

GUIDING



MARCH 1993 £1.10

**GOLDEN
POTTIES
FOR
GUIDES**

**FOR
LOVE OF
JAMES**

**THE DEBT
TRAP**

**YOUNG
LEADER'S
MERCY
MISSION**

**RANGERS'
SLUM
CLEAN-UP**

**BROWNIE
REVELS
IN RUSSIA**





**Guiding is
sharing a smile**

front PAGE

Last November I spent a day at Waddow where 30 young women were participating in an International Opportunities Weekend (INTOPS). These Rangers, Young Leaders and young Guiders aged between 16 and 30 had applied for a place on a GOLD project — the Association's most exciting international project.

UNICEF has estimated that one sixth of the world's population will soon be below the absolute poverty level. Our homes are constantly bombarded with distressing TV pictures and we feel quite desperate to help.

Our members get an opportunity — through GOLD — to help other people to help themselves. Applicants need only have a strong interest in Guiding, be prepared to fund raise to finance the visit, and participate in an INTOPS weekend.

One of the aims of INTOPS is to find suitably-qualified, motivated young adults for GOLD, but it doesn't dominate

COMMENT

the proceedings. Participants are there to enjoy themselves; to learn, contribute, share and be challenged. Tasks are designed to identify those with the self-motivation, stamina and humour necessary to cope with the mental and physical demands made by project work overseas. Team work is essential and development of leadership skills in challenging situations is encouraged.

Those young women on that cold, wet, windy day at Waddow, certainly did contribute, share and were challenged every minute of the time. I puzzled with them over cryptic clues that resulted in building a raft to cross the fast-flowing flooded river; building a ladder to scale a high wall; making a stretcher to carry an injured colleague and abseiling down the tower.

Earlier they had played the Trading Game designed to illustrate the way the process of trading tends to benefit

the already-powerful. The players experienced feelings of powerlessness, frustration, anger and a full range of other emotions.

Over tea, inedible biscuits were produced, simulating occasions overseas when food is accepted which may be difficult to eat.

The GGA works with Associations in other countries to plan co-operative projects for GOLD. In 1993 young women will go to Czechoslovakia, Russia, Greece, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, South Africa and Thailand, where they will be involved with primary health care, literacy, teaching English, food production, nutrition projects, income generating and training schemes.

Not all participants of INTOPS will take part in a GOLD project but the experience must give them a greater insight into International Guiding and encourage them to 'look wide'.

JANE GARSIDE

The Chief Commissioner

GUIDING

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BY COURTESY OF THE NEWS PORTSMOUTH

FRONT COVER

Isn't she sweet? The budding artist pictured on our cover is seven-year-old Clare Nicholls. A Rainbow with the 1st Bedhampton Unit in Hampshire, Clare won first prize in the Action Art competition in the 1992 *Rainbow Annual*.


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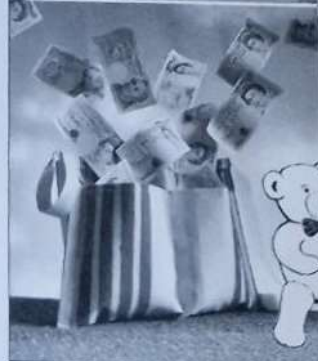
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Round UP

STAMP APPEAL

◀ A Wirral Brownie Pack took just three months to collect more than 1,500 stamps to help Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Brownie Anne Hayward from the 2nd Bebington unit, Guide dog trainer Diane Jones and 'Wag' are pictured here with some of the thousands of stamps collected from family and friends.

The stamps will be used to help pay for the training costs of Guide dogs.

A FAIR COP

▼ Here's a radical solution to silence rowdy Brownies — lock them up in a police cell.

That's what happened to the 2nd Dedworth Pack as part of the fun while touring Windsor police station in Berkshire.

Pictured with their Brown Owl Karin Taylor, wearing WPC uniform, the girls were 'rescued' by WPC Sam Millward. After their escape the girls were allowed to try on police helmets and hats.



Round UP

BIRTHDAY BREAK

►When Rainbow Guider Elaine Ayre broke her leg on her 53rd birthday she never thought it would be a money-spinner for her Rainbow Unit.

But at the Unit's fête in Scunthorpe, Humberside, Elaine charged eager youngsters 5p a time to sign her plaster-cast.

Elaine, of the 8th Ashby Rainbow Unit, broke her ankle in three places while on holiday in Eastbourne, Sussex. 'It was very painful, and I had to have an operation to pin the leg,' she said.

TUNED IN

●Inspired by Thinking Day On The Air, these four West Yorkshire South Guides qualified for their Novice Radio Licence.

And their enthusiasm proved so catching that their Guider Jean Kerrigan (back row, third left) gained her licence too.

Pictured with radios borrowed from members of the Denby Dale Amateur Radio Club are (from left) Vicky Lee, Stacy Duke, Emma Pollard and Vicki Briddon from 107th Huddersfield Dartmouth (Crosland Hill Methodist) Company. The Guides can keep the radios until they can buy their own.



SCUNTHORPE EVENING TELEGRAPH



HUDDERSFIELD DAILY EXAMINER



DAFFY DAYS

◀As part of a campaign against cancer, Ulster Brownies from 155th Gilnahirk Presbyterian Church, Belfast, helped plant 10,000 daffodil

bulbs, to raise cash for the Marie Curie Cancer Fund.

Planted at six sites across Northern Ireland, the bulbs represent a symbol of hope in the fight against cancer.

'WOW!' was the message we got back from the hundreds of units and Guiders who took part in the GGA's Weekend of Water from September 18 to 20 last year.

The WOW '92 spirit inspired units from all over the country, and even as far away as Oslo and Nepal, to take to the water in a good cause.

Anything went, so long as it had a water theme. Units organised watery wide games, science experiments, service projects and conservation tasks. As well as taking part in just about any water sport you can think of.

Many units took the opportunity to do a little fund raising for Water Aid, a charity which helps provide clean, safe water for poor communities in Africa and Asia, and over £1,400 was raised.

There was a distinctly international feel to many of the activities. During a picnic by a fjord, the 1st Oslo Rainbows in Norway learned how water has to be delivered by truck to the Inuit people in northern Canada and pumped into their homes because underground pipes would freeze in the icy climate.

In contrast, the Rainbows heard how African women carry water to their villages in jugs balanced on their heads. Then they tried to master the skill themselves.

'Fortunately their bowls were not filled with water,' wrote Guider Ethel Isenor, 'or they would have been a little soggy.'

A water-friendly visitor inspired the 10th Durham City (St Margaret's) Brownies to get stuck into their activities. 'Duck Tracy', Northumbria Water Authority's mascot, waddled along to one of their meetings with Bob Jackson to show the Brownies the chemical purification processes, which ensure that our tap water is fit to drink.

The watery theme inspired some weird and wonderful activities. At the WOW Brownie Revels organised by Bosmere and Bramford District in Suffolk, thirsty folk in search of liquid refreshment could choose from 'weedy water' or 'pond pop'.

The 14th Ipswich (Whitehouse) Guides came up with a jelly good idea. First the girls made jellies, then they built rafts to float their jellies on a lake.

In Surrey the 1st Frogmore and Darby Green Brownies were forever blowing bubbles, while in Devon the 6th Tiverton (St George's) Brownies played some 'very wet and mucky' games.

There was no shortage of worthy service-based projects either. After carrying out a pond survey for WOW,

WATER WORKS

Fishing for friends: a member of the 3rd Lockerbie Guides inspects her catch



the 1st Caversham Park Guides in Berkshire have committed themselves to look after a pond for a year.

In Essex the 3rd Westcliff Guides walked six and a half miles along the seafront between Chalkwell and Shoebury East, while they carried out a dirty water survey. And the 2nd Upminster Action Plus Group helped clear Cranham Marsh.

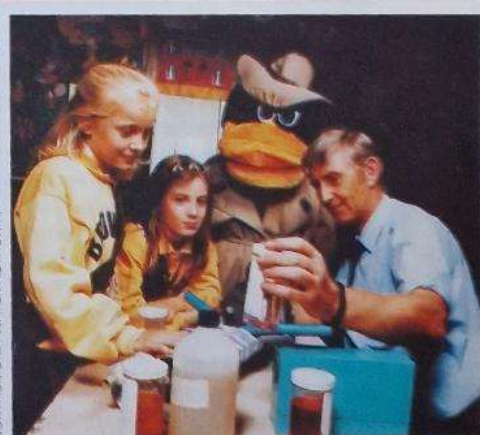
West Congleton Rangers collected £62.23 for Water Aid with the help of display boards and material borrowed from North West Water. Local shoppers who gave donations were rewarded with a drink of water.

Lots of units used the occasion to discover the many and varied uses of water. In Nepal a BGIFC unit, the 1st Kathmandu Guides, visited a hydro-electric power station to see how water is used to generate electricity.

The 1st Stevenage Rainbows popped along to a local fire station to find out how water can be used to put out fires, and Yetholm Guides inspected their local sewage works.

Two London Guiders, Rosemary Bailey and Linda Johnson, went a little further than most. While in Acapulco they rode the waves on an inflatable yellow banana towed by a speed boat.

There was also a collection of 'scientific' experiments and projects, demonstrating once again that Guides don't just make doileys. In Lancashire



the 1st Buxton Guides experimented to find out just how little water it took to wash soap off their hands and faces.

During the Saturday afternoon, Buckingham District Rainbows and Brownies gathered on a damp field to discover why having too little or too much water can cause problems.

In Cheshire the 2nd Tarpoiling (St Helen's) Brownies took a bowl of clean water and added mud. Then they tried to filter it clean again.

This year WOW '93 will be even more closely linked with Water Aid. If you have any ideas or comments which would be useful to the committee please drop a line to WOW at Guiding Activities Division, The Girl Guides Association, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT.

DIANA WALLACE 7

'Duck Tracy' and Bob Jackson demonstrate water purification to 10th Durham City (St Margaret's) Brownies

Guiding in a

When the family and friends of a young man who died launched an appeal in his memory, they discovered just how supportive and caring Guides can be in a time of sadness.

James Jackson was only 22 when he died from pneumonia and kidney failure last March, after a three-year battle against leukaemia.

His family and friends decided that, as a memorial, they would try to raise £30,000 to buy a kidney dialysis machine for the hospital where staff fought so hard to save his life.

On their own it might have been an almost impossible task. But then the Guides stepped in.

All over Nottinghamshire, members of all ages, from Brownies to Trefoil Guild pensioners, threw themselves into a frenzy of non-stop fundraising.

In the first three months they raised more than £5,000. And they will go on coining it in with all kinds of enterprising money-spinners until they and the Jackson family have hit the target.

Anne Allery, County Commissioner for Nottinghamshire until she retired in February 1992, explained how the Guides became involved:

“My daughter, Kate, a former Brownie and Guide, had been James’s girlfriend since they met in the sixth form at school.

James was diagnosed as having leukaemia in 1989, when he was working in a restaurant in France during a year out before he started a degree course.

He was admitted to hospital in Bordeaux, very seriously ill. When he was well enough he was flown back to the Adult Leukaemia Unit at the Christie Hospital, Manchester, where he spent much of the summer in isolation.

James suffered several setbacks, including a drug-induced stroke but, following a bone marrow transplant, he was well enough to start his degree

James with Kate before his tragic death



course in September, 1990.

However, when a wound which he sustained when he fell off his bicycle did not heal, he was readmitted to hospital, where leukaemic cells were found again.

James spent the greater part of another summer in isolation but took his first year examinations successfully.

He recovered sufficiently to start the second year of his course but routine tests revealed more problems and James spent his second Christmas in hospital.

He had two more bone marrow transplants. Neither was successful and various complications followed

until, last March, he developed pneumonia and then had kidney failure.

My husband and I were at Our Chalet, enjoying our first ski-ing holiday, when we received news that James was desperately ill.

We returned home immediately and James died two days later.

Kidney failure is not unusual among leukaemia sufferers and, because there is no dialysis machine at the Christie hospital, James had to be taken by ambulance to another hospital for treatment.

This caused James considerable distress and, in order to spare other patients similar discomfort, James’s

ction

family and friends decided to try and raise the money to provide a kidney machine for the Adult Leukaemia Unit at the Christie Hospital.

It will cost about £30,000 to buy the machine and provide a nurse to operate it initially. Hopefully, the NHS will eventually take over the funding of the nurse's salary.

Units throughout the County have been organising all sorts of fundraising events and coming up with ever more ingenious ideas.

I was overwhelmed by the response from Worksop Division, where the Division Commissioner, Helen Morris, did a sponsored drive to visit all units in a week. Every unit made a donation to the appeal — including Worksop Rangers' magnificent £122 from a sponsored swim.

One Brownie Pack had filled Smartie tubes with pennies, and their collection was so heavy we could hardly carry it to the car.

One of the Brownies had filled eight tubes — having eaten the original contents herself!

Worksop Division Commissioner Helen Morris (centre) and Assistant Division Commissioner Anne Fox receive a cheque from 5th Worksop (Methodist) Brownies.



Kate Allery has been awarded Guiding's Star of Merit for the support she gave James throughout his long and tragic illness.

During his stay at the Christie Hospital, Manchester, Kate travelled every weekend from Worcester, where she is a student at the College of Higher Education, to be with him.

She would spend the entire weekend at the hospital, staying in a sideroom, so that she could help to nurse him and give him the courage to fight on while he had the strength to do so.

Said Anne Allery: 'I had nothing to do with the award — the recommendation to CHQ was made by the County without my knowledge but, of course, I am delighted.'



Girls from Worksop Division raised £770 in a week with their 'Dash for Cash'

Brownie units have had coffee evenings and litter picks, while Friends of Guiding held a very successful "Casino Evening". They charged £4.50 for admission, which included supper. Each "client" was given £2,500 in Monopoly money to "play the tables". There was roulette, black jack, dice and Esculado.

With their Monopoly money "clients" were also invited to bid in an auction for a donated toilet bag. It went for £50,000!

The present County Commissioner, Jean Ramsden, held an *indoor* garden party on a very wet Saturday. For the paying guests it was standing room only, so the "gate" was excellent.

We had a musical evening in the village hall at Attenborough, where Kate played the clarinet and my husband, Michael, performed with the local church handbell ringing team.

At West Bridgeford they hired the leisure centre for an hour to hold a keep-fit aerobics class, with fee-paying pupils bending and stretching.

Some of us, too, have been eating our way through "snowball dinners" to raise cash. You invite six people to dinner for which you charge £5 a head. They, in turn, each provide a dinner for five people at £5 a head.

In theory, a total of 720 people will eventually have all hosted a dinner, raising a total of £3,600. That, of course, doesn't actually happen — the chain always breaks, but it's still a good money-spinner.

And so it goes on — and will go on — until, with our help, James's family and friends, have that £30,000 for the dialysis machine.

That, of course, is what Guides are for — to help others, especially in a worthwhile cause like this.

ANNE ALLERY 9

MISSION TO MEXICO

The Rangers will stay at Our Cabaña



Abigail Norton (left) and Joanne Brett demonstrate the use of a pierced bottle top



A team of 20 intrepid Rangers and five leaders from seven Counties in South West England Region are off to Mexico this month, armed with hammers and saws.

They will be taking part in a scheme to improve the lot of some of the grossly disadvantaged families of Cuernavaca, the sprawling city of more than a million, which is only a short distance from Our Cabaña.

The plan is to provide those living under the worst conditions with new 'pre-fab' homes to replace their appalling shacks and rag tents.

It will be an international effort, involving teams of Guides and Girl Scouts from Canada, the USA and countries in Central America.

Their base will be the World Centre, where the scheme has been hatched to support the work of a local church youth group that is helping the destitute of Cuernavaca.

The involvement of the South West England Rangers was the result of a happy 'accident', as Yvonne Tew, Bristol Ranger Guider and the Region's former Outdoor Activities Adviser, explains:

"In 1991, to celebrate my early retirement from teaching, I set myself a challenge — to visit all four World Centres and this I did, as you may have read in *GUIDING*, last year.

It was only when I reached Our Cabaña that I learned, for the first time, of the scheme put together by the staff there — to improve, for some of the extremely poor people of Cuernavaca, the terrible conditions under which they live.

Staff at the World Centres do their utmost to get international Guiding involved with the life and social problems of the communities nearest to them and Our Cabaña is no exception.

For some time Our Cabaña has supported the work of the Santa Catalina international youth group which, since 1979, has built or repaired more than 300 houses for the poor of Cuernavaca. This scheme will provide further support.

Most of us have at least some idea of what life must be like for the really poor in Mexico, having seen in TV documentaries how they live in squalid shanty towns. It makes depressing viewing but Guides don't just switch to another channel — they try to do something to help!

I was shown a model, made by one of Our Cabaña's staff, of a house — one of a number which it is hoped to build and give to families in the shantytown areas of Cuernavaca. The aim is to provide accommodation that is cheap, but serviceable, weatherproof and reasonably durable.

It seemed to me to be just the kind of project to appeal to my Ranger Unit, at Westbury-on-Trym. But when, on my return to the UK, I spread the word, there were volunteers from five Counties keen to join in.

The dwellings, costing about £200 each, will be very basic — with no flooring, just earth. They will be built from wooden frames, covered with special, corrugated, tarred hardboard, like sheets of corrugated iron but lighter and cheaper.

It may not be as strong, but this material has a surprisingly long life. And, being impregnated with tar, is completely waterproof.

Each dwelling will be four metres wide and four metres deep, with a single door opening and one unglazed window opening. The occupants will simply drape these to keep out the chill at night, or the hot sun in the day.

There will be a simple, sloping roof of the same tarred board, providing headroom of about 2.5 metres, with no gutters, drainpipes or "trimmings".

Even the method of fixing the roof will be cheap, but ingenious. To ensure that the nails holding the roofing boards to the rafters do not tear through the boards in a high wind, special roofing washers will be used with the nails.

The washers will, in fact, be discarded crown caps from Coke bottles and the like. They will come free, of course, but the clever part is that each cap, before being used as a washer, will be pierced from the under side so that the metal will splay out around the hole.

Some of these homes will be put on new sites, providing additional accommodation. Others will be on the sites of existing shacks, which will be demol-

ANN NORTON



Practice makes perfect: Yvonne and the girls get to grips with their tools

YVONNE TEW



This model shows the type of cheap but serviceable houses the team hope to build

ished to make room. Our contingent will fly out from Gatwick on March 21 to converge with the other teams on Our Cabaña the following day. We will be at the World Centre for only eight nights, so we will have a lot of work to do in quite a short time.

All teams will combine to form an

international workforce which will be divided into Patrols of eight. Each Patrol will share a dormitory and take turns to wait on table and do the household chores.

At the end of the week we will depart to Mexico City for three days' sightseeing before returning to the UK.

The all-in cost of the trip is £850 per head. In addition, we want a *minimum* of £20 from each member of the team as a contribution to the housing scheme, so that the British Rangers can provide at least two dwellings.

So, as you can imagine, we've been fundraising like fury for months on end and we're still at it.

A real, hard slog for most of the Rangers but I know that, when they see for themselves how some people have to live in Cuernavaca, they will feel that it has all been worthwhile.

A sign of the times.
GUIDING looks at debt. How
it happens — with special
reference to young people —
and where to get help.

DROWN

Last spring the PSI (Policy Studies Institute) published the most detailed survey of debt ever carried out in the UK. It revealed that, during the 1980s, the number of households with debt problems had doubled to reach 2.5 million — one household in eight.

The survey, however, had been researched in 1989, which meant that when it was published it was already out of date. The situation had already worsened — and has got even worse.

The National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux (NACAB) report that debt enquiries are rising by 16 per cent a year — twice the rate of any other kind of enquiry. They now stand at about two million, accounting for one-quarter of all cases handled.

National Debtline — a helpline for people with debt problems — took 6,000 calls in 1990/91, and 12,000 in 1991/92.

Contrary to most people's stereotype view, debt today is no longer the flip side of a credit-crazy binge. The PSI survey confirmed that in the 1990s the main cause of debt is not reckless consumer spending but grinding poverty.

It is not about buying too many videos, CDs, microwaves, cars... It is about not having enough money to live on. Two-thirds of payment arrears now involve basic domestic expenses like rent, gas, electricity and water. Credit debt problems account for the other third.

POVERTY TRAPDOOR

Many of these low-income households have always been poor. Others have fallen through the poverty trapdoor because of a dramatic change in circumstances: redundancy, illness, unexpected pregnancy, separation or divorce. All of these traumas can provoke a dramatic drop in income and result in hardship.

Households who can least afford it find themselves forced into using credit. When a family has scarcely enough money to survive from week to week, it has nothing left for major expenses like buying clothes or furniture and paying for repairs. The only way it can cope with these essential extras is to borrow.

One of the cases quoted in the PSI report was a couple with four children: one at school, one working and two unemployed. The husband was also unemployed.

The couple's weekly income — income support, child benefit and £10 from each of the older children — came to just over £120. Almost half of that went on repayments for a washing machine, clothing, carpet, decorating and cash loans.

The remainder had to cover food for six, gas, electricity and other basic household expenses. Commenting, the couple said the only way they could manage was by 'continuously borrowing'.

One of the conclusions reached by

the survey was that social security benefits were too low. This was endorsed by *The Cost of Living*, a NACAB report published last December, which shows that people are using 'credit as sticking plaster over inadequate benefit levels', and that the end result is 'long-term debt and poverty'.

BENEFIT LEVELS

The issue of benefit levels becomes even more acute when considering the plight of young people. Since 1988, 18-24 year-olds have received a reduced rate of income support, currently £33.60, instead of the full adult rate of £42.45. Below them, 16-17 year-olds are even more precariously placed. Most do not qualify for income



FRAN WHITESIDE

ING IN DEBT

support. For those that do, the usual rate is £25.55.

Last April, NACAB brought out the report *Severe Hardship*, which warned the Government that 'unless benefit rules are changed, substantial numbers of young people will continue to suffer real hardship, in some cases producing a downward spiral into homelessness and destitution'.

That downward spiral is accelerated by debt. In many cases benefits are eroded by direct deductions — payments to cover social fund loans, short-term loans from the DSS, and arrears, electricity, gas, water, rent and so on — leaving the claimant without enough for minimal subsistence.

The report gives several examples: a 21-year-old woman left with £10.58 a week of which £5 goes into an electricity token meter; a 23-year-old man having to manage on £5.15 a week; and a young woman trying to cope on £4.71.

Benefits, or rather the lack of them, have made another group of young people vulnerable to debt. Students no longer receive financial assistance through the social security system: no housing benefit to help with rent, and no income support or unemployment benefit for the long summer vacation. Instead, they are expected to survive on the basic grant/loan and to support themselves during the holidays.

A NACAB report on student incomes, *Diminishing Options*, shows that, in many cases, grant-plus-loan does not provide an adequate income. The situation has been made worse by the falling real value of grants, frozen, indefinitely, since 1991/92. And by the recession: parents are less able to help financially and there is a shortage of temporary jobs.

Cases cited in the report include a married student with wife and baby who, having used up grant/loan and unable to find vacation jobs, were having to live on their child benefit of £7.50 a week throughout the summer.

HEAVY BURDEN

Not surprisingly, by the time they finish their courses, most students are in debt. A survey of student debt carried

out by Barclays estimates that, in 1992, the average student left college with a debt of £1,765. In three years' time, that figure is expected to be at least £2,800.

Currently, student loans are the largest source of student debt, accounting for 31 per cent of the total. Next comes bank overdrafts, representing

25 per cent, with borrowing from families at 21 per cent. This borrowing is in addition to the expected 'parental contribution'.

Even without the pressures of living on a low income or surviving as a student, other young people are vulnerable to debt. Easy credit tempts new wage-earners into buying more than they can afford, and often sentences them to years of repayments. Once they're 18, there is seldom any problem about getting a store card, credit card, hire purchase... For some that is the beginning of a spending spree which can escalate into thousands of pounds. Horror stories of teenagers running up huge bills, often over £20,000, are becoming all too common.

Even repayments that seem realistic at the time of purchase can turn into a nightmare scenario with the loss of a job. There are unlikely to be savings to fall back on.

Debt counsellors would like to see young people better informed about finance in general particularly dealing with credit and debt. Some schools have already taken up the challenge and introduced lessons on money management.

Perhaps this is an area where Guiding can help with leaders discussing the issues in the unit, especially with older Guides and Rangers. For example, various topics related to money already feature in the Trefoils — like keeping simple accounts, budgeting, understanding banks and building societies. Could these lead into discussions and projects?

As a possible starting point, the Office of Fair Trading publishes *Moneyfax*, a free magazine guide to credit and debt aimed specifically at young consumers.

The sources of help listed will provide detailed advice on all aspects of dealing with debt from working out a budget and contacting creditors to coping with harassment and, if the worst happens, going to court.

They will all also warn against borrowing again to pay off a debt. Equally, they will all emphasise that if there is a credit/debt problem, something should be done about it NOW.

CATHERINE DELL 13

SOURCES OF ADVICE

For advice, contact:

- The nearest Citizens Advice Bureau; find the address in the phone book.

- A local Money Advice Centre, if there is one — check the phone book.

- National Debtline, a helpline for people in England and Wales with debt problems. Every caller receives a free *Dealing with your Debts* information pack. The pack, which is very comprehensive, comes in two versions: one for people who pay rent, one for people with mortgages. The helpline is open Mon and Thurs, 10am-4pm; Tues and Wed, 2pm-7pm; there is also a 24-hour answerphone service. Helpline number: 021 359 8501.

- Social Security free helpline: 0800 666555.

