

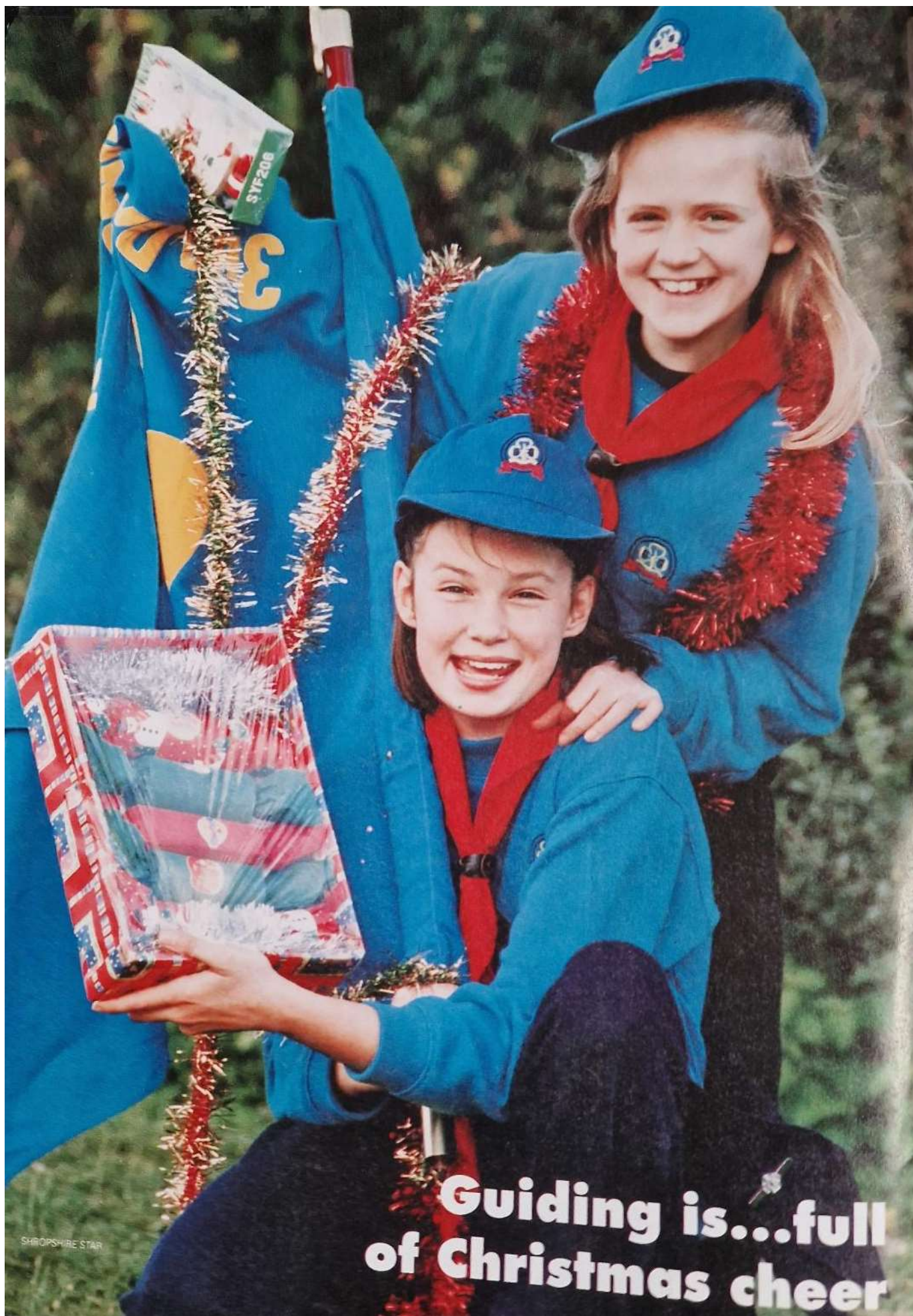
GUIDING

DECEMBER 1995 £1.15



**A VERY
MERRY CHRISTMAS
TO ALL OUR
READERS**





**Guiding is...full
of Christmas cheer**

front PAGE

I promise to do my best. This is the key phrase of the Promise and my conviction of its relevance increased during the review of the Guide Law. The Law Review Group has certainly done its best to reflect the opinions and requests from those many members of the Association who responded to the invitation to comment during the consultation.

The new wording has not changed the place the Law should play in our Guiding life. The Law still enshrines the ideal of the Guide we should all like to be. It contains the guidelines for our behaviour and it remains the positive challenge it has always been. The essence is the same, the wording is still simple enough for all to understand at varying depths.

It is now up to us as Guiders to enable members of our units to absorb and adopt the new wording as naturally as

COMMENT



possible. We can do our best by example, perhaps we should appraise ourselves in the light of the Law.

Are we honest, reliable and trustworthy? Are we helpful and prepared to answer for how we use our time and talents? Are we prepared to face the

challenge of the new wording of the Law and learn from our experience that others can be influenced by our attitude?

Can we demonstrate what it means to be a good friend and a sister to all Guides? Are we polite and considerate? Do we respect all living things and do we care for the world around us?

With our positive approach, new generations of Guides will find the Law as relevant, as challenging and as demanding as the Law I promised to do my best to keep in the 1950s.

My Law hasn't changed, the wording has now been changed (for the second time) and I trust it will be as challenging for today's Guides as it has always been. I shall continue to do my best to keep it.

CATHERINE BARTLETT

Former Chairman,
Law Review Group

GUIDING VOLUME 84 NUMBER 12
DECEMBER 1995 £1.15

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FRONT COVER

Guide Guiders Helen Jones (top) and Susan Thompson, from Croydon, Surrey, got into the Christmas spirit early by helping to decorate GUIDING'S Christmas tree.

The jolly Christmas Santa, and other beautifully-hand-crafted Christmas tree ornaments pictured, are all featured in *Christmas Tree Decorations* by Valerie Janitch. For a step-by-step guide to making your very own Santa turn to page 40.

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Round UP

DECK THE HALL

◀ Every year, the 14th St Albans Brownie Pack in Hertfordshire runs a stall at the Homewood Road United Reformed Church winter fair.

Home-made Christmas decorations are always popular with the customers, and the Brownies give all the proceeds to Church funds. Here, Alexis Archibald and Kawai Yeung show some of the handiwork for sale.

SPLASHING FUN

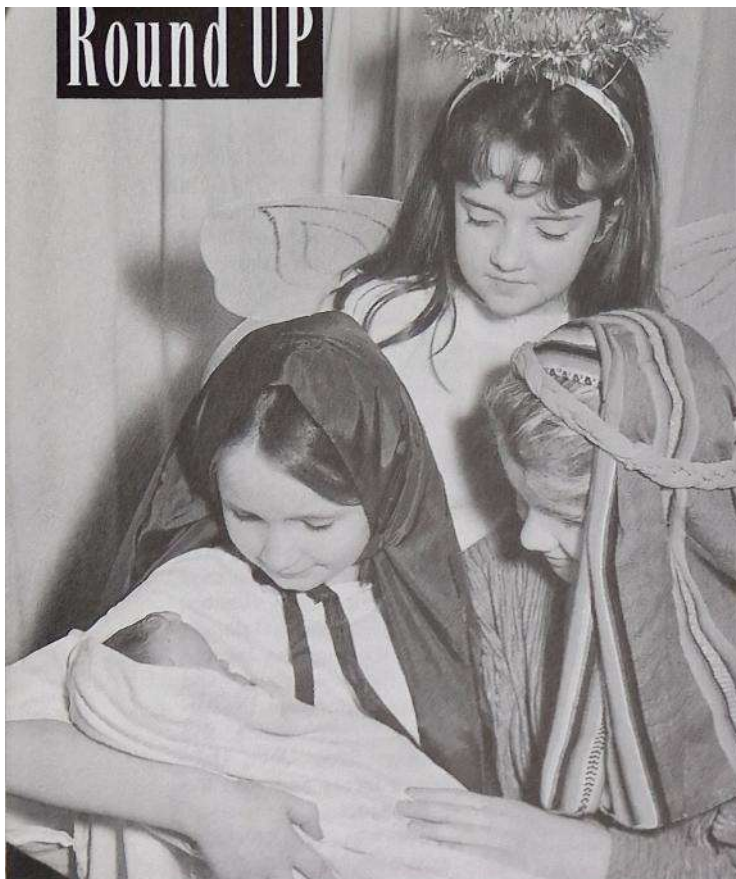
▼ Girls from Worcestershire had lots of fun when they took part in Pershore Central District Swimming Gala.

Guides from the 1st and 2nd Pershore units, and Rangers from Nova, the Pershore Ranger Guide and Venture Scout Joint Unit, joined forces and won the pyjama race.

Evesham Division Commissioner, Margaret Buxton, presented the victors with confectionery dummies.



Round UP



MONICA MACKAY

BRIAN CAPON

NATIVITY SCENE

▲ Kent Brownies performed the Christmas story and raised £80 for a local charity.

Dressed in appropriate costumes, girls from the 1st and 6th Petts Wood West Brownies retold the nativity story with mime and music. Refreshments were provided by the 6th Petts Wood West Guides.

The money was donated to a local playgroup for children with special needs.

EVENING ECHO, BOURNEMOUTH



DENNIS SOLLARS

The District Commissioner for Heworth in North Yorkshire, Erica enrolled as a Brownie in 1959. She was one of the UK delegates to the 1981 World Conference, and has also sat on the British Youth Council and WAGGGS European Committee on the European Communities Youth Forum.

FIRST CLASS

▲ A Yorkshire Guider is the new headmistress of one of England's most prestigious independent girls' schools.

Erica Taylor has been appointed Head of York College for Girls.

HERCULEAN TASK

► West Gloucestershire Rangers boosted their Unit funds by washing a Hercules aircraft at RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire.

After completing the challenge, new recruit Louise



Tanner made her Promise. Division Commissioner Mary Sollars officiated, watched by Guider Joan Gummer and the rest of the Rangers.

GOLD STANDARD

▲ Banff and Buchan County in Grampian produced eight Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award winners this year.

Monica Mackay, the D of E's Award Adviser, said: 'This is the most we've ever had,

but next year we're hoping for ten.

'All but one of the girls have gone on to become Guiders or Young Leaders.'

Banff and Buchan County provides a valuable opportunity for girls to tackle the Duke of Edinburgh's scheme, as the award is not established in local schools.

The girls received their certificates from Graeme Simmers, Chairman of the Scottish Sports Council.

CRIME BUSTERS

◀ Guides in Dorset have won £250 for their unit funds in the Christchurch Crime Prevention Competition.

'The judges were impressed by the Guides, as they had tried to involve children and the disabled in crime prevention schemes,' explained Gill Aslett, Guider of the 4th Christchurch Guide Company.

The girls are pictured (left) being presented with the crime prevention competition award by Christchurch MP Diana Maddock.



MY WONDERFUL MUM

GUIDING ends its look back at the Second World War years with a tribute to a marvellous mum.

If Dora Richards, former Guide Guider, Sea Ranger 'Skipper', District and Division Commissioner and now, at 77, a member of the Trefoil Guild in Cardiff, had not skidded on a patch of oil while riding her bike during the war, she would have gone to sea as a radio operator — and, almost certainly, died.

And then there would have been no Liz Fryer, Guide Guider and District Commissioner, to tell the story of her 'wonderful mother':

'My mother was born in the closing days of the First World War, on November 7, 1918. Her father was a master grocer with a traditional corner shop which supplied some of the ships that used to come into Cardiff docks.

She became a Brownie, a Guide, a Ranger and then a young Guider. During the Second World War Mum saw an article in *The Guider* (forerunner of *GUIDING* magazine) calling for young women proficient in Morse code to volunteer to train as radio operators in the Women's Royal Naval Service (the WRNS).

At the selection board, Mum found all the candidates were Guiders, as Morse code was part of the Guide syllabus.

She was accepted for the WRNS and would have been on the first course but, a few days before she was due to sign on, she fell off her bicycle when it skidded on oil, injuring her arm.

Mum was told to report for the next course when she had recovered. After six months' training at Dundee, she was posted to the naval signals station at Liverpool.

The girls who had passed out from the course that she had missed were sent overseas almost immediately, but their ship was torpedoed and many lives were lost. Mum would have been aboard had it not been for that oil patch.

She went on to join a team involved with vital communications during the Battle of the Atlantic. There were lighter moments on the air, of course, such as the "straight" broadcasts to ships' companies. My mother became known for her "golden voice" and she also broadcast a proposal of marriage from a sailor to his Wren sweetheart.

Mum was herself engaged to a sailor

for three years, but it was not until he had some leave in August, 1943, that she and Bill Richards were able to marry. He had undergone a routine chest X-ray and, when the couple returned from a brief honeymoon in Wales, he was told to report to his medical officer. My dad had contracted tuberculosis, which was then incurable.

Dad was admitted to a sanatorium in Denbeigh where he was to remain for 18 months. Mum worked extra shifts in Liverpool to get time off to visit him.

When Mum was expecting me, she had to leave the WRNS. When I was six months old she and Dad — by now discharged from the Navy — were allocated a prefab. Mum returned to her civilian work as a secretary, as Dad was still ill.

In an era when mortgages were extremely difficult to obtain on a woman's salary, they were eventually able to move into their own home just before Christmas, 1962. Dad died in May the following year.

Mum continued her Guiding, taking

over as Skipper of SRS Original. Girls came from various parts of Cardiff and the surrounding area to join the crew. Meetings were held at the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve base in Cardiff's Tiger Bay, where the Sea Rangers rowed around in RNVR whalers.

As well as working with "Seas", Mum had spells as a District and Division Commissioner. When the various branches of the Senior Section merged, the girls decided they did not want to be "just Rangers" so the unit closed.

At the age of 65 Mum retired from her secretarial post at University College, Cardiff. Now, 12 years on, she's never been so active.

She is involved with the Wrens' Association, King George's Fund for Sailors, the War Widows' Association and what she says is a quango concerned with war pensioners' welfare. All this at 77, plus, of course, the Trefoil Guild!

I'm sure it's been the spirit of Guiding that has given my wonderful mother the stamina to stay the course.



Four generations of Welsh Guiding: Dora Richards (centre) with daughter Liz Fryer (right), granddaughter Jane Baker (left) and great-granddaughter, Brownie Sarah Baker

ANDREW JEFFERY

Guiding in act

Rangers in Llandaff, Cardiff, are the only girls in the world who have the right to wear golden keys on their badge tabs. GUIDING's Kirstie Gray travelled to Wales to meet the Unit which always puts service first.

'As a Guider, my job is to open the door and push them through. It's up to the girls to do what they want with the opportunities,' explained Jean Brinkworth, known to everyone as Mrs B, from her vantage point at the head of the table.

It was the last night of the Llandaff Rangers' annual week-long residential conservation project, and the girls shared their supper with me in their temporary home, a simple Guide hall, in the ancient Welsh village of Llantwit Major, South Glamorgan.

In one week alone this formidable team, under the guidance of the staff at the Glamorgan Heritage Coast Centre, had built a bridge, thinned trees, cut back the undergrowth, opened up butterfly glades, sanded and varnished gates, made steps, and, as always, picked up litter.

'Mrs B likes us to keep a log and we all sign the page if we attend,' explained Becky Syrop, retiring Unit Chairman, as she brought out the Unit's records kept since it reopened in 1972.

It is clear from the log, which bulges with thank-you letters from charitable organisations, that the girls take their responsibilities as Senior Section members very seriously.

During the year they have served lunches for the Cardiff Wrens Association; run a stall at the Llandaff Cathedral fete; visited an electronic appliances factory owned by Bosch; taken part in a swimming gala; prepared and served refreshments at countless local events; and raised funds for good causes. They join the Cardiff Trefoil Guild once a term to shoot at paper targets with air-rifles.

Yet the girls still find time to undertake light-weight camping expeditions and their own Ranger badge work. Four of them are halfway through the Queen's Guide syllabus.

'Some of our meetings are just to organise what we're doing,' admitted Becky. Beth Templeton continued: 'When we do exams we have to make time for the revision process.'

Jo Kenyon added: 'But we keep to our service commitments, we only let meetings slide when we have to.'

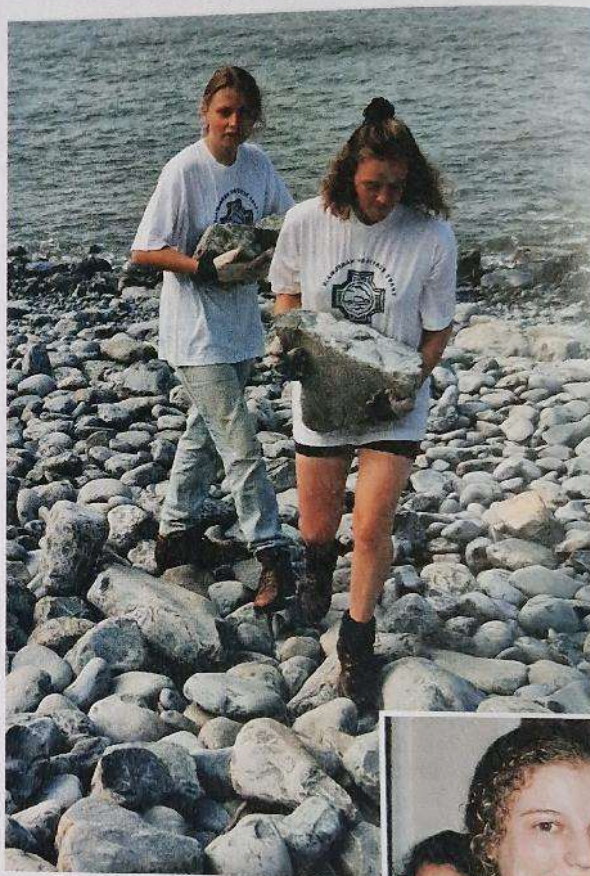
There is one special project that the girls are all very proud to be involved with — the Cardiff branch of the MS Society. The Rangers help out at meetings at least once a term, and they also accompany the society on day trips. They are keen fundraisers too.

'It's not easy for young girls to work with people with MS. It can be daunting at first,' observed Mrs B, who has helped run the Cardiff and District Branch of the society for many years. 'The girls start in the kitchen doing the dishes and, once they feel more confident, they get to do more.'

'Each girl gets presented with a badge, in the shape of a golden key, after they've given two years' service to the club. We're the only Unit in the world who has permission to wear keys on our badge tabs,' she joked.

Some of the girls are Young Leaders, others are Sunday school teachers, many have Saturday jobs and most are still at school.

But they still make time in their busy lives for their special week away. 'We like to get together every year to do this. It's always the same. It brings us closer together and keeps us coming back and it's a good thing to do,' said Emma Langmaid, a 20-year old geography student at Portsmouth University.



▲ Sarah and Toni-Ann collect stones from the beach to make stepping stones across a stream



'It's home from home here. We come back and fit in immediately,' chipped in Kate Wilson, 20, who is studying Polish and history at Glasgow.

Many traditions have evolved over the 22 years that the Llandaff Rangers have been coming to work on the Heritage Coast Project. After their first day of 'hard labour', they attend the Norman church of St Illtud's on Sunday, for the annual community hymn singing service. 'It's coincidence that it happens



▲ The gang's all here: Back row from left: Jean Brinkworth, Amanda, Sarah and Beth. Front row from left: Toni-Ann, Jo, Emily, Becky and Emma

◀ Becky Syrop receives the special golden key from Mary Livsey Davies, vice president of the MS Society's Cardiff branch

when we're here,' Becky said. 'They expect us now, all smart in our uniforms, and it gives us a chance to practise our Welsh!'

The girls always take a break from conservation work on Wednesdays. They get up at dawn to see the sun rise and, if possible, enrol a new recruit. They value this special opportunity to recommit themselves to their Promise. 'It's so beautiful and peaceful,' enthused Becky, who has just begun a

theology degree at Birmingham.

On Wednesday evenings the Rangers throw a supper party. 'We invite everyone who has helped us throughout the year,' Mrs B explained. 'That includes Mr B, too,' Kate added. 'It's very grown up and we all dress up,' Becky told me.

'Mrs B makes sure we speak to everyone. She teaches us life skills that we don't learn anywhere else,' Amanda Beecher explained.

'Mrs B likes us to do things properly,'

Becky confided.

And when it comes to conservation work, the Rangers make things to last. 'Once the girls get into a big project,' explained Mrs B, 'they work quickly as they like to see it finished. Then they bring their parents and friends down to show them what they've done.'

This year the girls were working at Nash Point, a particularly scenic stretch of rugged coastline. Their main project has been to build a footbridge.

The work was heavy. The girls dug two 3ft deep holes for the supports, and wrestled with 16ft weight-bearing timbers. Using hand drills, they made 120 holes before attaching 20 planks to the bridge. They sawed timbers and drove pegs into the ground.

'It's important to the girls that they get to do heavy work,' Mrs B said. 'I've seen them wield a pickaxe as well as any young man. It's almost as if they are trying to prove that they can do it.'

Over the years the Llandaff Rangers have had distinguished visitors inspect their conservation work, including the Prince of Wales. About ten years ago the girls made the site of the former Dunraven Castle accessible to wheelchair users, and brought their friends from the MS society down to see the newly-restored ornamental gardens.

'Every year I think I'll never get another lot as good as the last,' their Guider confided. 'But every year more girls come along.'

Mrs B's girls do well. This summer Amanda was in India and Becky was in Brazil, both were attending international camps. Kate and Amanda are both on the Welsh Junior Council, and Kate is also the representative for Guiding in Wales on the British Youth Council.

In the past they've all helped to host international camps. The girls acknowledge that it is Mrs B who encourages them to take every opportunity.

Anyone visiting the Unit soon realises how much the Llandaff Rangers admire their Guider. 'Mrs B is the spirit of the Unit,' declared Emma.

As the girls prepared for their last tough day of conservation work, Mrs B summed up her approach: 'I always think an ongoing service project is important for a Ranger Unit. It helps to keep the momentum going and gives the girls a structure to work around. It works very well here.'

KIRSTIE GRAY

Taking part in the service week were Rangers: Emma Langmaid, Jo Kenyon, Beth Templeton, Amanda Beecher, Kate Wilson, Toni-Ann James, Becky Syrop, Sarah Phillips, Emily Sanders, Guider Jean Brinkworth and Assistant Guider Mary O'Grady.

MOV

► The war veterans who made sacrifices for a future generation, meet some of today's Brownies

▼ The undoubted star of the parade was the 1st Buckingham Palace Company's trek-cart



When the nation commemorated the restoration of peace, The Guide Association played its part, just as it did during the Second World War.



ING. *tribute*

All who lined the streets of London, or followed the ceremonies on television, agreed it was a deeply moving occasion. People who gave their lives for freedom were remembered, and an older generation was honoured by those who still enjoy the peace their sacrifices bought.

Tribute and Promise is an alliance of charities and voluntary organisations whose aim is to draw attention to the survivors of that wartime generation. On August 19, in a service and parade to commemorate the end of the Second World War, alliance members paid tribute to them, promised to attend to their current needs, and gave thanks for the hard-won peace.

The Queen and members of the Royal Family took part in the service, met many of the 20,000 veterans present and watched the long parade down the Mall.

The Trefoil Guild was invited to represent Guiding in the Tribute and Promise procession, which followed the Veterans' parade.

Feeling that any demonstration of Guiding's wartime role should include young people, Trefoil Guild Chairman Jill Hancock and wardrobe mistress Pat Poyner mounted a superb display of girls in 1940s' and modern uniform.

All insignia and accessories were correct and every marcher was minutely screened in the interests of perfection.

In all, 100 Brownies, Guides, Senior Section members and leaders took part. Groups involved were formed up along Constitution Hill, where the WRVS served 5,500 packed lunches.

Gillian Ellis, who was herself on parade, recalled: 'The Guide Association can be proud of its youngsters, who waited patiently in searing heat for four hours, unable to hear the service or see the veterans.'

It was a great thrill when at last the procession moved off. The Trefoil Guild Section was headed by girls representing the Guide International Service (GIS) tugging a trek-cart.

They were followed by wartime

Brownies holding massive knitting needles, balls of wool and "knitting", and pushing along prams filled with jumble and newspapers.

Some 1940s' Guides carried Red Cross parcels filled with outsized chocolate bars, cigarette packets, Marmite jars and books.

Others lugged along metal baths containing saucepans and silver paper, as well as a large banner which read "Saucepans to Spitfires".

But the undoubted star of the parade was the 1st Buckingham Palace Company's trek-cart.

Rangers dressed up as fire-fighters, complete with stirrup pump, buckets and "flames". And they promoted "Digging for Victory", with a wheelbarrow, tools and sacks of vegetables.

Modern Brownies, Guides, Senior Section members and adults brought up the rear, some carrying specially made banners showing badges of all sections past and present.'

GILLIAN ELLIS



▲ Members of the Trefoil Guild helped ensure the girls were all wearing authentic uniforms

◀ Wartime Brownies carried massive knitting needles, balls of wool and 'knitting'



THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO CHILDREN?

Christmas...and thoughts turn to children. But in Britain many children are losing out. **GUIDING** reports on the current increase in child neglect and deprivation.

Speaking in 1990 Margaret Thatcher, then Prime Minister, said: '...children must come first because children are our most sacred trust. They also hold the key to our future...We need to do all we can to ensure that children enjoy their childhood against a background of secure and loving family life...'

Everyone would agree. In any society the well-being of children is – or should be – of primary concern. But in the UK there is an ominous gap between the rhetoric and the reality. This gap also exists in several other rich industrialised nations – notably the US, Canada and Australia – where economic forces, social trends and public policies have all conspired to short-change children. In the US, for example, one child in every five was poor in 1990. That figure is expected to rise to one in four by the year 2000 and one in three by 2020.

What is the situation in Britain? How do poverty and neglect affect children?

POVERTY LINE

One of the most disturbing phenomena in Britain today is the rise of child poverty. Although Britain does not have an official definition of poverty – unlike many countries – having to rely on the basic benefit, currently Income Support, is widely used as the 'poverty line'.

During the last 15 years the number of children whose families depend on basic benefit has trebled. And, using a different indicator, a Child Poverty Action Group report reveals that in 1995 one child in three lives in a household where income is half the national average – or less.

The root causes of this worrying situation are complex – in part economic, in part social.

