instructors will help you learn and enjoy these sports.

# FAMILY CAMPING

GLENBROOK: August 22-31

For the first time Glenbrook is setting aside a camp site so Guiders can bring their families to camp.

You will need to be selfsufficient regarding equipment and food. However, there will be a certain number of activities arranged — if you wish.

Otherwise the time is your own — to do as you like.

#### CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

FOXLEASE: September 4-6 WADDOW:

November 10-12 (midweek)

Guiders are in a unique position to support the girls in making the right decisions for life. These trainings will look at relevant topics in depth, as well as arming Guiders with a wealth of resources and ideas.

Topics to be covered will include:

- teenage pregnancy
- child abuse
- drug awareness
- leaving home
- the wider world.

This training counts towards the requirements of the Adult Leadership Scheme (Stage III).

#### **GENERAL ARTS**

WADDOW: July 10-12

This weekend will cover a multitude of activities from thread crafts to music and fine arts to homecraft. Whatever your experience there will be something for you.

Sessions will be cross sectional, and will explore the varied potential of these

## TRAINING DIARY

activities within the programme.

You will develop your skills and learn new ones in a relaxing environment. Why not enjoy this weekend with a friend or with Guiders from your District?

#### WADDOW DVENTURE WEEK

WADDOW: August 8-15

This is a week of activities and fun for Guides aged 10-14. As well as many on-site activities there will be a chance to try some off-site activities, such as:

- swimming
- archery
- skiing.

The week will cost £87.50 per person. This includes indoor accommodation in Waddow Hall and all meals. There will be extra costs for some of the off-site activities. For further information or to book, please contact the Secretary, enclosing an SAE.

#### JUST THE JOB

WADDOW:

September 15-17 (midweek)

This training is for any adult in Guiding who, for whatever reason, wishes to embark on or return to paid employment. It will also be useful for those considering career changes

Topics covered will include:

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

#### SA/RLSS LIFE SAVING

FOXLEASE:

September 25-27

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

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

The course is intensive, our fun and culminates in an exam on the Sunday

There will be training in land and water-based rescue techniques

- dealing with unconscious casualties
- pool safety
- first aid and cardiac pulmonary resuscitation.

This informal training uses the covered swimming pool at Foxlease.

#### ADVANCED WALKING SAFELY

GLENBROOK: November 13-15

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

Theoretical and practical sessions to be included are:

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

#### ASSERTIVENESS

FOXLEASE: October 13-15

Do you find it difficult to say no? If so, come and practise being assertive.

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 requirements of the Adult Leadership Scheme (Stage III).

#### **LDAPTING** PROGRAMME IDEAS FOR GIRLS IN YOUR UNIT

WADDOW:

July 3-5

October 16-18 FOXLEASE:

November 20-22

These trainings are to help Guiders and Assistant Guiders to develop confidence and competence in trying new approaches to meet the needs of individual girls in their units.

At this weekend you can:

- Have a really good look at our handbooks and publications, together with resources from outside.
- Try out lots of ideas, adapting them to suit individual needs.
- Learn how to assess the needs of individual girls.
- Develop flexibility in trying to meet individual needs.
- Learn from and share with other Guiders.

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

May

1-4 Standard first aid 8-10 1. Nine to five 2. ASA/ RLSS life saving

12-14\*Just the job

June

26-28 Rainbow Guiders

July

4&5 One day trainings

26-August 7 Holiday period

August

23-30 Sue Stevens summer school

September

4-6 1. Leadership for Commissioners 2 Contemporary issues 25-27 ASA/RLSS life saving

#### **GLENBROOK**

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

June

5-7 Canoeing, climbing, caving

10-12 Adventurous activities for Brownie Guiders

August

22-31 Family camping

September

18-20 Canoeing/climbing/ caving

#### WADDOW

22-24 1. The things that matter 2. Assertiveness 29-31 Look after yourself

30&31 One day training for Commissioners

June

19-21 Science games for Brownies and Guides

July

3-5 1. Leadership for Commissioners 2. Adapting programme ideas

10-12 General arts

31-August 7

Walking at Waddow

August

8-15 Waddow adventure week

September

15-17 Just the job

Midweek

#### GLENBROOK

Barnford Nr Sheffield S30 2AL Peeblesshire Tel: (Bamford) 0433 51567 EH46 7AQ

FOXLEASE Lyndhurst SO43 7DG

Tel: 0703 282638 WADDOW

Lancs
BB7 3LD
Great Hautbois
Great Hautbois Road
Tel: (Clitheroe) 0200 23186 Coltishall

#### NETHERURD

Blyth Bridge West Linton

Tel: (Dolphinton) 0968 82208 BRONEIRION

LORNE Craigavad Co Down

Ulster BT30 OBS

Tel: (Holywood) 02317 3180

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

Powys SY17 5DE

Tel: (Caersws) 0686 688 204

# BLACKLAND

East Grinstead

Tel: (Sharpthorne) 0342 810

# RAINBOW GUIDERS

Rainbows have reached an age when they are really beginning to crack the concepts of counting and numbers. They delight in using, showing off and extending their skills of numeracy. You can help them to build on their understanding and, at the same time, encourage their observation, memory, description and co-operative activity.

Note down all the kinds of numbers you can find: house numbers; bus numbers; licence numbers; telephone numbers on vehicles; distances on road signs; identity numbers on policemen and postmen.

Talk about all the purposes of these numbers and how they help us.

This is a good opportunity

bows are there in the extra group?

#### MONSTERS

Ask everyone to draw their own monster. Suggest that the monsters should have an unusual number of legs, ears, eyes and noses. Encourage the girls to tell each other about their monster and describe what it does.

some to start them off: heel steps — walk on heels only; hops — hop on one foot (left or right can be part of the instruction); frog leap — squat down, hands on the ground between the knees and leap forward; pin steps — tiny steps on tiptoe; backward strides — turn around and stride out backwards.

The leader calls out the type of step and the number to be taken and the girls follow the instructions. The aim of the game is to get everyone to the finish together. If some girls get far behind, they can be given extra turns to keep them level with the rest.

#### **DOMINO GAMES**

Keep a couple of boxes of dominoes in your store cupboard. Show the girls how to play with them and let them play together in small groups, while you are active with another group. Dominoes give children a good understanding of the meaning of number quantities.

#### **COUNT DOWN**

The girls can sing and recite together such traditional songs and rhymes as *One, two buckle my shoe* and *Ten green bottles,* or one of the many variations of 'counting down' rhymes.

#### **THANK YOU**

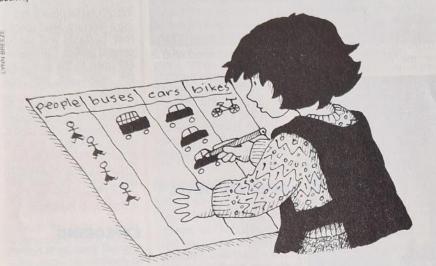
Let everyone have a turn to say thank you for something. You might write up their thank yous on a large sheet of paper or on a blackboard. What a lot of things there are to say thank you for!

If you have any ideas for games you'd like to share with other Rainbow Guiders, send them in to me c/o GUIDING.

#### **NEXT MONTH**

In June we'll look at ideas for activities using the good weather, which ought to be with us by then.

**DEBORAH MANLEY** 



#### TRAFFIC CENSUS

If your meeting place looks out on to a street, the Rainbows could spend five to ten minutes counting and recording the passing scene from a window. You don't want a very busy street for this activity!

On a large sheet of paper draw up a form with four columns, headed: People, Cars, Bikes, Buses — or whatever is appropriate to your area.

The girls work together to draw each item on to the chart as it passes. At the end, they count up how many of each thing they have seen.

#### **NUMBERS HUNT**

As the evenings are now longer, this is the time when you probably take the girls out for part of some meetings. Of course, this increases what you can do together.

Go on a 'number-hunting' walk in the neighbourhood.

to check that they know their own addresses and telephone numbers.

#### SHARING

Use opportunities to talk about how we divide things fairly. For example. There are four biscuits left'... 'How many Rainbows haven't had a biscuit?'... 'Are there enough for them?'... 'How many more do we need?'... 'How many bits of paper will we need so everyone can have one?'

#### **GROUPS**

For games and other activities you often ask the children to get into pairs or threes, fours and so on. Here's a game linked to this method

Everyone dances around the room, perhaps to music. The leader calls out a number between two and six. The girls run to get into groups of this number. The ones who are left over form their own group. How many Rain-

#### TIME KEEPING

Some of the Rainbows will be able to tell the time. Make or buy a large clock face and let them change the hands every ten minutes through the meeting to match the hall clock or their own watches. Ask them to explain how you tell the time to others. In addition you might say and act together the rhyme Hickory Dickory Dock.

#### **JOIN ME**

Here is an amusing game in which the Rainbows both follow directions and count. They also have an opportunity to offer their own creative ideas.

The girls stand in a row at one end of the hall. They have to follow the leader's instruction to 'Come and join me' at the other end. To do this they use various steps as instructed.

They will enjoy inventing new 'steps', but here are

# VIVE LA FRANCE!

If you fancy taking your Ranger or Guide unit to an undiscovered part of France why not try the Audormarois? We've got some tips to make your trip as smooth as possible, plus details of three suitable camp sites.

#### **FRENCH LEAVE**

Although it's only 25 miles from Boulogne or Calais the Audormarois is almost unknown to British tourists. The towns and villages of the area are steeped in history and the region is rich They all have separate areas for tenters. There may be others but many of the sites I visited were disappointing - not because they were dirty or badly kept, but because they were wall to wall with caravans and motor-homes. The tents were pushed into odd corners.

#### **MEADOW VIEW**

The first and easiest site to get to is Le Camping du Verte Prairie at Tilques, about 30 minutes drive from Calais on the main road to St

For the second site turn left off the Calais to St Omer road into Serques village. Near the mairie (town hall) is a sign which reads 'Camping 1900 metres'. The road turns sharp left and, after a series of tight bends, you'll see a very distinctive sign to the Camping les Ormes.

The main caravan site is discreetly tucked away behind the old farmhouse, now a cafe, and cannot be seen from the drive. When I asked about a place where Guides could camp, I was shown a meadow opposite the cafe. The only snag with this pleasant and peaceful site is that it is a fair walk to the nearest shop. However, the cafe sells vegetables and milk can be bought nearby.

#### **OPEN AIR HOTEL**

The third site is completely different. The 'open air hotel' at Chateau de Gandspette. Eperlecques is idyllicly situated in the chateau's wooded grounds. The camping area is beautifully landscaped and trees separate the tents from the caravan park.

The advantages of this site are numerous. A shop, cafe, swimming pool, games room, plus volley ball and riding are all available on site. And all the activities. except riding, are free. Riding costs 55 francs per hour.

One of the reasons that the Audormarois is not well frequented by overseas tourists is that its charms are not immediately obvious to motorists. To see the best of this region you need to explore on foot or in a boat, or both. The information offices at Arques and St Omer can supply you with detailed maps and itineraries

#### SIGHT SEEING

There is plenty to see in the Audormarois. The region is divided in two by the canalised river L'Aa, a marvellous example of the archetypal, tree-lined French canal.