For useful publications, contact:

- Office of Fair Trading, Room 306, Field House, Brems Building, London EC4A 1PR. Publishes *Debt, a survival guide* and *CreditWise*; also, for young consumers, *Moneyfax*. All free. These may also be available locally in places like libraries and CAB.

- Money Management Council, PO Box 77, Hertford, Herts SG14 2HW. Publishes a range of free factsheets. *You and your money* and *Personal Budgeting* are the most relevant. Send sae 12 x 9ins.

- Help the Aged, Information Dept, St James's Walk, London EC1R 0BE. Publishes a range of leaflets on money issues for older people. Send sae 9 x 5ins for *Thinking About Money* and list of other titles. They also operate a free national information service for senior citizens (and their carers, relatives, friends). Open Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm: 0800 289404.



group holidays

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 Nottingham, NG1 4BG.

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 132 Regent Road, Leicester, LE1 7PA.

Make cheques payable to : N. and L. Scout Events,
 and please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

(* Excluding certain Special Event Days.)



*High-flying Jessica
Kimber took to the
skies to make her
Promise as a Ranger.*

flying HIGH

When it comes to investitures the Wincanton Ranger Guides, in Somerset, always set their sights high.

So, when 15-year-old Jessica Kimber joined their ranks last November, the Unit took to the skies in an executive jet and climbed to 5,000ft to witness the enrolment.

It took place in the cockpit of a Manx Airlines 16-seater Jetstream 31, which the Rangers boarded at Cardiff-Wales airport on a special 40 minute 'investiture flight'.

Among those on board were Jessica's sister, Rebecca, already a member of the Unit, and their mum, Ruth who, like Jessica, had never flown before.

Mum was invited to join the trip because, although not in Guiding, she is the Unit's unofficial 'transport manager', a loyal supporter with a very roomy Land Rover.

The Wincanton Rangers specialise in devising unusual venues for their investitures, as their Guider, former WRNS Second Officer Anne Rowlands, explained:

“Our Unit was only formed in January, 1988, and in August of that year, when four girls were waiting to be invested, we decided we ought to start the way we meant to carry on.

So, for their enrolments, we took them to the top of Jungfrau Joch, in the Swiss Alps.

Langport District Rangers, based about 20 miles from us, had suggested we joined them on an expedition to the Jungfrau. We accepted their kind invitation so that we could enrol our girls on high.

At 11,333ft this venue was a good deal loftier than Jessica's, in fact. But we were able to climb most of the way to the summit by the mountain railway.

For the six enrolments we had in 1989 the setting was bizarre, rather than spectacular.

These took place at the stroke of midnight, by candlelight, during a South West Region camp at Foxlease. The girls renewed their Promise while standing by their tents, after a late camp fire and cocoa break.

In June, 1991, three girls had their investiture on top of a fire engine at the Royal Naval Air Station, Yeovilton, where I was stationed for two of my ten years in the WRNS

BY COURTESY OF CARDIFF-WALES AIRPORT



Captain Doug Hale gives Jessica a quick rundown of the control panels

Although I am now a mum with two small children, I make a point of keeping up my naval and other service contacts. This has already proved very useful in arranging off-beat enrolments for the Unit. In other words, I know people who can pull strings!

But for organising these “Wincanton spectacles” of ours and making it all work on the big day, I rely heavily upon my very competent lieutenant, Assistant Ranger Guider Beryl Griffin.

Last year, before Jessica's jet-assisted enrolment, two other girls had their investiture *inside* the gates of Buckingham Palace, watched through the railings by onlookers who had come to see the changing of the guard.

This was arranged by Wing Commander David Walker, RAF, who, at the time, was an equerry to the Queen.

After the two investitures had taken place he came out of the Palace to greet us and then tipped us off that the Queen would shortly be going in an open carriage to Horse Guards Parade.

So we hurried off to a suitable vantage point from where we saw the Queen at close range. We waved to her, she waved back to us — and we have a photograph to prove it!

BY COURTESY OF CARDIFF-WALES AIRPORT



Smile please! Wincanton Rangers line up with Manx Airlines' cabin crew for an official photo

Our visit to Cardiff-Wales airport was fixed by Captain Doug Hale, of Manx Airlines, who used to be a Sea Harrier pilot in my old squadron, 899 Naval Air Squadron, Yeovilton.

Before our airborne enrolments, Manx Airlines arranged a tour of the airport, gave the girls an insight into life as an air stewardess and allowed us to attend a flight briefing.

This year we intend to have an investiture on board a Royal Navy ship — perhaps on the bridge, or even in the crow's nest, if there's room!

We're quite confident we can manage this. Because, as I've said, having been in the WRNS, I know who to ask.

ANNE ROWLANDS 15

Network

PETER'S FRIENDS

► Beatrix Potter's classic animal tales and beautiful illustrations have been turned into a cartoon series soon to be shown on TV.

If you and your unit are interested in seeing how this was done, London's Museum of the Moving Image (MOMI) is holding a workshop for 7-14-year olds on March 9.

Two episodes from *The World of Peter Rabbit and Friends* will be shown, animators and producers will give a behind-the-scenes talk — and the girls can also visit the museum.

MOMI's exhibition shows how Beatrix Potter's delicate watercolours were used to make the series which, with a budget of £5.5 million, is the UK's most expensive animated TV series.

For more details write to: MOMI Education, Museum of the Moving Image, The South Bank, London SE1 8XT. Tel: 071-815 1339.

Peter Rabbit about to conquer the small screen

ful designs which celebrate tribal life. They should be painted or drawn using lots of bright colours and include a slogan about tribal peoples.

And as a special offer, open only to *GUIDING* readers, the top three entries from Rainbows, Brownies or Guides will each receive a Survival T-shirt. And the three runners-up win a pack of colourful

April Fun Appeal.

April 1 is the day when the Society is asking us all to act the fool for a serious cause — raising vitally needed cash for children, young people and their families.

Light-hearted pranks and hilarious spoofs are planned up and down the country to help The Children's Society raise £1 million.

Jester April Fun Packs, complete with Jester hats, posters and fundraising ideas leaflets are available free. Write to: April Fun Appeal 1993, Edward Rudolf House, Margery Street, London WC1X 0JL.

FLOWER POWER

► The unmistakable scent of summer flowers is captured in Taylor of London's new luxury bathroom range which goes on sale in April.

Included in the range are foaming bath seeds which fill your bathroom with the scent of a traditional English garden in summertime.

We have packs of Taylor of

London bath seeds to give away to the first 40 readers picked after March 30. Just send your name and address on a postcard to: TOL/ GUIDING, FF&C Ltd, 6 Kingsway Business Park, Oldfield Road, Hampton, Middx TW12 2HE.



Tribal life — the Yanomami tribe from Brazil

TRIBAL LIFE

► Are there any budding young designers in your Guide Company or Brownie Pack? Survival International is running a competition to find the best designs celebrating tribal life.

The group campaigns for the rights of tribal peoples and wants designs for cards and paper to mark 1993, the United Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples. The winning designs will be printed on cards and wrapping paper to be sold in the Paperchase chain of shops in both Britain and America.

Judges are looking for colour-

Survival greetings cards.

The competition is open to anyone aged under 12 — but don't delay. Entries should be sent in to Survival by April 5, 1993. For more details contact: Survival International, 310 Edgware Road, London W2 1DY. Or telephone: 071-723 5535. Don't forget to mention *GUIDING* when you enter.

JOLLY JESTS

► If your Guides love playing the fool, larking about and, generally, being very silly, then they'll be really eager to take part in the Children's Society

VICTOR EAGLEBERT/SURVIVAL INTERNATIONAL



BREATHE EASY

●Every year thousands of lives are saved by people who have taken a first aid course — but tragically, many other lives are lost through ignorance of life-saving skills.

Now you and your unit can learn how to give the 'breath of life' and other vital techniques. St John Ambulance is offering free, two-hour courses in resuscitation during Breath of Life Week, which starts on March 24.

It's the brainchild of the charity's Superintendent-in-Chief, Phyllida Stewart-Roberts, who was alarmed



Enjoy the scents of summer

KAREN BERMAN ASSOCIATES

that, when a member of the congregation collapsed in church, she was the only one who knew what to do.

'You can never rely on expert help to be at hand in an emergency,' she said. 'Once a casualty has stopped breathing there are just three minutes in which to resuscitate him.'

For more details about the courses, which are sponsored by Barclays Bank, contact your local St John Ambulance. The number of your branch is in the telephone book.

CARING CLIFF

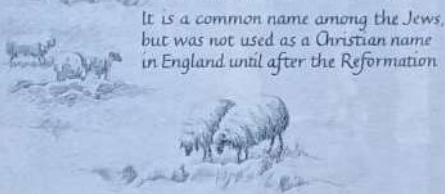
▼Cliff Richard is once again heading the hunt for Britain's 1993 Webb Ivory Young Fund-raiser of the Year.

The awards, sponsored by card and gift company Webb Ivory, aim to reward the work of amateur fundraisers throughout Britain.

There are three awards for fundraisers of all ages, plus

RACHEL

THIS NAME IS FROM THE HEBREW RAHEL MEANING A EWE



A winning entry in the 1992 competition

It is a common name among the Jews, but was not used as a Christian name in England until after the Reformation.

the under-18s' Youth Award. The winner of this category gets £1,000 to give to his or her favourite charity.

This is the second year running Cliff has been involved in the awards. 'We're looking for youngsters who have shown compassion, ingenuity and commitment, not necessarily those who have raised the most money,' Cliff explained.

For an application form write to: Cliff Richard, c/o Interface PR, Brook House, 77 Fountain Street, Manchester M2 2EE. Or ring the Webb Ivory hotline on: 061 237 3771.



SELF HELP

▲By the time they reach their teens, young people face many important decisions about their future.

First they have to decide which GCSEs to study, next it's A-levels. Then they're thinking about what to do after leaving school and whether they ought to consider some form of higher education, even agonising over which degree course to take.

The Hobsons' Student Helpbook series offers sensible advice on careers and education. Included in the series are: *Decisions at 13/14+*,

Decisions at 15/16+ and Matters of Degree, a guide to university, polytechnic and degree courses.

Student helpbooks are available at all good bookshops priced £6.99 or can be ordered by credit card on (0403) 710851, quoting reference C51.

We have copies of *Decisions at 15/16+* to give away to the first 20 readers whose names are drawn after March 30. Just send your name and address on a postcard to: Books Offer, GUIDING, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT.



Cliff Richard — always top of the popularity poll

INTERFACE PR/WEBB IVORY

WRITE AWAY

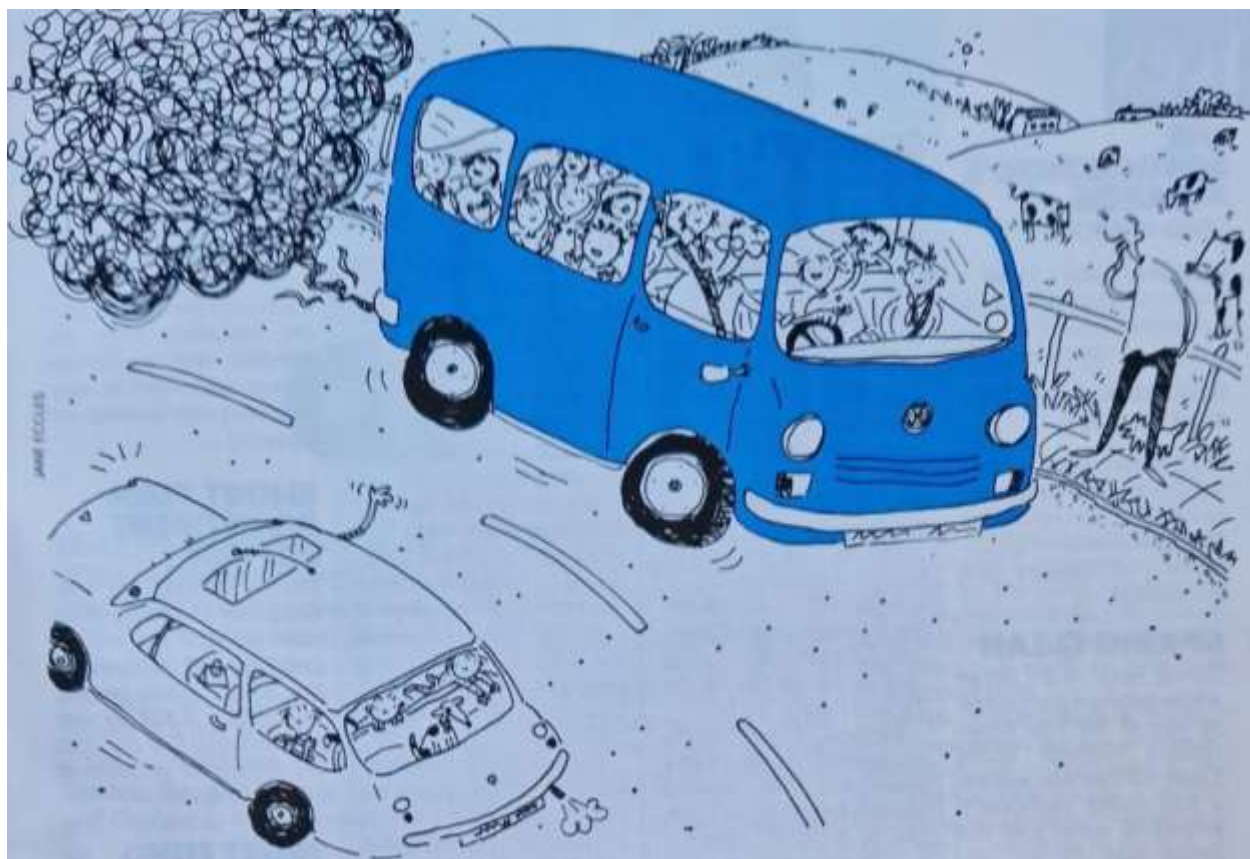
◀Persuade your Guides and young Rangers to try calligraphy — the art of beautiful hand-writing. As well as discovering an absorbing new hobby, they could win some great prizes by entering a competition sponsored by a leading pen manufacturer.

The 1993 Spirit of the Letter competition is open to calligraphers of all ages — whether they're beginners or accomplished hand-writers. But there is a special junior section for 10 to 16-year-olds.

The juniors have to design a notice for a nature trail area using a particular slogan. Prizes include courses in calligraphy and writing equipment. And all prize winners in each category get a special certificate.

The closing date for entries is May 31. For more details and an application form write to: Osmiroid International Ltd, Oldmedow Road, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE30 4JR.

DOBSON COMMUNICATIONS



I can't remember why I volunteered to help out at Rosemary's weekend Guide camp. It must have been something to do with her saying: 'But you're really good at teaching pioneering'. My ego did the rest.

Anyway, Saturday morning dawned with the Guides enthusiastically trying to work their way into the *Guinness Book of Records*, aiming at creating a section for the most items of camp equipment that can be fitted into a Ford Escort.

I'd have been impressed if the Ford Escort in question hadn't belonged to me. Remembering what the mechanic had said about the suspension last time he serviced the car, I smiled through clenched teeth when one of the parents remarked how wonderful I was for volunteering to transport all the equipment.

Rosemary was to drive the car while I transported the livestock — sorry, Guides — in the District minibus. When I collected it, Carol announced: 'She's running fine. The exhaust was rattling a bit but I've fixed that'. I should have been warned. Carol is to motor mechanics what Donald Duck is to Darwin's Theory of Evolution.

Twenty minutes into our journey, or 20 minutes of songs that would have embarrassed an Australian rugby squad, a passing motorist flashed his lights and waved.

I returned this friendly gesture with a similar smile and wave. How pleasant to have one's involvement with today's youth recognised by a fellow traveller.

A MAN'S EYE VIEW

I returned the next motorist's wave with similar gratitude and a growing warmth towards the inhabitants of the county through which we were then travelling.

After the fifth wave, I glanced in the side mirror to see flames billowing from the back of the vehicle. After getting the girls out, I approached the rear of the vehicle armed with a fire extinguisher. Only to discover that the reason for the resemblance to the Batmobile was not, in fact, any form of supercharger, but a duster that had been tied round the exhaust, presumably to stop it rattling!

Once we reached the site, my noisy, confident passengers changed back into the feeble, demure flowers their parents believe them to be. Naturally they were quite incapable of unloading the camping equipment they had been throwing around so enthusiastically a few minutes earlier.

I should, of course, have recognised this as a ploy to get Muggins to lug everything to the site. However, I fell for it. While they caught up on their

sunbathing, I toiled away with a trek cart that clearly pre-dated the invention of the wheel.

Now Upper Thrushwood is a basic site where portable loos are still used. It brought back memories of Scout camps in rainy Wales and praying that a strong wind wouldn't suddenly transport the lat tent halfway up Cader Idris.

Happily this was a hot summer's day with no such prospect in store, so I settled down for a few minutes relaxation with my pioneering manual to revise the afternoon's activities.

The Guides had, thoughtfully, even provided me with an aerosol spray to fend off the flies. Environmentally-friendly, said the can — Ozone free!

However, not only did the can not contain any ozone, it was also totally free of all other gases as well and the flies continued to buzz around happily as I squirted fresh air at them.

Finally resorting to hitting them with the can, I realised why it was environmentally-friendly. It certainly caused no harm to the insect population of my lat tent.

Notices

THE ASSOCIATION'S AWARDS GOOD SERVICE

Miss Hilary Boon — Laurel — Division Commissioner, Wolverhampton West, Chairman of Training, Midlands.

MERITORIOUS CONDUCT STAR OF MERIT

Mrs Frances Council — Brownie Guider, 4th Great Harwood Pack, Lancashire East.
Stephanie Woods — Rainbow Guide, 1st Rossory Unit, Fermanagh.

SPRING CLEAN

During April 16-25 Britain will be getting a grip on litter as part of the Tidy Britain Group's National Spring Clean '93. Last year two and a half million participants helped to make sure that Britain was 13 per cent cleaner.

Each of the ten days focuses on a different issue including recycling, sport and transport. On April 23

OBITUARY

The death has occurred of Miss Ailsa Brambleby, who wrote the 1968 version of the *Brownie Guide Handbook*.

Although never a Brownie herself, Miss Brambleby drew on a wealth of experience gained as a Brownie Guider, Diploma'd Trainer and Brownie Adviser, first for England and, later, the Commonwealth. She also part-wrote the *Brownie Guider Handbook* as well as several books for Brownies.

A Guide at 11, Miss Brambleby went on to be a Ranger and a Cadet before taking over as Tawny Owl of the 1st Iven Pack in 1936.

Barbara Gibbon recalls first meeting Miss Brambleby when she was working towards becoming an Eagle Owl (a Brownie Trainer). 'I soon learned that here was

the focus will be on youth and the organisers are hoping that GGA members will get involved.

a person with a very methodical mind and someone who had definite ideas of her own,' she said.

It is the memory of Miss Brambleby's 'talent to amuse' that Nora Simpson will treasure. 'She brought great wit and humour to everything she did, whether chairing a conference or doing the washing up,' Miss Simpson recalled.

A junior school teacher, Miss Brambleby spent nine years on the staff at CHO, acting as resident Trainer at Waddow for three years.

In 1961 she was awarded the Chief's Diploma and served as a member of The Council from 1972 to 1976.

For her retirement, she bought a period cottage on the Isle of Portland where she lived with her half-sister until her death last October.

For more information contact: Tidy Britain Group, The Pier, Wigan WN3 4EX; or telephone their Hotline on (0942) 826296.

15+ UPDATE

The 15+ Writing Group is inviting suggestions for a name for the proposed new programme for Rangers and Young Leaders which is currently being piloted.

The Group is not seeking a new name for Rangers and Young Leaders. The programme is designed to appeal to all young women aged between 15 and 26 from all walks of life.

The Group welcomes suggestions from anyone, regardless of whether or not they are taking part in the pilot.

If you are taking part in the pilot, don't forget that all final evaluation forms are due in by March 26.

LINK UP WITH LINK AT EASTER

At Easter LINK will be holding one of its national LINK-UPS in Wales, bringing together LINK members from all over the country.

This camp is the chance to meet other LINK members from all over the country.

If you would like to know more about this camp or more about LINK International Fellowship, get in touch with the LINK Office at CHO.

LINK is a good way to meet many like-minded people, including many ex-Rangers and ex-Venture Scouts who want to keep their links with Guiding and Scouting.

SHORT TERM INVESTMENT SERVICE

Monthly interest rate after deduction of management commission:

Oct, 1992 7.969 per cent

Nov, 1992 ... 6.500 per cent

Dec, 1992 ... 5.938 per cent

An additional 0.5 per cent per annum for deposits of £5,000 and above.

TRUST FUND

On December 31, 1992 the value of a share in the Scout and Guide Trust Fund was:

for selling purposes 275.40
for buying purposes 289.40
income yield 3.61 per cent

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

THINKING DAY ON THE AIR 1993

Can all report forms for Thinking Day on the Air 1993 be sent to Youth Activities Section, The Girl Guides Association, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT, by April 23.

SWOP SHOP

Have you got any good ideas you'd like to pass on to other Guiders? **GUIDING** has been asked to set up an ideas swop shop.

We want readers to write in with suggestions for activities, games or a meeting formula that has worked for them.

Send your ideas to Swop Shop, **GUIDING**, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT. We hope to have the page up and running by early summer.

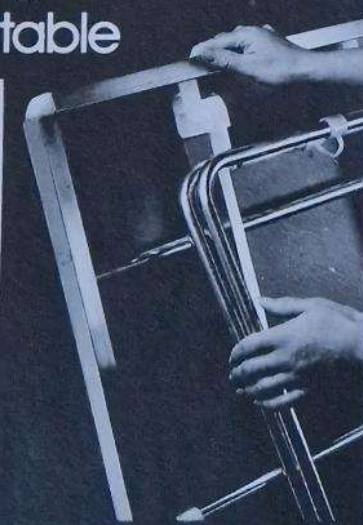
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FRIENDS OF BGIFC

Would you like to join the Friends of British Guides in Foreign Countries? BGIFC is a very active branch of the UK Guiding family, having started in 1911 with one unit in Portugal. Since then BGIFC has grown to a membership of nearly 7,000 Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers/Young Leaders and Guiders in 40 countries.

They make the same Promise, follow the same Programme and wear the same uniform. Those who move from one country to another welcome the continuity of being able to go from one unit to another. When everything else changes in their lives, Guiding remains friendly and familiar.

BGIFC is organised in much the same way as a UK Country/Region. It has its own Commissioner, Mrs Helen Barker, and a secretariat based at Commonwealth Headquarters in Lon-

don. But BGIFC still needs the help and support of other people, and this is where the Friends of BGIFC has a role to play.

Anyone can become a Friend of BGIFC — you don't have to be a member of the Association, and it is open to men and women alike. A warm welcome is offered to anyone who is interested and would like to support the work.

Friends can help by contacting Guiding units overseas if they are travelling abroad (with the prior permission of the Commissioner for BGIFC); providing particular skills — Commissioners, Trainers and testers are all needed, as well as personal tutors for Commissioners-to-be. Friends also 'adopt' isolated BGIFC units, linking up with them through correspondence to provide practical help and support.

The Friends pay a *minimum* subscription of £5 per year, part of which may be used to furnish material help to units or individuals, with equipment, travel costs, and so on. For example, in

July 1992 on the day of the AGM, the Friends of BGIFC organised and paid for lunch for the BGIFC Guiders and the UK Trainers attending the training week-end at Pax Lodge, and money has been put aside to help new Independent Units.

Friends of BGIFC receive the four BGIFC newsletters per year — (Friends' newsletters are incorporated in the April and November issues) — a BGIFC annual report, a personal membership card, and an invitation to the annual get-together to meet other Friends, as well as the people the Friends are trying to help. BGIFC Guiders returning to the UK are entitled to **free** Associate membership of the Friends for one year after their return.

If you are interested in becoming a Friend, please fill in the application form, and send it to Dorreen August, Secretary, Friends of BGIFC, The Girl Guides Association, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT, together (except in the case of associate members) with your cheque.

FRIENDS OF BRITISH GUIDES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES APPLICATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone number _____

Age group: Under 17, 17-30, 31-45, 46-65, over 65. Please circle.

Guiding experience, if any. Please indicate whether current or previous.

Previous/current connection with BGIFC (if any).

Languages spoken.

Any skills available to BGIFC, for example, Trainer, clerical, administrative, frequent traveller.

Please list any countries you visit frequently, or know you will be visiting, with dates, if known.

I enclose my annual subscription, minimum £5 sterling, cheques being made payable to Friends of BGIFC.

ACROSS THE AGES

London and South East Region held its third Young Guiders Gathering last October. The opening speaker was Denise King, who was the former Association Junior Council Chair.

In front of a packed hall of Guiders, all under the age of 26, County Commissioners and International Advisers, Denise described a recent debate she had taken part in, which looked at whether the retirement age for all Guiders should be 35.

The immediate reaction in the hall was a gasp of shock and horror! This created a lot of comment after the Gathering, so we would like to share our thoughts on the subject.

Guiders under 35 are often more able to relate to the girls in their units.

After all, it may not have been so long since they were wearing Guide uniform themselves.

Many of them have wide interests and are encountering new things, while deciding on a career or moving away from home for the first time.

Their education continues either through attending college, university or starting a new job. Greater independence is gained by acquiring a car or simply moving away from home. Women in this age group are forming relationships and learning to share and consider their partners in everyday experiences.

