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GUIDING

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**TRAINING
CENTRES
UPDATE**

**GUIDES
WIN
GOLDEN
POTTIES**

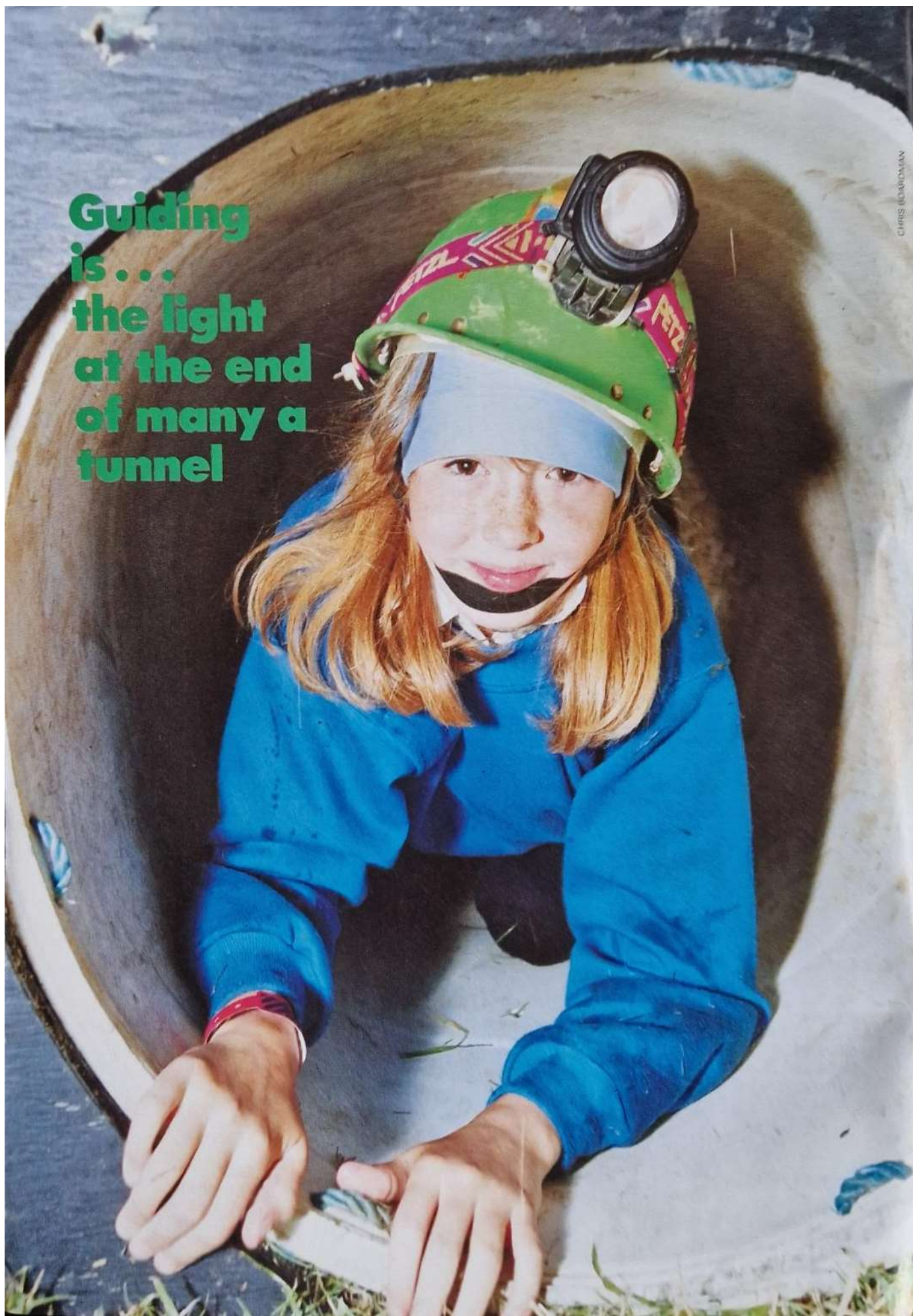
**PENGUIN
PARTIES
LAUNCHED**

**STAYING SAFE
IN THE SUN**

**NORTH EAST'S
FESTIVAL
OF SONG**



**Guiding
is . . .
the light
at the end
of many a
tunnel**



front PAGE

An article in a national newspaper on June 2 reported: 'At the launch of National Volunteers Week, it was claimed that many voluntary groups are reluctant to use young people as volunteers because they consider them immature and unreliable. Many volunteer groups would not accept volunteers under 17 or 18 years or would not give any responsibility to those under 25. Too often, groups are dominated by a lot of middle-aged, middle class white people who are prejudiced against young people.'

On June 16, The Guide Association's census figures for 1994 were released and I feel that I must say in defence of our 'middle-aged leaders' (of which I am one!) and in admiration of The Guide Association's young volunteers, how proud I am to see that we have currently over 10,000 young women aged between 14 and 18 who are involved in the Young Leader Scheme

COMMENT



and over 11,000 between 18 and 25 years who are Unit Guiders.

The Association recognises the enormous amount of talent, skill and time that these young women are giving to Guiding, encouraging our younger members aged from 5 to 14 to live their lives to the full and help others to

do the same.

The responsibility that the young women aged between 18 and 25 carry, that of caring for other people's children, is tremendous and they do it with maturity, reliability, enthusiasm and energy. They also make sure that this partnership between girls and leaders is about having fun!

Our young volunteers are invaluable to the Movement and, if The Guide Association is to continue to be the largest single-sex youth organisation in the UK, we need more of them for they are our future.

As a youth movement, we must be able to say with pride that The Guide Association is definitely not prejudiced against young people and prove this by promoting and encouraging our young women to take responsibility whenever and wherever possible.

JANE GARSIDE

The Chief Commissioner

GUIDING

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AUGUST 1994 £1.15

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FRONT COVER

Our 'cover girl' this month is Louise Garwood of 5th Sutton Company, London South West. Our photographer snapped her half-way down the abseiling tower at Blackland Farm, during her unit's week-long stay at the Association's activity centre.

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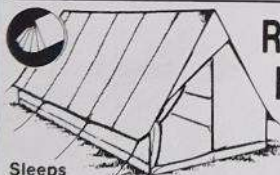
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**GUIDER HANDBOOK AND
 THE GUIDING MANUAL 1994**

Round Up

FOOTBALL CRAZY

Young Leader-in-waiting Adele Christie is a dedicated football fan as well as an enthusiastic Guide. So it was a truly special day for her when she received her Baden-Powell Trefoil Award from her favourite soccer star.

Guide Guiders Andrea Hepburn and Lynda Robertson arranged for Heart of Midlothian's player Gary Locke to present Adele, a member of 103c City of Edinburgh Company, with her badge and certificate as team mates George Wright, John Millar and Nicky Walker looked on.

WATER OF LIFE

After five weeks of fund raising, 6th Bicester Brownies donated £205 to the charity WaterAid. The girls sponsored events included swimming, apple bobbing and canoeing.

WaterAid representative Edward Glennie accepted the cheque and gave the Oxfordshire Brownies a talk on life in countries where people have to walk miles for water. 'That really brought home to them how lucky they are,' said Brown Owl Helen Rogers.

LYNDA ROBERTSON



BICESTER REVIEW



Round UP

BUMPER CHEQUE

► The 1st Millbrook Brownies raised £1,000 to help buy a guide dog after organising a host of fundraising activities. Their money-spinning ideas included a sponsored silence, bazaars, coffee mornings, a sponsored circus, paying to dress up for Brownie meetings, doing good turns and collecting coins in Smartie tubes.

The young fundraisers from Cornwall are pictured presenting their bumper cheque to John Bond, the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association's regional liaison officer.



STEAM CLEAN

◀ Brownies Amelia Woolley (left) and Joanna Lavender, of 1st Dawley Pack, get down to some hard labour at a sponsored steam-engine clean at the Museum of Iron, Coalbrookdale.

The Pack's efforts helped to raise nearly £120 for Shropshire County's Lyneal Appeal. The appeal seeks to raise £120,000 to buy a former Lichfield school to use as an activity and holiday centre.

PLAY FOR TODAY

► Guiding history and the changing experiences of women since 1909 came under the spotlight when the 8th Formby (St Luke's) Company staged a play for family

VISITOR SERIES NEWSPAPERS



and friends.

Merseyside Assistant Guider Sheila Nelson, who wrote and researched *A Game for Life* explained: 'We looked at

how Guiding has been ahead of the times in the development of young women and then there was a spell when it had to catch up.'

DISCOVER NATURE

◀ These Brownies are enjoying a brilliant day out at Thursley Common National Nature Reserve, home to many rare and special dragonflies, snakes, spiders and lizards.

Here volunteer warden Jill Fry shows them the 4cm wide raft spider which walks on water.

Jill has taken countless Brownie Packs around in the 20 plus years since she began working at the reserve. 'I give them a good day out,' she explained. 'Sometimes we have a squelch in the bog and, occasionally, we find a bit of flint left by Stone Age man 6,000 years ago.'

Guiders interested in visiting Thursley Common can contact Jill at 8 Homefield Cottages, Thursley, Surrey GU8 6QH. Tel: (0252) 702513.

P WOXLEY/ENGLISH NATURE



When it comes to silly suggestions you can be sure Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and their Guiders will come up with some crackers — especially if the real aim is to raise money for a good cause.

PERFECTLY POTTY

Now their inspired daftness has earned four units and one District the ultimate accolade — a Golden Potty award for 'highly original fund raising'.

The girls who 'went potty' had all risen to a challenge issued by a famous ex-Guide, TV star Anneka Rice, to raise money for Tommy's Campaign.

At a 'formal' presentation ceremony of the gold-painted, ribbon-trimmed plastic potties at St Thomas' Hospital, London, Patsy Shepperson, Campaign Manager, revealed that it had been a very hard task to choose the pottiest notions.

Blue Peter presenter, 21-year-old Tim Vincent, handed over the potties and chatted to the winners. Meanwhile, Margot Wilson, Editor of the *Funday Times* and presenter of the BBC's *Artifax* programme presented the souvenir certificates.

Happily standing in for a BGIFC unit, the 2nd Hameln Brownies, was The Chief Commissioner, Mrs Jane Garside. The girls had raised nearly £500 by holding a sponsored silence while seated on potties!

However, the organisers decided Mrs Garside should have a Golden Potty of her own — as a thank-you for all the support the Guides have given the Campaign.

Its initial target was to raise £5m to give babies a healthy start in life. Campaign Director and former Tawny Owl, Helen Otton said: 'We have raised almost £2.5m and have spent £1.4m of that on establishing a chair in foetal health.'

After the ceremony, the girls were taken in small groups to visit the Special Care Baby Unit to gaze at the tiny babies whose survival depends on

the skill and dedication of St Thomas' doctors and nurses.

Choosing who should make the trip to London was a tough task for Baldock District Commissioner Pauline Gimson, from Hertfordshire. She said: 'We have ten units and eight of them decided to take part in the challenge so we've brought one girl from each of those units with us.'

It was Caerwyn Ellis, Guider with the 2nd Baldock Brownies who read about the challenge in *BROWNIE*.

Her Brownies held a Christmas party in July, while the 1st Baldock Rainbows tested their dexterity by throwing coins into a potty. Pyjama parties were popular — the 1st and 4th Baldock Brownie Packs held a joint event and the 3rd Baldock Guides went one better and made it a Christmas pyjama party.

Meanwhile, the 1st Ashwell Brownies threw a beach party in October; the 1st Ashwell Guides staged a sponsored keep-fit night; and the 3rd Baldock Brownies held a 'Potty Drive', raising around £150.

'We felt it was a good thing for children to be helping children,' explained Caerwyn.

A sponsored nappy change using dolls instead of babies was Monique Jessop's potty suggestion. Members of her unit had to fit a nappy on a doll,

pin it in place and then shake the doll. If the nappy stayed on, it counted — if it fell off, it didn't.

In just 15 minutes the 1st Boldre and Pilley Brownies from Hampshire changed 297 nappies and raised £300 for Tommy's.

The 3rd St Peters in Thanet Brownies from Broadstairs, Kent washed an air-sea rescue helicopter. The girls donned raincoats, wellies and goggles. Then, armed with long brushes and a special detergent, they started scrubbing. Their reward? Over £200 for Tommy's and a tour of the whirlybird.

A thoroughly silly evening's programme was worked out during a Pow-wow by the 1st Wilbertoss Brownies. The Yorkshire lasses ate doughnuts off a string with their hands tied behind their backs; bobbed for apples in jelly; dipped their hands into mystery gunge; and generally had a great time, while raising £125.

After posing for photos Tim Vincent said: 'I just hope that units all over the UK will decide to be even pottier for Tommy's during 1994-95.'

NORA WARNER

● If you want to help by going potty just send a large sae for a free Potty Club Pack to Tommy's Potty Club, London SE99 6RD. Or telephone 071-620 2654.



Potty people: Blue Peter's Tim Vincent shows off a Golden Potty to Louise Richardson, Fiona Pring and Annie Albericci

Guiding in a

When the Guides of Cheshire got together for a County Water Week-end, they enjoyed a fabulous couple of days crammed with wonderful watersports like sailing, canoeing and windsurfing.

Forty Guides, 12 instructors, two caterers and a first aider camped out for the May bank holiday weekend event in the 1,000 acre grounds of Tatton Park, a stately home near Knutsford.

While day-trippers strolled through the picturesque grounds, the Guides enjoyed some jolly boating weather. They paddled canoes, practised sailing yachts, or simply struggled to stay upright on the windsurfing boards which zoomed across the lake.

It was the third annual Water Week-end organised by County and Region Boating Adviser Ann Martin. Girls are offered the chance to attend on a first-come, first-served basis. But it's always over-subscribed so, to Ann's dismay, some always have to be turned away.

Those lucky girls who had managed to get a place at this year's Water Weekend stayed in tents but, for once, camping took a back seat. They sleep in tents, help with the washing-up and

make sure everything is clean and tidy,' Ann explained.

'But we don't cook on the camp — that's not what they're here for.' Instead, 'chefs' Allison Hodson and Glynnis Southern, prepared meals for everyone.

As well as trying out all the watersports the girls tackled activities on dry land, including mountain biking and orienteering. Ann said: 'The whole weekend costs £30 which includes just about everything.'

When the would-be sailors arrived on the Friday evening they were taken straight out to the lake for their first sailing lesson of the weekend — learning how to capsize safely!

Safety is as an important consideration at an event such as this. So, as well as capsize drill, the girls learned about water rescue and water safety. 'They don't have to have sailed before, but they do have to be able to swim 50 metres,' Ann told *GUIDING*. 'And if the instructors feel the water is too choppy, then we just don't sail.'

'We have speedboats and rescue boats which go out with the girls. When the wind changes, the girls go in all directions and are forever being towed back again!'

Guides Ria Bremner of 2nd Wilmslow Company and Hazel Alcraft of 2nd



Sailing off into the sunset is simple, once you

Listen carefully!
The girls line up on the bank for a spot of windsurfing instruction



tion



Lindow were thrilled at having an opportunity to sail. 'I wanted to have a go because I thought I'd probably never get a chance like this again,' Hazel said.

Ria added: 'I just liked the sound of windsurfing and also, as I'd never sailed before, I fancied giving it a try.'

But the Water Weekends aren't the only opportunities to take to the water open to members in Cheshire. For Ann also runs a sailing club for those who have been bitten by the nautical bug.

She founded the Cheshire Border Sailing Club — which is open to Brownies, Guides, Rangers and leaders — in 1992, the Year of Youth Sailing. Her aim was to give the County's Guides the chance to sail regularly.

The Guides used to go on taster sessions where they would go out in a boat to get the idea of sailing,' she explained. 'But I found the leaders kept saying: "I've already sent these girls before, they can't have another turn." And it seemed a shame as we do get some natural sailors and they never got another chance.'

'Plus, the taster session was just a run on the lake. It wasn't really sailing — just being a passenger. And the Guides wanted more than that.'

So the club was set up and it now boasts 23 members aged between 10 and 35. In addition, two Brownie Packs have unit membership.

Thanks to donations, the club owns six boats, each of which is in a different sailing class. So there is a boat to suit the novice as well as the expert.

'As far as I know, we are the only all-girl sailing club in the country,' Ann said. 'But I'd like to know if there are any others out there!'

Ann herself came to sailing relatively late in life, at the age of 39.

The County Water Adviser wanted help, so I went down to give her a hand,' she explained. 'Her husband, who was an instructor, said: "Would you like to go out for a sail?" I accepted and, by the time we got back, I was hooked. After that I went sailing whenever I could.'

'I did the Royal Yachting Association level one course with the Scouts and that's when I decided it was time the Guides had a chance too. A year later I became County Boating Adviser when the Water Adviser moved on.'

Now, every Sunday during the summer, Ann heads down to the Tatton Outdoor and Sailing Centre where the sailing club meets from April to October.

Work doesn't stop in the winter either. During the colder months, club members attend video nights, swot up on race theory, carry out boat maintenance and practise first aid.

These days Ann is so busy running the club that she doesn't sail as much as she used to. 'I am the one who stands on the bank now because the boats are for the girls really,' she said.

But as long as there is enthusiasm for the club, Ann is happy to keep it going. 'Sailing is a very elite sport,' she said. 'Normally, unless your parents have money, you don't get the chance to have a go. But, judging by the response we get, there is a huge interest in it.'

'We are giving the girls a good grounding. And if you learn to sail young, you can end up with a hobby for life.'

NICOLA WHATMORE

NEIL MCALLISTER



All together now! Time for some synchronised paddling practice

ME

Journalist and former Guide Jane Alexander is in demand as a health writer for glossy magazines and the lifestyle pages of the popular press. And it was her Guide Guider in Greater London West who influenced Jane's views on health and sparked her passion for natural medicine.

'She took us camping in the fresh air and, if she didn't know how to do something, then she knew someone who did,' Jane recalled. 'We were always canoeing or abseiling, while my school friends were at home just watching television.'

'As a result I believe if you eat sensibly, get plenty of exercise and learn how to deal with stress then you shouldn't get ill because you are boosting your immune system. I now try to get that message across in my work,' she said.

Jane's articles, which appear in the *Daily Mail*, *Options* and *New Woman* among other titles, have generated thousands of letters from women interested in alternative medicine.

Alternative — or complementary — medicine is the term used to describe natural therapies such as herbalism and acupuncture, which can be used on their own or to support conventional treatments, Jane explained.

'I get distressing letters from people who have conditions like cancer or Alzheimer's disease who want to find more out about alternative treatments,' she told *GUIDING*.

'But they either don't know where to go and what to take. Or they are worried about the wacky reputation alternative medicine has. I hope the articles I write are spreading more

Writer in demand: Jane now regularly writes for national newspapers and leading women's magazines

EDICINE GIRL

information and doing the public a useful service.'

Her most challenging article so far involved her other great interest — the environment. She wanted to write about environmental protesters who break the law. However, they are difficult to track down because, obviously, they don't want to become known by the police.

After writing letters to several clandestine groups all Jane could do was wait. 'I had a phone call telling me to be at a certain pub on a Saturday night, where I would be met. I had to go alone and carry some identification,' she recalled. 'Then the phone went dead.'

'I was met at the pub by two men and we drove to a wood outside Oxford. We joined a group who were hammering nails into the tree trunks. This is called spiking and it makes the trees too dangerous for workmen to cut down.'

'I'd heard about American environmental groups who actively broke the law but I didn't know there were any in Britain. Stories like that are good because they alert people to what is happening around them,' she said.

Jane became a freelance writer three years ago, after quitting the *London Evening Standard*, where she had reviewed music, art and nightclubs since 1989.

For two hectic and stressful years she'd worked unsocial hours, literally running after famous people as they were leaving nightclubs, to beg for interviews. And she had to keep on churning out fresh and original copy.

'It was very tiring,' said Jane. 'It came to the point where the very worst thing a friend could do was suggest we go out for an evening to the theatre and follow it up with a visit to a nightclub!'

Jane had written her first articles

about health for the London listings' magazine *City Limits* in the mid-'80s. As the consumer editor she reviewed products — often paying for them with her own money.

Her growing reputation as a writer means editors are now queuing up to commission articles. 'The longer you write, the more people get to know about you, and they ask you to write something for them,' she explained.

Jane didn't intend to become a journalist. Her first published piece was written when she bumped into a photographer who needed an article to accompany a fashion photo shoot he was doing.

At the time, Jane admits, she was simply 'drifting'. She was working at London's Earl's Court exhibition centre and selling tickets at a theatre, having returned from a year-long car trip around America.

The trip with her brother was an escape from the grim reality of trying to build her career. She'd failed to land a job as a television researcher, after graduating in English from Manchester University in 1981.

'I did well enough at job interviews but the positions all seemed to be going to producers' daughters,' she said. 'I didn't want to work in an environment like that!'

When she was growing up in north Surrey Jane was an active Brownie and Guide. She was a member of both the 6th Carshalton Brownie Pack and Guide Company.

She went on to become a Queen's Guide and a Ranger with the Beddington District Ranger Unit, later the Wallington Division Ranger Guide Unit. Jane enjoyed Brownies and Guides but admits she didn't find the Ranger programme as stimulating.

The skills she developed doing badge

work have helped her research and write articles from scratch, she says. 'Before you started work on a badge you had no knowledge about something but, in a couple of weeks, you seemed to know all there was to know about the subject. That prepared my mind so I could work as a journalist.'

Guiding helped Jane to become more self-confident, too. 'As a little girl I was frightened of most things but, as a Guide, I was able to overcome my fears. Because everyone else was doing an activity I pushed myself into doing it. Now, when I feel nervous about something, like interviewing someone, I think: "Hang on, it can't be that bad," and I get over it.'

Self-confidence is essential if you are to succeed as a freelance writer Jane believes. She said: 'I have been with people of different ages and abilities since I was a Sixer.'

That taught me to work with people and get essential information from them. Getting information is vital to a freelance who works alone and has to get on with so many people.'

Until recently Jane had always lived in the London area. She spent her childhood in Carshalton. Her mother Rosemary, now a homeopath, remarried after Jane's father died.

Now based in Glastonbury, Somerset, 34-year-old Jane shares a Victorian rectory with her journalist boyfriend and plans to convert two of its five bedrooms into offices.

'The city was great but I feel that I've come full circle,' she said. 'As a Guide I was always going to the countryside but I rebelled and became an urban kid, working in London.'

'Now I want to live and work in the environment that first sparked my interest in health matters.'

GAVIN CLARKE

HOME FROM HOME



KEITH LOCKE

▲ Around 40,000 children are in foster homes

◀ Margaret with her 'other' family — some of the 1st Rushmere Guides

In the UK today, some 40,000 children — about half of all those in local authority care — live in foster homes. What is fostering — and who does it? GUIDING investigates.

Someone who knows a lot about fostering is Margaret Mellor, Guide Guider with the 1st Rushmere Company on the outskirts of Ipswich. Earlier this year she and husband Bob took in

their 100th foster child.

When we caught up with Margaret she'd just got her breath back from organising the Company's 75th anniversary party, when almost 100 'old

girls' turned up, including one of the original members from 1919. And now she was getting ready to go to her daughter Zoe's to help out while grandchild number two was being born. So she was busy, but never too busy to talk about fostering.

The Mellors took their first step towards fostering in the late '60s when they answered an advertisement in the local paper — the WRVS was looking for people to give underprivileged children a holiday. Margaret and Bob thought that this was something they could do and so, for several years, they took in one or two youngsters for a couple of weeks during the summer.

In between they found themselves doing short-term fostering. In those days when Social Services were short of foster homes they used to contact the WRVS who, in turn, contacted people like the Mellors. After fostering through the WRVS for some years, Margaret and Bob were thinking about becoming 'proper' foster carers working directly with Social Services. Then suddenly, and totally unexpectedly, tragedy threatened.

Their younger daughter, Kay, aged four, complained of pains in the back of her neck. The GP organised X-rays and within ten days Kay was in Great Ormond Street hospital having a brain tumour removed. The surgeon warned that recovery might take a long time and be only partial. Happily, Kay proved him wrong and got better very quickly. That 'miracle' cure decided Margaret and Bob to become foster carers. 'We felt we'd been so lucky,' Margaret explained, 'that we wanted to take in some of these children who weren't so fortunate.'

NEW ARRIVAL

Almost a year later, after interviews, discussions and paperwork, they got their first placement. 'It was a 13-month-old baby,' Margaret recalls, 'with both parents together. That's quite unusual — most children don't have one or other parent.'