On the north side of the river there are two nature reserves at Clairmarais and Romelaere. Peat digging has produced deep pools in the fields here and there is an astonishing variety of wildlife. including around 150 different species of bird.

Many birds spend the winter in the region. In summer Romelaere is a nesting ground for herons, including a vary rare dwarf species rosy buzzards and various crested grebes. The reserves are open to the public and the walks are well sign posted.

On the other side of L'Aa the rich land is crisscrossed by a network of small canals. which both drain the land and provide access by boat. Tilques is a good place to begin a tour by water and rowing boats can be hired at Pont de la Guillotine.

#### **EXPLORING**

You will need several days to explore St Omer fully. Almost every street contains a historic building. Don't





Eating in the in wildlife. So any Rangers open air or Guides who are preparing a special project or essay will be able to find some fascinating material in its unique ecology and history.

> A unit of French Guides or Rangers who wanted to explore the region would ignore the 30 or so official camp sites and call at a farmhouse to ask permission to camp in one of the farmer's fields. You could do the same, but you will probably prefer to book a site in advance.

> There are three camp sites which I can recommend

Omer, the major town in the Audormarois

The camp site is run by a charming lady who speaks a little English and is very knowledgeable about the region. In July and August, the busiest months, she can put tents in the meadow behind the official site. When the site is not so crowded, she can put you in a quiet corner away from caravans.

The site has a shop and cafe. The only drawback is that it's close to the main road, so you might find it noisy during the day, if you are in the main site.

miss the cathedral, one of the finest gothic churches in France; the superb municipal gardens, which double as an ideal picnic spot; or the two museums.

La Musee Sandelin, a superb 16th century building, houses St Omer's art treasures. It contains fine Dutch and Flemish paintings, superb French furniture and 4,000 examples of handpainted pottery. Le Musee Henri Depuis, devoted partly to regional culture and natural history, has many fascinating exhibits, including a complete early Flemish kitchen and the world's largest collection of seashells.

Other attractions include the Ginevre distillery at Houle, the magnificent abbey at Wisques, the amazing boat lift and giant lock at Arques, and the monstrous German blockhouse at Eperlecques.

For presents go to the factory shop of Verrerie Cristallerie d'Arques, where there is an astonishing selection of glass and other beautiful items

Shop for most food at supermarkets, mainly PG and Cedico in this area. But buy fresh vegetables from market gardeners and look out for small farms offering home-



St Omer Cathedral — one of France's finest Gothic churches

made pâté and goat's cheeses. From August to April you can get fresh water cress direct from growers around Tilques and Serques and, if you spot a fisherman who's had a good catch, ask if he wants to sell some.

#### **INFORMATION**

#### Camp sites

For all numbers put 01033 in front when calling from UK.

La Verte Priarie, rue Nationale, Tilques, 62500 St Omer, tel: 21934295. Charge 10frs per tent plus 7frs per person per night. For 12 people in four tents this works out at around £7 per person per week. Showers 5frs.

Les Ormes, route de Watten, 62910, Serques, tel: 21931171. No charge for tents in meadow, 9frs per person per night. This works out at around £6 per person for a week. Showers 7frs.

Chateau de Gandspette, 62910, Eperleques. A charge of 68frs for each tent covers two people. Additional people pay on a sliding scale. For a group of 12 it would work



out at £21 per week each. It's worth writing with exact details for a group quote.

#### Information offices

Maison du Parc Naturel, Le Grand Vannage, BP 24, 62510 Arques, tel: 21986296.

Maison du Tourisme, Boulevard P, Guillain, 62500 St Omer, tel: 21987000.

Both have leaflets, maps and suggestions for walks.

#### Boat hire

Pont de la Guillotine, Rivage de Tilques. 62500 St Omer, tel: 21951019. Rowing boat charge 50frs per day. A one-and-a-half-hour guided tour in motor boat costs 35frs for adults. 25frs for under-14s. English spoken on tours by arrangement.

#### Nature reserves

La grange nature, Clairmarais & Reserve du Romelaere. Opening hours vary throughout year — ask Maison de Parc at Arques. Free entry to signed walks and exhibition. Guided tour of Romelaere 15frs per person.

#### St Omer

Cathedral open 8am to 7 pm in summer, no charge. Both museums Wed-Sun, 10 amnoon and 2-5 pm (except bank holidays). Admission 9 frs per person (6 frs for groups of ten-plus).

#### Other attractions

Distillery at Houle — free visits Mon-Sat mornings.

Wisques Abbey — free visits 11am-12.30pm and 2-5pm.

Verrerie d'Arques — shop open daily, for factory visits phone the PR department on 21930000.

Boat lift and lock at Arques
— no charge to view exterior.
Guided visits 12frs. Hours
vary so enquire at the town
hall in Arques.

Eperlecque Blockhouse — guided tours daily (closed mornings except June/September) 23frs for adults but reductions for groups, tel: 21939393.

#### MARIAN MARTIN

 Prices were correct when the article was prepared but we suggest you check first before making any bookings.



# BROWNIE GUIDERS

The summer should provide us with plenty of opportunity for outdoor fun and many Districts will already be planning their Brownie Revels. Coping with large numbers of Brownies is a very different proposition from running the weekly meeting. So the following suggestions should come in handy, especially if this is your first attempt at masterminding Revels.

# BROWNIE REVELS

Most Districts have between three and five Packs, which means you can reasonably expect about two-thirds of the girls at Revels, usually held on Saturdays. Provided your venue is large enough, numbers don't really matter. The important factor is the ratio of leaders to Brownies.

If everyone does a little, no one will be overburdened. Appoint one Guider to prepare notes for distribution to Brownies in all the Packs, ensuring everyone has exactly the same information. As well as details of date, time and place, include everything mums need to know about dress, footwear, cost, lunchbox, sitters, car parking, and collecting the children.

#### FIELD DAY

The ideal spot for summer Brownie Revels is a large grassy field, but be warned! Don't *think* of booking a field without a large covered area attached.

You may have to pay extra for indoor accommodation, and may never use it. However, in our climate, you can't take the risk of being leaders is vital to avoid duplication of ideas. Leaders need to arrive earlier than the Brownies to set up their tables — or groundsheets!

#### **NEW FRIENDS**

District Revels provide a wonderful opportunity for Brownies to meet new people. Every effort should be made to mix the units thoroughly, as long as each child is with someone she knows. The ad hoc groups should contain a balanced mix of units and age groups.

Try giving each unit a depot where belongings are deposited on arrival. Brownies are asked to choose a partner their own age from their own units. Any odd one over can make a three.

One pair of seven-yearolds from each unit is allo-

# **BROWNIE OLYMPICS**

Perhaps the girls might come in sports gear for the *Brownie Olympics*, making medals, national flags, Olympic rings and group badges in the morning. Then having a grand parade and races in the afternoon, finishing with an award ceremony where *everyone* gets a medal.

Revels should ideally last from about 10am to 3pm, with a 30-minute lunch break. Allow about half an hour to sort out the groups and have a quick group game. Between four and six short activity sessions plus moving around time and elevenses will bring you to about 12.30pm — time for lunch.

Try to arrange something completely different for the afternoon. Either ask each leader to run a lively team game, or plan a wide game for everyone to play at once. A simple treasure hunt or scavenger hunt still gives lots of pleasure, and you may be able to squeeze in the odd team game as well. Plan to spend the final half hour singing the Brownies' favourite songs.

The size of your District doesn't matter. But, unless you have a very small Division, don't be tempted to have Division Revels. There comes a point at which numbers are totally unwieldy.

Make sure you establish your preferred signal for silence at the start. It may be a handsignal or a whistle, bell or hooter. But make sure the Brownies recognise and obey it.

GILLIAN ELLIS

Don't forget to order BROWNIE from your local newsagent or through direct subscription from CHQ for your girls. The magazine is a supplement to the handbook.



Revelling in it: toasted marshmallows go down a treat at Brownie Revels

Whatever your theme and activities, you'll need to divide the girls into small groups. Plan on each group containing about ten Brownies to two leaders. Naturally, the more the merrier, but allow for one 'floating' adult to be the gopher, making orange juice, collecting entrance roes.

it's essential to have a planning meeting well ahead to decide on date, venue and theme, and to allocate preparation fairly.

stuck outside with up to 100 dripping children.

Tailor activities to both indoors and outdoors, bearing in mind the size and shape of the room and field.

It works well if pairs of leaders operate stations around the activity area, each group moving round after about 15 minutes. Leaders choose their own activity within the relevant theme and are responsible for providing all materials.

Obviously liaison between

cated to each group, then a pair of eight-year-olds and so on, making sure that both units and ages are well mixed in any one group.

It's a good idea to start with a group verbal mixer game, so that the girls know each other's names.

The secret of a successful Revels is variety. Keep it simple but keep 'em busy! Depending on your theme, you could ask Brownies to come in fancy dress, or you could make outfits.

# PARACHUTE GAMES

Parachute games are popular with most girls but it isn't always easy for leaders to know how to make the best use of this popular activity.

Now GUIDING can fill the gap — thanks to Margot Dryden of Bredon, Gloucestershire. These games are firm favourites with the 1st Bredon Hill Brownies.

#### **GAMES FOR FUN**

Here are a few ideas to introduce you to the fun of parachute games. No doubt, you will invent a few of your own. They can be played in a large hall but are best played out-of-doors — providing it isn't too breezy.

First of all, you need to find out what the parachute will do. Spread the girls evenly round the edge of the parachute and, on the command of the leader, everyone raises it above their heads and waits until the centre balloons' upwards.

It is important that everyone does this together. At this stage you may let go the edges and walk into the centre to let the 'chute settle around you. This is not recommended for sufferers of claustrophobia!

Mushrooms: Raise the parachute as explained then slowly walk towards the centre so that the 'chute mushrooms above you.

All change: As soon as the 'chute has ballooned, the leader calls out various commands and those people have to change places before the centre falls in again. The remainder of the unit holds on to the edges.

The commands may be two names or numbers or, to make it more interesting, various criteria. For example, everyone with one brother, anyone with a birthday in May, had cornflakes for breakfast, plays a musical instrument. If you ask for everyone who watches Neighbours, you may be left hanging on to the 'chute by yourself!



Up, up and away!

Bonnets: As soon as the leader has given the command to raise the 'chute, each person puts the edge of the parachute on top of her head, down over her ears to meet under her chin (like a bonnet).

The girls then lie flat on their stomachs so that inside the dome of the parachute only their faces will be seen.

In turns, try to name everyone in the circle before the centre collapses, or make up a story with each girl in turn contributing one word and see how far you get.

igloo: When the parachute has ballooned up, everyone takes a step forward and, using both hands, pulls the parachute down behind them and sits on the edge of it.

If everyone leans back gently the 'chute is pulled taut and provides support. Guides have been known to sit for ages like this chatting to each other. A very soothing motion is produced if the group sway gently from side to side.

