

# GUIDING



JUNE 1997 £1.25

## ALL ABOARD

The Snowmobile takes off

## I SAY, I SAY

Heard about the Guide being breathalysed?

## SHINING EXAMPLE

Ceri lives by her Promise

## WAKY, WAKY

Blackland Farm gets ready for its summer visitors

## TRICKS OF THE TRADE

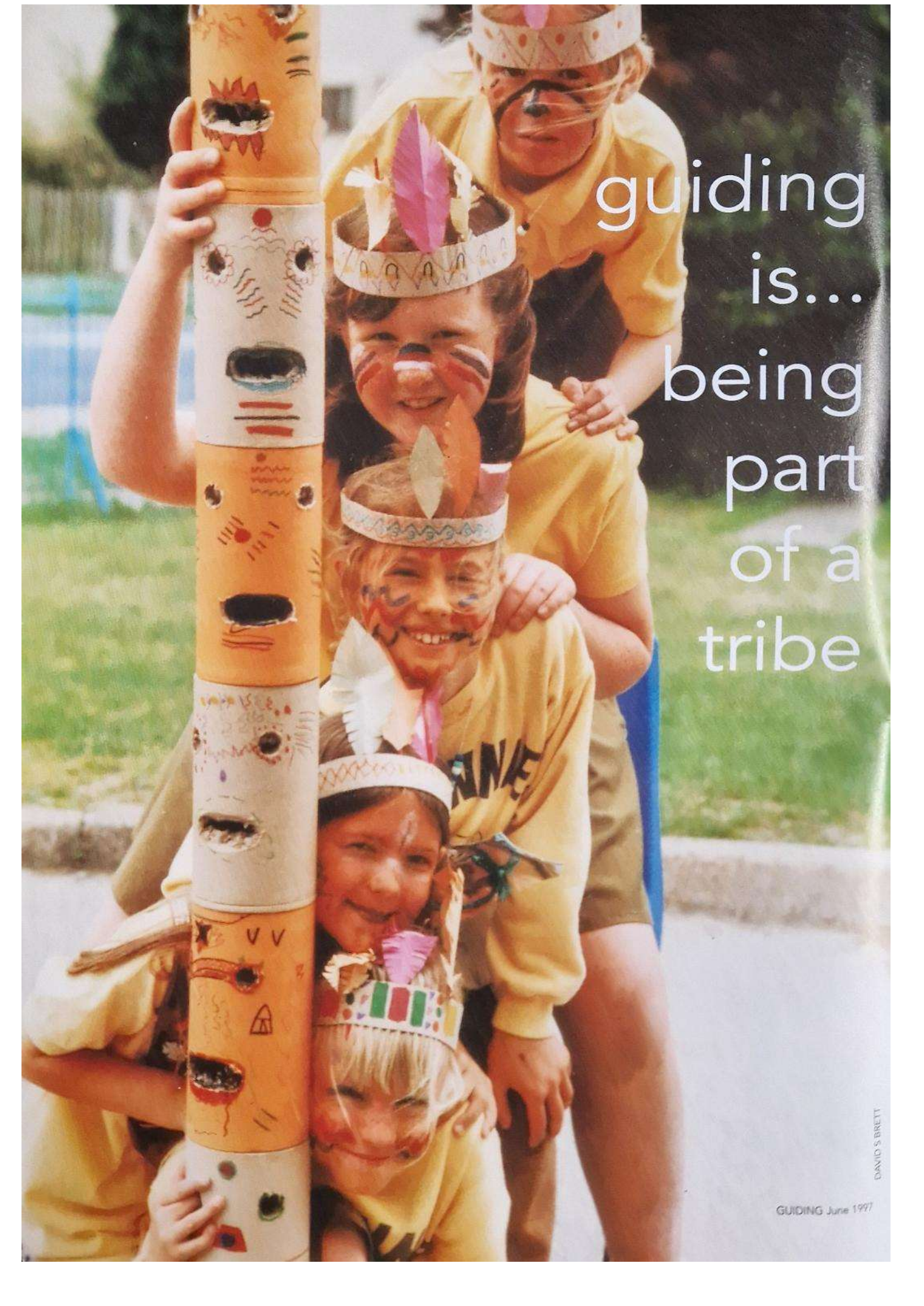
Games to teach camping skills

## FANTASTIC FETES

Things to bake and make

dive  
in to  
summer





guiding  
is...  
being  
part  
of a  
tribe

DAVID S. BRETT

GUIDING June 1997

## comment

THE GUIDE ASSOCIATION



One of the main attractions of Guiding for girls of all ages is the opportunity to make their own decisions about the activities in their programme, about special events and celebrations, about how to help in their communities, about where to go for camps and Pack Holidays, about..... all sorts of things!

We are quite familiar with Rainbows making choices during Chats, and with Brownies in Pow-wow contributing their ideas to the discussions led by Brown Owl.

Guides are well-known for working together in Patrols to choose, plan and carry out their activities, while also sharing in the unit's programme co-ordinated by the Patrol Leaders' Council.

In each of these sections, the amount of self-government expected of the girls reflects their level of maturity.

And so it is in the Senior Section — Rangers, Young Leaders and others working on Look Wider are wholly responsible for making their own decisions about their programme of activities, both in groups and individually.

As these young women move more fully into the leadership role, it is equally important that they are encouraged and enabled to contribute to decision making and planning activities in which they will be involved.

District, Division and County meetings of all kinds provide opportunities for adults to work together, using the contributions and experiences of everyone — whether the topic is Thinking Day celebrations, a District Fun Day, Mother and daughter camp, or the County's Christmas carol service.

Just as girls in their units are encouraged to be democratically self-governing, so must Senior Section and adult members of the Association have the same opportunity in their own peer groups.

Let's make sure that in all groups and teams in Guiding, everyone has the chance to be fully involved in making decisions which affect them!

**Jean Bell**  
Senior Section Adviser

# this month...

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Gillian Shaw, an Association Assistant PRA

## front cover

Enjoy the sunshine at Blackland Farm this summer and then cool off with a dip like Portslade Guide Samantha Daltrey

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO WEBB IVORY FOR SPONSORING THIS MONTH'S FRONT COVER



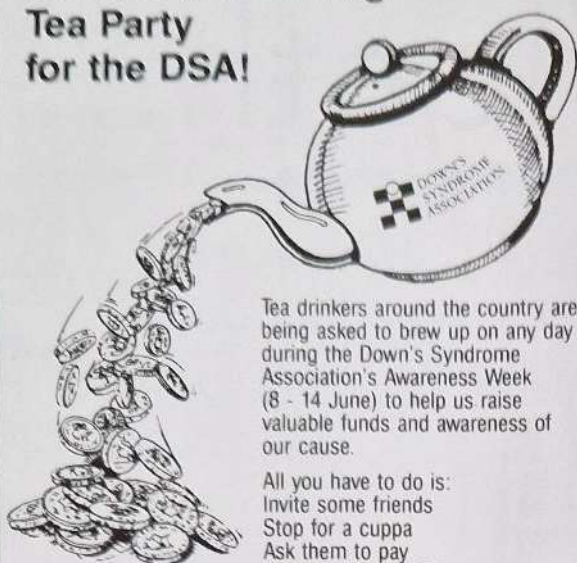
LUCY SLATER

**Webb Ivory**

Webb Ivory, Frampton Hill, Farnham, Surrey, GU10 1PH

## 31 ideas—19 pages of great ideas for you and your unit

## Host a Fund-raising Tea Party for the DSA!



Tea drinkers around the country are being asked to brew up on any day during the Down's Syndrome Association's Awareness Week (8 - 14 June) to help us raise valuable funds and awareness of our cause.

All you have to do is:  
Invite some friends  
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It promises to be a mammoth affair - but so is the challenge we face to raise funds for projects which enable people with Down's syndrome to realise their full potential.

Obtain a Tea Party Host Pack by writing to:  
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## Fire destroyed 70,000 tents

TELEGRAPH 16.4.97

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## On top of the world

As part of their Culture badge programme, Brownies from the 3rd South Weald Pack explored their local church, St Peter's.

They ended their visit by climbing 140 steps to the top of the tower.

There, with superb views over the Essex countryside and particularly South Weald, seven-year-old Sophie Butterfield made her Promise.



SUE CHILD

## Wish you were here

Pack Holiday time and, for the 1st Manila Brownies, there's no place like the beach.

Other recent highlights in the life of this BGIFC unit have included a joint Thinking Day celebration with American Brownies, helping out at community fêtes and fundraising for a local orphanage by making a guy for November 5 and also by making and selling pizzas for lunch at school. And alongside all this there's their regular Brownie programme.

With so much happening, no wonder there's a waiting list!



BGIFC

## Professional touch

When Brownies from the 1st Worthing Pack did their bit for the Big Crunch, they had a helping hand from Snowy Owl's husband, Tim Brosman. Tim just happens to be a baker and invited the girls to use his bakehouse on Thinking Day for their biscuit-making session.

Here, from left, Eleanor, Sarah, Laura and Ciaran retrieve a batch of cookies from the oven under Tim's watchful eye.

The biscuits were then sold off at 5p each to family, friends and neighbours.

For more photos from the Big Crunch, look out for a special feature in the October issue of GUIDING.



JAMES CLEVETT

## On with the show

Seventy-one Guides from Somerset spent four days at the Royal Bath and West Show, Shepton Mallet, providing an efficient messenger service and helping with a range of jobs.

These included rolling fleeces at the sheep shearing contest and leading cattle round the show ring at the Grand Parade.

But, although the girls were kept busy, they found time for this group photo and a ride on the carousel.



WESTERN DAILY PRESS

## in brief

### Clever cooks

The lucky winners of the Whitworths Christmas competition in GUIDING were the 2nd Priory Guides from Burnham, Berkshire. When the champion cooks came to CHQ to collect their £500 prize, they met TV personality Emma Forbes who had judged the competition.

Emma had been impressed by the originality of their entry — filo pastry crackers and fondant icing sweets in seasonal shapes.

The girls' goodies were subsequently sold to raise funds for the Thames Valley Hospice.

The £500 prize money was going to be spent on camping equipment and a meal out for the Guides.



### Handing over

Retiring Brown Owl Myra Bell knew she was leaving the 4th Chinnor Pack, Oxfordshire, in safe hands. For the hands belonged to one of her former Brownies, Sharon Edwards. Sharon was a member of the Pack 20 years ago and 'thoroughly enjoyed it'.

Surrounded by Brownies, Myra (centre) is pictured with Sharon and Unit Helper Sue Lee, who made a delightful tapestry in her honour.



### Learning together

Tasting the delights of camp cookery — in this case a

cake baked in orange peel over a fire — was one of many memorable moments at a training weekend for Salvation Army Guiders held in Sunbury, Middlesex.

Among the others were crossing a pioneer bridge, having a go with handbells and sharing fellowship at camp fire and Sunday worship.

There were separate trainings for each section. Plenary sessions covered topics such as raising money, administration and creative prayer.

## snippets

**COLOUR PARTY** For the first time in over 20 years, Northamptonshire Guides — representing Midlands Region — had the privilege of bearing the World Flag and the Chief Guide's Standard at the Thinking Day service in Westminster Abbey. Each year a different Country or Region carries out this honour and this February it was Midlands' turn. **AMBULANCE RIDE** When all the Guides from the 1st Stanford in the Vale Company, Oxfordshire, did their First Aid badge they finished up with a visit to Wantage Ambulance Station. There they were presented with their badges and had a ride in an ambulance. **SECOND TIME AROUND** After an interval of many years, Rangers have started up again in Shipley, West Yorkshire. When the 'new' Unit's first three members made their Promise, the occasion was especially memorable because the honours were done by Alison Coburn, County Senior Section Adviser and a founder member of the original Shipley Ranger Unit. **MESSY EATERS** Brownies from the 32nd Kingswood Pack, Bristol, found themselves on BBC television demonstrating how they raised

£200 for Children in Need. Their fundraising play involved eating cold baked beans or sweetcorn with a cocktail stick, and then demolishing a bowl of jelly with their hands tied behind their backs. **STEPPING OUT** As part of a disability awareness event, Learn to Mix in '96, two Berkshire Guides from Wash Common — Louise Martin and Jenny Bowden — did a sponsored walk. They covered 12 miles from Theale to Newbury to raise money for a local school for the deaf. **WELSH CONNECTION** Although Angela Henson gained her Baden-Powell Trefoil Award as a member of the 3rd South Hayling Company, in Hampshire, her first 18 months in Guides were with the 6th Llanishen Company, Cardiff. Because Angela felt her enthusiasm for Guiding had begun in Wales, she invited her first Guider, Carol Richards, to the presentation — and was thrilled when Carol accepted. **CATWALK CASH** Forty 'models' from the six Guide units in Finchley and Friern Barnet Division had a 'brilliant time' putting on a fashion show and succeeded in raising £222 for Division funds. ■

# transport of delight

Just when it looked as if Ann Hudson's active Guiding was ending, the Brownies of St Albans helped to transform their Snowy Owl's life by giving her wheels.

In the summer of 1995 Ann's health, poor since early childhood, declined dramatically.

A chronic asthmatic with bronchiectasis – an incurable lung infection – and osteoporosis, Ann's mobility was becoming greatly impaired. Walking, very slowly, the short distance from her home to Brownies on Wednesdays now left her so exhausted that all she could do when she got there was slump into a chair.

Even for optimistic Ann, who prides herself on 'being positive', Brownie nights weren't quite such fun any more.

Ann's husband, Peter, who happens to be one of the vergers at St Albans Abbey, started to try to raise more than £3,000 which he needed to buy Ann an electric scooter. Alone he faced a long, hard struggle and, possibly, failure.

But then Ann's Pack, the 29th St Albans Abbey Brownies, who meet in the abbey crypt, got wind of it and scented a challenge. With the help of their other leaders, the Hertfordshire girls began raising money with a sort of 'bob a job' scheme in the school holidays.

Other units and leaders in the neighbourhood joined in with events like a barbecue and a coffee morning. Most of their efforts went ahead without Ann finding out.

An approach to CHQ produced an Association grant and, by the time local charities had also contributed some cash, the target figure was looking close.

Soon, a delighted and almost overwhelmed Ann was purring her way to the Abbey in her smart, three-wheeled 'Snowymobile', as the girls christened the scooter.

Known locally as the 'Brownies in the Abbey', each girl was given a ride in the abbey grounds.

Ann wrote to *GUIDING* not only to pay tribute to the help and support she has received but 'in the hope that others with a disability will be encouraged to join the great caring family of Guiding'.

Her own story of living with disability began when she was 18 months old, as she explained:

Following an earlier infection, I contracted pneumonia and this left permanent damage. None of today's drug therapy was available then. I was simply labelled a "weak child", constantly in and out of hospital.

At that time I lived with my parents in the North-east and, at the age of five, was sent to a "special" school — or what was then called an "open-air school". One wall of each classroom consisted entirely of glazed folding doors, which could be opened right back to provide us with unlimited fresh air.

The school was in Newcastle which, in those days, was still an industrial centre. So I don't know how "fresh" the air was but it was supposed to do us good.

At seven I was sent to a sanatorium where I remained until I was 11½. In all that time I spent only three weekends at home. I attended a special school within the precincts of the sanatorium.

I was well looked after but became so institutionalised and socially isolated that, when at last I returned to the outside world, I couldn't cross the road by myself. I was terrified of traffic and meeting strangers was an ordeal.

Back home with my parents, I rejoined the same open-air school I had attended earlier. My older

**Brownie  
nights are fun  
once more for  
Ann Hudson  
thanks to her  
Snowymobile**



DAVE SATCHEL

sister, Moira, was a Guide Guider and I became a Guide in her Company. I managed to get a lot of badges but I was bitterly disappointed at not being allowed to go to camp with them because of my poor health.

Perhaps that's why I enjoy going on Pack Holidays so much, it gives me a chance to do my other Guiding job as Quartermaster.

Now, largely due to the support given to me by the great family of Guiding, Brownie nights are as much fun for me as they ever were because now I can get to them on my Snowymobile. ♥

**Ann Hudson takes a trip  
on the 'Snowymobile'  
watched by (from left)  
Brownies Daisy  
Wakefield, Philippa  
Johnson, Elizabeth  
Warden and Jennifer Lyal**

# living the P

East  
Flintshire  
Division's Ceri  
Shirvington is  
an inspiration  
to all who  
meet her

Ceri Shirvington is a remarkable young woman, a shining example of a girl who lives for Guiding and who carries her Guide Promise into every corner of her life. We heard about Ceri from Guider Helen Barham, who watched Ceri grow from Brownie to Guide and Young Leader into adulthood.

'Ceri made her Guide Promise in our unit, the 1st Wepre, on a snowy February day, during a hike through the local park,' recalled Helen. 'Since then, she's really lived up to the meaning of the Promise in every way.'

'She's been a loyal unit member ever since. She's now an assistant leader and never misses a meeting. She's waiting for me to retire so that she can take over!'

Ceri, now 24, has never let her learning difficulties hamper her progress and has always been a tireless achiever.

She gained her Baden-Powell Award, which was a triumph of hard work that delighted her many friends in Deeside District in



Clwyd's East Flintshire Division.

Seeking further goals, Ceri tackled the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. She has completed all the Bronze-level challenges except the expedition clause, and is well into the Silver syllabus.

For her Bronze Award, Ceri supervised children, attended personality and appearance classes and adopted a keep-fit regime. Working for her Silver involves Ceri in helping at Rainbows and Mums and Tots, where she is particularly gifted at soothing fretful children.

Ceri attends a weekly English folk dance group, and has become skilled in using

her Commodore 16 computer.

Though the Movement takes pride of place in Ceri's life, she does have a world outside Guiding. Always keen to learn, she goes to college classes in art, English, maths, cookery and massage.

'Massage is my favourite,' she said. 'I love it.' Her fellow Guiders have benefited from Ceri's new-found skills, as she's keen to practise on her friends.

What does Ceri like best about Guiding? 'Everything!' she said, beaming and throwing her arms wide in an expansive gesture. 'But, if I must choose one thing, it has to be camping.'

Ceri has camped with 1st Wepre for many years. 'She never misses,' said Helen. 'She's been to every weekend and every week camp as well as five internationals. She always completes camp challenges for the necker and woggle.'

One of Ceri's great enthusiasms

Delighted to be off  
to camp, Ceri is  
pictured here as a  
Ranger in 1991



RON SHIRVINGTON

# romise

By Gillian Ellis



Ceri with 1st Wepre members at Camp 96

1ST WEPRE



GILLIAN ELLIS

Loving examples — Ceri with her parents, Joyce and Ron Shirvington



Trying out her new camp bed, Ceri snuggles down in the sitting room

RON SHIRVINGTON

is raising money, not just for Guiding but for every good cause that hits the headlines. BBC's *Blue Peter* only has to mention a new target and Ceri is right there with her bric-a-brac and sales of work, first in line for those famous blue and white stickers.

In recent years, she has raised £53 for Sight Savers; £102 for a river blindness cure in Africa; £255 for a water pump in India; and £150 for leprosy treatment.

When a friend recently needed cash to go abroad with the British Schools Exploring Society, Ceri chipped in with £35. She also supported Ian Botham's Walk for Leukaemia, and has happy memories of the kiss he threw her as he passed by.

Ceri's biggest ongoing

fundraising project is the Cans for Cash Appeal to benefit Guiding. For over three years, Ceri has collected, sorted and crushed aluminium cans. Every Thursday, on her way to Guides, she takes the cans to the collection point.

This self-appointed task began on her 21st birthday and looks set to continue for many years. The word has gone round and a steady stream of cans arrives at Ceri's home. Through her commitment to recycling Ceri has raised a magnificent £500 for her unit.

Ceri has loving support in everything she does. When *GUIDING* dropped in to meet this enterprising young Guider, her parents were there, too, providing a fascinating record of Ceri's Guiding life. Browsing through the

photograph albums, achievement certificates and press clippings was immense fun, and talking to Ceri's parents was a privilege.

If ever parents had reason to be proud of a daughter, it's Ron and Joyce Shirvington, and they're not afraid to show it. They've encouraged and guided Ceri in her ventures. And, by following all Ceri's badge work, probably know as much about the Guide Movement as anyone.

It's Mum who sat with Ceri day after day as she practised writing, and who helps her with her sales drives. Dad took her to ring the church bells to welcome home Terry Waite, and he accompanies Ceri to the recycling point to deliver her cans.

Both parents encourage her growing independence.

Helen Barham and her Assistant Guider Janet Lloyd, who has a strong bond with Ceri, can't praise her enough.

'She's truly an inspiration to everyone and our District thinks very highly of her,' Helen said. 'If I've done nothing else in my Guiding life, I treasure the memories and enjoyment that Ceri has had from this wonderful organisation. It gives me immense satisfaction.'

One girl's  
interest in a  
handsome  
Scout led to  
Guiding  
starting up in  
a Kentish  
town

By Gillian Ellis

Doris on her 100th  
birthday

Ask most women to name the proudest moment of their lives and they'll probably choose their graduation, wedding, first baby's arrival or the day they shook hands with a VIP. Not Doris Jourd. Her proudest moment was when the Founder used his own pocket knife to cut a cake she'd baked.

Doris Alice Jourd was in at the formation of the first Girl Scout Troop in Gillingham, Kent and, when the Guide Movement began in 1910, she was a founder member of 1st Gillingham Guide Company.

'I belonged to a church girls' club,' Doris, who now lives in a Whitstable rest home, told *GUIDING*. 'The Boy Scouts held meetings in the same building.'

'In summer, my friend Kathleen and I went for long tramps with the boys. My mother came, too! We had great fun making camp fires and cooking in the open air, and we decided we'd like to form a troop of Girl Scouts.'

In August 1909, Doris persuaded her mother to buy her a Boy Scout hat, belt and haversack, a brown

blouse, navy skirt and neckerchief.

'Dressed in my "uniform", I walked down the road with a broomstick in my hand,' Doris recalled. 'People stared but I didn't mind at all.'

Before long, a small 'Girl Scout' troop had evolved. Doris's mother, Alice Best, took charge at first. Then a local teacher, Winifred Rogers, became the Scout Mistress. This early venture into Girl Scouting proved so popular that it soon attracted some 70 girls and Patrols were formed. 'We called ourselves the Owls,' said Doris. 'Our motto was "Always Alert".'

The Founder himself, then General Sir Robert Baden-Powell KCB, came down to inspect the Scouts several times and, at a Field Day on Gillingham Football Ground, he presented the Girl Scouts with their First Aid badges.

'That was a memorable day,' said Doris. 'There were about 3,000 spectators and both Boy and Girl Scouts gave displays. During a first-aid demonstration, the girl being treated for fainting was so convincing that the Chief thought she really had fainted — until he saw her open one eye to make sure

her skirt was covering her knees!'