In the UK, the 1970s brought soaring inflation and stagnant economic growth which subsequently led to high unemployment and low pay – both extremely damaging to families with children. Although unemployment has fallen in recent years, it is still high and long-term unemployment, especially, continues at a critical level.



Home alone: Latchkey children have more opportunity to experiment with drugs, alcohol and solvents

As far as pay was concerned, salaries increased while wages fell, making the rich richer and the poor poorer. At the same time there was a boom in low-paid jobs – encouraged by the general economic climate and by the lack of a minimum wage in Britain. In turn, this reduction in earning power triggered a rapid rise in the number of wives and mothers who went out to work to supplement household income. Today, around 50 per cent of women with children are employed, compared to 25 per cent at the beginning of the 1980s.

Two other economic pressures have had a particularly detrimental effect on family living standards. First, house prices, which trebled during the 1970s and 1980s. For many families this means mortgage repayments that consume 40 per cent of their income. For others, it means losing their home through repossession and, in some cases, homelessness.

Second, changes in the benefit sys-

tem and reductions in public spending – in areas like housing, for example – have put even more financial strain on families with children.

SOCIAL TRENDS

In addition to harsh economic pressures, the last few decades are also associated with changes in family structure. These, too, have a profound influence on the well-being of children.

In Britain, the disintegration of the traditional family is proceeding at a much faster rate than in the rest of Europe. Here are some of the figures:

- One birth in three now occurs outside marriage. However, three-quarters of these births are registered by both parents living at the same address and many of the parents choose to get married later.
- The proportion of families headed by a lone parent rose from eight per cent in 1971 to 22 per cent in 1993, with one child in five now living in a one-par-

ent family. Two-thirds of these families result from separation, divorce or death.

● In the last 30 years, the divorce rate in England and Wales has increased six-fold and it is now the highest in Europe.

All too often these changing family structures force children, and their parents, into poverty. For example, *Social Security Statistics (1994)* show that 75 per cent of lone-parent families rely on Income Support. Maintenance payments following divorce are frequently low and irregular, while the lack of affordable childcare makes it difficult for many lone parents with young children to find work.

Another disturbing trend, relating to child neglect rather than child poverty, is what sociologists call 'parental time deficit'. When both parents are working – or sole parent in a lone parent family – it can happen that children receive less parental time and attention. As parents struggle to make ends meet, they may find themselves spending extra time at the office or bringing work home or, when they are at home, being too tired and stressed to chat and play. What's more, as part of evolving employment patterns, UK men now work longer – five hours more per week – than their European counterparts.

In affluent households the workaholic ethic often takes over: a survey of British executives found that fewer than half took all their holiday entitlement while one in four worked every weekend. Inevitably, it's the children who suffer: they have less contact with their parents and fewer opportunities to do things together as a family.

IMPACT ON CHILDREN

In practical terms, what do poverty and neglect mean for the children?

For some, poverty means homelessness. Officially, there are about 150,000 homeless families in England and Wales; the actual total is substantially higher. Three-quarters of these families include children.

Often, 'home' for the homeless is 'temporary accommodation' – B&B, hostels, private sector accommodation – provided by the local authority. For children, temporary accommodation is almost always a negative experience. Generally, the family is confined to one or two rooms – there is no space for youngsters to play safely and develop. Families are frequently moved on from one 'home' to another. This makes it difficult for children to build up friendships and settle into school. A Barnardo's report cites one child having to change school eight times in three years. Moving on also undermines a child's need for stability and can foster an insecurity that will last for years.

Poor diet is another common consequence of poverty. A *Poverty and Nutrition Survey (NCH Action for Children)* revealed that low-income families regularly go short of food through lack of money, with one child in ten missing at least one meal a month. Even if they do manage to get enough food, all the families surveyed were eating inadequate diets – not because of ignorance but because a 'healthy' shopping basket costs around 20 per cent more than an 'unhealthy' one.

A poor diet has a direct influence on health and is associated with Britain's two main killers – coronary heart disease and cancer. Diet is also linked to dental disease. Surveys show that low-income groups are more likely to suffer from the major diseases and are more susceptible to chronic sickness.

At a more everyday level, the consumption of chips is highest among children from poor families. But chips are a prime contributor to obesity – a problem currently affecting three out of four youngsters.

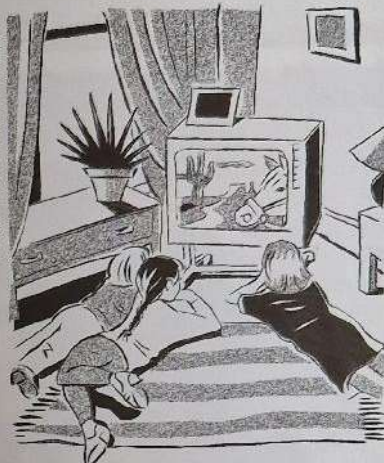
Poor health and disadvantaged living conditions are often responsible for low achievement or troublesome behaviour at school. And when youngsters can't cope with failure, insecurity, boredom... they find plenty of ways to opt out:

- Two-thirds of all secondary pupils admit to truanting, half of them at least once a month.
- Up to three young people die each week from solvent abuse.
- By the age of 15, one-third of youngsters are smoking.
- Around half of all 16 year-olds have experimented with illegal drugs.
- 1.5 million children regularly play fruit machines; 50 per cent of young gamblers borrow money, 12 per cent of them steal.
- Among 15 year-olds, 20 per cent of boys and ten per cent of girls are exceeding the alcohol limits recommended for adults.

Children who are left on their own at home are equally vulnerable. Recent surveys show that up to one-quarter of five to ten year-olds are regularly left alone and more than half of 11 to 15 year-olds. Even if they manage to avoid alternatives like glue-sniffing and gambling, latchkey children – possible as many as 800,000 – risk becoming addicted to television and computer games. With only a screen for company and deprived of 'parental time' these youngsters may grow up withdrawn, isolated and lacking social skills. Recent research suggests that eating disorders like anorexia nervosa and bulimia are related to family relationship problems; there could be a specific link between bulimia and 'home alone' children.

ACTION

In its *Inquiry into Income and Wealth* the Joseph Rowntree Foundation noted: 'Parents and non-parents alike have an interest in investing in children, since they represent the future of the whole community'. But in many areas of contemporary society quite the opposite seems to be happening. Children are being devalued.



Many busy parents fall back on television to keep their children occupied

If this situation is to be reversed, if Britain wants to take responsibility for its future by creating conditions in which children can thrive, then action must be taken in both the public and private sectors.

At a national level more resources need to be put into supporting families and into funding critical services like health, education and housing. For its part, the private sector could help with the provision of childcare facilities – which would boost the economy as well as improving the circumstances of children – and also promote more flexible employment patterns such as part-time opportunities, job-sharing and working from home.

Measures such as these would put children back on the national agenda and help prevent what UNICEF calls the 'tragedy that poverty inflicts on today's children and on tomorrow's world' – a tragedy that has no place in Britain.

CATHERINE DELL

FURTHER READING:

Child Neglect in Rich Nations by Sylvia Ann Hewlett, published by UNICEF. Available from UNICEF (UK), 55 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3NB. Price £4 (inc p&p).

This report has been prepared with help from UNICEF, Barnardo's, NCH Action For Children, National Children's Bureau, National Council for One Parent Families and Kids' Clubs Network.

MODEL CITIZENS

Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, is committed to creating 'good citizens' and she believes The Guide Association has an important part to play in that process.

'Every healthy and successful society needs responsible citizens who respect the law and rights of others,' Mrs Shephard, a former Sea Ranger, told Norfolk Guiders at their County's AGM.

'Guiding,' she said, 'not only nurtures this attitude, it prepares young women to have the confidence to articulate and demonstrate that they are prepared to become responsible citizens.'

'They learn to know what is right through facing the challenges their programmes offer. They discover how to think for themselves, make their own decisions, to develop leadership skills and to work within a team and, on top of all this, they gain an appreciation of the environment and a knowledge of the world, its people and its cultures.'

Guiders were, she said, 'well placed to make an effective and valuable contribution to the making of good citizens through nurturing attitudes of responsibility and respect for other people'.

She added: 'Guiding encourages girls and young women to realise their potential, to play their part in all aspects of life in the community, and understand that by hard work, determination, and by setting high standards for themselves, they can achieve ambitions.'

'It is about the development of the individual, a process which is particularly important as young people negotiate the often difficult transition from childhood into adult life.'

Turning to the role of adult leaders, Mrs Shephard said their partnership with the girls was central to the girls discovering how to work with others.

'Young people learn by example,' she continued, 'and adults have an essential role to play in developing a bond with their charges, in creating the climate in which young people will readily absorb proper values.'

There is also the partnership between the girls and their peers, enabling them to

co-operate and respect the rights of others, to learn to work in teams, to accept both success and failure appropriately, and to discover their own strengths and weaknesses, using this awareness to develop confidence and self-esteem.'

Guiding, the Minister said, helped girls and young women to develop 'emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually. The

better. Girls are also well ahead in gaining two or more A levels.' Mrs Shephard went on to say that in higher education, women were also in front, adding: 'But we should not be complacent. We need to sustain and build on that progress.'

'As society changes and women take on more and more leadership roles, Guiding is providing role models for future generations,' she declared. 'Leaders successful in business, in the professions or in politics can often remember their days as a Girl Guide. But I think we should widen this and put it another way by saying that many of yesterday's Guides are today's successful women whether in the home or in the boardroom!'

Mrs Shephard pointed out that this was not a coincidence: 'The challenges



Fancy seeing you here! Gillian Shephard meets a familiar face at Norfolk's AGM, when she shared the platform with their President, Lady Ralphs.

underpinning of your work by spiritual and moral values is a vital ingredient'. She went on to describe the sort of person that should emerge from this process as a 'well-rounded, well-balanced, responsible and considerate individual'.

And she reminded her audience that Guides believe that these qualities can best be developed 'within an environment of fun, friendship and adventure. Let us never forget the importance of having fun!' she said.

Both Guiding and her Department were 'in the business of promoting personal and social education,' the Minister explained. And she praised the Association's objectives, particularly encouraging the participation of members in decision making; supporting and training adult leaders; and creating more opportunities for girls and adults to join the Movement.

'While achievements have risen for everyone, girls have overtaken boys across the board. In 1979, boys and girls had very similar public examination results at 16. Now girls do significantly

set by the Guide Movement prepare young women to meet the greater challenges in life and, more importantly, teach them that they can rise to these challenges and succeed.

'The Movement is ideally placed to work with young women in promoting equality of opportunity.'

The Minister praised the work carried out by the Movement's Reach Out programme and CID initiatives to benefit disadvantaged young people. The Movement should, she advised, continually question its position in relation to the 'less fortunate' and how it catered for the 'disadvantaged or disabled'.

Mrs Shephard summed up by declaring that: 'Guides and Guiders are very well placed to exercise a positive influence on the community at large and, in particular, to use the influence and expertise of such a large number of advocates to help the young women of today and tomorrow become good citizens.'

'I offer you my warmest good wishes — there is no more important task!'

Teaching young people about fire safety awareness isn't an easy task. So, when the Dorset Fire Brigade decided to produce an information booklet for children, they turned to the Guides and Scouts for help.

The Dorset Fire Brigade challenged members of the Guide and Scout Associations aged between six and 13 to design a fire safety booklet for children.

'We could have written a booklet ourselves, but the young people can relate to each other. They know the best way to get the message across,' said Ken Knight, Dorset's Chief Fire Officer.

But why did they only approach Guides and Scouts? Ken explained: 'We have a long-running association with both Associations. The nice thing about a responsible organisation like the Guides is that they take the message home and spread it to the community.'

There were just under 1000 entries from Guides and Scouts all over the County and, after much difficulty, 15 winning designs were chosen to feature in the booklet.

Graham Chard, chairman of the Dorset Fire Safety Committee who are sponsoring the booklet, told *GUIDING*

how impressed he was with the high standard of the entries.

The winners were presented with framed certificates and cash prizes by

the Chief Fire Officer. After the presentation they were treated to lunch and a tour of Westbourne Fire Station.

SARAH WALKLEY



Proud winners show off their certificates presented earlier by Dorset's Chief Fire Officer Ken Knight (front row right).

When you buy
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Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year from
your Trading Service



THE GUIDE
ASSOCIATION



Gifts galore for pets and animal lovers



PET PRESENTS

▲ The National Canine Defence League's Christmas catalogue is full of gifts for pets and dog lovers.

All the profits will help fund the rescue of abandoned and unwanted puppies at the end of the holidays. For a copy, telephone 0171 837 0006.

WINTER BIRDS

◀ Here's a selection of Christmas events organised by the Royal Society for the

Protection of Birds (RSPB) to choose from:

● December 9-10 — Christmas at the Lodge. Guided walks, mince pies, mulled drinks and Christmas shopping at the RSPB Lodge reserve in Sandy, Bedfordshire. Tel: 01767 680541.

● December 16-17 — Christmas robin weekend. Bird crafts, face painting and festive food for birds and people at the RSPB Vane Farm reserve on Loch Leven, Tayside. Tel: 01405 704294.

● December 23 — Wild-geese chase. Go and spot wild geese at the RSPB Snettisham reserve in West Norfolk. Tel: 01485 542689.

For other events in your area call 01767 680551.

STICKY SITUATION

▼ With *Pocahontas* being the latest craze, household-stationery company Scotch has launched a limited edition of *Pocahontas* glue sticks made especially for Christmas.

The sticks, which feature five of the main characters from the Walt Disney film, are available in white or purple from most stationers.

GUIDING has 20 sticks to give away. To be in with a chance of winning one, write your name and address on a postcard and send it to **GUIDING /Pocahontas**, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 0PT.

The senders of the first 20 postcards drawn after the closing date, December 31, will win a special glue stick.

▲ Celebrate the festive season at the RSPB's Christmas robin weekend

► Kids will love them! The special edition *Pocahontas* glue sticks



RECORD BREAKERS

▼ Here's your chance to watch a spectacular attempt to get into *The Guinness Book of Records*, as young musicians try to break the record for the world's largest marching band.

The record-breaking attempt will include a cast of huge cartoon-character balloons, and is being held to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the London Parade, which takes place on New Year's Day.

You can come along and watch for free, but seats for £12 are available in Whitehall and Piccadilly. For more details, call 0181 566 8586.

FREE PANTOMIME

► A hilarious pantomime, *Very Big Thing*, is on at the National Gallery in London over the Christmas holiday — and you can see it for free!

The show will take place on December 19-22 and 27-30 in the Sainsbury Wing Theatre. Entrance to the play is by free ticket, available one hour before performances, which start at 11.30am and 2.30pm.

SING-ALONG

● Fancy organising a fund-raising concert? The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) wants people to hold special benefit concerts as part of a campaign to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

The *Music for UNICEF* campaign will help raise money towards UNICEF's goal to reduce the deaths of under fives by at least a third and halve the number of malnourished children all over the world by the year 2000.

For a *Music for UNICEF* pack, contact: Maria Pedro, UNICEF, Unit 1, Rignalls Lane, Galleywood, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 8TU. Tel: 01245 476315.

SUPASAFE

► You can store your Patrol funds in the Helix Supasafe. It looks like a real money safe and has a coin slot, two tidy drawers and a realistic-looking combination lock.

The Supasafe costs £7.99 and is available in stationery shops, but GUIDING has ten to give away.

To be in with a chance of winning one, write your name and address on a postcard and send it to: Supasafe/GUIDING, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 0PT.

The first ten names drawn after the closing date, December 31, will win a Helix Supasafe.



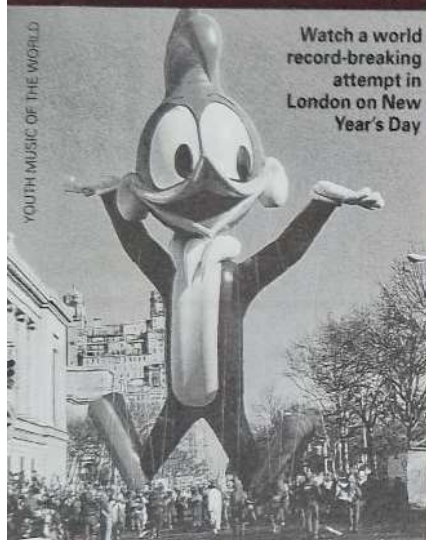
CHRISTMAS STORY

● Can children tell fact from fiction? Well, now you can find out in a new workshop at Eureka! — the Museum for Children in Halifax, West Yorkshire. The *Big Fibs and Tall Stories* performance-

based workshop unfolds some incredible stories, and questions whether or not they can be believed.

The workshop runs at weekends, and daily on December 18-23 and December 27-January 7. For more details, call 01422 330012.

▲ See a panto for free at the National Gallery in London



Watch a world record-breaking attempt in London on New Year's Day

HEAVENLY SCENT

● If you love sniffing around for the perfect present and can't keep away from the free samples of perfume in department stores, you will enjoy *Heavenly Scent*.

It's an international exhibition, created by the *Comité Français du Parfum*, tracing the story of perfume from 2,500BC to the present day.

The exhibition includes artefacts, antiques, computer games and video terminals, and offers lots of fun with smells.

It is on at the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester until February 2, and at the Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh on March 2-April 21. For more information or to make a group booking, call 0161 833 0027.



Just the place for Patrol funds: the Helix Supasafe

ALL ABOARD LE SHUTTLE

For the past four years the 6th Penwortham Guides from Preston have entered a float in their village Gala Day and, this year, the unit undertook its biggest project yet.

'In the past we had little planning time, so I vowed that we would start earlier this year and invited the parents along to a meeting in March,' said Guider Cath Pilkington. 'My assistant and I had already decided our theme would be the Teddy Bear's

picnic, as we hoped it would be easy.'

Teddies seemed popular and the meeting was almost over when one Guide arrived late. After apologising for her dad's absence, Rachel announced his idea for the float: the Euro Shuttle. The response from Guides and parents was unanimous, and Teddy Bears were voted out.

'Liz nominated her dad - a joiner - to produce the train's framework. The girls could dress in either French or English costume, but dads banned their daughters from wearing fishnet stockings,' Cath explained.

Detailed scale drawings were made and once the framework was constructed

every-one got busy painting. With the Guides making the bunting, all that

was left to do, with two weeks to the deadline, was for someone to come up with an idea for a tunnel to separate the two trains.

A week later a borrowed tarpaulin was used to represent *le Channel Anglais*, which meant that they no longer had to worry about making a tunnel.

'On the morning of the gala our tarpaulin "sea" was teeming with multicoloured fish, and the skies overhead were full of cardboard sea gulls. The Guides got into their costumes and took up their positions,' Cath said.

'We not only impressed the crowds, who applauded as we passed, but we also seemed to make an impact on the judges. We won first place in the senior section collecting a £50 prize.'

'Next year's project? Well I think we'll just walk in the procession, although I would like to thank everyone that helped us with their ideas, skills and time,' Cath said.

RACHEL TOWNER



CHRISTINE MCKINNON

All hands were needed to get *Le Shuttle* ready in time

DAYS OUT FOR THE GIRLS!



DURING MARCH 1996, RAINBOWS, BROWNIES AND GUIDES CAN ENJOY A WHOLE HOST OF EXTRA BENEFITS AT TOWER HILL PAGEANT, ONE OF LONDON'S NEWEST AND MOST DYNAMIC MUSEUMS.

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BOOKING FORM

DATE OF VISIT _____ TIME OF VISIT _____
NUMBER IN GROUP: ADULTS _____ CHILDREN _____ (PLEASE NOTE PAYMENT IS MADE ON DAY)
NAME _____
GROUP NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
TELEPHONE _____

PLEASE RETURN TO:
GROUPS OFFICE, TOWER HILL PAGEANT, 1 TOWER HILL TERRACE, LONDON EC3N 4EE



It's not often that Tawny shirks a challenge but she really wasn't relishing last year's nativity play — the Brownies' usual contribution to the annual church carol service. 'Something always goes wrong,' she whimpered. 'It's so embarrassing.'

'Think of Richard Attenborough directing thousands of extras. Surely you can handle a simple nativity,' I countered.

Thoughtless comments sometimes get what they deserve. As you may have guessed, my directorial debut swiftly followed.

One of my innovations was to introduce the 'dance of the shepherds', which needed four pairs of Brownies. The rehearsals went swimmingly, but ten minutes before curtain up, we were still a Brownie short. 'Oh, I forgot,' piped up Hannah, 'Pippa's got chickenpox.'

No one other than Tawny knew the steps so there was only one thing for it! After a frantic dash home, the great leader turned up in her pink Marks and Sparks dressing gown and wearing a tea towel on her head.

I fleetingly wished that she'd managed to find the red and white check

one instead of that tasteful (?) towel featuring 'Olde Englishe Garden Herbs', but she just about looked the part.

Only one problem remained. Big T is not a small person but Abigail, her dancing partner, has the nickname of 'Tich'.

It began to look more like Jack and the Beanstalk by the minute. Undeterred, Tawny took up her crook, which — as it had been made to measure for Pippa (yet another member of the 'knee-high to a grasshopper' club) — looked every inch a walking stick!

By now, I was aware of one or two stifled titters from the congregation, but we professionals have to rise above that sort of thing.

As the shepherds danced nimbly, with one exception, around my star special effect — a camp fire made from red crêpe paper and a light bulb — my spirits began to rise. So too did the smoke from the 'fire'.

As the angels descended from the heavens (actually the vicar's decorating steps covered in black cloth and foil stars), the shepherds really did gasp in astonishment to see them floating in through the billowing clouds of smoke.

Only Tawny's prompt action in surreptitiously flicking the 'fire' switch off avoided further realism and we reached

A MAN'S EYE VIEW

the end with only one more blunder.

I'm sure Rebecca, second king and Pack joker, did it on purpose. When she delivered the immortal line, 'I bring you Frankenstein', my pleading expression to the jovial congregation begging them to 'titter ye not', went unheeded. Talk about rolling in the aisles — and that was just the vicar's wife. Well, they do say churches should be happy places.

Never mind, I survived, and they're still talking about using my smoke effect for this year. One thing's certain: I'll be watching, not directing.

Tawny's little extra Christmas presents last year were enough to give me the hint: a plastic Oscar, a model fire-engine and a flowery cravat.

The season's greetings to one and all.

RETURN TO

When the Tanzania Girl Guide Association wanted to introduce a new Eight Point Programme, they knew just who to ask for help: Sister Mary Stella. Here, the English nun from Effingham in Surrey describes her rapturous return to Africa.

Tanganyika, now part of Tanzania, became independent in December 1961. So, when I arrived there in February 1962, I was immediately swept up in the independence programmes, whose keyword was self-reliance.

In the various schools in which I taught, this was implemented by Guiding. And as I lived in Tanzania for 23 years, Guiding was my chief occupation after I retired from teaching.

Eventually, I became consultant to the Tanzania Girl Guide Association. Thus, four years after leaving the country, it was no surprise to be invited to return to help with a new programme.

Guiding was in disarray, with many girls and leaders having joined the Scouts. But a joint Movement is unac-

ceptable to Muslims and Hindus, who have strict rules for their adolescent daughters. So it was decided to reorganise Guiding with a new Eight Point plan, which would also bring it into line with nearby countries. This reorganisation was to be largely my job.

I landed in Dar es Salaam on February 1 this year to a rapturous welcome from old friends and, immediately, we began to plan. The first thing we did was to outline and explain the Eight Points, as the Guiders only knew a garbled version of them. Meeting People did not figure; Keeping Fit was two points, Health and Fitness; and Thinking for Yourself was presented as Thinking of Oneself, a concept which mystified everybody.

We began with a seminar at Guide Headquarters, discussing one point a day, and suggesting tests at each level to implement it. Eventually, the tentative programme was taken to a national camp at Arusha for discussion.

The questions posed were formidable. How can you test Homemaking fairly when home might be anything from an all-electric flat in the town to a mud and stick hut in the country where water and fuel have to be fetched — often from a considerable distance?

And what of Keeping Fit when malarial prophylactics and mosquito nets are rare, and rubbish disposal is inadequate? Duty to God and the many taboos and shibboleths in the matter of food were another headache.

Ninety people flowed through that week's camp, taking part in discussions. Many needed to learn basic camp crafts, and flag ceremonial and 'gadgeling' were very popular.

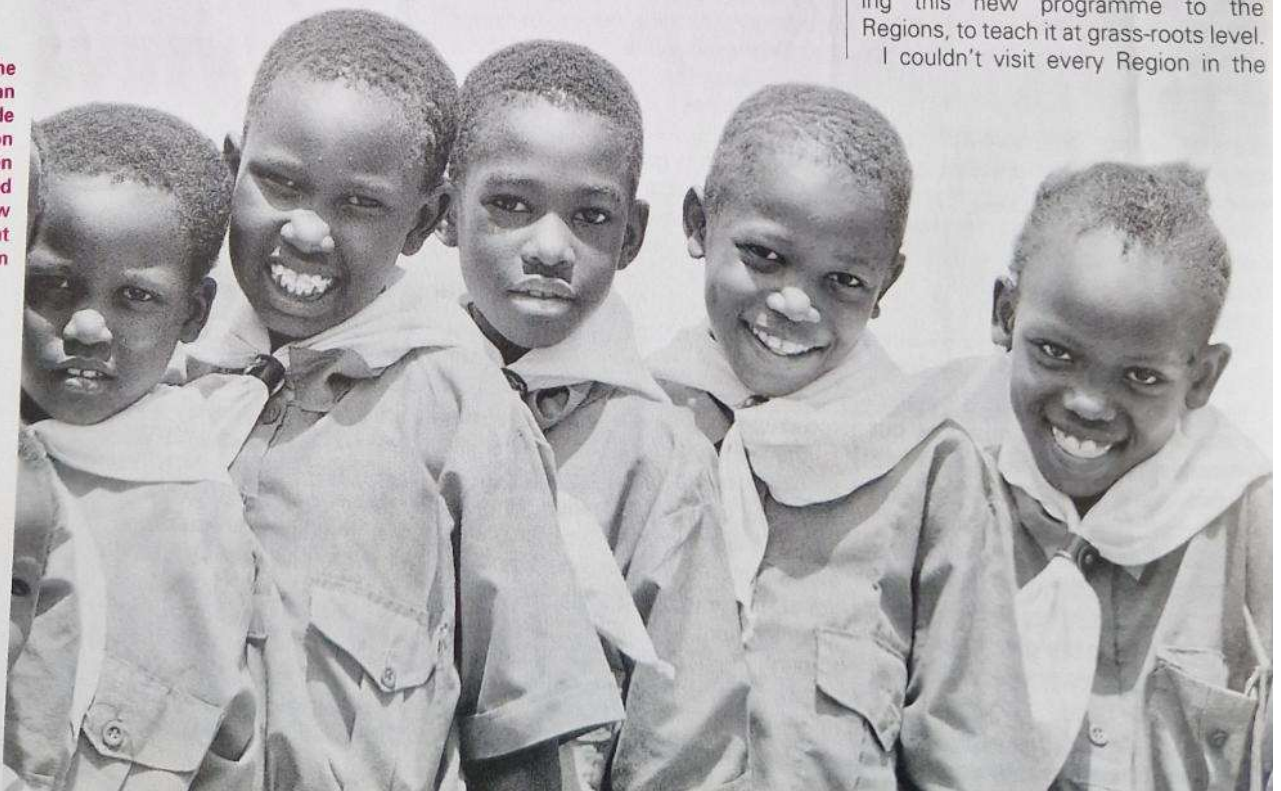
The Mayor of Arusha was most impressed when he visited us, and he rewarded our efforts with a week in the game parks of Lake Manyara and Tarangire, where I fulfilled a lifetime's ambition. In 23 years in Africa, I had never seen an elephant in the wild. 'Sister must see an elephant' was the cry, and I did — not one, but many.