#### **BALL GAMES**

Co-operative ball games: For these the parachute is held about waist high. Try:

- Putting a number of balls on the parachute and preventing them from falling through the centre hole.
- Using a large ball and a small ball, try to get the one ball through the hole, while keeping the other ball on the 'chute.
- Divide the team in two with one ball each. Each side tries to get its ball through the centre hole, while preventing their opponents from doing so.
- Using a large ball, set up a wavy motion so that the ball will roll round the outside edge of the parachute.
- Putting a number of balls on the parachute with two people underneath to retrieve any that fall through the hole. Try to get all the balls through the hole before any can be returned.

Princesses: Younger children are more likely to enjoy this. When the parachute

has ballooned up, the leader calls the name of one girl. She goes to the centre of the 'chute and, without touching the parachute, must position herself so that the hole in the centre falls over her head and lands round her waist like a flowing skirt.

Alligators in the swamp:
The group sits on the floor
holding the edge of the
parachute. One girl, who is
underneath the parachute,
is the alligator. She crawls
round, holds on to someone's feet and pulls them
under the 'chute.

The victim will allow herself to be eaten — usually with suitable sound effects! The victim then becomes an alligator and both pull in someone else until everyone is under the parachute.

If you would like information about borrowing a parachute or have any more ideas for parachute games, please contact Margot Dryden at 3 St Giles Road, Bredon, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire GL20 7EQ or ring 0684 72721.

# **GUIDE GUIDERS**

With the camping season beginning and many Patrols and units planning outdoor activities and expeditions, there are plenty of ways to encourage the girls to think things out for themselves.

#### **PLAN AHEAD**

Help the girls to be prepared for all that they want to do, by challenging them to plan methodically. In January's GUIDE PATROL there were some ideas on how to plan. Are your Patrols doing the sort of things suggested? Do they make sure that everyone is involved in the planning and that all their talents are used? Check out their plans for the coming month and give them a hand to be better prepared if they need it.

Do they have the skills they need for the activities they are planning? They will need knots for camp so check what they can do. Can they tie all the knots mentioned in Clause H2 of the Yellow Trefoil? Perhaps they could have a go at the Knotter badge, one of the staged badges. Or you could get them to work out the challenge suggested on page 81 of the Guide Handbook, or make the Beetle Game (page 80).

#### BINGO

Games based on bingo are easy to make but involve some thought, and help with teaching. You will need one card for each Patrol member, about the size of the *Guide Handbook* and ruled out into about nine squares. To cover these squares each Guide needs nine pieces of paper, the same size as the squares. You also need a master set of 15 to 20 small

Write the names of items on the master set. For example, you could use things to take on an expedition — the Guide Handbook has suggestions on page 88. Then

draw a selection of the items on the players' cards.

To play the game, one person calls out the item and everyone with that item on their card can cover it up. When a player has a full card she shouts 'Bingo', or an appropriate word for example, 'Expedition'.

If you want to make the game last longer, decide beforehand that as the items are called, the first player to shout 'Mine' is the only one who may cover that item. Repeat the set of items until someone has a full card.

This type of game helps them to learn what to take

The blanks can be any letter. Use a theme such as foods, places or sports for the questions if you wish.

Clues might include:

- Eaten in Italy as a staple food...(pasta,pizza,spaghetti).
- Used to produce wine ... (grapes, or most other fruits, including blackberries!)
- A Mexican speciality . . .
  (chilli, tortillas).

The logic puzzle is another type of mind-teaser the Guides will enjoy. There are three examples given on page 150 of the Guide Handbook, and a lot of the commercially produced puzzle books have them.

particular colour. In the balloons, which you have previously tied up, in or near your meeting place, are their instructions for the evening in a different code.

The activities given need to be related to where you meet, but could include laying or following a trail, tracing out a compass sculpture (see the *Guide Handbook*, page 72), lighting a fire and cooking twists (*Guide Handbook*, page 66), writing a limerick, drawing a picture without using a pencil

The occasional surprise evening will test the Guides' ingenuity, and bring out their





on an expedition, and also encourages quick thinking, and fair play.

#### COUNTDOWN

Another quick thinking game involves spelling. It's a human countdown, with clues. Each Patrol needs a set of 30 cards with one for each letter of the alphabet and four blanks. You give them a clue which has more than one answer, if possible, with the letters they have.

The Patrol must decide the answer and then stand up, displaying the cards in the correct order. As many as possible of the Patrol must stand with the letters. The Patrol gets a point per letter if the word is correct.

Wordsearches can also be handy. Save the ones from GUIDE PATROL. People soon forget what they have done! If your girls like these, then you might like the two sets produced by GGA (Scotland), including many Guiding themes. They can be obtained from Scottish Headquarters, 16 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7AH. Wordsearch costs £1.95 and Wordsearch 2 costs £2.

#### IN CODE

Code breaking is another activity which encourages thinking. Writing an evening's activities in code immediately adds interest. A simple coded message could send them to look for a balloon of a

teamwork. It might also provide a suitable event for a girl who wants to write up something for the local paper, or the Patrol/unit logbook, as part of her Green Trefoil.

Whatever the girls are doing, there will be an opportunity to think... but sometimes you need to stretch their thinking into new areas.

CAROL HORNE

Have you placed a regular order for GUIDE PATROL yet? If not your girls are missing out on an action-packed supply of ideas and activities. The magazine can be ordered monthly either on subscription from CHO or through your local newsagent but is not available by mail order from the Trading Service.

# MAY DAY

The signal 'Mayday' is the recognised international distress signal and comes from the French M'aidez (Help me!). The activities for this theme are based on emergencies, signalling and rescues.

# PATROL ACTIVITIES

1 Learn how to signal using the Morse Code, either tapping out the digits or using a torch. Practise sending messages to each other. You could also try to devise some type of 'gadget' that will transmit your message to another room, perhaps using string. How would you show the difference between 'dashes' and 'dots'?



- 2 Learn semaphore by drawing a series of matchstick men holding flags to spell out different messages. Practise writing and reading the messages. Then make two flags each from garden canes plus either material or crêpe paper, and try signalling messages to each other.
- 3 Find out the international code of flags which ships use to send messages from one ship to another. Make your own small flags from paper, then stick them on a length of string to form a message. Start with short words, for example your name, then go on to longer messages.
- 4 Make a 'telephone' out of containers and string held taut. Experiment with different containers, for example tin cans, yogurt pots, polystyrene cups and so on, to see which gives the best result.



You could also try and find a method of making the phone work round corners.

- **5** Kites can be used for signalling in an emergency. Make simple kites out of a piece of material, and two pieces of thin dowelling or garden cane fastened in a cross. Fasten a tail and a piece of string to your kite and try to fly it.
- **6** Signals or messages sometimes have to be sent in code. Try working out some messages for others to decipher using the following:
- A piece of string and a strip of paper marked with the letters of the alphabet,

evenly spaced. Put the end of the string at the end of the letter strip, and measure the distance along the strip to the first letter of your message. Mark the string at this point. Line up this mark with the end of the letter strip and measure the distance to the second letter of your message and so on.

- Make small drawings or pictures cut from magazines, the initial letters of which give your message.
- A newspaper and a pin. Put pinpricks under letters to spell out your message. Work out other methods of passing a hidden or coded message.

# COMPANY

- Lifeboats: Everyone is on a sinking ship. The leader calls out an order, followed by a number. The order has to be obeyed first by everyone. For example run ten paces, do three somersaults, do a cartwheel, tie a reef knot and so on. The number is the capacity of the lifeboat and, when they have completed the action, they have to get into groups of this number.
- Stepping Stone Relay: The Patrol has to cross a raging river, marked by two lines across the floor about ten feet apart. They have only two stepping stones pieces of card just large enough for one foot. These should also have a hole in the middle.

The first girl stands on one card, puts the second in front of her, stands on that and brings the first card round to the front and so on, until she gets across the river.

She also needs to take across with her a length of string — the other end held by the second girl — so that she can send the stepping stones back to the second girl. This continues until all the Patrol are across the river, the last girl bringing the string with her as well.

• Rescue your Patrol: Use the same 'river' as in the last game. The Patrol has to cross the river without getting wet, in other words without touching the floor. Two girls are injured, one is blindfolded, and the other has her arm in a sling. They have three chairs (rocks) and must get everyone across, plus their Patrol box... (or some other bulky object).

You may need to remind them that their 'injured' people will need some help!

#### **SINKING SHIP**

Tell the Patrols that they have to abandon their sinking ship which has been shipwrecked off a desert island. They can take ten of the listed items with them. Give them ten minutes to discuss which they would take and why.

soap make-up bucket axe bag of flour three tins of meat box of matches tea bags paper mirror hairdryer three pans bar of chocolate compass salt towel blanket ball of string torch toilet roll groundsheet loaf of bread bottle of lemonade chewing gum torch gloves book of wild flowers 20 potatoes

# **BRIDGING MEETINGS**

You may think a bridging meeting sounds difficult to set up, especially if it involves units which meet on different evenings. However, if you've never tried the idea, do consider it as rich rewards can be reaped!

Rainbows are generally so keen to go on to Brownies that no gentle persuasion is needed! The picture in other sections is often very different. Reluctant ten or 14 year-olds are not uncommon, and it is with these in mind that bridging meetings can be well worth organising.

Not every bridging meeting needs to involve all the two units concerned. Consider asking one Guide Patrol to visit the Brownie Pack, bringing with them a number of typical Guide activities which will interest the older Brownies. When you split into groups for Journey work, the Patrol can take over the oldest Brownies for a prepared activity, possibly on a one-to-one basis if numbers match up.

Similarly, your oldest Brownies can be encouraged to link for half a term before the date they transfer to Guides, by going to the first half of the Guide meetings as well as continuing as a Brownie. This will usually allay any fears about moving on, and you may even find your Brownies can hardly wait to leave you.

Occasionally, however, a full-scale combined meeting can be great fun. It works best if the programme is planned by Guiders from both sections concerned. But it is possible for the older section to issue an invitation to their younger sisters and plan the whole thing themselves. Try these ideas for bridging meetings.

#### RAINBOWS TO BROWNIES

Painbow meeting rather than the other way around, as younger children feel more

secure in a familiar setting.Make a Rainbow arc cum

 Make a Rainbow arc cum Brownie ring by standing Rainbows and Brownies alternately, as far as possible. Have your special symbols, for instance toadstool, pool, rainbow... in the centre.

- Begin with your usual Rainbow opening and invite Brownies to join in. Then let the Brownies show the younger girls how they begin a meeting. Perhaps small groups of Rainbows would like to be attached to each Six and dance round the toadstool.
- Play some simple games in which Rainbows and Brownies are mixed. Team games such as Fruit Bowl are ideal, while The Witch's Glue Pot will whet Rainbows' enthusiasm for lively Brownie games. Don't use games where children are declared out, because it will invariably be the little ones who are out first, which is hardly encouraging.
- Pair older and younger children for a simple roundthe-room competition with about 25 stages. At each stage, have two very simple

varied challenges. Half the challenges should be suitable for younger children and they should be clearly marked. The Brownie in each pair does one challenge, the Rainbow the other, then they move on to the next stage.

