



Girlguiding BGIFC

Spring 2008 ~ Newsletter British Guides in Foreign Countries

Dear Guiders

Greetings for World Thinking Day! I hope that you have special events planned either in your Units or at a larger gathering.

In the UK there are two events one in Liverpool, the 2008 European Culture Capital. Over 7000 young people and their leaders will enjoy a day of activities before joining together for an event in the Liverpool arena. It looks to be an exciting event. A group of BGIFC members from Paris will enjoy the weekend of fun! Westminster Abbey will welcome members of Guiding and Scouting for a service of celebration - the theme is "water". This year, three young people from Germany will be carrying the World Flag at the start of the service.



Guiding magazine has had a number of articles within the past twelve months about Project Perception a major piece of work that has been looking at 'how others see us' and 'how we see ourselves' and the difference between the two. We need to ensure that people generally see us for what we are really doing and not for what they think we do. We are the only ones who can change their misperception.

The work has provided us with four key messages:

- Guiding provides a safe girl-only space
- Guiding is a place where each girl has a voice
- Guiding is relevant to today's girl
- Guiding promotes equality and diversity

Project Streamline is another piece of ongoing work that will provide GirlguidingUK with a new database that will ultimately allow all members access on order to change their personal details when the need arises. Updates about the progress of this work appear in Guiding magazine and in January we were told that the new database will be known as "GO" - Guiding Organiser!



Will you be at Waddow in July?

Plans are well in hand for our event this summer at Waddow. I hope you have received your invitation and application form. I look forward to seeing you there.

Does 2010 seem a long way off?

Well plans are emerging about the centenary and the start of the celebration will be in the latter part of 2009, with the culmination at the end of 2010. While there are going to be plenty of events for you to take part in, our own celebration will be at the July event in 2009. What do you want to do? Let us have your ideas as the plans unfold.

In the meantime I send my very best wishes for 2008

Ruth Sara
Commissioner - Girlguiding BGIFC



MESSAGE BOARD



1st Arabian Ranches Brownies in Dubai, UAE made Middle Eastern history by being the first BGIFC Unit to ever complete their watersports badge.

The girls took part in Dragon Boating off the beach near the Palm Jumeirah. A local newspaper covered our challenge and we've received a lot of positive feedback from the article.

Although there was a lot of training involved to the build-up of the badge, the girls and their mums and dads who so enthusiastically volunteered to take part as well had a fantastic time.

The girls have insisted we repeat this activity as they all enjoyed it so much.

Candice Gordon
1st Arabian Brownies Unit, Dubai, UAE

A WARM WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW OR RE-OPENED UNITS:

BENELUX & FRANCE

1st Croissy Guides	01/01/2008
2nd Toulouse Guides	22/01/2008

GERMANY BGIG

1st Harsewinkel Rainbows	03/10/2007
2nd Munich Guides	01/01/2008

INDEP. DISTRICTS

2nd Singapore (Wessex) Guides	02/01/2008
1st Springs (Dubai) Brownies	20/01/2008
1st Mirdiff (Dubai) Brownies	17/01/2008

INDEPENDENT UNITS

1st Vienna Rainbows	01/11/2007
1st Camposol Rainbows	14/09/2007
1st Seria Guides (W. Brunei District)	14/01/2008

1st Seoul Guides was suspended in December 07



This is a photograph of 3rd Dubai Brownies handing over money to Mr Don Sankey for a Vietnamese Medical Centre after a sponsored walk this week. The Pack have raised thousands of pounds for this cause in the last two years and are now trying to fund a dormitory for patients who have travelled many miles by foot for treatment.

Patsy Stagman,
"Proud Brown Owl"

WADDOW 2008

Plans are now firmly in place for this year's event for 2008 for Young Leaders and Adult Leaders. It will be held from 26th July to 31st July at Waddow Hall in Lancashire. We hope to see you there!



Advisers News

Guiding Development

A Happy New Year to you all. Rosie, Judy, Midge and I enjoyed an excellent training weekend which was held in Germany in October. Thank you to you all for all your hard work both before and during the event. Thank you also Sarah, Max and Lesley for all your kindness during the weekend it was much appreciated. It was also wonderful to see members from other Counties attending Germany's weekend.

During the Executive in October there was an opportunity for feedback on Trek 07 and several ideas for 09 were submitted. Initial plans for Waddow are in place and please encourage your Young Leaders to attend.

I am delighted to welcome two prospective trainers. They are Amanda Weldon from Kuwait and Jaqueline Lapasine from France. Both are going to participate in the 'Pilot' for the revised training licence.

Ruth and I are looking forward to visiting Singapore, Dubai and Kuwait (where we can observe Amanda train) in February. Ruth, Rosie, Dorothy and I attended a networking weekend in January at Foxlease. A new publication "Aim Hi" is coming out next year and Babs, Rosie and I will attend roll-out weekend on this.

I have been in touch with all the independent Units and have sent out some ideas to those who required them. Programme and training ideas were also sent to Amanda Gorvel in Spain. Germany, France and Cyprus are looking forward to their next trainings.

Chris Tozer is negotiating with Toulouse re a training next October.

Best Wishes

Fiona Carle

International

I do hope you all have a very happy World Thinking Day.

Most of you will be aware that North West Region is hosting a very large World Thinking Day event in Liverpool this year. North West England have, in conjunction with this event produced an activity pack which can be downloaded from their website. (girlguidingnorthwest.org.uk). On completion of the activities, a badge can be purchased. Whilst the badge will only be available for a limited amount of time, the activity pack will still continue to be a useful resource for Units.

I hope that the girls in your Units are aware of the online games which can be found on the Girlguiding UK website. There are several games which are linked to the theme of global education. Set out below is a brief summary of these games, the age group they relate to and their purpose:

The Happy Puppy game is for Rainbows and is based on the theme of recycling.