The bus driver joined the fun and backed the bus almost into the river to show me the elephants bathing. Then we crawled slowly behind a line of them who were feeding on the roadside bushes. The Guides were delighted that they were showing me something, which made a nice change.

After the camp, I returned to Dar es Salaam to collate and type up all the suggestions. Then came the task of taking this new programme to the Regions, to teach it at grass-roots level.

I couldn't visit every Region in the

The
Tanzanian
Guide
Association
has been
reorganised
with a new
Eight Point
plan



AFRICA



Sister Mary (right) oversees new Guides as they learn to put up the flag

time allowed me by the immigration authorities, but I managed five visits. Transport and communications are poor in Tanzania and, often, I did not know if — or when — I would arrive, or whether I was expected.

It was rather like being the parcel in a game of 'Pass the Parcel': I was handed over at irregular intervals, had a layer of ideas stripped off, and was passed on again. I can only hope that someone found the treasure in the middle.

The post is slow and many telephones are out of action, so planning was uncertain. I had to conduct seminars in makeshift accommodation with improvised apparatus, or none at all.

In one place, a class was bundled out of its classroom to pursue its lessons under a tree, while 18 Guiders squeezed behind the desks. But afterwards we were able to look around the garden to identify plants and insects. Unless a plant is edible, it usually has no known name. Insects are mostly stingers and biters which are trodden underfoot immediately, so many people don't exactly *enjoy* the outdoors.

At Bukoba, I arrived from the night steamer in pitch darkness and pouring rain, and was unable to find my contact. I was befriended by some Catholic Sisters, who took me home, fed me and, eventually, discovered the Region Guide Commissioner who was not expecting me for another fortnight.

She most efficiently rushed round the town, collecting Guiders from their various offices and schools, but the only possible meeting place was the grandstand of the local stadium. Later, when we were washed out by a sudden

storm, the Town Clerk lent us the Council Chamber!

In Arusha, I helped with the beginnings of a new unit run by four Indian nuns, one of whom was a President's Guide in India, in a fairly new boarding school. I stayed in the convent while we invented and devised, as the school had poor accommodation and virtually no equipment. The enthusiasm was so great that secular teachers were attracted and wanted to be trained to start additional units.

In Tanga, which had been my own, original stamping ground, we used a pub garden, discussing and debating with bottles of pop at our elbows. Tanga was like a royal progress. People fell out of doorways, cars screeched to a halt by the kerb, and folks shouted across the road and from upstairs windows.

I became used to being hugged every 20 yards; I never had two consecutive meals in the same place, eating with all races; and the varieties of food consumed were legion.

I had to make a private rule for myself: if others were eating it, then I could. And I did, though occasionally with disastrous effects.

On my actual journeyings and in strange houses, meals could be erratic. There were days of long fasts, or leaning out of bus windows to buy hard-boiled eggs, roast maize cobs, chicken legs, packets of biscuits and fruit from roadside vendors. But it was a lot of fun.

We exchanged ideas, looked at the different aspects of our cultures, and tried out each others' songs, dances and crafts — getting feet and fingers crossed in the effort. A beetle drive on the grandstand was an uproarious success. A word-search puzzle aroused much interest and I collected many used stamps which when sold in England raised money to buy equipment.

Another issue that arose was how to help refugees. The Benaco camps, at no great distance from Bukoba, house thousands from Rwanda. The Guides were making Peace Packs, but needed help and guidance.

All in all, there was great enthusiasm for Guiding, a willingness to learn and a desire to use Guiding to help others. For me, there were great bonuses: sunrise over Lake Victoria with its curious wind-sculpted rocks; a stampede of wildebeest, as the Musoma plane passed over the Serengeti; the white-gold snow cap of Mount Kilimanjaro at sunset; the pink fringe of flamingo legs round Lake Manyara; and elephants!

But more than this, there was also immense kindness and care for me in all things. My farewell party coincided with my birthday and what a celebration that was! More than half my life has been spent in Africa, and I pray that the seeds I have been privileged to sow may bring a full harvest, while I continue to wear with pride the Trefoils of both Britain and Tanzania.

MARY STELLA CSP

● If you want to find out more about Sister Mary Stella's fascinating history, turn to page 63.



Guides help to prepare rice for the evening meal at Arusha camp

Notices

ASSOCIATION AWARDS

GOOD SERVICE LAUREL

Miss Rosemary Davis

Assistant County Commissioner, Worcestershire

MERITORIOUS CONDUCT STAR OF MERIT

Miss Katherine Lee

Young Leader, 2nd Chigwell Brownie Pack, Essex West

Miss Jennifer Hart

Guide, 4th Chichester Guides, Sussex West

Miss Laura Smithers

Brownie Guide, 1st Buckland Pack, Surrey East

THINKING DAY

Thinking Day Services will be held on Saturday, February 24 in Westminster Abbey and Central Hall, and St Margaret's Church in London.

Admission is by ticket only. Any Guiders who wish to bring their units should apply for tickets via their District Commissioners.

FRIENDS' AGM

The 1995 AGM of the Friends of Guiding — Brownsea Island was held at the National Trust's Study Centre on the island.

The chairman, Mrs J Powell, stated that they had sent £25 to the Brownsea Scout and Guide Committee to help transport a bust of Lord Baden-Powell to Brownsea.

The island's Guide Commissioner, Mrs K Figg, was also given £200 for a new cooker in South Shore Lodge. The Friends hope to give further financial assistance in 1996 for the general refurbishment of the kitchen.

Prospective Friends should

apply to the new Secretary: Mrs H D Pickering, 33 Gorse Hill Road, Poole, Dorset BH15 3QH.

INSTRUCTORS REQUIRED

Activity instructors are needed for Blackland Farm, the Association's Activity Centre in West Sussex, for 1996. Short and long-term contracts are available.

Candidates should be over 18 and hold the BCU TI or BMC SPSA training as a minimum. Enthusiasm and the ability to work with young people are essential.

The activities are canoeing, climbing, abseiling, archery and skiing. Experience in the other activities is an advantage, although full training is given. Application forms are available from:

Blackland Farm, Grinstead Lane, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 4HP. Tel: 01342 810493.

JAPAN APPEAL

British Guides have raised £5,603.88 for the Girl Scouts of Japan Earthquake Appeal, including £2,000 from the Guide Friendship Fund and £100 from Gwent Guides.

The money will help pay for restoration work which the Japanese Girl Scouts have been taking part in during their summer holidays.

YUGOSLAVIA AID

Women and families in former Yugoslavia need your help. Tens of thousands of innocent women and children have been forced to leave their husbands and

fathers to an unknown fate — and are now living as refugees in appalling conditions. The Red Cross is appealing for donations. Please send donations to:

British Red Cross, International Appeal for Women and Families in former Yugoslavia, FREEPOST, Room 8685, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7BR. You can make an instant donation with your credit card by calling 0171 201 5030.

WORLD OF IDEAS

A World Of Ideas is a new resource which includes instructions for international crafts. It also supports the new International interest badges. A training at Foxlease on January 12-14 is planned to help you try out the activities and use the resource. For details contact: **Foxlease, Lyndhurst, Hampshire SO43 7DE. Tel: 01703 282638.**

QUEEN'S GUIDE COURSES

The following Queen's Guide residential courses will be held in 1996:

● FOXLEASE

April 25-28

Cost — to be confirmed
Closing date for applications — February 29;

● DE KLUIS, LEUVEN, BELGIUM

September 14-16

Cost — £80
Closing date for applications — June 28.

Application forms are available from:

Youth Activities, The Guide Association, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT.

CAROL SINGING

An Association choir will be singing carols in Trafalgar Square on Thursday, December 21, between 4 and 5pm.

The Association looks forward to welcoming you all to this festive event. Please remember to wrap up warm. Copies of the 42nd edition of the Bethlehem Carol Sheet are available from:

The Bible Lands Society, PO Box 50, High Wycombe, Bucks. Tel: 01494 520851.

GREAT GIFTS

The 1996 Rainbow and Brownie annuals are bright, colourful and packed with exciting stories, tasty recipes, tricky puzzles and quizzes. At £4.99 each, they'd make great Christmas gifts. They are available from Trading Services, Guide shops and depots, and all good book shops.

NEW SONGS

We are looking for new songs (original words and music) for possible inclusion in a new Guide Association songbook. Please send your songs as soon as possible to: **Karen Rogers, Guiding Services, CHQ, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT.**

ORCHESTRA COURSE

The 1996 National Scout and Guide Symphony Orchestra Course will be in Wales on July 29-August 4. The course will include tuition from professional musicians, and two public performances will be given at the end.

Applicants must be a member of The Scout or Guide Associations; be aged between 13 and 25 (inclusive) on July 31, 1996; have reached a good standard of playing; and have orchestral experience. The cost of the course will be about £200-£250 per participant. The closing date for applications is February 29.

For an application form, send an A5 sae to:

The Youth Activities Section, The Guide Association, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT.

NEW DIRECTOR

The National Youth Agency (NYA) has appointed a new director. Tom Wylie, currently Assistant Director of Inspection for the Office for Standards in Education, takes up the post in January.

Mr Wylie, who has also been Director of Venture Scout Training for the Scout Association, succeeds Janet Paraskeva, now Director for England of the National Lottery Charities Board.

HERITAGE CENTRE VOLUNTEERS

The Association is seeking outgoing and enthusiastic volunteers of all ages with Guiding knowledge, to help staff in the running of The Guide Heritage Centre which will open in February 1996 at Commonwealth Headquarters in London.

The work will be varied and will involve helping the Centre Manager, primarily during the school holidays, with greeting groups and assisting visitors. This is a volunteer role but reasonable expenses will be paid.

The Guide Heritage Centre will provide exciting educational displays and games. The accent will be on fun and it will not only tell the story of Guiding but will also promote the image of Guiding to the year 2000 and beyond.

If you would like to be a member of a team of volunteers working in this exciting new venture, please contact: **Sarah Lennox on 0171 834 6242, ext 220.**

When the restored 14th-century Alloa Tower in Clackmannanshire, Central region opens as a heritage and visitors' centre next summer, one cherished exhibit will be a 'Scroll of Friendship'.

The scroll commemorates the 75-year link between the Guides of Clackmannanshire and the Erskine family, whose forebears lived in the tower house.

To a Sassenach, the gaunt, turreted stone building — the largest tower house in Scotland — might look like a folly. But in 1363, when the Erskines came to the town of Alloa, noblemen

1920 — took place at the tower, so as part of the anniversary celebrations it was decided to hold another enrolment ceremony there.

This, it was felt, was particularly apt,

friendly LINKS



▲ Lord James Erskine, the Earl of Mar and Kellie, and 86-year-old Ella Russell, who was enrolled as a Guide in 1920, admire the Scroll of Friendship

◀ Salute to the past: the Scottish Chief Commissioner, Gillian Robertson (left) and Clackmannanshire County Commissioner Mary, the Countess of Mar and Kellie, with three new guides: Claire Howie, Kirsty Docherty and Morgan Erskine

needed secure retreats.

In 1700, the tower was extended to become part of a mansion that was destroyed by fire 100 years later. The Erskine family — whose present head is Lord James Erskine, the Earl of Mar and Kellie — built another home in Alloa and the tower became derelict for more than a century.

But, in 1919, Guiding started in Alloa and Lady Violet — the Countess of Mar and Kellie — became Clackmannanshire's first County Commissioner. She offered the use of Alloa Tower to the newly-formed units as a headquarters. Ann Mudie, the County's Public Relations Adviser, takes up the story:

‘As the building had not been in use for over 100 years, the Guiders must have had a lot of hard cleaning to do.

The inaugural meeting of the Clackmannanshire Guides took place on May 14, 1919, so on May 14 last year — during the County's weekend camp — a ‘birthday’ party was held to launch our celebrations for the 75th anniversary of Guiding in the County.

The first enrolments — on March 27,

because, although the Alloa Tower was only used as an HQ for about a year, the link with the family remains to this day, as our present County Commissioner is Mary, the Countess of Mar and Kellie.

The 1994 birthday party was the start of a busy year, the highlight of which was the passage of the Scroll of Friendship around the County and its spectacular arrival at Alloa Tower.

Each District held the scroll in safe-keeping for three days before passing it on to the next one. It travelled by canoe down the river Forth to Kincardine; by bicycle to Muckhart; and over the hills in white-out conditions to Dollar.

It then travelled by chain-gang to Tillicoultry, where it was taken down a dry ski slope; by skate to Alva; and by paraglider down from the Ochil Hills. Led by four pipers, it was taken to Menstrie, where it was helped on its way by the Mountain Rescue Team.

The scroll was taken to Tullibody by torchlight procession, then by ambulance to Sauchie and from there by horseback to Alloa. The fire brigade took it to the gates of Alloa Tower and, for

the final few hundred yards, it was carried along with three Brownies in an old trek cart.

Alloa Tower was rather chilly that day, but just as in 1920, a band of willing Guiders transformed the main hall with floral arrangements.

Two Young Leaders delivered the scroll to Gillian Robertson, the Scottish Chief Commissioner, for signing, and it was presented to the Earl for display when the tower opens as a visitors' centre.

The guests included Pansy, the dowager Countess; Daphne Tullis, a former Deputy Scottish Chief Commissioner and County Commissioner; Pauline Ashton, Executive Director of SHQ; and Miss Ella Russell, now 86, who was one of the Guides enrolled at Alloa Tower on March 27, 1920.

Seventy five years later, she witnessed three Guides — Kirsty Docherty, Claire Howie and Morgan Erskine — make their Promise in the tower that is part of the history of the Clackmannanshire Guides.

● Morgan Erskine, from Muckhart, is not related to the Erskines of Alloa Tower.

ESSAY COMPETITION

Did any girls in your unit enter the 1994/1995 Royal Commonwealth Society Essay Competition? The Guide Association actively supports this annual event, which has been running since 1913. If your girls have not taken part before, persuade them to have a go this year — perhaps one will win a top prize.

RULES

1 The competition is open to students of all Commonwealth countries and territories.

2 All essays must be **hand written in English** and must be submitted through Guide Headquarters to reach Youth Activities Section, The Guide Association, 17/19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT. The closing date for essays to arrive is Friday, January 5, 1996.

● **A word-processed or typewritten essay may be accepted if a Guider explains why the entrant could not write it by hand.**

3 Each essay must be accompanied by a sheet of entry particulars in the prescribed form — certified by the Unit Guider.

4 The competition is organised in four classes, with four prizes in each class, awarded on the advice of a panel of external examiners:

Class A — for entrants aged 16-18

Class B — for entrants aged 14-15

Class C — for entrants aged 12-13

Class D — for entrants aged 11 and under

Ages will be calculated from December 31, 1995. Entrants who are above the age for the class entered will be disqualified.

● **An over-age entrant may be accepted when The Guide Association gives reasons for exceptional treatment.**

5 Six is the maximum number of entries that The Guide Association may submit in each of the four classes of the competition to the Royal Commonwealth Society.

6 No entrant may submit more than one essay.

7 Entrants should write on one topic only.

8 Essays which exceed or fall below the word count for each class will be disqualified.

9 All essays become the property of the Royal Commonwealth Society, with the right to publish.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

1 Please make sure that a sheet of entry particulars, in the form on these pages, is completed in block letters, **checked and certified**, and attached upright to the front of each entry.

2 For an essay to be accepted, the date of birth must be included in the entry particulars and the entrant must have been born in the following years:

For Class A — 1977, 1978 or 1979

For Class B — 1980 or 1981

For Class C — 1982 or 1983

For Class D — not earlier than 1984

3 Because The Guide Association is only allowed to send in a maximum of **six** essays in each class to the Royal Commonwealth Society, we have our own competition first. The entries are judged by a panel of examiners for the purpose of awarding Guide Association prizes — the winners of this competition will have their entries submitted in the Commonwealth-wide competition.

TOPICS

Class A — 1,500-2,000 words. Age 16-18, born 1977-79

1 For what reasons might it have been easier for you to have written an essay in a language other than English?

2 What did Abraham Lincoln mean when he said 'Government of the people, by the people and for the people'? Has any contemporary nation succeeded in establishing such a government?

3 Can we imagine life without fire?

4 What does pride in a national culture signify? Nostalgia for the past? Dissatisfaction with the present? Hope for the future? Discuss.

5 Can animals do wrong?

Class B — 1,200-1,500 words. Age 14-15, born 1980-81

1 'The love of money is the root of all evil.' Do you agree?

2 Violence shown on TV and cinema

screens is bound to affect the young.

3 'History is bunk,' so Henry Ford is supposed to have said. Do you agree with him?

4 Describe a play, film, poem or book which has altered your outlook on life. How do you think it has changed you?

5 'There are no rights without responsibilities.' Is this true?

Class C — 500-700 words. Age 12-13, born 1982-1983. Illustrations will be welcome.

1 What modern invention do you dislike? If it were abolished what would you use instead?

2 A visitor from another Commonwealth country is in your town or village for a few days. What would you show the visitor as a contrast to his/her country?

3 If someone in your class often misbehaved and annoyed teachers and pupils, how would you deal with the problem?

4 Emergency!

5 If you could go back in time, and swap places with your grandmother/grandfather at the age of 13, how would you spend a day?

Class D — Not more than 600 words. Age under 12, born 1984 or later. Illustrations will be welcome.

1 Imagine that you are the sole survivor of a shipwreck. Begin your story: 'As the ship went down...'

2 A magician says that you can have one gift, other than riches, which will last the rest of your life. What would you choose and why?

3 Pretend that you are a tiny insect from your own country. Write a story about a journey you make across a garden, a forest or a table.

4 Design a brochure to promote your own local area. It should feature a selection of different ideas and suggestions on what your area can offer to the visitor.

5 Write a story called 'The day that I thought would never end'; or a story that ends: '...and that is how I managed to escape.'

PRIZES

Class A:

1st — International air travel and study tour for two in Britain; or in another

country if the winner is British.

2nd — £100 cash and £30 books (Stephen Kemp Memorial)

3rd — £75 cash and £25 books (Margaret Best Endowment)

4th — £50 cash and £20 books

Class B:

1st — £250 cash and £50 books

2nd — £80 cash and £25 books (Sheila Ramsay Lochhead Memorial)

3rd — £60 cash and £20 books (Margaret Best Endowment)

4th — £40 cash and £15 books

Class C:

1st — £80 cash and £20 books (Kenneth Whitty Memorial)

2nd — £60 cash and £15 books (Kenneth Whitty Memorial)

3rd — £45 cash and £10 books

4th — £30 cash and £10 books

Class D:

1st — £60 cash and £20 books (Frederick Rapsey Endowment)

2nd — £40 cash and £15 books (The Cumbria Prize)

3rd — £30 cash and £10 books

4th — £20 cash and £10 books

Special Prizes

In each class there is a special prize available for a handicapped entrant (Sir Alwyn Ezra Endowment).

NOTES FOR GUIDERS

1 A4 is the size of paper much preferred for the writing of essays, particularly in the senior classes. The entry particulars should be upright on the front and it is important that all pages are securely fastened together. Essays should not be enclosed in folders unless the use of supporting illustrations make this desirable.

2 The writers of essays may be advised on preliminary planning and on source material but intervention by Guiders and parents should go no further than this. It is the essence of the competition that the entries should be the writers' own efforts and should not be composed or corrected by any person other than the writer.

3 Entrants should be encouraged, where appropriate, to read suitable books and articles by way of preparation. They should be reminded, though, that the examiners will not be impressed by the mere reproduction of works without original input of thought, judgment and imagination. Quotations should be identified in footnotes and a list of sources consulted should be given at the end of the essay. Failure to do this will be penalised.

4 The examiners expect essays not only to be relevant to the topic but also to cover all its aspects. A number of otherwise good efforts fail because the writer has not fully appreciated what the wording calls for. Guiders can help

by emphasising this point.

5 In all classes they expect competent use of English, including a good standard of spelling and punctuation and neat presentation and clear handwriting. Appearance is probably never a decisive factor but, bearing in mind that essays are not written under examination conditions, an essay which has been put together in a slipshod manner is handicapped from the start.

6 In the senior classes, A and B, the examiners expect to see evidence of the coherent planning of an essay and they look for the sound marshalling of

thoughts and facts, leading to a conclusion.

7 The examiners in the Junior classes, C and D, understand that children in these age groups do not write essays in the sense that their seniors do and by and large the wording of the topics reflects this. Considerable scope is allowed for creative work. Imagination and originality are important, along with good presentation, including the use of illustrations, which the examiners particularly enjoy. Pictures from magazines and brochures do not get much credit unless the choice is especially apt.

ENTRY FORM

In block capitals

1 COUNTRY

.....

2 NAME

.....
(Where there is a surname or family name this should be placed first and underlined)

3 DATE OF BIRTH

.....

4 NAME OF UNIT

.....

5 GUIDER'S ADDRESS

.....

6 ESSAY CLASS (A, B, C or D)

.....

7 TOPIC NUMBER (1, 2, 3, 4 or 5)

.....

8 EXACT NUMBER OF WORDS USED

.....

I certify, as a Guider of the above Unit:

- 1** that entries 1-8 are correct;
- 2** that this essay is the girl's own composition;
- 3** that it is in the girl's own handwriting.

NAME
(IN CAPITALS)

.....

SIGNATURE

.....

POSITION

.....

ANY SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT

(eg, that English is the girl's second/ third language or that she suffers from some relevant disability)

.....

a personal **VIEW**

As members of The Guide Association, we belong to the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, are represented at the United Nations, and have a major place within the lives of our villages, towns and cities. We have the potential to be a strong, influential voice, representing the views of many women and girls around the world.

But, as Guiders and as an Association, we seem to have some difficulty with the concept of influence. It is one of the seven objectives that The Guide Association has set itself, yet we often shy away from 'standing up and being counted'. We stick to what is safe, and what is tried and tested. We're scared of making a point or taking a stand on controversial issues.

As an Association, we are the largest uniformed organisation for girls and young women: you know that, we say it enough times. It's a useful PR tool but a wasted opportunity, since we don't flex our muscles and truly represent all those people.

Yes, we are a non-political organisation in that we don't subscribe to party politics, but that shouldn't mean we don't have any opinions. We need to be seen more in public, not just in our traditional role as local youth workers, but on the national platform as a women's organisation with something to say. Never has such a crowd been so silent. What has happened to that pioneering movement of young people which

Baden-Powell visualised at the beginning of the century?

It is often difficult to see beyond our own meeting places and make the link with the wider world. What we do in our units can shape the attitudes and beliefs of our young people. Our Eight-Point programme and the Five Essentials, so implicit in the Guiding method, encourage a sense of citizenship, involvement and thinking for yourself.

Our problem is that we fail to see the potential of the collective voice. We're good at what we do, the programme is a wonderful framework to work around and we have an impressive organisational structure throughout the UK.

Our day-to-day local Guiding is effective. What we need is some vision, some policies and a voice on the international stage. It's time, as an organisation, for us to make some crucial decisions about what issues are important to us.

Young people care passionately about a lot of things, from homelessness to the environment. We should reflect this a little more in our programme, our resources and our trainings. We ought to take an Association stance on many more issues concerning women and young people.

How many of our adult leaders have problems getting time off work for Guiding activities? Surely we should be lobbying the decision makers to recognise the value of volunteering; to enable more people to get involved in the voluntary youth sector by giving employees paid time off.

There are a whole host of issues affecting women and young people on

which we could be more vocal: child-care facilities; NVQs; drug abuse; poverty; and HIV and AIDS; to name but a few. What is our stance on equal opportunities, green issues, racism and prejudice, and children's rights?

The girls in our units have real experience of social nasties such as racism and bullying. We could continue to react to problems on an individual basis as they arise day-to-day in our meeting places. Or we could be a little more proactive as an Association and raise awareness, inform, change attitudes and promote equality. We could train our Guiders in counselling skills, and take a whole Association approach to important concerns which affect women and young people.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is an excellent starting point. It deals with many of the issues faced by today's young people, such as their rights to information; to protection from abuse and drug misuse; to be able to express an opinion; and to participate in the real decision-making process. As a major youth organisation, if we don't take that stance, who will?

If we truly believe in the power of Guiding to shape an individual's life and to help young people develop into mature and active citizens of the world, as our Vision Statement suggests, then we have to offer the full picture of life to our members.

We have to come out of our church halls and off the fence. Only then can we rightfully claim to be the largest and most influential organisation for girls and young women.

NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

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

Calm down. Christmas is meant to be fun — even for a Brownie Guider! Plays are always awful at rehearsals and then 'alright on the night'. The whole Pack can't have flu, measles and mumps on the same evening! So, Pam has the refreshments organised has she? Great. Who's going to wash up? Brownies love washing-up — but they take hours over it. It's just not done to finish the meeting late, of course. Don't worry about costumes — no one expects them to be perfect.

I nearly died laughing when I read about Paula's angelic ballet group. Doesn't your daughter realise that three short, fat Brownies in blue, and three tall, thin Brownies in white tracksuits, gold scarves and trainers will look funny pretending to be angels flying amongst the clouds? I wish I could see it.

