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Free 'Wizard of Oz' Party Fundraiser Pack

To celebrate the release of this new video MGM has joined forces with the Children With Leukaemia Trust and 'Guiding' to bring you a free 'Wizard of Oz' Party Fundraiser Pack. This can be used by your units and packs to hold a 'Wizard of Oz' party to help raise funds for both your own local needs and the Children With Leukaemia Trust. The pack contains posters, invitations and press releases to publicise your party locally plus balloons and helpful hints on how to run your party.

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There are 1000 Free 'Wizard of Oz' Party

Packs available for those who register their party with us before 12th December 1997 and MGM have very kindly donated 250 free videos of 'The Wizard of Oz' to send out to the first 250 Party Pack applications we receive. Only one Party Pack is allowed per unit, pack or event. This offer applies to UK residents only and closes on 12th December 1997.



How to Get Your Free Party Pack

All you need to do is to pledge a minimum donation of £10 to the

Children With Leukaemia Trust from the proceeds

of your Party and write to us by 12th December 1997 at the following address: 'Wizard of Oz' Party Promotion, Children With Leukaemia Trust, London House, 100 New Kings Road, London SW6 4LX.

Tell us about the party you're intending to hold and include:

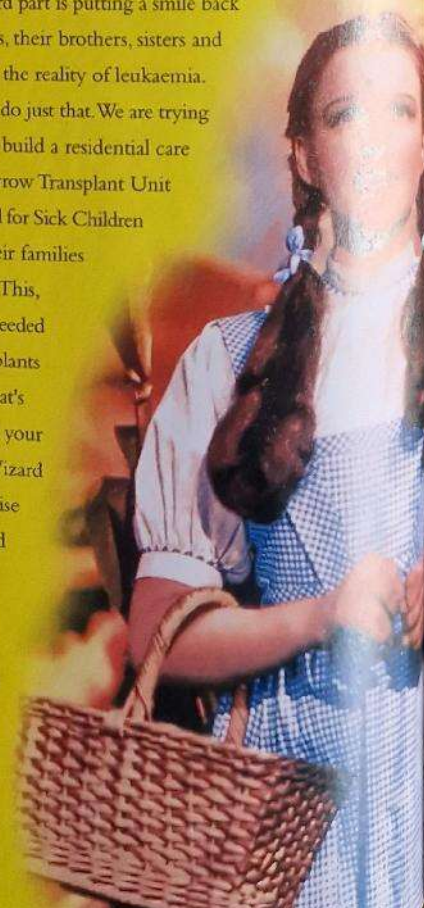
- the date and where it will be held
- the name, address, postcode and phone number of the organiser
- the number of people you expect to attend
- your pledge to make a minimum donation of £10 from the proceeds of your party to the Children With Leukaemia Trust

Children With Leukaemia Trust

Children with leukaemia smile a lot. Perhaps because they don't know what lies ahead or because they have hope and trust in

the people around them. The Children With Leukaemia Trust is a charity dedicated to keeping the smiles on kids' faces. That's the easy part. The hard part is putting a smile back on the faces of their parents, their brothers, sisters and friends who are faced with the reality of leukaemia. We would like your help to do just that. We are trying to raise £1 million to help build a residential care unit close to the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at The Royal Bristol Hospital for Sick Children to care for children and their families before and after treatment. This, in turn, will free up acutely needed beds and allow more transplants

to take place. That's where we need your help - hold a Wizard Party to help raise lots of smiles and hopefully some money to bring more smiles to the parents, families and friends of children with leukaemia.



Terms and Conditions: 1. Offer is open to UK residents only and closes on 12th December 1997. 2. Please allow 28 days from the receipt of your Party Registration for delivery of your Free Wizard of Oz Party Fundraiser Pack. 3. Only one application per unit, pack, group or event. 4. Proof of postage will not be accepted as proof of delivery. Promoter: MGM Home Entertainment (Europe) Ltd, Glenborough House, Hammersmith Grove, London W6 0ND. Children With Leukaemia Trust is a Registered Charity No: 1035538.



comment



Achievements are important to young and old alike, and I would always encourage people to aim high for paper qualifications in order to make their way in the world.

However, there are people like me who, for various reasons, do not have much on paper, yet can offer a great deal to society in different ways. That is why being a part of Guiding is so good: Guiding has room for everyone.

Today's world is a highly technological one. The very mention of IT — Information Technology — frightens some people. If you are one of them and have ever sat in a meeting and thought that everyone else must know more than you, take heart. The Guide Association's job is to make Guiding relevant to society today, and that means using the skills and talents not only of the high-tech whizz-kids but also of the traditional paper-and-pen users who embrace the good, solid values of life.

In BGIFC we operate large 'Counties', independent Districts and, sometimes, very small units of British Guides based in countries dotted all around the world. They run successfully because of the spirit and commitment of the Guiders.

This year we held our training event and camp at Foxlease. We do not often get together so, when we do, it is an amazing experience and a privilege to be part of the excitement of friends reuniting, the sharing of experiences, learning new skills together and making new friends, before parting again for another year or longer.

Our event brings out the very best in human nature and it is this which we must preserve.

Our aim in BGIFC is to enable Guiding to happen where it is needed. Yes, let's use all the new technology: fax, e-mail and the Internet, all of which have enormous advantages for us when trying to communicate with members all over the world.

But it is the people skills which really matter — after all, Guiding is about people.

Christine Richards
Commissioner for British Guides
in Foreign Countries

this month...

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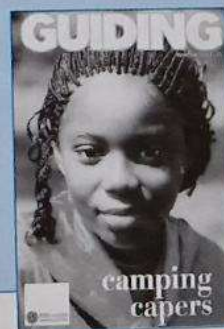
Picture this. Magic moments captured forever

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Suzanne Wilson and Caroline Surtees — two Queen's Guides who support each other

front cover

Ghanaian Guide Yaa Oforiwaawiafe had a wonderful time at Bounce — Northants Guides' international camp this summer



DEREK MABBUTT

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

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Trefoil trio

When Jennifer Smith of the 1st Pinchbeck Guides, Lincolnshire, gained the Baden-Powell Trefoil she was following in the footsteps of her sisters Alison and Caroline. They had also won the Award while in the same unit.

Alison and Caroline remained with the 1st Pinchbeck as Young Leaders until they went to university, but Jennifer has joined the recently-formed Spalding Rangers. Our photo shows the proud trio: (from left) Jennifer, Alison and Caroline.



LINCOLNSHIRE FREE PRESS & SPALDING GUARDIAN

Larking about

Guider Edith Holyhead, with County Sailing Adviser Mike Pezet at the helm, was the first person to take to the water in Larkspur — Gloucestershire's very own boat.

The second-hand Lark dinghy — given to the County last autumn — is being used to enable as many members as possible, from Brownie age upward, to get afloat. Those who enjoy the experience can then take part in a formal training course.



JENNIFER PEZET

in brief

Buy a brick

Raising money for the Baden-Powell Community Centre in Purton, near Swindon, began on the site itself with a sponsored 'brick hunt'. The Centre, a joint Guide-Scout venture, is primarily for use by the two associations. But other local groups will benefit too.

Here, Rainbows Francesca Russell (left) and Sophie Entwistle have found two of the bricks.



SUSAN TYRRELL

In the kitty

It all began when a Guide leader took a badly injured cat to St Francis Animal Rescue in South Shields. As a result, Guides from St Margaret's United Reform Church in Harton Nook have raised cash for St Francis's and have also had hands-on experience helping to look after some of the unwanted and orphaned kittens.

Seen here with a handful of furry friends are Paula Turnbull, Kayleigh Maxell, Stacie Bell and Jane Charnley.



SOUTH SHIELDS GAZETTE

Plenty to smile about

These 4th Neasden Brownies — (from left) Lisa Dowling, Alexandra Brooks-Bank and Jackie O'Sullivan — were all smiles at Willesden Division's Charity Fair. For although rain forced the annual event indoors, it didn't keep the public away.

At the end of the day, the Fair had raised £60 for the Division's designated charity, the National Autistic Society, as well as money for each unit's chosen good cause.



DAMIEN HORAN/KILBURN TIMES

Getting down to it

When it comes to learning about resuscitation who better to learn from than someone who does it as part of his job?

Here, ambulanceman Brian Jaffrey teaches lifesaving techniques to two Brownies from the 5th Inverurie Pack. Katie Balls is following instructions while Amy Robertson looks on.



ALEX MINTY/THE INVERURIE ADVERTISER

in brief

MAGGIE WARTON



Forty times four
At Suffolk County's last AGM it was a case of '160 not out' when 40-year service awards were presented to not one, two or three but to four members. From the left they are Anne Dunford, Vice-President

Suffolk and President Anglia Region; Janet Edmondson, County office organiser; Jackie Willis, Division Commissioner South East Suffolk; and June Webb, Assistant County Commissioner and International Adviser BGIFC.

Coincidentally, the three 'Js' all started their Guiding career in the same Suffolk village — June and Jackie with the 1st Bramford and Janet with the 2nd Bramford.

MARGARET TALBOT



Grand opening

Ellesborough, Buckinghamshire County Guide Centre, which has facilities for Pack Holidays and camps, now has its own equipment store. The store was officially opened by the former County Commissioner, Win Pearce (right), who is seen here with the present County Commissioner, Anthea Burch and three Guides from High Wycombe.

Originally, Ellesborough, a redundant village school, was leased by Buckinghamshire as a Pack Holiday House. Then, in 1994 — during Win Pearce's term of office — the County bought it.

Doing the honours

Guides from units in the Malvern area were involved in this year's National Arab Horse Show, held at the Three Counties Show - Ground. At the end of each class, the girls were responsible for bringing out the relevant rosettes and trophies.

Shown here, carrying trophies for the overall champion, are (from left) Maria Hill, 1st Malvern Link; Rhiannon Darcy, 1st Upton; Anna Magdenovic, 1st Malvern Link; and Hannah Renger, 10th Malvern Link.



BARBARA SUMMERS

snippets

IN THE SWIM A party of US Girl Scouts spent the last leg of their European tour as guests of Rangers in Sutton and Surbiton. One highlight was swimming at Brighton. Coming from Kansas, in the Midwest, many of the visitors had never been to the 'ocean' before. **TALKING ABOUT THOMAS** During their Pack Holiday at Barmouth in North Wales, the 1st Parkhurst Brownies from the Isle of Wight visited the Talylyn Narrow Gauge Railway, where they were lucky enough to meet the son of the Rev Awdry, creator of *Thomas the Tank Engine*. **METAL COLLECTION** Northampton General Hospital needed £250 to buy a metal detector... so Ranger Guider Jeanette Waite and her work colleagues collected £50 by not sending each other Christmas cards. Then, over the next few months, Jeanette, with her Rangers from Kingthorn District, raised the remaining £200. **OWLS TIE THE KNOT** In the summer, two Lancashire Brownie Packs held a party to celebrate a very special wedding — between Snowy Owl Karen

Newton of the 14th Radcliffe Brownies and 'Tony Owl', aka Anthony Owen, a Unit Helper with the 1st Radcliffe. **PORTSMOUTH PARADE** Carrying blue, green and gold balloons, members of the 4th Cosham Rainbows had a great time at the Lord Mayor's Parade, Portsmouth. Along with all the other Rainbows, Brownies and Guides taking part, their theme was 'Guiding for gold, achievement for all'. **THIRTY YEARS ON** When Guider Marjorie Killen, from Yateley, Hampshire received her 30-year service award, she could look back on three decades of running units, organising camps and, in the early years, putting on Gang Shows — and, through these shows, meeting her Scouting husband, Pat. **DOUBLE ACT** Brownies and Guides in Boxford, Suffolk, gave themselves a busy Saturday when they held a bring-and-buy for the Blue Peter Leprosy Appeal in the morning — at which they raised over £100 — and then put on entertainment and tea for local senior citizens in the afternoon.

canvas opinions

Carnival creativity

Colourful is the word which best describes Olave '97, where the vibrant hues of the bunting, high-flying kites and the avenue of fluttering national flags gave visitors a technicoloured welcome to the Sussex site, emphasising the Carnival theme.

Around 830 Guides and Guiders, from 20 different countries, gathered at Plumpton Racecourse, near Lewes, at this, the third, in a series of international camps held in the County.

Deirdre Bull, PRA for Sussex East, said: 'International visitors were met at airports and stations by Guiders and members of the service team, some of whom were visiting an airport for the first time.'

Most visitors arrived without mishap. However, the Chilean contingent's luggage stopped off in Rome. Happily, they were reunited within the first couple of days.

Integration between the different countries was encouraged from the start. Sunday was designated Activities Day, and the girls had to form groups that included both British and overseas Guides before attempting the 30+ activities set up around the camp.

Activities available during the week included abseiling from the on-site tower, archery, parascending and wind surfing. There was a wide range of crafts on offer plus an arts workshop, where girls could work with professional artists from Same Sky, a company based in Brighton.

Here they could create a range of magnificent sculptures fashioned from paper and canes – the most amazing of which was a huge galleon – that would feature in the torch-lit carnival procession at the end of the week.

The radio station on site enabled people to talk to others around the world. At least 17 different countries were contacted, including Finland, The Gambia, the Czech



Putting the boot in: In the scorching weather, wellies were redundant for most of the week at the Sussex site

Republic and Turkmenistan in the former Soviet Union.

The week wasn't just about the girls enjoying themselves. Following consultation with the Countryside Ranger Service – for whom one of the Guiders works – two service projects were set up. Around 20 girls helped to clear land

at nearby Ditchling Beacon, while the same number planted bulbs in Plumpton village – providing a lasting reminder of their visit.

On Visitors' Day, a further 2,200 people, including Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers from Sussex East arrived to join in the fun. The site buzzed with excitement as they tried their hands, or rather their feet, at bungee running; hurled themselves at the fly wall; or took up the *Gladiators*-style puglestick challenge. The less athletic could opt for being creative in the craft room, checking out the sideshows in each sub-camp or watching a Punch and Judy show.

The international display featured girls from Taiwan dressed



All work and no play...Guider Joy Rigby celebrates after her victory in the *Gladiators*-style challenge

in stunning red and black costumes performing a traditional carnival dance; the Norwegians singing a song wearing their traditional jumpers, in which they must have sweltered, and the UK's own Midland Region's alternative rendition of Shakespeare.

Organisation and teamwork were at the heart of the smooth running of the event – exemplified on site by the most amazingly ordered kitchen in the Peach sub-camp.

Everyone mucked in and did their bit. As County Commissioner Clare Popley put it on Visitors' Day: 'Tomorrow I'm accompanying the girls on their rock-climbing trip. I have a very responsible job – I'm in charge of the sick bucket.'

camp special



GILLIAN ELLIS

Flying high: a Taiwanese guest tries out the aerial runway at CUBIC

Travelling far and wide

Guides from far and near arrived at Cheshire Border International Camp (CUBIC) — by narrow boat, hot-air balloon, rickshaw and elephant — a cardboard one.

The theme for the camp — held at Somerford Park Farm, Congleton — was 'It's a Small World'. The sub-camps were named after different ways of getting around.

Guests came from Australia, Canada, Ghana, Kenya, Japan, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Taiwan, Thailand and the USA, plus other UK Countries and Regions.



CHRISTINA ROBERTS

Smiling chorus: Seven Little Maids from the Maldives with their Guider

Her etchings: Bridget Towle, the Chief Guide, is presented with some copper engravings by Kenyan Guiders (from left) Margaret Waikwa, Primrose Nyamu and Josephine Mwaniki



NEIL LINDSAY

got the camp started. Each challenge earned a Guide a jigsaw piece to be stuck on to the camp logo outline in her handbook.

By the end of the afternoon, Guides had a completed logo and a thorough knowledge of the site.

During the week every camper spent one day at Alton Towers, while others enjoyed sampling windsurfing, sailing, canoeing and dragon boating at a nearby lake.

On-site activities included target shooting, an aerial runway, assault course, golf course, Circus Sensible and a challenging Crystal Maze.

The Cheshire Scouts gave amateur radio instruction and the Cheshire Conservation Trust organised a quiz and woodlands trail.

Aspiring camerawomen roamed the site with video cameras and 150 Guides jockeyed for 100 places on the two night hikes.

Evening activities included a disco; cartoon films; bingo; and a County Commissioner's At Home for adult leaders.

The closing ceremony was followed by a surprise event — a spectacular firework display.

No dampened spirits here

When rain fell relentlessly at Kernow '97, a whip-round was organised to provide warm clothing for visitors from Kenya, Uganda and the Maldives, who, though cold, managed to keep on smiling.

Although the sun had welcomed the Guide and Scout campers to the Royal Cornwall Showground, the rain set in the next day.

As Scout chaplain Michael



Helpful guests: Even washing-up is fun for a Rainbow visiting her first international camp

Adams put it, when he opened the Guides and Scouts Own: 'The rain coming down reminds me somewhat of Noah'.

Fortunately, the bad weather did not disrupt the programme too much. Cornwall's PRA Margaret Flinders said: 'It's amazing how resilient Guides and Scouts can be if faced with a potential disaster'.

The girls from the 7th Male (Maldives) Little Maids charmed everyone they met and won the camp talent contest. This presented them with a bit of a problem: how to get the prize — a tent — back to their home just off the south-west tip of India. But they were thrilled to have a tent ready to use when they move up to Guides next year.

To help finance their trip the Kenyan girls had brought along carved animals and necklaces, key-rings and sarongs to sell. The Ugandan girls were happy to give lessons in traditional songs and dances.

The Chief Guide, Bridget Towle, accompanied by South West England Chief Commissioner, Rosemary Dibben, popped in and they were given a warm welcome.

There was even a wedding to celebrate — at a distance. A couple who met at Kernow '93, Lee Lewis and Dawn Edwards married on August 9, the last day of the camp.

Margaret Flinders added: 'The overall spirit of the camp was wonderful... members of the press were amazed at the camaraderie and goodwill present'.

Watch out: Trying out the old water routine — a novice clown camps it up learning new skills at Cleveland '97



GILLIAN PRIESTLEY

Giant-sized fun

A visit by around 300 Rainbows was one of the highlights of Cleveland '97 held at Skelton Castle.

The younger girls joined the 370-plus campers as part of their tenth anniversary celebrations and went on a Teddy Bear's picnic.

After touring the site with her Guider, one Rainbow asked: 'Do giants sleep in the big tents?' Light dawned after a moment and it was explained that the tents were marquees used for craft activities during the day and dancing in the evening.

Lynda Walker, Cleveland's County Commissioner, welcomed visitors from Australia, Canada, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Japan and the USA. Also on site were two young Guiders from Estonia whose trip was sponsored by Trefoil Guilds within the County.

North East England PRA Gillian Priestley said: 'The basis of the camp was fun, activities and friendship — there was a lot of all three happening during the week.'

Favourites like horse riding and dry skiing were on offer along with a day trip to York.

After acquiring Big-top skills all week, the sub-camps all staged their own circus acts. Then there were little demonstrations and falconry displays to marvel over.

At the end of the week Guides promised to keep in touch with their new friends. Some met up sooner than expected — at a local disco attended by overseas visitors enjoying home hospitality.

The hills were alive...

The pulsating beat of a steel band welcomed campers to the opening ceremony of GIG (Guide International Gathering) '97.

Leaders from the 12 countries present lit candles and presented flags at the ceremony. Parachutes — with each World Guide Region coloured in different shades — were inflated and elevated. Then the sub-camps paraded Olympic-fashion past the VIP guests.

Held at the Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire, the camp was attended by 750 Guides, Senior Section members, leaders and international visitors. They voted it 'a fun event we'll never forget'.

The on-site activities ranged from crafts and circus skills to Olympic-style events. Off-site there was canoeing, horse riding, abseiling, and even GIG bug hunting on the Malvern Hills!

During the week a team competed with great success on local radio in a lunch-time quiz.

On Visitors' Day, Brownies and Rainbows were entertained by campers at the World Fair, when more than £1,000 was raised for the Thinking Day Fund.

Evening entertainments included a disco, Gospel-style act of worship, international entertainment, a talent show and a House Party.

The closing ceremony will long be remembered for the candlelit procession which followed a superb firework display — lighting up the whole of the Malvern area accompanied by international music.

Tree-mendous fundraising

Over 1,000 Hertfordshire Guides got together for a very special CHAT — Camp Herts at Tolmers — this summer.

The camp theme was 'woods and forests' which was reflected in the activities and events at the leafy camp site in Cuffley, Hertfordshire.



COLIN WALTON

At the opening ceremony on the Sunday, the Braughing Scout and Guide Band and the nine Divisions paraded into the arena carrying banners for what County President Lady Lydia Jack described as 'a very special occasion — a Guiding moment we will remember'.

During the day a red oak tree — donated by the Hertfordshire Groundwork Trust on behalf of the County's Guides — was dedicated.

The campers thanked the Trust by raising over £450 for it at a

Having a good day: Girl Scouts from the USA relax in the sunshine during the opening ceremony at GIG '97



MARY WILLATT

Country Fayre, just one of the many Division Day activities. 'The Trust was overwhelmed by the amount,' said CHAT PRA Lynne Griffiths.

Brownies joined the County camp for the first time and had their own programme. The Trefoil Guild helped with the coffee and souvenir shops and craft sessions.

The CHAT tree logo seemed to be everywhere — on souvenirs and on noticeboards identifying activities around the site. CHATting journalists supplied the daily CHATterbox with reports on events.

The Oxfordshire Pioneering

Pioneering people: Concentration is all important when building a shower as CHAT campers found out

camp special

Team was on site building aerial runways, swings and bridges.

The Tolmer's crew ran a disco

Prepare for take-off: Grass sledging at Birmingham's Bonanza camp



and a pre-breakfast keep-fit programme, and provided site services.

Camp with a view

Birmingham's Bonanza got off to an auspicious start when international visitors, and County VIPs were entertained by the Lord Mayor, Councillor Sybil Spence three days before the camp began.

Overseas guests enjoyed home hospitality with local families before heading for Blackwell Court, a popular Scout camp site.

'Everything was absolutely great,' said Activities Coordinator Janet Jones. 'It's a lovely site with beautiful

Guides and Girl Scouts from ten WAGGGS member countries including parties from India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

Local Guides were keen to repay hospitality they had received on overseas trips, and there was a strong emphasis on encouraging lasting international friendships.