Several local people became interested in the troop and offered their services. Two doctors gave first-aid training and a nurse shared her skills. A Royal Marines' physical training instructor put the intrepid girls through their paces and a naval signalman taught them semaphore.

Fire-fighting training was a most exciting experience. Everyone learned to jump from a window into a canvas sheet held by the other Girl Scouts, to handle the hose — with damp results for all concerned — and to be lowered from a window in a 'fireman's chair' made of two loops of rope.

The girls were not Scouts for long. As soon as the Girl Guides officially began, 1st Gillingham Girl Guide Company was registered in June 1910. Doris still has the Captain's warrant issued to Miss Mary Ann Pegden on July 14, 1910, signed by Agnes Baden-Powell.

The enthusiastic Guides were keen on all types of badge work. 'My mother taught us cooking and sewing,' said Doris. 'We made a Union Flag for our Needlewoman badge. I still clearly remember the cutting out, tacking, tiny stitches,

Guiding across the years — Doris Jourd, founding member of the 1st Gillingham Company, and Judy Wiltshire, Kent East County Commissioner



KENT MESSENGER GROUP



GILLIAN ELLIS

# beginning..



Sixty years on — Doris reunited with two of the founder members of the 1st Gillingham Guide Company

pressing and, eventually, receiving my badge.'

When Doris married, she went to South Africa where her husband worked in the School of Mines. Her Guiding life was temporarily sidelined, as their three children took all her time and attention.

Returning to England in the early 1960s, Doris found time to learn Esperanto, to help with Whitstable Conservative Association and other local concerns, and to become Lieutenant of the 2nd Whitstable Guides in Kent. Shortly afterwards, she took over as Captain of 1st Whitstable, but Doris was a little apprehensive at first.

'I didn't know quite what to expect,' she said, 'But I soon discovered that, in spite of the advent of radio, television and cinema, the spirit of Guiding remained as unchanged as the reef knot and the half-hitch. The Guides were just as eager, just as proud of their uniform and just as keen to win badges as the Girl Scouts in that company my mother formed back in 1909.'

In the summer of 1961, Doris decided it was time that the old friends of 1st Gillingham met up again, so set herself the mammoth

task of contacting them.

Although many had not met for over half a century, the years fell away as the 'girls' recalled their exciting early Guiding days.

They talked about their camps, concerts and the Boy Scouts who had made their hearts flutter. Some even had a go at semaphore to reassure themselves they hadn't forgotten their Guiding skills.

The Whitstable Guides who served afternoon tea at Doris's home listened wide-eyed to tales of former glory. The event was so successful that, after loyal toasts to the Queen and to the worldwide sisterhood of Guides, a second reunion was arranged there and then for the following year.

Once the habit was started, it wasn't easily broken and annual reunions continued until Doris retired from active Guiding. Reports of the final get-together, with eight original members present, appeared on television and in the local and national press.

A highlight of Doris's Guiding life was her trip to the 1969 annual conference of the Ontario Council of the Girl Guides of Canada where she was overwhelmed by the friendliness and hospitality of the Canadian Guiders. Doris took the

opportunity to attend Guide meetings and was even enrolled as an honorary member of 9th Kingston Guides.

Doris's retirement in June 1971 was a sad event for the Guides of 1st Whitstable. Though Doris was then 74, well over the age now permitted for Unit Guiders, she was still such a live wire that one of her Guides was heard to say in dismay: 'Oh, Captain! I hope we're not going to get some old lady!'

In fact Doris maintains that she could easily have continued for several more years. But she preferred to go out 'on a high note' while she was still fit and healthy.

Doris, 12 years old when she first strode out with that broomstick, celebrated her 100th birthday last December. Tributes poured into St Martin's Rest Home in Whitstable and there was a steady stream of visitors, including Councillor Clive Wake, Lord Mayor of Canterbury, journalists, photographers and, nearest to Doris's heart, members of her two families — the Jourds and the Guides of Whitstable.

A photograph of Doris in her 1908 Girl Scout uniform, complete with stave and broad-brimmed hat, was proudly displayed on the bedroom wall for all to see, and Doris's fascinating scrapbooks and photograph albums were on view to delight friends of all generations.

Back in 1910, the prompt start of Guiding in Gillingham owed much to a Boy Scout named Harry Tadman, though few people remain who have ever heard of him.

It was only in 1954, during her mother's 95th birthday celebrations, that Doris admitted, with a 46-year-delayed blush, that her interest in forming a Girl Scout troop had initially been sparked by her equally strong interest in Harry.

'I often wondered what happened to him,' she murmured. 'Such a nice boy.'

# wilful da

Steps are  
being taken  
to stem the  
tide of  
vandalism  
that has  
washed over  
the UK

By Catherine Dell

Vandalism, from graffiti to train derailment, is typically a juvenile offence and, although the majority of vandals are boys, around 30 per cent are girls. *GUIDING* reports.

Last year Britain's railways coped with 3,500 missiles thrown at trains, 2,200 objects on the line and 17,000 cases of serious graffiti. Those were the reported cases.

For its part, BT spent £4.5m repairing damaged payphones and the bill for arson attacks in schools came to around £55m.

Locally, we've all come across stories of a toddlers' sand pit being doused with sump oil, a new village noticeboard defaced with graffiti or a street of parked cars having their radio aerials snapped off.

Apart from the obvious financial cost of vandalism, there is also the social cost. An environment where vandalism is rife appears unsafe and unfriendly. People stop caring about

play: school facilities are closed out of school hours and, because of current traffic densities, streets are no longer safe. In the words of one social worker: 'We're breeding generations of battery children, not free-range'.

At home there is no outlet for their energies. Outside, with no one organising or supervising their play, they are left to their own devices.

As they get older, children find that to do anything or go anywhere costs money — which they haven't got. Consequently, many of them are at a loose end for between 20 and 30 hours a week, often spending this time hanging around doing nothing in particular.

Some decide to 'protest' — and have a bit of fun at the same time — by throwing stones at a passing train, uprooting saplings in the town park or setting fire to litter bins.

When they reach their mid- and late teens boredom escalates into frustration and anger. Perhaps they are failing at school or having problems at home or can't get a job ... and so they choose to hit back at a system which, in their view, is letting them down.

Another major influence is peer pressure. Vandalism is very much a group activity, and the desire to be one of the crowd can easily outweigh individual conscience. It can even happen that each member of a group has reservations about smashing up the bus shelter. But, for the sake of their status within the group, no one is prepared to voice their doubts, let alone act on them.

This situation was highlighted in a Crime Concern study of youth crime: 'Again and again young people told us of how they drifted into situations which they knew were wrong, but which they felt compelled to go along with because they do not want to be seen as outsiders, or "chicken", or lose their mates', it reported.

Two other main reasons given for vandalising — both closely linked to the group situation — are 'having a laugh with friends' and 'wanting to appear big' in front of their peers.

A survey, *Verdict on Vandalism*, carried out by the Extern Organisation in Craigavon, Northern Ireland, also found a strong copy-cat motive with young vandals, who copied each other as well as taking their cue from TV and video. Further reasons given in the survey included the influence of alcohol and drugs, attention-seeking and revenge.

Young vandals don't always come from disadvantaged backgrounds. But those who do are, to a greater or lesser extent, conditioned by environment and circumstances. Relevant risk factors include poverty, criminally-active families, unstable home life, living in high-crime areas and poor parenting.

A *Youth Crime Consultation*, undertaken in Bath, quotes a 16-year-old as saying: 'I think the lack of parental guidance is a big cause of youth crime. A lot of parents have not got the time for their children. Where I grew up there were children of two and upwards playing on the streets with their friends. Their parents didn't know where they were or what they were doing, nor did half of them care.'

What also emerges from studies of youth vandalism are the attitudes of the young people to what they are doing. Although, in general, they accept that vandalism is wrong, they recognise a hierarchy of seriousness. In the Extern survey youngsters listed setting fire to buildings and breaking windows in occupied homes as much 'more wrong' than scratching cars and damaging bus shelters, while vandalising empty houses hardly counted as wrong at all.

Disrespect for property is closely linked to a lack of sense of community. Many young people



CRIME CONCERN

Vandalism  
stops people  
using  
community  
facilities like  
play areas

it and stay away, leaving it to deteriorate further. Then it may attract more serious crime and end up as a no-go area. Anyone who is unable to move out becomes demoralised and depressed.

Although vandalism appears to happen for no real reason, more often than not there is a motive — albeit confused. When asked why they do it, those involved in vandalism give a range of answers.

The most common is boredom. Many youngsters have nowhere to

# amage

have no sense of involvement in the community and so have no concept of responsibility towards facilities that exist for everyone's benefit.

It also happens that youngsters don't value what belongs to other people because others don't value what belongs to them. Take the example of a parent who collects her four-year-old from nursery school and reacts to his latest sploidy painting by saying 'Ugh' and throwing it away as soon as they get home. A child devalued in this way soon learns to adopt a similar response to the world around him.

Yet another aspect of the problem is that young vandals seldom think through the consequences of their actions.

They throw a concrete block off a railway bridge and get a buzz as it smashes through the front of the cab, bringing the train to a shuddering halt. For them that's the end of the story.

They never think about the damaged locomotive, the injured driver who won't be able to work for several weeks, bruised and shaken passengers, disrupted services on that line, plus all the inconvenience caused by the delay.

Young people's attitudes towards vandalism and the reasons why they get involved provide an essential context for tackling the problem. Initiatives aimed at addressing this type of activity must provide more opportunities for young people to use their spare time positively, to share in decisions that affect them, to grow in awareness of the community so that they not only develop a sense of public ownership but can also appreciate the implications of anti-social behaviour.

Community organisations and local authorities all over the country now run play schemes during the school holidays to keep children occupied, involved — and off the streets. Similar, more focused

schemes — often incorporating outdoor activities and arts projects — are organised for teenagers. Sometimes these target a specific problem like putting on a driving course for ex-joy-riders.

There is also a move towards shared decision-making in schools which encourages pupils to take a responsible interest in their environment. Where children have been allowed to choose the colours of, and paint, their own classrooms, for example, there has been a significant reduction in damage.

Helping youngsters understand the consequences of their behaviour

figures prominently in education programmes like those run by Railtrack — and in the impressive scheme developed by the Merseyside Fire Brigade for young arsonists.

Youngsters, who are referred to the scheme by the Youth Justice Service, have to attend a series of one-to-one sessions which cover all aspects of arson, including burn injuries and what it's like to be a firefighter in the midst of smoke and flames.

The financial and social costs are also emphasised: if a factory is burnt down and 200 people lose their jobs and if one of the 200 is the arsonist's father or brother ...

Another very effective scheme is the Youth Action Group programme — a Crime Concern initiative supported by Prudential. There are currently over 1,100 groups across the UK — based either in a school, college or youth organisation — involving young people in projects

that are designed to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

Many of these projects specifically target vandalism. For example, youngsters have cleaned up graffiti hot spots around their schools and in town centres and railway stations and, by running an awareness campaign at the same time, they've succeeded in keeping the sites graffiti free.

Others have cleared up vandalised areas, repaired public seating and, in the case of one group, produced a play about the problem of vandalising payphones.

Guiding also has a valuable contribution to make. In the Promise there is a commitment to citizenship and involvement in the wider world. Through the Programme, girls are encouraged to develop an awareness of community and their role in it.

They are acquiring skills and



JEFF DAVISON/SWANSEA COMMUNITY SAFETY UNIT

interests which enable them to use their leisure positively and happily. And they are growing in self-esteem and self-worth, which helps them to withstand unwelcome peer pressure, and also they are confirming their own value system.

● If you want more information about the Youth Action Group initiative contact Crime Concern on 01793 514596.

For details of Railtrack education programmes write to Jo-Anne Couzins, Railtrack, 40 Bernard St, London WC1N 1BY. ■

**Members of a Swansea Youth Action Group attacking graffiti in their school**

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Nottinghamshire County Scout Headquarters, Valmont House, 2 Valmont Road,  
Sherwood, Nottingham NG5 1GA (Tel. 0115 952 3617)

\* Make cheques payable to 'N. & L. Scout Events' and please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.  
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# what's all this?

It was a most unusual case with all the makings of the kind of scandal the Association's leaders hope will never happen.

A police officer at Witham, Essex, married to a former Queen's Guide, encouraged an 11-year-old Guide to consume alcohol. The girl, who cooperated readily, was then breathalysed at a police station.

She was, however, found to be well within the drink-driving limit and no evidence was offered that she had been driving a motor vehicle at the time.

Naturally, the Guide was released without charge, which means that, although a minor, she can be identified as Rachael Lowe, of the 1st Wickham Bishops Guides from Essex.

As for the conduct of the officer, no disciplinary proceedings are to be brought against PC 2354 Richard Raven because, if you haven't already guessed, he was merely 'coaching' Rachael and the rest of her Company for their Crime Prevention badge.

Guider Linda Wilks, appearing for Rachael, outlined the case:

It was agreed that the entire unit would take the Crime Prevention badge over two weeks. Very conveniently, Lindsey Raven, one of my Unit Helpers and a former Queen's Guide, is married to a policeman, so PC Raven was 'recruited' to help.

All the girls wanted to ride in a police van, so we met at the village hall and the first ten Guides to arrive were 'detained' by PC Raven. They were taken in a police van to Witham police station for questioning — with the Guides asking most of the questions.

As the other 17 girls arrived at the hall, they were taken to the station by a posse of parents and Guiders with their cars.

With 27 of them crowding into the place, there wasn't much room left for the police but, fortunately, it



JOHN ADAMS

was a 'quiet' evening.

PC Raven gave them a very interesting tour. They were shown virtually everything, from the front office to the cells, where they noted with approval the soft loo paper.

In the yard they were shown an astonishing range of equipment routinely carried in the boots of police cars and my daughter, Elizabeth, who is ten and a member of my unit, tried on a bullet-proof vest.

Guide Rachael Lowe had her first — and what we all assume will be her only — experience of breathing into the breathalyser.

But, in order to obtain a reading from the Lion Intoxicator — to give it the official name — she was required to swig from a can of lemonade shandy, containing a minute amount of alcohol. Then she had to blow quickly into the machine, while traces of the drink were still in her mouth.

The machine showed, if only very briefly, that Rachael was almost one quarter of the way

towards the legal limit. This, of course, was only a mock test and did not give a true indication of the amount of alcohol in Rachael's bloodstream, which was probably almost nil.

The Guides were most impressed and let's hope that when they begin to drive, they will remember just how sensitive the machine is.

All were given police leaflets about crime prevention and other matters as they left the station. The second ten to arrive at the village hall at the start of the evening rode back to the hall in the police van. What a thrill!

The following week all the girls were tested by PC Raven on the information in the leaflets and on what they had learned during their tour of the police station. ☺

Burglars and other wrong-doers in the Bergholt area had better watch out. Benefiting from their intensive 'police college' course, all 27 girls in the unit were awarded Crime Prevention badges. ■

A Guide being  
'breathalysed'  
— whatever  
happened  
next...

Guide guinea pig  
Rachael Lowe,  
watched by Joanna  
and Elizabeth  
Wilks, tries out the  
breathalyser under  
the watchful eye of  
Sergeant Norman  
Stone.

© BBC



The Lowdown at Wimbledon

## Kids' eye view

A foyer exhibition at MOMI, the Museum of the Moving Image on the South Bank, focuses on *The Lowdown* —

the highly-regarded BBC TV documentary series for children which is now in its tenth year.

Called *The Lowdown: Flashbacks*, the exhibition highlights productions from across the years, including ones about Wimbledon ballgirls and ballboys, imaginary friends, and kids acting in *Neighbours*.

The foyer exhibition, which continues until the end of the year, is free. For information about MOMI in general call 0171 401 2636.



CLAIRE THOMAS

## Get snapping

It's time once again to zoom in on the 1997 Eyewitness/RSPCA Young Photographer of the Year Award. Prizes include Olympus cameras, Dorling Kindersley books and cash totalling £450.

Entrants, divided into two age groups — under-12s and 12-17 years — can submit as many photos as they like for any or all of the three categories. They are: Animals Around Us, Animals in Motion and Looking at Wildlife.

In 1996, the overall winner was Claire Thomas (see February's *GUIDING*, page 17) for her action-packed shot of a border collie.

The closing date for this year's competition is August 29. For full details call Dorling Kindersley on 0171 753 3553 and ask for a leaflet.

Last year's winning photo

## The eagle soars

As 1997 marks the 50th anniversary of the United States Air Force, birthday tributes — including a show-stopping aerial display — are a highlight of this year's Royal International Air Tattoo.

Living up to its reputation as the world's greatest aviation spectacle, the Tattoo's 500 or so attractions range from flying routines, virtual reality rides and a two-mile static park to hot air balloons, marching bands and a craft fair.

The Tattoo is held in aid of the RAF Benevolent Fund and takes place from July 19-20 at RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire. Full details on 0891 122999 (calls are charged at 50p per minute).

*GUIDING* has 15 pairs of adult tickets (worth £40 per pair) to give away — accompanied children under 15 go free. To enter the prize draw answer the following question: What is the name of the RAF's aerobatic display team?

Send your entry, on a postcard, to the address on the right.

## Looking their best

An exhibition now on at the National Portrait Gallery, London, explores the many ways in which men and women have 'followed fashion' throughout the past 500 years.

Called *The Pursuit of Beauty*, it features 18 portraits, ranging from Charles I to Daley Thompson, that illustrate all kinds of clothing, cosmetics and hairstyles.

To bring the various fashions to life, there are items to try on such as ruffs, hats, wigs and corsets.

Of interest to all age groups, *The Pursuit of Beauty* continues until October 26. There is no entrance charge and visitors also

receive a free exhibition booklet.

More information on: 0171-306 0055.

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Designed to help students on foreign exchanges, the book is arranged by topic and covers all kinds of situations. Its format makes it extremely useful for just about anyone going to France on holiday.

There are two other titles in the series: *Your Spanish Exchange* and *Your German Exchange*. Published by Yarker Publishing, each book costs £9.99.

**GUIDING** has four to give away. To enter the prize draw write the answer to the following question on a postcard and send it to the address below/left/right. Please indicate your language choice.

Question: Name the currencies of France, Germany and Spain.

### Best feet forward

This year's Family Rambling Day, on Sunday, June 29, is specifically designed to introduce young people to walking.

Organised by the Ramblers' Association, most of the walks are between three and six miles long.

Many of the walks feature added attractions for children such as face-painting, treasure hunts, picnics and nature trails.

For a full list of walks taking place all over Britain, send a sae to FRD, The Ramblers' Association, 1-5 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2XX.

● Competition entries — apart from Blackpool Tower ticket offer — should be sent to **GUIDING** at 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W OPT. Closing date is June 30.

### Walk 'n' bike

In June the National Asthma Campaign is holding two fun events, each designed to raise £100,000 in sponsorship money for vital research.

First, the Midsummer Stroll which asks people taking part to walk one mile a day for ten days — from June 15-24 — to represent the one in ten children in the UK who have asthma.

Second, Bike for Breath — a 50-mile bike ride round Temple Newsam Country Park, Leeds, on June 29. There's also a 20-mile circuit for the less energetic.

Those who can't get to Leeds are urged to organise their own challenge, while non-cyclists could do their bit on an exercise bike at the gym.

For further details of both events, call the National Asthma Campaign on 0171-226 2260.



### Tower treats

There's more to the famous Blackpool Tower than its 10 million light bulbs and fabulous view — which, on a clear day, takes in the Isle of Man and the Lake District.

This well-known landmark now boasts ten family attractions that make for a great day out. These include a huge aquarium, containing Britain's only collection of giant turtles; a *Jurassic-Park* style ride across time; a supervised adventure play area; and a programme of live entertainment for children throughout the day. For further details call 01253 292029.

**GUIDING** has a superb offer for five lucky readers and their units — a free, fun-packed day at the Tower for five groups of Brownies and/or Guides (up to 40 per group).

To enter the prize draw, put your name and address and the name of your unit on a postcard and send direct to First Leisure Central Sales, Wintergardens, Church St, Blackpool FY1 1HW. The closing date is June 30.



Stepping out on Family Rambling Day

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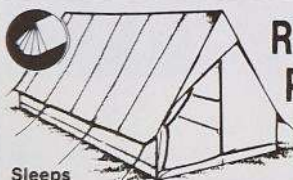
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What outdoor activity is flexible, can be organised with little fuss, needs no equipment and can be adapted to reinforce skills such as road sense?

If you are still guessing, it also encourages the girls to be wide awake and to stay healthy, and is brilliant fun for all age groups because they can pretend to be super sleuths. It's an idea most of us have used at some time — trails.

Our Rainbows seem to have endless enthusiasm for following symbols formed from pre-arranged twigs and pebbles. Just arrows indicating direction and crosses meaning 'not this way' will do. But the more trails they tackle, the more complicated the symbols they can cope with comfortably.

They like to find a message at the end. This may be a password enabling them to get back into our meeting place, where Super Sleuth certificates are waiting (credit-card sized with their names and appropriate images, stamped, drawn or verified in sealing wax).

Alternatively, it may be a 'spell' which must be uttered to free the District from a threatening dragon.

Or they could be invited to a supper of hot squash and biscuits on a cold day. Perhaps someone's birthday might be commemorated with a special message.

Snowy days lend themselves to trails. Our Rainbows like to find animal footprints (bird tracks have a habit of disappearing into mid-air), and we often build a snowman.

Providing there is plenty of adult help, the trail can be done in teams to see who can complete it in the fastest time. We insist on time penalties for any infringement of the Green Cross Code to calm things down a bit.

But do expect the unexpected. I laid one trail which was quite straightforward, winding through one or two quiet, leafy side streets to a garden for the blind, where we intended doing rubbings of the Braille inscriptions.

The first team to come through with their accompanying mums had been totally fascinated by a man they had seen leaning heavily against a wall, looking most unwell. Apparently he'd had a characteristic smell which one Rainbow could identify, even from a distance, as beer.

## rainbow's end

By Hazel Mackenzie

The second group arrived in great excitement explaining that they'd had to cross the road because a very poorly man was being sick.

By the time the third group bounded in there was no mention of the man but graphic descriptions of an enormous pool of vomit.

The assisting Guiders had done their best to use diversionary tactics, but the Rainbows, wide-eyed and obviously having the time of their lives, could talk about nothing else. They were most disappointed when we went back by another route.

Months later the incident still appears to be a treasured memory, which has been embroidered to enormous proportions.

It all goes to show, there's no accounting for what Rainbows will enjoy and what Guiders have to bear in mind when planning the simplest meeting. ■

# notices

## Association awards

### MERITORIOUS CONDUCT STAR OF MERIT

#### Miss Hannah Bain

Young Leader, 24th Stockport  
Guides, Stockport.

#### Mrs Ena Harris

Former County Commissioner,  
Wiltshire South.

#### Miss Eleanor Hodgson

Brownie Guide, 1st Wesham  
Brownies, Lancashire West.