'Father had been out of work but had just found a job. Mother was pregnant, but had blood pressure problems and needed to go into hospital and there was no extended family to look after the little one.'

'She stayed with us and her dad used to come weekends and take her to visit her mum. What's more, our own children were then at an age to enjoy babies — Kay was five and Zoe, seven. So it was a really lovely start.'

Since then, the Mellors have cared for all sorts of children — generally for a few weeks or months, sometimes for longer. One boy stayed ten years.

The children come for many different

reasons. Their parents may be unable to look after them — because of illness, housing difficulties, a prison sentence or the like — or they may not want to look after them.

Sometimes the youngsters are victims of neglect, violence or abuse, or are having problems and need to get away from their home environment.

Perhaps it's the parents who need a break. Margaret thinks respite care can be very useful, especially for single parents. 'It must be hard for them all on their own, not having anyone to help with the children or discuss things with, and I can understand them getting to their wits' end. Knowing that someone's going to have your children one night a week or whatever must be a tremendous relief. We had two children like that, every other weekend, for a year.'

Sometimes, Margaret and Bob have gone on emergency stand-by, ready to take a child at any hour of the day or night. 'We've had children come as late as half-past one in the morning,' Margaret recalled. 'There was one lad beaten up by his father and another time some toddlers had been left on their own for the night.'

As Kay and Zoe got older, the foster children tended to get older too and, invariably, more difficult — with more problems.

AGE MATTERS

When it comes to age, Margaret highlights one rule that they've always followed: 'Never have any children older than your own. That's important, especially when your own children are primary school age. It matters then who goes to bed last, who gets the most pocket money and so on.'

'It's important that your oldest child shouldn't lose position in the family. Your own children do have to put up with a lot when you're fostering, they haven't got you to themselves. But they gain a lot as well — the sharing, the friendship.'

The relationship formed with foster children makes saying goodbye painful for the whole family, and there have often been tears. What can make it even harder is that foster children seldom keep in touch. But that's something Margaret accepts.

'For the parents that was an unhappy period in their lives and I can understand that they don't want to be reminded of it. They don't want to keep in touch,' she said.

When the Mellors first began fostering there was little contact with the child's birth parents, but that scenario has changed radically. Today, fostering is a partnership between foster carer, social worker, the child and the child's

family. Foster carers welcome the birth parents into their homes for regular visits and encourage the children to maintain links with the rest of their family.

Margaret admits that working with the birth parents can sometimes be difficult. But she's learned that almost always, no matter what parents have done, their children won't reject them. 'It's amazing — and hard to understand — how children who have been let down so much by their parents can still love them. But they do.'

TRAINING

Another aspect of fostering that has changed since Margaret and Bob first became involved is training. 'Twenty years ago,' Margaret said, 'there was no training at all, but now there's a lot — before you start as well as on-going training with courses about child abuse, drugs and difficult behaviour.'

Margaret also finds her local foster carers' group a valuable support, whether it's for sorting out problems, seeking advice, sharing experiences or getting practical help.

She cites the example of one carer who phoned to ask if she could borrow a carry-cot. Her own had broken but she knew Margaret had one and, at the moment, wasn't using it.

Does Margaret think that being a Guider has helped in her fostering work? She does, and identifies two significant aspects. First, Guiding has a lot to offer the youngsters. Belonging to a unit — if only for a couple of months — gives a foster child something extra, she believes.

Second, someone who is a Guide leader is used to dealing with different types of girls and that level of flexibility is crucial to fostering. 'And,' Margaret added, 'if you're in Guiding you obviously love children. You enjoy having the youngsters around, being with them and giving them what you can. It's the same for fostering.'

OPENNESS COUNTS

Pat Verity, an Assistant Brownie Guider in Lewisham, also has hands-on experience

of fostering, having looked after three children from infancy through to late teenage. She is now Policy Manager of the National Foster Care Association.

Pat agrees that from a fostering viewpoint the Guider's experience of working with a wide variety of girls is a definite advantage. Similarly, Guiders are almost certainly used to having young people in and out of their homes and this openness in their own family life helps them adapt more easily to a fostering situation.

Pat went on to talk about becoming a foster carer: who can do it and where to begin. Formerly, foster carers were typically married couples — homeowners, with, probably, a three-bedroomed house and just one of them working.

Today, she explained, the emphasis is on placing youngsters in a family setting that corresponds socially and culturally to their own environment.

This means that all kinds of people can foster: people who are single, divorced or living with someone, for example. They can be in their twenties, thirties, forties, fifties and living in council flats or in rented accommodation. Different religious and ethnic backgrounds are also represented.

Putting children in an environment that resembles their own helps create continuity and security in their lives, makes them feel 'at home' and also avoids alienating the birth family.

How does anyone who is interested in fostering find out more? Talk to people who are already doing it,' Pat advised. 'You can also contact the Fostering Officer at your local authority — a phone call doesn't commit you to anything — and send for the NFCA information pack.'

'But,' she warns, 'one of the first questions you're going to have to ask yourself is "Can I afford it?" Caring for a child full-time is very different from having a child come to tea once or twice a week. There is a basic allowance, but it varies greatly from one local authority to another.'

This allowance is intended to cover clothes, food, heating and lighting, holidays, general wear and tear and so on — in fact, all the costs incurred through having an extra child in the home. Though as Pat says, it does vary: for example, as much as between £30 to £150 a week for an under-five.

If, eventually, you do decide to get involved, one of your first tasks, according to Margaret, is to 'start collecting wellies. When the children come, that's something they never have.'

CATHERINE DELL

MORE INFO

Further information is available from:

● National Foster Care Association, Leonard House, 5-7 Marshalsea Road, London SE1 1EP. Send a large sae for an information pack on fostering.

● British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering, Skyline House, 200 Union Street, London SE1 0LY. Send a large sae (29p) for publications catalogue listing leaflets and books about fostering.

● Zoe's baby, her second, arrived safely and is called Polly.

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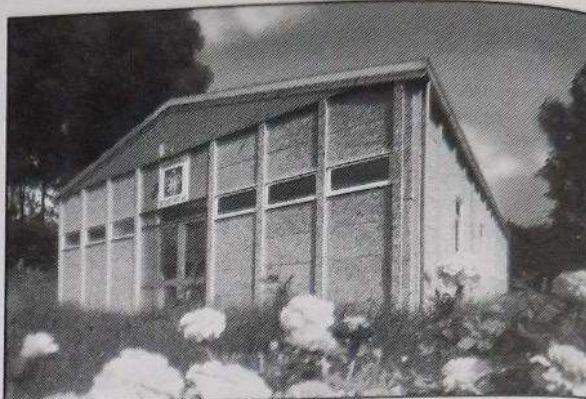
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Edinburgh shop

Over 1,000 spectators enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of music at North East England's magnificent Festival of Song, culmination of the Region's competition to find the most tuneful Guiding groups.

ON song

The compere, Guiding's good friend, designer and TV personality Jeff Banks, received rapturous applause when he confessed he'd been the only one among 43 boys to sing flat consistently at school!

The 20 groups taking part had each won a semi-final. There were four groups in each of five sections — Rainbow, Brownie, Guide, Ranger/Young Leader and Composite.

After a warm-up session led by the Region's Music Adviser, Alison Cunningham, and the Public Relations Adviser, Janet Liversedge, first on stage were the 12th Washington-Rickleton Rainbows from Durham North who got the Festival off to a fine start with *Six Little Ducks*.

The rules permitted each group to sing as many songs as it wished during the time allotted, as long as they were chosen from a list taken from Guide song books and included one compulsory song, selected to reflect the age of the singers. The two oldest sections could also choose a song from their own locality.

The three judges at York's Barbican Centre had an almost impossible task as the standard was very high. Some groups used visual aids, costumes and choreography to set the mood.

Instrumentalists also accompanied most performances, sometimes leaders, often the girls themselves. The audience was at times treated to the sound of shakers, recorders, coconut shells, flutes, keyboards, guitars, woodwind instruments, violins and trumpets.

While the groups changed places, the audience was entertained by what Jeff Banks described as 'the Janet and Alison show' — a selection of poetry, musical fun and community singing.

Small trophies were awarded to each group taking part as they had all qualified as semi-finalists. But the winning group in each section received a larger trophy and went on to perform its compulsory song in the show's grand finale.

Overall winners of the Rainbow Section were 1st Berkeley Rainbows from Lincolnshire North and Humber-side South who had devised a particu-

larly snappy introduction.

There were only 11 girls in the 1st Greenside Brownies' group from Durham North but their excellent singing, accompanied by a Guider on guitar and a Brownie on recorder, gave them the edge in this age group.

The Guide trophy went to 6th Lower Holme Valley Guides, West Yorkshire South who had taken great care with their choreography. The girls' instrumental talent on flute, trumpet and keyboard made them formidable opponents for the other Guide groups.

Crawcrook District Rangers of Durham North proved that small can be beautiful. Just five Rangers including a flautist, accompanied by a Guider on guitar, sang in such superb harmony that they defeated three other very strong groups.

Composite groups varied from just six adults to an all-ages choir, which filled the stage and even included a Rainbow. This must have given the judges a particularly hard task, but Shipley Division from West Yorkshire North emerged the winners.

GILLIAN ELLIS



▲ Tuning up: These two members of the 2nd Whitley Bay Ranger Unit from North Tyneside were in perfect harmony

▼ Waiting in the wings: the 12th Washington-Rickleton Rainbows from Durham North prepare their opening number *Six Little Ducks*



GILLIAN ELLIS

Musical achievement apart, the performance of Humber-side North's conductor must surely merit an award. Bronia Trynka-Watson had brought along her daughter Talitha, who had been born by Caesarian section just

three days earlier.

Allowed out of hospital for the occasion, Bronia conducted her singers with every appearance of boundless energy. Now that's show business!

GILLIAN ELLIS 15

Network



Conservation counts: young people working for a better Britain

BETTER BRITAIN

▲Whether it's tree planting or pond restoration, if your unit is involved in a practical project to improve the environment, you could get a grant from the Shell Better Britain Campaign.

Shell has produced 20,000 copies of the 1994 *Guide to a Better Britain* to be distributed free to anyone who contacts the Campaign for advice.

It includes conservation tips, contacts and an application form for grants of up to £750 to help provide equipment. For a copy write to: Shell Better Britain Campaign, Free-post, Birmingham B43 5BR.

PRIVATE PASSIONS

▼Chewing-gum wrappers, egg cups, snow scenes and passport photos are some of the weird and wonderful collections on show in *Carry on Collecting!*, an exhibition running at the Museum of London, London Wall, EC2 until October 16.

The museum is also hosting swap shops, storytelling sessions and celebrity collectors'

evenings. For details ring the 24-hour information line: 071-600 0807.

ANY QUESTIONS?

►Why do the wheels of stage-coaches go backwards in films? Why does a hot-air balloon rise? Why is the sky blue? *The Guinness Book of Why?* just published at £5.99, has the answers. And we have five copies to give away. All you have to do to be in with a chance of winning one is

answer the following question:

Which Guide badge has two books as its symbol?

Send the answer on a postcard with your name and address to: *GUIDING/Guinness Offer*, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT. The winners will be the first five people whose correct answers are drawn after the closing date, August 31.

SUMMER FUN

►Hundreds of exciting activities are planned for the Barbican Centre's Children's Festival which runs from August 1 to 5. Workshops include hat and jewellery making. There will also be puppet shows, a bun-



MUSEUM OF LONDON



Pliable people: Notting Hill's Ronnie Davis collects bendy toys



BARBICAN CENTRE

Altered image: face painting is a firm favourite at the Barbican's Children's Festival

gee run and a bouncy castle.

Admission is £4.50 per child, £1 for adults and covers the whole day — 11.30am to 4.30pm — with no extra charges for materials or equipment. Contact: The Barbican Centre, London EC2Y 8DS. Tel: 071-638 4141.

DOLPHIN DAYS

▼ It is estimated that up to 500,000 whales and dolphins are killed each year. Many die agonising deaths, poisoned by pollution, hunted for food, drowned in nets or simply bored to death in captivity.

ANYTHING LEFT-HANDED LTD

You can even buy special Swiss army knives for left-handers!



The Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society has made

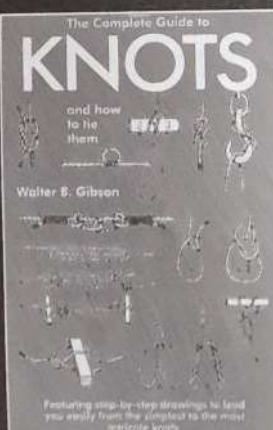
1994 the International Year of the Dolphin and August 20-29 has been declared Dolphin Awareness Week.

Sea Life Centres across the UK are taking part and events include dolphin treasure hunts and a poster competition. Find out more from: Michael Auton, WDCS, Freepost (SN 863), Bath BA1 2XF.

LEFT HANDERS

▲ Lots of fun events are planned for Left-Handers Club Day on August 13, when left-handers get together to publicise the difficulties and frustrations they face in a right-handed world.

Organised by the Left-Handers Club, celebrations are scheduled to be held at Trafalgar Square and Carnaby Street from 10.30am. There



Get knotted — with *The Complete Guide to Knots*

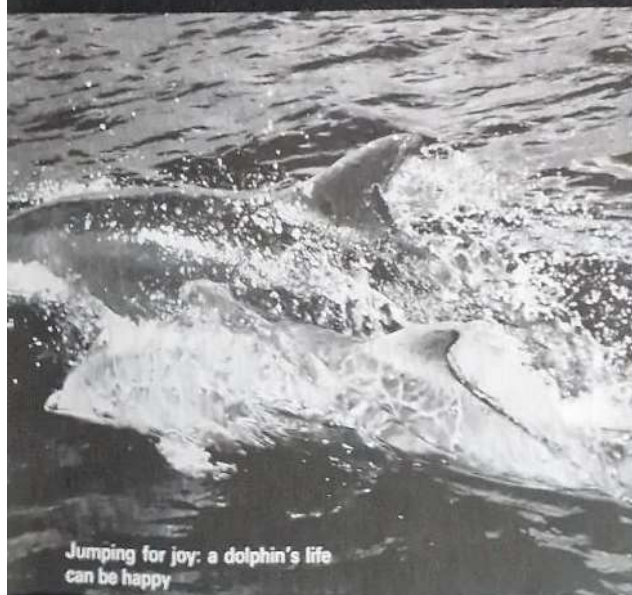
is no charge and everyone is invited to join in the fun.

For Club details write to: 57 Brewer Street, London W1R 3FB, enclosing three second class stamps. Or ring: 081-770 3722.

KNOTS GALORE

▲ If your girls don't know a sheepshank from a sheet bend, get them a copy of *The Complete Guide to Knots* by Walter B. Gibson — a handy paperback containing simple instructions and step-by-step drawings.

It costs £2.99 and there's a 35 per cent discount for bulk orders of five or more. Send orders direct to: Sales Department, Robinson Publishing, 7 Kensington Church Court, London W8 4SP. Tel: 071-938 3830.



Jumping for joy: a dolphin's life can be happy

WHALE & DOLPHIN CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Notices

THE ASSOCIATION'S AWARDS GOOD SERVICE

LAUREL

Mrs Margaret Lawson — Division Commissioner, Urmston, Greater Manchester West

Mrs Margaret Leather — County Commissioner, Lancashire West

Mrs Daphne Monery — Assistant County Commissioner, Leicestershire

Miss Margaret Sinclair — Guide Guider, 5th Chester-le-Street Company; Region Chairman of Programme and Training Committee, North East England; member of the Association's Executive Committee and The Council.

Miss Averil Taylor — Guide Guider, 5th Warminster Company; County Arts Adviser, Wiltshire South.

Mrs Sheila Walker — the Association's Public Relations Adviser.

MERITORIOUS CONDUCT

STAR OF MERIT

Patricia Coleman — Guide, 224th City of Edinburgh Company, City of Edinburgh

Tamara Gordon — Brownie Guide, 1st Bugle Pack, Cornwall.

Laura Lilley — Guide, 1st Harby Company, Leicestershire.

Miss Kirsten Tweedie — Assistant Guide Guider, 1st Musselburgh Company, East Lothian.

BADEN-POWELL TREFOIL BADGE AND CERTIFICATE

The Baden-Powell Trefoil Award badge has now been changed to reflect the Association's new logo. At the same time, the certificate has been redesigned and both the new badge and certificate are now available through normal Trading Service outlets.

It has come to our notice that some Guides have been presented with their certificates but have not received badges because stocks of the old badge had run out. Since there is now a new certificate to go with the

new badge, those Guides who have old certificates and new badges may send their certificates to the Trading Service for them to be replaced with new ones at no extra cost.

We apologise for any inconvenience the short gap in production may have caused.

SHORT TERM INVESTMENT SERVICE

The monthly interest rate after deduction of management commission was:

March	4 per cent
April	4 per cent
May	3.797 per cent

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

TRUST FUND

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

for selling purposes	317.02p
for buying purposes	333.03p
income yield	3.48 per cent

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

PILOT BADGES

In response to the many comments about the Pilot Badges all being the same, the Badge Review Committee has now agreed there should be a set of six Pilot Badges all with different coloured edging. So anyone who gains a Pilot Badge may choose whichever colour badge she wants. Of course, if she earns more than one badge, she can have a variety of coloured badges or several badges all the same colour.

This is the most cost-effective way of producing Pilot Badges, since the production of new badges can be expensive and is only cost-effective if we have a large enough number made.

If we had individual badges made for each piloted syllabus and some of the syllabuses were not accepted at the end of their trial periods, we would be wasting a lot of the Association's money by having badges produced that were not required.

FRIENDS OF GUIDING BROWNSEA ISLAND

The Association's former General Secretary, Marjorie Hayter, was the guest speaker at the Friends of Guiding Brownsea Island's first annual general meeting.

The Chairman, Janet Powell, presented a £200 cheque to help pay for a new fridge-freezer for South Shore Lodge, the Scout and Guide holiday house on the island.

Later, Barry Guest, the Head Warden, described the holidays for disadvantaged children which are held each year at the Island's study centre.

Anyone who wishes to become a Friend should apply to: The Secretary, Mrs Denise Press, 55 Forest View Drive, Staplehill, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 7NX. Please enclose a sae.

FRIENDS OF THE FOUR WORLD CENTRES

The Friends of the Four World Centres are holding a meeting on October 22 at Pax Lodge.

Business will be dealt with from 2pm to 3.30pm, followed by tours of the house.

There will be a bring-and-buy stall and lunch will be available at 12.30pm, costing £3.50 per person. Bookings should be made before October 1 by sending a cheque to: The Secretary/Treasurer, June Webb, 17 Church Lane, Sproughton, Ipswich IP8 3BA.

Anyone wanting overnight accommodation should contact the Guider-in-Charge.

ENDURANCE TEST

The Cambridge University Scout and Guide Club will be holding the popular Venture Scout/Ranger/Young Leader Endurance Test over the weekend of October 22-23 this year.

The 25-mile overnight incident hike will be held in the Willingham area of Cambridgeshire, starting early on Saturday evening and finishing on Sunday.

It is open to teams of four Venture Scouts, Rangers or Young Leaders. There will be full radio cover, first aid presence and transport available to pick up any stragglers. Walkers can look forward to a cooked breakfast on the Sunday morning.

For further details contact Linda Odell, CUSAGC Service Secretary, 72 Harbour Avenue, Comberton, Cambridge CB3 7DD. Tel: 0223 262954.

JUNIOR MASTERCHEF

Fans of *MasterChef* will know that *Junior MasterChef 1994* is to be shown on BBC1 during the autumn.

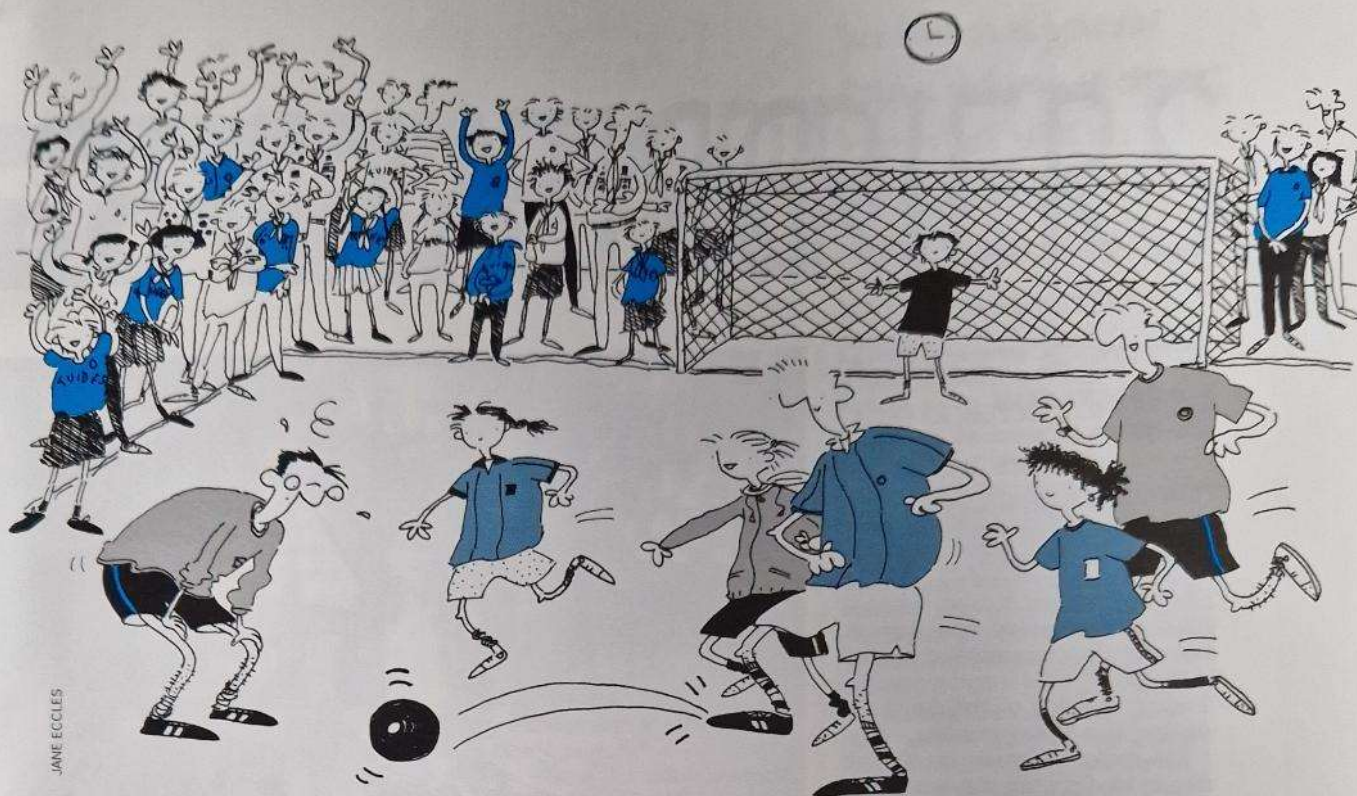
Now the BBC is offering young people aged between 10 and 15, who love cooking, the chance to appear in the second series which will be recorded in January and February next year. If they reach the TV finals, they will be asked to cook a main course and pudding for two people in 90 minutes on a budget of £10.

The first stage of the competition is a regional 'cook off' for up to 16 contestants — who will be selected on the strength of their completed application forms — which will be held in local catering colleges in September.

In November or December short biographies of the three successful contestants from each region will be filmed. Finally, in January or February, the competitors will be brought to London, along with four members of their families, for the television recording of the regional finals. The regional winners will then go on to be filmed in the semi-finals and finals.

If you know anyone who would like to take part, suggest she writes off to: *Junior MasterChef*, Department 20, PO Box 4ED, London W1A 4ED. A large sae should be enclosed.

● Anyone over 16 is eligible to enter *MasterChef 1995*. For details send a large sae to: *MasterChef*, Department GUU, PO Box 4ED, London W1A 4ED.



My brother-in-law runs a Cub Pack and, once a year, his Scout Group holds a five-a-side football tournament at the local sports hall, where teams of Cubs, Scouts, Guides, parents and leaders play against each other. This is all purely for fun, of course, except that the Cub Leaders always win.

This year, however, the team's star player was unavailable and Mark rang me in desperation to reminisce about the days when the pair of us had outplayed all the other stars on our way to the Middlesex schools final.

The memories came flooding back of our childhood and also of his kid sister, who loyally turned up week after week to cheer on her big brother and his team-mates. And, yes, she was the one I ultimately married.

