

GUIDING

January 1997 £1.25

WE'RE IN THE MONEY

Lottery aid to the rescue

PACING YOURSELF

Learning to say no

CROSSING BRIDGES

A new face at BGIFC

OPEN INVITATION

Visit CHQ in the spring

GOOD CITIZENS

Guiding shows the way

Craft

SPECIAL

WITH THIS ISSUE





guiding
is...
sharing
good
news

BY COURTESY OF THE COVENTRY EVENING TELEGRAPH

comment

CHARWOOD PHOTOGRAPHIC



Long ago, when I was told that becoming a Queen's Guide was not my scene, who would have guessed that I would become Chief Guide.

Yet, in November, members of Council ratified my election as Mrs Margaret Wright's successor. However, I will not be The Chief Commissioner, as confirmation was received from the Privy Council at the meeting that the change to Chief Guide had been formally agreed.

In the Commonwealth, however, the title of Commonwealth Chief Commissioner will remain unchanged.

So what will I be doing for the next four and a half years? Heading the largest youth organisation in the country is a voluntary role of immense variety. There is the future of the Association to consider while dealing with the immediate issues. Certainly chairing meetings and wading through trays of paperwork will take up a lot of my time.

Staying in touch with members is very important. So at the many events, while cutting ribbons, shaking hands and meeting VIPs, I'll be taking the opportunity to talk to as many members as possible.

As I learned in my County as Division and County Commissioner, it is the Unit Guider who makes Guiding happen. She is the one who needs support and encouragement and, above all, thanks and appreciation for all that she does to help girls and young women.

The enormous variety of people I've already met has given me the most from Guiding, so far. And, I believe, it has enabled me to put a lot back in — first by finding out what you, the members, want and then through working towards achieving those goals.

As Chief Guide I want to go on meeting and listening to you. My job, as I see it, is to make your wishes possible. In modern jargon, I aim to be an 'enabler'.

Naturally, anyone taking on a new job owes a lot to her predecessors. In particular, we can all be grateful to Margaret Wright for her strenuous efforts while she was Chief Commissioner, and I am sure everyone will wish her health and happiness in the future.

Bridget Towle
Chief Guide

this month...

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Christine Richards, BGIFC's Commissioner

front cover

New year, new challenges await
Natasha Fitzgerald-Bennett
of the 3rd Upper Tooting
Brownie Pack



LUCY SLATER

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

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As a charity we rely entirely on voluntary donations to fund our research into this painful and crippling disease. You can help children like Rebecca in Tea week (March 10-16) ARC offers any Guide unit taking part a 50-50 split of funds raised. For full details ring Louisa your Guide pack contact, on Freephone 0500 276413.

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YOUNG OR OLD - THE PAIN'S THE SAME

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Individual campsites separated by undergrowth, bushes and trees ensures complete privacy. Indoor facility in Squirrel Lodge providing sleeping accommodation for 30 people in 2 dormitories, large hall and kitchen, disabled toilet facilities.

For further details contact: J. Norie, 19 Hund Oak Drive, Hatfield, Doncaster, DN7 6RL.
Tel: 01302 842000.

Great Hucklow Scout Activity Centre

Great Hucklow, Tideswell, Derbyshire

The centre is situated in the heart of the Peak Park, an ideal base for most outdoor activities and the many places of historic interest nearby.

The building is centrally heated and has accommodation for 54, suitable for mixed parties. There is a well-equipped kitchen, dining room and activity room. Toilets and showers are provided on both floors with drying facilities downstairs.

For further details contact: J.B. Shepherd, 16 Chapel Street, Woodhouse, Sheffield S13 7JN.
Tel: 0114 269 2755.



**NEW FOR 1997
AT HESLEY WOOD!**

- Howard Walker building now sleeps 40 in twin bedded rooms
- A new building sleeping 32 in 6 rooms
- Both buildings have wheelchair facilities
- Exciting new activity planned!

Fund run

A Brownie Pack from Sussex West took to the streets to raise funds for an abseil tower and playground to be provided at Foxlease, the Association's Training and Activity Centre near Lyndhurst in Hampshire.

The girls from the 6th St John's Worthing spent several weeks training to tackle the two-mile course along the town's seafront promenade. They were sponsored by friends and members of the local community.



JAMES CLEVETT

Having a ball!

When it comes to pantomimes the 2nd Waverton Guides from Chester really know how to have a ball. With the help of one of the dads who is a member of the local drama group and the Guiders, the eight Patrol Leaders and Seconds worked on a basic *Cinderella* script. They pulled it to pieces, added bits, took away bits and made it completely their own.

It featured parts for 20 Guides, local jokes and plenty of good, old-fashioned humour. The story was certainly updated — *Cinderella* went to a rave not a ball, travelling on a motor bike not in a coach, and left a Doc Marten boot on the stairs rather than a glass slipper!

COVENTRY EVENING TELEGRAPH



Ideas afloat

Warwickshire Brownie Tiffany Neale found new meaning in the word 'watercolours'. Her prize for winning a painting competition included a trip on a narrow boat on the Grand Union Canal at Warwick.

The competition for Brownies was organised

by the Warwickshire branch of the Inland Waterways Association to raise awareness of waterways.

Tiffany is pictured on board a barge with her painting and other prizes — a glove puppet and a miniature decorated can.

Full steam ahead!

Playground equipment in Chadderton, near Oldham received a good scrub-up from the Healds Green Methodist Church Rainbows.

Armed with buckets and mops, the girls were taking part in the national Wash for Dosh, a sponsored washing of unusual things for charity. Money raised went to Christian Aid.



ADVERTISER AND ECHO, OLDHAM

BRIAN CAPON



Still keen after 33 years

Kent Guider Angela Godfrey has retired as leader of 1st Keston Guides after 33 years' devoted service.

While planning to spend more time with her parents, Angela will still retain her links with Guiding. She has agreed to take on the position of secretary for the Bromley South Division.

She was presented with a long-service award, a specially-baked cake and a bouquet of flowers at a surprise party organised by her former Guides.

CHRONICLE NEWSPAPERS, CHESTER



In Guiding we
all promise to
do our best,
so it can be
hard to refuse
when we are
asked to do
something

By Kate Wilson
Llais y Ddraig, Wales

learn to say no

There can be a lot of pressure to help out when you suspect that everyone else is as busy as you, or busier. When you hear that you are 'the last and only hope' to solve a problem, it can be almost impossible to put your foot down. But, sometimes, it is very important to do just that — it really can be the best solution for everyone.

So, when is it best to say no? First of all, accept that you cannot take on

This is much better than having to back out and apologise profusely the day after — when it's too late to find someone else to do the job.

It's also important to realise that there are other people out there who can do the things you can. Just because you've organised the Thinking Day service for the last five years doesn't mean that nobody else knows how to do it. No one is indispensable, although this can be difficult to accept.

Someone new can do things in a different and exciting way. Someone who is too shy to offer her services may be waiting in the wings for her chance to shine.

So now you are armed with reasons not to take on any more responsibility, what is the best way to say it? Be tactful, as you don't want to offend anyone, but be firm as well.

Always explain why you can't help this time, adding that maybe you can help another day. At the same time, don't just give a long list of excuses — it's boring and unhelpful.

Offer to think about it to make sure it's really out of the question. Now that you have told yourself you're not indispensable, try dele-

gating for a change. Or, perhaps, you know an easier way of tackling that particular job.

If you know someone you can enrol to help in your place, phone back the person who asked you originally to offer this solution.

It's best to avoid saying you will do part of the job — you may well end up doing it all. But, of course, positive suggestions go down much better than a flat refusal.

You could try offering to do something smaller and easier instead. Then you are still doing your best, but in a different way. For example, if you know you are hopeless at designing posters, say so, but tell the person asking that you might have time to go round putting them up instead. You can say no with confidence if it's clear you will sometimes say yes as well.

Never forget that other people will often have a good reason to say no to you, too. It's no good learning how to refuse, if you won't accept other people's right to refuse as well.

So be bold, be strong, think it through and open your mouth to say no for a change. Everybody will respect you for it.



THE GUIDE ASSOCIATION

Remember,
everyone has a
right to say no
and to enjoy
time off to
relax with
friends

too much. You can't be in more than one place at once, however hard you try. Sometimes you need a rest and an evening at home, just to enable you to work better later on.

That's not solely for the sake of your own sanity: if you are juggling five things, nothing will get enough attention and nothing will get finished properly. Everyone ought to know their limits.

Second, you will make life more difficult for the person who asked for help if you commit yourself too far. If you admit at once that you won't be able to assist, you are really doing her a favour. She would probably prefer to work with a willing volunteer than with someone who feels coerced into action.

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thanks, GUIDING

Guider and District Commissioner, Sheila Randall never thought that it could be her Guides who'd be in the money until she spotted an article about the National Lottery in last January's GUIDING. She explains:

Before reading the article we had no idea that individual units could apply for grants, and certainly no thought of applying for one ourselves. However, the article turned a dream into reality for 3rd Thelwall Guides, Cheshire Forest.

Over the past ten years we have built up an enviable supply of camp equipment and, during that time, we have stored it in an old container.

This was, in fact, the back of an old British Telecom lorry — dry but not very secure and getting more difficult to use each year, until it was impossibly full. That's when we read the GUIDING article.

So began for me a few weeks of strong coffee and late nights, while I poured over an almost incomprehensible, mammoth form to be filled in as our the National Lottery grant application.

We sought advice and quotes on various sorts of storage containers, produced unit and camp accounts, took loads of photographs of our full-to-bursting storage container. Then, finally, we posted the whole lot off with fingers crossed.

Our local National Lottery contact advised us to take more photos showing the Guides actually using the equipment. She told us also to obtain one or two letters of support from other village groups that borrowed our equipment. I also had to answer questions on Guiding structure, policies, equal opportunities and finance.

So, with only a few days to produce more evidence, I armed myself with camera once again. I took more photos, colour-copied

lots of old photos showing the Guides having a really good time at camp, pioneering and cooking out and sent another portfolio off. I remember thinking that if everyone does this the assessors must be buried under mountains of paper!

Six months later came the phone call to tell us our application had been approved. We'd been given £1,560 so that we could buy a replacement container.

We confirmed an order with Container Care of Liverpool and drew up plans for metal staging inside. Next two dads, one brother and some Guides set to with a mini digger, spades and barrows to clear and level the land.

It was then we discovered we had underestimated our expenses and we needed to find another £500 to have the container lined to protect the canvas from condensation.

We were very upset because we thought we had done our research so carefully and, of course, it is impossible to increase the amount of grant given, once it has been awarded.

That's why our advice to anyone thinking of applying for a lottery grant is to make sure you include everything you might need

plus some contingency allowance.

However, the July morning that our new container arrived an excited group of girls and families were waiting. A crane was needed to lift out the old container and place the new one in position. It looked great when all our equipment was finally packed away neatly inside it.

We are still delighted with our good fortune and are thrilled that a small village such as Thelwall can benefit from the National Lottery.

Thank you, GUIDING, for giving us the encouragement and know-how which made us have a go. ☺

Reading this magazine led to one unit collecting a lottery grant



Out with the old, in with the new

Hard work but 3rd Thelwall (Sheila Randall is in blue fourth from right) are thrilled to bits!



guiding in action ■

eighty n

If only one
could bottle
the enthusiasm
and dedication
of these three
Rotherham
Guiders!

By Gillian Ellis
Photos: Martin
Jenkinson



Still raring to carry on with Guiding are (left to right) Pat Hadfield, Janice Walker and Anne Royston

Janice Walker has been in the Movement since she was a Brownie herself and still enjoys every minute

'We've been together now for 80 years ...'

Does it seem a day too long? Not a bit of it, says the Guiding threesome of 38th Rotherham Brownies (St John's) Wales, from Kiveton Park District, in Rotherham South Division, Yorkshire. As you can see, Janice, Pat and Anne are going strong and see no reason to stop.

The 80 years' service to Guiding has, of course, run concurrently. Janice Walker has been Brown Owl for 28 years, her cousin Pat Hadfield has been Tawny for 26 years and their good friend Anne Royston joined them in 1972 as Snowy Owl.

Now their total years of enthusiastic leadership have reached a superb, unbroken 80. The magic figure clicked up towards the end of last year.

'I've been in the Movement ever since Brownies,' said Janice. 'After Guides, I helped a cousin run her unit before taking on the Pack in 1968. I asked another of my cousins, Pat, to be my assistant leader two years later.'

Anne was that rare and

wonderful gift, a volunteer.

'My niece was in the Pack,' she recalled. 'I watched her walking with the Brownies in a Remembrance Day parade. The next thing I knew, I was offering to help. And here I am, still at it, nearly a quarter of a century later.'

The families of all three Guiders have been involved with the Movement. Pat's husband is a former Scouter and all three leaders have had daughters in the Pack. Janice's Tracy and Karen, Pat's Julie and Carolyn, and Anne's Dawn have zoomed through all the sections, while Julie was a Guider for 15 years.

'We've always been a lively lot,' said Janice, producing two bulging photograph albums showing Pack activities. 'We serve two adjoining villages, Kiveton and Wales, so we're usually pretty full.'

'For the last ten years, we've had a fourth Guider, Kate Stanley, so we can take 30 girls, but there's always a waiting list.'



The photographs and pages from the church magazine bear witness to the huge variety of activities enjoyed by the Brownies. Many of them have become established favourites over the years and things just wouldn't be the same without the summer fancy dress garden party, the two Pack Holidays and the Christmas good turn.

'We have lots of fun, but we do lay emphasis on giving service,' said Janice. 'We've been carol singing at the senior citizens' home and

ot out

made Christmas gifts for them, and we've raised money for the animal sanctuary. We joined in the Peace Packs project and, one Christmas, the girls brought gifts to fill shoeboxes that were to be sent to the Ukraine.'

The 38th Rotherham Brownies are also seasoned treaders of the boards. Every few years or so, Scouts and Guides of all sections, including adult leaders, stage a village gang show, produced by a local youth leader.

The Pack's 'big thing' is Pack Holiday. The threesome have been on an astonishing 46! Both Janice and Pat hold a licence, and run two Pack Holidays a year, so that not only their own Brownies can benefit but also those from the neighbouring villages of Todwick and Harthill, where there are no licence holders.

The idea of two holidays annually may make some Guiders gasp, but the intrepid threesome have it all taped.

'Each year, we use the same theme for the two holidays,' explained Janice. 'The girls never repeat a theme, as it's always a different group the second time around. There's still plenty of preparation for each event but planning is reduced. When we're preparing a craft, for instance, we do enough for the two holidays in one session.'

'We wouldn't dream of missing a weekend,' said Pat. 'We always go together and, because we're including Brownies from other Packs, there's no shortage of Guiders to help.' The three thought hard about past themes — there've been so many, instant recall was an impossible feat. Between them they came up with birds, teddy bears, *Aladdin*, gypsies, *Cinderella*,

Pinocchio, *Treasure Island*, *Robin Hood*, *the Lion King* and *Pocahontas*.

You would be forgiven for wondering whether these dedicated women find time for a private life. They do, of course.

'We used to run our own butchery business,' Janice explained. 'My husband was the master butcher and I helped with everything else, mainly ...'

'Making the sausages!', chorused the other two, grinning broadly.

'Walker's sausages were famous locally and were even known in America!' Janice said, with some pride. 'And when Princess Anne came, frequently, to nearby Osburton horse trials, she used to eat our cooked ham.'

All three Guiders admitted they'd had a working life centred on food. Pat had been an administration officer for Nestlé and Anne still works for Sutherland's of potted paste fame.

Grandchildren now occupy much of the spare time they have available. Janice has two; Pat, five; and Anne, one. In between Guiding and family commitments, the trio enjoy a wide variety of leisure activities. Janice loves crosswords, gardening and tapestry; Pat reads, swims, and does counted cross-stitch; and Anne sings in Anston ladies' choir, which gives concerts every couple of months, and she also swims. All three enjoy walking.

During their collective 80 years'

service, Janice, Pat and Anne have given a great deal to the Movement, including providing nine current Guiders from the ranks of their Brownies over the years.

'We may have put a lot in,' said Janice, firmly, 'But we've received plenty back. It's a two-way process and we're expecting it to continue for a long time to come.'