#### Miss Michelle Jones

Young Leader, 1st Denbigh Guides,  
Clwyd.

## Calling Trefoil Guild bakers

Are you planning a visit to the Guide Heritage Centre this summer? If the answer is yes, would you be willing to bake a birthday cake and bring it with you to help celebrate Rainbows' tenth birthday? A slip to be filled in by willing cake bakers has been sent to all Trefoil Guilds operating within easy reach of the capital.

The reward for groups who bring cakes will be one free entry (worth £2) to the Centre for every ten in your group.

## Card design winner

The winning entry in our competition to find a design for 1998's Thinking Day card was submitted by Naomi Robinson of Caterham, Surrey.

Runners-up were Rebecca Prior of Little Shelford, Cambridge and Helen Oldridge of Cathays, Cardiff.

All three won book tokens.

# official

## Crime prevention

Insurers Commercial Union and crime prevention organisation Crime Concern are looking for projects tackling crime locally in the first year of the National Crime Prevention and Community Safety Awards.

Any groups able to demonstrate that they have taken action on crime which has made a difference locally are urged to enter. Local authorities, schools and voluntary organisations working with young people are especially invited.

Eligible projects may include, for example, a youth group tackling local racial harassment through a mentoring and training programme. Closing date for entries is Monday June 30.

Entry forms are available from Crime Concern on 01793 514 596

## Youth resource on line

YouthNet (UK), the charity established by TV broadcaster Martyn Lewis, has launched a comprehensive on-line directory of organisations offering help, advice and opportunities to mainly 12-30-year-olds. But the information would be relevant to parents and teachers, too.

Initially the Site will cover careers, work and unemployment, addiction and health issues, housing and homelessness, education and training, leisure and volunteering.

YouthNet (UK)'s Internet address (URL) is <http://www.thesite.org> or <http://www.thesite.org.uk>.

## Mukta Wijesinha

President of the Sri Lanka Girl Guides Association, Mukta Wijesinha, died in February, in Oxford. She was known to a great many members both in the UK and other countries.

## Short-term investment service

The monthly interest rate after the deduction of management commission was:

January	4.922 per cent
February	4.953 per cent
March	4.836 per cent

An additional 0.5 per cent per annum is paid for deposits of £5,000 and over.

## Trust Fund

On March 31, the value of a share in the Scout and Guide Trust Fund was:

Selling purposes	416.32p
Buying purposes	437.39p
Income yield	3.32 per cent

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

## Special birthday gift

The Guide Heritage Centre will be celebrating the Rainbows' tenth birthday from now until September with a special activity trail for Rainbows and a piece of birthday cake for every visitor.

And where will the cakes come from? The Trefoil Guild (see Calling Trefoil Guild bakers)

## WWF bike ride

If you fancy the idea of riding your bike along 60 miles of leafy backroads this summer, then sign up for the WWF London to Cambridge Bike Ride on July 6 and help to save threatened species and habitats around the world.

Individuals and teams aged over 14 can participate and there are prizes for the amount of sponsorship raised.

Registration is £8 and entry forms can be obtained by calling the hotline 01483 426269.

## First-aid manual

Scottish Guides will know all about the Glasgow-based St Andrew's Ambulance Association who provide much of their first-aid training.

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To order copies, contact Billy Tracey Tel: 0141 332 1828.

# directory

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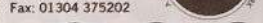
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MORE ON PAGE 62

gff

The 1996  
Guide  
Friendship  
Fund has  
donated  
thousands of  
pounds to  
worthwhile  
causes all over  
the world

The Guide Friendship Fund held two separate appeals last year. Together, the Summer Appeal and the Christmas Appeal have raised over £25,000 for projects in developing countries.

The money was raised by Rainbows, Brownies and Guides all over the UK organising money-raising events. For example, units from Northampton St James held a marathon 24-hour, sponsored sing. The 3rd Cranleigh Brownies donated the proceeds from their pantomime and the 4th Leighton Buzzard Guides held a fantastic fashion show.

Every penny that is raised is donated to a worthy cause. This year, the Guides of Bharat in India have received £12,500 towards their DASTAK project. *Dastak* is Hindi for 'knock at the door' and that is just what the Guides and Scouts of Bharat are doing, in

# fund of friendship

villages in their area, in a bid to combat leprosy.

Leprosy is a major cause of suffering in India, affecting up to 15 million people but, with the right medication, it can be cured. The DASTAK project has trained over 2,000 girls as a special leprosy task force. They take patients' blood pressure, change dressings and even help to entertain bedridden sufferers. Guides and Scouts help the project by educating families about the illness.

Burkina Faso in West Africa, has also benefited enormously from the Guide Friendship Fund this year. A grand total of £1,780 has been donated towards a special skills project for women.

The country has a high rate of unemployment and it is especially hard for women and girls to find work. The money from the Fund will be used to train young women in sewing and weaving. Necessary equipment will also be bought.

Once the women are trained, they will be able to make Guide uniforms and other clothes to sell for profit.

The Guide Friendship Fund continues to support women and girls all over the world in the true spirit of Guiding. Find out more about this year's appeal and what you can do to help by sending an sae to: The Guide Friendship Fund, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT.

## The Guide Association

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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The Guide Association is the United Kingdom's largest voluntary movement for girls and women. Its purpose is to enable girls to become confident, capable and caring individuals and to realise their full potential.

The Association achieves this through its distinctive, stimulating and enjoyable programme of activities delivered by trained volunteer leaders.

The Association provides services to nearly 750,000 members with over 190 full and part-time staff employed in its Headquarters, Trading Service, Shops and Training and Activity Centres. The Association's operating income amounts to some £10m, with approximately one third derived from subscriptions and the majority of the remainder from its trading activities.

The Association now wishes to recruit an exceptional individual as its Chief Executive, reporting to the Chief Guide, to lead, motivate and refocus The Association's support services over the next 5 years.



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ASSOCIATION**  
*A registered charity*

### London

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- the ability to manage change;
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To request fuller information about this appointment including how to apply, please telephone The Association's advisers below on 0181 466 4126 (24 hours) quoting reference BGUA/G not later than 12 June 1997. Applications will close on 19 June.



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# veille time

**January 1:** I never cease to be amazed that people ring up and leave a message at just after midnight to book a site for the following year.

Only three calls this year but the callers all seemed to be enjoying the parties they were at.

**January 6:** Head of Finance on site to finalise last year's accounts. Did we break even or did we lose money? How do you spell resign?

**January 7:** Applications for instructor posts start to arrive.

**January 10:** Blackland Farm Management Committee, ten people – usually involved in Guiding – meet to discuss last year's results, decide next year's prices, and finalise future plans.

**January 11:** The decorating contractor painting toilet blocks. Charlie, the estate worker, painting the indoor accommodation. Why is our paint supplier always smiling these days? Bet I won't be when I get the bill.

**January 15:** Bookings and phone calls for sites starting to flood in. Hurrah! Some deposit cheques to put in the bank.

**January 26:** Offer contracts to some instructors. A few accept but others have different jobs already lined up.

**February 5:** Bill for paint arrived today – the price per litre makes petrol look cheap. But it will make the accommodation look better.

**February 10:** Representative visits with goods for the shop.

**February 11:** Another rep calls with shop goods.

**February 15:** Spend a day on the telephone trying to reduce cost of gas, wood, paint, refuse disposal and cesspool emptying.

**February 20:** Why is it when you drain oil from the tractor there's always half a litre more than will fit in the container?

**March 10:** Drag out the harrows and rollers so that Charlie can get the fields in good condition. Let's hope the diesel used in the tractor will work out cheaper than the paint he used last month.

**March 27:** Training week starts. The 20 instructors are trained in how we run the activities. They are all fairly subdued to start with but that won't last long.

**April 4:** Our first four instructors start work.

**May 23:** Start of Spring Bank Holiday week: 1,200 people arrive on site. It is good to see the site busy after the winter.

**May 26:** Ten groups leave as they were only here for the weekend, another ten groups arrive to replace them. One new group can't find any tent poles for the equipped site. Where have they gone? The last group used the tents all weekend. A check of the hut finds poles up on the roof beams.

**June 1:** Everyone paying their bills and arranging site checking times. Why does everyone leave within an hour of one another?

**June 2:** Schools start arriving with activity sessions running from 12 o'clock.

**June 6:** Schools leave and staff wish us a good weekend. Little do they know that 500 Guides will be arriving in two hours' time to share our weekend.

**June 8:** Girls leave with leaders saying that we have until next Friday to recover. Try to explain that 300 schoolchildren from four schools will arrive tomorrow.

**June 28:** Well into the season now, all seasonal instructors and shop helpers have started. Schools Mondays-Fridays with Guides, Scouts and D of E groups arriving at weekends.

**July 23:** Last school group leaves giving us about 24 hours before the first Guide groups arrive for a week's camp. Just enough time to do a quick check of equipment before everyone arrives.

**July 24:** Coachloads of Guides arriving. It is good to be full up with Guides again.

**July 25:** Early morning shower of rain and some groups cooking hot breakfast with no problems, others

Do camp sites sleep away the winter – not according to these extracts from the diary of the Manager of Blackland Farm, Martin Robinson



struggling somewhat. Maybe they are only used to the hot summers we've had recently. ■

# playing your part

## Every member has a duty to take part in the Association's Council elections

Although Guiding in the Countries and Regions is administered locally, the overall responsibility for the Association as a whole lies with the Council, which has delegated day-to-day management of its affairs to the Executive Committee of the Council.

The way both operate is controlled by the Royal Charter and Bye-laws, which means that elections to the Council and to the Executive Committee must be conducted in the formal manner laid down by the Bye-laws.

The Bye-laws require 38 of the 58 members of the Council to be elected — three by each of the Countries and Regions, one by British Guides in Foreign Countries and nine by the Council itself. In addition, the Chief Guide nominates a member to represent the Branch Associations. The remaining 20 members are ex-officio: for example, the Chief Guide, Country and Region Chief Commissioners and so on.

### What does the Council do?

The Council is responsible for appointing the Chief Guide, the Deputy Chief Guide(s) and the Honorary Treasurer. As well as electing nine — three each year — of the 38 elected members, it also elects six — two each year — from its own members to serve on the Executive Committee.

It makes the final decision on many major issues, for instance: the revised Promise and Law; the new Promise badge; the new logo; the change of name from the Chief Commissioner to Chief Guide; the change of name of the Association;

the events which evolved as the Big Crunch; and Zoom the World.

The Council also must approve, by a two-thirds majority, all changes to the Royal Charter and Bye-laws, although the final approval rests with the Privy Council.

It also assesses reports submitted for consideration.

Members are also chosen, when required, to serve on Association working groups and ad hocs, or to represent it on outside bodies.

When reaching decisions, the Council seeks to establish what will be best for the Association as a whole. Members who are elected by the Countries and Regions and BGIFC speak for themselves and are not official representatives of their 'sponsors'.

Therefore it is essential to ensure that the 28 members elected by the Countries and Regions and BGIFC represent all aspects of Guiding within the Association. But this can only be achieved if all Guiders and Commissioners are actively involved in the election procedures within their Counties and Countries and Regions and BGIFC.

The Council meets twice a year in London and members' expenses are met by the Association.

### Election procedures

One of the three members elected by each Country and Region retires at the Annual General Meeting. If she was serving a first term, she will be eligible for re-election. The election procedures in the Countries and Regions start the previous autumn to allow the formal paperwork at Association level to be completed and the

elections announced at the Annual General Meeting.

Any member of the Association is eligible to stand for election to the Council if she will be between 18 and 59 on May 1 of the year in which she commences her term of office. All Guiders and Commissioners are entitled to make nominations.

If you would like to stand, or wish to nominate another member, contact your Commissioner to obtain an official nomination form, which will be accompanied by instructions on how to fill it in and where to send it.

Your nomination will first be submitted to the County Executive Committee, which will conduct a secret ballot to elect the County's nominee to go forward to the Country or Region election.

If you would like to know more about what happens at Council meetings, contact any one of the three members elected by your Country or Region.

Alternatively, you could contact Elizabeth Anderson, the Committees Executive, at CHQ, who will send you a detailed fact sheet and a copy of the Royal Charter and Bye-laws, or instead you could get in touch with your Country or Region office.

Grassroots Guiders often talk about 'them at CHQ', yet it is their fellow Guiders, such as the 28 elected Council members, who are called on to make the really important decisions.

And it is up to every UK Guider and Commissioner to make sure that the Council truly represents all Guiding. ■

## IN JULY'S GUIDING

### House party

Watching the Upper House's last question time before the dissolution of Parliament was just one of the treats shared by the Guides who took tea at the House of Lords.

### On trial

Brownies who flocked to a try-it-and-see introduction to Pack Holiday Under Canvas were in no doubt about their verdict — 'It's great'.

### Amazing escape

A Snowy Owl's horrific road

accident spurred her Brownie Pack to raise money for the Air Ambulance rescue team who helped save her life.

### Pulling power

Messing about on the river requires well-tuned muscles and coordination as a team of enthusiastic rowers from Anglia soon discovered.

### Flower power

Don't miss our colourful suggestions for a fragrant theme evening for your unit.

### Firm friends

The bond that links two very different Brownie Packs shows no signs of weakening after 17 years.

### Helping hands

The Commissioner is always there to help a troubled Guider, but who can a Commissioner turn to?

### Sharpen your street cred

Worried about earning respect and coping with teenage angst? We've got some helpful suggestions.

### American adventure

Brownies round the world goes Stateside to greet some Girl Scouts.

### Crazy cartoons

Follow our step-by-step tips and create your own animated animals.

### Great games

Sample our versions of the sort of games Native Americans like to play.

### Dream on

Help your happy dreams to come

true and chase away the bad ones by making our dream catcher.

### Find Freda

Our famous, friendly pink elephant is lost in New York, can you find her?

### Fun food

Sample what American girls like to eat out of doors by following our simple but tasty recipes.

### Space traveller

## IN JULY'S BROWNIE

Not outer space, out of your cupboard — make an alien puppet.

### Fancy facts

Answer our snappy quiz to find out just how much you know about life on the other side of the Pond.

### Telling tales

Read all about the Pack Holiday thief that sported a curly tail.

# shining example

The nursing and medical staff at the Royal Berkshire Hospital are always glad to see Elizabeth (Lizi) Burbidge. Her friendly smile and skill with fretful young patients in the waiting room calms them and eases the waiting time for parents.

Yet her hospital visits are as a patient and essential for her own well-being as Lizi suffers from cystic fibrosis, diabetes and asthma.

Every day of her life is governed by a strict routine of medication and exercises to keep her lungs functioning. Coughs and colds can mean even more time spent in hospital, while childish complaints such as measles and chicken pox can be life threatening.

A 16-year-old Young Leader with the 11th Tilehurst Guides, Reading, Lizi has been in Guiding

since she was seven. Last year she was awarded the Star of Merit, which was presented by consultant paediatrician Andrew Boone from the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

Guider with the 11th Tilehurst, Jean Herbert said: 'As a Young Leader Lizi has developed into a reliable and caring person, with a commitment to her Guide unit, school, friends and other interests that is an example to us all.'

'Her sense of fun and humour is not diminished by her necessary lifestyle, meeting her you would be hard-pressed to know what lies behind this slim teenager.'

'It is only the inevitability of not being able to take part in some outdoor activities that sets Lizi apart from the rest of our unit.'

Throughout her life Lizi has



JEAN HERBERT

**Lizi Burbidge's friendly smile lifts the spirits of other patients**

been supported by her family and encouraged to live a normal life, taking part in school and other activities as much as possible. She has a twin brother, Richard. ■

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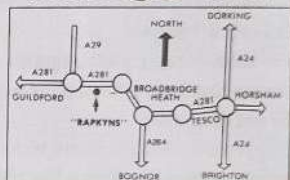


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For full details, just contact Mark Parry at the Contracts Department on 01277 263554 (9am-5.30pm, Mon-Fri), or Fax on 01277 260789, and we will be pleased to send you a FREE copy of the 1997 Outdoor Mail Order Catalogue (RRP £1.95).

### CONTRACTS PRICES

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*We look forward to hearing from you.*

Contract Dept: 3 Wates Way, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 9TB.



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# fire alert

For the camper in control of the situation, the word 'fire' probably summons up in her mind a feeling of delightful anticipation.

But what if it all went wrong and the fire roared out of control? Do you have a plan to cope with the situation or are you crossing your fingers that such a calamity could never happen to you?

At this point some readers may be feeling rather smug, thinking: 'Of course, I have a plan. It involves putting a two-gallon bucket beside the flagpole.' Well, in anything other than the smallest incident, that isn't going to go far, is it?

A major emergency last year at a Scout site highlighted just how serious a fire can become and we can learn a lot from their misfortune. In this case, the fire came from beyond the site and spread underground to pop out on the camp site.

It quickly became apparent that there wasn't a well-publicised emergency plan to evacuate the site, nor a clear knowledge of who was on site and no obvious line of communication. Fortunately, nobody was seriously injured and we can all learn from the incident.

The recent run of hot, dry summers has certainly increased the risk of fire, but it is also important to consider other common causes.

For many years we were encouraged never to use a stove in a tent but that is now an unreasonable ideal. If large-scale events and over-used sites ban fires for cooking and we move towards more powerful gas stoves, we also move towards using them in tents along with gas water boilers and gas lights.

Equally, at the other end of the scale, lightweight camping demands that small stoves be used in tent doorways. The stove may not be so efficient out of the shelter of the tent and a Ranger on expedition

should not be expected to sit outside in pouring rain and/or gale. So our training in fire prevention needs to be rigorous.

Quite what you need to do about this subject will differ very much depending on your level of responsibility — if you camp in a field with only your own unit that is one thing but, if you organise a large-scale event for thousands, it is quite different.

If the County owns a small site with no permanent duty Guider, it will need a different set of rules to those, relatively few, Counties that have a large site and a permanent warden.

Perhaps the following suggestions will provide a few pointers for all members planning to camp this summer. If yours is a small site, do you have:

- A central fire point?
- A central supply of basic, fire-fighting equipment such as buckets, water, fire blanket, and beaters?
- An area in mind which will always be safe for campers to go to? Do other staff know where it is?
- Do the girls?
- A known alarm signal?
- A home contact with a list of campers' names and addresses?

If yours is a permanent site, do you have:

- A 'minimum gap between the tents' rule?
- Clear notices explaining what to do if fire breaks out?
- A clear statement of fire risk according to climatic conditions?
- A siren audible all over the site?
- Knowledge of who is on site at any given time?
- A clearly-defined contact list in case of emergency?
- Action lists for key personnel?
- Alternative accommodation?
- Evacuation plans?
- Access routes for any emergency vehicles?

- Do the emergency services know about and share in your contingency planning?

Next, you need to carry out a risk assessment. It is actually possible to consider all these points without first looking at reducing probable difficulties.

How often do we squeeze tents into a tiny corner of a field with narrow walkways between when we could actually choose to leave good-sized fire breaks?

Large camps presumably have an increased risk of an emergency due to less space. Not all international events take place on a showground with its own fire and ambulance station, but these vehicles do need a route in at all times and to be within easy reach of all parts of the site.

As a final thought, have you ever considered how to get help from the Commissioner and PR channels, if the Press gets wind of a problem? And they will.

It may seem gloomy to think of disasters before they happen, but waiting until they occur is leaving it far too late.

So, if you are responsible for a camp site, spend some time now checking up that you won't hit the headlines for all the wrong reasons.

**Prepare for the worst scenario — then enjoy your camp**

**By Hilary Cooper**  
North East England  
Outdoors Activities  
Adviser



Camping is great fun but care must always be taken

SANDY EVERITT

# training news

## Netherurd — 01968 682208

### Rainbow Guiders

..... June 13-15

Need extra energy for your autumn programme planning after all the birthday parties?

Take time out to look afresh at the weekly activities and catch up on current issues with other Rainbow Guiders.

### Uncensored

..... July 4-6

Why not make Netherurd your venue for this conference for young Guiders? Take the opportunity to be a 'first time visitor', or return to one of your favourite places. Make the effort to get involved — you get your 'Passport' stamped at the same time.

### Queen's Guide enterprise

..... July 22-26

An action-packed programme awaits all intrepid participants on this challenging event held in lovely surroundings and among good company.

## Broneirion — 01686 688204

### Ideas for outdoor meetings

..... August 29-31

A weekend for Brownie, Guide and Ranger Guiders whether in town or country locations. Many new ideas for games and activities to enable you to run whole or part meetings out of doors.

## Hautbois — 01603 737357

### Ideas for Pack Holiday

..... November 7-9

Are you an experienced Pack Holiday Licence holder and feeling in need of some new ideas?

### Hautbois minstrels

..... December 5-7

If you enjoy singing and making music why not come to Hautbois for Minstrels weekend, and join with others who share your interests? No expertise necessary — just enthusiasm!

## Foxlease — 01703 282638

### Brownie Guiders celebration training

..... June 6-8

The Trainers are planning a special

'magical' weekend, full of variety and an opportunity to visit the 'magical' Brownie Day with 1,000 Brownie Guides who will be celebrating 75 years of Guiding at Foxlease.

### 75k walks

..... August 5-12

Join a small group to take up the challenge of walking 75 kilometres, using a series of eight walks specially designed for Foxlease's 75th anniversary. Come for a few days or the whole time.

### Indoors Outdoors

August 25 - August 27 and

August 27 - August 29

A mid-week training taking place alongside the celebration camps. A wide variety of activities, for all ages, in and about the out-of-doors.

The training will be in two parts, each complete. Come for either or both.

### Rainbow, Brownie and Guide Guiders with sessions for Commissioners

..... September 12-14

A training packed full of ideas covering all aspects of the unit programme. For Commissioners: helping to keep your Guiders, leadership skills, problem solving and managing your time more effectively.

### Life-saving course

..... September 12-14

Send for further details of this basic life-saving course.

### Senior Section Guiders celebration training

..... September 26-28

A weekend for all Senior Section Guiders alongside South West Region's camp for the Senior Section. Come and create, share and swap ideas with others to take back to your units. Bring some girls to the camp.

### Guide Guiders celebration training

..... October 10-12

A unique opportunity for a Guider and a Guide to attend a training together. Guides will be in the Coach House and Beaverbrook Lodge with their own exciting programme. The cost for Guides will be £25.

## Waddow — 01200 423186

### Programme ideas for Rainbow, Brownie and Guide Guiders

..... June 17-19 (mid-week)

Crèche available.

### Programme ideas for the out-of-doors

..... June 20-22

### Look Wider for Trainers and Guiders

..... July 4-6

### Uncensored — a young Guiders weekend

..... July 4-6

For young Guiders to express ... to listen ... to be valued ... and to influence The Guide Association's future and to explore their personal role in Guiding. The focus at Waddow will be global Guiding.

### Activity holiday for the young at heart

..... July 26-31

Whatever your age, Waddow has lots on offer! Walking, canoeing, archery, boules, swimming and so on. Spend a few days trying new activities or improving your existing skills.