#### A pair of challenges might

be:

- R: Hop round the room on one foot.
- B: Bounce a ball ten times without stopping.
- R: Say the Rainbow Promise.
- **B:** Explain to your friend what a Good Turn is.
- Bring Brownies and Rainbows into a Pow-wow ring by your usual method. Invite everyone in turn to say one thing which they enjoy about Rainbows or Brownies.
- Give Rainbows (in pairs) photocopied sheets of paper on which are pictures of several Brownie badges use ones which your girls are likely to have on their sashes. Brownies stand or sit in a circle facing outwards. The Rainbows run round looking for the pictured badges on the Brownies'

sashes. As each badge is found, the Brownie wearing it signs the picture of that badge. The first pair of Rainbows to show the Guider a full sheet wins.

Sing a mixture of Rainbow and Brownie songs. Rainbows will particularly appreciate amusing action songs, and will look forward to singing them when they go up to Brownies.

# BROWNIES TO GUIDES

Invite the Brownie Pack to the Guide meeting, but try to bring the time forward by an hour if possible. Brownie parents are more likely to allow their daughters out on an extra evening if the meeting is not too late.

If the Guide unit follows the Brownie Pack at the same venue on the same night, use half the Brownie time and half the Guide time, so that it is neither too late for the Brownies nor too early for the Guides.

If you have four Guide Patrols, no problem. Each Patrol can act as host to one Six. If not, divide your Brow-



## COPING WITH

nies up in evenly matched groups with some of each age in each one and allocate to Patrols.

Tell the Brownies they are Guides for a night! Ask them to keep their eyes open for the way Guides do things.

- Start with a quick resume of hand and/or whistle signals whichever you use. If whistle signals are unfamiliar to the Brownies, they'll enjoy them all the more.
- Out up an old Guide Handbook and mount some of the pages on cards pinned 5 around the room - at a seven-year-old's height! Tell \u2207 each Patrol/Six to compile a challenge for the other groups. Each girl contributes one question, the answer being found on one of the handbook pages.

Tell Sixers to help younger Brownies if they have any difficulties. The Patrol Leader writes down the questions, leaving spaces for the answers. She should also make a note of the page number where each answer can be found in case of any disagreement!

Patrols exchange sheets and together attempt to answer the questions in a given period of time. Answers are checked by the Patrol Leader reading out the question. The girl who chose it gives the answer out loud. The Patrol with the most correct answers wins.

- The previous week give each Patrol an activity to mastermind and point out they should provide all the necessary equipment. Brownies move round at their own pace and try whatever appeals to them. Suitable ideas might be knotting; soap carving; cooking marshmallows over nightlights; uncooked sweet making; making greetings' cards; fancy napkin folding; peg dolls; corn dollies; origami; macrame
- Put varied challenges around the field or hall, each with an adult or Patrol Leader in charge. Patrols have two minutes at each activity, scoring points on a card. Suggestions: jumping over a low barrier with both feet together, one point for

each continuous five jumps; dribbling a ball round an obstacle course; throwing a bean bag into a bucket four times out of five; balance walking on upturned flowerpots; continuous skipping, one point for each uninterrupted 50 skips; knocking down a set of plastic bottle skittles with a tennis What do the Guides call their leaders?

How many Guides were in Rainbows and/or Brownies? What shows that they were Brownies?

How can you recognise a Patrol Leader?

• If it's at all possible, do have a real fire! There is nothing calculated to ignite the local Guide units, and at the best time, issue individual invitations to an open event. You must make this as exciting and attractive as you possibly can!

The Guides will be interested in anything really different. If you can offer outdoor pursuits and adventure, so much the better.



ball; throwing a large ball round in a circle, starting the count again each time it is dropped, points to be the count reached at the whistle.

 While the Guides have Patrol Time, issue a questionnaire to each pair of Brownies, a younger one with an older partner. They work together to find out details of the Guide unit. Sample questions might be as fol-

When was the Guide unit formed?

What are the Patrol names and emblems?

Who are the Patrol Leaders? Which Guide badges are similar to Brownie Journey Badges?

Brownies' enthusiasm quite so quickly as singing round a crackling camp fire, especially if you include one or two of their favourite songs. If there should be sausages or baked spuds as well. you've almost certainly hooked them!

#### **GUIDES TO** RANGERS

Ranger Units sometimes need to work hard to attract the 14-year-old Guide to join. There is so much competition from school work, non-Guiding youth organisations, boyfriends and many other attractions at this age.

Keep an eye on the potential Ranger material among

They may like the idea of an adult evening with good food and music, perhaps run jointly with your local Venture Scouts. Or maybe you can arrange an outing to a place of local interest or even a visit to the theatre or a train trip to a nearby historic town.

Whatever you do to encourage the older Guides to join you, it will have to be different from anything they have experienced in Guides.

One last word — whatever the age groups involved, a bridging meeting should be exciting and fun. And it never hurts to include food in your plans!

# PRACTICAL PAGES

# RANGER GUIDERS

By encouraging the Rangers to Look Wide, the Ranger Programme aims to help members of the Unit become individuals. independent Ranger Guiders have a responsibility to ensure that these young women become independent and stay safe.

# SAFE AND SOUND

Involvement in any outdoor activity - camping, boating, skiing or community service within the environment means working within the

With your Unit, check all safety equipment, whether unit-owned or borrowed. Then check all your outdoor equipment. Get an expert to help the Unit understand why safety rules exist!

#### PERSONAL SAFETY

Can you help the Rangers to take responsibility for their personal safety? The following activities will help to raise safety awareness.

help if you don't know what to do. These activities will

get them to check the things they discovered against a check list of your own.

Include the following items on your list:

who uses the building is aware

Let each group present what

they have found - some of

them may have done some-

thing similar before — then

of simple safety procedures.

#### Front Door Safety

- Is there a safety chain and viewer?
- Are these used while a meeting is in progress or can anyone walk in?
- ls there a bell so that legitimate callers can attract your attention?
- Is the door well lit?
- Does everyone follow a basic precautionary procedure before opening the front door?

- Keys

   Who has keys to your meet-
- How many people have access?
- Who is in before you?
- Who might be in the building at the same time?
- What is the procedure if the keys are lost?
- How do you identify keys, are they labelled?
- Where do you keep the kevs?
- Who might have 'unofficial' access to the keys?

#### Callers

- Who checks out any callers to the meeting place?
- What happens if someone calls who doesn't appear to be 'legitimate'?
- Who challenges unknown visitor?

There are other items that you might just as easily pick up on. For instance, who looks after the person who locks up? Who checks that all doors and windows are closed? Who stays with anyone who is late in being picked up?

#### AT HOME

When you have looked at such items with reference to your meeting place, could

you get the Rangers to relate these points to their own home environment, whether it's their family home, bed sitter or hall of residence? Try to get them to consider not only the safety of their property, but of themselves as individuals.

If they are moving towards independent living, then they need to look at potential hazards in a realistic way, so that they can avoid them and take responsibility for their own safety.

Activity: Get the Rangers to brainstorm as many ideas as they can on the theme of preserving their own privacy - how would they do this if they lived alone? Make sure that they include suggestions such as using only surname and initials on name plates or telephone directories; drawing curtains at night so that no one can see that they are alone; and never telling anyone that they are in alone.

Most Rangers will at some time have to move around alone as they go about the normal business of everyday life - whether it's shopping. meeting friends or going for an interview.

How good are they at reducing the risks of being attacked, of being mugged or of being pestered by other people?

Activity: Contact, or get the Rangers to contact, your local community police and enquire about the possibility of someone coming to a meeting to show one of their videos on personal safety. The video Stepping Out is particularly good. It gives clear guidelines without being alarmist, and is directed specifically at young women.

Taking our own activitybased safety rules as a starting point, and using their own common sense, should give Rangers a clear advantage when travelling and living alone, in a world that at times can be less than hospitable.



Preparing for Association's safety rules. independence in By complying with and underan inhospitable standing these rules and world requirements, the Rangers are learning good sense within the boundaries of a

Activity Using the relevant processors, ensure that your own knowledge of the safety roles, as they apply to your Unit and their activities, is

Activity: How safe is your meeting place? Is it safe for the Rangers, for other groups, and for adults?

Ask the Rangers to carry out a thorough examination of the building - in small groups - to check out:

- how secure the building is when locked after the meeting
- how secure they are when a meeting is in progress
- to what extent everyone

# THE WET STUFF

During the GGA's Weekend of Water '92, units all over the country will be taking to the water for a variety of fun events and activities. Everyone can join in — from Rainbows to Rangers, and Guiders too. The only rules are that your activity must be based around water and take place over the weekend of September 18 to 20. This month we're providing some activity ideas to get you started.

#### **WATER FUN**

Wherever you live, there's bound to be some water around you can use — even if it only comes out of the tap! There are literally hundreds of different activities you could try.

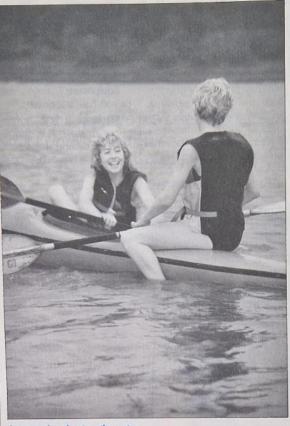
If you live near a large bridge or tunnel, find out if it's possible to arrange a trip behind the scenes. The Rangers or Guides can then see that there's more to bridges and tunnels than meets the eye. It is not just a question of digging a tunnel and letting thousands of people drive through it.

Rainbows or Brownies may be interested in drawing a bridge from several different view points and putting on a display of their artwork in the local library. After all, such a large construction probably forms an important part of life in your area.

How about doing a survey of the area to see if anyone still uses a water wheel to produce power or carry out a manufacturing task? Water wheels are often retained as a feature in converted buildings, so it may be possible to show Rainbows the immense power of a water wheel, while keeping them at a safe distance.

#### **SEASIDE SCOPE**

Living near the sea gives you lots of scope. Is there a wave energy station near you? If so, the Rangers could undertake a project to see what impact this has had on



Just messing about on the water

the local environment. Are the same birds still nesting locally for instance? Another project could compare the amount of power produced at this station to that of the nearest coal or oil-fired power station.

Brownies could survey the local beach for shells. If they choose two different sections of the beach they can compare the number and type of shells they find in each area and think about why any differences might occur.

Guides could find out about the local sewage out-flow and investigate the effect this has on water quality. With this project, as with all activities linked to water, it is important to be aware of the risks from water.

To avoid contamination from polluted water always follow these safety rules.

- Cover cuts and grazes with waterproof plasters.
- Wear rubber gloves if you

are putting your hands into the water.

- Never drink river or sea water.
- Wash your hands with soap and tap water before eating or drinking.

#### ON TAP

If you live in an area where the only water you see comes out from a tap then use that. Tap water can be used for masses of experiments.

Try placing salty water into a saucepan and heating it. When it boils, lower the heat and allow the water to simmer. Place the cool lid on the pan and every few minutes remove the lid, using oven gloves, and tip the water you find in the lid into a cup.

Wait until you have a reasonable amount, allow it to cool and then taste it. It should not taste salty. On a much larger scale, this simple method of cleaning water is

used at desalination plants all over the world.

Or how about finding or making some particularly muddy water and then putting it through a coffee filter? This water will not be drinkable because the filtration is not efficient enough to remove all the contamination, but it will look clear.

