



Girlguiding BGIFC

Spring 2006 ~ Newsletter British Guides in Foreign Countries

Dear Guider

By the time you receive this Thinking Day will be upon us - a very special date in the Guiding calendar. Phyllis and I have just returned from a visit to the Middle East where all the Units and Districts were making big plans to celebrate and I am sure that Units everywhere will be celebrating in their own special way. I wish I could come and join in with you all. Sadly that isn't possible, but I would love some photographs of your special events.



This year we have three young women from Cyprus carrying the Chief Guide's Standard in Westminster Abbey so we are all very excited and pleased about that.

Let's hope the weather is kind to them - it's been very very cold here in the UK.

This year sees the 90th birthday of the Senior Section and we, in BGIFC, have a very strong group of Senior Section Members as you will have seen if you were at Foxlease last summer. As you know, we have British Guides in about 30 countries across the world and they nearly all have some Senior Section girls, all keen and enthusiastic to help with Units. Do remember to look after them and encourage them - they are our Leaders of tomorrow and very important for the future of Girlguiding.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at Waddow in July along with your Young Leaders (aged 14 - 26). I know we shall have a great time, so do try and come. Grants are available to help you. This will be the last chance that Phyllis and I will have to see you, as our appointments end in July, so it would be really nice to meet up with as many of you as possible. See you there, I hope.

Happy Thinking Day and Happy Guiding.

Vivienne Scouse

Commissioner - Girlguiding BGIFC

Message Board

NEW OR RE-OPENED UNITS

1st Muscat Senior Section (Oman)
1st Seria Brownies (Brunei)
1st Shanghai Rainbow, Brownies, Guides (China)
2nd Stavanger Brownies (Norway)
1st Stavanger Guides (Norway)
Benelux & France
County: 2nd Maisons-Laffitte Guides
Cyprus County: 1st Nicosia Guides
Germany County: 1st Starnberg Rainbows
1st Starnberg Guides

A Personal Detail Form has been sent out with the February Guiding Magazine. Please forward the amendments of your details together with the census form to Jeannette. Don't hesitate to ask us anything you are not sure about - we will find the right answer!

I am really sorry to report that 1st Oporto Brownies has had to close. This is particularly sad as there are now no BGIFC Units in Oporto which is where BGIFC Guiding began. Pat Sinclair came to CHQ recently and met up with Jeannette and myself and brought some wonderful archive material for us. She has done a superb job in keeping guiding going for so long in Oporto. She wished to be remembered to anyone who knows her.

Vivienne

I am sorry to tell you that our friend and great supporter, Irene Hotchin is not at all well and is finding life very difficult indeed. However, she still finds time and energy to write to us and send us cheques for the Irene Hotchin Fund. I do hope things will be a little easier for her in 2006 and we send her our best wishes.

Vivienne

W/R Registrations

As you will have seen from the latest BGIFC Directory, ALL W/R Registrations are now dealt with by Jeannette in the BGIFC Office and not by Shirley Thompson.

This obviously means that Jeannette has more to do and the plan is to try and deal with the Registration work at the beginning of each week, i.e. Mondays and Tuesdays.

As you are aware Census time is coming up and Jeannette envisages that she will be quite pushed. Please could you bear this in mind when contacting the office. If you have something very urgent, please write this on the **subject line** of the email you send, otherwise your email may wait in a queue until she can deal with it.

In future, therefore, registration work will have priority on Mondays and Tuesdays of each week and I should be grateful of your help and co-operation in this matter.

Vivienne

Message Board

New Cash-Back Voucher Scheme

Girlguiding UK has introduced a new scheme which will give newly **warranted** guiders a £25 refund if they attend a residential training event at a Training & Activity Centre (TAC). Any new Guiders attending the BGIFC Event 2006 at Waddow Hall should take the voucher (which is sent out with the warrant card) and get it signed by the authorised person at the TAC. It will then be sent to CHQ who will provide the refund.

Congratulations to:

Lesley Holroyd in Germany on the completion of her NVQ 3 in Training and Development - the first in BGIFC

Congratulations to:

Laureana Armitage in Spain who has been selected to go to Our Cabaña as a house volunteer during the summer of 2006

Guiding BGIFC Annual Event 2006

Open to all Adult members and Young Leaders

Waddow Hall



on the banks of the River Ribble in Lancashire

22nd to 27th July 2006

This is a great opportunity to meet friends, old and new, have fun together whilst enjoying excellent food, scenery and activities.