### A taste of the north

..... August 1-8

Visits, walks, talks, crafts and so on. Special event — open to British and international Guiders.

### Walking week

..... August 9-17

Come and explore the moors, towers and valleys of Lancashire and Yorkshire. For Guiders' families and friends. Walks suitable for everyone.

### Markets and mills

..... August 19-23

An insight into the past history of markets and mills in Lancashire and Yorkshire and a great chance to hunt for bargains.

### Monks and witches

..... August 24-28

Explore the Pendle villages on the Pendle Witch Tour and visit the local abbeys.

For further details or to apply ring the numbers listed.

official

# answering back

And the forms kept rolling in ... almost 500 committed readers of *GUIDING* took time out of their busy lives to complete the questionnaire included with our January issue.

You didn't just tick boxes, you also took the opportunity to tell us what you like, what drives you wild and what you want us to feature in future issues.

By far the biggest response – 43.5 per cent – came from Brownie Guiders or their Assistant Guiders. Guide Guiders and their assistants were the next biggest group at 37.4 per cent.

Nearly a third of our replies were sent in by members aged between 45 and 55, with 29.9 per cent of respondents falling into this category. The next biggest group was 35-45 year-olds (23.1 per cent).

Just to prove that there is life after warranted Guiding, 2.1 per cent of respondents were over 65.

Over the last few years there has been a big change in the way people buy *GUIDING*. Nearly half – 42.8 per cent – of respondents had taken out a subscription rather than ordering the magazine from their local newsgagents.

We asked how long you'd been reading *GUIDING*. Most of those who replied had been taking the magazine for over a year with 23.1 per cent having read it for between three to six years. An amazing 10.6 per cent have been reading the magazine for over 30 years.

In January 1996 we gave *GUIDING* a new look and we wanted to know how readers felt about it. A whopping 94 per cent said they liked it – 58 per cent liking it 'a lot' – and only 5.2 per cent preferred our old style.

Readers were asked what they wanted the magazine to give them. While, predictably, a huge majority – 89.6 per cent – want resource ideas, the other categories such as information on other units scored

highly too.

Our Ideas section is the place most readers – 55.3 per cent – turn to first. Another popular read are the Letters pages with 23.1 per cent making them their first choice, while 15 per cent of our respondents explained they read *GUIDING* from start to finish.

Looking more closely at the Ideas pages only 8.1 per cent felt they could be better. Other readers were split between finding them helpful (47.4 per cent) and usually helpful (43.5 per cent).

Readers generally found the new layout made using the pages simpler – 52 per cent said they were easier to understand, while 31.4 per cent found them 'about the same', only 13.5 per cent admitted to finding the format 'confusing'.

When we looked at regular resource ideas, it became clear that they were valued, all attracting combined ratings of over 70 per cent in the joint excellent/good categories with Theme evening scoring highest on 79.9 per cent.

Not, perhaps, surprisingly the sectional pages were not read by everyone. But out of those who did read them more than half rated them as better than average.

Turning to other topics covered

in 1996, we asked readers to rate them as useful or not very helpful.

All of them – apart from Badge swap – were rated as useful with Games scoring 88.6 per cent, followed by Tips on running a unit with 73 per cent.

Badge swap, included in *GUIDING* after *Guide Patrol* ceased publication, obviously only appeals to enthusiasts, as 55.5 per cent found it not very helpful.

Readers were invited to list topics they'd like us to cover. Satisfying your requests will keep us busy for months to come.

Figures for the regular features were amazingly high. As ever our Letters pages proved most popular with 96.4 per cent reading them either every month or most months. Other high ratings achieved were: Notices – 93.6 per cent; Guiding in Action – 92.7 per cent; In brief – 92.5 per cent; A personal view – 92.3 per cent; In focus – 91.7 per cent; and Live Issues – 90.7 per cent.

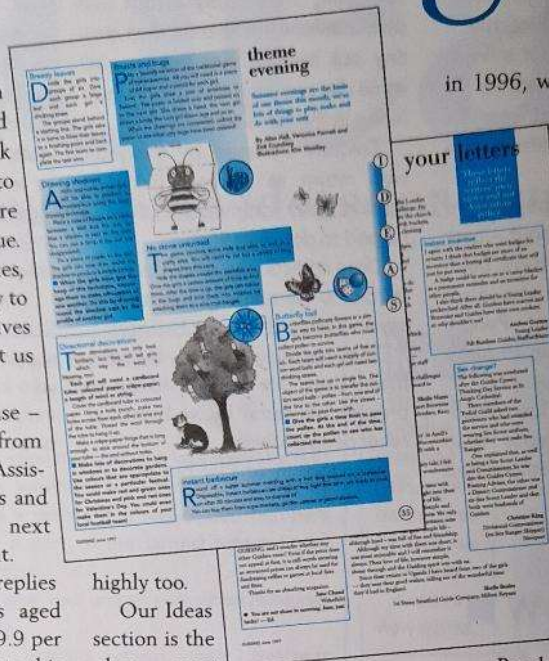
Our cover girls got the thumbs-up from the vast majority of our respondents – 90 per cent of them felt the photos represented a good image for Guiding.

Out of the 43 per cent who have bought items or services having seen them advertised in *GUIDING*, 41.6 per cent were satisfied with their purchase and only 0.8 per cent weren't (57.6 per cent didn't reply).

Your replies to our questions and the comments you made have all been carefully logged and will be consulted constantly as we put together future issues of *GUIDING*. Our thanks to you all.

**Loyal readers in their hundreds filled in our questionnaire**

By Nora Warner



## open door

If there's one reaction to an unsatisfactory situation that makes my temper rise it's: 'I know, it's terrible but there's nothing to be done. We can't make a difference'. Not true.

Of course, I know what it is like to feel helpless and hopeless. To be convinced that circumstances, the rest of the world, even life itself is against you.

But then I recall the people I've interviewed – or read about – over the years. People who have been savaged by fate but who have refused to accept defeat. People who have used their pain to make life better for the rest of us...

Mothers who have lost much-loved children in hideous road accidents, who have campaigned

for and won traffic improvements.

Children who have raised money to combat the diseases they know are killing them. They accept that such efforts won't change their destiny but believe their actions will some day prevent other families suffering in the same way.

Soldiers sickened by slaughter who return to war-torn lands to rebuild the communities they've helped to destroy.

Drug addicts who relive their own terrors to persuade youngsters to say no if offered illegal substances.

They make a difference by using their own life experiences to prevent the same blows battering other people's lives.

We, too, in smaller but equally

vital ways, can make a difference to the locality in which we work or live.

And we are doing so. More than half the population of the UK is engaged in some sort of voluntary activity. Whether it is collecting teddy bears for refugee children, handing out hot meals to down-and-outs, running hospital radio stations or lending a sympathetic ear to the despairing, ordinary folk are giving their time and energies to help their fellow men and women.

Many of them are also Guide and Scout leaders, already tirelessly supporting the next generation, who know instinctively that it is 'so much better to light a candle than to curse the darkness'.

NW

## a personal view

**One woman,  
one vote  
ought to  
apply when  
Commissioners  
are needed,  
says an Essex  
Guider**

My District Commissioner has resigned and so I, and my fellow District Guiders have received a copy of the standard letter from our County Commissioner sent in these circumstances. It advises us of her need to *appoint* a replacement, sets out the qualities required, and asks that we write or telephone with our suggestions, but that we do not mention this to the person involved.

I have long been concerned by the fact that this country's largest female-only youth organisation operates in such an undemocratic way. And, having voiced these concerns at my recent District Meeting, I find many other Guiders feel the same.

When Guiding first started in 1910, it was something completely different, even radical, offering girls and women opportunities which they had previously been denied. That being the case, I feel sure many of those early members would have been keen supporters of the Women's Suffrage Movement.

I am equally sure that the sterling efforts of Guides also helped bring Parliament to the conclusion, in

1928, that the vote should be extended to all women, in the same way as it was to men, rather than simply to those over 30 who were property owners.

Extraordinarily, our Movement has continued to allow most of its members to remain disenfranchised! Even more extraordinary, is the fact that it is only the adults who are affected.

Patrol Leaders, for example, are elected by their Patrols, but Commissioners are appointed.

Having been in adult uniform for over 20 years, I have, of course, raised this question within my County on a number of previous occasions and, invariably, have been treated to a dissertation on the importance of 'the right kind of person' being appointed, and of Commissioners having both to work as a member of a team, and to lead their own teams. With respect, this is avoiding the main issue.

I feel sure there are occasions when Messrs Major, Blair and Ashdown wish they had been able to pick the Hon Member for ..... But, being democrats, they would never even

contemplate such a thing.

It matters not one iota whether the person appointed is good, bad or indifferent, nor whether her name was put forward by every member of the District, by half the District, or by no one in the District.

It is iniquitous and totally indefensible that, in the final years of the 20th Century, Guiders do not have the basic human right of one member, one vote. If Guides can be trusted to elect their own PLs, surely, Guiders can elect their own Commissioners.

How can Guiding possibly hope to survive as a dynamic, forward-thinking Movement, when it acts in such an autocratic way? How will the Movement move, when the system predisposes it to stagnation, given that Commissioners are, in effect, empowered to appoint like-minded people to work with them?

Votes for Guiders — now!

**The views expressed in this article are not necessarily those of The Guide Association, nor are they endorsed by it. The Editor reserves the right to edit items received for publication.**

# ideas

## Programme ideas for June 1997

### idea of the MONTH

Useful ideas for Guiders of all sections  
by Georgia Fielding

**T**he younger the Association member, the less likely she is to realise that Guiding extends far beyond her weekly meeting. Even so, it's a shame that any of our members should miss out on being a part of the largest international movement for girls and women.

Make sure that you try to give your unit an occasional reminder of our worldwide organisation.

Rainbows may enjoy hearing about their overseas counterparts. They could colour in pictures of Sparks, Pippins, Dolphins, Ladybirds or Gumnuts. You could organise an American evening where the Rainbows can enjoy being 'Daisies' for the evening.

For more information, take a look at *Friends Round the World*, published by The Guide Association. It is crammed full of activities and



Our Guiding family extends far beyond the United Kingdom

useful facts about Rainbow equivalents around the world.

Girls from Brownie age upwards should be aware of WAGGGS. *Trefoil Round the World*, published by WAGGGS, contains all the information that they will need to know. Try to beg, borrow or buy a copy. Look in *The Guide Association Publications Catalogue* for more worldwide inspiration.

Every month, *Brownie* magazine features 'Brownies round the world'. Look at back issues for activity ideas associated with worldwide Guiding. In July's issue, you can learn all about Brownie Girl Scouts of America.

Choose a new country every term to focus on. Collect stamps, postcards or food labels. Dress up in your own version of a traditional costume and the appropriate section uniform from that country. We know that you will have fun finding out lots more about Guiding in other countries.

### idea

Give the girls a selection of balls, ropes, bats and so on and ask them to invent a new game.

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### idea

Hold a competition to design a unit logo.

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### idea

Create your own tent using sheets, blankets, ropes and chairs.



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# topic of the month

Learn how to light a fire, make a waterproof bedding roll and get to know your tent with the aid of this month's topic that focuses on camping

By Karen Tricker, Outdoor Activities Adviser  
Illustrations: Michelle Draycott

## What's that part?

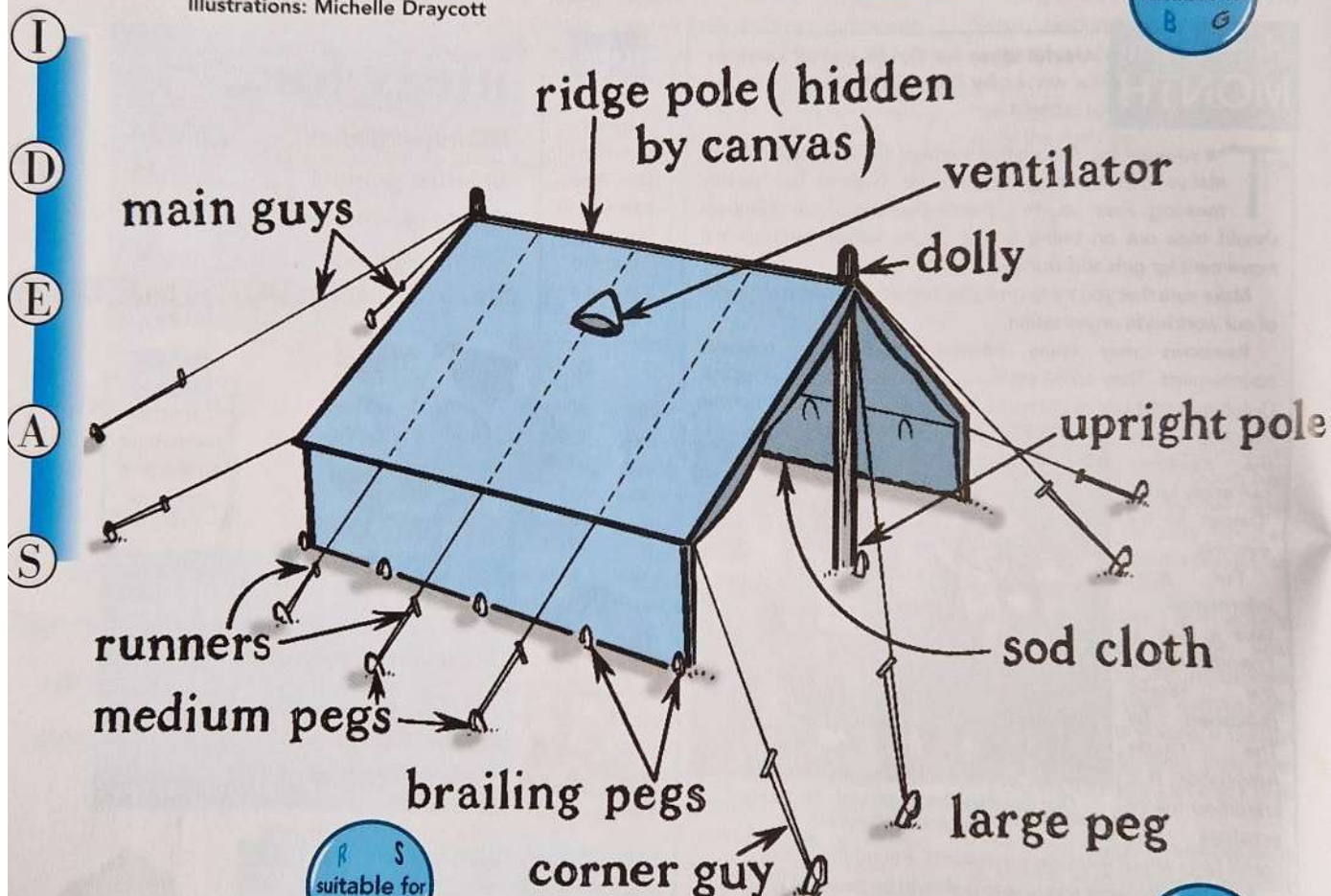
Using our illustration as a guide, challenge the girls to name the different parts of the ridge tent and their special functions.



## Perfect pitch

Once the girls have perfected their tent-pitching skills, try the following challenges to see how good they really are.

- Pitch the tent in silence.
- Blindfold all but one of the group, then the others pitch the tent following oral instructions from the girl who can see.
- Each member of the group is given a different kind of handicap such as ear plugs, arm in a sling and so on. Use team work to pitch the tent.



## Tent beetle

A tent beetle game can help to familiarise the girls with the tent parts as well as being a challenging game.

Divide the girls into small groups. Each member of the group rolls a pair of dice and places a corresponding name card on the picture of the tent. The first complete set of labels wins.

- Roll these scores to place the corresponding labels: 2 – ridge pole; 3 – upright pole; 4 – main guys; 5 – corner guys; 6 – side guys; 7 – runners; 8 – dolly; 9 – brailing; 10 – sod cloth.

## Pitching and striking

Make a set of cards for each group of girls, listing the stages of pitching and striking a tent. Challenge the groups to put the cards in the right order.

- Ask the girls to make their lists in silence and then allow them to discuss what they have done.

From their discussion, it should be easy to spot the natural leaders within your unit.

- Make sure that the girls know how to pitch and strike the type of tent that they will be using at camp.



## Warm and waterproof

Each girl is given a matchbox which contains one match; a piece of plastic or polythene and a piece of string.

Wrap the matchbox as you would a bedding roll. Float the model bedding rolls in water for three minutes.

Unwrap the matchboxes and check to see if they have remained watertight — the match will not light if it is damp.

R S  
suitable for  
B G

## Good wood

Build fires to investigate which woods burn the best. Also note which wood produces the best embers, as these are often used for camp cooking.

■ Try cooking chocolate bananas in foil, dampers and so on — see the *Guide Handbook* for ideas.

R S  
suitable for  
B G

## Floating fires

Careful girls can have great fun with this activity and it's a good opportunity to work in small groups.

The girls will need large bowls of water, ceramic mixing bowls are ideal; twigs; jam-jar lid; string; matches.

First, the girls make a small raft. Then a fire is built on top of a jam-jar lid and placed on top of the raft. Float the raft and light the fire. Note whose fire lasts the longest.

R S  
suitable for  
B G

## On the boil

Teach the Patrols how to handle a stove safely.

Carry out a survey to discover which type of stove will boil 250ml of water the quickest.

The performance of some stoves can be affected by the wind. Challenge the girls to make a windbreak.

■ Never take a stove into a tent.

R S  
suitable for  
B G

## More information

Basic information about camping skills can be found in the *Guide Handbook*, together with ideas for further activities.

Check out other Guide Association publications for further information, advice and full details of rules and regulations.



## Fire safety

■ Always have a fire bucket — a bucket of clean, cold water — handy when carrying out activities using fire. All the girls should know how to deal with burns and scalds.

R S  
suitable for  
B G

## Get knotted

Challenge the girls to get knotted. Work in pairs, taking it in turns to tie a reef knot with a long piece of rope. Both girls must hold an end each and not let go!

R S  
suitable for  
B G

## String suspension

Divide the girls into small groups. Each member of the group collects sufficient wood to build a small fire. Suspend a piece of string between two sticks, 19cm above the fire. Build the fire underneath and hold a competition to see which group's string burns through first.

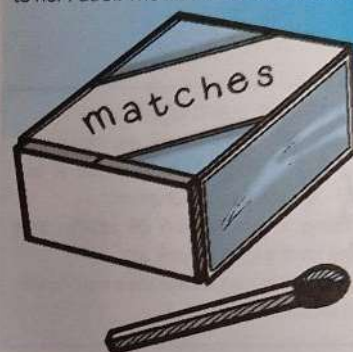
## Strike up a skill

Lighting a match can be a challenge to a new camper, keeping a match alight is a challenge to all.

Teach the girls how to strike a match safely — always away from the body. Each girl should practise until they are confident.

Older girls can then take part in this relay game. You will need a box of matches and a candle — in a holder — for each Patrol.

Each girl takes it in turns to run to the table where the candle is standing, strike the match safely and light the candle. She then blows out the candle and goes back to her Patrol. The first Patrol to finish wins.



R S  
suitable for  
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## Roll out the bedding

Sleeping out can be an uncomfortable and cold experience, unless the girls have a well-prepared bedding roll.

Ensure that the girls have had plenty of practice making up a bedding roll. Divide them into groups of four and blindfold all of them except the group leaders.

The leader must guide the rest of the group to make up the bedding roll.



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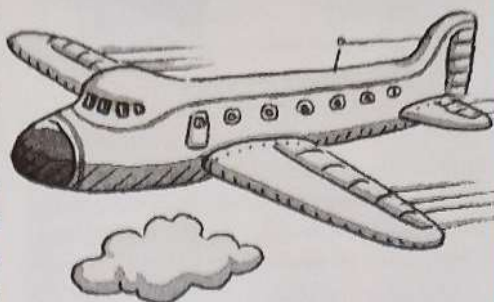
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# rainbow guiders

As Rainbows approach the summer vacation, we look at the theme of travel – how do the girls travel to their holiday destinations and what do they see when they arrive?

By Deborah Manley  
Illustrations: Dom Mansell



## Where did we visit?

Even the youngest Rainbow will be able to associate certain products sold locally with their countries of origin.

Make a collection of items traditionally associated with different parts of the world. You could gather together pasta, a French stick, curry, a Russian wooden doll, some Scottish shortbread and so on.

The girls should look at the collection and discuss the different items. Ask them which countries the objects remind them of. Enquire if anyone has been to those countries.

■ Ask the girls about the different places that they have lived in or have been to on holiday. Discuss the different ways that they may have travelled to get to their various destinations.

## How many steps?

Rainbows can walk in lots of different ways, some are quicker ways to cover a distance than others.

Mark out a short length – two or three metres – on the floor.

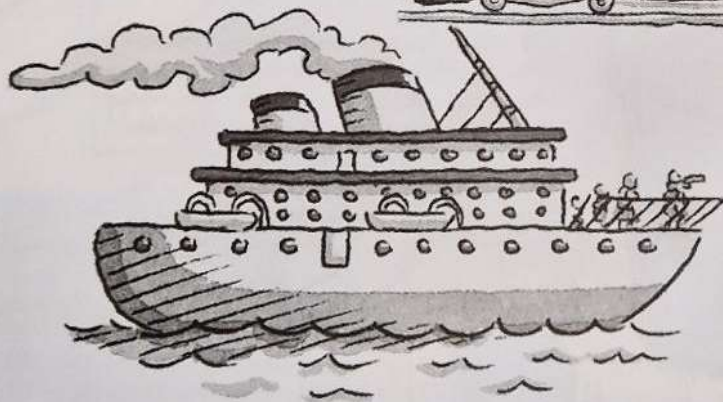
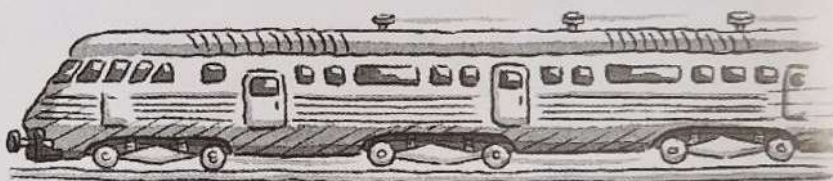
The girls can then count how many fairy steps and how many giant strides it takes them to reach the end of the line.

## Where on earth?

When we travel we often use maps to help us arrive at our chosen destination.

Bring in a selection of atlases and maps for the girls to look at.

See if they can locate their own towns and local landmarks.



## Pom-pom, pullaway

This traditional game is a version of tag. It is ideal for outdoor meetings on light nights.

Mark out two parallel lines, about ten metres apart. One Rainbow is chosen to be 'It' and stands between the lines. All the other players stand behind one of the lines.

It calls one of the other girls by name and repeats the following rhyme:

(name) pom-pom, pullaway,

Come away, or I'll fetch you away.