#### IN THE SWIM

A swimming gala for your District might be fun. If you are planning a sponsored event, don't forget to raise the money for Water Aid, the charity we are hoping to help during this project. For more details write to Water Aid, 1 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9BT; or telephone 071-233 4800.

Or how about some canceing for the more active
members of our Association?
WOW '92 could be the
push you need to go ahead
and phone the activity centre
to arrange a taster session.

There is no reason why your whole unit has to do the same activity. Each Patrol in a Guide unit may have an idea of its own. That is great but you will obviously need lots of adult help to keep an eye on all these different events.

#### **GET NOTICED**

Don't forget to publicise your event locally. Local papers will probably be happy to come and find out what you are up to. If they do come, ask for copies of the photographs they take to send to us as evidence of your activity!

When you've completed your activity send a large sae marked WOW to Guiding Activities, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W OPT and you will receive a certificate of participation for your unit.

Finally, good luck. We would like this weekend to be an enjoyable time with lots of learning through doing.

# YOUNG LEADERS

These tried and tested games can be played in a large room or outdoors. Adapt them to suit your unit if necessary and they will form a valuable addition to your games book.

#### DANISH ROUNDERS

Divide the group into two teams.

Aim: To score more points than the opposing team.

Equipment: 1 tennis ball or soft ball, 1 or more bats.

Markings: A bowling line; a large rectangle in each corner of the room; a batting square. (PE mats could be used for the corner rectangles and the batting square.)

Batsmen can overtake each other. If there is no batsman ready to bat the whole team is out.

The batsmen are out if caught.

When the bowler gets the ball, the umpire blows a whistle or shouts 'Stop'. Any batsman who is between bases or is touching the ground outside the bases is out. It is useful to have judges watching each base.

Scoring: A batsman can only score when she arrives at fourth base. If, off her own hit, she stopped running at first base, she scores two points. If she stopped at second base, she scores



Equipment: 1 tennis ball or soft ball; bat or bats.

Markings: A bowling line approximately five metres from the batting line; a circle in each corner of the room, with space for the batsman to run round the outside.

The fielding team have a bowler, backstop, first, second, third and fourth base and the rest of the fielders may be anywhere. They must not obstruct the batsman.

The batting team line up in order behind the batting line keeping away from fourth base.

Play: The batsman is allowed one good ball. Whether she hits it or not she runs round the outside of all the bases. She may not stop at any base or obstruct the fielder on a base. If she passes fourth base before the ball she scores a rounder.

The fielding team: When the batsman has hit or missed a good ball, the fielder who retrieves the ball throws it as quickly as possible to first base. The fielder may leave her base to catch the ball but must make sure she has contact with the

ground inside the base before she throws it to the player on second base. She throws to third and third to fourth.

If the ball arrives at the fourth base before the batter, the batsman is out. If it is dropped it must go back to first base and go round again.

A batsman can be 'caught' out. She is also out if she runs inside a base or obstructs a base fielder.

The last batsman left in has a choice of three good balls, but must run on the third one. She is allowed a short rest of half a minute maximum between scoring a rounder and receiving the next ball.

The batting team is awarded a rounder if three consecutive no balls are bowled.

A no ball is one that is not bowled underarm, which is above the batter's head or below her knee, is bowled at the body or wide to the side, or when the bowler steps on or over the bowling line.

A penalty rounder is awarded if the batsman is deliberately obstructed by a fielder

It is a good idea for the fielders to change positions after ten rounders have been scored. When all the batsmen are out, the teams change over.

ANNE THOMPSON



Fielders spread out round the room and return the ball to the bowler. The bowler must bowl from behind the bowling line, or a no ball is called. 'No balls' are given for a ball that is above the batsman's head or below her knee, a body ball or a wide ball.

If a no ball is called, one run is added to the batting team's score and no one can be called out.

The batsman runs whether or not she hits the ball and must touch each base in order. She can stop at any base as long as she wishes, there can be any number of batsmen at a base at once.

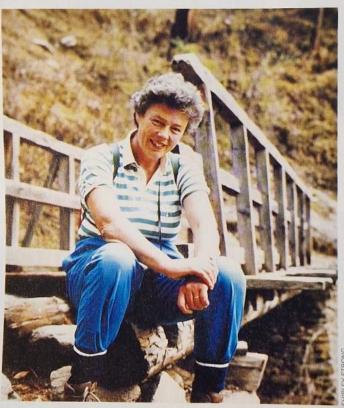
four points. If she stopped at third base, she scores six points. If she gets all the way round, she scores ten points.

A batsman is entitled to another ball if a no ball is bowled or she can take the no ball. No one can be given out from a no ball but batsmen who have been waiting at bases may only run on to the next base. The batter can run more than one base but can't leave a base once the bowler has the ball.

It is a good idea to change bowler every five balls but a bowler can only be changed after bowling a 'good' ball.



A passion for adventure has taken Shirley Strong, the former Chief Commissioner for London and South East England, to some of the most remote corners of the earth.



She has led elephant safaris in India, trekked with sherpas in the Himalayas, canoed in hollowed-out tree trunks in murkiest Madagascar, galloped in the Gobi on a camel and shared cups of fermented mares' milk in Mongolia with nomads — to mention just a few of the exploits of Shirley Strong, one of Guiding's outstanding personalities.

For seven years, until her retirement in August, last year, Shirley was Chief Commissioner for London and South East England.

Her friend, the Deputy Chief Commissioner, Catriona Boyce, retired at the same time and the Region gave them both a farewell party attended by

present and past County Commissioners, Region Advisers, representatives from the Scout Association and others who had worked closely with them.

While at the party Shirley found herself the subject of a This Is Your Life, staged in authentic style, with a 'Michael Aspel' presenter, voice-overs, slides and a string of surprise visitors. ending with Susie and Charlie, Shirley's two dogs.

It was a well-deserved tribute to a woman whose Guiding career has been as remarkable as the other parts of her life, including the rough-it-witha-laugh adventures which did not begin until she was a widow of 49.

Shirley Strong cannot remember ever having been a Brownie. She was, however, a Guide in a school Company when she was a wartime boarder at Newton Abbot, Devon.

She even managed to collect a few badges before the Company closed down for reasons now lost in time.

And that, for a very long time. seemed to be the end of Shirley's Guiding. She moved on to Benenden, the school later made famous by the presence of another well-known Guide. whose tuck box was replenished at Buckingham Palace.

At the end of her schooldays Shirley took a decision that changed her



scrubbing at

Getting down whole life. She went to live in Rome to some serious with her father's cousin and family.

He was the Director of a British School for Rome Scholars. Shirley, fascinated by the city and its history. stretched out her stay by typing. teaching English and other casual work. Then she met a Rome Scholar in Archaeology who was to become her husband.

Donald Strong became Assistant Keeper in the Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities at the British Museum and, later, a professor of archaeology at London University.

Through him, ancient Rome came alive for me,' said Shirley. 'I learned from him, for example, that social problems like graffiti and inflation were not new and that Roman sages castigated the younger generation with long or close-cropped hair as either wimps or thugs.

'As for public games in the stadium at Pompeii, these were banned for ten years because of crowd violence."

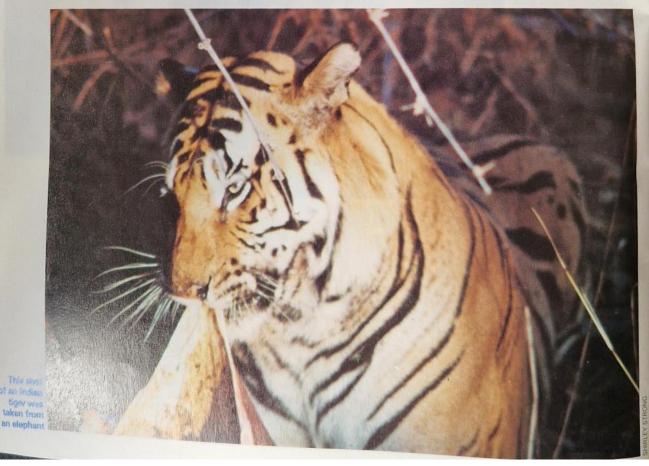
And, through her husband, more foreign travel opened up for Shirley. She was able to accompany him when he was a guest lecturer on 11 'Greek' and 'Roman Empire' cruises with one of the top tour companies.

Then, quite unexpectedly, Shirley found herself back in Guiding She was approached by a leader who, after hearing her give a speech, decided that Shirley would make an excellent Division Commissioner for the Guides of Chislehurst, Kent, where Shirley still lives.

Shirley said: I then remembered that, as a girl, Guides had been great fun but, by now, I had so much on my plate that I declined the offer

Tagreed, instead, to become Division Secretary - the lesser of two evils!"

But it turned out to be the slippery slope. Guiding soon took a firm grip,



as it does so often, and there was no escape. By March, 1971, Shirley was Division Commissioner after all!

Then, tragically, when he was only 46, her husband collapsed and died as he was getting into a taxi in Turkey.

The date: September 20, 1973. Shirley was with him when it happened. She was unable to speak a word of Turkish to those trying to comfort her. But she became aware that, to use her words, 'there are helping hands and smiling faces around even in life's most terrible moments'

Shirley was left with three teenagers. the youngest just 13, and only eight days earlier she had been appointed County Commissioner.

On my return I was still in shock but it never occurred to me not to continue my appointment,' she recalled.

Guiding, no doubt, was the best therapy she could have had. What with that and keeping alive two archaeology enterprises started by her husband, the years rolled quickly by and the family flew the nest.

But the travel bug can bite as hard as the love bug - or even Guiding itself - and, after a limbering-up 186km walk in the Black Forest, Shirley branched out into what she calls 'geriatric trekking'

The first of these trips was to the Annapurna range, in Nepal, with her Assistant County Commissioner at the time. Margaret Simonds.

Like the pukka sahibs of empire days, they trekked unimpeded by rucsacs. Their gear, it must be revealed, was packed in most un-Guide-like suitcases, carried ahead of them by porters provided by the organisers.

Shirley found lightweight camping in the Himalayas a delight — especially with no backpacking. Until, that is, an army of leeches invaded the tent.

She was reading D H Lawrence's Sons and Lovers by torchlight when the advance party arrived, rearing-up and swirling their heads like cobras in search of a blood donor.

Shirley, however, was not prepared to be taken for a sucker. She erupted from her sleeping bag and told bemused sherpa guides, alerted by her screams: I'd rather stand up all night'

After that she looked forward to the night the party would spend in a hotel at Gorapani. But - an omen of more horror to come - it cost only 5p a night to stay there!

The 'central heating' was a fire, with no chimney, in the middle of the building. Circulating smoke warmed the 'bedrooms'. These turned out to be sections of a uni-sex dormitory crammed with narrow, benchlike beds, separated only by low partitions like desk dividers.

Shirley explained: 'My sleeping bag tapered towards the feet and was so tight that when I was in it I was like an Egyptian mummy.

We had air mattresses but I blew mine up too hard and rolled off it during the night. With my feet pinioned together, unable to stand or get out of the bag, it took much struggling to get back on to the bench without waking my sleeping companions.