And as for Jehoshaphat — couldn't she just be a cat in the stable rather than a cow? You'll never get her to sit still wearing cardboard horns... and a pot tied under her to be an udder? Will she go with you when you produce the play in the old people's home too?

Brownies are always excited at Christmas. It's the joy of giving and (for most children) the even greater joy of getting! Don't worry about your Pack leaping on to the window-sills and singing Christmas carols. Occupy them — apart from rehearsals — by doing things with a Christmassy flavour. Make cards, calendars and decorations. Have a competition: which Six can make the best model of the Christmas story with play dough? Or use marzipan and food colouring to produce a special Christmas party for dolls.

Sorry, but I can't tell you why Brownies like to do handstands on every possible occasion — even to sing Christmas carols. Maybe the world is more interesting upside down. Why don't you try it one day? At least your Brownies don't wear short brown dresses like mine did. Our minister arrived before the meeting one day and was greeted with a display of coloured pants all along the outside wall!

One Christmas we talked about 'lending a hand'. The girls drew around their hands and cut them out. They wrote on them how they were going to help and coloured them with a green wax crayon. Then I stuck the hands together (fingers downwards) on a large piece of white paper to make a Christmas tree. I curled the fingers (leaves) over a pencil and then we decorated it. It looked good but was simple to do.

DEAR Hazel

Are you having a chimpanzee's tea party, sorry, I mean Brownie Christmas party? Discuss it in Pow-wow. Beef-burgers, crisps and fizzy drinks seem to have replaced sandwiches, jelly and orange squash. I preferred a New Year's party — the girls were not overflowing with excitement and food by then!

You can cover loads of challenges and badges over Christmas. There are also good videos around. Your church parade should be better this month, with your girls performing a play and the Scouts playing carols with guitars.

Have you thought any more about the Pack Holiday? Go and ask your District Commissioner about it. You have to start planning early.

Anyway, have a good Christmas. Let me know how it all goes.

Bye for now

Barbara



CAROLINE EWEN

LET'S COMMUNICATE

In February, many Guides take part in Thinking Day On The Air (TDOTA), when they communicate with Guides and Brownies from all over the world through Special Event Stations set up by radio amateurs.

However, when it comes to running amateur radio clubs, where licensed

Guides actually run their own regular radio stations, then it seems that the girls are beaten hands down by the Scouts and Cubs. Why? Is it because Guides have other interests which they would rather take part in, or is it because of their Guiders' lack of knowledge as well as their own?

With the introduction of the Novice Amateur Radio Licence, beginners now have a much easier and quicker route into amateur radio. After a ten-week Novice Licence Course, candidates will have learned how to build a simple receiver; to build and erect an amateur radio antenna; and to make contact with other radio amateurs.

They are then ready to take the City and Guilds Novice Radio Amateurs

examination. On passing, amateur radio call-signs are issued by the licensing authority and the novice amateur radio airwaves are opened up to them.

As a novice candidate, there are two options open to you. The first requires you to complete only the novice course and obtain a Class B Novice Licence, allowing you to operate on the VHF bands — that is, usually, within a range of 25 miles.

The second requires the prospective radio amateur to also take a Morse code examination of five or 12 words per minute, and obtain a Class A Novice Licence, enabling her to transmit on the HF band or all over the world.

Your girls could follow the example of Rowena Gaskell, a Young Leader with the 4th Abingdon Brownies in Oxfordshire, who was only ten when she gained her Novice Licence, thus making sure that on the next TDOTA more amateur radio stations will be operated by qualified Guide radio amateurs.

The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) is the national society for all UK radio amateurs and, although it mainly represents the interests of UK operators, its membership includes many foreign radio amateurs as well.

● **Details of the Novice Licence Training Scheme and of how to take the Morse test can be obtained from the Amateur Radio Department, Radio Society of Great Britain, Lambda House, Cranborne Road, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 3JE. Tel: 01707 659015. Fax: 01707 645105.**

Rowena Gaskell, GORKG, (left) and short wave listener, Emma Jackson, operating from Special Event Station GB20G at Oxfordshire's 'Folly '95'



R. GASKELL AND RSGB

SEAL OF APPROVAL

When nun Sister Mary Laurence appealed in *GUIDING* for towels to support the work being done at Norfolk Wildlife Hospital, Bedfordshire Guides got busy.

They collected 14 bulging dustbin sacks full of towels. The 1st Totternhoe Company then spent a weekend delivering them and taking time out for a full tour of the hospital and its facilities.

Guider Carol Leckie said: 'We were shown a badger recovering from a road accident, squirrels, hedgehogs and, of course, the famous seals. When we arrived, patient number 593 was just being admitted.'

As the seals may bite, the towels are needed to protect the handlers, and they are vital for staff cleaning the feath-

ers of birds which have been caught in oil slicks.

Over 5,000 birds and animals were admitted to the hospital in 1994. The facilities for wildlife include treatment pools, X-ray machines and pre-release pools. Orphaned young are kept apart so that volunteers can keep a close eye on them.

'Every year, the seals are given names based around a central theme,' explained Carol. 'This year it is chocolate bars, so we met Toffee Crisp, Mars and Yorkie.'

The hospital is also keen to spread the word about how to look after pets. The staff reminded the Guides that before buying a pet they should think about

how much food and exercise it will need and how big it will grow.

Carol said: 'Yule Log, a seal found at Christmas, was a sad example of cruelty. He'd been a pet, but had grown too large for his pool, so he'd been released into the sea. He was found beached and defenceless, and now will always have to be hand fed and cared for in Cornwall.'

SARAH WALKLEY

Sister Mary Laurence (second left) with some of the 1st Totternhoe Guides



CAROL LECKIE

PEAK PERFORMANCE

To the West Hove District Rangers, the challenge set by Raleigh International and sponsored by Timberland didn't sound too difficult: to climb the highest mountains in Scotland, England and Wales, a total of 10,000ft, in 36 hours.

But, as the five-strong team from Sussex East discovered, just *getting* to the foot of Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon, while leaving enough daylight to climb each peak within the time allowed, made it more like the ultimate physical endurance test.

Here, leader Zoë Cambell relives hundreds of exhausting bus miles with very little sleep, suffered all for the sake of the Unit's Assistant Guider:

“The District had been helping Naomi Jones to raise the £2,950 she needed for a Raleigh International expedition to Belize, but she was still £600 short.

So, when she told us that, in an effort to raise the remainder of the cash, she planned to take part in the *Three Peaks*, I and three Rangers — Cathy Lewis, Vicky Sears and Nicola Dumps — decided to join her.

We felt that if five of us were sponsored individually there would be a far better chance of raising the cash.

It was 3.30pm when we left Hove by minibus for London's Victoria Coach Station. We arrived at 5.30pm, expecting to board a coach leaving for Fort William in the Highlands 30 minutes later. But the coach, laid on by Raleigh, did not appear — it had broken down.

A replacement arrived three hours later, so at about 9am the following day we finally reached our destination.

There were just over 1,000 people, split into three groups, taking part in the challenge, which meant that, at any one time, each mountain was being climbed by about 350 people.

At precisely 10am — the start of our permitted 36 hours — we began climbing Ben Nevis. It was surprisingly tough. From about three quarters of the way up, it was ice and snow all the way to the summit. It was so cold that, when we reached the top, we could hardly press the buttons on our cameras.



▲ Leader of the pack: Zoë Cambell

▼ On top of Ben Nevis with only two more peaks to conquer: (from left) Nicola Dumps, Vicky Sears, Naomi Jones, Zoë Cambell and Cathy Lewis



We completed Ben Nevis by 5.30pm. There was just time for a snack and a change of clothing before we climbed back on the coach and headed for the Lake District.

According to the driver, we could expect to reach our next stop — Keswick in Cumbria — at about 10pm. Then we'd have a proper hot meal and a chance to sleep before starting to climb Scafell Pike early on Sunday morning. As we were all so tired already, most of us managed some kind of sleep on the coach, which was just as well because we didn't reach Keswick until 1.30am!

Luckily, we weren't too late for the food, but our hopes of sleep were dashed when we were told that we'd have to be fed, kitted out for climbing and aboard the coach all in 50 minutes.

It was still dark as well as misty and raining when we began our climb of Scafell Pike at about 4am. An experienced “Sherpa” walked with us. But our fatigue and the miserable weather meant that our morale was very low.

During the descent of Ben Nevis I had developed a groin strain. This injury

slowed down the team's ascent of Scafell Pike, since the pain did not ease for about three hours.

At least we were not distracted by the view when we reached the top, because the mist was really closing in. We were down by 10.30am, in time for a quick bite before heading back to the coach.

By about 11.30am, we were on our way to North Wales and Snowdon. I don't remember much about the journey. If you're tired enough, you can sleep no matter how uncomfortable you feel.

We arrived at 5pm, just in time to start our final climb ten minutes later! We couldn't delay or we would have reached the top of Snowdon in the dark, not a pleasant prospect. To meet the challenge, we had to be at the bottom checkpoint by 10pm.

I don't have words to describe the elation our little team felt when we signed in with 35 minutes to spare. My groin strain was much better and Naomi's trip to Belize was in the bag.

ZOE CAMBELL 29

ALL SET FOR TAKE-OFF!

Guiding's more 'mature' members now have a CID initiative of their own. Lorna Russell describes the first Flyover weekend.

Jane Lewes with the 'Chief Girl Scout' (Gill Sutcliffe) and the 'Mayor of Moscow' (Andrea Scriven)



▼ The Flyover selection-weekend participants, including the CID Group



PHOTOS: MARGARET LESTER

As I stood on a hillside in Derbyshire at 7.30am, accompanied by 23 other Guiders, I wondered what I had let myself in for. I was in the middle of the first ever Flyover weekend.

BRIDGES (Building Real International Development with Guiding Experiences) is an opportunity for members aged over 30 to take part in a community development project in Russia, in partnership with the Russian Association of Girl Scouts (RADS).

Flyover was a selection weekend for the project, and we were told that it would be thought-provoking but not an endurance test. We were not disappointed: it was a journey into the unknown. Who would we meet? What would we have to do? Just who were the CID Group?

From start to finish, Flyover was an exhilarating mixture of fun and friendship, surprises and challenges, laughter and frustration, exasperation and, above all, teamwork. It was a learning experience with a difference.

We explored a range of activities based on a Russian theme. These included deciphering a laptop-computer program written in the Cyrillic alphabet and attempting a silent Siberian 'Hangle-Dangle'.

This was meant to challenge our ability to work in teams — and to use effectively the skills and strengths that mature Guiders possess and constantly build on, through working, parenting, Guiding and having survived whatever life has thrown at us during the last 30 years.

Next day, before 7.30am, we were

out on that Derbyshire hillside, attempting to get the whole group through a spider's web constructed from 'electrically charged rope' and suspended from two trees.

You might think it would be impossible to get 24 mature women of all shapes and sizes through the triangles, which got progressively smaller and could only be used twice. Struggling to lift our team-mates through was certainly a challenge — an exercise that involved a lot of thought, discussion, laughter, trust and teamwork.

Then we started on the training sessions, which were of a high quality and appreciated by all. Our session on development challenged our views and values, as we sought to define exactly what development meant to us and its effect on others. This was certainly thought-provoking, and called for reflection and invoked frustration before we managed to gain some understanding.

Next, we had to put this understanding into practice, as we tried an exercise about taking computers to Russia. As the activity developed, we sought to listen and reflect upon the wishes and needs of the Russians.

This was the start of our beginning to

understand about community involvement and development. Lots of listening and asking questions, and not much action: thought-provoking indeed.

Jane Lewes then led a session on training methods, while teaching us to count in Japanese to illustrate that 'Guides learn by doing'. All this and the Five Essentials were covered by Jane with enthusiasm and expertise.

Our final test for the day was to organise a Russian evening in two hours. We managed to organise and cook a Russian meal, complete with menu cards, table decorations, gifts and entertainment.

We were also expected to welcome and entertain the 'Mayor of Moscow' and the 'Chief Girl Scout of Russia', who didn't speak any English (a bit of a fib, as they were actually a local County Commissioner and an Association Adviser). The after-dinner speaker and the interpreter's sense of timing and use of Russian were the highlight of the entire evening. We eventually went

to bed at 2.30am, and the CID team was still full of ideas and enthusiasm.

Next morning, the 'optional' activity was orienteering in the lovely peaceful surroundings of Drum Hill — not the test of character that we'd all expected.

We then heard a résumé of the project and realised that everyone was totally committed to BRIDGES. Even if they weren't chosen to go to Russia, those on the Flyover weekend were determined to stay involved, supporting the group through either fund raising or carrying out research.

We all attended the Flyover weekend for different reasons. Some of us felt that it was 'our turn', after bringing up families, running homes and working; while others felt envious of those involved in GOLD projects and wanted the opportunity to participate. A few even felt that they didn't have much to offer, but Flyover has changed all that.

We have made a start and the journey has begun. We all belong to something new and exciting in Guiding. Now we are going to build BRIDGES.

● Lorna Russell was chosen as a member of the BRIDGES Task Group visiting Yoshkar-Ola, capital of the Mari El Republic in the Russian Federation.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

1996 is going to be an exciting year for
the Association's magazines and our readers

Changes are planned for *GUIDING* and *BROWNIE* with *RAINBOW GUIDE EXTRA*. But one thing that isn't changing is the price. Both magazines will cost the same as they did in 1995.

This is the second year we've been able to hold *GUIDING*'s price at £1.15, though the cost of raw materials has risen dramatically.

But there will be an increase in the amount of space devoted to resource ideas to help members get the most out of their Guiding.

An expanded programme section will offer a host of practical ideas for each section. Then there will be lots of more general activity and craft suggestions, plus advice on dealing with everything from keeping order, to deciding where to go for a fun-packed day out.

Topic of the Month – two pages of activity ideas across the sections – will offer a new approach to putting across important ideas, but we won't be neglecting the skills that have been a vital part of Guiding since 1910.

Firm favourites like Guiding Is..., A

Man's Eye View, Live Issues and our new humorous series, Dear Hazel, won't be changing. But other popular features such as Your Letters, Guiding in Action, Notices and Executive News have been given a new look.

Since *GUIDING* was relaunched in 1988 it has been constantly evolving. These latest changes were inspired by the answers you gave in our readership surveys and feedback from other members of the Movement.

Everyone told us that Guiders are leading ever busier lives and that they need a little extra help from us to lighten their load. I think we've succeeded and I look forward to your reactions.

We never forget that *GUIDING* is your magazine and we want it to reflect what you do and what you think.

However, the new style *GUIDING* means that there will be more pressure than ever on the space available. So, before spending time writing about an event or an experience, drop us a line first – or give us a call – to find out if we can squeeze it in.

Or, better still, tell us about the event before it happens – we might be able to send a reporter or a photographer along to cover your big day.

You can now buy *BROWNIE* with *RAINBOW GUIDE EXTRA* over the counter in selected branches of Tesco, WH Smith and John Menzies.

Now parents can pick up a copy while they're out shopping or their daughters can buy their own copies out of their pocket money. And you can still order a copy from your local newsagent or take out a subscription from CHQ.

Getting *BROWNIE* on display in supermarkets and newsagents was our first step to boost sales.

Our second is to change the publication date to the third **Friday** of the month. This means the February issue of *BROWNIE* will be on sale on Friday, January 19. Look out for it.

We're confident 1996 is going to be a successful year for our magazines and our readers. Let's enjoy it together.

NORA WARNER
Editorial Manager

IN YOUR NEW-LOOK JANUARY GUIDING

Video Diaries

Guiding in Action goes on location with a team of young camerawomen

The Big Crunch

Mouth-watering ways to make money for the Thinking Day Fund

The National Lottery

Can it prove a winner for Guiders? Live Issues spells out the claims criteria

Vanishing Tricks

When the slates intended for their hut went missing, the 1st Hay-on-Wye Brownies hit the roof!

Who is she?

Barbara O'Donnell explores the changing role of the Ranger Guider

Routine Refresher

Tips for Brownie Guiders wishing to brighten up their programmes

Looking Ahead

Ideas for Thinking Day for Guide Guiders and Patrol Leaders

Test Yourself

So you think you are a good Guider ...

An A to Z for Commissioners

The last in the present series

Running a Unit

Staying on top and in control

Grandma's Games

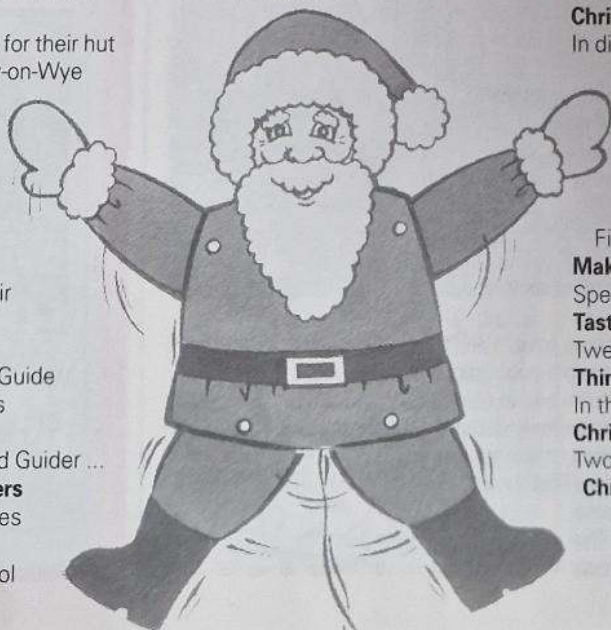
Old favourites that still appeal

And, the topic of the month:

Fundraising

IN DECEMBER'S BROWNIE

This month's Brownie is a special 44-page bumper Christmas issue, containing 12 pages for Rainbow – and all at no extra cost!



Christmas customs

Festive celebrations from all around the world

Fun to make

Jumping Santas

Christmas board game

Up the tinsel and down the chimney!

Deck the halls

Make your own Christmas decorations

Seasonal story

The Little Match girl

Christmas greetings

In different languages

Discovering ...

Make a pinhole camera

AND IN RAINBOW GUIDE EXTRA

Help Rainbow Rabbit

Find the Christmas crackers

Make your own

Special calendar

Tasty and traditional

Twelfth Night cake

Things to do

In the Christmas holidays

Christmas parties

Two games to play

Christmas stars

To hang on the tree

The Rocking Carol

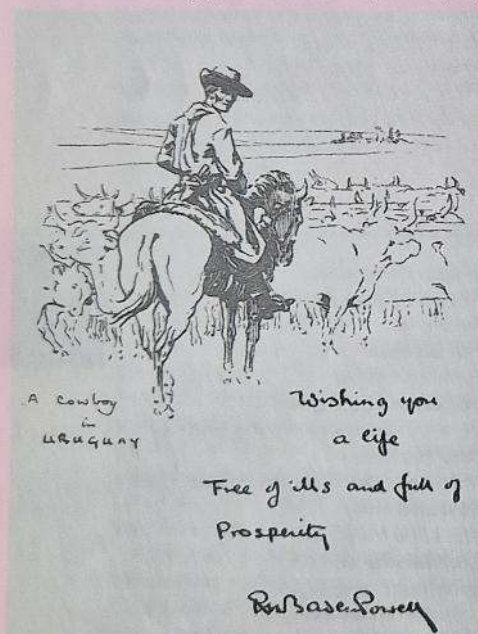
Words and music

Coming
NEXT

season's FROM

The Christmas cards sent out each year by Robert and Olave Baden-Powell were unique. They were designed and – for the most part – drawn or painted by the Founder himself. **GUIDING** has been through the archives and made a small selection.

B-P had considerable artistic talent and, amazingly, could draw and paint equally



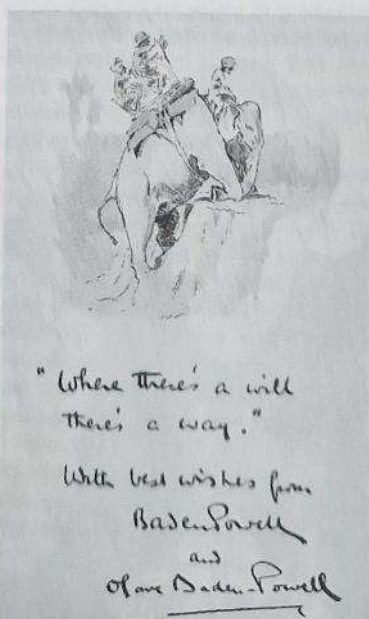
well with either hand. This card, probably inspired by a recent visit to South America, dates from 1910 – the year Guiding began.

Following their marriage in 1912, Olave's signature appeared alongside Robert's. This 1928 card celebrates the growth of Scouting – and draws a lesson from it. The text reads:

'May '29 bring luck to you, and if your chances look but small, remember this – they may expand, it's not a hopeless thing at all. From tiny atoms atolls come and acorns grow to mighty trees. The Scout Plant sown on Brownsea Isle has



spread its branches o'er the seas. In August next it comes of age, and holds its joyous Jamboree, where boys from all the world will meet, for you and all the world to see. This all suggests that if you make of little steps a big combine you'll get what most we wish you now – Success in nineteen twenty nine.'



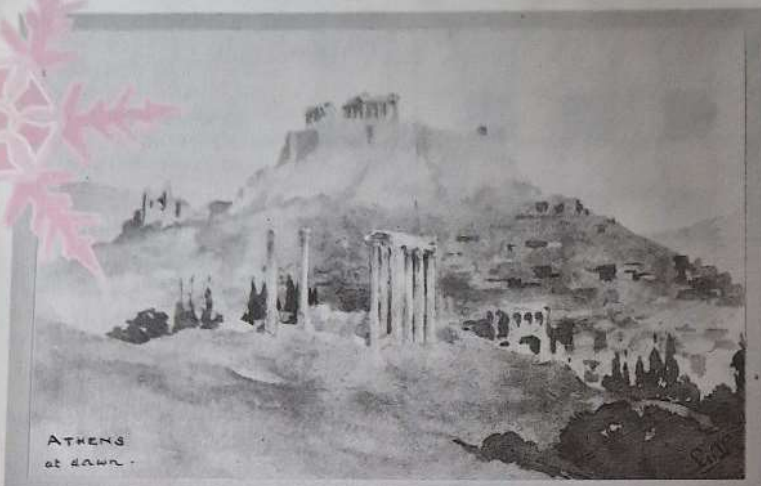
Much of B-P's military career was spent abroad, mostly in India and Africa – experiences which provided plenty of material for his sketchbook. Often he added his own humorous touch as on this 1929 card.



The Chiefs' 1931 card features a lion killer from the Masai tribe. A few years later B-P used the same illustration in his book *Lessons from the Varsity of Life*. His signature reveals that by now he was Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell.



greetings W THE CHIEFS



For some years after the Founder's death, Lady Baden-Powell sent cards with Guide motifs, but then went back to using her husband's drawings and paintings. In 1965 she chose this watercolour of Athens at dawn. Inside the cards she wrote: 'My warm good wishes are with you in your life and work from dawn to dusk; and may the beauty, the dignity and the serenity of the scene in this sketch – made by my husband in 1883 – be reflected in the happenings to you in 1966.'

OLAVE BADEN-POWELL.

ILLUSTRATIONS KINDLY SUPPLIED BY THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION

The 1933 card incorporates a family photo taken during the *Calgaric* cruise – a Scout-Guide 'argosy of peace' around northern Europe – and also shows their two dogs. Twm was a Welsh terrier, Shawgm, a labrador – a memento of a Scout rally in West of England. Its name is formed from the initial letters of the counties attending the rally: Shropshire, Herefordshire And Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, Monmouthshire.



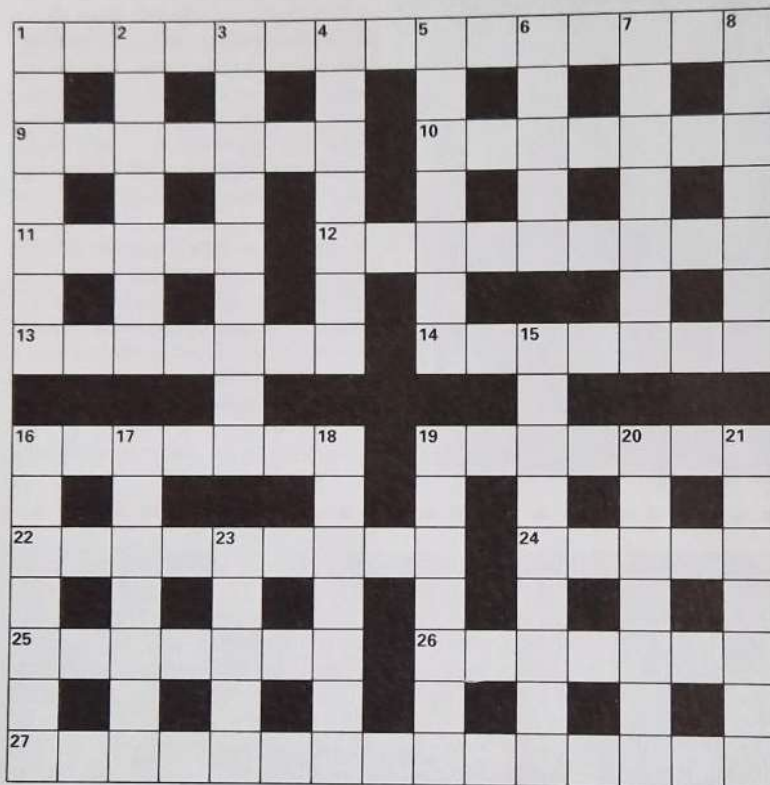
The World Chief Guide used *My House in the Woods* (1911) for her card in 1969. The accompanying message includes a quotation from *Scouting for Boys*: 'Give me the man who has been raised among the great things of nature: he cultivates both independence and self-reliance; he has generous impulses, and is true to his friends...' 'Here are my warm greetings to you – my friend – and best wishes for happy success in all your tasks.'

OLAVE BADEN-POWELL

greetings and Best Wishes
from ALL of us
for
Christmas 1933 and New Year 1934



CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



If you are exhausted with all the pre-Christmas running around, it's time to indulge yourself. First make a cup of coffee, then sit down — you could even put your feet up — to tackle our quick and easy Christmas crossword. Go on, spoil yourself. You know you deserve it.

