

# GUIDING

DECEMBER 1992 £1.05

**STEPPING OUT  
FOR  
CHARITY**

**ACTING  
THE  
PART**

**ALL AT  
SEA**

**BRIDGING  
THE  
GULF**

**THAT  
MOORLAND  
MAGIC**

**CRUSADING  
QUEEN'S  
GUIDE**





**Guiding is . . .  
making time for your mates**







# front PAGE



On September 19, I spent the day with over 100 of our members with disabilities at the Guttman Sports Centre in Stoke Mandeville.

For them it was a weekend of challenging sporting activities, fun and friendship, with a special magic of its own. This magic was enhanced by the Disneyland themes with every girl and Guider wearing a badge of a well-known Disney character.

It was wonderful to hear the laughter from those who were trying bowling, fencing or javelin throwing for the very first time.

There were screams of delight from girls in wheelchairs zooming around the basketball court. Guiders ran up and down pushing them at a fantastic speed trying to keep up with the ball.

## COMMENT



MICHELLE SMITH

They must have been exhausted — but certainly never showed it.

There were literally smiles all around as girls tried every sport you can think

of, from badminton to swimming, weight-lifting to archery and then some more.

I joined in the weight-lifting from the bench, but my lift came a very poor second to that of a young woman who, by next year, will be up to world championship standard!

To see the bravery of those girls, some of whom were enjoying their first-ever weekend away from their homes and parents, and to realise the complete trust those parents placed in the GGA, was a very humbling experience. This was surely Guiding at its very best.

I wish you all a very happy time with your families at Christmas.

**JANE GARSIDE**  
The Chief Commissioner

## GUIDING

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KIM TONELLI AT SCAIONI'S STUDIO

## FRONT COVER

Wishing you a very merry Christmas from all at GUIDING are Rainbows Susanna Clack (left) and Yvonne Sutch of the 1st Brentford District Unit, Middlesex South West. Gift wrap and decorations courtesy of WH Smith.

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# Round UP

## CANDLE MAGIC

◀Smiling Brownies brought light to the darkness at a Christingle service held in St Mary's Church, Orton Waterville, Peterborough.

Local Cubs and Scouts joined Brownies from the 1st Orton Waterville and 1st Orton Longueville, to watch a play about the fourth Wise Man.

Over 450 people attended the service, which also raised money for the Children's Society. The two happy Brownies pictured sharing a Christingle are Hannah Amies and Kathryn Floyd.

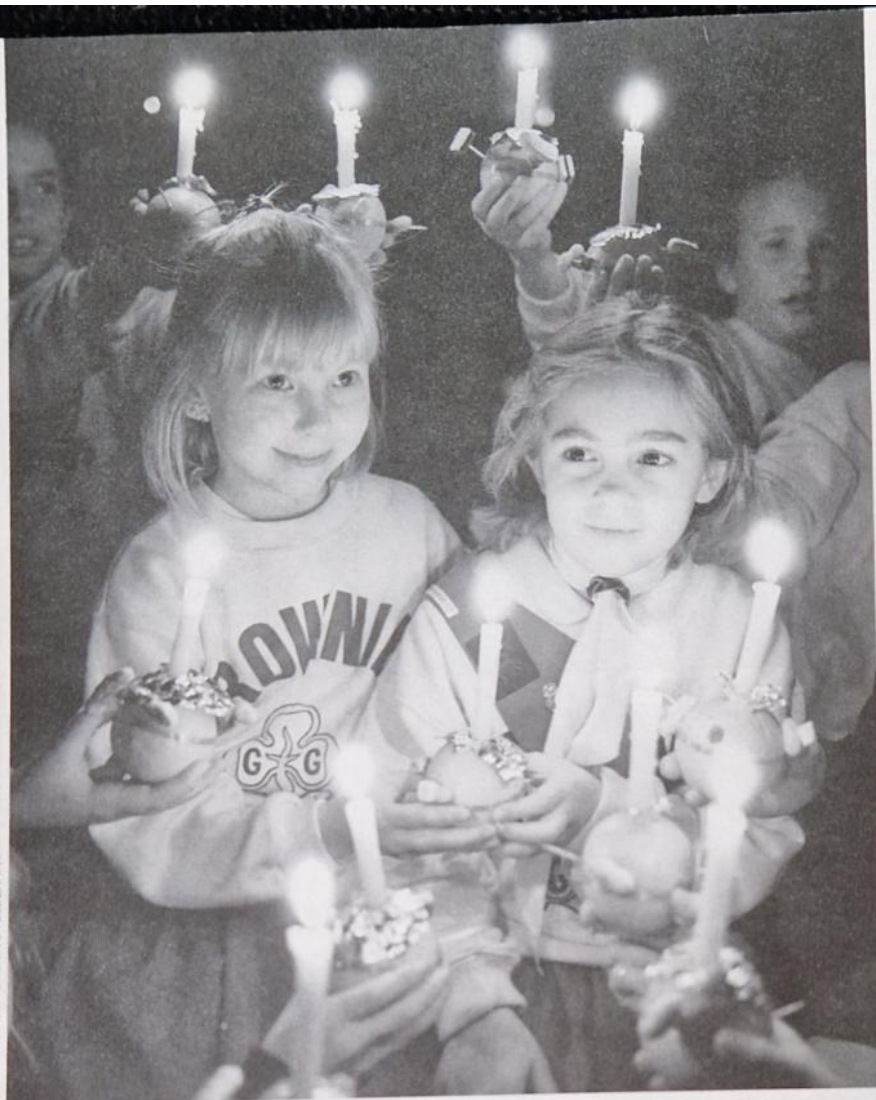
## ROYAL CHEERS

▼Princess Alexandra was given a rousing welcome by Buckinghamshire Brownies and Guides when she visited Amersham's General Hospital to open a new £6.6 million mental health unit.

Wearing an elegant red and white outfit, the Princess chatted to Brownies and Guides who had lined up outside the hospital to greet her.

In fact, the Royal visitor felt so at home that she extended her tour by 40 minutes, in order to talk to as many people as possible.

PETERBOROUGH EVENING TELEGRAPH



AVRIL PROCTOR



# Round UP

## GRAND FLUSH

► West Lothian Guides were flushed with success when they celebrated the opening of their new camp site, complete with modern toilet block.

Bill Torrance, presenter of BBC's *Beechgrove Garden*, performed a 'Grand Opening Flush' of the toilets at the new Hopetoun estate camp site.

The ceremony came after months of hard work raising money towards the new development at South Queensferry, near Edinburgh.

Fund raising events included sponsored camp fires using the ingenious slogan 'Spend a Penny for Hopetoun'.



LINE THROVSHIRE JOURNAL & GAZETTE

## TELETHON TOADSTOOL

▼ A do-it-yourself toadstool took centre-stage in Witham's town centre when Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from Newland District, Essex, took part in ITV's Telethon.

Nearly 160 girls turned up to help raise money for various charities. Passers-by were persuaded to slip their loose change into the 4ft 6ins tall toadstool made by the girls.

Brown Owl Susan Bliss, of the 1st Witham Pack, was delighted with the girls' performance, and the amount of money raised. 'It was absolutely fantastic,' she said.



THE ADVERTISER, NEWCASTLE

## POSTER POWER

▲ Crime-stoppers extraordinaire — that's the 1st Newcastle-under-Lyme Pack.

Inspired by a visit from voluntary counsellor Marie Anne Price, while the Pack was working for the Crime

Prevention badge, their Guider Caroline Brookes decided to hold a poster competition.

Pictured with Caroline (left) and Mrs Price are the proud artists, Josie Heath-Smith, Lauren Peers and Lucy Foster with their winning designs.



PICTURE BY COURTESY OF ESSEX COUNTY NEWSPAPERS LTD

## STARTING OUT

► These Rangers can't wait to get started. They're the first members of the brand-new Seamarsh Ranger Unit in Hythe, Kent.

The Unit received its registration certificate from the town's Mayor, Councillor John Pearson.

The ceremony, held at the town hall, was a special evening for Kent East Brownies and Guides as well, when the Mayoress, Mrs Lucille Pearson, presented them with recently-completed badges.



FOLKESTONE EXTRA



*Novice sailor Liz Roberts got a taste of life on the ocean wave when she took part in the Cutty Sark Tall Ships Race.*

# TALL TALES

Twelve days before the mast of a racing cutter in the Baltic doesn't sound quite like a beginner's introduction to ocean sailing, even if it is only off shore.

So what on earth was Ranger Liz Roberts from East Leake, Loughborough doing, applying to take part in the Cutty Sark Tall Ships Race from Tallinn, Estonia to Gdynia, in Poland?

That's what 21-year-old Liz was asking herself as she boarded the good ship Ramrod.

After all, her previous experience was minimal — just a couple of brief, calm water trips in a sailing dinghy.

But the 45ft Ramrod belongs to the Scouts Offshore organisation, which offers offshore sailing to young people. So Liz was in safe hands and all went swimmingly, as she relates:

“The two weeks had been highlighted in my diary for about a year. It was not until about a week before the start that it suddenly hit me.

What did I know about sailing? Not much. Yet here I was, about to go on the Cutty Sark Tall Ships Race.

Most of the crew were Venture Scouts from Leicestershire. I was the one Ranger Guide. Tony and Heather Birr from the Venture Scouts were our leaders.

After flying to Helsinki and boarding a coach, we arrived in Kotka, on the Gulf of Finland, where the Ramrod was berthed.

Harry, our skipper and Mark, our mate, decided we should first stow the stores. Every nook and cranny was used and it was obvious that we were not likely to go hungry.

The next two days were to be a cruise from Kotka to Tallinn. After a day's sailing we dropped anchor off a beautiful island to watch the sun set.

On the second day out we had heavy rain and very poor visibility. Eventually Harry decided we were to head straight for Tallinn.

There was not much wind at first but this was soon to change and the rest of the cruise became quite exciting, with winds getting up to Force 8.

That soon sorted out the land lubbers from us sailors! But everyone brightened up as we neared Tallinn.

The next day brought a sightseeing tour and, in the evening, a sampling of Tallinn's nightlife, which turned out to be none too hot.

Then came Sunday, the start of the race which would go on until the

following Wednesday. But the days all seemed to merge, with watches, three hours on, three hours off.

Ramrod's Decca — an electronic navigational aid — failed quite early on in the race. This meant we had to rely heavily on the navigation skills of Harry and Mark and our helming.

Since our helming was none too precise, this was somewhat worrying.



Plenty of chores on land too for Liz and the rest of the crew

Later a sail ripped. We put up a lighter sail but the wind was getting stronger. Then a wave hit just as Mark was about to take it down. It was all a mad rush to get the sail in, while losing the minimum amount of time.

Throughout all this never once was I scared — there just wasn't time to be, anyway.

Sometimes, during watches, we would all just sit there in silence, or watch the shooting stars. Crew morale lifted considerably when it was announced that we were then running fourth in our class.

The wind was still strong so we hoped we could improve on this. However, 15 miles from the finish line the wind died.

We drifted over the line to finish sixth in our class, with about 70 ships of all classes, taking part.

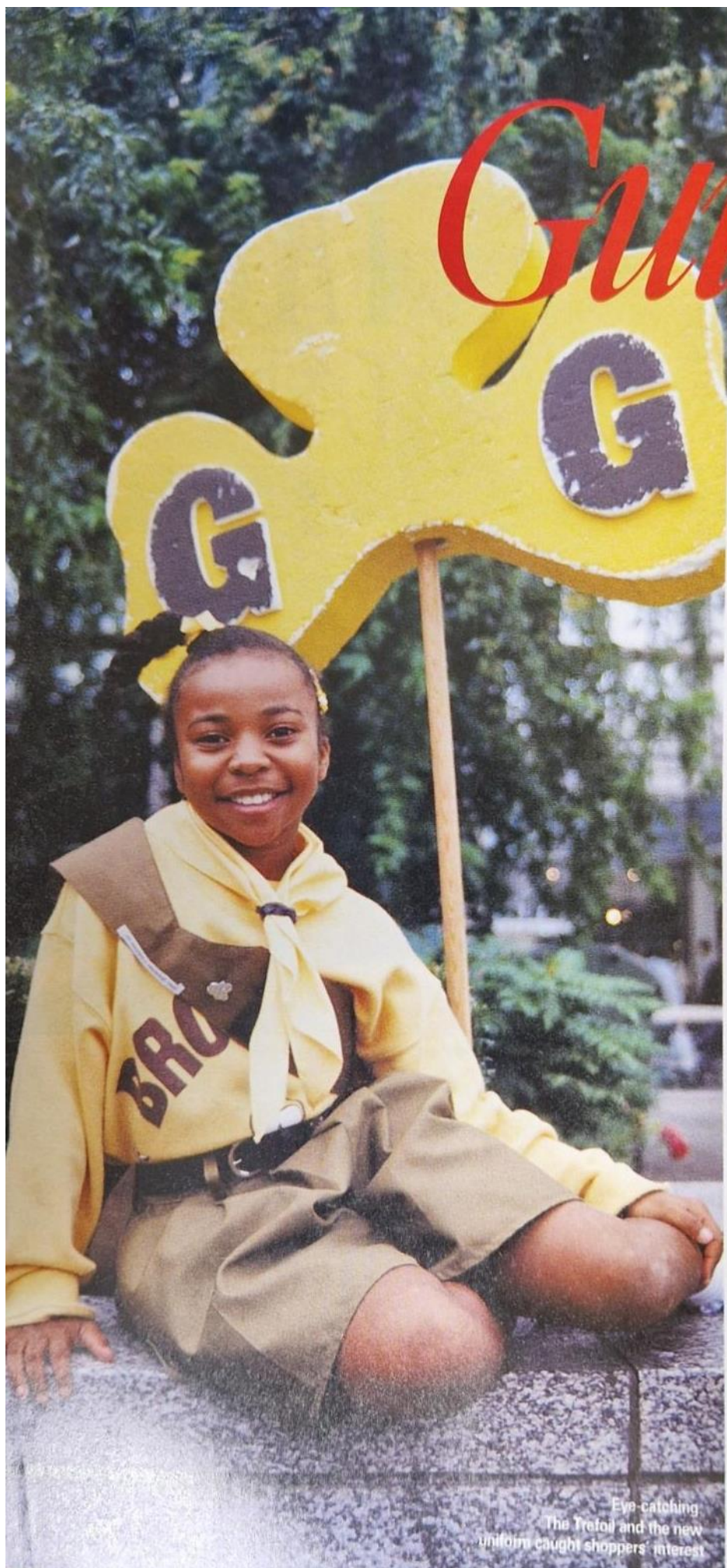
Gdynia was a welcoming sight. It took an hour to change our money in a bank but we came out feeling like millionaires — the exchange rate that day was 25,000 zloties to the pound.

Saturday meant the start of a two-day return journey. We made our way, via Berlin, to the Hook of Holland to catch the ferry and, finally, our coach home.

If anyone who had never been offshore sailing were to ask me what it was like I would tell them to imagine sleeping, eating, drinking and performing what, in normal circumstances, would be private functions, while riding for days on a rollercoaster.

But we all agreed we'd had a brilliant two weeks and the 1994 Tall Ships Race around Portugal sounds very attractive...





Eye-catching.  
The Trefoil and the new  
uniform caught shoppers' interest

# Guiding

Flickering flames, wide-eyed Guides huddled round a camp fire — the age-old magic was at work.

It made no difference that the camp was pitched on the concrete courtyard outside a chrome and glass shopping mall. And the camp fire was made out of wood with coloured crêpe paper covering a light bulb.

The girls from the Milton Keynes Division still belted out their camp fire favourites with gusto, while watched by slightly bemused shoppers.

For this was a busy Saturday in September at one of the South's most modern shopping centres. The girls were there as part of a fundraising effort to help pay for the building of a new activity centre, based on an award-winning design. So, from 8am on a foggy morning until 6pm, the Guides serenaded shoppers as part of a 24-hour sponsored sing.

Milton Keynes Guiders have been dreaming about having their own multi-purpose centre for over 12 years and now, gradually, that dream is getting closer.

*GUIDING* dropped in to check on their latest effort, register the decibel level and discover if all that non-stop singing was taking its toll. The singing had actually started the night before in a local community centre.

'We've been yearning for a place we can call our own for so long,' said Lynford Wood District Commissioner Margaret Neagle. 'We're a relatively young Division and, until we've built the centre, we have to rely on school and village halls which can be rather costly.'

'But we're an active, go-getting Division. So, once the town council gave us a plot of land in March, it was all systems go, with everyone frantically raising money.'

As part of the fundraising campaign, five bleary-eyed Guiders sang right through the night at the community centre. 'We started at 6pm last night with the help of Brownies and Guides,' explained Margaret.



# in action

'But, from 10pm onwards, there were just five of us left. I guess the younger girls do need their sleep. At least we had lots of coffee to keep us going.'

At 8am the girls from Lynford Wood District, the organisers of the event, descended on the huge Queen's Court shopping centre, complete with a tent and 'electric' camp fire to continue their round-the-clock singalong.

The Guiding songstresses provoked a few raised eyebrows among the shoppers intent on getting the weekly chore over quickly. But lots stopped to listen and praise the girls' enterprise.

As an added bonus, the singalong also attracted several women who were keen to join the Association. 'Not only are we getting shoppers to put money in the buckets, but we've also had quite a few enquiries from women anxious to be Brown Owls,' said Margaret. 'The Rainbows have been popular as well, they've recruited quite a number today,' she added.

Throughout the day girls from the other three Districts in the Division — Loughton Lodge, Walton and Woolstone-cum-Willen — turned up to give their lungs an airing and, with luck, raise a couple of thousand pounds.

We've divided the day into staggered relays of about 30 girls singing at one time. The units usually stay for about two hours,' Margaret explained. 'But, if they want to, they can stay until we

finish at six o'clock tonight.'

With the aid of two huge speakers strategically positioned for maximum volume and effect, the Rainbows took centre stage, mid-way through the afternoon, to sing the only song they knew, *A little cottage in the woods*.

Later, Brownies and Guides from the 1st Bradwell Common units let rip with favourite camp fire numbers, while the Rainbows soothed their throats with colas and nibbled biscuits.

Sharing a rubber mat with Brownie friends, Rebecca McCoy and Jennifer Knight, was nine-year-old Janelle Gajadhar, who had been singing for most of the morning. 'It's a lot of fun doing this. I love singing and it's even better when you can sing with friends,' she said.

One Guide determined to sing all day long was Tasha Langham. This dedicated 11-year-old started singing at 9am and, along with the rest of her Company, was determined to stay until the end.

'All I'm worried about is getting a sore throat,' she explained. 'I wouldn't really mind if I did get one, at least it's for a good cause. We're all excited about having our own activity centre. It's such a brilliant idea.'

As the girls belted out the *Yogi Bear Song*, Eileen Ager, a driving force behind the campaign, explained that their centre's design had won a Queen's 40th Anniversary Community Trust Award.

'We submitted the blueprint to the



LUCY DREW

judging panel, pointing out to them that the whole community could benefit from the centre's construction. Because, apart from being our meeting place, we'd also encourage groups like nurseries to use it as well,' she said.

'We're so excited about it, the award has given us extra clout for our fundraising campaign. People find it quite impressive. It's really boosted our confidence.'

There was a special treat in store for Eileen — a trip to London's Royal Festival Hall to accept the award.

'I'm so excited to be going to this special ceremony. It means so much to the Division after all our hard work,' she said.

With about £400,000 needed to build the centre, Margaret Neagle was optimistic they would reach the target.

'We hope to have the centre open by 1995,' she said. 'And I'm sure with the girls' enthusiasm we'll raise the money to do it.'

As the hours ticked slowly away to the 6pm deadline, and the welcome prospect of time to rest the tonsils and a chance to catch up on some beauty sleep, everyone agreed that it was being totally committed to Guiding that had kept them going.

'You have to be mad to do this,' said a tired but happy Margaret. 'I mean, I wouldn't do this for anything else but our centre and Guiding.'

MARIA COOLE 9



Action-packed. The girls get into the swing



# GUIDING **IN THE** GULF

Helen acts as badge tester during a visit to the Jebel Ali Brownies in Dubai



*Jaywalking camels,  
unreliable maps and  
strict dress codes  
are just some of the  
difficulties faced by  
UK Guides in the Gulf.*

Bring on the clowns —  
Brownie Revels in Oman



The distinctive minarets and  
dome of a Dubai mosque





Guiders, especially those with British units abroad, are noted for their adaptability, ingenuity and inventiveness in coping with those inevitable 'local difficulties'.

But, as BGIFC Commissioner Helen Barker discovered for herself, those in the Muslim oil sheikhdoms must also exercise a high level of thoughtful diplomacy and tact at all times.

In her first major tour Helen visited units scattered throughout the Gulf and, as she reports here, found them all thriving, in spite of the many constraints:

•It was rather a shock to be told in Abu Dhabi that one of the hazards of driving — particularly at night — was the risk of collisions with jaywalking camels!

However, as "Mum" to British Guides living abroad, it was great to have the chance to visit some of those currently in the Gulf.

It was my opportunity to get to know them better, tell them of recent developments in Guiding and to learn, at first hand, of some of their difficulties.

With camping, for example, it is necessary to be very discreet, everywhere in the Gulf, or risk giving offence.

A site must be chosen with great care. In Oman it is usually on a beach in some secluded area, or by a wadi. If the site is by one of these dried-up river beds then there could be the danger of a sudden flash flood!

The Brownies in Oman are well set up — they use the old European Mission in the middle of ancient Muscat as a base for their Pack Holidays.

In Dubai the Guides go to a secluded "farm" to camp, while the Brownies use a "house" for Pack Holidays.

The Guides at Doha, the capital of Qatar, are lucky. They can camp in the sailing club grounds, tucked safely out of sight.

Camping by women or girls alone is not allowed in Bahrain on any land to which the public has access. But here the Guides are able to camp discreetly within the confines of the British-American School and Club.

There are, however, other constraints on outdoor activities by Guides in the Gulf states, not necessarily anything to do with religious or social customs.

The police generally don't like fires being lit and, in any case, wood is hard to come by. But enterprising Guides get by with low-profile charcoal fires.

In some parts, walking, abseiling, swimming and even cook-outs are possible, although in Oman, for instance, a number of other sports like canoeing and rowing are all out for various reasons. Even orienteering can be very

difficult, simply because the local maps are so unreliable.

Clothing is another area in which all ex-patriate women and girls — including Guides, of course — must be discreet at all times.

No Guider would allow a girl to be outdoors if dressed in a way that might cause offence to the local community. As BGIFC girls get older, it becomes important in states like Oman that culottes, skirts and shorts are at least knee-length, and that shoulders are covered.

On the other hand, bathing costumes in hotel pools and even on public beaches cause no problems.

Finding opportunities for service in the Guiding sense, anywhere in the Gulf, can be very difficult. There it is hard for children even to do chores at home because often their families have resident maids.

In Dubai the DC has found a solution. She has arranged for girls to go to one of the big hotels, where the housekeeper arranges for them to help and learn from the staff.

They are shown by the professionals how to make beds properly, polish cutlery and cope with laundry. Then they are tested by other staff in the hotel.

There is no difficulty where the charitable aspect of service is concerned, however. Guides and Brownies are able to fund raise for charities and do things like collecting toys for hospitals and disabled children.

In Qatar, Guides are able to visit a unit for children with disabilities at the hospital on a regular basis.

Programmes being followed in the Gulf do not, on the whole, have to be altered very much, although with Interest Badges some clauses can be tricky.

A visit to a police station or a museum might not be practicable but the Guider can often arrange something comparable. Sometimes the girl can complete the section while on leave, or at a BGIFC event.

Ramadan, which lasts for about a month, affects everyone in the Gulf, even non-Muslims to some extent.

Everything slows down, including public services like the post, because all Muslims work shorter hours — in Oman, only six hours a day — during Ramadan to enable them to fast, with neither food nor drink, from sunrise to sunset.

Like BGIFC units all over the world, the Gulf units tend to be multi-racial, with some Muslim members.

So some of the Guides and older Brownies may fast and many do not attend meetings during Ramadan, as they probably have the large meal of the day at the end of each day's fast, or

they leave meetings early. Sometimes, however, because there is not much else going on, attendance actually improves!

Meetings are mostly indoors during Ramadan so that, if someone needs a drink — necessary to prevent dehydration, due to the heat — it can be taken in private.

The Gulf, while predominantly Muslim, has different branches of Islam in certain areas and in places like Bahrain, two or more which co-exist.