'The whole thing went very smoothly,' said Janet 'with no incidents. The organising team worked very well together.'

Lessons for life

Northants Guides' Bounce international camp was fun for everyone. But for Julia Tibble - then a Young Leader and now a warranted Guider - and Ranger Sarah Cross it provided a profoundly personal experience.

Julia, aged 18, had just finished her A-levels, and was planning to start work. 'I wanted to earn some money, get a car and have my own place,' she explained.

Julia and 15-year-old Sarah camped at Bounce with the Nigerian Guides, who arrived late at night after a 36-hour journey. They were led by Guiders Temilade and Ada, and all were new to camping.

They spoke English, came from three different tribes, and were all devout Christians or Muslims. Julia recalled: 'Ada was stunned when I did not go to the Sunday service. "Don't you believe in God?" she demanded. I'd never really thought about such things applying to me.'

'After a ticking-off about not going to church, they quickly began to rely on me, and I was nicknamed "Our Nigerian Ambassador".'

'When they discovered that Sarah had just been confirmed, they took to her straight away.'

The camp, at Boughton House near Kettering, was given a musical launch by the New Orleans Jazz Band. The Duke of Buccleuch declared it open, watched by the Chief Guide, Bridget Towle; Midlands Region Chief Commissioner Pat Taft and County Commissioner Anne Strudwicke.

The 1,000 campers from Japan, France, Ghana and the USA enjoyed the usual activities such as canoeing, abseiling and archery.

NEWS TEAM INTERNATIONAL



Take that!: Cooling off at Bounce this summer

Finding their feet: Climbing the wall was just one of the challenges at the camp at Boughton House



NEWS TEAM INTERNATIONAL

gardens. A lot of the events including our *It's a Knockout* were held on the rolling lawns in front of the house.'

The weather was wonderful and the four large marquees were used to give the 750 or so campers a rest from sunshine, not rain.

Most days had a theme - camping skills, circus skills, international, Wild West - and Rainbows and Brownies were among the visitors invited to share the fun.

There were 130 Girl

They also had the chance to learn stilt-walking, tumbling, acrobatics, plate spinning, even how to be a clown, alongside local Guides. Everyone joined the professional circus performers in a spectacular closing ceremony.

After Bounce, the Nigerian party spent a week at McQueen House, the Guide and Pack Holiday House. Sarah and Julia stayed with them, together with Corby Trefoil Guild members and the Bounce Camp Leader, Kathy Hobbs.

For Sarah, being with the Nigerians was an incredible experience. It reaffirmed her Christianity — and what she plans to study. 'I hadn't realised how learning another language benefits other people too. It's not something you only do for yourself. I hadn't seen it that way before,' she said.

Bounce also challenged Julia to think about her life and values. At camp she told 1st Quinton Guider Frances Piercy: 'Wouldn't it be lovely if I could spend a year with WRVS or the Red Cross doing something really worthwhile? I didn't know I could build relationships like this — not everyone can.'

'My plans were rather self-centred. But if they wait a year — it doesn't really matter, does it?'

Wot flexible friends

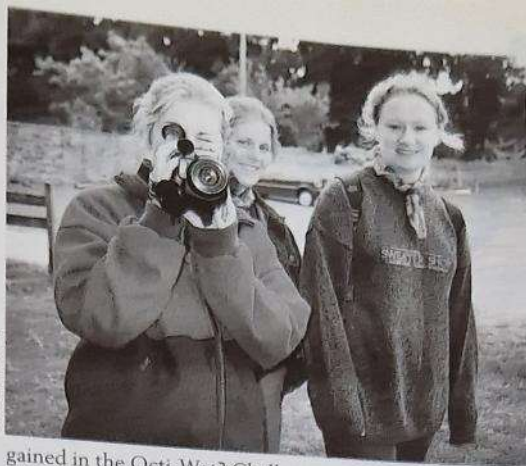
The advance publicity described Octi-wot?, the national Senior Section lightweight camp as 'the camp with a twist'. And so it was.

The programme was flexible and had many new ideas for the 13+ Guides, Rangers, Young Leaders, young Guiders, SSAGO, LINK, Junior Council, BYC, Joint Venture/Ranger Units and privately invited international guests.

Campers could arrive and leave at any time during the six-day event at Waddow, and take part in whatever activities they wished.

The camp handbook *Wot You Need to Know*, began with the all-important information: 'Wot to eat'. Campers could choose to cook for themselves as the supermarket offered a good variety of foods, or take advantage of the soup-and-salad bar and the 'Burger Queen'.

There were 81 points to be



GILLIAN ELLIS

gained in the Octi-Wot? Challenge. Why 81? Knowing the answer earned five points. (The event marked 81 years since the earliest Senior Guide Section was formed in 1916.) Points could be earned by taking part in various activities and by completing three challenges:

- Leave terra firma behind and get at least five metres off the ground.
- Be photographed for the camp video, by the camp photographer or by *GUIDING* magazine.
- Fill in a brick on the graffiti wall saying how Octi-Wot? was 'different' for you.

Graffiti? At a Guide camp? The graffiti wall took the place of a camp newspaper as the main means of communication.

Everyone was asked to check the wall regularly for camp notices and to read and add personal messages.

'We planned this two years ago,' said Administrator Wendy Graham. 'We were really pleased with our brainwave — then we arrived at the start of the camp to find a simply massive graffiti wall already here around the site.'

A list of 'wot' was on offer, the cost, and the value in Octi-Wot? Challenge points had been sent to all campers in advance. So organisers knew how many sessions were needed and how much transport was required to off-site venues.

The range of activities included (off-site): abseiling; caving; climbing indoors and out; dry slope skiing; ice-skating and pony-trekking.

Half-day trips featured a trip on a canal barge, exploring the Sabden Treacle Mines and tackling the real *Krypton Factor* assault course. There were full-day outings to Granada

Studios, Blackpool, York and Morecambe Bay.

On-site activities included: croquet, circuit training, badminton, driving instruction, fencing, grass sledging and survival training.

All campers were invited to drop in at the craft tent to embroider their signatures on fabric 'bricks' to create a camp memory quilt.

Because campers were invited to arrive and leave at irregular times, no opening or closing ceremonies were planned. But there was a sophisticated variety of evening entertainment. The first night featured a non-alcoholic 'Happy Hour' followed by a disco.

Other evening entertainment included line-dancing; a Body Shop make-up demonstration; a quiz and karaoke, as well as the Grand Octi-Wot? Market, at which girls sold items or services to raise money for their favourite good causes. A total of approximately £250 was raised.

On the final night, an authentic Town Crier and ceilidh brought the week to a fitting close.

The 12-strong planning team, headed by Camp Coordinator Barbara O'Donnell, had every reason to be pleased with the success of Octi-Wot? '97.

One satisfied customer, Gemma Allred of 17th Bolton Rangers, said: 'Octi-Wot? was a huge success. From the anticipation of the opening disco to the madness of the ceilidh, it was a roller coaster of fun and friendship and lived up to its claims — a truly different camp!' ■

Candid camera: Girls were encouraged to roam the Octi-Wot? site shooting footage for the official camp video



GILLIAN ELLIS

Wonder wall: Backs to one of the graffiti walls, two Octi-Wot? campers 'address' the ball during a croquet session

hope for

On any day of the year, depression is affecting five per cent of adults — who are twice as likely to be women as men.

GUIDING looks at this very common illness

Depression, in its mildest form, is an everyday experience. From time to time we all feel fed up, miserable or sad. Usually we can explain our low spirits — maybe we're having problems at work, or the cat has died, or we're getting over 'flu. But sometimes there is no obvious reason for being 'down'. It's just an 'off' day and we're in a mood.

Either way, this type of depression is relatively short-lived. As the days, or weeks, go by it eases, allowing us to get back into the normal rhythm of our lives.

In some cases, however, the black mood drags on and becomes so intense that it dominates every aspect of the day. Such severe depression is an illness and requires help. If it is not treated the sufferer may end up feeling so unhappy — so utterly helpless and hopeless — that life no longer seems worth living.

Among seriously-depressed people, an estimated one in seven commit suicide. It often happens that by the time sufferers recognise their depression, they have become so engulfed by it they can no longer find the energy or motivation to seek the help they urgently need.

So what are the clues to look for — in yourself, a family member or friend — that might indicate depression? In addition to persistent feelings of sadness and misery, characteristic symptoms include:

- **Changed sleeping patterns ranging from insomnia to sleeping all the time.**
- **Low self-esteem, with feelings of uselessness and inadequacy.**
- **Bursting into tears for no apparent reason.**
- **An overwhelming tiredness or lethargy.**
- **Reduced appetite and weight loss or, in some case,**

overeating and weight gain.

- **An inability to make even the simplest decision.**
- **Forgetfulness and general lack of concentration.**
- **Loss of interest in activities that were previously enjoyed.**
- **Feeling numb, empty and out of control.**
- **Unwillingness to socialise and be with other people.**



DEPRESSION ALLIANCE

Statistics show that 20 per cent of women suffer from depression at some point in their lives

- **Feeling restless, agitated — even panicky.**
- **Uncharacteristic outbursts of impatience or anger.**
- **Using tobacco or alcohol as a prop.**

A person suffering from depression will probably have some, rather than all, of these symptoms but she will certainly feel that life has become a constant struggle and that she is no longer coping with it. Worse, from the depths of her misery, she can see no way out.

One question that both the sufferer and those near to her will be asking is 'Why?' Where has the depression come from?

Depression is frequently brought on by a stressful event such as bereavement, divorce, job change, operation, unemployment, money problems and retirement. How we come to terms with this event — and work through the feelings that accompany it — depend on a variety of factors. To begin with, our circumstances at the time. If we're already coping with other worries — and have got overtired and run down in the process — this new crisis could be the last straw. We might cope quite satisfactorily with a parent developing Alzheimer's or husband's redundancy or daughter's car accident or having a hysterectomy — but not with all four happening around the same time.

To what extent the event undermines our personal feel-good factor is also relevant. For a person who is not particularly active, breaking a leg is a painful inconvenience but for someone who is sports-crazy it is much more of a crisis.

Depression often has links with physical health. Severe illnesses such as cancer and stroke as well as ongoing ones like heart disease and arthritis frequently trigger depression. The same is true of 'flu, glandular fever and other viral infections. In women, hormonal change can be a cause — especially as part of PMT, after childbirth or during the menopause.

Depression can strike anyone, and yet some of us seem more vulnerable than others. This could be because of our personalities — shaped by family history and experiences in early life — or because of our body chemistry, or both. And, just like its milder version — having an 'off' day — depression can come seemingly from nowhere.

Although more commonly associated with adults, depression also

tomorrow

By Catherine Dell

occurs in young people, affecting at least two per cent of children under 12 and 20 per cent of teenagers. Studies show that youngsters are most at risk if:

- Their families have a history of depression.
- They've lost a parent early in life.
- Their parents have divorced.
- They've been victims of abuse or neglect.

Triggers that are particularly relevant to young people include bullying, relationship problems, exam pressure and fear of unemployment. Often, something may happen which, from an adult perspective, seems quite manageable. But to teenagers, going through the roller-coaster process of growing-up, it can assume traumatic proportions. All too often they think the problem is unique, that no-one can help and that, somehow, they must deal with it themselves. Yet they lack the experience and confidence needed to cope, which makes them very vulnerable to depression.

As with adults, the illness can affect many aspects of young people's lives. They may, for example:

- Have problems relating to friends and family.
- Find it difficult to study or prepare for exams.
- Become very withdrawn and isolated.
- Develop eating disorders.
- Take to lying, stealing and truanting from school.
- Get caught up in drugs, alcohol or solvent abuse.
- Attempt self-mutilation or even suicide.

It is important to remember that behavioural changes – fits of temper, moodiness, withdrawal – should not be dismissed as naughtiness. They may indicate depression.

Whatever its origin, once depression has set in – getting worse rather than better, going on and on, and interfering with everyday life – we must get help. We know that being told to 'Pull yourself together' is useless advice – we can't. Similarly, it's no good telling ourselves that somehow we'll manage 'to get on top of it' – we won't.

If the depression isn't too severe it may be enough to talk the situation through with a relative, friend, colleague or someone like the parish priest. Talking in itself is a therapy and can also help identify changes in lifestyle that might ease the stress and tension.

Most people with depression get the help they need from their GPs who may prescribe anti-depressants. These tackle the symptoms, not the causes – but by lifting the patient's mood they hopefully allow her to tackle the depression itself.

As an alternative to medicine – or as well as – the doctor may suggest sessions with a counsellor or psycho-therapist. This form of therapy – talking with someone who is outside the patient's life – can help her to get problems into perspective and support her in her search for solutions.

There are also things we can do ourselves to overcome depression – although self-help, except in the very mildest cases, is a back-up not an alternative to medical treatment.

Many sufferers find some form of relaxation – such as medication or yoga – along with regular exercise and a balanced diet are all beneficial. Many also join self-help groups offering support, understanding and a listening ear.

If you are suffering from depression, or you know someone who is, remember that depression is not a life-sentence. It will get better. There is light at the end of the tunnel.

Find out more...

The Depression Alliance is a self-help organisation that offers information and support to people suffering from depression and their relatives. For details send a sae to: 35 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB or call 0171 633 9929 (answerphone).

Mind – the mental health charity – publishes a range of literature on depression. Contact the Information Unit at: 15-19 Broadway, London E15 4BQ or call the Mind infoline on 0345 660163.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists has a range of useful publications including the leaflet, *Depression – Help is at Hand*. For details send a sae to: 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG.

The Samaritans offer support to the suicidal or despairing who need someone to talk to. National Helpline: 0345 909090.

Talking through a problem can help



DEPRESSION ALLIANCE

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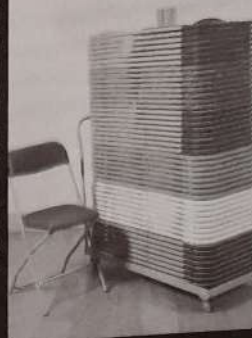


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WHY NOT A PIECE OF WEDGEWOOD

Wedgewood have personalised the FOXLEASE HOUSE in white relief onto a circular blue Jasper Tray (11cm in diameter) and onto the lid of an oval blue Apollo box (11cm wide x 5cm high) to celebrate the

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Please complete the slip below, make out your cheque to THE GUIDE ASSOCIATION and give her something really special to remember Foxlease.

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Send to: FOXLEASE, LYNDHURST, HAMPSHIRE, SO43 7DE

making memories

This summer Princess Margaret visited Foxlease for the fourth time to share in the Centre's 75th anniversary celebrations.

Its manager, Hilary Chittock, told *GUIDING* that the purpose of the special year was 'to celebrate, to raise awareness of Foxlease, increase the Centre's usage and raise funds'.

Since the first world camp in 1924 many international assemblies have taken place at Foxlease, and there was a suitably international flavour for the commemorative visit. Over 150 BGIFC girls and leaders from 20 different countries filled the grounds, mingling happily with campers from the UK.

Christine Richards, BGIFC Commissioner loves Foxlease and has been there many times. 'Some of the girls, although British, have only lived abroad, so coming here is a great experience. We alternate between adult training and girls' activities. They get a lot out of it — fun and friendship, plus the opportunity to learn new skills,' she said.

For some BGIFC members the day was a joint celebration. Josephine Smith and Julia Steven, BGIFC Guiders of the 1st Pergamos unit in Cyprus, were celebrating their own unit's 21st birthday. The ten girls in their unit went on sponsored walks and held a bazaar to raise £2,000 to pay for the visit.

Before the President's arrival, the girls ran through the itinerary and practised stewarding. Flight Lieutenant Sam Tricker, an RAF fuels specialist, was recruited by her mum to help out. 'We figured we'd use her officer qualifications to keep this lot in order,' said Sam's mum, Claire, pointing at the excited girls.

Finally the moment the girls had all been waiting for arrived. The Princess's helicopter was spotted. The girls cheered and there was some violent flag-waving, as the red helicopter landed in a field in front of the house. Rangers linked hands

protectively as girls and Guiders jostled for a better view of Princess Margaret, while formal introductions were taking place.

There was a tremendous cheer as the President unveiled a plaque — the girls bursting into a chorus of the *Celebration Song*, complete with waving hands and actions. 'What a nice song,' the President whispered to Chief Guide Bridget Towle. It was written by the late Sue Stevens, a former member of Foxlease's staff.

Angela Hammond, a member of the Foxlease Management Committee said: 'This will become a milestone in their lives and, at the same time, they will remember all the activities they've enjoyed.' Brownie Laura Perez-Hemphill from Germany agreed, adding: 'We'll remember this forever. My brother will be so jealous when I tell him about Princess Margaret arriving by helicopter and speaking to us.'

After watching a training demonstration, the President walked to Beaverbrook Lodge and back, stopping frequently to watch activities and chat to the girls.

Girls from 1st Anstey Guides, near Leicester made catapults using their knotting skills then launched their teddies into oblivion. 'Poor teddies,' said Princess Margaret, as

Princess Margaret took time out to chat to this excited group of Guides

Foxlease's manager, Hilary Chittock escorted Princess Margaret around some of the many activities



she strolled on towards the 1st Bulkington Guides from Nuneaton, Warwickshire, who provided a first-aid display. 'Someone had better rescue her,' suggested the Princess, pointing out Jennifer Clay, who was faking a nasty injury.

Assistant QMs Fiona Sutton and Victoria Taylor said: 'There's a lovely atmosphere — it really is like a family, a sisterhood of girls from all around the world. We only told the Brownies about the Princess's visit this morning so that they didn't get too excited.'

As Princess Margaret waved goodbye, Chief Guide Bridget Towle, commented: 'The day's gone brilliantly. We're all happy it's been such a success — a real thrill for Foxlease and for all these Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers and their Guiders. What has been lovely is the girls being able to talk to the Princess, their President, who showed genuine interest in what they were doing.'

Foxlease has been Guiding's family home for 75 years so members celebrated in style when the President flew in

By Cheryl Rickman



MARK DOUET

The NYMT takes on 1920s' New York

Bugsy's back in town
On November 15 a spectacular stage version of *Bugsy Malone* splurge guns its way into London's West End. The production, by the National Youth Music Theatre, stars 84 people – aged 11 to 16 – from all over the country.

The National Youth Music Theatre, currently celebrating its 21st anniversary, exists to encourage young people to take part in music theatre.

Since its inauguration, the company has performed extensively in the UK as well as in many countries overseas.

For further information, including auditions, write to NYMT, 5th Floor, The Palace Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1V 8AY.

For details of *Bugsy Malone*, on at the Queen's Theatre until January 10, call 0171 580 6793.

Card collection

As the countdown to Christmas gathers momentum, cards are a dominant item on most people's shopping list. For a mega choice – all in support of charity – visit your nearest Cards for Good Causes shop.

Cards for Good Causes – a multi-charity concern – operates around 250 voluntary Christmas card shops across the UK from early November onwards. In all, nearly 300 charities – large and small, national and local – benefit.

To find out where your nearest shop is, phone 01962 862272.

The cards shown here are in aid of the British Heart Foundation (Santa), British Diabetic Association (the Three Kings) and Help the Aged (flowers).



NEDRE MANILLA: NINA OHMAN



Christmas Eve by Carl Larsson

Jod Gul (Happy Christmas)

Catch the Christmas spirit, Swedish style, at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

To complement its Swedish design exhibition – *Carl and Karin Larsson: Creators of the Swedish Style* – the V&A is holding a series of Christmas events and activities, all with a Swedish flavour.

Aimed at the family, the programme includes making Christmas decorations; a concert by candlelight; storytelling; cooking traditional goodies such as iced gingerbread hearts; and, on December 13, celebrating the uniquely Swedish festival of St Lucia with a candlelit procession.

The V&A's Swedish Christmas runs from December 1-January 4. For full details call 0171 939 8407. Some events must be booked in advance.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Charles Dickens



Merry Christmas, Mr Scrooge

It is often said that Dickens, with his marvellous descriptions of yuletide feasting and festivity – is largely responsible for the way we celebrate Christmas today.

So what better treat for Christmas than a selection of his classic tales on video – each with an all-star cast.

The BBC has issued two special edition Dickens boxes. Set one contains *Great Expectations*, *Pickwick Papers* and *David Copperfield*. Set two features *A Christmas Carol*, *Martin Chuzzlewit*, *Oliver Twist* and *A Tale of Two Cities*. On sale at usual outlets each set costs £49.99.

We have two copies of set two to give away. For a chance to win one, answer the following question and send it to the address on the right.

Question: In *A Christmas Carol*, what is the name of Scrooge's clerk?

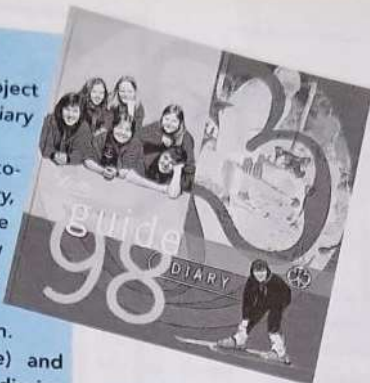
Make a date

Stocking filler, treasure hunt booty, project prize... 1998's Brownie Diary or Guide Diary could be just what you're looking for.

Both are in full colour and feature fun-to-read-and-do pages. In the Brownie Diary, birdwatching, walking and craftwork are covered. The new-look Guide Diary – now in a stylish square format – focuses on one theme: water, with topics ranging from canoeing to conservation.

Priced £4.99 (Guide) and £4.50 (Brownie) the diaries are available from Guide shops, the Trading Service and the major high-street outlets.

GUIDING has five of each to give away. For a chance to win one, send your name and address to the address below. Please state which diary you would prefer.



Craft market

Whatever your craft need – felt, foam, clock parts, candlewax, glue sticks, glass beads... you'll find it in the Craft Depot Catalogue.

The new 1997-98 edition features over 5,000 products including some, such as face paints and soap kits, particularly suitable for youngsters.

Costing £3.50 – refundable against orders of £20 or more – the catalogue is available from Craft Depot, Somerton Business Park, Somerton, Somerset TA11 6SB.

GUIDING has ten copies to give away. To enter the prize draw answer the following question and send it to the address below.