If you would like to join us please contact Jeannette at the BGIFC office: BGIFC@girlguiding.org.uk

Advisers News

Guiding Development

WADDOW 22nd to 27th July, 2006 applications are coming in from both Guiders and Young Leaders. If you have not sent yours in yet or in fact require a form please contact Jeannette at the BGIFC office and she will be happy to send you one.

Over the last few months the Districts in Germany, Oman, Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Jumeirah & Jebel Ali have all benefited from trainings and visits. My thanks to all the Commissioners concerned who gave us hospitality and arranged all the meeting times and places for the trainings to take place. It was also lovely to talk to everyone and to be able to see so many of the places where meetings and camps/holidays take place.

Benelux & France and Germany are holding their training weekends in March and as we have four trainers and two of our own trainers taking the sessions I am sure we can look forward to excellent weekends. Cyprus is holding a County camp over Easter week and they are looking forward to welcoming Guiders and Guides from the Middle East, Benelux & France and the UK. Carole McColl, whom many of you will remember was in Saudi Arabia and is now in the UK, is taking some of her Guides to the camp.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Waddow in the summer where there will be good fellowship to enjoy, excellent food, training opportunities and a visit to York.

Phyllis Thompson

Leadership Qualification Co-ordinator

First of all, and rather belatedly, may I wish you all a very happy and peaceful New Year.

The autumn proved to be a very successful time for Guiders working on the Leadership Qualification (LQ). Well done to all of you who completed the scheme and received your warrants, and many thanks to the Guiders who mentored you through the scheme. In addition, my sincere thanks to all the Leadership Qualification Co-ordinators who do such a sterling job encouraging both mentors and mentees.

It should take between about six to twelve months to complete the LQ. Therefore, if you have been working on your book for longer than this, or you are approaching the year mark, then please do make a concerted effort to finish on time. Your efforts are much appreciated.

Good communication remains the key to the Leadership Qualification. Can I once again, please, urge mentors and mentees to stay in regular contact with each other, either by e-mail or telephone if a personal visit is not possible. Maybe this idea is a little late, but perhaps you could include this within your New Year resolutions! We are having great success with Guiders completing the scheme so please try to maintain this two-way contact. Thank you!

Sally Inshaw

Finance

Census A huge thank you to everyone who has managed to send in their census papers and money. We are still busy checking details at the moment but appreciate everyone's co-operation. If you have not yet managed to send in your papers, or not received them, please contact Jeannette in the BGIFC office as a matter of urgency. In case you have forgotten, the census amount is £16.00 per person. Do not hesitate to contact us and we will do everything we can to help.



Gill Crapper

Outdoor Activities

When did you last take your Unit outside? Too hot or too cold, you can always survive five minutes of the weekly meeting outside. Snatch a few minutes to look at the stars, make trails in the sand or just 'look at the world around'. Use Roundabouts, the badge book or file to give you ideas to include in the Unit's programme.

I'm always pleased to hear from Guiders who want to take their girls away. It is good to have a number of Guiders working towards these qualifications. Do get in touch with me if you need help or advice with holidays or camps. We have Units using a wide variety of venues for their residential events - keep your eyes open for a suitable place for your girls!



There is now a badge for Rainbow Overnights. Guide Guiders need to look at the G-File to note the changes in the Patrol Camp Permit. This badge is only for the really keen and capable camper, but is now open to the 12year old Guide.

Always refer to the Guiding Manual before taking part in residential or adventurous activities. The latest amendments came out with January's Guiding and cover Rainbow Overnights.

Do get in touch with me if you think I can help you and your Unit enjoy the out of doors.

Congratulations to those who have recently gained qualifications:

Julie Ashworth, Herford Brownies, Brownie Camp Licence.
Mary Dunn, Dubai Guides, Guide Camp Licence.
Jackie Wilkie, Luxembourg Guides, Guide Camp Licence.

Sue Sotheran

International Adviser

I hope you all have a very happy Thinking Day and that in your units you are able to organise some exciting and enjoyable activities which help everyone learn about the lives and experiences of young people who live in other parts of the world.



The website for the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts www.wagggsworld.org has developed a 'new look' over the last couple of months. The site is well worth visiting at any time of the year but especially for Thinking Day. One section of the website is devoted to World Thinking Day and there is lots of information for you. You can post a message to the World for Thinking Day as well as being able to download stickers, postcards and posters.