The girl who has been called then has to try to run across the centre space and get behind the other line without it catching her.

If a player is 'tagged', she joins It in the centre and helps to catch the others. Play continues until everyone who is behind the lines has been caught.

## Make a map

Once the girls are familiar with different sorts of maps, perhaps they would like to draw their own maps.

Organise the girls to draw a map of the meeting place. They can mark in chairs, cupboards, doors and so on.

■ Ask the girls to make a map of their dream bedroom. Supply lots of paper and colouring materials.

## Stepping stones

Stepping stones across a stream are a fun way to travel to the other bank. Recreate a river in your meeting place to play your own game of stepping stones.

Mark the boundaries of a stream running across the play area using rope, string or chalk. Make different-sized stepping stones from newspaper and place them at various points along the river.

Some of the stepping stones should be close together and quite easy to reach. The girls will have to jump to others. See if everyone can get across the river and back without falling in or getting their feet wet.

■ If you are playing outside, you may be able to chalk stepping stones on to the ground.

■ You may like to take the opportunity to talk to the Rainbows about water safety.

## Quiet time

Visit the library to look for interesting short stories and poems about travel that you could read to the girls at the end of the meeting.

### Breezy leaves

**D**ivide the girls into groups of six. Give each group a large leaf and each girl a drinking straw.

The groups stand behind a starting line. The girls take it in turns to blow their leaves to a finishing point and back again. The first team to complete the task wins.

### Drawing shadows

**A**rtistic and not-so-artistic girls will be able to produce a masterpiece using this easy drawing technique.

Place a vase of flowers on a table between a wall and the sun, so that a shadow is cast on the wall. You can use a lamp if the sun has disappeared.

Fix a piece of paper to the wall. The girls can now draw round the shadow to produce a simple picture.

**■ When the girls have got the hang of this technique, encourage them to make silhouettes of one another. Do this by drawing round the shadow cast by the profile of another girl.**

### Directional decorations

**T**hese decorations not only look brilliant, but they will tell girls which way the wind is blowing, too!

**Each girl will need a cardboard tube; coloured paper; crêpe-paper; a length of wool or string.**

Cover the cardboard tube in coloured paper. Using a hole punch, make two holes across from each other at one end of the tube. Thread the wool through the tube to hang it up.

Make a crêpe-paper fringe that is long enough to stick around the bottom of your tube — the end without holes.

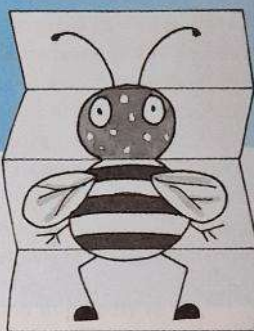
**■ Make lots of decorations to hang in windows or to decorate gardens. Use colours that are appropriate to the season or a particular festival. You could make red and green ones for Christmas and pink and red ones for Valentine's Day. You could even make them in the colours of your local football team!**

### Beasts and bugs

**P**lay a beastly variation of the traditional game of consequences. All you will need is a piece of A4 paper and a pencil for each girl.

First the girls draw a pair of antennae or 'feelers'. The paper is folded over and passed on to the next girl. She draws a head, the next girl draws a body, the next girl draws legs and so on.

When the drawings are completed, unfold the paper to see what ugly bugs have been created!



### No stone unturned

**T**his game involves some hide and seek as well as a crafty idea. You will need to cut out a variety of bug shapes from thin card.

Hide the shapes around the available area. Give the girls a certain amount of time to find them. After the time is up, the girls can colour in the bugs and turn them into mobiles by attaching them to a wire coat-hanger.



## theme evening

Summer evenings are the basis of our theme this month, we've lots of things to play, make and do with your unit

By Ailsa Hall, Veronica Parnell and Zoë Crutchley  
Illustrations: Kim Woolley



### Butterfly ball

**B**utterflies pollinate flowers in a similar way to bees. In this game, the girls become butterflies who must collect pollen to survive.

Divide the girls into teams of five or six. Each team will need a supply of cotton wool balls and each girl will need two drinking straws.

The teams line up in single file. The object of the game is to transfer the cotton-wool balls — pollen — from one end of the line to the other. Use the straws — antennae — to pass them with.

**■ Give the girls a time limit to pass the pollen. At the end of the time, count up the pollen to see who has collected the most.**

### Instant barbecue

**R**ound off a super summer meeting with a hot dog cooked on a barbecue. Disposable, instant barbecues are cheap to buy, light first time, are ready to cook on after 20 minutes and easy to dispose of.

You can buy them from supermarkets, garden centres or petrol stations.

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# try this

The summer fête and fair season is here and we have some great craft ideas for your unit to make and sell

By Janet Little  
Illustrations: Julie Carpenter

## Breezy windmills

These windmills traditionally are found at the seaside. Make them to sell as garden decorations, or as an unusual alternative to a vase full of flowers.

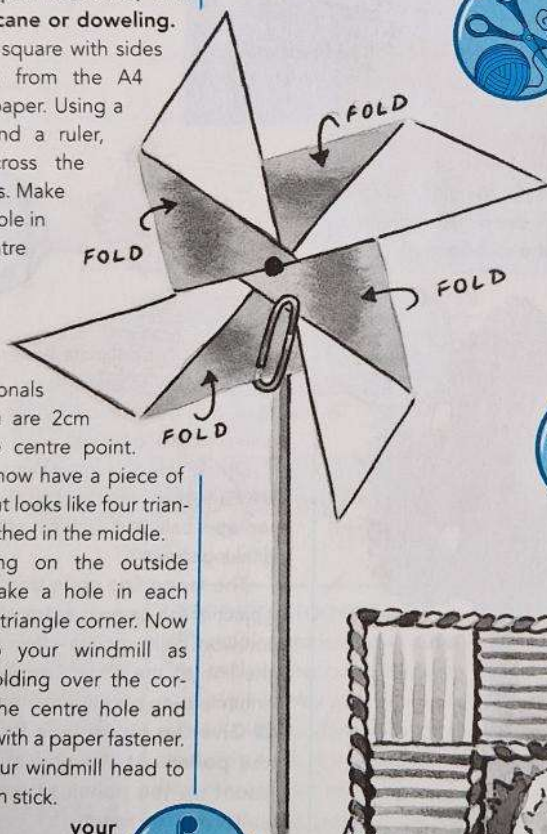
**You will need:** brightly-coloured A4 paper or thin card; paper fasteners; thin garden cane or doweling.

Cut a square with sides of 21cm from the A4 card or paper. Using a pencil and a ruler, draw across the diagonals. Make a small hole in the centre point.

Cut along each of the diagonals until you are 2cm from the centre point. You will now have a piece of paper that looks like four triangles attached in the middle.

Working on the outside edge, make a hole in each alternate triangle corner. Now make up your windmill as shown, folding over the corners to the centre hole and securing with a paper fastener. Attach your windmill head to the garden stick.

■ **Make your windmill easier to handle by using a paper clip to hold the folds safely, while you are busy securing the paper fastener.**



## Plant people

Plant people are fabulous containers for cuttings and seedlings. Every one from Rainbows to the Trefoil Guild will enjoy making them.

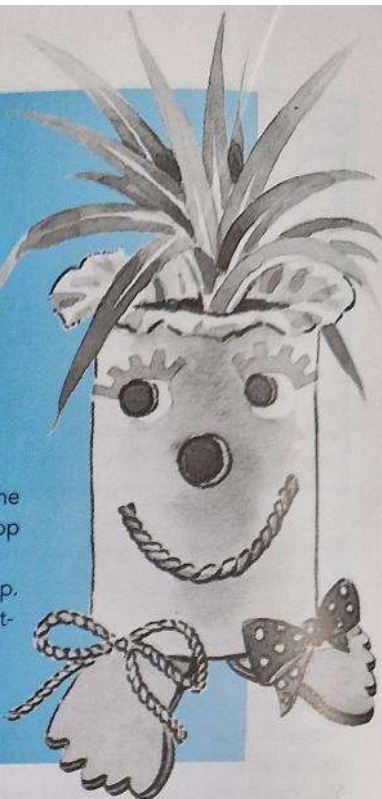
**You will need:** plant cuttings — spider plants work really well; cardboard tubes; plastic sandwich bags 21cm by 18cm; compost; paper; cardboard; scraps of material; pipe cleaners; PVA glue; double-sided sticky tape.

Decorate the cardboard tube to look like a person. Stick on eyes, ears, beards, clothes and so on. The girls might like to make a face or a whole body.

Younger girls may need help with the next stage. Push the bag into the tube until it reaches the bottom. Fold the top over to protect the decorations.

Fill the bag with compost, leaving a 2cm space at the top. Water so that the soil is moist not soaking wet. Plant a cutting — you might like to anchor it with a hairgrip.

Finally, trim the bag leaving a frill of about 2cm. This will protect the decoration from spills when your plant person is watered.



## Fantastic photo frames

Photograph frames are popular with anyone from doting grandmas to love-sick teenagers. Make our version which is inspired by traditional weaving.

**You will need:** a piece of thick card, 26cm by 17cm; a piece of card of medium thickness, 26cm by 17cm; corrugated card or paper; rough twine or string; PVA glue; poster paints or gold spray paint.

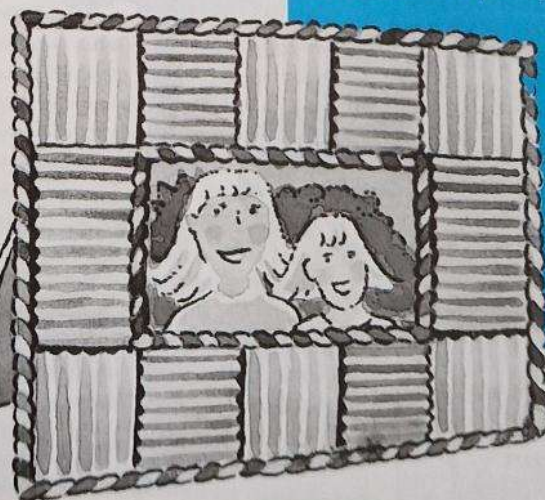
Working with the medium thick card, draw a rectangle measuring 13cm by 8cm, in the centre.

You need to cut out 12 pieces of corrugated card. Take a look at the drawing of the finished frame, this will show you how to stick on the pieces of card to give a woven appearance. Trim any untidy edges.

Dab glue around the edges of the hole. Cover the edge with string and repeat around the outside of the frame. Then paint your frame with poster or spray paint.

Finally, stick the thick piece of card to the back of the frame. Do not glue the space above the hole, as this is where you can slide a photo in and out.

■ **Make a hanging loop or stand for your frame.**



## Occasion cards

**G**reetings cards can be bought in lots of different shops, but the best ones are always handmade.

Encourage the girls to use their imaginations to produce cards that people would actually want to buy. Then provide them with a variety of card and paper, glue, paints, pencils, scraps of material and so on.

Discuss what occasion the cards will be for, although cards that can be used for lots of different occasions will probably be best. You may even have a budding poet in the unit who can write verses to go inside.

■ **Try block printing your cards, using shapes cut into potatoes. An onion, cut in half and dipped in paint, will produce an unusual pattern.**



## Friendship bracelets

**F**riendship bracelets are extremely popular and usually sell well. Simple ones can be made from plaited embroidery thread.

Embroidery thread can also be used to braid hair, a popular activity at fêtes and camp markets. Make sure you practise on a friend first!

Take a thin section of hair and plait it. Bind the end with sewing cotton. Choose two or three colours of embroidery thread. Starting at the top of the plait, loop the thread around or through the plait itself.

Wind the thread tightly around the plait, changing colour every centimetre or so. Finish with a knot at the bottom. You can even add a bead or two, if you like.



## Recycled tile plant pot

**S**urplus ceramic tiles are bound to be easy to get hold of, just ask friends and colleagues who are keen DIY fans. Anyone who has ever tiled a kitchen or bathroom is sure to have some left over.

**To make the plant pot you will need: four square tiles; strong card; strong glue; gloss paint; felt.**

Lay three of the tiles together on top of the cardboard, side by side. Draw round them and cut out the resulting rectangle. Paint one side of the rectangle with the gloss paint.

Repeat these steps, this time drawing round two single tiles and cutting out the squares.

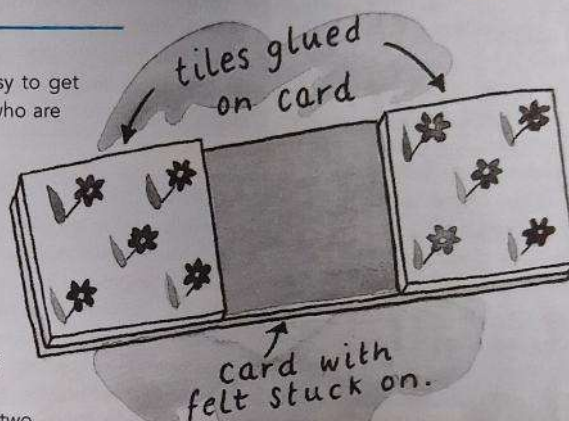
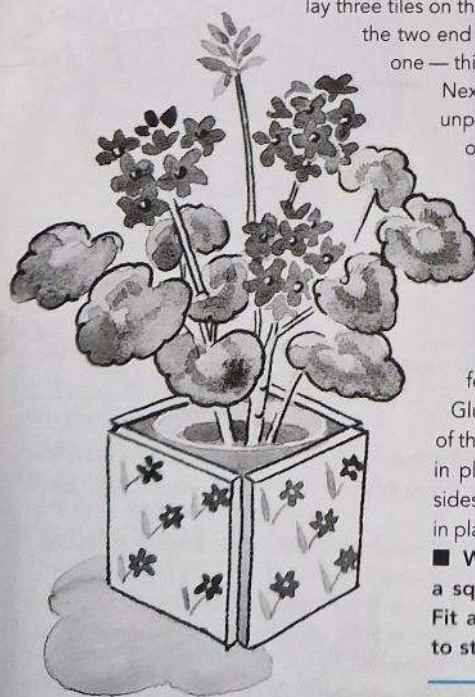
Once the paint has dried, take the rectangle and lay three tiles on the unpainted side. Glue down the two end tiles and remove the middle one — this space will form the base.

Next glue single tiles to the unpainted sides of the squares of cardboard.

Wait until the glue has dried thoroughly. Score along the sides of the tiles on the rectangle and then bend them up to form two sides.

Glue around the edges of the single tiles and slot them in place, so that you have four sides. Use tins to hold the sides in place while they dry.

■ **When your pot is dry, glue a square of felt to the base. Fit a margarine carton inside to stop leaks.**



## And there's more

If you would like more exciting ideas for things to make at your summer fête or fair, turn to page 48.

# brownie guiders

Make the most of the summertime, there's lots to discover in the local parks and exciting games to play outside

By Rachel Pennells  
Illustrations: Julie Morris

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## Tree detectives

For this game you will need one leader to supervise each Six. The Brownies, who should be blindfolded, hold hands in a line.

Each leader guides her Six to a tree and the girls feel the bark, leaves and branches. The Brownies discuss what they are feeling, such as the shape of the leaves and the texture of the bark.

Eventually, the girls are led back to base. The blindfolds are removed and the girls return to the park to try and identify their special tree.



## Alphabet circle

Write out the letters of the alphabet on pieces of card or paper. Lay them out on the grass in a large circle.

The Brownies have to find as many small, natural items as they can and place them on the card showing the first letter of their objects' names.

Only one object of each kind – one oak leaf, one ash twig, one stone and so on – may be placed on the appropriate card.

After a given time limit, the leader discusses the items that the girls have found, making sure that they all recognise different types of leaves, fruit, twigs and so on.

■ It's a challenge to find an object beginning with each letter – there may be quite a few left blank.

## Paper chest

This is a quick game to work off surplus energy. Each Brownie will need an A4-square of newspaper.

The girls line up across the play area, holding the paper in front of their chests. At the first blast from a whistle, the Brownies start to run. At the second, the girls must drop their hands and try to keep the papers in front of them as they run.

## Prickly, tickly scavenger

Give each Six the following list of 20 objects to collect. Tell the girls to return to you at a pre-arranged signal – for example, a blast on a whistle.

- Find something smooth; hard; furry; shiny; hairy; rough; round; prickly; tickly; sticky; new; old; tiny; red; green; yellow; orange; brown; white; black...
- Make sure that the girls are aware of the Country Code and the dangers of picking up unknown or dirty objects.

## What's on the line?

For this game you will need a long washing line or a large ball of twine. Attach the line around the play area, making sure that it is at Brownie-waist height. Take care to avoid hazards such as dips in the ground.

Tie on everyday objects to the line, such as a wooden spoon; a saucepan; a hairbrush... Make sure that there are lots of objects that are evenly spaced.

The Brownies are blindfolded and sent off at one-minute intervals to feel their way along the line. At the end of the trail the girls are led back to base, where they must try to write down the names of all the objects they encountered on the line.

- Sixes are allowed to work together on this activity.

## Town teasers

Your unit may not have access to parks or fields, but you can still have fun outside. Try a Town Teaser Trail.

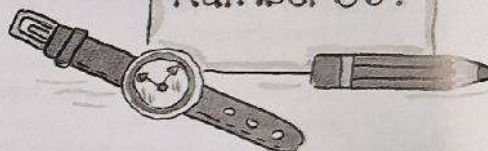
The Sixes, each accompanied by an adult leader, take a half-hour walk through different streets in the area.

The girls think up six different observation questions about their street and the leader writes them down.

Back at base, the Sixes exchange question papers. The groups then set out again and have only half an hour to answer the questions. The last minutes of the meeting can be spent discussing the activity.

- If you do not have enough leaders to accompany each Six, break down into the smallest groups that you can.

What colour is door number 56?



### The aim of the game

The objective behind this page is to present ideas that will help an individual and her unit work towards a more peaceful world, as well as helping her to be at peace with herself and her situation.



#### NEGATIVE POSITIVE

I can't.	I will.
I should.	I could.
It's not my fault.	I'm totally responsible.
It's a problem.	It's an opportunity.
I'm never satisfied.	I want to learn and grow.
Life is a struggle.	Life is an adventure.

### Negative to positive

Often, the words that we use to describe a situation show how we feel about it.

The following list helps girls to choose positive words and phrases instead of negative ones. Copy the list illustrated and leave some blanks.

■ You could also add the following negative and positive phrases: I hope — I know; If only — Next time; It's terrible — It's a learning experience and others that occur.

### I like you because...

This is a good activity for the end of a camp or Pack Holiday. Every girl has an envelope with her name on it and as many slips of paper as there are girls.

Each girl writes something she likes about the others and then puts it in to the appropriate envelopes.

Everyone now has a bundle of positive statements to take home and look back on.

## changing worlds

As the last of our series is based on the WAGGS' module *Creating Peace Worldwide*, our activities aim to promote peace within the unit, as well as in the wider world

By Gill Sutcliffe  
Illustrations: Kate Taylor

### Working together

Sometimes it can be really difficult or even impossible to do things by yourself. Encourage the girls to try the following activities alone and then with a friend.

- Play a game of basketball or draughts.
- Use a retractable tape to measure the meeting room.
- Act out a sketch.
- Put on a dress with buttons up the back.
- Roll a flag.
- Put up a tent.

Discuss what sorts of activities the girls would rather do by themselves and those they would like to do with a friend.

### £10,000 question

Ask the girls to negotiate, in groups, the ways in which they would give away £10,000

### How do others feel?

When the girls have discussed their own fears and feelings, use the following activities to experience those of others.

- Work in pairs with one person blindfold. Walk through familiar and unfamiliar locations — how does it feel? Ask the girls whether their fears and needs have changed.
- One half of the group learn a recognised sign language or develop their own to use during the unit meeting. Ask the other girls how they feel when they cannot speak or sign the language.



### What am I good at?

Give each girl a piece of modelling clay. Ask her to model something that represents an activity which she is good at. For example, a good sportswoman might model a tennis racket. Ask the girls to tell the group why they have chosen a particular item.

### What am I afraid of?

Divide the unit into groups of three or four. Challenge each group of girls to build up a list of their own personal fears.

The girls may choose to list spiders, being alone, earthquakes and so on. The girls should then discuss if they are able to do anything to alleviate their fears.

- Explain that what we need to do to diminish fear, is to develop more trust in our ability to handle what comes our way.

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# great games

These games are ideal for outdoors and use little or no equipment, so dig out your skipping ropes and get set for some traditional entertainment

By Victoria Wheeler  
Illustrations: Jan Fearley

## Clap your name

Show the girls how to clap the syllables of their first names. When they have got the hang of it, the girls must walk around the play area listening to what other people are clapping, as well as clapping their own names.

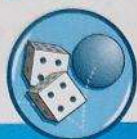
The object of the game is to link up with others whose names have similar syllables.

## Finding Emily

All but one of the girls close their eyes and move slowly around the play space. The girl with her eyes open is Emily.

When two girls meet, they say 'Hello Brownie!' If the answer is also 'Hello Brownie,' they must move on. If a player is met with silence, she has found Emily and must hold hands with her.

Eventually you should end up with a long line of nice, quiet Emilys.



## Waterfall relay

Divide the girls into teams of about ten. If you have smaller numbers, the girls can run the relay twice.

The teams sit down in lines, one behind the other. The person at the front is given a beaker full to the brim of water.

The beaker must be passed over the heads until it reaches the last person. This girl then runs to the front of her team and the action is repeated, until the original person sits down at the front.

■ Top the beaker up if a large amount of water has been spilt.



## Long frog, leap frog

Divide the group into lines of six to ten. The girls at the front fold their arms, while the others put their hands on the hips of the girl in front. All squat on the floor.

The object of the exercise is for the line to jump forward together.

If it works, join two groups together. If it does not, cut down the size of the lines.

## Jump rope

Skipping is great fun as well as being brilliant exercise. A long rope or a length of washing line is the best thing to use, so that the whole unit can play together.

The girls may already know some skipping rhymes, but try these traditional ones to start with.

■ Two girls turn the rope. The others take it in turns to jump in and skip to the chant 'Salt, mustard, vinegar, pepper', three times each.

■ The girls take it in turns to jump into the rope and skip through the following rhyme:

'Keep the kettle boiling  
Miss a loop, you're out  
You're in...'

The chanting and the skipping can get faster and faster.



## New horse and jockey

The girls find a partner and then stand in a circle, mounted as for piggy-back rides.

The Guider shouts left or right and the jockeys dismount and run in the appropriate direction around the circle. When the jockeys reach their stationary 'horses', they must crawl through their legs to grab an object in the middle. The first person to do so is the winner.

■ The horses and jockeys should change over every two turns so that no one gets bored.



## Hummmmm

All the girls huddle together in a crouching position. One person starts to hum softly.

Gradually everyone else joins in and starts to stand up, very slowly. As the group rises, the hum gets louder.