Question: By what name is the craft material 'chewed paper' generally known?



Tree clearance

Green winter

For a winter break with a difference, contact BTCV, the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, which runs conservation working holidays

throughout the year both in the UK and overseas.

Winter projects in Britain include hedge laying, coppicing and footpath maintenance, while international opportunities range from forest management in Japan and wolf-tracking in Poland to land stabilisation schemes in Spain.

Prices for a week start at £36 in the UK and £85 abroad. Minimum age limits are 16 and 18 respectively. And, as all relevant skills are taught, no previous experience – of walling, willow weaving or... – is required.

For further information and a copy of the BTCV brochure telephone 01491 839766.

The new Bostik Art and Craft range

Sticky story

Cards, decorations, party hats, posters... in the run up to Christmas, paper crafts really do come into their own.

To help youngsters make the most of their creativity, Bostik has launched a new Art and Craft range of glue

products. The range comprises Blue Stick – a blue-coloured paper glue, which dries clear; Paper Glue in a pen-style dispenser; PVA-based White Glue; Glitter Glue Pens; and a loose glitter and glue set.

Suitable for children over six, all the glues are solvent-free and will wash out of clothing easily. Where needed, air-flow caps have been incorporated.

GUIDING has ten sets of the Art and Craft range, worth £10 each, to give away. To enter the prize draw, send the answer to

the following question to the address on the left.

Question: What do the letters PVA stand for?

All competition answers on postcards please, send them to Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT to arrive by November 30.



let's do it again!

**A great day
we had by
all, judging
from your
comments
after Zoom
the World in
Westminster**

By Jo Haddrick

From the start it looked as if Zoom would be a huge success but it wasn't until the evaluation forms came in that we realised just how big a hit the event – held to coincide with Thinking Day – had been.

The number of applications had far exceeded the 3,000 places available, and, within a week of the information packs being sent out, the event was fully booked.

Zoom the World was organised by a core team of volunteers led by Pauline McKie. Each of the five Westminster venues had its own activity coordinator, who assembled her own team to help plan the various activities.

Each site was transformed to represent one of the five WAGGGS Regions, offering visitors activities based on the cultural diversity of the particular Region.



Follow my leader:
Learning all the
right moves

An event of this size had to be evaluated as soon as possible to identify successes and areas where there was room for improvement, so that we could learn as much as possible from the day.

Those taking part in the 'Western Hemisphere' declared the Creole singing and drumming, and the calypso rhythms of a live steel band the most entertaining.

Another great success here, apparently, was the giant sacks provided for the groups to carry

around their belongings.

'Europe', situated in the RHS Old Horticultural Hall, proved to be the most popular site, where Irish dancing provided a better workout than aerobics. For those looking to exercise their minds, there were construction challenges from Legoland.

'The "Arabians" were first rate,' said a visitor to the 'Arab Region', which promised an introduction to the ancient sport of camel racing. Luckily, the camels involved were cute, fluffy and easy to control!

For a true taste of Eastern promise the visitors joined belly-dancing classes and learned how to make this part of their bodies move with a life of its own.

'The "Asia Pacific Region" offered a rich, cultural experience,' according to one member. Making dragons and lions and joining in some 'magical' dancing was the most popular activity, judging from the evaluation forms returned.

'Africa Region' vibrated to the beat of drums and the rhythms made it difficult to keep still. Visitors transformed themselves with painted faces and face masks and joined in with the Ghanaian musicians. 'We would have liked to stay longer,' a Guider declared.

So, what else did your evaluation comments tell us? Many of you were amazed that such a super day could be arranged for the low cost of £3 each. This had been made possible thanks to a generous subsidy from the Association.

Compliments such as: 'Fantastic



It's only me! Dancing dragons and prancing lions were popular with visitors to the 'Asia Pacific' Region

day!'; 'Well organised'; and 'It was worth getting up at 6am for', appeared on every sheet and congratulations should go to everyone, from the planning team to the tireless helpers on the day, who worked long and hard to make the event such a success.

Obviously, not everything was perfect. In school halls, narrow staircases were a problem, while a lunchbreak would have been appreciated by the helpers. Older people pointed out they would have liked more chairs to sit on.

You also told us that you would like to see more activities appropriate to Rainbows and the Senior Section, and that you, as Guides, would have been willing to instruct the girls during craft activities had you first been shown what to do.

Those taking part would have liked a formal ceremony to open the event and a closing camp fire for everyone at the end of the day. The planning team recommendation is that, next time, the event should be held in one large setting.

At the end of a full and active day, the unanimous verdict was: 'Let's do it again!'

So, some time, some place, somewhere, you could be applying to take part in 'Return to Zoom' – keep watching this space!



NATIONAL KIDNEY RESEARCH
Reg. Charity No. 252892

Sidney's Kidney Appeal Saving Lives

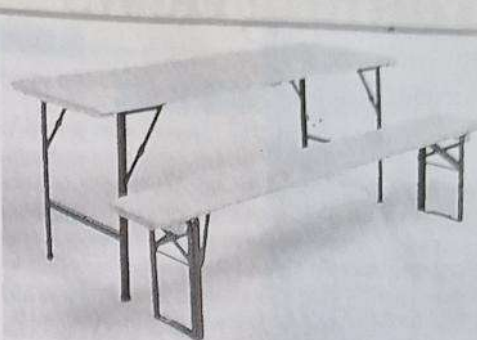
Have a great day out and raise money for charity

Sidney the Kidney is the mascot of the National Kidney Research Fund. He wants to enroll the help of as many brownie and guides as he can to come on a fabulous sponsored walk across London's Bridges.

Sidney needs your help to put together a team for the walk, get sponsors and raise money for research. Each year 8,000 children are born with kidney disease.

The walk will take place on Sunday 10th May 1998, starting at 11 O'clock from Battersea Park. Sidney will be there to meet everyone and there will be music, face painting, clowns, a bouncy castle, etc.

To get your information pack please telephone: 01480 454828 or write to Sidney at 3 Archers Court, Stukeley Road, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE18 6XG.



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HEAVY tents

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training news

Waddow — 01200 423186

Grandparent(s) with grandchild(ren)

..... Oct 20-23 & Oct 27-30
There are loads of things to do. Go on outings, play games, take part in activities or crafts — ideal for all ages.

Tonic for Trainers (Brownie and Guide)

..... October 31-November 2

Christmas crafts

..... October 31-November 2

Trading training

Mid-week

..... November 11-13

Nine million and me

..... November 21-23

This weekend will include activity ideas to help bring WAGGGS to life for your units (all sections). Go global, widen your vision of Guiding and join in this training. It should be a weekend to remember.

Pre-Christmas break

..... December 19-21

Before the hustle and bustle of Christmas, have a relaxing break in quiet and peaceful surroundings.

New Year house party

..... December 29-January 4

Crafts, music, outings, walks and games. Relax in pleasant surroundings with no worries about cooking.

Programme ideas for Rainbow, Brownie and Guide Guiders

..... January 9-11

Four of your Guiders can attend for the price of three.

Tutors

..... February 13-15

International programme ideas

..... February 27-March 1

For Rainbow, Brownie, Guide and Senior Section.

Easter frolics

..... April 9-13

Hautbois — 01603 737357

As you like it!

..... December 28-January 3

A New Year house party with a hint of Shakespeare. Still a few places left — so why not come and join the fun and fellowship and be here as Hautbois enters its tenth birthday year?

First aid in Guiding

..... January 30-February 1

This weekend gives Guiders and Senior Section members the chance to learn the skills that are needed for camps and holidays as well as weekly meetings. Also take this opportunity to gain or to renew a St John Ambulance qualification.

International weekend for Guides

..... February 20-22

A fun-packed weekend for Guides to come and celebrate Thinking Day. Take part in international games and activities, try food from other countries, complete the international clauses of their Trefoil badges or gain one or more of the international badges.

Netherurd — 01968 682208

Netherurd's cottage and bothy

Come and enjoy a visit in our beautiful countryside. This can be a relaxing stay, or your base for an exciting adventure. Everyone welcome.

Foxlease — 01703 282638

Patrols in action for Guide Guiders

..... November 7-9

Get the Patrol system up and running in your unit. There will be lots of ideas for groups to try.

Theme meetings for Rainbows, Brownies and Pack Holidays

..... November 7-9

An opportunity to discover new ideas for theme meetings — based on the Eight Points — that are linked to fun, friends and festivals.

Greetings

..... November 11-13

A mid-week craft event. Learn how to create your own greetings cards for Christmas and other occasions. Contact Foxlease for details of the cost.

District teams

..... December 12-14

Do you celebrate Christmas with your District team? Are your Guiders special?

Do they deserve a real treat this year? Bring them to Foxlease for a relaxed, pre-Christmas break with Christmas dinner, log fires and music, plus ideas about other festivals to take away and use in the unit. At a special price of only £35 per person, this is not to be missed.

Commissioners' celebration training

..... November 28-30

Share experiences with other Commissioners and develop strategies to help Guiders deliver quality Guiding.

New Year house party

..... December 29-January 2

Join us at the end of our happy celebration year for 'A crock of gold'. The cost will be £110 for four nights (£80 for 16-26 year-olds).

Brownie Guiders

..... January 16-18

Challenging the older Brownie.

Guide Guiders and Patrol Leaders

..... January 16-18

Send for further details.

Five alive!

..... January 23-25

Practical help with exciting programmes and working with groups for all sections. Come alone or bring a group.

Lorne — 01232 426025

Come and do as you please

..... November 7-9

Come and do your Christmas shopping. Have a theatre break. Or you could simply relax and unwind in the most beautiful surroundings.

Brownie Guiders

..... November 14-16

Recharge your batteries — perk up your programme — brighten up Brownie night.

INTOPS/GOLD weekend

..... November 28-30

One not to be missed by Senior Section and Young Guiders. Book now.

Country weekend? Guide holiday?

..... April 17-19

This is the perfect venue for your spring weekend event.

For further details or to apply ring the numbers listed.

official

coming next

A decade of Rainbows

We look back at the many ways in which Rainbows celebrated their tenth anniversary up and down the country.

Keeping afloat...

Meet Frances Drake, who in her dual roles of Chief Commissioner and NHS manager battles daily with a sea of paper.

Out and about

Join us for a stroll around Etherow Country Park, near Stockport — famed for its tawny owls!

Thinking Day on the air

Tune in to Guiding worldwide by following our advice on how to get launched on the airwaves.

In at the deep end

One young Guide made her television acting debut in the BBC's major drama series *The Lakes*.

Are you one in a million?

Don't miss out on your last chance to sign up for the Environment Challenge, as we try to get the Association's name into the *Guinness Book of Records*.

IN DECEMBER'S GUIDING

Chinese take-aways

We take our inspiration from the East for some great craft ideas.

No special treatment

Meet an award-winning Guide who, despite her disability, refuses to accept any special consideration.

Golden year

It is 50 years since Broneirion officially opened its doors to Guiding events. We take a look back at the year-long celebrations.

Growing impatient

In our story — *Be patient, Polly* — a young girl learns that there are some things that just cannot be hurried.

Mind-boggling puzzles

Can you match the Santa? Will you untangle the ribbons so that everyone gets the right present?

Christmas craft

Add an extra-special touch to your

festive table by making our Santa and Christmas pudding mats.

Arctic animals

Do you know what a snowshoe hare looks like? Discover this and lots of other cool animal facts.

Sacks full of prizes

Competitions galore. Your chance to win a Headstart computer, Cabbage Patch doll, hair wraps, jewellery and lots more...

IN DECEMBER'S BROWNIE

Get busy

Make a marvellous mobile. Get creative with a tangram (and find out what it is). Can you crack our Christmas code?

You and your pets

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Patrol 12 F/S	159.00	139.00
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Icelandic F/S	240.00	200.00
Nijer	385.00	335.00
Nijer F/S	220.00	180.00
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Stormhaven F/S	230.00	190.00
Dining Shelter	140.00	125.00

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turn back for stockist details

executive news

Congratulations

When members of the Executive Committee met in June, the Chief Guide congratulated Jean Keppie and Barbara Hall on being awarded MBEs in the Birthday Honours list, and Jenny Leach, who had received a Laurel Award.

World camp

A World Camp is to be held from July 17-24, 1999 at Foxlease, which will commemorate the first World Camp held there in 1924. It will also give members of WAGGGS an opportunity to get together and anticipate the Millennium.

Organisers are hoping to attract 2,000 campers aged between 14 and 18, although the age range is flexible.

The camp will take as its theme: Young women as global citizens and leaders within their own community.

Nicky Parker has been appointed as Organiser. The programme at the five-day camp is based on five leadership/citizenship initiatives and could lead to a World Camp Leadership Award.

It will take up some of the themes of the Beijing Conference, particularly the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the girl child.

Invitations are to be issued to Countries and Regions and numbers provided will be linked to their membership totals.

Holiday help

The terms and conditions applying to the Trefoil Guild's Holiday Fund scheme are being revised to broaden the scope of assistance offered.

Guiders, as well as Trefoil Guild members, are eligible to apply to the Fund for help with holiday costs in times of stress or illness.

In special cases, assistance can be given to help a Guider go to camp or on Pack Holiday.

Moving money

The maximum loan available now from the Revolving Loan Fund for a specific project has been increased from £2000 to £5000.

Tree trefoil

Trefoil Guild members are each being asked to give 25p so the Guild can have a Trefoil of trees at the National Memorial Arboretum.

Westminster reception

The Guide Association is hosting a Parliamentary Reception on the Terrace of the House of Commons on November 18. Taking as its theme Women as citizens, it will provide an opportunity for the Association to present a relevant, up-to-date and dynamic image to the nation's decision-makers.

Guests, including Cabinet members, Shadow Ministers, MPs and members of the House of Lords, will be encouraged to take a 'fresh look at Guiding'.

And the way the Association prepares its young members to be active citizens of both the UK and the wider world will be stressed.

Training plans

Training for the new Severe Level Walking Safely qualification will be available next year. And the first training courses for rock climbing will also get underway in 1998. This means that by the following year there will be qualified instructors available to work with interested groups.

Qualification requirements are being revised in order to make rowing more accessible to members. In future a separate qualification for rowing single-handed boats and pulling (crew boats) will be incorporated. Instructors are expected to hold a RYA level 5 dinghy sailing certificate or a higher RYA sailing qualification with rowing experience.

Stylish scarf

A new scarf for all adult members has been designed and is now available from the Trading Service.

Wear with pride

The 40 years' service brooch may be worn in or out of uniform by both active and retired members of the Movement.

Help acknowledged

Guides helping with Rainbow Units can now wear a special badge that recognises their leadership role. The Rainbow Helper Badge features three green stripes and is similar to the badges worn by Pack Leaders.

Breaking down barriers

Sam Blood, Chairman of the Association's delegation to the British Youth Council, is representing the Association in a research project being carried out by the BYC.

Funded by the National Lottery, the project seeks to establish what are the barriers that prevent some young people joining youth organisations.

High-level meeting

While Heather Roy, Junior Council Chair, and Sheran Oke, International Commissioner, were on a visit to Warsaw, they met the wife of the Polish President and discussed the role of special needs education in society.

The pair were guests of the Polish Association (ZHP) and attended an integrated camp for disabled and non-disabled Guides and Scouts.

All Countries and Regions that have Polish Guides in Exile units in their areas are asked by ZHP to encourage links and involvement where possible.

New policies

The first meeting of the Policies Working Group has taken place. Its remit is to ensure that the Association's objectives are being adhered to.

Policies being looked at cover a vast array of issues from recruitment to child abuse, uniform to Children's Rights.

It is proposed that a pamphlet to supplement *The Guiding Manual* should be produced and circulated to other youth organisations.

Members would be told of any changes at District level and any new policies will be incorporated into future editions of *The Guiding Manual*.

New faces

Sally McMath has been appointed as Chief Commissioner for Scotland. Her Deputy is Sally Anderson.

Hilary Wills, London and South East, has joined the Guide Friendship Fund Committee.

Major Ruth Chisholm has taken over as Salvation Army Territorial Coordinator.

Della Salway is the new Chairman of the Trading Review Group.

Glyn Martin has become the Chairman of Blackland Farm Management Committee.

official

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Special camp for the 60th Anniversary Celebrations August 28, 29, 30 & 31 1998. For further details and site brochure please contact:

The Manager
Beaudesert Trust Scout and Guide Camp
Cannock Wood, Rugeley, Staffs WS15 4RD
Telephone and Fax: 01543 682278

SNOWDONIA

Ideal location for Camps and Holidays. Guide headquarters in Caernarfon. Two fully-equipped hostels. Accommodation for 23 & 27. Suitable for the disabled also 11-acre camp site. Warden Peter Stott. 51, High Street, Llanberis LL55 4E11. Tel: 01286 870 840.

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Camp and Holiday Centre at Llanfair talhaiarn, North Wales. Grid ref: 932702 Sheet 116. The Centre is situated in a beautiful, rural setting 5 miles inland from the coastal town of Abergele. Beach approx. 6 miles - Snowdonia approx 20 miles.

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Brochure: Mrs. J. Foster, Lwisaige Farm Camp, Maughold, IOM, IM7 1AW. Tel: 01624 812 293

MORE ON PAGE 61

A year ago I got a phone call from Heather Roy, Association Junior Council Chair, asking me to attend the World Food Summit International Youth Forum in Italy. Just three weeks later, having arranged time off from lectures, I went to Rome as part of an 11-strong WAGGGS' youth delegation. Our role was to represent and promote the views of WAGGGS — the world's largest organisation of girls and women.

The International Youth Forum was running in parallel with the main World Food Summit. The UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) had organised both. Around 500 young people from all over the world gathered to discuss world food security — the availability of safe and nutritious food to everyone — and the problems ahead as we approach the Millennium.

In 1995, on World Food Day, the FAO had celebrated its 50th birthday. To mark the occasion, the FAO presented the WAGGGS' representatives with a medal in recognition of the organisation's key role in improving nutrition, and supporting FAO's goal to eradicate hunger and malnutrition worldwide for those living in poverty.

WAGGGS announced the start of a joint project with the FAO — the FAO-WAGGGS Nutrition Award Medal — to be carried out over the 1996-1999 triennium, which falls within the triennial theme 'Building World Citizenship'.

There are 300 medals that can be earned by WAGGGS' members worldwide for outstanding projects in the field of food nutrition improvement and education. It is an excellent opportunity to promote the role we play in nutrition-related work.

I arrived at the Summit unsure of what to expect. On the first evening we were briefed about our role at the Forum by Margie Clay — one of WAGGGS' representatives to the United Nations, based in Rome.

The first, full day provided an

opportunity to get to know the members of the group. We visited local schools and met students who had concerns about food security.

In the afternoon we toured the Roman site of Ostia Antica, before taking part in a torch-lit march organised by the Commune of Rome. 'Rome for the world: food for all...' was our emotive slogan, as we processed through Rome.

As representatives of WAGGGS, we had to remove any visible signs of our membership, as we couldn't be seen to be 'political'.



Food for thought: Eve Harrison (second from left) and her fellow members of the WAGGGS' youth delegation had a lot to think about

The next day we travelled to the University of Laterano in Rome for the plenary session of the Youth Forum. The FAO's Deputy Director General told us that never before had so many young people from all over the world been invited and we shouldn't shy away from the importance of the problem that we faced.

The stark message was: 'There are more than 840m undernourished men, women and children in the developing world alone. Food production will have to increase by 75 per cent over the next three decades. We have to ensure equal and fair access to the food produced.'

We were then addressed by representatives from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the FAO and an international environmentalist. That afternoon we started work on a draft declaration.

■ watch this space ■ menu for change

Feeding the world's peoples is a vast task that gives us all a role to play

By Eve Harrison
North West England
Junior Council

The following day we finalised our qualifying statement. The definitive version of the declaration was finally approved later that evening. The Forum closed amid rapturous applause. Our tour of Rome that night was unforgettable.

Ten young people delivered the International Youth Forum declaration to the World Food Summit next day, while we travelled to the province of Benevento to visit the State Professional Institute for Agriculture and the Environment.

This trip was a fantastic opportunity to learn about other cultures. It opened my eyes to the world's problems, not just those concerning food security. I met people from all around the world and, hopefully, left them with some knowledge and enthusiasm for world Guiding and its many opportunities. ■

notices

Thinking Day Services

The 1998 Thinking Day Services will be held on Saturday February 21 in Westminster Abbey, St Margaret's Church, Westminster, and Westminster Central Hall. Services will begin at 11am (10.45am in Central Hall).

Admission to the service is by ticket only. Ticket requests should be sent via your District Commissioner to County or Country or Region offices.

Chief Guide Challenge Badge

The Chief Guide Challenge Badges are now available from your County Badge Secretary at £2.40 each. (Please note these badges are registered goods and will need a warrant to purchase them.)

Finding a voice

The National Youth Agency has produced a valuable information pack called 'Young People - Finding a Voice' for Youth Work Week which takes place from November 3-9.

The focus of this year's Week, sponsored by the Better English Campaign, is self-expression and more effective communication.

Ideas for activities and resources, plus advice on everything from media campaigns to devising an action plan are contained in the pack, along with a paperback book, *How to Succeed Students' Guide*, which has a cover price of £2.99.

The pack is available free from:

The National Youth Agency
17-23 Albion Street
Leicester LE1 6GD
Tel: 0116 285 6789

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Offer price 451.20p

Income yield..... 3.21 per cent

Sing for charity

The Carol Sing a Song for Mencap is the perfect way to have fun and help a good cause this Christmas. Simply organise a group of children to sing carols for Mencap, who will provide collecting tins and carol sheets.

The money raised will help Mencap set up a nationwide family advisory service, providing support to children and adults with a learning disability and their carers.

Call 0645 777779 as soon as possible for your Carol Sing a Song pack.

The top fundraisers have the chance to win a great prize.

Carols galore

The London Guiders' Singing Group invite members, family and friends to their carol party on Sunday, December 7, at 2.30pm in St Peter's Church, Eaton Square, London SW1.

There is a programme donation of £2 at the door.

PDSA's half-price offer

During November the PDSA's children's club, Pet Protectors, is offering half-price membership to coincide with the charity's 80th birthday.