Most members of British units in the Gulf are, of course, Christians but each usually has one or two Muslims and perhaps some Hindus. This helps to foster tolerance and understanding of other beliefs and customs. Whenever appropriate, Guides encourage this with discussion, singing and games. In some parts, like Oman, there are even inter-faith services.

All BGIFC units in the region were affected to some extent by the Gulf War and Guides told me of the terrific tension that existed everywhere.

Worst hit were those in Bahrain, where many families were evacuated as a precaution. Gas masks had to be at hand and it was very difficult to hold meetings because of the danger of sudden air strikes. One of the two Guide units closed down.

Girls were kept in touch by *Owl Press*, a special Gulf War Guiding newsletter.

In Abu Dhabi I visited all three Brownie Packs and attended a Guide meeting. While in Bahrain I attended a Brownie "gather", held in a school, where all Brownie Packs were together for games and activities.

There was a lovely setting for a Brownie Revels in Oman. The event was held in the grounds of the Inter-continental Hotel, where the manager was a Brownie's father!

In Qatar I attended Guide and Brownie meetings at a new headquarters, where plans were in hand for Thinking Day and a camp fire. I spent Thinking Day in Dubai, where I watched girls making cut-out shapes to resemble snow flakes!

My Gulf tour was a valuable and rewarding experience. It enabled me to see for myself what varied and exciting activities British children out there are able to enjoy.

It also showed me how well they will be able to "slot" into British Guiding wherever they may go in the future.

The enthusiasm and inventiveness of the Guiders is wonderful and it was so reassuring to be able to return to the UK knowing that both they and the girls are enjoying their Guiding in the Gulf immensely.

HELEN BARKER



Will closer ties with Europe provide more employment opportunities for women or simply add another 'glass ceiling' cutting them off from top posts? *GUIDING* looks at women's chances in the European market-place.



# MARKET P

The need for better employment opportunities for women has at last been accepted by both the public and private sector. But will the dawning of the Single European Market (SEM) make achieving that worthy aim easier or harder?

Whatever the outcome of the moves towards further economic and monetary union, the impact of the Single European Market is bound to be felt throughout the 1990s.

To attempt to calculate its effect on women, the Equal Opportunities Commission has tried through computer projections — the modern version of the crystal ball — to look at the likely implications on industries that currently employ a lot of women workers.

It has led to a report — *Women's Employment: Britain in the Single European Market*, edited by Robert Lindley and published at £27.50 by

HMSO — that has been hailed as the 'first important step in assessing the impact of the SEM upon women's employment'.

The report comes at a time when already Britain has a higher proportion of women in employment than any other European country except Denmark, with women making up 45 per cent of the labour force and 25 per cent of self-employed workers.

It starts by looking at the present position in the UK and concluding that the demand for women's labour is higher than ever before, with the number of women in employment growing by just under 20 per cent in the last decade. Perhaps, not surprisingly, most of the growth has taken place in the South East.

However, a debate in the House of Lords earlier this year on the increasing economic, social and cultural oppor-

tunities for women established that the same percentage of women worked outside the home in 1982 — the start of that decade — as in 1882.

A third of all women in paid employment have dependent children, which influences the choices they make about what they can do and where they can work.

The House of Lords debate highlighted another important factor that affects women workers — the need to care for elderly parents. Although, in theory, this is a problem for sons as well as daughters — and daughters-in-law — in practice it is usually the women who have to fit their working lives around caring for old and often infirm and demanding relatives.

This situation can only get worse over the next 20-30 years with an increasingly ageing population and the emphasis being placed firmly on



community not local authority care. Therefore lobbying for better child care provisions to help women workers should also include demands for day centre places for the elderly and support system for carers.

The Government has already accepted that, because of the downturn in the number of young people coming on to the jobs market due to the drop in birth rate, women returning to work will be the largest pool of labour available to take advantage of any increase in job opportunities brought about by the SEM.

A report by a Government Advisory Committee, the Women's National Commission, last year declared that 'Women returners make good workers. During the break from employment, they have had the opportunity to identify their interests and abilities more clearly than many school or college leavers.'

'Running a home and family develops their organisational and management skills, and enables women returners to make good use of training and to cope well with the demands and stresses of the work place.'

The Commission believes that women who have raised a family successfully have an inner confidence and a sense of personal worth which are valuable resources to any employer.

promotional ladder or are offered a different, less stimulating job.

Because of the double load of responsibility carried by many women workers — to their families and their employers — they tend to look for jobs near their home. And, often, depend on a good public transport system to make their juggling act possible.

Thus the opening up of the SEM may mean more opportunities for male rather than female workers. Traditionally it has been men who have gone overseas as migrant workers and women who have stayed at home keeping the family together. At the other end of the scale it generally has been highly-trained, professional men who have been tempted by big salaries to work abroad.

However, the continual improvements in IT (information technology) should help women to exploit the benefits of the SEM. Rather than having to travel to work, the work could come to them. More and more firms using information and communication technology are expected to quit the big cities, setting up in smaller towns. This process will provide women with opportunities to obtain skilled work locally, or even in their own homes.

Lindley's report does sound a cautionary note. It points out that during the 1970s and 1980s it was the manufacturing industries — large-

unlikely to change this arrangement.

Indeed the coming of the SEM may add yet another 'glass ceiling' to hold back women's march on the board room. If multi-nationals are going to expect their high-fliers to move anywhere within the European Community, it will make it harder for women, because of their perceived greater domestic ties, to move into the top tier in a company.

Of course, if the SEM does make it easier for women to return to paid employment, whether full or part-time, this will have a knock-on effect for voluntary organisations like the GGA.

Last year the Women's National Commission recognised the problem, pointing out: 'The increasing number of women returning to work has serious implications for the voluntary sector, which is losing its traditional pool of volunteers, and believes that the impact of this should be assessed and appropriate remedial action taken.'

It seems that, no matter what economic engineering takes place, women will not be able to take full advantage of it until society is willing to provide them with the domestic back-up necessary to compete on equal terms with men. And that's one barrier that the SEM won't be overturning.

LOIS LOUDEN AND  
NORA WARNER

# FORCES

Yet, although more and more women are seeking paid employment, the jobs they do tend to be concentrated in areas of employment that are traditionally turned down by male workers or are at a lower grade than that of male workers. Women, too, fill by far the majority of part-time posts.

For instance, women make up 75 per cent of the staff employed by the National Health Service, which is Europe's largest employer. Yet the top jobs in the NHS — as in nearly every other big organisation — are held almost exclusively by men.

It is true that some women actively seek part-time or low-responsibility work, preferring to give first priority to their domestic commitments.

However, others who have taken a career break because of family responsibilities find they can only return to the work place at a lower rung on the

scale employers of manpower — where swingeing jobs cuts were made. In the recession-hit 1990s, it is the service sector with its high concentration of women workers which has been and continues to be badly hit.

Any new jobs created in the short term are likely to be part-time. And, although this will benefit women in one sense, as they are the people most likely to fill those vacancies, it is predicted that the work available will require little skill and be low paid.

Women will continue to be driven/drawn to part-time working until shared child-care becomes universally accepted and the gap between pay levels for men and women shrinks dramatically.

At present, women's earnings are generally substantially lower than men's. So it makes economic sense that if one parent has to stay home, it's generally mum. And the advent of the SEM is

## WHAT IS THE SEM?

When the Single European Market (SEM) comes into effect at midnight on December 31, the individual markets of existing European Community (EC) countries, including the UK, will be replaced by one single market of around 350m people. The SEM governs the production and movement of goods within the Community.

In theory this means that:

- Common standards will be adopted in all markets throughout the EC. For example, if a medical drug is approved in Belgium it can be sold in all EC countries without approval from the individual countries. However, in many areas no minimum standards will have been agreed by December 31.
- Goods and services produced in any EC country can be traded anywhere throughout the EC without facing customs barriers. For example, a French citizen will be able to take out a mortgage with a British building society.
- Educational, professional and technical qualifications gained in one EC country will be recognised throughout the Community.



Saving our precious forests is just one of the causes Queen's Guide Bernadette Vallely is battling for as head of a leading environmental pressure group.

'I tell everyone I'm a Queen's Guide — I think it's something to be really proud of', declared 30-year-old Bernadette.

A passionate supporter of the Movement, Bernadette tells all her friends how Guiding gave her a love of nature which has stayed with her all her life — and which inspired her to set up The Women's Environmental Network (WEN).

WEN is based at Aberdeen Studios in trendy Highbury Grove, North London. It's a pressure group, aimed particularly at women, although Bernadette insists men are not excluded.

'It's a non-profit-making organisation set up to inform, educate and empower women who care about the environment,' she explained.

Everyone working in the office is conservation conscious. There are no paper cups by the coffee machine — anything disposable is frowned upon — and the women will only use milk from glass bottles because these can be recycled.

Bernadette bobs around the office dressed in comfy leggings, black pumps and socks with dots on. She is bubbly, bright and nearly bursting with her enthusiasm for the cause.

'Did you know you can re-use milk bottles 33 times before smashing them up and making them into another milk bottle?', she demanded.

The packaging industry is worth £6 billion a year in this country — and packaging is something we throw away when we get home.

Her enthusiasm has paid off — for the network's first major campaign was a resounding success. It was WEN who persuaded manufacturers to stop putting chlorine-bleached pulp in disposable nappies, sanitary towels and tampons.

Chlorine can produce dangerous chemicals called dioxins, which are absorbed into the soil and can, eventually, end up in our food.

'We were in every newspaper with the story when we got the chlorine out of disposable nappies and sanitary towels,' Bernadette said. 'They were using chlorine to make the pulp white.'

Bernadette grew up in urban South-East London. It wasn't until she joined the Movement that she discovered the delights the countryside has to offer.

The experience made her appreciate nature as something precious, which must be preserved at all costs.

'I grew up in the city where you don't get the opportunity to see the country-

# WOMAN WITH A CAUSE

side,' she said. 'So every weekend possible, especially in the summer, I went camping with the Guides.'

Bernadette enjoyed idyllic summer days camping out in the woods. They made you go and sit in the woods for an afternoon with just a pencil and paper,' Bernadette recalled. 'You had to write down everything you heard, and everything you saw.'

'For the first time in my life, I had to just sit. I started really looking and I was noticing things you might not normally see — and it was a really amazing feeling. So I had a bit of an "enlightening" I think — in the Bluebell Woods!'

'Some time later, they tried to cut down the woods to put a motorway through, and there was a big campaign to stop it. I got really mad about it — I thought: "How dare they? That's the place where I had terrific experiences!"'

'I knew those woods so well. In the Guides we used to go hiking through these woods at night without a light. So I felt kind of attached to them.'

For most of her life Bernadette has been a committed campaigner. She organised her first protest at 11, when the headteacher at school banned pupils from using a patch of land near the playground.

An outraged Bernadette organised a sit-down strike — and won her battle. Not many 11-year-olds would have the nerve, but when Bernadette feels passionately about an issue, she pulls out all the stops.

'Maybe it was unusual but it just felt right,' she said. 'When it comes from your gut, your instinct and passion within, you just do it anyway, without worrying.'

At school, Bernadette admits she felt a bit of a misfit. 'In my spare time I was working at a home for disabled children and I was working in a shop in the evenings, things like that. And they thought this was all a bit bizarre,' she said.

'I suppose I was a cocky teenager, I was passionately flying out in different directions and not using my energy wisely.'

After school, Bernadette worked in a Scottish local authority housing department — which took her into some of Glasgow's worst slum areas.

'That was a real eye-opener,' Bernadette said. 'These people were really poverty-stricken. A lot of people I met couldn't get a job because they couldn't even write their names. There were some really good people living there, struggling to make it into a good community.'

Bernadette met her husband when she worked for the environment group Friends of the Earth, and when we met they were expecting their first baby.

From anti-apartheid to the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Bernadette supports lots of causes. She even camped out on Greenham Common to protest about American nuclear missiles at the base.

'I didn't stay at Greenham Common permanently because I was working.'



Bernadette said. 'So I would go every weekend, sometimes a bit longer.'

'I met lots of crazy, weird women. You know, one minute you'd meet a nun and the next you'd meet a crazy — but it didn't matter. Most of us were just ordinary people who were angry about nuclear missiles.'

'Once, a policeman tried to arrest me for lighting a candle — he said it was a fire hazard. I thought that was the stupidest thing in the world!'

After a spell working for the anti-apartheid campaign, Bernadette launched herself into a new venture — setting up a network which would challenge attitudes and fight to preserve our environment.

Setting up the campaign hasn't been easy. 'I think I was quite naïve,' Bernadette said. 'Well, I didn't foresee the problems that came along — which was good, because I might not have done it otherwise.'

'I think that, sometimes, you should just jump in. If you are doing the right thing, it just happens and everything falls into place.'

'I simply phoned up my friends and said I was going to do this and asked them to support me. I got a bit of money together. I sold my flat in North London and, with the proceeds of the sale, I paid six months rent on this office.'

The hard work has paid off — now WEN has more than 2,000 male and female members and campaigns for many environmental causes including:

- saving rain forests
- recycling products wherever possible
- providing cleaner and healthier transport systems.

Sometimes the going gets tough — WEN campaigners are often fighting powerful, multi-national corporations.

'I don't get discouraged,' Bernadette said. 'But I have been tired and I have had times when there have been major corporations and people fighting us and I've thought: "Oh God, we're going to lose". But, if something goes wrong, other people in the group pull you up.'

Bernadette hates to lose a battle — luckily it doesn't happen very often. Maybe the secret of her success is that she is never afraid to rock the boat. 'I have realised that you are boring if you just do everything that everyone else is doing,' she said.

'First of all you are boring and, secondly, you will never change anything just by doing what everyone else does.'

NICOLA WHATMORE

● You can contact WEN at Aberdeen Studios, 22 Highbury Grove, London N5 2EA. Tel 071-354 8823.

DAVID LEVENSON



A Queen's Guide and proud of it — Bernadette Vallety



# Network

## NATURAL LOOKS

► W H Smith is going for the natural look in a big way this Christmas. They've got a range of handcrafted notebooks made from, believe it or not, rag and tea leaves, banana or algae. Made in India the books range in size and are priced from £2.99 to £4.99.

Continuing the theme there are Twigzils — pencils made from twigs — at £1.50 and Paper pens (made from recycled paper) at 95p.

Polished, painted and even scent-impregnated wood is used for everything from fridge magnets to Christmas decorations.

The environment-conscious will applaud the Orchard range of recycled gift stationery. Featuring ripe fruit, the design doesn't follow a repeat pattern — so every product is unique. The theme is continued into other gift notions such as scented drawer liners and wooden fruit.

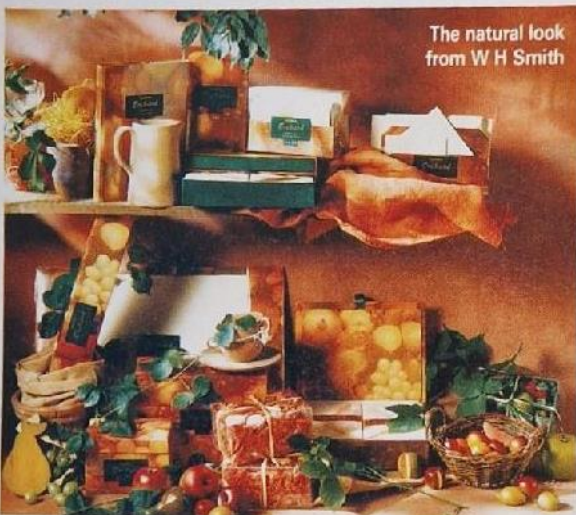
## FREE FUN

▼ The newest attraction in the North West is Pleasure Island, an exciting fun centre, offering a thrilling time for all the family.

Enter our competition and you could win a year's family membership giving you and your family unlimited free entry to the centre for one year.



The natural look from W H Smith



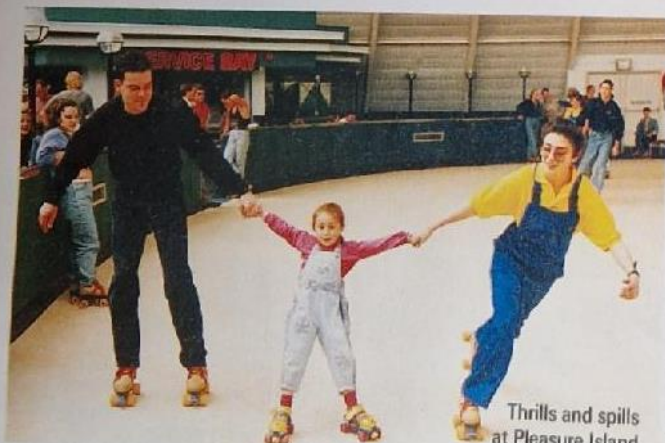
## GREAT GIFTS

▼ We've a super Christmas present for 20 lucky readers. With so much to do at Christmas, it's hard to find time for yourself. But, once the festivities are over, why not take some time out and pamper yourself with a stunning make-up set from Rimmel?

The sets are worth £4.83 each and include a pretty pearl eye shadow duo, creamy eye liner and shimmering pink lipstick.

We have Rimmel make-up sets to give away to the 20 readers whose names are first out of the draw.

Send a postcard with your name and address to: Rimmel Beauty offer, *GUIDING*, the Girl Guides Association, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT. The closing date for entries is January 4, 1993.



Thrills and spills at Pleasure Island

Pleasure Island is on the site of the former Liverpool International Garden Festival, which was opened by the Queen in 1984.

The centre features the world's largest indoor adventure play structure, for adults as well as children; the biggest

disco roller rink in the North West and a science centre called Great Explorations.

Outdoors there are nature trails, two family adventure golf courses and the beautiful Gardens of the World. A *Blue Peter* Ship and Yellow Submarine, built for the garden

festival, have been retained at the island.

We have 20 free family memberships to give away to the winners of our easy-to-enter competition. All you have to do is answer these three questions:

- 1 In which year did Liverpool's International Garden Festival first open?
- 2 Who performed the official opening of the IGF?
- 3 What famous Beatles attraction — built by apprentices at Cammell Lairds shipyard — has been retained in the gardens at Pleasure Island?

Send your answers on a postcard with your name and address to: Pleasure Island Competition, *GUIDING*, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT. The closing date for entries is January 4, 1993.



# Network

## MONEY MAKER

► Here's a fun way to raise funds. These bags, sweatshirts, T-shirts, tea towels and aprons can be printed with designs made by your unit.

It's a novel idea called The Fundraiser, thought up by printing firm Interprint. Everyone contributes a drawing, cartoon or even handprint, which is printed along with the name of your unit on goods for you to sell.

For a catalogue and prices write to: Interprint, Craven Arms, Shropshire SY7 8DU. Tel: 0588 673444.

Raise money the Interprint way



starring Marlon Brando. Just show your Young Persons Railcard at any participating MGM, Cannon or Odeon cinema.

Full-time students and anyone between 16 and 23 can buy a Young Persons Railcard for £16 entitling them to a third off most rail fares. The cards are valid for one year and can be used anywhere in Britain.

The offer also applies to existing Railcard holders who renew their cards before Christmas Day.

For more information ask at a British Rail station or rail appointed travel agent.

## HOME HELP

▼ The Home Farm Trust (HFT), a charity for people who suffer from learning disabilities (mental handicap), needs your help to continue its good work.

The Trust cares for about 450 people in 66 houses around the country. Residents are encouraged to be independent and develop new skills such as cookery, gardening and craft work. Many also take college courses.

If you can't spare any cash,



and excitement make it difficult for the pet to settle. And, once the festivities are over, the new owners may find their pet too demanding and expensive to feed.

The People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA), provides a useful leaflet called *Paws for thought this Christmas*, which urges people not to give pets as presents.

For a free copy send a large sae to: The PR Department (PFT), PDSA Head Office, Whitechapel Way, Priorslee, Telford, Shropshire TF2 9PQ.

## POWER PEOPLE

▲ Is nuclear energy harmful to our environment or a valuable source of electricity vital to our future existence?

Nuclear Electric wants to open discussion on these important issues and employs a team of more than 100 trained speakers to give talks to groups and societies.

Have you considered inviting a speaker to your next meeting? Nuclear Electric's speakers are happy to discuss issues such as changing energy needs, radiation risks and how nuclear power stations affect the environment.

Units are also welcome to visit one of the 12 nuclear power stations owned by Nuclear Electric.

For more details of the Let's Talk service or on arranging a visit to a Nuclear Electric power station or site, ring the company's special hotline: 0452 654028. Or write to: Let's Talk, Freepost (GR2 181), The Creative Centre, 1 Huclecote Road, Bamwood, Gloucester GL3 3BR.

## SUFFRAGETTE CITY

● In October, when we described the exciting exhibition which re-examines the role of the Suffragette Movement now on at the Museum of London, we gave the Fax number instead of the phone number. Our apologies to callers who couldn't get through. The exhibition runs until June next year. The museum at London Wall, London EC2Y 5HN, opens from Tuesday to Saturday from 10am to 6pm, and on Sunday from noon to 6pm. Tel: 071-600 3699.

## PET TALK

● Thinking of giving a pet to someone this Christmas? Then think again!

Every year, just after Christmas, animal welfare organisations and the police have to deal with thousands of abandoned or unwanted pets. Often, if suitable homes cannot be found, they are killed.

Christmas is a bad time to introduce any animal into the home. Visitors, extra noise



Christine's life was transformed by the Home Farm Trust

## TRAVELLERS TALES

● Buy a Young Persons Railcard before Christmas, and you can get two tickets for the price of one at any of seven selected films including the Steve Martin comedy *Housesitter* and *Christopher Columbus — The Discovery*,

the HFT always wants volunteers willing to help out. People with a skill they could pass on are particularly needed.

For more information contact: The Home Farm Trust, Merchants House, Wapping Road, Bristol BS1 4RW. Tel: 0272 273746.



# A DOG'S LIFE

Lottie bounced up to the stage, as energetic and ready for fun as any three-year-old. A real charmer. Yet the audience's appreciative smiles soon faded, as they spotted the tell-tale signs that Lottie had been subjected to systematic, sadistic cruelty.

Cigarette burns on her legs, wounds on her chin and face, a scar on top of her head where her right ear was torn off and a large scar on her left side. Grim reminders of man's inhumanity to his best friend.

For Lottie is a rottweiler. A 'devil dog', one of the breed that tends to hit the headlines for attacking children. Lottie was just a baby herself when she was used as muzzled bait for dog fighting. That's how she lost her ears. Not primitive scrapping between enemies, you understand. But fights organised by men for money.

Her life was transformed when she was saved by the Rottweiler Welfare Association. Kindness and love replaced cruelty and neglect until, gradually, Lottie learned to like men rather than fear them.

Today she is the RWA's mascot and works as an aptly-named PAT (Pets As Therapy) dog regularly visiting a residential home for the elderly, where she is a great favourite with the residents.

Lottie's collected lots of money for charities, including Children in Need, and starred in Cruft's Personality Parade. I saw her at the Bounce Superdogs Awards presentation, where Lottie was presented with a medal in recognition of her courage and bravery.

Her owner, Mrs Lyn Silver of Wadhurst, East Sussex, explained that these days Lottie loves everyone. 'I still marvel at the fact she can be so forgiving,' she said.

18 Michael Jenkins from Pedigree Pet

Foods — makers of Bounce — pointed out that Lottie's story proved how cruel mankind can be to dogs, adding 'It gives me a very warm feeling to see how forgiving dogs can be.'

But it wasn't just Lottie's tale that was worth telling. Five other dogs' achievements were honoured, demonstrating for any disbeliever the wonderful bond that can exist between an owner and his or her dog.

There was Badger who stayed with his 83-year-old master for three days after he'd collapsed while walking in woods near his home. Now fully-recovered, Bill Chartres proudly showed



Badger the medal he'd accepted from animal-lover and TV star Liza Goddard as soon as they'd got back to their table. And no one watching would have dared question whether Badger knew what his master was saying. The bond between them was almost visible.

Or how about Mopps, who acts as 'nurse' to his diabetic master, Paul Finch? If Paul's condition deteriorates and he lapses into a coma, it is Mopps who gets help.

Nothing would part former PC Colin Perks from Rebel, the German Shepherd that pounded many pavements with him in his days on the beat in Cheshire. For it was Rebel who saved him from drowning in a flooded river, while the pair were chasing two young criminals.

The tough ex-cop admits he wouldn't be collecting his pension today but for

Rebel's loyalty. 'We've always been the best of mates and the best of friends,' he explained.