Budgeting skills are learned in varying forms; managing a bank account with a grant or salary; running a car; doing their own food shopping and a sudden realisation that cupboards do not fill themselves! These Guiders are, there-

fore, able to bring their experiences directly to the girls and identify with them, especially the older Guide, Action Plus or Ranger-age groups.

A young Guider can bring enthusiasm and new ideas into an established unit, together with energy and a desire to attempt everything possible.

On the other hand, nobody is saying that Guiders who are over 35 are 'over the hill'! They are more likely to have families of their own and have had lots of practice wiping away tears; sticking plasters on fingers; listening to the day's earthshattering news and all the other things that mothers do ordinarily.

There are subjects that many young Guiders have to learn in trainings which older Guiders have been through firsthand. For example, how to nurse a sick child on Pack Holiday as first aider, which is not covered in the run-of-the-mill course.

An older Guider will have had more experience of life, which will stand her in good stead for all the unexpected things that occur while running a unit.

It is often the case that over-35s are able to return to Guiding when they have more time to run units, become Commissioners or act as Trainers. How many older Guiders frequently have long-suffering husbands, who spend much of their free time supporting their wives?

An older Guider may have established a career, or be working part-time or fulfilling the role of housewife and so find it easier to arrange time off work in order to take the girls away or on day trips in the school holidays.

The important thing is that we should consider new ideas and keep the Association moving forward and adapting to its membership. It's too easy for a Guider, of any age, to reproduce the same programme and fear change.

It is ridiculous to suggest that women who are willing and able to give time to Guiding should be discouraged. Some very successful units are run by a combination of one 'younger' and one 'older' Guider. Between them they are able to provide all the qualities necessary. In other words, to be mother, friend, social worker, nurse, figure of authority and font of all wisdom to the girls in their care.

While Denise's comments at the Gathering had the desired effect of creating discussion, we agree completely with the result of the debate she'd taken part in: Guiders over the age of 35 — we need you!

ANTHEA WHITWORTH



**SUE WALES and
CATHY ENRIGHT**
London & South East Representatives
Association Junior Council

Fun and challenge were the themes for the one-day Brownie Guiders Conference held by London and South East.

CONFERENCE

What can you do with a balloon, a paper clip, a rubber band, three dried beans and a short length of bright, green ribbon? Not a lot, if you are the Editor of *GUIDING* and a novice at the lateral thinking needed to triumph over wicked wizards.

But the 1,200 Brownie Guiders who packed Westminster Central Hall weren't as inhibited and set about solving Anne Beard's fiendish wide game with great gusto and oodles of ingenuity.

Only the GGA would think of staging a wide game in those stately surroundings. In fact only the GGA would be allowed to do so — our Association has a matchless reputation for never leaving litter.

The challenge to save the animals from the volcano's flames was just a little light relief for members who attended London and South East's Brownie Guiders' one-day conference — Time to Go — last November.

They were welcomed by Pat Tiley, the Region's Programme and Training Adviser and Chairman of the Conference Planning Committee, who explained that the day's theme was challenge and how different people face up to challenges in their lives.

Then she threw out a challenge to Hilary Chittock, Guider-in-Charge at Foxlease. Hilary was asked to stage a production working with 30 Brownies who she'd never met before.

Naturally, the challenge was accepted and the 'happening', staged later, was superb.

The Chief Commissioner, Jane Garside, outlined her attitude to the 'great Promise debate' (see January's *GUIDING*) and challenged the audience to send in their views.

Irene Hotchin, the first guest speaker, has faced and conquered innumerable challenges in her life. Speaking from a wheelchair, Irene described how she'd been very frustrated as a Brownie because she was told to sit in a corner and not join in.

She recalled with affection her Guide Captain, who took a great interest in her and didn't allow the two 'full callipers' Irene wore to stop her sharing Company activities.

Pointing out that in the early days of

PAM HUDSON



Sharing in the conference fun (front row l to r) Maureen Reid, Chairman of Programme and Training; Billy Everett, Chief Commissioner London and South East; Jane Garside, the Chief Commissioner; Frances Drake, Deputy Chief Commissioner London and South East and Hilary Williams, Chief Executive

PAM HUDSON



Overcoming challenges is a way of life to Irene Hotchin

Guiding girls with disabilities were known as 'cripples' and sometimes treated as 'freaks', Irene questioned whether such attitudes had completely disappeared.

'I feel so sad for people who cannot deal with disability. I think they have a disability of their own,' she said.

Rather than boast of her own successes — she holds 17 international medals, 12 gold medals, swam for Britain in two paralympics and set five world records — Irene described the achievements of young Guides and Scouts in triumphing over disability. 'That's what Guiding is about — you don't give in,' she said.

The challenge facing Great Ormond Street children's hospital when it needed to raise £40 million was spelled out by the Chief Nursing Officer, Miss Betty Barchard.

She thanked members of the GGA and the Scout Association for their magnificent fund raising for the Wishing Well Appeal.

Shirley Torrens, the Association's Brownie Adviser and Chairman of the Go! Challenge Working Party, explained the background to the scheme, which sets out to bring lots of fun and challenge into the lives of our older Brownies.

Each Brownie Guider was supplied with a copy of the *Brownie Go! Challenge* and a special conference activities booklet.

After lunch the audience relaxed and enjoyed an entertainment by the committee, the wide game and the Brownie happening. Then they joined in singing led by Hilary Chittock.

Finally the Chief Commissioner for London and South East, Billy Everett, reminded members of Olave, Lady Baden-Powell's declared belief that for Guides there are no problems, only challenges.

IN THE HOT SEAT

The BBC's popular quiz show, *Mastermind*, is back on our TV screens with host Magnus Magnusson grilling four new occupants of the famous black leather chair each week.

The show's return brings back happy memories for Brown Owl Elizabeth Horrocks who knows just how they feel. For Elizabeth won the prestigious *Mastermind* title in 1974.

At her home in the lovely Cheshire village of Alderley Edge, Elizabeth still has on display the engraved glass bowl awarded to all *Mastermind* winners.

Now aged 46, Elizabeth leads a busy life as a Brown Owl, part-time English teacher and amateur dramatics enthusiast. And, naturally, she's a regular competitor in the local pub quiz league.

It's 21 years since the BBC quiz show *Mastermind* first appeared on our TV screens, and a new 17-week series started in January.

The quiz was immediately extremely popular and Elizabeth was one of hundreds who wrote to the BBC asking for an application form. At the time she was a housewife bringing up her first baby.

'It was a question of putting my money where my mouth was,' Elizabeth said. 'I'd watch quiz programmes and say: "Oh, they ought to know that!" People said it'd be different if I was actually there. But I had a sneaking suspicion that it would, in fact, be easier!'

'So, I got to the stage of thinking, I really ought to either prove my point or shut up.'

Elizabeth was put on a shortlist and invited to the BBC's Manchester studios for an audition. 'They interviewed you in these funny little studios,' she recalled. 'They stressed that as well as intelligence, they wanted a balanced and contrasting team and were looking for people who came over well on television.'

Then they gave us about 20 general knowledge questions, and it was the way you answered that really mattered.

They wanted you to get it right, but they also wanted to know if you could decide quickly whether you knew what the answer was; whether you could make an informed guess — or knew when to cut your losses and move on.'

To Elizabeth's delight, she was accepted. But, as the date for the competition got nearer, her busy life left little time for swotting. 'I didn't do

Elizabeth the day she became a *Mastermind* champion



much preparation, I simply didn't have the time,' she said. 'My daughter was just a year old then, my husband was doing shift work — and somebody had offered to buy our house, so we were house-hunting.'

'But it was a great excuse not to wash the net curtains and things. I watched less television, read more and learned a bit of geography.'

But, to be honest, you could be studying from morning until night and still not get anywhere. The main thing is to know your specialist subject and to know it well.'

Even when the big day came and filming began, Elizabeth never let nerves get the better of her. 'I wasn't nervous, it was quite fun,' she said. 'It is much less awful than it looks. I mean, they do play it up.'



'Mastermind is great fun and the people are very nice. You feel that it's just you against the questions.'

'It's very much like doing amateur dramatics — nobody forces you to do it, you get a bit nervous before you go on, but it's a nice sort of nervous.'

'It's much fairer than people realise because you are allowed to stop and argue, if you don't like the answer. They'll stop the recording and, if necessary, take the whole question out and go from there — I have done it myself. And also, Magnus does, occasionally, make mistakes.'

Meanwhile, back home in Cheshire, Elizabeth's friends and family were thrilled when she won her round — and were glued to their sets when the nail-biting final was broadcast.

'I did become a bit of a celebrity

locally,' Elizabeth admitted. 'It was a very popular programme, and I think it peaked during my year — although that was nothing to do with me of course!'

'We were about the highest rated programme over Christmas, bar the Queen's speech, and we beat the *Morecambe and Wise Show*, so it was rather good. About 15 million people watched it.'

Unlike some *Mastermind* champions — such as taxi driver Fred Housego who became a TV celebrity after winning the title — fame and fortune never came Elizabeth's way.

After the excitement of winning died down, Elizabeth settled for a quieter life, bringing up her two girls and teaching part-time. 'I did do a bit for Radio Stoke,' she said. 'And I have done an awful lot of talks for Rotary Clubs and Women's Institutes.'

The person who won the year after me got a free holiday from a Greek millionaire, on his island, because he had answered questions on Greek history. But the questions on Shakespeare which I answered never did a thing for me!

'I did get a set of encyclopaedias, which were quite nice that weren't part of the prize, but have proved very useful.'

Elizabeth still loves taking part in quizzes. 'I play in the Macclesfield pub

MARGARET ROBINSON



quiz, it's great fun,' she said. 'We went up to first division this year. I watch almost anything on the television if it's got a quiz!'

After *Mastermind*, Elizabeth returned to another old love — Guiding. 'I was a Brownie and a Guide in South Wales where I grew up,' she said. Then I went to Bristol University where I was in the Scout and Guide Club. It was great fun, as we went sailing all over the Norfolk Broads.

Then I didn't do Guiding anymore as I started doing other things. I began teaching, which takes up a lot of time, and I got married. Then I had Kate, next came *Mastermind* and then I had Ceri. But it was always something I was going back to. I had always thought of myself as going back to Guiding.

'Now I run the church Brownie Pack — 1st St Phillip's Brownies. My 19-year-old daughter Katherine was a Ranger and Ceri, 14, is doing her B-P Trefoil.'

'We are one of the oldest Guiding districts, and the Scout and Guide hut is the oldest purpose-built hut in the country.'

Look out for Elizabeth on your TV screens in future, as she'd love to appear on another quiz show. 'I wouldn't mind which,' she said, 'something like *Fifteen to One* would be good, and sometimes I think I'd like to do *Going for Gold* because I like the prizes.'

Winning the famous *Mastermind* glass bowl made Elizabeth a local celebrity

IT'S A FACT

● *Mastermind* was created by the late Bill Wright who got the idea from the grillings he endured when he was a prisoner of war.

● Eight million people tune in to watch *Mastermind*'s early rounds and ten million see the final.

● Former contestants can join the *Mastermind Club* which, to date, has 400 members.

● 1991 winner, actor Stephen Allen, was later offered a role in *The Bill* because he looked so fierce when concentrating.

● Specialist subjects have ranged from *The Life Cycle Of The Honey Bee* to *Notable British Poisoners*.

● Rejected specialist subjects have included *The History of the Self-Service Petrol Pump* and *Graveyards of Southern England*.

● In a bid to unsettle his rivals, one crafty contender arrived and did *The Times* crossword in just four minutes. But he didn't tell them he'd already worked it out earlier!

NICOLA WHATMORE 25

It's nice to belong - now refugee Selma Redzepagic's a member of the Pack



NEW RECRUIT

No Brownies could have been more proud than those of 12th Horsforth Pack, near Leeds, when they were joined by a recruit from war-torn Bosnia.

They gave eight-year-old Selma Redzepagic a big cheer, in fact, when, only

a few weeks after arriving as a refugee, unable to speak a word of our language, she made her Promise in faultless English.

The Ceremony took place last October at Selma's new school, the Westbrook Lane Primary in Horsforth, where the Pack meets.

Said the Pack's Brown Owl, Judith Creighton: 'Selma arrived in the village early in September with her parents. She settled down at school very quickly and then started learning English at an amazing speed.

'She soon made friends with several girls in her class who were Brownies, so it wasn't long before they'd convinced her that she, too, ought to be a Brownie.

'Naturally, we were delighted to welcome Selma to the Pack. She joins in every activity, has lots of fun and, no doubt, will soon have several badges.'

Selma made her Promise with another newcomer to the Pack, Victoria Beesley, whose father, Steve Beesley, is director of *Alert*, the church-based Leeds European Refugee Trust.

The Bosnian Brownie was among a group of 21 refugees brought to this country by the charity and housed in a derelict, disused school near Horsforth. Local volunteers, aided by the Bosnians themselves, worked round the clock to make the building habitable within a few days.

Four new kitchens were installed and each of the five families were given two schoolrooms each, to serve as living quarters and a bedroom.

Unfortunately, in November, soon after the charity's success in Horsforth, *Alert* ran into difficulties when new Home Office restrictions on refugees disrupted the charity's plans to bring more stressed families from Bosnia to Britain.

YORKSHIRE EVENING POST

GOOD CITIZEN

Brown Owl Miriam Relins has been named Leamington's Citizen of the Year in recognition of her dedicated work for charity

Miriam, who has run the 10th Leamington (St Mark's) Pack in Warwickshire for 16 years, is 'an old hand' at Guiding. She was Assistant Guider with the 10th Leamington (St Mark's) Company for two years before she became Brown Owl. She now helps out with the Rainbow Unit, also based at St Mark's Church, when necessary.

A former psychiatric nurse, Miriam's involvement with the Movement began after her husband died in 1970. 'After my bereavement I could do nothing for four years,' she said. 'I was just sitting and crying. My husband was Latvian, so we were a family unit and had no outside life.'

But, as Miriam told the panel of judges: 'I had a feeling someone was asking me to go and help with the Guides. My daughter, who was 16 at

the time, did not know much about it, so I went along and got involved.'

The decision changed her life. 'Guiding has taken me to places I would never otherwise have gone to,' she said. 'It's broadened my life.'

A trip to Dallas and Fort Worth in Texas in 1981 with the local Gang Show is one highlight Miriam won't forget. And, as a member of the Trefoil Guild, she's also visited Our Chalet.

Guiding isn't the only charitable concern Miriam has 'got involved' with. She also acts as unpaid housekeeper at St Mark's Hall, providing meals for visitors to the town, and is treasurer of the St Mark's Parkinson's Disease Group.

Her interest in offering practical help extends to the older members of the community. Coventry's Age Concern asked Miriam to help out with holidays for the elderly, and she has been happily lending a hand ever since.

Miriam's well-earned Citizen of the Year award was presented during the annual Mayor-making ceremony in Leamington. 'I couldn't believe it was happening to me,' she recalled.

But Rainbow Guider Julie Brown, who nominated her, and Ranger Guider Di Gough, who describes her as 'a very lovely lady', obviously felt that Miriam was the perfect choice.



Good citizen Miriam Relins with Brownies from the 10th Leamington (St Mark's) Pack

REPRODUCED BY KIND PERMISSION OF COURIER PUBLISHING

I've just become one of them, that's them with a capital 'T'. 'Them' down there in London who make the decisions, not the 'us' out in the sticks who run Rainbow, Brownie, Guide and Ranger units.

I've thought about it long and hard and decided I must be one of 'Them' now because I've been elected to The Council of the Girl Guides Association (soon to be re-named).

All year I'd been looking forward to my first meeting — what a time to join such an august body, in such a controversial year for the Movement.

Trouble is, I still feel like 'us', if you know what I mean. I still wonder if the Rangers will turn up, remember how to show guests politely to seats at AGMs, speak clearly in church and not disgrace themselves at the disco.

Anyway, when I arose at 5.30am on a November morning to catch the London train, I mainly felt intense curiosity about what the day would hold. It is really intense nosiness that gets me into these situations. I was also feeling very guilty at having a day off school for a pleasurable trip, although I'd left the supply teacher a well-organised classroom and verbally castigated in advance those likely to cause mayhem.

A fate worse than death would await them, if I got a bad report the next day. I don't think my hobby should intrude on my profession but I just couldn't miss such a chance.

My fellow members gathered, looking

very normal and, on the whole, not even particularly geriatric. Off we went into the Council Chamber and the Chief Commissioner started the meeting. In fact it was pretty similar in tone to many other Guide Committees I've sat on.

We very quickly settled the matter of our name and then a most attractive legal eagle with an hypnotic quality to his voice took us through changes to the Royal Charter and some bye-laws.

I would like to report scintillating, heart-stopping excitement but, in fact, we had a brief debate about semantics and, occasionally, raised a green card to vote 'For'. Then it was time for lunch. Princess Margaret was to be present for the afternoon session. Maybe then I'd feel like 'Them' not 'us' I decided.

But, when she arrived, it was much more as if one of 'us', or is it 'Them', had arrived than a royal visitor.

The presentation on the progress so far about possible changes to the Promise was excellent, only marred by hearing how many of 'us' had written to 'Them' in a most abusive fashion. In

any case, as this was an interim statement, our red, yellow and green voting cards stayed still, so we await the next, exciting instalment.

Finally, the badge designer arrived to have another go at pleasing 'us' with a new badge and logo. His idea earned no whoop of joy or sign of despair. It was all received as calmly as a vote at General Synod.

A sort of general feeling of 'It's all right but...' pervaded the room. Back to the drawing board. They were talking about what the badge will mean to 'us'. Princess Margaret showed a keen interest in all the proceedings and had even offered a badge design of her own.

Finally the meeting was over — I'd found it very interesting but I still felt very much like 'me'. Affairs of state may come and go, but I'd still got a Ranger meeting the next night and I was worrying about whether it would be dry for the night hike!

HILARY COOPER

Ranger Guider, Trainer and Outdoor Activity Adviser, North Tyneside

The views expressed in these articles are not necessarily those of The Girl Guides Association nor endorsed by it. The Editor reserves the right to edit any item received for publication.

NATURAL TALENT

The 9th West Bromwich Brownies were complimented on their communicating skills, when they were among the prize winners in a competition organised by the British Naturalists Association.

They were presented with a certificate of merit by TV personality and leading naturalist David Bellamy. The girls also received book prizes and T-shirts at the ceremony at the Royal Geographical Society, London.

Judges highlighted the enthusiastic way in which the Brownies presented the in-depth study of Merriens Way. 'This wide-ranging survey adds up to a comprehensive picture of a wood as a whole — we feel we know it,' they said.

The Brownies, who heard about the contest through *GUIDING*, also met the Association's new Chief Executive, Ms Hilary Williams, a guest at the ceremony.

Over 4,000 young people entered



the contest which has been running for six years. The top award — the Blake Shield — went to the Coleraine Girls' Secondary School, Northern Ireland. The group will spend five days at a field centre in Devon.

David Bellamy congratulates the winning Brownies

GUIDES GO POTTY

'Outstandingly potty' was the verdict on the efforts of two Guide units who came up with seriously silly fund-raising ideas to support Tommy's Campaign.

When it comes to playing the fool for a good cause you can always count on Guides having a go.

And you can't get much dafter than the 6th Tonbridge Guides who dressed up as gnomes and went fishing in the Medway. Or the 2nd Rossendale Guides who, disguised as dogs, took themselves for a walk. All to raise cash for a very worthy cause — the Tommy Campaign.

For their service in the silliness stakes, the two units have been awarded

Golden Potties. This coveted award only goes to a handful of folk who have displayed 'outstanding pottiness' in their 'highly original fund raising'.

Since its launch in January 1992, the Tommy Campaign has raised £2 million to establish a Research Centre in Fetal Health.

This would not have been possible without the help of Tommy's friends in the Girl Guides Association,' said a campaign spokeswoman.

handicap throughout life... Tommy hopes to change this by establishing a Research Centre for the benefit of parents and babies nationwide.'

The 1992 Golden Potty winners were thrilled to discover a personal thank you from Jason Donovan accompanied each award.

We were delighted when our Golden Potty arrived with personal thanks from Jason,' said Guider Allison Wells of the 6th Tonbridge. The unit was incredibly supportive of the cause because one of our Guiders lost a baby through miscarriage.

'A charity helping parents to have healthy babies is, therefore, a cause very close to our hearts. Through the generous support of our sponsors, we raised over £800.'

Jason told the girls he was 'highly impressed by your wacky efforts'.

By supporting vital research Tommy's Campaign aims to combat the misery caused by miscarriage, stillbirth, prematurity and a range of other heart-breaking problems which prevent the delivery of healthy babies.

If you would like to help and sign up for some fun or enter the 1993 Golden Potty Awards, you can write (enclosing a large sae with 28p stamp) to Tommy's Campaign, London SE99 6RD. Or ring the Tommy hotline 071-620 2654 for your free Potty Club pack.

The pack contains a Certificate of Pottiness, a list of over 50 potty ideas, stickers, a poster and sponsorship forms.

Don't miss the chance to go way over the top for a good cause.

It's a dog's life:
the 2nd
Rossendale
Guides
lend a paw



ROSSENDALE CITIZEN

Gnome work:
the 6th Tonbridge Guides go
fishing for funds

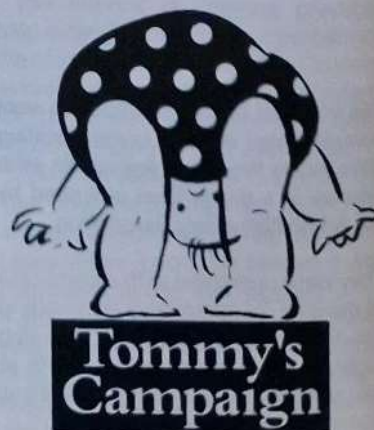


COURIER NEWSPAPERS

Television personality and former Guide Anneka Rice joins the charity in thanking all Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers, Young Leaders and Guiders who have supported the appeal.

There is still a long way to go before the final target of £5 million is reached, so Anneka is challenging everyone to be even pottier for Tommy this year.

She points out: 'Every year in the UK over 60,000 babies are born too soon and too small. A third of these babies either die or suffer some form of





We hit the all-time low this month — but bounced back again. Assistant and I had just settled at about 9.30pm to review the meeting and plan for next week when the phone rang. This was becoming a weekly nightmare: a different mother always with the same complaint — Claire.

Instead of fighting with her sister, which Claire predicted would be the case when her sister joined, she's fighting with everyone else.

The trouble is, that although we are now prepared and hawk-eyed, we don't see anything actually happening. We even had Young Leader tailing her for a whole meeting and still had a complaint.

Each time I've told the sufferer to report any further trouble immediately, so it can be dealt with on the spot. But, of course, they don't.

The following week I talked to Claire, convinced by the weight of evidence that she had to be the cause of the trouble. She stalked off home to tell her mother, who then stormed into the middle of our meeting to shout at me for daring to reprimand her daughter.

My only thoughts were 'A Guide is self-controlled', followed by 'If I were being paid for the job, I could tell that mother where to take her daughter'.

Her parting shot was that I could not make her daughter leave. My response was not spoken but, as the proverb

D·I·A·R·Y

OF A

GUIDE GUIDER

says, there is more than one way to skin a cat.

I decided to have a word with District Commissioner — just in case I need back-up, and I also decided I was getting too old and intolerant for this Guiding game.

However, the highspot came two weeks later — last week. We had a quiet Patrol Time — all of them working industriously in their own corners. This was so unusual that I remarked to Assistant, who explained that Claire and her sister were missing.

No-one else was missing. The weather was normal, and it was not exam time. The only different factor was those two missing Guides. That proved the problem isn't me at all — the feeling of relief was wonderful.

So the meeting continued with — almost — perfect ceremonial, a constructive game, very productive badge-work time, and no phone calls afterwards. It was a super meeting and a

real pleasure. And that's what Guiding is all about!

In the middle of all this was Thinking Day. Young Leader wanted to mastermind this with the PLs, so Assistant and I willingly agreed. We 'did' the world last year, so they chose history this time — influenced by that clause of the B-P Trefoil!

I dug out the old Company log books for more pictures... and then wished I hadn't. I didn't think the photo of me as a Guide was that funny, nor was I impressed with the Guides' version of a date for it.

Another howl of laughter greeted a photo of Assistant, who must have been born for the job. There she was assisting me cooking on my First Class Hike in full uniform complete with beret, lighting a hike fire with one match and no firelighter. Maybe they weren't invented that long ago.

Help! I'm living history — but the Heinz beans tin still looks the same.

DISTANCE LEARNING

BGIFC Rangers and young Guiders living abroad can now work on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, even if it does mean adapting the programme a little.

It all started when Maureen Smelt, the Association's Duke of Edinburgh's Award Co-ordinator was reading *GUIDING*. She read a reference in the Chief Commissioner's 'Comment' to BGIFC having a Region camp in Germany.

Until then it had never occurred to Maureen that BGIFC operated like a UK Country/Region. She contacted the Chief Commissioner Jane Garside and Helen Barker, BGIFC Commissioner, and now BGIFC has its own D of E Adviser, Deborah Meadows.

This means that girls who start the scheme in the UK but who go to live overseas with their parents can continue working for the Bronze, Silver and Gold awards through BGIFC. Or they can begin the scheme with BGIFC while abroad and be able to carry on with it when they return to the UK.

Maureen Smelt explains:

“Since launching the award in January last year, BGIFC has enrolled 12 Guide members at different levels within the award: six from one Ranger Unit in The Hague, a young Guider in Germany has become a direct Gold entrant and others have joined the scheme in Oman.