Pet Protector membership starts from £4, but, for November only, it will cost £2. Members receive a badge, membership card and quarterly magazine.

To join, write to:

Donna French
Pet Protectors Club Organiser
PDSA
Whitechapel Way
Priorslee, Telford
Shropshire TF2 9PQ.

Take part in TDOTA

Thinking Day on the Air is an amateur radio event with stations run by or on behalf of members of The Guide Association in order to contact other Guide stations in this country and abroad.

The dates are February 21-22 and units everywhere are invited to link up with a licensed radio amateur to enable them to take part.

The main aim is to promote Guiding friendships through the exchange of greetings messages and follow-up activities. It also introduces Guides to a technological activity, providing opportunities for completing challenges in the Guide programme and taking Interest badges.

If you would like a detailed information pack send a large A4 sac to Jo Haddrick in Guiding Services at CHQ.

Including Disabilities

In the recent *Including Disabilities* publication (Trading Service Code 63586) the credit for the Manual Alphabet on page 38 is incorrect. This should read: Standard Manual Alphabet from the Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) and not Finger spelling chart from British Deaf Association.

Apologies to all concerned.

Singing in the square

Wrap up warmly and join a choir of Association members singing carols in Trafalgar Square on Friday 19 December between 4 and 5pm.

Carols will be chosen from the 44th edition of the *Bethlehem Carol Sheet*. Copies are available from:

The Bible Lands Society
PO Box 50
High Wycombe
Bucks
HP15 7QU

Millennium banner

Since September visitors to the Guide Heritage Centre have been invited to help in making Molly's Millennium Banner.

In the past, units would each make their own magic carpet, which would be embroidered with Patrol or Six symbols and unit events would be depicted.

The Guide Heritage Centre Millennium Banner will be a cloth collage showing Molly (the Heritage Centre mascot) and designs to reflect all aspects of the Movement.

This is the start of a historic project which will aim to be ready for display in the Guide Heritage Centre in time for the Millennium.

official



Helen arrived at Rangers. I knew who it was as soon as I heard the clump, clump of boots up the stairs. It was the same sound I remembered when she'd arrived as a painfully shy 14-year-old.

This was a different Helen, last seen in WH Smiths announcing that she wasn't going to waste four years at university, signing on or working at the local supermarket check-out. She'd got a job in Africa and was off.

Two Christmas cards and some odd postcards extolling the delights of having a safari park within easy driving distance were still displayed on our notice board, and here she was — back again.

Helen wanted to tell us about her travels. Like the time she'd taken the girls out from school. She'd had to wait for help when one sprained her ankle and was more concerned about keeping a look-out for leopards than worrying about possible hypothermia!

She wanted to share her bird-watching tally and the excitement of animal watching. But the gang wanted to know about the more mundane matters.

'Where did you live?', one asked.

'In my house,' was the reply.

'What was it like?', demanded the inquisitor.

'It was a roundel — a round African design, with a bedroom, sitting room, kitchen.... all the usual things.'

Jane pressed on: 'Did it have a bath?'

'A shower,' Helen replied.

Then came the question that Jane really wanted to ask: 'What was the toilet like? You know...was it ...clean?' Jane spluttered.

'It was cleaned every day,' Helen assured her.

Still not convinced Jane continued: 'Could you, you know, sit on it?'

'Not everyone did, but I did,' Helen admitted. 'It was just an ordinary English loo in the bathroom. The only problem was when the water was off for two or three days.'

The look of relief on Jane's face was a picture. The state of the toilets is critical to her peace of mind!

Next question: 'Did you have a boyfriend?' Trust Katy!

Helen answered: 'I had a lot of friends who were male, some were local people from the church and some were Europeans I met at my induction training, but I didn't have a special boyfriend.'

Katy understood: 'Didn't you really like any of them then?'

ranging around

By Eva Heart

Helen added: 'I did, but I liked them as friends, and, well — there is AIDS.'

Katy retorted: 'But that doesn't affect everyone, does it?'

Helen had had enough: 'How do you know? You can't start every relationship by asking if they've had an AIDS-test can you? Would you ask your boyfriend?'

'You have to keep saying to yourself it's likely that around a quarter of the people in this country are HIV positive. That's like saying out of the eight of us in this room two people are HIV positive. I know I'm OK but I don't know about the rest of you!'

Silence.

Helen went on to tell the Rangers about her friend Teresa whose husband and son had died.

We don't always finish with prayers, but Helen asked if we would pray for her friends, especially Teresa. We did. ■

self-expression

Young Guiders were given an UNCENSORED weekend to speak freely about Guiding

By Justine Redfearn

'UNCENSORED is a way to be free to express your ideas and opinions...to be yourself...to value your own opinion...'

These words from Francoise Le Goff, the keynote speaker, embody the spirit in which 270 young Guiders, aged between 18 and 30 from all over the UK took part in the first UNCENSORED weekend.

Organised and run by young Guiders for their peers at six locations simultaneously, the weekend gave them a chance to express their views and to feel they were valued; to explore the Guiding options open to them; and to influence The Guide Association's future.



The sixth Spice Girl: Preparing for the marketplace at Waddow

Each event had the same core programme but specialised in different areas. These were:

- Publicity and people power at Lorne — PR and recruitment.
- Global Guiding at Waddow Hall — International.
- Community action at Netherurd, — Community, Involvement and Development.

- Today's challenges at Foxlease — current social issues.
- Questions of faith at Broneirion, — the spiritual dimension.
- Tuesday nights and the rest of your life...? at Buckinghamshire College — Programme and training issues.

I was at Lorne where we staged an election campaign, culminating in a snap election on the Sunday. Those taking part were split into two Guiding 'political parties', the Greens and the Purples.

They had to come up with party policies, target their audience, create publicity posters, banners and leaflets; choose party slogans and produce a party political broadcast. Everyone got involved — and some sleaze scandals even came to light!

Billy Dixon of Colour Me Beautiful brought along a chap who was the All-Ireland hairdressing champion for a very entertaining session on personal presentation. Yes, we learned about dressing for success from a couple of blokes.

At Netherurd they had to choose a community project and then come up with a lottery-style presentation to win funding or support for it. One of the highlights of the weekend was when the members took over an Internet Café in Edinburgh, surfing the Web and e-mailing the other centres.

The theme song for the weekend was *I believe I can Fly* by R Kelly. At Broneirion, however, they really did fly — in a hot air balloon.

There was a 'marketplace' session at all six centres where members had a chance to explore the wide range of opportunities available within Guiding.

At Waddow the marketplace had the international flavour of a Persian bazaar with a spice stall, snake charmers and so on. Their evening meal on the Saturday was an Indian banquet complete with diners wearing saris.



Up, up and away: At Broneirion it wasn't all hot air!

The theme at Bucks College was Programme and training and by means of a positive debate, the Association found out what enthusiastic Guiders are thinking.

This was the largest venue and the only one that was not a Guide Training Centre. Lecture theatres gave the event a 'conference feel'. Local dignitaries and press popped in over the weekend.

The Foxlease contingent enjoyed discussing social issues with the Chief Guide, Bridget Towle. During question time on Sunday, she had to deal with several tough questions on Guiding issues — some faced from other venues.

As young Guiders, we sometimes feel that our voices are not heard and our opinions don't count. This weekend we were free to express our ideas. Action plans have been forwarded to the various committees within the Association and they are being taken note of. For, while experience and tradition should be valued, Guiding must challenge the 'it's always been done this way' attitude, if it is to remain relevant to the modern world.

UNCENSORED will have succeeded if a Unit Guider has been motivated to speak up at a District Meeting or to go for that Camper's Licence she was 'too young for'. Or, if those young women more interested in a Guiding 'career' found the encouragement to climb further within Guiding.

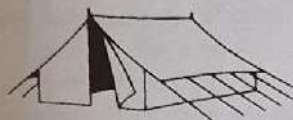
END OF SEASON CLEARANCE SALE



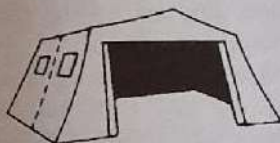
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ELEMENTARY PROTECTION

open door

Bonfires are part of the November landscape. They start the month off with a bang on Guy Fawkes night and then smoke and smoulder through the following weeks as they consume the year-end's heap of garden refuse.

In the garden, autumn is the season for tidying up: borders are cleared, trees trimmed, shrubs pruned and vegetable plots dug. As we watch the faded flowers, clippings and fallen leaves burn away into ash there is a sense of completion – another cycle has run its course – tinged with sadness at the thought of Nature retreating into winter.

But we know that the hiss and crackle of flames and the drifting

billows of smoke do not signal death. Before they withered away the plants will have scattered their seeds, ensuring regeneration in the spring, while the cut-back bushes will sprout again with renewed vigour. For its part, the very ash born of the fire will serve as a rich fertilizer, nourishing the new growth.

Similarly, in the rhythm of our own lives, as each year nears its close we look back and find satisfaction in the joys and achievements of the previous months, but also feel regret for the opportunities missed and the disappointments faced.

In the evocative words of the poet Laurence Binyon:
'Now is the time for stripping the spirit bare,

'Time for the burning of days ended and done...'

(from *The Burning of the Leaves*).

It's a moment for trying our best to repair hurts, misunderstandings and wrongs, for cutting off the dead branches of bitterness and intolerance, weeding out our failings and inadequacies – and consigning all this debris to our very own personal 'bonfire'.

In this way, all that has been negative and harmful will – if we allow ourselves to learn from it – be like bonfire ash, a source for growth. And it will work alongside all that has been good and positive which is already taking root, ready to flourish again in the years ahead.

CD

a personal view

Guiding proved a lifeline for one young woman who now wants to set up a self-help group

By Anne Marie Holmes

I would like to share my experiences of how Guiding has helped me. I have had ME for two years and have had to overcome many hurdles.

I am nearly 15, so when I got ME I was at a very important stage in my education. Because I could not go to school I was missing out, not only on my studies, but also on a social life – I missed my friends.

Before I was ill I was a Guide with the 19th Goole Company and I had always wanted to work for my Baden-Powell Trefoil Award. When I became ill, I was concerned that I wouldn't be able to work for it, as I was unable to attend Guides.

To keep up with school work, I was trying my best with home tuition and then, at the Scout and Guide Gang Show in 1996, my Guider suggested that I could work for Guide badges. I did the first one – Friend to Animals – as a project with my home tutor. This set me on the road to achieving more badges.

I have problems with my writing but have overcome this difficulty by cornering my friends, telling them what I want to say and getting them to write it down.

I worked as a Lone Guide and everything happened in my bedroom, including being tested for my

badges. I have coped with things like cooking and making confectionery and I have met so many people who have helped me and tested me, that I haven't felt so isolated. I couldn't have done it without them.

Guiding has given me targets to work towards, building up from smaller to bigger tasks, which has kept me going. I got a buzz when I achieved something and I didn't feel so helpless.

It took me less than 12 months to achieve my goal and be presented with my Baden-Powell Trefoil Award.

Guiding has given me opportunities to socialise, a broad education, courage and confidence in

myself. Now I want to give something back. I have become a Young Leader and am helping others to achieve their badges.

Because Guiding has helped me with my ME, I am interested in setting up a group for anyone involved in Guiding who has ME (or chronic fatigue syndrome or post-viral syndrome, or whatever else it's called).

My aim is to set up a correspondence group which would give support and advice about being involved with Guiding.

● Anyone who wishes to contact Anne Marie should write to her c/o GUIDING.

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ideas

Programme ideas for November 1997

idea of the MONTH

Ideas for Guiders of all sections
By Georgia Fielding

How well do your girls know their Guiding area? Do your Rainbows know that they are part of a District and that one day they'll be Brownies? Do your Brownies know where their nearest Guide unit is? Do the Guides know what choices are open to them when they reach 14?

If the answer to any of these questions is no, then, perhaps, you should be thinking about building up a picture of local Guiding with your unit. Give each girl an outline picture of a member from every section and lots of crayons to colour them in. Cut out the figures and paste them, in groups, on large sheets of paper. Use one figure to represent one unit and write the name of the unit underneath. You could even add names of leaders, Sixes and Patrols to your picture.

Brownies and Guides should be made aware of how the Districts are built up into Divisions. Write the names of all your Division units on cards. On smaller cards write the names of the Districts and Divisions in your County. Invent a card game to help the girls learn which units belong in which particular areas.

Challenge Guides and the Senior Section to draw a Division map

to show the whereabouts of all the Division units and the District boundaries. They will need various maps and directories to do this. You could even let them look at the County and the national annual reports to see what's going on around the area and the country.



Make friends with other units so that your girls can get to know the District.

THE GUIDE ASSOCIATION

idea

Take a card to someone who may be lonely this Christmas.

ideas for...

Rainbow guiders	34
Brownie guiders	35
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Ranger guiders	44
Young leader guiders	45



idea

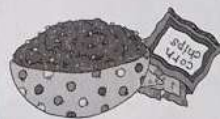
Collect non-perishable food to make hampers for local charities to deliver to low-income families and the elderly.

ideas for all...

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idea

Have a go at making Christmas wreaths and table decorations.



help for all...

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topic of the month

Don't be scared by the need for good publicity and advertising, enhance the image of Guiding with these inexpensive, or even free, ideas

By Karen Dooley
Illustrations: Kim Woolley

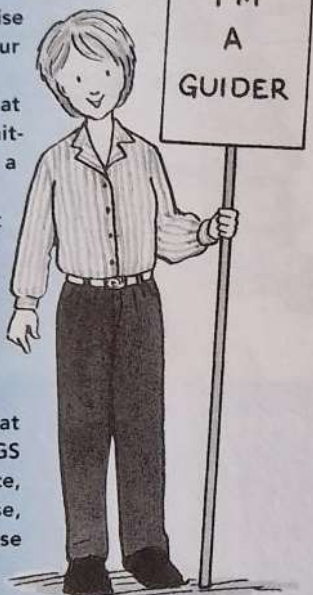
Good practice

Good PR (Public Relations), is the responsibility of every member of The Guide Association.

How often, in the last month, have you:

- Worn your Promise badge on your everyday clothing?
- Told someone that your 'prior commitment' was to a Guiding event?
- Talked about Guiding to someone at a non-Guiding social event?
- Put the CV leaflet on your boss's desk?
- Discussed what Guiding and WAGGGS is doing about peace, drugs, child abuse, poverty, when these topics crop up?
- Enthused about Guiding to one of your non-Guiding friends?
- Told anyone that you are a Guider?

Hopefully, you have answered YES! to more than one question.



Starting with your unit

During the hustle and bustle of our lives it is easy to forget the small things that can affect our image.

All of the following suggestions are easy to put into practice and will help to create a positive image for your unit.

- Make sure that all letters to parents, and so on are on Guide Association headed paper. If you can get them typed, do.
- Wearing uniform is another small thing, but this is especially important when in the public eye — it identifies us as members of The Guide Association.

PR opportunities

The best people to sell the Association are the girls themselves. There are a lots of ideas on these pages to get them involved and have fun at the same time.

Five-minute PR

There are so many PR opportunities that you may be missing out on — and many of them will only take five minutes of your time.

- Save Guide Association carrier bags and use them for shopping or to distribute Webb Ivory Christmas catalogue orders in.
- Take a copy of BROWNIE and GUIDING magazines into the doctor's or dentist's next time you visit.
- If you have a credit card, why not change it to a Guide Association one? Every time you use it, we all benefit.
- Purchase a few Guide Association pens from Trading Service. Use them at work, in shops — anywhere that they might get noticed.



Lend a hand mural

Take one large piece of canvas and lots of different-coloured paints. Get the girls to create a picture using only their hand prints — try a Trefoil or even a picture of a Brownie.

Try to get local celebrities to add their own hand prints and make sure that the local media know what you are doing.

- Donate the finished article to a local hospital.

Video nation

Beg or borrow a video recorder and challenge the girls to produce their own video advert.

Think about what Guiding means to them and how they can convey these messages on film. Invite non-Guiding friends to a viewing.



Before the event...

Special unit events create excellent PR and advertising opportunities. Follow this checklist to help things go as smoothly as possible.

- If the event is to raise money, establish the amount that you want to raise and select the event that is most likely to raise that amount. Always let the public know what you are collecting money for.
- Research your market to see what is most likely to pull in the crowds.
- Plan the event carefully and include contingency plans — for example, what to do if it rains.
- Obtain necessary permission from appropriate sources — police, council and so on.
- Carefully select and book a venue — has it got all the facilities you need?
- Arrange for a photographer to attend the event.
- Make eye-catching posters and signposts for the event.
- Think about and plan safety precautions carefully.

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suitable for
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Making the news

When using the local press, it is extremely important to give them the correct information about your events and activities.



Buy a copy of your local paper and look at it carefully. Some will have a diary page which will list forthcoming events free of charge. Many papers will print articles about community groups and their activities — especially if they are in aid of local causes and charities.

If you want your event to be contained within the main editorial pages, you must have a newsworthy story. This must be specific and have some sort of twist to it — such as a celebrity helper at your jumble sale!

After the event...

Always provide ample equipment and person-power to clear away after an event.

Always write letters of thanks to those who have been involved.

Finally, always let people know the outcome of your event.

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Advertising space

To be certain of getting your group in the papers, you could always buy advertising space. However, you should think carefully before doing this.

For the right event, taking out an ad may be appropriate, if not essential. But do consider the following questions:

- Which paper do we advertise in?
- Which paper has a wider circulation and is more respected?
- Which paper is the cheapest to advertise in?

You may also have to consider which part of the paper to advertise in — the 'What's On' section, classifieds or the more widely read editorial pages.

Think about the size of your advertisement, the bigger it is, the more it will cost. It is always worth trying to haggle for a special charity rate.

- If you are advertising a jumble sale, then one advert should be enough. A larger event may need more than one advert over successive weeks.

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Utilise the PRA and media

Make sure that you use your PRA — Public Relations Adviser. If you do not know who this is, ask the District Commissioner.

The local press is the best vehicle for local publicity — if you know how to use it. Again, ask your local PRA for help.

A word about insurance...

Often the bane of every Guider's life, insurance may seem like a jungle, but it is essential.

Whether you are holding a small display in a supermarket or a mammoth soapy carwash, just ring up the insurance department at CHQ for advice.

More often than not you will just need a copy of the Association's Public Liability Insurance policy.

For details, telephone CHQ on 0171 834 6242.

- If you have any equipment, do make sure it is covered by your unit insurance.

Taking photos...

Good, clear photographs are a great way of getting your event in the papers.

However, forget the traditional cheque presentation and rows of tidy Brownies. Capture the event from a different angle, focusing on a more unusual picture.

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Section key

- R Rainbows
- B Brownies
- G Guides
- S Senior Section

If the activity is suitable for your section it will be highlighted in black



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rainbow guiders

Just in time for Christmas and the New Year, Rainbows can have a go at making our brightly-coloured calendar

By Alison Long
Illustrations: Kate Taylor

Rainbow calendar

The girls can make this calendar which really is a work of art. They can keep it for themselves or give it as a Christmas present.

While making the calendar, the girls can have fun with the ancient art of weaving. Once they've mastered weaving with paper, you could try weaving wool on a simple loom.

To make the calendar, you will need: A4 card; black sugar paper or cartridge paper; sugar or cartridge paper in all seven colours of the rainbow; stapler and staples; small 1998 calendars; thin ribbon.

7 Cut out another A4 piece of card — cereal boxes are ideal. Stick this card to the back of the frame — to make the completed article a bit more rigid.



8 Cut a length of thin ribbon, about 10cm long and stick it to the back of the frame. This is a hanging loop. Attach a calendar to the bottom. See fig 3.

Where to get the materials...

Should you have problems getting materials for this or any other GUIDING craft, good art shops or WH Smith, Woolworths and the Early Learning Centre may stock many of the things that you need.

■ You should be able to buy the small calendars at your local newsagents or card shop.

1 Make a piece of A4 card into a frame by cutting out — and then putting aside — a rectangle measuring 16cm by 26cm. It is the outside border you need. Then cut out the sugar paper strips. Each girl will need eight black strips measuring 28cm by 2cm, one red strip and two strips of each of the other six colours. The coloured strips need to be at least 18cm by 2cm.

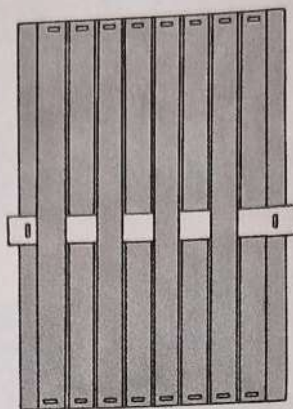


fig 2

2 Lay eight black strips, side by side, lengthways across the frame (fig1). Next, staple them to the frame at each side.

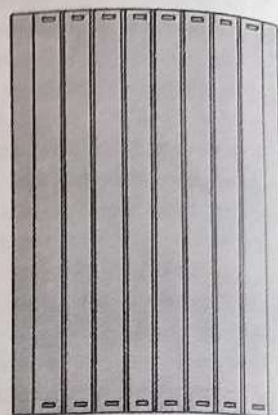


fig 1

3 Starting halfway down the frame, weave a red strip across the width of the frame and staple it to the frame on each side (fig 2).



5 Once all the weaving has been done and the girls have got the strips straight, staple the ends to the edges of the frame. You may need to trim the strips to line up with the frame.

4 Working upwards from the red strip, weave a strip of each of the other colours of the rainbow in sequence. Repeat this, working downwards from the red line, until you have a complete rainbow in each direction.

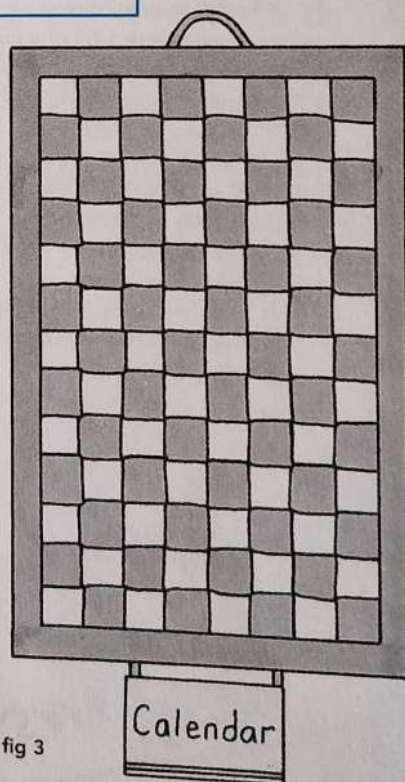


fig 3

More calendar ideas

Use the small calendars in other shapes and words of art, for a year-long reminder. You could try:

■ Cutting out a tree shape from card and using green and brown tissue paper to fill in the colour.