Two other families were there to tell how much they owe to their pets. Sheba, a border collie, chased off two youths who tried to rob her mistress at gun-point, while Butch, a cross bred collie, saved the lives of his young master and his master's pal, when fire broke out in the bedroom they were sharing. Butch's bravery nearly cost him his life — firemen had to revive him with oxygen.

Wonderful dogs all of them. And it isn't just the British who have reason to be grateful to their pets.

● In Sweden an alsatian rescued a child perched perilously on a window ledge 90ft above the street.

● In France three dogs kept their owner from dying of cold, after he'd collapsed with a heart attack.

● In Alaska a labrador died fighting off a bear to allow his master to escape.

Just some of the ways dogs have demonstrated their love and devotion. Those of us who have been lucky enough to share our lives and our homes with a dog know how rewarding their companionship can be.

Yet far too often dogs are damned for their 'nuisance value', portrayed simply as noisy, dangerous disease-spreaders. However, if you check out the facts, most of the time it isn't the animals at fault. It's up to a dog's owner to train him, clean up after him, keep him under control at all times, and, where appropriate, arrange to have him neutered.

Organisations like the National Canine Defence League and the RSPCA are, sadly, swamped with statistics on man's lack of humanity towards the one animal that offers unstinted devotion. Isn't it about time we all spoke up in praise of our pets?

NORA WARNER





The Canaries (of the yellow woggles, Action Plus, and various other things) have really enjoyed meeting all sorts of people recently with their crime prevention and first aid lessons.

They organised their own first aid lessons when they found that one of the Guide mothers (that is someone else's, not one of their own) is a Red Cross member.

Against their charm, or pleading, she obviously didn't stand a chance. However, they now want to do the Career Badge Pilot — having found the syllabus in their Patrol corner. I wonder who accidentally left it there?

That's fine by us because when one Patrol has a non-Guiding visitor, which they will surely need to have for this badge, it means that everyone has to be on their best behaviour.

We've had several weeks of that already — it's great!

With split-second timing, which would do credit to any Olympics organiser, we arranged Test Night for everyone to do the Crime Prevention badge.

We had four testers, and an action plan right down to sets of posters and quizzes to keep the Guides quietly occupied while waiting their turn, and doilies for the plates of chocolate biscuits for the testers' coffee breaks.

The best-laid plans of mice and Guiders can go wrong. On Test Night

One I had a call from the policeman tester. He'd had a last-minute change of shift but promised to come the following week.

As it happened, it was not a problem for the testing rota, because all the older Guides were missing — without notice — because of something on at school.

We set the next week to be Test Night Two and told everyone to spread the message around to the upper school Guides. It was the neighbourhood watch parent who phoned that evening to say she and her daughter — and all of the others at middle school — would be missing the following week. No-one else had thought to mention it.

I delayed the other testers until Test Week Three but 'forgot' to send a message to the upper school.

They weren't pleased when they

turned up the following week, full of crime prevention revision, to find that Test Night Two was cancelled. I know it wasn't fair to them really but, perhaps, they'll learn a lesson from that one!

As compensation, Assistant and I had a constructive meeting planned instead. It was mainly this group who wanted to do some Christmas crafts, and our programme was running two weeks late at that point. The Canaries offered to run a craft evening next month for everyone to have a go. They gave the others two choices — choose their own craft to teach or have one chosen for them!

It is a pleasure to record that Test Night Three went well. Everyone passed, Suzanne was thrilled with her first-ever badge, and Assistant and I managed to commandeer the left-over chocolate biscuits, which the testers had been too busy to eat.

# D·I·A·R·Y

## OF A

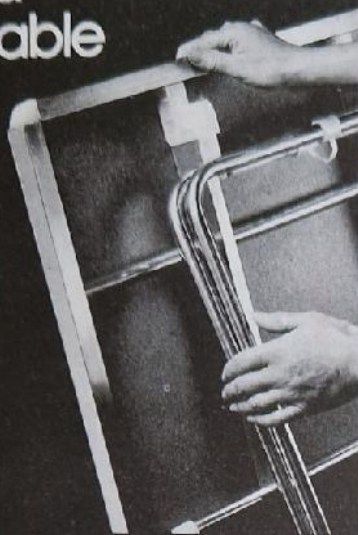
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For further details apply to the Warden, Blackland Farm, East Grinstead, Sussex RH19 4HP or telephone 0342 810493 or 0860 393026.



## MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Girl Guides Trading Service would like to wish all its customers and members of the Movement a Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. We would also like to thank you for your support during 1992.

Our new 1993 Catalogue will be published early in the new year with page after page full of



Equipment Camping requirements, Gifts and Stationery together with the full range of Girl Guide Association Publications and it's yours absolutely free if you send the coupon.

Remember, if you have already written for the 1992 Catalogue, you will already be on our 1993 mailing list.



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*When you buy from the Movement, we all benefit.*

(G12)





GOLD GROUP

Learning through shopping: Czech Guides practise their language skills

# CZECH MATES

*Beautiful Bohemia was the setting for a Czechoslovakian Guide camp which provided a truly golden opportunity to forge international friendships.*

Tried and tested Guiding activities proved the perfect way to teach English to 40 Czech and Slovak Guides taking part in a camp at Nove Hradky in South Bohemia, Czechoslovakia. And the girls were eager to make friends with the nine young Guiders, ten Rangers and two leaders who were there to help them learn English as part of a GOLD (Guiding Overseas Linked with Development) project.

The brief given to the group was to teach English as a foreign language, using Guiding methods and activities. Here Brownie Guider Kirsty Shaw from Chichester describes what she aptly calls a 'Bohemian rhapsody':

☛ The midday sun shone fiercely as we walked on to the camp site at Nove Hradky. In our clean uniforms we looked irresistible... to the mosquitoes! Within minutes of arrival we were rifling our rucksacs for hats and jungle-strength insect repellent.

Lessons in the morning (grammar is fun), were followed by Guiding activities, which ranged from craft and cooking to wide games and silly sports. The Rangers joined in as valuable members

of the Patrols during the afternoon sessions. And, with practice, the Czech girls' spoken English soon became more confident.

The girls were extremely keen to learn English and find out about our culture but keener still to gain our friendship. In a country where Scouting and Guiding were banned for 40 years under Communism, the chance to forge international links is now immensely important. We were overwhelmed by their friendship towards us from the first day.

Although economically Czechoslovakia was not as severely affected by the strict Communist regime as Russia or Romania, the Czech Guide Association, Český a Slovenský Skauting, is still very short of funds and equipment. So the boxes of resources we took with us proved extremely valuable.

Songs, selected to fit in with the day's theme — food, transport and so on — were used to reinforce new vocabulary during the lessons. Old favourites, such as *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes* were a popular way to teach parts of the body.

The evening camp fires were a magical combination of Czech and English, including action songs and softer tunes. It took two weeks before we were able to sing a Czech song to their satisfaction. But it gave us a proud sense of belonging when we could finally sing along with them.

GOLD was not all work and no play. We spent one weekend at a nearby camp site where a German camp was being run by Czech teachers. A group of French Girl Scouts had also been invited and we were proud to be part of Czechoslovakia's first truly international camp fire. We were also taken to see some of Bohemia's beautiful scenery and to marvel at two of the many castles.

The fortnight fled all too quickly and, almost before we knew it, it was time for a tearful parting. We gave the girls piles of badges, certificates and gifts, and sang a final *Auld Lang Syne* in two languages.

As we waved goodbye, we knew none of us would ever forget the friendships we made in Czechoslovakia. ☛

KIRSTY SHAW 21



# Notices

## CLOSED SHOPS

The Association's shops will be closed for the Christmas break at the following times:

CHQ and Liverpool — closed December 24 to January 3 inclusive, re-opening on January 4.

Birmingham and Manchester — closed December 24 to January 1 inclusive, re-opening on January 2.

Palmer's Green — closed December 25 to January 1, re-opening January 2.

## THINKING DAY

Thinking Day Services will be held on Saturday, February 20 in Westminster Abbey, St Margaret's Church and Westminster Central Hall.

The service in Central Hall will start 15 minutes earlier than in the other two venues. The congregation should be seated by 10.30am in Central Hall and 10.45am in Westminster Abbey and St Margaret's Church. Please check tickets for service times.

## PROMISE COMMENTS

The Association wishes to thank all members who have commented on the issues raised in Decoding the Promise (July's *GUIDING*) and Time for a Change (August's *GUIDE PATROL*).

It has, of course, been impossible to contact personally those who did not include an address. But Pat Ledwith, Director of Guiding Activities, wants everyone to know that all views expressed will be taken into consideration.

## NEW SERVICE

If you are planning a special unit celebration and want to catch the eye of former members or you are seeking news of a long-lost Guiding chum we can help. In future *GUIDING* will be carrying a special Personal column in our classified ads section.

It will also be the ideal way to congratulate colleagues on achievements or draw attention to the death of a valued team-mate.

We are sure this new service will be appreciated

by our readers. There is a classified coupon in each issue of *GUIDING*.

## THE ASSOCIATION'S AWARDS GOOD SERVICE

**Mrs Ruth Black — LAUREL** — Former County Programme and Training Adviser, County Trainer, Staffordshire.

**Miss Pauline McKie — SILVER FISH** — The Association's Community Involvement and Development Adviser, Assistant Ranger Guider, Gnosall District Unit, County Trainer, Staffordshire.

**Miss Wendy Rider — LAUREL** — Assistant Guide Guider, 1st Brickhill Company, Bedfordshire, Arts Adviser, Anglia.

## MERITORIOUS CONDUCT

**Miss Samantha Bruce — STAR OF MERIT** — Young Leader, 1st Bulwark Company, Gwent.

**Miss Lisa Potter — STAR OF MERIT** — County Assistant Arts Adviser, Gwent.

## GALLANTRY

**Joanna Walton — SILVER CROSS** — Brownie Guide, 1st Hardwick Pack, Oxfordshire.

## ON SONG

*Sing, sing together* is a selection of 51 songs, including old favourites and new songs, suitable to be used

within each section on many occasions. The book is A5, looseleaf and has simple illustrations. Each song has a tune line and some have guitar chords.

*Sing, sing together* is a companion volume to *Song and Dance* and, as in that publication, the words and music may be performed in private or public without permission or restriction by members of the Movement taking part in Guide activities.

Both books are available from the Trading Service. *Sing sing together* (64816) costs £1.75 and *Song and Dance* (64089) costs £1. There is a 50p charge for postage and packing on all orders under £10.

## AFRICA LIVE

Thinking Day at the Commonwealth Institute will feature The Gambia and includes live entertainment.

There will be two sessions on Saturday, February 20 at 1pm and 3pm (visitors are advised to arrive 30 minutes earlier).

Admission will be £2 per person per session. For further details ring the Institute, Kensington High Street on 071-603 4535 ext 283.

## GOING UP

Ever-rising costs have forced the Executive Committee to agree to price rises for all

three Association magazines. From January *GUIDING* will cost £1.10 and both *GUIDE PATROL* and *BROWNIE* will cost £1.

## PAX LODGE THINKING DAY 1993

As always Pax Lodge will welcome visitors after the Thinking Day Services. However, in view of the number of groups who are expected to want to visit the World Centre, you are asked to contact Pax Lodge in plenty of time stating the time you wish to visit and the expected number in the group.

Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Applications to The Guider-in-Charge, Pax Lodge, 12c Lyndhurst Road, London NW6 3HN.

## CHINA STORY

In August's *BROWNIE* we published an article about China which was inaccurate.

Corrections were prepared but, unfortunately, the original material appeared instead. Modern technology isn't always infallible! Please disregard the information supplied, we will be publishing another article on China next year.

## THINKING DAY ON THE AIR '93

Next year Thinking Day on the Air takes place from Saturday, February 20 to Sunday, February 21.

Information sheets and report forms are available from: Youth Activities Section, The Girl Guides Association, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT, on receipt of an A4-size envelope. Please mark the envelope TDOTA.

## COVER CHARGE

When ordering items costing £10 and under from the GGA Trading Service please remember to add 50p to cover packing and postage. The Trading Service is based at Atlantic Street, Broadheath, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 5EQ.

## FAMILY FUN

A very successful Family Week was held at Blackland Farm for the first time this year. Guiders and their families came from as far as Norfolk, Staffordshire and Wales. All enjoyed themselves and were able to join in the various activities available — climbing, abseiling and canoeing. The week's holiday was thoroughly recommended by both adults and children.

Another such week will be held next year, from August 14 to 22. If you are looking for a different holiday with plenty for the children to do, try the Family Week at Blackland Farm. You can



LUCY DREW

bring your tent or caravan, but camping equipment, including tents, is available for hire.

For further details write to: The Warden, Blackland Farm, East Grinstead, Sussex RH19 4HP.



**From video-making to abseiling, discussing AIDS to backwoods cooking, embroidering to mountain-biking, the young women in our senior section are doing it!**

The feedback from the 15+ scheme (which has now been extended to the end of March 1993) is providing lots of information on what young women in the Association want in terms of activities, resources and support.

Thirty per cent of all 15-25 year-old members across the country are participating and a third of these have responded.

Leaders are made to repeat aspects of their training when they start working for their warrant (although guidelines have stated that there is no need for this to occur). It seems much more sensible to have a concerted approach to leadership, which could be started at any age between 16 and 65.

The Leadership Scheme aims to address this problem. It also recognises the strengths in the training which is presently only offered to Young Leaders, but could be useful for all Guiders.

The response from the pilot participants varied. One person wrote: 'The new ideas for Young Leaders are very good. We have always had difficulties

This diversity of opinion has been echoed throughout the feedback. While one group claimed 'some things need to be more complex/harder' another said 'much too complicated'.

The challenge for the Writing Group is to find the 'middle way' that is acceptable to the majority of young people, when we give our recommendations to the Programme and Training Committee next year. I hope that you will all be reassured that we are listening to what is being said and analysing the evaluation forms very carefully.

In 15+, for the first time ever, young women have been involved in devel-

# DOING IT FOR

In general, people liked the large number of ideas in the loose-leaf pack. But some found that the resource provided a gourmet meal which was a bit rich to take in all at one sitting.

Choosing the activities you like from the 15+ resource should be like picking out dishes in a Chinese restaurant. It's your choice but there's no fixed meal for the indecisive!

Further information on how to cope with the choices available was sent out in the September top-up.

It was revealing that in the section which we hold up as our best example

in getting some Guiders to view Young Leaders as trainee Guiders. The new scheme will go a long way towards addressing this problem.

Two others wrote in to share their delight at having achieved their warrant at the minimum age of 18.

A District Commissioner wrote: 'It seems a great shame that the Young Leaders' Scheme should be swallowed up by the 15+ scheme and the girls given only one tiny portion which is really appropriate to them.'

Another commented that: 'The girls primarily wanted to be Young Leaders

opment work from the beginning. This started with a working group of young women in 1989 and has now progressed to a Writing Group, where there is a partnership between young people and Association Advisers.

In letting young people work for young people we are already taking a giant leap into becoming a real youth organisation.

The final word goes to the participants:

● 'I think that this pilot scheme is a great way forward for the Association. The ideas in the pack are great.'

# THEMSELVES

of self-government, nearly half of the respondents said that their meetings are planned by the leaders.

A Ranger Unit from Scotland wrote: 'We want things to be ours, not to be devised for us by our leaders (although we do need them when we have forgotten things) or imposed by Headquarters. We want to experiment and try things out for ourselves. We know things won't always work but, unless we try, we will never know.'

Young women have also been trying out the Leadership Scheme which is to be introduced in January.

For some time, it has been accepted that it is unfortunate that Young

but liked the idea of being under one umbrella, as it gave them the opportunity to try out the same activities as Rangers, without having to give up another evening every week. They found that many activities could be adapted and used within their units, so they thought that this was a good idea.'

The issue of a name for the section has always led to raised temperatures. A very large number of respondents felt that the name should not be changed, but there were some innovative suggestions! These included: Jeff Banks' Fashion Rejects; Girls in Action; Nomads; and Dealers.

● 'I could think of more exciting and challenging things to do, such as watching paint dry.'

● 'Hardly any of the challenges look remotely interesting or helpful.'

● 'Enjoyable to participate in. A big step in the right direction.'

**JENNY ASHMORE**  
Chairman  
Junior Council

Suggestions and comments can be sent to Jenny, c/o Jane Stanforth, Youth Activities Manager, The Girl Guides Association, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT.



# a personal VIEW

This month two Guiders paint a depressing picture of unappreciative parents who see Guiding as a cheap babysitting service. What are other Guiders' views on this topic? Write and tell us about your experiences.

**I live in a 'nice' area, full of 'nice' families living in detached houses with company cars outside and a runaround as a second car for mum to ferry the children about in. And one gets used to hearing the moans about how much time this ferrying around takes up. Their daughters love Brownies just as they enjoy gym, dance club, swimming, music lessons and riding. Recognise the picture?**

Now I've been in Guiding since I was a Brownie — it's always been an important part of my life. Indeed, when I was young it was the only out-of-school activity I went to. My Guide Captain was a wonderful person and a real inspiration to us all.

Unfortunately, today's Brownies do not seem to feel that Guiding has much importance in their lives.

Recently we held our annual District sports evening. It takes a lot of preparation to ensure that every child takes part in an equal number of events.

So imagine my frustration when 35 per cent of my Brownies were missing that night because they 'didn't feel like going'.

Ten days later, after sending out a letter to parents and giving the girls a lecture on supporting the Pack in all its activities, I had only seven Brownies turn up for church parade. On this occasion it was, perhaps, reassuring to see that the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers also had a very poor turn out.

It should come as no surprise therefore that we have such difficulty in recruiting new Guiders, as we have so little parental support. This summer four Guiders quit, each one with an average of eight years service. So even more units will be run with only one Guider and, if we are lucky, a rota of supportive mums.

Earlier in the year I sent out a letter to parents appealing for help, explaining that, if there was an accident, I had the choice of either leaving the 24 girls to go and run for help, or sending a Brownie out in the dark to the telephone. I received no response at all.

If this makes me sound a moaner and a misery I assure you I am neither. I do my best to make my meetings interesting and full of fun but, at the moment, in common with many of the Guiders in my District, I ask myself 'Why do I bother?'

**Brownie Guider  
Cheshire**

**I have thought for some time that the Movement is, for many parents, a cheap option to a babysitting service.**

My fears are now confirmed. Following a ramble our Company arrived back at our pre-arranged meeting place to find no parents — no, not one — to meet their daughters. The Guiders then had to transport the Guides around the area dropping them off at home. And there was not one word of thanks from either the girls or parents, or apologies from the parents either.

The latest incident involved one of my Guides who joined in a County Camp and wasn't happy on the first day. The parents had tears in the car before they even arrived. However, she stayed the day and decided to stay overnight.

I came home (being there for the day only) and rang the parents immediately to reassure them that she seemed to have settled. The mother sounded pleased, but her attitude soon changed when I told her that there was a chance her daughter might be returning the following day, if she was still unhappy.

I was told in a very frosty voice that it was not convenient, that they were going out and asked what time it would be when she would be returning. Not once did the mother thank us for attempting to organise transport for this child, or show any signs of concern for her child's happiness or safety once she did return.

As it happened, the Guiders at the camp had to keep a hysterical child another night because the parents

went out early and the Guiders were unable to reach them by telephone.

Surely most parents would offer to collect their child? Or, at least, be in just in case the child did come home, knowing that there was already a problem.

This proves to me that the parents seem to abdicate all parental responsibilities once their daughters are off their hands, be it for three hours or three days.

Perhaps it is just in our particular area, but how many times have you had a thank you from a parent for taking a child to either a Guide meeting or a camp?

Over all my years I can count on one hand the thank yous I've received after camp. Practical parental support is also lacking. For example, if we arrange a trip, the parents are generally unwilling to put themselves out to help with transport.

Of course, this is a voluntary organisation and, no, I'm not after a medal. But I feel that little things, like please, thank you and caring and support on the parents' part is sadly lacking.

This was my reason for being so against the formation of the Rainbows — once again the parents have somewhere to send their 'little darlings', to get them off their hands for a few hours without having to pay too much.

And what will it be next? A full service from birth onwards? How about the Dewdrops catering for girls from birth to Rainbow age?

In the light of recent child abductions and worse, I would have thought that parents would want to show more responsibility in caring for their children. I've organised parents' meetings to explain and have now written to all parents yet again. What more can I do?

Maybe the Association should look to charging the going hourly rates and, perhaps, the parents would then realise our educational, recreational and environmental worth.

**Guide Guider  
Manchester**

The views expressed in these articles 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.



When it comes to walking, no Guiding County in Britain could be more fortunate than Cornwall, with its glorious, breathtaking Bodmin Moor to explore.

This rugged land of granite and gorse, where even buzzards can be seen circling over the tors, is a paradise for all wildlife lovers.

And right in the middle of this arcadia is the County's Trewortha Farm Centre, the perfect base for a training weekend — but in summer watch out for adders!

Here, Heather Champion, of Wade-bridge, County Walking Adviser, goes into a Cornish rhapsody as she sings the delights of her beloved moor and recalls two idyllic days of trudging through the heather:

“Each year we hold a County outdoor training weekend, run on a three-yearly cycle of water activities, camping and walking safely. This year, it fell to me to organise the event.

Trewortha Farm Centre, the chosen venue for the weekend, is a working hill farm, some 260m above sea level in an area of Bodmin Moor called Twelve Men's Moor.

The area occupies the bed of an ancient lake which, over thousands of years, has been silted up by granite rubble washed down by the streams which flowed into the basin. Large granite boulders broken off the tors during the ice age cover much of the steeper slopes around Trewortha.

Weathering has produced strange rock formations such as the Cheesewring on Stowes hill and rock basins like King Arthur's Bed.

Trewortha is an ideal centre for many outdoor activities, including hill-walking, rock climbing and abseiling, bog-hopping and even gold digging.

Wildlife abounds, with mosses, lichens, mini-beasts hiding under rotten wood and an amazing variety of heather's and wild flowers. Overhead fly plovers, skylarks and kestrels, while the occasional buzzard can be seen over Kilmar Tor. In summer it is often possible to see adders basking.

The 17 trainees arrived in dribs and drabs and, after an excellent dinner, we set out to “pace” 100m. Knowing one's “pace” is a useful tool when walking the moors in poor visibility.

We then had a useful first aid session on accidents and injuries likely to occur during hillwalking.

Some things we like to keep under wraps, however, so when the group — a very lively one — departed for bed at about 10.30pm they were in for a little surprise. As the centre is very isolated, electricity is supplied by a generator which cuts out at around 11pm.

When the lights slowly faded there

# MOOR MAGIC

*Bodmin Moor is a paradise for dedicated walkers like Heather Champion.*

Heather at Daniel Gumb's cave



was much laughter among the uninitiated, plunged into darkness, while still in the bathrooms. Those of us in the know were, of course, already washed, dried, ironed and in bed!

On Saturday morning the “advanced” group set off, in cold, windy weather, on their expedition. They headed over Trewortha Tor towards the Trewortha Settlement, a medieval village.

Meanwhile, back at the farm, 11 “intermediate” trainees had a 90-minute map and compass route planning session before setting off over Hawks Tor and Copstick Woods.

Both groups practised navigation skills such as walking on precise bearings, “handrailing”, “laying-off” and “deviation” — calculating a route round an obstacle. The intermediates had the luck to run into fog — wonderful for practising navigation!

As an extra, after dinner, I had organised a night exercise to demonstrate the value of the pacing we had done the previous evening. The groups left in pitch darkness, with only their instructions and a compass. Not everyone managed to find the Kistvaen, but all returned safely.

On Sunday we all set off over Kilmar Tor, Bearah Tor — where the boundary rock is marked with the Prince of Wales feathers — to the village of Minions for lunch. Then on to the Cheesewring, returning to Trewortha via the abandoned railway, which disappears into the marsh.

The trainees not only honed up their navigation and leadership skills but learned some of the history of the moors.

They saw, for example, the cave of Daniel Gumb, a stone cutter and thinker, who lived on the moor with his wife and about 13 children in the mid-1700s. Though untutored, he was a very clever man who studied astronomy and understood Pythagoras' theorem. It is etched on the roof of his cave and can be clearly seen to this day.

It must have been a successful weekend. Several of the trainees — a super bunch — could hardly wait to book up for a Region weekend on Dartmoor.

That's what the magic of Bodmin Moor does for you!



Jean and Gill sporting their medals on the south bank of the Thames



## PADDLING THEIR OWN CANOE

*Going with the flow came naturally to two friends who took to the water for a 125 mile canoe race.*

Like so many of the more memorable events in life, Jean Boatman's epic experience last Easter, when she took part in the annual Devizes to Westminster canoe race, seemed to happen by sheer chance.