ACROSS

- 1 Santa Claus (6, 9)
9 Nuts — ingredient of marzipan (7)
10 Marked by injury (7)
11 Relative — from southern France we hear (5)
12 Charles Dickens' 'umble character (5, 4)
13 Criss-cross pattern for pies or windows (7)

- 14 Get a move on (5, 2)
16 Merciful Mr Freud (7)
19 Pimientos for the Lonely Hearts Club Band (7)
22 Entertainer, eg, Harry Corbett (9)
24 Walk-on actor gives that little bit more (5)
25 Dried fruit (7)
26 Beginning letter (7)
27 Number of foreign birds, says carol (5, 6, 4)

DOWN

- 1 Face-cloth (7)
2 Gale in play by Shakespeare (7)
3 Formerly partnered Eric Morecambe (5, 4)
4 Dressing-up outfit (7)
5 Garbage (7)
6 Melting snow (5)
7 *The ... of Edwin Drood*, by Dickens (7)
8 Soft drink (American) (4, 3)

- 15 Fill up again (9)
16 Imitator — ape and animal (7)
17 His clothes were invisible, the story goes (7)
18 It guided the Magi (3, 4)
19 'Three kings from ... lands afar' (carol) (7)
20 Interweave (7)
21 Homes for horses (7)
23 Rub out (5)

GEOGRAPHY QUIZ

Test how much you know about the world around us with our Christmas quiz.

The first ten questions have a festive theme, reflecting the fact that Christmas is an international celebration.

Then, in recognition of the fact that the last few years have seen the biggest changes in the map of Europe since the end of the Second world War, ten questions test your knowledge of the newly independent countries which have appeared in Central and Eastern Europe.

Festive questions

- 1 What city is sacred to Jews, Muslims and Christians?
2 St Nicholas is the patron saint (sharing his name with its last reigning monarch) of which country?
3 Where is Bethlehem?
4 What country thanks Britain for its help in the Second World War by sending a Christmas tree each year?
5 'Good King Wenceslas' was the ruler of which country?
6 Where is Christmas Island?
7 What multinational state dissolved itself on Christmas Day, 1991?
8 The president of which Eastern European country was executed on Christmas Day, 1989?
9 Where is Lapland, home of reindeer and Santa Claus?
10 What US state was home to Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*?

Central and Eastern Europe

- 1 What is the longest river in Europe?
2 What is the largest country wholly within Europe?
3 Which European Union country has a border with Russia?
4 Yugoslavia now consists of only Serbia and which other republic?
5 Where is Transylvania?
6 What is the Russian city of Leningrad now called?
7 Where is Europe's highest mountain?
8 What former Soviet republic shares its name with a US state?
9 Riga is the capital of which country?
10 What was the second country to introduce Girl Guides?

Answers on page 52

RAINBOW GUIDERS

RAINBOW GUIDERS

Each year as Christmas comes around, it's as exciting as it was the year before. Grown-ups may greet the season with slightly less enthusiasm, but for children the magic should – and does – continue. How do we make the most of this excitement with Rainbows?

A TIME TO CARE

There is an undercurrent of caring for others in the ideas this month. Most of us have fun at this time of year, but let's be aware of those who are less fortunate and see how we can help a little. How can we share some of our pleasure with others?

SEND A CARD

Most leaders have many ideas for Christmas and New Year cards to make. Here are just a few reminders:

- Crayon-drawn snow-scenes on dark, bright paper, perhaps with cotton-wool embellishments.
- Cut-out snowflakes (like those described last month) stuck on to bright card.
- Cutouts from old Christmas cards recycled on background card.
- A line of dancing Rainbows, teddies or snowmen with greetings written on the back.

Let each girl make a card and send it to someone living in a hostel for homeless people or a hospital, to be delivered by the nurses on Christmas Day.

Remember that New Year can be an even more lonely time than Christmas for some people. You might like to concentrate on cards to be sent on this occasion.

Ask the girls to think of special ideas that symbolise the New Year. Here's a few to get them started:

- Dawn across the snow.
- Clock faces.



LYNN BREEZE

● A smiling portrait of the sender.

Send these cards to hostels and hospitals in the same way as the Christmas cards, with a message from your Rainbows.

MINCE PIES

This activity – like any cookery with this age group – needs quite a lot of preparation and planning!

Prepare and roll enough pastry for each girl to cut out two mince-pie cases and tops. Have cookie cutters for them to work with.

Divide the mincemeat so that each girl has enough for her pies and provide teaspoons to fill them with.

Each girl cuts out two pies and tops for them. They take turns to put their cases into a baking tray, fill them with mincemeat and put on the tops. You'll need a number of tart trays to give enough space. The trays of pies can be baked either at the meeting or, more probably, by the leaders at home.

If you cook them at home, bring the cooked pies to the next meeting, with paper plates or napkins, and a cake box or tin.

Let each girl have a mince pie and take the others to a local day centre, night shel-

ter or old peoples' home as a present from the Rainbows.

CHRISTMAS WORD POSTER

Together, the girls contribute ideas about Christmas to make a poster for the hall.

You need a large sheet of paper to pin up on the wall and some felt-tipped pens.

Write the word CHRISTMAS in large letters, down one side of the paper. Then ask the girls to suggest words which remind them of Christmas that begin with each letter. Remind them of the sound of the letters to help them decide on the words. Write these in bright colours across the paper.

After this introductory session, have a few minutes each meeting to see what further words and ideas the girls can think of.

You could make similar word posters for New Year, Easter or other holidays during the year. Alternatively, you could make a whole Christmas alphabet with a word for each letter.

A finished poster might look like this:

- C candle, cards, carols
- H happiness, holly
- R reindeer, robin
- I icicles, ivy
- S Santa Claus, stocking

T turkey, tree

M mistletoe

A angels, Advent calendar

S snow, star

You could hang the poster in the hall at meetings and then pass it on to decorate a hospital ward.

The girls might like to make smaller versions of their own to send as greetings. Those who can't read could contribute with pictures to illustrate the words.

NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Read the traditional poem *The Night before Christmas* to the girls at the last

meeting before the holidays.

You could also take the girls to visit the crib in your local church.

RAINBOW GUIDE EXTRA

You might like to show the girls the *Rainbow Guide Extra* pages published especially for them in every edition of *Brownie*, and suggest that they ask for a subscription to the magazine for Christmas.

QUIET TIME

There are so many thoughts to share at Christmas. Say thank you for our family and friends with whom we will share over the holiday season and say thank you for the excitement of the season.

You will also want to think about those less lucky than you, and friends and family who are far away and won't be with you over Christmas.

During these quiet times, you might like to play – very quietly – a tape of carols from King's College, Cambridge, or another choir.

NEXT MONTH

Moving into the New Year, our theme next month will be thinking about our Brownie sisters.

DEBORAH MANLEY 35

GETTING OUT

VISIT THE BLACK COUNTRY

Take a tour around the Black Country Museum and find out how the good people of this area of the Midlands helped to put the 'great' in Great Britain.

You won't find the Black Country on any map. It lies to the west of Birmingham and straddles the ridge of hills running south-east from Wolverhampton. It gained its name in the mid-19th Century, when thousands of furnaces filled the air with smoke, and the mining of coal and limestone created large areas of dereliction.

Things have changed. It's still a manufacturing area,

OPEN AIR

The museum is big and in the open air, but there are tramcars and trolley buses to take you to the village. These genuine examples have been rescued and restored.

The trolley buses are comfortable, quiet vehicles which superseded the tramcars and operated in the area before, in turn, being replaced by motor buses.

The buildings within the village, as well as the whole museum, have been brought together from throughout the Black Country, to save them from destruction and to create an urban landscape typical of the area.

SHOPS

The first shop is Gregory's General Store. Young visitors, used to seeing supermarket meat in plastic containers, generally wrinkle their noses at the sight of rabbits and pigeons still wrapped in fur and feathers hanging in the window.

Almost next door is Mr H E Doo's Chemist Shop, which is packed with potions, powders and pills that Black Country folk bought to treat their ailments at the beginning of this century.

Here, the assistant, dressed in period costume, describes and demonstrates how pills were made, and how bottles containing dangerous substances were green or blue and bore the word 'Poisonous'.

Look around the items for sale, which include such delights as Belladonna India Rubber Porous Plaster Breast Pads; Toilet Paraffin Hair Growth Promoter; Clarke's Blood Pills; and Doo's Indigestion and Wind Pills.

Opposite the chemist is the hardware shop, which has as many wares for sale outside the shop as inside.

Here, the guide, who stands behind the counter and professes to be the owner, shows visitors laundry items such as dolly tubs, mangles and a 'sad iron' — so called because you knew it was hot enough if you spat on it and the saliva divided into two and ran down the iron guard like two tears.

He explains how the use of flour paste for paper hanging enticed cockroaches into homes, where they were trapped in a device called a demon beetle trap costing half a crown (12 1/2 pence). There are whale oil candles, carpet beaters and not a plastic item in the place.

Between the hardware shop and the Canal bridge are the pawnbroker's, sweet shop and baker's.

Few young people have

seen a pawnbroker's shop, and they are fascinated to learn about the 'pawning' or 'hocking' of treasured items which could be redeemed later with interest.

The baker's shop with its coal fired oven is worth a visit as is the sweet shop. The latter is a building from Dudley. Sugar is boiled in the back room, flavoured, coloured and made up into various shapes on the shop counter. The sickly sugary smell doesn't deter visitors from buying a selection of suckables, such as lemon drops, raspberry drops and (the old and nowadays seldom seen) troche drops.

THE CANAL

By now, it will be just about time for another ride — this time on a canal boat.

The entrance to the Dudley Canal Tunnel Trip lies between the chapel and the pub. When the tunnel was reopened a few years ago, passengers on the unpowered boats had to 'leg it' — lying back and pushing the boats through by pressing on the roof with their feet. This was great fun but not always practical, so visitors now enjoy a trip on electric boats.

The tunnel, which is almost two miles long, is the longest navigable one in the UK's inland waterway system. It was opened by the Earl of Dudley in 1775 so that limestone could be mined and removed.

Today's journey is a dramatic, silent ride through caverns linked by wide basins and branch tunnels. However, the tunnel is not open during winter.

As you leave the canal, the Methodist chapel and Sunday school is to your right. This fine building is 150 years old. Services are still held throughout the year, including a Sunday school anniversary and harvest festival.

The Bottle and Glass inn still functions as a pub and is



The turn-of-the-century chemist shop is packed with potions, powders and pills but there is no more mining, the air is cleaner and the environment is improved. What hasn't changed is the warmth and humour of the Black Country people, and the museum shows how they lived and worked in the area from the mid-18th Century to the present day.

You will see plenty of them dressed in period costume, acting as guides, tram drivers, shop-keepers and voluntary helpers.

The village is surrounded by canals, and the brightly-coloured barges are definitely worth a photo stop before you cross the bridge into the village.

Even the bridge is genuine. It was first built in 1879 in Wolverhampton and was due to be demolished when a new ring road was built in the town, so it was carefully dismantled and re-erected to provide an authentic access to the village.

a convenient place for rest and refreshment before visiting the cottages.

COTTAGES

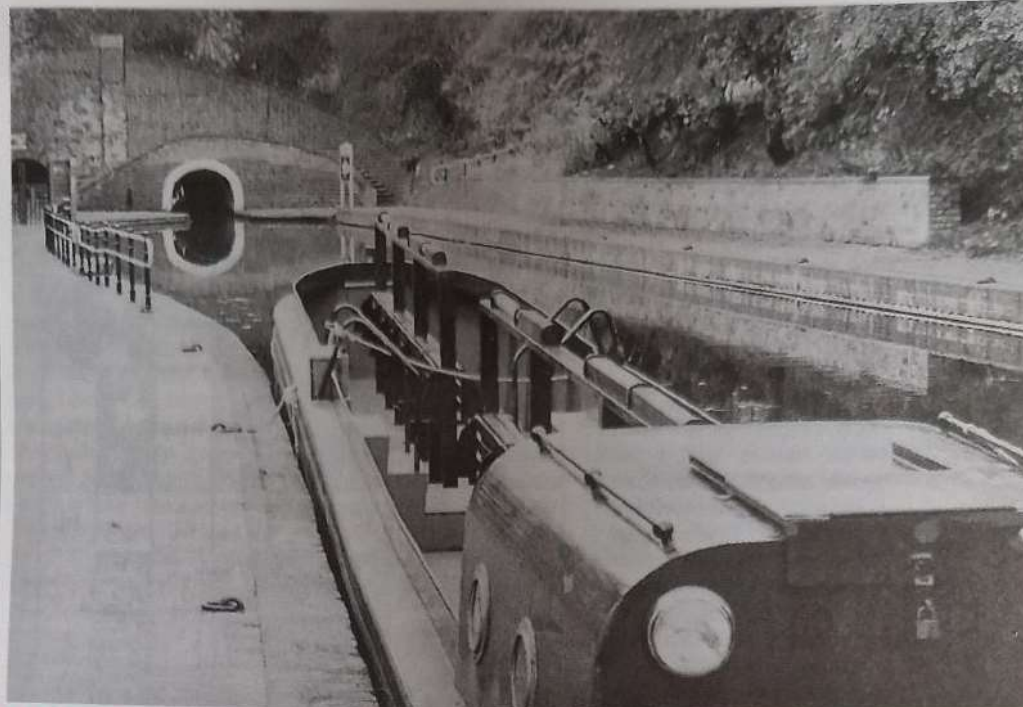
To your left, as you leave the pub, is Brook Street. Number 12 was the home of Joseph Nicholls, a fairly prosperous craftsman who had to work 72 hours a week to earn a wage of £2. This is a 'through house', with a comfortable front room, a kitchen with such luxuries as a gas cooker and a 'Hygena kitchen unit', and two bedrooms.

Numbers 10 and 11 are 'back-to-back' houses, with just one room downstairs and one bedroom above. Back to back houses were common in the Black Country where these tiny homes often housed a dozen or more people.

At the rear would be a shared toilet, a brew house and a wash-house.

Behind many of the houses were workshops, in which skilled craftsmen carried out their work. The glass-cutter's, behind Gregory's Store, is a typical example. Here, local men engraved traditional designs on the crystal glassware for which the area was famous.

There's also the Brass Foundry and Sidebottom's Trap Works from Wednesfield. The Wednesfield area was a major centre for the manufacture of animal traps which were exported.



MINING

The most exciting part of the museum for young visitors is the underground experience known as 'Into the thick'. This involves them dressing up in safety helmets, then walking down a sloping tunnel into a superb replica of a drift mine. Here they meet Elija Wedge, a miner from the 1850s, who leads them through the underground passages to the 'thick seam'.

Elija explains how pit-props were used to support the roof; how ten-year-old boys were employed to open and close the air doors to venti-

late the mine; and how pit ponies were used to pull the coal-laden trucks.

The most exciting part is when everyone stands still to experience the sound and shake of blasting at the rock-face as tons of coal fall from the roof. It's just a simulation and totally safe, but it's still a frightening experience.

Mining activity led to extensive subsidence. When you have recovered from the mine, visit 'Jerushah', the tilted cottage, which shows how buildings were twisted and pulled when the ground beneath them subsided. This

is a genuine cottage from Gornal which was dismantled and carefully rebuilt exactly as it was.

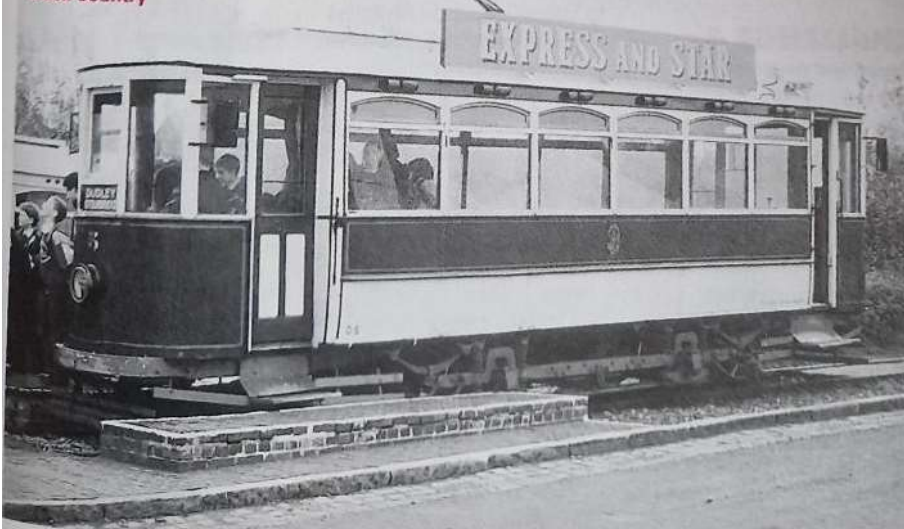
Opposite 'Jerushah' is a cosy toll-house and beyond that is the Newcomen Engine, the first successful steam engine in the world, which was used for pumping water from the coalmines on Lord Dudley's estates.

A visit to the funfair, to enjoy the delights of a helter-skelter, swing-boats, hoop-las and crazy mirrors, is a must to end this tour of the 19th Century, before well-earned refreshment at the Stables Restaurant.

RICHARD BROWN

The two-mile-long Dudley canal tunnel is the longest of its kind in the UK

The museum's restored trams are genuine examples from the Black Country



FACT FILE

Address: The Black Country Museum, Tipton Road, Dudley, West Midlands DY1 4SQ. Tel: 0121 520 8054.

The museum is easily found, being just three miles from Junction 2 of the M5.

Opening times:

- March-October — every day from 10am to 5pm.
- November-February — Wednesday to Sunday from 10am to 4pm.

Group rates are £3.95 for children and £4.95 for adults. One adult per ten children free. Details of group bookings available on request.

BROWNIE GUIDERS

Try these Christmas Challenges, using one meeting for preparation. Don't reveal how the Pack's efforts will be used then — Brownies always enjoy a mystery!

CHRISTMAS FUN EVENING

On the night you will need seven helpers. Place the games around the room, as far apart as possible, with a helper at each. The free adult is the timekeeper. The challenges are tackled in Sixes, with a time limit of, say, five minutes. Start the groups at alternate games to prevent peeping and to give the helpers a rest. Award tokens for completed challenges.

CHALLENGE 1

Brownies' preparation

Provide six pieces of A4 card, coloured paper and one large festive template for each Six. One Six draws round and cuts out six holly leaves, another Santa Claus shapes, another Christmas trees and the fourth bells, a different colour for each Six. Stick the shapes onto cards.

Leaders' preparation

Prepare A4 card sets of six plum puddings and six Christmas crackers.

On the night

Place the 36 pictures in a square, so that no row of six, up or down, contains the same picture twice.

CHALLENGE 2

Brownies' preparation

Give each Brownie a 10cm-square card marked with the outline of a letter, which she fills in with black crayon. The letters must be:

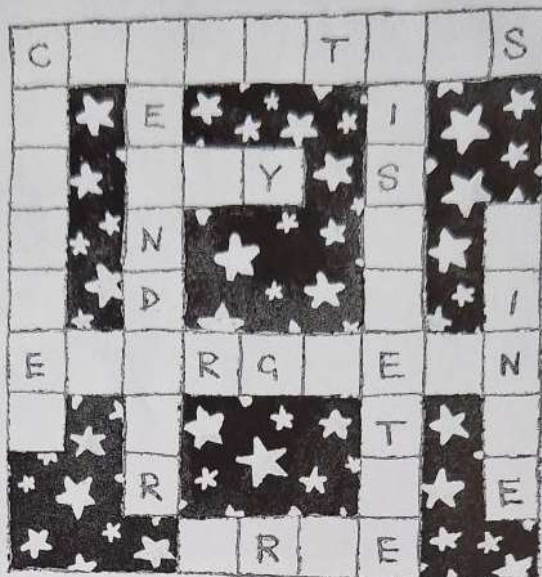
H R I S M A R A I V T M K L V
E R E R E C O T E

Leaders' preparation

Make a Christmas crossword framework (fig 1), each square 10 x 10cm. Draw holly, etc in the blank squares.

On the night

Add letters to the framework to solve the crossword.



Answer:

CHRISTMAS IVY EVERGREEN TREE CRACKER
REINDEER MISTLETOE MINCE

fig 1

CHALLENGE 3

Brownies' preparation

The Brownies wrap 'presents', each in different paper. Each girl sticks a motif from her wrapping paper onto a paper rectangle and writes her full name.

Leaders' preparation

Mount the paper rectangles on a wall chart. Write each girl's name on a plain gift tag.

On the night

Using the wall chart, the Sixes place the named gift tags on the boxes, matching the wrapping paper and motifs exactly.

CHALLENGE 4

Brownies' preparation

Each Brownie colours in a photocopied Santa figure drawn on card. She cuts out the body, arms, legs, sack, boots and head separately, and puts her pieces into a sealed named envelope.

Leaders' preparation

Provide dice

On the night

Each Brownie uses her own Santa Claus cut-out to play a Christmas version of 'Bee-tle'. The Brownies throw the die in turn: six must be thrown to win the body; five

the head; four an arm; three a leg; two a boot; and one the sack.

CHALLENGE 5

On the night

Use the following quiz verbally:

- 1 In which town was Jesus born? *Bethlehem*
- 2 What did the lady's true love send to her on the fifth day of Christmas? *Five gold rings*
- 3 What do we call the day after Christmas Day? *Boxing Day/St Stephen's Day*
- 4 Which saint gave his name to Santa Claus? *St Nicholas*
- 5 What gifts did the three wise men bring to Jesus? *Gold, frankincense and Myrrh*
- 6 What colour are mistletoe berries? *White*
- 7 Who did the angels tell first when Jesus was born? *Shepherds*
- 8 What colour are holly berries? *Red*
- 9 What was the name of Jesus' mother? *Mary*
- 10 Which reindeer had a very shiny nose? *Rudolph*

CHALLENGE 6

Leaders' preparation

Provide a copy of an acrostic (fig 2) and the following clues to each Six.

- 1 and 2 Where Mary and Joseph lodged
- 3 This kept Jesus warm in bed
- 4 This guided the three wise men to Jesus
- 5 One of the gifts brought to Jesus
- 6 Where Jesus slept
- 7 The angel's name
- 8 He heard the news on the hillside
- 9 The town where Jesus was born

Shade the letter spaces which spell EGYPT

On the night

Each Six works together on paper. When they have filled in all the words, they should rearrange the shaded letters to spell the name of the country where Joseph and Mary took Jesus to safety.

Answer:

I
NN
HAY
STAR
MYRRH
MANGER
GABRIEL
SHEPHERD
BETHLEHEM

fig 2



KATE WELLS

TIDY BOARD

TIDY BOARD

Purpose-built notice-boards are readily available but they are quite expensive. Making a Tidy Board is not. Better still, it's fun to do, can reflect an individual's personality and is useful. It's one of the easiest ways to keep the papers, pictures, cards – and other things that are important to active, modern girls – neat and tidy and instantly available when hung up on the walls of their rooms.

Here's what is required:

- A piece of hardboard about 100cm by 50cm.
- Polystyrene ceiling tiles from a DIY store (often available in the oddments box).
- Some tile adhesive (certain types of glue would also be suitable).
- Three metres of brightly-coloured, plastic, sticky tape, about 2.5cm wide.
- A piece of strong cord about one metre long.
- Some emulsion paint oddments with which to decorate the Tidy Board.
- A box of brightly-coloured drawing pins.

How to make the Tidy Board

- 1 Glue the tiles to the hardboard. This is important because the tiles will accept drawing pins more readily than hardboard on its own.
- 2 Stick the coloured sticky tape around the edge of the board to act as a frame and to stop the edges chipping.
- 3 Paint a cheerful background picture or pattern on the tiles with the emulsion paints. If you haven't any handy, it is possible to create attractive patterns with different coloured paper, making a fine background display. Use wallpaper paste to fasten it to the tiles.

4 Make a hole close to each of the top two corners of the Tidy Board, and thread the cord through, making a knot at each end. (Make sure that the knots are hidden at the back of the board.)

5 Choose a suitable place to hang up the Tidy Board.

Using the Tidy Board

The girls should pin their papers and pictures on the board in as decoratively a way as possible. The tiles are much more receptive than hardboard, and will take the

called 'It's a Guide's Life'. The game is suitable for two to four players aged from seven upwards.

They designed the game after their Guider, Sheena Glazier, asked the unit to make up a game and take it along the following week.

The response was excellent and there was a wonderful variety of games, which kept the girls occupied for most of the evening.

Emily and Laura had pool-

coded: England is blue; Northern Ireland is white; Scotland is yellow; and Wales is red.

'Flag boxes' are then placed on the squares marked with flags. These contain the badges which each player has to collect, one for each player. The decorative flags on each of the boxes represent the countries taking part in the game.

An assortment of model characters are also placed on spaces provided to represent Guides from all over the UK.

How to play

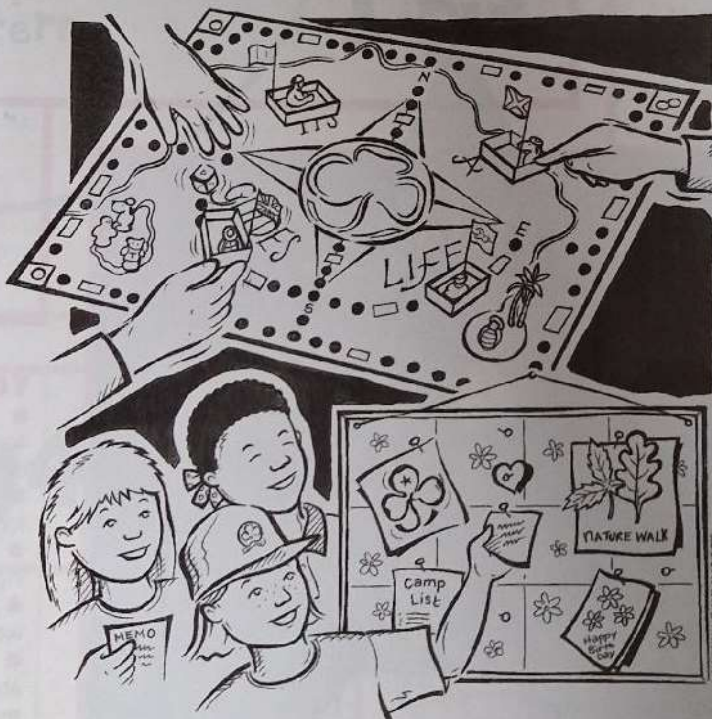
Each player rolls the dice and the one who scores the highest goes first.

The players then roll in turn, moving the amount shown. They each have to go round the outer circle once and get back home, before going into the inner circle.