Some of these girls actually applied

to start work on the award before the official “lift off” date, following a BGIFC conference at Pax Lodge in July. I went there with Gillian Shirazi from the D of E Award International Office, to meet Guiders interested in introducing the scheme to their members.

Oman has also done its own bit of Guide and Scout liaison by taking four Scouts under their wing to work on the Award. This is great because, as yet, the Scout Association makes no provision for the UK D of E Award to be worked overseas.

The whole enterprise has been, and still is, a learning experience. At times the rules and regulations need some adaption in order to operate in these countries, and at the distances experienced within BGIFC. But there has been nothing we can't cope with.

Some amusing incidents have arisen. The girls in Oman could not continue with fencing or archery, as these programmes involved the use of potentially lethal weapons and these are illegal under the rules of that country.

I am sure that when Guiders in England help their girls to learn what, to us, is an art, they do not realise that to others it is considered “warfare”.

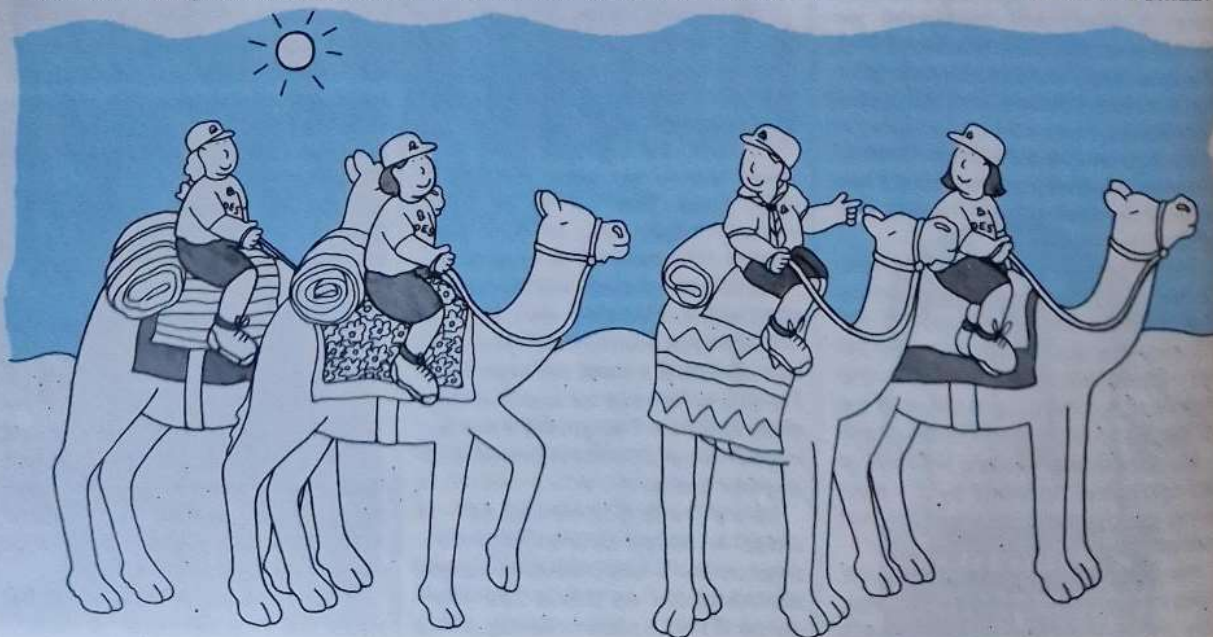
Expeditions have had to be done in our closed season before their temperatures reach 40°C or more. And, of course, after everyone involved, including the supervisor, has had their rabies injections.

As in all other sections of the Girl Guides Association, it is proving that the young people are our driving force. Everyone is, and needs to be, highly motivated and Deborah has found that the use of a Fax machine has been essential to get rapid responses to participants' queries.

It is hoped that the first Awards will be through by the time this article appears. Now, perhaps, we can promote the scheme to even more remote areas. Maybe girls in the UK would like to contact the units in BGIFC and join them on their expeditions or residential project. Who knows where this could lead — even to an exploration by camel, that would be a new initiative!

I am sure all Guiders interested in the scheme throughout the UK will be interested to hear of BGIFC progress over the next few years, so please write to *GUIDING* and tell us. ♡

MAUREEN SMELT



THE HUMAN FACTOR

To help new teachers understand the ethos behind her school — a large establishment in inner-city America — the headmistress used to send each one the following letter:

'Dear Teacher,
I am the victim of a concentration camp. My eyes saw what no man should witness: gas chambers built by learned engineers; children poisoned by educated physicians; infants killed by trained nurses; women and babies shot and burned by high school and

college graduates. So, I am suspicious of education.

My request is: help your students become human. Your efforts must never produce learned monsters, skilled psychopaths, educated Eichmanns.

Reading, writing and arithmetic are important only if they serve to make our children more human.'

Most teachers, mercifully, have not had her experience of the Holocaust. Most, however, would share her view of education.

Making children 'more human' — enabling them to

grow as whole persons, to become loving and lovable — is surely a fundamental element of education. Yet nowadays it seems to be losing ground, pushed aside in the thrust for performance and results.

Giving young people the time and space to explore beliefs, test attitudes and values, discover themselves ... ranks less and less as a priority in the whirlpool world of achievement.

Keeping 'more human' on the agenda is a challenge facing, not just teachers, but all those working with and concerned for young people.

In Guiding this approach has always played a central role. But, before we check our programme to make sure the emphasis hasn't shifted, should we be taking a look at ourselves? What about the 'more human' factor in our own lives. Do we make room for it, or has it been swamped by the busyness and pressures of everyday?

CD

The headmistress' letter comes from an article by Professor Richard Pring which appeared in the *Tablet*, on October 10 1992. Reproduced with permission.

MYSTERY UNIT

Eyes front, hats and ties firmly in place, these early Guides recall a forgotten world of simple pleasures and knowing your place in society.

Look closely and see if you can identify the unit. The owner of the photograph, Janet Powell, Assistant Brownie Guider with 1st Lympne Pack, in Kent, wants to donate it to the Company, if it still exists.

The photograph shows her mother, Kathleen Williamson, third from the right in the front row, and was taken around 1917-1919.

Janet doesn't know the



Winners pride — early Guiding days in Nottingham

unit's name, but she does recall that the leader was a Miss Treese, whose brother was a well-known Home

Office pathologist just after the Second World War.

'I think the other leaders were sisters called Tinsley.

Mother's Company often went camping in Scotland and, I believe, Skegness. By this time she was 19 but still, apparently, quite happy to be in Guide uniform,' said Janet.

Here are some clues for would-be sleuths: Kathleen lived in Portland Road, Nottingham and went to High Pavement Grammar School. Her father, Albert Williamson, was an organist at a local church, possibly St Anne's.

Anyone who thinks they can identify the proud prize-winners should write to us at *GUIDING*, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT.

News FOCUS

COMING NEXT IN GUIDING APRIL

A Month in Malaysia
Anna's sentimental journey



Animal Magic
putting on a pet show

Working at the World Bureau
WAGGGS Executive Rosie Dunn

Golden Opportunities
INTOPS weekend report

Brush Strokes
Guides' painting party

IN GUIDE PATROL APRIL

Buzzing with ideas
hot tips for the Beekeeper badge

Fire Works
cooking on an open fire



Needles and Pins
getting the Needlecraft badge all sewn up
Body Alphabet
games with attitude
Bookworm's Bonanza
our choice of books for spring

IN BROWNIE MARCH

Telephone Engineering
make your own telephone
The Bremen Town Musicians
animal story
Going by the Board
musical board game
Making Musical Instruments
music from bits 'n' bobs
Win! Win! Win!
two special competitions

AND IN RAINBOW GUIDE EXTRA

Rainbow Rabbit goes to a concert
Come Dancing
fancy footwork
Story Time
The Concert



Have You Ever Seen a Duck?
words and music

Open DOOR

CHRONICLES OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE

*When archivist May
Haines started piecing
together Guiding records
in Gloucestershire
she discovered
some fascinating stories.*



little is known about the 1st Cheltenham — it died in infancy! The 2nd Cheltenham was disbanded after only a year, although later re-formed.

Miss Eileen Ivelaw-Chapman, now 98, who was leader of Daisy Patrol, explained to Mrs Haines that it folded '... owing to the fact that the Guides, all Cheltenham Ladies' College girls, were no longer free on Saturday mornings'.

In those days some Guiders were still running their units like Edwardian schoolmarm.

If Guiding hadn't learned how to move with the times, absorbing social change, there's no doubt the Movement would be losing members not gaining them.

Can you imagine today's Guides putting up with a Guider who deducted marks if they wore the wrong coloured underwear?

But that's what happened to one Guide at camp back in 1924 when she was discovered to be wearing white not navy-blue unmentionables.

Her shame was described for all to see in a log book belonging to a unit from Mid-Gloucestershire Division.

This is just one of the intriguing snippets unearthed by May Haines, the County's archivist, to produce *The History of Gloucestershire 1910-1990*, a very readable account of the Move-

ment's evolution in the County over the last eight decades.

It was no easy task because records, packed with detail in some localities, were, of course, very sparse, or missing in others.

A situation which should bring home to every present-day Guider that she has a duty to posterity to keep her paperwork up to date.

May Haines' own Guiding spans 60 years. She has been a Land and Sea Ranger, a Guide Captain, District Commissioner and a lot more besides. But she was never a Brownie or a Guide.

Guiding started in Gloucestershire officially with the formation of the 1st and 2nd Cheltenham Companies back in 1910.

Apart from its registration at CHQ,

Illustrations specially commissioned and drawn for *GUIDING* by Cheryl Tarbuck



There is no evidence that they handed out 'lines' but they deducted marks for 'bad behaviour'.

Gloucestershire was still very rural when the 1st Rodborough Guide Company was formed near Stroud on August 17, 1914, soon after the start of the First World War.

So, no doubt, Patrol Leader Daisy Smith — aged 90 when interviewed by May Haines — didn't turn a hair when asked to skin and clean a rabbit for her Cook badge.

An unlikely test for a 1990s' Guide, perhaps, but it should not be assumed that she would necessarily be too squeamish.

Records of the Tidenham Guides, Forest of Dean South Division, reveal that as recently as 1981 a Guide, in a cookery contest against the Scouts, skinned a rabbit. Then she cleaned, jointed and cooked it.

Like early Guides everywhere, those in Gloucestershire met with frosty antagonism for their 'unladylike' activities. But this soon melted away when soldiers began dying by the thousand on the battlefields of the Somme, and it was realised that Guides could be Really Useful.

When the 2nd Cheltenham Company was re-formed in 1916, the girls were eagerly recruited at Naunton Park Red Cross hospital as messengers, as well as kitchen, pantry and ward maids.

One of them wrote in a report seen

Today's Guides jet off to wildly foreign climes with all the confidence and nonchalance of modern youth. But wouldn't some of them quail at spending a night in a barn crawling with rats?

That is what May Haines had to do to gain her Explorer badges as a Ranger, in June, 1938. The rats, of course, weren't actually part of the test.

Girls had been Guiding for 28 years but still the farmer's wife was astounded when May and her sole companion — a friend not in the Movement — knocked at the farmhouse and expained why they were there.

'I have never seen a face so full of total disbelief,' May writes.

'But I thought you were going to be Scouts. You can't sleep in the barn — you must have an attic room.' The rats, said the horrified lady, held nightly meetings in the barn 'once the moon comes up'.

May explained that, rats or no rats, she must follow instructions. So the barn it had to be.

And, sure enough, as the moon arose so did the rodents — 'We could hear them on the rafters and in the straw around us, scuttling across the floor and the never-ending gnawing sounds.

We took it in turns to try to sleep but on one side of the barn were race horses in stables, on the other, cows in their stalls...

It was no night of magic. Although, at daybreak, the rats left camp, poor May hadn't had a wink of sleep. But, as she learned later, she'd won her Explorer badge.

by May Haines. We worked in shifts all through the day during the holidays and older girls in term-time, too.

'Our duties seemed endless. We washed up in the scullery shed, helped in the kitchen, *made pastry in the baths* and worked the potato machine, carried trays to the pantry and wards, ladled out meals there and in the Mess, scrubbed tables, washed-up in the operating theatre, sewed in the mending room and ran about the passages for the Sisters, Commandants and Quartermasters. Most of us were 12 years old.

We also spent long hours in the hospital allotments, picking caterpillars off cabbages and sowing seeds, dashing about buying food, ordering stores, recalling nurses for duty when fresh convoys of wounded men were coming in. We tramped over Leckhampton hill

for vegetables and eggs and in our "spare" time held meetings in the hospital yards among the wounded men.'

That takes some following, although other units, like the 1st Rodborough and 1st Nailsworth Companies also did valiant war service around this time, with hospital work or collecting waste paper, rubber — or any old iron.

The Guides of Great Washbourne, in what is now called North Cotswold Division, reported that, in 1916, 'the first thing we did was to make articles such as hospital bags, bandages and face washers.

The next year we collected sheep's wool for blankets and sent it up to London.

'One summer, every morning we went up on Washbourne Hill to pick blackberries and then sold them for the Red Cross... We are sorry we were not able to do more but our girls are small in number and size.'

Similar stories of social service could, of course, be told by old units anywhere and they were all at it again two decades later.

But how many were still 'helping with the war effort' in 1954? That was when 60 Gloucestershire Guides, at the request of the Civil Defence authorities, acted as 'homeless and destitute people' in an exercise. They were later warmly praised for having 'added to the realism'!

It couldn't have been as tough as working at Naunton Park hospital but still a worthy effort.

The County has every reason to be proud, too, of its crop of Guide heroines whose 'citations' have now come to light — like Patrol Leader Muriel Powell and Patrol Second Mary Gliddon, both of the 2nd Cinderford Company.

In 1934 they rescued the local curate from drowning in a village pond. Unfortunately, the records don't say how he came to be in the water in the first place.

But perhaps the bravest of them all was Gillian Turner, a Guider, who won the George Medal in 1941 for driving 150 gallons of petrol for three hours through one of the worst air raids on London.

May Haines has produced a fascinating social documentary which would leave any reader from outside the Movement in no doubt about its value to the community.

DAVID JACK 33



THEME EVENING

EGG BOXING

Go to work on some egg boxes this month and your meeting will go with a swing.

OPENING

Give each Patrol an egg box and ask them to find objects small enough to go into each section beginning with the initial letter of each girl's name.

ACTIVITIES

Chocolate Fruits

Use a plastic egg box and pour a thin layer of melted chocolate into the bottom of each section. Make sure the chocolate doesn't get too hot.

While this is setting, cut small chunks of fruit — banana, apple, pear, orange... Once the bottom layer of chocolate has set, put one piece of fruit in each

which are still in their shells but crack so the shell is just split open. Fill each egg box section with damp compost and push the peanut just below the surface. Put the egg box into a polythene bag and keep it warm.

After a few days the roots will start to grow and will push the shell up out of the earth. Another few days should see the first leaves starting to sprout. The plants should then be transplanted into larger pots.

CRAFTS

Daffodils

These can be made either as separate flowers, or as part of a Mother's Day or Easter card.

paper leaves and petals. Then stick the 'trumpets' on to each flower.

Chicken Egg Cup

Copy the picture (see figure 1) on to card and cut out two identical shapes. The distance between Points A and B should be approximately 10cm, and the height of this section should equal the height of an egg box section — about 3.5cm.

Stick the heads and tails together, making sure that the egg box section will fit into the unstuck section. Fill in the detail and colour on the back and front, then stick the egg box section into place.

clip, drawing pin, dried tea match, penny, sweet. But does not show or tell the girls which item goes where.

Each Patrol is given an egg box and the same six items. They put the items in the egg box sections, and one girl takes the box to the leader, who says, for example: 'One item in the right place, two in the right row'. The girl reports back to the Patrol. Changes are made and the second girl takes the box to the leader.

This is repeated until one Patrol, by logical reasoning — or luck — gets all the items in the same places as in the leader's box.

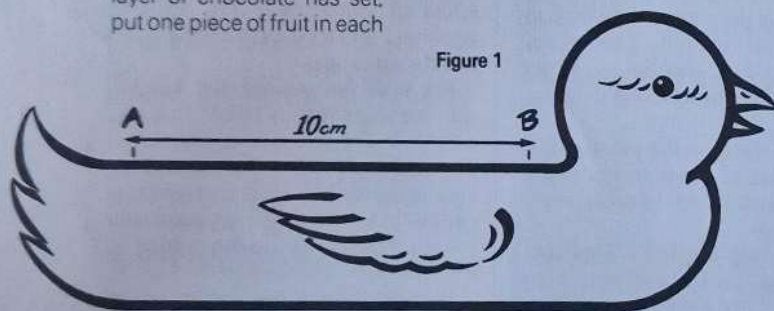


Figure 1

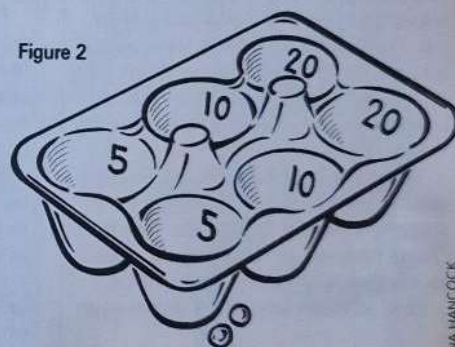


Figure 2

section, then pour on more melted chocolate until it covers the fruit. Decorate the top with sugar strands or similar.

Once the chocolate has set, the sweets can be removed from the egg box. These sweets, in a small decorated box or basket, would make a nice Mother's Day gift.

Seed Trays

Plastic egg boxes can be used to grow pips, seeds or cuttings. Mustard and cress can be grown on damp cottonwool in an egg box section. If the sections are separated and a funny face is drawn on each one, they will look as if they are sprouting green hair!

Another quick grower is a peanut plant. Use peanuts

For separate flowers, use green garden canes and green tissue or crêpe paper to make long, pointed leaves fastened to the cane.

You can stiffen the leaves by making them double thickness with a piece of florist's wire between the two layers, running the length of each leaf.

Use yellow paper to make the petal shapes, and stick a yellow egg box section in the middle to form the 'trumpet'. Yellow polystyrene cartons are the best, but if these are not available, use cardboard cartons painted yellow.

To make cards, use a sheet of card which, when folded, measures about 20cm by 24cm. Draw and colour the stalks, leaves and petals or stick on tissue

PATROL GAMES

Egg Box Target

Number the six compartments of an egg box with a felt-tipped pen (see figure 2). Put the box on a table and stand about half a metre away. The aim is to throw six dried peas into the box, one at a time, and see who can get the highest score.

Egg Box Story

Use the egg boxes that have been filled in the opening activity, and challenge the Patrol to make up a story or short play incorporating all the items.

COMPANY GAMES

Egg Box Mastermind

The leader puts a different item in each section of an egg box, for example: paper-

Egg Box Noses

Each girl needs one section of an egg box. Patrols line up in relay style at one end of the room. At the other end there is a chair for each Patrol. The first girl balances her section on her nose. She then has to complete a course — either straight or with obstacles — and deposit her 'nose' on the Patrol's chair, before running to tag the next girl.

She may only use her hands to put the nose on at the beginning. After that, if she drops the nose on the way, she must find some other method of getting it back on to her nose.

PAULINE WAINWRIGHT

● Next month: Buttons. All sorts but look for pairs in different shapes and sizes; buttons of different texture.

RAINBOW GUIDERS

Here are some ideas for working around a theme of sounds and music — helping the Rainbows to use their ears and to think about what they hear.

SOUNDS OFF

Help them to think too about people who cannot hear. If one of the Rainbows, or a friend, has a hearing impairment, you may find the Unit is already aware of the problems this can pose.

Some of the activities are about making sounds as well as listening to them.

A NOISE POSTER

For this activity you need to pin up a large sheet of paper and have a supply of felt-tip pens. Stage a brainstorming session seeking noise words from the girls.

Write the words up in suitable sizes and colours — suggested by the girls. 'Bang' might be big and dark or very bright, 'rustle' might be small and light-coloured.

The girls can make the sounds as well as saying them. They could make their own noise pictures too, illustrating what the noises mean to them.

SIT AND LISTEN

The Unit sits in a circle and is absolutely quiet. Then ask the girls to listen and tell you what they can hear.

At first they may say nothing. Then they will begin to hear the sounds of traffic, the wind, birds, a door creaking... Can they identify those sounds?

Ask them to stay quiet for a minute — which will seem a long time to them — and to tell you what they heard.

When the weather improves, take them outside to listen. Talk about sounds which come from nearby and those from far away.

From how far away can they hear a sound? Making a quietish sound — a whistle or soft handclap — find out how far you need to go from

the girls before they can no longer hear the sound.

GUESSING

Make a collection of sound-makers: a bell; two sticks to rap together; a baby's rattle; a squeaky toy... Ask the girls to shut their eyes and guess what makes each sound as you try them out. Let the girls make their own sounds for the others to guess. You could use your sound-makers as part of a 'percussion band'.

Such an activity gives the girls a more formal way of thinking about the Rainbows and all the things they do and learn together.

NO SOUNDS

Talk with the girls about what it is like to be deaf or hard of hearing. You might like to ask someone from your local deaf community to come and share the problem with the girls.

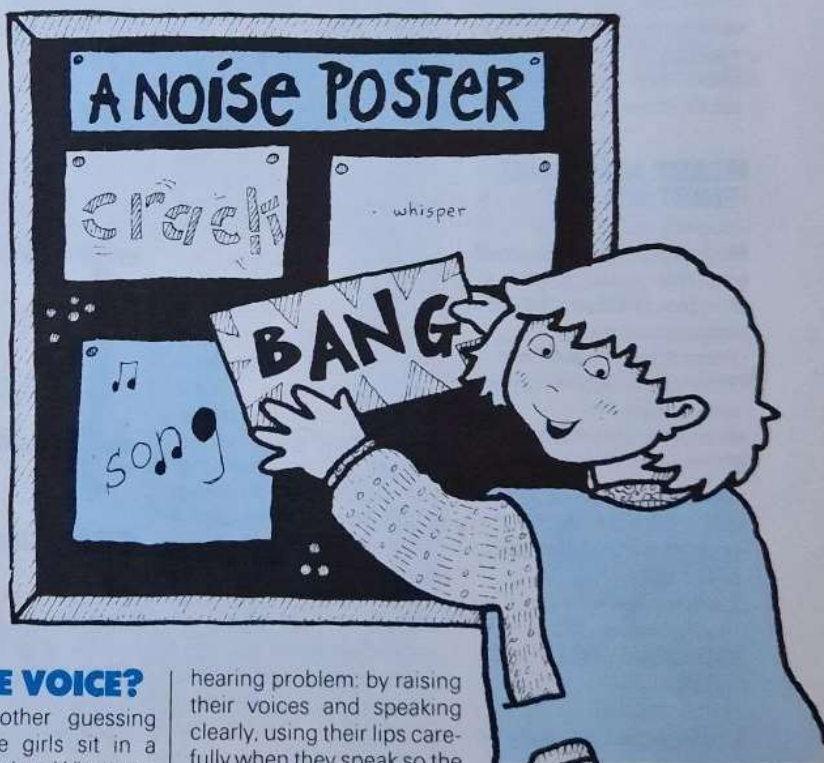
Show the girls how they can help a person with a

hearing problem: by raising their voices and speaking clearly, using their lips carefully when they speak so the deaf person can lip read. Let the girls lip read each other.

CLAP HANDS

Play some handclapping games. Standing in a circle, pass on a handclap pattern from one to another, until everyone around the circle is clapping in the same rhythm. For example: Clap-clap-clap... clap clap... CLAP.

The Young Puffin book *Blue Bell Hill Games* has a



WHOSE VOICE?

This is another guessing activity. The girls sit in a circle, eyes shut. When you tap a girl on the shoulder, she says a few words. She can use her own voice or disguise it. The others guess who it is that is speaking.

RECORD IT

Let the girls record their voices on tape and play the tape back to them. Again ask if they can guess who is speaking.

Perhaps they would like to make a tape 'letter' together to send to another Rainbow group, explaining who they are and what they do.

Teach the girls some of the simpler words or phrases of sign language, which will enable them to communicate a little with a deaf person who uses signing.

Encourage the girls to work out the problems that a deaf person faces. This will help them to understand how much they depend on their own sense of hearing.

The British Deaf Association, 38 Victoria Place, Carlisle CA1 1HU, tel: 0228-48844, would be able to

advise you on signing and other matters.

THINKING TIME

In a quiet time at the end of the meeting, think about all the sounds which we enjoy. Those which help us and those which make us happy. Say thank you for them.

NEXT TIME

We will be looking at some really active activities next month, following a theme of sports with ideas which stretch the girls' energies.

DEBORAH MANLEY 35

THE EIGHT POINTS

OUTDOOR FUN

In our final selection of ideas for older Brownies we head for the great outdoors. But don't worry, we've got plenty of indoor 'outdoor' ideas for those inevitable rainy days.

INDOORS

Having fun outdoors is hardly an indoor subject! But there is a good deal of preparation for this aspect of the Brownie programme which can be done indoors during the less clement months. Give your older Brownies some of the tasks below when the weather dictates an indoor meeting, making sure they know they are benefiting future Brownies!

MAKE A POCKET FIRST AID KIT

You will need:

- a strong polythene bag with snap-shut sealing action
- a piece of card to fit in the bag, and a pencil
- small piece of Blu-Tack
- four small squares of green sticky paper
- coins for the telephone
- first aid materials listed.

1 In the top corner of the card, stick the four green squares to form the outline of a cross.

2 Write clearly on the card the following information: EMERGENCY FIRE, POLICE & AMBULANCE... 999 (no coins needed), and your local hospital and doctors' telephone numbers.