■ Cut out blocks of colour from magazines — include lots of red and blue pieces and other shades. Use them to fill in the arcs of a rainbow cut from card.

■ Get the girls to draw and paint pictures of their favourite animals.

■ Make hand or foot prints, cut them out and stick the calendar to the bottom.

■ Cut a tabard shape from card, colour it in their favourite colours and stick the calendar on.

Meteor surprise

These sweets offer triple the fun for Brownies.

First they can make the popcorn, then make the sweets and then eat them! You can use ready-made popcorn if you like.

You will need: 25g popped popcorn; 2 chocolate-covered caramel bars; 75g of mixed fruit and nuts; 1tbs water; paper sweet cases.

Chop up the chocolate bars into chunks. Put them in a saucepan with the water. Very slowly, stirring all the time, melt the chocolate on a low heat. You could do this in a microwave instead, on a very low setting, for ten seconds at a time.

When the chocolate has melted, add the popcorn and the fruit and nuts. Stir well until they are all covered in chocolate.

Put a spoonful of mixture into each sweet case. Leave to set before eating!



Moon juice

Each Six can make their own bonfire brew to quench their thirst on a dark wintery night.

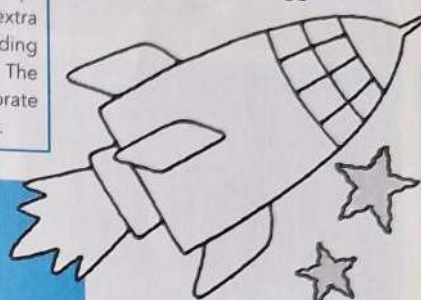
You will need: 4 cans of cola and 20 tbs of blackcurrant juice, per Six.

Measure out the blackcurrant juice into a jug and slowly pour in the cola — making sure it doesn't froth up! Make the brew extra special by adding cocktail umbrellas. The girls could decorate these with glacé cherries too.

brownie guiders

Whizz into November with some brilliant space-themed activities and sparkling recipes to make your meetings go with a bang

By Victoria Wheeler
Illustrations: Zoë Figg



Zooming rockets

A healthy snack, zooming rockets are great fun to make and even better to eat.

You will need: bananas; apples; cheese triangles; cubes of cheese; wooden skewers.

Quarter the apples and remove the cores. Cut the bananas into chunks. The girls can then assemble their own zooming rockets. Start with a cube of cheese, then a chunk of banana, a quarter of apple, more cheese, banana and apple...

Finish with a cheese triangle to make the pointy end of the rocket.

Shuttle launcher

To play this energetic game, you will need two equal lines of Brownies and two footballs.

The girls stand an arm's length apart and make a leg tunnel. The first person rolls the ball through all the legs to reach the last person.

The last person in the line then picks up the ball and runs to the top of the line. Keep going until everyone has had a turn — then the whole team sits down.



Spaceman

This fab 3-D spaceman collage makes a great picture for Six corners or bedroom walls.

You will need: A4 black card; thin card; glue; scraps of felt and other material; silver stars; tinfoil; felt-tipped pens and paints; scissors; sticky fixers.

On this page you will find pictures of a spaceman and a rocket. You will need to copy two of each on to thin card for each of the girls to colour in.

Each girl will also need half a piece of black, A4 card. Stick lots of silver stars on the card. The girls can also stick on a moon made from tinfoil.

Colour in the rockets. Stick one on top of the other using a padded sticky fixer. This will give a 3-D effect. Repeat with the spacemen. Position both on the black card. Display your pictures before the girls take them home.

■ Adapt the picture by sticking a calendar on the bottom.



Space race

When you have your space-themed evening, try renaming your Sixes for the night. They could be called Rocket, Satellite, Shuttle and Meteor. You could even name them after different planets.

Adapt well-known games to give them a space theme. This will probably only mean a name change. For example, Duck, Duck, Goose could become Mars, Mars, Jupiter!

■ Challenge the Young Leaders to come up with a suitable space-style activity.

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out and about

If something smells slightly fishy, don't worry – it's just our exploration into some deep waters, courtesy of London and Boulogne's newest and most exciting attractions

By Penny Kitchen

Deep sea secrets

Humans are fascinated by underwater life, we can't observe it in the normal way so the mystery of the oceans remain a secret to most of us.

That is until now. Two new attractions in London and Boulogne – the London Aquarium and Nausicaa – will open your eyes to the underwater world, preserving this sense of mystery while, at the same time, revealing astonishing secrets to us.

If you take your group either to the recently-opened London Aquarium in the old County Hall building, or to Nausicaa, the purpose-built centre opposite the Seacat terminal in Boulogne, rest assured that no one, young or old, will be bored.

London Aquarium experience

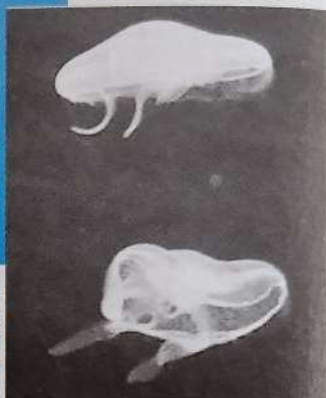
Billed as London's ultimate experience of underwater life worldwide, the London Aquarium was built on three levels at the amazing cost of £25m.

Opened last spring on the edge of the Thames, the Aquarium is already a tourist magnet. Accompanied by appropriate sounds – trickling water, bird song, rustling grasses, the roar of the sea – visitors make their way around the vast tanks and exhibits, which allow uninterrupted views of fish and marine life.

Special lighting and even ocean smells, all add to the amazing effect in this wonderful watery world. All the water is taken from the mains supply. It is then filtered and specially treated to make sure that it is just right for all the different types of marine species to live in.



Take a walk through the waters in the humid London Aquarium Rainforest



Not the sort of jelly to eat with custard – this one might sting!



This spooky Easter Island statue adds to the ambience in the London Aquarium Pacific Ocean tank

Food and gifts

When visiting the London Aquarium, take a look at the gift shop for an amazing variety of marine memorabilia.

You will also find a variety of food and snacks in the Global café and bar. Both the shop and café are open daily until late.

London Aquarium facts

- The London Aquarium is one of Europe's largest aquariums.
- Two main, vast exhibition tanks contain over 1million litres of water and descend three floors.
- Many of the fish on display have never been seen in Britain before.
- Some of the exhibits were donated to the London Aquarium because they had outgrown their old homes.
- The panels of the specimen tanks are made from acrylic – in some places it is 178mm thick.
- Experienced divers and a qualified vet are on hand to deal with the specimen tanks as well as the fish.

Hands on

Through tropical freshwaters, mangroves, rainforests, even the Indian, Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, visitors will be able to spot anything from shy starfish to lethal pirhana.

Catch a glimpse of the snake pipefish, dog-faced puffer fish, lively little seahorses and an emperor angelfish, as well as steamy waterfalls and a coral reef.

Even a hands-on exhibit is possible at the London Aquarium. Visitors are encouraged to visit the 'touch pool', to take part in the supervised handling and feeding of starfish, hermit crabs and friendly rays.



Feel a fish in the London Aquarium touch pool

London Aquarium info...

- The London Aquarium is open 10am to 6pm every day, except Christmas Day. During June, July and August it is open from 9.30am to 7.30pm.
- The Aquarium is opposite Waterloo Station and a few minutes walk from Westminster tube.
- It is totally accessible to the disabled.
- Admission: adults - £6.50, children-£4.50. Discount for groups of 10+.
- For further information contact: London Aquarium Ltd., County Hall, Riverside Building, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7PB. Telephone: 0171 969 8000.

Imagine that you really are 20,000 leagues under the sea at Nausicaa

how to sustain them. One fascinating exhibit shows the various stages of development from sturgeon fry to mature fish. Visitors are also encouraged to stroke rays and have eyeball-to-eyeball contact with live lobsters, shrimps and other seabed creatures. One of the highlights is the chance to stand in a huge dome, surrounded by predatory sharks.

Fruits of the sea

Nausicaa sets out to familiarise visitors mainly with cold-water seas. It is not a gigantic tropical fish tank or a marine freak show, although there are fascinating specimens galore.

Nausicaa is very much concerned with the ecological importance of the riches and resources of the sea — and

Nausicaa

Six-year-old Nausicaa, in Boulogne, France is a spacious and purpose-built sea-life centre.

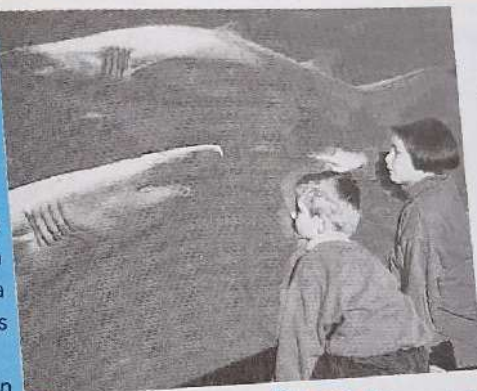
Information around the complex is written in both French and English but kept to a minimum to ensure a punchy message. Friendly cartoons emphasise a point at each exhibit.

There are 27 tanks of exhibits in Nausicaa, containing 1.5 million litres of constantly circulating water.

Like the London Aquarium, sound effects evoke the atmosphere of the sea throughout the centre. One particular gallery simulates the deck of a trawler in a gale. Visitors can listen to the men shouting and the wind and sea crashing against the boat. Man's historic relationship with the sea is brought to life in several vivid scenes like this.



Make a furry fishy friend at Nausicaa



Get eyeball to eyeball with some amazing aquatic creatures

French cuisine

Nausicaa has its own 300-seater restaurant, overlooking the sea. There is also a well-stocked gift and bookshop, selling upmarket items such as CDs and sweatshirts.

Nausicaa also has a projection room, where films and documentaries about the sea are shown continuously. If that fails to attract, Nausicaa also has its own swimming pool.

Busy times

Both the London Aquarium and Nausicaa are likely to get extremely busy during peak seasons, such as Bank Holidays and school half-terms.

Make sure that you pick the time of your visit carefully. If you visit at a busy time you may not be able to see everything that you are interested in — due to the volume of people at the attractions — which could be frustrating.

Nausicaa encourages you to follow the incredible life cycle of a sturgeon

Nausicaa info...

■ The Hoverspeed Seacat service takes 55 minutes from Folkestone. Nausicaa Marine Life Centre is in Boulevard Sainte Beuve, just a few minutes' walk from the Hoverspeed terminal and the town centre.

■ Day returns for a minibus with up to 15 passengers start from £100, 25-seater coaches from £170 and 55-seater coaches from £220. For other group tariffs and details of special offers call Hoverspeed on 0990 240241.

■ Opening times: September to May 31 — 10am to 6pm; June 1 to September 14 — 10am to 8pm. Closed for two weeks in January for maintenance.

■ The centre is 90 per cent accessible to the disabled.

■ Group prices are 45Ff per adult and 31Ff per child with a minimum of 20. You will need to check for other admission prices. (There are currently approximately 10Ff to £1). Do check prices and exchange rates before booking.

■ For more information, write to: Nausicaa, Boulevard Sainte Beuve, 62200 Boulogne-sur-Mer, France.

■ Groups must book ahead by telephoning 00 333 21 30 99 89.

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guide guiders

If you need some crafty festive fillers for your Guide meetings leading up to Christmas, then look no further. . .

By Sydney McKnight
Illustrations: Julie Morris

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The card's the star

Make simple, but effective greetings cards for Christmas. Cheaper, and much more personal than shop bought ones.

You will need: gold or silver thread; metallic pens; a needle; some black card.

Cut and then fold the card to your desired size. It will help to have an envelope handy, so that you can make the card the right size to fit the envelope.

Using the gold or silver thread, sew a simple star on the card. Secure the ends of the thread to the back of the card, using sticky tape.

■ **Finish off by drawing a border with a metallic pen.**

■ **Encourage the girls to try making gift tags in the same way.**



Stir it up

Cheap wooden spoons are the inspiration for this cheerful Christmas kitchen decoration that the girls could give as an early present to their favourite cook.

If you have access to pyrography equipment, then this activity could be turned into something a bit out of the ordinary. If you don't know anyone with this equipment, then do it the simpler way.

You will need: a wooden spoon; fine felt-tipped pens; ribbon.

Draw a Christmas design on the bowl of the spoon. Our illustration should give the girls some ideas. It's best to plan out the designs in pencil, first.

Finish off by winding ribbon around the handle. The girls could even add some festive tinsel and a small bauble.

Wreath for a tree

Make lots of little festive wreaths to hang on your tree, either at your meeting place or at home.

You will need: cardboard; Christmas wrapping paper; wool; glitter; ribbon; glue.

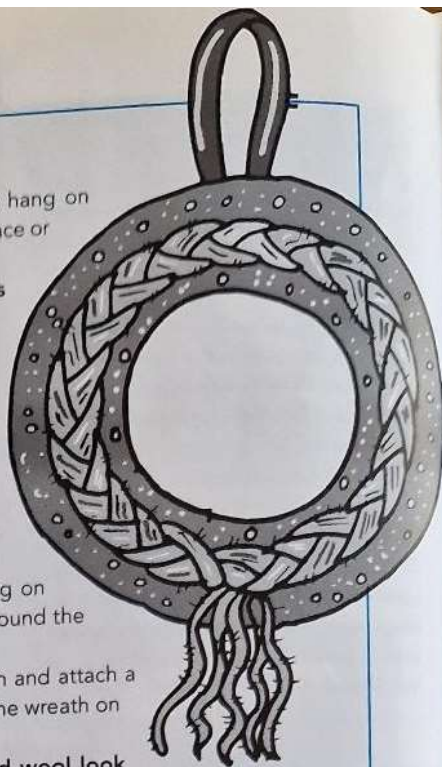
Cut out a circle of card, 7cm in diameter. In the middle of that circle, cut out another — 4cm in diameter. You will now have an O-shaped circle of card.

Cover the ring in Christmas wrapping paper. You can do this by cutting out two rings of paper and sticking them on.

Take 9 or 12 pieces of wool, depending on the thickness, and plait it. Glue the plait around the ring and leave a tassel hanging down.

To finish it off, add glitter for decoration and attach a ribbon loop to the back, so you can hang the wreath on your tree!

■ **Plain green wrapping paper and red wool look very effective together.**



Little Miss Christmas

This is an easy to sew, unusual decoration for a tree. The girls could even scent them with essential oils.

You will need: a circle of red or green material, 15cm in diameter; circle of cream material, 8cm in diameter; needle and thread; stuffing; ribbon; fine felt-tipped pen.

Sew a running stitch around the edge of the cream circle. Gather up and stuff firmly, then draw on a face.

Repeat with the coloured circle to make a body, but stuff only lightly. Join the face to the body and attach a loop of ribbon to the back.



Pom-pom Santa

A pom-pom Santa makes a brilliant tree decoration or even unusual seasonal jewellery.

You will need: card; white wool; red felt; cotton wool; small googly eyes or black sequins; thread; glue.

Make a small pom-pom in the usual way, by wrapping wool around two rings of card.

Make a cone of red felt — this is for Santa's hat. Glue a small ball of cotton wool to the end and stick the hat on top of the pom-pom.

Stick googly eyes or sequins on to Santa. Attach a loop of thread to the top of his hat. The pom-pom Santa can now be hung on a tree.

■ **Attach a safety pin to make him into a brooch.**

■ **Make two small Santas and hang them on earring wires.**

Beautiful blankets

Camp blankets are not only functional, keeping you cosy on chilly evenings, they also provide a fascinating moment of your Guiding life. Scavenger badges, neckers and pennants can all be sewn on to your blanket to provide a colourful camp display.

Take one blanket...

Be green and recycle an old blanket into a fabulous camp blanket. Ask around to see if anyone has any spares to donate to the girls.

Light-coloured blankets can be dyed a darker shade, but don't forget to ask permission if you are going to do this in a washing machine!

New blankets and travel rugs are nice if you have the cash. If you can't find a blanket, try making one from knitted squares.



Filling the gap

A camp fire blanket is an essential piece of equipment for any keen Guide or Guide who enjoys a traditional sing-along around the embers...

By Wendy Goodhind
Illustrations: Molly Sage



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Pullover or wrap around?

The way in which people 'wear' their blankets depends on the role they take at a camp fire.

If you and the girls want to sit back and keep warm while others lead, then the style is not so important. However, if you enjoy a more active camp fire - telling stories, playing an instrument and so on - it is important that your blanket keeps you warm without hindering you.

The simplest way is to take a sit in the centre of the blanket for your head to go through. You may like to add loops for a belt made from plaited cords.

You can even stitch the sides to form sleeves, as well as adding pockets.



Personal reflections

Camp fire blankets tell other people quite a lot about those who are wearing them. So, before you start stitching, decide what messages you want to give out.

Badge exchange

Girls who have more than one particular badge could exchange it for a different one from a friend.

You could start a badge swap shop at unit meetings, or even District and Division events, to build up your collections.



Sponsored badge stitch

Seek out people who have stacks of badges to spare and then challenge the girls to a sponsored stitch.

Money can be donated for each badge sewn on to a blanket. Give the resulting funds to a suitable cause.

Every badge tells a story...

Many people design their camp blankets with a theme. Others just use them as a place to house their badge collections.

Guides may like to sew Guiding badges on to their blankets, along with those from special events and camps.

Try a design based around a central logo - such as the Promise Badge or World Peace Emblem. Girls can even take a camp fire theme to build up a design with all the colours and patterns of the fire.

As well as Guiding badges, you may like to include ones that have been gathered while on holidays or sent from far away places.

Not sew boring!

Sewing need not be boring if the girls team up to work on their blankets. Try to sew badges on as they are acquired - rather than letting them pile up so you have lots to stitch at once!

Get the girls to organise their blankets now as the nights draw in. This then means that they will be ready for a whole summer full of camp fires.



Fire safety

Make sure that your blanket doesn't come into contact with the fire. Beware of sparks and glowing embers that could damage both you and your blanket.

try this

Around 8.7 million adults in the UK suffer from some sort of hearing loss. With the help of the Royal National Institute for the Deaf, your unit can start to learn how to understand deafness...

Illustrations: Alison Carney

Sound effects

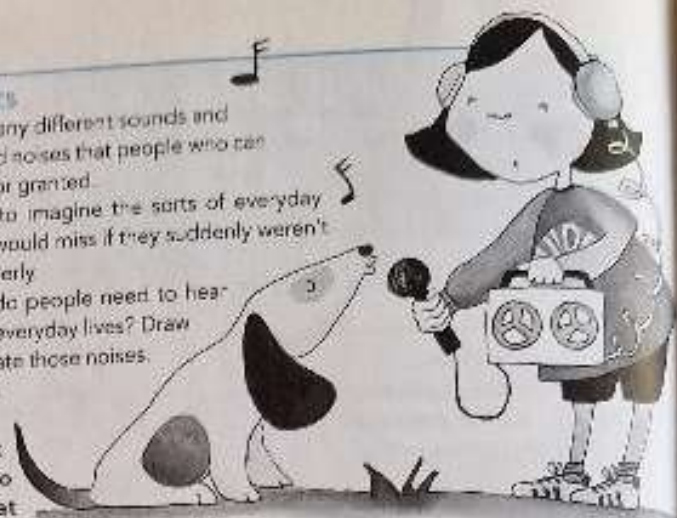
There are many different sounds and background noises that people who can hear take for granted.

Ask the girls to imagine the sorts of everyday noises that they would miss if they suddenly weren't able to hear properly.

What noises do people need to hear to carry on their everyday lives? Draw pictures to illustrate those noises.

■ **Make up a sound-effects tape** and ask the girls to guess what sounds you have recorded. They could even go out and about themselves to put together their own tape.

■ **Sounds that you tape might include** alarm clocks; traffic; someone eating crisps; opening a can of pop; a dog barking; kicking a football...



What do deaf people look like?

Deaf people look just the same as everyone else. Unless someone is using sign language or wearing a hearing aid, then you may not even be able to tell that person has a hearing loss.

Although deafness is mainly caused by ageing, some people are born deaf. Others may suffer hearing loss through illness or because their ears are damaged by loud noises such as explosions, industrial machinery or even music.

■ **About two million British people use hearing aids.**

Watch my tips

Play this game to let the girls demonstrate their lip-speaking and lip-reading skills.

Everyone should find a partner. One girl should 'say' half the words listed without using her voice. The other girl has to guess what each word is in turn. Swap roles and repeat with the remaining words.

■ **Use this list of words first, you could make up your own list to play again:**

Frame	brain	prune
true	cream	dream
grow	stroke	spread
shred	toe	no
tell	bell	tip
dip	tame	tie

Banging a drum

Stretch a piece of clingfilm over a mug. Drop a dried pea on to the film and watch it vibrate for a few seconds. This shows sound travels in the eardrum.

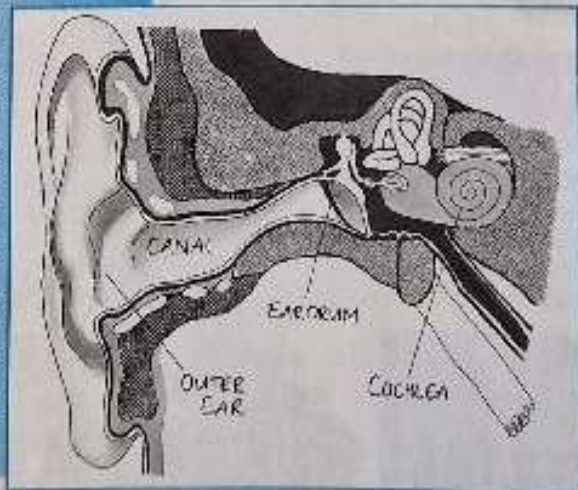
Now poke a hole in the clingfilm. The pea will not vibrate any more. This will give the girls some idea of what happens when a person's eardrum is damaged or 'perforated'.