Janice Walker's cousin, Pat Hadfield, became her assistant leader in 1970 and her dedication hasn't faltered



Anne Royston volunteered because of her Brownie niece and still enjoys sharing games with the girls

forever guiding



Even Brownies with lots of brains enjoyed visiting Pettypool's version of the House at Pooh Corner

What every well-equipped Guide needs — a woggle!



**There were
bears galore
at Pettypool
camp site,
when English
and Ulster
units forged
firm
friendships**

Words and photos by
Gillian Ellis

An IRA bomb may be an unusual reason for planning a Guide camp but that's how a very special gathering came about. Last summer, Pettypool Activity Centre, in Cheshire Forest County, was the setting for a week of fun and friendship when Ulster Brownies and Guides joined girls from Warrington, North West Region, at WITTY '96 (Warrington and Ireland Together Through Youth).

WITTY was arranged so that Warrington's two Divisions, Arpley and Whittle Hall, could offer their Ulster friends a return invitation. Following the Warrington bombing in March 1993 Ulster Region, searching for a practical expression of fellow feeling and sympathy, had invited Warrington Guides to its international camp, Hooley '94.

Strong links of friendship were forged, links which were strengthened further by the week spent together in Cheshire.

All age groups and holiday options were represented at Pettypool. Guides enjoyed a traditional camp on several of Pettypool's picturesque sites; Senior Section members pitched lightweight tents and Brownies had the choice of Pack Holiday Under Canvas or staying in Pettypool Lodge Pack Holiday House.

The cheerful little *Forever Friends* bears inspired the names for camp Patrols and Sixes, and every bear known to literature and television could be found roaming the site.

Hot air balloons were also in evidence, featuring on camp T-shirts and over gateways, giving a very colourful, festive feel to the site.

WITTY '96 started with 'getting to know you' games, and the following day, when *GUIDING* visited the site, we found everyone

friends

concentrating on a fine variety of activities. Brenda Neary, Division Commissioner for Warrington Arpley, acted as site tour guide.

Girls were divided into groups across the age range, each group identified by the colour of its necker. At four stations around the site, we spotted groups busy making their camp clothing and insignia.

Each Brownie and Guide used fabric paints to stencil the camp logo on to a plain T-shirt, then took it to the Lodge to be ironed.

All the girls made their own badges and woggles, and groups spent one session inventing and practising a camp-fire item for the following evening.

Radio Scouting was on site to put girls in touch with the rest of the world and to organise radio-controlled games, which helped to familiarise the players with the use of the radio equipment.

While Guides and Brownies beavered away, Rangers and Young Leaders went climbing nearby. They returned in plenty of time to make their T-shirts and to join in the Sunday afternoon Guides' Own service led by local retired minister Dr Alan Shaw.

The last vestiges of energy were expended on Sunday evening in a team game session, 'necker groups' competing against each other.

A lively programme was planned for the rest of week. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, the activities included a treasure-cum-scavenger hunt; a timed fire-lighting and tent-pitching competition; cooking dampers; face painting; plaster casting; canoeing; pioneering; and craft sessions.

In addition to the familiar and popular finger puppets, bead pictures and friendship bracelets,

Helen Smith, Warrington's craft queen, had come up with some new ideas — design your personal shield, make a foam model and Pergamano, in which metal-tipped tools and coloured inks are used to create various elegant embossed designs on parchment.

Evenings brought campers together for a camp-fire stunt competition, barbecue supper, rounders, team games and a last night camp fire.

For the Warrington girls, camp finished on Wednesday, but the Ulster guests stayed on to enjoy some local sights.

The following day the Irish Brownies were taken to Gulliver's World and the older girls sampled the charms of Chester.

Next day, after striking camp and moving to Warrington Divisions' joint Guide headquarters, the Ulster party visited the town and its town hall.

Before leaving for the Stranraer ferry, the visitors were reunited with their Warrington friends for a hotpot supper and a disco.

Friendships made at Lorne and at Pettypool appear to be lasting. Already several girls have renewed contact since the camp, and the Pack Holiday Under Canvas group hopes to meet 'half-way' for a repeat performance, possibly later this year.

Plans for another large-scale camp — to be held next year — are already under way. ■



Stepping out confidentially on the blindfold trail



Concentration is essential for the delicate art of badge creation

open day

The fourth CHQ Open Day will be held on Wednesday, April 23 from 9.30am-4pm.

This is an ideal opportunity for adult members to find out how CHQ works, and how it benefits all the Association's members.

All departments will be open to visitors, and staff will be on hand to answer questions.

Visitors must be over 16. If you are able to come, please let Margaret Moore know by ringing her on

0171 834 6242 ext 216, or by dropping her a line at 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT, letting her know your name and expected arrival time.*

Why not combine your visit with a tour of the exciting new Guide Heritage Centre? The admission charge is still only £2 per person!

* It is regretted that we cannot acknowledge letters

coming next

IN FEBRUARY'S GUIDING

Ulster airs

There's more than a hint of Irish charm in this month's issue. You can find out about Ulster folklore, what's on offer at a magnificent museum, how to make a straw cross and lots more activity ideas.

Astride the Internet

The Association has just launched its site — learn how to locate and use this new aid to good Guiding.

Uncensored

Be prepared to book your place at a weekend to remember — coming to a venue near you!

Bridge building

Last year, two groups of Guiders took their UK know-how and experience to give Russian Girl Scouting a boost.

Space travellers

Find out how one County went voyaging through Outer Space and discovered that science can be fun.

Royal farewell

Princess Margaret left Wallsend Civic Centre with the sounds of *Go well and safely* ringing in her ears.

Kicking the habit

New ways to put across the No Smoking message.

Dramatic effect

A new series to get all sections treading the boards.

Paying your dues

Discover how to customise your Thinking Day envelopes.

IN FEBRUARY'S BROWNIE

Viva lunchtime

Make a marvellous Mexican meal for your family or friends.

Story to share

Emily's Cold Cure

Magnificent Mexico

Brownies round the world pops in

to visit an ancient civilisation.

Gamesmanship

Try Kalaha, a game that's very popular with people living in both Africa and Asia.

Get global

Brush up on your world facts before trying our international quiz.

Costume party

Step-by-step advice on how you and your Pack can dress in traditional Nigerian costume.

The Six Judges

A folk tale from India.

Catch the dragon

We show you how to make a colourful dragon costume to dazzle other dancers.

AND IN RAINBOW GUIDE EXTRA

Rainbow Rabbit

While on a visit to Amsterdam, she needs your help to pick out some items that begin with B.

Beautiful birds

Everyone will enjoy creating this colourful collage.

Rainbows round the world

A chance to find out what other 'Rainbows' wear and then to colour in their uniforms.

Airport alert

You'll need sharp eyes to spot all the differences in this puzzle.

Aussie rhyme

The Kangaroo — a traditional poem.

Bits and pieces

A selection of your photos.

directory

SOUTH OF ENGLAND

Bournemouth Guide Camp, Dunsbury

Partly wooded site, approx. 17 acres. Two fully equipped and heated holiday homes open throughout the year. Ideal Brownies, Guides, Rangers (including disabled members). Also four camp sites, some with flush toilets and permanent shelters etc.

For details: SAE to Mrs E Dawkins, 8 Austin Close, Bournemouth BH1 4RP Tel: 01202 393 018.

BLACKLAND FARM CAMP SITE

Offers fully-equipped and unequipped camp sites, some with flush toilets and showers.

Activities available are:

Canoeing, climbing, abseiling, archery (all with instructor), swimming, orienteering, nature trail, assault course, grass sledges, rifle range.

Further details from: Blackland Farm Grinstead Lane EAST GRINSTEAD, SUSSEX RH19 4HP Telephone 01342 810493 or 0860 393 026 or FAX 01342 811206

DEVON GUIDES COUNTY CAMPSITE

Beautiful wooded area close to North Dartmoor. Four sites; flush toilets, shelters. Equipment available for 24 campers. SAE please to Miss Lillicrap, 61 Mohuns Park, Whitechurch, Tavistock PL19 9BL 01822 612921

CAMPBELL ROOM

Scout/Guide Centre in beautiful Quantock Hills. Fully equipped 24. Facilities for year. SAE Mrs Briggs, 36 Old Road North Petherton, Bridgewater TA6 6TG

+ SUSSEX COASTAL SITE +

With hall. Between Seven Sisters Country Park, beaches, forest and town. Equipped 30. Canoeing, biking, swimming pool nearby. SAE West Winds, Selmston Sussex BN26 6UD 01323 811445/01273 620491.

THRIFTWOOD International Camping and Activity Centre

The happy centre with friendly and helpful, full-time staff, at Brentwood, Essex. (3 miles from junction 28 off the M25.) Over 30 individual grassed sites. Indoor accommodation (now has a dormitory sleeping 32). Toilets, hot water, free showers. Wood fires are encouraged. Equipped sites available. On-site activities: archery, climbing wall, abseiling, canoeing, fishing, rafting, swimming, shooting, nature trail, orienteering, BMX bikes, cork guns, pioneering, adventure course, sports equipment and patrol activities. Souvenir shop. Guides and other youth organisations very welcome

Please send SAE or phone the warden: Bill Hindley, "Deskrie Shell", Alexander Lane, HUTTON, Essex CM13 1AG. Tel: 01277 226571 for details

CAMPING & ACCOMMODATION

SOUTH OF ENGLAND

Downe Scout Camp Site Greater London South East

Now under new Wardenship, Downe is 86 acres of secluded woodland and open field sites, on the North Downs in rural Kent, yet only 10 miles from Central London.

Three large buildings for indoor accommodation, all with central heating and all fully equipped. Activities include: Climbing tower, Swimming, Archery, Shooting, Orienteering, Pioneering. Three toilet blocks each with separate Ladies and Gents, free hot water and showers. Provide soft drinks, sweets, souvenirs etc. Events:-

Club Adventure Day	11 May 97
Biggin Hill Air Fair Weekend	14/15 June 97
Biggin Hill Battle of Britain Day	14 Sept 97

Details from: The Warden GLSE Downe Scout Camp, Birdhouse Lane, DOWNE, Kent BR6 7LJ

Tel: 01959 572 121 Fax: 01959 572 853 S.A.E. Please

WALTON FIRS, SURREY

28 acres of fields and woodland, plus two accommodation buildings. Open fires, archery, abseiling, climbing, canoeing, air rifles, pioneering and adventure course. Hot water and showers. Tuck shop and souvenir shop. Large supermarket one mile away. Nearby: horse riding, swimming, ice skating, Chessington World of Adventure, Thorpe Park.

London 20 minutes away. For details send SAE to: Dave McIntosh, Walton Firs Scout Camp Site, Burwood Park, Cobham, Surrey KT11 1HB or telephone 01932 863243

BUCKMORE PARK SCOUT CENTRE

Madstone Road, Chalfont, Kent ME5 9QG Tel: 01434 861295/861298 Fax: 01434 864553

We are pleased to announce our SUMMER SPECIAL 1997 To take place between 19th and 18th August 1997

A week's camp complete with full programme of activities including Swimming, Abseiling and Climbing, Rifle shooting, Archery, two full days of Rafting, Indoor climbing, Orienteering, Sub-Aqua diving, a session of the local Ski Centre, Canoeing etc. PLUS

A Day Trip to Margate (to include entry to Dreamworld Theme Park)

After price £39.50 per head, camping. Indoor Accommodation will be charged as per price list plus £27.00 to cover activities. All prices include two bottles per group, free. (Prices do not include food or travel to and from home.) PLUS

Throughout the Summer a full programme of on-site activities in addition to those published in our brochure. For more details, Write, Phone, Fax, Bookings on a "first come first served" basis.

ALSO FOR THE ANOTHER YEAR

THE NATIONAL CANTING SPECIAL

Will take place over the Spring Bank Holiday 24th to 26th May 1997 All on-site activities will be available plus, of course, Rafting. All in cost (not including food and travel) will be £20 per head (camping). The cost for those wishing to hire indoor accommodation will be the cost of the accommodation plus £17 per head.

Both these events are restricted to members of the Scout and Guide Association

SKREENS PARK Scout and Guide Camp Site Roxwell, Chelmsford Essex

52-acre parkland with lake for swimming, canoeing, fishing. Pioneering, abseiling, archery, also available. Three indoor centres (36 each) with facilities. Plus camp site toilets and showers. 'Wet weather' covered area. Provide soft drinks, souvenirs.

Information SAE to Glynis Patient, 56 Ridley Road, Broomfield, CHELMSFORD, Essex CM1 5AR

+ JORDAN HEIGHTS +

Surrey East campsite on North Downs, within walking distance of Reigate. Ideal for walking, horse riding, outdoor activities, near historic buildings and leisure centre, good train service London. Wooded site, fully equipped for patrol and company camping. Large hut, toilets and washblocks, pioneering equipment. SAE Mrs Froszlega, 35 Smallfield Road, Horley, Surrey.

+ UXBRIDGE GUIDE HQ +

Excellent facilities for Pack Holidays/camping, equipped for 22. Includes camp-beds, hot showers, modern kitchen with fridge/freezer. Close to town and transport. Many local walks including canal and country park. £50.00 per night or £300 per week inclusive. Telephone 01895 233 662 Mrs Maskell.

WARREN FARM, BEAULIEU, HAMPSHIRE

Peaceful rural camp sites with access to private beach on the Solent, July and August. Facilities include solid shelters with trestle tables, on-site fireplaces, access to telephone, water and fire-wood. Some sites have wooden toilet cubicles with buckets and some also have wooden wash cubicles. Archery, canoeing, riding and sailing available nearby. SAE to Mrs. June Mead, 13 Kingsway Gardens, Chandlers Ford, Hampshire, SO53 1FF

+ SOMERMEAD +

We would love to welcome you to our county site in beautiful Somerset. 3 sites each with own toilet block. Good facilities. Equipment available. Details SAE Mrs A. Weeks, The Forge, Vicarage Lane, Wookey, Wells, BA5 1JT 01749 673 596.

DORSET

Modern purpose built youth complex for groups of up to 36 in quiet village location. Economically priced facilities include two large halls, kitchen and toilets. Ideally situated for exploring beautiful Purbeck area. For details phone Val Brown on 01929 462 152.

CRICKET CAMPSITE Bursledon Hampshire

A beautiful campsite set in 400 acres of Country Park close to M27 with good facilities for full troop or patrol camps.

Situated 10 minutes walk from the River Hamble.

Activities available include: Canoeing, Abseiling, Archery, Rifle Shooting, Caving and climbing.

Flush toilets, Showers, Hot Water, Pack Holiday Centre (open to schools).

Write for brochure to: Mrs Joan Veal (A.D.C. Campsite) ITCHEN SOUTH SCOUT CAMPSITE 12 Barton Drive, Hedge End, Southampton, Hants SO30 2FF

SOUTH OF ENGLAND

+ GADDESSEN ROW GUIDE CENTRE +

Equipped Pack Holiday Indoor Centre with campsite Telephone. Suitable Brownies, Guides, Rangers. Near Whipsnade. Easy reach. London SAE Miss Webb. 8 Flint Cottages, High Street Green, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7AJ.

ADAMSWELL SCOUT CAMP SITE FOR AUTUMN/WINTER BREAKS

A large, fully-equipped, well-heated building for a relaxing weekend break from normal routine. Set in over 15 acres of undulating glorious countryside on the Kent/Sussex border.

Contact

Geoff Robson 49 Sandown Park, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 4RH Tel: 01892 822390 8pm - 11pm

+ BETTS GUIDING CENTRE +

Sleeps 24, fully equipped modern kitchen, central heating, shower, beds available. Guiders room close to Plymouth City Centre. Adjacent to local swimming pool and grassed area. Tel R Gates 01752 343650.

Belchamps

30 acres of pasture and woodland. Indoor accommodation centres for 48, 24 and smaller groups, open all year. Archery, shooting ranges, assault course. Pioneering, climbing, badminton, hot showers. Site adjoins 300 acres of public woodland. Swimming pools, sports complex, minutes away. Ex-silent site shop and woodlands. New Toilet facilities for Males & Females. SAE for Brochure: The Warden, Holyoak Lane, Hawkswell, Hockley, Essex. Tel: 01702 205081.