3 Stick the coins to the card with Blu-Tack.

4 Put the card into the polybag together with these first aid materials: sticking-plasters, two small, and one large, clean gauze pads, insect-bite cream, tweezers, small, plastic pack of disinfectant, clean cotton-wool balls, triangular bandage and safety-pin, needle and book of safety matches.

Of course, first aid kits are of little use if the Brownies don't know how to use them, so simple first aid techniques and practice in using a

public telephone can also form part of your outdoor preparation programme for the older girls.

'OUTDOOR' CARD GAMES

Dress for the Weather

Cut pictures of different types of clothing from catalogues — include winter and summer wear, not forgetting shoes, wellies, boots and sandals, both sensible and party types! Stick each picture on a small card square, to make a set of 20 cards for each player.

For each player, divide a square of cardboard into 16 equal squares, and head the four columns of squares with the following headings: HOT & SUNNY, COLD & RAINY, WARM & WINDY, ICY AND SNOWY.

The dealer shuffles the cards and deals them all out. She then chooses an article of clothing, for example, hat, jacket, shoes and a weather condition. Each player, including the dealer, puts a card showing the chosen article *suitable* for the season in the correct column on her own card. If she hasn't a suitable card, she misses a turn.

The choice of weather and article then passes to the left for the next turn, and so on round the table. The winner is the player who fills her card first. There should be plenty of discussion as to what clothing is suitable for what weather!

Tracking Sign Dominoes

Show the Brownies the tracking signs shown in figure 1. Give them strips of card 20cm x 3cm and ask them to copy one symbol on to the left-hand side of each card. Write the name of a *different* tracking sign on the right-hand side to make a set of dominoes which will help future Brownies learn the tracking signs.

Semaphore Flags

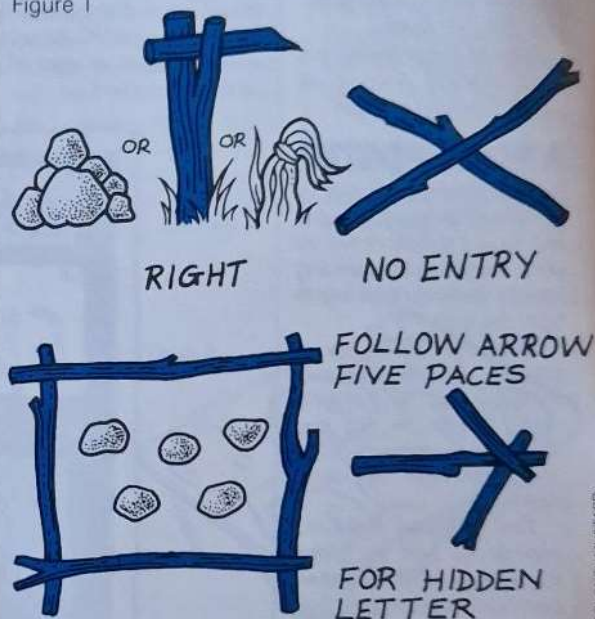
Give each older Brownie

two squares of fabric, one white and one navy blue, and two pieces of bamboo cane or dowel. Point out the picture of semaphore flags in the *Brownie Handbook*, provide strong glue and scissors, and challenge each of them to make a set of semaphore flags ready for the warmer weather.

in a warm, dark place, moistening the compost once a week, if necessary.

After one to three weeks, shoots should sprout. When this happens bring the pot into the light, keeping the bag on until there are three leaves on each shoot. Then transplant each palm to its own pot and keep it moist.

Figure 1



GROWING THINGS

Stones

Ask the older Brownies to bring to the meeting the stones of any fruit they eat shortly beforehand.

Peaches, nectarines and plums are the most likely stones the Brownies will bring. They are so hard that they need to be cracked just a little with a nutcracker before planting to help them germinate.

Pot them in moistened compost and enclose them in a polybag. Leave the pots in a warm dark place and keep moist. In about one to three weeks, shoots should appear. Bring the pot out and keep it in the light.

Date stones may be planted straight into damp compost, three or four in a pot. Put the pot in a polybag, tie the top tightly and leave

Avocado stones must be soaked in water for two days, then wedged in the neck of a glass jar almost full of water. The large end of the stone should split and a shoot and root appear. When there are plenty of roots, transfer the stone to a pot full of compost so that the compost is half-way up the stone. As the shoot grows, support it with a stick, and repot the plant when necessary.

Grow a Herb Garden

You can buy a packet of mixed herbs, usually containing six or more varieties which can be shared between your older Brownies. Puncture some margarine tubs, and plant the seeds in moist compost.

Keep them in a warm, dark place till shoots appear, making sure they are moist.

THE EIGHT POINTS

but not too wet. When the seedlings look strong, transplant them into a window box or garden plot. Specific instructions for sowing and growing the various herbs appear on the packet.

Drying herbs

Collect herbs on a dry, sunny day during the flowering period, tie in small bunches and hang them upside down to dry in a warm place. When they are dried, the Brownies can crumble them into small, airtight glass jars (mustard pots are ideal), and label them.

OUTDOORS

At the meeting, your older girls can choose from the ideas below and, provided you keep an eye on them, can be left to get on alone.

They can:

- Practise ball and skipping skills.
- Lay trails for each other using tracking signs.
- Practise signalling, using the semaphore charts in the *Brownie Handbook*.
- Collect leaves and grasses, identifying them from books provided by you.
- Make bark or leaf rubbings.
- Go on a mini-safari, looking under stones and in undergrowth to see what wildlife they can find in your HQ grounds. If they do this, warn them to replace carefully anything they move.

Other outdoor activities for your older Brownies to enjoy during meeting time will need adults who can accompany them, and some preparation on your part.

EXPLORING

- With a leader each, two teams of girls go out to answer a set of prepared questions about their town or village. For example:
 - 1 What date is on the bench by the park gates?
 - 2 What colour is the front door of Number 12, Victoria Road?
 - 3 Whose name is above the door of the wine shop?
- With a leader each, two teams of girls go out to collect a list of objects such as those listed. Stress that they may only call on their

own homes to make their collections and must stay together.

- 1 A used first class stamp.
- 2 The front page of yester-

day's newspaper.

- 3 A coin dated 1990.
- 4 A picture of the Queen.
- 5 A foreign coin.
- 6 A domino.

Figure 2

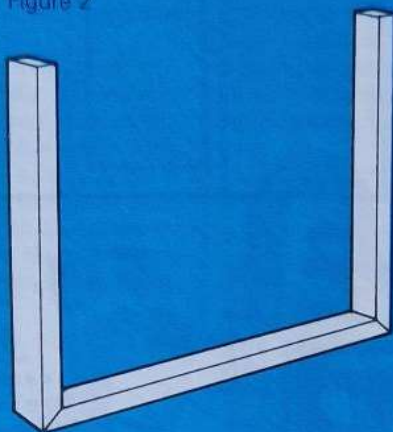


Figure 3

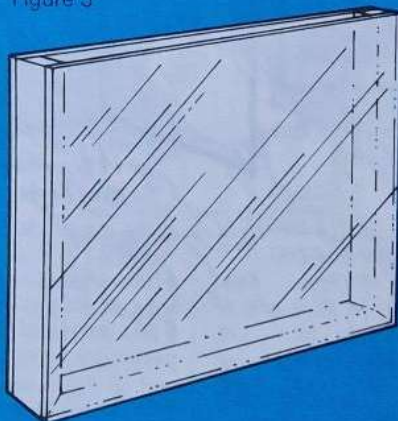
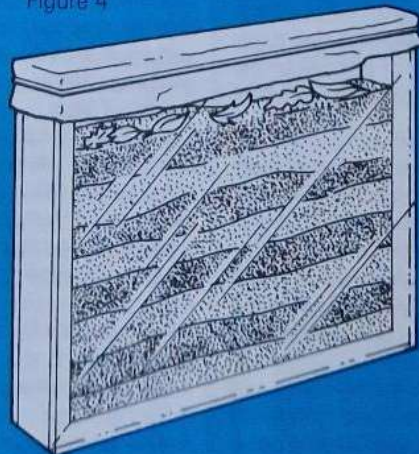


Figure 4



- 7 A wooden spoon.
- 8 Last year's diary or calendar.
- 9 A wooden clothes peg.
- 10 An empty cotton reel.

You can also invent Nature Hunts on the same lines. In both hunts, the number of objects to be found depends on time available.

A FORMICARIUM

Ants are among the most interesting creatures. Encourage the Brownies to watch them by building a formicarium (ant observatory).

They will need:

- 3 pieces of wood about 30cm x 4cm x 2cm
- 2 pieces of perspex or plastic 30cm x 34cm
- 6 thin nails, 4cm long
- strong wood/plastic glue
- hammer
- old tights
- rubber band
- garden soil
- sand
- dead leaves
- old paint brush
- sugar water
- scraps of food.

1 Nail the wood together to make a three-sided frame as shown in figure 2.

2 Glue perspex on each side of frame (see figure 3) and leave to dry for two days.

3 Fill formicarium with alternating layers of soil and sand, leaving a 10cm gap at the top (see figure 4).

4 Spread dead leaves on top. Add a piece of damp cotton wool, and some scraps of food, including apple, jam and sugar.

5 Look under large stones for ants.

6 Dip paintbrush in sugar water and pick up ants on this to transfer them to your formicarium. Try to include the very large queen ant if you can.

7 Cover the formicarium with stretched tights.

8 Watch the ants go to work!

9 Keep the soil surface moist and feed the ants on sugar, jam and scraps.

10 Release the ants in July or August so that they can mate in their natural surroundings.

BROWNIE GUIDERS

Time to begin thinking about Easter again. Start handicrafts well in advance so that you can take several meetings over them and not feel pressured. You could either tackle one idea each meeting or, if you have enough helpers, put one in charge of each project and let the Brownies move round.

EASTER IDEAS

Picture Cards

Each Brownie will need strong, plain fabric about 15cm x 12cm; a strip of card 32cm x 13cm; felt scraps; ruler; scissors and glue.

1 Cut and arrange felt shapes centrally on fabric to make an Easter design — perhaps chickens, eggs, rabbits or a message.

2 Glue felt securely to fabric.

3 Rule, cut and fold card strip as shown to form a frame (figure 1).

4 Glue front edge of fabric firmly to the frame, keeping it taut, then glue flap into place around edges (figures 2 and 3). Don't let the Brownies glue the centre of the inside flap or glue will show through on to the picture.

5 Write an Easter greeting inside the card.

Dyed Eggs

For years it's been the custom for American children to dye eggs in bright colours for an egg hunt on Easter Day. Stores sell special dyeing kits, which will probably be available over here eventually, meanwhile ordinary food dyes serve just as well.

Brownies love to dye the eggs themselves, under supervision; simply add varying amounts of colour to boiling water for a kaleidoscope of colour. To make patterned eggs, criss-cross narrow rubber bands over eggs before boiling.

Alternatively rub cool, hard-boiled eggs all over with wax crayon in various colours then, using a safe metal object such as a spoon

Fig. 1

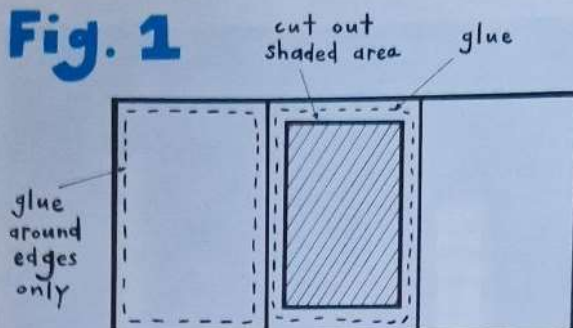
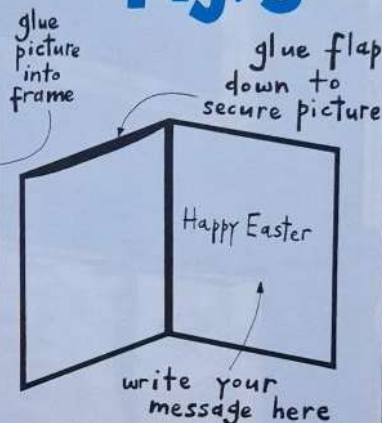


Fig. 2



Fig. 3



handle, scratch a pattern or message into the wax.

The simplest egg-decorating of all is one of the most effective — just use felt-tipped pens or water colours on cold, hard-boiled eggs.

If you dye a few dozen extra eggs at the same time, you could follow up with a Pack Easter Egg Hunt on the closest meeting night. Warn girls that, at this stage, the eggs are just for decoration!

Egg Boxes

This activity is rather intricate and so, possibly, more suited to older Brownies, but it is very effective.

1 Put a rubber band round the middle of a hard-boiled egg then rub the egg with margarine.

2 Cut coloured paper into tiny squares (old magazines are ideal) and use flour-and-water paste to stick them, overlapping, to the egg. But don't cover the rubber band.

3 Put on a second layer then

allow paper to dry thoroughly.

4 Remove rubber band and ease off the paper shell.

5 Line each half with tissue paper, put a tiny gift inside and tie the halves together with narrow ribbon.

Hot Cross Buns

You can make these during one meeting, if you have the mixture prepared and start immediately. A Six at a time over four weeks could make two buns each.

For every 12 buns, you'll need 450g (1lb) flour; 60g (2oz) butter; 60g (2oz) currants; 45g (1½oz) sugar; 1 tspn salt; 1 tspn mixed spice; 30g (1oz) yeast; 250ml (½pt) milk.

1 Preheat oven to Gas No 7, 425°F, 220°C.

2 Mix flour, salt and spice.

3 Rub in butter.

4 Add currants and stand mixture in a warm place.

5 Mix yeast and sugar and leave till it froths.

6 Combine mixtures and

beat for five minutes.

7 Cover with cloth, leave to rise in a warm place for an hour.

Now the Brownies can join in:

8 Divide mixture into six, each girl kneads her portion on a floured surface.

9 Halve each portion and roll into balls.

10 Space balls well apart on a floured baking tray and, using the back of a knife, mark each with a deep cross.

11 Leave to rise in a warm place for 20 minutes.

12 Bake for 20 minutes.

13 Warm some milk and sugar and brush each bun, while still hot, with a little liquid for a shiny glaze.

If the girls wish to eat the buns on the traditional Good Friday, they'll have to be kept in a freezer. While the Brownies are busy kneading, you can sing the *Hot Cross Bun* rhyme.

Hot cross buns, hot cross buns!

One a penny, two a penny, hot cross buns!

If you have no daughters give them to your sons.

One a penny, two a penny, hot cross buns!

If the Brownies ask you why we have hot cross buns and Easter eggs, don't fall into the trap of saying they're Christian customs.

Hot cross buns were invented by the Egyptians over 3,000 years ago, the cross representing the moon's quarters. Eggs were first given as spring gifts symbolising fertility in China nearly as long ago.

However, both customs were adopted by Christianity and, effectively, used to illustrate the Easter story of Christ's death and new birth.

GILLIAN ELLIS

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

GUIDE GUIDERS

Spring officially arrives this month, so use it as a theme for unit activities. Challenge the Patrols to spring into action by cleaning out their Patrol boxes. They could rediscover treasures that have dropped to the bottom among the old magazines and half-finished models and posters. If the contents of the box are also in need of a spruce up, perhaps the girls could spend time deciding what they need, and then gathering it together.

SPRING SEARCH

The spring-clean will also probably produce lots of back copies of *GUIDE PATROL*. The Patrols could be encouraged, if they don't already, to file the useful ideas, choosing their favourites for activities in Patrol Time in the coming weeks.

Mother's Day is on March 21. This could provide the focus for Patrol time, or for some extra challenges. A hand-made card for Mum or Gran is often more appreciated than the expensive, bought ones.

Quilling is a suggested activity in *Action Plus*, perhaps they could try it out and then use it to decorate the cards.

Another challenge could be to produce original verses for the cards. Maybe an enterprising and eloquent Patrol could write some and sell them to the other girls, raising funds to buy new Patrol equipment, for instance.

If making cards does not appeal, could the girls be encouraged to try the Seasons badge? This would be a good time to start making some of the observations. Trying their hands at making bird-boxes would help those looking to complete clause 3F of the Red Trefoil.

CLOUDS

To help with the Seasons badge, try a cloud game. Collect postcards, pictures from magazines, or your

own photographs, which show cloud formations.

Challenge the girls to identify each cloud type. This could be done as an inter-Patrol race, with the teams numbered.

Place the pictures on a board or table at one end of the room, each picture having been given a letter. Make sure you keep a note of what they are. Each team, who stand midway between the game leader and the pictures, has a set of labels,

each having a number. When you call out a number and a cloud type, those girls have to scramble for the right picture and bring it to you.

If they get very good at this, instead of giving the cloud type, give them just a clue. For example, 'the cloud which means there will be

in *PAC 3*) and skipping activities could be worked into a fitness challenge. This would also not need any preparation, other than the provision of a few balloons, ropes and balls.

SERVICE PROJECT

They could also be challenged to spring into action, by planning and carrying out a service project. Perhaps they could cheer up someone who is housebound by taking them a few daffodils,

KATE TAYLOR



giving the possible answers.

Call out a girl's number, and the picture letter. All the girls with that number race to the pictures. They check which it is, collect the right label from their Patrol base, and take it to the game leader.

All correct answers gain a point, and the first one finished gets an extra point.

Alternatively the pictures can be pinned up around the room, and the girls, in pairs or Patrols, visit each one and try to name them. They then produce a Patrol set of answers which can be checked.

A scramble is a third possibility. The pictures need backing on thick card. They are placed in a circle. The girls are in their Patrol corners

thunderstorms'... 'the cloud which tells of a fine day to come' and so on.

SPRING SONG

Spring poems and music could be used as part of the unit worship. Suggest that the Guides find and bring with them some of their favourite poems and music. Or you could provide a few books which will give them some ideas to choose from. The local library will have collections of poetry, if you do not have any.

If the girls are looking for action rather than being thoughtful, try springing into action with a challenge which uses up their energy. Leap-frog, bunny-hops, bouncy balls, sit-ups, step-ups, balloon volley ball (described

or spending time with them.

Possibly there is someone who could do with a hand to get the garden tidied up, ready for the spring planting. Could the Guides help by sowing a few annual seeds in margarine tubs, and bringing them on ready to plant out later in the year?

This could start them off on the Gardener badge, and will help cover a number of the clauses in the Trefails... help the girls work out which ones!

GUIDE PATROL, the new GGA publication is available by direct subscription from CHO or by placing a regular order with your local newsagent and not through the Trading Service. On sale from January 2.

COPING WITH

PACK HOLIDAY THEMES

Here are some more detailed suggestions for varying popular Pack Holiday themes.

CHILDREN'S CLASSICS

Alice in Wonderland

Location:

Wonderland.

Leaders:

Alice, (Guider-in-Charge); Queen of Hearts, (Quartermaster); Cheshire Cat, (First Aider); Mad Hatter, March Hare, Mock Turtle, other leaders.

Brownies:

Playing Cards, grouped into Hearts, Clubs and Diamonds.

Special places:

The White Rabbit's House; the Pool of Tears; the March Hare's House; the Queen's Croquet Ground.

ACTIVITIES

A Caucus Race

Run twice round the field or hall. Everyone wins and has a prize of liquorice comfits. Alice should be presented with a thimble!

The Mouse's Tale

Give each Six the outline of a tail on paper, as in the text of the book, but empty. Ask each Six to invent a story then one of them writes it in the tail shape and hangs it in the Six corner.

Mad Hatter's Tea Party

Have a tea party where everyone eats one sandwich, one biscuit, one piece of cake, one piece of fruit and one bag of crisps, moving round a place between each item. Finish the tea party with some riddles asked by the Mad Hatter.

Croquet

Play croquet with a home-made set. Brownies can make 'hedgehog' croquet balls from newspaper and old tights, and mallets from rolled-up newspaper and sticky tape. The leaders' task is to turn wire coat-hangers into hoops.

Dance a Quadrille

Any square dance will do — to recorded music.

THINGS TO MAKE

Red and white paper roses; jam tarts; White Rabbit glove puppets; large 'playing card' marionettes.

Alice Through the Looking-Glass

Location:

Looking-Glass House.

Leaders:

Alice, (GIC); Red Queen, (QM); White Queen, (FA); Tweedledum, Tweedledee, Humpty Dumpty, other leaders.

Brownies:

Insects, grouped into Rocking-horse-flies, Snap-dragon flies, and Bread-and-Butter-flies; or Chessmen, grouped into Pawns, Knights and Rooks.



Special places:

Tweedledum and Tweedledee's House; the Sheep's Shop; the Eight Square.

ACTIVITIES

Chess Board

Sixes line up at a starting line and are given a chess name — king, queen, bishop... When a leader calls out, say, 'Pawn', all the pawns run to the finishing line and back again. The first back in her own place wins a point for her team.

The leader may call two chess pieces at once, in which case both must run. If the leader calls 'Chess Board', everyone must run.

Chess Board Challenge

Each Brownie has a personal chess board chart pinned by her bed, together with a picture of the pieces correctly arranged for the start of the game.

Pinned round the walls are about 40 simple challenges which a Brownie can manage alone. Each time a girl achieves one, she is given a cut-out chess piece to stick on her chart in the correct place. Challenges should be on these lines:

- Make ten short words from the letters in Looking-Glass.
- Find ten words in an Alice wordsearch.
- Do a Good Turn and tell a Guider what you did.

Leaders:

Robin, (GIC); Mary, (QM); Magpie, (FA); Squirrel, Fox, (other leaders).

Brownies:

Flower Sixes.

Special places:

Fountain, apple tree, the moor, the garden wall.

ACTIVITIES

Skipping Challenge — In the story Mary learns to skip.

Press leaves and flowers before the holiday and use them to make place-mats and napkin-rings.

Give the Brownies pictures of flowers and have a flower hunt, seeing how many each Six can find.

THINGS TO MAKE

Dried flower arrangements; pom pom robins; pressed flower bookmarks or pictures; miniature gardens. If the classics don't appeal, use more modern stories.

MODERN TALES

The Faraway Tree

Location:

The Enchanted Wood.

Leaders:

Moonface, (GIC); Saucepan Man, (QM); Silky, (FA); Red Squirrel, and Mr Watzisname (other leaders).

Brownies:

Toys, Goodies, Dreams.

Special places:

The Big Tree, the Cloud, the Slippery Slip, the Land of Dreams, the Land of Magic Medicines, the Land of Goodies, the Land of Toys.

ACTIVITIES

Visit a different land each day, with appropriate range of activities.

Follow a trail of clouds and stars (each with a name) leading one to another with something to collect at each stop off.

Treasure Hunt with lots of puzzles and anagrams and codes to solve.

THINGS TO MAKE

Tweedledum and Tweedledee frieze; collage of looking-glass insects; Humpty Dumpty-decorated hard-boiled eggs; sheep from cardboard tubes and cotton wool.

The Secret Garden

Location:

Misselthwaite Manor.

Sports' afternoon with Silky's skipping race, Dreams' dawdle, Toys' trot, Red squirrels relay and so on.

THINGS TO MAKE

A (drinkable) spell potion from a coded recipe; rose water, using rose petals; simple sweets; finger puppets; card marionettes; bark and leaf rubbings.

Fraggles

Location:

Fraggle Rock.

Leaders:

Mokey, (GIC); Red, (QM); Boober, (FA); Uncle Matt, Wembley, Gobo (other leaders).

Brownies:

Fraggles, grouped into Red, Yellow and Blue Fraggles.



Special places:

Rocks, caves and islands named after each of the characters.

ACTIVITIES

Fraggle fancy dress party, Fraggles concert.

THINGS TO MAKE

Pipe cleaner Fraggles; Play-doh rocks; wool Fraggles wigs and tails.

General themes can also yield lots of ideas.

Cats

Location:

Cats' Corner.

Leaders:

Orlando, (GIC); Custard, (QM); Garfield, (FA); Top Cat, Sylvester, Heathcliffe (other leaders).

Brownies:

Kittens, grouped into Tom Kittens, Pinklepurrs, Prudence Kittens or Black,

Grey and White Kittens.

Special places:

Cat baskets; vet's surgery; TC's dustbin.

ACTIVITIES

Find the Lost Kittens

Coloured card kitten shapes, each bearing a kitten's name, are placed round the HQ, inside or out. Brownies are given ten minutes to observe each kitten's location and memorise its name without touching the shapes.

The Guider then asks questions about the lost kittens, for example, 'Which kitten is on the piano?' ... 'What colour is the kitten called Susie?' ... 'Which two kittens are hiding together?' ... The Six with most correct answers wins.

Cat Fancy Dress Party

Include leotard or plain jumper and tights on the kit list. Then Brownies dress up as kittens for the final night party.

THINGS TO MAKE

Cat masks with whiskers (use stiff brush bristles); tails from plaited tights; ribbon bow ties; cat face paper clips on spring-loaded clothes pegs; gingerbread cats.

Mice

Location:

The Church Vestry.

Leaders:

Mickey Mouse, (GIC); Minnie Mouse, (QM); Jerry, (FA); Danger Mouse, Mighty Mouse, Hunka-Munka, (other leaders)

Brownies:

The Church Mice,

grouped into Humphrey's Gang, Arthur's Gang and the Baby Mice.

Special places:

Church Porch; the Vicar's Study; the Churchyard.

ACTIVITIES

Mickey and Minnie's trip to Disneyland, where mice visit famous Disney characters (cut-out pictures) and perform a challenge for each one; Hunka Munka's friends' concert, each Six choosing and performing a Beatrix Potter story.