■ **What precautions can you take to help prevent damage to the eardrum?**

How do we hear?

Basically, the ability to hear depends on sound vibrations bouncing on to our eardrums.

Deep inside your ears is a 'drum', like a musical drum, which is a thin piece of taut skin. Sound waves bounce off this and vibrate – via tiny bones in the ear – on to special nerve endings in the cochlea. The messages are passed from here to the brain which then identifies the sounds.



Loop the loop

Ask the girls if they have seen the symbol on the right before. If they have, ask them where they have seen it.

This special symbol is intended for people who wear hearing aids. It tells them that there is a hearing loop in the building.

A hearing loop is a special loop of wire around a room or a building, such as a theatre or bank. When a deaf person wants to listen clearly to the actors on stage or the bank teller, she can switch to the 'T' position on her hearing aid.

The hearing loop then sends special signals to the hearing aid and all the background noise in the area is cut out, making it easier to concentrate on the play or what the person in the bank is saying.

■ **Find out which buildings in your area have hearing loops.**



Some deaf people communicate by lip-reading. This means that they watch a person who is speaking very closely and can tell what is being said by her lip and mouth movements.

Lip-reading is the opposite of lip-reading. The person doing the talking does without words, forming the shape of words with her lips.

All about the RNID

Many of the activities on these pages were provided by the the Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID).

The RNID is the only major, registered charity concerned with all aspects of deafness and helps many people.

The RNID campaigns for increased public awareness of deafness. It also provides special services for deaf people, including training and residential care.

If your unit would like to help raise funds for the RNID and wants more information

about their work, please write to:
RNID Press
Office, 19-23

Featherstone
Street, London EC1Y 8SL
Telephone: 0171 296 8178

You could use one of the various activities featured as a sponsor idea to raise money for the RNID.



Talking telephones

People who have no problems hearing, take the telephone for granted. It's easy for them to pick up the telephone and speak to friends and colleagues, even shops, direct.

A deaf person cannot just pick up the phone to make an urgent call. Five years ago, the RNID, in association with BT, set up Typetalk.

This enables a deaf person to communicate with a hearing person by telephone. The deaf person will contact a typetalk operator by using a textphone — that's a special phone with a keyboard. The operator contacts the person the caller wants to ring and then relays typed messages. The recipient of the call then replies through the operator, who types any replies and sends them back.

Typetalk is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and all year round.



Good communication

British Sign Language (BSL) is used by about 50,000 people in the UK. It is the main language of the deaf community and is usually used by those who become deaf before they learned to talk.

BSL has its own grammar and uses exact hand and lip movements, as well as facial expressions. Other deaf people may communicate by lip-reading and lip-speaking.

Finger spelling is a method of communication in which the hands are used to spell out all 26 letters of the alphabet.

Find out more about BSL. Try to learn how to introduce yourself using British Sign Language.



New title information

The Guide Association has produced a great new fact-sheet-style resource called *Including Disabilities*.

Including Disabilities is about good Guiding practice with members who have disabilities and/or medical conditions.

Packed with valuable advice, information and support, the resource covers a wide range of topics from deafness to wheelchair management, asthma to cystic fibrosis.

Order your copy of *Including Disabilities*, priced £3.50, from the Trading Service, quoting code 63586.

To check availability please ring the Trading Service (0161) 941 2237, or fax (0161) 941 6323.

Make it work

When talking to someone who is deaf or hard of hearing, there are quite a few things you can do to help yourself be understood.

If you need to hold an important conversation, find somewhere quiet with good, overhead lighting. Make sure you are at the same level as the person you are talking to — about one or two metres apart.

The deaf person should have her back to the light. This means that you are not in shadow. Your face should not be covered by your hands, a scarf and so on.

Finally, speak clearly and do not shout. If you over-exaggerate your speech, your mouth movements may be distorted. Be patient and take time to communicate.

Useful addresses

Typetalk, John Wood House, Glacier Building, 12 Harrington Road, Brunswick Business Park, Liverpool, L3 4DF

Association of Lipspeakers, 21 Christchurch Avenue, London NW6 7QP

The National Deaf Children's Society, 15 Dufferin Street, London, EC1Y 8PD

christmas bakes

Girls of every section will be able to make our delicious Christmas cakes that are cooked in baked bean cans!

Illustrations: Kate Taylor

Cake ingredients...

- 125g each of:
 - butter
 - soft brown sugar
 - plain flour
 - currants
 - raisins
 - sultanas
 - mixed peel
 - 20g chopped almonds
 - 20g ground almonds
 - 20g cherries
 - 3 eggs, beaten.

Equipments...

- 2 large mixing bowls
- metal spoon
- wooden spoon
- greaseproof paper
- scissors
- 6 clean, empty 227g baked bean cans with labels removed.



Ready, set, cook!

Preheat the oven to 120°C, 230°F or gas mark 0.5. Line the baked bean cans – never use cans with a plastic lining – sides and bottom, with oiled greaseproof paper.

Cream together the butter and sugar in one of the mixing bowls. Beat in the eggs, a little at a time. Put all the other ingredients into the other mixing bowl and stir until everything is coated in flour.

Stir into the egg mixture. Fill the cans until they are three quarters full and bake for about 90 minutes.



Birthdays and Easter

Once you have made Christmas cake in baked bean tins, you will probably want to find them for other occasions too.

Make a cake to give as a thank you gift, as a get-well-soon present, or even instead of a birthday card.

In supermarkets and specialist shops, you can buy tubes of jelly icing in lots of different colours. These are great for icing messages and pictures on to your cakes – even a Rainbow can use them!

Decoration ingredients

- 675g marzipan
- icing sugar
- 675g ready-roll icing

You will also need:

- a rolling pin
- sieve
- pastry board
- sharp knife
- 6 sprigs plastic holly
- red ribbon
- ruler
- sticky tape

How to decorate the cake...

Trim the tops off the cakes to make them flat. Divide the marzipan into six pieces – this will give you one for each cake.

Take one piece of marzipan and divide it into three. Roll one part into a ball and flatten it. You can then use it to cover the top of the cake.

Shape the other two pieces into strips to cover the sides of the cake. Repeat with the other cakes.

Divide the icing into six equal portions and dust your pastry board with icing sugar. Roll out one piece of icing into a circle that measures about 19cm across.

Put the circle on top of one of the cakes. Work it over the cake so that it covers it completely. Cover the other cakes in the same way.

Finish off the cakes with a sprig of holly on top and a length of ribbon round the middle. Secure the ribbon with sticky tape.



Boxing clever

A simple cardboard box for your cake will make all the difference to the presentation. You can buy one but it is much easier to make your own from thin card. Line the inside of the box with greaseproof paper or tinfoil. Put a paper doily in to make it a bit more attractive.

pped out

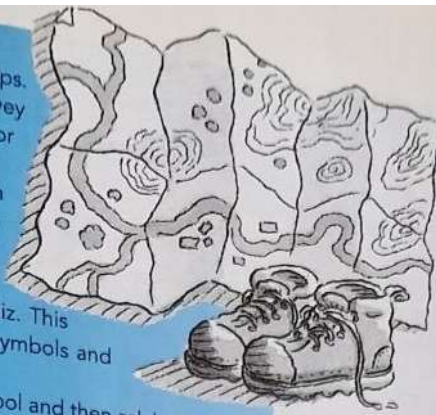
ive the girls a selection of maps. These could be Ordnance Survey maps, as well as town plans or an A-Z street map.

Girls can familiarise themselves with the language of maps. Ask them to turn on to card, the various symbols in a map's key. Collect all the cards and then use them for a quick-fire quiz. This way the girls learn to recognise the symbols and have fun at the same time.

You could also give each girl a symbol and then ask her to find examples of it being used on the map.

■ **Point out contour lines.** Find out the difference between closely-packed and widely-spaced lines.

■ **You can demonstrate contour lines in 3-D** by slicing half an apple into rings and building them up to simulate a hill.



eight to explore

Put on your warmest coat and set out to enjoy the great outdoors. Crisp November weather is the ideal time to appreciate your surroundings

By Rachel Pennells

Illustrations: Dom Mansell



Three degrees

To relate degrees to direction in a practical way, hold a walking-on-a-bearing session.

Remind the girls that if they walk on a compass bearing of 90°, they will be walking due east. If they walk south, they will have a bearing of 180° and so on.

Use a Silva compass to practise walking on bearings. Turn the compass housing until the given bearing is opposite the direction of the travel arrow.

Turn the whole compass until the needle is over the orienteering arrow. Pick out a close landmark along your direction of travel line and then walk towards it.



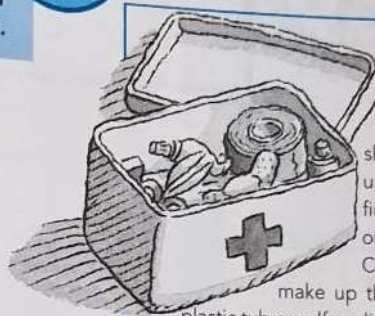
Hike first aid

Every girl embarking on an outdoor adventure, should be able to make up a basic, lightweight first-aid kit, although only one needs to be taken.

Challenge the girls to make up their own kits in a small plastic tub or self-sealing plastic bag.

Discuss the sort of first aid you will most likely need to administer while out. Cuts, grazes, bites and blisters, may be the most common.

■ **Remember to follow the first aid guidelines.**



Get your bearings

Compass work now forms a part of the National Curriculum, so you may find that the girls in your unit are already acquainted with bearings, points and degrees, from work they have done at school.

Even the youngest girls can play simple games to help them get to know the various points of the compass — North, South, East, West and so on.

Some compasses only show directions, the Silva compass also shows bearings — marked in degrees. This type of compass is used for orienteering and map reading.

■ **There are 360° in a compass circle.** North is always 0°; NE is 45°; E is 90° and so on, round the circle.

■ **Call out a degree bearing** — for example, 90°. The girls then have to run to the point that this bearing represents.



Planning success

Outdoor activities need careful planning. Safety considerations are vital. Help the girls to look at all the aspects of planning themselves — leaving plenty of time to make changes before the actual event takes place.

If the girls want to go hiking, planning should begin in the meeting room. Check up on map reading and compass work, as well as personal fitness and ability.

Sensible footwear

Planning hikes not only involves looking carefully at the route, but also the equipment.

Girls will, presumably, have sensible walking shoes, but may have forgotten that other suitable clothing is needed. Jeans should never be worn when walking — due to their water-holding properties. Even socks should be carefully chosen to prevent blistering and chaffing.

There are kit lists in the *Guide Handbook*. Insist that girls do not skimp on waterproofs. If it is not possible to buy cagoules and over-trousers, then do make sure you borrow them.



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ranger guiders

Take a look at these wonderful winterland ideas, especially for Rangers and Young Leaders to try over the festive season

By Val Heward and Jean Bell
Illustrations: Sophie Harding

A time for sharing

Calling all Ranger and Young Leader Guiders! Please show these pages to the members of your group, as they contain ideas which everyone may wish to consider putting into their programme over the next few weeks.

Celebrate worldwide

Christmas in other parts of the world is sometimes celebrated in a very different way to how we do it here.

- Hold an Australian Christmas party, complete with sunglasses and a barbecue.
- Find out about the Santa Lucia festival in Sweden.
- Ask about the practice of giving Christingles to children and find out exactly what they represent.

Creative candles

What better way to light up a winter night, than with a home-made candle?

Candles traditionally play a big part in both secular and religious Christmas celebrations. Spend part of a meeting making your own table decorations, based around a candle. Do ensure that the materials used are flameproof and not in danger of catching fire.

- Using acrylic glass paints, decorate a thick glass jar to look like stained glass. Use it as a night-light holder.

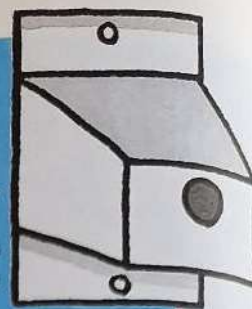
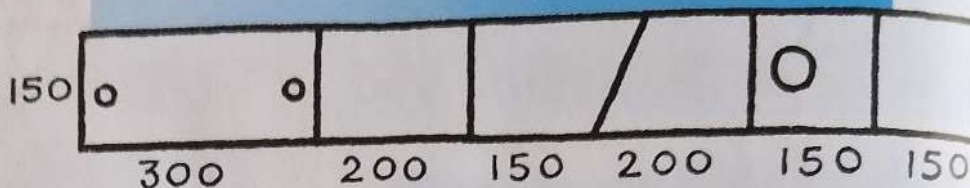
Homes for the birds

Our bird box is amazingly simple to make and provides an attractive nesting place for blue tits and other garden birds. You will need: one piece of wood — 10mm or more thick, 15cm wide and 115cm long; a saw, hammer and nails.

Only a few saw cuts are needed to make the different sections for the bird box. Use a marker pen to draw on the position of the cuts, as shown below.

You will also need to drill two holes in the backplate for hanging and a 30mm hole in the front — these are also indicated.

The assembled bird box is shown on the right. When you have cut out your wood, you will be able to piece the box together with the help of the diagram. Firmly bang the nails in to hold the box in place.



It's behind you?

Are your local Brownie and Guide units using October's GUIDING supplement to put on a production of *Aladdin*?

If so, offer them your services. You could help with props, production, costumes, or even play a character.

The panto season continues well into the new year, so there's still plenty of time to motivate everyone into putting on a show.



Bird pudding

Encourage the birds to nest in your box by hanging a bird pudding nearby. Simply melt some lard and stir in bird seed, unsalted nuts, oats and dried fruit.

Pour the mixture into half a coconut that has string attached to hang it up. When the mixture has set, hang up the coconut in the garden for the birds to feast on.

Filipino Christmas star

Christmas in the Philippines revolves very much around the church. As part of the celebration, children make colourful stars to hang in windows.

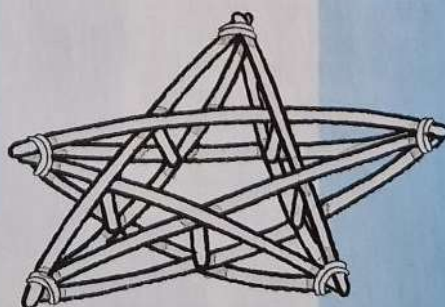
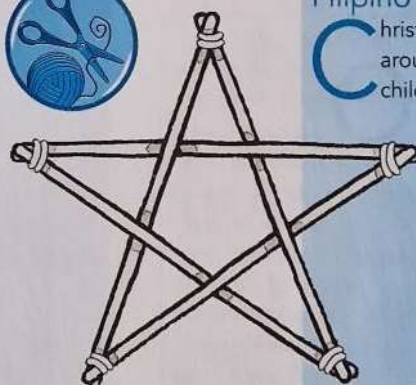
To make the stars, you will need: 50 garden canes; 5 short sticks of the same length; string or wire; glue; tissue paper and scissors.

Using five of the garden canes, make a five-pointed star — the canes should overlap each other. Tie the ends together with wire or string.

Make another star in exactly the same way. Place them on top of each other and tie the points together.

Next, you need to open up the star by putting the short sticks in-between the inner meeting points of the canes (see diagram on the left).

Cover the whole star with coloured tissue paper, glueing the paper on to the canes. Finally, cover the star methodically with a second layer of tissue, this time cut into triangular pieces. Attach thread and then hang the star in a window.



Ice candles

Making your own candles can be a very rewarding craft. This ice method produces fantastic results and is a brilliant introduction to the art of candle making.

Wax and wicks are readily available from craft shops.

You will need: an old double boiler; thermometer; cylindrical mould; 450g paraffin wax; wax dye; candle 12.5mm diameter; ice, crushed into 1-2cm pieces.

If you can't get hold of a cylindrical mould and don't want to buy one, you can make your own. Cut the top off a washing-up liquid bottle, then pierce a hole in the centre of the bottom.

Heat the wax and the dye to 99°C. Cut the candle to the length of your mould.

Insert it into the mould, making sure that the wick pokes through the hole in the bottom.

Stand the mould in a bowl, then fill the mould with the ice. Make sure that the candle stays in the middle. Quickly pour the wax into the mould and leave it for an hour. Take your candle out of the mould and leave it to dry thoroughly before lighting.

■ **It's best to leave your candle for at least a day before lighting it.**



Celebrate Hanukkah

Hanukkah is a Jewish winter festival, also known as the Festival of Lights. It starts on 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev — usually December.

Hanukkah celebrates the rededicating of the temple in Jerusalem and the defeat of the Syrians by Judas Maccabaeus. Presents are exchanged and candles lit to remember this important time in Jewish history.

A tasty Hanukkah dish is potato latkes. To make them you will need: 6 large potatoes; 1 onion; 2 eggs; seasoning; flour to bind; oil.

Grate the potatoes and the onion then beat in the eggs. Season and then stir in the flour until you have a thick batter.

Heat two tablespoons of oil in a frying pan. When it is quite hot, drop large spoonfuls of the batter in to the pan. Fry on both sides until brown.

Serve the latkes with either apple or cranberry sauce.



young leader guiders

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Winter cook-out

Don't wait until summer returns before you have another cook-out. It's just as much fun backwoods cooking on a winter's night as it is on a summer's evening.

Spark up a camp fire and cook some delicious Christmas apples in the embers.

You will need: apples; mincemeat; lemon juice and rind; tinfoil.

Mix the mincemeat with a little lemon juice and rind. Core the apples, then stuff the middles with the mincemeat. Wrap in tinfoil and then cook in the embers until soft. Serve with double cream or custard.



back to basics

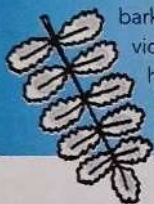
This month we bring you a chart that will help you identify 15 of Britain's most common trees along with some activities on a linking theme

By Bronwen Jenkins
Illustrations: Kate Taylor

Looking at leaves

With a little practice it is quite easy to identify a tree in the summer. You will need to get used to looking carefully at the arrangement of the leaves.

They may be in pairs or singular. They may be rough, smooth, shiny, hairy and so on. Fruits, flowers, seeds and bark, also provide clues to help you identify the tree.



Make your own identikits

Reproduce leaf shapes to make your own tree identikit. You can do this in various ways.

Make leaf prints with paint or an ink pad or do your own rubbings. You can even cover the leaves with a sheet of white paper and photocopy them.

You can put together flash cards by drying leaves between sheets of newspaper and then sticking them to card. Cover with clear, sticky-backed plastic. Use them as a way of learning to differentiate between leaves.

■ Use the flash cards as a set of snap or Happy Families cards.



Using the chart

Before using the chart for the first time, select a tree to identify. Take a good look at a leaf from the tree, then start at the top of the chart and follow the arrows.

Whenever there are two or more arrows, decide which alternative fits your specimen best. This should lead you to the name of the tree, as well as some more helpful snippets of information.

■ In the winter it may be difficult to identify trees as many will have lost their leaves. However, you may still be able to recognise them by shape, colour and even bark patterns.



Have you tried...

There are lots of activities that can be based around trees. Girls can even use them as a base for a bivouac or as part of a wide game.

Other tree activities your girls might enjoy include:

■ Counting the rings in a tree stump to see how old the tree was.

■ Identifying the leaves from various trees with blindfold.

■ Collecting acorns and other seeds, then trying to grow them.

■ Finding out the ways in which manufacturers use different timbers.

■ Visiting an arboretum or country park to look at the different species.

■ Counting up different types of trees in your area.



Fabulous fire-starters

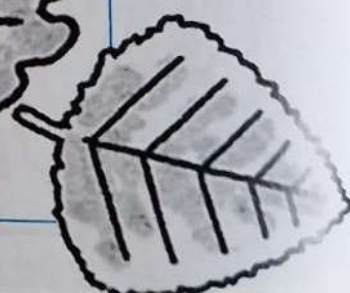
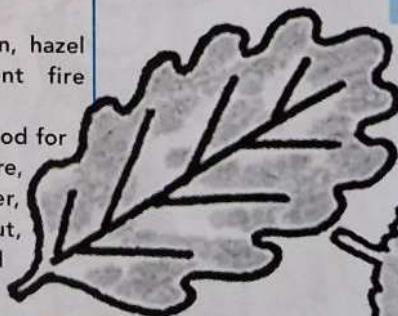
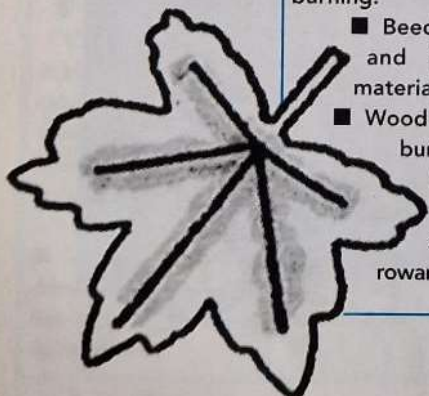
Being able to recognise different trees is important for successful fire-lighting. This is because some wood will burn extremely well, while others will just smoke.

In suitable areas, you may be able to test different types of wood by lighting small fires. Check for ease of lighting, speed of burning, heat produced and the amount of smoke given out.

■ Elder and willow are not suitable for burning.

■ Beech, oak, ash, hawthorn, hazel and birch make excellent fire material.

■ Wood that is moderately good for burning includes: sycamore, maple, lime, alder, horse chestnut, sweet chestnut and rowan trees.



creative cookery

Feast your eyes on our mouthwatering selection of recipes from around the world, they make great buffet dishes for any festive celebration

By Rosie Matheison
Illustrations: Julie Morris

Love biscuits

Germany is the home of these special biscuits, they are traditionally given as love tokens or hung on the Christmas tree.

You will need: 250g plain flour; 1tsp baking powder; 60g brown sugar; 30g cocoa; 4tbs clear honey; 60g butter; 2tsp ground ginger; 1tsp mixed spice; 1 egg yolk.