Jean, a District Commissioner, lives near Reading and, as a former Water Activities Adviser to South West Region, is an accomplished canoeist.

But quite a lot of water has flowed under Jean's bridge and, if fate hadn't put its oar in, she would never have tackled a 'killer' like the 'D/W', which is run over 125 miles of the Kennet and Avon and the Thames, and involves carrying the boats around 76 locks.

Jean's friend, Gill, however, happened to work in an office overlooking the Thames, at Pangbourne, where she looked out of a window and saw Jean trying out a racing double kayak.

Jean recalls how one thing led to another until she and her pal were paddling to London together.

It all started when Gill, who is a secretary, saw me trying out a K2 and decided she would like to try it, too.

As a canoeist, Gill was a novice and, although I'd started canoeing in 1972, I was no flatwater racer. Furthermore,

unlike the canoe, neither of us were lightweights!

But, from then on, we paddled together and, on one of our earliest outings, managed to paddle three whole miles without capsizing.

Later, we read in a local youth service newsletter that a certain "Gill and Jean" had been seen training for the "D/W". We looked at each other, grinned and said: "Why not?" From then on we began training in earnest.

Our first race, of three miles, was quite an eye opener for us. Never before had we seen so many kayaks on the water at the same time — there were more than 150 at the start.

We didn't leave the start line quickly enough. The wash from all the other canoes was tremendous but, amazingly, we stayed upright and completed the course.

This was the first of about a dozen races in which we took part during the winter. In addition to paddling two or three times a week, we took up weight training.

We experimented a great deal with clothing. Gloves were the worst problem — we didn't like any of those sold by shops. Eventually, I knitted myself

some two-ply gloves and wore silk gloves over them.

This proved to be the most comfortable combination. Although I wore out two pairs of silk gloves in training, my hands remained free of the blisters which troubled so many others.

Those in training for the "D/W" are recommended to enter at least two of a series of local races organised by the Newbury Canoe Club. We completed all four, the last being one of 34 miles.

By then, people were taking us seriously, asking how we planned to tackle the "D/W" itself.

They worked out time schedules for us but our main aim was simply to enjoy the big race and finish before some of the juniors.

On Good Friday Gill and I arrived at Devizes at 6am, in pouring rain. Our kit having passed inspection, we clamped our identity bracelets to our wrists and, at 7.09am, we were off, down the Kennet canal.

It was dark when we reached Reading, where we had a meal before continuing to Henley. When we finally came off the water to get some sleep, it was midnight.

We departed at 7am, a little stiff, but otherwise OK. By midday, however, the Easter Saturday traffic on the Thames was horrific — particularly the large pleasure cruisers. Their bow waves seemed enormous to us in our tippy boat but, somehow, we kept our balance.

After a short stop at Sunbury we reached Teddington by dusk and stayed there the night. We caught the high tide at 6am and had a lovely time on the unusually quiet and calm tideway.

It was shortly before 8.30am when we sighted Big Ben on the left and, on the right, a large yellow banner, saying "Finish".

Just past Westminster Bridge we clambered from our canoe and climbed the steps to receive our medals.

The local paper summed it up with "Life begins at 40, enjoyment comes at 60", referring to the respective ages of Gill, an ex-Cub Scout leader, and me, the Guide District Commissioner.

We hope many more women will be encouraged by our success.

JEAN BOATMAN

Jean and her pal came in 128th among the 131 finishers in the senior doubles class, taking 49 hours, 18 minutes.

There were seven women crews and 10 'mixed'. The fastest women crew — paddling day and night, with no sleep — took just over 21 hours, compared with the two men who won in a fraction over 17 hours.





Daughter Barbara (right) enrolls her mother, Mary, as a member of the Trefoil Guild

There is nothing unusual about mothers in Guiding enrolling their daughters — it happens all the time.

But Barbara Waters, Division Commissioner at Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, feels she has a valid claim to distinction. She has enrolled her *mother*!

This year, at the tender age of 68, Mary Wheeler made her Promise for the first time, and she made it to daughter Barbara, as DC.

Mary is now a member of the Bromsgrove Trefoil Guild, having been persuaded to join while helping at the Division Thinking Day event.

Said Barbara: 'I'm sure there can't be many Guiders who can say they enrolled their mothers. It was for me one of the proudest moments of my life.'

She went on to explain how it came about. 'I began as a Unit Helper at Codsall, Wolverhampton, before

becoming Brown Owl. I then ran a Brownie Pack at Newcastle, Staffordshire, until I moved to Bromsgrove eight years ago.

There I took over the 1st Marlbrook Brownie Pack, which was about to close.

It was at this time that my mother became involved in Guiding. She attended all our special events and gave invaluable assistance at parties and the like.

Although not actually in Guiding she became, in fact, the 1st Marlbrook Pack's 'Grandma Brown Owl'!

After I took over as Division Commissioner, in November 1991, mother was helping all the more and finally she

agreed to join the Trefoil Guild.'

Curiously, this daughter-recruiting-mother syndrome appears to run in the family!

Barbara came into Guiding 15 years ago, having been introduced by her daughter, Susan. Unfortunately, Barbara was not able to receive her Promise Badge from Susan as she was then only a Brownie!

Altogether, 1992 has been a good Guiding year for the family. Susan who, as Mrs Susan Bates, runs the 20th Worthing Brownie Pack, gained her Pack Holiday Licence in April — when Mum was QM for the first time.

Lesotho is one of the smallest countries in Africa and is completely surrounded by another country, South Africa. This unusual situation is only repeated in two other parts of the world — the Vatican City and San Marino. However, unlike the other examples, Lesotho is an independent nation. And, like many countries in Africa, Lesotho is undergoing great political and technological change.

Guiding in Lesotho was introduced in 1925 by the Chief Commissioner of the Girl Guides Association in South Africa. Self-governing since 1977, the Lesotho Girl Guides Association runs a programme designed to help girls become useful and loyal citizens of their country.

As most people in Lesotho live in rural areas, training in agricultural skills is an impor-

tant part of the overall programme. This is particularly vital as many Lesotho men, some 95,000 out of a total population of 1.8 million, migrate to South Africa to work in the gold and diamond mines, leaving the women behind to provide for their families. It is estimated that 72 per cent of all Lesotho households are headed by women.

The Association is also well aware of the environmental dangers threatening Lesotho. A combination of drought, torrential rainstorms and strong winds is reducing the once fertile soil to bare, unproductive land.

As one way to help, the Guides celebrate Tree Planting Day on March 21 each year, when they plant trees throughout the country. The trees lining one of the major highways have been planted

by Guides. Members are also involved in running a fish pond project, well digging and bridge building.

Recently the Association headquarters was severely damaged by fire and outside help is urgently needed to replace equipment, including supplies of paper. This year the Girl Guide Friendship Fund has chosen this need

for new resources as one of the projects for their Help Africa Christmas Appeal.

Any donations should be sent to GGFF c/o Rosemary Mills, General Secretary's Department, Girl Guides Association, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1 0PT. Cheques should be made payable to GGA(GGFF).

# A FAMILY AFFAIR

## LAND-LOCKED LESOTHO

GGFF



# BROWNIE

## REVELS

**Brownie Revels in Berlin were an experience Birmingham Division Commissioner Christine Gregory will never forget.**

There can't be many Guiders who accept an invitation to Brownie Revels and end up taking a guided tour of historic Potsdam, scene of the famous 1945 conference when Churchill, Truman and Stalin redrew the map of Europe.

At one moment I was with a group of Brownies enjoying Wild Western activities like making feathered head-dresses and warpaint biscuits, the next I was back in the mid-1700s as I stood marvelling at the architectural wonders of Frederick the Great's summer palaces — he had two!

The New Palace is a beautiful, three-storey affair, bristling with larger than life statues, and set in the most peaceful park where we saw deer and rabbits playing. When we went inside, we climbed a marble staircase to go to the loo!

His other palace, Sanssouci (without worry) was his favourite — a graceful, single storey, 12-bedroomed little number, perched on top of one of the few hills in the area. One side falls

away in a series of steep terraces where vines and figs thrive in the hot sunshine. And, again, decorated with perfectly preserved huge statues of Greek gods and set in lovely parkland and gardens.

Then I was off to the Glienicke Bridge where American U-2 pilot Gary Powers was traded for ace Soviet spy Colonel Rudolph Abel in 1962.

Then, finally, a quick visit to the vast sports stadium sprawling over 362 acres where, on August 1, 1936, Hitler opened the Olympic Games. Yes, I was in Berlin.

My job had taken me there for ten days. Before I left home I made contact with BGIFC via CHQ. Subsequently I received an invitation from Berlin's Division Commissioner designate, Jennifer Brook, to attend Brownie Revels at Montgomery Barracks on Saturday, May 16.

The event was attended by about 100 girls and 20 or so Guiders/mums (plus a few dads on the barbecue) and they really made me feel at home. They had taken the Wild West as their theme, and it was difficult to tell whether Eat Um Tea was more popular than Bouncy Fort Apache!

Jenny, her husband Paul, daughter

Debbie and son Daniel decided on the spur of the moment to give me a combined guided tour and history lesson.

We set off to drive around what, until recently, was East Germany and East Berlin. It was fascinating to visit the site of the infamous Wall. There we saw former co-operative farming villages, where the hedgerows have been grubbed up so that the peasants' small fields can make way for the much larger acreages we are used to. And wondered at the glories of 18th century Prussia, rubbing shoulders with the ugly squalor of high-rise flats where the ordinary people still live.

I realise now that my visit was perfectly timed to see enough of the 'old' East Germany to get some idea of what it was like and, at the same time, be able to see at firsthand all the improvements being carried out to bring the area up to the same high standards as in West Germany.

My work takes me overseas quite a bit and I have previously visited a Brownie Pack in Tokyo and a Girl Scout summer camp just outside San Francisco, but Brownie Revels in Berlin outshines them all.

**CHRISTINE GREGORY**

# ADOPT A UNIT

All smiles (left to right) Anne Dunford, Father Roger Barralet and Helen Barker, Commissioner for BGIFC



The adopt-a-unit scheme is catching on members of the Friends of British Guides in Foreign Countries learned at their annual general meeting. So far 18 Friends have linked up with individual units all over the world including Brazil, Japan and Libya.

Over 40 members were welcomed at the AGM in Pax Lodge by Anne Dunford, the Friends' chairman. A clock was presented to Patricia Noble, Chairman of the Pax Lodge Committee for the BGIFC room.

The meeting coincided with a five-day training event at Pax Lodge organised by the CHQ training team for 24 Guiders and Commissioners, whose bases range from Tanzania to Sweden, and Oman to Paris.

The guest speaker, Father Roger Barralet of the Scout Association, took the Promise as his theme.



Long ago, when Rosemary's District Commissioner first took the oath, it was decreed that the District should have a badge tester for every badge in the book. So I somehow found my name submitted for the old Hiker badge. Not because of any great love of fresh air and strenuous exercise but because I had once owned a copy of *Wainwright's Guide to the Lake District*.

The effect of this momentous decision meant that, once or twice a year, I stirred myself from in front of the television and went for a very pleasant walk in the countryside with the fitter and more enthusiastic members of today's youth.

I had, therefore, expected this particular weekend's test to follow similar lines and arrived at the pre-arranged half-way point in good spirits.

I'd noticed Selina Pope earlier, when dropping Rosemary off at Church Parade. A timid-looking girl whose right arm was so heavily-laden with badges it looked as if she'd developed a nasty rash.

However, when I saw the Kingfisher Patrol come over the hill looking like something from the *Sound of Music*, I was horrified to see instead of Julie Andrews the unmistakable figure of Mrs Pope.

Every District has its Mrs Pope. They dominate every committee they sit on and make the Guider's life a misery, until their daughters have gained every badge ever thought of. Then they move on to achieve world domination with another organisation.

Rosemary's Mrs Pope (I still don't know if she has a first name, even her husband calls her Mrs Pope!) is an ex-Guider who is a nurse by profession.

Unfortunately, the Royal College of Nursing's image as a band of caring angels doesn't apply to Mrs Pope. A long and lingering death would be preferable to a period of convalescence in her care.

The blood drained from my body as she came striding towards me in cord breeches toting a bulging rucksac, brandishing map, compass and sturdy walking stick.

When the girls finally arrived breathless and dishevelled, Mrs Pope informed me that they were enjoying their little walk; a view that was contradicted by the almost corpse-like appearance of the girls.

'Come on Guides, collect some wood,' she boomed.

While the girls attempted to overcome



## A MAN'S EYE VIEW

their state of near exhaustion, Mrs Pope proceeded to treat me to a detailed description of an open heart operation she had assisted with the previous day.

My appetite plummeted to an all-time low, as I watched while Mrs Pope lit the fire and proceeded to cook our vegetarian dinner, while continuing to describe in great detail the operations she'd presided over.

I pleaded lack of hunger when Mrs Pope dished up, but still received a large portion of the nut dish that tasted like a mixture of gravel and sawdust.

Dinner over, it was time to discuss the other five hikes that Selina had completed prior to the test. Before the poor girl could answer, Mrs Pope produced a photo album reminiscent of the first volume of *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, showing various shots of Selina and her mother standing on

most of the major peaks in Europe. And including a few Chris Bonnington would have rejected as too dangerous.

I should have known better than to ask Selina about first aid, as this merely gave her mother the opportunity of producing a first aid kit that would have been carried normally by paramedics attending major aircraft disasters. While, at the same time, treating me to a beginner's introduction to amateur neuro-surgery.

All too fast the moment of reckoning arrived. Mrs Pope turned to me with a look usually reserved for Roman emperors passing the death sentence on hapless gladiators. 'Well — has she passed?' she demanded.

I took a deep breath, thought suddenly of Rosemary spending the proceeds of my life insurance policy and said: 'Congratulations Selina.'

Well, what would you have done?



# A UNIFORM OPERATION



Packing up: (left to right) Margaret Smith, Jenny Hale and Brenda Bodgood

Christmas present packing should come as light relief to several dedicated members of the Trefoil Guild. Because, since April, they've been parcelling up thousands of old-style uniforms to send to destinations all over the world.

At the hub of the scheme were hard-working volunteers Brenda Bodgood, Margaret Smith, June Wakeman and other Trefoil Guild members from London and South East England. They have given up hours of their spare time to travel to CHQ to pack up the unwanted, old-style uniforms which flooded in from all over the country.

The scheme was started after countries asked for old-style uniforms when the GGA adopted Jeff Banks' designs. The Trefoil Guild volunteered to co-

ordinate the huge operation.

Since the scheme started two years ago over 31,000 items of clothing have been carefully sorted, packed, and sent to 24 Commonwealth countries and Branch Associations. From the windswept volcanic island of Tristan da Cunha to the tropical Caribbean, Guides and Brownies have benefited from the operation co-ordinated by the Trefoil Guild.

The popularity of the scheme took the Guild by surprise, but they rose to the challenge with great gusto.

By the end of 1992, Trefoil Guild General Secretary Jenny Hale hopes all the uniforms will have reached their new Packs and Companies. 'So far over 16,000 items have been shipped and we've got 15,000 pieces waiting

to be despatched in the CHQ basement,' she said.

'Margaret, Brenda and the others have been marvellous. If it wasn't for their enthusiasm I would have been completely snowed under with unpacked nearly-new uniforms strewn around my office.'

'We really enjoyed the job, even if it has been tiring,' said Brenda. 'The packing was great fun, but the part we dreaded was lifting the heavy parcels to be weighed.'

An added bonus was the excitement of discovering some of the more unusual items which found their way into the Trefoil Guild's office, including original Brownie dresses and badges.

'Every time we sifted through the binliners full of uniforms we found delightful bits and pieces,' Margaret said.

The Commonwealth and Branch Associations were not the only recipients. Jenny explained that warmer, heavier items of clothing would be sent to refugees in Croatia, for use during their long, harsh winter. 'Some of the uniforms were unsuitable for girls living in tropical climates, so we thought the uniforms would be put to good use by helping the Croatian people,' she said.

With co-operation from shipping companies Geest Line and Curnow, and government embassies, Jenny was able to send the parcels abroad at the minimum cost.

The Trefoil Guild has received many thank you letters and photos of Guides proudly wearing their 'new' uniforms, which Jenny displays around her office. In St Lucia two new Brownie Packs were started when they received a shipment of uniforms.

'It gives everyone involved with this scheme such a great feeling,' said Jenny. 'It has been hard work but definitely worth while.'

MARIA COOLE

## A DAY IN PARLIAMENT

Following the huge success of the British Youth Council's national 'Youth Parliament Day' last year, a similar event is being staged on December 9 at London's Westminster Central Hall.

It is hoped that over 1,000 young people will travel to Westminster on

the day — double last year's attendance figures. Opportunities will be provided for young people to study how parliament works, question key parliamentarians and meet constituency MPs.

BYC actively encourages awareness and participation by young people in today's society and this event promises to be an informative and exciting one

run for young people by young people.

The GGA sends a delegation of 16 young women to Council meetings. The Association participates fully in BYC activities and has a very high profile within Council. BYC's recent national conference 'Help Yourself to Europe' was attended by a large number of Association members, who spent an informative and fun weekend.

Youth in Parliament Day on December 9 is an opportunity simply not to be missed so, if you are aged 16-26, please come along. For further information, contact Nicola Lord, Projects Officer BYC, 57 Chalton Street, London NW1 1HU. Tel: 071-387 7559.



## LOOKING OUT

Christmas carols are so familiar that most of us sing (or hear) them without giving a moment's thought to the words. Even if we do, we focus on their imagery — cosy nativity scene, skies riven with celestial singing... rather than their meaning.

For behind the sentiment or the drama, there's often a basic truth — one that is valid, not just for Christmas, but for every day.

Take *Good King Wences-*

*las*, so well known that from the very first bar of the introduction, we 'see' the snowy landscape with distant figure 'gathering winter fuel'.

Then we hurtle through the verses, negotiating 'rude wind' and 'winter's rage' and, by the time we get to the end, we're either too out of breath or too busy looking for whatever comes next on the carol sheet to absorb the no-nonsense moral of the story:

'Ye who now will bless the poor

'Shall yourselves find blessing.'

But, actually, you don't have to go as far as the last verse to find a 'message'. There's one in the very first line: the 10th century Bohemian prince *looked out*.

Before settling down to enjoy the feasting and festivities, Wenceslas checked out what was happening beyond the castle walls. And, when he saw the struggling peasant, he took the initiative and went into action.

Surely there's a lesson

there. How alert are we to other people's needs? Whether it's one of the girls wanting to share anxieties over schoolwork, an elderly neighbour unable to take her dog for a walk because of a rheumatic attack, or a colleague, with hospitalised husband, trying to juggle job, children and house-bound mum.

Guiding's good turn is as much about noticing as doing. Wenceslas didn't wait to be asked.

CD

Open  
DOOR

## SCOTTISH INITIATIVE

The Prime Minister, John Major, has written the foreword to the careers information pack produced by GGA (Scotland).

Aimed at the 16-26 age group, the pack, *Take the Initiative*, sets out to complement any advice already provided by careers officers or teachers.

It was put together by a working party made up from young women who are actively involved in Guiding in Scotland.

The Pack was launched in

Glasgow at the newly-formed Scottish Forum. A *Question Time* session was held with a panel composed of a

recruitment and training officer from TSB, the financial director of the Caledonian Bank, the then Scottish Chief



Flanked by members of the Working Party are (from the left) Shelagh McKay, Jean-Claire Schaw Miller, Ishbel Robertson and Margaret Airth.

MYRIA JAMIESON

Commissioner and a 'mature' student.

Costing £2, the pack has sections on money management, families and careers, women and Europe, as well as careers information. It's available from the four Scottish GGA shops, or from The Girl Guides Association (Scotland), 16 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh, EH3 7AH.

Members of the Working Party were Jennifer Alexander, Patricia Alexander, Sharon Danskin, Arlene Forrest, Elizabeth Martin, Caroline Macfie, Claire McLaughlin, Dawn Riddell, Lorna Wallace and Eila Williamson.

News  
FOCUS

## IN GUIDING JANUARY

Going Underground  
travelling the tubes  
Operation Reach Out  
Ruth Prince — a woman  
with a mission  
Our Chalet Celebrations  
sixty glorious years  
On Top of the World  
hiking the Himalayas  
Plus Hotline



## IN GUIDE PATROL JANUARY

Speak Out  
organise a debate  
In the Swim  
synchronised swimming  
Shadow Pictures  
making silhouettes  
Going by the Board  
ancient Chinese games  
to make

## IN BROWNIE DECEMBER

Ring Out the Bells  
beginners' guide to bells  
Christmas Teasers  
puzzles galore  
Story Time  
Glastonbury Thorn Legend  
Fun Food  
sweet delight



## AND IN RAINBOW GUIDE EXTRA

Rainbow Rabbit helps  
Father Christmas  
Party Pointers  
Christmas party ideas  
Star Struck  
make your own shining star  
*How Far is it to Bethlehem?*  
song for Christmas

Coming  
NEXT



# NO BUSINESS LIKE SHOW BUSINESS



*Quite a few stars were  
born the day Anne Jones  
began casting her play.*

They looked exactly the way you feel Guides should look. Clear-eyed, clear-skinned and, in this case, very clear of intention — their intentions were to have parts in the play we were to put on in aid of the local Friends of Guiding.

They had come for the audition. And they knew what an audition was. They'd all seen *A Chorus Line*.

Our auditions weren't anything like that. For a start, they were held in the County Commissioner's garage — vast, pristine and entirely empty. Like an aircraft hangar.

Just the very thing for an audition, I decided, and arranged myself at the side of what I explained was the stage.

Then I invited the young hopefuls to approach in an orderly manner, one at a time, and recite the poem or speech they'd rehearsed.

What? They hadn't rehearsed a poem or speech. Nobody had told them they had to rehearse a poem or speech. What was more they didn't even know a poem or speech.

'Really?' I asked. You don't know a poem or speech? Not even Wordsworth's hymn to a host of golden daffodils or Browning's *Home Thoughts from Abroad*?

'No, really,' they said. I found this incredible.

Imagine it: going through life without golden daffodils, or being glad that

'Sumer is icumen in'. Never having struggled with that dirty British steamer with its salt-caked smoke stack.

They could recite a joke, they said. Or sing *Neighbours*. How would that be? So they recited jokes and sang *Neighbours*. And those who were so culturally deprived that they didn't know a single joke or hadn't watched even one episode of *Neighbours* read little pieces of the script. Finally, we had our cast.

The read-through was disastrous. 'It is called a read-through,' I explained kindly, 'because we are going to read through the script, you see. Read it through. No acting will be required. Just reading.'





the Beautiful Princess, who collapsed on to the floor.

Nudging was as nothing though, compared to the stage direction reading: 'Baron smacks Cinders on hand.'

'No, no,' I cried. 'It's *hand!* *HAND!* Not *HEAD*. Stop crying Emma, Katy'll be all right in a minute. She's just a little dazed, aren't you? *Aren't you, Katy?*'

Then there was the matter of the palace ball. They thought rock 'n' roll might be nice. I disagreed, not in long dresses.

Long dresses? Nobody had told *them* they were going to have to wear long dresses. Not one single word had anybody even whispered about long dresses! Jeans, perhaps; shorts, possibly. But *long dresses*.

I said they couldn't do an old-time dance in shorts. Before anyone could say nobody had told them they'd be asked to an old-time dance, I imported a pair of gold medallists who demonstrated the dance with such grace and charm that the cast were completely won over. Later I came upon four of them practising it in the loo.

Rehearsals began and went from not bad to simply awful. Half the cast promptly went down with 'flu.

Some rehearsals left me feeling nervously optimistic. Everybody turned up, nobody felt sick, and most of the cast remembered most of their lines. Others left me seriously considering murder, followed by suicide, or at least emigration.

Then there was the matter of costumes. In search of fur coats for the Beautiful Brothers, I trawled through all my family, Friends of Guiding and people I met while shopping.

But it turned out that most of the cast were confirmed vegetarians and not only would the Brothers not wear real fur, nobody else would even touch the disgusting stuff... even be in the same room... the same *building*...

I begged and beseeched, swearing they were only being asked to wear *pretend* fur coats made from nylon. Was I sure? The furs looked pretty realistic to the cast. Did I promise, hand on heart, that no animal...? I promised, hand on heart. So that was all right.

It was all right, too, for one of the Beautiful Brothers to wear her own personal hat. It would go beautifully, she said, with the nylon fur coat. I thought I'd be flexible for once, and agreed.