WATERSPORTS & LANDSPORTS ISLE OF WIGHT

* WINDSURFING * CANOEING * SAILING * WAVESKIING * SURFING * BODYBOARDING * MOUNTAIN BIKING * ARCHERY * ORIENTEERING * RIFLE SHOOTING

BCU, RYA & BSA Approved Centre Multi Activity sessions for Groups Open 7 days a week - Apr to Sept for details Contact



at 19 Orchardleigh Rd, Shanklin, Isle of Wight, PO37 7NP or Tel/Fax 01983 888269

+ PACK HOLIDAYS ECT. +

Minutes town beach. Venture Hall, Moor Lane, Budleigh Salterton, Devon. Hall, committee room, disabled facilities. Excellent kitchen. Eileen Arnold 19 Elmside, Budleigh Salterton, Devon EX9 6RP.

+ ALTON HAMPSHIRE; FOUR MARKS VILLAGE HALL +

2 halls, Modern kitchen & toilets, Free CHW and heating. £125 Sun - Fri or part. 01420 562731.

SOUTH OF ENGLAND



12c Lyndhurst Road
London, NW3 5PQ
Tel: 0171 435 2202
Fax: 0171 431 3825

A warm welcome awaits you at WAGGS World Centre in London. Ideally situated, in leafy Hampstead, for exploring London. Come and join a seminar or session or just enjoy the friendship and homely atmosphere while you do your own thing. Comfortable rooms, shared, double or single excellent meals in modern surroundings. Groups, families and singles welcome. Conference rooms available for trainings and meetings. Souvenir shop.

Contact Pax Lodge for details of prices and session programmes.

"Beechwood"

South West Herts Guides Campsite
near Watford.

Enjoy a traditional site with equipped buildings, hot water and modern toilets. One Acre surrounded by delightful woodlands close to Grand Union Canal and London only 20 minutes by train.

Details from
Mrs H Richardson
77 Mead Way, Bushey, Herts
WD2 2DJ. Tel: 01923 236636

Baden-Powell HOUSE

International Scout Centre

- Individual Group & Family Accommodation
 - Conference Facilities
 - Self-service Restaurant
 - Exhibition on the life of Lord Baden-Powell
 - Souvenir Shop
 - Ideal location for exploring London.
- For further information: Reservations
Baden-Powell House, Queen's Gate,
London SW7 5JS
Tel: 0171 584 7031 Fax: 0171 590 5235

MARWELL ACTIVITY CENTRE/CAMP SITE



Nr Winchester,
Hants 'Recognised
Guide/Scout site'
32 acres pasture
and woodland with
conifers, oaks and
ponds. Mains

water, flush toilets, hot showers and firewood.
Activities available: Archery, canoeing, air-rifle shooting, clay pigeon shooting, orienteering, horse riding, abseiling, mini motor bikes, qualified instruction in activities.

Details: telephone 01962 777547
Hurst Lane, Fishers Pond,
Eastleigh, Hants SO50 7NG

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Screen printed badges, Pennants, Car Stickers and Labels. Embroidered Badges designed and produced. Send for Price List & Samples
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RUISLIP HA4 7LR
Tel: 01895 632516

Sea in the New Year at Kingsdown!

SPECIAL OFFER

Just collect four different Kingsdown 'sea' advertisements - there will be a new one every two months - to entitle your group to one hour's FREE on-site activity of their choice, during their stay at Kingsdown.

First class indoor accommodation and camping in White Cliffs Country, overlooking the English Channel with a full range of site activities.

For further details, or to make a booking, please contact: Charlie Leadbetter at

Kingsdown International
Scout Campsite,
The Avenue, Kingsdown,
Deal, Kent CT14 8DU
Tel: 01304 373713
Fax: 01304 375202



WOODHOUSE PARK AVON SCOUTS COUNTY SITE

36 acres of grass and woodland on an escarpment overlooking the Severn Bridge and estuary. A Warm welcome awaits you from the resident warden and his staff. Camps site has flush toilets, wash rooms and free hot showers. Indoors accommodation includes a purpose built Pack Holiday centre which sleeps 41. Activities on site include archery, rifle range, orienteering, pioneering. Tree trails and assault courses plus sports equipment loan. Off site activities include nearby leisure centres, climbing, caving, canoeing and sailing, the Cotswolds, Mendips, Forest of Dean, Weston-super-Mare and Bristol.

For Further details:

Booking Secretary
Woodhouse Park, Fernhill,
Almondsbury, Bristol BS12 4LX
Telephone 01454 613259
(Out of hours answerphone)

CHALFONT HEIGHTS SCOUT CAMP

A delightful 60-acre estate situated in the Buckinghamshire green belt. Easy reach of London and Windsor for LEGOLAND.

Good access from M40/M25/M1
Open all year Large fields

44 acres of woodland with secluded sites
3 equipped indoor units

Hot showers and facilities for the disabled
25 metre heated swimming pool

Climbing wall 2 Air Rifle Ranges

2 Archery Ranges Assault Course

Well stocked shop On site launderette

For further information please

write / phone / fax

CHALFONT HEIGHTS SCOUT CAMP

DENHAM LANE, CHALFONT ST

PETER, BUCKS SL9 0QJ

TEL: 01753 882640 FAX: 01753 884108

NEW RADCLIFFE CROYDON

Opening 1997. Fully equipped Pack Holiday House and small camps. Guiders on-site facilities. Enclosed field and wooded wildlife conservation area. Contact Christina Smith 0181 777 2849.

EAST SUSSEX SCOUTS would like to welcome you to BROADSTONE WARREN SCOUT SITE & ACTIVITY CENTRE

170 hectares in the beautiful Ashdown Forest, Halfway between London & South Coast.

Indoor accommodation & big choice of individual camping areas.

Wide range of on-site activities incl. heated swimming pool.

Qualified instruction where required.

Plenty of places to visit in the area.

High class Grocery Store on site plus Sweets/Souvenirs.

We are the largest Scout Site in the U.K. & we try very hard to provide facilities, amenities & standards of service in keeping with this status.

Try us & experience that special "MAGIC" that is BROADSTONE WARREN

for details:-
The Warden
Broadstone Warren Scout Site
Forest Row
East Sussex RH18 5JS
phone 01342 822573
fax 01342 824055



CENTRAL ENGLAND & WALES

Suffolk Guides' and Brownies'
accommodation with adjacent camp site.
Hostel, 19 beds £20 per night; hostel
plus 9 bed annexe £27. Camping (per
person) 50 pence per night, Mr Copsey,
Monk's Croft, Alpheton, Sudbury, Suffolk,
CO10 9BP Tel: 01284 828297

BLACKMORE PARK GUIDE CAMP SITE

Hanley Swan, Worcestershire

5 sites, 1 equipped with wet-weather barn, in parkland setting. Brochure available (large SAE) from Worcestershire Guide Association, Country HQ, Acre Lane, Droitwich, WR9 9BE

Adventure Excitement Fun Challenges



THE YOULBURY EXPERIENCE

Indoor accommodation and woodland camping. Open 50 weeks. Set in 40 acres close to Oxford, the city of "Dreaming Spires". On-site Heated Swimming Pool, Archery, Climbing Tower, Rifles, Trails & Quizzes. Write, fax or phone for details:

Youlbury International Scout Campsite
Boars Hill,
Oxford OX1 5HD
Tel: 01865 326264,
Fax: 01856 326070.

BLACKWELL COURT INTERNATIONAL SCOUT CENTRE

Set amidst 50 acres of beautiful Worcestershire

Countryside, in the Heart of England, Blackwell

Court offers excellent camping facilities for all

Scouts and Guides.

The large range of onsite activities include: archery, pioneering, abseiling, rifle range, grass sledging, mountain bikes and heated swimming pool.

Canoeing and rafting is available at our Water Activity Centre and Pikes Pool.

The Campsite offers excellent toilet, shower and wet weather facilities including a well stocked Provender. Also available indoor accommodation, the ideal Centre for Pack Holidays.

Within easy access to all the major motorways and railways, Blackwell Court is ideally situated to visit the many nearby popular places of interest including Alton Towers, Cadbury World, Stratford-upon-Avon, Worcester and Warwick Castle and is only 2 hours travelling time from the centre of London.

Near to Blackwell Court is Pikes Pool set in 50 acres providing ideal camping facilities for the more experienced camper.

So are you interested in using Blackwell Court for your Brownie Pack/Guide Camp in 1997? Please don't delay in contacting us for further information from Blackwell Court International Scout Centre, Agmore Road, Blackwell, Nr Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B60 1PX or telephone on 0121-445-1285

Fax: 0121-447-7742.
Or please visit us at Map Ref: Sheet 139 (Metric) 995 716.

WOODCROFT GUIDE & PACK HOLIDAY CENTRE

Built 1988, situated in approx. 4.5 Acres of securely fenced woodland separate camping field. Large hall, fully equipped kitchen, central heating. Carpeted dormitory and guiders room, phone close to sports centre and shops adjacent 40 acres public woodland. Within easy reach Whipsnade Zoo, Woburn Abbey, London.

Details/brochure:

Mrs J. Moss
7 Truro Gardens
Luton, Beds
LU3 2AP (S.A.E.)
01582 653 799

CAMPING AND PACK HOLIDAYS IN WALES

CAE GWENLIAN, Broneirion, Llandinam, Powys Unequipped level camp site for 30-40 campers. Toilet block and running water. Showers are available at Broneirion.

Y BWTHYN, Broneirion Pack Holiday House. Equipped for 16.

YNYSGAIN, Criccieth, North Wales

Four unequipped sites for up to 50 campers. Toilet block and running water on site.

YNSGAIN solid building (equipped)

Brownie House (16), Ranger loft (10)

Long barn (equipped for the disabled) (13)

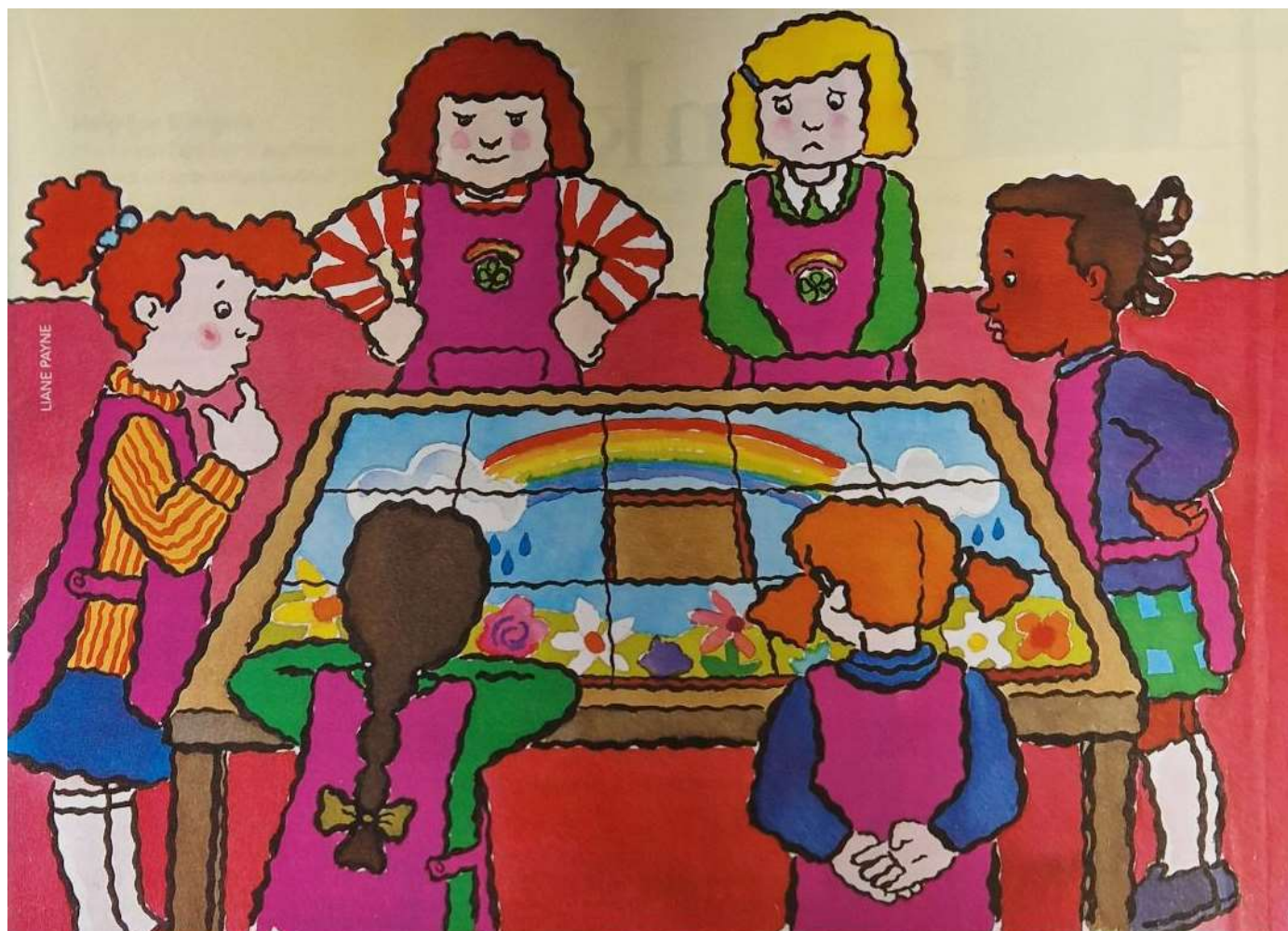
FULL DETAILS FROM: GUIDES CYMRU,

Broneirion, Llandinam, Powys SY17 5DE

01586 688652

SNOWDONIA GUIDE HEADQUARTERS

Caeathro Nr Caernarfon. Two fully-equipped hostels. Accommodation for 23 and 27. Suitable for the disabled. Also 11 acre campsite. Contact warden: Peter Stott, 51 High Street, Llanberis LL55 4EU. Tel: 01286 870840.



Our Rainbows undoubtedly enjoy predictability in the meetings as much as they love to do something new. So, while we're always on the lookout for different activities, we try to make sure that ceremonies are the same from week to week. The tradition they really treasure is our Rainbow jigsaw.

It's just a table-sized piece of hardboard sawn into 15 squares and painted. There's a central rainbow, the sun, rain clouds (we use this bit in our Promise Ceremony) and plenty of flowers at the bottom to fit in with the leaders' names.

Two of the girls hide the jigsaw in the hall while the others tell me their news. Then, after a game, everyone has to find the pieces and the jigsaw is assembled for the Welcome Ceremony.

But we have a problem. Our jigsaw is disappearing piece by piece. We are on to our fourth jigsaw since we were founded.

So what is happening? Every couple of weeks, after the pieces are hidden, one piece can't be found.

There are only chairs stacked against the walls and a piano in the hall. We have checked inside the piano and between the chairs for the recalcitrant remains like a flock of starlings looking for worms. The hall is cleaned from top to bottom periodically, yet Rainbow pieces are never found.

We have investigated the gap between the floorboards with torches but without success. This is where children 'post' party invitations and then wonder why their mums don't realise they've been invited. In case you're wondering, the pieces are too big to fit under a Rainbow tabard.

The Brownies have searched the hall for us and so have the Guides, not to mention the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Admittedly it's a great way of getting Scouting and Guiding together – and of getting the hall tidied – but it never turns up a single Rainbow piece.

Perhaps there's a Rainbow jigsaw rest home to which old and tired parts retire, located no doubt

rainbow's end

By Hazel Mackenzie

next to the one for odd socks.

Do the Rainbows themselves know of a secret place which they have sworn never to divulge? Who knows. Maybe generations of little girls will feed in their treasures so the sanctuary becomes a kind of time capsule – to be discovered hundreds of years hence when the church hall is no more.

What will people make then of such an assorted collection of items? Will future generations of Guiding regard these as museum items and display them with reverence as relics of a bygone age?

As I paint the next Rainbow jigsaw such thoughts make my brush quiver. For who knows where my artistic endeavours may end up in the future? ■

Thinking of you

A new Guide troop in a school for deaf children in India became the focus for West Yorkshire North's International Challenge

Of all the Thinking Day greetings soon to be sent around the world, none will be received with greater delight than the message faxed to the Guides of the Rangammal Memorial Hospital and School for the Deaf, at Tiruvannamalia, in Southern India.

It will be sent by the Guides of West Yorkshire North who, as a result of a County arts challenge and massive fund raising, have already sent the school toys, games, musical instruments and equipment.