Once in the inner circle, each player can choose which way to go round (clockwise or anti-clockwise) to collect the badges. A player does not need to throw the exact amount to get into a flag box and collect a badge: she can move only the number of squares required to get into the box.

Once a player has collected all four badges, she makes her way up one of the two paths to the centre. But this time she needs the exact number to get in or she doubles back. The first player to reach the centre wins.

If a player lands on a red space she moves automatically to the inner circle. However, if she lands on a purple space she must go to the outer circle. A player landing on a yellow space loses all her badges.



pins easily and last for ages.

Keeping their things tidy in this way will help the girls to organise themselves and make them much more 'parent friendly'.

JAMES VOLLER

And, while you are in the mood, here's a game to try:

GUIDE LIFE BOARD GAME

Two Guides, Emily Wilkin-son and Laura Ellis of the 15th St Leonards Guides (St Peters) in East Sussex, have designed a new board game

ed their ideas, and Sheena was so impressed with their 'brilliant effort' that she decided to share it with other Guiders through GUIDING.

The object of 'It's a Guide's Life' is to be the first player to collect four 'badges' and then get to the centre of the board. The badges represented are Camper, Entertainer, Cook and Collector.

Setting up the game

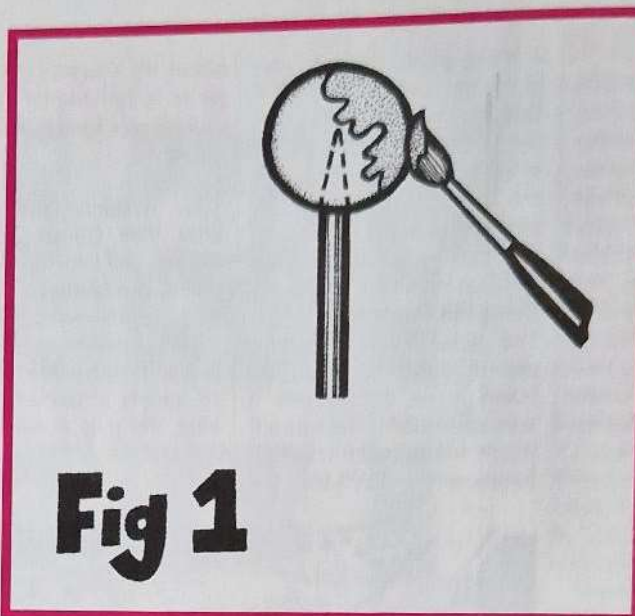
Each player chooses one of the countries which occupy the corners of the board and places her 'cap' on it. The four countries are colour-

MAKE A JOLLY SANTA

Don't you just love the Father Christmas tree decoration featured on the cover of this month's *GUIDING*?

You and your Guides can make your own jolly Santas to decorate the Christmas tree, by following our simple step-by-step instructions.

They can be made in next to no time, so they'd make useful last-minute decorations. The Guides could make them during a meeting to put on their own Christmas trees at home. They measure approximately 11cm from the tops of their hats to the tips of their beards, and their hats are 4.5cm wide at the widest part.



ANTHEA WHITWORTH

Fig 1

Fig 2



YOU WILL NEED

- a table tennis ball, or a 4cm diameter craft ball, for the head
- 6cm x 10cm of scarlet felt for the hat
- 20 cm of white velvet tubing ribbon
- polyester filling, or cotton wool, for the beard
- a pink wooden bead about 8mm in diameter for the nose
- 15cm of black thread for the hanging loop
- scarlet sewing thread (optional)
- a 2cm x 4cm piece of black paper for the eyes
- flesh poster colour
- clear adhesive

WHAT TO DO

1 Make a hole in the ball, push in a wooden skewer or similar object so that it is firmly held, and paint the ball with the flesh poster colour. Allow it to dry thoroughly. Do not take the skewer out of the ball at this stage; leave it in until the head is finished.

Fig 3

2 Cut out the hat in felt, using fig 2 for your pattern. Curve it round to form a cone and either stitch or glue the overlap.

3 For the bobble on the hat, curve a 2.5cm length of velvet tubing round into a loop and glue the cut ends together. The join will go at

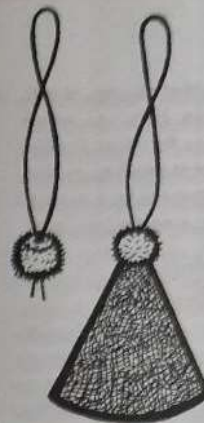
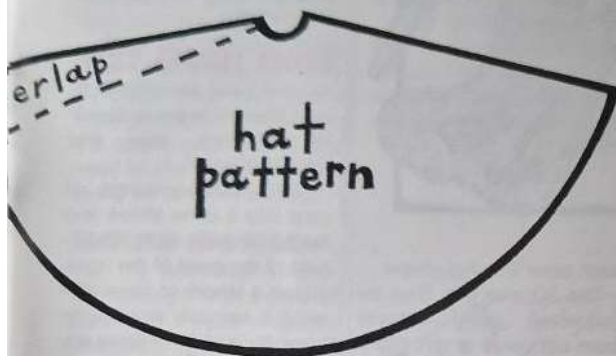
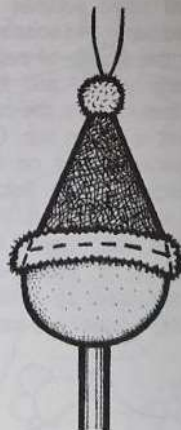
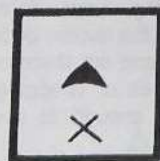


Fig 4

Fig 5



the back; fix the black thread through the front of the circle of tubing, knotting the cut ends underneath, to form a hanging loop. Glue the tip of the hat up into the tubing, to form the bobble on the hat.

4 Glue the hat to the head, then glue velvet tubing around the edge of the felt.

Tear off and shape a generous beard of polyester filling or cotton wool approximately 7cm long and 6cm wide. Spread glue over the sides and lower part of the face, and press the beard into it.

5 Holding the bead for the nose with tweezers, glue the nose into position against

the face and beard. Trace the eye shown in fig 5 on to thin paper. Fold the black paper in half to make a 2cm square, and place the tracing paper on top. Holding the paper tightly at the point marked x on the diagram, cut round the eye shape. Glue the eyes to the face.



Adapted from *Christmas Tree Decorations*, written by Valerie Janitch and published by Colne Promotions, which also publishes her *Christmas Table Decorations*. Priced £4.95 or £9 for the two (cheques payable to Brenda Ross), they are available freeport from: Colne Promotions, PO Box 420, Colney Heath, St Albans, Herts AL4 0YA.



GUIDE GUIDERS

As the festive season comes ever closer, here are some quick ideas for your Guides to help them produce home-made Christmas tree decorations and wrapping paper.

CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS

You will need a 50mm pressed paper ball for each Guide, some small pieces of red and green crêpe or foil paper, pencils, scissors, glue, thread for hanging, a large darning needle, and brown paint or felt-tipped pens.

Mark a wavy pencil line around the centre of the paper ball to indicate the white icing covering the top of the pudding. Colour the lower section brown using the paint or felt-tipped pen.

Push a loop of thread through from the top of the ball to form a hanging loop. Finally, draw and cut out holly-shaped leaves using green paper, with scrunched red paper berries, to decorate the top of the pudding.

SNOWY PINE CONES

If you have a supply of dried-out pine cones you could try out this idea for attractive hanging decorations. You will need a cone, thin red and green ribbon, shoe whitening, glue and a small bell for each decoration.

Dab the surface of the cone with the shoe whitening to represent snow, and leave it to dry for a few minutes. Use the ribbon and bell to make a decorative bow and hanging loop, which is fixed to the top of the cone with the glue.

ORANGE-BAG STOCKINGS

You will need some of the plastic net bags which oranges are packaged in, some wool in a contrasting colour, a darning needle, scissors, scraps of tinsel, foil paper, ribbon or felt, a stocking-shaped template



and some wrapped sweets.

Use the template to cut out two net stocking shapes, which are then fastened together using the wool, and decorated using the scraps of paper, felt, ribbon or tinsel. Put sweets in the stocking for a finishing touch.

FOLDED PAPER CHRISTMAS TREES

You will need squares of coloured paper and scissors.

Fold the square of paper diagonally in half and fold again, making sure the centre point is at the top. Cut branch-shaped slits on the two edges of the folded paper, stopping about 1cm from the top. Open out the square of paper and form the tree by folding opposite sides towards

each other in a dart shape.

The 3D tree can then be decorated using cutouts from old cards or gift paper and a loop of thread fastened onto the top for hanging.

CHRISTMAS MOBILES

You will need a variety of wrapping papers, card, scissors, a hole punch, glue, thread, Christmas-shape templates (use the templates illustrated or Christmas-cookie-cutter shapes which are an ideal size), and thin garden canes or an interestingly-shaped branch to form the body of the mobile.

Using your templates, draw the outline designs on card and cut them out. Cut squares of wrapping paper large enough to cover the

cut-out shape in the same way. Punch a hole in each of the shapes and, using the thread, tie them onto the canes or branch to form a mobile hanger.

Alternatively, you could thread a number of shapes on to a length of tinsel to make a festive garland or simply use the shapes as tree hangers.

CONE TINSEL TREE

You will need semicircles of card 30cm or larger in diameter, scissors, tape and lengths of tinsel.

Form the semicircle of card into a cone shape and fasten it with tape. Beginning at the point of the cone, attach a length of tinsel and wind it securely around the cone trying not to leave any gaps of card. Fasten the tinsel at the base of the cone.

The tree can then be decorated using gift ribbon bows, foil-wrapped sweets and cut-out pictures from old cards.

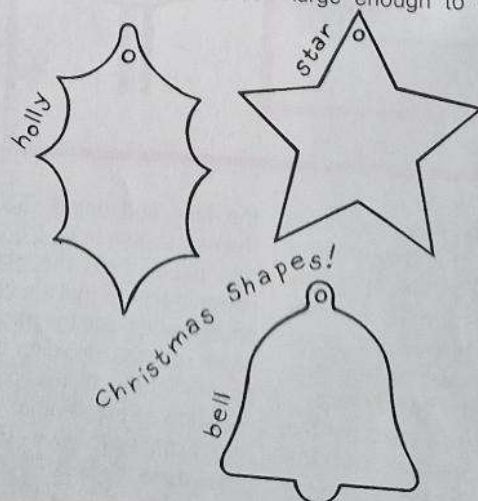
GIFT WRAPPING PAPER

You will need some large sheets of cartridge or sugar paper, poster paints, brushes, scissors, newspapers and thick card.

Cut out Christmas shapes, such as stars, trees or angels, from the card to form templates for the wrapping paper designs. You can use the templates illustrated on the left if you wish. Place the shapes on to a sheet of paper. One at a time, hold a shape firmly on the paper and paint over the top and away from the shape. (If you want to practise this step first, try it out on some sheets of newspaper before using the cartridge paper.) Continue with each shape until your sheet is finished.

Original and attractive home-made gift paper can also be created by using potato print designs and ink marbling on plain paper.

CAROL SMYTH



FUN WITH MICE

For this month's theme-evening suggestion based on animals, we focus on mice. Here are three craft ideas for the girls to make and three 'Tom and Jerry' games for them to play.

CORK MOUSE

Equipment: a straight cork, thin card in grey and pink, grey paint and string.

Paint the cork and string grey. Make a cone with grey card and draw eyes and a nose on it. Stick pink ears to the upper edges, glue the head to the cork and add a string tail to the other end.

MOUSE MOBILE

Use the illustration to provide each girl with a copy of the outline shapes — ideally enlarged to fill an A4 sheet of paper. The girls should use paints or felt-tipped pens to colour these in, for the front and back. Stick the front on to thin white card and colour in the back of the card appropriately. The shapes should then be attached to each other using black thread.

FOAM MOUSE

Equipment: a foam replacement paint roller or large hair curler, acrylic paint, scraps of felt, a black bead, a black felt-tipped pen, stiff waxed thread and string.

Tie a double thread tightly round the roller, about a third of the way down from the top. Make a line of running stitches round the top of the roller and pull the ends of the thread tightly together to shape the head. Paint the roller with acrylic paint and leave to dry.

Cut out two ears from felt and stick them to the back of the head. Stick a bead on the face for the nose, and draw the eyes and mouth with the eyes and mouth with felt-tipped pen. Sew three strands of waxed thread across the nose for the whiskers and stick a length of string to the bottom for the tail.

MICE GAMES

Tom and Jerry A

The girls sit in a circle — they are the 'wall'. In the middle of the circle is a yellow plastic brick — or something else to represent a piece of cheese. One girl is chosen to be Jerry and leaves the room. While she is out, another girl is chosen to be Tom.

Jerry comes back in and has to choose where her 'mouse hole' opens onto the room, ie, the space between any two girls in the 'wall'.

Tom cannot reveal herself until Jerry actually picks up the 'cheese'. Jerry then has to get out of the room by the same 'mouse hole' without being caught by Tom. Tom then becomes the next Jerry and another Tom is chosen.

Tom and Jerry B

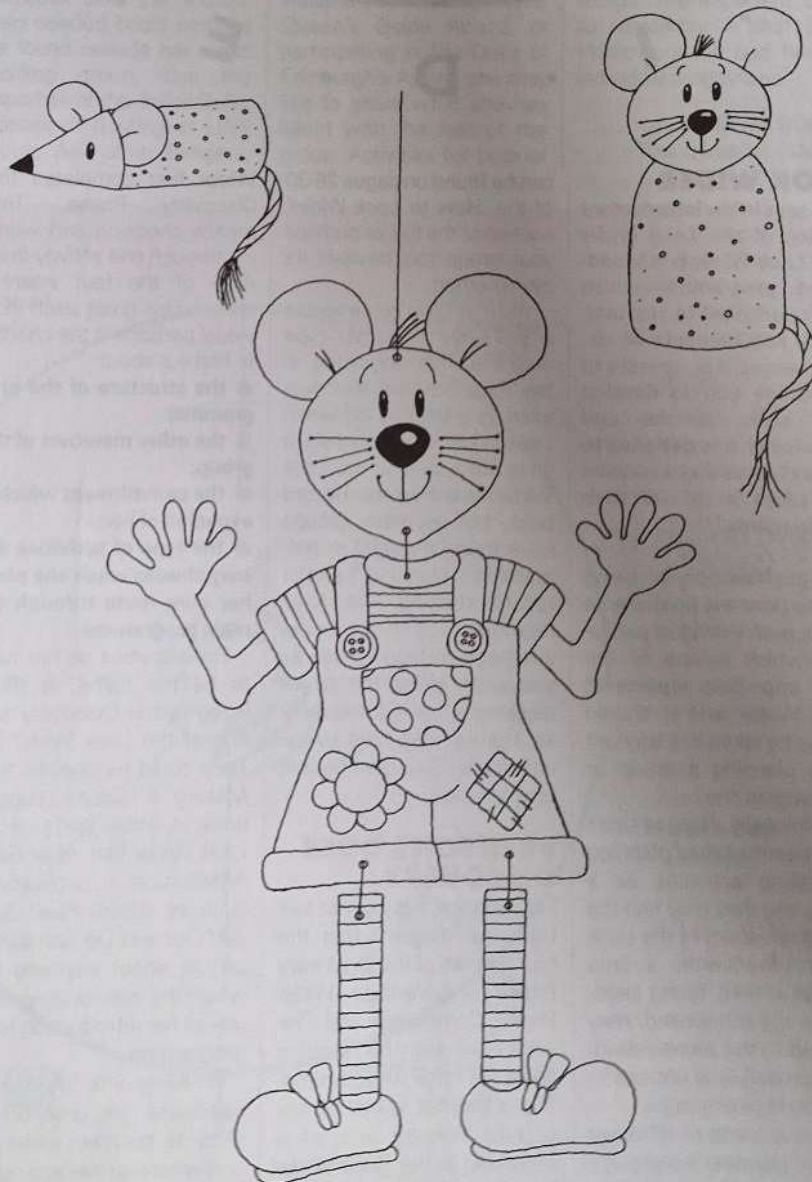
The girls stand in a circle, one with a plastic football (representing Tom) and one across from her with a tennis ball (representing Jerry). On a signal, they pass the two balls clockwise on to the

next person. The aim of the game is for Tom to catch up with Jerry!

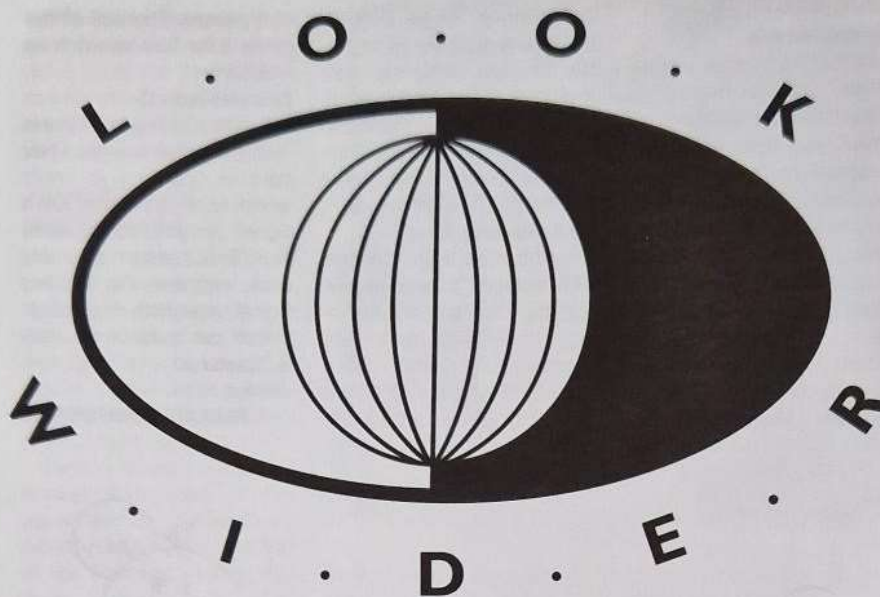
Tom and Jerry C

The girls play in pairs. One is Tom, the other is Jerry. They start by standing at arm's length from each other. On a signal, Jerry has to get away from Tom, but both may only walk, not run. On another signal, everyone must stop. If Tom can touch Jerry, Jerry is captured and the two change roles.

PAULINE WAINWRIGHT



RANGER GUIDERS



LOOK WIDER

As it says in the introductory section of the *Look Wider* file, '*Look Wider* is a broad-based programme which can be adapted to suit individual requirements or circumstances. It progresses to encourage you to develop your skills, abilities and knowledge. It is designed to be flexible so that everyone can adapt it to suit their requirements.'

It is this flexibility of being able to tailor the programme to suit each individual participant which is one of the most important aspects of *Look Wider*, and it should always be taken into account when planning a group or Unit programme.

Traditionally, Ranger Units have been used to planning and doing activities as a group, and they may find the individual aspect of the *Look Wider* programme a little strange at first. Young Leaders, on the other hand, may be used to the more individual approach, and unused to working in peer groups.

There are lots of different ways of planning the group's programme. Several ideas

can be found on pages 28-30 of the 'How to *Look Wider*' section of the file, or perhaps your group has devised its own method.

You may have come across a 'bull's-eye' or 'target'-type diagram. This originated in the Pilot scheme and was used as a training aid when *Look Wider* was launched. It does not appear in the *Look Wider* file or Personal Record book, but as many groups have found it useful in programme planning and/or record keeping, we have reproduced it on the opposite page for you to use as you wish. Using the target diagram, either individually or as a group, can help everyone to plan their own flexible programme.

EVERYONE DOES DISCOVERY

For instance, it is easy to see from the diagram that the four themes of the Discovery Phase — *Adventure, Wider World, Community and Creativity* — are the starting point of the programme. These are not linked to any specific Octants, and, as is explained in the *Look Wider* file, 'Everyone starting *Look*

Wider first completes the Discovery Phase. This means choosing and working through one activity from each of the four interest areas.' This gives each individual participant the chance to find out about:

- the structure of the programme;
- the other members of the group;
- the commitment which is expected of her;
- the type of activities she may choose when she plans her own route through the main programme.

The activities do not have to be the same as those listed in the Discovery section of the *Look Wider* file. They could be chosen from *Making It Count*, suggestions in other parts of the *Look Wider* file; other Guide Association publications, such as *Action Plus!*, *Let's Get Out and Do Something*; or just about anything else which the individual wants to use as her introduction to the programme.

Whether she chooses to specialise in one of the Octants, such as Leadership, and whatever her age, she is expected to complete the

Discovery Phase before moving on to the next Phases of the Octants, shown by the rings on the 'target' diagram.

THE TARGET DIAGRAM

Using this diagram as an individual 'planner', each person can plan their own route through the Octants and Phases. Using an enlarged version, with different colours or symbols for each person, it is very easy to see how different group activities fit into the various stages of *Look Wider*.

For example, a group activity such as a 'taster' session in archery or canoeing at the local activity centre could be used by individual members in several different ways:

- As a Phase 1 activity in the Sport and Fit for Life or Out of Doors Octants.
- In the Adventure section of the Discovery Phase (p1 'try a sport or activity which is new to you').
- Making It Count/Basic Leadership Certificate ('Me as a Person, Self Challenge', p6). This could also be used as a Phase 1 activity in the Leadership Octant.
- Just for fun. You don't have to count absolutely everything into your individual *Look Wider* programme!

Depending on the skills and experience of the members, the same group activity could have even more permutations, for example:

- If individual members have tried the activity before, perhaps they could progress further, for example, by working towards BCU 'Star' Awards for canoeing (Phase 2 Sport and Fit for Life, or Out of Doors).
- If a member of your group has gained a suitable Instructor's qualification in the activity, she could actually lead the session as part of Phase 3 Sport and Fit for Life, or Out of Doors, or part of the Leadership or Service

YOUNG LEADERS

in the Community Octants.

● Perhaps you need to make up the numbers for the session. One of the group could arrange for local Guides to join you as part of her Discovery Phase (Community), or as a Phase 1 activity in the Leadership Octant.

INDIVIDUAL PROGRESS

If you plot all these options on the diagram, you'll quickly see that incorporating individual programmes into group activities is not as difficult as it may have appeared.

There may be occasions when an individual member of the group wants to do something specific, which will give you ideas for a group activity.

For example, if a Ranger or Young Leader wants to be assessed for the Senior Section Camp Permit, other members of her group might want to learn some particular lightweight or other camping skills. Your Outdoor Activities Adviser could be invited to a group meeting to teach the relevant skills.

If, on the other hand, it is an activity which none of the rest of the group want to do, support can be provided by different sources.

For example, for a participant who wants to learn a particular skill, the 'expert' help needed could perhaps be found outside her direct Guiding group. Use the expertise of the Trefoil Guild, Friends of Guiding or LINK group. Ask other Rangers,

Young Leaders or Guiders in your District / Division / County; the local Venture Scouts; or other youth organisations. The youth services run by local authorities may also be a good source of opportunities, equipment and expertise.

Don't forget that activities outside Guiding can also be used as part of an individual's progress through *Look Wider*, and can enhance the group or Unit programme.

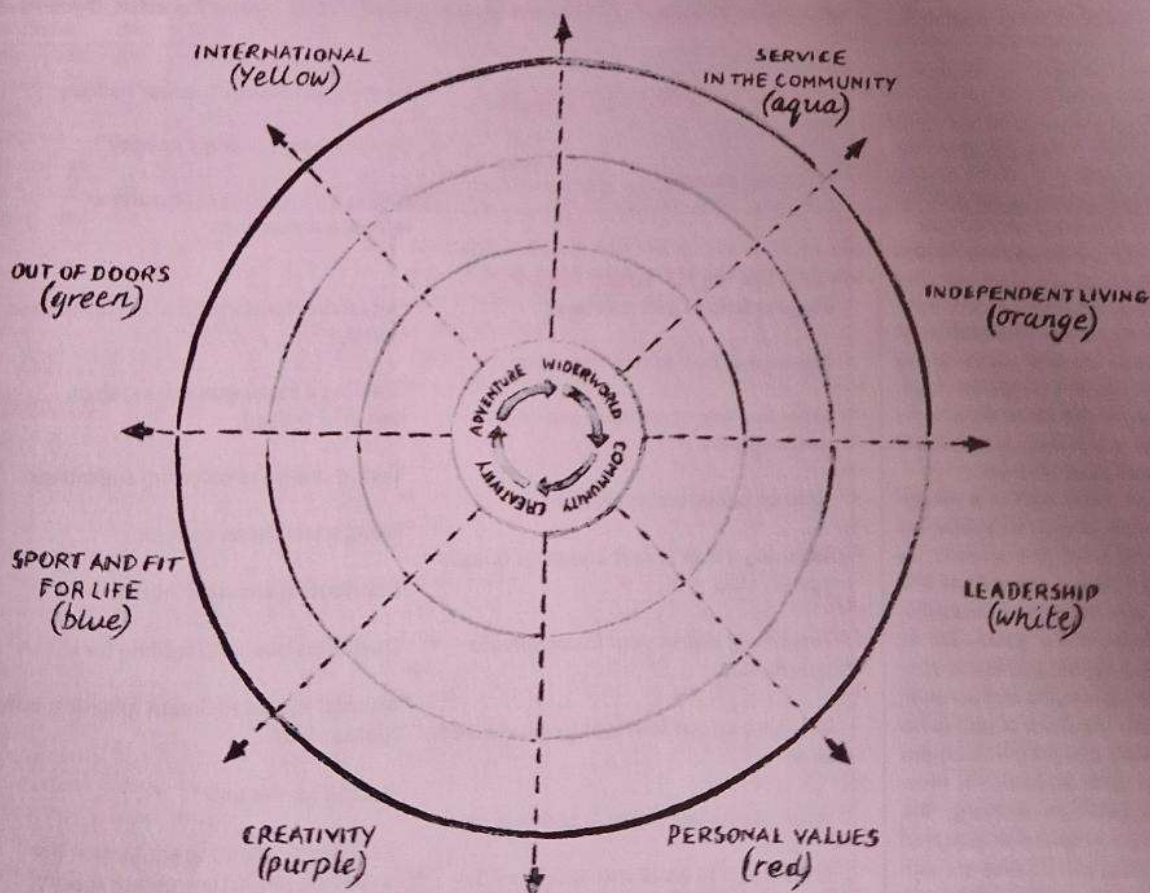
For example, 'Sharing a skill' could fit almost anywhere. Likewise, if an individual is also working for her Queen's Guide Award, or participating in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, she may like to share what she has learnt with the rest of the group. Activities for both of

these awards can link very neatly into *Look Wider*. (There are ideas for linking The Duke of Edinburgh's Award into the *Look Wider* programme in the Ranger Guiders/Young Leaders pages in June's *GUIDING*.)