Then we had a little local difficulty over the silver paint on her tiara. It was coming off on to her hat she said and completely obliterating the 'New York Red Sox' label on the peak. After a

sharp clash of wills, she was excused tiara. I felt it was the least I could do.

I grew temperamental and highly-strung. I waved my arms about and shouted a lot. I found myself saying things like 'Take it from the top', beginning sentences with 'You listen a me, kiddo...', and worrying about not having the show on the road for opening night.

Not that we were going to have an opening night. We were giving only one performance in the British Legion Hall, after they'd cleared up from the Over Sixties Christmas tea party.

Still, it was wonderful. For a start, everybody came. Not only mothers and fathers, sisters, brothers, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends, but the people from next door, too. And some who had just happened to see the poster in the post office window, plus others who'd read about it in the parish magazine.



Fifteen minutes before we began — or curtain up, as we theatricals like to say — every seat was taken and people were crowded on to window ledges and standing four deep at the back.

Backstage, things were humming. Calmly, though; humming *calmly*. The Baron, whose voice had mysteriously vanished two days earlier, suddenly got it back again. The priceless antique gong, borrowed for midnight-striking purposes, and which had gone missing after the dress rehearsal, turned up safe and sound.

The cast, wearing make-up for the first time, looked older, supremely confident... and beautiful. One suddenly saw what they'd be like in five... ten years time. And *nothing* went wrong. Not a thing.

They remembered every line. They delivered them loud and clear. The soloist sang in tune. Louise didn't giggle. Nobody fell over in the old-time dance. The transformation scene worked. The audience laughed at the jokes. Everybody took photographs. Somebody made a video.

Pity we had to close — it looked like we'd have had a hit that would've run and run.



## TUBULAR EVENING

Usually the problem is trying to get rid of all the redundant cardboard tubes that seem to breed in kitchen drawers. Here are some ways to make use of the surplus.

### OPENING

Challenge each Patrol to go round the meeting place and list as many 'tubular' objects as they can find.

### ACTIVITIES

#### Constellation Tubes

Cover both ends of a tube with black paper. Use a book on astronomy and choose an interesting constellation. At one end of the tube, make holes with a needle to show each star in the constellation. At the other end of the tube, make a peephole. Hold the tube up to a light to see the constellation. Then try to find the constellation in the sky.

The tube could, perhaps, be decorated with appropriate 'astronomy' shapes, for example: stars, sun, moon, planets and so on.

#### Mini-Rope Ladder

Give the Patrol ten kitchen roll tubes and string, and challenge them to use these as the rungs of a rope ladder that will reach, for example, to the top of a door. They may also need a book on knotting!

### CRAFTS

#### Christmas Decorations

Cut a tube into several rings, about 1.5cm wide. Cover each circle with tin foil. Make small 'baubles' with screwed-up tin foil, or cut out small Christmas figures, for example, snowman, angel, robin, star and so on. Use black thread to suspend each of these inside a foil circle.

The circles could then be used as individual ornaments for a Christmas tree. Several circles could be fastened together in an interesting shape to form a larger decoration. Or the circles could be hung from two foil-covered coat hangers to make a Christmas mobile.

#### Desk Tidy

A useful Christmas present! Cut off lengths of tube as

follows: 15cm, 12cm, 9cm, 6cm, 4cm and 3cm — they need not all be the same diameter. These should then be either painted and decorated, or covered with Fablon or something similar.

Cut about ten slits 1cm long at the bottom of each tube and bend all the tabs inwards. Paste the tabs and stick the tubes firmly on to a piece of stiff card, so that they are all touching — see figure 1.

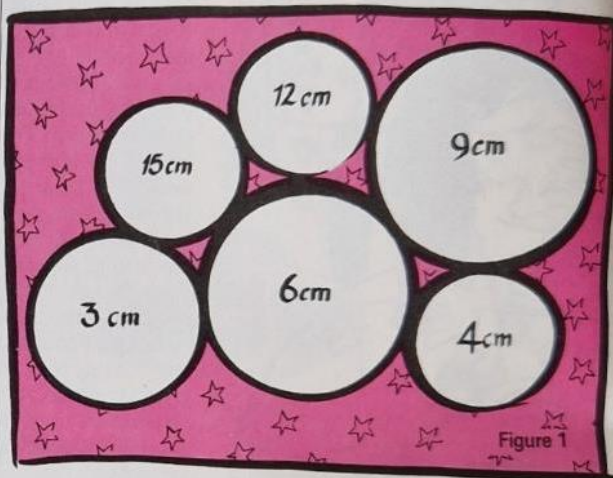


Figure 1

When the glue is dry, carefully cut away all the extra card around the tubes. The desk tidy could be given as a present on its own, or could be filled with stationery items such as a ruler, pen, pencil, rubber, sharpener, paper clips and so on.

### PATROL GAMES

#### Marble Roll

Put a marble inside a tube then, holding the tube in the middle, try to carry it across the room without the marble rolling out. Patrols could time themselves to find their champion.

#### Tube Mime

A tube is passed to each member of the Patrol in turn who has to mime an activity using the tube as some other kind of tubular object, for example, pencil, lipstick, stick of glue, recorder, rolling pin and so on. Others have to guess what the tube represents.

### COMPANY GAMES

#### Giant's Straws

Use tubes as large 'straws' through which girls have to blow a tissue or newspaper 'butterfly'. Patrols could first hold their own races, and then Patrol champions could compete against one another.

#### Ring Hockey

Divide the unit into two teams. Two goalkeepers at

each end of the room hold long tubes vertically. A ring quoit — or large reel of sticky tape is thrown from hand to hand. No one can run with the quoit. Goals are scored by ringing the quoit on the goalkeeper's tube.

#### Knock the Tube

Each Patrol needs two tubes. One tube is stood up about four feet away from the Patrol who line up in relay style. The first girl has to roll the second tube so that it knocks over the standing tube. She then runs to collect her tube, replaces the standing tube and runs back to give her tube to the second girl, and so on.

PAULINE WAINWRIGHT

● **Next month:** Don't throw away those Christmas cards as January's idea is based on them. You'll need lots — the more the better — but look out particularly for those with nature themes.





# RAINBOW GUIDERS

With Christmas so close, you will probably be encouraging the Rainbows to experience all the traditional activities of the season.

They'll love making and putting up decorations; designing greeting cards and gift tags; producing little presents for family and friends — and, perhaps, for some of the people who are lonely, even at this time of year.

This month the main activities I am suggesting are party games, which will give a festive air to your meetings but will also encourage the Rainbows to work together and to use their ability to observe and to carry out instructions.

## NOAH'S ARK

This is a game designed to get players into pairs. You might like to introduce it by telling the children the story of Noah and his Ark and how the animals went into the Ark 'two by two'.

The girls might like to draw pairs of animals and stick them on to a big sheet of paper on which you have drawn an Ark.

For the game, write the names of two of each of a collection of noisy animals — dogs, donkeys, ducks, lions, pigs and so on — on slips of paper. The girls each take an animal name and make the appropriate sound until they find a partner who is making the same noise.

Then, in pairs, the girls are ready to go into the 'Ark' — or, perhaps, are ready to go on to the next activity.

## HUNTING PAIR

The animal pairs from the Noah's Ark game can go on to play this game. You prepare for it by hiding dried peas or bits of coloured wool or paper in the room.

The players go in search of these hidden objects. But they may not pick up one on their own when they find it.

They must bark, bray, quack or roar to call their partner and, only when they are together, can they collect their find.

This game can also be played in larger groups (up to four or five) with one girl being team leader who must be called by the cries of the others. She is the only one who can collect the hidden object her team discovers.

## PICTURE PLAY

For this game you need a collection of pictures cut in half (a very good use for old Christmas cards). Half of each picture is hidden around the room, the other halves are given out to the girls. They have to search for the other half of their picture.

You might like the Rainbows to play this game in pairs too, so that they have to work together to achieve their aim.

## SIT DOWN

This game demands more skill than the usual 'musical chairs' games. While the music plays the Rainbows dance and march about the room. When it stops, the leader calls out 'Sit down in twos... threes... fours'. Or, perhaps, 'in ones'. The girls run to sit down in groups of this number.

Anyone left out can drop out of the game, miss that turn or maybe become the 'caller' for the next turn. You may want to start this game quite slowly and pick up speed as the girls become familiar with it.

## DRAW IT

For some quieter moments you might like to use this drawing game.

Drawing 'clumps' is a traditional party game for which you need pencils and paper. The Rainbows are divided into groups of four to five players and each group has a pencil and a sheet of paper.

One person from each group runs up to the leader who whispers something they can draw. They run back to their groups and draw it. The others have to guess what it is.

Then the next girl runs up to the leader, whispers the answer and is given a new object to draw.

The first team to have drawn and guessed all the objects on the list is the winner.

The girls will enjoy looking at each other's pictures. You might like to choose objects with a Christmas theme like a Christmas tree, a holly leaf, a candle, a star or a stocking.

scrap of coloured wool as a clue. They have to find a present which matches.

## THANK YOU

In a quiet time at the end of one meeting you might like to tell or read to them the story of the birth of Jesus. Sadly, many children nowadays are more familiar with Father Christmas and his reindeer than the real Christmas story.

Say thank you together for our families and our friends and think especially about any who live far away. Say thank you for the good food which we enjoy at this time of year. Each girl may



## TREASURE HUNT

At the last meeting before Christmas you might like to give each child a tiny present. It need be no more than a few sweets, a pencil or a little notebook.

Wrap each present in paper and tie them up with different coloured wools. Hide the presents around the room. Give each girl a

like to say thank you for her favourite food.

## NEXT MONTH

A new year is almost upon us and next month we will be looking at 'words' and how we use them to express our ideas. There will be lots of word-linked activities for you to consider.

DEBORAH MANLEY



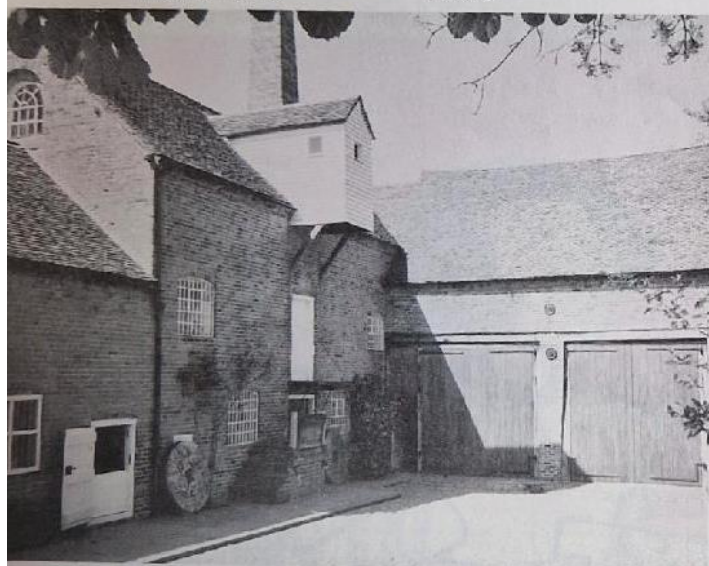
## GETTING OUT

# BIRMINGHAM FOR FREE

A day out in Birmingham may not be your first choice when planning a unit outing. But you could be making a mistake. **GUIDING** discovered a wide range of fascinating places to visit. And, best of all, they're nearly all free.

### SAREHOLE MILL

Fans of *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* may not know that the author, JRR Tolkien, lived in Birmingham at the turn of the century just a few yards away from Sarehole Mill. He fell in love with the place to such an extent that he based the mill in his novel, *Sandymann Mill* on it.



Lovingly restored Sarehole Mill

Sarehole is a hamlet which is part of Hall Green, a suburb of Birmingham. The corn mill at Sarehole was built in the 1760s and was one of a string of such mills in the area. It has been lovingly restored to its present condition.

Visitors take themselves around the museum exploring three storeys of milling history. When the water level in the mill pool is right, the waterwheel can be seen in action.

For further enquiries about Sarehole Mill, write to: The Keeper, Department of Local History, City Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain

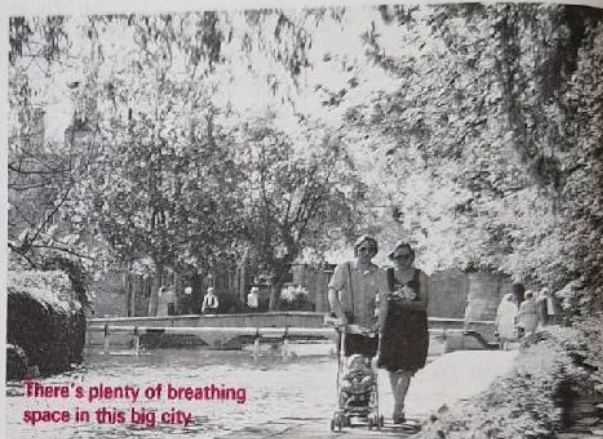
Square, Birmingham B3 3DH; or tel: 021 235 4202.

### FOX HOLLIES PARK

In the neighbouring suburb of Acocks Green, there is Fox Hollies Park—about 40 acres of beautiful parkland. Winding right through the middle is Westley Brook, upon which once stood Broomhall Mill. A large variety of fish can be found in the huge pool, which is the main feature of the park. Scattered around are several small wooded areas enhanced a few years ago by the planting of 3,000 trees.

community. General enquiries regarding any of the city's parks should be directed to: The Department of Recreation and Community Services, Auchinleck House, Five Ways, Birmingham B15 1DS; tel: 021 235 3022

Step into the spacious grandeur of the past and marvel at the Jacobean plasterwork and woodcarving. There are over 20 period rooms to see from the kitchen to the attic nursery, including one of the finest long galleries



There's plenty of breathing space in this big city

### ASTON HALL

Still on the north side of Birmingham there is Aston Hall, Aston, built between 1618 and 1635. Open daily between 2pm and 5pm from mid-March to October, there is ample car parking, a park and a shop.

in Britain and a Chinese room.

For art lovers, there is a wealth of paintings, tapestries, furniture, ceramics and glass ranging from the 17th to the 19th Centuries. Throughout the opening period there are special

DIANE WOOD

### SUTTON PARK

On the other side of Birmingham in Sutton Coldfield is 2,400-acre Sutton Park. Containing a rich variety of habitats and wildlife, the whole area has been designated a 'site of special scientific interest'. The Park's substantial Visitors' Centre has been designed to encourage general awareness of environmental issues. Both the public and youth/community groups contribute towards education and conservation management.

The City of Birmingham has established a successful Park Ranger Service to provide a link with the com-



Canals flow through the heart of Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM CONVENTION & VISITOR BUREAU



events such as Aston Hall by Candlelight held twice a year. Write to: Aston Hall, Aston, Birmingham B6 6JD, or tel: 021 327 0062.

## SELLY MANOR MUSEUM

Two half-timbered houses, Selly Manor and Minworth Greaves, were moved by

was merely a parish church built between 1709 and 1715, with the tower finally finished in 1725.

There is much to see at St



Rescued and preserved  
Selly Manor

## CANALSIDE WALK

Birmingham is at the centre of a huge network of canals: the Worcester and Birmingham; the Birmingham and Fazeley; the Grand Union; and the Stratford-upon-Avon. All form a giant figure of eight stretching for 4,100 miles joining at a 'crossroads' in the city centre.

By using these waterways it is perfectly possible to travel by boat from Birmingham all the way to the Irish Sea!

During the late 19th Century, Birmingham's canals carried nine million tons of cargo a year. By 1965 the figure had dwindled to virtually none, and about 60 miles of Birmingham and Black Country canals had been abandoned — and the rest were under threat.

However, societies started to fight for the preservation and development of the remaining canals. Their efforts paid off and there are now several miles of attractive canalside walks.

Towpath walk leaflets are available for seven identifiable canalside walks. For more information contact your local branch of the British Waterways Board.

local businessman George Cadbury (1839-1922) to their present positions.

Selly Manor was originally a sub-manor of Weoley Castle. At the start of the century it was condemned to be demolished to make way for a new building development. George Cadbury rescued the manor and transported it, piece-by-piece, to his own development of Bournville.

Minworth Greaves is thought to date back to 1250. It stood, however, for 40 years as just a skeleton of beams and posts. George Cadbury saved it from destruction and Laurence Cadbury rebuilt it in the grounds of Selly Manor, ten years after George's death.

Selly Manor is open Tuesday-Friday from 10am-5pm. However, there is an obligatory 'donation' of £1. It's the only way to see the house and is well worth paying. Tel: 021 472 0199 for more information.

## BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL

At the end of the 19th Century Queen Victoria turned the 'new town' of Birmingham into the latest city. At that time St Philips

and all are welcome. Pause and listen to the Cathedral choir and don't miss the four stained glass windows by Edward Burne-Jones: Nativity, Crucifixion, Doom, Ascension. The windows date back to 1885, the organ case to 1715.

## BLAKESLEY HALL

On the south side of the city in Yardley is Blakesley Hall, a delightful Elizabethan timber-framed farmhouse. Open daily between 2pm and 5pm from mid-March to October, this is one of the few remaining Elizabethan farmhouses that is open to the public.

On a fine day you can wander around the traditional herb garden or sit outside on the lush lawn. The barn houses a fine display of elegant historic vehicles.

The period interior and furnishings are based on a surviving inventory from 1684. The Smalbrokes who lived there must have been a wealthy family because they used the upstairs as living accommodation, as opposed to storage which was more typical of the period.

There is a collection of early country Temple Balsall pottery and, in places, there are cross-sections of the walls displaying traditional building techniques of that particular time.

For further details contact Blakesley Hall, Blakesley Road, Yardley, Birmingham. Tel: 021 783 2193.

Birmingham has lots more



The Cathedral is open between the times of matins and evensong daily, details of which can be found on the noticeboard outside. There is also a series of lunchtime talks on Tuesdays and the Cathedral shop is open during the day.

to offer. Contact the Birmingham Convention & Visitor Bureau, 9 The Wharf, Bridge Street, Birmingham B1 2JS, or ring them on 021 631 2401. They'll be only too happy to help out with ideas.

Elizabethan  
elegance  
reigns at  
Blakesley Hall

DIANE WOOD



# BROWNIE GUIDERS

Every Brownie Guider knows that moment when there are just a few minutes left at the end of a meeting, but not enough time to carry out the planned activity. The following filler activities will give you a stock of quick ideas to draw on. None of them need any equipment.

## JUST A MINUTE

Ask the Brownies to turn their backs to the clock and cover their watches, then try

stand up by pushing against each other and then to sit down in the same way.

## I LIKE...

Stand the Brownies in a circle and give them a few moments to think of one thing they like about the person on their left.

The leader starts by saying, for instance, 'The thing I like about Jenny is that she's always kind.' Jenny may then say, 'The thing I like about

means Brownies must run to touch the wall, while the catcher tries to seize one of them. Whoever is caught takes a turn as a catcher.

## BIOLOGY LESSON

The Brownies stand in a circle. The leader starts by pointing to any part of the Brownie on her left who must immediately respond by naming it *incorrectly*. She then does the same to her neighbour and so on round the ring.

The game must move fast. Anyone who hesitates or names the indicated body part *correctly* collects a penalty point.

## HUMAN LETTERS

The leader calls out any letter of the alphabet. The first Six to form themselves into that letter wins a point.

## SPELL THE WORD FIRST

The Sixes stand in line with each member representing a letter A to F. When the leader calls out a short word using those letters, the first Six to form that word by standing in the correct order wins a point.

## WHO'S THERE?

The Pack sits in a circle with one Brownie in the centre, her eyes closed. The leader points at a Brownie who says clearly, 'Hello, I'm a Brownie.' The centre player has to identify the voice.

If successful, or after three wrong guesses, she changes places with the Brownie who spoke.

## THE QUEEN'S FAMILY

The Guider identifies a member of the Royal Family by giving their relationship to the Queen but not their name. She might say 'I'm the Queen's sister' (Princess Margaret) or, 'I'm the Queen's oldest grandchild' (Peter Phillips) and so on.

The first Brownie to answer correctly wins a point. As the Pack becomes good at this, the game can gradually be made more complicated, ending up with something like 'I'm the mother of the Queen's daughter's nephews' (Princess Diana).

## NOUGHTS AND CROSSES

Two Sixes can play each other, followed by the other two Sixes. Or the two games can be going on simultaneously if you have room. For easy identification, one team can wear caps or sashes.

Place nine chairs in three, equally-spaced rows. One team sends a Brownie to sit in any chair she chooses, then the opposing team does the same. The object is to seat three Brownies from one team in a row, either up, down or diagonally. The first team to achieve this wins.

The best team after three turns plays a final game with the winner from the other pair of Sixes.

## TONGUE TWISTERS

With just a couple of minutes to fill, the Pack can enjoy a good old-fashioned tongue twister. Try one of these:

*Six thick thistle sticks.*

*Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.*

*Sister Susie's sewing shirts for sailors.*

*Red lorry, yellow lorry.*

*A puzzled apothecary's apprentice.*

*Round and round the rugged rock the ragged rascal ran.*

*She sells sea-shells on the seashore.*

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.



BEUNDA LYON

to estimate when one minute has passed. Each Brownie raises her hand when she thinks the moment has come and a leader notes down the nearest guess.

## END TO END

The Brownies sit in a circle. The leader says any word that comes into her head. The person to her left must immediately say any word beginning with the last letter of the first word. And so on round the circle. Anyone who hesitates collects a penalty point.

## STAND UP, SIT DOWN

Equally-sized Brownies sit back to back in pairs, with their arms folded in front of their chests. The aim is to

Clare is her curly hair.'

Any positive comment is acceptable, but make it clear at the start that this is an exercise in Brownies being nice to each other! Any mischievous suggestion that the activity should be repeated in negative form should be vetoed!

## CLOMPERS AND CLIMBERS

One Brownie is chosen as Catcher and stands in the centre. If she calls 'Creepers', Brownies must tiptoe round the room. If she says 'Clompers', they stamp around. And if it is 'Climbers', they run on the spot, bringing their knees up as high as possible.

At any time, the catcher may call 'Catcher!'. This



## GUIDE GUIDERS

The period from the beginning of December to the end of January is full of festivals which can form the focus of unit and Patrol activity. So, if you were so busy with your own family celebrations that you're reading this when Guides have finished for the holidays, perhaps you could adapt the ideas for your own special festivities in February.

### FESTIVAL FUN

As a starter, challenge the girls to use the handbook to make a calendar of events throughout the two months, including the Christmas celebrations, New Year and Chanukah. You could have a party every week! Then get the girls to choose what they want to celebrate in the traditional way.

Could they have a go at making the saffron cakes and ginger biscuits used in the St Lucia celebration? There the youngest girl is dressed in white with a circle of candles and evergreens in her hair, and she takes the cakes to her family. For safety, the candle should be carried in a holder, not worn in the hair!

Saffron bread is made by adding about one teaspoon of saffron powder to a sweet bread dough made from 1kg of flour. Books such as *Feasting for Festivals* by Jan Wilson, Lion Books, (ISBN 0 7459 1567 1) give detailed recipes.

### CANDLE POWER

Candles are very much part of the celebrations for both Christian and Jew. A theme evening based on candles is another possibility.

Suggest the girls make their own candles. There are special kits to start them off, and many craft shops have wax, moulds and so on.

Alternatively, if you have saved a collection of old candle ends, these can be melted in a metal basin over boiling water.

The molten wax is poured into a mould, in which a wick is dangled. Use fine string for the wick, and twist this around a pencil, or piece of thin dowel, which will rest across the top of the mould.

Moulds can be improvised using empty tins and so on. But don't use plastic pots, because the hot wax will melt them. When the wax has set, remove the mould, and trim the wick to a suitable length.

If the candles are plain white, you could get the girls to decorate them. For this they need some good quality paper napkins with pretty, but small patterns such as flowers. From the napkins, carefully cut patterns, and pull the layers apart so that the picture is as fine as possible. This needs care!

Use a Pritt stick, and rub glue over the area of the candle to be decorated. Carefully stick on the picture, and then rub glue over the finished decoration. This gives it a glaze. The candle can still be used to give light, but will also look pretty!

### DOUGH DESIGNS

Candle holders are often in short supply at Christmas parties, and at Thinking Day. The girls could have a go at making their own, in the design of the Guide badge or their Patrol emblem.

For this they need modelling dough. Fimo could be used, but it is cheaper to make your own dough from flour and salt.

Use three parts of plain flour to one of salt. Mix this well and add enough water to make a dough. Knead this, and then shape as desired, making a hole in the centre for the candle.