They became the pupils' friends by luck, as County Commissioner Margaret Smith explains:

It all started with an idea from our County Arts Adviser for an arts-based challenge activity, involving all sections, which would have some kind of social benefit.

While the scheme was still being developed, Sylvia Wright, of the Sylvia Wright Trust, a Yorkshire-based charity which runs the Rangammal hospital and school, visited Ilkley grammar school and told sixth formers about the Trust's work in India.

She mentioned that a Guide unit was to be formed. It so happened that my daughter, Katherine, then a Young Leader and now at university, was in class that day. Later Katherine suggested that the County make contact with the Rangammal school Guide unit as soon as it was in being.

The County agreed and on the unit's enrolment day - August 8, 1995 - our congratulations were faxed to the new Company (or



Proud Guides in Rangammal school, Southern India

troop, as it is called in India). On Thinking Day, last year, she faxed a greeting on the County's behalf.

Meanwhile the challenge scheme had become the County's *International Challenge '96* focussing on the Rangammal school. This made the challenge more exciting for everyone.

As a flurry of faxes and letters went back and forth, a challenge booklet was produced and a Senior Section Adviser, designed a badge with an Indian elephant.

The response was tremendous, with about 700 in all sections taking part. Units raised money to buy materials to make items, or to buy ready-made equipment with all the usual fundraising activities.

Soon, all kinds of things began to pile up. Stationery was a popular choice with 39 pencil cases, 11 packs of felt-tipped pens, 25 packs of coloured pencils, glitter glue and so on.

Games included a wide variety of balls, skipping ropes, skittles, 17 boxes of dominoes, a "feely" bag, puppets, peg dolls, 14 construction packs and a couple of frisbees.

Among the musical instruments - collected because deaf children can feel vibrations even if

they cannot hear sounds - were some tambourines, a few tin whistles, triangles, a recorder and eight kazoos.

We also made up scrapbooks, with pictures of all kinds of things commonly seen in Britain - birds, wildflowers and farm animals - with captions in Tamil, the language of the region.

The goods were air-freighted to India and, eventually, we received a fax message from Sylvia Wright: "The children were absolutely thrilled. What toys they have are of very poor quality and in their homes they are just not available."

Her message ended with the words: "Please assure all your generous children that, however hard they have worked, they would have felt it was all worthwhile if they could have seen the joy and excitement of our children."

Individual units within the County are now keeping in touch with the school and the Guides and some will be sending their own greetings on Thinking Day. ♡

● The Sylvia Wright Trust was formed in 1982 when Sylvia Wright, a Leeds nurse, sold her home and all her possessions and went to a deprived region of Southern India to give medical care to the poor.

She set up two hospitals, a school for deaf children, a mobile clinic and various other facilities. More than 200 local people now work for her.

Help for the girls

The fourth Take our Daughters to Work Day will be on April 24, when thousands of 11 to 15-year-olds will be spending a day in the workplace with the aim of closing the gender gap, which is still felt to operate in working life.

Special packs for schools, students and employers to make the day successful are available at £12 each including p&p. Parents' leaflets are free with sae from: Our Daughters Charitable Trust
20-22 Craven Road
London W2 3PX.

Name change

Following Privy Council approval of the change of the Chief Commissioner's title to Chief Guide, amendments to publications produced by the Association will be phased in as part of the normal reprinting and revisional process.

This will avoid unacceptable extra expense and stock wastage. The exception to this will be *The Chief Commissioner's Challenge Certificate*, awarded to Look Wider participants (and available only from CHQ).

Learning about deafness

The Commonwealth Society for the Deaf's Hark! appeal is inviting Guiders to send in for a project pack and video.

Among the many activities it provides, are help with learning sign language, instructions on how to talk clearly to deaf or hard of hearing people, and suggestions for educational activities on deafness and countries of the Commonwealth.

The Project Pack is available from:
The Commonwealth Society for the Deaf
134 Buckingham Palace Road
London SW1W 9SA.

A donation of £2.50 towards postage and packing would be appreciated.

Lady Marjorie Stopford

Lady Marjorie Stopford died peacefully at her home in Bushey on October 26, 1996, aged 92.

She first joined the Association in 1924 and held many Guiding posts in Hertfordshire, including Division Commissionee for Herts South.

She was the Association's Duke of Edinburgh's Award Co-ordinator from 1970-74; the Association Land Ranger Adviser in 1958; and a member of RRU/7—the first GIS team.

The event show '97

Free tickets are available for the Event Show '97 at Wembley Exhibition Halls on January 14-16.

It displays under one roof every product required to organise a fund-raising event. Free seminars will describe key features of successful events and how to avoid the pitfalls. If you want to apply for free tickets, tel: 01203 632279.

Half-term safaris

Join in the February fun at the Epping Forest Field Centre from February 10-21. Aimed at youngsters from 4-13, activities will include pond dipping, minibeasts and survival.

Two-hour sessions take place morning and afternoon, price £3 per session.

Booking is required.

For further details and to make a booking, tel: 0181 508 7714

West country attractions

Do you organise days out for groups? Then you may be interested in two Day Out Fairs organised by the West Country Tourist Board.

They offer information on attractions and places to visit covering Bristol, Bath, Cornwall, Isles of Scilly, Devon, Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire.

Exhibitors from Wales, Heart of England and Southern England Tourist Board regions will also be represented.

Dates are:

Saturday January 11

Assembly Rooms and Museum of Costume, Bath.

Time: 10am-3.30pm

Saturday February 1,

Great Hall, Exeter University,

Time: 10am-3.30pm.

For further details ring 01392 425426 or fax 01392 420891.

Going up

The price of *GUIDING* rises by 10p this month to £1.25 – it is the first price rise since 1994.

Get active

Don't forget, you've still got time to join in Super Challenge, the British Heart Foundation's exciting fundraising and fitness awareness campaign.

The BHF wants to encourage people of all abilities to get out and get fit. The money raised through the Super Challenge will be divided between the BHF and your unit on a 75-25 per cent split.

There are certificates to be earned and trophies for top fundraisers.

Call Lynne Pritchard on 0171 487 7134 for further information and a registration leaflet.



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Tuckton, Bournemouth, Dorset BH6 3BR

Association awards

GALLANTRY AWARD

SILVER CROSS

Miss Lisa Potts

Assistant Brownie Guider

1st Merryhill Brownie Unit

West Mercia

MERITORIOUS

CONDUCT

STAR OF MERIT

Miss Elizabeth Burbedge

Young Leader

11th Tilehurst Guide Unit

Berkshire

official

community

As the nation
debates
citizenship we
look at
Guiding's
contribution

By Catherine Dell

In the street-level foyer at CHQ there's a notice telling visitors about The Guide Association. The paragraph which describes its aims states that the Association's 'purpose is to enable girls to mature into confident, capable and caring women ... willing, as citizens, to contribute to their community and the wider world'.

This commitment to citizenship is, and always has been, a fundamental objective. It is there, at the very heart of Guiding, in the Promise. The pledge to serve the *Queen and my country*, according to *The Guider Handbook*, 'is about

integral to the Guide Programme at all levels though, clearly, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Young Leaders and Rangers will have a different understanding of its implications.

A five-year-old Rainbow won't recognise 'citizenship', but she will respond to situations like being asked to clear away play materials, showing a new girl what to do and throwing rubbish into a litter bin rather than on the ground.

Brownies, too, find serving the *Queen and my country* a difficult concept — until it is translated into practical action. For them, being a good citizen means knowing how

to make an emergency telephone call, observing the Green Cross Code, keeping to foot-paths on a country walk, looking after library books, saving comics for recycling and taking part in a fundraising event for charity. And it means being helpful, an approach to life which the next part of their Promise — *to help other people* — and their *Lend a Hand* motto reinforce day in, day out.

This awareness of community and the helping skills that go with it are rooted in the Programme and learned through games, activities, Ventures, discussions, Interest badges and, especially, through the Journey challenges.

By the time a girl reaches Guide age she readily understands that serving the *Queen and her country* is about being a good citizen and can interpret that as keeping the law, caring for the environment and playing her part in the community.

The Programme provides enormous scope for her to explore

these themes. As she works through her Trefoils, gains Interest badges and takes part in Patrol Pennants and Patches, she discovers the world and her role in it.

At the same time, she acquires the skills that she will need to fulfil that role. On one hand there are specific skills such as first aid, map-reading, nutrition, photography ... and, on the other, essential life skills like thinking for herself, decision-making, showing kindness and tolerance, and working with others. Skills like these all have a bearing on good citizenship.

The Programme also encourages the girl's commitment to service — in the daily Good Turn, the Be Prepared motto and, very prominently, in the Trefoils, where 'giving service' ranges from accident prevention and emergency aid to conservation work and neighbourhood knowledge.

For their part, Young Leaders and Rangers follow a more flexible programme but its aims are the same and make an on-going contribution to good citizenship.

The concepts of helpfulness and responsibility towards others are reinforced by an additional clause in the Senior Section Promise — *an undertaking to give service to the community*. This normally requires a sustained commitment, which could be helping with Rainbows or Brownies; offering support to a housebound neighbour; or doing voluntary work in a local hospital.

Whatever the project, it allows the girl to use her skills for the benefit of others, to grow in awareness of society and to perceive herself as a member of that society with a positive part to play.

For any girl who has been 'through' Guides — whether or not she stays in Guiding as an adult — her readiness and ability to



GILLIAN ELLIS

An afternoon
out with a
helping hand
from her
Guide friends

responsible citizenship: about showing respect for people and their property, for the environment, and for our country's institutions and laws'.

Focusing on our relationship with society, it encourages us to look beyond self, towards the world around us and the people in it. Following on from this, the third part of the Promise, *to help other people*, promotes another aspect of citizenship — service.

Enabling girls to develop an active awareness of community is

y matters

help others will enable her to take her place in the community as a capable and caring woman — and as a good citizen.

Although citizenship is very definitely on Guiding's agenda, recent events and surveys indicate that for the population as a whole citizenship is a 'has been'.

Two months ago Frances Lawrence, widow of the murdered London headmaster, launched her manifesto for the 'remoralisation' of Britain and the promotion of good citizenship. Urging the country to unite in a search for civic peace, Mrs Lawrence outlined her vision of 'a nationwide movement dedicated to healing our fractured society, banishing violence, ensuring that the next generations are equipped to be good citizens and urgently debating how the moral climate can be changed for the better'.

She went on to attack the 'me' culture which, by fostering self-interest and self-absorption, has sabotaged all sense of responsibility towards others and undermined society itself.

Echoing her husband's belief that young people had a crucial part to play in turning the country around, she called for lessons in citizenship at school. 'Schools should inculcate an appreciation of the civic bond, the respect we owe to others and the duties we owe to society.'

'The futility of getting and spending should be contrasted with the richness of building personal relationships and making a difference in one's community... Politics, in the broadest sense, should be taught earlier in schools and to a much wider range of pupils. Too few people are encouraged to think seriously about the nature and progression of the country,' she said.

The week after Mrs Lawrence issued her statement, a report came

out which confirmed her analysis of Britain as a damaged society where both social commitment and social cohesion are in deep decline.

The report — *The Deficit in Civil Society* — revealed that people's sense of civic responsibility has all but collapsed. Over the past 20 to 30 years, they have become much more reluctant to do voluntary work, join a community organisation, get involved in politics, even be neighbourly. According to the report, one person in two feels no obligation to be a good neighbour.

In highlighting people's unwillingness to get involved in anything beyond their own front door, the report is identifying both a symptom and a cause of social disintegration. As commitment to community diminishes, so the community itself becomes weaker and, ultimately, breaks down.

Faced with the consequences — which may include vandalism, drunkenness, car crime, burglary, violence and a range of accompanying social problems — people tend to adopt a siege mentality and retreat even further into their own concerns.

There is little doubt that reawakening a sense of civic responsibility is an urgent priority for our time. But it is a daunting task. Especially, as *The Deficit in Civil Society* points out, the organisations and structures traditionally associated with promoting civic values are losing support.

Among the examples quoted are the Churches. In the last 25 years the Methodists have lost half, and the Roman Catholics one quarter, of their members. Church of England numbers have also dropped — by about 50 per cent since the last war.

During the same post-war period people have become far less involved in politics. Labour Party membership is less than half, and the Conservative Party just one quarter, of their 1945-levels. Trade Union membership has shrunk even more dramatically — down by 40 per cent in just 15 years.

Voluntary bodies like the Round



TONY WOODCOCK

Table and the Women's Institute tell a similar story. So do youth organisations. Scout numbers are falling, and Guide membership too is down — by almost ten per cent over the last decade.

In the quest for civic regeneration that's something all members should be working to alter — it could be the basis, perhaps, for a collective New Year's resolution.

● *The Deficit in Civil Society* costs £12 and is published by the Foundation for Civil Society. Details on 0121 476 8705.

Getting to work on an overgrown path

life-changing exp

Each year members of the Movement travel to all corners of the globe experiencing different cultures



The intrepid British contingent takes to the rapids of the Filo-Bobos River in Mexico

A learning experience: Sally Clarke with the Czech Guides to whom she taught English

Whether it's teaching English, painting classrooms, helping with health care or living abroad as a member of the family after an international camp, the experience can and does change lives. Here we describe just some of the overseas adventures of a few UK members.

From rapids to ruins

White water rafting their way to unique archeological digs in impenetrable jungle was just one of the adventures for the ten Senior Section members who were selected from all over Britain to attend Comexi '96 in Mexico.

The girls conquered rapids on one of the most beautiful rivers in Mexico, the Filo-Bobos, to reach two recently discovered archeological landscapes of pre-Hispanic architecture of the Maya and Totonaca cultures. The digs are only accessible from the river.

The visit was just one of the highlights of the three-week enterprise, organised jointly by the Mexican and UK Guide Associations. The group, led by Heather Sharpley from Anglia and Margot Cutt from North East, England explored Mexico City over several days, completed a special 'adult' session at Our Cabaña and

visited the Mexican Guide HQ staying in the Guide hostel.

There was also time for sporting activities, shopping at the street markets and inspecting the local arts and crafts.

Czech mates!

Teaching English to a group of Czech Guides was an amazing experience for Sally Clarke, Brownie Guider with the 2nd Malpas Pack,

Cheshire Forest, which taught her as much as it taught her Czech friends. She recalls:

'Our visit to the Czech Republic was particularly interesting because Guiding had been banned for many years under the Communist regime. Although they were behind Guiding in the UK, the Czech Guides' ideals were the same.

The English language is extremely important but, although it is taught in schools, the Czechs rarely meet native English speakers.

Taking on the Czech project were ten Rangers, Young Leaders and young Guiders from North



West Region, the first Region to take on a national GOLD project

We arrived in Prague fully versed in teaching English as a foreign language after specialised training over two weekends.

Our group, led by Tracey Bell and Claire Heginbotham, was met by three of the Czech Guiders and taken to the camp site at Cerveny Hradek near Sedlcany, about 50 miles south of Prague.

We split the 41 Czech and two Belarussie Guides into groups of four or five, depending on the number of times they had attended such a camp and the number of

periences

years that they had been learning to converse in English.

We spent three hours every morning teaching English in a variety of ways. We brought in games and singing as well as role plays and work sheets. We taught a range of topics that would assist the girls in everyday use of the language, similar to those used when teaching foreign languages at GCSE-level in the UK.

Although the lessons were hard work, the benefits were obvious immediately. The Czech Guides' English improved greatly over the two weeks and their confidence in both written and spoken English was apparent. We all felt we were really giving something valuable.

I know that through this teaching, my life has been touched forever, and I feel sure that some of what I taught the Czech Guides will remain with them for life.'

Flags of friendship

Ranger Tessa Augustyniak from Oxford admits she went to Russia expecting the worst. Instead she found tremendous hospitality and kindness. She explains:

'Apart from huge insects and the monotonous menu, we enjoyed every minute of our time there. But it did take four days to reach our camp site from Heathrow. Blue Mountains Camp 1996 was in the heart of the Ural mountains, near to Verezhaginski, which is three hours from Perm by train.

Our group of 12, representing ten units in Oxfordshire were looked after in Moscow by Ruth Hall, who has taken a year off her university studies to work with RADs, the Russian Guides Association. Highlights for us included dinner at McDonald's, a night tour and visits to

the Kremlin and Red Square.