There is plenty of scope in *Look Wider* regardless of whether a participant wants to work towards a specific goal — such as an Octant Certificate, a Chief Commissioner's Challenge Certificate, or a leadership or other qualification — or just 'dabble around' trying out new things. The important thing to remember is that *Look Wider* is a fun and flexible individual programme.

SHEENA BOOTH

Young Leader Adviser



JULIE CARPENTER

RECRUITING PARENTS

If you're among those fortunate Guiders who have enough Assistant Guiders and/or Unit Helpers, you'll find planning and running meetings relatively easy, but if you've been left, for whatever reason, in charge of an understaffed unit, you've probably brought the girls' parents into service and found their help invaluable.

In fact, whatever your situation, parental help is much to be recommended, and you'll reap rich rewards in many ways if you do your best to involve parents of both sexes in their daughters' Guiding activities.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

The first step towards parental co-operation is for the Guider to know the parents well. For the long-standing Unit Guider, this knowledge comes gradually.

If you can possibly make time, try to visit the family home shortly before a new girl is due to join the unit, both to make the girl feel welcome and to show the parents that you are a desirable influence on their girl!

This is a particularly helpful move for Guiders of the younger sections, because the child will feel confident that at her first meeting she will know her leader well, and will not be overcome by awe at the prospect of meeting an adult stranger.

For the Guider of a newly-formed unit, or for someone taking over one already up and running, such mass visits are clearly not feasible. Instead, it's a good idea to hold a 'Getting to know you' evening for girls and parents, where the main object is for Guiders and parents to meet each other and talk.

At such an evening, the girls could be put in charge of planning and serving refreshments, according to their age and ability, leaving the Guiders free to talk, and there

could be round-the-room activities in which the girls and parents take part together.

Other group activities could be led by members of an older section — for instance, Guides for Rainbows and Brownies; and Young Leaders and Rangers for Guides — so that the parents and Guiders have a chance to chat while their offspring are occupied.

SKILLS HUNT

A parents' evening is the ideal time for tapping into the rich source of skills undoubtedly hidden among the girls' parents. First enthuse them by telling them something of Guiding's history, local structure, aims and opportunities. Then, follow it up by giving each parent a *Ways You Can Help* form, to be filled in on the spot, if possible. Don't forget the pencils! The form might read as follows:

Once you have filed your completed forms, refer back to them and use any offers of help. Do it often enough for the parents to know their offers are valued, but not so often that they feel put upon.

Once you have such a file, it will, of course, be constantly changing. As the girls move up the sections, their completed parental-help forms can go with them. As each new girl is welcomed into the unit, you can hand the form to her parents, either on a home visit or at

the girl's first meeting.

Point out to the parents that being part of such a rota need not entail very much time and effort. If you have a



THE GUIDE ASSOCIATION

ADULT PARTICIPATION

Girl's name

Parent(s) name(s)

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Regular help at unit meetings

Occasional help at unit meetings

Providing transport (how many passengers?)

Help on public transport outings

Teaching a skill at unit meetings (please specify skill)

Teaching a skill in your home (please specify skill)

Teaching an outdoor skill (please specify skill)

Acting as badge tester in above skills

Taking part in weekend camp/holiday

Taking part in week's camp/ holiday ...

Daytime help at camp/ holiday

Acting as Secretary/ Treasurer at infrequent meetings

Organising fundraising activities (please specify)

Running a catalogue sales club on behalf of the unit

Taking charge of recycling collections

Being a telephone contact

Distributing circulars locally

Costumes/scenery/lighting for shows

Musical accompaniment (please specify instrument)

Baking for the unit

Lending or manning equipment (for example, projector - please specify)

rota of 15-20 families where either mum or dad can help out, it is unlikely that they will be called upon more than twice a year, and usually only once because of 'new' par-

the suggested dates are inconvenient, the parents don't ring you but swap among themselves, to ensure that somebody turns up! Telephone numbers

least four mums, because you'll certainly need them!

Be sure to introduce the guest helpers to the unit. The girls should form the habit of welcoming them and keeping an eye open for their needs, as with any other visitor. Make sure that someone is detailed to thank them

Remember to invite them to visit the unit from time to time. The girls will love showing off their achievements and skills to their parents at unit open evenings, dramatic and musical performances, and sports and swimming competitions.

And don't neglect the good

◀ **There is undoubtedly a rich source of skills hidden among the parents**



ents entering the rota and 'old' ones leaving.

Of course, not all parents will complete the form, but you should get a pretty good response once they realise how much you are putting into the meetings for their daughters' benefit. Just one tick on each form should give you a fair number of helpers to call upon when necessary.

PARENTS' ROTA

Some units, even those with a full complement of leaders, use a Parents' Rota as a matter of course. Naturally, there will be several families who can't help on a rota basis in the evening, often because they do shift work or have younger children.

But there are plenty who can give, say, just one evening a term. The beauty of this system is that many find they enjoy it so much that they're willing to come along more frequently.

One note of caution: distribute the finalised rota in plenty of time, asking that if

listed next to names are helpful for this purpose.

Once you have a workable parents' rota, careful meeting planning becomes even more important. You must ensure that the visiting parent has plenty to keep her occupied for the whole meeting. The worst thing you can possibly do is to have a parent give up a precious evening, then leave her standing around for 90 minutes with nothing to do.

If, for instance, you know that you have two first-aid experts coming to a specific meeting, bringing your adult total to four or five, you just don't need a parent. So don't roster one for that evening.

On the other hand, if you're planning to teach the Brownies how to make Christmas cakes, roster at

publicly at the end of the meeting and check that she doesn't forget.

TWO-WAY

Parental involvement should not, of course, end with them helping you. You are looking after their children and they must feel that you are ready to help if necessary. Although you'll rarely have time to chat at the start of a meeting, make sure they know that you're always available at the end, in case there is anything they wish to discuss.

There are other ways, too, in which parents can be made to feel part of the unit. You may have a parents' committee on which they can serve, which looks after the interests of the unit in various ways.

old-fashioned party, where the parents and girls can just have fun together. Take advantage of any excuse for a knees-up: Thinking Day, a royal wedding, the harvest, Christmas, New Year or Bonfire Night, to name but a few.

An ideal framework to aim for is to have one open evening each term, but to vary the format that it takes. One year might include a ceremony and short service for Thinking Day; a Midsummer Concert; and a Harvest Hodge-podge; all of which are very different from each other.

It isn't difficult to form a good relationship with your girls' parents. All it takes is a little forethought and a friendly approach. The value of Guider/parent togetherness can't be overestimated.

GILLIAN ELLIS 47



PETER REALF

Many units have brought the girls' parents into service and found them invaluable

HIGHLIGHTS

PROGRAMME IDEAS FOR RAINBOW, BROWNIE & GUIDE GUIDERS

FOXLEASE

January 5-7 and February 23-25

Bring four people and pay for only three. Those applying for less than four places will pay the standard fees.

NETHERURD SINGING CIRCLE

NETHERURD

February 9-11

Come and join the singing circle for a weekend of singing and music. You do not need to be a talented musician or a soprano, just have plenty of enthusiasm and enjoy participating.

NEW YEAR HOUSE PARTY

WADDOW

December 29-January 2

Traditional New Year celebrations, including visits, crafts, walks and activities. Open to anyone aged 16 and over. Husbands and friends welcome.

KNOWING ME, KNOWING YOU

FOXLEASE

January 12-14

Do you want to be more understanding of others? Come along and explore questions such as: Why do we think and believe the way we do? And where do our attitudes and values come from? All discussion and activity will take place in a supportive atmosphere.

COMMISSIONER TRAINING FOR DIVISION AND DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

NETHERURD

February 16-18

Whether you are new to the job or just in need of a refresher course, this weekend will renew your enthusiasm for Guiding and give you more confidence as a Commissioner.

PROGRAMME IDEAS FOR RAINBOW, BROWNIE & GUIDE GUIDERS

WADDOW

January 5-7

Special offer! Book four places for the price of three.

A WORLD OF IDEAS

FOXLEASE

January 12-14

Find out about the new International badges and try out activities from a new publication.

A TRAINING SPECIALLY FOR RAINBOW GUIDERS

NETHERURD

February 23-25

A fun-filled weekend with lots of new ideas for you to take back to your unit.

SO FAR AND YET SO NEAR

FOXLEASE

April 12-14

Following the success of the first two 'So Far and Yet So Near' events, we are pleased to announce a third. Hakan Wall, a Swedish international education specialist, will be leading the sessions.

COMMISSIONER TRAINERS

WADDOW

January 12-14

LOOK WIDER FOR RANGER GUIDERS

WADDOW

January 12-14

NEW MUSIC QUALIFICATION

FOXLEASE

March 22-24

Do you enjoy making music? Come and see what the new qualification has to offer. There will be plenty of fun in a relaxed atmosphere. This qualification may be taken in any section.

COMMISSIONERS

WADDOW

January 12-14

A chance for District and Division Commissioners to take a fresh look at their role in Guiding.

'A PICK-ME-UP' FOR GUIDERS 5+ YEARS — ALL SECTIONS

FOXLEASE

March 29-31

Whether you're a Rainbow, Brownie, Guide or Senior Section Guider, this particular training will have lots of PICK ME UP (Practical Ideas with Chris and Kate. We will try to Motivate and Enthuse U in a Pleasure-packed weekend).

RECRUITMENT SKILLS FOR COMMISSIONERS

WADDOW

February 2-4

Open to all Commissioners who would like to improve their skills in recruiting new Guides.

LOOK WIDER AND LET THE ACTION COUNT

FOXLEASE

April 4-8

An action-packed weekend for 13-16 year-olds.

BRINGING BACK THE MESSAGE FROM BEIJING

WADDOW

February 2-4

A weekend to explore the issues of the 4th UN World Conference on Women and consider the impact of this global event on Guiding in the UK.

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 £15 deposit and sae. Cheques should be made payable to The Guide Association.

FOXLEASE

Lyndhurst, Hampshire
SO43 7DE
Tel: 01 703 282 638.
Fax: 01 703 282 561.

WADDOW

Clitheroe, Lancashire
BB7 3LD
Tel: 01 200 231 86.
Fax: 01 200 274 60.

LORNE

Station Road, Craigavad,
Holywood, County Down,
Northern Ireland BT18 0BP
Tel: 01 232 423 180.

HAUTBOIS

Great Hautbois Road,
Coltishall, Norwich, Norfolk
NR12 7JN
Tel: 01 603 737 357.

NETHERURD

Blyth Bridge, West Linton
Peebleshire EH46 7AQ
Tel: 01 968 682 208.
Fax: 01 968 682 371.

BRONEIRION

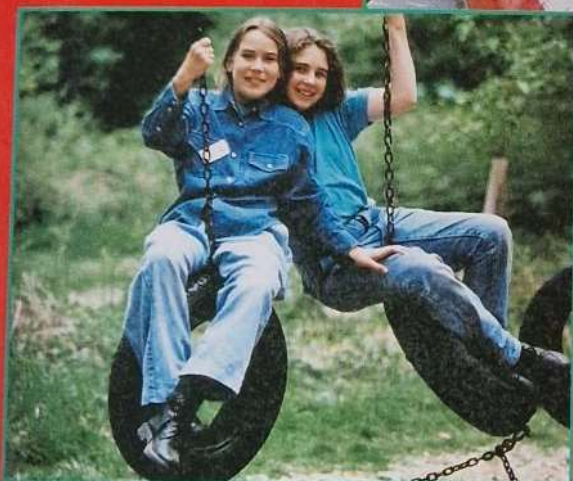
Llandinam, Powys,
Wales SY17 5DE
Tel: 01 686 688 204.
Fax: 01 686 688 098.

BLACKLAND FARM

Grinstead Lane,
East Grinstead, West Sussex
RH19 4HP
Tel: 01 342 810 493 or
0860 393 026.
Fax: 01 342 811 206.

FAB:

FUN + ADVENTURE = BLACKLAND FARM



PHOTOS: LUCY DREW

- Activities available: abseiling, canoeing, climbing, archery, rifle range, skiing machine, grass sledging, assault course, orienteering, swimming, parachute games
- Team of instructors on site
- Set in 120 acres of West Sussex countryside near East Grinstead and the Bluebell Steam Railway
- New toilet blocks with hot showers
- Fully equipped camp sites and holiday houses available
- On-site shop
- Training courses run all year: BCU canoeing, life-saving, climbing, abseiling supervisor.

INTERESTED?

For more details, return this slip to:
Blackland Farm
Grinstead Lane
East Grinstead
West Sussex
RH19 4HP
Tel: 01342 810493
Fax: 01342 811206

Name

Address

Telephone

GOLDEN *opportunity*



Helping others to help themselves is the underlying purpose of GOLD (Guiding Overseas Linked with Development) — The Guide Association's international projects network.

All the UK team members are chosen for their particular projects at an INTOPS (International Opportunities) weekend. The next weekend will be at Waddow on February 2-4, 1996.

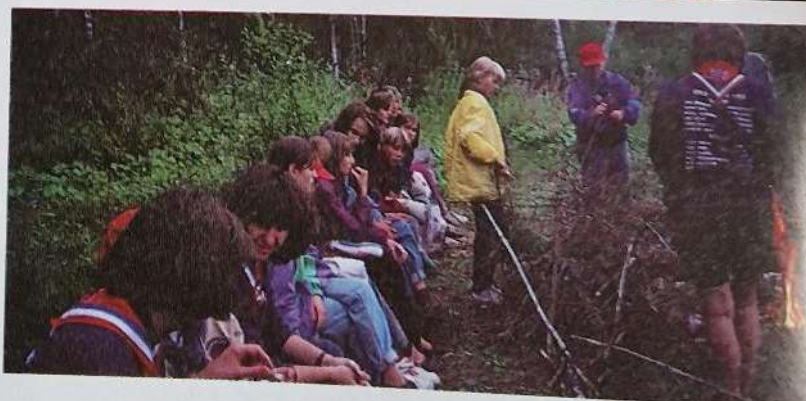
If you are aged between 16 and 30, and are ready to face the challenge of an overseas project, complete the attached slip and send it to: Barbara Mathieson, GOLD, Guiding Services, The Guide Association, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT.

But hurry — places on INTOPS weekends are limited!

▲ Su Hassall (second from right) led a GOLD team to Slovakia in 1995

▶ A previous GOLD project in Thailand involved working with local Guides

▼ Russians were able to learn English and develop Guiding skills, thanks to a GOLD project in 1995



INTOPS — INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES WEEKEND

I would like to attend the INTOPS weekend at Waddow on February 2-4, 1996.
Please send me more information.

Name

Address

Guiding and Culture

So you thought that Wales was all about sheep, choir singing, leeks and rugby, did you? Well, maybe, but there is more to it than that!

▼ On St David's Day, many Welsh units dress up in national costume

In Wales, The Guide Association has made a conscious effort to place Guiding in a Welsh context. Although we are members of the UK Guide Association, we believe it is important to promote our culture.

During recent years, there has been an increase in the use of the Welsh language in Guides Cymru. Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and members of the Senior Section can now make their Promise in Welsh, and they can also end their meetings with *Taps* sung in Welsh.

Ymlaen a Ni (Forward We Go), our action plan for the future, was published in both English and Welsh. And, more recently, Guide Association publications have been translated, thus creating a more bilingual Movement.

Some of the most important Welsh institutions are the local, national and international *Eisteddfodau*. Welsh Guides take an extremely active part in all these special festivals. They run stalls, organise activities and sell programmes. Not only do we support the *Eisteddfod*, we also lend a hand at the Royal Welsh Show in Llanellwedd, Powys.

On St David's Day — our national day — many units throughout the country

dress up in national costume, make leeks and daffodils from crêpe and felt, and eat *cawl* and Welsh cakes to their hearts' content.

Welsh Guides are responsible for promoting Welsh culture, not only nationally but also internationally. Welsh

promote Welsh culture. So, as you can see, Guiding in Wales is flourishing in every way, with our national culture playing a central role throughout the Movement.

HELEN JAMES

Wales Junior Council 51



▲ Broneirion, the Welsh Training Centre, was reopened in 1993 by the Founder's daughter, Betty Clay (right) and her daughter, Gill Clay

DAVID GEPP

DAVID GEPP

BADGE SWOP

Badge Swop appears at regular intervals in *GUIDING*. The service sets out to give keen collectors the chance to swop County badges, camp site badges and similar artefacts with others all over the country.

It is primarily intended to be used by members of all ages who collect such items as a hobby. However, readers should be aware that it is possible that the scheme will be used by those who are involved in dealing commercially in Guide badges and memorabilia in order to circulate price lists and other details.

TAKING PART

Taking part in the scheme is simple. Just write a short note to each collector you want to swop with. Enclose the badge(s) you want to send and a sae so that she can send you her badge(s). (Do this even if you are replying to someone for a second time.)

Then pop all your requests into one big envelope and send it to: Badge Swop, *GUIDING*, The Guide Association, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT. We will then make sure that your requests are forwarded to the people concerned.

SWOPPERS

Martina Arnold: Worcester, Midland Region for any.

C Campbell: Warwickshire (cloth), some singles and Midland Region for Buckinghamshire, Cambridge East, Norfolk, Greater London Kent, Kent Weald, Kent West, Middlesex, Sussex East, Shropshire, West Mercia, Cleveland, Lincoln North, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Cheshire Border, Isle of Man, Lancashire Border, Lancashire East, Lancashire West, Mersey-

side South, Sefton, Avon North, Cornwall and North West Region.

Karen Fletcher: Sussex West (cloth) for any.

Liz and Rowena Gaskell: Oxfordshire (cloth and metal) and many others in cloth for any (cloth and metal) but particularly Durham South, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Lancashire Border, Avon and Alderney, and any new County badges.

Rosemary Gilby: Greater London West and a few others for anything in North East or North West Regions, also West Mercia, Herefordshire and any of the Kents, plus the Region badges for North East, North West and the Midlands.

Sophie Gwyn-Smith: Most Guide County silks, some Region badges, camp sites, events, or commemorative patches and a few Scout District badges for any out-of-date Guide Patrol emblem, or old, large 1960s' Interest badges (Guides or Rangers), obsolete uniform badges, metals, shoulder knots, all-round cords, or *Guide Handbooks*... or any Guiding memorabilia from 1968 or before. Also wanted, any of the smaller pre-1994 Girl Guide Interest badges: Angler (fish on hook); Athlete (skipping); Birdwatcher (flying bird); Boatswain (anchor); Band (drum); Cobbler (awl); Conservation (oak leaf); Computer (screen); Dancer (light blue); **Europe (linked chain);** Gardener (flowering plant); Horsemaster (horserider); Lace Maker (lace); Music Lover (treble clef); Pathfinder (pointing hand); Science (red atom, white electron orbit); Spinner (distaff and spindle); Water Safety (red triangle, white sky); or Farmer (sickle). If you send a list of your 'wants' and 'swops', I'll do my best to try and help you with your collection.

Sue Haines: Gloucestershire and other County silks, some camp site, celebration and blanket patches, and obsolete proficiency badges for County silks, out-of-date Patrol emblems and obsolete Farrier (green sickle); Horse Woman (green horseshoe); Lacemaker; Toy-maker (green wooden horse); and religious schemes Ki-Ro, Baptist and Church Army; also Patrol Interest Penant — Orienteering.

Karen Hassall: Unlimited Warwickshire and Worcestershire Guide County badges (cloth) for any, especially Buckinghamshire, Shropshire, West Mercia, Lincolnshire North/Humberside South, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, **Sheffield**, Lancashire Border/East, Sefton, Wirral and Cornwall (cloth).

Rachel Hooke: Warwickshire for Shropshire, Cumbria South and any Scout, Regional or foreign badges.

Jo Lees: Oxford (cloth and metal) and Anglia (cloth) for any except Surrey including any patches, events, etc.

Jeanette Mackerill: Yorkshire Sheffield, Manchester and a Lancashire rose for any (cloth) badges.

Debbie Musson: Dorset, Hampshire West and Wiltshire South (cloth and metal) for any cloth and metal.

Tracey Raynham: Essex (cloth or metal) for any County badge.

Kathryn Rook: Durham North and Worcestershire (cloth) for any.

Nicola Rudd: Cumbria North (cloth) for Alderney, Jersey, Cornwall, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Isle of Wight, Isle of Man and Rutland (all cloth).

Hilary White: Sussex East and Sussex West (cloth) also London-over-the-Border limited quantity (cloth) for Alderney, Cornwall, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Jersey, Somerset, South West Region, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire East and West, Lincolnshire South and Suffolk.

ANSWERS

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across

1 Father Christmas; 9 almonds; 10 bruised; 11 niece; 12 Uriah Heep; 13 lattice; 14 hurry up; 16 Clement; 19; peppers; 22 puppeteer; 24 extra; 25 currant; 26 initial; 27 three French hens.

Down

52 1 flannel; 2 tempest; 3 Ernie Wise; 4

costume; 5 rubbish; 6 slush; 7 mystery; 8 soda pop; 15 replenish; 16 copycat; 17 emperor; 18 the star; 19 Persian; 20 entwine; 21 stables; 23 erase.

GEOGRAPHY QUIZ ANSWERS

Festive

1 Jerusalem; 2 Russia; 3 the Israeli-occupied West Bank; 4 Norway; 5 the

Czech Republic; 6 There are two: one in the Indian Ocean and one in the Pacific; 7 the Soviet Union; 8 Romania; 9 northern Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia); 10 Kansas.

Central and Eastern Europe

1 the Volga; 2 Ukraine; 3 Finland; 4 Montenegro; 5 Romania; 6 St Petersburg; 7 the Caucasus mountains on the southern border of Russia; 8 Georgia; 9 Latvia; 10 Poland.

YOUR LETTERS

SUNDAY IS SPECIAL

How I agree with the writer of 'a personal view' in October's *GUIDING* who objected to being asked to support Guiding events held on Sundays.

I am disappointed when Guiding events are promoted on Sunday morning as I feel that this conflicts with the tradition of Christian worship. I can support events on Sunday afternoon, but feel we should be saving Sunday morning for church.

Our local Church of England primary school has football practice on Sunday morning and our Church of England high school promotes a sponsored walk on a Sunday!

The views of Christian Guiders should be respected. They should not be marginalised for holding such views.

MARGARET THOMPSON
Leeds, West Yorkshire

NATIONAL PRIDE

I run a Brownie unit in the City of Westminster. Half the Brownies go to private schools and half to state schools. Last week, when I sang the national anthem, only two Brownies knew what it was (my singing is bad, but not that bad!).

It horrified me to think that they did not know either the words or the tune of their own anthem. They also knew nothing about the wonderful city they live in.

We are told so much about other countries and other people's way of life — what about our own?

Doesn't charity begin at home? What about a little more pride in our heritage?

TANIS DUPARC
District Commissioner
St Marylebone
City of Westminster
London

HAT PROTECTION

Our Company camped during the hot weather this year and this led to a problem concerning the uniform hat.

The Guides were told that they must bring hats and, as most have the official hat, there should not have been a problem. However, one of the Guides ended up in hospital because her sunburnt ear went septic.

This showed that our hats offer no real protection to the back of the neck or ears. Is it not time than an alternative hat, which gives proper protection, was available? Weather forecasters are indicating that future summers will be hot and this could become an ongoing problem.

I will be telling Guides to wear sun-hats in the future, but it would be nice if they were part of the uniform.

S A SEABOURNE
Guide Guider
Bedford

BROWNIE SPROUTS

I bumped into a Rainbow Guider at a District meeting whose daughter has started Brownies in my Pack.

When I asked how her daughter liked Brownies, I was told that she was enjoying it very much.

The Guider then went on to say that when her daughter had returned home after her first Brownie meeting, she'd asked her what Six she was in. With her hands on her hips, the new Brownie proudly announced 'I'm a Sprout.'

I think she meant 'Sprite'! I have heard Brownies say some funny things, but I think this is a classic!

E SARGENT
Brownie Guider
7th Leigh-on-Sea
Essex South East

USE IT OR LOSE IT

At the Friends of Yuysgain gathering held this autumn at Broneirion, I was amazed to learn that not one of the four excellent camp sites was in use during the school summer holidays.

What is happening, when, not many years ago, units were ecstatic if their application to camp at Criccieth was accepted?

Yes, transport costs are enormous, but if a Guide Company and a nearby Brownie Pack arrange to travel to Gwynedd together, expenses can be halved.

I appeal on behalf of a superb camp/Pack Holiday venue which could well be lost through lack of support.

Yuysgain and the Lleyn Peninsula have so much to offer us.

So Guiders, Rangers, Guides and Brownies: use it or lose it. Many of us had wonderful holidays there and so can you.

MARJORIE SERNBERG
Shrewsbury Trefoil Guild
Shropshire

GOOD OLD DAYS

Glancing through my daughter's copy of September's *GUIDING*, I saw the article about 'Young wartime leaders'.

At the age of 13, I was one of these. Left without a Guider, we continued meeting and were responsible for the hall as well as ourselves.

Once a month, the District Commissioner appeared to test for Second Class, enrol recruits and so on.

We were frightened that we might be closed down, and were always well organised and smart. We took part in District parades, such as Dig for Victory week; and we once marched-at-ease for over two miles with the Colours 'at-the-slope', until we arrived at the church in the next village.

Two of us attended the Division meetings — where we climbed ropes put up for the evacuees beforehand — in a barn. We were always asked for our opinion, and any queries we raised were considered.

Our Guider reappeared for camp — and we were fortunate to camp, always in the District with camouflaged tents, throughout the war.

Many Guiders nowadays seem to be afraid to let their Guides take responsibility, even denying them the fun of organising their own Patrol time. And, alas, Company camping still prevails over Patrol camping — which is far more fun — because of fears that the Guides won't be able to cope. Of course they can. So, Guiders, throw your doubts to the wind. Today's teenagers are as capable as their counterparts of 50 years ago.

JANE LINES
Langport
Somerset

WAR MEMORIES

The article in September's *GUIDING* entitled 'Young wartime leaders' interested me greatly.