Right now! Take responsibility. Take action. Change our World.

Page 8 of February's Guiding magazine provides information about a new resource for all age groups. It is called 'Right Now'. It is designed to provide you with activities, ideas and knowledge to help inspire young people to actively explore their rights and responsibilities. The resource focuses on six rights, inspired by the WAGGGS triennial theme of 'Our rights Our Responsibilities'.

The resource explores the concept of rights and responsibilities under six different themes:

- The Right to be Happy
- The Right to be Heard
- The Right to be Me
- The Right to Learn
- The Right to Live in Peace
- The Right to Work Together

The theme will run for three years from February 2006 and the Right now! resource has been designed so that you can choose to use it at anytime during this period. You could choose to do one section a term or spread them out as you feel appropriate. The themes and activities will be linked to each section's programme and could be used to cover clauses from relevant badges where appropriate.

The participation of the girls and young women is recognised by a badge which is linked to each of the six rights explored in the resource. There is a different badge for each right and because the rights are linked, the badges have been designed so that they link together.

The resource Right Now! is available from trading and costs £6.50. Code 6540.

Dorothy Naylor



PR Adviser and Website Editor

From the April issue of Guiding onwards the news pages will be expanded in the magazine from two to four with a whole page dedicated to regional news. This will be part of a complete re-design of the magazine.

It would be great to see BGIFC units featured in the new look. Please send in your unit news and photographs to pamkeay@hotmail.com.

We are looking forward to hearing how your unit is celebrating Thinking Day this year. Why not send in a photograph of your unit activities and see them published on the BGIFC website gallery page.

Do not forget to obtain the permission of parents or guardians before you take the photographs.

Is your unit celebrating a special birthday this year? If so we would love to hear about your birthday celebration. The BGIFC website includes a full list of all our units with their registration date.

Log on to www.BGIFC.org.uk/birthdays.html



More than 50,000 children aged 5 to 11 years are expected to take part in the third annual BT Giant Sleepover on 17th-18th June, with suggested activities for the 2006 event including pillow fights and a midnight feast. There will be an attempt to break the world record for the Biggest Simultaneous Teeth Brushing on the morning of 18th June. For further information, visit www.giantsleepover.com to register.

Pam Keay

Brownie Guides

The Brownie Adventure is now in its third year and seems to be working very well. The girls love the bright resources and working at their own pace on the Brownie Adventure and Adventure On.

There have been some less positive comments concerning the lack of structure within the programme. What do you think? Now is the time to have your say!

Consultation with members will take place from January to May with feedback opportunities for girls and leaders. A questionnaire is available online at

www.girlguiding.org.uk/new/members/article.asp for leaders to complete and say what they think about the adventure.



Do encourage your girls to have their say too. They can fill in a questionnaire online at

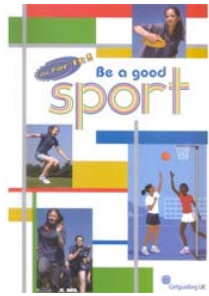
www.girlguiding.org.uk/members/brownies and say what they like or dislike.

This really is your chance to tell Girlguiding UK what you think so that the Brownie Adventure can go from strength to strength.

Bridget Sutters

Guides

Hello everyone. I hope you and the girls are still enjoying the revised Guide Programme and new resources. I would love to hear from you telling me the highs and lows, yes, we all have lows in our units.



The latest Go-for-it, Go-for-it Sport is now available and in the spring a booklet to help guiders organise Baden-Powell Adventures is to be published. The resource 'Right Now' advertised in February's Guiding has activities suitable for all sections and should prove really exciting. It is one of Girlguiding UK's responses to the WAGGGS triennial theme 'Our Rights, Our Responsibilities'.

As part of the review of the Brownie Adventure I have been asked to find some younger guides who have joined Guide Units from Brownies to complete a short questionnaire. A copy of this has been sent to all Counties and to the Independent Units. I do hope some of the girls can be enthused to return these.

Congratulations to: Eleanor Akers, a lone guide who lives in Madrid, who has completed her Commonwealth Award. This award is open to all older guides (aged 13+) and Senior Section members in all Commonwealth countries; the syllabus is at the back of the badge file.