But for Shirley, her first trek in Nepal was an exhilarating experience. She



Shirley rides again - this time on an elephant

has since trekked in the Western Himalayas and Kashmir; the Andes; Peru; Southern India, Mongolia, including the Gobi desert; and through the lemur reserves and very dry, spiny forest of Madagascar, where, literally, she paddled her own dug-out outrigger

In Mongolia, where she rode a camel across the Gobi desert, Shirley learned more about roughing it when she and her fellow trekkers were without water for washing for three days, looking like dusky nomads from the Steppes as they left their parched camp site.

It was in Peru, where she was again accompanied by Margaret Simonds. that Shirley's Guiding first aid was put to the test, when Margaret was tossed by a semi-wild cow.

In 11 days of walking in the Andes their party, of about 20, had passed through just one village.

When she met the cow on a twisting narrow path, Shirley was carrying a Nepalese version of a golfing umbrella, which she brandished at the cow to shoo it on its way.

Whether the cow was enraged by the fact that the colours had all run together when the umbrella became wet will never be known. But, as the beast met Margaret following behind, it locked horns with her rucsac and tossed her.

Margaret landed at Shirley's feet, uninjured but shocked. Only for a moment was the ever-resourceful Commissioner at a loss. Then came sheer inspiration: 'Have a piece of my Kendal mint cake', she said.

But the patient refused treatment, saying: 'I hate Kendal mint cake!'

While this kind of adventure travel has become Shirley's consuming hobby. which she intends to pursue for a long time yet, Guiding remained to the day of her retirement - another very important part of her life.

When she was County Commissioner for Greater London Kent all the Kent Counties combined, at her instigation, to contribute £23,000 to Canterbury Cathedral Fabric Appeal.

The Brownie and Guide Badges have been worked into the stonework of the cathedral, in gratitude to that response, led by Shirley.

In 1984 she was appointed Chief Commissioner for London and South East England — just in time to lead the planning of the celebrations for Guiding's 75th anniversary.

Another milestone year was 1989 when, after a long diligent search led by Shirley, the Region was able to move its office from a crumbling, old house in Croydon to superior premises at Wandsworth Common.

That year, after appeals up and down the country, the Region's fundraising committee - with Shirley doing her bit with the rest of them were within sight of paying off the debts on the new premises.

However, the Region's most outstanding achievement must have been its response to the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital Appeal. The Region, working with the area Scouts. and with contributions from other parts of the country, raised nearly £1

Again, the Region did this at Shirley's instigation. The Guide and Scout Ward at Great Ormond Street was endowed for £500,000, with the remainder of the money being used not only to maintain the ward but to support leukemia research.

Shirley Strong was an exceptionally able and energetic Chief Commissioner. Whatever Guiding gave to her, she returned with a handsome dividend and her successor has a hard 'act' to follow.

- Stretches the imagination
- Full of ideas
   Something for everyone

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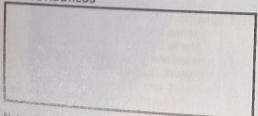
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# YOUR LETTERS

#### THANKS ALL

As a grass roots Guider, I just had to write and thank you from the bottom of my heart for the new *Guide Handbook*. It is excellent and will make our task so much easier.

I am now happy to confess that I have been a secret collector of the very old handbook for several years. My first trainer advised me to look for them at boot fairs and jumble sales, to use to teach the basics.

Now, bliss, it's all there! Beautifully presented, up to date, and so readable. My PLC loved it and thought that even non-Guides would enjoy the multitude of information in it.

Well done indeed! It is just what we needed and we are so impressed that our PLs have voted to raise sufficient funds to ensure that all 36 Guides in our unit had one by the end of March. They felt that anyone not able to afford it would be at a definite disadvantage.

Thanks again. It is so nice to know that you are there working for us.

CHRIS SPACKMAN

Guide Guider Kent

#### UNIFORM SUCCESS

Following the article in October's GUIDING, asking for volunteers to become members of the Uniform Panel, we had 40 applications from as far afield as Guernsey and Germany.

Over half those who replied could offer some form of expertise in textile manufacture or the clothing retail trade. Indeed, many could offer academic qualifications. All were active Guiders with both a flair for fashion as well as a very keen interest.

in our uniform. Every section of Guiding from Rainbows to Rangers was represented.

It was a difficult choice, but we selected Miss Fay Talor, a 24-year-old Assistant Guide Guider from Kidlington, Oxford. Fay, having studied fashion in both Manchester and London, gained a BETC Higher National Certificate in Clothing and Fashion and now works for the Ministry of Defence Quality Assurance Directorate.

But what of the others? We cannot afford to waste such talent and enthusiasm. I am now in the lucky position of having a ready-made network of informed Guiders covering the whole country and beyond, who can both monitor reaction and seek opinion in the field, and give me the answers I need.

DOROTHY F HUDSON Chairman — Uniform Panel

#### **CELEBRATIONS**

The 1st Bolton (St Paul's Astley Bridge) Guide Company is celebrating its 70th birthday on the weekend of May 30-31. We should be very pleased to hear from anyone who has had connections with the Company since 1922.

Anyone interested in attending the celebrations on Saturday and the Thanksgiving Service on Sunday please contact Mrs Jennifer Milne, 1 New Court Drive, Egerton, Bolton BL7 9XA, Lancs.

JENNIFER M MILNE Bolton Lancs

#### **PAPER CENSUS**

Having received my 1991-92 Census forms I am quite astounded by the amount of paper involved, what with the Census forms themselves and all the relevant information that has arrived with them.

There is no indication that this paper is recycled. Surely it would be sufficient to display only one set of explanations and instructions in the meeting place.

In this day and age of world attitudes to the environment, the Association should be reflecting a caring philosophy. After being involved with the National Trust, my Rainbows would probably find it difficult to understand why the trees they are saving are being, in effect, used to make top quality paper products.

JILLIAN M MILLER
Rainbow Guider
14th Barrow St Peters
Ireleth with Askam Unit

• As a Rainbow Guider, Jillian Miller should have received one Form Ce16 for the Annual Census and one Form S5 for the Annual Subscription. Each form is printed in duplicate on NCR paper so that she can keep one copy and send the other to the District for inclusion in the District Census.

The Association also provides two different sets of notes about the forms, but does not specify to whom they should be sent. This is a matter for each Country/Region to decide.

The GGA does its best to be environmentally aware, but there are difficulties in finding recycled paper which is suitable for NCR and other forms of duplicating and printing.

#### TAPPING ALL THE TALENT

I would just like to add a word of support to Jane Lewes' views in February's GUIDING. I, too, feel that we do not always utilise the talent of Guiders 'lower down the hierarchy'!

It is too easy to ask one of the people already at a meeting to take on yet another task/position, because:

- you know them
- they are there
- they are already 'approved of' by the 'higher-ups'
- no one else likes to volunteer someone else because we are so shy of asking people to do things.

There are some good, enthusiastic younger Guiders who get ignored for some of the Division and County (and Regional?) positions, because they are too young, or inexperienced within Guiding, yet these reasons are not always relevant!

Fresh ideas, someone not already burdened with a couple of other 'hats', could benefit all of us.

I don't think it is always a matter of 'promotion', surely it should be who is best for the job?

The Association has improved greatly over the years and younger Guiders are getting opportunities but not all the 'potentials' are being reached.

So I agree with the procedures suggested by Jane Lewes, as these would fit in with the more 'professional' basis of the Association that has been encouraged recently.

SALLY WIGMORE

Monaltrie Ballater

# POOR RELATIONS?

Will Rainbow Guides always be the poor relation of Guiding?

My daughter (a Rainbow Guide) and I attended the Thinking Day Service at Central Hall, Westminster. Rainbows were not mentioned during the service, nor were they asked to renew their Promise. My daughter was disappointed, as at our District celebration our Unit took full part and renewed their promise.

During 1991, Rainbow Units increased throughout our County. In our District we now have two Units and have attended and taken part in all District events from sports to a carol service.

We are now embarking on a sponsored Kim's Game organised by our County. So come on Headquarters, Rainbow Guides want to be made fully a part of British Guiding and take part in Thinking Day.

#### DENISE COLLISSON

Rainbow Guider 1st Trowbridge Rainbows

Our Talking Point Changing the Guard in February's GUIDING sparked off several replies. Here we print extracts from two of the letters.

#### MIXED FEELINGS

I remember my first — and last — Guide camp with mixed feelings and can recall various other unhappy episodes when I was made to feel useless and unsupported. Looking back, I don't know how I stayed involved.

I've been in Guiding in two Counties now and have discovered that the immense contrast in Guiders occurs everywhere.

I believe everyone has something to offer but how I wish that I could show some people that their attitudes are old-fashioned and even frightening to our younger members.

Despite those bad times, I enjoy Guiding very much and hope to follow the example of the Guiders who've been an inspiration to me.

KATHARINE SCHMUCHI Assistant Brownie Guider Hampshire West

#### 'THAT WOMAN!'

I have great sympathy for the author as I have been through exactly what she has. It is terrible to think that ours is a common problem.

The That woman' factor has also been important in my Guiding career. I was one of the few girls in my unit with the determination not to let her win and not spoil my enjoyment of my Guiding activities made such fun by the other Guiders and Guides.

This determination made me even less popular with the particular ogre involved, even though I had an excellent relationship with the other Guiders, who treated me as a friend rather than an adversary. I still value their friendship as a Young Leader/Ranger.

'Is it just a clash of personality between you and the Guider?' I hear you ask. No!!! I have many friends who were in the Movement when I was and have left consequently or who are still battling for freedom.

I have seen Guides and Guiders alike driven to tears due to her treatment. I feel great empathy for them, as I broke down many times due to her victimisation.

I have seen many excellent friends leave Guides when they could have been a great asset to the Movement. The great sadness in my case is that the Guider had just so much to offer the girls. She was so knowledgeable on every aspect of Guiding and I learned a great deal. Yet, if she had been more approachable, kind and human, she would have been very popular and greatly loved.

Guiding is a massive part of my life. I have had many years of fun but they have been dogged by the actions of 'She who must be obeyed'

I have gained a great deal from Guiding and I hope I am beginning to pay back the debt I owe to Guiding by my work as a Guide and Brownie Young Leader.

What upsets me most is the thought that girls have not had so much fun as myself and have left in sad circumstances because they could not stand the Guider's behaviour anymore.

If you have a 'Problem Guider' in your area don't let her drive away girls, get rid of her instead. Guiding can do without such people giving a Movement with so much to offer a bad name.

YOUNG LEADER Lancashire

## RAINBOW

Thank you for the lovely Rainbow supplement in the Brownie magazine. All my Rainbows enjoyed it — although they'd love to have a whole issue to themselves!

We all loved Rainbow Rabbit — from a Guider's point of view she could be very useful as a motif for lots of activities.

#### **LINDA SMITH**

Guider 1st Liskeard Rainbows Cornwall

#### **HOME SAFETY**

I feel it is time the confusion over the Brownie Safety in the Home interest badge was cleared up.

Correspondents to GUIDING in both January and March, as well as Guiders in my own District, have bemoaned the demise of this badge. In fact, this is not the case. January's Hotline stated that this was an omission from the new Brownie Badge Book and that a free insert was available.