After a 24-hour train journey to Perm, we were all very jet-lagged. Perm time is two hours ahead of Moscow, which is three hours ahead of Britain. But the journey was not over — after a night with home-stay families, we had a three-hour trip by train and a half-hour bumpy bus ride to the camp.

The camp site was a large field surrounded by dense forest on all sides, with a river at the edge. In the centre of the field was a huge flagpole for the World Flag, the Union Jack, the Russian flag and the Ukraine flag.

The 150 campers were split into sub-camps, with names such as Kobra, Communal Flat and Family of Squirrels. My sub-camp was called Friendship because we were a mixture of Russian and English girls. Each day had a different theme, such as Bureaucrats' Day, Economics' Day and Good Works' Day.

The camp was really enjoyable and thanks are due to our terrific party leaders, Margaret Fleetwood and Sue Moss.'

Appetite for new and exciting horizons

Sugar cane is one of the many different foods tried by two Hereford Guides Anna Jones and Sophie Gwilliam on a two-week visit to the British Virgin Islands.

They recall: 'Unlike the fish, sweet potato and breadfruit, it was difficult to prepare, even though the local Guides made it look easy!

You couldn't eat it whole and swallow it because it splintered like wood in your mouth! You had to chew it and suck it.



T. AUGUSTYNIAK

A different world:
The Oxfordshire group visits Red Square in Moscow

We made purses from local palm which we were told is a dying art; we snorkelled and toured the only surviving rum distillery. We visited old copper mines and two of the other islands — Virgin Gorda, a popular holiday island, and the exclusive resort, Peter Island.

We were invited for lunch at Government House by the Governor's wife who is the President of the local Guide Association. There are 170 members on these tiny islands which have a total population of just 12,000.

We spent five days camping practically on the beach and the rest of the time we stayed in the homes of different families.'

Virgin Islanders
prepare sugar cane for the Hereford Guides



LESLEY JONES

open door

Paula came in from Brownies clutching a garishly-painted margarine tub from which pipe cleaners stuck out at all angles. 'It's a spider,' she explained in response to her father's raised eyebrows. 'And I did it all myself,' she added proudly.

Privately I doubted whether anyone else would be prepared to take responsibility, but that wasn't the point. It wasn't important either that she'd made a spider — a frog, or even a model of the Eiffel Tower, could have served the same purpose. What really mattered was that she had been allowed to do it herself, to experiment, to create, even make her own mistakes.

Now the Brownie Guiders are very wise, and I'm sure they would have accurately anticipated the trail

of glue, glitter and paint that would inevitably follow in the wake of such an absorbing activity.

They could so easily have wielded the glue spreaders themselves, rationed the paint and abandoned the glitter entirely, or even have chosen to schedule skipping or throwing balls instead, so that the mess and the stress of clearing up afterwards would have been entirely avoided.

Instead, because they understand that Paula and her friends need such activities to help them grow and develop, they lovingly provide suitable opportunities, at great cost and effort to themselves.

They may not have been aware, however, that they are following

a precedent set by God, himself.

For God, having experienced the satisfaction of DIY when He created the world, understands its importance to mankind. He entrusted the upbringing and welfare of His only son to an inexperienced peasant girl and a tradesman. Today, He relies utterly on Christians to spread the message of the Gospels throughout the world, thus recognising our human need to be used, to do it ourselves.

Given our innate inadequacy and fallibility, this could be seen as the ultimate in divine madness. But, if you have faith, you will remember Paula's delight in her spider and, perhaps, catch a glimpse of the meaning of heavenly love.

EB

personal view

**The Guide age
should rise to
11 to
correspond
with school
change-over,
argues
Lesley Heparty**

I want to comment on the ongoing discussion about changing the age at which girls come up to Guides from Brownies. While I welcome the discussion, I am alarmed that the majority of the letters published in *GUIDING* so far seem to suggest that the issue is whether the Guide age should be lowered to nine, rather than the more obvious and, in my opinion, sensible idea that the age be raised to 11.

Anyone who has run a Guide unit for a number of years knows that there is a vast difference in the

interests of the youngest girls in the unit who are still at primary school and those, even in the first year, at secondary school.

The girls undergo a very rapid 'growing-up' process when they change schools, and are suddenly subjected to enormous peer pressure. One of the issues that arises is admitting to belonging to a group containing younger children with whom they, temporarily, have little in common.

There are not many 12-13-year-old girls who will willingly admit to being a Guide when in the company of their peers who are not part of the Movement.

Whether or not this is a failing on their part is irrelevant, but there is no doubt that the issue figures very importantly in their minds.

As our chief aim in taking part in any age discussion should be to find out how to retain the older girls and not lose them at 12, I propose raising the age limit to 11 — or secondary school age — as a more realistic way to achieve such a goal.

At the same time, it would allow for a programme encompassing the more workable age range of 11-14 or 15, when the girls have

more in common with each other and might even bring some friends along to join the Movement.

At present most Guides — almost 100 per cent — have already been Brownies and made the natural progression up to Guides by the age of ten. If the break came at secondary-school age, I believe we might even bring in new girls at Guide level. For we would be able to tap into a pool of girls who are usually open to taking up new interests as they change schools.

From a Guider's point of view I chose to be a Guide Guider in order to work with older girls. I have no desire to run a combination of Brownie/Guide unit, and would definitely rethink my position as a Unit Guider if I was forced to admit younger girls.

If Brownie Guiders have full Packs and long waiting lists, surely this is a healthy situation to be in? Youngsters are not likely to be put off by having to wait a few months to join their local Packs.

To sum up, I feel lowering the Guide age limit would serve only to diminish further the section we are seeking to build up. I know mine is not a lone voice in Somerset North.



SW NEWS SERVICE

ideas

Programme ideas for January 1997

idea of the MONTH

Useful suggestions for Guiders of all sections

By Georgina Fielding

Every girl should have her own copy of the relevant section handbook. Even when funds are tight, units should make this a priority. Consider asking your District, Division or County if grants are available. You might decide to run a fundraising event, especially to cover the cost of a handbook for each girl. Pass on secondhand copies — as long as they are up-to-date editions and in good condition.

A handbook evening can be good fun and will familiarise the girls with the information in the books.

Start with a simple quiz. Prepare a set of 20 questions, each having only one answer. Questions that you could ask include:

■ On which page of the *Brownie Handbook* can you learn how to use a card telephone?

■ French children like to play a special game with marbles, consult the *Guide Handbook* to find out what it is.

Prepare a handbook treasure hunt, using words from the book to compile a message. Give each group a written list with a number of clues to the treasure. This is an example for which the 1995 *Brownie Handbook* has been used:

34:3 88:3 58:16 189:6 134:13 56:9 23:144

The third word on page 34 is 'help', and so on. The message reads 'Help yourself to cake from the kitchen' — so, if you use this example, make sure that there is enough cake for everyone!



There's a lot of fun to be discovered through your handbooks

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idea

Appoint one reliable Guide or Brownie to be the unit thank-you letter writer.

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idea

Run a mystery meeting and give all the instructions in simple codes or signals.

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topic of the month

This month, we discover ways in which you can get to know your neighbourhood and become involved in your community

By Midlands Trainer Support Group
Illustrations: Kate Taylor

Community collage

Does your local community know who you are, where you are, or when you meet?

The refuse collector, gasman, postman and community nurse all provide an essential service and Guiding can provide one too.

You might be asked to walk a dog, weed a garden, do someone's shopping or make refreshments to serve at an open evening.

As a unit activity, ask the girls to:

■ **Make a collage of people who help in the community.**

■ **Identify needs within the community and ways in which members of the unit can address them.**

A week in the life of...

Challenge your girls to imagine that they are living the life of a person who is out of work and does not have money to spend on luxury items such as new clothes or sweets. The girls need to find out about:

- **Benefits and how to claim them**
- **How to start looking for a job**
- **Accommodation choices open to them**

Discuss how you would plan a budget if you were receiving income support.

Homelessness

Ask a local speaker from the Salvation Army, or another charity, to come and discuss the problem of homelessness in your area. As a group, think about the health and social issues that a homeless person may face. Do specific needs differ with age?

Many local charities welcome 'food parcels' at any time of the year. Challenge your girls to buy the basic food essentials with £5.



Hospital help

Your unit may like to visit a local hospital, or hospice, to gain permission to cheer up wards or day rooms. Ideas include: mobiles, posters, decorations for Mothering Sunday, Easter and so on. A doctor's surgery may welcome toys and children's books.

Arrange to deliver items and include time to visit patients — this is more suitable for older girls.

■ **Activities may be used as part of Craft, Artist, or even Toymaker badges.**

Special needs

How friendly is the area where you live to a person with special needs?

How accessible are the shops to wheelchairs? Does your library have Braille or large-print books?

Find out about:

- **Loop systems for the hard of hearing**
- **Hearing dogs for the deaf**
- **Riding for the Disabled**
- **Different types of sign language**

Your unit may wish to consider completing a stage of the Deaf or Sight Awareness badges, or tackling the Service in the community octant.

Magpies

Many charities raise funds by collecting such things as used stamps, silver foil, even old spectacles. Become a team of magpies and find out what you could collect to 'recycle' for a charity.

Ask around for clothes in good condition which could be given to a charity shop or sold at a 'new-to-you' event. Decide what you will do with the money that you raise.



Adopt a park

Either get involved with your local park or create your own. Contact your local authority for guidance and advice.

Offer the services of your unit to: litter pick; create a wildlife area; plant bulbs; take care of a pond or stream; establish a scented garden for the visually impaired; construct a compost heap.

Grow your own acorns, conkers or ash keys in plant pots, then plant them in your adopted park or local camp site.

■ **This activity could be used as part of the Gardener or Conservation badges.**

Shoeshine girls

Choose your site — a shopping centre, car park or residential area. Seek permission from the relevant authorities, then arm yourselves with brushes, buffers and polish to make shoes in your community gleam.

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Lyrical litter

Sing the litter song while cleaning up your community. Each girl will need gloves and a bin-liner to collect rubbish. Discussion should take place about what to do with glass and dangerous objects. Guiders should also be aware of Walking Safely regulations.

■ To the tune of *My Bonnie Lies over the ocean*:

The papers were scattered all over,
The bottles were lying around,
Folk went to see flowers and beauty,
But rubbish was all that they found.

Chorus:

Bring back, bring back,
Oh, bring back your rubbish
to me, to me,
Bring back, bring back,
Oh, bring back your rubbish to me.

Verse:

All Guides and Brownies know better
Than to leave rubbish lying around,
For, if people took home their own
litter,

There'd be no need to hear this
same sound.

Repeat chorus

Paint plots

Find out if there are any halls, fences or walls in your community that are in need of decoration. For instance, is there anywhere that you could paint a mural?

Seek permission and then make your plans. What sort of paint and brushes will you need? Ask around for donations. Plot exactly what you will be painting. Make sure that you wear old clothes and protect your hair from splashes. Would the Press be interested in your mural?



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Council concerns

Your local council may be discussing issues that concern or affect you. Are there plans to close a popular club? Is local government making decisions which will bring about change for local women? Attend meetings in which you may be interested.

Invite your councillor to talk to the unit about differing aspects of the job and local government.

■ This could help with Look Wider phase one, Service in the community.



Adult literacy

Senior Section members with a keen interest in reading and writing, may wish to find out more about the Adult Literacy Scheme. Teaching an adult to read and write can be very rewarding. It could also count towards the Look Wider Service in the community octant, phase one and two. Most lending libraries will have details of your nearest scheme.

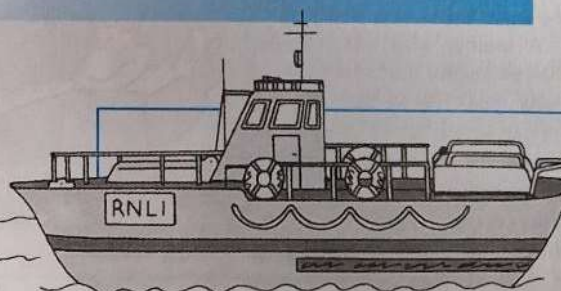


Pets for pensioners

Winter months can be especially lonely for the elderly in your neighbourhood. Consider visiting their homes for a chat or to help with shopping and household chores.

The unit may like to work together with a residential home — entertaining, playing games or making gifts. The girls could also take their friendly pets to visit. Cats and dogs are often used as therapy in nursing homes.

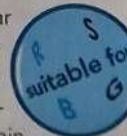
■ Achievements may count towards House Orderly, Care of Elderly People badges, the Service in the community octant, or the Service flash.



Emergency service

The Firefighter badge is popular with Guides, but how much do you know about other emergency services? The police and ambulance services, along with mountain rescue and the RNLI, carry out vital services for the country. Find out how these different organisations are governed and funded.

It may be possible for a representative to come to a meeting to talk to you about his or her work. Do you think that you would like a career with one of the emergency services?



rainbow guiders

Encourage Rainbows to look more closely at the worldwide community of Brownies and Guides, past and present

By Deborah Manley
Illustrations: Julie Morris

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News from faraway

Do you have a friend who is involved in Guiding in another country, or even another part of Britain? The Rainbows could send her a card showing your neighbourhood or to ask her about the sort of things that happen in her town or village.

Look at my clothes

One of your Rainbows' mothers may wear the traditional dress of her family or country. Perhaps a mum could visit the girls to tell them about her special clothes and why she wears them.

A mother who wears a sari, shawar kamise or other special dress, could show the girls the intricacies and advantages of her traditional outfit.

■ **Your visitor may like to bring in her very best party clothes and photographs of her family in formal dress. Ask if she remembers a game that she played as a child, which the Rainbows could try.**

News from long ago

Ask a mum, auntie or grandma who was a Brownie to talk about her experiences. Ask if she could bring in photographs to show the girls.

Find out if anyone you know was a Brownie in another country. Ask her to share her experiences, games and crafts with the Rainbows.

Where's my child?

The Rainbows stand in a circle and a girl chosen to be 'Mum' stands in the centre. Mum asks: 'Where's my child?' The others answer: 'We don't know. How's she dressed?' Mum then describes one girl in the ring — trying to avoid looking at her.

When the girl described recognises herself, she runs outside the circle and Mum chases her. The Rainbow tries to get back to her place, before Mum catches her. If the child is caught, she becomes Mum for the next game. If the child escapes — choose a volunteer to be Mum.

Games from past times

Children no longer play many of the traditional games that generations of children have played in the past. Think about teaching some of these to the Rainbows: Musical chairs, Here we go round the mulberry bush, Ring-a-roses and Sardines.

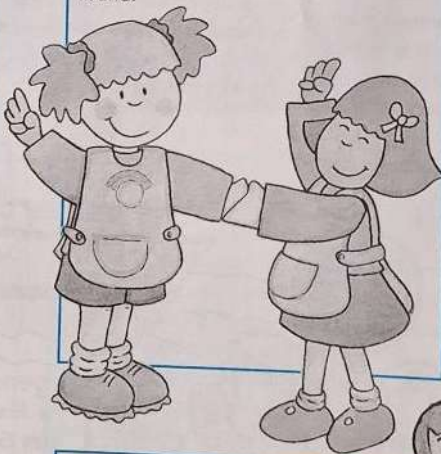


World handshakes

Teach the girls the left-handed Guide handshake. Explain that it is used all over the world. You can then play the following game:

The Rainbows stand in a circle with their hands behind their backs. One, who is 'It', walks around the outside of the circle and taps another girl's hand. The chosen girl runs around the circle in the opposite direction.

When the girls meet, they then shake hands and run on — racing to see who will be first into the empty space. The girl who arrives second, is It for the next round.



Who is missing?

One of the Rainbows is chosen to be 'It'. She turns her back on the group and covers her eyes. Another girl then leaves the room or hides. The others change their positions.

When It turns around, she must guess who is missing — while the others count to ten, slowly. Repeat the activity with a new It.

Quiet time

When the meeting draws to a close, ask the Rainbows to think of people who live far away from them. Think about other girls, around the world, who are members of the Guide Movement.