When the group is nearly upright, everyone leaps into the air and shouts as loudly as they can.



### French skipping

**Y**oung girls in the North of England refer to this game 'laggy'.

You may know it better as French skipping.

To play laggy you will need at least three people and a long length of elastic — about 2.5 metres. Knot the elastic with a loop.

Two girls stand

inside the loop, far enough apart so that the elastic is slightly stretched but not taut. The two girls start with the elastic around their ankles, which are slightly apart.

The third girl jumps and skips the 'actions' while singing or chanting a rhyme.

■ If the girl completes the rhyme without making a mistake, the elastic is moved up to the knees of the girls holding the elastic apart.

The game becomes harder as the elastic moves down to ankles together and then knees together. If a girl makes a mistake then another takes her place.

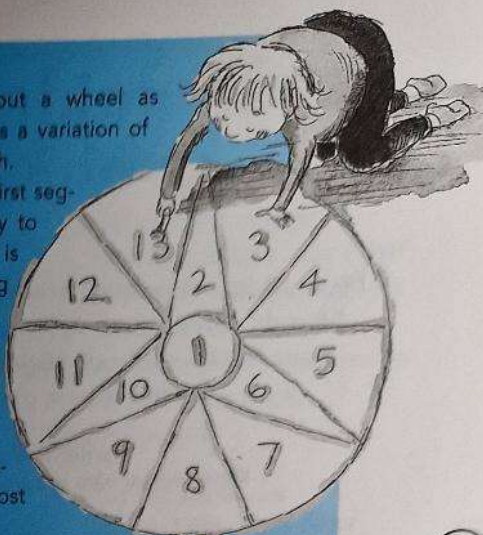


### Hopscotch wheel

**U**sing chalk, mark out a wheel as shown. The game is a variation of traditional hopscotch.

The girls begin at the first segment and hop all the way to number 13. If the course is completed without putting a foot wrong, the girl may initial any segment that she wants.

Players can rest on their own squares, others have to hop over them. The winner is the girl with the most initials on the wheel.



### French skipping rhyme

**T**ry the following French skipping rhyme, written in bold, to start with. The words in *italics* show what the girl must do with her feet.

■ **England** – *jump so that feet land either side of the left length of elastic*; **Ireland** – *feet either side of the right elastic*; **Scotland** – *to the left again*; **Wales** – *to the right*; **Inside** – *both feet inside the elastic*; **Outside** – *both feet outside the elastic*; **Scales** – *jump so that the left foot lands on top of the left-side elastic and the right foot on the right-side elastic*.



### Totting up tadpoles

**D**ivide the girls into two teams. One team stands in a circle, an arm's length apart. The other team forms a line behind the circle. Each team has a ball.

On the word go, the girl at the end of the line must pass the ball over her head to the girl in front and so on down the line. The girl at the front of the line runs to the back and the relay continues until everyone has had a turn.

At the same time, girls in the circle throw the ball to each other, counting as each pass is made. If the ball is dropped, the score must start from nil again.

■ When the relay has finished, the girls in the circle declare the number of passes that they have made. The teams swap positions and the game is played again. The team with the most passes wins.

### Block tag

**B**lock tag is one of the many variations of the traditional game of tag. It needs no equipment and can be played in both small or large spaces.

One girl is chosen to be It, while the rest run to stand by any available objects — trees, bushes, posts, chairs and so on. The girls must run to each other's objects, then the girl already at that position must run to another object and so on.

It must tag girls who are running between objects. Anyone who is tagged must join It to catch others.

■ Ask the girls how many other variations of tag they know.



### Catch the commandos

**C**atch the commandos is an easy to set up wide game. It is best played in an area which has lots of cover such as shrubs or trees.

Split the group into two and establish an area which is the home base. One group, the commandos, are given 60 seconds to hide. The aim of the game is for the other group to find the commandos and capture them before they have a chance to reach the home base.

■ A number of tactical manoeuvres can be employed to play this wide game. It certainly encourages team work!

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# guide guiders

Promote an active and healthy lifestyle among your unit and your family with our staged, fun fitness plan

By Pat Barker  
Illustrations: Kim Woolley



## Encouraging exercise

**A**erobics, burn-outs, weight lifting and jogging may not be everybody's choice when it comes to keeping fit.

Don't be daunted by exercise, a gentle swim or a sauntering stroll is much better for you than no exercise at all.

■ Encourage your girls to walk to places slightly faster than they would normally.

■ Walk or cycle a little further every day — leave your car at home when you go to the paper shop, or get off the bus a stop before you need to.

## Out and about

**O**rganise an outing to the local swimming pool. After a splash around, every girl can be encouraged to swim as far as she can.

Beginners may be able to manage half a width, the more experienced may be able to do two or three lengths. When the girls have finished, add up the figures to work out the total distance achieved by the whole unit.

■ If you haven't got a swimming pool, try cycling, walking or running.

## A dynamic distance

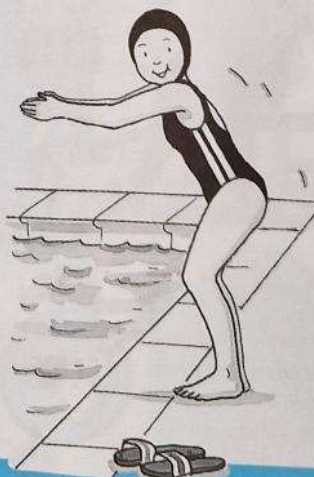
**W**hen you have added up the distance that your unit has swam, walked or cycled, set yourselves a target which is slightly more than the one that the girls in the unit have already reached.

Make the target significant to your area. It could be equivalent to the distance around a lake or between two landmarks.

■ Make a chart to show your target distance. Mark it off in a suitable number of metres.

The girls can colour in the the sections every time they walk, swim or run a certain distance.

■ Remember that everyone should just complete as much as they can — depending on individual ability.



## More healthy ideas

**A** new fitness regime can be accompanied by a healthy-eating plan. Encourage your girls to keep a record of the total amount of fresh fruit and vegetables that they eat between them in one week.

Stress the importance of healthy eating. The girls can make up their own posters to promote good diet.

■ Bring in fruits and vegetables that the girls may not have tried before.

■ Organise a blind tasting to see if Guides can recognise different fruits and vegetables.

■ Experiment with combinations of different juices to make attractive, healthy cocktails.

## Swim the channel

**O**nce the girls have reached the overall target distance, aim for a final, bigger and better target.

Explain that you have all been in training for a marathon attempt to swim the Channel or even walk the Chunnel.

Each girl should be given a form or slip of paper on which she can record any distance covered during the week. Each week the forms will be exchanged for new ones and the total distance covered by the unit calculated.

■ The girls can make a pictorial chart showing the distance that the unit will cover. For example, if the Guides were to walk the Channel Tunnel, they would have to cover the equivalent of 32 miles.

■ Perhaps the girls could be rewarded for each milestone they reach. Better still the unit may like to donate money or even time to a charity.

## More ideas

**T**here are many different variations on this fun fitness plan. Ambitious groups could walk the equivalent of London to Brighton. Others may like to try to cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats.

How about a horse ride from Bridlington to Blackpool? Some of your girls may have different ways of keeping fit and covering a distance — rowing, rollerblading, even cartwheeling. Have a group discussion about what you want to do.

## New surroundings

New and unfamiliar surroundings can make Rainbows, and even young Brownies, tearful.

The girls may have just got used to the strangeness of school and they are now facing another new environment, new children and new adults.

It is also important to remember that a child of this age is often tired after a long day at school and the situation could suddenly prove too much.

■ When a girl arrives at the meeting for the first time, pair her up with a buddy, so that she doesn't get left to her own devices.



## Busy routines

Routine is very important to young children. Most Rainbows, and even younger Brownies, like the meeting to have a very definite beginning and end.

Children like to be able to recognise a pattern in what they do, this pattern then gives them confidence.

It is important that the girls are kept busy. Squabbles and tears are often a result of boredom.



## Age and circumstance

Tearful and insecure girls usually tend to be Rainbows. However, Brownie-age girls may also be included in this category, depending on individual maturity and independence levels.

Even the most confident child can burst into tears for no apparent reason.

## Support and security

Welcome teddy bears, dolls and other favourite soft toys into Rainbows and Brownies.

These links with home can be a source of great comfort — even Guides like to take their teddies to camp with them.

Sometimes, a Rainbow may like her mum or dad to attend the first meeting with her. This should not pose a problem and you may even gain a Unit Helper.

■ Familiar toys are a wonderful confidence-booster for small girls.



# starting out

There are occasions when Guiders may have to cope with insecure or tearful girls, we give some pointers on how to avoid such tricky situations

By Sue Matthews  
Illustrations: Molly Sage

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## Avoiding confusion

Make sure that all the girls know what is going on throughout the meeting.

Some children may have difficulty understanding your instructions, be distracted while you are giving them out, or simply not be listening.

If you talk to the girls as a group, sit your other leaders among the girls, so that they can see who is not picking up on any messages.

When the girls move into smaller groups or Sixes, leaders can check with the girls again to make sure that they have the right instructions. This can prevent squabbles erupting if the girls cannot agree on what they are supposed to be doing.

## Chain reaction

One upset child in your unit can cause a chain reaction, until all the girls are in tears for one reason or another.

Quickly take the tearful child to one side and talk to her quietly to find out what is the problem.

A few moments of individual attention may be all that is needed to calm her down.



## Distractions

Emergency ideas are great for those moments when another activity finishes earlier than you expected, or for diffusing potential tantrums.

Keep a book of short stories or fun poems handy. Rainbows love being read to. Jigsaws and other board puzzles are usually popular, too.

Colouring-in sheets, paper and lots of crayons are great for spare moments. Simple crafts, requiring a limited amount of materials, are also good to have on stand-by. You may also like to keep a supply of play dough and Lego in your cupboard.

■ If you only have five or ten minutes to fill, a quick sing-song goes down well.



## Coming soon

■ We offer advice to help you deal with terrible teenagers and provide tips on how to keep — or even find — your street-cred.

# filling the gap

If you are sleeping out this summer, be a bit more adventurous with your camp furniture – have a go at making our easy pioneering platform

By Wendy Goodhind  
Illustrations: Kate Taylor

## Something different

For something completely different, try making a pioneering platform with your group. If it is made low enough, you could sleep under the stars on it, or you could even try pitching a tent on the platform. Build a higher one and find an interesting use for it.

■ To make a platform, you will need a variety of pioneering spars and some strong rope.

■ The project is completed using tripod lashing and snake lashing.

## To start with...

Use spars at least five centimetres in diameter to construct three tripods. It is essential that the lashing-to-ground measurement is the same for each tripod.

■ If the ground is uneven, you may have to slightly adjust the lashing-to-ground measurements on the individual spars. This will ensure that your tripod stands on an even keel.

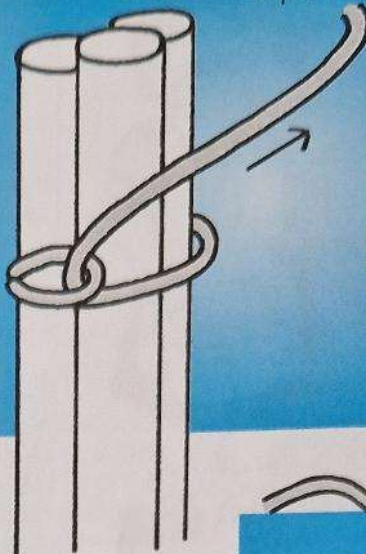
## In the second place...

Position the tripods evenly, in a triangular formation. You will now be able to place long spars from lashing point to lashing point.

## Tripod Lashing

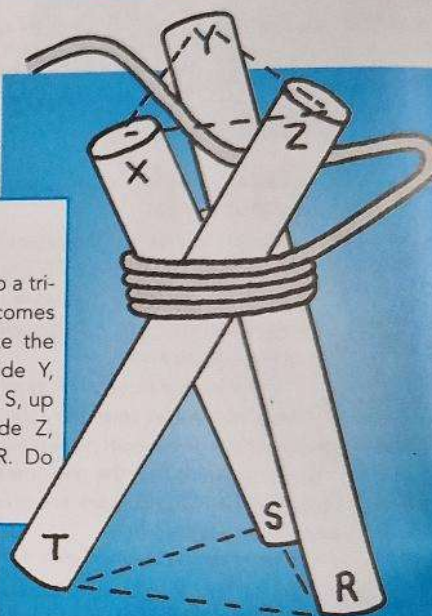
### Tripod lashing step one

1 First, use a timber hitch to tie the spars together. Then firmly, but not too tightly, take the working end round the spars for three turns.



### Tripod lashing step two

2 Open the spars into a tripod shape. Now comes the hard part. Take the working end down inside Y, between R and S; inside S, up between S and T; inside Z, down between T and R. Do this three times.



### Tripod lashing step three

3 Make sure that your lashing is tight and then you can finish with a reef knot or clove hitch.



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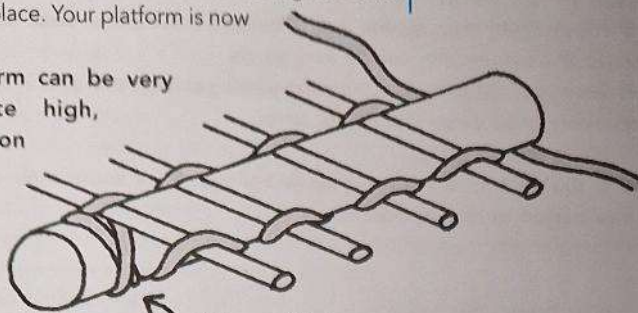
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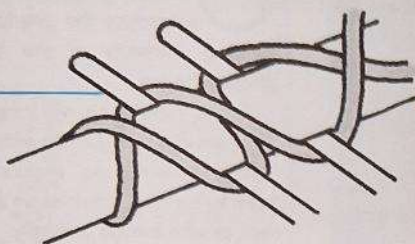
### And thirdly...

**C**hoose good, strong spars to fill up the space between your tripods. Use snake lashing to secure them in place. Your platform is now complete!

■ Your platform can be very low or quite high, depending on what you want to use it for.



Clove hitch



View from underneath

### Safety note

All of your knots and lashings should be checked and rechecked before any pioneering project is put to use.

If in any doubt at all, practise your pioneering skills on a smaller scale before tackling a large project.

All spars and timber used for pioneering should be in prime condition. Check for signs of rot, as well as splits, cracks and any other damage. Ropes should also be checked for rot and signs of fraying.

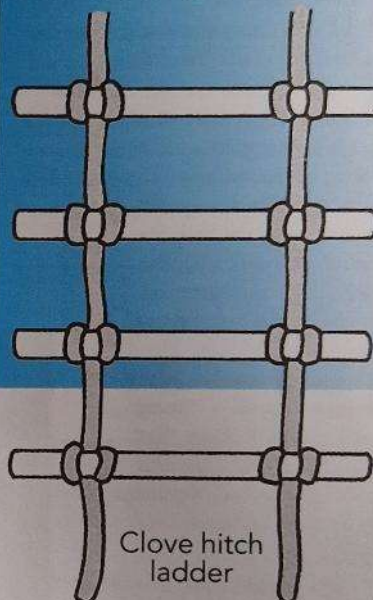
### Dizzy heights

**Y**ou may find that you need a ladder to climb safely on to your platform. To construct one, you will need two long spars and plenty of short ones for the cross-pieces.

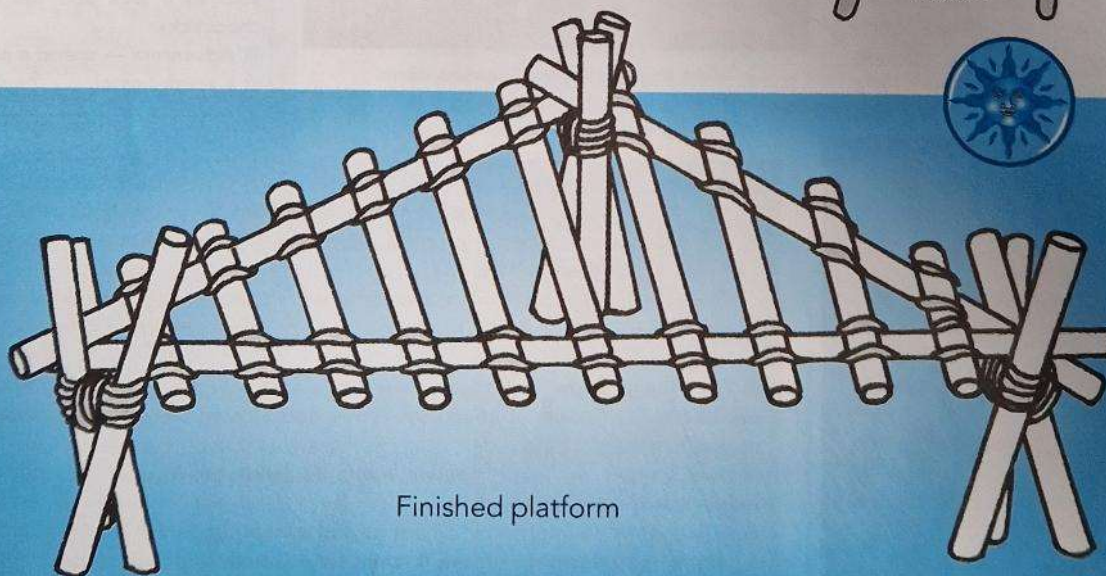
Square lash the cross-pieces to the long spars. Make sure that your ladder is longer than the distance between the ground and the platform, so that it can lean at an angle.

Tightly lash the top of the ladder to the platform.

■ It is easy to make a rope ladder with two long pieces of rope and several solid spars. Use clove hitches to attach the spars to the rope evenly.



Clove hitch ladder



Finished platform

# ranger guiders

Now that the end of term is almost here, encourage your Young Leaders and Rangers to look even wider to discover new interests and achieve new qualifications

By Wendy Graham and Wendy Jean Hurst

## Other interests

Some of your girls may be starting work for the first time.

It could be a Saturday job, a holiday position or a full-time, vocational one.

Whatever jobs the girls in your Unit may have, they are bound to be tired during this period of readjustment. Attendance may also be low at this time.

■ Do not pressurise your Rangers and Young Leaders into feeling that they have to attend meetings on a regular basis or not at all.

## Alternative meetings

Sometimes it may not be convenient for the girls to attend meetings on the same day every week. Sit down together to think of alternative times and places that will fit in with their lifestyles.

- Meet every two weeks in a different location — each others' houses, the park, the community centre and so on.
- Turn your meetings into outings and get-togethers, only holding a 'serious' meeting once every six weeks or so.
- Meet on a Sunday.
- If the girls all attend the same college, they could even meet in a shared free period or at lunch time.

## Relax and unwind

When the girls are revising hard, the ability to relax and unwind will be very important to them.

Organise a special, relaxing meeting as a mid-exam treat. Invite an aromatherapist to pamper the girls with massages and delightfully scented oils.

The group could have an evening of meditation, listening to calming music and breathing in revitalising fragrances.

■ If all else fails, hold a Trivial Pursuit evening on the last meeting before the general studies exam!

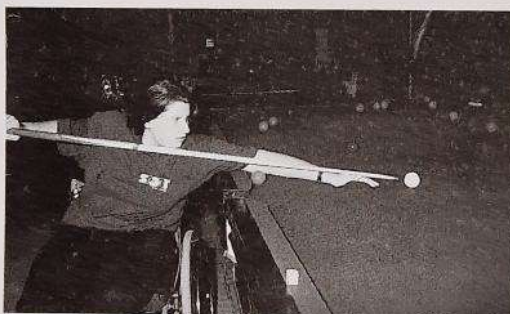
## Discovering the options

One of the purposes of the Discovery phase is to introduce the girls to the exciting diversity of the Look Wider scheme.

Some individuals will look for activities that they can do with the Unit. However, do encourage them to explore activities on their own, or with friends or family.

The activities which the girls decide to take part in need not take a lot of organisation. The following suggestions may offer inspiration:

- Creativity — visit the cinema and review a film.
- Service in the community — find out about personal safety at home and in the outside world.
- Wider world — prepare a Chinese meal for friends, use traditional cooking methods such as a wok and eat with chopsticks.
- Adventure — spend a night in a youth hostel.



Take time out to relax between exams

JEAN FRASER

Make a great day out count towards gaining your octants



BECKY TODD

## Octants by accident

When a Young Leader or Ranger has completed the Discovery phase she may decide not to go any further, preferring to concentrate solely on gaining a leadership qualification.

If this is the case, the girl will be almost certainly undertaking activities that will count towards an octant — but she will need someone to point this out subtly.

For example:

- The Young Leader or Ranger gives a talk to the group about the great time she had at the County boating day — this would count towards Phase one, Out of doors activity.
- Your Ranger or Young Leader wants to learn to drive — fit it into the Independent living section.
- A Ranger or Young Leader cannot attend a meeting, as she has to take part in a pantomime rehearsal — make it count for a Creativity phase.
- A Young Leader or Ranger organised a coffee morning in aid of the RSPCA — make it count for a Service in the community activity.

## After basic leadership

**K**een Young Leaders and Rangers are quite likely to gain the Basic Leadership certificate before they reach 16. When such a girl becomes 16, she may wish to start work on the 16-18 Leadership Scheme.

Even if a girl is only interested in the leadership side of things, it is still a good opportunity to take a look at the octants.

The Leadership octant, and related activities in other octants, holds lots of inspiration for a your Senior Section member.

Try the following ideas as a starting point:

- **International** — find out about WAGGGS and organise an activity to teach Rainbows, Brownies or Guides about the World Association.
- **Independent living** — find out about dyslexia and how you might be able to help if a girl in the Unit suffers from the condition.
- **Out of doors** — help a group of girls to build a fire and cook a meal on it using home-made utensils.

## Octant files

**T**he Look Wider file should be available to all Senior Section members, but it is probably unlikely that any girl would want to read it from cover to cover!

However, the file does split into the different sections, so that the girls can borrow individual chapters.

- **Make sure that you know who has got the different sections of the file and follow up any initial interest.**



IAN FRASER

A hobby, such as swimming, could be counted towards the Look Wider Scheme

## End of term party

**O**rganise an end-of-term party, the girls will probably need it after a month of revision and exams.

- **Hold a weekend camp with the theme of 'organised chaos'.** The girls can relax and do whatever they want to — within reason, of course.

- **Have a barbecue, a trip to the seaside or a water sports day.** Take time to think of something unusual and a bit adventurous for your celebration.

## If all else fails...

**R**emember that Look Wider is a vast and varied programme. No one person will work on all of it and it is quite common for Young Leaders to concentrate on the leadership sections.

However, all girls should be able to make informed choices about which sections they want to work on. They should not be working on one project just because they are oblivious to the other options.