Those days are long gone — as indeed are our thin waists, stamina and most of our skill, as I was to discover to my cost.

Eventually, I agreed to play and rummaged in the loft for my old football kit. I was surprised to find that my shorts appeared to have shrunk over the past ten years. So Rosemary indulgently treated me to a new pair, hoping, I think, to make me look like the cross between George Best and Pele that I fondly believed myself to be.

The tournament itself was as popular as ever and the Cub Leaders' team started off well, notching up a draw against the Venture Scouts, a narrow defeat by the Scouts and a convincing 1-0 win over the Beavers. Yours truly scored the latter goal, which I will freely admit was a miss hit due to my trying to avoid the reckless tackling of two particularly vicious six-year-olds.

The Guides, meanwhile, had soundly beaten both the Brownie team and the Cub mothers.

The needle match was to be between the Cub Leaders and the Guides. I was a little surprised when Rosemary volunteered to play in goal for us but I should have twigged what she was up to. I won't go as far as to say that she seemed to have a conflict of interests, but her goalkeeping did degenerate from inept to ridiculous.

Somehow we found ourselves 2-0 down with only five minutes to go. Mark and his Assistant levelled the score and then, in the last minute, the ball reached me. I was skilfully positioned on the wing waiting for the killer pass. It's true the others said I was exhausted and trying to avoid the ball, but what do they know about football?

I started dribbling towards the Guide goal and suddenly I was no longer in the local sports hall but striding down the hallowed turf at Wembley Stadium. It was 1966 and I was about to score the goal that would make England

A MAN'S EYE VIEW

world champions.

I could almost hear Kenneth Wolstenholme begin his famous speech. I looked up, saw the German goalkeeper off his (sorry Sarah, her) line and was about to shoot, when an audible and extremely painful snap brought me back to reality.

I had always dreamed that my football career would end with me being carried from the pitch, although I admit I was thinking more along the lines of Moore, Hurst and Peters hoisting me aloft as I clutched the World Cup. But in the end I had to settle for St John Ambulance with me clutching my torn calf muscle!

Even now, I am still haunted by my boss's hysterical laughter when I rang him the next morning to explain that the new Gazza would not be in for the next couple of days.

Meeting as many local people as possible is high on Julie Tait's list of priorities. As the Association's Project Officer in North East England 28-year-old Julie knows she needs to build bridges within the community.

BREAKING

Julie's brief is to encourage Guiding in some of the Region's most deprived areas, and she is passionately committed to the job. 'There's a crying need for Guiding in some of the places I'm working in,' she explained.

'The crime rate among boys in this area is levelling out, but among the girls it's rising.'

Julie was the third Project Officer appointed as part of the Association's Reach Out project, which aims to bring Guiding to those who wouldn't otherwise have the chance to benefit.

'I feel that if Guiding can divert just one child from hanging around on the streets and getting into trouble then what I'm doing is worthwhile,' she said.

Like the Association's other Project Officers in Liverpool and London, Julie has moved the focus of her work from her initial target area, in her case from the West End area of Newcastle to the Meadowell district of North Shields, scene of serious riots in 1991.

Both areas are very run down and the social problems that go hand in hand with poverty are all too familiar. Children are often left to play unsupervised after school.

'It's not that the kids are neglected,' Julie said. 'It's just that lots of women around here have to go out to work simply to make ends meet.'

'Lots of kids have never been on holiday... never even been out of the area. Often, they don't even get the chance to do simple things like drawing pictures or making things. Guiding can offer them these experiences.'

However, as Julie explained, before Guiding can thrive in these places where it is so desperately needed, there are formidable practical and psychological barriers to overcome.

'You've got to work in a community for some time before you are accepted. People have been let down before by



Positive images: Julie prepares a display about Guiding for Newcastle's Discovery Centre

'do-gooders' who've come into the area, thrown money at the situation and then quickly gone away. It takes a long time to build up trust.

There are other reasons why people don't get involved,' she continued. 'Some women lack confidence. Others are scared to go out at night and don't want their daughters to either. Plus, in some sections of the community there simply isn't a tradition of volunteering and women don't think of themselves in that role.'

'Also, if you're a single mother trying to bring up kids on your own, it could be difficult to find the time and money to get involved.'

For all these reasons recruiting new adult leaders is a difficult task. 'You do have disappointments,' Julie confessed. 'You think you've found a new leader and she seems really keen. Then, for no apparent reason, she drops out.'

But Julie refuses to get depressed by such setbacks. She simply carries on trying to get to know as many members of the local community as she can. The more people I contact, the more potential adult leaders I've got. And, of course, people I talk to have friends, mothers, daughters or granddaughters, who could get

involved in the Movement.

'I often call in at the local drop-in centre for a chat,' Julie explained. 'I go to school fairs and coffee evenings and I hold recruitment days in supermarkets. Being seen in everyday places like that helps break down barriers.'

As well as trying to drum up new adult leaders, Julie is always on the look out for youngsters to recruit.

'I spend time visiting children's centres and local schools. I've done mail shots through schools, too — sending letters to all the parents to let them know what Guiding has to offer,' she said. 'I also try to get pieces about Guiding into local community newsletters.'

Julie is also keen to ensure that existing units in the area aren't forgotten, as she knows all about the problems — and rewards — associated with running an active unit. She's been a Guide Guider for the past eight years and currently runs 1st Battle Hill Company in North Tyneside.

The Company meets near her home in Wallsend — so named because of its position at the eastern end of Hadrian's Wall — midway between the two areas in which she works.

She recognises that Guiding has an image problem in these areas and that

DOWN BARRIERS

it will only thrive in the long-term if this is tackled. She stressed: 'I want to get across the idea that Guiding really isn't stuffy.'

Posters play an important role in Julie's consciousness-raising campaign. 'I stick them up everywhere I can — in schools, doctors' surgeries, shops, community centres... Posters don't necessarily have instant results, but all these things have a cumulative effect.'

When *GUIDING* dropped in, Julie had just completed her latest scheme to get across the message that Guiding is great — a poster competition and display in Newcastle's impressive Discovery Centre Museum.

Members of local units were asked to design posters that would help recruit new leaders and the entries were displayed in the People's Gallery — a space set aside for exhibitions by

local community groups.

Julie was inundated with over 200 entries. 'It was an amazing response,' she beamed. 'I will take colour photocopies of the posters and use them for the recruitment drive.'

The display of posters was part of a six-week exhibition called *Working Together* by five local community groups. Julie created a whole exhibition about Guiding using uniforms, gadgets and a real tent, which was erected on the museum floor with parcel tape rather than tent pegs!

'My next plan is to adopt a bus,' she announced cheerfully. 'I've seen pictures drawn by children from various schools on local buses and I think Guiding should have a bus too. I'm going to contact the bus company to find out if it's possible.'

'We need more Guiding on Tyneside.

It could make a real difference to lots of lives up here.'

MARY RICHARDSON

● Julie can be contacted on 091-262 0561.

The Association has recently recruited another full-time Project Officer to work in the Stirling area of Scotland and two part-time Project Officers for Midland Region: one to work in Nottingham and the other to encourage Guiding in the mining villages around the city.

A national Reach Out Team Supervisor has been appointed. She is Jane McCutchan, who has spent the last 20 years in the USA where she was a volunteer with Boy Scouts of America. Her role is to co-ordinate the work of all the Project Officers and others involved in Reach Out.

All wrapped up: Guides from 60th Newcastle Company taught local celebrity Matthew Davies the rudiments of first aid, when he went along to judge Julie's poster competition



AIMING HIGH

The Association Junior Council (AJC) has one aim: To be a channel to promote the views of young women within the present structure of The Guide Association, at all levels.

This aim has recently been approved by the Executive Committee as part of the Association Junior Council's Business Plan. The process of producing the plan has taken over a year to complete because we wanted to be really sure that we would be working towards the goals outlined in the Association's Vision Statement and taking account of the Movement's commitment 'to promote the advancement of girls and women'.

The Business Plan is our action plan for the next five years — an action plan to help us achieve our aim.

We have decided on four global objectives to help us achieve our final goal — which is complete integration of young women in the decision-making bodies of the Association.

Our first global objective relates to participation. It is: **To increase participation of young women at all levels of the Association and to make effective use of their skills and abilities.**

We want to improve the procedures for recruiting new AJC members so that more young people understand the work of the AJC and apply to be members. Work has already started on this, so watch this space!

Seeking to increase young women's participation in the running of the Association will involve advertising the opportunities which already exist. For example, do you know how you get to be a Trainer? This is a very interesting and rewarding job, but very few members know how to go about becoming one.

The fact that people don't know what opportunities are available is obviously a result of poor communication. So our second global objective aims to deal with this lack of communication. And in future we will be using this page to promote opportunities within Guiding for young women.

Our second global objective is: **To create effective communication between the AJC and other relevant bodies.**

A first step towards achieving this goal will be the improvement of links with the Country/Region Junior Councils/Forums. We have already started this process by circulating an outline agenda and discussion papers for each AJC meeting two or three months in advance, so that Junior Councils around the UK can formulate their opinions. This means AJC members can bring feedback from their Countries/Regions to the meetings.

In return, we hope that the Junior Councils/Forums will give us the chance to feed back to them key elements of our discussions and any decisions taken, thus ensuring a flow of information back to Countries/Regions, Counties, Divisions and Districts.

We also want to increase the involvement of other young women who are not members of Junior Councils/Forums. To achieve this we will be actively promoting the setting up of an Association Information Resource listing the skills, interests and qualifications of members aged 16 to 26.

Obviously, this will not happen overnight, but we have already made progress by producing a small database covering AJC members and this will soon be expanded to include all Junior Council Forum members around the UK, British Youth Council delegation members, LINK members and beyond.

Our third global objective is con-

cerned with awareness. It is: **To increase awareness of the AJC within Guiding.** This is vital because, unless people know what the issues are and what work is being done, they cannot contribute to the consultation process.

As our first step in tackling awareness, we are producing a newsletter. A team of AJC members has written the first one, which contains information about AJC news, future topics, trainings and so on. It is initially to be circulated to Country/Region Junior Council/Forum members, Training Centres and so on. But, if it is a success, we hope to achieve a wider circulation — so look out for it.

We have also reviewed the content of this page and, in the future, it will contain more news of what the AJC is doing, as well as material on topics of interest to young women.

Our fourth global objective is to be a sounding board. We aim: **To discuss, contribute and report on issues relevant to members of the Association.**

We have asked the Association's Committees and Working Groups to use us as a big brainstorming committee, generating ideas and carrying out tasks for the Association.

So far this year, we have discussed the Guide Laws and contributed ideas for alternative Thinking Day celebrations. In the next few months we will be continuing discussions on contributions made to the Thinking Day Fund, and promoting issues raised by the British Youth Council.

As you can see, our Business Plan has given us an agenda for action in the future. I think we're really going to have our work cut out to achieve all the objectives we have set for the next five years, but we will certainly be doing our best.

If you have any ideas how we could increase the communication to, and participation of, young women, with a view to achieving our aim, please send your views to me: c/o Elizabeth Anderson, The Guide Association, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT.

LARA BROOKES
Chairman of the Junior Council



'It's time you took your Camper's Licence,' Mrs Forbes, Emma's Guider, kept telling me.

At Emma's age, admittedly, I did enjoy camping. But as a Guider I didn't fancy it. Roughing it in the great outdoors had somehow lost its appeal.

Needless to say, my attitude shocked Emma, who, of course, gained her Camper badge after her very first camp as a Guide.

'At least I'm not a wimp,' she declared, busily tripod-making ready for her Camper Advanced badge.

Feeling nettled, I accepted Mrs Forbes' invitation to join the District camp. It was scheduled for May Day weekend and we survived the usual weather. Though the stiff neck I contracted in those Arctic temperatures stayed with me till the autumn.

'While we're here we'll test some Camper badges,' Mrs Forbes told me brightly. (She never wastes an opportunity.) You can test bed rolls.'

The motley collection of bed rolls that presented themselves for testing were mostly falling to pieces, or absorbing water fast through trailing blankets. So as I took my post as bed roll tester seriously, I decided I ought to give a demonstration.

Mrs Forbes was not pleased. 'You must have realised they'd been trained an entirely different way,' she said, looking rather grim. 'And now, thanks to you, that's all been undermined.'

The only thing I'd realised was that a lot of them didn't appear to have been

trained at all. Obviously I had a great deal to learn. But who said I *wanted* to learn it? Or take my Camper's Licence, for that matter.

'Give it a try, Mum,' Emma cajoled. 'I'm doing Camper Advanced, aren't I?'

And she did — apart from a minor hiccup when putting up a loo cubicle. I think loo cubicles were designed as traps for the unwary. Comedy actors please note: if you want a good stage prop, a loo cubicle knocks spots off the traditional deckchair.

'I've got a retest on that cubicle,' Emma said airily. 'But I can start working on the Patrol Camp Permit, can't I? When are you going to do your licence?'

Grudgingly, I booked the statutory minimum two nights at the nearest possible camp site. The fact that the dates needed altering twice to suit my helpers was a mere detail.

The camp itself went, more or less, as planned.

'Why are you an hour behind your written schedule?' the testers queried.

I claimed we were working to GMT. It was July but, amazingly, they accepted my excuse and I got that licence.

Mrs Forbes visited us, what's more, to test some Camper badges. She did ask: 'Who taught them square lashing?' Adding: 'Could I demonstrate *my* way?' But she passed everybody, bless her.

That was last year.

This year Mrs Forbes is taking St Oswald's Guides to Austria.

'Lucky you,' I told Emma. 'We'll have to be content with last year's site — just three miles from home.'

'You don't have to be so feeble,' she jeered.

But I reckon I've peaked where camping is concerned. Midnight feasts no longer mean fun and frolics. They mean broken nights caring for the victims of tummy upsets.

And, while Emma just can't wait for camp, I just can't wait for it to be over.

Still, two positive points deserve a mention. Emma's asking *my* advice about the Patrol Camp Permit and, instead of the statutory minimum two nights, I've booked three this year.

Something about camp is making me go back for more. I just haven't worked out what it is yet.

ANDREA JAMES

My Girl's A GUIDE



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Guiding has always been concerned with building bridges between countries and cultures. Increasingly, members from the UK spend periods living and working overseas forging links with other Guide Associations. But, on their return, not all members realise the Association offers them the chance to meet up with fellow travellers through the Commonwealth and International Circle.

The Circle has met regularly for over 50 years and currently holds 11 meetings a year at CHQ.

The Chairman, Marie Ruiz explained:

'The purpose of the Circle is to put people from different countries in touch with one another and to increase knowledge of each other's cultures.'

'Anyone who is interested in life in another country is welcome to come to our meetings, as are those who have worked overseas, taken part in GOLD projects or attended international camps.'

'We would particularly welcome young people with new ideas. They will meet people of all ages who have interesting experiences to share.'

Membership is not restricted to Londoners, the Circle is open to anyone who might be coming up to town on a visit.

Visitors from overseas who are

passing through the capital can attend and hospitality can be arranged.

Membership currently costs £3 a year but is due to rise to £5 next year. There are usually three afternoon meetings (from 2 to 4pm) and eight early evening meetings (from 6 to 8pm) a year with appropriate refreshments for a nominal sum.

Events in the pipeline include a debate in September on whether boys should be allowed to join the Guides, a talk on Oriental carpets in October and a visit from a speaker from Save the Children in November.

For further details and a copy of the programme write to: The CIC Secretary, 23 Meteor Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SS0 8DF.

EXECUTIVE NEWS

Members of the Executive Committee agreed at their meeting in April that a pilot paper should be produced — after consultations — by the Membership Committee, setting out its ideas for a new, improved census. The decision whether to go ahead and pilot the new census in one Country and one Region will be taken after the paper has been submitted.

From January 1 next year, anyone taking up an Association appointment must complete an adult registration form. The requirement may be extended to instructors and other helpers, if it is appropriate.

A Guide Trainer from Bangladesh is to be seconded to the Association for 12 months and will undertake outreach

work among the Bangladeshi community in Tower Hamlets, East London. It is expected that she will also visit Muslim units in other Countries/Regions.

The scheme, which was suggested to The Chief Commissioner by the Bangladesh Chief Commissioner at last year's Commonwealth Conference, seeks to:

- Increase awareness of and raise Guiding's profile within the Bangladeshi community.
- Offer the community's girls and young women the chance to experience Guiding's structured programme of activities and training.
- Raise awareness of cultural issues within the Association.
- Run a co-operative project with the Girl Guides of Bangladesh.

In future, a revised edition of *The Guiding Manual* will be published every five years, and the price will include three sets of amendments inserts to cover the interim period. Members learned that the revised edition is due out in September with amendments appearing every January from 1996 to 1998.

The Association is likely to join a number of prestigious national and international

women's organisations in mounting a stand at the three main political party conferences this autumn. Its theme may well be 'A Woman's Work is Never Paid For'. The Association accepted the Fawcett Society's invitation to pursue the possibility of taking part as it was in line with our Vision Statement and Objectives and did not in any way compromise the restrictions placed upon us as a charity in undertaking political activity.

As no tenant has been found for the fifth floor at CHQ since the refurbishment was completed in 1990, a study is to be carried out into using the office space for the benefit of volunteers, as there is 'a desperate need for space' within the building.

Four global objectives — participation, communication, awareness and a sounding board — have been identified by the Junior Council during the preparation of its five-year business plan. Members feel the fourth objective is the most important and are anxious that the Association's Committees and Working Groups make use of them as a sounding board.

Mrs Jean Hall has been re-appointed as the Association's Arts Adviser for a further two years.

INTOPS

INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES WEEKEND

- Have you ever wanted to travel?
- Have you ever wanted to be part of a team of people who are all looking for adventure?
- Are you interested in working in different communities?
- Can you think on your feet?
- Are you prepared to accept a challenge?

If so, come along to an INTOPS weekend.

INTOPS is designed for anybody between 16 and 30 and provides a chance to learn about:

- Development Education
- WAGGGS
- Community Involvement and Development
- GOLD — Guiding Overseas Linked with Development.

After attending an INTOPS weekend, you could be offered the opportunity to be part of a GOLD overseas community project for between three weeks and six months.

The next INTOPS weekends will be held at:

- Waddow Hall, Clitheroe, Lancashire from November 25 to 27.
- Waddow Hall, Clitheroe, Lancashire from January 13 to 15.
- Foxlease, Lyndhurst, Hampshire from February 10 to 12.

If you are interested, or would like any further information, please complete the attached slip and send it to: Barbara Mathieson, GOLD, Guiding Activities Division, The Guide Association, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT.



◀ International Commissioner Sheran Oke hugs the son and daughter of a Thai policeman who escorted a GOLD team on a visit to a Cambodian refugee camp



▼ Learning is fun at an INTOPS weekend

I would like to attend an INTOPS weekend:

The dates I would prefer are:

November 25-27

January 13-15

February 10-12

Please number in order of preference.

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Address

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orchestral

MANOEUVRES

A standing ovation from the capacity audience at the second concert given by the National Scout and Guide Symphony Orchestra crowned a week-long visit to Greece.

Earlier the UK Guides and Scouts had impressed the Greeks, some of whom had never attended a live concert before, with their rendition of the Greek national anthem.

And the music-loving Mayor of Glyfada, the suburb of Athens where the concerts were staged, was so impressed that he invited the 73 young musicians and their leaders to eat at his taverna the next evening.

The orchestra's trip to Greece followed a week spent at Ardingly College, near Haywards Heath, rehearsing and polishing a programme of music which included works by Dvorak, Borodin, Elgar, Brahms and Glinka.

Musicians from all over the UK are selected each year to form the orchestra and attend a week's course culminating in a concert. Every fifth year an overseas visit is arranged.

For the last three years the orchestra's conductor has been Robert Cracknell. In addition, professional tutors work with the different sections perfecting their performance. This year, to break up the eight hours a day spent rehearsing, the local Trefoil Guild and Scout Fellowship had arranged activities for the 11 boys and 62 girls who made up the orchestra.

As April Fool's Day fell during that week, the orchestra members dreamed up some activities of their own — they hid a picture of a gorilla in the conductor's score and resolved to always begin playing a different piece to the one he'd asked for.

But there was no fooling around when the orchestra played before an enthusiastic audience that included the Mayor and Mayoress of Hove, Councillor Peter Martin and Mrs Jacqui Martin; the Mayor and Mayoress of East Grinstead, Councillors David and Shirley Clark; the Chief Commissioner for London and South East Region, Billy Everett and the Chief Executive, Hilary Williams, at Hove Town Hall on Easter Saturday.

The next day was spent letting off steam at Blackland Farm, where the activities on offer included abseiling, rock climbing and canoeing.

An early start the following morning took the eager travellers to Gatwick



Katherine Marsh and Helen Limb with some of their Greek Guide friends

Airport, where they faced the complicated task of getting their luggage, including seven cellos and three double basses through customs.

'After a hectic two hours and many strange looks from fellow passengers, we finally boarded the plane,' recalled Nicola Barnes, a Ranger who lives near Bristol and has played with the orchestra for four years.

The first full day in Athens was spent sightseeing in the rain and Elizabeth — Lizzie — Lamming, from Lincolnshire was presented with her Baden-Powell Trefoil Award by Vivienne Limb, the Assistant Arts Adviser (Orchestra). Lizzie recalled: 'It was a very proud moment, the views from the Acropolis were wonderful despite the mist.'

As the first concert was to be given that evening, the orchestra got down to rehearsals the next day. However, they encountered a few communication problems, as Lizzie's sister, Sarah, explained: 'We had problems making the Greek lighting technicians understand our Greek, so we gave up and organised the lighting ourselves.'

Although the concert was due to start at 8pm, some of the audience were still taking their seats an hour

later — 15 minutes before the show was due to end. But the music was so good that some of them returned next day for an encore.

There was just time for the orchestra to fit in some more sightseeing, shopping and a memorable cruise to three Greek islands before heading home.

They also spent time during the week with Greek Guides and Scouts who rapidly 'became our friends'.

Their last evening was spent gazing at the magnificent sunset from Cape Sounion, a viewpoint on the Greek mainland.

For Lizzie and Sarah, their most overwhelming memory was of 'the friendships we formed and the music we enjoyed'.

And they weren't the only ones — many members of the orchestra struck up friendships which they hope to renew at next year's course. Nicola explained: 'The courses are a great way to build up musical experience but also to make friends all over the country through Guiding.'

● Look out for details of how to apply for a place in 1995's orchestra in *GUIDING* early next year.

new policy FOR TRAINING CENTRES

The Association's new policy for its Training and Activity Centres has meant changes to the way the Centres are run and financed.

Following recommendations made in a report by the Training and Activity Centres Working Group, the emphasis is now on:

- The importance of residential training for adult leaders.
- A need to provide good Guiding value for Guide money.
- Maximising the use of the Centres, which represent valuable assets for the benefit of the members of the Movement.

The report, which was agreed by the Executive Committee last year, recommended changes to the management

of the Centres owned by the Association — Blackland Farm, Foxlease and Waddow. There will also be changes to the ways these Centres and those owned by the Countries — Broneirion, Lorne and Netherurd — are financed.

Greater emphasis has been given to local management at the Association's Centres. The Managers, formerly the Guiders-in-Charge, have been given greater responsibility so they can respond to the needs of their customers — you, the Guiders.

Management Committees of Guiders and others with skills in training, activities, marketing and finance have been set up. They will advise and support the Managers, so that the Centres will meet the changing needs and expectations of today's Guiders.

The overall management structure has been strengthened by the appointment of a Training Centres and Property Manager, Simon Wigglesworth, who is based at CHQ. As well as a Training and Activity Centres Chairman, Bridget Towle — a volunteer — who will liaise with the Chairmen of all the Centres' Management Committees.

Guiding is fortunate in having its own residential Training Centres, which belong equally to every member of the

Association from Rainbows to Guiders.

They exist to benefit the whole Association, principally by providing training opportunities for Guiders and, therefore, ensuring the quality and future growth of Guiding. The Association has a duty to make sure that these unique Guiding homes continue to inspire leaders.

In future the training programme will be more flexible, while making sure that there are opportunities for individuals and groups, whether from Regions, Counties, Divisions or Districts, to book the Centres for whatever time they need. The Trefoil Guild and overseas Guides will be particularly welcome during mid-week or holiday periods.