Place the 'models' on a foil-covered tray which is lightly coated in oil. Bake for around two hours at 90°C

and then about two hours at 120°C, to dry out.

When cool, the models can be painted as required.

Candles can also be used in simple cookery. Place the candles under upturned, empty baked bean cans which have had holes pierced in them to let the air in. Use the top (base) of the can to cook drop scones.

### TOASTED TREAT

Or you can toast marshmallows on cocktail sticks over the flames, those who prefer

widely-used technique in Indonesia.

Finally for those looking for a few quickies to keep the girls quiet as they wait their turn to perform at your Christmas panto... how many words with four or more letters can they find from CELEBRATIONS?

Can they devise a word search based on the names, and symbols of the Christmas/New Year period?

Using old cards, get them to make gift tags for the last-minute presents. Or think



a savoury taste can try pieces of bacon or mushrooms.

Buddy burners can be used as an improvised stove. These can be made by rolling corrugated paper around a string, putting this into an empty small bean tin so that it is below the edge, with the string sticking out as a wick, and pouring in melted wax.

Another use for melted wax is Batik. Fabric is patterned using wax. The design is traced out, and then the areas which are not to be dyed are waxed. The cloth is then dyed and dried.

When the wax is removed, the pattern will be seen. This can be repeated using several different dyes, and is a

Green — devise as many ways as they can of using old Christmas cards and wrapping paper.

Before they leave challenge them to design a thank you card, which they can then use when they receive presents either now, or later in the year.

You will then be helping them to keep the Law, while they enjoy the festivities.

CAROL HORNE

**GUIDE PATROL**, the new GGA publication is available by direct subscription from CHQ or by placing a regular order with your local newsagent and not through the Trading Service.



# THE EIGHT POINTS

## HOME HELP

Homecraft skills are still an essential part of the Programme. Older Brownies will encounter this theme again as 'Becoming a Homemaker' when they move up to Guides.

### INDOORS

For older Brownies, often working on the Highway, the handbook already offers plenty of advice on homecraft skills. Here are other ways of helping at home, which can be prepared at meetings.

### HOME SAFETY

Give the Brownies materials to compile a home safety file — leaflets from safety exhibitions, fire station or police and so on. Provide newspapers and ask them to cut out stories of domestic accidents to put in the file.

Perhaps they could sort clippings into sections: accidents caused by fire, by neglect, by carelessness, for instance. While cutting and sticking, they could discuss what could have been done to prevent such accidents.

Ask the girls to write down several ways in which their families keep their homes safe.

Ask if anyone remembers an accident happening in her own home and, if so, why did it happen? What steps did her family take to prevent it happening again?

### FIRE SAFETY

With a leader, the older Brownies could discuss fire hazards.

### YOUR SAFETY

Of course, in a fire, it is most likely that a parent would take charge, but there is no harm in Brownies knowing exactly what to do in case they should find themselves without adult direction for any reason. Give each older Brownie a copy of the emergency procedures listed here and practise some of the activities suggested.

### FIRE DRILL

Teach your family the following rules. Everyone in your house should know the fire drill well. There may not be time for reminders or you may not be there to help if a fire occurs.

● Bring everyone downstairs and outside immediately.

● Call the Fire Brigade by dialling 999 and asking for FIRE.

● If safe to do so, close all doors and windows even in areas not near the fire.

If you wake up to find your bedroom full of smoke:

● Roll out of bed directly on to the floor.

● Crawl to the nearest exit. Smoke rises so the freshest coolest air is near the floor.

● Feel the door to see if it is hot or very warm. If it is, *do not open it!*

● Block the crack under the door with bedding.

● Crawl to the window and shout to attract attention.

If clothes are on fire:

● If your own clothes catch fire, roll full length on the floor, right and left again and again to smother the flames with your own body. To help someone else with clothing on fire, roll her in a rug, blankets or a thick coat on the floor. Obtain medical aid as soon as possible.

### EMERGENCY CALLS

No money is needed for an emergency call in a public telephone box, so pick up

the receiver and dial 999.

A voice will say: 'Emergency. Which service?' You must say clearly: 'FIRE', 'POLICE' or 'AMBULANCE'. A voice will say: 'FIRE' (or the service you asked for). You must say first your location and phone number then you must describe briefly what the trouble is.

It is very important to say *where* you are first, then, if your call should be cut off for any reason, help can still be sent. *Never*, never use the 999 number unnecessarily. You could prevent someone in urgent need getting through.

### PACK ACTIVITIES

#### ROLE PLAY

Encourage the older Brownies to enact what they would do if:

● They found a child playing with matches.

● A friend's clothing caught fire.

● Their own clothing caught fire.

● A pan on the cooker caught fire.

● They woke up in a smoke-filled room.

● They saw smoke coming from the house opposite.

● They were upstairs and could not use the staircase because it was on fire.

#### DROP AND ROLL

If there are enough older girls to divide into two teams, play this relay race. Mark a

starting line and a 'drop line' about five metres away.

Teams line up behind start line and at a signal the first person in each team walks quickly to the drop line. When she reaches it, she drops, rolls to right then left twice, then returns to her team. Each girl does the same.

First team to finish wins. No running is allowed. Ask the Brownies to say why.



### HOME COOKING

If you have access to a cooker at your meeting place, the older girls can learn to follow several simple recipes during the course of a few meetings.

#### SULTANA SCONES

##### Ingredients

8 heaped tblspns self-raising flour  
50g/2oz margarine  
1 tblspn caster sugar  
2 tblspns sultanas  
4 tblspns milk

### EMERGENCY TELEPHONE CHART

Copy this chart for each Brownie and ask her to fill it in.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS			
Parent(s) at work			
Relatives	Tel No.	Neighbours	Tel No.
EMERGENCY SERVICE NUMBERS ..... 999			
When the operator answers, she will ask "Which Service, please?" You answer "POLICE" or "FIRE" or "AMBULANCE"			



# THE EIGHT POINTS

Pinch baking powder  
A little extra flour, milk and sugar

## Method

- 1 Rub margarine into flour, baking powder and sugar.
  - 2 Add milk and sultanas and knead on floured surface.
  - 3 Roll dough to about 2cm thick and cut into rounds.
  - 4 Brush with milk and sprinkle with sugar.
- Bake at 425°F/220°C/Gas Mark 7, for about ten minutes. Allow to cool on wire tray.



## CHOCOLATE PEANUT SQUARES

### Ingredients

- 250g/9oz plain chocolate
- 2 rounded tbsps crunchy peanut butter
- 3 large cupfuls Rice Krispies

### Method

- 1 Break chocolate into small pieces and add peanut butter.
- 2 Melt mixture in basin over a pan of hot water and stir.
- 3 Remove from heat and add Rice Krispies, gently stirring till they are coated with chocolate mixture.
- 4 Spoon mixture evenly into a greased baking tin, and press down with a wooden spoon.
- 5 Leave to cool till firm, in a fridge if you have one, then cut into squares.

## GINGERBREAD

### Ingredients

- 8 heaped tbsps plain flour
- 2 heaped tbsps soft brown sugar

- 2 tbsps golden syrup
- 1 level tspn baking powder
- 2 level tspns ground ginger
- 1 level tspn ground cinnamon
- 100g/4oz margarine

### Method

- 1 Mix together flour, baking powder, ginger and cinnamon.
  - 2 Heat margarine, sugar, and syrup together over a low heat, stirring until mixture is runny but not too hot.
  - 3 Remove pan from heat and combine with dry ingredients.
  - 4 Mix to a dough and knead on floured surface till smooth.
  - 5 Allow to stand for a few moments till firm.
  - 6 Roll balls of mixture then flatten on greased baking tray.
  - 7 Bake at 350°F/180°C/Gas Mark 4 for about ten minutes. Allow to cool on a wire tray.
- The scones must be eaten within two days, but the peanut squares and the gingerbread will keep in an airtight tin.

## HOME MAKES

Help older Brownies make these useful items for the home. The first will take more than one meeting.

### KEY-HOLDER

You will need:

- flat wooden board about 30cm x 45cm
- 2 ring-topped screws
- 12 x 2ins nails
- strong cord
- block of wood about the size of a bar of soap
- medium-grain sandpaper

- hammer and pliers
- paint and paintbrush, or coloured pictures from magazines and glue or permanent coloured ink marker pens
- clear varnish, brush and rag

- 1 Wrap sandpaper round block and smooth all surfaces of the board, including edges.
- 2 Rub board with rag to clean off dust.
- 3 Gently hammer nails a short way into two top corners of board (Fig 1). Remove nails.
- 4 Decorate board with your chosen medium.



SARAH LENTON

- 5 Coat with varnish: leave to dry for 24 hours.
- 6 Hammer in nails about 2cm deep at even intervals.
- 7 Gripping nailheads with pliers, bend them upwards.
- 8 Screw two ringtopped screws into prepared holes at top till they fit tightly.
- 9 Thread cord through rings, knotting it at each end.

### WASTE BASKET

You will need:

- large tin (catering size tins are ideal)

- washable wallpaper offcuts or glossy magazines
- scissors
- glue
- clear varnish and brush

- 1 Cover tin with wallpaper or with overlapping magazine pictures. Fold paper inside tin for about 5cm, taking care if edge is at all sharp.
- 2 Coat with clear varnish and leave to dry for 24 hours.

## OUTDOORS

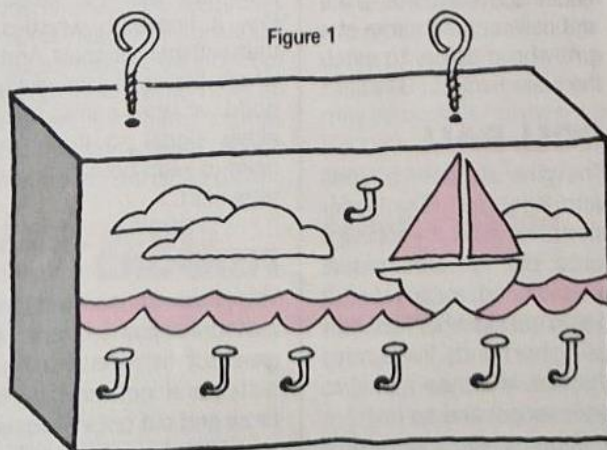
Brownies can help in several ways in their gardens or in front of the house, if there is

no garden. Ask them to choose one of the following as an outdoor Good Turn. Perhaps they could make a chart at the meeting to record their home and garden service. Show them a copy of the *Guide Handbook* and discuss where this service will fit into their Trefoil work when they go to Guides.

- Be responsible for clearing any litter thrown into your garden or outside your house. Beware of broken glass or rusty objects.
- Ask your parents to show you the proper way to care for garden tools. Take on the job of putting them away after use.
- Regularly brush your garden paths, especially in autumn!
- Be responsible for weeding a particular area of your garden. Make sure you know weeds from other plants!
- Take on the regular job of washing paintwork on outer doors and windowsills, as high as you can safely reach.

GILLIAN ELLIS 41

Figure 1



SARAH LENTON



## TRY THIS

# JOINING-IN GAMES

Sometimes it's useful to have ready a few activities in which girls can join in ones and twos, either when they first arrive at the meeting or when some have finished an activity earlier than others. However, it's often better to have a quieter alternative with the minimum of direction required, as the Guiders will normally still be involved with the main activity.

### GLUE WITCH

A leader, Glue Witch, looks after several glue pots (chalked circles). When she catches a girl, she puts her

ceals a token in her hand. The chasers try to catch members of other teams. When caught a girl must give her token to the chaser who catches her and collect another from the leader.

The first chaser to have a token in each colour of the Rainbow in her hand shouts 'Rainbow!' and the game stops. A point is chalked up for the winning team and the chasers surrender all captured tokens. Then a new chaser is chosen from each team.

As latecomers arrive, give them a token and point out who are the chasers.

girl's feet, she must turn with her back to the circle, making play a lot harder! If she still succeeds in stopping the ball, she may turn round again. Feet must be kept firmly on the ground, only the body and hands may move.

### TRAFFIC COPS

The girls are vehicles rushing round the room, each one with three tokens in her hand. When the traffic cop — a leader — gives the signal, the traffic must stop. Any girl caught moving must pay a fine, for instance one token.

To play the game, chalk a circle — pond — for each team at one end of the room, scattering approximately 50 fish in each pond. Put one member of each team as backstop behind her pond.

The teams line up at the opposite ends of the room, each team with a bean bag. It doesn't matter if there is an uneven number of players. At a signal, the first player skims a bean bag across the floor to knock as many fish out of her pond as possible. She then runs to the end of her line, while the backstop returns the bean bag to the next player. The first team to empty its pond of fish wins.



in a glue pot. Girls in the glue pots can catch others by leaning out and touching them, though they must keep both feet stuck in the glue. Also, if a girl treads in a glue pot she is stuck in it! Last girl to remain free becomes Glue Witch next time.

### RAINBOW ROUND-UP

For this game you need plenty of small tokens (cut-up spoils or card) in all colours of the Rainbow.

One girl from each team of six is chosen to be a chaser. Every other girl con-

### SPINNER

Girls stand in a circle with the leader in the middle. The leader spins a metal plate and calls out the name of a girl, who must try to catch the plate before it falls flat.

### ROLL BALL

The girls stand in a circle with legs apart. The leader starts the game by rolling a large ball towards a girl, who has to try to stop it going between her feet, only using her hands. If she stops the ball, she then rolls it to another girl and so on.

If the ball goes between a

girl's feet, she must turn with her back to the circle, making play a lot harder! If she still succeeds in stopping the ball, she may turn round again. Feet must be kept firmly on the ground, only the body and hands may move.

At the end of the game the winning team is the one with most tokens left. Signals can be varied. Play it first with whistles, then with hand signals. And, when the girls are really good at the game, give either signal so that they need to keep both ears and eyes alert.

### FISHPOND

This game needs some preparation. At a previous meeting give out fish-shaped templates and get the girls to draw and cut out 200 or so small fish from thin card.

### THE FISHING NET

The girls are fish who 'swim' freely around the room. One girl is the fishing net. When she catches a fish, they hold hands. Next they try to catch others, but must keep their hands clasped all the time. They can only catch fish with their free hands.

As each fish is caught, she joins the net, leaving only two free hands to catch fish at all times. Fish may slip through the net to escape. The last fish remaining free is the winner and starts the net for the next round.

### RATS, RABBITS AND MICE

Divide the room into thirds, marked by chalk lines. Each third is designated either rats, rabbits or mice. The leader calls out one of the three categories and girls must run into the correct division, last one over the line coming to stand on the sidelines to help the leader spot the 'last over' in the following turns.

● If your meeting place bans chalking on the floor, you could substitute rope circles or hoops.

GILLIAN ELLIS



# RANGER GUIDERS

While we try to avoid introducing activities of a highly competitive nature into the Programme, there are times when it is appropriate to include some competition.

## COMPETITION

Life tends to be competitive. Young women need to learn how to respond appropriately to both success and failure. They need opportunities to:

- be assertive
- use skills competently
- demonstrate to their peers the knowledge that they possess and to accept both victory and defeat, gracefully.

Competition can be, and should be, fun. The end of the autumn session can be a strange one for Ranger Units. Those who have remained, after the exodus of Rangers departing to higher education, are just finding their feet and beginning to run the Unit.

Those who have started work are established in their new routines. So, the noisy, demanding return of past or associate members to the Unit can throw the organised programme into disarray.

## BOARD GAMES

One answer could be a Board Evening to round off the period before Christmas.

**Action:** Gather together as many board games as you can. Try to include a wide variety, including some that require luck rather than skill, for example snakes and ladders, ludo...

By including games that involve little skill everyone will have a chance of winning — and losing, including you!

Games that do involve skill rather than chance can then be introduced as a contrast, for instance scrabble, dominoes, draughts...

Note who the winners are. You may find out quite a lot about the more quiet members of the Unit.

If there are enough

Rangers then some games lend themselves to team events. Games such as Trivial Pursuit can be played more quickly in a team. Dingbats run as a team event ensures that those who find it difficult

as the instructor, or as a support for people new to it.

**Activity:** Organise in your own mind how the Rangers might play noughts and crosses, using people with hats on as the noughts and

play dominoes more skillfully or who would play with or against them.

Are there groups of senior citizens who would enjoy the stimulus of teaching the Rangers some games of



to think in the required way have some help and don't feel hopeless.

If you include card games such as snap, then expect a very noisy and energetic session.

Ranger Units often include some of the more sophisticated boxed games as a stimulus for discussion. These work well at an appropriate time in the Programme, especially with a smaller group of Rangers.

However, after a busy time at work, school or college, it is good to include something that involves little preparation. Something that involves just the immediate members of the Unit, and which may fill the whole evening, or may be abandoned with no one feeling left out or let down.

## FAVOURITES

If you don't have access to any of these games, ask the Rangers to bring along their favourites. Beware of 'experts' monopolising the event. It may be better to have those who introduce a game act

people without as crosses.

The two players face the organiser and state where they want their 'nought' or 'cross' to sit on the grid, for example front row right, centre row middle.

Play as you would a normal game of noughts and crosses.

This is a good game to play when whiling away time waiting for transport. It also encourages the public to become curious about what you are doing.

Such an evening as a one-off event can be fun. Done too often, it can turn the group into an indoor games club rather than a Ranger Unit. However, there may be occasions when the Rangers might use board games to alleviate 'boredom'.

## MIND GAMES

**Brain action:** In the calm period before the New Year holiday, think about all the groups in your area who might appreciate either teaching the Rangers games skills, for example being able to

skill? Perhaps your local WRVS or Age Concern would put you in touch with a group. Are there:

● Individuals in local residential homes — for whatever age group — who would feel better for meeting a group of young women, who visit not just to sit and chat but to challenge them mentally?

● House-bound individuals who would welcome the challenge of competition, as a change from watching the television?

● Youngsters in hospital who would like someone different to play with?

Taking an essentially one-off activity and looking beyond the basics may give a starting point for a service project, which can be continued long after the bowls of bulbs have died down or the party performances have been forgotten.

Good turns for Christmas are great, but there are many long, dark evenings between now and spring, especially for those who are less mobile.



# ASSERTIVENESS

When was the last time you said yes when you meant to say no? Last week, yesterday, or a few minutes ago? Do you find yourself taking on more commitments when you'd really rather not? The answer to your problems may be a little assertiveness training.

## IN CONTROL

For many Guiders, the temptation is to take on more and more roles. To add the job of District Commissioner or PRA to that of unit leader, to agree to organise the church fête, arrange transport for the Brownies' ice skating trip, provide refreshments for the jumble sale... and so on.

The result, especially if you are also holding down a job or coping with a family, can be a tired, frazzled Guider, who never feels quite in control.

In contrast, being assertive is feeling in control of your life. Being able to do the things you want to do, without feeling guilty and unhappy. Being assertive gives you the confidence to ask for what you want.

Taking control of your own life can mean being able to start an evening course, give more time to Guiding (if that's what you want), or spend more time with your partner.

For some women the benefits might be something as simple as being able to take a long leisurely bath occasionally — without feeling they ought to be cleaning the bathroom instead.

The end result can be deeper and more meaningful relationships with your family and friends. Being assertive promotes self-respect and makes you respected by others. It opens the door to a better life.

Assertiveness is not being bossy. Many women believe being assertive involves a lot of shouting, bullying and pushing people out of the way on your way up the

corporate ladder. In fact, being assertive means knowing when to be firm and when to give way gracefully.

Many women feel it's their duty to be passive, to sit back and let the world seek them out. It wasn't so long ago that mothers cautioned

Edison, who invented the electric light bulb, hundreds of different experiments before he discovered the technique he needed. His invention changed our lives. With persistence you, too, can change your life.

Being persistent will help

Can you look after him again this afternoon?

No I'm sorry, I've looked after him three times already this week and I am busy.



KATE TAYLOR

their daughters to wait for Mr Right to appear and discouraged any moves to go looking for him.

Times may have changed but, unfortunately, some women still haven't outgrown the notion that real women wait to be asked, nicely.

## YOUR RIGHTS

Read the autobiographies of successful women and you will find these women know what their rights are.

Assertiveness is about knowing and using your rights as a woman. In her book *Super Confidence*, Gael Lindenfield gives a list of 12 rights. They include the right to be successful, the right to make mistakes, the right to make your own decisions and the right to say no. All these rights apply to you.

The key to assertiveness, and to getting what you want, is persistence. It took

you get what you want. You will no longer have to put up with the sales assistant who is reluctant to give you your money back, or the friend who sees you as a free

baby-sitting service. But you must know when to be persistent and when to compromise and negotiate.

## RECORD TALK

Let's say, for example, that you bought a new bath. But the company delivers the wrong colour. And, when you complain, they insist you ordered a fluorescent pink bath, when, in fact, you ordered red.

In this situation you can use a simple but effective technique, often called the broken record routine. You show the salesman your order and tell him you'd like your money back. Every time he comes up with an 'excuse', or offers you something you don't want, you simply repeat the fact that you want your money back.

This may sound terrifying to the average, non-assertive woman, so the trick is to practise it at home before you go. Use a mirror to hold a two-way conversation with yourself and run through a few offers and rejections.

Another trick is to sit down, close your eyes, and 'see' yourself having the conversation and getting what you want. Use either of these methods and you'll almost be ready for battle.



KATE TAYLOR



So you don't mind doing that?

Well...er...I'm a bit busy really... O.K... yes... that's fine.



But you need another weapon in your armoury and negotiation can be a powerful tool. You may feel at some point in your conversation that a compromise might solve the problem.

For instance, you could say you would be happy if the company replaced the bath with one of a similar colour to the one you want. If they don't agree, try another angle. You would be happy if they offered you a different style of bath in the colour you want and so on. But be careful that you don't get pushed too far away from your original objective.

## GUILT FACTOR

Asserting your rights is one thing, but the guilt factor is a powerful deterrent to potentially assertive women. Guilt feelings are often behind our inability to say no. We take on more commitments because we don't want to let other people down, or because we don't value ourselves highly enough to put our wishes above someone else's. However, the guilt factor could be the only thing preventing you from achieving what you want.

It's easy to spot the symptoms of guilt. Perhaps you feel guilty about leaving your partner to cope for an extra evening while you are at a District meeting, or if your home looks less than perfect. You may feel bad about wanting to spend time with your partner, instead of taking on yet another Guiding commitment or visiting an elderly relative.

Another symptom could

be tidying your children's bedrooms after you have asked them to do it, simply because you feel uncomfortable if they look a mess. Perhaps you feel it's unfair for them to do housework. Guilt can undermine all your best intentions.

What causes guilt? The media is a major culprit. Women are encouraged to

have trodden the same path you are about to take.

The knack to getting over guilt is to examine the situation logically. For example, if you feel guilty about your house not looking clean and tidy, think about how it would appear if your family helped out with the daily chores. It would still look great, and you would have more time for yourself.

First, discuss the situation with your family and divide up the chores. They'll probably listen half-heartedly to your plans and then do nothing to help. Stick with it. Only do the chores you agreed you would do and leave their tasks to them. After a few days, they'll get the message.

But, if you still feel guilty and there isn't a good reason for it, it's time to think about yourself. You are not doing this for me or your friends or

● Start being assertive a little at a time — with every new experience you'll gain precious confidence.

● Practice — the more you do it the better you'll get.

● Start now. If a colleague asks you to do something and you feel her request is unfair, say so. Tomorrow may seem like a better time to start, but tomorrow never comes.

## FACT FILE

Gael Lindenfield's *Super Confidence* and *Assert Yourself* are both published by Thorsons.

Robert Sharpe's *Assert Yourself: How To Do A Good Deal Better With Others* is published by Kogan Page.

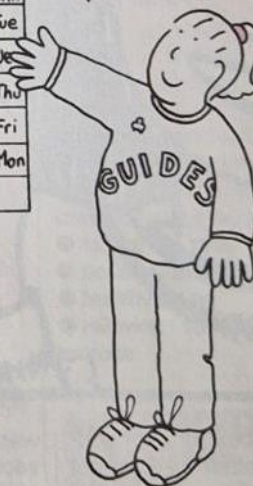
Manuel Smith's *When I Say No I Feel Guilty* was originally published by Arrow books but is now out of print, so ask if your local library has a copy.

For local courses, pop in

This is the new cleaning rota.