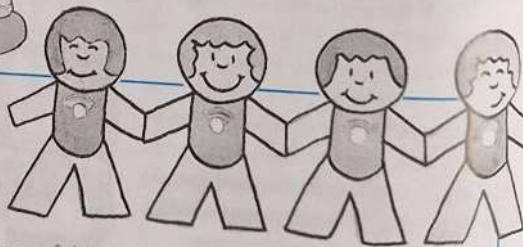
Dancing Rainbows

Simple ideas are often the most effective. Your Rainbows may enjoy making a string of dancing figures.

To do this you need a strip of paper, folded like a fan with a figure drawn on the first opening. Make sure that the hands stretch to both folded sides.

The children cut around the figure, making very sure they don't cut through at the hands! Then they pull out the line of dancing Rainbows.

■ **Colour in your figures to look like girls from other countries.**



Tried and tested

You will need enough adults for one person to supervise each Six. Remind the girls to bring aprons and any utensils they may need. Set out ingredients for one dish in each Six corner.

Plan your oven and hob times carefully. You can either aim for each Six to become experts at one recipe, or move them around so that everyone has a try at everything.

Some of the results could be frozen, awaiting the open evening. Other 'practice runs' will need to be eaten and then cooked fresh on the day.

Anglesey cakes from North Wales

You will need:

- 420g self-raising flour
- 25g castor sugar
- 250g unsalted butter
- jam
- icing sugar

Cream the softened, not melted, butter with the sugar. Add flour to make a soft dough and roll out thinly. Cut into 5cm rounds.

Bake for 10 minutes at 350°F, 180°C, Gas Mark 4 until golden brown. Cool and sandwich together with jam. Sprinkle with icing sugar.



Masterchef map

Brownies may like to make decorated labels or flags for each dish. Pin up a map of the British Isles. Each time the Brownies make a dish, mark its place of origin on the map with a coloured pin or flag. If you have a local delicacy, which can be cooked during a Brownie meeting, try making that, too. Keep your dishes simple, speedy and inexpensive.

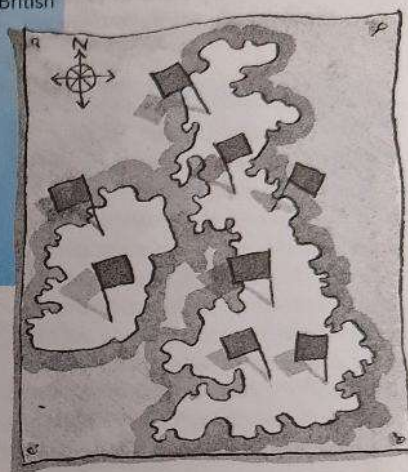


brownie guiders

Start planning now for a Thinking Day open evening, to show off the delicious heritage of the British Isles

By Poppy Frances

Illustrations: Kate Wells



Crempog – the original Welsh pancake

You will need:

- 175g self-raising flour
- 65g sugar
- 80ml sour milk
- 2 tbsp cream of tartar
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 4 eggs
- 200ml milk
- large knob of melted butter

Mix dry ingredients in a bowl. Add milk, eggs and butter. Mix thoroughly. Drop a tablespoon of batter in a greased frying pan and fry both sides until golden brown. Serve hot with butter and honey.



Oat biscuits from Scotland

You will need:

- 175g porridge oats
- 175g self-raising flour
- 110g sugar
- 225g melted butter

Add together all the ingredients and mix well. Press into a shallow baking tray. Bake at 350°F, 180°C, Gas Mark 4 for about 20 minutes. Sprinkle with sugar when cooked and mark into squares while still warm.

Potato farls from Northern Ireland

You will need:

- 1 kg freshly cooked mashed potatoes
- 125g plain flour
- oil or butter
- 2 tbsp butter
- salt

Melt butter and mix into the potatoes, add a pinch of salt. Work the flour in quickly, then knead lightly. Divide the dough into two. On a floured board, roll each half into a circle about the size of a dinner plate. Cut into quarters (farls) and fry for about 3 minutes each side in the oil or butter.

Farls are traditionally fried in bacon fat.

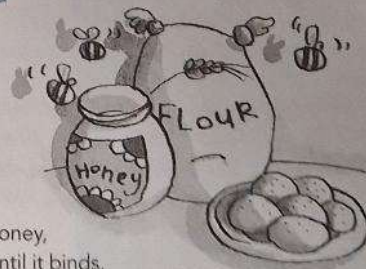
Honey cakes from England

You will need:

- 1 level tsp sugar
- 60g margarine
- 2 level tbsp honey
- 175g self-raising flour
- 1 level tsp cinnamon

Beat sugar and margarine until soft and creamy. Mix in honey, add flour and cinnamon. Stir until it binds, then work into a smooth dough with your fingers.

Dust hands with flour and roll the mixture into small balls. Place on a lightly-greased baking tray and flatten slightly. Bake for 15 minutes at 350°F, 180°C, Gas Mark 4.



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guide guiders

Common sense and a little knowledge are all that are needed for Guides to explore this month's theme of accident prevention

By Victoria Wheeler
Illustrations: Michelle Draycott

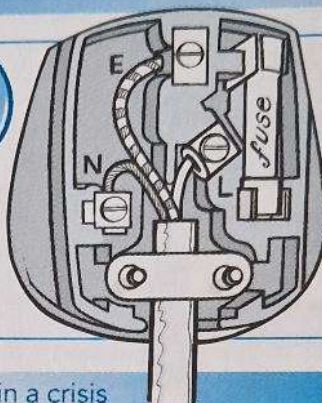


Telephone tactics

When an accident does occur, it is most important that the girls know how to make an emergency call. Play this game to be prepared:

Guides sit in a large circle, next to the other members of their Patrol. A cut-out telephone is placed in the centre and each girl is given a number from one to four.

Read out an emergency situation from a prepared list, this should include a location and the nature of the problem. Call out a number. The Guides with that number then run around the circle and back through their space to the telephone. The first one to ring the emergency services gains a Patrol point.



Plugging in

Electricity is invisible, but it is all around us. If we misuse it, electricity can kill. Ask your local electricity board for leaflets and posters that could be used as quiz material.

In Patrols, learn how to wire a plug correctly. Remember:

- Green/yellow wire to earth, marked E
- Blue wire to neutral, marked N
- Brown wire to live, marked L

Check that the wires are connected to the right terminals and the screws are tight. There should not be any stray, bare wires and the flex clamp should be on the covered cable. Check the fuse is the correct amp.

Drama in a crisis

Ask your Patrols to act out an accident that may occur in each of the following settings:

- The living room at home
- The garden
- A building site

Discuss how the accident may have been avoided, then repeat the scenes to illustrate this.

Show the Guides an object, for example — a roller skate, a kettle, a screw driver. Ask them to improvise a scene where the object is the cause of an accident.

Publicity posters

Design, then draw or paint accident prevention posters. Subjects could include: at the seaside; on the farm; riding your bike; using a wheelchair; different traffic crossings...

Display your posters in suitable places, such as schools and shops.



Poison precautions

Take a look around your meeting place to make a list of any potential poisons. Make sure that they are all correctly stored and out of reach.

Using old magazines, make a collage of anything which could be poisonous — you could include paracetamol, bubble bath, toilet cleaner and so on.

- Imagine that a Rainbow has accidentally swallowed some bleach — what should you do?



Fire practice

Fire drills are very important, even at a weekly meeting. Do Guides know where the emergency exits are? Establish somewhere outside to gather in the event of a fire. Each Patrol Leader is responsible for her Patrol. Carry out your drill on a regular basis.

- Know about smoke detectors and where to site them.

- When were the fire extinguishers in your meeting place last checked? Do you know what type of fire they are for?

Decision-makers

Give each Patrol a set of cards marked with instructions such as — Say no; Say yes; Keep calm, Dial 999.

Ask the girls to imagine themselves in the following, potentially dangerous, situations:

- Your friends make a rope swing next to the canal and ask you to try it.
- You are babysitting for a three-year-old who wants to play with some talcum powder.
- Your brother is playing with a kite near electricity pylons. It becomes stuck and he asks you to reach it.

After you have read out each one, the girls should decide what they would do and hold up the appropriate card. Discuss the reasons for their answers and move on to the next situation.



Time out

During the holidays, two of the Nomad Patrol decided to leave. One of the girls found the pressure of GCSEs too much to juggle with Guiding.

The other sent a message with a friend to say she wasn't coming anymore. When the Guider contacted her, the leaver said that she had a boyfriend and wanted to go to discos. The girl could not see that it was possible to be a Guide and do these things too.

The two remaining Nomads will continue. One is nearing completion of her Baden-Powell Award, but doesn't want to join a Patrol. The other isn't very keen on Guides, but her mother says she has to come — is there really any point in girls attending for the sake of it?

Patch work plan

At the Patrol Leaders Council, the Asteroids reported on their Patrol Purpose Patch. Every member was proud of her results. The Patrol also have a new recruit — a former Brownie, Holly, has asked to join them as she already knows the girl who is Pack Leader.

Meteors are now discussing their Patrol Purpose Patch. They have decided on the four areas that they want to cover — Thinking for self, Fitness, Becoming a home-maker and Getting to know people.



using your patrols

Video cameras, boyfriends, feather dusters, wellingtons and bingo — they all feature on this month's Patrol programme

By Gillian Furse

Illustrations: Beccy Blake

Who's got it?

Each Patrol Leader will need a bulky object — for example, a gadget pole, a wellington boot, a football, a plastic container, a feather duster...

The Patrols, in turn, leave the room and conceal the object on one person. On their return, the girls walk slowly down the length of the room, while the unit watches. They try to guess who has the object and what it is.

Ready rockets

Rocket Patrol enjoyed their carol singing with local pensioners. The Guider suggested that they visit a nearby sheltered housing complex, where two former Guiders now live. Chris, acting Patrol Leader, agreed to talk to the Patrol.

Once again, not one member of the Satellite Patrol attended the meeting. However, a scruffy note did arrive from Tanya, acting PL, to suggest that the Company cooked for Thinking Day.

A challenge was consequently issued to all Patrols — during the Thinking Day meeting, plan and cook a two-course meal from a foreign country.



Bingo!

You will need: a set of 'bingo cards' with names and notable dates from Guiding's past; counters or small pieces of paper

Read a story of the history of Guiding which brings in the dates and names on the bingo cards. When the girls hear a name or date read out, they check to see if it is on their card. The name or date is then covered with a counter or piece of paper. The game proceeds as for normal bingo.

Information can be found from several Guide publications, including handbooks,



Video nation

Access to a video camera can provide a multitude of opportunities for a Guide unit. Asteroid Patrol borrowed one from the local youth services department and were given instruction on how to use it.

The budding Spielbergs then made a film based around safety. Scenes acted out by the Patrol involved themes of stranger danger and safety in the home. The video was much praised and shown to teachers at school.

Ten ball

You need: a large soft ball, two teams of Guides

Pass the ball between the girls. Each clean pass between members of the same team is one point, ten points make a goal. Any fair way of intercepting the ball is allowed.



ranger guiders

Make a New Year resolution to keep to your planned programme – we can help you through this month's ideas

By Joan Wisdich
Illustrations: Kim Woolley

Perfect planning

Rangers don't usually have a problem in compiling a varied programme of activities. The hard thing seems to be sticking to it.

Divide your term planner into four columns. At the top of each column write the following headers:

- Date
- Activity
- Co-ordinators
- Reminder

The co-ordinators are responsible for making sure that each event happens, but do not necessarily have to organise it. The reminder column can be used to make weekly notes about coming events.

The following ideas have been taken from a programme plan for the Thistlework Rangers, an imaginary unit.

DATE	ACTIVITY	CO-ORDINATORS	REMARKS

A new term

The Thistlework Rangers have already put their planner into action. January 10 is the first meeting of the year.

Activity: Assess the Rangers' progress with Look Wider and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. For Look Wider, it is often most successful to look back at recent events and discuss which octants they may count for.

■ **Reminder** — update and distribute address lists.

February already

Karaoke and aerobics form the agenda for January 31. Sue and Pippa are organising it as part of their Discovery work. Mary and Sue are reminded to be sure to finalise arrangements for the Valentine evening.

The Rangers' visit to the Guide unit takes place on February 7. Sophie organises a brilliant programme of international activities. The event is judged a success, especially as the Guides express an interest in moving up to Rangers.



Beauty and Brains

Mandy, from the local hair and beauty boutique, is visiting the Unit on February 28. The girls learn how to choose the best colours for their complexions, as well as considering new hairstyles to suit their face shapes. Mandy is thanked and her expenses are paid.

■ **Reminder: health and consent forms will be needed for the camp training weekend.**

The first meeting of March is an evening of varying activities. Designing a recruitment leaflet is top of the list, with Rangers brainstorming the reasons why they are involved in the group.

Valentines and beetles

January 17 sees the Rangers planning their Valentine extravaganza. Mary and Sue are acting as co-ordinators, making sure that the materials to make invitations are available. The other Rangers will organise the food and games.

■ **Reminder: collect beetle drive cards for next week, Rangers will be going to the Swallows Nursing Home.**

January 24 — Karen and Pippa are acting as co-ordinators for the beetle drive. The evening goes very well and the residents battle fearlessly for a range of prizes. After the fun has finished, the Rangers return to HQ to plan a visit to a nearby Guide unit.

Violets are red...

The postman delivers the Rangers an assortment of Valentine cards on February 14. The specially-planned meeting goes well, with plenty of food and festivities.

■ **Reminder: contact Mandy from Colour me Beautiful.**

Thinking Day has arrived and the Rangers assist at the Division celebrations. They are certainly needed, as nervous Rainbows and a sulky Brownie threaten to hold up the proceedings.



Camping capers

Skating at the local ice rink provides a warmer alternative for those Rangers not taking part in the camp training. Thermal vests and balaclavas are in order, to keep the mad March winds at bay. The first term of the year has drawn to a close so quickly. Time to start thinking of ideas for Easter.

■ **Reminder: draw up a new programme plan.**



Bridge the gap

Most girls, especially Guides, often find it easier to talk to someone nearer their own age. A 16-year-old Young Leader is much better placed to identify with worries about boys and acne, than a middle-aged Guider.

This may, however, have its dangers. A Young Leader is bound to be under her own, personal pressures — becoming the unit confidante will make those worse. Try laying down some ground rules:

- Do not be afraid to break a confidence if the situation calls for it, feels wrong or if someone is in danger.
- Do not be tempted to give advice which you are unsure about or are unqualified to give.
- A YL's first point of reference must always be the Guider.



Your Young Leader should be confident enough to help small groups with programme work

young leader guiders

The role of the Young Leader is often overlooked in many units — this month we focus on how to make better use of her skills

By Victoria Wheeler

Responsibility

Giving a Young leader responsibility, goes some way to helping her cope with many different aspects of adult life. It is also important that a Young Leader feels that she is being used. However, do remember that a Young Leader is not legally an adult. She should not be expected to do anything which may endanger herself or the girls — or put her in a compromising position.

- Suggest that the Young Leader finishes each meeting with a game.

Moving on

When a girl reaches 18, she can no longer stay with the Association as a Young Leader. If the girl in question wishes to carry on working with a unit, she could become a warranted Guider or a Unit Helper. Some girls feel that, at this stage, they would like a break from Guiding — do not try to dissuade them. Instead suggest a completely different hobby or pastime, or encourage them to find out about such schemes as:

- The Student Scout and Guide Organisation
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- LINK

Team building

Does your Young Leader have an input into planning your unit programme? If the answer is no, then look carefully at the current function of the Young Leader within the group.

Your Young Leader should be a significant part of the unit team.

She should be:

- Able to use her initiative
- Aware of her surroundings
- Capable of working with both girls and Guiders.



Young Leaders should play an active part in running a unit

Relationships

A girl who has chosen to be a Young Leader has elected to stay in Guiding. As a Guider, it is important that you encourage her to fulfil her potential and help her to seek the support that she will need.

The relationship between Guider and Young Leader is an important one. Like any relationship, it will have to be worked at — there may be times when it won't be easy! Remember that a Young Leader is an asset and not a dogsbody.

- Make an effort to attend a training with your Young Leader. Check your Division and County calendars for dates.

Make it count

The majority of activities that your Young Leader is involved with as part of unit life, will count towards her Look Wider programme and the Basic Leadership Certificate. You could:

- Purchase a Look Wider file from unit funds.
- Encourage your YL to make use of the file.
- Get her to join with Rangers and other YLs to form a Look Wider team.