The Centres are anxious to make the



▲ Visitors from the mainland are welcome at Lorne

THE GUIDE ASSOCIATION

▼ Time for tea at Netherurd



► A training in progress at Waddow



THE GUIDE ASSOCIATION

TRES

weekend trainings enjoyable and successful experiences. In order to do this they are reviewing many existing procedures including:

- Domestic arrangements and meals.
- Reduction of visitors' duties.
- Marketing of training opportunities.
- More flexible opportunities for Counties, Divisions and Districts to book half or one third of a house.
- Marketing of activities, camping and self-catering facilities.
- More varied training programmes.

The underlying purpose behind the changes is to improve what is on offer

Centre, and is designed to maximise the residential training use.

Broneirion, Lorne and Netherurd are responding to the challenge of the new policy and funding system in their own distinctive styles. They continue to be open to all members of the Movement, not just those from their own Counties, and look forward to welcoming Guiders from all parts of the UK.

The Executive Committee agreed that Activity Centres, and the camping and self-catering facilities at the Training and Activity Centres, should be self-financing. This already applies to camp and activity centres run by Counties and, it was felt, should also be the target for those Centres funded by the Association.

This has already been achieved at Blackland Farm under Association management, where a wide range of outdoor activities will continue to be offered to campers, users of the self-catering facilities and day visitors.

Under the new criteria it became obvious that Glenbrook could not be run on a break-even basis by the Association. But members will still be able to use the excellent outdoor activities available at this Centre, as it has been leased to the Guide County of Derbyshire, who have appointed a warden.

The camping and self-catering side of all the Training Centres will be run without subsidy from the Association.

The Centres look forward to welcoming old friends back again under the new system, and hope that any members who have never visited one will do so very soon. Perhaps a first visit will be to attend a training, sample the activities available, or enjoy time spent camping or using the self-catering facilities offered.

All those involved with the Centres believe that the new arrangements will benefit everyone in Guiding. But they are relying on grassroots members using these valuable assets as much as possible.

Check out the Training Diary in every issue of *GUIDING* for details of what's on at the Centres and how to make a booking. (Turn to pages 47 and 48 to read about this month's great opportunities.)

The Centres are an important part of our Guiding heritage and they belong to every member of the Movement. Many people have found inspiration, adventure and friendship on visits to the Centres over the years. It is only by making full use of them that we can be sure they will continue into the 21st Century for future generations to use and enjoy.



◀ Enjoying a training session at Foxlease

▼ Herons at Blackland Farm can be booked during the winter



▼ One of the beautiful bedrooms at Broneirion



to trainees, trainers and other users. That's why members are being asked to comment on the changes — or any other subject they wish to raise. Letters should be sent to either the TAC Chairman or the Training Centres and Property Manager at: The Guide Association, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT.

The Association will continue to provide financial support to Foxlease, Waddow, Broneirion, Lorne and Netherurd for residential training. The size of the grant will depend on the number of Guide Association members who stay overnight. This system of formula funding will be the same for each

MINIBUS *advice*

As concern mounts about accidents involving minibuses, GUIDING has some sound advice for drivers whose vehicles break down on the motorway.

The article is based on notes originally published in *Minibus & Community Vehicles*, a magazine for all those who are responsible for running collective passenger transport for groups or communities.

The notes were compiled from a modular training package designed by Karen Gibson of Driver Training Services in West Yorkshire and John Taylor of Taylor Lightfoot, transport consultants for Cheshire County Council's Transport Management Organisation.

Vehicle breakdowns are a worry for all drivers, but especially for those responsible for the safety of a number of passengers. Breaking down on a motorway can be particularly hazardous, even if the driver is able to reach the relative safety of the hard shoulder.

All drivers should be aware that the motorway hard shoulder is not the refuge many believe it to be.

Danger to people and vehicles comes mainly from other vehicles driving on to the hard shoulder at speed, either

because they have mechanical problems, or because the driver has momentarily lost concentration or has fallen asleep at the wheel.

Much of the hard shoulder on the motorway network is now marked by a 'rumble strip' designed to alert and/or awaken drivers in exactly these circumstances.

Because of the hazards of the hard shoulder, the police now advise drivers to ensure their passengers do *not* stay inside a broken-down vehicle, but wait in safety away from the vehicle on the embankment — unless, of course, there are particular circumstances where passengers may be at danger outside the vehicle.

What to do if your minibus breaks down on the motorway:

- If practicable, leave the motorway at the next exit and seek assistance. Otherwise, pull safely off the carriageway on to the hard shoulder.

- Try to stop near an emergency phone: there is one every mile. You may coast along the hard shoulder to reach a phone. White posts positioned every 100 metres have an arrow indicating the direction of the nearest one.

- Park as far to the nearside of the hard shoulder as possible.

- Switch on the vehicle's hazard warn-

ing lights and, at night, switch on all other lights including saloon lights.

- If possible, get all the passengers out of the vehicle using nearside exits.

- Keep passengers well away from the carriageway, preferably on the embankment.

DO NOT CROSS THE CARRIAGEWAY.

- If your vehicle carries an emergency triangle, position it on the hard shoulder 150 metres behind the vehicle.

- Phone the police. The emergency phones are free and connect you directly with the Motorway Police Control Room. The people there will arrange any help you need. The emergency phones are coded so your exact location is known.

The information contained in these notes is general advice and your particular circumstances may justify an alternative course of action. For example, waiting outside the vehicle in mid-winter may be inadvisable, some passengers with disabilities may be unable to climb over the crash barrier to reach the embankment, and so on. You should therefore assess the situation taking account of your individual circumstances and follow the safest course of action.

For more information on how to order a copy or take out a subscription to *Minibus & Community Vehicles*, telephone 071-587 5185.

- The Association is currently considering what changes in its policy and procedures might be desirable to improve minibus safety, including, of course, the question of seat-belts. While unnecessary delay in implementing any changes has to be avoided, it is also important that the full implications of any proposals are carefully thought through.

Golden Common Brownie Nichola Kitchen finds it a tight fit in her temporary home



CARDBOARD CITY

A group of Brownies raised almost £60 for the homeless by moving into its own cardboard city.

Nine members of 1st Golden Common Park, near Winchester, were sponsored to build — and then stay in — cardboard box 'homes' to raise cash for the Salvation Army.

Having spent a couple of weeks collecting both sponsors and cardboard

boxes, the Brownies built their makeshift shelters in Tawny Owl Angela Green's back garden on a cold, wintry day.

Sustained by soup and jacket potatoes, the Hampshire girls spent a couple of hours constructing their shanty town and another three hours 'living' in the boxes.

Brownie Guider Daphne Bran felt the activity had helped her girls gain a deeper understanding of the issue of homelessness. 'I suggested we do it because I wanted them to understand what it must be like to be homeless. And it certainly seemed to work.'

The girls are much more aware of the plight of the homeless now, she said. 'Lots of them said the activity had made them realise how lucky they were to have beds to sleep in at night.'

MARIA COOLE

STONES

The Orchids' Patrol Box is vivid purple and the size of a small cabin trunk. So why had I failed to see it, still squatting in the middle of our meeting place, until everyone else had gone home?

As I struggled to put it away, it slipped sideways falling open and scattering the contents in all directions. I replaced the dog-eared handbook, some pencils and paper, and then I discovered the stone. About the size of a medium potato, it felt pleasingly smooth in the

palm of my hand.

In my mind's eye I was back in summer camp, exploring the rock pools on the beach near Ynysgain. We had collected stones intending to paint them, but many were so beautiful we simply brought them home.

The stones had provided the theme for our evening prayers that night. We observed that their smoothness was the result of being so close to other stones — each rubbing against one another until all the sharp corners were worn away.

We decided that living

and working as a Patrol could have a similar effect on its members, until they, too, lost the unpleasant bits that made them awkward to handle.

'Does it hurt the stones, being constantly banged together?' asked Emma, who had experienced the growing pains of Patrol co-operation earlier that very evening, when there had been a row over who was washing up.

I remembered Alison's considered reply. 'My father is a dentist,' she said. 'When he drills teeth, it doesn't hurt, because he uses a water-

cooled drill. Perhaps the water that flows round the stones in the rock pools cushions and protects them in the same way.'

I looked at the stone which lay dull and lustreless in the palm of my hand and found it hard to imagine why the Orchids had troubled to bring it home. Yet I knew that if I were to put it into water once again, its colours and texture would immediately be so enhanced it would be hard to believe it was the same stone. It is the same with people.

EB

Open
Door

POND PEOPLE

When 1st Caversham Park Guides went pond-dipping, they didn't suspect their fun day out would lead to a year's hard work and an environmental award.

The girls from Berkshire inspected a pond in Caversham village as part of WOW — Guiding's fundraising week-end of watery activities.

'We found very little life in the pond, it had been neglected and nothing had been done to it for 30 years,' Guider Heather O'Halloran explained.

The girls decided to help renovate the pond, hoping to gain their Conservation badges in the process. They contacted the local park rangers, who listened to the Guides' ideas and gave them their backing.

Work began with a litter



Watery wellies: the girls get rid of bootfuls of water after a session spent working on the pond

pick held once a month during a Guide meeting. Then they planted 300 bulbs around the pond and some wild flowers they'd grown from seeds.

Meanwhile, the park

rangers began restoration work. 'When they dug out the pond, they found rusty old bicycle frames and all sorts of rubbish,' Heather recalled.

The rangers put up bat

boxes and bird nesting boxes built by the Guides and the girls stocked the pond with tadpoles. Benches were also erected around the pond. In just one year the transformation was complete.

'Although it is only a pond in the middle of a housing estate, the area is very attractive and shaded by trees,' Heather said. 'Our meeting place is across the road and it is no trouble for us to send a Patrol out to pick up litter.'

The girls all gained the Conservation badge and their hard work earned them a Certificate of Merit in the Colonel Sanders' Environment Awards.

'It has been good fun,' Heather said. 'The Guides are pleased they have done something for their local community. It was a lot of hard work, but it was well worth it.'

News
Focus

HEATHER O'HALLORAN

IN SEPTEMBER'S GUIDING

Brownie Birthday Badges

A preview

The Guider Handbook

Here at last!

Annual General Meeting

Report and photos

One World

District Commissioner with a difference

Eighty Years Young

A Brownie celebration

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Who does it — and why?

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Pack a picnic

Rules of the Game

How to play chess

Wonderful Whirlybird

Make a toy helicopter

Feet first

Sew some felt slippers

Getting Ready to Go Away

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All about the moon

Heart of the Matter

The way blood is pumped round the body

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AND IN RAINBOW GUIDE EXTRA

Rainbow Rabbit Goes Out Shopping

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CALAMITO

Surviving a Guide camp

can be an ordeal —

especially when

everything goes wrong, as

two Wolverhampton

Guiders discovered.

'Due to circumstances beyond our control...' began the letter to parents announcing our annual camp. This should have been a warning to us but, foolhardy as we all are, we plodded on.

Our troubles began at Easter, when we found out we could not have the 'free' field we had camped on for the past two years in a village in mid-Shropshire because the farmer had bought some more cows.

Well, kind man that he is, he recommended us to a local landowner who has acres of land. Contact with Lord F (name-droppers aren't we?) meant an inspection of a couple of 'suitable' sites he had picked out.

One was on the side of a steep hill with no vehicular, or other means, of access and a stagnant pond at the bottom. He had, he said, understood we required to be near water.

The other site looked little better — with an electricity pole in the middle and buzzing pylons overhead. However, it was near water of the tapped kind. So, although it was as lumpy as a freshly-ploughed field, we decided it would suit our needs.

Site organised, we turned our attention to transport. We had paid a deposit on a local authority minibus in March with the balance handed over in July. Our camp was to take place during the second week in August.

On the day before we were due to pick up the minibus, an enigmatic telephone call was made to one of our leaders, letting us know that the

minibus would not be available until Saturday, two days later. A further telephone call on Saturday morning said that delivery would be made that evening.

By now the jitters were beginning because we were due to leave for camp at 9am the following morning. Tension was building so we rang the answering machine of the person who was supposed to deliver the bus.

This prompted a return call from the bus driver's brother explaining that he was not expected to return from Devon until the Sunday evening. At this point panic set in. Frantic phone calls were made to parents and alternative arrangements set up.

Sunday morning dawned fine and bright (at least someone was on our side) and a convoy set off for Shropshire. Camp was set up in record time, the water tap was only a 'chain' away and the lady in the cottage adjoining the site turned out to be an ex-Guide. Things were looking up... or so we thought!

Monday morning saw one of our Guiders returning to home base in her car to try and beg, borrow or steal a minibus — preferably the errant one.

Numerous telephone calls later an alternative bus was produced, just as the original bus turned up, complete with dicky hand brake and erratic acceleration. Sensibly, our leader escaped with the alternative bus — and returned triumphant to camp.

Once more, things were looking up — the only slight cloud on the horizon was the thought that this was a test camp, and the testers might arrive at any moment.

At 2am on Tuesday morning the Guiders were woken from their deep and peaceful slumber by an anguished voice saying: 'Please, Kerry's been sick.' Why is it always at night, in the dark and in bed? It was everywhere. But clean-up ensued, the spare sleeping bag was utilised and, eventually, we all went back to bed.

Tuesday belonged to the four girls taking their Camper Advanced badge. They were ably tested by local Guiders, one of whom kindly took the offending sleeping bag from the night before and washed it in her machine, returning it the next day dry and sweet smelling.

Wednesday began with driving rain. However, the weather improved enough for us to depart for our day out to



US PING



all week — in the process discovering that it had been pitched with its roof members all jumbled up. We then had our evening meal and arranged for the sickly Young Leader to be transported home 'just in case she infected the others'.

Too late. By the time she was collected six more were down with whatever it was. And, just as everything began to come up — so to speak — and it was beginning to fall dark, the testers arrived. They had been wandering about Shropshire looking for us for two hours and, understandably, were not best pleased. This mix-up was due to the change of venue and somewhat muddled directions.

Inspection followed, with the testers carefully picking their way between girls in various stages of collapse. By this time, the Guider being tested also had raging diarrhoea and excused herself half-way through the test stating she 'Must go — have been waiting for hours!'

Believe it or not, the Guider concerned passed. But we did have to telephone a couple of parents and ask for two girls to be collected that night. And one of the leaders had to take another two home later on.

At 1am the Guiders collapsed into bed, having provided each tent with bowl, disinfectant and buckets. That

surgery later that morning, he would provide us with some glucose and 'liquid concrete'.

Half an hour later, who should turn up on site but the doctor. Maybe he thought he had an epidemic on his hands. The County Medical Officer would have to be informed, he said, and he would have to arrange to take samples. Obviously nothing so exciting had happened in this quiet corner of Shropshire for ages.

It ended up with 16 out of 22 campers suffering from various stages of 'the bug' at different times. However, this was not the end of fateful Thursday. Three thunderstorms later, with hailstones banging on the plastic roof of the marquee with such ferocity no one could hear themselves speak, it became so cold that we decided the Guides should go home for a good night's sleep, while the two Guiders unaffected by the bug remained at camp.

Friday morning dawned bright and clear and one of the Guiders returned to Wolverhampton to collect the Guides to strike camp. It really restored our faith in human nature when all the Guides — bar one who was really poorly — turned up on time to return to camp, weak but triumphant.

Friday was a beautiful day, lots of sunshine and very little wind. The camp was struck in record time and



Market Drayton. It did not improve to such a degree that we were able to partake of the joys of Market Drayton's open-air swimming-pool, so we repaired to Bridgnorth's indoor facility.

When we arrived at the swimming-pool, one of the Young Leaders confessed to feeling sick. We passed it off as travel sickness and enjoyed a swim. But, on leaving the pool, the unfortunate Young Leader was violently sick.

Back at camp we decided to repitch a tent that had looked decidedly drunk

night, the usual night noises were drowned by various other sounds that need no description.

By the next morning, it was like a scene from the Crimea. When we arrived, the lady at the cottage had provided us with sawdust to cover the cowpats... now it had another use.

At 7am on Thursday morning a decision was made to call the local doctor. He said that he was too busy to come out but, if we called at the

we all returned home singing as usual.

If you're wondering, no, it didn't put us off camping. This year we're off again and we plan to tackle abseiling, canoeing, swimming, horse riding, yachting, shooting and archery... And we're keeping our fingers crossed, metaphorically, of course.

VERITY M COX
and SHEILA SLATER-WOODALL 33

THINK OF A 'Y'

Look in any English dictionary and you won't find many words beginning with 'y', but there are all sorts of things you can do during a special theme evening based around those elusive 'y' words.

YACHTS

The word yacht was actually borrowed from Holland, but that doesn't stop you using it as the inspiration for some fun activities.

Cut out lots of yacht shapes and hide them for your girls to find. If you are running a joint meeting with another section, this could be a way of forming groups, especially if the yachts are colour-coded or different sizes.

As a factual follow-up perhaps you could find a sailing enthusiast to give you a short talk about yachting. He or she could explain the different parts of a yacht and the basic principles of sailing. End with a game of 'ladders' using words associated with yachting.

YELLOW

In groups, list as many natural yellow items as possible in a given time. If appropriate, have reference books available covering wild flowers, birds, insects, herbs and so on. At the end of the session, compare notes and reward the group with the largest number of items. Some yellow sweets might make an appropriate prize.

Collect several paint colour charts from a large DIY store and cut out the names of the shades. Challenge groups either to match up the yellow shades with the manufacturer's names or to invent their own names for the various hues.

If you can collect a large selection of colour supplements and magazines, the girls could make yellow mosaic pictures, either individually or in groups. These could be of yellow flowers, birds, or something totally

abstract. Provide plenty of paste and a broom for sweeping up the mess afterwards.

'Y' WORDS

Divide the girls into two teams (or several pairs of smaller teams). Someone from the first team starts by saying a word beginning with 'y'. A member of the other team then has to say a word beginning with the final letter of the previous word.

To win the round, one team has to be able to say a word that begins with the last letter of the previous word and ends in 'y' or 'ie'.

For example:

A Yellow

B Watch

A Hat

B Table

A Elbow

B Wellie Team B wins.

Names are permissible — Yvonne, Eddie and so on. There should be a lively exchange of words so set time limits if necessary. It is

Don't forget to include a few yells and yodels, if you can. Try *Yankee Doodle*, *Yellow Bird* and *The Grand Old Duke of York* to start you off. Of course, you can always adapt some of the old faith-fuls. How about:

Way down south not very far off.

A Y-bird couldn't yawn enough.

He yawned so much to yawn enough.

That he yawned his head and his tail right off.

WHY THIS?

Explain that the latest edition of the *Oxford English Dictionary* contains some 'y' words that have recently become acceptable in the English language. Each group takes one of the following made-up words and works out a feasible definition.

Groups should also be able to explain how, long

YARNING

Do you know someone locally who could bring in a spinning-wheel to demonstrate making yarn? This may arouse a new interest in some of your girls, which they may wish to explore further.

Telling tales is also good fun. Give each group the starting line: 'Once upon a time, in a quiet wood deep in the land of Yore, there lived a...' and see what emerges.

Invite the groups to spin a yarn including the following 'y' words: yokel, yew tree, yawn, yearn, year, yonder, yeoman.

WHY JOKES?

You may have one or two girls who could provide a few minutes of camp fire entertainment by telling 'Why' jokes of the 'Why did the chicken cross the road?' variety.



a good idea to have a dictionary available to settle any disputes.

'Y' SONGS

This is a good opportunity to increase your unit's repertoire. Take a look through the Association's song books for songs beginning with 'y'.

ago, the words were introduced into the language and give examples of when and how they are used:

Yontcha

Yidchup

Yintsin

Yollery

Yek

Yantak

Y, Y, Y

We've got many more ideas for 'Y' evenings, but not enough space to tell you about them. So here are some words to get your imagination working: Yankee, Yeoman of the Guard, yashmak, yoke, yen, yolk, yeast, Yorkshire, Young Leader. If you need some help, ask the girls.

HAZEL BAILEY

RAINBOW GUIDERS

Now the school holidays are here, the girls will probably be out and about visiting unfamiliar places. Town girls may go to the country and girls from small villages may get their first glimpse of the big city. Other girls will be going to the seaside or abroad on holiday. So, without being over-cautious, it's a good idea to introduce them to some safety dos and don'ts.

SAFETY FIRST

The areas you might like to cover in an evening dedicated to the theme of safety could include road safety; safety at home; 'survival skills'; such as knowing the way and being able to ask for help; and looking after one's self and other people. Of course, we don't want to make the girls anxious — just more self-reliant.

Liz Gilbert, Assistant Guider with the 1st Bedworth Rainbows in Warwickshire, sent us an outline of a simple but effective method they use to introduce each meeting's theme to the girls.

One or two objects giving clues to the theme are put into a box. For example, they used a doll's house telephone to introduce a meeting on communications. Then, after welcoming the girls and collecting the subs, the Guiders pass around the box. Each girl peeps in and tries to guess the theme.

You could use the same idea to introduce the concept of safety. Perhaps you could put a toy police officer, a model lifebuoy or a stop sign in the box.

COUNTRY CODE

By now the Rainbows may know the Country Code, which tells them how to enjoy country places without harming others or the environment. To remind them of various aspects of the Code you could take the girls on a pretend country walk around the area where you meet,

asking them to react to the imaginary hazards of the countryside around them.

Plan the walk to introduce different elements of the Code. For example, walk the girls carefully along a 'country road' with no pavement and high hedges. Remind them that they should walk on the right, facing the oncoming traffic. Do they know why this is safest?

Fasten any 'gates' you go through and keep your 'dogs' (take two or three phantom dogs with you) on their leads. When you cross 'farmland' keep to the paths. And ask the Rainbows why they think they should do this.

Walk carefully past 'ponds' and 'streams' and don't 'pollute' the water in any way. Don't pick 'plants' or disturb the 'animals'. And be sure you take all your litter home. In each case find out what the girls think might happen if people did not obey the Country Code.

This game is also very useful when you have new members who are trying to learn the names of their companions.

WHO ARE YOU?

If anyone really did go missing, would they know how to ask for help or find their way back? Here's an activity that might help.

Get three or four girls together in a small group to check that they know each other's full names. Explain that there are many Sarahs, but probably only a few Sarah Macdonalds, for example, so it is important that they know their full names.

STOP! DANGER!

The Guiders could mime or act out dangerous scenarios asking the girls to call 'Stop!' when they spot the danger.

In a kitchen you could: pour boiling water from a kettle; leave pan handles jutting out from the stove; put cleaning materials where a small child could reach them; spill water on the floor making it slippery, and so on. The hazards can be numerous!

If the girls miss a danger, point it out to them. Perhaps they could devise and act out similar 'danger scenes' themselves.



LYNN BREEZE

WHO'S MISSING?

A Guider's worst nightmare must be finding someone missing at the end of an outing. But this favourite game of the 1st Bedworth Rainbows helps train everyone to keep an eye on their companions.

You need a blanket or sheet — even a coat will do — and a whistle. The girls dance around freely until the whistle blows. Then they all drop down, curling up with their faces hidden in their hands. The Guider covers up one girl with the blanket and then asks: 'Who's missing?' The other girls have to guess.

Do they know their home addresses? If so, do they know where these are — the name of the village, town, or area of the city? Does each girl know her phone number, or the number of a neighbour or relative who has a phone?

If the girls don't know any of this information, ask them to find out and memorise it so they can tell you at the next meeting.

Then, after the Who's Missing? game, you could ask the 'missing' girl to identify herself and say where she lives.

QUIET TIME

Think about all the people who look after us and keep us safe. Say thank you for parents, family and friends. Remember the police officers, firemen and all the people who guard our communities. Ask the girls to name other people who keep us safe and well.

NEXT MONTH

The theme next month will be movement. What clue will you put in the guess-the-theme box for that?

DEBORAH MANLEY 35

COPING WITH

THE SUN

Summer is the time for Pack Holidays, camps, nature rambles and hikes — all opportunities for enjoying the out of doors and, weather permitting, the sun. But the sun is a mixed blessing. It makes us feel good, but it can do us harm. So, this month, **GUIDING** looks at the why and how of sun safety.

Most people like being in the sun — it makes them feel happier. And this reaction is not all in the mind because the hormonal influences that counter depression are stimulated by sunshine. Sunlight is also an important source

of vitamin D, though it is actually possible to get all the vitamin D we need from our diet.

These are the benefits of sunshine. But what of the risks? The two main dangers — which we will concentrate on in this article — are linked to the sun's effect on skin. In the short term there is sunburn; in the long term, skin cancer.

THE FACTS

● Last year, over 40,000 people in the UK were diagnosed as suffering from skin cancer, up from 30,000 in

1992. This 25 per cent increase makes skin cancer Britain's fastest growing cancer.

● There are three main types of skin cancer. Two — basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma — occur frequently. They mostly affect older people and, in over 90 per cent of cases, are curable.