THINGS TO MAKE

Finger puppet mice; sugar mice; furry mice from fur fabric stuffed with kapok, with bristle whiskers; Mickey Mouse marionettes from card and split pins.

Bears

Location:

The Bear Pit.

Leaders:

Winnie-the-Pooh, (GIC); Paddington, (QM); Rupert, (FA); Fozzie, Yogi and Baloo (other leaders).

Brownies:

Bear Cubs, grouped into Polar Bears, Brown Bears and Black Bears, or Teddy Bears, grouped into Squeakers, Growlers and Grunters.

Special places:

Nutwood, the Browns' house; 100 Aker Wood; Jellystone Park.

ACTIVITIES

An expedition to the North Pole; a Teddy Bears' picnic; Fozzie's Follies, when each Six performs bear items.

THINGS TO MAKE

Fozzie Bear handpuppets; dancing bear marionettes; marmalade sandwiches for a picnic; collage of Rupert and his Nutwood friends.

BALLET THEMES

Or why not go for a theme with a difference — a ballet? Choose a lively, well-known tale, with plenty of colour. But do explain the story to the Brownies well in advance showing them pictures, if possible.

The Nutcracker Suite lends

itself wonderfully to Pack Holiday, with enchanting characters and plenty of activities to choose from.

Choice of characters depends on which production you use, we suggest the Peter Schaufuss production but the latest version by Ben Stevenson is equally suitable. To plan you need a detailed souvenir programme.

Nutcracker

Location:

The Christmas Eve Party.

Leaders:

Sash, Lev, Tanya, Alexei, Sugar Plum, Drosselmeyer — choose whichever appeals.

Brownies:

Gingerbread men, toy soldiers, Russian dolls.

Special places:

The Kingdom of Sweets, the Snow Forest, the Lemonade Sea.

ACTIVITIES

Wrapping parcels for the Christmas Tree; acting the *Tale of the Nut Krakatuk* snowflake trail; snowball fight; a few quiet moments listening to edited highlights of the music.

THINGS TO MAKE

White tissue paper snowballs; gingerbread men, sweets, peg toy soldiers, paper snowflakes, Russian dolls in paper with ever-decreasing layers of underskirts.

If you can arrange to take the Brownies to the ballet during or after the Pack Holiday, that's an added bonus!

GET THINKING

Never be at a loss for handcraft ideas. From bookmarks, egg-cosies, key rings, collages, greetings cards, hats, silhouettes, mosaics, gingerbread shapes, potato animals, glove or finger puppets, calendars, pipe-cleaner dolls to grocery carton theatres with cut-out actors on garden canes... All are adaptable to any theme. Your only problem will be fitting everything in, so start collecting and experimenting now.

GILLIAN ELLIS

TRY THIS

SIMPLE SCIENCE

Whether or not you were any good at science at school, try these activities in the unit. Some of them are suitable for Rainbows.

SALT CRYSTALS

You will need: 4 tablespoonfuls salt; a cup of warm water; and a shallow, metal dish.

- 1 Stir the salt into the water and pour the mixture into the dish.
- 2 Put the dish in a safe warm place.
- 3 Look at it over the next few days. As the water evaporates, salt crystals will form around the edge of dish.

SEDIMENTARY ROCK

You will need: a paper cup; plaster of Paris; pebbles; small rocks; soil and sand.

- 1 Mix half a cupful of plaster of Paris.
- 2 Stir in one teaspoonful of mixed pebbles, rock, soil and sand.
- 3 Pour the mixture into a paper cup and leave to harden.
- 4 Peel away the paper cup and compare your home-made rock with any natural sedimentary rock.



COMPASS

You will need: a strong magnet; a needle which will stick to the magnet; a cork; a drawing pin; four sticky labels; a shallow bowl of water; coloured nail varnish.

- 1 Stroke the needle along the magnet about 40 times in the same direction. Keep stroking till the needle is magnetised enough to pull another needle towards it.
- 2 Label the shallow bowl with N, E, S and W at even

intervals around the rim and half-fill with water.

3 Stick the drawing pin in the cork at the flat end with the smaller diameter, where it will act as a balance.

4 Float the cork, drawing pin end down, in the bowl of water.

5 Lay the needle flat on top of the cork.

6 The needle will line up in a north-south direction. Check your compass against a real compass then put a blob of varnish on the north end. Set your compass, and it is ready for use.

STATIC ELECTRICITY

You will need: Woollen material; balloons; string and tiny pieces of paper.

- 1 Blow up the balloons and tie the ends.
- 2 Rub a balloon quickly up and down the wool material.
- 3 Hold the balloon above the pieces of paper and watch the static electricity in action.
- 4 Rub two balloons, each

tied to a piece of string, on the material.

5 Hold them by the string and try to make them touch each other.

6 Rub a balloon on the material and hold it next to running water.

7 Hold this balloon next to the wall. If it has enough static electricity, it should stick. If not, rub it a bit more.

SURFACE TENSION

You will need: food dyes; large dish; washing-up liquid; milk.

- 1 Pour the milk into the dish, about 1.5cm deep.
- 2 Sprinkle a few drops of food dye on to the milk.
- 3 Gently slide a drop of washing-up liquid down the side of the dish into the milk. It will sink below the surface.
- 4 Watch the swirling colours.
- 5 Add more washing-up liquid at the other side of the dish. The directions will change.

THERMOS BOTTLE

You will need: a small glass bottle with screw cap; a large tin with lid; polystyrene beads (used for packing fragile objects); strips of cloth 5cm x 10cm; and a flat-bladed knife.

- 1 Put a layer of polystyrene beads in the tin.
- 2 Place the bottle in the centre of the tin so that its lid will reach just under the lid of the tin.
- 3 Pack with polystyrene beads reaching to the top of the bottle.



- 4 Lay the cloth strips on top of the foam beads, using the knife to ease the ends between the sides of the can and bottle.
- 5 Fill the jar with hot (not boiling) liquid. Replace both of the lids.
- 6 Compare the efficiency of your flask with a commercial one. Then compare the cooling time of the same amount of liquid in an unprotected bottle.

GILLIAN ELLIS

Figure 1

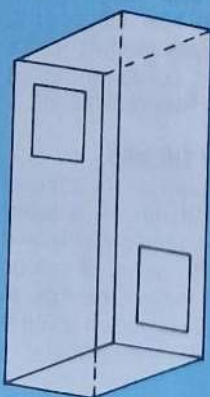


Figure 2

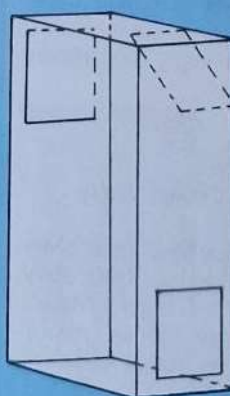
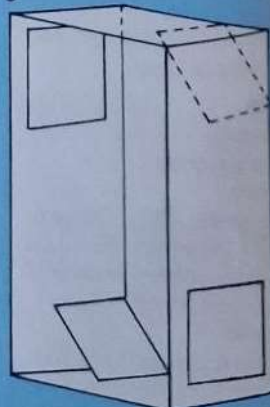


Figure 3



RANGER GUIDERS

Last month we mentioned Records of Achievement and suggested you might help the Rangers to complete suitable sheets showing their leisure time involvement in Guiding. But it's all too easy for a Ranger to list all she has done without really planning how she might use her experience to support an application for a job or for a further period of study.

THINK POSITIVE

Are you able to help the Rangers to pick out the positive outcomes?

Action: Think about the residential events that you have undertaken as a Unit and list all of the positive outcomes.

Did your list include the following?

- Making plans which were carried through.
- Taking responsibility for other Group members.
- Trying out skills related to learning to live independently. For instance: menu planning, shopping, cooking for other people, house keeping, budgeting and organising the money, living without the immediate family.
- Tolerating the idiosyncrasies of other members.
- Each Ranger taking care of herself within the group.

What was your reaction to this list? Was your list similar to the one above, or was it very different?

It is very easy to know that residential events are part of the Ranger Programme but it is important to remember that the way we organise such events in the Ranger section is peculiar to us as an Association.

NEW PACE

A well-known Ranger Guider changed from being a Brownie Guider to the Ranger section. She was used to having Brownies popping in and out of bed after lights out, but felt that she was always in charge.

Her first Ranger weekend was a completely new experience for her. It was the young women who were setting the pace. Rather than sitting back she tried to keep up with them and was exhausted.

A well-run Ranger Unit will do everything — from deciding where to go, to detailed menu plans, social events and clearing up. It is part of the Ranger Guider's job to make them see just how much they have achieved. If you help them to draw up a Record of Achievement sheet relating to residential experiences,

included, then you should indicate this and both of you sign it.

Once the sheet is completed, you can help the Ranger to decide how the statements will support her application.

BACK UP

Can she use this sheet — and any others she completes with Guiding experiences — to back up what she might say at interview?

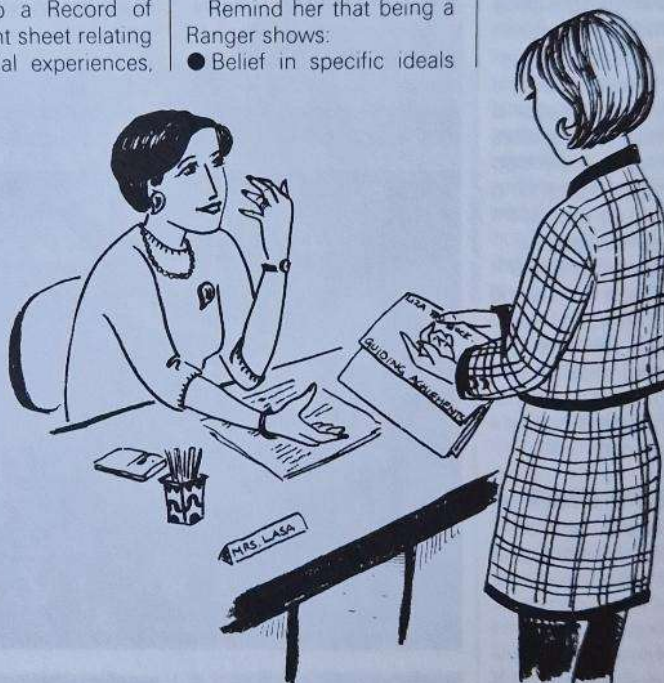
Remind her that being a Ranger shows:

- Belief in specific ideals

through being a Ranger — encourage her to make the most of them.

Each Ranger should know the contents of her Record of Achievement folder well enough to be able to draw out examples to back her replies.

So that even if her interviewer shows little interest, she can actively direct him or her towards the right section. There is always the



CHERYL TARBUCK

then, at the same time, you must help them to identify the positive outcomes.

An employer or admissions tutor will be impressed by the inclusion of international events, voluntary work and major expeditions. Each one makes a statement about the ability of the individual involved. Those who don't get the chance to take part in the 'big' event, should be helped to see that they have gained equally valuable experience from one weekend.

In completing the Record of Achievement sheets, it is important that it is the Ranger's own statement that is included. If you work out together what should be

and an ongoing commitment to one Association.

● Being able to work and live as a permanent member of a group — she might relate this to the ability to become a team member.

● Knowledge of caring for, or watching others care for, individual group members.

● Experience of making decisions as a member of a group, and working from those decisions.

● Having worked through a programme that is not related to exams, or the school curricular requirements. Stress that this is a self-selected programme.

These are all extra attributes that she has gained

chance that the interviewer will already know about Guiding or Scouting. Then it is up to the individual to sell herself by talking knowledgeably about her own achievements.

Activity: Could you invite perhaps a father or mother with a business background, a Guider in the Division, or a careers officer along to do a mock interview?

Explain to the interviewer that you want to help the Rangers to use their Guiding experiences to positively back their application. Encourage each Ranger to have a go, and then encourage some feedback from each of the other members of the Unit.

GETTING OUT

HOSTEL HOSPITALITY

Wherever you go in England or Wales, whether you're walking, canoeing or sightseeing, there's probably a handy youth hostel where you can stay for a bargain price.

For as little as £3.40 you can stay overnight in a youth hostel. Spend a couple of extra pounds and you'll get a decent breakfast, dinner or possibly a packed lunch into the bargain.

Of course, Guiders have always appreciated the good value offered by the Youth Hostels Association. But not everyone knows that the YHA, which is a national voluntary youth organisation, has been working to develop and strengthen its existing links with youth and community organisations.

It now offers much better accommodation and a range of other schemes and facilities. And, with well over 200 youth hostels, the YHA can offer a wide range of experiences to young people at a reasonable cost.

WHERE TO STAY

There are hostels on mountains, by lakes and rivers, at the seaside, in woods, villages and historic towns and cities. The buildings themselves range from castles and mansions to converted mills and simple country cottages, as well as purpose-built hostels and those with facilities for people with disabilities.

This wide variety of environments and buildings, is one of the biggest advantages of hostelling. Part of the fun is getting to know the other guests and joining in impromptu games and activities. At a number of hostels, you can hold a barbecue or bonfire party, and many lay on their own special events.

The YHA also runs camping barns in North Yorkshire, the North Pennines and the Forest of Bowland, for which YHA membership is not required. These provide sim-

ple accommodation for 12 to 15 people and can be booked by a group for its sole use.

Camping is possible in the grounds of some youth hostels. Tents and bedding need to be brought, but the hostel facilities are usually available to the campers. Guide or Ranger parties, including those working for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, often opt for this arrangement.

The YHA Rent-a-Hostel is a very popular scheme, which was introduced recently, catering for groups who need a place to themselves. Perhaps they want to hold a training

tors who organise a range of outdoor activities, including caving, canoeing, rock climbing, mountain biking and orienteering. All equipment is provided.

These can be used for weekends or longer and the programme is worked out with the group leader. Some activities are available from other youth hostels using outside agencies.

FACILITIES

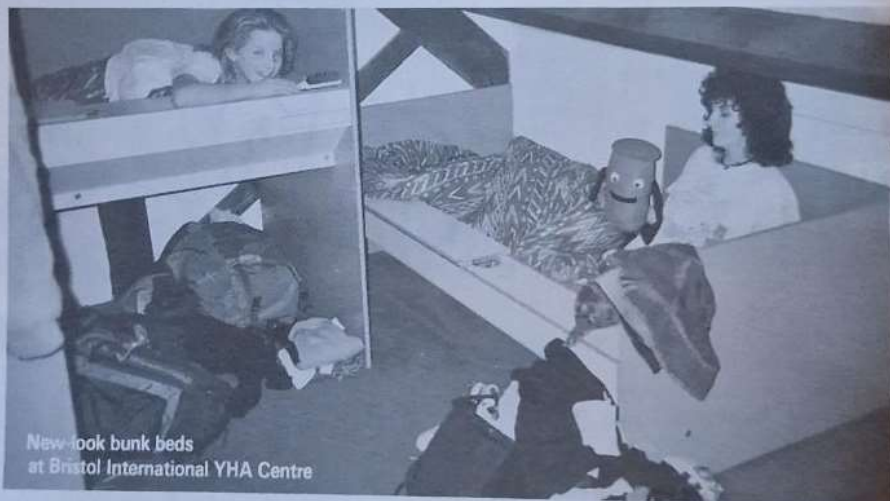
If you remember youth hostels as bleak and basic with no heating, it's worth taking a look at one of the hostels which has recently been refurbished. Many have cen-

tral heating, carpeting, hot showers, plus games rooms and drying rooms. Even the simple ones are now warmer and better equipped. And the thought of a warm base makes hostelling much more appealing during winter.

Most hostels provide good-value eating — breakfast, evening meal and packed lunches. Some have cafeterias and there is usually a menu choice, including vegetarian options.

There are also self-catering kitchens, which provide crockery, cutlery, pots, pans, stoves and grills.

Modern youth hostels have much smaller dormi-

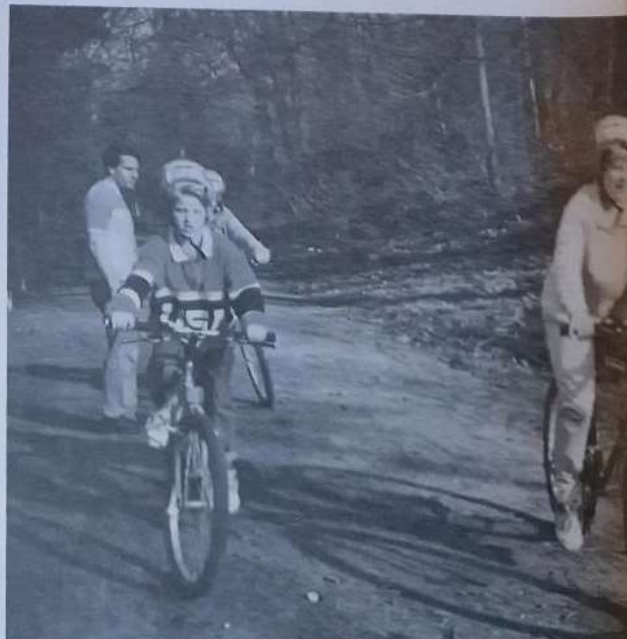


New-look bunk beds at Bristol International YHA Centre

weekend, a reunion, a regional get-together or just use it as a temporary base. The scheme operates between October and Easter and is available at a range of self-catering hostels in various parts of the country.

Each group has its own key and may come and go as it pleases. The charge is for the hostel, not for each bed. The hostels in the scheme range in size from 12 to 30 beds so, obviously, it keeps costs down if you select one suitable for the size of your particular group.

The YHA also has two activity centres at Edale in the Peak District and Llangollen in North Wales. These centres have resident instruc-



tories than the older versions. Many sleep only four to six people and, sometimes, even just two. Leaders often can have a small room near their party and a party would not, normally, share its room with anyone else. Even the bunk beds have improved over the years, and some have built-in storage.

FLEXIBILITY

Hostels have become more flexible too, both in the way they can be used and in the way they are run. Brownie

Packs often use them for a first weekend away, while Guides and Rangers find them useful for winter weekends. Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions, training courses (both day and residential), and conferences.

Some youth hostels have a work/study room which a group may book and use throughout its stay, including during the day. This can be very useful when a group needs to have time together to plan, debrief and so on.

Although most youth hos-

tels are usually closed between 10am and 5pm, arrangements can often be made for daytime access. Some hostels open at 1pm and there is 24-hour access at the London youth hostels, and at many other large provincial centres.

A group visit to a youth hostel, can be a valuable introduction to hostelling, which can later be undertaken independently both in Britain and abroad. There are more than 5,000 hostels in over 50 countries, so

there's plenty of choice when picking a destination.

PLANNING

YHA wardens are a valuable local resource when you are planning a group visit and welcome leaders for a complimentary 'recce' before the booking is finalised.

First telephone the youth hostel of your choice to check dates and availability, then make a provisional booking. The warden will send a group booking form which, when completed, should be returned to the hostel with a 20 per cent deposit.

To take a group to a youth hostel, you will need a group/organisation card, which can be issued to a unit for £9. The group card is necessary if a group is going, even if the leader is already an individual YHA member.

The card enables recognised groups to use youth hostels without the need for individual membership and is valid abroad. The minimum size for a group hostelling in England and Wales is five, including the leader. Abroad it is ten.

The membership fee includes the YHA guide, which details every youth hostel in England and Wales, and also *Triangle*, the YHA magazine that lists details of events and activities at youth hostels.

There is one free leader place for every ten paying visitors for groups taking all their meals at the hostel. From January this year, the YHA has changed to an over and under-18 set of overnight charges, which now includes provision of a sheet sleeping bag.

For under-18s, overnight charges range from £3.40 to £7.60 in the country. In London, prices start at £11.80. An evening meal costs £3.70, breakfast £2.40 and packed lunch £2.

Advice and further YHA information is available from the Youth and Community Officer, Diane Nightingale, at YHA, Trevelyan House, St Stephen's Hill, St Albans, Herts AL1 2DY. Tel: 0727 45047.



Boscastle Youth Hostel in Cornwall is part of the Rent-a-Hostel scheme



◀ Whether you're travelling on foot or on two wheels there is a hostel that's perfect for you

Most hostels now ▲ provide value-for-money breakfasts and dinners

Spring has long been a time for celebration. Everything begins to come to life again after the winter. In ancient times the new year began in the spring. March, named after the god of war, was the first month in the Roman calendar, which meant that September was the seventh month, and October the eighth. It was not until 1751 that Britain adopted the Gregorian calendar, beginning on January 1.

SPRING BRINGS NEW LIFE

The Christian festival of Easter takes its name from the ancient goddess of spring — Eostre, whose festival was celebrated at the same time of year. For this reason, many familiar customs and traditions have their origins in pre-Christian religions.

The Jewish festival of Pesach or Passover, commemorating the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt, also takes place around this time, as does the Hindu festival of Holi, a fire festival which celebrates the new growth of spring.

These festivals, together with St David's Day (March 1), St Patrick's Day (March 17), and Mothering Sunday (the fourth Sunday in Lent), give you lots of opportunity for fun and celebrations.

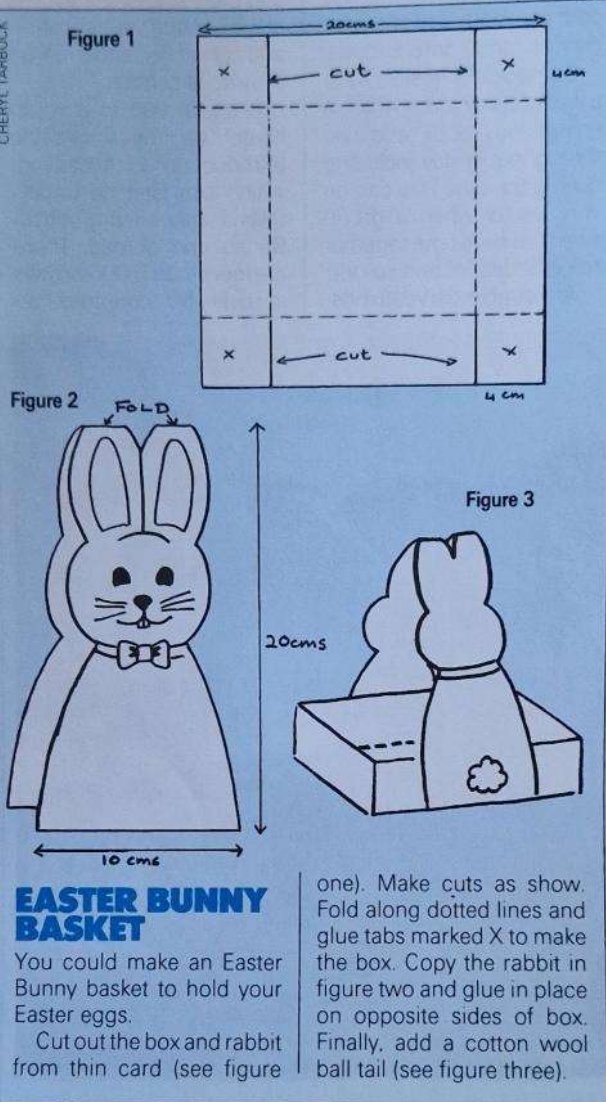
Here are some activities to start you off:

CREATING EASTER TREES

Try making Easter trees in your unit. These decorated trees can be seen in many parts of Europe, and are believed to bring good luck and a happy Easter.

In Germany a birch branch is used, while in Switzerland a branch is cut from a fruit tree in blossom. The branch is then decorated with blown eggs and ribbons.

To make a tree you will need: a flower pot filled with damp sand or soil; a well-shaped branch — preferably



EASTER BUNNY BASKET

You could make an Easter Bunny basket to hold your Easter eggs.

Cut out the box and rabbit from thin card (see figure

one). Make cuts as show. Fold along dotted lines and glue tabs marked X to make the box. Copy the rabbit in figure two and glue in place on opposite sides of box. Finally, add a cotton wool ball tail (see figure three).

with lots of small twigs on it — which should be either a branch with leaves/flowers in bud, or painted.

Blown eggs, painted and decorated or, if making the small tree, egg shapes can be cut from stiff white card and decorated with felt-tipped pens or tissue paper.

This may be a better solution for Rainbows and Brownies as they can make as many eggs as they like, without the risk of breaking the blown eggs.

'Plant' the branch in the sand or soil. (The pot can be decorated as well.) Tie the eggs to the branches with coloured thread. Take the thread through both holes

in the egg and anchor it in place with a bead, if necessary. You could also tie ribbon bows, paper flowers or sweets to the twigs.

DECORATING BOILED EGGS

Eggs are a symbol of new life and Easter in many countries. The tradition of giving eggs is very old.

Eggs can be hard-boiled and dyed with vegetable dyes such as spinach (green); gorse flowers (yellow); beetroot (pinkish red) and onion skins (yellow-brown).

First clean the egg by rubbing with a vinegar-soaked cloth. Add a table-

spoon of vinegar to the water in which you boil the eggs, which will help fix the dye and give a brighter colour.

Slowly bring the eggs to the boil and simmer for about ten minutes. Leave them to cool in the dye. Once cool, they can be left plain. If you rub the eggshell with wax polish and buff it with a soft cloth, it will give it a shine. Or they can be decorated in many ways.

Provided the eggs are hard-boiled and the shells are not cracked, the contents will eventually shrink and become hard.