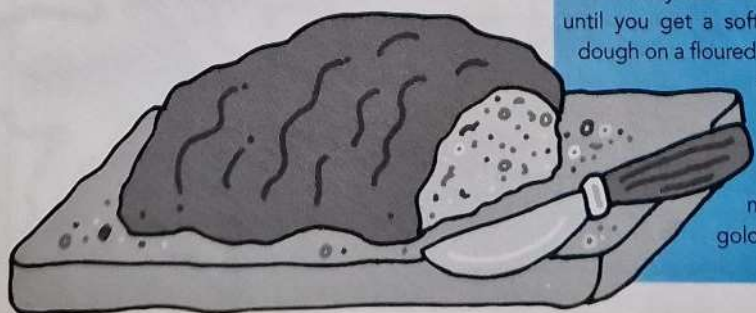
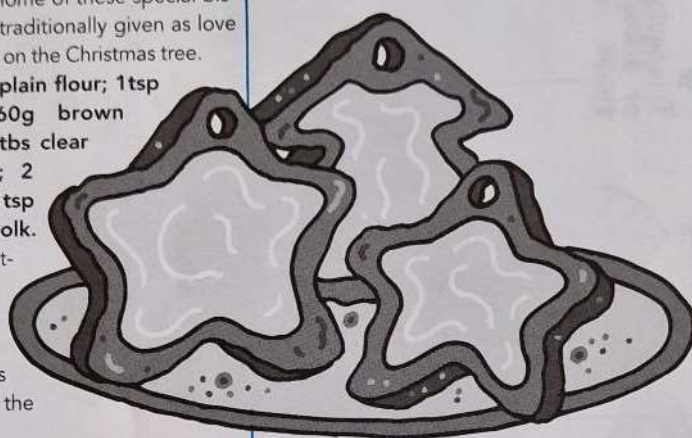
Slowly melt the butter, honey and sugar together. Put to one side while you sieve all the dry ingredients together and add the egg yolk.

Add the honey mixture and mix together to make a ball of dough. Leave it in the fridge for ten minutes. While it is chilling you could make some glacé icing. Use 90g icing sugar and 1tbs lemon juice, you may need to add a drop of water.

Roll out the dough on to a floured surface until it is about 5mm thick. Use cookie cutters to make shapes, then place them on a baking tray.

Before the biscuits are baked, make a hole in the top of each one. This is so that you can thread them on to the Christmas tree.

Bake the biscuits for about ten minutes at gas mark 6, 200°C or 400°F. Ice as you wish, using the glacé icing.



Mexican salsa

Bring back a taste of sunshine with our Mexican salsa recipe. Make a pot-full so you can dip corn chips in.

You will need: 2 large tomatoes; 1 small onion; 1tsp chilli powder; salt and pepper; a pinch of sugar.

Peel the tomatoes by lightly scoring the skin and then dipping them into very hot water for a few moments. The skins will float off.

Finely chop the onion and mash with the tomato. Mix in the rest of the ingredients.

If you want to make a lot of salsa, try using canned tomatoes.



Refried beans

Frijoles refritos is the real Mexican name for this very popular dish. Refried beans can be served any time, with tortillas, scrambled egg or just bread.

You will need: 450g can kidney beans; pinch of chilli powder; 1 onion, finely chopped; 100g grated cheese; 3 chopped tomatoes; a pinch of fresh parsley or basil; oil; salt and pepper.

Rinse the beans and then mash them. Sprinkle on the chilli powder, then add salt and pepper. Stir well.

Fry the onion until soft, then add the bean mixture. Stir the beans while they are frying until they start to firm up. Put the beans in a dish, scatter the cheese over and keep warm.

Heat up the chopped tomatoes and stir in the herbs and seasoning. Serve this sauce alongside the refried beans and tortilla chips.



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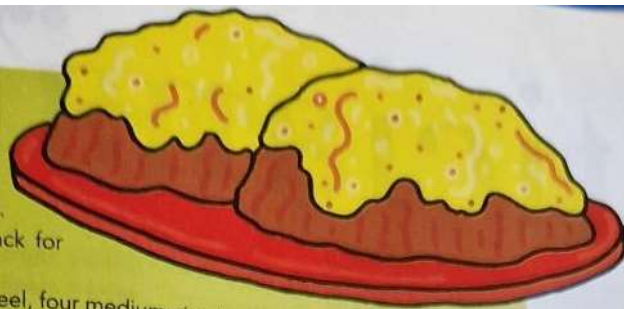
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Raclette is a simple Swiss dish that uses potatoes and cheese. It is warm as a snack for breakfast or supper.

Scrub, but don't peel, four medium-sized potatoes. Boil them until tender. When they are ready, carefully drain the potatoes and cut in half. Lay a slice of cheese on top and grill until it melts.



African avocado dip

Capture the sunshine of West Africa with this fruity dip for corn chips or toast fingers.

You will need: an avocado, pear, lemon juice, small tin of pineapple, salt.

Halve the pear and remove the stone. Scoop out the flesh and mash in a bowl. Add pieces of pineapple and mash until you have a thick paste. Add a pinch of salt, stir well and serve with corn chips.



Tangy tropical treats

Make these tangy marzipan treats which will be just as popular with the Guiders as with the kids!

You will need: 150g ground almonds; 150g caster sugar; 1tbs cornflour; 1 lemon; 1tsp vanilla essence; 1 egg white; 50g icing sugar.

Mix the almonds, sugar and cornflour together. Finely grate the zest of the lemon (the outside, yellow-coloured part of the peel) and add that to the mixture.

Cut the lemon in half, squeeze both halves and add the juice to the mixture, along with the egg white and the vanilla essence. Stir it well so that it forms a large ball of dough.

Roll the mixture into about 20 walnut-sized balls. Coat each ball in icing sugar and then place on a lined baking sheet. Bake for about eight minutes in an oven that has been preheated to gas mark 6, 200°C or 400°F. The tangy tropical treats are ready when they start to turn a lovely golden brown colour.



Caribbean salad

Bring an exotic flavour to your feast table with this sunny salad from the Caribbean. All the ingredients should be available from large supermarkets.

You will need: 110g white cabbage; 100g grated cucumber; 1 red pepper, finely sliced; 1 mango, peeled and sliced; 4 spring onions, chopped; 1 avocado, peeled and sliced; 1 clove garlic, crushed; juice of 2 limes or lemons; 6tbs olive oil; 1 handful watercress; salt and pepper.

Blend the garlic with the citrus juice, olive oil and seasoning. Put all the ingredients, except the watercress, in a bowl and drizzle half the dressing over. Toss the salad until the dressing is well mixed in and then sprinkle on the watercress. Drizzle over the remaining dressing just before you serve the salad.

PANDURO

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politicians'

Guiding can
save lives in
Uganda as two
UK leaders
discovered

By Jill Geaney
GOLD Coordinator



Christine Shimanya (right) relaxes with Regina Bafaki, who is UGGA's National Executive Secretary

JILL GEANEY

Young Leaders Zoe (left) and Florence – who are wearing the new Young Leaders uniform – carry tilapia fish, freshly-caught from Lake Victoria



JILL GEANEY



Chief Commissioner Betty Okwir (left) with the MP for Mpigi

JILL GEANEY

For a year, Christine Shimanya, Uganda's Community Development Executive has been trying to attract funding, sponsorship, Trainers and interest on behalf of Uganda Guiding. In July, Jill Geaney, the UK's Guiding Overseas Linked with Development (GOLD) Coordinator and Alison Selley, who has been on a GOLD project, visited the country in response to an invitation from the Uganda Girl Guides Association (UGGA) to investigate the possibility of a GOLD team going there.

Here Jill sketches in the background, describes the desperate need for Trainers and outlines the way the UK can help.

UGGA has been a member of WAGGGS since 1963. During the

1960s the Association enjoyed good membership levels and recruitment. In 1959, Olave, Lady Baden-Powell opened a training camp at Kaazi, their camp site on the shores of Lake Victoria, which is 16km south east of Kampala.

However, during the last 15 years, Guiding in Uganda has not been easy for a variety of reasons: numbers have fallen and recruiting new members has proved difficult.

In a country where the average teacher is paid 72 dollars per month and even highly-paid workers only receive around 450 dollars, not much government funding is available. Uniforms are scarce and badges are non-existent.

Yet in 1992 UGGA played its trump card, the Hon Mrs Betty Okwir, then Minister of Labour in the Ugandan Parliament became Chief Commissioner. Mrs Okwir recognised the organisational talents of teacher and Guider Christine Shimanya, appointing her Community Development Executive.

There are over 40 Districts, probably half the size of our Regions, in Uganda. The UGGA expects to recruit a District Executive Commissioner (DEC) for each one, who will then be seconded from her teaching post.

Therefore, these Districts are run by a paid government employee. Previously, the DEC was appointed – if thought suitable – but future policy will involve four candidates going through an interview.

The DEC must ensure that there are adequate Guiders and Trainers for her particular District. At the moment, this is a tall order. But appeals have gone out to WAGGGS for Trainers to volunteer to work with these Guiders. Through the GOLD scheme, the Association has been asked to train the UGGA Young Leader section – girls and young women aged between 18-30.

During the ten-day visit we

omises

watched training given in dealing with sexually transmitted diseases, HIV, AIDS, girl-child education, reproductive health, gender-awareness and self-awareness. These subjects are hugely important to the young people of Uganda.

There were 72 Young Leaders at Kaazi camp site for the trainings and, when asked, 60 of the 72 had a close relative who had died from AIDS. It isn't that the drugs that could slow down the diseases are unavailable, it is simply that they are too expensive. Average life expectancy, once HIV-positive, is only 20 months compared with five years or so in the UK or USA.

The Young Leaders are seen as ideal people to wage war on these topics by bodies such as UNICEF, UNHCR and UNDP because they have access through Guiding to the most vulnerable members of the Ugandan community — girls and young women.

Culturally many girls are at a disadvantage in Uganda. Polygamy is acceptable and many men visit prostitutes. Some girls are not of sufficient status to insist on the use of condoms. No wonder then, that AIDS is the largest killer of 15-24-year-olds and under-fives in sub-Saharan Africa.

Many girls remain ignorant because their families choose to pay for their sons' education, rather than their daughters', if they cannot afford both.

We also trained the Young Leaders for two days on the basics of Guiding — the Promise, the Law, the Eight Points and the Five Essentials. This was new to most of them, and it is anticipated that a

successful GOLD project can be organised which will help the Young Leaders of Uganda become knowledgeable and self-reliant Guiders, able to use the information they have acquired to promote good health and improved status among young women and girls.

Our type of training was totally new to them. At first, they sat in straight rows facing the front, and participation, friendly heckling, laughter and feedback — all part of our normal trainings — was virtually non-existent.

At the end of two days it was a very different story. "Guides work in groups" became the norm. Some very fine actors, artists and brainstormers were discovered and discussion regarding the quite difficult topics went on everywhere.

Betty Okwir has made inroads into raising the profile of UGGA by recruiting and personally presiding over 37 female MPs making their Promise, some of whom were new to the Movement, while others were renewing their Promise.

These MPs have undertaken to support and raise the profile of Guiding in their Districts. This means that money intended for UGGA will actually reach it and not be diverted to other youth organisations. They will also support their DEC's, using media interviews and other opportunities to make the public aware of work being carried out by Guides.

Uganda has more than its fair share of problems. But, it is hoped, a five-year partnership with The Guide Association through our GOLD project will strengthen their programme, so that, by the

age of 30, all these young women will be trained and qualified Guiders, keen and ready to give long-term help so that UGGA will grow and flourish. ♡

Thoughts from abroad

Earlier this year Regina Bafaki, National Executive Secretary for the UGGA, joined BGIFC Guides and Brownies in Uganda to celebrate Thinking Day.

On a beautiful sunny day, Guides and older Brownies pedalled off together on a bike ride while the younger Brownies set off on a hike, following a map trail and answering questions along the way.



On their return, the girls gathered into a circle for the Thinking Day ceremony. Each held either a blue or yellow streamer which was attached to a huge birthday cake in the centre of the circle.

Each Brownie had been given a country where there are Guides and Brownies to find out about. They took it in turns to stand up and send greetings to their given country.

After the ceremony, material — paid for by funds raised at a previous Thinking Day ceremony — was presented to Mrs Bafaki and Christine Shimanya, Uganda's Community Development Executive. It will be used to make uniforms for underprivileged Brownies throughout Uganda.

BGIFC Guides and Brownies presented material to make uniforms for Ugandan Brownies to Christine Shimanya (right) and Regina Bafaki (right centre)

● Are you aged between 18-30 and interested in taking part in the GOLD project mentioned or in a similar project?

If you are, sign up for the next International Opportunities weekend held at Foxlease from January 30-February 1, 1998.

For further information please write to: GOLD, Guiding Services, The Guide Association, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London

● You can support the work being carried out in Uganda by giving to the GFF Christmas Appeal.

information

GUIDING

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The Guide Heritage Centre at CHQ is open
Mondays-Saturdays from 9.30am-5pm (last entry:
4.30pm). It is closed Bank Holidays and Christmas.
Entrance charge is £2 per person.
Booking is not essential for groups of ten or less. Visits
are for 1½ hours maximum. Picnic area available.
The preferred maximum number of visitors per
session is 100.
Ring 0171 834 6242 ext 358 for further visit details.

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DEPOTS

If you can't get to a Guide shop, use your local
Depot. There are nearly 800 Depots throughout
the UK which sell all the resources listed in the
published catalogues, uniform and much more.
Depots are run by members of the Association
both to provide a convenient service for their
members, and to raise funds for local Guiding.

The views expressed in *GUIDING* magazine
are not necessarily endorsed by The Guide
Association.

official

Fraizing

The Quaker Tapestry in Kendal, in the Lake District, is a series of 77 separate embroidered panels which tells the story of the Movement.

The idea began when a Sunday school teacher wanted to make a freize of pictures for the wall, but only one little boy turned up. He liked the idea and, knowing the teacher also taught sewing, suggested that the pictures would look good in stitches.

The idea took hold and the Quaker stitch came into use.

Perhaps this idea could be used for a meeting. Panels could be made – using simple and quick embroidery stitches – telling the story of Guiding.

Freda Grieve
Formby, Merseyside

Lasting correspondence

I was very interested to read the letter in August's *GUIDING* from Lynda Garforth about her daughter Liz, who is still corresponding with Missy – a former Canadian Girl Scout – 20 years on.

When I was about the same age as Liz, I, too, had replied to a request for a penpal. It came from Lyn in Ontario.

We have been writing ever since and are now 40 years on!

In 1975 Lyn came over here on holiday with her family, and it was wonderful to spend time with them.

I'm sure readers will not be surprised at how long a friendship made through Guiding can last.

I have sent Lyn a copy of August's *GUIDING* – perhaps she and Missy might know each other!

Mrs Phyllis Angus
District Commissioner
Mid Argyll Division, County of Argyll

Equipped for the job

I read with interest the article 'Rookie Pilots' (August's *GUIDING*) and I hope many members of The Guide Association will have the opportunity to take Management NVQs. I feel any Guiders who wish to take the qualification should be able to, not just Commissioners.

I would like to take the qualification in order to assist me with my PR appointment at County level and, particularly, with my new appointment as Assistant Region Press and PR Adviser.

If Guiders are able to take the qualification before they take on an Adviser's or Commissioner's appointment it should help them in their roles. It might also encourage people to take on new roles, as they will feel better equipped.

If you ever have the opportunity to run a pilot scheme for Guiders who are not Commissioners I would love to be involved with it.

Linda H. Fogg
County PRA & Assistant Press/PR Adviser
North West England

your letters

These letters
reflect the
writers' own
views and not
Association
policy.

Nothing ventured

At an informal District get-together a Brownie Guider asked if there was any chance of a review of the current Brownie Venture Badge.

At present, to gain this badge, a Brownie has to take part in the organisation of and running a Pack Venture. However, the girl does not get any recognition for any further Ventures she may participate in. The incentive to take part in other Ventures is therefore lacking.

It was suggested that the Venture Badge could be modified to either display a number, with a lower number badge being replaced by a higher number on completion of another Venture. Or the badge could be 'colour-coded' in the same way as the Brownie Birthday Badge.

What do others think?

Carol Howes
District Commissioner
Bedford

Very resourceful

After a recent trip to the Heritage Centre, I visited the shop at CHQ and bought the new *Catering for Camps and Holidays* and *Health and Hygiene* manuals. I have found these to be very informative and useful and think they are some of the best you have published.

I recommend that every unit purchase them because they are very helpful.

D. Owen
Guider
Stourbridge, West Midlands

● *Catering for Camps and Holidays* (order code 63933) and *Health and Hygiene* (62760) are also available from the Trading Service and Guide Depots.

Due to legal differences in Scotland, there is now an amendment to appendix I on page 39 of *Health and Hygiene*.

Anyone who already has a copy can obtain a free amendment sheet (order code 62778) from the Trading Service. The original information is correct for the rest of the UK.

Friends in deed

I wept reading Catherine Dell's article 'Sorry to hear about your baby' in August's *GUIDING*, as it was so similar to my own experience. I gave birth by emergency Caesarean to my third son, William, in March 1993 and he died 11 hours later.

All my Guiding friends gave me such love and support and helped me and my family through a very difficult period. They visited me in hospital and at home, organised the refreshments after William's funeral, went shopping with me because I couldn't lift things, and took over the organisation of a Division camp.

No one ever avoided talking about William to me, and without their care and understanding I can't imagine how it might have been.

I went to Guide camp six weeks after William's birth. I had a lovely weekend and I was so glad I'd gone. Soon after, I felt able to return to my unit and I took with me my photographs of William. Those Guides who wanted to sat and looked at his pictures with me.

I couldn't agree more with the article, the caring side of Guiding and working with the unit are such a tremendous support structure to those in trouble. I experienced firsthand the love and friendship of being part of the Guiding family. It's something I will never forget.

Happily, in 1994, I gave birth to a lovely baby girl called Ellen. She is a joy to family and friends alike and has two Guiding godmothers. I hope she grows up to be a member of the very special Guiding family.

Jane Tillman
Guide Guider
1st Newport Pagnell Guides

Memory jogger

People still complain that the old Guide Law was easier to remember, apparently there was a poem to help. So I've written a new one — no doubt others can improve on it:

Honest, reliable, worthy of trust;
Helping others is surely a must
With time and abilities wisely employed
Challenge is there to be faced and enjoyed,
Experience learned from; and always abiding
A good friend to all and a sister in Guiding.
Polite and considerate; this we know
That the world should be cared for wherever we go,
Respect for all living things; this is the key
To becoming the Guide that we all wish to be!

Alison Cannon
1st Keynsham Rainbows
Bristol

Held responsible

I recently had a wonderful week at Camp Hertfordshire at Tolmers (CHAT '97). Thanks and congratulations to all the CHAT team. There was, however, just one disappointment. During the week, it became apparent that some Guiders and members of the Trefoil Guild thought that, as a 20-year-old Guider, I was too young to be left, with a Young Leader, in charge of the four Guides in the unit camp when the Company Guider was unable to be there.

They thought that only those over 21 should be allowed to run units or hold Camp licences. They felt that many 18-21 year-olds are not mature enough to handle the responsibility.

Surely, if this is the case, such young women should not be awarded a warrant?

It is well known that the numbers of girls staying on in Guiding over the age of 13 continues to decline and there is a growing shortage of Guiders. The attitude of some Guiders will put off many keen and able young women from working towards their warrants and dishearten those who have already gained them.

Christine Uffindell
Queen's Guide & D of E Gold Award
Holder, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire

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.

Enthusiastic response

I read with interest the comments about falling Guide numbers and whether we are satisfying the girls' requirements enough to maintain their enthusiasm. I took over running a Guide unit after helping with Brownies for 18 months. The Guide Guider was leaving after ten years, as her own enthusiasm had died and it was affecting the morale of the girls.

During my time, the unit has grown from ten to 32. A substantial number coming from our own Brownies, but others have appeared after hearing from schoolfriends the type of activities we are pursuing.

My freshness and enjoyment leads me to plan a programme with a wide variety of activities. I do not do all the work, but challenge the Patrols to work together to achieve their goal.

Guides offers girls an amazing amount of scope to learn new skills and experience adventure, which is what they crave. If too much emphasis is placed on a few areas girls will get bored and leave.

It is distressing to think that some people believe that units can only be kept alive by younger leaders. I am relatively new to Guiding, even though I am in my late 30s, but I have big plans. My enthusiasm is renewed by watching the girls as they greet new challenges and experiences.

This is what keeps me going.

Sue Cox
Guide Guider
63rd Southport

Action Plus! appeal

I am a 17-year-old Young Leader and, with the help of my District Commissioner, I am setting up my own Action Plus! group for girls in my area.

Being a full-time college student, time is not on my side and I would really appreciate it if another Action Plus! group could contact me to share ideas, routines and possible penpals.

Helen Bufton
Young Leader
Cambridgeshire

Safety first

I was interested in the article in August's *GUIDING* about the girls who gathered materials for sleeping outdoors.

I am, however, very concerned about what they are using. There are constant warnings about bracken spores being carcinogenic (cancer forming). Not only are the girls collecting bracken fronds but they are also sleeping under them.

The concept of the badge is excellent but, perhaps, health warnings are necessary for some plants.

Pat Armstrong
Bingley Division Commissioner

Thanks all

In September's issue of *GUIDING* we printed two letters asking for your help:

Helen Hayward would like to thank everyone who replied to her appeal for a copy of the *Songs for Tomorrow* songbook — she now has a copy.

Sally Thomson, Kim Hammond and Pam Osborne now have the Diamond Jubilee badges they wanted and would like to thank all those who responded.

Valued experience

How I enjoyed reading the article 'Job Guide' in August's *GUIDING*. My first teaching appointment was secured as a result of my Guiding experience. Part of the job was to organise the community service option that was offered to the upper school as a games option.

My CV included my time as a Guide Captain and that meant, to those who interviewed me, that I was capable and willing to sort out the community service.

I currently teach in a boys' school and, even now, the Headmaster asks about my Guiding activities, as his mother used to be a Division Commissioner.

Alexia Gardner
Young Leader Guider
Bristol & South Gloucestershire

Postcard plea

My name is Denise Stubbs and I have a Brownie Troop in Rex, GA USA. We are part of the North West Georgia Girl Scout Council. For our Thinking Day project we would like to collect postcards from Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all over the world. Can you help us please?