● The third, malignant melanoma (MM), is comparatively rare but serious. If treated early, it can be cured. If not, MM can spread to other organs and is then fatal.

● About 5,000 people in the UK develop MM each year and about 1,250 die from it. Although all types of skin cancer are on the increase, cases of MM are rising faster than the other types. MM is nearly twice as common in women as in men and affects young adults as well as older people.

● A major factor in all skin cancers is radiation from the sun. Non-melanomas are linked with long-term exposure, for instance years spent working outdoors. MM is linked more with short, sharp bursts of exposure such as intensive sunbathing on holiday.

DANGER RAYS

The sun gives out various forms of energy. The one which affects the skin is ultraviolet (UV) radiation, which is divided into UVA, UVB and UVC. UVC is removed by the ozone layer and so does not reach the earth's surface. But UVA and UVB do get through — with potentially harmful consequences.

On the skin's surface, UVA causes a tan but does not burn. However, it also penetrates deep into the skin, where it acts with UVB to cause cancer. For its part, UVB does burn the skin, causing redness and blisters and, long term, leads to cancer as well.

TANS AND BURNS

Almost certainly the increase in skin cancer over the last 40 years is related to the growth of package tours to sunny countries and to that summer fashion accessory, the tan.

Although a tan may look attractive — even healthy — in reality it is a sign of skin damage. When skin is exposed to the sun its defence mechanisms are immediately activated. The UV rays stimulate special cells in the skin to produce extra melanin, a dark pigment which acts as a natural sunscreen.

The protection offered by a tan is limited: between two and ten times more protection than with no tan at all. Also it may be several days before the tan develops, as the ability to produce melanin varies greatly from person to person.

In the meantime, the skin remains susceptible to burning. And with burning comes the threat of more lasting damage. A single bout of serious sunburn, especially in childhood, may be enough to trigger MM in later years. Even a tanned skin will still burn, if exposed to sunlight for too long.

SKIN TYPES

All skins are at risk from the sun, but some are more vulnerable than others.

The most sun-sensitive skin never tans and always burns. Typically it is found on people with red or fair hair, blue eyes, pale skin and freckles. Freckles — especially ones that appear after exposure to the sun — indicate that the skin will not tan evenly. People with a tendency to develop freckles should be particularly careful. Slightly less sensitive skin may tan eventually but usually burns first.

Less at risk is the type of skin that tans easily and either burns rarely or not at all. It is associated with dark

The big cover up: long-sleeved shirts and hats help you stay safe in the sun



MEUNIER & FORSTER

hair and eyes, and a darker skin tone.

People with brown or black skin have good natural protection, though their skin too may burn if exposed to very strong sunlight.

PROTECTION

No matter what your skin type, adequate protection is a must. As Professor Gordon McVie, Scientific Director of the Cancer Research Campaign, says: 'This is one cancer which is entirely preventable but, unless we can get people — particularly parents — to follow simple sun protection guidelines, I fear we will be facing a skin cancer epidemic by 2014.'

Those simple guidelines involve:

- Covering up.
- Using a sunscreen.
- Avoiding the midday sun.

COVER UP

One of the best ways of staying safe in the sun is to cover up with loose-fitting clothes and a broad-brimmed hat. The Guide baseball cap, although better than nothing, is inefficient as it leaves the neck, ears and part of the face exposed.

Covering up — or staying in the shade — is particularly important for children, as many cases of MM link back to sunburn in childhood. It is also important to wear a good pair of sunglasses: UV rays can harm the eyes and contribute to blindness. Look on the label for British Standard BS2724.

SUNSCREEN

Sunscreen creams and lotions help protect skin from the sun. They come with an SPF rating (sun protection factor) ranging from 2 to 30, which indicates how long sunscreens skin takes to burn compared with unprotected skin. For instance, if unprotected skin burns in ten minutes, a sunscreen of SPF6 would increase this time to one hour.

Manufacturers and pharmacists give guidance on matching SPF to skin type. As a general rule for UK



Marie Helvin and friends support the campaign against skin cancer

holidays, high risk skins should use SPF15; less sensitive skins that tan normally but with a tendency to burn, SPF8; easy-tan skins that never burn, SPF4. Higher ratings are needed abroad.

The SPF rating covers the level of UVB protection only, not UVA. As UVB rays are the most dangerous, always choose a sunscreen by its SPF rating and then check it for UVA protection.

When using sunscreen:

- Apply it before going out into the sun.
- Put it on thickly and evenly.
- Remember areas like eyelids, ears, neck and soles of feet.
- Reapply regularly, and after swimming.

Sunblock is another type of cream which protects by reflecting the sun's UV rays away from the body. Most people know of it from seeing cricket matches on TV: players tend to wear sunblock on their noses and lips.

After being in the sun for any length of time, give your skin a chance to recover by rubbing in lots of aftersun lotion or a good moisturiser. This helps prevent the skin drying out — but will not repair any serious damage.

WHEN AND WHERE

UV radiation is strongest during the summer months and especially in the middle of the day. That is between noon and 2pm in the UK, and between 11am and 3pm in hot countries. A good guide is your shadow: the shorter the shadow, the

stronger the sun. Try to stay out of the sun during the hottest part of the day — this is crucial for children.

Where you are also affects how much sun your skin receives. The seaside is a danger zone, as both sand and water reflect UV rays. Wooded areas are safer because trees absorb UV radiation.

SUNBURN

If burning does occur the most important thing is not to expose the skin to any more sun — no amount of sunscreen will prevent further damage.

Sunburn typically leaves skin very hot and red. Treat it by applying plenty of aftersun or similar lotion. A cool bath may give relief, too. More serious burns, with blistering, require medical attention.

CANCER CHECK

Prevention is always better than cure but, because skin cancer — even MM — can be treated successfully if it is diagnosed early, it is wise to be aware of the possible symptoms.

Non-melanomas tend to be small, white lumps which may itch or bleed. They usually occur on the face, forearms and hands — all parts of the body commonly exposed to the sun.

For warnings of MM, keep a close eye on moles and freckles. Look out for changes in shape, colour and size. Ask yourself:

- Is an existing mole getting larger or a new one growing?

- Does it have a ragged outline?
- Does it have different shades of brown and black?
- Is it bigger than the blunt end of a pencil?
- Is it inflamed?
- Is it bleeding, oozing or crusting?
- Is it itchy or painful?

If you notice any of these signs, show the mole to your doctor. The commonest sites for MM are the legs in women and the back in men. However, the face can also be affected.

If an early malignant melanoma is suspected it will be removed under local anaesthetic, probably in the hospital outpatient department with no further treatment needed. But if the MM has spread control is much more difficult, so it is vital to report anything suspicious immediately. It is even more vital to protect your skin properly in the first place.

SARA EDLINGTON/
CATHERINE DELL

MORE INFO

For further information on skin cancer and sun awareness contact:

- *Play Safe in the Sun* Postal Advisory Service, PO Box 4RB, London W1N 4RB.
- Your local Health Promotion Unit, who will have details of the Health Education Authority's *Sun Know How* campaign.
- Cancer Research Campaign, 6-10 Cambridge Terrace, London NW1 4JL. (Send a large sae.)

BROWNIE GUIDERS

Brownies enjoy making things which move, but you do need to try out 'makes' to check they work. August is a good month for experimenting. And, if you have children at home, it doubles as a way of keeping them entertained. Here are a few simple ideas to try.

CLOWNING AROUND

Wobbly Clown

1 Cut a table tennis ball exactly in half and stick a blob of Plasticine in the bottom of one half.

2 Cut out a rectangle of thin card that measures roughly 5cm x 10cm and draw a clown's face in the centre.

3 Roll up the card into a tube which fits exactly into one half-ball, then tape up the side.

4 Tape the card into one half of the ball and tape on the other half to form the clown's bald head.

When pushed over, the clown will, of course, always stand up again.

Dancing Clown

Draw a clown body and head plus separate limbs on stiff card. (Your Brownies will colour the clown before cutting him out.)

Cut out the pieces and attach a thin garden stick to the back of the body. Sew a length of button thread to each foot and hand.

Attach each limb to the back of the body with a brass paper fastener. Join arm threads and leg threads together in two separate pairs, which are pulled to make the clown dance.

PAPER PLANE

Use a 20cm square of paper that's firm but not too stiff — cartridge paper is ideal — and use the diagram to help you.

1 Fold paper in half, lengthwise, then open it out again.
2 Fold the top corners to the centre.

3 Next fold the diagonal edges to the centre line.

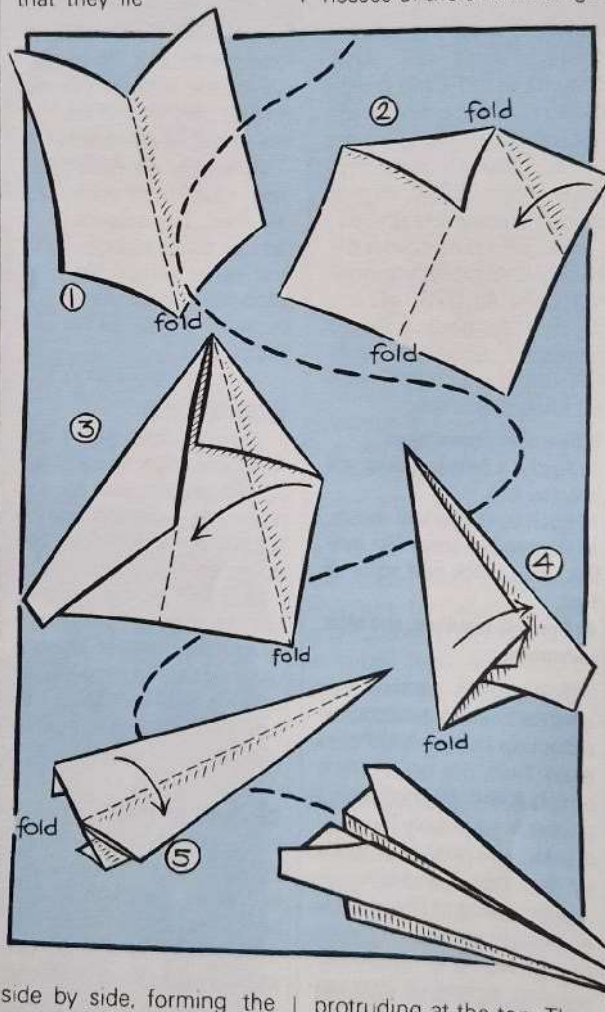
4 Fold the two halves of the plane together along the centre line.

5 Fold each diagonal edge outwards to the bottom straight edge and crease firmly.

6 Lift the last two folds so that they lie

PARACHUTE

Fold a 15cm square piece of thin, strong paper diagonally three times, so that you have eight thicknesses. Holding the longest side of the folded triangle in your right hand, fold the bottom left edge to the longest side. Cut through all the thicknesses of the small triangle



side by side, forming the wings. Now fly the plane.

Having taught the Brownies how to make this plane, give them all squares of paper. In their Six corners, they each have to make a plane and initial it. Then, at a signal, they all try to fly their planes so they land in a rope circle in the centre of the room. Every plane that lands completely in the ring wins a point.

Play several rounds to find the champion Six.

protruding at the top. Then open out the paper, which should now be an octagon shape.

Strengthen each of the eight corners with a piece of sticky tape and sew a similar length of button thread through each one, knotting them all securely. Gather all the long ends together and tie them round a small eraser. Then hold the paper by its centre point and toss it into the air. It should float down like a parachute.

STAR MOBILE

Cross three drinking straws to make a star and sew them together, leaving enough thread attached to the centre with which to hang up the mobile. Attach varied lengths of thread to card shapes of your choice and suspend them from the arms of the star, adjusting them until the mobile balances.

If you're working alone, tie the centre thread to a stick and balance it across two chairs while you adjust the position of the shapes.

Your shapes could be: pictures cut from greetings cards; stars; planets; geometric shapes; teddy bears; ballet dancers; animals; fish; birds; butterflies; cars; ships; planes; flowers; leaves; suns; moons; clouds. . . .

DEEP SEA DIVER

This is not so much a 'make' as a scientific experiment, but it's one the Brownies love. Make a Plasticine 'diver' about 3.5cm long, fix a paper clip to his head and suspend him from a plastic pen top. Fill a plastic, screw-cap squash bottle with water, and drop in the diver so that the pen top floats just above the water level.

If it sinks, reduce the size of the diver. If it bobs up too high, weight his boots. Now pour in more water until it overflows and screw on the cap tightly.

Squeeze the bottle gently to make the diver sink.

Take away your hand to allow him to rise again.

Brownies can play a relay game with one bottle each. At a signal the first Brownie runs to her Six's bottle and squeezes it. Only when the diver touches the bottom may she run back to her Six. Meanwhile, the diver is rising and the next player may not squeeze the bottle until he is back at the top. Each Brownie takes her turn until all are back in their places.

GILLIAN ELLIS

FUN WITH FOOD

Food, glorious food was the subject chosen by Joy Armour, Avon South's Young Leader Adviser, when she held a YL training session. Taking as her theme Fun with Food, Joy has expanded her ideas to come up with a Try This special aimed particularly at Young Leaders.

Food is something all youngsters are interested in and it can form the basis of many activities for Rainbows, Brownies and Guides.

But, before we begin to think what we can do or make at a meeting, there are a number of general organisational points that should be considered:

- The age and capabilities of the children.
- Is the activity related to a badge? A Journey? A Trefoil?
- Will it link in to a time of year? Christmas, Mothering Sunday or Valentine's Day, for instance?
- What facilities are available at the meeting place?
- How many children can work safely at any one time?
- Is extra adult supervision needed for the activity to be conducted safely?
- What equipment — if any — is available?
- Who will organise the ingredients? You, your Guider, the girls?
- How will costs be met — from subs or do the girls bring extra money?
- The girls will need aprons.

PREPARATION

It will be faster and easier at the meeting if you — or your Guider — weigh out and label ingredients at home. Although this does mean extra work, you will at least have the satisfaction of knowing that everything was properly prepared before the meeting. However, you may feel that weighing and measuring the food is a useful skill for the girls to acquire.

If the food is to be taken home at the end of the

meeting, remember the girls will need to be told to bring a suitable container.

If the food needs to be stored, for example, if it's to be sold at a coffee morning or a similar fundraising event the quality control and hygiene standards will need to be strict.

You'll have to decide if you wish to encourage the girls to plan their own cooking sessions, or if the ideas will come 'from the top'. Obviously this will depend on the age and experience of the girls, but I'd advise that, if the girls are given freedom to plan their own sessions, they must show their plans to you. You have to reserve the right to veto their suggestions, or at least

one else to come and teach them — remember, you don't have to be an expert!

Consider these ideas:

- A breakfast hike.
- Go blackberry picking, then make a pie or crumble.
- Use windfall apples in a variety of apple puddings, then have a tasting session.
- Find out who can come up with the most unusual recipe using apples or cheese.
- Discover who can make a decent, balanced meal for two people for, say £1 — or in 20 minutes, or from very limited ingredients.

Consult the *Guide Handbook* for ideas for recipes — there are many given. Consider 'no-cook' dishes, if facilities are limited or non-existent.



to reflect their ideas. Perhaps offering a limited choice from some of the following ideas might help.

If your Guides are competent outdoor cooks, why not develop their skills further by teaching them lightweight camp cookery? Or get some-

TEA TIME

Try out different types of tea — breakfast blend, Earl Grey, Lapsang Souchong, or some of the lovely herbal teas, such as blackcurrant, orange and grapefruit, rosehip or camomile. Keep an open mind, and clear the palate

with plain water in between.

Expand the 'try something new' idea with unusual cheeses or exotic fruits.

MORE IDEAS

Keep it healthy — it's very easy to get stuck making sweets, cakes and biscuits. Try pizzas instead — use a scone base for speed, or a packet base for even more speed, but at a greater cost.

Home-made soup is always welcome — use root vegetables and pulses or tomatoes and lentils for a really cheap dish.

Challenge the girls to come up with different toppings for baked potatoes.

Whizz up some pâté, if you have access to a food processor, and bake your own bread to enjoy with it.

If you use easy-blend yeast and have a warm place to prove the dough, you should be able to make and bake bread rolls during a 90 minute meeting. But it will need the whole meeting and a very hot oven!

Whatever you make, do use recipes and techniques that are familiar to you. That way you'll spot in advance any pitfalls.

Do you know someone who could visit the unit to demonstrate cake decorating: silver-service; vegetarian, Indian or Chinese cookery?

Perhaps the unit could produce a recipe booklet to sell to raise funds. The girls could ask their friends and families to contribute favourite 'own' recipes. But do check and test all recipes.

If facilities really are non-existent, provide a selection of magazines, some paper plates, scissors and glue. Then ask the girls to make a 'meal on a plate' using pictures cut from the magazines. Depending on the age of the girls this could be prefaced by a discussion about what makes a well-balanced meal.

GETTING OUT

LINTON ZOO

What looks like a crusty meat pie and lives for about 150 years? Stumped? Well we didn't know the answer either. But 1st Hemingford Brownies and I had gone to Linton Zoo in Cambridgeshire, to find out more about our wildlife. The question was just one of many we hoped to find answers to during our visit.

We were greeted by Kim Simmons, who told us something of the history of Linton Zoo. 'It is, in fact, a conservation zoo and a wildlife breeding centre,' she said. 'The word zoo has had a bad press in the past because it was associated with collections of animals brought together from all over the world simply to entertain and amuse us.

'Animals were stuck in small cages and very little consideration was given to their needs. Here, at Linton Zoo, our aim has been to create a place to which creatures could be brought to live safely and peacefully,

and where they could be happy, contented and breed.'

WILDLIFE HAVEN

The Simmons family has created this wildlife haven over the past 20 years. They used to run a pet shop and zoo supply business from Bishops Stortford when they became concerned at the rapid rate wildlife was being wiped out. So they decided to buy the ten-and-half-acre site and transform it into the delightful zoo visitors see today.

The Brownies had already started working for their Conservation badges by adopting a barn owl box from the Hawk and Owl Trust. So they were keen to find out as much as they could about the work going on at the zoo and discover how they, too, could help wild animals.

We were told lots of fascinating ecological facts. Did you know, for instance, that man is destroying the tropical rainforests at an alarming rate — an area three times the size of Switzerland is lost every year.

During the 'great dying' of the dinosaurs, one dinosaur became extinct every 1,000 years, but now one species of wildlife becomes extinct every half hour!

We gathered round a table containing a variety of exhibits, which had all been confiscated by HM Customs and Excise at Heathrow. The exhibits included the fur of a snow wolf, a stuffed crocodile and hawkhead sea turtle, snakeskin shoes and ivory jewellery.

The Brownies learned that all these products come from endangered species, some of which are on the brink of extinction.

This was a cue for the members of the Pack taking the Photographer badge to take out their cameras and start clicking.

Endeavouring to respect the peaceful atmosphere in the zoo — 'We have a lot of new mums!' we were told — we set off to snap, draw, listen to, learn about and enjoy looking at the zoo's many residents.

TORTOISES

'Have you ever seen so many tortoises Barn Owl?' enquired one Brownie, admiring the largest herd of Aldabra giant tortoises to be seen in Europe.

Linton Zoo is proud of its record for breeding tortoises and turtles. Their snapping turtles are the only ones in Britain which breed. In fact, we watched keeper Len Simmons carefully removing some freshly-laid eggs, which

Spot the real Brownie Owl! Brownie Guider Jenny Ellis meets with her feathered namesake



Suzanne and Rachel make friends with Pip the Turkmenian eagle owl



GETTING OUT

he was going to place in an incubator. Their progress would be carefully monitored until they hatched in six weeks time.

When the turtles are about three months old, they are transferred to other zoos. We were impressed that a number of llamas seemed perfectly at home with the giant tortoises in the spacious paddock.

Breeding bear cats — or

explain that the bushy tufts on the owl's head were purely decorative.

Pip perched quietly on keeper Bob's wrist, looking docile. But Kim explained that in the wild these owls are particularly effective hunters, with day and night vision ten times better than a human's.

They devour every scrap of their victims and will even eat one another's young. At



binturongs — in captivity is very difficult and rarely attempted. Even in the wild there are only a few. But, at Linton, they have had yet another success story. In 1976 a bear cat was born — the first to parents bred in captivity. And since 1976 there have been many more kittens, pairs of which have been given to other zoos.

EXOTIC BIRDS

For anyone concerned about the disappearance of the Amazon rainforest, Linton Zoo's fine collection of exotic birds is well worth inspecting. Toucans, parrots and parakeets set up a cheerful banter with the Brownies, as we admired their brilliant plumage and bright yellow beaks.

But it was the owls that really stole the show. We gathered around to listen to Kim while she told us about Pip, a large, Turkmenian eagle owl. 'Are those ears?' asked a Brownie. Kim shook her head and went on to

Linton, vulnerable chicks are removed from the nest and are hand-reared, which has produced a 100 per cent success rate.

'Hand-in-hand with conservation goes education — especially for you young people!' said Kim, as the Brownies all tried to stroke Pip.

PICNIC TIME

Although we were not allowed to feed the animals, there were plenty of pleasant places for us to picnic. We chose to eat in the children's playground so that the Brownies could let off steam. The adults took the chance to admire the beautiful shrubs and plants, which create a perfect breeding ground for butterflies.

Perhaps the highlight of the visit was seeing the big cats. Roma, the Sumatran tiger, was particularly admired. When Knaresborough Zoo closed in 1986, she was due to be destroyed.



Yet, thanks to one person's generosity, she was transferred to Linton, where she still thrives. She has now been adopted by RAF 74 Squadron, whose nickname is The Tigers.

If a lion roars it is, apparently, a sign of contentment. If so, the village of Linton must be regularly comforted to know that their 'neighbours' are so happy.

When we arrived, however, the lions were fast asleep in the sun. They didn't even object when Finulla made her Promise in a glade next to their 'pad'.

So what was the girls' verdict on Linton? 'Conservation zoos are a great idea — the animals here are all loved and protected,' Rachel Miller insisted. 'Yes, at least all these healthy animals are in safe hands here and won't become extinct,' Claire McDermott added. All the girls were impressed by the work being done at Linton.

FUTURE PLANS

In the future there are plans to build a nursery for the hand-reared babies. At the moment the babies are looked after in the Simmons' home which is away from the zoo, so that the animals are not disturbed or upset.

A purpose built building would enable visitors to share in the delight of watching the newborn babies develop. The zoo relies heavily on a

sponsorship scheme — The Linton Zoo Fund — to raise money for its various projects. Groups can also adopt a favourite animal and help by giving an annual contribution towards its upkeep.

The Brownies admire Roma the Sumatran tiger

YOUR VISIT

The zoo is open every day from 10am to 6pm all year round. Entry costs £3.75 for adults and £2.75 for children under 14.

Contact the zoo if you are planning to take a group as they provide worksheets, guided tours, talks and a reduced rate of entry for parties of 20 or more.

If you live too far away to visit Linton, find out if there is a wildlife breeding centre you can visit near you.

Last but not least, if you were wondering which of the zoo's residents looks like a crusty meat pie and can live for 150 years, it's the giant African spurred tortoise!

JACKIE TEVLIN

FACT FILE

Linton Zoo is at Hadstock Road, Linton, Cambridgeshire CB1 6NT. Tel: 0223 891308.

To contact the Barn Owl Box Scheme write to: The Hawk and Owl Trust, Free-post CR1121, Linton, Cambridgeshire CB1 6BR. Tel: 0223 892335.

GUIDE GUIDERS

At last, for most of us, there's time to sit back, relax and take stock of the past Guiding year, before thinking ahead to the coming term. It's been a period of dramatic change and there's a lot to do in amending activities to help the girls absorb it all. We've a few ideas that should help.

PLAYFUL IDEAS

This is a variation on bingo. You will need to make a master card divided into 12 squares for each Patrol. Make up a set of about 30 questions and answers. The *Guide Handbook, 1910 and Then* and your own knowledge of the events of the past year, both nationally and locally, will provide the Guiding questions, and you could throw in a few community milestones, too.

When you have worked out the questions, write a selection of answers in the spaces on each Patrol card. Then cover the cards in sticky-backed plastic. Cross off the answers using water-based pens, and the cards can be wiped clean and reused.

The leader will need a set of cards with appropriate questions on them.

To play the game, read out a question and get the girls to tell you the answer, marking it off on their cards.

When a Patrol has a full set, they shout 'Bingo'.

This is a game that could be put together by someone working for her B-P Trefoil, or an Action Plus group.