I am sure this will come as a relief to many Guiders as, I agree, it is a very popular and worthwhile badge for Brownies

#### MRS PAULINE TWIGGER

Brownie Guider Coventry South Division

## COMMERCIAL WHIRLPOOL

Is it a deliberate act to put Guiding out of the reach of an average family? Following closely on the heels of new uniforms, the girls' parents are now expected to buy handbooks, supplements and badge books, all at rather inflated prices.

Has the spirit of Guiding been lost in the whirlpool of commercial enterprise? What has happened to Guiding for girls?

#### JACQUELINE L CUNDY

Assistant Guider
7th Rushden Guides
Northants

#### RANGER UNIFORM

We are a Ranger group from the Warwickshire area, who are becoming increasingly concerned about the current uniform. In particular, we feel that the lack of a skirt is unacceptable, especially when attending formal

We would be interested to know the views of other units.

SUZANNE HURLEY
Southam Rangers

#### **IN MEMORY**

A fund is being set up in memory of Miss Peggy Simmons.

As Peggy had a variety of interests, we are hoping to make the fund as flexible as possible, so that Guides and Guiders can receive help in such areas as public speaking and travel. It is also hoped that Guides with disabilities would be able to benefit from the fund.

If anyone who knew Peggy would like to contribute, could they please send their donations to our treasurer. Miss V Fone, FCA, 11 Broad Oak, Monkhams Drive, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 OLH.

#### PAM BANGERT

President Essex West County

More letters on page 60.

Near Great Hautbois House, Anglia Region's Training Centre, about eight miles north of Norwich, is a derelict church — a very strange-looking church

At first sight, Hautbois church appears to have, instead of a tower, a large round chimney, like a factory!

Many Guides and Guiders in Anglia County must have seen it, as did members of the Hayes, Kent Trefoil Guild when they visited Great Hautbois.

One of them was the appropriatelynamed Doris Bellringer, of West Wickham, Kent, where she is widely known as 'Clanger'. Doris, a keen amateur artist, is a former Guider who became a Guide in 1919, when she was not

She and a friend strolled around the derelict church to discover that the 'chimney' was, in fact, a round tower most unusual - and that it had obviously contained bells at one time.

But, knowing little about church architecture, they could only speculate as to why it had a round tower

Once back in the land of familiar square-towered churches, however, Doris thought no more about the subject until she happened to see a brief notice in the newsletter of the U3A — the University of the Third Age - of which she is a member.



Hautbois church with its unusual round tower

Is there anyone who is fascinated by the round tower churches?', it said. 'If so, please contact.

Intriqued, Doris wrote to the 'chimney church' enthusiast and received a reply from U3A member Mr Ronald Esplen, of West Kirby, Wirral.

Almost by return of post she received

# ROUN

The discovery of an unusual church near Great Hautbois House proved an unexpected inspiration for amateur artist Doris Bellringer.

a letter from him, telling her about the Round Tower Churches Society. He could, he said, arrange for a small party to visit some of these churches in East Anglia, where they are mainly found, and meet Mr Bill Goode, author of a book on the subject.

Months later a dozen U3A members from various parts of the country, all strangers to each other, went to Norwich to meet Mr Goode, president of the Round Tower Churches Society.

Said Doris: 'He showed us some delightful slides and told us about the history of these churches.

We visited nine churches, including the one at Hautbois, and, in some cases, were able to climb their towers.

Most of us had been quite ignorant of the subject but we soon became infected by his enthusiasm and found ourselves discussing whether the tower was built before or after the church, or whether it was Saxon or Norman.

We discovered sundials carved on stones in the wrong places. This indicated that the stones had been taken from other sites and reused. A sundial on the north side was obviously not much help to a priest needing to know when to call mass.

By the end of our tour we had all become round tower church enthusiasts and were ready to join the society."

Bill Goode formed the Round Tower Churches Society in 1973, having noticed that many of these ancient churches were in a very poor state of preservation. The society's main objective is to save the churches for posterity by promoting a round tower churches repair fund.

Doris, now one of the society's vice presidents, took home a collection of photographs she had taken during the tour and, on one 'very wet' day, she enjoyed herself by making sketches from the photographs.

Since then, copies of her sketches, like one of the church of St John the Baptist, at Lound, near Lowestoft, Suffolk, have been sold in aid of the repair fund.



The round towers have also benefited The church of Guiding. Copies of Doris's sketch of St John the the church at Great Hautbois have Baptist at Lound been sold in aid of Sangam.

But why were these curious churches built with round towers? Some say they were originally defence towers against the Vikings.

The real answer, says Bill Goode, is very simple. In the areas where they are to be found there is little or no limestone but plenty of flints. With only flints and mortar, a round tower is easier to build, and stronger.

Mr Goode's book - East Anglian Round Towers And Their Churches is out of print. But it is available at many public libraries.

# PEOPLE (M)(l) PLACES

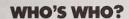
#### **LOO QUEUE**

▼ Cross your legs and think of England! Believe it or not, queueing for the loo was one of the most popular activities when Brownies from the 4th Handforth (St Chad's) Pack and the 2nd Handforth Pack, in Cheshire, took part in an experimental camp last year.



### CLIFF HANGER

▲ Don't look down! Guides from the 1st Broadoak Company from Botley, Hampshire weren't just hanging around when they tried a little abseiling at Dancing Ledge near Swanage in Dorset. The experience was such a success, they are planning to repeat it this year.



▼Hiding behind those fearsome faces are Brownies Natalie Turner, Helen Hancock, Jenny Heritage and Emma Tazzyman from the 158th Sheffield Deepcar St John's Pack. They made the masks during their Pack Holiday.



#### **HOME COMFORTS**

When Brownies Rebecca Killen and Alex Preston from the 3rd Hoylake Pack made their Promise, their Guider, Carol O'Neil, didn't have far to go for the ceremony. This striking toadstool and owl are permanent fixtures outside Carol's home on Merseyside!



#### **DOWN THE TUBE**

► What do you do if you're a Ranger Unit wanting to celebrate the 75th Ranger Anniversary? Go down the tube of course! The North Forest District Rangers visited 75 London Underground stations in one day as part of Challenge '91. And they still came up smiling!





#### PHEASANT PLUCKING

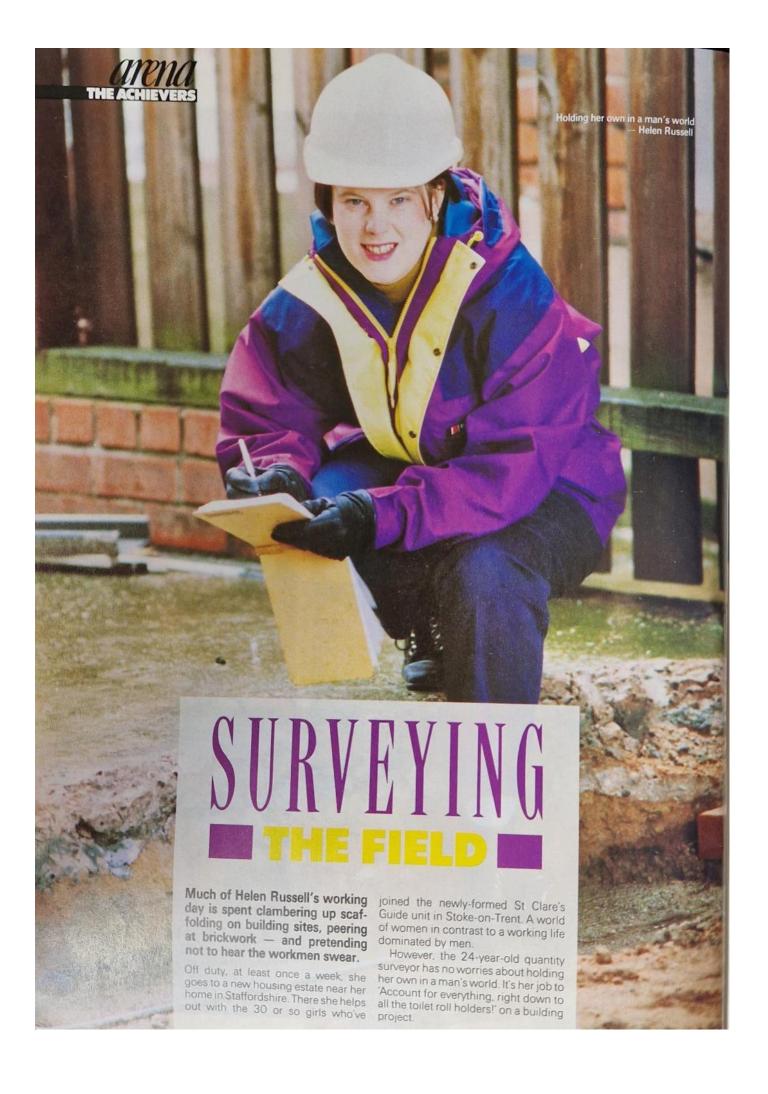
The feathers really flew as the 1st Watlington Guides from Oxfordshire tried their hands at a little pheasant plucking. And, as a bonus, everyone got an ovenready bird to take home for tea.





#### NAME THAT BEAR

Oh, what a beautiful bear! Brownies Rebecca Johnston and Zoe Page from the 6th St Anne's Church Road Methodist Pack found a friend when they helped out on the 'Guess my name' stall at their local Church market.



On site, Helen writes off any thoughts of being 'ladylike'. She said: 'Usually I am up and down scaffolding, looking at brickwork or ordering concrete.

I always wear trousers. I would never dream of going on to a site in a skirt, you would be asking for trouble.

'Also, I never wear heavy make-up. I'm the only girl on site, so I don't want to draw attention to myself by wearing bright red lipstick.

Helen knows it's unusual to see women on building sites, but refuses to be intimidated. She said: You do get a lot of verbal abuse - swearing mainly. But once you have been working there for the first two or three weeks you get used to it. It doesn't bother me at all now.

Back at the office, Helen is still a novelty, being the only female quantity surveyor, but she hasn't encountered any prejudice. She said: 'One thing they ask themselves is: "What if she gets pregnant? Has children?'

But once they have got over the fact that I am here to do a job, they just let me get on with it."

Helen became a surveyor after failing her A-levels and abandoning plans to become an architect. She re-took her exams and got a job with a firm of quantity surveyors in Stoke-on-Trent.

Now Helen works for a building contractor and she's doing a part-time degree at Wolverhampton Polytechnic as part of her training.

Her job involves visiting building sites and making sure that work has been done. Ironically, she works closely with architects estimating costs.

Helen is also active in the Guiding scene around her home in Staffordshire. She's been involved with the Movement since Brownie days, moving up to Guides, and finally becoming a Queen's

She also briefly joined the Venture Scouts. 'It was not very good,' Helen recalled. I was the only girl among six boys. At the time it was just a trend because Venture Scouts were new.

I think really, at the end of the day, I was disappointed. I expected a lot more opportunity, but they were a pub

I still carried on running a Brownie Pack. Then I transferred to Guides. Now I'm an Assistant Guide Guider.'

Helen enjoys working with the thriving new Guide unit but she confided that it hadn't been an easy ride. She has found some of the worldly-wise teenagers difficult to please.