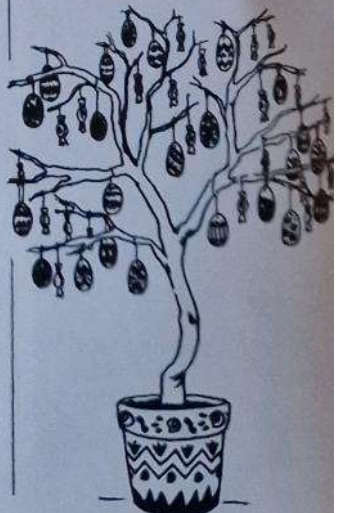
Designs can be scratched on to an eggshell so that the design shows up white. This is best done with dark dyed eggs, using a nail or pin.

The design should be scratched gently, going over the lines several times, rather than trying to scratch deeply all at once.

In the Ukraine, eggs are decorated with wax designs, before dyeing with cold water dyes. The designs may be built of several layers, using different colour dyes, from light to dark colours. The results can be spectacular.

Boiling the eggs again once the design is complete, allows the wax to soften, and it can then be wiped away with a soft cloth.

● For more egg ideas see Brownie Guiders on p38.



HIGHLIGHTS

ENVIRONMENT

FOXLEASE

July 9-11

This weekend is open to any Guider, Adviser or Commissioner who is interested in finding out a bit more about the environment and activities to use in the Programme.

This weekend will provide you with:

- a variety of ideas and activities to try with your unit
- a chance to try some hands-on environmental work
- opportunities to explore the beauty of the surrounding countryside and learn more about the natural history of the area.

YOUNG FRIENDS OF GLENBROOK

GLENBROOK

April 23-25

An opportunity to make new friends from all over the country. Join in crafts and camp fires, try archery or walking in the hills.

Come by yourself, with your Guiders, or bring along your Patrol but do come!

GUIDE ADVENTURE

FOXLEASE

August 16-20

An opportunity for members of the Movement aged 12+ to get a real taste of adventure. The weekend will include preliminary training and then a canoe trip down the Beaulieu river, archery training, swimming in the covered heated pool and a full day's trip across the Solent to the Isle of Wight in sailing dinghies. All of this and the opportunity to spend four nights in the splendid, Georgian Foxlease House.

The price includes full board in a shared room, instruction by RYA/BCU qualified instructors and hire of all equipment. Cost per person is £116. Places are limited, so send a non-refundable deposit of £50 per person (cheques payable

to the Girl Guide Association) to the Guider-in-Charge at Foxlease.

THE ROLE OF THE COMMISSIONER

FOXLEASE

June 11-13

WADDOW

November 26-28

For all Division and District Commissioners to take a fresh look at their role in Guiding. We aim to help Commissioners to be more effective in their role.

Topics will include:

- Leading your team.
- Exploring the Five Essentials, including commitment to the Promise.
- Managing the GGA Leadership Scheme.
- Increasing confidence in taking group decisions.

Division Commissioners — why not bring two or three of your team?

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

WADDOW

April 8-12

Calling all Guides. This is your chance to come to Waddow for a weekend of fun and adventure. You can meet new friends and stay in beautiful Waddow Hall.

This event is open to individuals or groups. For more details contact the Guider-in-Charge.

OPPORTUNITIES UNLIMITED

for those considering retirement

FOXLEASE

March 23-25 (midweek)

WADDOW

September 21-23 (midweek)

Are you approaching retirement from work and/or Guiding or Scouting and wondering what you are going to do with all your free time?

Do you know how to find your way through the financial maze of pensions, benefits and investments? Do you want to keep healthy until

you reach 100?

This course will provide an opportunity for you to plan for your future, while relaxing in friendly and supportive company.

STANDARD FIRST AID

FOXLEASE

May 28-31

WADDOW

May 28-31

This four-day course will lead to successful candidates gaining the British Red Cross Standard First Aid Certificate, a particularly useful qualification for adults wishing to act as First Aiders at camps and holidays.

You will be trained by the British Red Cross Society and there will be an examination on the final day. The certificate is valid for three years.

Husbands and families who wish to explore the surrounding countryside while you are attending the course will be welcome.

For further details please contact the Guider-in-Charge at the appropriate centre.

THE PROMISE IN ACTION

FOXLEASE

July 9-11

It is generally accepted that discussing the Promise can be a daunting experience. How does one avoid appearing judgemental? Are there 'standards' at which we should aim?

The Promise is at the heart of everything we do in Guiding. This weekend course will endeavour to develop our confidence in sharing it, using a wide variety of pertinent and relevant techniques.

Who is it for?

This weekend is for ... YOU!

GUIDERS AND PATROLS

GLENBROOK

July 2-4

Have you experienced Patrol camping in your unit? Here

is an opportunity for a Guider and one of her Patrols to try it out in practice.

As well as training in Patrol camping, there will be a chance for Guiders to gain new ideas on better use of the Patrol system and to meet Guiders from other parts of the country.

Patrols will discover the challenge of looking after themselves in camp and take part in a wide variety of other activities.

Be the first in your District to do something different. Come and have fun at Glenbrook and bring one of your Patrols with you.

GUIDERS COME AND TRY IT

GLENBROOK

April 30-May 2

Would you like to visit Glenbrook and try all kinds of fun activities without the responsibility of looking after your own unit? Then this is the course for you! Be brave and try something new, exciting or adventurous.

- Climb or walk in the Peak District.
- Discover local history and legends.
- See the Blue John Show Cavern.
- Stroll along the river — or drive to a stately home.

This weekend can be as energetic — or as gentle — as you make it. Whatever you choose you will have a fun weekend!

GGA LEADERSHIP SCHEME THROUGH OPEN LEARNING

FOXLEASE

May 21-23

Open Learning is a method of learning at home. Material has been prepared for use by those working on the new GGA Leadership Scheme (stages I and II), who are unable to attend trainings arranged within their immediate area or at the Training Centres.

TRAINING DIARY

Who is it for?

This training is for anyone who could make use of this material:

- District Commissioners working with Guiders who cannot attend training because of their work pattern, family circumstances, or where they live.

- Experienced Guiders who could help by acting as 'tutors' to those using open learning material

- Chairmen of Programme and Training, or Trainers interested in helping with future developments

There will be an opportunity to see and use the package, and to share with others its use as a method of training the Guiders of any section.

JUST THE JOB

WADDOW

July 2-4

FOXLEASE

October 5-7 (midweek)

These trainings are for any adult in Guiding who, for whatever reason, wishes to embark on, or return to, paid employment. It will also be useful for those considering career changes. Topics to be covered will include:

- preparing a CV
- interviewing techniques
- effective presentation
- standards in the work place
- time management.

SO FAR AND YET SO NEAR II

WADDOW

May 7-9

Following the first very successful So Far... and Yet So Near course held in 1990 we are pleased to announce a follow-up event.

For full details of future trainings, send a sae to the Guider-in-Charge of the appropriate centre. Applications to attend any of the trainings mentioned should be sent to the Guider-in-Charge, enclosing a £9 deposit and sae for Glenbrook and a £10 deposit and sae for Foxlease and Waddow.

Who is it for?

Unit Guiders, Advisers, Trainers and anyone who is open to new ideas!

The weekend will include workshops, presentations and discussions led by international educators and experienced Guiders.

The programme will challenge you and you may find yourself questioning some of your pre-conceived ideas and attitudes.

For further details please contact Linda Crichton at CHQ.

QUEEN'S GUIDE AND DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

(Enterprise, Expedition and Exploration)

GLENBROOK

April 30-May 2

This weekend is open to adult and senior section members of the Association. There will be two separate trainings.

1 Training for adult leaders who wish to learn more about preparing young women for expeditions, explorations as well as enterprise ventures.

2 Training for young women (15-25) who wish to develop their expedition/exploration skills in preparation for an enterprise or Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Silver or Gold level.

Participants must have some previous experience of walking and lightweight camping. The aim of the course is to encourage the spirit of adventure and discovery.

For further details please contact the Guider-in-Charge at Glenbrook.

LORNE

MUSICAL MADNESS

May 14-16

Do you have a guitar lying in a corner of your house that you've always intended to make time to play? Do you fancy the idea of learning a new musical instrument? Maybe your feet are itching to try a new dance, or you fancy yourself as a new Kenneth Branagh (Who?).

Stop wasting your time thinking, get out your booking form and book yourself into the Musical Madness weekend at Lorne (or the Third Encounter of the Musical Kind as those who are in the know have named it!). Don't be one of those who in June 1993 will be full of regrets!

Interested? Contact the Guider-in-Charge at Lorne.

NETHERURD

LANGUAGE COURSE

April 6-12

An opportunity to revive your French language skills in the beautiful surroundings of the Scottish Borders.

The course is designed to improve the confidence of those with a little knowledge who wish to use their language for 'survival'. Intensive learning sessions will be held each morning in small working groups, while the afternoons will give you an opportunity to explore the local area or try your hand at swimming, archery, mountain biking or any of Netherurd's adventurous activities.

No need to be afraid — you will be with like-minded people — it will be relaxed and fun. It's holiday time, Easter à la française!

For further information contact: GGA (Scotland), 16, Coates Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7AH. Tel: 031 226 4511.

HAUTBOIS

FIFTH BIRTHDAY EVENT

May 28-31

This includes a weekend camp for all self-contained groups of Guiders, Guiders, LINK, Action Plus, Trefoil Guild, Rangers or Young Leaders. On Saturday there will be a birthday party for Brownies, and a night activity for girls of 14+.

On Sunday, the afternoon performance of the birthday concert will be followed by tea on the lawn and cutting the birthday cake.

The event is being organised by Friends of Hautbois. Friends from far and near will be welcome.

Leaflets and booking form are available.

PROSPECTIVE TRAINERS WEEKEND

June 11-13

Open to prospective Trainers in Anglia. Those from other Countries/Regions will also be very welcome.

BRONEIRION

WALKING HOLIDAY

July 31-August 7

Enjoy the beautiful country around Broneirion with experienced walkers who will lead a variety of walks for the energetic and the lazy!

Open to anyone who enjoys walking. Bring your family and friends for two or more days.

FAMILY HOLIDAY

August 11-18

Explore Montgomeryshire and discover the beauty of mid-Wales and its many varied attractions. Meet new friends and relax at the end of the day in the comfort of Broneirion. Come for two or more days.

GLENBROOK — Bamford, Nr Sheffield S30 2AL. Tel: (Bamford) 0433 651567.

BRONEIRION — Llandinam, Powys SY17 5DE. Tel: (Caersws) 0686 688 204

HAUTBOIS — Great Hautbois Road, Coltishall, Norwich, Norfolk NR12 7JN. Tel: (Norwich) 0603 737357.

FOXLEASE — Lyndhurst, Hants SO43 7DG. Tel: (Lyndhurst) 0703 282638.

WADDOW — Clitheroe, Lancs BB7 3LD. Tel: (Clitheroe) 0200 23186.

LORNE — Station Road, Craigavad, Holywood, Ulster BT18 0BP. Tel: (Holywood) 0232 423180.

NETHERURD — Blyth Bridge, West Linton, Peeblesshire EH46 7AQ. Tel: (Dolphinton) 0968 82208.

BLACKLAND FARM — East Grinstead, Sussex. Tel: (Sharpthorne) 0342 810 493.



Dubna 'Brownie Scout' Marina Chupriniuk

DAY-TRIP TO DUBNA

When the 1st Moscow Brownie Pack discovered that a Russian 'Brownie' unit was up and running in Dubna a meeting just had to be arranged.

When East meets West it's surprising how quickly barriers come down when they're all members of the Movement.

The names and the uniforms may differ but the excitement, enthusiasm and exuberance of a Brownie-age girl transcends national boundaries.

At least that's what the 1st Moscow Brownie Pack discovered when they met 'Brownies' from Dubna, a town 135 Kms from Moscow.

Rumours that a new Russian 'Brownie' unit had been formed were confirmed when letters, addressed to the 1st Moscow Brownies, were hand-delivered just before the Pack's regular Monday afternoon meeting.

The letters from the 'Brownie Scouts' in Dubna were followed by a visit from the Russian leader and soon exchange visits were arranged for the girls.

Enid Bardrick, who in February's *GUIDING* explained how she started Moscow's first BGIFC unit, describes here the epic trip to Dubna and the return visit by the Brownies' new friends.

Soon after the formation of the Pack, Linda Dawson, then my Snowy Owl, told me that, according to a teacher at the Anglo-American School, where we held our meetings, there was a 'Brownie' Pack at Dubna. I was sceptical because I knew that



Dubna
'Brownie Guider'
Irina Chuprniuk
with daughter
Marina and the
Dubna 'Scouter'

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRIAN BARDORCK AND KATYIA JALIV

WAGGGS had not, then, arrived in Russia with a view to helping the Russians to re-form their Association. The 1917 Revolution had effectively disbanded Guiding, which had only

recently emerged in Czarist Russia.

However, I was assured that an offshoot of the Dubna Scouts, comprising eight little girls, was apparently meeting every Sunday and such was the enthusiasm of the girls that their meetings often went on for hours and hours!

I was not, therefore, so surprised when these letters arrived, written in English and beautifully illustrated with pictures of the fleur de lis.

Naturally, during Six time, the Imps, Sprites, Elves and Kelpies wrote letters in reply, two of them in Russian. Contact thus made, the leader of the Dubna group came to Moscow. Linda and I spent a fascinating hour, listening to Irina Chuprniuk telling us how she started this little "troop".

Her knowledge of the Movement, she explained, did not stem entirely from the re-formed Russian Scout Association, for she had been in contact with an old lady who had been a Guide before the Revolution.

It seemed that over the years emigré Russians with units abroad had somehow kept in touch so that, when the Communist Party and its Young Pioneers Movement collapsed, there were areas of Russia ripe for the re-introduction of Guides and Scouts.

Irina insisted that the 1st Moscow Brownies made a trip to Dubna to meet her group.

But I was doubtful. I thought the journey might be difficult to arrange and that the parents would be unwilling

Picnic time by the River Dubna



to let me take their daughters to what was formerly a closed town with an experimental nuclear station.

I was even more dubious when I learned that the 7.40am train recommended by Inna went from a station in the far north of Moscow, at least one hour's journey from where most of the Brownies lived. That meant that they would have to leave home by 6.30am, or even earlier.

However, such was Inna's persuasion that it was finally agreed that we would all set off on Sunday, June 7, aiming to arrive at 10.40am.

We would try to make contact by 'phone before then if possible but the telephone service in Russia is so bad that often even a local call can be connected only after many attempts.

Meanwhile, I would send notes to parents and arrange a Brownie Revels.

Since the Olympic Games were about to start in Barcelona and, obviously, the Russian "Brownie Scouts" would know about the Games, I decided to plan a mini-olympics.

I had to make all the medals and organise the prizes and a huge tea for 30. All the drinking water we would need for the day I planned to take with me. Luckily, my husband, Brian, and Snowy Owl's husband, Bill, decided to come with us.

We set the alarm for 5am. By 6am Brian and I were trudging down the road to the Metro each with an enormous backpack, carrying a huge coolbox between us. Already the sun was hot and we were not looking forward to the journey across Moscow.

But then a stroke of luck: we found a taxi willing to take us right across Moscow for 100 roubles. On arrival I lobbied in another 100 roubles out of sheer relief. The cost to us — about £1.30!

At Savelovsky station Brian, with 20 years' experience of the former USSR, decided to start "negotiations" for the tickets right away, although it was still only 7am.

Buying the tickets took more than 20 minutes. First, the cost had to be calculated on an abacus, in spite of the fact that we had already worked it all out on a piece of paper.

Then the outward journey had to be rung up 28 times on one till and the inward journey 28 times on another till. The 56 tickets then had to be counted, the price checked again on the abacus and finally counted again as the tickets were handed to my husband.

The total cost of eight adult and 20 child returns, "soft class" was £3.42. And the fares had just been doubled. The previous week it would have been £1.71!

We were glad we were on the "express" to Dubna — it touched at least 40mph several times.

When we arrived, it looked as if the whole town had come on to the platform to greet us. We were told that, as the weather was so glorious, we were to spend the day by the river only a short walk away. Actually it was about an hour!

The ex-pat Brownies looked horrified but we all managed it. Remembering the ferocious ticks in Russian forests, I warned the Brownies to keep to the paths, while the Russians whooped in and out of the trees regardless.

kissing and hugging.

For most of the way back to Moscow the Brownies played the singing game they had learned from the Russian girls. We arrived tired, extremely dirty, but having had a wonderful day.

As Brian and I trugged down to the Metro with our empty packs and the jumbo coolbox, we couldn't believe how smoothly the day had gone.

Life in Russia is usually fraught with frustrations, yet we had enjoyed a sunny, happy day without a hitch from beginning to end.

What was so remarkable about the visit of the Dubna "Brownies" to



At the riverside the Russians all kicked off their shoes but broken glass glinted everywhere so, again I had to act the hard-hearted Guider, telling the Brownies to keep their shoes on.

We had a marvellous time. All the races went off well and, after some initial shyness, everyone joined in. I was unable, though, to have a game which involved bursting balloons because the Russians were so ecstatic at receiving a balloon each, there was no way they were going to burst them.

After lunch we sang songs round a camp fire lit by the Scouts. The Moscow Brownies were very taken with a singing game the Russian girls taught them and wanted to keep on singing it.

One look at the river was enough for the ex-pat adults to decide that swimming was out. However, such was the excitement of being away from Moscow which, for the most part, is a depressing place, that the girls were happy just to be in the country.

After tea — devoured by all with great relish — and lots more singing, we trekked back to the station where, until the train came in, there was much

Moscow was that they travelled eight hours to be with us for 90 minutes.

They came for just an ordinary Brownie meeting and joined in the usual programme. I was really disappointed at being unable to organise anything special for them but they all seemed entirely happy.

They joined in everything from Pow-wow to badge work and, as they did at Dubna, gave us all presents.

I told them, through an interpreter, about worldwide Guiding and how there were Brownies in many countries. Of course it was easy for them to see from the 1st Moscow Pack, with its nine nationalities, just how international the Movement is.

Sadly, this visit co-incided with my last meeting with the 1st Moscow Brownies as my husband's work in Russia had finished and we had to return to England.

But I was delighted that they now had some Russian "Brownie" friends and now I look forward to hearing that the Pack has forged links with more new Russian units. I don't think I'll have to wait very long. ♪

Culture barriers soon break down when Brownies get together

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All magazine subscriptions are for a maximum of one year. Shorter subscriptions can be had pro rata.

YOUR LETTERS

December's Personal View highlighting negative parental attitudes is still provoking replies. Here are extracts from the latest batch of letters:

REGULAR ROTA

My experiences have been exactly opposite to those expressed.

Always mums and dads have come up trumps with help for the various projects my units have been involved in.

At present I am Brownie Guider with a very active Pack. From what was a regular rota of mum helpers when I joined two years ago, we now have a warranted Assistant Guider and another mum working on the Adult Leadership Scheme.

They came to help on Pack Holiday and got hooked. So much so that we had two Pack Holidays this year!

I get to know all my Brownies' parents. Together we help their daughters enjoy Guiding. A large proportion of our Brownies go on to a very active Guide Company.

ROSEMARY TREGENZA

Brownie Guider
1st Galmington Brownies
Somerset

DISMAL

They echo my sentiments entirely! I run both Brownies and Guides and suffer all the problems these two Guiders have encountered.

We don't need to go home. We don't need a long soak in the bath after a hectic camp or Pack Holiday. We enjoy waiting around for missing parents. We should know when Dad has forgotten to pick up little Katie because he is engrossed in the football!

It doesn't matter how much time and effort we

put into organising events, which are only attended by a handful of children. We don't need to go shopping, do the cleaning or look after our own families.

Of course, we don't mind — we are members of the Guide Movement. Well, I believe that is what the majority of my parents think!

After a recent dismal attendance, I sent a letter to the parents asking how they would feel if my assistants and I forgot to attend meetings. What response did I get? You've guessed it, absolutely none.

They all turned up as usual to the meetings, and most of them forgot to attend church parade. Do I speak another language. I sometimes wonder?

What do you do? I really don't know. Here's to 1993, let's hope it's not as frustrating as 1992!

CAROLE SUMMERS

Brownie/Guide Guider
Surrey

ASSERT YOURSELF

I can only assume that there are lots of Guiders out there in need of an intensive course in assertiveness! Why do they let their girls' parents walk all over them? Guiders are there for the girls — parents can take care of themselves!

If none of the parents arrived to pick the girls up after an activity, I certainly wouldn't spend another hour driving around dropping them off — all girls should have enough money on them to make a phone call, so why couldn't they have phoned their parents and told them to collect them? Double them up for lifts in parents' cars, putting the onus on parents, rather than yourself.

And as for a girl being 'abandoned' on camp without any parental contact number, I would make it very clear to the parents involved that, unless they could guarantee a contact number in future, their daughter would not be taken to camp again — consider the first aid aspect.

Harsh? Not really — I and my assistant work very hard to provide a lively and exciting programme and I expect civil decency and respect from parents. If you expect less then you will get less.

I don't think the answer lies in bumping up the subscriptions — that merely alienates and isolates the less well-off members and doesn't gain any respect. Respect yourself, make sure everyone knows that you think what you are doing is important. ... If someone does try to take advantage, tell them you are not prepared to put up with it.

If someone, be it Guide or parent, has done something you don't like or upset you, tell them so. Try positive reinforcement — give effusive praise and rewards to those who do attend. As Guiders you are used to using your imagination to come up with activities — why not use your imagination to get round this problem?

ADRIENNE SHIPSEY

Guider
2nd Blandford Guides

MEET THE PARENTS

We too are Guiders in Cheshire and our Guides are from families of the 'nice' variety as described by the Cheshire Brownie Guider, but we have not found the problems she has. Quite the reverse.

Several parents will

thank us for our time after meetings. They are on time to pick up their daughters after weekend events. They have been supportive when called on to help store goods and deliver items. We've even had offers of help with babysitting our children while we are on Guide business.

Sometimes, though, it pays to be assertive. We as Guiders are probably, naturally, the giving and helpful sort, otherwise we wouldn't be in the Movement. But let's not be doormats. Let parents know you have another life.

If you need help, then the direct approach is sometimes better than a note sent home. Grab the parents when they come to pick up the girls and ask them, face to face, for help.

Ask parents to their daughter's Promise Ceremony; invite them in to see your show; go out at the end of the meeting and say 'Hello'. ... 'Sorry we're running a bit late'. ... 'Please come in and hurry your daughter along'.

Of course there will always be those adults who will take you for granted, but don't tar all the parents with the same brush.

LINDA HUNT & CHRISTINE YEATES

Wilmslow
Cheshire

NO THANKS

I sympathise with these Guiders. They could have been writing about our Company.

Strenuous efforts have been made recently to persuade parents to give help with activities and support with fund raising. Every attempt has failed because of total apathy on the part of parents.

Our latest efforts resulted in suggestions that Brownies and Guides should organise their own events 'in true Guiding fashion'! Is it too much to ask to be relieved of the burden of raising funds to buy extra equipment to provide better activities for their daughters and to expect a little general support for all activities?

I have recently been on the receiving end of a torrent of verbal abuse from a mother who was angry at her daughter's lack of achievement since joining Guides.

I was told to think seriously about what I was doing and, for the sake of those left in the unit, I should 'get my act together'! This from a mother who has never attempted to find out what we are doing or offered any help; who was always late in getting her daughter to any function; and was concerned about the amount of money she had spent on the uniform.

This ex-Guide was what I term a 'fun' Guide, who was not particularly interested in the serious side of Guiding and nothing could persuade her to produce work, if she was not interested or 'couldn't be bothered'.

This is just one example of what we have had to cope with.

A smile and occasional thank you would work wonders. But, unfortunately, recent events and a difficult year have left me asking myself 'Is it really worth it?'

SUSAN EDWARDS

Guide Guider
1st Chiseldon Guides
Swindon

SO USEFUL

I wish to pass on our thanks to Mary Richardson for her *The Great Indoors*, games for outdoors changed to use indoors — in January's edition of *GUIDE PATROL*.

Guides love the game section of the meeting and

have thoroughly enjoyed the ideas given. In closing I again say 'Thank you' for *GUIDE PATROL* — so interesting, so many ideas.

MARIAN GREGORY

Guider
46th Bly (St Marks)
Guide Company
Burnley

WE'RE NEEDED

I was amazed at the Guiders that were provoked into writing about Guiders like myself who do not pay to go on Pack Holiday and for subscriptions.

I take offence at being told that I'm not being fair. I give up five of my very, very precious 20 days a year, which could be spent with my husband and children.

My helpers both aren't working and their husbands do not earn much. We all agree that we do enjoy Pack Holidays, but we are not on holiday — we work.

I find it is, in fact, harder than my full-time job. All of us feel that if you can afford to pay, that's fine — that is how you choose to run your Pack. But don't say that we're going along for a free break, that's nonsense.

Quite simply, if I had to pay we would not go, then the children would miss out. In fact, we are now thinking of giving up all together. So you Guiders who object, try and find three more volunteers for Rainbows/Brownies and a Guide Captain in SE London, and then tell us we were free loading!

We've already got another Pack that's been looking for a helper for the last year without success.

S M BARNETT

12th Forest Hill
(St Augustine's)
Brownie Pack
London

FRENCH LEAVE

I am taking a small, mixed group of Guides, Rangers, Scouts and adults, to the

South of France this year. We are booked with Jeka Holidays Ltd for ten days (August 6-15). We need a few more people to make up our numbers. If you would like to travel with an experienced leader, and can bring along a few Guides, Scouts or family, we want to hear from you.

The area we are visiting is Gorges Du Tarn, which is situated in the southern part of the Massif Central — a very spectacular area.