Here are some questions to get you started.

- When did Guiding begin? (1910)
- Where was the first Scout camp? (Brownsea Island)
- What were Brownies first called? (Rosebuds)
- Where was the 1993 World Conference held? (Denmark)
- When was the present Promise badge introduced? (January 4, 1994)

- Who designed the uniform we have today? (Jeff Banks)
- How old is your unit?

STORY LINE

There's another way to use historical information.

Write a story in which dates, events and people are mentioned. Then line up the Patrols and assign each

but it was only for boys. The girls were cross that they had not been allowed to go to Brownsea Island in 1907. So, when a big rally was arranged at Crystal Palace, a few girls joined the boys. Baden-Powell was surprised to see them at Crystal Palace, but he realised that his experiment on Brownsea Island



Patrol member one of the dates, events or people in your story.

Every time her phrase is mentioned, a girl must race from her Patrol line to the other end of the room and back. Points can be awarded if you wish.

Your story could start: 'In 1907, after giving it much thought, Robert Baden-Powell decided to put into practice many of his ideas. He ran a camp on Brownsea Island. Scouting had begun,

could have been tried by girls too. So he asked his sister, Agnes Baden-Powell, to look after the girls and Guides had begun...

Taking this example you could use Baden-Powell, Crystal Palace, 1907 and Brownsea Island for the runners.

Later, Olave Baden-Powell, WAGGGS and Thinking Day could be introduced.

A script that takes two sides of A4 to write will last about ten minutes of running.

Highlight all the places that girls will begin running, so you know when to pause.

TREND-SETTERS

The past and present could set the theme for a whole evening's programme. As well as the games, the girls might like to stage a fashion show featuring clothing from other decades.

Fifties and Sixties styles seem trendy just now, so organise a rock 'n' roll competition. Can the girls backcomb their hair to create bouffant styles? Supply them with a pile of newspaper and suggest they make a skirt which really sticks out. How good are they with hula hoops?

Or, perhaps, they'd prefer another age — maybe they could dance the Charleston and model Twenties clothes.

Involve the Patrols and they'll come up with lots of ideas, and your local Trefoil Guild members will have memories to share!

COOK UP

If you have the facilities, could you put on a hike cookery challenge? The aim is to cook a two-course meal without using utensils or aids such as tin foil. There are ideas to try in the *Guide Handbook* but, if you want a real challenge, look at the re-published book *The Handbook for the Girl Guides*, originally printed in 1912.

Round off the evening in the present, with a quiz on TV, films, music and so on.

FUTURE EVENTS

Finally, don't forget Peace Day, especially the WAGGGS Peace Initiative, in September and the UN International Year of the Family week of celebrations in October. They need to be planned into the programme, you will find information about them in recent issues of *GUIDING*.

Look out next month for *The Guider Handbook*

CAROL HORNE

PUZZLE IT OUT

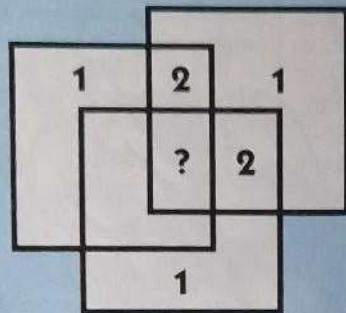
Quizzes and puzzles are ideal ways of filling those spare half-hours at camp. So this month we've chosen some simple puzzles that should keep your girls entertained.

The puzzles all come from the *Mensa Megabook of Number Puzzles*, which has just been published by Simon and Schuster Young Books and is available from all good bookshops at £4.99.

PUZZLES

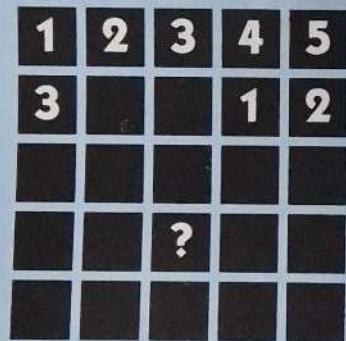
The book contains over 200 number puzzles of varying degrees of difficulty. These examples should whet your appetite — see how quickly your girls can solve them.

1 If you look carefully you should see why the numbers are written as they are. What number should replace the question mark?



1

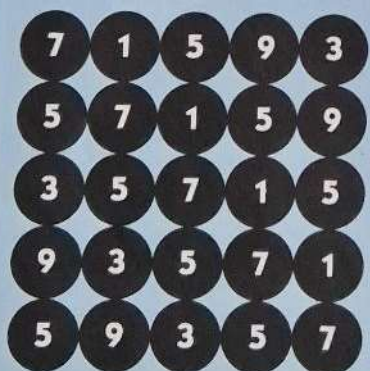
2 Fill up the square with the numbers one to five so that no row, column or diagonal line of five squares uses the same number more than once. What number should replace the question mark?



2

3 Move up or across from the bottom left-hand five to the top right-hand three. Collect nine numbers and add them together. What is the highest you can score?

The answers are at the bottom of the page.



3

MORE FUN

There is another Mensa children's puzzle book in the same series — the *Mensa Megabook of Word Puzzles* — and Simon Schuster Young Books have also just brought out a series of quiz cards called *Fun with Facts*.

There are 13 different titles in this series, covering everything from dinosaurs to the four seasons. Each set of cards is aimed at a specific age-group — four-plus, seven-plus or ten-plus — and consists of 11 quiz cards, which are clipped together and feature 50 questions and answers. The cards cost £1.49 per set.

COMPETITION

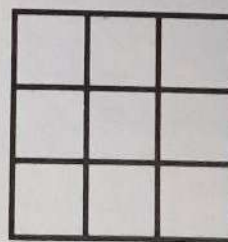
We've got ten sets of *Fun with Facts* cards to give away. To be in with a chance of winning one, first answer these three questions taken from various *Fun with Facts* cards:

- Is the sun a star or a planet?
- Can it snow while the sun is shining?
- Were there any humans at the same time as the dinosaurs?

Then pop the answers on the back of a postcard with your name and address and send it to: *Fun with Facts/GUIDING* Offer, The Guide Association, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT.

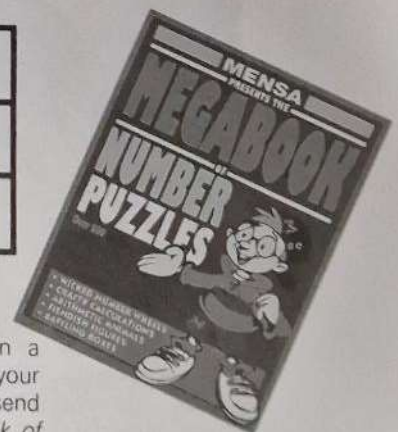
We're also giving away ten copies of the *Mensa Megabook of Number Puzzles*. To have a chance of being one of our lucky winners, try solving the following puzzle from the book:

How many squares of any size can you find in this diagram?



Write your answer on a postcard along with your name and address and send it to *Mensa Megabook of Number Puzzles/GUIDING* Offer at the address above.

All entries for both competitions should reach us by August 31 and the winners will be the senders of the first correct entries picked from the postbag after the closing date.



ANSWERS
1) Three. The number three is found in three overlapping shapes.
2) Four.
3) 47.

RANGER GUIDERS

Augustus Caesar not only gave his name to the eighth month of the year but increased the number of days in it from 30 to 31. Whether your Unit is winding down for the summer during August or getting geared up for autumn action, make an effort to get out and about and try one of these activities.

EIGHT 'OUTS' FOR YOU IN AUGUST

Eat Out

Plan and organise an eight-course safari dinner. A safari dinner begins with everyone having the first course at one house — perhaps the Ranger Guider's — and then travelling on to a different house for each subsequent course.

If your Unit is small, either reduce the number of courses or enlist your District Commissioner's or Adviser's help — she may be willing to throw open her home for one of the courses! Plenty of planning is essential to get the timing and travelling details just right.

Instead, you could visit a restaurant offering speciality food, such as Greek, Thai, Cantonese, or Mexican.

Sleep Out

Spend a night under the stars. You could challenge another Unit or Action Plus Group to build a natural shelter in which you can all spend the night. Another idea would be for the Unit to 'bivvy' out one night.

Help Out

Volunteer to work with another group such as a community play scheme that operates during the summer holidays. Many charities and churches run events during the summer — perhaps your Unit could lend a hand. Within Guiding, help may be required at Rainbow romps, Brownie Revels or even at Guide camp. Could your Unit help out, in doing so fulfilling the extra-special part of our Promise?



Cook Out

Try cooking a three-course meal for two people on a Trangia stove. Or have a go at dampers prepared on an open fire. (For the recipe and instructions see the *Breath of Fresh Air* pack.) Maybe you could try lighting a fire on a 50p piece and toasting a marshmallow.

If your Unit is seeking to expand, organise a Bring-a-friend barbecue, perhaps trying out disposable barbecues. The visitors will probably want to join.

Try Out

Get active and try out a new sport, activity or skill, such as go-karting, board sailing or grass skiing. Or you could join up with another organisation and challenge the members to a cricket or football match, a raft or chariot race, or a pioneering or orienteering activity.

Consult the *Pioneering* pack for raft-building hints and ideas for projects such as making a swing-boat or a

monkey bridge.

Trip Out

Can you plan a day out using eight different modes of transport? If that's too tall an order, at least plan a visit to a museum, castle, country park or outdoor centre — or spend a weekend hostelling.

If you have only an evening to spare, use it for a trip to the theatre, cinema, ten-pin bowling alley or local leisure centre.

Take another look at your area and see what's on offer. Visit your local library or tourist information office and find out what is being organised within easy reach of your village, town or city.

Hike Out

Hike eight miles in one day — perhaps you could trace the source of a river, or hike through the night and watch the sun rise.

Go on a forest walk or discover the delights and 'nasties' of beachcombing. If it's not possible to get out

into the countryside, explore your local town and then make up a trail that another section could use.

Check to see whether any heritage trails already exist locally.

Break Out

Have you heard about Break Out, the lightweight camp being held in Sherwood Forest on September 9-11? Even if you haven't until now, there's still time to put your names down. The event costs £12.50, which doesn't cover food for the weekend, but does cover all activities, plus a souvenir necker and badge.

There's something for everyone from canoeing, climbing, abseiling, barn dancing and discoing to all sorts of crafts. Contact Mrs Joyce Baker, 25 Megdale, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3JW. Tel: 0629 56568. The closing date for applications is August 25, so don't delay.

SAFETY FIRST

It's very important to plan all activities carefully before you actually set out. Take your time, check *The Guiding Manual* to ensure that you are complying with the safety rules, and remember to complete any relevant permission forms.

Remember to check who, what, when and how, and your outing should be a great success. Use the extra day Augustus Caesar gave us this month to have fun and get out and about.

BARBARA O'DONNELL

SWOP SHOP

In May I asked for ideas, activities, skills, or interesting speakers or topics for discussion in order that we could start a Swop Shop. Please send details of any ideas that have worked for your Unit to: The Editor, *GUIDING*, The Guide Association, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT. Mark your envelope Swop Shop.

PRACTICAL PAGES

NEW GUIDERS

This month Carol Selwyn-Jones offers new Guiders some advice on working with small groups.

One of the essential elements of Guiding is that Guides work together in small groups. For Guides and Brownies, this will often be in the fairly fixed group of the Patrol or Six. But all sections will regularly use groupings which come together for a particular purpose, such as an activity, badge work or planning.

Group work is important because being part of a group can give a girl a sense of identity, a feeling of security, an opportunity to develop social skills and a means of taking on responsibility.

GUIDER'S ROLE

As a Guider, you have a part to play in helping groups to

and the process can start from day one in Rainbows. A five-year-old can express an opinion on something that affects her, but seeing someone else's point of view is an art she will have to learn.

SAFETY FIRST

There will be occasions when you will have to set the agenda, for example in a potentially hazardous activity when the interests of safety demand it. But the girls should be encouraged to talk about the activity first, so that they understand that this is not a situation where the group can offer alternative ways of doing things.

Groups working in the secure environment of the meeting place, or at camp or on holiday need space to develop. Then, in time, they can make their own decisions

unit needs to do is really get to know the girls. Not just their names but their interests, abilities and needs as well.

We can't assume that because a girl is in Guiding her experiences and expectations will be similar to our own. We have to deal with girls as they are, not as we think they ought to be, or as we hope they will become.

To work effectively with a group, whether the whole unit or a smaller grouping, it is necessary to know the individuals who make up that group.

ASK QUESTIONS

An important part of our working method is asking questions. This works better if we are not physically distanced from the group. For instance, if we sit on a chair and the girls are sitting on

tive way. Equally, of course, we shall sometimes hear things we don't like. To react with shock or outrage is unlikely to help — a calm discussion is more likely to be effective.

From time to time we may find a girl who doesn't readily fit into a group. This is usually because she is different from the others in a way they find hard to accept. This is less likely to happen if you have an open relationship with the groups in the unit. However, if it does occur, use your knowledge of the girls to create a situation where she can succeed in something and then build on this.

When a group is working successfully, the members can plan something, carry it out (with or without our help), and evaluate it afterwards. Rainbows can do this to some extent, while an experienced Ranger Unit may feel that it hardly needs a Guider at all!

BRAINSTORMING

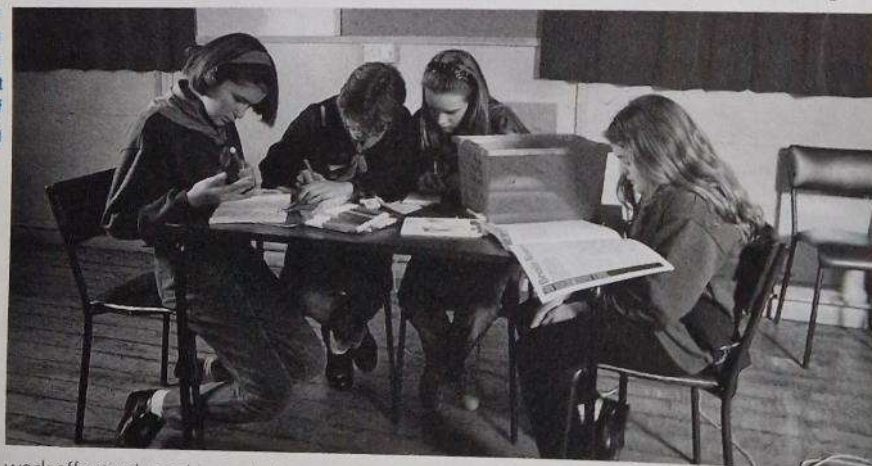
When planning something, whether it is the term's programme or a specific project, brainstorming is a useful technique. Anybody can call out suggestions and every idea will be written down without comment. When all ideas are gathered in, the group can choose which they would like to take further.

Circle time can be used for a lot of purposes, including evaluation. The group sits in a circle, and each member contributes in turn. It's useful to have a set format, for example 'In this activity I learned... I enjoyed... I would do... differently'.

The leader's role in all this is very different from standing at the front giving orders. But it offers a real way for individuals and groups to develop and, as such, is very rewarding.

CAROL SELWYN-JONES

Working in small groups is an important aspect of Guiding



LES GIBSON PHOTOGRAPHY

work effectively and in making sure that individuals benefit from being part of the group.

For an inexperienced leader who, perhaps, doesn't feel very secure herself, it's natural to think that the only way of keeping control of the situation is by telling everybody what to do. However, this isn't what Guiding is really about.

Another of the essential elements is that Guides are encouraged to govern themselves. This is something that doesn't come overnight,

and set their own agendas, within the framework of the values and aims of Guiding.

The leader's group management skills should help that process, but also make sure that no group becomes so inward-looking that it cuts itself off from the rest of the unit.

GIRL TALK

The attitudes and behaviour of the leaders play a vital part in establishing a good working atmosphere within the unit. The first thing a Guider newly attached to a

the floor, it is likely to convey the message that we think our ideas are better, or more valuable, than theirs.

We learn more, too, by asking open questions, which invite ideas, information and opinions, than from closed questions which just need a yes/no answer. It also helps to establish common ground if we remember to say 'we', rather than 'I' or 'you'.

If we establish an open relationship with a group, we will be well on the way to giving its members the confidence to develop in a posi-

HIGHLIGHTS

JOB SEARCH AND INTERVIEW SKILLS

WADDOW

August 15-17

This course is aimed at anyone in Guiding who is looking for a job, whether it is a first job, a change in direction, or a return to the world of work.

Its aim is to give you the confidence to apply for the job that you want and to 'sell yourself' at all stages of the process.

You will have opportunities to consider your skills and talents, your interests and the direction you want your career to take. You can join in discussions about how to use a period of unemployment constructively and how it can become a very positive experience.

Other topics will include:

- Preparing a CV.
- Letters of application.
- Telephone techniques.
- Interview skills.
- Decision making.
- Career planning.

LEADERSHIP FOR COMMISSIONERS

FOXLEASE

September 9-11

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

- What we are?
- What we know?
- What we do?

HOLIDAY FOR OVERSEAS GUIDERS

FOXLEASE

August 26-29

This event is now open to any Guider or Trefoil Guild member.

It consists of a programme of activities for overseas

Guiders living in, or on holiday in, the UK and their friends. Stay at Foxlease, the Guide Movement's first Training Centre, and visit Brownsea Island, the site of the first Scout camp. Meet Guides in camp and Brownies on Pack Holiday. Share music, crafts and activities with other delegates and, as a real bonus, talk to Betty Clay, daughter of the World Chief Guide, who has accepted an invitation to join us for the event.

Further details are available from Foxlease.

GUIDER HANDBOOK

WADDOW

September 9-11

FOXLEASE

December 2-4

Who is it for?

This training offers an opportunity to experience some of the activities in the new *Guider Handbook*. Do you need:

- fresh enthusiasm?
- new ideas for your unit programme?
- knowledge of Guiding across the sections?
- knowledge of developments in Guiding?

What's it all about?

This is a weekend for Guiders from all sections to introduce them to the new handbook and to give them the opportunity to ask questions of members of the working group who put this long-awaited course together.

TRAINING SKILLS FOR ADVISERS

WADDOW

September 9-11

Who is it for?

This weekend is for any Advisers who would benefit from gaining basic training skills to help them convey their specialisms to other adults.

What's it all about?

Are you an enthusiastic and highly-skilled Adviser, working hard to promote your

particular specialism? Could you benefit from acquiring a set of basic training skills to help you put your message across more effectively?

At the end of the weekend you will be able to:

- Set aims and objectives for your training sessions.
- Use ice-breakers effectively.
- Evaluate your training sessions constructively.
- Use visual aids with confidence.
- Understand how adults learn.
- Use small group work more effectively.

PATROL IN ACTION

FOXLEASE

September 30-October 2

A training to help all Guide Guiders, whatever their experience, to acquire new ideas and learn to make better use of the Patrol system.

We will look at the way groups develop, the stages that Patrols move through and the ways in which they make decisions.

Come and try out lots of ideas and activities that can be adapted for use in individual units.

THEME MEETINGS FOR RAINBOW AND BROWNIE GUIDERS

FOXLEASE

September 30-October 2

Discover how to add fun and imagination to your meeting through the use of themes. There will be opportunities to try out activities, exchange ideas and invent themes which capture the imagination and encapsulate many of the Eight Points.

GUIDING IN THE DISTRICT

FOXLEASE

September 23-25

Is your District going places? Why not take some time out together to

- get to know each other
- understand each other's needs

- learn about other sections
- work better as a team
- meet other District teams
- revitalise yourselves
- plan for the future.

This weekend is for District Commissioners with groups of between four and seven of their Guiders. If you don't have a District Ranger Unit, why not invite the Young Leader Adviser or Ranger Guider who works with your District?

There will be a training session for all sections and for Commissioners, as well as lots of opportunities to work as a District discovering how best to support each other.

FUN WITH SCIENCE GAMES

FOXLEASE

October 14-16

Through simple science activities, come and discover:

Something old, something new.

An idea borrowed while wearing blue.

Science in the unit is nothing new.

Let us recognise the things we do.

We are not trying to create a world full of superwomen scientists. We want to encourage our girls to observe, record and think logically, opening their minds and helping them to think for themselves.

HOW TO SURVIVE YOUR FIRST YEARS IN GUIDING

WADDOW

December 2-4

The aim of this course is to build confidence and increase your skills in the basics of Guiding.

Topics will include:

- ABC of Guiding.
- Programme planning without tears.
- Is it working?
- What's in it for me?
- My future in Guiding.

If you would like the opportunity to share ideas and

TRAINING DIARY

experiences with other Guiders, then this is for you

HOW TO REMAIN SANE AFTER MORE THAN FIVE YEARS IN GUIDING

WADDOW
December 2-4

The aim of this course is to inspire and enthuse Guiders who may feel a little 'jaded'. What will we do?

- Pep up your programme.
- Check it out.
- What's in it for me?
- My future in Guiding.
- Boosting your E-factor — energy, enthusiasm and effectiveness!

THE COMMISSIONER'S JOB

(One-day Training)
WADDOW
October 12
FOXLEASE
October 26

Commissioners, are you unable to give up another weekend? Do other commitments mean you can't attend a residential training? Then this is for you!

Using the *Commissioner File*, the day will aim to help Commissioners be more effective in their Guiding role and will include:

- Managing and Leadership Scheme.
- Exploring the Five Essentials as instruments of quality control.
- Increasing confidence in taking group decisions.

For further details of this one-day course please contact the Centre Manager at Foxlease.

For full details of future trainings, send a sae to the Manager of the appropriate centre. Applications to attend any of the trainings mentioned should be sent to the Manager at Foxlease or Waddow, enclosing a £10 deposit and sae. Cheques should be made payable to The Guide Association.

ASA/RLSS LIFE SAVING

FOXLEASE
September 16-18

This informal training uses the covered swimming pool at Foxlease, with trainees being accommodated in the Coach House.

The course is intensive but fun. It culminates in an exam on the Sunday afternoon. You will be trained by a team of five experienced Trainers.

There will be training in:

- Land- and water-based rescue techniques.
- Dealing with unconscious casualties.
- Pool safety.
- First aid and CPR.

PERSONAL EFFECTIVENESS

WADDOW
October 11-13 (mid-week)

In Guiding, as in life, you will be asked to give your time and your enthusiasm over and over again and, sometimes, you will ask yourself 'Can I cope?' This course is for anyone who wishes to become more effective in the following areas:

- Managing your time.
- Using stress in a positive way.
- Being more assertive.
- Confidence building.
- Self-awareness and self-presentation.

You will have the opportunity to meet informally with a group of people who all wish to become more effective. Through discussions and activities you will discover how you can make small changes, which may

revolutionise your life. You will also have the opportunity to discuss your role as Guiders, and how you can use your skills to help young people.

ISSUES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY

WADDOW
October 11-13 (mid-week)

Young people today are faced with an increasing number of decisions about their lives. Guiders are in a unique position to support them in making those decisions. This training course

provides the opportunity for Guiders to meet together and explore the issues that affect young people today.

You will have the chance to:

- Discuss the issues and share experiences.
- Examine resources and activities.
- Identify support networks.
- Promote young people's participation in decision making.

We will cover topics as requested by participants, for example, substance misuse, teenage pregnancy, leaving home, ...

BRONEIRION

COMMISSIONERS

October 7-9

A weekend to explore the breadth and depth of the Commissioner's role — how to cope, how to delegate, how to create a good District or Division Team; how to encourage good Guiding for the girls.

Share your triumphs and worries with other Commissioners.

This training is open to District and Division Commissioners.

LOOK WIDER

November 4-6

Hot off the presses, the great new programme for the senior section that you've all been waiting for. Come and find out all about it.

For all Guiders working with the senior section.

HAUTBOIS

Have you ever thought what benefit there could be in a small, residential event — a PLs' weekend or a Ranger programme planning meeting? How about a weekend training for your Young Leader Group, or an opportunity for you, the District Commissioner, to really get to know the newest Guiders in your District?

Perhaps you know a family or friendship group, which includes one or more members with disabilities, who would like to go away

together.

All these ideas and more could be realised by booking 'Pantiles', our self-catering annexe. It is inexpensive and it sleeps six indoors (plus a few in lightweight tents in the garden).

It has recently been redesigned to give better access and accommodation for members who use wheelchairs.

There is a good choice of available dates this autumn and winter.

Send now for a leaflet.

FOXLEASE

Lyndhurst, Hampshire
SO43 7DE.
Tel: 0703 282638.
Fax: 0703 282561.

WADDOW

Clitheroe, Lancashire
BB7 3LD.
Tel: 0200 23186.
Fax: 0200 27460.