Send postcards to:
Denise Stubbs
2923 Haddon Drive
Rex, GA USA 30273

...be something in the water
...ndshire? Whatever the rea-
...ngela Summerfield, Brown
... of 2nd Hednesford in High-
... District, Cannock Division,
...ndshire County, finds herself
... double seven times over at
... weekly meetings.

The Pack is in the unique posi-
... of having seven pairs of identi-
...al twins among its ranks.

GUIDING went along to meet
... this unusual group of girls and
... found a large and immensely happy
... Brownie Pack busy preparing for
... their next Pack Holiday. Over 40

plenty big enough for us all, and
... three good young helpers — Young
... Leader Bev Myatt and Pack Leaders
... Steph and Jen Nicholson,' they
... pointed out.

'We've also been taking Brown-
... ies on Pack Holiday for about 20
... years. We always go somewhere dif-
... ferent. This year 24 Brownies are
... coming with us to Lincoln, and
... we've been as far afield as Anglesey,
... Blackpool and Derbyshire.'

Angela added: 'This has been a
... special year for the Pack. In May we
... celebrated our 40th birthday with a
... great party.'

twin sets

Even non-
drinkers see
double when
they visit this
very busy
Brownie Pack

Words and photo by
Gillian Ellis



Brownies, five warranted adult
leaders, a Young Leader and two
Pack Leaders all clearly enjoy their
Guiding very much.

'We know we could split into
two Packs,' said Angela, 'but we
work so well together that we sim-
ply don't want to do that.' Her
Assistant Guiders — Tawny Owl
Kath Myatt, Barn Owl Alison
Phillips, Eagle Owl Barbara King
and Snowy Owl Julie Shirley,
Angela's daughter — agreed
emphatically with her.

'We've a large schoolroom,

The seven Sixes do bear a cer-
tain resemblance to each other.
With all the twins distributed as
evenly as possible among the Sixes,
every Six has to have at least two
halves of a pair of twins. Thank
goodness for Six emblems to aid
identification.

'It's going to be like this for
quite a while,' said Angela. 'Only
one of our "twin sets" is nine years
old, so we're going to have at least
six sets for the next two years and,
who knows, we may attract even
more now the word has gone

Seeing double: The twins on
parade (from left) back row —
Kate and Emma Davis (9);
Victoria and Kathryn Chamberlain
(7); Hannah and Lydia Ford (8).
In the front row — Jade and
Alexandra Mansell (7); Jodie and
Danielle Barrow (7); Sarah and
Emma Roberts (7)

around that we're a twin-ori-
ented Pack.'

Six pairs of twins were present
to be photographed when **GUID-
ING** called in, the youngest pair,
Crystal and Alexandra Alcock,
were absent that evening.

£15
winner



Get knotted

Taking time out from camp duties are Anna Ballantyne and Jenny Randall of 3rd Thelwall (All Saints) Guides, Cheshire. The unit had an action-packed week at the Bispham Hall Scout camp site, near Wigan.

SHEILA RANDALL

A pizza the action
Helping out at a local pizza parlour, is Hollie Johnson of 1st Greenhithe Guides, Kent. The girls had a behind-the-scenes visit to Domino's Pizza, to see exactly how their favourite take-away arrives at their doorsteps.



D SMITH

Smooth operator

Judith Ashby is one brave Brownie Guider! This very heavy ten-foot python was completely charmed when it met Assistant Guider Judith, at a meeting of the 6th Leighton Buzzard Brownies, Bedfordshire.



VERONICA WARD



Girls on top

Showing off their pyramid powers are Guides from 2nd West Kirby unit, Liverpool. The girls had a brilliant time at the Division camp, celebrating the birthday of their youngest member, Rachel — she's the one right at the top of the pile!

JULIE PIDD





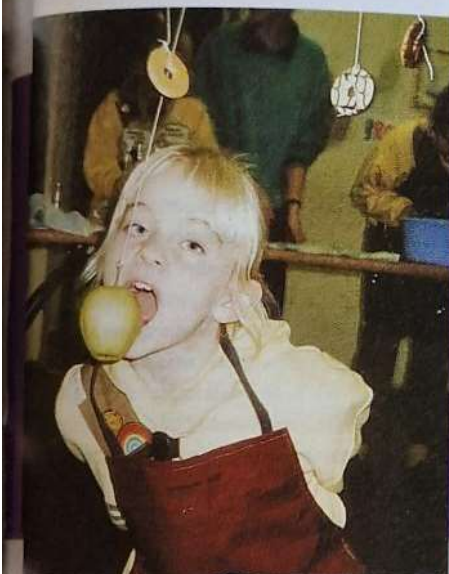
L DERHAM

Gunpowder, treason and plot

Remembering the 5th of November, are these three Brownies from 2nd Ruddington Pack, Nottingham. Kayleigh Cousins, Steffi Barber and Siobhan Cannon-Brownlie, were all fantastic finalists in the Pack's Guy Fawkes fancy-dress competition.



GILL KEETLEY



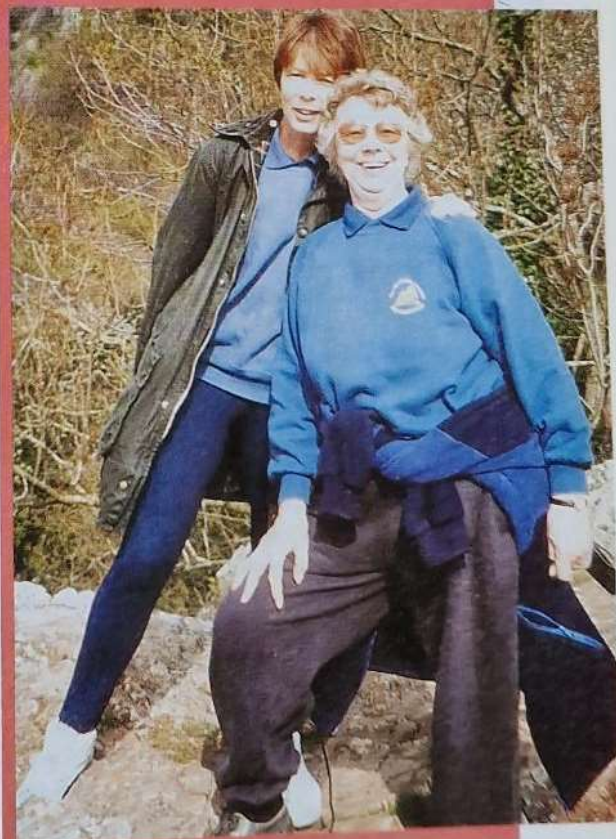
An apple a day...

Going for the healthy choice is one member of the 5th Aughton (St Michael's) Brownies, Lancashire. Every girl was challenged to eat one of the items dangling on strings, without using her hands — harder than it looks!

Time to go

'Cap' and 'Lefty', leaders of 3rd Slough Guides, climbed to the top of Jacob's Ladder in the Cheddar Gorge on a unit outing. Cap, real name Elizabeth Ashton, has just retired from 3rd Slough after 44 years of warranted service. GUIDING wishes her a long and happy rest!

LESLEY WAGG



Newest recruit

James Barber, age four, wasn't bothered that he was the only boy at the Hertford District camp fire, Scarborough. James went along with his Guider mum and insisted that the girls join in with his favourite song — *The Wheels on the Bus!*

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. Please include a sae.



increased mileage

One County managed to raise funds for charity and increase public awareness of Guiding at the same time

By Gillian Ellis



Following their lead: Rachel Holmes (front left), Laura Fallon (centre) and Katie Partridge – all from 7th Altrincham Guides – had a little company on their walk

stickers and badges for everyone taking part.

At a prominent point on each route, there was a Guiding display organised by the local Reach Out worker. Leaflets, balloons and hats were

handed out to the public.

GUIDING visited Hale village, in Altrincham South Division, where the throngs of keen walkers were joined at a local church by the Mayor and Mayoress of Trafford, David and Catherine Merrill. Guiding events are near to the Mayoress' heart — she has the distinction of being the first Queen's Guide in the then Altrincham District.

The Mayoress declared the event open, then nipped smartly out of the way as the hordes poured through the church gates.

Heads turned as the lively bunch passed by, banners flying. Some of the girls had donned fancy dress which, together with the bright yellow and blue uniforms and the multi-hued Rainbow tabards, made a cheerful splash of colour.

The County Commissioner, Pauline Wainwright, managed to visit seven of the nine venues on her whistle-stop tour. In the afternoon, she was joined by North West Region Commissioner Pat Jackson, who started the Brownies off on their walk in Sale Division.

In Salford's covered shopping area, the helium balloons were in great demand, although quite a few ended up on the precinct ceiling. In Stretford, the Guiding display attracted a lot of interest — and the

names of 11 possible new leaders.

In Timperley, Pauline ran into Barbara Taylor, the Macmillan volunteer who had first contacted the County to ask if they would support the project. She was delighted at the huge response.

'Everywhere I went, there was a sea of blue and yellow,' said Pauline. 'We certainly made everyone aware that Guiding is alive and kicking in Greater Manchester West!'

After the sponsored walk, the girls had refreshing drinks then moved on to a Treasure Hunt in which Guide-related items had been placed in local shops.

Eager sleuths were soon to be seen peering intently into shop windows. Items varied in each Division. Altrincham South's list included a Rainbow bag, Brownie greetings card, toadstool, Guide handbook, owl and compass.

The new Macmillan Day Care Centre at Trafford General Hospital — which will cost approximately £1.2 million to build — is being built entirely from public contributions. It will provide specialist treatment, care and support for patients and their families.

Before the sponsored walk over £500,000 had been raised. Different groups are raising money for specific areas of the Centre. For instance, the Mayoress' charity aims to raise £22,000 for the Physiotherapy Centre, and Rackhams Store is hoping for £14,000 for the chapel.

'We don't yet know what we're concentrating on,' said Pauline. 'We'll wait and see how much we've raised, then discuss the matter with the Centre authorities.'

Although the bulk of the County's donation to the Centre will come from the Macmillan Walk sponsorship money, units are including further fundraising in their own programmes.



Best foot forward: After starting the walkers off, the Mayoress of Trafford joined in the fun

They were roped together as a Patrol, were blindfolded, they walked dogs, skipped, line-danced, and walked backwards... All during a sponsored mile walk in aid of the Macmillan Day Care Centre at Trafford General Hospital.

But Greater Manchester West County also built a whole day of Guiding events around the annual 'Macmillan Mile' challenge in order to raise the profile of Guiding in each of its eight Divisions.

One sunny summer Saturday, Guides of all Sections congregated in shopping centres across the County. Each unit carried a banner announcing the object of the walk. The Macmillan Cancer Relief organisation had provided eye-catching yellow and green streamers and green umbrellas-cum-sunshades and there were

gala performance

Manchester Guides joined the stars on stage at the Prince's Trust 21st Celebration Gala

By Anne Machell and
Barbara Wolstencroft

Manchester Guides
and Guiders will long
remember their part in
the Prince's Trust 21st
Celebration Gala



PETER DOWNING

gan with a telephone call to
County Office. The Prince's
21st Celebration Gala was to
be held this year at the Manchester
House and would the
Guides like to take part?

It was, we learned, the first time
it had not been held in London.

Telephone wires were soon hot,
and yes, we confirmed, the County
of Manchester Guides would defin-
itely like to be part of
such a special occasion.

Our call was from Jeff
Thacker, the associate
producer of the show.
Later he visited us and
explained who would be
in the show and what
would be expected.

He left us to work on
our 'routine', having
asked that each Guide
should carry a unit flag.
There would be 25
Guides from seven Div-
isions taking part plus
four Guiders. This meant
the County standard, a
Division standard and 25
unit flags being on stage.
We planned our routine
and began rehearsing.

Three days before the
show, Jeff Thacker paid
us a visit and suggested a
different routine. It was

much better, but we had a rush to
get it ready in time.

Comedian Julian Clary was to
open the Gala and we were to take
part in the 'March of the Teams'
alongside the Hotshots, gymnasts,
the Greater Manchester Fire Brig-
ade, the Royal Alexandra Nursing
Corps, the pipes and drums of the
Gurkha Rifles and the Royal Navy
parachute team, the Red Devils.

After the dress rehearsal in the
afternoon, we had enough time to
practise our routine and to eat and
rest. Then we had to change into
our uniforms to be ready by 7pm.

Anyone who has ever been back-
stage in an older theatre will know
that space is extremely limited so, as
you can imagine, we found it very
cramped with all our flags.

With 45 minutes still to go be-
fore the curtain went up, teams
were queueing in the narrow

backstage passages and staircases.
We were all excited and nervous,
anxiously awaiting our turn.

We counted five, six, seven, eight
beats... and were on, with our flags
and heads held high, marching
across the stage to loud cheers.

Then, our brief moment of star-
dom finished, we cleared the back-
stage — making way for the stars.

But it wasn't quite over. We were
escorted to a 'holding area' to await
our call for the finale. From there,
we were able to watch the rest of
the show on the television screen.

We were now among the cele-
brities, so the Guides went on an
autograph hunt. They soon found
actress Liz Dawn who plays Vera
Duckworth in *Coronation Street*,
and Julian Clary who posed for
photographs and signed autographs.

Our final call came all too soon
and, once again, we were on our

way back to the theatre to get ready
for the finale. Once more, we lined
up in the narrow corridors and
staircases. But, this time, the stars
passed us on their way to the stage
— the Spice Girls, Gary Barlow
(who signed almost every Guide's
hand), Julian Clary, Phil Collins,
Michael Barrymore, the Man-
chester United football team, Frank
Bruno, the cast from *Beauty and the
Beast* and many, many more.

The orchestra struck up the
chords of the final number and we
made our way on stage for the last
time, to the cheers of the audience.

It all had been a great success.
The Prince of Wales was introduced
to the celebrities and, then, our
royal evening was over.

We made our way home feeling
very tired but proud and happy to
have taken part in the first Prince's
Trust Gala outside London. ■

something old...

A Project Officer even delayed her honeymoon to attend the opening of a Guiding exhibition

By Penny Kitchen

Ask any woman what the busiest period in her life is and she is likely to say the months preceding her wedding — the lists of things to do, people to contact, arrangements to make are enough to make most couples long to elope!

But what if the day following your wedding is also the opening of an important Guiding exhibition to be staged in the City of Portsmouth Museum, and you just happen to be the coordinator?

South West England's Project Officer, Joanne Shankland — now Joanne Gambetta — simply organised her life around her Guiding commitments and told husband-to-be, Elio, that the honeymoon would have to wait.

She delegated the job of making

to Rainbows exhibition opened.

'We wanted to appeal to all age groups in the community,' said Joanne, 'and we also wanted to do something that would dispel this Guiding-as-middle-class myth that still exists in parts of Portsmouth.'

Originally, the steering committee had approached the City Museum with the idea of displaying some promotional material in the reception area. Instead, the committee was invited to stage a major exhibition in the summer. It was an invaluable opportunity.

'Members of the public come here from all over the country while they are on holiday,' Joanne told *GUIDING*. 'We also wanted to

the exhibition had been chosen. With Rainbows celebrating their tenth anniversary this year, the theme almost suggested itself.

The Guide Heritage Centre was another good source of material.

Joanne viewed several videos and the City Museum offered to produce one continuous-running video from the three she thought most relevant and interesting.

A working committee began to get down to the nitty-gritty. County Commissioner, Marian Fisher; County President, Kay Dell; County PRA, Beverley Pope; and County CIDA, Phoebe Hiscock, decided on the title, drew up a list of people to invite to the opening and began the task of gathering material from County, Region and CHQ archivists. For example, Portsmouth and East Hampshire Archivist, Winnie Beer sorted through thousands of photographs taken over the last 50 years.

'Slowly, but surely, my house turned into a Guiding museum,' said Joanne, 'as all the materials and four mannequins arrived.'

A camp-fire scene was proposed and local Guides in Portsmouth were drafted in to record the background singing and conversations, which exhibition visitors would activate via a sensor.

Meanwhile, Joanne's wedding date was also drawing nearer, but she still had to caption the final material chosen, decide on the layout and face hectic days setting out the exhibition.

South West England President Jessica Blooman officially opened the exhibition and watched a parade of old uniforms worn by present-day Brownies and Guides.

Joanne drew the line at helping on the day of the wedding itself. That would have been too much even for a patient and supportive fiancé like Elio.

As Joanne said at the opening 'The things we do for Guiding' ■



Taking time off: Joanne drew the line at helping on the actual day of her marriage to Elio

As time goes by: South West England President Jessica Blooman meets some back-to-the-future Brownies and Guides at Portsmouth's Rosebuds to Rainbows exhibition

the wedding arrangements to her mother and two best friends and discovered that organising the exhibition was an effective antidote to pre-wedding nerves.

The idea of holding displays throughout the city with the aim of raising the profile of Guiding was talked about for almost a year before the *Rosebuds*

catch the interest of ex-Guiders and spur them to get back in touch, particularly if they have moved to South-west England.'

Joanne had never been involved in organising an exhibition before and so her first call was made to CHQ to obtain some preliminary archival material. She knew more would be available once a theme for

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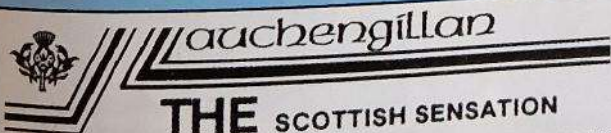


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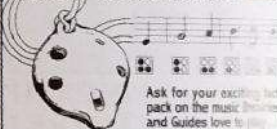


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Suzanne says: 'I was a young Guide who realised how very special are those friendships formed in Guiding. Friendships like the one I have with Caroline.'

We were both Brownies at seven and came to know each other slowly because, although we were in different Packs, we met occasionally at Division events.

At ten we both went up to Guides but, again, we were in separate units and went to different schools. Our great friendship did not really start until we were 12 and I went to camp with Caroline's unit. Caroline and I discovered we had a lot in common and a natural bond began to grow, almost like that between sisters.

We became so hooked on the outdoor life and camping that we've never missed a Company camp since! The link grew even stronger with our first international experience together as senior Patrol Leaders on a holiday in Luxembourg.

When we returned home, we decided to do Action Plus! together, which triggered our move up to Rangers. The local Ranger Unit had become virtually defunct, so Caroline and I approached a Guide Guider and a Brownie Guider who had been on our Luxembourg holiday. Both agreed to be Ranger Guiders so, with these two committed leaders, we established a thriving new Ranger Unit.

We provided the only Ranger service crew for Gosforth Park, the Scout and Guide permanent camp near Newcastle. This meant being on duty every sixth weekend, from Friday evening to late Sunday afternoon and it became a starting point for our Queen's Guide work.

The first challenge we tackled from the syllabus was Enterprise and, although we worked separately, we complemented each other's efforts. This, I think, made our bond even stronger.

My Enterprise involved producing a comprehensive tourist package for Glasgow. Caroline stayed in the city with me, helping to survey all the sights. Naturally, when she tackled a very different challenge, I was at her side.

meet Suzanne Wilson and Caroline Surtees

from Newcastle upon Tyne

As Caroline can confirm, ours is a truly great Guiding partnership which, I hope, will continue to give us both great Guiding throughout the years to come.

Caroline adds: 'Four months after being in Guides I went on my first Guide camp to Kirkley Hall, Ponteland. I was hooked! Camping helped to forge a friendship with Suzanne that has done so much to enhance my Guiding.'

Even digging ditches and cleaning toilets, which we did as Rangers at Gosforth Park, can be fun in the right company and it wasn't all hard graft, anyway. While in the service crew, we were introduced to archery. Not only did we complete the course but we both then went on to become instructors!

In becoming Queen's Guides, Suzanne and I owe a lot to our two Ranger leaders for their inspiration and encouragement. But I am sure that being supportive to each other helped us both tremendously.

My big challenge for the Award was a 55-mile walk over four days on the West Highland Way, carrying everything I needed. I had to be accompanied by four other people, so guess who was the first one I asked to join me!

Both of us love international events and together attended

Poacher '92, near Lincoln, and Northumbria '94 at Powburn. Now we both plan to complete the Look Wider Scheme and go on to tackle the European Steps challenge.

Mind you, we don't do everything together! Last year, Suzanne went without me to Iceland, where she represented North East England at the national Jamboree and she won't be with me on the GOLD project I am hoping to join, preferably somewhere in Africa.

Having encouraged and helped each other in everything we have

**Both Queen's
Guides and
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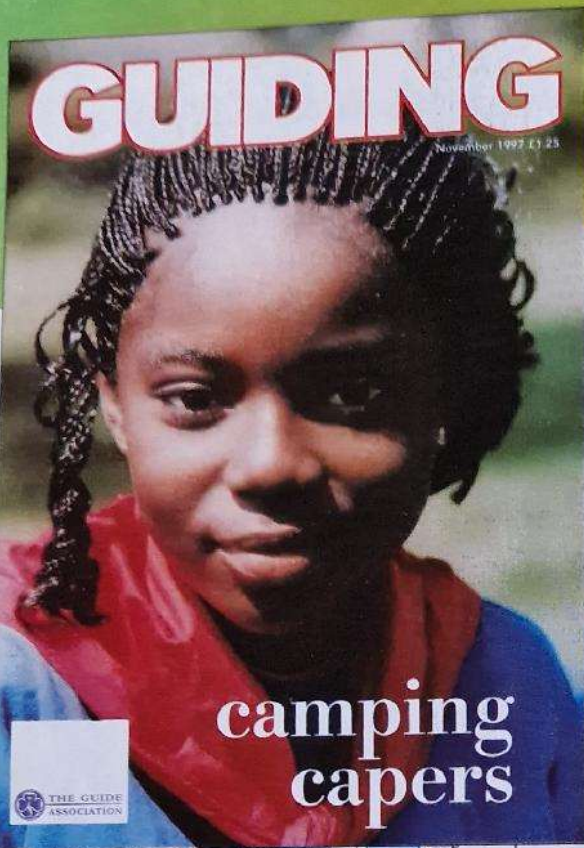
MARGARET WHITTAKER



undertaken, we have now both gained our warrants as Assistant Guide Guiders. I am with my old Guide Company, the 3rd Wideopen and Suzanne is with her old unit, the 1st Dinnington.

In the long term we look forward to being Commissioners, international Trainers and attending World Conferences — together!

happy days



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