Margaret Sinclair

Senior Section

Off with the old and on with the new they say so after our successful sub camp at Air '05 let's look forward to the new event:- **Waddow 2006** where we hope to fill the Ranger Cottage with Young Leaders who are 14 and over. They will join with their Guiders for sectional training sessions but will also have their own special programme of activities and events. Imagine the fun of being self-contained in your own venue. However we need commitment **now** or we will not be able to justify the cottage booking so please send in booking forms as soon as possible and remember there are grants within BGIFC to help you come to trainings. So - all Young Leaders come and make new friends and renew the friendships you made last year. We'll have a brill week. Guiders - if you are coming bring your Young Leader with you and your whole unit will benefit from the things she experiences.

Innovate Ulster is from June 30th to July 2nd and will be fantastic. The welcome everyone receives from Girlguiding Ulster is always wonderful and add this to the reputation of being a good weekend that Innovate has built up and you are bound for a great time. Forms are in January Guiding.

Senior Section 90th Anniversary is this year. There is to be a national celebration for limited numbers later in the year. There will also be some Regional celebrations that are open to all so keep your eyes open for details.

Remember the Senior Section e-update known as YeSS is a good source of up to date information. www.girlguiding.org.uk/info/login/register.asp Register and you will receive it automatically to your email address about 4 times per year.

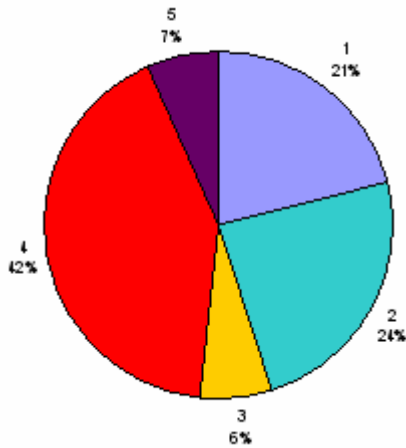
Gemma Giles from The Hague has gained her **Queen's Guide Award** and will be invited to one of the receptions in 2006.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award is fairly quiet with only The Hague RGU doing it at the moment. It is however possible that the Brussels Unit might begin with it again shortly.

Pat Mayle

Friends of Girlguiding BGIFC

The aim of Friends is to support Girlguiding BGIFC in whatever ways we can.



In 2005 we gave a total of £1,795 to the following:

1. Girlguiding BGIFC Training & Camp Event 'Air 05'*
2. Girlguiding BGIFC headed writing paper
3. Girlguiding BGIFC gifts to take overseas
4. Girlguiding BGIFC website costs
5. Girlguiding BGIFC room at Foxlease

* *the disco, the glitter tumblers and the fireworks*

Membership of Friends costs £10 a year or £12 for two or more people living at the same address. Visit our web page on the Girlguiding BGIFC website for more details and an application form.

We currently have over 125 full members, and another 27 who make regular donations. There are also five Life Members, and five members of the BGIFC Home Team who are Honorary Members. Please join us and help to swell our numbers.

INVITATION!... On Saturday 6th May 2006 we will be meeting at Girlguiding UK headquarters in London for our annual meeting. We all look forward to hearing Vivienne, who has agreed to be our guest speaker. This will be followed by a special reunion lunch for both members and non-members, in fact anyone with connections with BGIFC past or present. It should be fun! Contact Pauline at paulinewainwright@hotmail.com or myself (see back page) if you'd like to come. Lunch will be in Chez Gérard restaurant, at the Thistle Hotel near Victoria station. We had our reunion supper there last year and it was a great success. The meal will again cost £12 for two courses or £15.75 for three, plus drinks.

If you are in the UK why not get in touch with people who have returned home and create your own mini-reunion and come and join us?

Christine Richards

Chair of Friends of Girlguiding BGIFC



Missing Link

Hello this is Carole McColl, some of you, I hope, will remember me from Saudi Arabia.

I am back in the UK for good now, and a Friend of BGIFC.

When you also return to the UK we would like to keep our chain of friendship going. Some of you will return to Guiding others will say 'I only did it for the time spent abroad'. Whichever group you fall into?

We would like to keep in touch with you. So why not join 'Friends of BGIFC' don't be the Missing Link. Please forward your email address or phone number to Pauline Wainwright, or to Jeannette in the Girlguiding BGIFC office or let one of the Friends of BGIFC know how to contact you. It would be lovely to keep you in our **chain of friendship**.

WHO'S WHO AT Girlguiding BGIFC

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Please send your contributions to the editor

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The editor reserves the right to alter any text submitted.

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a registered charity.