Getting together

Being a Young Leader can be a lonely life, especially if you are the only one in the unit.

Encourage your YL to meet with other Young Leaders in the area. The County Young Leader Adviser will be on hand to offer advice and assistance.

It may be possible to form a Young Leader group. Girls could meet once a month to organise their own activities and outings — or just to catch up on what is happening around the District.

simply science

As a Guider, you may be hesitant about putting science in your programme – don't be daunted, read on for some useful ideas

By Alison Mitchell and Hilary Jenkins
Illustrations: Dom Mansell

Success for science

However many brilliant ideas for activities you collect, the success of your unit programme depends on how you use it. Our previous articles have provided science ideas, this one offers some suggestions on how those ideas could be put into action.

You will need to decide what is appropriate for you. When organising an activity, take into account:

- The age and experience of your girls
- The facilities available
- The amount of help you have
- Time constraints

Considering needs

Even though adaptability is the order of the day, a word of caution is appropriate. A Guider always needs to consider if an activity can be adapted to suit her particular unit, and also if it is appropriate to do so.

Guiding is committed to the development of the individual. Before activities are included, we should consider whether they are appropriate for the particular age group in question. Think about what benefits the activities may provide.

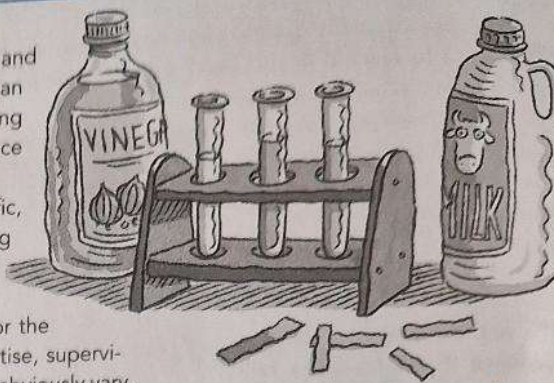
Don't forget that fun is an essential part of Guiding. This is more likely to be achieved if the activity is suited to the particular girls.

■ Many science and technology activities do not require advanced specialist knowledge. However, if you do not feel confident including them in your programme, do find someone to help. Science activities have been a part of Guiding since 1910, so keep up the good work!

Starting small

The inclusion of science and technological activities can contribute towards the building up of a programme with balance and variety.

An idea can be obviously scientific, or more subtle — perhaps involving familiar things like food, crafts or nature. As with any activity, science may work best with small groups or the whole unit. The preparation, expertise, supervision and duration of the activity will obviously vary.



Theme evening

You may want to spend a little more time on science activities, so why not consider a theme evening with a science bias? Topics that you may like to consider could include:

- Colours
- Large and small — or macro and micro
- Building
- Problem solving
- Space
- Weather

It is generally best to avoid describing an evening as being made up of science activities. Do remember that girls will not turn up if they think that meetings will be like school.



Activity day

A single theme could fill a day or you could have different topics. They could relate to badges or become competitive. The day could involve participants of all ages, interests and capabilities. Parents might be persuaded to join in or to help organise it.

Camps and holidays

Real enthusiasts have been known to use science as a theme for longer periods of time — while away at camps or holidays, for example. It can work but, as with all themes, you need to be careful not to overdo it. You can have too much of a good thing.

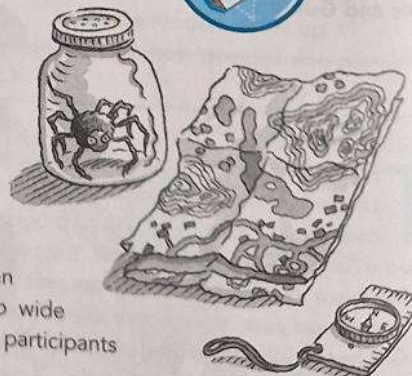
Some activities are particularly suitable — those involving water or other messy materials, or activities where you simply have to wait for things to happen.



Wide games

Wide games are suitable for all ages and they do not need to be violent or competitive! A treasure hunt, simple incident hike, or a co-operation scenario are just as valid.

Science activities can easily be incorporated into wide games and enjoyed by both participants and observers.



Safe sessions

Ground rules should be established before play, to prevent mishaps. To organise a smooth session, take into consideration the following points:

- Organise your games into a running order which balances physically demanding play with gentler games.
- Make a list of your running order to keep with you. Pin it to your sweatshirt or write it on your hand, so that you don't have to scramble for a book.
- Ensure that everyone is aware of a safety precaution — begin by letting your unit practice shouting STOP! Explain that this is what they should shout, if at any point they feel that a situation is unsafe.



Chute roots

Although parachute games are quite new to Britain, they do have a surprising history. Eskimo children have, for generations, been playing with sealskin chutes in the snow. During the 1930s in America, PE lessons made good use of ex-army canopies.

It is still very common for people to look bewildered when a Guider or Trainer attempts to explain the attraction of parachute games. Like many things in life, chutes have to be experienced to be understood — those who have are immediately hooked.

Bonds and benefits

Parachute games offer a great deal more than simple fun and exercise. During a game, everyone is able to work together — regardless of age or ability. The contributions from every person around the chute are valuable.

Long term benefits include:

- A sense of achievement
- A non-competitive environment
- Increased social awareness
- Learning to work as a team



Total integration

Everyone can take part in parachute games, whatever their ability. It is very important for leaders to know that parachute play can, and should, be totally integrated.

You will find that, with a little thought, most games are adaptable for people who use crutches, wheelchairs and so on.

Mushroom crossing

This simple game is ideal for newcomers to parachutes, as well as being a perfect ice breaker.

Facing inwards, everyone grasps the chute with both hands round its edge. A question is asked and the chute is 'mushroomed' by the group. All those who answer 'Yes,' must run underneath to catch the edge on the other side.

Questions could include:

- Did you have chips for lunch?
- Do you have a younger brother?
- Did you drive here today?



Social soap box

Parachutes can be used as a forum in which to talk about problems or raise questions. The group sits under the chute, with the outside edge under their bottoms — this forms a tent. The chute is now a 'soap box', where anyone can have her say.

try this

If you think parachutes are just for pilots, then you are missing out on the brilliant fun and positive effects that parachute games can bring

By Penny Stragnell

Illustrations: Anthea Whitworth

Good behaviour

Common sense, self-control and co-operation are essential when playing parachute games. As the games are so much fun, there is generally little problem in persuading the girls to follow the rules.

The leader should start the games with a brief discussion about the responsibility of each player. Both girls and adults, usually show sensitivity towards each other — explaining, helping and encouraging.

Use your chute

Arts Advisers, Trainers and other Guiders may be able to provide you with new games. Books are available. You may find that, with a little imagination, new activities are relatively easy to make up. Try using props, such as different-sized balls.

Sharks

All players sit with their legs under the chute. Two girls crawl around underneath — they are the sharks. Sharks catch their prey by tugging legs floating in the water. Anyone who is caught quickly changes place with the shark.

Thoughts for Thinking Day



February 22nd is one of the most important days in the Movement's year when we spend time 'thinking' about Girl Guides and Girl Scouts throughout the world.

To commemorate this event in 1997, we have available a range of publications which will tell you about Guiding in other countries and illustrate ways in which Thinking Day can be used to bring closer together people of different nationalities.

These are just a few of the many items offered by your Trading Service. To learn more, request a copy of our full colour catalogue by ticking the box provided.

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Note All copy for inclusion in March's *GUIDING* should reach CHQ by January 24. Please address all contributions to the Editor, Nora Warner.

Anyone wishing to have photographs sent to *GUIDING* returned must include an sae.

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Tel: 01968 682208. Fax: 01968 682371

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Heritage Centre

The Heritage Centre at CHQ is open from Monday-Saturday during holidays and on Thursday, Friday, Saturday only at other times.

Admission costs £2 per person and groups of ten or more should ring the Centre to book a preferred session in advance.

There are five sessions per day at: 9.30-11am; 11am-12.30pm; 12.30-2pm; 2-3.30pm; and 3.30-5pm. Time in the picnic area is included in each session time. The preferred maximum number of visitors per session is 100.

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Tel: 01232 322543. Fax: 01232 328867

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Tel: 01686 688652. Fax: 01686 688098

BGIFC

Queries can be raised with the staff at CHQ. Tel: 0171 834 6242 ext 219/209

The views expressed in *GUIDING* magazine are not necessarily endorsed by The Guide Association.

official

your letters

These letters reflect the writers' own views and not Association policy.

Constant figure

Regarding the recent debate about men in Guiding, I have a male Unit Helper who is very enthusiastic and valued. I count it a privilege to have him in my Pack. Apart from the practical help he gives at the unit and District level, I believe he also provides a familiar and constant male figure for those girls that come from split or one-parent families.

From a safety point of view he is too sensible to be left alone with them, or encourage them. But, surely, girls could make similar allegations about female leaders?

He was recruited, like many others, because his daughters joined my Brownies, and he was asked to help. While I'm not suggesting we admit boys to Brownies, I think having male helpers would be an asset.

If we cannot get enough adult female help – and many women are not prepared to give it – the only ones to suffer will be our girls.

It seems odd that while our local Social Services is willing to register him as a child minder with sole care (including bathing) of several children of either sex, the Guide Movement will not allow him to become a Guider. Perhaps the Movement's policy on men should be updated?

Men like my Unit Helper would make good Guiders. For safety's sake they could be accompanied each week by a female, perhaps from a rota of mothers.

If women are not prepared to come forward and give their time every week, then surely a unit that's run by a dedicated man would be better than no unit at all – wouldn't it?

V. Ramsden

Guider, 7th Mansfield Brownies
Nottinghamshire

Out of line

I wish to comment on Pauline Shipcott's letter in November's *GUIDING*. Both Pauline and her Commissioner do not seem to be aware of *Guiding Manual* (30.38a) on uniform: 'Adult uniform is worn only by a member of The Guide Association between her 18th and 65th birthdays'. Pauline admits to being in her late 60s, so she is *not* entitled to wear uniform.

Regarding Jean Perkins' letter in the same issue, it is not clear whether she is a registered Unit Helper but, again, she is over 65 and therefore precluded under *Guiding Manual* (9.1).

I have no personal axe to grind, as I have a few years to go before reaching 65. But I do feel that sometimes older Guiders give the public a wrong picture of the Association, and discourage younger women from becoming Guiders.

I think Guiders and Unit Helpers should accept the age rule gracefully and find other ways of helping the Movement, such as joining a supporters group for fund raising, badge testing, passing on a skill, becoming a treasurer or secretary, joining the Trefoil Guild, making Gang Show costumes and so on.

Margaret Baldwin

Rumney District Treasurer
Member of Roath Trefoil Guild
Former Guide Guider 1954-1986, Cardiff

Read all about us

Horizon Ranger Guides of Kidlington in Oxfordshire are pleased to announce the placing online on the World Wide Web of their 'Horizon Home Pages'. This includes information on the Senior Section of The Guide Association. Check them out on:

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/home-pages/andyclarke>

For further information contact: Nette Clarke on 01869 340001.

Vanessa Judd and Nette Clarke
Oxfordshire

Stereotypes

I am writing on behalf of the Anglia Junior Council about the television programme *Chiff-Chaff Chums*. We feel that this programme featuring South Humberside Guides camping at Blackland Farm represented a false image of Guiding and did nothing to promote the Movement.

The programme focused mainly on the Guiders and gave the impression that they were in it for themselves. It also appeared that there were only two Guiders with about 60 Guides, and those who had not read your magazine would have a false view of the story.

Chiff-Chaff Chums pandered to the stereotypical views of the public towards The Guide Association. It would be good to see more programmes like *For the love of it*, which reflected a more positive and accurate image of Guiding today.

Fiona Beck
Secretary
Anglia Junior Council

Teddy on parade

I have recently been catching up on some back numbers of *GUIDING*. In June there was a letter relating to Rainbows and how they often seem to be pre-empting part of the Brownie programme.

I got the impression that there had been a previous suggestion that Rainbows ought to have their own colours to carry, so I agree with the letter writer that Rainbows should not be 'diluted Brownies'.

I thought readers might be interested in a practice I saw in a Blackpool church when I visited it last year.

The service I attended was the monthly Guide and Scout parade. Guides, Scouts, Brownies and Cubs presented their colours at the altar rail and two Rainbows completed the presentation by handing over a very large teddy bear.

The teddy was received with the same dignity as the colours, and the bearers were just as proud as their older counterparts.

I thought this was a lovely idea which did not impinge on the other tradition, while allowing the younger members to take an active part.

Jessie M. Wainwright
Charnwood North
Trefoil Guild
Birstall, Leicestershire

Letters should be kept short and the Editor reserves the right to edit any contribution. They must give the author's name, address and, if possible, a daytime phone number.

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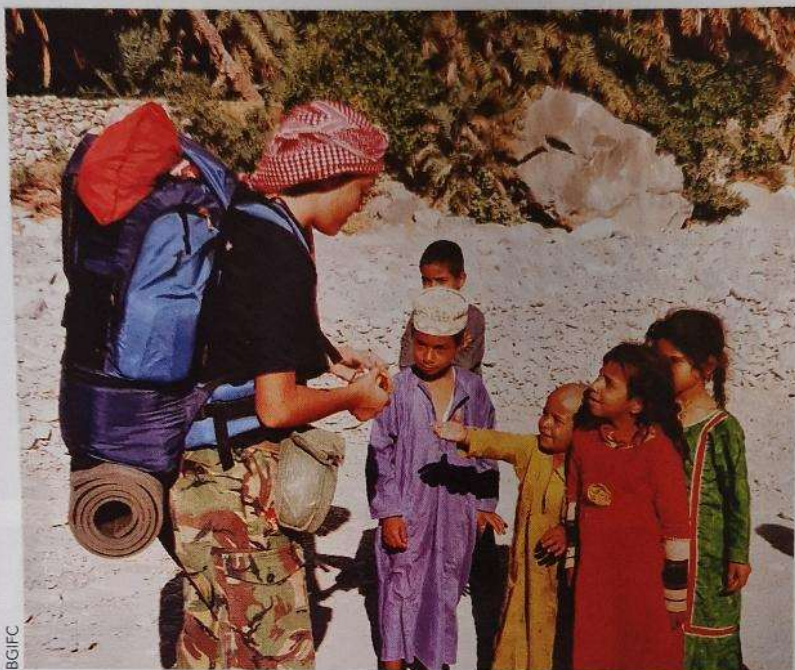
In October's *GUIDING* Deborah Meadows described the work of British Guides in Foreign Countries (BGIFC) in providing access to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme overseas.

The scheme has been tremendously successful in its relatively short existence and new members are continually enrolling. No challenge is too great, wherever these young people are in the world and whether they are part of a group or working individually, as she explains:

6 As their operating authority, The Guide Association works to overcome any local restrictions or difficulties and provides access to the UK Award scheme to many who would otherwise lose touch with it, or who might suffer lack of credit for the sections they have completed while abroad.

In the middle of the extended heatwave of summer '95 in Britain, I was reminded of a newspaper report I received some years previously from the Award group in Muscat, Oman. Although the group had to undertake all its expeditions in the 'winter' months, it could still be intensely hot as the following extract from a report written at the time about one of their Bronze practice journeys shows:

"The Meteorological Office said that Thursday's maximum temperature was 34 deg — probably the highest in a long time for this time of year. Dust storms in the city and in the interior reduced visibility to as low as 800 metres in some



Oman expedition: so hot but there was still time to make friends

places. Minimum temperatures of 23–24 deg were above normal by four to five degrees."

Now, I don't think conditions like those described would have suited me, but the young people were well trained and coped easily.

The group subsequently achieved flying colours in both the Bronze and Silver expeditions, even though their overnight camping had to be confined because of local cultural restrictions.

I wonder if any of you would like to meet the same challenge, or perhaps a member of your unit would be a suitable participant?

Every year I am the co-ordinating link for several expeditions, residential projects and other activities that take place through BGIFC for Award participants. Equally, many of the young people use their activities to qualify for the Queen's Guide Award.

There is scope here for UK

residents to meet the overseas challenge and to take part in an expedition of a lifetime.

Our group based in the Benelux region is much more easily accessible and would welcome participants from mainland UK.