Sometimes the Guides really are cruel. My unit is on a new private housing estate and, for a lot of the kids, money is no object. If you take them to Alton Towers, they've been before. If you take them to a museum, they've already been with someone else.

They are very, very hard to please and to entertain. You've just got to grit your teeth, work hard and get on with it,' she explained.

Yet Helen believes she must be doing something right because the girls keep coming back.

'It's only two or three out of 30 Guides who give you a hard time," Helen said. But they still come back every week. Guides is the only thing on the estate for them to do. There are a few shops but no community centre or adventure park

'So now, with the assistance of the Assistant County Commissioner, I am on a Young Guiders' Event Committee.

There are six of us trying to sort out activities and events. We're trying to make it more a social committee rather than a training committee.

We've had a fast food and pizza evening where we just had ice-breaker games - and then we had airing and sharing for half an hour.

And there are signs that people are beginning to get the message.

In Staffordshire I can honestly say they are beginning to take more notice



I enjoy working with the older Guides. We have just started our own senior Patrol and we are discussing Action Plus.

Helen disagrees with the theory that career-minded young women haven't got time to be Guiders. In fact, she believes there should be lots more young Guiders.

There are plenty of girls aged between about 20 and 25 who are single and have the time. And there are lots of ex-Guides who are married without children who could also help out,' she said.

Helen got the opportunity to air her views at a Young Persons Forum for young Guiders, Rangers and leaders. 'It was a chance for young people to speak out, Helen explained. I said there should be more activities for young Guiders and I put forward the idea that we should have a Young Guiders' Committee.

of what young Guiders are saying,"

'On the Young Guiders' Event Committee, we make the decisions - we Guiders decide what we want to do. If the importance of young Guiders wasn't recognised then this committee wouldn't exist.

Her boyfriend, a textile engineer, often finds himself fitting dates around Helen's Guiding commitments, but he's usually understanding. It depends on how many times I've seen him that week!' Helen said. 'You just don't push your luck - but he is pretty patient."

When Helen has some precious spare time they enjoy walking in the Derbyshire Peak District.

Helen has two burning ambitions she'd like to fulfil. I want to do the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, she explained. 'Oh, and I'd like to be a District Commissioner.

NICOLA WHATMORE 59

there should be more young

# HOME

I have just returned from a training weekend at Foxlease and what an extremely enjoyable experience it was.

This was my first time at a residential centre, and I must admit to being a bit apprehensive, after hearing all sorts of stories about being treated as an 11-year-old Guide. . . I was very pleasantly surprised.

Foxlease is a beautiful house and we were encouraged to treat it as home from the very start. The staff couldn't have been any more helpful or friendly and they work to keep the place in such an excellent conditon.

I was amazed that some Guiders objected to the few duties we were asked to do during the weekend. It was certainly nothing strenuous — laying or clearing a table or the odd bit of washing-up. I felt it added to the comradeship of the weekend, chatting to members of my group while working gave me a chance to get to know them

I think that if people are employed to do these extra jobs, it will not only add to the cost of the weekend but spoil the atmosphere of it being a home and put it on the level of staying in a hotel.

I am looking forward to returning to Foxlease and to my first visits to other centres.

**LINDA TAYLOR** 

Gidea Park District Commissioner Essex

#### THANK YOU

I would like to say thank you to all your readers who have very kindly sent in used postage stamps during the past year. The samp appeal section is doing really well. Thank you very much for your most loyal support.

MISS BARBARA HUNT
Hitchin
Hertfordshire

# SEARCH FOR SOUVENIRS

Can you answer 'Yes' to either of these questions: Did you take part in Guiding in Wallasey?... Are you a hoarder?

I am on the lookout for photos, cuttings, programmes, in fact anything connected with Guiding in Wallasey.

Next year we celebrate 80 years of Guiding and I would like to add to our archives.

I would be most grateful if anyone could help and donate any memorabilia. They will be well cared for.

I can be contacted at the address below or by ringing Shirley Pickstock 051 639 3303.

#### **CHRISTINE M PARKER**

52 Rolleston Drive Wallasey Wirral L45 6XT

#### **PEN PALS**

Can I use your Letters Pages to find out if there are any more Open University students among your readers, involved at any level.

If so, could they please contact me with an eye to friendship, and, possibly a club, to encourage and support us.

**DEBBIE MIKA** 

●You can contact Debbie through GUIDING.

#### **PARTY PEOPLE**

As three of the Association's present Young Leaders and Rangers, we would like to say thank you to all who were at Waddow's New Year party.

We would like to thank all those Guiders, ex-Rangers and other members who welcomed us in to such a friendly atmosphere and added to the enjoyment of our stay.

We would also like to thank the Trainers for their hard work in providing us with such a varied, exciting and cultural programme, keeping us busy all week.

Finally, thanks to the Waddow staff for their

great hospitality and excellent food.

RACHEL BRIDGES
(South West)
DAWN NEARY

(North West)

DAWN RIDDELL

Scotland)

#### **OWL AID**

I would like to suggest a national challenge for Brownies and Guides.

If we mention Brown Owls or Tawny Owls many people will relate these to the Guide Movement. Sadly, their namesakes now outnumber the real creatures.

Everywhere I go in Avon and the surrounding counties, I see barns converted into expensive homes. Owls have been evicted, poisoned by pesticides, and have difficulty finding food when their habitat is destroyed.

I suggest we challenge our members to provide nesting boxes for owls. How can we continue with our story of the Wise Owl in the wood if we do nothing to help that owl?

Even now few children have seen an owl. I have only seen them in zoos and on TV.

#### **HEATHER HUNT**

Brown Owl 2nd Winterbourne Down Brownies Bristol

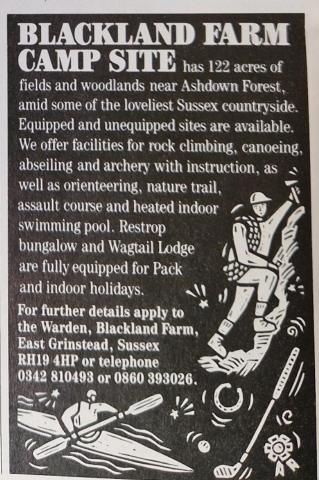
#### **JULY JOY**

Were you a Guide in the 1st Wilton Company, near Salisbury?

If you were, and would like to join us for our 75th anniversary celebration on July 5, please contact Mrs Nancy Morland on 0722-742185 for further details.

NANCY MORLAND Wilton Salisbury

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.



# TASS E EDS

#### **CAMP SITES AND ACTIVITY CENTRES**

#### DISCLAIMER REMINDER

Inclusion in this section should not be taken to mean that the Association has checked out and endorses the site or accommodation advertised. Guiders are reminded that they should obtain permission from their Camp or Pack Hollday Adviser and their District Commissioner before making a booking and should complete the appropriate forms.

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SOMERSET COUNTY CAMP SITE. Wedn Sites still available for August. Details SAE Mrs A Weeks. The Forge. Vicarage Lane. Wookey. Wells. Somerset. BA5

#### DOWNE CAMP SITE

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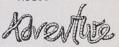
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0342,810493 or 0860,393026.

PEAK DISTRICT, 17th Century cottage accommodates T2 All mod cons. All Guiding members & their families. SAE Mrs J Taylor. 21 Whiteknowlb Road. Buxton. SK17 9NG Tel: 0298 71661.

BRITTANY SCOUT HOSTEL, "Ker Charles" 8 Boulevard L'Hôlelier, 35 Dinard, France, would welcome parties of Guides all the year round. Please ask for quotation.

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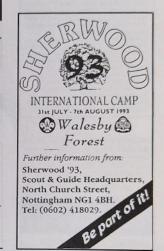
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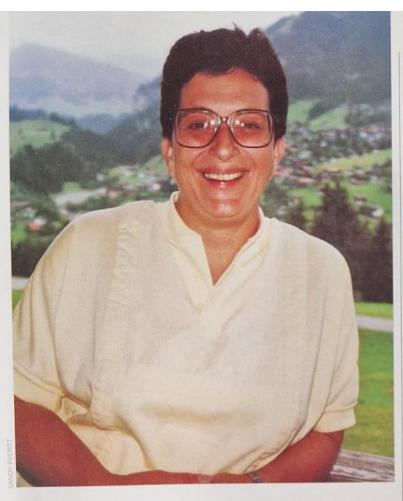
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#### MAHA SALHANI FROM THE LEBANON

Maha Salhani has never regretted giving up her job in Beirut to become Guider-in-Charge at Our Chalet.

It came about as a result of my being at Our Cabana, in 1986, when I was attending an International Commissioners' meeting, organised by WAGGGS.

Doris Stockman, the then chairman of the World Committee, mentioned that the post of Guider-in-Charge at Our Chalet would soon be vacant and wondered why an International Commissioner didn't apply.

For a joke, I said I'd apply, thinking that, with a Lebanese passport, I had no chance of a visa to enter Switzerland. Let alone work and residence permits.

When the vacancy was officially announced I didn't even bother to fill in an application, until I received the papers from Doris Stockman herself.

In the February the Chalet Committee belected me to be Guider-in-Charge. Subject to being able to get me the cessary work and residence permits.

But Beirut was at war and no mail was coming in. It was months before I new I'd got the job and had been canted the permits. I arrived at Our Chalet in December 1987.

I had been teaching English and I had to resign from my job at the last minute. On accepting a salaried appointment in Guiding I had, of course, also to relinquish my position as an International Commissioner.

It had started as a joke but, in the end, everything fell into place and I thought: "Oh well, after 14 years of war in the Lebanon, maybe I need a break."

But the first few months at Our Chalet were really hard for me. It was too calm! There was no noise. When I turned on taps, I had water. When I flicked switches or pressed buttons, there was electricity. I wasn't used to this! Every time a door slammed, I would jump.

As for the job — you need to be really versatile. To survive, you have to be a jack-of-all-trades. You name it and I do it — from the bookings to the accounts, from welfare of visitors to some carpentry, and a bit of plumbing. Anyone highly specialised in just one aspect has no chance!

What I really like about the job is

# Style

meeting people and being with people. It's a rich experience and one learns a lot from it

The Lebanon is not far from Europe and we have a European-type of education but here, in Switzerland, actually living in the Western world, you learn so much more about the way the people of the West live and behave

It's that aspect of the job that makes it really interesting and I feel that I have a friend in every country that is a member of WAGGGS.

Coming from a country ravaged by war, I believe that the more we all know about the people of other countries all over the world, the less likelihood there is of war. The more we know about others, the more we will care about them and, when it comes to political decisions, the more likely we are to avoid war.

This year we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of Our Chalet, so there will be lots of celebrations.

But for Our Chalet's "birthday present" we are going to build another chalet. Some people think it's a crazy idea, but we do need more space for conferences, seminars and other kinds of meetings. The World Centres have been asked to become training centres but, in this house, the "big room" is the only spacious room we have.

We do not want to increase the number of beds, but we would like to take Our Chalet into the 21st Century. After all, we belong to a *Movement*—so we shouldn't stay still — we should move ahead.

It's going to cost a lot of money which will take time to raise. So maybe I won't be here to see it built but I certainly hope so. 9