LORNE

Station Road, Craigavad,
Holywood, County Down,
Northern Ireland BT18 0BP.
Tel: 0232 423180.

HAUTBOIS

Great Hautbois Road,
Cottishall, Norwich, Norfolk
NR12 7JN.
Tel: 0603 737357.

NETHERURD

Blyth Bridge, West Linton,
Peeblesshire EH46 7AQ.
Tel: 0968 682208.
Fax: 0968 682371.

BRONEIRION

Llandinam, Powys,
Wales SY17 5DE.
Tel: 0686 688204.
Fax: 0686 688098.

BLACKLAND FARM

Grinstead Lane,
East Grinstead, West Sussex
RH19 4HP.
Tel: 0342 810493 or
0860 393026.
Fax: 0342 811206.

SECRET SAUDI

The determination, good humour, ingenuity and resourcefulness of BGIFC Guiders keeps Guiding thriving in Saudi Arabia as Shirley Torrens found out when she visited the Middle Eastern kingdom.



SHIRLEY TORRENS

▲ Making plans: a Patrol from the 1st Dhahran Guides work out their strategy

▼ Spicy shopping: 1st Dhahran Guide Guider Julie Hubber stocks up on pistachios at the souk while shopping with a friend



SHIRLEY TORRENS

◀ An oasis of calm: a compound in Dhahran that's home to many ex-pats learning to live in a Muslim kingdom



SHIRLEY TORRENS

◀ **Delectable doughnuts:** a group of sweet-toothed Jeddah Rainbows eye the goodies on sale

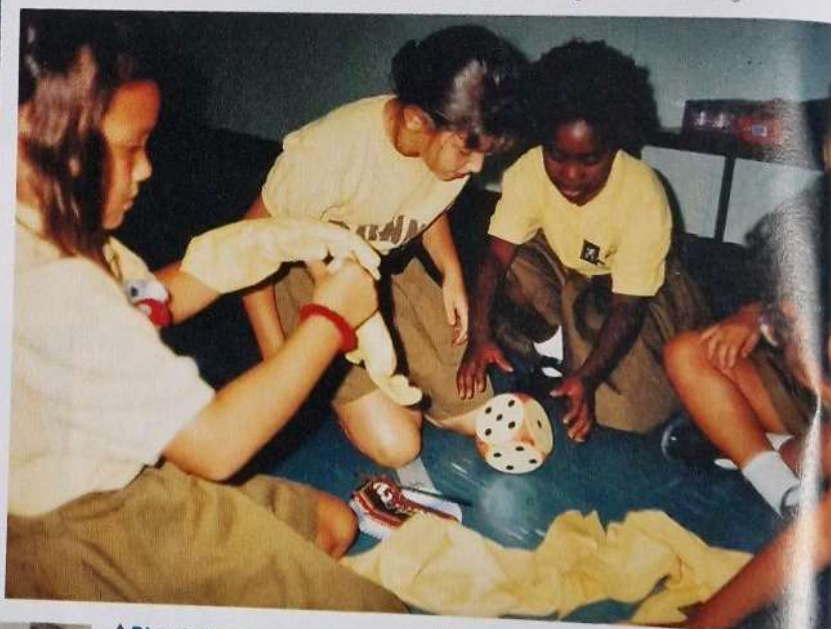
Imagine it: you are a British Guider running a BGIFC unit and, before setting out for a Guide or Brownie meeting, you must first swathe yourself head to toe in a voluminous black robe to conceal your uniform.

At Christmas, nativity plays and pantomimes are banned and the religious police raid shops to seize yuletide wrapping paper and decorations.

Even the Association's handbook, with illustrations showing Brownies' legs, may be seized by the official censor.

This is all part of the reality of being a leader in Saudi Arabia, where Islam permeates every facet of life and Guiding can only be pursued with utmost discretion lest offence be given to the host country.

Nowhere else in the Middle East is Islamic law more rigidly enforced and conditions tougher for Guiding.



▲ **Dicey business:** 4th Jeddah Brownies are eager to take their turn to throw the dice in the chocolate eating game

◀ **Cover up:** an abayah is a must when off compound — and it also makes a great magician's cloak



SHIRLEY TORRENS

Yet BGIFC units in Saudi Arabia aren't merely existing — they're positively thriving, as Shirley Torrens discovered on her first visit to 'the most foreign country I've yet been to'.

Shirley, the Association's former Brownie Adviser, who headed the Working Party that has produced the new *Brownie Handbook* due out early next year, went there to train and assess future training needs.

The nature of some of the difficulties experienced by the ex-pat Guiders astounded her but she was delighted by the way they cope.

Here she describes how they manage in the land where Guiding, like Christmas, has to be kept under wraps.

◀ It is hard for any Guide leader who has never been to Saudi Arabia to imagine what it is like to run a unit in

this very strict Muslim country. As I was to discover, Islam affects Guiding in all kinds of ways.

Even though all the BGIFC units meet only within the confines of the foreign workers' compounds — usually after school, in the school building — Guiding has to keep a very low profile so as not to offend cultural and religious sensitivities. Almost like a secret society, but not quite!

All travel has to be in culturally acceptable clothing, so Guiders hide their uniforms under their *abayahs* — black robes — until they get to the meetings and the girls change into their uniforms only on arrival.

It is a great pity because the girls and their leaders are wonderfully smart and well turned-out, but that is the way it has to be.

Every unit I visited in Riyadh, the capital, Dhahran and Jeddah had the same high standard of presentation and took great pains to overcome the lack of handbooks and other publications by using photocopied pages.

It comes as a shock to learn that even our leggy seven-year-olds, shown in handbook illustrations, are unacceptable to the censor and that the methods we use and the message we promote is unwelcome.

My visit, in late November last year, coincided with the end of school term and the approach of a certain Christian event that is prohibited in Saudi Arabia and must not be celebrated.

Nevertheless, the ever resourceful Guiders were busily arranging an assortment of "special activities" guaranteed to put everyone in a relaxed happy mood.

Meanwhile the Mutawa — the religious police — were also busy, raiding stores, looking for Christmas wrapping paper and decorations!

Incidentally, meetings of more than six people are not allowed and can be broken up by the Mutawa, so putting on any kind of festive event brings problems.

There is, however, no question of Guiding being illegal in itself. Guiding activities are permitted within the international compounds provided they do not cause offence. In practice, this simply means they need to be carried on out of sight of the general public.

Furthermore, Muslim law does not prohibit Saudi Arabian girls from being in Guiding and, indeed, countries like Oman and the Yemen have local Guiding units and are working towards membership of WAGGGS.

The restrictions imposed by Islam are not the only challenge to Guiders, however, as I discovered.

Nearly all British children return to the UK for their schooling when they are 12. This leaves a very young Guiding population, making it hard to develop a confident Patrol system within the Guide Companies but, somehow, the BGIFC Guiders manage to take this in their stride.

At every training workshop Guiders laughed ruefully at the adaptations they had to make to the Programme to match the culture and climate. Some badge work has to be imaginatively interpreted. Skater and Bellringer present problems, while Seasons is even more difficult when Saudi seasons are hot, hot, very hot and slightly less hot!

The Crime Prevention badge would

For anyone dreaming of Arabian Nights, here are some helpful hints from the Shirley Torrens 'survival kit':

For a 'domestic' visa, needed by a woman to enter Saudi Arabia, allow several months. Your passport must not record any visits to Israel. You must have a sponsor within the country, who must meet you in person on your arrival at the airport, or you won't get further than immigration.

No crucifixes, crosses or Christian symbols may be worn or carried in your baggage, and no Bibles.

Nor must you have any magazines showing pictures in which parts of the female body are exposed — not even Guides in culottes!

You must not be in possession of anything made with pork, or anything, even remotely, to do with pigs. Even a piggy-bank will be confiscated!

Other forbidden goods include Barbie dolls and nutmeg.

All baggage is thoroughly searched and even wrapping contraband in the most intimate underwear will not deter the all-male customs officers.

At the international airport you may wear western dress, provided the neckline is high, sleeves are to the wrist and the skirt at least mid-calf length.

Anywhere else off compound, you must wear a black *abayah*. And although you are not required by law to keep your head covered — as Muslim women are — you are still liable to be bawled at by the Mutawa to 'Cover your head, woman'.

All expeditions must be carefully staged, as toilets are few and far between.

Your camera may be confiscated and your film destroyed if you attempt to take pictures in a public place, or photograph Saudi women.

be a fascinating study in this culture, where hands are amputated for theft and punishment of all sorts is extraordinarily severe by our standards.

On a more poignant level, Guiders talked about the lack of opportunity for giving service in a community that is so atypical, with no old or disabled people within the compounds.

They pointed out, too, that Road Safety is a difficult concept to teach, with the contrast between the quiet compounds and the maniacal driving in the streets outside.

In addition to all these problems, the BGIFC Guiders in Saudi Arabia have to cope with other challenges.

Because women are not allowed to drive, the Guiders are totally dependent on their husbands providing transport, not merely to Guiders' meetings but to every routine event. The men do this cheerfully and readily but for the Guiders it is the most restrictive aspect of Saudi life.

Husbands are granted leave twice a year on average and, naturally, this is mainly used to see children and parents in the UK. It means, however, that Guiders need extra personnel to deputise as leaders during these holiday periods.

Yet, somehow, they always manage to find temporary volunteers to keep the show on the road while they are away. The Commissioners, too, give magnificent help, filling in the 'gaps' until the Guiders return.

The list of difficulties goes on and on but, despite them all, everywhere I went I found thriving units and busy girls, thoroughly enjoying their Guiding — thanks to the determination, ingenuity, resourcefulness and good humour of their splendid Guiders, all of whom deserve a medal.

SHIRLEY TORRENS

While she was the Association's Brownie Adviser, youth and community worker Shirley Torrens instigated the award-winning Bentilee Children's Project, near Stoke-on-Trent.

Part of the Association's Reach Out initiative to take Guiding into new areas, the Bentilee Project carried off two silver medals and a bronze award in the Royal Anniversary Trust Challenge.

Shirley, an Assistant Brownie Guider in her home town — Madely, Staffordshire — went to Buckingham Palace to receive the awards on behalf of her dedicated team.

A Brownie Pack set up on the bleak Bentilee housing estate as part of the Project continues to thrive.



GUIDERS...

Have you heard the one about the Guider who didn't know about the exciting changes that have been taking place in the Movement? She was behind the times because she didn't get her own copy of *GUIDING* each month.

If you have a friend who is missing out on all the news, views and activity ideas in *GUIDING*, do her a favour and tell her about our post-free subscription offer. Or, better still, get her to fill in the subscription form below and *GUIDING* will soon be popping through her letter box regularly each month.

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All magazine subscriptions are for a maximum of one year. Shorter subscriptions can be had pro rata.

YOUR LETTERS

The two Welsh Guiders who wrote an open letter to their Guides (A Personal View — June) struck a chord with readers:

BADLY BEHAVED

I say 'Congratulations and well done' for doing what I'm sure many Guiders have thought of, but not been bold enough to do. There are numerous times when I could have easily given it all up, when girls have been difficult, rude and disinterested.

I definitely would send a letter with a similar content to my Guides. And, if a few girls did leave as a result of it, they are probably going to be the ones most at fault and not really serious about Guide morals.

I do feel a lot of this type of trouble with girls being rude, bad mannered and generally badly behaved must be blamed on the parents and schools. There seems to be no such thing as discipline, courtesy and manners any more.

The only reason I've kept going is that I feel the Movement is far superior to youth clubs and that its ideals and principles are of much greater value to younger people.

What really bothers me is that should there be an incident as a result of bad behaviour during Guide meetings or, worse still, during camp, we as Guiders are responsible for these children, how does that affect us personally and also the Movement?

GUIDE GUIDER
Somerset

COURAGE

I admire Annabel for having the courage to write such a letter to her Guides, and I wonder if she has been in hiding at one of our meetings!

I am at present an Assistant Guider with a unit of about 25 to 30 Guides. It is only now that I have come across problems with disruptive Guides. You expect the girls to have an occasional 'off' night but you do not expect it every week.

In our unit we have two Patrol Leaders — one who is constantly disruptive and the other who is more often than not disruptive but who can be diverted.

We have tried several methods to curb the disruption wrought by these two girls. But we find that if they manage to unsettle the others then it is very difficult to gain control of the evening. And, as a result, the other girls suffer.

Some readers may feel it is our fault for letting them get away with it but we are at a loss as to what to do. The two unruly ones both have enormous potential, if only we could help them harness it.

The idea of working in Patrols does not seem to have lodged in their brains, despite having training nights specifically for Patrol Leaders and Patrol Seconds.

I have toyed with the idea of writing a 'unit philosophy' and displaying it, setting out what we as Guiders expect from the Guides and what we would do for them.

The meetings sometimes leave me with the feeling that I am working against certain Guides and not with them. This leaves me feeling disheartened as the whole reason I started as a Guider was to give back to the Movement something of what I had as a Guide in an excellent unit.

I look forward to any comments as I and my colleague are at a loss as

to how to deal with trouble in the unit.

NICOLA
Hertfordshire

RAINBOW BLUES

The new Rainbow Badge is still causing concern among readers. Here are extracts from some of their letters:

Perhaps a revised badge could be issued to still show a small Rainbow... I and many others feel the whole concept of Rainbows is the Rainbow.

CAROLE MACKLIN
Assistant Guider
1st Tiptoe Rainbow Unit
Lymington

How can we say they are going to be Rainbows and then give them a badge without a Rainbow on it?

SIÂN CORNWELL
Rainbow Guider
Essex West

I was very disappointed when I saw the new design as it is so totally different... there is no visual connection for the girls to see and be proud to belong to.

ANN ROGERS
Rainbow Guider
82nd Northampton (SA)
Unit
Northampton

Please, oh please, can we have our Rainbow back on the Promise Badge. It is so important when explaining the significance of the colours of the Rainbow in the Eight Point plan.

MRS C D MORGAN
Rainbow Guider
5th Sketty (All Souls) Unit
Swansea

My Rainbows were very disappointed on being told that new Rainbows would no longer have a Rainbow on their tabards... Why not allow Rainbows to wear the Rainbow Link badge on their tabards to show they are in a Rainbow Unit, as opposed

to a Brownie Pack Six or a Guide Company Patrol?

CHRISTINE GRIGGS
4th Luton St Mary's
District Rainbow Unit
Luton

● This correspondence is now closed.

A TREASURE

At our Rainbow Unit, we have a Unit Helper who has a wealth of Guiding experience. She is a great help, and extremely supportive. Our girls adore her — to the extent that if she is unable to attend a meeting they immediately ask after her.

She shows patience, understanding and sympathy, if the need arises. She is a working grandmother with many interests and hobbies and a committed member of Guiding. She is dedicated and reliable and, we feel, a tremendous asset to our Unit, but in 11 months time she must retire. We do not feel this is fair or necessary to her, our Unit or Guiding as a whole.

We also know that she gets a lot of fun, a great deal of satisfaction and, most importantly, enjoyment from our meetings, as we all do.

To lose a valued member just because she reaches 65 seems totally unfair. She will be extremely difficult to replace.

LYN SCOBIE
and **WENDY COLDHAM**

Guiders
3rd Olton Park Rainbows
Solihull

LEFTIES LAMENT

I read with interest the comments about left-handed knotting and knitting in *GUIDING*. I write to remind all in Guiding that, of course, left-handers are a superior race. We have to be. We have been brought up in a

right-handed world and have had to overcome many difficulties.

If you don't believe me, then just for an hour do everything with your left hand. For example, try writing out a cheque, especially the stub; using a 'normal' tin opener; ironing, when the flex comes out of the right-hand side of the iron; using a pair of scissors or a cake fork...

When I was taught hemming we had to follow the teacher's instructions. You try doing this from right to left with your left hand. Of course, I now start at the left-hand side but, as a child, it was 'do what you are told'.

Then there was the writing competition which we all had to enter. Try sloping the letters forward with the left hand. The natural tendency is to slope backwards. And as for playing hockey...

I spent five minutes in my kitchen looking at this right-handed world and I found the TV, radio and dishwasher knobs, Soda Stream and coffee-maker handles all on the right.

Think about voting papers in elections — the cross has to be on the right-hand side. Stamps have to be stuck on envelopes on the right. Look at the till checkouts, which hand do the operators have to use?

I'm a keen orienteer and, to prove that you have been to a control, you have to mark a card with a 'punch'. Until recently some of the numbers went around the right-hand side of the card.

And isn't it time restaurateurs asked their customers which side they wanted their cutlery?

To a right-handed person these things seem trivial and, of course, because of our higher intellect we left-handers cope admirably, but it doesn't mean we wouldn't like things changed a bit.

You can buy left-handed

things at a much higher cost, so is this a case for higher wages for the lefties?

JUNE WEBB

Secretary

Friends of the Four World Centres

FREE EXCHANGE

The time has come to put pen to paper regarding yet another change in the Movement.

Is there any way that we can do an 'exchange' of obsolete items such as pre-Promise books? We have a new Promise, but new pre-Promise books have not been printed.

We can hardly teach new Brownies by using these books as the Promise printed in them is no longer valid. And I don't think sticking in a piece of paper with the new Promise printed on it is suitable.

I think that new books should be printed as soon as possible and all old books returned to Trading Service with new copies sent out to replace them at no charge. What do other Guiders feel about this?

GILL DAVIES

Assistant Brownie Guider
11th Newport North (St Joseph's) Pack
Gwent

CHOICE OF COURSES

I am severely disabled through a stroke and would like to bring to your members' notice some correspondence courses which I have found very rewarding.

There are now seven correspondence courses available covering among other subjects health, the Bible, and ancient history. They are all completely free, apart from the cost of the stamp to return your comments.

All the courses can be done at your own speed as and when you feel like it, with very little writing. For more details contact: The Health Education Centre, BUC Offices, Stanborough

Park, Watford,
Hertfordshire WD2 6JU.
MICKIE NIXON
Ashford
Kent

BADGE CATALOGUE

Since the change of name from 'Girl Guides' to The Guide Association, our collecting club members have been working together to catalogue and record changes in Guide badge designs.

The redesigned Region patch for Anglia Guides is evidently proving immensely popular, and it seems South West England and other Countries and Regions may soon be following a similar trend.

In our research, we are particularly interested in locating examples of obsolete Interest Badges and Patrol Emblems already well out-of-date. With Bodleian Library research, and help from a few senior members of the Association nationally, we are attempting an illustrated catalogue of Interest/Proficiency Badges from the first blue-on-white-felt issues up to the recent design changes.

We would like to invite further help and advice, particularly from interested senior or ex-Guiders anywhere, and would certainly welcome any illustrative contribution to the project.

SOPHIE GWYN-SMITH

The Paddock
30 Brasenose Drive
Kidlington
Oxford OX5 2EQ

FRUSTRATED

I am a Young Leader with a Brownie Pack, who is working towards the Queen's Guide Award.

Our District does not have a Ranger Unit and I am writing to ask if many people attempt the Queen's Guide Award, if they are not with a Ranger Unit?

The reason I ask is because I believe that the Award was intended for

Rangers not Young Leaders! (I refer to the camping clause of the scheme.)

I have completed my Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award and so, in effect, I consider myself quite a good lightweight camper. But in order to do the camping section of the Queen's Guide Award, I must start training again from the basics and gain the Ranger Camp Permit.

In my Division I am the only Young Leader and, as there aren't any local Rangers, I feel daunted by the task.

I am only a student and my parents are not too keen to subsidise another expedition, especially if the criteria are the same as that for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. But, because I did my D of E expedition before I embarked on my Queen's, it cannot be included.

Do the syllabus writers realise the sheer impracticality of such a scheme? Not to mention the cost.

I only work with Brownies and I am afraid that I fail to see the relevance of lightweight camping with under-11s.

I am also annoyed with the forever-changing syllabus. Rumour has it that, in the future, you may only need your Pack Holiday Licence to complete this clause. But I am in a Catch 22 situation, as I will have to acquire my warrant first.

Sometimes I feel so frustrated. The reports on the Queen's Guide Award are only ever positive. But some of us would like to hear about all the difficulties encountered.

Please can someone tell me I am not alone in this situation.

A YOUNG LEADER

Surrey

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.

IN THE

BIG APPLE

Like Ol' Blue Eyes Sinatra, Kirstie Lewis knew that she wanted to be 'part of it' when she set off to spend two years in New York.

But, with a visa that prohibited her from obtaining any kind of paid work, the former Guide Guider from Leeds faced the prospect of merely being a long-stay tourist. And this, Kirstie realised, could eventually turn the deliciously exciting Big Apple sour.

So, before setting off, she laid plans which paid off.

Soon after her arrival Kirstie landed an admin job with the Girl Scouts Council of Greater New York which, being a voluntary post, was quite 'legit'. The result, as she is pleased to report, is that she's been part of the scene ever since:

It all started when my husband, Andrew, was sponsored by his company to work in the United States. But what was I, with a non-working visa, going to do for two years in New York?

Having been a Guide, Ranger, Young Leader and Guide Guider (temporarily retired), I decided to ask the International section at CHQ if they could help.

Sure enough they could and through the post came an Introduction Card, showing my involvement with Guiding, for me to take with me to the USA.

We left our home in Cookridge, Leeds, for New York on an August Saturday in 1992. I had given up my job as a personnel assistant in Leeds earlier that month.

On the Monday, in New York, Andrew set off for work and I went in search of the headquarters of GSUSA — the Girl Scouts of the USA.

I certainly had fun trying to understand the pattern of streets and avenues but, eventually, I found the building and, after some time, the right department!

Kind and friendly, they stamped my card and arranged for me to meet Judy Kehoe, Executive Director of the Girl Scout Council of Greater New York.

For the meeting, a couple of weeks later, I wore a Guide shirt and an international necker given to me by a friend in the UK on her return from a trip to Japan. Judy introduced me to some of the full-time staff and invited me to a meeting the following week.

There I met staff not only from the GS Council's office but from the five

boroughs of New York — Manhattan, Staten Island, Brooklyn, the Bronx and Queens.

Next day I started as a volunteer in the Programme Department (Customer Service), not knowing what to expect.

I have been working in this department for quite some time now, helping out with administration, computer work, badge round-ups, an international trip to Kenya, Saturday programmes and lots of other things.

During this time I've worked with three Troops — two Brownie and a Junior — visited a resident camp in upstate New York for the day and been on Girl Scout trainings.

I've sold Girl Scout cookies at various functions and events. And, in the cause of Girl Scouting, I've also kept company with the snow leopards at the Bronx zoo, although on the right side of the bars, naturally.

This was during last year's Fall Fest Kick-Off, an annual event which launches the start of the new membership year every October. It is open only to registered Girl Scouts and leaders.

The venues vary, but this one was held inside the Bronx's enormous zoo. More than 3,500 girls and leaders took part.

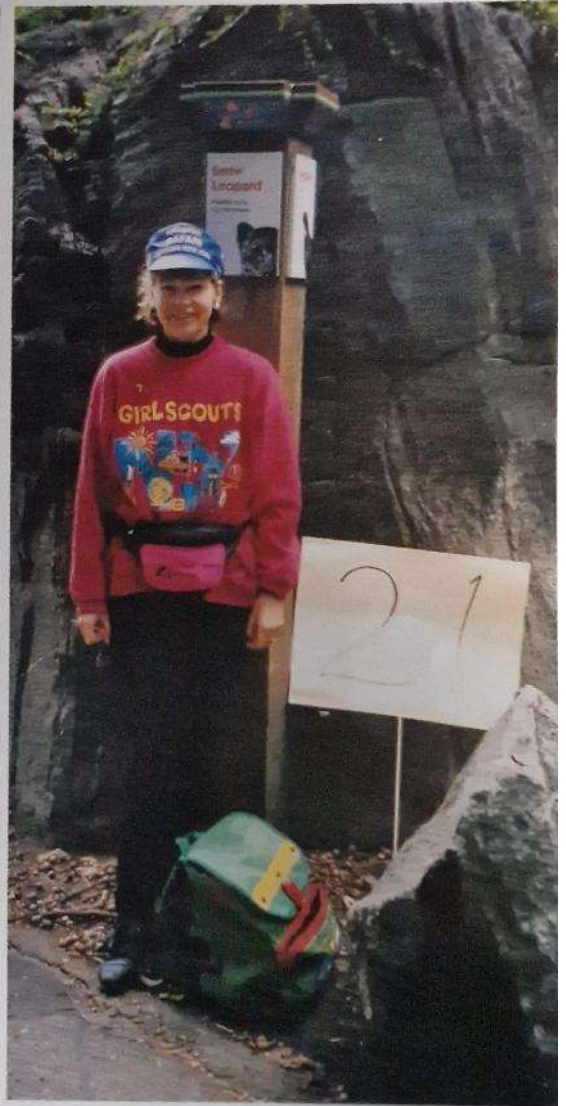
Troops and their leaders were given maps of the zoo, indicating the various 'stations' they could choose to visit. At each one was a member of the GS

KIRSTIE'S STORY

Before her marriage in 1991, Kirstie Lewis was Kirstie MacLennan-Pike. She was Guide Guider of the 17th and the 5th Horsforth Guide Companies in Leeds.