- **Always encourage the girls to make their own decisions.**
- **Remember — if it's not fun, it's not Guiding!**

Choose the Adventure option and spend a night in a youth hostel



AUSON WALLWORK

## Beyond leadership

**A**fter completing the Discovery phase, Young Leaders are often only introduced to the Guide Association Leadership Scheme, or Making It Count.

If a girl does not choose to look any wider than her leadership role, then she may be missing out.

# young leader guiders



## Staged badges

**Y**oung Leaders and Rangers often have particular skills and interests, these may include cooking, rollerblading or football.

If this is the case, a girl may be interested in coaching Brownies or Guides for a particular badge. There may also be an opportunity for a Ranger or Young Leader to take a higher stage of a particular badge herself.

A Senior Section member may work for any stage of any staged badge. This means that she can either finish something that she started as a Guide or try something completely new.

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## Exams can lead to new beginnings

**J**une can be an awkward time for Rangers and Young Leaders. Some may be taking GCSEs, others sitting their A-levels and older girls may be in the middle of finals at college or university.

By the end of the month these exams will be over, bringing a sigh of relief from the girls and a lighter feeling to your meetings.

# creative cooks

A summer fair is not complete without a cake stall, if you liked our craft ideas on page 36, try making these tasty treats to tempt your customers

By Vicky Watt  
Illustrations: Anthea Whitworth

## Quick tips

- Make sure your hands, utensils and working areas are scrupulously clean.
- Always preheat your oven to the required temperature.
- Wrap your finished goods in food wrap or greaseproof paper.
- Wear plastic or latex gloves when handling food and tie back your hair.

## Scrumptious oat biscuits

Oats are extremely good for the heart and these scrumptious biscuits are extremely nice to eat.

You will need:

- 125g self-raising flour
- 75g porridge oats
- 75g sugar
- ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 100g margarine
- 1tbs golden syrup

Mix the dry ingredients together. In a saucepan, then slowly melt the margarine and syrup together.

Add the dry ingredients to the mixture and stir well with a wooden spoon.

Grease a baking sheet. Make the mixture into balls using a dessert spoon. Place them well apart on the sheet.

Bake at gas mark 4, 180°C, 350°F for about 20 minutes or until golden brown. Cool on a wire rack.



## Choconut bars

Keep these bars in a cool place to stop them from melting — and to hide them from munching Brownies!

You will need:

- 55g margarine
- 2tbs runny honey
- 110g chocolate
- 55g peanuts
- 55g bran flakes or cornflakes

Line a shallow, square baking tin with foil. Put the nuts and the cereal into two separate polythene bags and crush with a rolling pin.

Melt the chocolate in a bowl standing in a pan of simmering water. At the same time, gently melt the margarine and honey in another pan. When both are ready beat the honey and butter into the chocolate

Stir in the nuts and cereal, pour into the tin. Smooth the top and put the tin into the fridge. Cut into bars.



## Cinnamon coconut squares

Cinnamon squares are so easy to make, even Rainbows can contribute to the fun.

You will need:

- 198g sweetened, condensed milk
- 227g icing sugar
- 170g dessicated coconut
- 2 tsp ground cinnamon

Using greaseproof paper, prepare a small baking tin, approximately 20 by 30cm.

Sieve the icing sugar into the condensed milk and mix. Stir in the coconut until you have a sticky paste.

Divide the paste in two. Press one half into the tin. Knead the cinnamon into the remaining mixture and then place it on top of the first layer.

Refrigerate until set and then cut into squares. Put into paper sweet cases

- Try decorating the squares with half a glacé cherry.



## Australian crunch

Australian crunch tastes great when cold or even served warm with lots of lovely custard.

You will need:

- 225g margarine
- 1tbs cocoa
- 3 tbs coconut
- 140g sugar
- 85g cornflakes
- 140g self-raising flour

Melt the margarine and then stir in the sugar, cocoa and cornflakes. Mix well. Slowly stir in the flour.

Turn the mixture into a shallow toffee tin and level off. Bake at gas mark 4, 180°C, 350°F for 30 minutes. Cut into squares and cool.



## Annie's cheese scones

Annie's cheese scones are very light and fluffy, make a bite-size batch to sell on your stall.

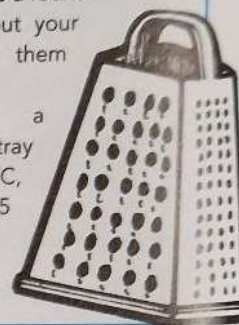
You will need:

- 85g margarine
- 115g grated cheese
- 1 egg, whisked
- 140g self-raising flour
- salt and pepper

Cream together the margarine and the grated cheese. Add the whisked egg and fold in the flour.

Roll out the dough until it is 2-3cm thick. Use a round cutter to cut out your scones. Glaze them with a little milk.

Place on a greased baking tray and cook at 190°C, 375°F, gas mark 5 for 10-15 minutes or until golden brown.



## Twelve currant buns

Make sure that the mixture for this recipe is not too runny — or you'll end up with currant biscuits!

You will need:

- 200g self-raising flour
- 75g margarine
- 50g sugar
- 1 egg
- 2 tbs milk
- 50g currants

Rub the flour and margarine together. Add the sugar and the currants and mix with a fork. Whisk the egg and add gradually to the other ingredients.

Stir in the milk. The mixture should be of a dropping consistency — quite stiff but ready to drop off the fork.

Grease a baking sheet and place dessert spoons of the mixture on it about 5cm apart. Bake at 220°C, 425°F, gas mark 7, for 15 minutes or until golden brown. Cool on a wire rack.

### Crumbly jam squares

Crumbly jam squares can be made in advance, frozen and then defrosted on the day of the fair.

You will need:

- 200g self-raising flour
- 175g margarine
- 175g sugar
- 100g porridge oats
- 225g jam.

Grease a 28cm by 18cm Swiss roll tin. Rub the flour and the margarine together, stir in the oats and the sugar.

Press half of the mixture into the tin. Spread on the jam and then sprinkle the rest of the oat mixture on top. Press down slightly.

Bake at gas 4, 180°C, 350°F for 45 minutes or until light brown. Cut into squares, leave to cool slightly and then lift out of the tin.



### Lemon squash

Just the thing for cooling down thirsty volunteers, this lemon squash can be made with oranges or even grapefruit.

You will need:

- 3 lemons
- 4 tps citric acid
- 2 pints boiling water
- 675g sugar

Mince the lemons into a large bowl, add the acid and sugar. Pour over the boiling water, stir and then leave overnight.

Strain your squash and pour into clean bottles. Dilute to taste.

### My mum's caramel shortbread

Caramel shortbread is made in three layers and is an absolutely delicious tea-time treat.

For the base you will need:

- 140g margarine
- 175g plain flour
- 85g sugar

Rub the flour and margarine together, add the sugar and knead into a dough. Press into a baking tin, prick all over and cook for 15 minutes, gas mark 5, 190°C, 375°F until golden brown.

For the caramel you will need:

- 115g margarine
- 85g brown sugar
- 1tbs syrup
- small tin condensed milk

Melt all of the ingredients together in a pan. Bring the mixture to the boil and simmer for seven minutes. Pour over the cooled shortbread base.

Leave the caramel to set and cover with melted chocolate. Cut into squares.

1



2

gas 5

190°C

15 mins.



4



3



# world of opportunities

**New friendships and a taste of different cultures made their visits to World Centres memorable for two Guiders**

Ann Wright, a Guider from South East England, visited Our Cabaña last year. Although she travelled to Mexico City alone, she found her rusty O-level Spanish very useful and it wasn't long before she was making friends and relishing the colourful traditions of the country.

I stayed first at Ticalli, the Mexican Guide HQ and from there went to Cuernavaca and Our Cabaña. I was with a small group of Guiders from Canada, Mexico and Panama and we took with us examples of traditions from our own particular countries.

It was at the time of a major Mexican festival, The Day of the Dead, where families celebrate the death of relatives and friends by lay-



ANN WRIGHT

**Mexican celebrations for the dead take place in a local cemetery**

ing out altars to their memory.

Some of the group found this aspect of Mexican culture difficult to handle, but we were reminded that many of their traditions are rooted in the beliefs of the Mayan and Aztec peoples.

We had time for sight-seeing, visiting churches, markets and the silver city of Taxco, climbing pyramids and, of course, shopping. Sadly, we did not have time for community service. Another thing I



A WRIGHT

**Never an idle moment at Our Cabaña — Pilar from Mexico and Ann Wright (right) get stuck into cross-stitch**

would love to have done was visit some Haditas (a Mexican Guide group for six to nine-year-olds).

Our Cabaña has a wonderful atmosphere of peace and calm that is such a contrast to the hustle and bustle outside its walls. Mexico City is a busy and exciting place. I spent four days there on my own, getting by with my Spanish, and not once did I feel threatened.

My trip was a really wonderful experience. If you get the chance to go, don't think twice — just book your flight!

Chris Walter, now a Guider in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, was keen to go to a Guide event overseas after attending a World of Ideas session at Foxlease last year. With only six months' Guiding experience and no idea of what a World Centre was, she applied to attend the Back to Basics II camp at Sangam, in India.

I waved farewell to my family at Kuala Lumpur airport and, before long, found myself meeting up with Mana, a Japanese Guider, at Mumbai airport. We finally reached Sangam by train the following day, meeting other Guiders on the way.

India is amazing. Every minute

of the day was full of new experiences. We bought and learned how to tie a sari, which was hilarious. There were 30 or so Guiders crammed into a shop filled top to bottom with rolls of the most beautiful fabrics.

We learned how to eat from a banana leaf with our fingers — very messy! We had our hands painted with a gooey mixture of henna called *mehendi*: you can even buy the mixture at Sangam and have a go back home.

We ate dinner with an Indian family in their home and talked to villagers about their lives.

The second week was taken up with Back to Basics, a camp based on the way of life of villagers, where we even elected our own leaders.

We made camp gadgets — the Danish girls were apparently famous for this feat; did all our own shopping in the local markets with our own budget, which wasn't easy; and organised our own camp programme and activities.

I had the opportunity to meet Guiders from all corners of the earth and soon came to realise that the four World Centres are truly our Guiding homes. ■

# advice not action

Su Hassall has been Buckinghamshire's Community Involvement and Development (CID) Adviser for six months and what a six months it's been, as she explains.

When I was approached by my County Commissioner, I believed it was because I had been on two GOLD projects and knew what CID stood for.

At that time I had a clear idea of what CID meant to me, but that was all to change.

Everyone I spoke to seemed to have a different idea. The County Commissioner had her plans for CIDA — mainly to broaden the cultural mix within the County.

Some saw me solely as an Ethnic Minorities Adviser. Others thought I was there to recruit new Guiders or to raise funds for them, while another faction considered that to be the least of my jobs.

I then began questioning whether I was in the right job and what I was supposed to do. Over the next couple of months I clarified the situation in my own mind — to some extent anyway.

CID is the umbrella title for everything else we do. It is often the *raison d'être* for our activities, whether it is cake baking for a local hospice or gardening for the Pack Holiday House. CID is many things to many people and I was in danger of spreading myself too thinly.

So I went back to my original task suggested by the County Commissioner. After all, that's why she wanted me there. I began thinking around that, giving it a slightly broader focus while remaining realistic. I decided to concentrate on a couple of projects to get started.

We have a Multi-cultural Centre in Aylesbury and I discovered that it had a very receptive co-ordinator when I paid him a visit to find out more about what they did. Social groups, religious, cultural and



Su Hassall is settling into her role as County CIDA

women-only groups use the centre.

David, the co-ordinator, asked me what I wanted to do. So I replied: 'To broaden the cultural mix of the Association within Buckinghamshire'.

He was quite happy for local Guide units to run a 'Meet the Guides' evening there. He offered to invite interested parties and target the girls and women who use the centre.

He was as flexible as I was over whether we aimed at introducing girls into existing Guide units or, if the girls preferred, setting up their own unit within the centre. It is, of course, a very long-term aim!

Even if nothing grand comes of

it, at least the Guide units and centre groups will have been 'community involved' by meeting one another and learning more about each other's activities.

The other project we are looking at is in Milton Keynes. This is a town with a large, young population, but falling Guide numbers, particularly in the newer areas. Many people have moved to Milton Keynes in the last ten years and yet are unaware of what local Guiding has to offer.

To remedy this situation, we are considering employing our Region's project worker for three months to work in the area promoting Guiding. We are fortunate in Anglia to have a full-time project worker who is paid by the Region.

She is available to all member Counties on a three-month contract. Counties must submit a proposal outlining what they want her to concentrate on. But this is a very new project.

It's been a busy six months with me spending quite a lot of time getting my head around what CID meant to me and the County: I had to work out who I could approach for contacts, help and advice. I also had to get used to being an Adviser — handling finances, deciding which meetings I had to attend and who to inform about my activities.

I must remember that I have five years to achieve the 'broader social mix of the Association', and not to expect results overnight. And so must everyone around me! I think there's going to be a lot of groundwork to do.

Most importantly, I must remember that I am an Adviser and not a Doer. As that goes against my nature, it's going to be tough! ■

When Su Hassall put on a new hat as a County CIDA she didn't know what to expect

# information

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The Guide Heritage Centre at CHQ is open  
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Entrance charge is £2 per person.  
Booking is not essential for groups of ten or less. Visits  
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The preferred maximum number of visitors per  
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Ring 0171 834 6242 ext 327 for further visit details.

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official

# your letters

These letters reflect the writers' own views and not Association policy.

## What next?

My Rainbow Unit, 3rd Ramsey Rainbows (formerly 1st Ramsey Rainbows), enjoyed working for their North West Region Silver Challenge badge.

All my Rainbows achieved all 25 challenges, many of which we did as a Unit over ten months. All my Rainbows also achieved all 25 challenges, so they could get the badge. If they hadn't completed their challenges I would not have given the badges to them.

Even I have a badge on my track suit, because I feel I did these challenges many times over.

I feel that many people within the Association treat Rainbows like babies, which they are not.

So how about doing more things that the Rainbows can work for? After all, in many other countries the equivalent to Rainbows work for badges.

At the moment the *Rainbow Birthday Celebration* book is keeping my Rainbows busy and happy, but what will we do next year? By the way, they are all wearing the Rainbow Birthday badge with pride.

Judi Penrose  
Rainbow Guider  
Ramsey, Isle of Man

## Three cheers for the Challenge

My Brownies have really enjoyed doing the London and South East Region Three Cheers Challenge. For the 'cheer up a place', we decided to clean the church hall. Every Brownie came along armed with buckets, dustpans and dusters and set to work cleaning chairs.

It wasn't long before the windows, ledges, paintwork and washbasins were all being attacked with vigour and the place smelled clean. They were a willing bunch of cleaners.

For 'cheer up a person', we decided to do something for the hall caretakers who were about to retire. We asked the parents to donate a small gift and every child came along with something.

One of our Pack Leaders showed them how to make tissue-paper flowers, which they used to decorate four baskets into which they put the presents.

For our 'give yourselves a cheer', we went back to one of our favourite treat places — the Wimpy Bar in Bexleyheath, where the staff make a great fuss of the children.

I think this has been one of the nicest challenges we have done, and we are all looking forward to getting our badges.

Sheila Nunn  
6th Barnehurst Brownies  
Upper Belvedere, Kent

## Instant incentive

I agree with the readers who want badges for octants. I think that badges are more of an incentive than a boring old certificate that will just be put away.

A badge could be sewn on to a camp blanket as a permanent reminder and an incentive for other people.

I also think there should be a Young Leader neckerchief. After all, Guiders have scarves and Brownies and Guides have their own neckers, so why shouldn't we?

Andrea Gorton  
Young Leader  
5th Burslem Guides, Staffordshire

## Sex change?

The following was overheard after the Guides Cymru Thinking Day Service at St Asaph Cathedral:

Three members of the Trefoil Guild asked two gentlemen who had attended the service and who were wearing Sea Scout uniform, whether they were male Sea Rangers.

One explained that, as well as being a Sea Scout Leader and Commissioner, he was also the Guides Cymru Boating Adviser, the other was a District Commissioner and ex-Sea Scout Leader and that both were husbands of Guiders.

Christine King  
Divisional Commissioner  
(ex-Sea Ranger Skipper)  
Newport

## Winning ways

I am writing to thank you for the two prizes I have received from competitions in the December issue of *GUIDING*.

One of my hobbies (other than Guiding) is entering competitions, so when I receive my copy of *GUIDING* each month, the competitions and offers pages is one of the first articles I turn to.

Surprisingly, I have won several prizes over the years I have been subscribing to *GUIDING*, and I wonder whether any other Guiders enter?

Even if the prize does not appeal at first, it is still worth entering as unwanted prizes can always be used for fundraising raffles or games at local fairs and fêtes.

Thanks for an absorbing magazine.

Jane Chand  
Wakefield

● You are not alone in entering Jane, just lucky! — Ed.

## Inspirational

I read with interest 'Culture shock tactics' in March's *GUIDING* about the UGAD '96 visit to Worcestershire and Gloucestershire. But I was left with a feeling of disappointment.

Although written as a cautionary tale, I felt it did not express the enjoyment, wonderment and gratitude of the girls.

I was privileged to spend some time with them and they gave me great insight into their culture, lifestyle and expectations of life.

They made me feel that our lifestyle and society is full of greed and selfishness. We only live to outdo each other and, sometimes, miss what life is all about. The girls' simple life — although hard — was full of fun and friendship.

Although my time with them was short, it was most enjoyable and I will remember it always. Their love of life, however simple, shone through and the Guiding spirit was with us.

Since their return to Uganda I have heard from two of the girls — they sent their good wishes, telling me of the wonderful time they'd had in England.

Sheila Beales  
1st Stony Stratford Guide Company, Milton Keynes

### Difficult age

Too old for Guides, not too sure about Rangers, does this sound familiar? I'd got to that 'difficult' age in Guiding and I wasn't really sure what to do next.

After Brownies and Guides, I didn't want to abandon Guiding completely, so I decided to become a Young Leader.

I helped with a Brownie Pack in my home town of Ipswich for three years and I enjoyed this thoroughly rewarding experience.

However, I had to say goodbye to the 26th Ipswich because, having finished my A-levels, I decided to take a gap year in Brussels.

I didn't want to break my connections with the Movement, especially as I am getting so close to finishing the Association's Leadership Scheme and gaining my warrant. I contacted the BGIFC District Commissioner for Brussels, Sally Forward, and she found a Pack who required some help.

I joined the 1st Waterloo and soon became known to the girls as 'Raccoon'. We had good fun on Pack Holiday, where we joined another Brussels Pack for a 'Pocahontas' weekend.

The 1st Waterloo became so big that the 2nd Waterloo was formed and we have gained many new Brownies.

I've been helping with this Pack for four months and am a member of BGIFC. The transition from Ipswich to Brussels was relatively easy for me, so it just goes to show — it can work.

**Gemma Abbs**  
Brussels

### Painful reminder

My Brownies have just completed their First Aid badge, but we hit a snag with one Brownie when she refused to practise resuscitation.

She sobbed her heart out to me. Her father had died in an accident and this reminded her of it, even though she was not present at the time. She wanted to do the badge but she could not do that bit.

Her mother was so surprised when I apologised for my tactlessness. We both agreed that Jennifer should do the resuscitation. At the last week of the training Jennifer said that if I would stay close, and there was just her, the Red Cross lady and me on our own, she would try to do it.

We found a quiet space — and she did it. Jennifer was crying, the Red Cross lady was crying and so was I.

When I turned round and looked at everyone, they had tears in their eyes too.

Jennifer's mum came early to try to persuade her to do the resuscitation with her there and found us all in tears. So she cried as well.

On the day of the test, Jennifer was the first to go. I sat with her for that part again and she did it brilliantly. There was not a dry eye in the house. Sometimes Brownies is ... I can't explain it but your readers will know what I mean.

Jennifer had to overcome a very difficult personal battle and won through. I felt privileged to have been present.

Name and address supplied

### Deeply appreciated

This January Abu Dhabi District hosted the BGIFC Conference which, in my opinion and that of many of the Guiders who attended, was a great success. For three whole days we were immersed in some form of Guiding-related activity.

The Guiders who attended from Bahrain, Qatar, Cyprus, Dubai, Al Ain and Germany shared ideas, and we were all bound by that special aura of friendship that Guiding displays.

The formidable team from the UK brought us a wealth of stimulating ideas and experience.

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to Jackie Scharz, Abu Dhabi Commissioner, who was not only the prime instigator of the conference but my personal ego-booster during the last 18 months as a prospective Trainer.

During the conference, I was presented with my Trainer's licence. My UK Tutor was — and I hope will continue to be — my mentor Anneliese Barrell in Plymouth.

Thanks for the inspiration and dedication you all display.

**Audrey Bennetts**  
Trainer and Assistant Guider  
2nd Abu Dhabi Brownies  
United Arab Emirates

### Hoax warning

The following letter was sent to the Chief Executive:

I understand that some of your members have been involved in a scheme to collect Walkers Crisps packets to raise charitable funds for a variety of different cases involving people with serious illnesses. I am sorry to advise you that this scheme is, in fact, a hoax.

Walkers Snack Foods extends every sympathy to the families involved in this situation and, although the company does participate in a number of charitable activities, Walkers wishes to emphasise that at no time has it ever been approached to provide support for these cases, nor has it agreed to do so.

In addition, our research has failed to reveal any one identifiable child for whom money is being raised. Where children have been named, it has not been with the involvement or approval of the parents, and has indeed caused considerable distress to the families.

Since this situation was first brought to our attention, we have taken a number of steps to avoid causing unnecessary disappointment. These steps have included taking advertising in a national newspaper to warn people about this charity hoax; developing 'point of sale' material for retailers to display at till points; and involvement in ongoing media contact on the issue.

I am sorry to have to disappoint your members who have obviously spent a great deal of time collecting crisp packets.

**Jenny Lucas**  
Consumer Care Manager  
Walkers Snack Foods  
Leicester

Letters should be kept short and the Editor reserves the right to edit any contribution. They must give the author's name, address and, if possible, a daytime phone number.

### Times ten

I am now a Young Leader with 28th Cheltenham Guides but have been a member since I was ten.

Last year I and nine others achieved our Baden-Powell Award. We are proud of our achievement, but could not have come close to it without the constant support of our leaders, Angie Bunce and Amanda Yates.

Of course, Baden-Powell Awards are gained all over the country, but ten Guides all at once is a major achievement for any Guider, and their Company.

We would like to show how much we appreciated their dedication and efforts.

**Katy Richardson and other B-P Guides**  
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

# come fishin'

fishing has always been one of my favourite hobbies, so as soon as my children Jamie (10), Jemma (8) and Robbie (7) were old enough, I started taking them to the local reservoir.

The surprising thing was that although Jemma was very lady-like, she was not the least bit concerned about handling maggots or fish, while the two boys, on the other hand, were complete cowards at the start.