A life-saver would be particularly welcome and help with expenses would be considered. Contact me as soon as possible for further information.

PAT BRIGGS

1st North Petherton Guides
Porthmoor
36 Old Road
North Petherton
Bridgwater
Somerset TA6 6TG

HELP FOR HUNGARY

During the IFOFSAG Thistle Gathering in Edinburgh, I met Kati Schumicky from Budapest. She was the only participant from Hungary and brought with her a bunch of thistles which, in her country, grow like small trees.

Kati is dedicated to the task of re-starting Guiding in Hungary but, having been forced to go underground during the early '40s, the knowledge of older Guiding people is out of date.

She is anxious for Hungarian teenagers and other young women to come to this country for training but mentioned that the fare for her journey to Edinburgh cost half a year's pension. I discovered that this would be between £200 and £250, so they do have a problem.

I promised to do what I could to help but regretted that it would be very little. Even so, Kati was so grateful that someone should at least want to try.

I am sure that unless a youth movement such as Guiding does capture the imagination and interest of young people, there is a definite danger that some much less desirable organisation will do so.

I am currently producing handpainted pen and wash notelets which seem to be selling well.

I still have a small supply of notelets which I am selling for £5 in packets of five. I can be contacted at the address below.

DORIS BELLINGER

289 Pickhurst Rise
West Wickham
Kent BR4 0AH

SUPPORT AVAILABLE

Through your columns, we wish to contact anyone who may know of Scout or Guide groups and units linked with Anglican churches, or who hold their meetings on Anglican church premises.

The Anglican Fellowship for Scouts and Guides exists to support clergy and also the adult leaders and older teenagers in the 'Duty to God' aspect of their Promise and Law, particularly in providing material for use with young people.

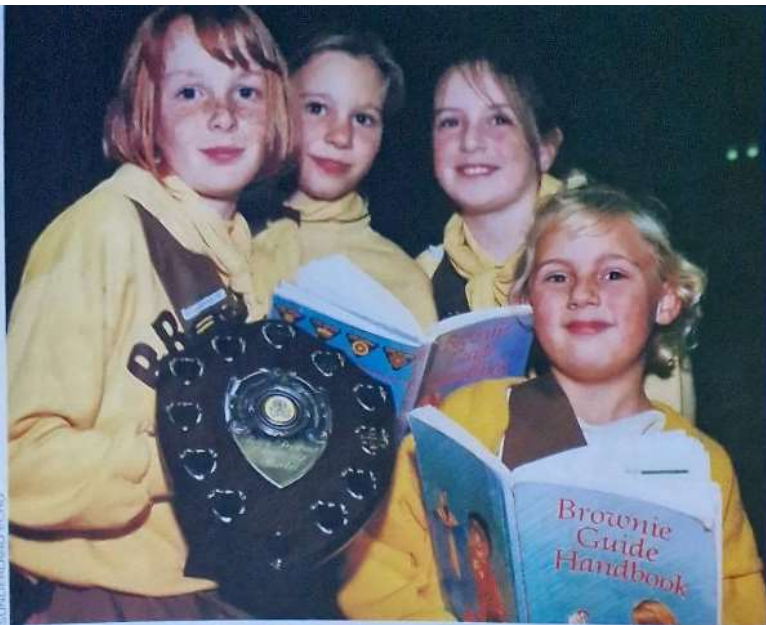
To make this possible needs the support of all church members who are interested in furthering this aim — further information can be obtained by sending a sae to: The Anglican Fellowship (GUL), 31 Loseley Road, Farncombe, Godalming GU7 3RE.

REV CAPT JOHN CHENNEL, C.A.

Chairman

The Anglican Fellowship
for Scouts & Guides

Letters should be kept as brief as possible and the Editor reserves the right to edit any contribution. Letters must carry the author's name, address and, if possible, a daytime phone number.



Pack Quiz champs — Joanne Lister, Zoe Drennan, Lyndsey Campbell and Victoria Smith

Brownies of the 11th Sunderland (St Peter's) Pack have proved they're agile in both body and mind, as well as being extremely caring.

The Pack beat all comers in the Sunderland North Division Brownie Olympics. They then went on to sweep the board in the Roker Brownie District quiz against five other teams.

The girls also raised £100 for Somalia and £100 for 'The Yellow Brick Road' with a coffee morning, a bring 'n' buy and a mini concert of

singing and drama.

Jean Cummings, the 11th Sunderland's Brown Owl, said: 'Not only are the girls athletic and quick-thinking but they really do care about others, so I'm very proud of them.'

The 'fun' Olympics, organised by Division Commissioner Margaret Aitken, took place on a wet day in a school sports hall.

Events included a motor tyre hoopla, obstacle race, wellie throwing, balancing on the long bars and long jump from a standing start.

BROWNIE WINNERS

The 11th Sunderland Brownies out-threw, out-ran, out-balanced and out-jumped those from the 20 other teams taking part.

Some of the questions in the quiz, set by members of Sunderland Trefoil Guild, were based on the history of Guiding, going back eight decades.

But the 11th Sunderland team weren't stuck for an answer. They beat the other five Pack teams taking part by knowing, for example, that the earliest Brownies were called Rosebuds.

District Commissioner Sylvia Thompson, who organised the quiz, said: 'This kind of event, in which all units in a section can take part, helps to bond the District together as a community. We hold events at intervals to involve units in all sections in this way.'

The lively 11th Sunderland Pack celebrated Thinking Day, both last year and this, by having an English breakfast, cooked on a camping gas stove, on their local beach.

EMMA TO THE RESCUE

Cool as a cucumber! That's Guide Emma Jepson, proudly showing off the gold medal she received for saving a toddler's life at her local swimming pool.

Emma, of the 7th Newcastle (St Wulstan's) Company, was at the Jubilee Baths, when the skills she had learned at life-saving classes were tested.

She spotted a child struggling in the pool, and leapt to the rescue. Emma waded out to the girl and, keeping the child's head out of the water, dragged her out of the pool to safety.

Cool-headed Emma, was a Staffordshire Brownie with the 7th Newcastle (St Wulstan's) Pack, at the time of the rescue. 'I don't know how the little girl got in the pool,' said Emma. 'She was in danger because she had no water wings or life belt on, and her parents were nowhere to be seen. I didn't panic though, because I'd been

to life-saving classes.'

Emma was treated to a big day out by her local council. They rewarded her with a special gallantry medal and certificate, presented by Newcastle's Mayor, John Lockett.

At the ceremony, the city's Director of Leisure Barry Onions said: 'Her actions show the value of life-saving skills and we would encourage all members of the public to have regard for the safety of others.'

Emma's mum, Anita, agreed with him. She said: 'Emma still attends her Sunday morning life-saving classes. She realises now just how worthwhile they are.'

Emma's certificate is now proudly displayed at her home in Basford, Newcastle-under-Lyme. 'We've made sure everybody who visits will see it up on the wall,' said Anita, a Brownie Unit Helper for the 7th Newcastle. 'We're



very proud of her,' she added.

Division Commissioner Glenda Lockley was full of praise for Emma's rescue bid. 'She's definitely a little star around here,' she said. 'Her quick-thinking action saved the distressed child. Emma deserves all the credit.'

A proud moment. Emma shows off her medal and the Mayor smiles his approval.

MARIA COOLE

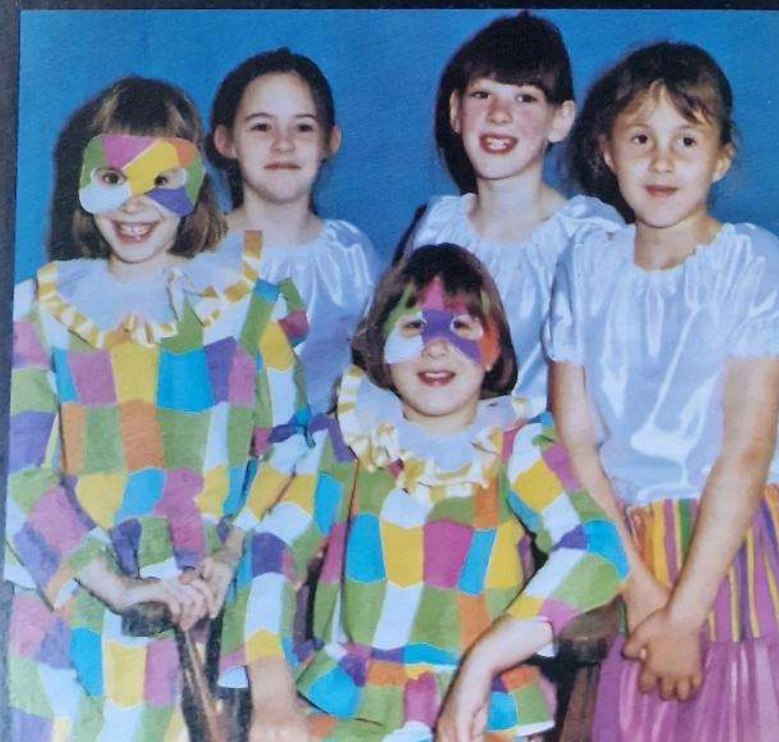


All set for some larks are ▲ these natty naval types — (left to right back row) Amanda Nelson, Laura Goodwin, Angela Nugent, Zoe Hawker and Gemma Fitzpatrick (front)

Who could resist these ► agents from the underworld — zany Zombies Zoe Hawker and Katie Griffiths



Carnival time is calling these ▼ colourful characters — (left to right) Katherine Frost, Katie Griffiths and Sarah Gascoigne are pretty Mexican maids, while Kirsty Beel and Laura Goodwin don harlequin outfits



THE G

Amazing — that's the only word for the achievements of 7th Hales-owen Our Lady and St Kenelms Brownie Pack and their indefatigable Brown Owl, Vera Jarvis.

The Pack's tenth Gang Show Spectacular raised £2,800 to buy a large greenhouse for Halesview, the local mental health unit.

It's just the latest — and the biggest — fundraising effort in the Pack's years of service to the community.

Alan Marsh, the Locality General

VERA JARVIS



VERA JARVIS



VERA JARVIS

VERA JARVIS

ANG'S ALL HERE

Manager at Halesowen Health Centre, was deeply impressed by the sum raised — the initial target was only £2,000.

VERA JARVIS

He commented: 'Mental health is often forgotten or ignored by so many fund raisers, we are therefore grateful that a group of young girls have brought it to the forefront of people's minds.'

And, as you can see from our photographs, the cast had a really super time taking part in the 20-item musical extravaganza.

It takes two to Samba — Angela Nugent and Zoe Hawker (left) get ready to go through their paces

FDI GREAT ALINE



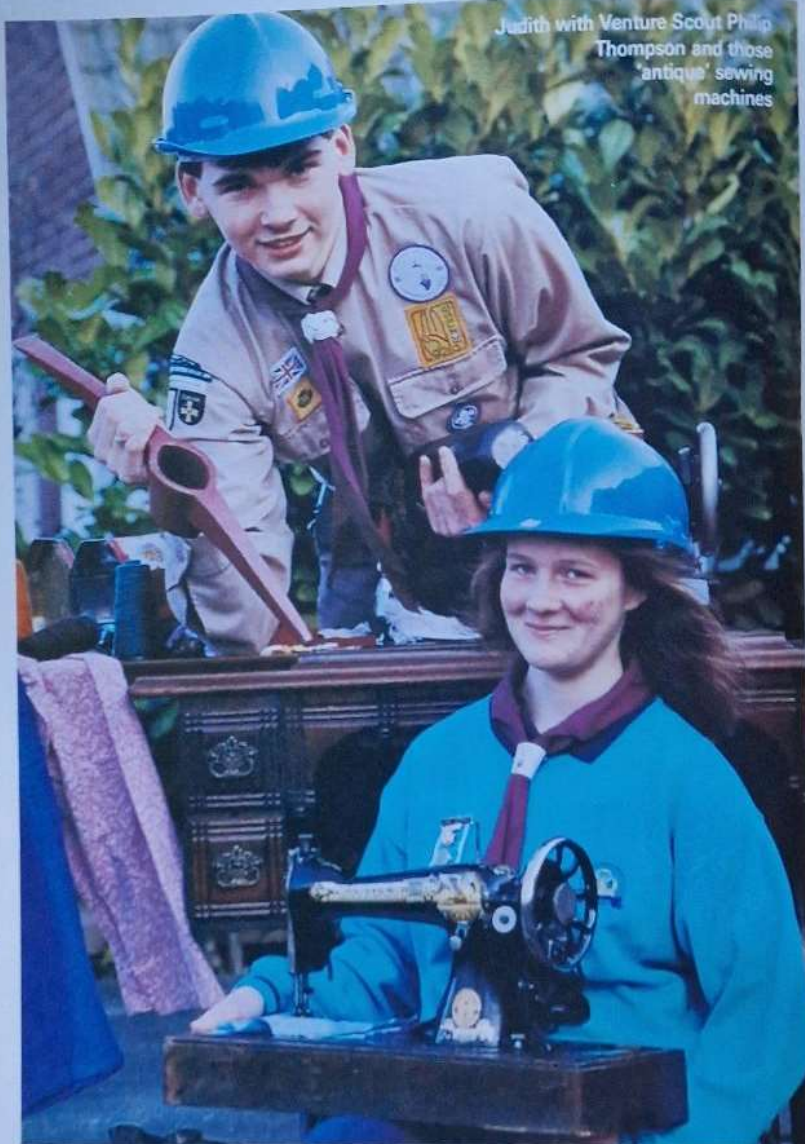
Although it was a 'freezing cold day with the rain pouring down', nothing could dampen the Brownies' enthusiasm when they saw the greenhouse they'd bought

Sunny days are definitely here again for Joanne Mason



WATER FOR LIFE

It took two years of fundraising and training, plus an Olave Baden-Powell Bursary, before Young Leader Judith Hunter could make tracks for Kenya on a Water for Africa project.



Judith with Venture Scout Philip Thompson and those 'antique' sewing machines

COURTESY OF NEWCASTLE CHRONICLE & JOURNAL LTD

Clean water and adequate sanitation are among the basic requirements for improving health in rural Africa, where they are so widely lacking.

So what better way to spend an Olave Baden-Powell Bursary than by taking part in a scheme to build a clinic with these facilities in a Kenyan village?

This is what Young Leader Judith Hunter did when she joined the Cleveland and Sunderland Scout and Guide Water For Africa project team.

Last summer, after a long bout of feverish fundraising and training in manual skills, Judith set off with the team for the village of Murinduko, where many of the locals had never seen a white woman before.

It proved a memorable experience, which she describes here.

‘Murinduko is in a banana-growing area, about 120km north of Nairobi, on the edge of the Mwea rice fields, near Mount Kenya.

Although it is a very beautiful area, vector-borne diseases like malaria are

very common and mortality rates are high, due to lack of adequate medical facilities.

In 1986 the local people of Murinduko decided to build a health clinic. But then there was a big drought and the villagers, being mainly peasant farmers, were unable to raise the money needed and so the scheme came to a halt.

Then Water For Africa project leader Doug Corbin, from Cleveland, arranged through the Kenya Scouts Association to mount an expedition to Murinduko in July, '92, to build a clinic with a piped water supply and proper latrines.

It was to be a joint venture, involving British and Kenyan Scouts and Guides, as well as the local people.

The cost was estimated at £50,000 for the project, plus £700 for each team member to cover travel and subsistence. It was decided to ship out in advance a container of tools and other equipment. On completion of the project, these would be left for the

village and Kenyan Scouts.

In the team would be five leaders, ten assistant leaders and 35 Venture Scouts, Young Leaders and Rangers. They would be away for a month.

Training and fundraising started two years in advance. Training weekends, at which we learned skills like plastering and drystone walling, were held mainly at Scout centres in the Cleveland area.

We learned to work together as a team and did jobs like laying patios. Some of these jobs also earned cash for the project.

All kinds of building tools and equipment had to be collected, from trowels to concrete mixers. And, as cooking was to be over open wood fires, we also needed fire grids, along with large pans and all the usual utensils. After use, this equipment would also be left behind for the benefit of the village women.

We also collected hand and treadle sewing machines for them. Some were "antiques", more than 50 years old, but still in working order. For the Murinduko village school we collected hundreds of books, along with paper, pens and pencils.

A great-uncle of mine, Bill Lee, made up a number of bicycles from parts he collected, for use in Murinduko. The team also acquired an electric generator and two vehicles.

To make our needs known I visited Guide and Brownie units, Scout troops and the local primary school. I also put notices in churches.

Our local reporter was very helpful and, after a report in the paper, we were inundated.

All these items were eventually repaired, cleaned and despatched for shipment. I also sent a large box of books and equipment for the Murinduko Guides.

Fundraising was a major task and Doug Corbin advised us to use "any legal method". So we did just that, and set about collecting aluminium and steel cans to sell, holding coffee mornings, fashion shows, jumble and car boot sales; as well as holding sponsored events.

Permission was obtained to collect in clubs, stores and a shopping mall. We also were able to make house-to-house collections. Local firms and trusts were invited to make donations.

Then, at last, we were ready. We had the equipment, we had the money — and we had the uniform, including the logo T-shirt, purple necker and *Water For Africa* badge. Early on Sunday, July 19, we set off to fly to Nairobi and from there in a battered old school bus over bumpy roads and dirt tracks to Murinduko.

The bus could not negotiate the last mile, but waiting to help carry our luggage were the local school children.

At the village I learned that I had been invited to visit the Rev David Hinton and his wife, whom I had previously met in Sunderland, at Meru, where they are serving with the Methodist church.

The Hintons collected me by car and I found the journey very interesting, seeing the villages, roadside markets and several volcanoes.

I attended a service conducted by Mr Hinton at a boarding school which has 72 Guides. The pupils were smartly dressed and very attentive. I explained why I was in Kenya.

On the building site we worked in six teams, on a six-day rota: two days' hard labour, one day's light duties, such as cooking and cleaning, two days' hard work, and then a day off.

Our days started at 6am, when Alan Charlesworth, Project Engineer, from the Cleveland Scouts, ensured we

toe. I returned to my bed, getting up again later for some "light duties" with the catering department!

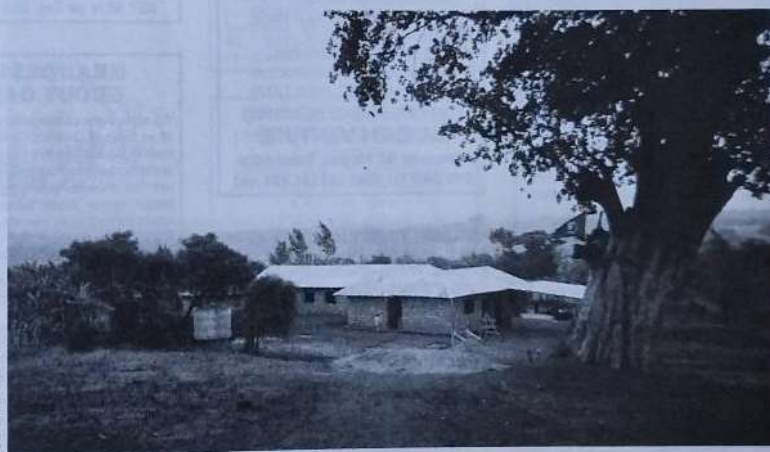
Because of the uneven size of the blocks, large amounts of mortar were needed to make the joints. All walls were rendered on the inside. We covered our roof trusses with corrugated iron sheets to form the roof.

We made provision for a water



JUDITH HUNTER

▲ Going up: the building gets under way



◀ At last: the health clinic is ready for use

were awake by banging on a shovel. We worked until 9am, when we had breakfast, and then continued, with a break for lunch, until 5.30pm. After the evening meal bedtime was 9pm... or even earlier.

The clinic was planned to provide a patients' waiting area, a verandah, giving access to treatment rooms, a water supply and latrines. In addition, it was to have 600 metres of fencing.

All the outside walls of the clinic were built from stone blocks of varying size. Interior walls were of breeze blocks. The lintels over the doors and windows were of concrete, cast by us. We put in a damp course and laid a concrete floor. Window frames were locally made, unglazed but with security grilles. We made the door frames and roof trusses.

The building stones, being large, were very heavy to lift into place, especially when we were balanced on our makeshift scaffolding. Early one morning one of these blocks fell on my

supply inside the clinic and drainage into a cesspit, which we dug. Local children filled it with stones for drainage. We also built the latrines.

The local people were very interested in us — most had never seen white women or girls before. The children would stare at us and they liked to handle my hair. They kept us supplied with firewood and corn-on-the-cob.

It was winter in Kenya but the temperature was like that of a very hot day in an English summer. We also had to contend with a chronic shortage of water, red dust from the eruption of Mount Kenya, which got everywhere, scorpions and tarantulas. Fortunately no-one was bitten by anything more lethal than a mosquito.

Yet, as I left the people of Murinduko I felt I had been privileged to help build their much-needed clinic and to work with the *Water For Africa* team, and the Kenya Scouts and Guides who gave us such valuable support.

JUDITH HUNTER

CLASSIFIEDS

DISCLAIMER REMINDER

Inclusion in this section should not be taken to mean that the Association has checked out and endorses the site or accommodation advertised. Guiders are reminded that they should obtain permission from their Camp or Pack Holiday Adviser and their District Commissioner before making a booking and should complete the appropriate forms.

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Mag Reference:- Sheet 125-086 245

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GEORGINA HAMILTON FROM HERTFORDSHIRE

Guide Guider, mother of three, lace-maker, champion swimmer and one-time aeroplane wing-walker!

I suppose you always go through a stage in your life of wanting to do different things and, at the moment, I have got quite a few things to do!

Flying is an interest I share with my husband, David. In fact that was how I met him. My brother James had a bad flying accident but, ignoring doctors' advice, he immediately started flying again.

He took me to the flying club and, on the way, we picked up David. We got on so well that three weeks later David and I were engaged. We married 18 weeks after that when I was 24.

After we married, I decided I wouldn't be an "aviation widow". However, after my brother's accident, I had promised my mother I wouldn't ever take my flying licence. And I have stuck by that promise.

My husband is still an active member of the Tiger Flying Club and I have always supported him in everything he does.

One day I was looking at a photograph of somebody standing on top of a Tiger Moth and, foolishly, said that I'd like to do it.

I thought everyone had forgotten, until someone said to me: "Right — you are on the top wing of the Moth." I back-pedalled like mad but to no avail.

There is a rig on the plane that you stand on. In a way, it's like water skiing — you have to bend your knees slightly.

I even waved at a policeman. He was stuck in a traffic jam and every time we went over, I waved. People down below were trying to look rather snooty about the whole thing. But, in the end, we had him and everyone else waving back at us.

I wasn't scared. I felt in a way that it was safer than actually being inside the plane. And it's one of those things where you just have that feeling of complete freedom.

After that I did displays, but stopped

LIFE style

when I was expecting my first baby, as my husband felt I'd be safer with two feet on the ground!

Flying isn't my only interest. I'm a founder member of the Alban lace-makers — and chair the group.

Then, of course, there's Guiding. I am Guide Guider of the 2nd Harpenden Company. I started off as an Assistant Brownie Guider in another County. When we moved here to Hertfordshire, my daughter Alex wanted to go up to Guides but there was no Guider. So she volunteered me!

My three daughters all enjoy Guiding. My eldest, Alex, was an adult leader before she went on to university; Laura, the middle child, is a Young Leader; and the youngest, Jessica, is in my Guide Company. Alex and Laura both have their Baden-Powell Awards and Jessica is halfway through hers.

Swimming keeps me fit and gives me energy to cope with my busy life. I swim from 5.30am until 7.00am, three days a week.

I started swimming seriously when I entered the European Championships at the beginning of 1991 and did very good times — for me! At the moment I hold the Great Britain four by one metres medley title in my age group — I'm 49.

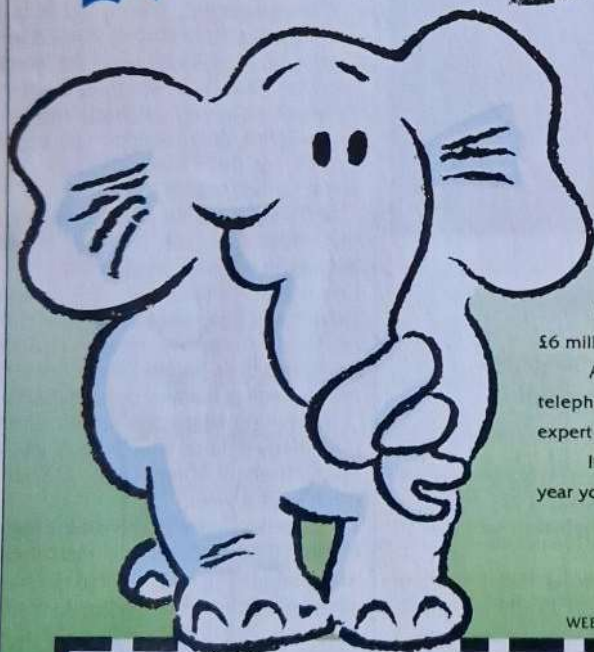
In 1991 I also ran the London Marathon. It was just before Christmas when I heard I'd been accepted. So, on Christmas Day, I did my first training run — for three miles. I ran to a friend's house, pulled two crackers with her, and ran home again — and that was after my Christmas lunch!

I finished in four hours, 15 minutes. I've still got the medal and the silver space blanket which they wrap you in at the end of the race.

I like getting out and doing things — although my husband thinks it would be nice, occasionally, if I sat in front of the television with him.

CHRISTA STADLER

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