I first met Evelyn Lay (the Guider in the top right-hand corner of the photograph) when we joined the 2nd Crouch End District Rangers in 1934/35, together with Jessie Robertson, with whom I had been at Cadets for the previous two years. The three of us became good friends, and went to a marvellous camp run by Miss Nancy Guggisberg of Yately in Hampshire.

Our ways divided, but we remained friends. In fact, I was speaking to Evelyn Lay only last week; I write to her, and she phones back! She is still in the Enfield area, and is nearly 82.

Jessie Robertson is now in sheltered accommodation in Goring-by-Sea, West Sussex. I write to her every month and send her magazines, and I went to her 80th birthday party nearly three years ago. We all remained in the Movement until our Trefoil Guild days — I wonder if there are still any other members of those pre-war days who remember any of us?

MABEL PARHAM (née GREGORY)
Hartpury, Gloucester

GREAT MAG

As a new Guider stuck away from other Guiders and any chances of training, I was really looking forward to my first copy of *GUIDING*.

Unfortunately, mail to and from Nepal frequently goes missing, especially magazines with interesting-looking covers! So you will realise how pleased I was to receive my August issue within the month it was published and safely — thank you for covering the magazine in plain paper so the cover could not be seen, it was an excellent idea.

Please remember those of us in BGIFC when writing articles and sharing ideas. We have not always got access to everything that Guiders in the UK have. Even so, thank you for an excellent magazine.

VIVIENNE FLETCHER
Guider, 1st Kathmandu Guides
Nepal

INSPIRING STORY

While visiting the Waddow shop recently, I obtained a copy of *Window on My Heart*, the autobiography of Olave, Lady Baden-Powell, as told to Mary Drewery.

The book is full of details about Olave's life with her husband, the Founder, and how Guiding developed. It is full of the adventures that they shared together. It is well worth reading.

CATHERINE SMITH
Norbury Moor Brownies
Hazel Grove, Cheshire

(63081) costs £2.75 and is available through the Trading Service and Guide shops.

WE AGREE!

One of our Brownie Guiders has emigrated to Canada and, through her, we learnt of the section ages being slightly different from those in the United Kingdom.

It seems a good idea to transfer from Brownies to Guides at the age of nine, before a girl changes to a secondary school where she'll have homework and extra activities.

So we are in wholehearted agreement with the views expressed in Joan Redcliffe's letter in August's *GUIDING*. We feel that, if the ages were changed, many more Brownies would go up to Guides rather than drift away, which seems to be happening more and more.

HILARY SHERWIN-SMITH and JANE SLIPPER
Brownie Guiders
1st Slinfold Pack
Horsham, West Sussex

TEA PARTY

I am writing to tell you about my unit's Mad Hatter's Tea Party which raised £70 for the charity Fight for Sight. We saw the idea in 'Network' in May's *GUIDING*.

My Guides put in an unbelievable amount of work to produce a full afternoon of games, a fancy hat competition, a Punch and Judy show, lots of food, a beautifully-decorated hall and costumes. Thanks are due to all my Guides, who, despite their relatively young age (the oldest is 13), do not always have to be told what to do.

HELEN WATERTON
Young Leader
1st Feltwell Guides
Thetford, Norfolk

FEMALE FASHION

As a Wolf Cub and Boy Scout during the Second World War, observation, including 'Kim's Game', played an important part in my training.

During my life as a design

draughtsman, an eye to detail was essential. One had to check and recheck the accuracy of dimensions so that items would fit together — and work!

Consequently, I am rather reluctant to admit that it has taken me 56 years to realise that Guide and Brownie belts fasten in the male fashion rather than the female fashion. Other Guide items of clothing which button or zip all conform to the female style.

Has it always been the case that your belt clasps and buckles do not follow the normal conventions?

ARTHUR JONES
Manager

District Scout Shop
Chorley, West Lancashire

SURPRISED

I was surprised by Jennifer Shearer's letter ('Utter waste' in October's *GUIDING*), in which she seemed not to realise that the Nethurud Family Holiday Project is just that — a holiday for deprived families.

As such, it is neither the time nor the place to preach to the mothers about the health hazards or possible financial hardship caused by smoking. In any case, I am sure it is more than likely that they know that already.

BETTY BURLEIGH
Edinburgh

ACCEPTANCE

We feel we have to respond to Jennifer Shearer's letter where she expressed concern about mothers smoking on our very successful holiday project.

Our holiday for mothers and children in need is based on the ethos of loving acceptance of people as they are. We do not believe it is our place to preach to these mothers.

In fact, some of the mothers told us how little they needed to smoke during their time with us, because of all the opportunities on offer.

SHEILA MATHIESON
Staff team, Dundee
Guide/Fair Play
Holiday Project

REUNION

In December 1996, the 195th Bristol (Westbury Baptist) Guide Company will be 50 years old.

We plan to celebrate this event in style and are currently trying to locate past Guides and Guiders.

If you were in the 195th Bristol Company, please contact me, so that you can join in the celebrations.

ISABEL ST JEAN DICK
Guider
195th Bristol Guides
15 Woodland Grove
Stoke Bishop
Bristol BS9 2BD

CHRISTMAS CHEER

Christmas was fast approaching and our Brownie Pack were well into rehearsals for a Christmas show when my Unit Helper told me she'd got a job at a doctor's surgery whose times, of course, clashed with Brownies. Help!

I asked a Brownie Mum if she could possibly give me a hand, just until Christmas. That was in 1992. Christmas came and went, and Janine was still with me. She went on to gain her Adult Leader's certificate and became a first-class Guider.

In October 1994, her husband's job took them to Gibraltar, where she joined an RAF Pack. After she'd taken part in a big Thinking Day parade and celebrations, she wrote to me saying how grateful she was that I had introduced her to Guiding and that she had been so proud to be part of such a wonderful organisation. I have just retired as Brown Owl after 21 years and am now an Assistant Rainbow Guider.

THELMA HANDFORD
Ex-Guider
3rd Copmanthorpe
Brownies
York

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.

By next summer, members of British Guides in Foreign Countries (BGIFC) should have swum around the world.

IN THE SWIM

They have been challenged to 'swim the world' to raise money for the Irene Hotchin Bursary Fund. The Fund provides financial support for overseas girls and Guiders who want to return to the UK for trainings. It also provides resources for new BGIFC units.

Irene herself joined young swimmers in Foxlease's pool to launch the challenge at BGIFC's biennial camp in July.

A wheelchair-user, 59-year-old Irene has represented Great Britain in national and international events for the disabled including the Para Olympics, and has an impressive collection of gold and silver medals for swimming and track events.

By the end of the camp the English Channel was ticked off the list of seas to cross, as the equivalent of 30 miles in laps of the pool had been clocked up.

Using the most direct route, BGIFC has calculated how many miles swimmers need to cover to 'swim' all the major oceans and seas.

Of course, they will not be required to withstand freezing temperatures or fight off sharks. The organisers will accept the equivalent lengths of swimming pools instead, although they are hoping some swimmers will brave the waves.

The Foxlease launch was one of the highlights of Beautiful Gardens In a Forest Clearing — the BGIFC camp, Pack Holiday and training sessions all rolled into one.

The garden theme was everywhere, with areas of the Association's Hampshire Training Centre gaining new flowery names such as the Knot Garden, Nursery Beds, the Wild Garden and Alice's Garden.

It was the largest-ever turn out for the two-yearly event with 220 Guiders, Senior Section members, Guides, Brownies and helpers from all over the world attending.

Among the activities on offer were canoeing, archery, swimming, rafting, pioneering, pond dipping, cycling, crafts, forest walks and hike cooking.

Indoors, the Guiders and Commissioners sampled a wide range of trainings, and took advantage of the opportunity to have one-to-one talks with Advisers and Trainers.

PHOTOS: ROBIN JONES



▲ Rafting was just one of the exciting activities on offer

◆ Beautiful Gardens In a Forest Clearing was the BGIFC camp, Pack Holiday and training sessions all rolled into one

▼ Young swimmers join Irene Hotchin for the launch of the challenge



BGIFC's Commissioner Helen Barker, known that week as the Head Gardener, presented geraniums to a number of people during Saturday's opening ceremony. The service crew — a group of Rangers — organised a wide game to end the evening.

The Sunday evening Guides Own incorporated a moving tribute to Jean Connor, a former Guider and Commissioner for Benelux and France, who died in November 1994.

It was the first time many of her friends had met since she lost her battle against cancer and three appropriately

named rose bushes — Memories — were planted in the wall garden.

Other high points of the event were a barn dance; a trip to the Snakecatcher public house for skittles and a meal; an outing to Beaulieu Motor Museum; and a camp fire led by Hilary Chittock, the Centre Manager.

Co-ordinator for the event was Sandy Soil — otherwise Sandra Arnold, BGIFC Outdoor Activities Adviser, who said: 'If you've never been to one of these events, please do consider it. You'll have lots of fun and you'll probably learn something too!'

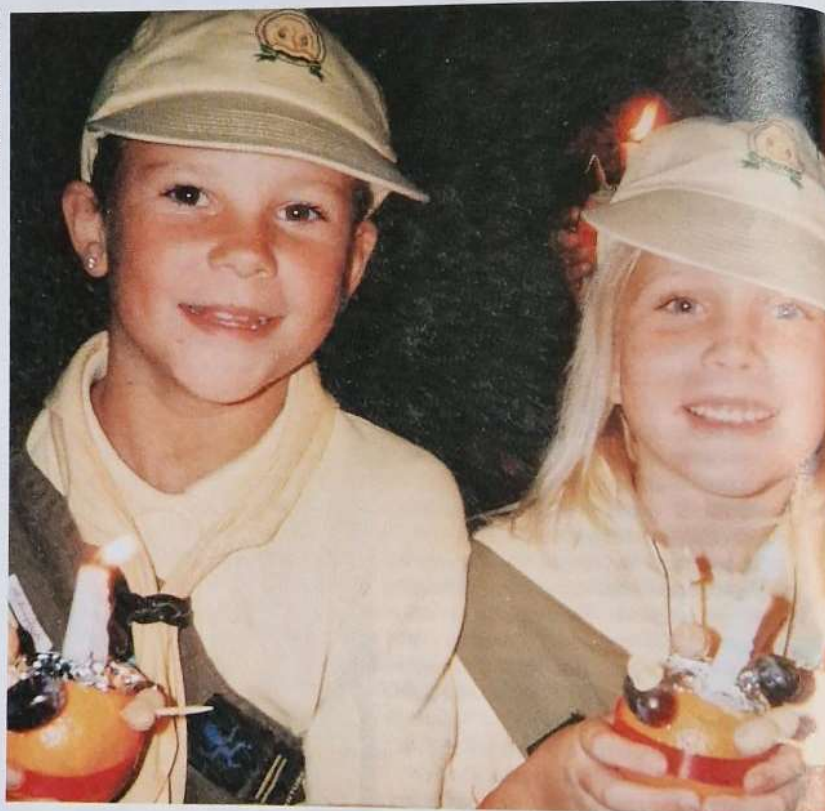
PEOPLE *and* PLACES



JANET SKINNER



MARGARET BLAKEMORE



ELAINE HANSON

WHAT'S COOKING?

▲ Did I remember the salt? First-time Patrol cook, Holly Brockside, looked a little anxious while she cooked supper for the 1st Henley-in-Arden Guides from the West Midlands.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

► What a lot we've got. Members of the 68th Bradford Rainbows were spoilt for choice when they attended an international evening.



SNOW MATES

◀ Pack Holiday was full of magic moments for the 29th Blackburn Brownies. One morning they woke up to a white winter wonderland and couldn't wait to rush outside and make some new friends — they're pictured with two of them.

SLIPPERY CUSTOMER

► Yuk! It's all slimy. This young naturalist seems a bit doubtful about handling a starfish. Nicola Martin was on a visit to a sealife centre with the 1st Cayton Rainbow Unit, Scarborough.



SGiFC



JULIE PIDO

THREE WISE GIRLS

▲ Angels from the realms of glory? No just three Brownies from the 1st Lanzarote (British) Pack, who were Guiding lights at a Christingle service.

WHAT A SHOWER!

► Cheshire Guides at the Bridgewater Division Patrol camp watched with glee as one of their number volunteered to try out the most useful camp gadget yet — the cold colander shower.



JACKIE WEST

Don't forget to keep sending in your photos of Guiding life. The best picture each month wins £10.



Valerie Owen - she uses her maiden name professionally - copes effortlessly with on-site visits.

Valerie Owen is an architect, an achievement in itself since only nine per cent of Britain's architects are women. Last year she became the first ever architect partner in Jones Lang Wootton, the world's largest property consultancy. What's more, as Mrs Valerie Le Vaillant, she is a District Commissioner in London's Docklands, spearheading an ambitious outreach programme.

Ask Valerie why she chose to be an architect and she'll say that she didn't - not really. Originally she wanted to be a GP but was anxious about getting the right grades. A family friend - an architect - suggested she switch to architecture, adding 'So long as you can do maths and draw a bit...'

Valerie, thinking the word 'architect' sounded rather grand, decided that was what she'd like to be. Two years and three 'A' Levels later she was off to Cardiff University.

Valerie still has vivid, and angry, memories of her first weeks. She recalled: 'Even though I'd visited schools of architecture and read their prospectuses, I had no real idea what architects did, what the job entailed. I got the most tremendous shock when I found myself sitting through lectures on building materials, sanitation, drainage...'

She feels, strongly, that girls are let down by the careers service and makes

MEAS UP

youngsters about being an architect she tells them exactly what is involved.

'An architect doesn't just draw pretty pictures, that counts for only ten or 15 per cent of a project. Thereafter, it becomes very technical and a mass of

minute details. The closest analogy is a dressmaker's pattern.

'For a sophisticated building, you need hundreds and hundreds of working drawings, covering every aspect of its construction,' she said.



Valerie Le Vaillant with three of the 1st Wapping Guides

GUIDING

Valerie considers that the length of the course – seven years – is one reason why there are so few women in architecture. 'It's a very serious commitment. The earliest you can qualify is 25, and by their mid-20s, a lot of women are already thinking about having a family,' she explained.

Another reason is the nature of the job itself. 'There's no doubt,' she insists, 'it is tough. It takes courage to go on to a building site when the lads are all wolf-whistling at you from the scaffolding and the contractor, for whatever reason, is out to wind you up.'

'Usually, when I go on site I'm the only woman there, and I'm having to give instructions to men humping bricks, laying concrete, positioning steel girders... It's a very tough environment.'

But neither the length of the course nor the demands of the job deterred Valerie. She qualified in 1982 and began her professional life with a firm in central London where she acquired an in-depth knowledge of listed buildings.

Although that's an expertise she no longer uses, all the experience gained enabled her to make a dramatic career move, seven years later, to Jones Lang Wootton, the world's, leading real estate advisers with some 70 offices in 27 countries around the globe.

Valerie takes up the story: 'Here in the UK...the Partnership acquires, leases, sells, develops and manages property, as well as handling portfolios of commercial real estate. In the 1980s there was a construction boom and JLW saw an opportunity to expand its professional services to include architecture.'

That's how Valerie got her job. 'It was,' she admits, 'a huge challenge. My brief was to set up an architecture business, to sell professional architectural services to external clients and cross-sell them to internal clients within JLW. We got going in May 1990, just as the recession was beginning to bite and many major architectural and construction firms were going broke.'

The business is now established as a viable and integral part of the JLW network and has already acquired a reputation in refurbishing office buildings while they are occupied.

As part of her personal commitment to the venture, Valerie spent much of

her spare time qualifying first as a Chartered Town Planner and, second, as a Chartered Valuations Surveyor to complement her architectural skills. Her achievements were recognised in 1994 when she was made a partner, the first architect to hold this position in JLW.

'Becoming a partner,' said 38-year-old Valerie 'has opened up new opportunities. There's plenty of scope to expand within JLW both nationally and globally. And the EU brings all sorts of possibilities, too...'

Most people with an equivalent workload would opt to spend their evenings relaxing in the garden or in front of the television. Not Valerie. She devotes much of her spare time to Guiding.

Like many girls, Valerie was a Brownie and Guide but then lost touch – until her year out at the end of her first degree. Her placement was in London and, needing cheap accommodation, she went to a Scout hostel in the East End. As a condition of entry, residents had to be either Scouters or Guiders so Valerie trained as a Guider and 'from day one found I liked it a lot'.

While she did her second degree she helped run a Guide unit in Cardiff. Then, back in London to work, she again settled in the East End and started up a 'special needs' unit at the East End Mission. Most of the girls had acute behavioural problems and were very emotionally disturbed.

Subsequently, as District Commissioner for Stepney, Valerie did much to promote Guiding in the area. During her five-year term, the District's three units increased to ten and included Rainbows and Rangers, as well as a Guide Company for the local Muslim population.

Now, as District Commissioner for nearby Wapping and Isle of Dogs, Valerie is committed to establishing Guiding in Docklands, characterised by change and contrast – with its mix of communities ranging from affluent business people to large Bangladeshi and Vietnamese populations.

When she launched her initiative in autumn 1992, there was no Guiding provision in the area. Within nine months, seven units had been formed and today, some three years later, there are 11 units, including four primarily for Bangladeshi girls. The District now has

around 200 members.

Valerie's Docklands Development Project has involved her in an enormous amount of work. 'It's been a nightmare,' she concedes. 'Normally new leaders are trained by being placed with another Guider and they learn through experience. But in an area with no Guiding there are no Guiders. I've had to set up my own training sessions and put the leaders into units even though they're still learning.'

'Then, because they are still learning, I have to help them plan their programme, and the units are new as well, so there's no established structure of Patrols or Sixes. On top of that, there's no understanding of the hierarchy – of what the District is and how we are all part of it...It really has been an effort.'

It would have been more of an effort without the ongoing support of the London Docklands Development Corporation. Happily the corporation sees local Guiding as contributing towards the social and economic regeneration of the area.

Because of her job and its demands, Valerie aims to manage her Guiding time very efficiently. 'I run Guiding activities like a business,' she said, 'and I apply many of the same skills that I use in the office. For example, it's easier for me to make a high-level presentation and raise several thousand pounds than to run a jumble sale.'

Valerie is happy to use her business expertise for Guiding's benefit. It's her way of repaying a debt. 'When I started out as an architect,' she explained, 'the skills that I had acquired through Guiding – from running that very difficult unit in the East End – certainly gave me a boost up the career ladder.'

'As Guiders we learn marketing, leadership, communication, lateral thinking, programme planning, teamwork... These are all valuable, viable skills and, at the beginning of my career, they gave me a head start over many of my male colleagues.'

Whenever Valerie gives a recruitment talk she always highlights these skills. 'They are,' she believes, 'tremendously marketable.' She also emphasises that Guiding remains the most successful youth organisation in the world, thanks to the expertise of its leadership and its 'superb' programme – full of challenge, opportunity and variety.

CATHERINE DELL

● Earlier this year Valerie visited Bangladesh and arranged for a Bangladeshi Trainer to come and work with Muslim Guides in the UK. There will be a special report about this in a future issue of *GUIDING*.

CLASSIFIEDS

DISCLAIMER REMINDER

Inclusion of advertisements in this section should not be taken to mean that the Association has checked out and approves the site or accommodation advertised. Guiders are reminded that they should obtain permission from their Camp or Pack Holiday Adviser and their District Commissioner before making a booking and should complete the appropriate forms.

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GUIDING
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For further details: David Jackson
Woodhouse Park, Fernhill,
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Telephone 01454 613259
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Please send SAE or phone the Warden:
Bill Hindley, "Deskris Shiel," Alexander Lane, HUTTON, Essex CM13 1AG.
Tel: 01277 226571 for details

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SISTER MARY STELLA FROM EFFINGHAM, SURREY

Sister Mary Stella was a Guider in London before becoming a Guide Commissioner in the Seychelles and a Guiding consultant in Tanzania.

‘Born and brought up in London, I made my promise in 1935, since when Guiding has played an important part in shaping my life. It was through the Movement that I became a Christian. I belonged to a Guide unit at St John Chrysostom’s Church in Peckham, which has a multiracial congregation. I still visit whenever possible and, sometimes, preach there.

My favourite Guide activities were swimming and camping with other companies, as my own unit didn’t camp. I’ve made up for it since! As a Guider, I camped regularly with the 17th North Deptford and, later, in South Africa, the Seychelles and Tanzania.

I continued Guiding at St Gabriels’ Teacher Training College in Camberwell. Later, when I was evacuated during the Second World War to Hockerill College in Bishop’s Stortford, I started a Ranger/Cadet company. It was the only organisation there to survive the war years.

In 1940, I qualified with a University of London Assistant Teacher’s Certificate, later adding an Intermediate Arts Certificate. I taught at a secondary school in Selly Oak, Birmingham, where as well as Guides, I also ran Cubs!

In 1942, the school was evacuated to Porthcawl in Mid Glamorgan, where it didn’t take me long to start Guiding in nearby Cefn Cribwr. I returned to camp

there every year from 1944 to ‘57 and helped to turn five former American Army huts, acquired by B-P’s friend Olive Nicholl, into Glamorgan’s Gorwelion Guide Centre.

An amazing and inspiring woman, Olive did much of the work with her own bare hands. In fact, I remember her at Merthyr Mawr camp site, on her way home from a party one evening, digging latrines — in evening dress!

From 1943 to ‘47, I was Guider of the 17th North Deptford, and also worked at London HQ editing *The Guide*. My life took an important turn in 1947, when I went to South Africa with the Railway Mission. During the war years, St John Chrysostom’s Church had been in the charge of the Franciscans, and I had become a Franciscan tertiary. A colleague on leave from Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) told us of vacancies with the Railway Mission. Having a strong affinity with South Africa, I volunteered and was accepted.

I had several jobs during the next 12 years, as well as running Guides in Bloemfontein, Kimberley and Pietermaritzburg. I attended the first All-Africa Guides ‘Springaroo’ Conference; visited Zimbabwe and Zambia; and camped at Victoria Falls for a Rhodes and Founder’s weekend.

It was in South Africa that I gradually

LIFE style

became convinced of my vocation to the religious life. The bishop whom I consulted suggested I test my vocation in a South African Community. My Simple Vows were taken there, and a major factor in deciding to apply to my present Community was that we work in Africa.

I returned to Great Britain in 1959 and, a year later, joined the Convent of the Sacred Passion, where I took my Solemn Vows, which are binding for life. Three years later, I went to Tanzania, where for 13 years I worked in primary and secondary schools. I was Area Co-ordinator for three years. In 1975, I was posted to the Seychelles, where I was Guide Commissioner for Training until 1981.

Back in Tanzania, I became consultant to the Tanzanian Girl Guides Association, with especial emphasis on multi-faith Guiding. During that time, I wrote the history of my Community, which was published in 1985.

On my return to England in 1991, I joined Bookham Trefoil Guild. Part of 1995 was spent in Tanzania, helping to re-establish Guiding. Now back in the Community, I like to pursue my hobbies. I enjoy stamp collecting, swimming, handicrafts and classical music. An omnivorous reader, I occasionally write and publish poetry.

However, there’s not much spare time in a religious house. When Sisters are away on rests or retreats, we are roped in to do each others’ jobs. Nevertheless, I keep in touch with Guide activities through the Trefoil Guild, as I owe a great debt to the Movement.

Most of the good things in my life have come about because I’m a Guide. [?]

● Read about Sister Mary Stella’s latest African adventure on page 20.

Our Christmas

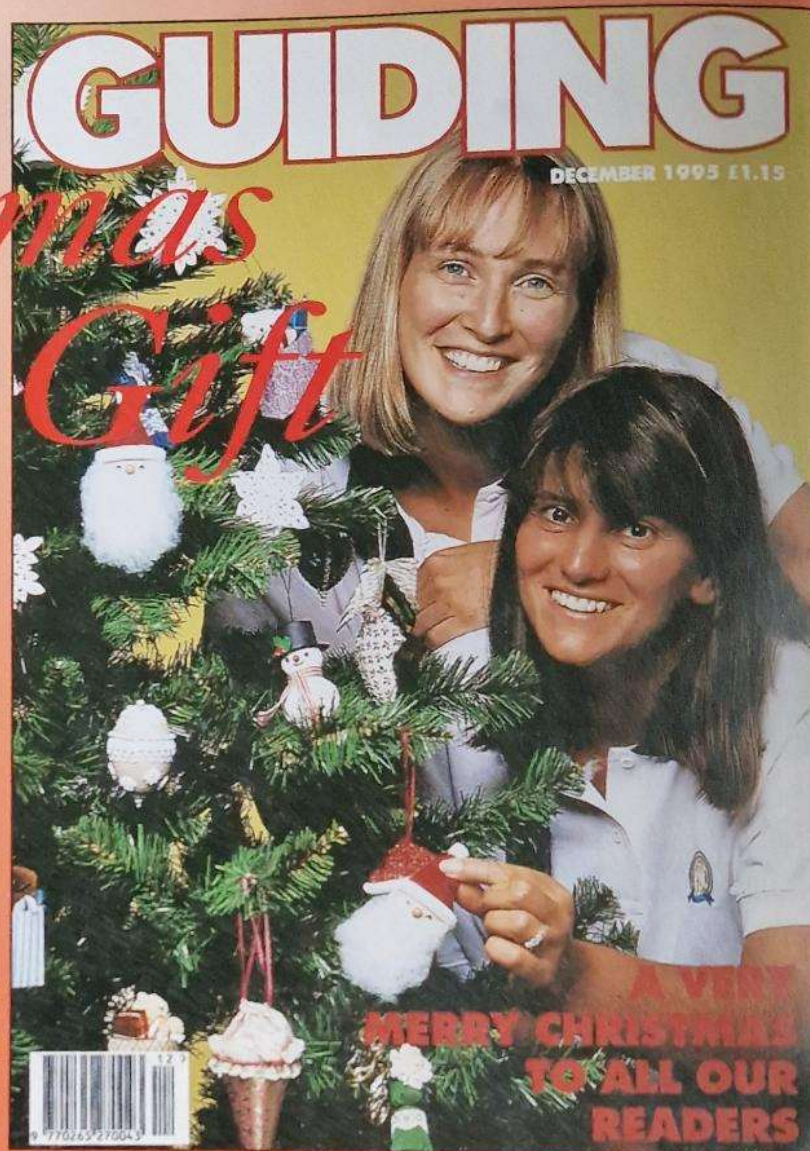
Guider Joyce Harrison from Cleveland wrote in to tell us just how much she loves **GUIDING** magazine. Here's what she had to say:

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