Unlike physical contact sports where boys enjoy an advantage, there is absolutely no reason why girls cannot become first-class anglers. In fact, England sends a team to the Ladies World Championships every year and it does very well.

Jemma doesn't fish any more – she's 23 now and saving up to get married – but we often talk about those early years, and what pleases me is that those fishing trips gave her a love of the countryside that she has never lost.

Going fishing is like going to camp. There is always that feeling of anticipation: knowing that each trip is going to be different from the last and never knowing what you are going to catch – or even if you are going to catch anything.

The early morning trips out into the countryside mean you get to see all kinds of sights such as the old dog fox on his way home after a night of foraging for food, or a stoat stretching itself.

You also begin to recognise trees and birds, especially the ones that rely on our water courses for nourishment. As an angler, I admit I'm not too keen on herons or cormorants, but, perhaps, that's because they catch more fish than I do.

Recently we have seen something of a carp explosion in the UK. These heavyweight fish can grow to weigh as much as 50lb, and they fight like no other fish. In fact,



Dad, how big was the one that got away?

it's not uncommon for an angler to spend 15 or 20 minutes trying to land the bigger ones.

We have also seen the emergence of a large number of new, stillwater fisheries which are part of the Commercial Coarse Fisheries Association and found all over the country.

These fisheries all stock carp and, while they start out quite small – around the 1lb mark, they can grow at a rate of 5lb a year. These are easier to catch.

The Angling Trade Association together with the Commercial Coarse Fisheries Association have launched an on-going programme called 'Give Angling a Go'. The two bodies are arranging for Guides, Scouts and members of youth clubs to enjoy a day's fishing at one of these fisheries, free of charge. There will be a number of top anglers present to show your girls how it's done.

So if you and your unit fancy a day's fishing, write to Geoff Burrows at the Angling Foundation, c/o Regency Business Centre, Queens Road, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 1JQ or telephone 01926 851166.

Explain where you live and how many people wish to take

up the offer and, providing there is a fishery in your area, Geoff will do the rest.

It couldn't be easier to give angling a go. ■

If you fancy yourself with a hook and line, now's the time to give angling a go

By David Hall  
Angling Trade Association

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## in focus

£15 winner

PEGGY WELCH

**Royal redhead**  
This mysterious, flame-haired beauty was spotted several times, roaming the corridors of Foxlease at the Centre's Elizabethan weekend. Some say that the lady is the ghost of good Queen Bess, but we at GUIDING suspect that it's really Hilary Chittock, Training Centre Manager. Of course, we may never know for sure!



KENT AND SUSSEX COURIER



**A couple of sports**  
Two Brownies from the Forest District, Tunbridge Wells, relax after an energetic time at their annual sports day. Caroline Paget and Kelly Standen, needed a breather after flashing past the post at Broadwater Down School.

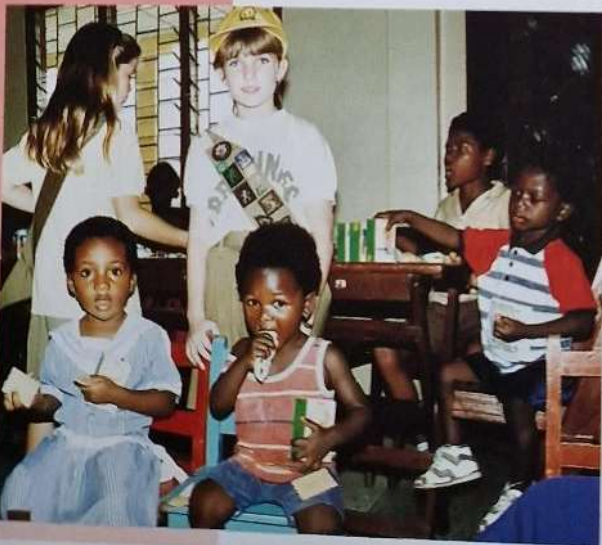
### Proxy party

The 1st Lincoln Accra Brownies from Ghana held an extra-special party for local children. The girls decided to forgo their own annual celebration and instead threw a party for the orphans at the Osu Children's Home. The Brownies sang and presented the children with gifts of toys, books and clothes.

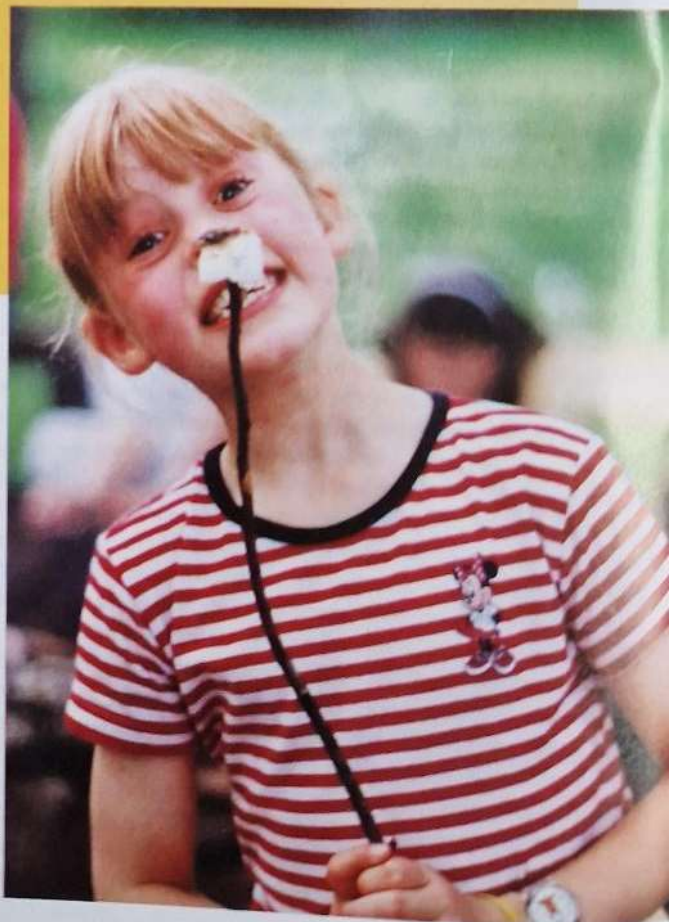
### Melting moments

Cheeky Sophia Morton, of the 103a Craigsbank Brownies, had a tasty time at Edinburgh Trefoil Centre. Toasted marshmallows round the camp fire, ended a fabulous fun day of outdoor activities. The day was especially organised for girls from the City of Edinburgh.

1ST LINCOLN ACCRA BROWNIES



JANE ROSS





**Cross-dressing**  
Delapre District Ranger Unit enjoyed a taste of all things Eastern under the supervision of Guider Margaret Burgon. Learning to wear a sari was one of the highlights at their Asian culture evening and all the girls from Northampton South Division looked simply fantastic.



MARGARET BURGON

### Joker of the Pack

Bishop Waltham Brownies were testing out their laughter muscles for an extremely good cause. The girls held a sponsored joke-telling session to raise money for Jessica Ireland, who has cerebral palsy. The money raised will help to provide Jessica with essential treatment.



INNES MARLOW



DOROTHY GIERER

### Racing ahead

All set to take pole position are the 4th Aughton Rangers from Lancashire. The girls regularly try out different activities such as abseiling, canoeing and bridge building. Here the Rangers are pictured receiving instruction before they went quadbiking at Greystoke Castle, Cumbria.

ANN MCDOUGALL



### High-flying suprise

Sarah Crookes, from Northumberland County, recently gained her Queen's Guide Award. To celebrate the occasion in style, her District Commissioner, Dorothy Blenkinsopp, arranged a suprise flying lesson. Later that day lots of guests shared afternoon tea with Sarah, after she'd finished her sky-high antics.

Please keep sending in your Guiding photographs, we love to see them!

Each month there's a £15 prize for the best photo and £5 for every other snap we print.

# fortifying the over-50s

The Discovery  
Award  
provides a  
mid-life  
opportunity  
to tackle real  
challenges

By Sheila Williams  
Walsall East Division

Are you 50-plus and do you regret never having taken part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme? If you do, perhaps the Discovery Award is the chance you've been waiting for.

The idea was dreamed up by a group of six women and four men, all aged over 50, from Dundee. After taking part in an adventure weekend in 1987, organised by the Outdoor Educational Division of Tayside Regions Community Education Service, they went on to develop The Discovery Award based on the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

All of the founder members completed their Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

The main aims of the award are discovering new interests, talents,

friendships; meeting interesting people; the joy of achievement; and participating as individuals.

In 1992 West Mercia County took the challenge to its 'over 50' Guiders: by 1996 eight of us were ready to be presented with our Gold Awards.

I went along to the first meeting, really out of curiosity as my own children had been involved at school with the D of E scheme and I had helped them with their preparation.

I became friendly with three other Guiders I met there and, although we lived quite a distance from each other, Pat Haywood and Kath Hemming from Himley, Mary Szabo from Wolverhampton West and I decided we would join up for the journey part of the award.

There are four sections of the award at each level:

- **Community service** — an involvement with people in direct and practical ways

Our group of four between us helped at a local playgroup, youth club, charity shops (both in the high street and a hospital), and meals-on-wheels; we assisted with an autistic, disabled child and were involved in organising a large Guide camp.

- **Hobbies and interests** — engaging in an activity which is primarily practical,

cultural or social, rather than purely physical

We chose cross-stitch, patchwork, knitting, crochet, flower arranging, lacemaking and appliqué — several of us progressing to a higher level in our chosen hobby.

- **Recreational** (for instance physical) pursuit in line with personal interests and abilities

We undertook a wide range of activities including tap dancing, yoga, ballroom and sequence dancing, keep fit and walking.

- **Journey of discovery** — either a physical journey or a journey of personal research, exploring and extending knowledge and interests.

This part of the award we did together and, after several local practice walks, we made our way to the Peak District for a weekend, booking into youth hostels.

There we did a 20-mile walk over two days and the buzz we got at the end was unbelievable. It was at this point we made our decision to walk the 100-mile Cotswold Way for the Silver and Gold journeys, again over several weekends, using as our bases hostels and B&B accommodation.

We achieved our goal and it was wonderful to think we had walked all that way — I had never done any serious walking before in my life.

On each section of the journey we had to incorporate an interest: ours included churches, trees, wildflowers, cottages, stiles, pub signs, animals and making a graph of the undulations of the Cotswolds.

If you are looking for new things to do, and would like a challenge, have a go at the Discovery Award. We can all recommend taking part as you will find it will open new doors for you.

My experience has given me a busy new social life, made me a fitter person and, although I still work part-time, I have the energy to carry on delivering the meals-on-wheels. Why not go for it!

● For further information contact: Laurie M Young, Director, The Discovery Award Association, Anrum Outdoor Education Resource Centre, 10 Anrum Road, Dundee DD2 2HZ.



Fit for action, the 'Golden Girls' (from left): Kath, Pat, Mary and Sheila

BOB WILLIAMS

# friends of BGIFC

As more British citizens live and work overseas, British Guides in Foreign Countries (BGIFC) has become a flourishing sector of UK Guiding. There are currently some 5,500 expatriate Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers and Guiders in more than 40 countries worldwide.

Members of BGIFC make the British Guide Promise, follow the same Programme and wear a uniform adapted to the local climate. BGIFC is organised in a similar way to a UK Country or Region. But it is administered from Commonwealth Headquarters in London and supported by its own Commissioner and secretariat.

## Friends of BGIFC

The Friends are the Commissioner's 'back-up' team, who help her with her work both in the UK and overseas. The Friends' aim is to support and encourage BGIFC in any way they can, including giving practical and financial support.

Anyone can become a Friend of BGIFC – you don't have to be a member of the Association – and it is open to both men and women. A warm welcome is offered to anyone who is interested and would like to support their work.

Friends with Guiding experience – perhaps as a Commissioner, Trainer or badge tester – are always needed. So, too, are those new to Guiding who are willing to help with a wide range of tasks – from administrative help to making training aids – or to pass on skills.

If they live or travel overseas, Friends are sometimes invited to represent the Commissioner by visiting BGIFC units – particularly those in the places that are most distant from the UK – to take and bring back news.

Giving financial support can mean paying for resource materials and gifts to be taken abroad by the BGIFC Commissioner or Trainers;

raising funds to enable girls and Guiders to attend international Guide events, or to represent their area at a UK camp; or simply paying an annual subscription to support the work of the Friends.

## Your help is needed

Friends pay a minimum subscription of £5 per year. There is also a family subscription of £6 per year for two or more members at the same address. In return, Friends receive the following:

- Four copies of BGIFC's newsletter per year, incorporating a special Friends' section in two issues.
- The BGIFC Annual Report.

● The opportunity to meet other Friends at an annual get-together, which is sometimes held in conjunction with a training event or camp.

If you are interested in becoming a Friend, please fill in the application form below and send it to:

**Sue Jiggins Secretary,  
Friends of BGIFC  
The Guide Association  
17-19 Buckingham Palace Road  
London SW1W 0PT**

Please enclose a cheque for £5 (£6 for two or more members at the same address) payable to the Friends of BGIFC.

We look forward to welcoming you as a Friend of BGIFC. ■

**British Guides  
in Foreign  
Countries is a  
lively part of  
UK Guiding,  
but it needs  
friends**

## APPLICATION FORM

Yes, I would like to become a Friend of BGIFC and enclose a cheque for my membership subscription.

Name .....

Address .....

Tel .....

Guiding experience (if any) — please indicate whether current or previous

Previous/current connections with BGIFC (if any)

I would prefer to pay my subscription by standing order

Yes/No

# still together

**For 21 years  
members of a  
special Trefoil  
Guild have  
shared fun  
and overcome  
obstacles**

There always has been something rather special about the 3rd Liphook Trefoil Guild in Hampshire. After all, there can't be many Trefoil Guilds that really began as a Brownie Pack which matured into a Trefoil Guild!

The 3rd Liphook Brownie Pack was started in January, 1976, by Mary Huggard as a unit for children with disabilities then living in several residential homes near Liphook, where she still lives.

Mary, an experienced Guider as well as being a nursing sister, was concerned about the children being 'institutionalised' and believed that bringing them into Guiding would help them to integrate.

She began with just five girls who were brought by staff or

helpers to 'Brownie nights' at Mary's house. Some of the girls she wanted to help were already too old even for Guides, so a special Ranger Unit was started for them. Then the 3rd Liphook Guide Company was formed for the younger ones to join as they finished Brownies.

The girls remained in care even as adults and, when they became too old for Rangers, a Trefoil Guild was set up so they could remain in Guiding. To maintain past links, it was called, somewhat unusually, the 3rd Liphook Trefoil Guild.

As there were no fresh intakes, the Brownie and Guide units closed long ago. But two of the original Brownies – Emma Stuart-King and Anna Mendelsohn – and three of the original Rangers – Alison Gauld, Margaret O'Brien and Pauline Raho – are members of the Trefoil Guild.

Earlier this year, the 3rd Liphook Trefoil Guild celebrated 21 years of Guiding with a party and bowling evening. The guests included Jeanette Finch who, as a Brownie Guider, helped Mary run the Brownie Pack.

Jeanette was accompanied by her husband, Clive who, when he was in the Royal Navy, took the Pack on a tour of a naval base. Also among the guests were Isabel and

Ray Atkinson who allowed the Guides and Rangers to camp on their land.

Emma Stuart-King helped Mary to cut the '21st birthday' cake. Mary said: 'Integration is now Association policy, of course. But, at a time when children and young people with special needs still tended to be cut off from the rest of society, the units we set up were of real value.'

'Every Brownie, Guide and Ranger was encouraged to tackle the same programme as their non-disabled counterparts. On one occasion they danced in front of 4,000 people at a Guide County rally in Portsmouth. They were the County winners of a national Guide competition and raised £500 for British Telecom, when they canoed ten miles on the Hamble.'

'Only the 3rd Liphook Ranger Unit still exists and it does so with just three Rangers. But, just like all the others before them, they put great enthusiasm into their Guiding, giving service to others, sharing fun and overcoming fears and obstacles.'

They, too, we hope, will join the 3rd Liphook Trefoil Guild and continue to enjoy Guiding for the rest of their lives.'

But nowadays, people 'come of age' at 18, not 21, so why didn't this unique Trefoil Guild have an 18th 'birthday' party?

'We were so busy at the time that we simply forgot!' Mary confessed.

Mary Huggard and Emma Stuart-King cut the cake at the 3rd Liphook Trefoil Guild's 21st birthday party





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Like many units, Districts and Divisions, some Counties have their own traditions which have a special significance for them.

In Cornwall's case it is the curious ceremony of 'the mac' which takes place whenever a new County Commissioner is installed.

After presenting Cornwall's magnificent standard to her successor, the outgoing County Commissioner solemnly – if, that is, she can suppress the urge to laugh – hands to the new incumbent an elderly but well-preserved navy blue gaberdine raincoat.

It is of excellent quality, which is just as well because it is now about 50 years old, having acquired the status of a kind of Guiding trophy.

The official installation of Cornwall's County Commissioners takes place in a room with a view of the Fal at Tregothnan, the home of County President Lady Falmouth.

With the 'investiture' of the mac, as it is always called, the new County Commissioner assumes the dual role of Commissioner and 'keeper of the mac' for the duration of her term of office.

However, even for the most mature of Cornwall's leaders, the origin of the mac – where it came from and why the garment is always in the custody of the serving County Commissioner – has hitherto been cloaked in mystery.

Some people know that it once belonged to a Wren, a serving member of the Women's Royal Naval Service, who was a high-ranking officer and a Dame.

But exactly who was she and how did her raincoat become part of Cornwall's Guiding lore? In 1993 the WRNS was integrated into the now unisex Royal Navy, but still the riddle lingers on.

There was a persistent rumour – rather disquieting to those of short stature and ample figure – that no one could hope to become Cornwall's County Commissioner unless she was tall enough and slim enough for the mac to fit her.

Fortunately, Cornwall's PRA, Margaret Flinders, is able to state on the County's behalf that there is not a shred of truth in this: 'It does not matter what size our County

# mighty mac

Commissioners are. They don't have to wear it. All they have to do is to look after it while it is in their keeping,' she said.

Now, thanks to some pertinent probing by Margaret, the authentic story of the mac can at last be told.

It seems that it originally belonged to Dame Jocelyn Woolcombe, Director of the WRNS from 1946-50, who was a near life-long friend of the late Annette Bowen, Cornwall's County Commissioner from 1961 to 1970. Dame Jocelyn gave the raincoat to Mrs Bowen.

Annette Bowen's daughter, Mrs Tina Jefferis, of Downderry, near Torpoint, Cornwall, told GUIDING:

'They became friends when my mother was in her late teens and "Joss", as she was called, was slightly older. In those days Joss was a Guide Guider at Plymouth and actually introduced my mother to Guiding. They remained close friends until Dame Jocelyn's death. My mother died four years ago, when she was almost 92.

'I remember the coat. Joss probably gave it to Mum soon after retiring from the WRNS. Being suitable for wearing with Guiding uniform, my mother used it quite frequently. In fact, I probably used it myself on a few occasions. It was often on the back seat of my mother's little Ford Popular.

'When my mother retired as County Commissioner in 1970 she

gave it to her successor, Myra Bellingham. Apparently, from then on, it became a tradition for the County Commissioner to take care of the coat and then pass it on to the next Commissioner.'

That, indeed, is how the 'order of the mac' began. Myra Bellingham found the mac to be 'rather long but extremely warm and very useful'.

From then on it passed to County Commissioners Pauline Samuel (1980-86); Jill Kendal (1986-91); and Angela Thomas (1991-96). Now it is cared for by Jane Bennett, Cornwall's current County Commissioner.

● Dame Jocelyn, daughter of an admiral, died at Plymouth, aged 87, in 1986. ■



CHRIS DAVEY

All Cornwall's  
County  
Commissioners  
have to  
measure up to  
'the mac' —  
but how did  
the strange  
custom begin?

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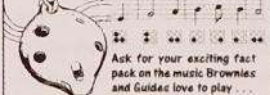
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# Gillian Shaw

from Alvaston, Derby

The Assistant PRA (External Relations) for the Association, Gillian is a family and employment law solicitor

6 Have you ever had the female equivalent of *Just William* in your unit — someone always in the thick of it? Well, that's a description that could have fitted me. In my earlier Guiding days trouble seemed to find me without my even looking for it. Take, for example, what happened when I was QM at a Guide camp.

At the end of the camp, I decided that the easiest way of disposing of the remains of lunch would be to deposit the leftovers in the lat pit. So that's where they went — along with me, since the bank gave way while I was emptying the containers.

I later learned I appeared "like a vision" over the hill and descended on the Commissioners and visiting dignitaries taking tea, to be told that I was "an entertaining girl".

Despite traumas of this kind — and there were plenty — my memories of Brownies, Guides and of leadership are all about Guiding being fun, and of girls and leaders having a good time and forging lasting friendships. Furthermore, I now feel that I am no longer quite so accident-prone!

In Derby, where I was brought up and still live, I was a Brownie, a Guide, Ranger, Young Leader and Assistant Brownie Guider. I also served for a while as PRA for Derby North Division.

I don't know how I came to be nominated for my present job, but it may have had something to do with my having served on the Association's Junior Council.

Guiding kept me in touch with the outside world when I helped with a local Brownie Pack while studying law at Sheffield University. I eventually gave up active Guiding, but, once a Guide, always a Guide, and I have never lost contact with the Movement.

I am now in practice with a firm of solicitors at Eastwood, Nottinghamshire, about 14 miles from Derby. I deal mainly with



STEVE BAKER

family law, divorce, separation and related issues like access, custody of children and financial arrangements. I also deal with cases involving employment law.

My work can be stressful and sometimes frustrating. It can also be immensely rewarding and I would not want to do anything else.

Apart from law, my great passion is politics which, to me, is an exciting roller-coaster of highs and lows. The latter, though unwelcome, are inevitable, but one learns to live with them. They make the highs even more exhilarating.

Although no one else in my family shares my enthusiasm for the political hurly-burly, I have stood for the local council six times, and also fought a general election as a would-be MP.

I have been careful not to be more specific about my politics because I know that where politics are concerned, Guiding must always remain non-partisan.

My Guiding job bridges the gap between those involved in looking inward at Guiding and looking

outward to find ways of lobbying to further Guiding's aims and ideals in the wider world.

It is a non-party political role which, hopefully, will develop our links with the opinion formers and decision makers, helping us to get our message heard and operate effectively in the 21st Century.

It is also about linking together our representatives on outside bodies, whether sporting, cultural, charitable or concerned with some other aspect of society, so that our people are well-equipped to convey our views persuasively, as well as reporting back accurately on the views of the non-Guiding delegates.

The job is quite a large undertaking and, along with my job, my involvement with politics, coping with the garden, keep-fit sessions, going to the cinema and visiting friends, it seems I am destined to be extremely busy for a long time to come.

But never so busy, let me assure you, that I would fail to do my best for Guiding. ☺

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