	Dad	Mum	Joe	Sue	Ann
Clean Bathrm	Mon	Fri	Thu	Wed	Tue
Clean Kitchen	Tues	Mon	Fri	Thu	Wed
Clean L. Room	Wed	Tues	Mon	Fri	Thu
Clean Loo	Thu	Wed	Tue	Mon	Fri
Clean Pms	Fri	Thu	Wed	Tue	Mon



model themselves on super-women who can bring up a family, have a successful career, and cook a five-course meal without a hair out of place. When we fail to live up to this ad-man's dream, we feel we are failing in some way.

Getting over your guilty feelings won't happen overnight, but it may not take as long as you think. The super woman image is only that — an image. And those women who do seem to do it all,

anyone else, you are doing it for you. It doesn't matter what your neighbours or your friends think, they are not the issue — you are.

Here are a few hints to fall back on in times of need:

● Remember, as a woman you have rights. Don't ever forget them.

● You have a right to say no. Your time and your needs are important.

● Learn how to relax.

● Don't allow others to put you off.

to your local reference library and ask about self-confidence and assertiveness self-help groups. Also try your local college of further education. Many have courses available throughout the year.

If a course sounds too offputting, the last few chapters of *Super Confidence* have a list of practical exercises you can do alone or in a group.



# YOUNG LEADERS

As you read this your preparations for Christmas will probably be in full swing, but it will not be long before your thoughts turn to the new year. Will you be making any New Year Resolutions? More importantly, how long will they last?

## RESOLUTIONS

The dictionary definition of a good resolution is 'intentions that one formulates mentally for virtuous conduct'. That's the trouble, of course, many of us start

and activities, currently in various notebooks and on scraps of paper, into a proper book or file. Getting together with other Young Leaders in your District or Division would make it more fun, and you could swap ideas at the same time.

## DO IT NOW

Another definition of resolution is 'boldness or firmness of purpose', which is best illustrated by the following quotation: The founder of a highly successful company

ever, seldom match those of the less-talented, who are blessed with a sense of the importance of getting started now.

## UNDER REVIEW

As many of you will probably be aware, the Programme for the senior section, is undergoing a review.

There is no change at present, but a pilot scheme has been in operation since March with regular evaluations and programme material being sent to and from CHQ. (See Jenny Ashmore's article on page 23.)

Some of you are involved in the pilot scheme. Have you *really* made your views and comments on its content known? Even if you are not directly involved, what would you like to see included in the programme for the 15+ age group?

Your views and ideas are important and will help those of us involved in formulating a new Programme. So please, write to me, Sheena Booth, Co-ordinator for Young Leaders, at CHQ with your ideas — it's not too late, as the pilot scheme has been extended to the end of March next year.

## CARD GAMES

Don't throw away your old Christmas cards! Here are some ideas for recycling old Christmas and birthday cards. If you remember to ask the girls in your unit to save them too, you will have more than enough.

● Cut the pictures off the front of the cards. Use the plain backs of the pictures to write prayers to add to your unit's collection. The pictures can be used as inspiration for the prayers. This can also help with Part II clause 4a of the Young Leader Scheme.

● Use similar-sized cards, one per player. Cut each card into four pieces. Give one piece of puzzle to each player so they know which

puzzle to collect, then distribute three more assorted pieces to each one. The idea of the game is for each player to collect all four pieces of their own puzzle without speaking.

● **A game to use up the smaller cards:** You will need at least two cards per player, preferably more. Try to use cards of a similar size. Larger cards can be trimmed smaller, provided the picture remains intact.

Cut the pictures off the cards and snip each picture in half. Keep the two halves separate. Give each player one 'top' half and spread the 'bottom' halves around the floor, face up.

At the word 'Go', each player tries to find the other half of her picture. When matched, she obtains a new 'top' half from the leader, until all cards are used up. The Six or Patrol with the most matched pairs wins.

● Use cards with candles on to make Thinking Day cards. Cut out the candles and stick them on to blue card. Cut out a yellow trefoil shape and stick it at the base of the candle.

● Use cards with pictures of wildlife on them. You will need a number of 'pairs' of different birds, animals, flowers, and so on. It doesn't matter if the pictures are not identical, so long as the subject is the same.

Trim all the pictures to similar size, or alternatively, stick each picture on to equal-sized pieces of card.

To play: The cards are mixed up and placed face down. Each player takes it in turns to turn over two cards. If a 'pair' is turned face up, the player takes the cards and selects two more.

If a pair is not shown, the cards are turned face down again and the next player has a go. The winner is the player with the most pairs when all the cards are used up. This game is better with a small number of players.



with the best of intentions but very often they are not realistic.

The resolution may sound great on January 1, but by February 1, it could have been ditched because it was impossible to keep up.

When you think of this year's resolutions make them *achievable*. Set yourself more realistic targets, enlist the help of friends, other Young Leaders, even the girls in your unit. Perhaps you could make some resolutions as a group.

Maybe your intention will be to transfer all those games

was asked what it took to succeed. "The same thing it took to get started," he replied. "A sense of urgency about getting things done."

The people who make things move in this world share this same sense of urgency. No matter how intelligent or able you may be, if you don't have this sense of urgency *now* is the time to start developing it.

The world is full of very competent people who honestly intend to do things tomorrow... or as soon as they can get around to it. Their accomplishments, how-



## HIGHLIGHTS

### NEW YEAR AT WADDOW

WADDOW  
December 30-January 3

Come and join us for a traditional New Year of fun and games. Bring your partner or a friend if you like! From the evening of December 30 1992 until after breakfast on January 3 1993 you can be sure of good food and company in the comfortable surroundings of Waddow Hall.

There will be time to reflect and relax, but also the opportunity to join in a flexible programme which will include traditional British crafts, songs and carols, a barn dance and New Year's Eve party, a chance to replay those half-forgotten games from years ago, plus the challenge of the surrounding countryside to enjoy on foot or cycle, weather and fitness permitting. Young Leaders and Rangers welcome.

### INTERMEDIATE WALKING SAFELY

GLENBROOK  
March 19-21

This weekend will enable you to take members of your unit on explorations, rambles, hikes and day expeditions, in medium or lowland areas. It will give Guiders confidence to walk from their holiday home or camp site, having developed and practised their leadership and navigation skills.

The training will be designed to meet the needs of each trainee.

Theoretical and practical sessions will include:

- clothing and equipment
- map and compass work
- route planning
- access and conservation
- party organisation, management and leadership
- safety precautions.

There will be an opportunity to experience walking in advanced country, if there is a sufficient demand.

### FOXLEASE 70TH BIRTHDAY BONANZA

FOXLEASE  
December 29-January 2

Your opportunity to spend five nights in a fine Georgian house and help to celebrate 70 successful years of Guiding at Foxlease, with time to enjoy the house, the forest and the surrounding area.

This will be a non-uniform event open to any member of the Movement. So, if you are between 16 and 70+, write now to book a place! Fees: just £70, which includes full board and accommodation. You may come for as many of the days as you wish.

There are some bursaries available for under-25s. Please ask when you apply.

Activities will include:

- parlour games
- 70 challenges — something for everyone
- fun and frolics for all
- tree planting
- beacon lighting to mark entry into Europe.

### TRAVELLING EAST?

FOXLEASE  
January 22-24

Do you want to know more about Guiding developments in Poland, Lithuania, Romania and the other countries of central and eastern Europe? Would you like to twin your unit with a unit in Bratislava or Sofia? Or take a group to Hungary? There are wonderful places to go and a warm welcome awaits you, but you may need more information.

This is your chance to come and talk to people who have already been, and use their experience to work out an eastern European adventure.

We'll be providing answers to questions like:

- How did they keep Guiding hopes alive in Czechoslovakia?
- What are Greek Guides doing in Romania?

● Is there really Guiding in Albania?

● What grants are available for travel and exchange and where do you apply?

● Which Associations will be applying for WAGGGS membership at the World Conference in 1993?

### GO! CHALLENGE FOR THE OLDER BROWNIE

FOXLEASE  
January 8-10

Do you have any nine-year-old Brownies who need a new challenge? Then the Go! Challenge Badge, being launched in November, is for you and your Pack.

This exciting new badge is designed to meet the needs of the older Brownie who wants a different or greater challenge than offered on the Journeys. Come to this weekend for an opportunity to look at the badge, consider how best to use it within the Pack, and have a great deal of fun too!

### THE GGA LEADERSHIP SCHEME THROUGH OPEN LEARNING

WADDOW  
February 26-28  
FOXLEASE  
May 21-23

Open learning is a method of learning at home, which is particularly useful when it is not practical to attend a college or equivalent. For the past three years, a small group of interested Guiders have written, and piloted, training material to be used for open learning within the GGA.

This material is for use by adults who are working on the new Adult Leadership Scheme (Stages I and II) and who are unable to attend trainings arranged within their immediate area, or at the training centres.

Who is it for?

This training is for anyone

who could make use of this material. You might be a District Commissioner who has Guiders who cannot attend trainings because of their pattern of work, their family circumstances or where they live. You might be an experienced Guider who feels that such people live in your area, and that you could help by acting as 'tutor' to those using open learning material. You might be a Chairman of Programme and Training, or a Trainer, who is interested in the material — and in helping with future developments.

At the training there will be an opportunity to see and use the package, and to share with others its use as a method of training the Guiders of any section.

### HEALTHY STRESS

FOXLEASE  
January 22-24

Feeling stressed? Come along and find out how to reduce the stress in your life.

Topics covered will include:

- the causes of stress
- how do you know you are stressed? — the signals
- halting the stress cycle
- positive approaches
- healthy eating
- relieving stress through exercise.

### ADVANCED WALKING SAFELY

GLENBROOK  
February 26-28

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 include:

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



# TRAINING DIARY

## PROGRAMME IDEAS FOR RAINBOW GUIDERS

FOXLEASE  
February 19-21

WADDOW  
July 16-18

Who is it for?

All Unit Guiders, Assistant Guiders and Young Leaders working or planning to work with Rainbow Guides.

What's it all about?

Gaining a host of new ideas to use in the Unit and having a fun weekend learning and sharing.

Topics will include:

- programme planning
- promise and other ceremonies
- music and musical activities
- crafts
- story telling
- use of resources.

This training counts towards the requirements of the Adult Leadership Scheme (Stage III) and Part 2 clause 12 of the Young Leaders Scheme.

## TRAINING IN THE RAINBOW SECTION

FOXLEASE  
February 5-7

A weekend for all those involved with the training of adults working in the Rainbow Guide section — and Trainers wanting to widen their knowledge of this age group.

We hope to look at where we are at, exchange ideas, put together some resource material and look to the future.

Over the weekend we intend to look at the needs and development of the five to seven year-old girl, aspects of her programme, decision-making, linking with other sections and the Promise.

## TRAINING SKILLS FOR ADVISERS

WADDOW  
November 20-22

July 6-7

FOXLEASE  
January 18-19

Are you an enthusiastic and highly-skilled Adviser working hard to promote your

particular speciality in the County, the Country/Region or at Association level?

Could you benefit from acquiring a set of basic training skills to help you put your message across more effectively?

The Association has developed a weekend training package especially for you. At the end of it you will be able to:

- set aims and objectives for your training session
- evaluate your training sessions constructively
- use ice-breakers effectively
- use visual aids with confidence
- understand how adults learn
- use small group work effectively.

## SUPPORTING THE COMMISSIONER

FOXLEASE  
March 12-14  
WADDOW  
February 12-14

This weekend will enable participants to become familiar with the revised Commissioner file, and the help it can give with training new Commissioners and those already warranted. There will be a practical look at the responsibility of the County Commissioner as appointing Commissioner.

The changes in the leadership training scheme for all Guiders starting in 1993 will also be covered. These weekends are for County Commissioners or their representatives.

## PROGRAMME IDEAS FOR BROWNIE GUIDERS

WADDOW  
January 8-10

Who is it for?

This weekend is for all Brownie Guiders seeking new ideas for their unit programme.

What will we do?

We will:

- have a 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

● learn from and share with other Guiders.

So why not come and share your experiences and join in the fun!

## KNOWING ME, KNOWING YOU

WADDOW  
February 12-14

Who is it for?

Trainers

What's it about?

This is your chance to discover how to tackle sensitive issues in training sessions. We will not look at individual issues in depth, but at how to approach sensitive topics

with an open mind and deal with any problems.

Sessions will include:

- looking at your own attitudes
- dealing with difficult situations
- conflict
- negotiation skills.

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

DECEMBER

4-6 Seasonal fun with music  
29-Jan 3 Foxlease 70th birthday bonanza

JANUARY

8-10 Go! Challenge for the older Brownie

15-17 Training skills for Advisers

22-24 1. Travelling east? 2. Healthy stress

FEBRUARY

5-7 1. Training in the Rainbow Section 2. Team building

19-21 1. Contemporary issues 2. Programme ideas for Rainbow Guiders

MARCH

12-14 Supporting the Commissioner

23-25 Opportunities unlimited

### WADDOW

DECEMBER

30-Jan 2 New Year party

JANUARY

8-10 Programme ideas for Brownie Guiders

FEBRUARY

12-14 1. Knowing me knowing you 2. Supporting the Commissioner

26-28 1. The things that matter 2. GGA Leadership Scheme through open learning

MARCH

19-21 The Promise in action

### GLENBROOK

FEBRUARY

26-28 Advanced Walking Safely

MARCH

19-21 Intermediate Walking Safely

\* Midweek

#### GLENBROOK

Barnford  
Nr Sheffield  
S30 2AL  
Tel: (Barnford) 0433 651567

#### FOXLEASE

Lyndhurst  
Hants  
SO43 7DG  
Tel: (Lyndhurst) 042128 2638

#### NETHERURD

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

#### BRONEIRION

Llandinam  
Powys  
SY17 5DE  
Tel: (Caersws) 068 684 204

#### WADDOW

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

#### BLACKLAND FARM

East Grinstead  
Sussex  
Tel: (Sharpthorne) 0342 810 493

#### HAUTOBOIS

Great Hautbois Road  
Coltishall  
Norwich  
Norfolk  
NR12 7JN  
Tel: (Norwich) 0603 737357

#### LORNE

Craigavad  
Co Down  
Ulster  
BT30 0BS  
Tel: (Holywood) 0232 423180





In Lisbon 'posh' and 'seedy' are side by side



Brown Owl Margaret with (left to right) Sarah Sá, Melissa Macan, and Emma and Hayley Rowney

## A LOFT IN LISBON

Camping out is difficult in Lisbon, so a group of BGIFC Brownies 'camp-in' instead — in the monster loft belonging to their Brown Owl. ▷

**ONE  
WORLD**



Even in a highly organised country like Portugal, running a BGIFC unit is not without its 'little local difficulties' — like, for example, chronic bad time-keeping and maddening bureaucracy!

But Margaret Gobby, BGIFC District Commissioner for Lisbon, who is Brown Owl of the 1st Carcavelos (St Julian's) Brownie Pack, has an advantage not enjoyed by most other British Guiders.

It's the enormous roof space over the gigantic house she and her husband occupy on the outskirts of the city.

Of almost cathedral-like proportions, with a parquet floor, it's the most exciting place Margaret's 24 Brownies know. Even scaling the heights to reach it gets their adrenalin going.

The monster loft serves as a sort of permanent marquee which is ideal for Brownie 'camp-ins'.

There's no need to bother with tents and, since there are five loos in the house, essential camp 'facilities' are more than adequate. The Brownies simply turn up with their sleeping bags and airbeds to get set for a wow of a weekend.

Said Margaret: 'I expect some of them wish they could have a camp fire up there but that's definitely out!'

Margaret is a seasoned 'foreign parts' Guider, having run an American Brownie Troop in Istanbul and a BGIFC Brownie Pack in Cairo, as well as in Lisbon, where the other unit under her wing is the 1st Carcavelos Guide Company.

Portugal was, of course, home to the very first BGIFC unit, a Guide Company started at Oporto in 1911. Here, Margaret gives her impressions of running a Brownie Pack and being District Commissioner in Lisbon:

St Julian's is not a church but the name of an international school for expatriates, on which the 1st Carcavelos Pack and Company are based.

Fathers of the Brownies and Guides are a truly assorted lot. They include several who have set up their own

businesses in Lisbon, such as restaurant owners, an estate agent, a builder, someone in ceramics, and people working at the large NATO base here, at the embassy or for one of the large companies like ICI.

Carcavelos and Paréde, where I live, run into each other and are now being swallowed up by Lisbon. As with much of Portugal, "posh" and "seedy" are side by side.

You have £250,000 houses in between the "baracos" — the shanty

Lisbon's famous Rossio Fountain lights up at night



Lisbon's beautiful coastline





homes usually occupied by the "retornados". These are the people struggling to scratch a living, having returned from places like Angola, Mozambique, Goa, Brazil and Macau.

Both BGIFC units meet in what is called the Brownie Hut, which is in the grounds of St Julian's School. It was originally the cricket pavilion of the ex-out sports club called The Casuals. The hut was then moved and became their clubhouse.

Since then it has been moved again, to become the Brownie Hut. Unfortunately, it was not designed to be portable, so most of the right angles have been lost, the shutters no longer keep the sun out and the odd mouse

pebbles but we don't even paddle, let alone swim, because the sea is so polluted. A new sewage treatment works is under construction.

But it seems that, even before its completion, it will be inadequate. There is so much building going on, with high rise flats and more hotels.

British Guiding is not really involved with Portuguese Guiding. This is partly because of the language barrier, but also because there is a conflict of meeting times. We meet straight after

suppose I'm lucky, having lived in such diverse places as Ethiopia, Turkey and Egypt.

Although the bureaucracy can be worse elsewhere, it can be pretty frustrating in Portugal at times.

On Thinking Day, knowing that something had to go wrong with the arrangements, I got to the school bright and early and, luckily, this was the bit that went wrong. We were in a different hall — a much smaller one than the hall we had expected to use

## Margaret is a seasoned 'foreign parts' Guider

has no difficulty in creeping under the door to eat our supply of pasta, which we keep for various games.

But we now have a super carpet which we begged from the British Council in Lisbon. My husband works for the British Council, which explains why we are in Lisbon — and how we were able to scrounge the carpet!

As for the hut, it may be rickety but it's in a very central location and at least we have a place. The Portuguese Packs and Companies in the area have nowhere to meet.

The Pack meetings, on Mondays, are always very well attended because the girls come straight from school at 4pm. Only if they're off sick, or perhaps have a dental appointment, will they miss a meeting. I am a teacher, not at St Julian's but at one of the two other international schools in Lisbon.

I would like to increase the size of the Pack but, because of the size of the hut, have limited it to 24. We are always full, with a waiting list.

Apart from camp-ins in the huge roof space of my house at Parède, we have also had one or two camp-outs in "safe" areas. The Guides have also had the odd weekend camp, but mainly in the school grounds. In time they may go further afield but, bearing in mind the social mix of the country, we feel the need for caution.

Sometimes I take the Pack to the beach. We play games and pick up



Margaret's huge loft is perfect for camp-ins

the international schools shut for the day, whereas the Portuguese have a shift system of education.

However, the Movement is very strong here. We invited the Portuguese *Escuteiros* to our '92 Thinking Day

## Portugal was home to the very first BGIFC unit

event, at St Julian's School, but we had to limit the number to about 24, as there are 130 in the local Company!

"*Escuteiros*" actually means "Scouts" and covers the whole range — boys and girls.

Ex-pats who come here from Third World countries other than the oil-rich Middle East states, generally find Lisbon a good place to be. You can buy just about anything here — except Branston pickle!

Personally, I find it a bit bland but I

— the gateman was not going to open it until 10am, and there were no loos available.

Portugal has many contenders for Esther Rantzen's "jobsworth" awards, so I mentally rolled up my sleeves and started the "discussion". Within half an hour I'd managed to achieve two out of three objectives. The hall was open and we had toilets, so I settled for it being the "wrong" hall.

We managed to start promptly at 10am and even the Portuguese contingent was on time. This, however, was because they'd been told that it was a 9am start! Although we're in a modern European capital, time is elastic here. I wasn't surprised to be told that there is no actual word in Portuguese for "lateness".

But don't get me wrong — they're lovely really and running a BGIFC unit anywhere is terrific fun.

I have a great back-up team and, since they've realised that I am dispensable I'm quietly trying to get them to take over completely.

Right — now in which country is my next BGIFC unit going to be? It's so exciting, I can hardly wait. ♡

MARGARET GOBBY



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# YOUR LETTERS

The letter *Cost Query* in October's *GUIDING* provoked several Guiders into giving us their views.

## FULL COST

As Guiders in a poor area of Birmingham, the staff at our Guide camps always pay the full cost of our camps and holidays. If we did not the children would not be able to go at all because their family incomes are so low.

Half of me envies Guiders whose Guides have no money problems. The other half remembers the face of one of our Guides who had never seen the sea before camp last year when she was allowed to paddle in it!

Inner-city Guides are a joy to take into the country as everything is so new to them. Even in this day and age there are children who have never seen the sun set over a hill, or a spider's nest in a hedge, or a sheep face to face!

Should we as Guiders deprive these youngsters of such things by saying 'We give up our time, so we don't see why we should pay.'

I wonder who enjoys camp the most?

**TINA PICKERING,  
NESTA BROOKES,  
SUE FROST**

Guide Guiders  
273rd Birmingham Guides

## PAY UP

The policy adopted by my Assistant Guiders and myself has always been to pay exactly the same subscriptions and Pack Holiday fees as our Brownies.

We have discussed our reasons many times but always came to the same conclusion. We pay subs as our girls do towards heat, rent, census, equipment and so on. We eat as much food, sleep in

a bed, travel in a mini-bus, and enjoy a different environment on holiday. Just as our girls do. So why shouldn't we pay?

On a practical side, our inner-city Brownies from very varied financial backgrounds, can have a cheaper holiday. For some, this is their only holiday opportunity for the year.

The Guide Movement benefits children and adults alike. We share fun, exercise, fellowship, love and pure enjoyment. We give of our time voluntarily. How many would say 'We do it for love? Well, love costs nothing and so should be given freely. Nobody forces us to take the children away so why should we charge them for our time?

Surely we receive payment in full when we see a shy, silent five-year-old Rainbow, blossom into a confident young lady?

So come on those Guiders concerned, pay up and play the game fairly.

**MRS PAM FISHER**

Brownie Guider and  
Rainbow Guider  
24th Bradford St Stephen's

## BE FAIR

I was appalled at the thought of Guiders either not paying anything or paying only a proportion of the camp cost. Surely these Guiders would not go on a package tour and expect other passengers to subsidise them.

The whole idea of Guiding is based on it being voluntary on the part of Guiders, and this means it should cost us the same as the Guides to take part in any activities.

If a Guider does not want to take her Guides to camp then she is not forced to. All Guiders and helpers who go on camp in this area pay the same as the Guides. Indeed, as

we are an inner-city area, the Guides have problems affording camp at the low cost we have to aim for, without their parents having to pay any extra for adult leaders.

Please Guiders, be fair on the children in your care, pay your fair share. Summer camp for me is usually my summer holiday as well, and I enjoy it as much as the Guides. If you don't enjoy it then don't go on camp in the first place.

**MRS LYNNE BAUM**

Guide Guider  
103rd Leeds (St Wilfrid's)  
Guides

## TRAINING ISSUES

With the recent push to encourage more Guiders to attend courses held at

the Training Centres, we expected the recent Contemporary Issues training at Foxlease to be aimed at the Unit Guider. *Training Diary* in June *GUIDING* stated that relevant topics would be looked at in depth and the Guider would be armed with a wealth of resources and ideas.

Having felt that such a training would be an opportunity to find out more about the issues behind media headlines, we were disappointed to discover that the majority of our group of 12 were Trainers who did not seem prepared to accept that contemporary issues had a place in the unit programme. They managed to get the whole

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emphasis of the training altered.

As experienced Guiders we felt we were being used as pawns in a game to which no one had explained the rules! Consequently, we feel disillusioned, and as if we wasted our time and the HQ bursaries by attending the training, despite the welcoming atmosphere.

Perhaps, in future, it would be better to have separate trainings for Trainers and Unit Guiders as their needs and views appear to be different.

**TWO GUIDE GUIDERS**  
Surrey

## IN CREDIT

Credit worthy? You bet! Do not despair, not all employers are so narrow-minded, as the recruitment consultant mentioned by Claire George in October's *GUIDING*.

I have seen the story from both sides. As a new graduate I believe my commitment to Guiding earned me many interviews and contributed to my first appointment.

As a retail manager, the talents I developed in Guiding have been of great benefit to me. When interviewing, my employers encourage us to look for commitment to voluntary organisations, particularly when employing those with no work history. They understand the benefits this will bring us.