Now 28, she was previously a Young Leader with the 17th, having been a Guide, Queen's Guide and Ranger with other units.

After sending us her 'letter from America' Kirstie went on to work at the GS Council's Manhattan Service Office, helping to provide support in all aspects of Girl Scouting for leaders and girls within the borough.



Council staff, a GS volunteer from the zoo and at least one zoo animal.

The zoo volunteers gave a short talk on the animal at their particular station. At mine, number twenty-one, were the snow leopards.

It's been great fun working for the Girl Scout Council of Greater New York. So I owe a big thank-you to everyone, on both sides of the Pond, who helped me to become part of the New York scene.

Kirstie enjoys a Girl Scout event at the Bronx Zoo

penguin ON PARADE

It was the moment everyone had been waiting for when the 'hosts' of Scotland's biggest Penguin Party waddled out of their enclosure to inspect their guests.

The guests — 350 Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Guiders — jostled politely to get a better view of the gentoo, macaroni and king penguins taking their daily constitutional in the sunshine at Edinburgh Zoo.

Parade over, the Scottish Chief Commissioner, Gillian Robertson officially launched the first of a series of Penguin Parties being held throughout the Country to help Guides in the Falkland Islands gain and equip their own headquarters.

Some BGIFC units in Saudi Arabia and Germany were also planning parties, she said.

The organisers were confident that

the £10,000 needed to complete the project would be raised by the girls holding penguin-theme events with the emphasis on having fun.

Welcoming the Guides to the Zoo, the Director, Professor Roger Wheeler, said that some of the king penguins had been brought there as eggs from the Falklands in 1992. 'We have a very close link with the Falklands,' he explained.

Then it was time for 'the fun to begin'. The girls dashed off to join in games, trails and activities, all with an animal theme, that also gave them a chance to explore the Zoo. The day ended with a picnic tea complete with Penguin biscuits and a sing-song.

Sharing the excitement was special guest 18-year-old Falkland Islander Lisa Laffi. She said: 'It was absolutely great. I haven't had so much fun for ages.' (Turn the page to find out how Guiding helped Lisa adjust to life on the other side of the world.)



▼ Model girls: Posing for *GUIDING* was a breeze for the girls from South Queensferry after earlier starring at a Press photo call.

Sponsorship was received from McVities, the Falklands Trust, Ritchies (printers) and Polar Foods.



▲ Warm welcome: Scottish Chief Commissioner Gillian Robertson's cry 'Let the fun begin' launched the Penguin Parties. Earlier she told the excited girls: 'It is wonderful to see you all here.'

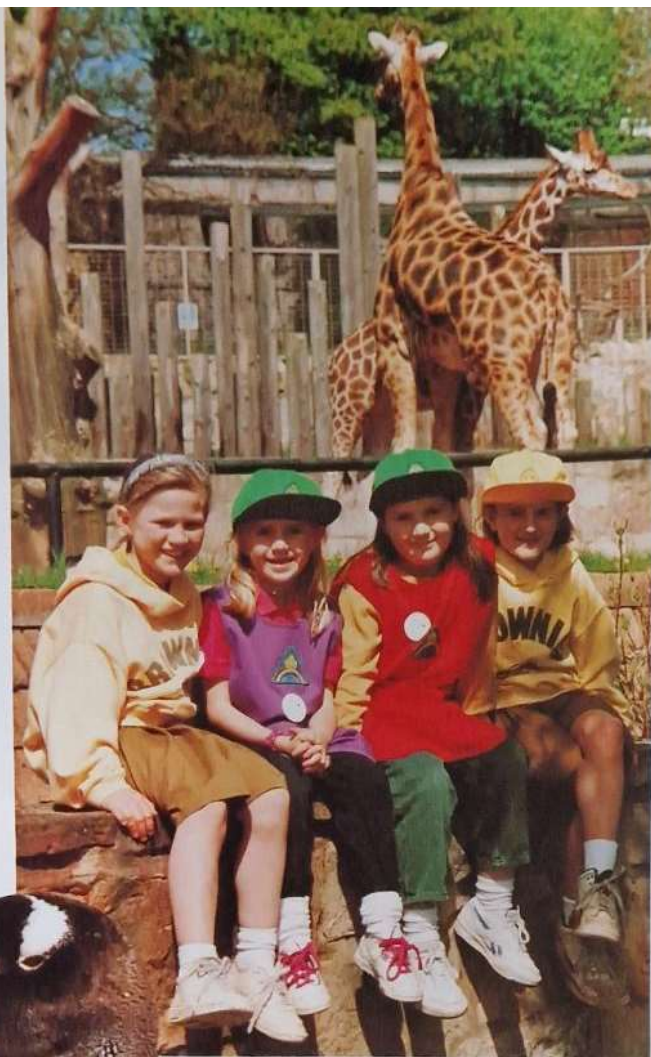


IS DE



▲ Walk this way: Edinburgh Zoo's world-famous penguins parade for their admirers. It's a tradition that began when a door was left open and some birds wandered out after their keeper.

▼ Joking apart: Professor Roger Wheeler, the Zoo's Director and The Guide Association's Public Relations Adviser, Sheila Walker, enjoy the carnival atmosphere.



◀ Swell party: Even the most energetic party person has to take a rest sometime. And sitting still provided these girls with a good chance to ask which animals their new friends like best. Wonder if anyone told the girls the giraffe behind them was expecting its own happy event?

▼ Penguin power: Here's one Brownie who had no trouble p-p-p-picking up a penguin. She brought her own furry friend to the party and wouldn't let go, even at picnic time.

All photographs by NICK MORRIS

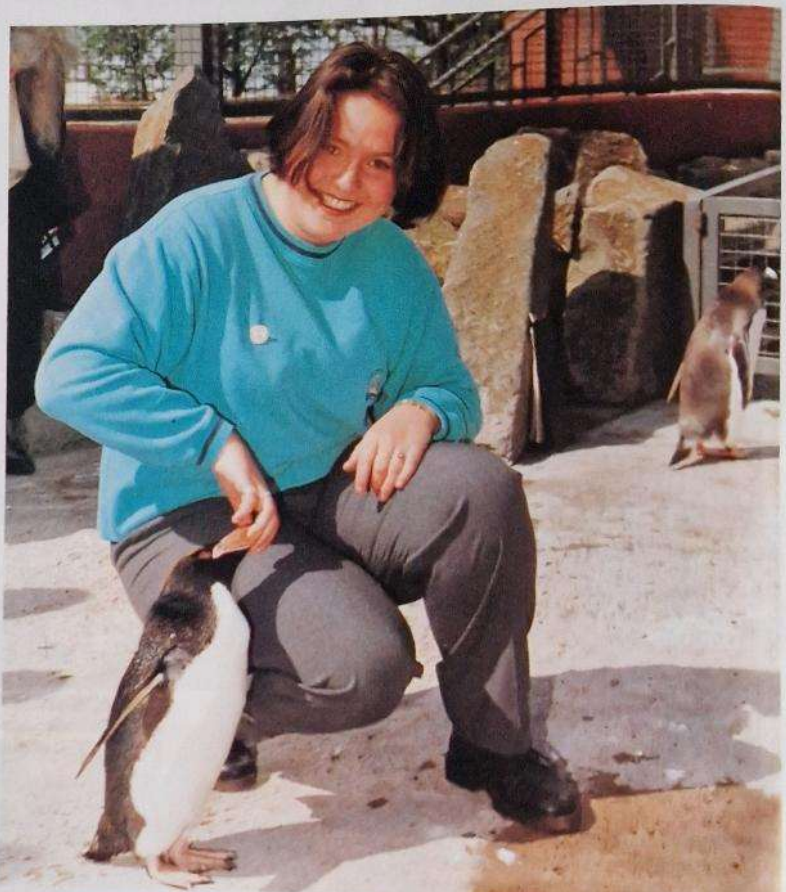
▲ Dapper chappy: Gentoos tend to mate for life.



FAR *from* HOME

When 16-year-old Lisa Laffi found herself 8,000 miles away from home, living with strangers on the other side of the world, she grabbed the chance to help out at a Brownie Pack. 'The Guiding link was very important,' she explained. 'Everything else had changed around me — that was the only thing that stayed constant.'

NICK MORRIS



Just like home: Lisa makes friends with an inquisitive gentoo

Mine's the dark one: two macaroni mashers make a play for Lisa and 15-year-old Kristy Service, a Young Leader with the South Queensferry Ranger Unit, Edinburgh



Lisa's Guiding had begun at home on the Falkland Islands, where she joined the only Guide unit, before becoming — for a year — the Islands' sole Ranger.

Teenagers on the Falklands face a stark decision if they want to continue their education after 16. They must leave their homes, families and friends — often for the first time — and travel to the UK to study.

Lisa made the 18-hour flight to Britain for the first time in September 1992, and was still struggling to adjust to the culture shock three weeks later when she was invited to a meeting of the 1st Winchester City Brownie Pack.

Guiding links restored. Lisa became the unit's Young Leader and has just completed the YL Scheme. 'I was so

amazed to get a letter from CHO inviting me to a Penguin Party at Edinburgh Zoo,' Lisa explained. 'But I was delighted to be asked.'

It was a chance to visit a zoo and to see Scotland, both for the first time. And her anticipation of seeing her mother's family's homeland wasn't marred when she discovered that she was to be in the spotlight as the only guest at the party with Falkland connections.

Sir Rex Hunt, Governor of the Falklands in 1982 when Argentinian forces invaded, was to have been the guest of honour. But he had to pull out at the last moment after a fall.

Lisa is used to being asked about the Falklands War — the islanders call it 'the Conflict' — when a British Task Force expelled the invaders from the islands in the South Atlantic and more than 1,000 people died in the fighting.

'I was only six at the time and not really aware of what was going on,' she explained patiently. 'One of my first memories was seeing tanks passing our house and soldiers with guns.'

Lisa and family — mum, Cathy; father, Atilio; and sister, Marie — had just moved into the capital, Stanley, on East Falkland, after an idyllic, carefree life on 'camp', the island word for the outlying settlements.

'We had to be very careful. Within the first three or four days of the occupation we were given the opportunity to quit Stanley. So we bundled everything we could into the back of a Land Rover. We just wanted to get out as it was very dangerous,' Lisa recalled.

They headed for Fitz Roy to camp out with relatives. Then the family realised they needed some extra clothing and Lisa's dad went back to get it.

'Dad comes from Chile,' said Lisa, 'so he speaks fluent Spanish. The Argentinians found out and caught up with him. He was supposed to go and see them at 10am the next morning, but he got up very early to avoid them and came back to us.'

When the British troops landed, the family moved again to free a house to be used as a billet for their rescuers. Lisa says her mother's family are 'very British' and they're all fiercely loyal to Britain. She insists that all the islanders reject the Argentinian claim to the lands they call the Malvinas.

After peace was restored, the Laffis returned to Stanley to find that their home had been shelled and then looted. 'A bomb had totally wrecked the corner of the bungalow that we slept in. Loads of our stuff was missing including things that had been passed down from my grandparents,' Lisa explained.

'My parents were eventually able to claim for damage and loss, but there are some things you can't replace.'

Once more they moved in with friends until their home was repaired. One of the things Lisa loves about the Falklands is that the residents all know one another — and are probably related — so there's always somebody willing to offer a bed in an emergency.

Life gradually returned to normal and Lisa joined the Guides. 'We used to meet in the old senior school which meant we were next door to where an English class was being taught, so we had to be rather quiet.'

'Since then, the Guides have been meeting in the hospital day centre, so they definitely need their own headquarters,' she pointed out.

The Falklands Guides have managed to raise enough money to buy a building and the chain of Penguin Parties being held across Scotland and by BGIFC units in Saudi Arabia and Germany were expected to raise the £10,000 needed to complete the project.

Lisa, the Islands May Queen in 1991, plans to become an adult leader when she finally goes home. She doesn't doubt she will settle there.

'I like what's available in England but I'll always return home,' she said. 'I miss the emptiness and being able to escape from people. At home I can just walk out into the hills and sit and think on my own.'

'I do like it here, there are so many things I've done for the first time — visited the theatre, gone to the cinema, eaten fast food — but I miss being able

to walk for miles and never see anyone.'

She also misses her 23-year-old boyfriend, Jason, whose family emigrated to the Falklands from Kingston-on-Thames five years ago. But she and Jason have accepted that they may have to be apart for another three years.

'Jobs are getting harder to get even in the Falklands,' Lisa explained. 'This is my only chance to get a good education.' She hopes to become an environmental health officer and has the offer of a place at Salford University, if her A level grades are good enough.

Lisa interrupted her revision to make the trip to Scotland. For the last two years she has been a pupil at the Peter Symonds College, Winchester, sponsored by the Falkland Islands Government, who also pays for two trips home a year.

She shares a house with 25 girls from all over the world and has learned to deal with her home sickness, although she admits to feeling especially sad at half-term when other people get to see their parents.

'The worst time was when I went home that first Christmas,' she recalled. 'All the family went out to a settlement. I really enjoyed being back with nature and I didn't want to return here. My cousin talked me out of it and we didn't let my mum and dad know how I felt.'

Trains, buses, multi-storey car parks, even traffic roundabouts were all new to Lisa when she reached the UK. But they don't make up for the unspoilt beaches, dramatic cliffs and vast grassy plains of home.

The local wildlife — including five species of penguins — have learned to co-exist comfortably with the 2,000 or so people living on the two main and 700 plus smaller islands that make up the Falklands.

Seals, sealions, porpoises, dolphins and penguins are Lisa's neighbours at home. So she was eager to inspect some of the more exotic animals in the zoo. Her favourites? The chimps, we stood and watched them for ages.'

Ironically, the Conflict has brought long-term benefits to the Islands. 'We have better links with England — two flights a week now — and a better infrastructure with a new school and swimming-pool,' Lisa explained.

And now, thanks partly to those Penguin Parties, the Guides will have their own headquarters.

NORA WARNER

Falklands 'ambassador': Lisa likes the UK but plans to return to the Islands



NICK MORRIS

● To learn more about the Penguin Party turn to page 56.

a personal **VIEW**

It all began in September 1964, when an advert appeared in our local shop. 'Brownies wanted' it read. Imagine that! I took my elder daughter along to the meeting place and left with my daughter having been accepted and myself, somehow, having been recruited too. What was it the lady said? I'd be a Unit Helper. Just 90 minutes a week set aside to help out — it didn't seem much to ask...

What I was blissfully unaware of at the time was that Brown Owl would lose her enthusiasm within the year and withdraw gracefully — leaving guess who to fill the vacancy.

That was nearly 30 years ago. So I suppose I must be hooked. Of course, it hasn't all been plain sailing. Come September each year I am loath to return to the usual routine of Friday nights (and the rest). But, once I've got started, the old enthusiasm soon returns.

After all, there are very few folk who could manage to control 24 girls all set on doing their own thing. So one up for us Brownie Guiders, I say!

It wasn't long after my initiation that the expression Pack Holiday crept into my vocabulary and began to sound attractive. Did I say attractive? Anyone

who takes 18 Brownies away for a week surely has to be mad.

I was offered places on a Pack Holiday, not just for me but for my three daughters (two of Brownie age and one just four) too, for just £10. (Well, it was some years ago.) At the time money was tight and holidays non-existent, so who was I to refuse?

During the week I began to wonder where the word 'holiday' came in to things. However, 31 Pack Holidays later, I am still going strong — and still wondering why!

There have, of course, been moments of disillusion and disappointment — events organised to which parents haven't bothered to bring their children. And lack of support — particularly when holding jumble sales.

And, like most other Brown Owls, I've often forgotten about my 23 happy and contented Brownies and felt like a failure when the 24th wanted to leave or didn't respond. It's always the one who got away that we remember, isn't it?

But there have been many more occasions when I've felt that it has all been worthwhile. There was the time when some Brownies were so desperate to go on Pack Holiday they even offered bribes to get a place — no, it didn't work — and the look of pride on one Brownie's face when she did well in a solo part Mum hadn't believed she could cope with.

Then there's the joy of seeing a 'slow' Brownie who achieves an Interest Badge; the pleasure in watching a troublesome Brownie gradually develop a new maturity and thoughtfulness following a decision to make her a Sixer; and the pleasure of encouraging a shy Brownie who is thrilled to discover that she can make rugs and goes on to teach others her new skill.

Of course, there is always the Brownie who chooses prayer time to suddenly announce: 'I've learned a new dance Brown Owl. Can I do it now?' And I'll always remember the Brownie who declared quite suddenly that she hated Brownies and only came because Dad made her. Yet, three years later, she was the one who cried bitterly when she went up to Guides.

Hilarious occasions over the years are too numerous to recall. They always seem to happen in the middle of a busy meeting and, of course, there is never time to jot down the crazy sequence of events.

This year I hand over to a new Brown Owl — I know I'm not indispensable, although, like most of us, I would like to be. It has been a privilege to have had so many happy years with one Pack and I wouldn't change a minute of it for anything.

And I think, if I am honest, I would say that the Brownies have taught me as much as I have tried to teach them.

JT

*The views expressed in this article is not necessarily those of The Guide Association nor endorsed by it.
The Editor reserves the right to edit any item received for publication.*

CLASSIFIEDS

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◀ Easy does it! Rosie Frances of the 30th Peterborough Guides tries abseiling under the watchful eye of instructor Barbara Leech



It's a bonus! Rebecca Wicks from Sprowston, Bury, near Norfolk was one of the first to try out the new recording unit.

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LIFE style



GAVIN CLARKE

DEBORAH CONSTABLE FROM TUNBRIDGE WELLS, KENT

Chair of The Guide Association's delegation to the British Youth Council

I joined the 2nd Tunbridge Wells (St Luke's) Brownie Pack when I was eight and it stopped me from becoming a depressed and introverted child, which I could have done because I'd lost the hearing in my left ear after an operation for a condition called cholesteatoma.

It was the first of 21 operations I was to have on my ears. Soon after that first operation, I became hard of hearing in my right ear. It was very distressing and I lost a lot of self-confidence.

I spent a lot of time away from the Pack but I did become a Sixer. I found that by lip reading I could lead a small group of girls. But it was harder when we were in a large group and there was a lot of noise.

I became a Guide with my mother's unit, the 9th Tunbridge Wells (St John's) Company and I was the first Guide in the District to get the Baden-Powell Trefoil. I threw myself into the work because I was convalescing from another operation at the time.

I started to get my self-confidence back when I joined the Tunbridge Wells North District Ranger Unit and, as its Chair, I helped to revive the Unit by starting a programme of canoeing, abseiling and rock climbing.

My surgeon had advised having another operation as he hoped to rebuild my inner ear to give me back my hearing. I went ahead and was upset when it failed.

I became a Tawny Owl with 1st

Southborough (St Peter's) Brownie Pack and I also helped out at another Pack, the 4th Southborough Brownies. It was threatened with closure as they didn't have a leader, so I became their Brown Owl. I didn't like to think of the girls missing out on the fun of being a Brownie.

It was my decision to become a young Guider that led me to the British Youth Council. When I attended the London and South East Region's Young Guiders Gathering, my County Commissioner asked for someone to become a BYC observer. Never one to say no, I volunteered.

BYC is a non-party political body that represents young people aged 16 to 25. We organise conferences to raise awareness about issues like European union, hold Youth in Parliament days and are lobbying the Government for a Youth Minister.

BYC represents 75 youth organisations and the Guides' delegation is the largest. Each delegation proposes policies and has a chance to vote on all proposals thus helping to form BYC policy. As an observer I couldn't vote, but I did take part in committee work.

Then I became a delegate, which I enjoyed. My biggest challenge was to organise a conference for 120 people and MPs looking at what the Maastricht Treaty means for young people.

I really enjoy working on BYC committees. It's so satisfying to see a good result come from one's efforts. I believe that young people have a lot to offer and, sometimes, politicians and others don't take us seriously enough.

I was elected Chair of the Guides' delegation to BYC in March 1993. Part of my job is to keep the Association informed about BYC's activities.

It's a two-year post and means I have less time for doing committee work. However, I am involved with the Association's Membership Committee, which is looking at ways to attract more young people to Guiding.

I am also a member of the United Nation's Child Rights Development Unit, which seeks to persuade the Government to uphold the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

I don't have much time for hobbies. I work as a senior customer services manager at a medical company, and all my spare time is devoted to BYC business. What time off I do have I like to spend with my family in Tunbridge Wells.

I never set out to achieve the things I did as a Ranger and with BYC — they just happened. But I would like to spend more time working with the Association in the future because it has given me an opportunity to get as far as I have.

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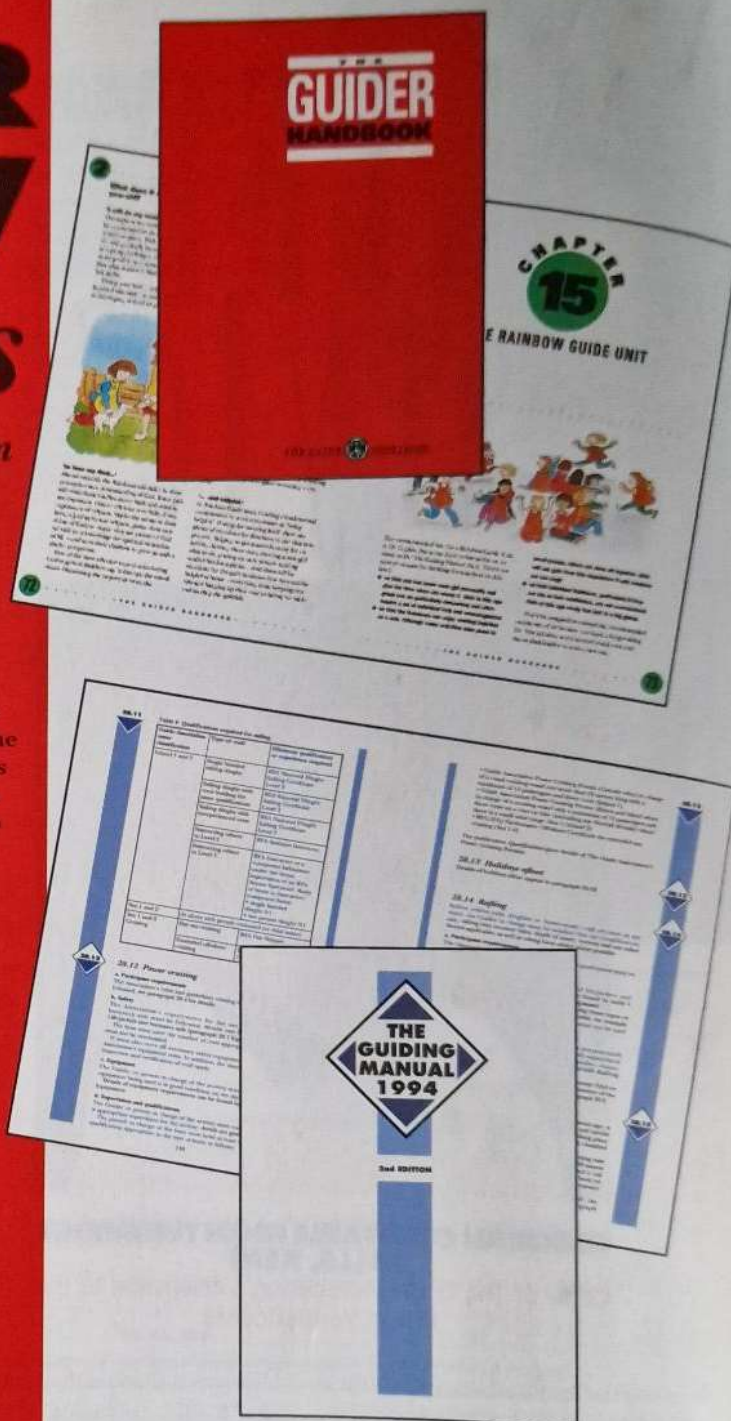
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