Now, how about a return ticket? Could you offer a place on an activity for an individual overseas participant, probably at Silver or Gold level? She might need some additional training and time to acclimatise, but the opportunity would be enormously valuable in terms of belonging to a group with a common aim and meeting other young people of similar calibre.

Please give this some thought — the offer is there for UK members to experience the Award Scheme as it was intended ("a challenge to the individual"), and for Guiding to shine in its best light.

Don't forget, I can be contacted easily through the BGIFC office at CHQ. I hope to hear from you. ♡

Join an overseas expedition or project through BGIFC as part of your Duke of Edinburgh Award

in focus

With a little help from her friends Julie Morris, of 5th Aughton Brownies from Lancashire, needed a spot of assistance when she attempted to ride a unicycle at circus-theme Brownie Revels. We suspect she could have been just clowning around...

ELIZABETH ROTHWELL



£ 1 5 winner

Sweets for the sweet
Here's one way of keeping Brownies quiet — give them a fruit-gum-sucking challenge.

Brownie Guider Yvonne Hooke also found it a great way for the 8th Colchester Brownies to raise funds for a worthy cause: treatment for a toddler with a brain injury.

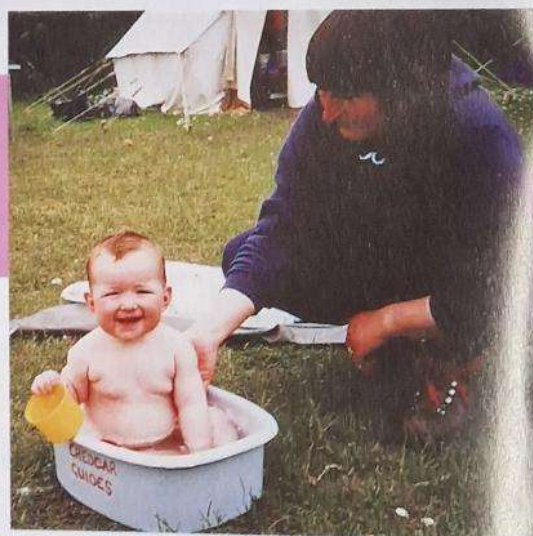
The girls were timed to see how long they could keep sweets in their mouths without chewing.

Snow job

Firedrake Rangers from Wallasey will go to great lengths to enjoy a white Christmas — even walking six miles in knee-deep snow in North Wales! Each year the Rangers visit 'Aunt Mary' — a Ranger Guider's mum — at Penmaenmawr. There they cook a second Christmas dinner and, of course, they wash up afterwards.

Starting them early

Meet Cheddar Guides' youngest camper! Lauren Underwood, aged nine months, freshens up at Model Farm camp site, Wells, Somerset, during a Guide camp.



SUE WILD



SHARON PAYNE



G CARTER



Please keep sending in your Guiding photographs, we love to see them! Each month there's a £15 prize for the best photo and £5 for every other snap we print.



JAMES CLEVETT

Spot on!
A Hundred and One Dalmations fever hit Barnham Brownies when they took part in a carnival at their Sussex village. Near neighbours, the Walberton Village Rainbows, entered as Alice in Wonderland.



JAMES CLEVETT

How many did you say?
Brownies from the Littlehampton, West Sussex area are pictured enjoying a Pow-wow. The girls from six Packs first made head-dresses, painted their faces and decorated their hair with beads before taking part in a camp-fire sing-song.

Hair I am
Who said blondes have more fun? Guider Gill Carter tries the latest red-head look at the 1st Grendon All Saints Brownie Pack Holiday under Canvas. The theme was *Wind in the Willows* — was she introducing a new character, a red squirrel, perhaps?

HULL DAILY MAIL



Strike a light
Members of the 2nd Kirkella Brownies ran a matchbox game at a fundraising event for the local church. Pictured are (from left) Olivia Pengelly, Victoria Browne and Rheanne Tubb.

a helping hand

Dreams can come true with the Olave Baden-Powell Bursary Fund on your side

Is there a girl in your unit who needs funds to realise a personal ambition? Or, perhaps, one of your Patrols wants to tackle a special project but hasn't got enough money. Do the girls know about the Olave Baden-Powell Bursary Fund? Do you know about it?

Every year, since 1979, the Olave Baden-Powell Bursary Fund has awarded grants of up to £100 each to young members of the Association to help them further their interests and hobbies.

award from the Baden-Powell Bursary Fund, Rachel was able to get her own violin before moving on to university, where she plans to keep up her music and her Guiding.

● Last year, Alison Smith was chosen to represent her County, Stockport, at an international Guide camp in Ireland. She was thrilled but, as she sorted out her kit, she realised her sleeping bag was very heavy and not very warm. What she needed was a lightweight, three-season model. Alison started

and Rangers, as well as developing her own canoe skills.

● Over the years, Rowena Gaskell, a Ranger and Young Leader in Oxfordshire, has become very interested in photography. She gained the appropriate Brownie and Guide Interest badges and, last year, chose photography for her Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award skill. But she needed a more versatile camera — the one she'd had since her days as a Brownie was no longer adequate.

A bursary topped up the money she'd saved, enabling her to buy a second-hand SLR camera with zoom lens. Rowena was expecting her new equipment to really come into its own over Christmas, when she was due to attend an international camp in Australia.

How to apply

Any girl wishing to be considered for a grant should send for and fill in the application form herself. On the form she will be asked to outline her project, explain how much it will cost and show what has been done so far to save or raise money towards it. Please note, however, that grants are not normally given for overseas travel such as international camps.

An application on behalf of a Patrol should be made by the Patrol Leader. If a Patrol application is successful, an equal amount of money will be awarded to each girl within the Patrol. This money must, of course, be used only for the nominated project.

To receive an application form the girl, or Patrol Leader, should send a sae, at least 22cm by 11cm, to: The Secretary of the Olave Baden-Powell Fund, The Guide Association, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT. The closing date for a completed application is April 30. ■

Elizabeth Cain paddles towards the future thanks to an Olave Baden-Powell bursary



SHAUN FANNING



Rowena Gaskell tries out her new camera

The scheme is open to individuals — Guides, Rangers and Young Leaders up to the age of 18 — and also to Patrols, applying as a group.

It is not means tested and the nominated project does not have to be linked directly to Guiding.

For an idea of the Fund's scope, here are just a few of last year's success stories.

● Rachel Metcalfe, from Carlisle, has been playing the violin for over ten years and loves it. But when she left school last summer, she had to return the school instrument she'd been using — and think about buying one of her own.

Thanks to a part-time job, 18th-birthday-present money and an

to raise the money, partly by making and selling animal brooches. Then, with a cash boost from the Fund, she bought a suitable bag 'which kept me really warm during the cold nights'. Needless to say, she had a wonderful time at the camp.

● Elizabeth Cain has been a keen member of the Wirral Guide and Scout Canoeing Association since she was ten. Just over a year ago, she qualified as a member of the club's coaching team. This meant she needed specialised gear, including a buoyancy aid with pockets for first aid equipment, throw rope and high-energy food.

With the help of a bursary, Elizabeth — now a Young Leader and Ranger — was able to buy the necessary equipment and has been using it ever since to coach Cubs

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Scouts

The Scout Association

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Hawkhurst Adventure Camp is located in the 200 square miles of Kielder forest. Its aim is to provide Youth and Educational Organisations with year-round opportunities for developing a wide range of outdoor interests. The following vacancies have arisen for 1997

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• Cook/Caterer

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• Seasonal Instructors

Required from March onwards, the successful applicants will cover RYA and BCU activities throughout the main camping season.

Interested? Then apply to Derek Langford, Manager, Hawkhurst Adventure Camp, Kielder Water, NE48 1QZ, giving brief career history and any relevant qualifications.

Annual General Meeting

Thursday, May 22, 1997 at 2.30pm

Guildhall, London EC2P 2EJ

Guest speaker:

Joan Smyth,

Chair and Chief Executive Equal Opportunities Commission for Northern Ireland

A number of invitations are available. Applications, listing the names of those wishing to attend, should be made in writing (four is the maximum number per application) enclosing a stamped and self-addressed envelope measuring not less than 11cm x 22cm. Send them to:

Joan Disley

The Guide Association

17-19 Buckingham Palace Road

London SW1W 0PT

Mark the envelope AGM 1997

All applications received will be held until February 24, when they will be opened at random. Invitation cards will be despatched as soon as possible after that date. Unsuccessful applicants will also be informed.

training news

Brownie Review follow-up

Foxlease . . . Jan 31-Feb 2

Waddow . . . April 18-20

Did you complete and return your copy of the Brownie Review? Are you interested in the results? Would you like an opportunity to input ideas towards the Brownie programme, as well as gaining ideas for your own unit? Then come and join this training.

First aid in Guiding

Hautbois . . . March 21-23

A course open to all Senior Section members and Guiders wishing to learn skills needed on camps and holidays as well as at weekly meetings. It also leads to the St. John Ambulance Appointed Person Certificate. A leaflet is available.

A taste of Rangers

Broneirion . . . March 7-9

This weekend is for Guides aged 13 and over who are interested in what goes on in the Ranger Unit. Find out about the Look Wider programme. Try activities such as backwoods cooking, pioneering, wide games or holding a fashion show.

Programme ideas for Rainbow, Brownie and Guide Guiders

Waddow January 10-12

Book four for the price of three.

CID Advisers and team

Foxlease February 14-16

Commissioners

Waddow January 17-19

For District and Division

Commissioners to take a fresh look at their role in Guiding.

Leadership made easy

Foxlease Jan 31-Feb 2

A course run for members of the Association aged 16-65, who want to extend their leadership skills both in and out of Guiding. It will include:

- What is a leader?
- Working with different personalities
- Leading assertively
- Getting the right message to the right people.

Quiet weekend in the country/ Friends gardening weekend

Hautbois May 2-5

A relaxed programme of optional activities for Guiders, Trefoil Guild members and husbands, too, which runs alongside the Friends of Hautbois gardening weekend. The two groups come together for some activities, particularly in the evening.

Rangers and their Guiders

Broneirion March 7-9

Bring your Rangers to Broneirion for an action-packed weekend. There will be opportunities for you to work with your Rangers and separately. If you need a boost and a new angle on things, then this is for you.

Make and take

Waddow February 14-16

Design and make things to take back to your unit.

Guiding in the District

Foxlease February 7-9

For the District Commissioner and up to seven Guiders.

The Promise

Waddow February 14-16

Running your unit

Foxlease February 14-16

For less-experienced Guiders, this training will cover most of the topics a new Guider needs to know, whether she

is running the unit or is a member of the unit team. A chance to meet other new Guiders, discuss issues and gain lots of practical ideas.

Queen's Guide for Guiders

Waddow February 14-16

All you want to know about Queen's Guide and more.

Mid-week training — Programme ideas for Guide and Senior Section Guiders

Foxlease March 11-13

Employers will often allow time off for Guiders to attend leadership training courses. Information about the course is available for you to give to your employer. A crèche may be available.

Rainbow celebration

Waddow March 7-9

Eggstravagant Easter eggstravaganza

Foxlease . . . March 28-31

The triple E weekend for the Senior Section. Come with your enthusiasm and lots of energy ready for an exciting programme in which you will make new friends and meet old ones, while taking part in a fun-filled, action-packed weekend with activities that could be adapted for use within your units.

Rainbow Trainers

Waddow March 7-9

Foxlease April 4-6

For full details of the trainings listed or any future trainings, send a sae to the appropriate centre. Applications to attend any of the trainings mentioned should be sent to the Manager, enclosing a £15 deposit and sae. Cheques should be made payable to The Guide Association.

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Maps Reference: Sheet 125-086 245

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-Fordell Firs-

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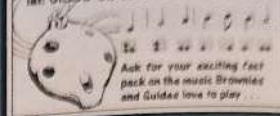
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Christine Richards

from Wimbledon, South London

“I’m used to living abroad. My earliest memory is of riding a camel in North Africa! I come from an Army family and I married into the Army. My father was often away and my mother had to move house all over the place.

Upheavals have been a way of life for me. In 28 years of marriage I have moved home 22 times. I’ve had four separate spells of living in Germany and have also been in the Far East, Cyprus and Canada, when my husband, Nigel, has been on short deployments.

My introduction to Guiding came at boarding school in Surrey, where I joined the “in house” Guide unit. I really loved it, especially the tracking and outdoor games.

Then came yet another uprooting and, after only about 18 months, my Guiding came to a halt and did not re-start until 1994 when I became a Commissioner for British Guides in Germany.

So I don’t have an extensive Guiding background but, when I came into the job, my husband was based at NATO headquarters in Rheindahlen, Germany. I was there with him and, because of my contacts, I was in a position to be of service to BGIG. I was delighted to do anything to help.

The big military run-down, however, was already underway and, during the two years I was in post, I saw the BGIG numbers fall from 1,900 to 1,300 as a result. Many BGIG Guides are the daughters of military personnel.

But, despite the fact that the presence of the RAF and the Army in Germany has been greatly reduced, British Guiding is still thriving there, largely due to its wonderful Guiders. I hope that I managed to contribute something of value, too, by gaining access to military people in a position to help – or hinder – Guiding. Much depends on their goodwill because it is they who control most of the



CHRIS FLETCHER/ARMY PUBLIC INFORMATION

facilities needed by BGIG.

While Nigel and I were at Rheindahlen, BGIG could at least rely on having my husband on their side — he used to be a Scout and is a former president of BSWE (British Scouts in Western Europe).

I’m really excited about my new job as Commissioner for British Guides in Foreign Countries (BGIFC), although a little nervous. After all, my predecessor, Helen Barker, is a hard act to follow. But I feel I’m very lucky because, with so many British people now moving around the world with international companies, there’s a big future for BGIFC.

The multi-nationals not only send more employees and their families abroad, but even foreign-based companies now employ Britons. So forget worries about military run-downs — BGIFC is an expanding organisation!

I hope to play my part in helping our splendid BGIFC leaders to cope and adapt in this fast-changing

world and to meet a wide range of new electronic challenges like e-mail and the Internet.

In countries where language, religion, culture and social customs are very different from ours, and where social interaction is not encouraged, BGIFC units can find themselves isolated from the local community, often being largely confined to their own “ex-pat compound”. Even in Western Europe, for various reasons, there has not been much interaction in the past between BGIFC units and their host communities.

The British “lifeline” link with our Guides overseas, enables the Programme, as they know it, to continue in their own language when they are far from home.

But we also have a chance to build bridges with our sister organisations abroad and, even if this is not always easy, I would like to see closer links develop in all countries of the world so we could achieve this. ☺

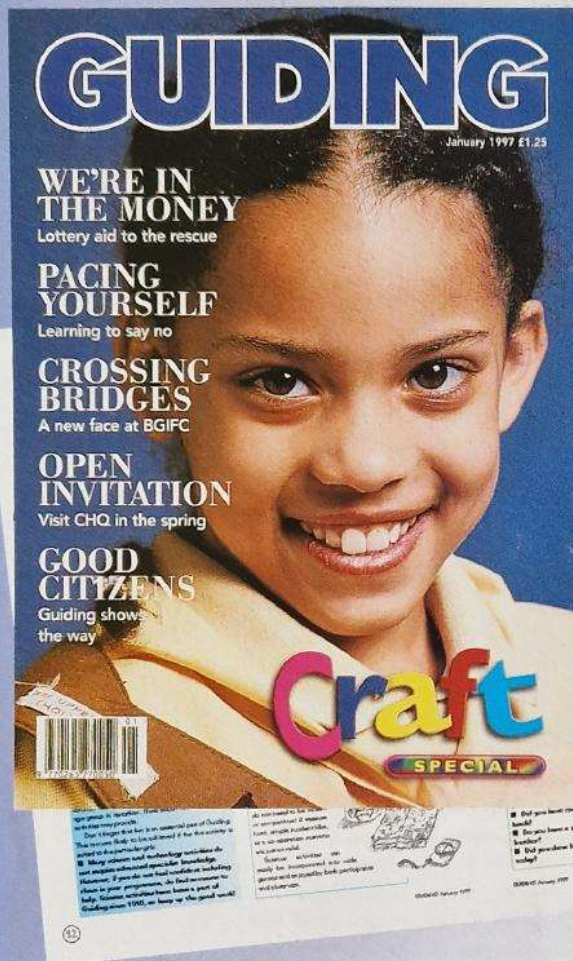
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