This recruitment consultant showed a very narrow-minded attitude. Do not hide your Guiding light. Let prospective employers know what your talents are and where you get your practical experiences from.

Good luck!

**KAREN GRAY**  
Assistant Guider  
3rd Helensburgh  
Dunbartonshire

## LONG SERVICE

Not all Guiders with long service are treated with a lack of courtesy (see *Editorial* in August's *GUIDING*).

As Guiders, I have done 42 years, Rosemary has done 32 years and Helen (Unit Helper) 20 years, all with the same Company, and we had a fabulous 'send off'.

While we were taking the last Guide meeting as usual, 80 people suddenly appeared.

Commissioners, Guiders, past Guiders and Trefoil Guild members from all over the country had been traced. And the present Guide Company burst into song, food appeared as if by magic and the most memorable evening was had by all.

What to us was to be a sad evening of farewell turned out to be a really joyous occasion.

None of us has left Guiding. Rosemary now teaches crafts to Guides, Brownies and Rainbows of the Division. Helen helps with Beavers and I am treasurer for the Division and the local camp site, and a member of the Trefoil Guild.

I hope this letter will encourage other Districts. It wasn't only the lovely gifts we received, welcome as they were, but the friendship that has stood us in good stead over the many years.

**NORMA ROLL**  
Catton District  
Norfolk

## JOINT ACTION

After reading Anne Barraclough's letter in September *GUIDING*, I was moved to put pen to paper to ask 'Does she know what she is talking about?'

While I admit to having no experience of Joint Units, I feel quite justified in saying I have vast experience of Joint Scout and Guide and/or Guide and Scout Groups.

I live in a very friendly village where everybody knows everybody else, or you know someone who does. We have a Venture Scout Unit, a Scout Troop, a Cub Scout Pack, a Beaver Scout Colony, a Guide Company, a Brownie

Pack and a Rainbow Unit, all of which are flourishing.

Ten years ago we formed Hutton Scout and Guide Group and I am certain that the children of Hutton have benefited greatly from this arrangement.

We joined together in the beginning to pool our resources and fund raise for a meeting place of our own. This seemed the sensible thing to do since most parents were involved in both Associations.

Two years later we opened what is known locally as 'The Hut' and officially as 'Hutton Scout and Guide Headquarters'. We share the building and equipment and everybody joins in the fund raising.

We have held numerous joint one day activities, culminating in a Group camp in which all sections took part. We are planning another such event for next May.

It has not always been a bed of roses. We have had ups and downs, personality clashes and, at times, the female members of the Group have had to fight to be heard. In spite of, or perhaps because of our differences, we are still going from strength to strength.

Please Anne Barraclough, before you condemn a very successful venture, get the facts straight!

**JEAN SUTTON**  
Guide Guider  
Hutton Scout and Guide  
Group

## ALL CHANGE

Over the past few years many changes have taken place within our Association, and many different views, about these changes, have been expressed in this magazine. I thought that now the general feeling was that we had pulled ourselves firmly into the 1990s with our new image.

It therefore came as a

surprise when my Brownie Pack, during a Pow-wow, asked why we had kept the Six emblems which their mothers and, in some cases, their grandmothers had used.

'Why can't we have emblems that mean something?' they said. 'Imps and Pixies don't exist'.

I must confess I couldn't answer that one without sounding out of touch with today's modern Brownie.

'What kind of emblems do you want?' I asked. 'Endangered species,' was the cry. When I pointed out that, with better understanding, we should manage to save these creatures, and then the new emblems would also be meaningless, they came back with, 'Oh no, even if we manage to save them all, our emblems would remind everyone of what we nearly lost and make sure that in future we take better care of other living things.'

'What about Six songs?' I said. 'We could have a competition to pick emblems and write songs for them,' they said, full of enthusiasm.

'Why not?' I thought. I'll write to *GUIDING* and throw down the gauntlet to every Brownie Pack in the country.

If this idea generates the interest I think it will, and we go public, the benefits to our Association and organisations like the World Wide Fund for Wildlife are enormous. Even if we keep this entirely 'in-house' the fact that our Brownies have had some say in the changes taking place, must surely make us a more democratic Association.

**UNIT GUIDER**  
2nd Charfield Pack  
Gloucestershire

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.



Ignoring aching limbs and burning blisters, a group of Guides and Rangers from Cornwall walked 150 miles for charity and still managed to sing the Cornish 'anthem' — *Trelawney* — along the way!

GUIDING was there to welcome the 21 girls and Guiders from four Cornish units when they arrived at Foxlease at the end of a seven-day 'hike' that had taken them through the New Forest and past Dartmoor prison.

The girls had plenty to smile about when they finally strode into the grounds amid cheers from friends and families, for they had raised £1,000 for the NSPCC. And they were looking forward to tucking into an energy-building lunch and resting their weary feet.

Their long trek was to mark the charity's centenary in Cornwall and the girls had worked hard to get sponsors for their 150-mile trek. Donations also flooded in — £50 from Cornwall's Trefoil Guild and another £50 from the Bodmin Lions, a local branch of the international charitable organisation.

Bodmin District Guides managed to organise a 'Splash-out' swimming competition to cover expenses. And, a day before they set out, Guider Bernice Gresswell, along with a group of Action Plus walkers, was interviewed on Radio Cornwall.

The walkers left from Launceston on the Devon-Cornwall boundary. Once the Guides and Rangers were on the road they made sure they were noticed by every passer-by.

Ahead of the walkers went a VW camper van decked with balloons and a banner announcing their imminent arrival.

Behind came the walkers, singing on their way. Wearing fluorescent yellow or orange waistcoats over their uniforms, unfurling flags, bearing banners and shaking their NSPCC collection tins, the group turned out to be a big hit with passing motorists.

'One man gave us £10 and another threw £1 out of his car. A woman passed us twice when we were walking and gave us money too,' recalled Heidi Purser from Bodmin District Rangers. At 17 she was the oldest girl in the group.

The Radio Cornwall interview also paid off. 'A man stopped his car when we were walking on Dartmoor, said he had heard the broadcast and gave us £5,' said bubbly Sheila Stevens, Brownie Guider of the 1st Bodmin Pack.

It was Sheila who probably had the least to smile about. Getting a blister on the second day of the walk was uncomfortable but nothing she couldn't

ROBIN JONES

ROBIN JONES



**Striding out for charity**

handle. She could even cope with a trip to hospital when the blister became infected on day three.

But, when she had a violent reaction to the antibiotic prescribed and had to be rushed to another hospital for more treatment, even Sheila's smile started to slip.

There was always one stop in each day's programme that took everyone's minds off the long miles looming ahead — the lunch break. Carole Gardner, the QM, confided: 'Cooking for 21 from the back of a van parked in a lay-by is the hardest thing I've ever done.'

# CORNISH CAVALCADE

*Smiles and a song cheered a group of Cornish Rangers and Guides who footslogged for charity.*



The girls camped at sites along the route, packing the tents into the trusty camper van each morning to be taken to the next stop-off.

**Celebrating the end of the road at Foxlease**

Bernice, PRA for Cornwall, said: 'I'm really pleased with the way the girls gelled, they really got into their stride. The money we've raised will go towards the NSPCC Family Protection Unit in Truro. There are only six in the country and they help keep families together.'

A special surprise was waiting for the worn-out walkers — none of whom had been to the Hampshire Training Centre before. They discovered they'd been invited to an NSPCC Thanksgiving Service at Truro Cathedral in October to be presented with special certificates. The society's way of saying thank-you for all their efforts.

**KAMALA PANDAY 55**



# PEOPLE *and* PLACES

## BUBBLE TROUBLE

▼ It's amazing how far a little washing-up liquid will go. Here's Pauline Ryan, Assistant Guider with the 15th Cheadle Hulme Brownies in County of Stockport, going for the bubble blowing record with the help of a sawn-off Fairy Liquid bottle and a lot of hot air.



## BEAR HUG

▼ Brownies Louise Gray-Jones and Victoria Lamb found time for a quick hug while they were helping out at Broughton Community Centre fête in Cheshire. Visitors were invited to guess the name of the girls' cuddly friend.





## BRANCHING OUT

These intrepid explorers are just some of the 114 Brownies on the British Virgin Islands, one of the GGA's nine Branch Associations. The budding trackers were following a trail on Sage Mountain, the highest point in the islands, when they were captured on film.

ANNE BRANCH

## SIX OF THE BEST

Talk about keeping it in the family. Here's the Walton 'Six' enjoying their first Pack Holiday with the 11th Wallasey (St Hilary) Pack. Hannah, Kate, Ruth, Lucy, Sarah and Jenny, who were featured in *GUIDING* in August 1991, are the world's only girl sextuplets.

## MACMILLION MILES

Macmillan milers Alicia Farrow (right), Victoria Hyder (centre) and Victoria Searle (left) carried off the prizes in a fancy dress competition at the Canterbury Rural District Brownie Revels.

The Brownies donned costumes on a European theme for a mile-long walk to raise money for Macmillan Nurses.





# GOING ON WITH THE SHOW

*Budding stars at the Sue Stevens Summer School were making the most of their roles in an all-singing, all-dancing musical extravaganza.*

ROBIN JONES



Putting the final touches to a medieval maiden



ROBIN JONES

Under pressure, yet the costume and props team kept on smiling



musical enthusiasm



The skies opened and rain fell relentlessly but, in the best Guiding and showbiz traditions, nothing was allowed to stop the show.

After all, these artistes were Guides and Rangers strutting their stuff in memory of Sue Stevens, who fought valiantly against cancer until her tragic death seven years ago.

The outdoor show — a musical extravaganza — was the high point of the week-long Sue Stevens Summer School. This was the third summer school to be held at Foxlease — the first was in 1987.

Sue, a talented musician and Assistant Guider-in-Charge at Foxlease, the Association's Training Centre in the New Forest, wanted to leave a musical legacy for Guides everywhere.

Hilary Chittock, the Guider-in-Charge, told *GUIDING*: 'Sue's songs are published in many of the Association's books. It was her wish to leave the royalties from these songs to Foxlease, so we can subsidise this summer school every few years.'

'She took great enjoyment from music and the arts. She wanted Guides to have fun from her legacy.'

This year the girls had come from all over Britain to polish up their creative skills or take up a new theatrical interest.

When they arrived, the budding stars could choose their favourite theatrical specialties. On offer was drama; dance; music, either orchestral or choral; and, for the more practically minded, the costume and props section.

Hilary explained that most of the Guides fancied themselves as the Ginger Rogers of the Nineties, so the dance group was oversubscribed. 'We had to move girls into other groups, but everyone was still happy,' she said.

The show, *Going Going On*, had a total cast of 160 with 40 forming the choir.

It celebrated the joy of living, and inventions and discoveries from the past which enhance our lives in the present. Guider Joyce Boucher, the producer and co-deviser, took a break to explain the plot and the overall theme of the musical, when *GUIDING* sat in at rehearsals.

'It's all about the importance of enthusiasm and living life to the full,' she said. 'Based on the theme of past and future, the musical opens at an auction. The two narrators called "On" and "Off" explain the relationship we all share with the past and future.'

From the voyage of Christopher Columbus and his discovery of the Americas to man's first steps on the Moon, the production celebrated all forms of exploration and transportation.

And with eight acts to get through in

90 minutes, it took precision planning and extra-special team work to get the show 'on the road'.

'We've joined everyone's talents together to stage a wonderful performance,' said Joyce. 'All the girls start from scratch. They're marvellous, full of ideas which we encourage.'

'Take the dancing group, for instance, they arranged a piece which involved gazooks. So, at the last minute, we had to rush out and buy 45 gazooks. But it's all part and parcel of this production.'

Among the many people who helped

Dance instructor Ruth Hemp was longing for a chance to put her feet up. 'I'm so stiff from all the work,' she said. 'But it's all worth it in the end.'

Looking around, Joyce Boucher said: 'Sue would've loved this. It's part of the school's philosophy to get everyone involved. We're keen to let any girl have a go. It doesn't matter if they're a genius, or just starting out.'

The girls' talents certainly did run the whole gamut, from 14-year-old violinist Charlotte Spencer, who was about to take her Grade Six musical



It takes practice to sound this good!

the girls learn their lines, dance steps and musical scores were Jan Mackenzie, Ruth Hemp, Alison Baille and Eileen O'Grady.

Jan, a Guider and music teacher from Hertfordshire, conducted the orchestra rehearsals. She and Joyce composed the music and took great pleasure from the enjoyment on the girls' faces as they practised.

'The girls do seem to relish playing their instruments,' she said. 'They even come in here to practise in their free time.' But it wasn't just the musicians who worked hard, everyone, whatever their role, was keen to make the production a success.

One group who would have been grateful for any time out were the costume and props team. 'Making everything from scratch really puts the pressure on you,' said Alison Baille, who was in the middle of measuring up Pippa French and Rowena Gaskell for their medieval court dancer's outfits.

'We're working a 12-hour day to get everything finished. Only yesterday we were asked to make over 40 hobby horse costumes, along with everything else. It's turning out to be a mammoth undertaking,' she said.

But the choir's late request for 43 tabards didn't seem to be a problem. 'Oh, we're used to this happening,' Alison insisted.

exam, to eager Stephanie Parry, making her debut as a dancer.

Back at the four sub-camps, the girls were unanimous about the fun and new friendships they had made. Most of the girls had come alone, or with just a friend or two.

'I'm having a great time, it's really good fun,' said 13-year-old Louise Hall from the 3rd Upton Company, in Dorset. 'We're all getting on really well and learning an awful lot, although some of us were suffering from *Neighbours* withdrawal symptoms for the first few days!'

As well as soap-opera starvation, the campers had to put up with dismal weather. Earlier in the week one sub-camp was flooded and forced to re-pitch tents in another field and wring out soggy sleeping bags. But the summer school and the musical were voted a resounding success.

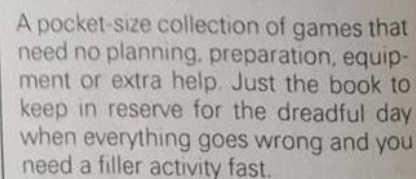
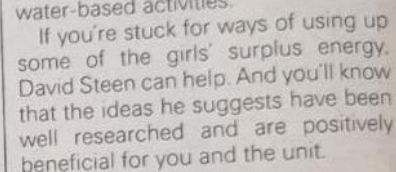
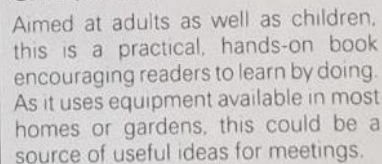
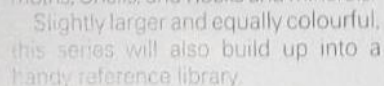
Watched by dripping wet but proud parents and damp villagers from nearby Lyndhurst, the Guides and Rangers ignored the weather to show how team effort and the spirit of Sue Stevens lived on.

'This has been such an enjoyable and entertaining week,' said Joyce. 'It's always a pleasure to see the girls using their talents and imaginations.'



When you are dealing with young, enquiring minds, it's important to get your facts right. This month we look at a crop of useful information guides.

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NORA WARNER



# CLASSIFIEDS

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## FOREST CAMP SANDIWAY, CHESHIRE

Cheshire's County Camp. 70 acres of woodlands Troop and Patrol sites. Natural pool for canoeing and swimming. Orienteering, Nature Trail, Pioneering, Abseiling. Two accommodation blocks for Pack Holidays. Activity room for day hire.  
Enquiries: S.A.E. to Mr. J.W. Linley, 21 Birch Grove, Piddington, WARRINGTON WA1 3JG. Tel: 0925 810018.

## WATERSPORTS & MOUNTAIN BIKING ISLE OF WIGHT

★ WINDSURFING ★ CANOEING ★ CATAMARAN SAILING ★ SURFING ★ BODYBOARDING ★ WAVE-SKIING ★  
Guided offroad rides & M.T.B. orienteering games  
Groups welcome/Multi-Activity Packages  
Preferential rates for Sept/Oct bookings  
For details contact

**Wight Water**

at 19, Orchardleigh Road, Shanklin, Isle of Wight PO37 7ND.  
or Tel: (0983) 866269 Fax: (0983) 866269

## SKREENS PARK

Scout and Guide Camp Site, Roxwell, Chelmsford, Essex.

52-acre parkland with lake for swimming, canoeing, fishing. Pioneering, abseiling, archery also available. Two indoor centres (36 each) with facilities. Plus camp site toilets and showers. New 'wet weather' covered area. Provide for sweets, drinks and souvenirs.

Information S.A.E. to Jonathan Patient, 56 Ridley Road, Broomfield, CHELMSFORD, Essex CM1 5AR.

**COASTAL CAMP SITE** Seaford, Sussex. sheltered secluded access to town, beaches and South Downs; solid shelter, water, electricity facilities for disabled. S.A.E. Mrs Simpson, West Winds, Selveston, Sussex BN26 6UD.

## HOLIDAYS & ACCOMMODATION

### CANAL ADVENTURE JOURNEYS

There is so much to do and see on a week's cruise starting from Braunton, the waterways centre of England. We have self-steer or skippered boats ranging from the simple to the luxurious, please phone RUGBY 890784 for our latest colour brochure or write to UNION CANAL CARRIERS, Bottom Lock, Braunton, Devon, Northants.

**BRIDLINGTON, YORKSHIRE WOLDS.**

Approved family hotel, offers accommodation/catering for Brownie and group holidays. (All inclusive weekends from £20.00 and 4 nights £44.00). Victoria Hotel (0262) 673871.

**EQUIPPED CENTRE** near Southport, sleeps 24. Suit all sections. Handicapped and mixed groups. SAE foolscap to Mrs Stubbings, 96 Dunbar Road, Birkdale, Southport, PR8 4RL.

**GADDESSEN ROW GUIDE CENTRE.**

Equipped pack holiday indoor centre with camp site, telephone, Suitable Brownies, Guides, Rangers, Near Whipsnade. Easy reach London. S.A.E. Miss J Webb, 8 Flint Cottages, High Street Green, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7AJ.

**SOMERSET —** Campbell room Scout/Guide centre in beautiful Quantock Hills. Fully equipped 24 facilities for year round use. S.A.E. Mrs Briggs, 36 Old Road, North Petherton, Bridgwater TA6 6TG.

## Northampton Scout Activity Centre OVERSTONE

We are a District Site, which was part of the old Overstone Country Park. There are two bookable buildings on site.

The Pack Holiday Centre. A purpose built centre for the larger parties. Has full central heating and a complete inventory of kitchen equipment.  
Will Smith Chalet. Recently extended to sleep 20 boys/girls in three dorms and 8 leaders in two dorms.

For the camper, there are three enclosed camping fields plus 26 acres of woodland with a number of secluded camp sites.

For more information (video available) see to: The Warden, NSAC, Billing Gate, Overstone, Northants NN6 0AF.

**PEAK DISTRICT,** 17th century cottage, accommodates 12. All mod cons. All Guiding members and their families. S.A.E. Mrs J Taylor, 21 White Knowle Road, Buxton SK17 9NG. Tel: 0298 71661.

## \*\* All Leaders Take Note \*\*

**28th May-31st May 1993  
at Drum Hill — Derbyshire**

Three days of Raving, Brilliant organised fun.  
All inclusive price of £7.50 per person (excluding food) brings three nights camping, competitions, activities and evening entertainments.

Air rifles, Archery, Abseiling, GoKarting, Assault Course, Disco and much much more.

Camp limited to 1600 persons so book now to avoid disappointment.

Phone 0332 831233 or write PO Box 153, Derby, DE23 6YB

## - Fordell Firs - Activity Centre of the North

A delightful 30 acre site situated in the Kingdom of Fife, but just 15 miles from the centre of Edinburgh. Easy access by train or bus - Inverkeithing is a mainline station on London-Aberdeen line.

The centre is open all year. A modern, fully central heated accommodation chalet sleeps 36, or our smaller chalet sleeps 18.

Ample camp site spaces for small or large groups. Camping equipment may be hired.

Activities include archery, shooting, abseiling, assault course, pioneering, field studies. Contact Warden for full details:

**National Scout Activity Centre,  
Fordell Firs, Hillend, Dunfermline,  
Fife KY11 5HA Tel: 0383-412704  
Fax: 0383-414892**







# OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

Helping others to help themselves is the underlying purpose of GOLD — Guiding Overseas Linked with Development — the GGA's international projects network. Through the scheme teams of UK Rangers, Young Leaders and young Guiders have already travelled to countries with specific needs to assist with particular projects.

## JAMAICA, SUMMER 1991

▲ Face painting is fun wherever you live. Hilary Foster, an Assistant Guide Guider from London South West adds some subtle strokes at a day camp for under-privileged children at Kingstown.



## CZECHOSLOVAKIA, SUMMER 1992

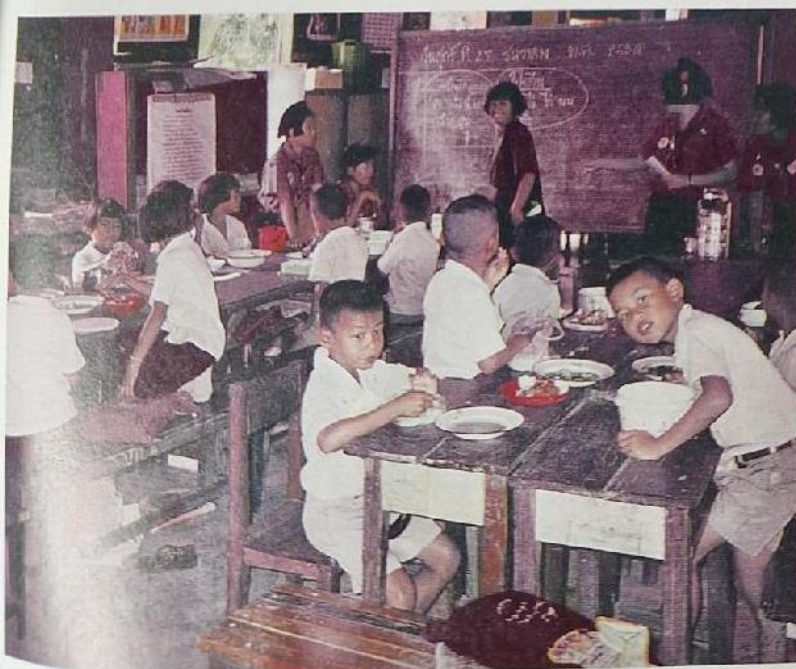
► The play's the thing. Visiting UK Rangers and Czech Guides forget language difficulties to put on a combined production during a camp where the Rangers taught English as a foreign language.

## KENYA, SUMMER 1992

◀ Working with a will. Lisa Harman does some digging to create a trench in Kibera, a Nairobi suburban slum area, as part of a primary health care project.

## THAILAND, CHRISTMAS 1991

▼ Healthy living. Thai Guides pass on primary health care information to local school children using methods pioneered by the visiting UK team.



## SRI LANKA, SPRING 1992

▼ Contrasting crafts. Helping out at a Kuda Mithuriye (Little Friends) meeting at Heenatipone. The Little Friends are the equivalent to our Brownies.

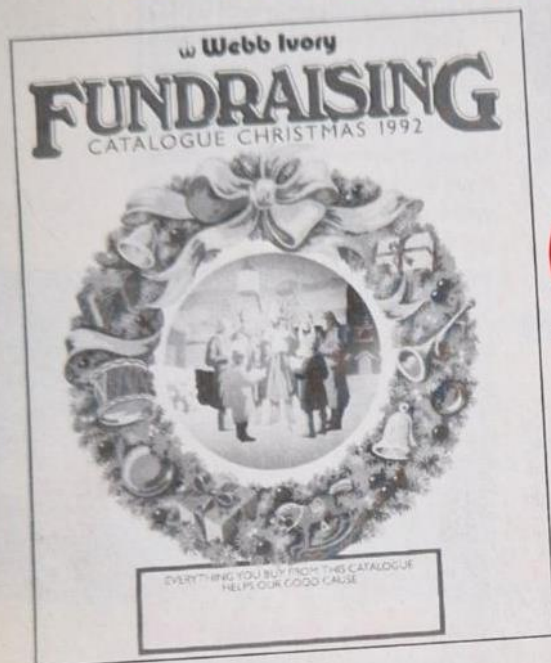


All the UK team members were chosen for their particular project at an INTOPS (International Opportunities) weekend. The next INTOPS weekend will be held at Foxlease from January 29 to 31.

If you are between 16 and 30 and ready to face the challenge of working overseas contact Barbara Mathieson, Guiding Activities Division, The Girl Guides Association, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT for more details.



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