Anna's Bananas game is for Brownies and is based on the theme of fair trade.

The Aid Flight game is for Brownies and Guides and simulates emergency disaster relief.

Feed the Dolphin game is for Brownies and promotes environmental awareness.



Girlguiding UK believes all children have the right to an education. Girlguiding UK and the international child-centred community development charity plan have worked together on the "School Days" activity pack to help Brownies discover why more than 60 million girls worldwide are denied their basic right to primary education, how this affects their lives and how Brownies can make a positive difference to this situation. This is a fun resource to use with Brownies, with lots of games and activities for them to enjoy. They will hear real life stories of girls their own age from other parts of the world. Then, through activities, they can learn more about these girls' lives and especially about their experience of

school. The most important aim of “School Days” is to encourage Brownies to take action to address the issues raised. For your free copy of this activity pack visit Girlguiding UK's on-line shop or call Trading Service on 0161 941 2237, quoting order code **6971**. I have a copy of this resource and, having read it, would urge you to obtain a copy to use with your Brownie Unit.

An organisation called “GAP Activity Projects” has recently provided Girlguiding with information about the work they undertake. GAP is a charity specialising in international volunteering for 17-25 year olds. GAP offers a global network of placements that spans 23 countries for British Volunteers. Placements currently cost a flat rate fee of £1300 (this does not include travel costs or insurance) food and accommodation are provided by the overseas host. As well as organising placements, this organisation has a number of bursary schemes available for UK volunteers.

GAP's website is www.gap.org.uk. You may wish to share this information with Young Leaders, Senior Section members and young Guiders.

I hope will have opportunity to meet you at the BGIFC event at Waddow in July 2008

Dorothy Naylor

Leadership Coordinator

Firstly, my very best wishes to everyone for a very happy and peaceful year. 2007 saw many Guiders completing the Leadership Qualification from all over the world. Well done! My sincere thanks go to all the mentors who do such a great job in helping new Guiders through the qualification. Thank you also to the Leadership Qualification Co-ordinators who do such a sterling job encouraging both mentors and mentees.

There are a few changes in the team this year and I am delighted to welcome Pam Keay as the Leadership Qualification Co-ordinator for the Mediterranean. Pam has had a long association with BGIFC and I know that many of you have already been in touch. Just to remind you, the LQ Co-ordinators can be contacted as follows:

[Laura Pollock \(pollock@singnet.com.sg\)](mailto:pollock@singnet.com.sg) covers Asia, which now includes Japan and China.

[Mary Dunn \(alistair@emirates.net.ae\)](mailto:alistair@emirates.net.ae) deals with The Middle East (except Saudi Arabia).

[Pam Keay \(pamkeay@hotmail.com\)](mailto:pamkeay@hotmail.com) has taken over responsibility for 'The Med'.

[Sally Inshaw \(t.inshaw@tiscali.co.uk\)](mailto:t.inshaw@tiscali.co.uk) is responsible for 'the rest of the world' including Saudi Arabia.

It should take between about six and 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. Your efforts are much appreciated.

Good communication remains the key to the Leadership Qualification. So, once again may I 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? My very best wishes to all and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sally Inshaw

Brownie Guides

2008 a new year with new opportunities for us to enjoy whilst guiding with our Brownies! You may have read in December “Guiding” about 'Under ten and under pressure?' a Girlguiding UK's research report focussing on self-esteem in Brownie-age girls. During the year I hope we will think of ideas to use with our girls to improve their self-esteem.

The new resource 'School Days' is well worth getting (free except for p+p) from the Trading Service. It is a colourful pack with real examples of girls' lives from different countries plus games and activities. This could be a good starting point for activities for World Thinking Day.

We can also look forward to a new resource 'Aim Hi' (code 6541) from the Trading Service. This is about being active and staying healthy. With the 4 new Interest Badges Designer, Number Fun, Healthy Heart and Brownie Skills there are plenty of new things to include in our 2008 Unit programmes.



Please let me know if you have any queries about the Brownie Section.

Rosie Spence

Senior Section

Hello everyone and Happy World Thinking Day! I hope that by now all Senior Section members have had the opportunity to explore the Senior Section CD. Exciting or what! The feeling of everyone who attended the roll-out in September was “wow a long time coming but well worth the wait!” It encompasses all things Senior Section the Look Wider programme (updated), the new Young Leader Qualification which has replaced Making It Count, Queen's Guide Award syllabus and notes, Senior Section permits, In4mer, Duke of Edinburgh Award information, the Commonwealth Award and lots more. No more having to look in lots of different places for Senior Section information and all the various forms. It's all there on the CD, together with funky music and graphics. Included in the CD case is the new Senior Section record book where members record and have signed off all the various challenges etc that they have achieved. The cost of the whole package is £5.00 and it envisaged that each Senior Section member will have her own copy.

If you have a Young Leader working in your Unit or if you are a Young Leader yourself then this CD is for you. Why? Because a new Young Leader Qualification has been introduced and is only available on the CD there are no hard copy versions. The YLQ aligns to the ALQ for prior accreditation for those going on to become adult leaders. It provides Young Leaders with a structured programme and is supported by a new Young Leader Qualification brooch out goes the white bar. It will also assist Unit Guiders who have Young Leaders working in their Unit, as they will be able clearly to see what is expected of their Young Leader.



If you have any comments or queries regarding this exciting new resource then please do let me know and I will pass them on to the Association Senior Section Advisers.

We now look forward to Waddow 2008. It promises to be a fun week. Young Leaders it's a great opportunity to renew the friendships you made at Trek 07 and to make new friends, as well as joining your Guiders for sectional training sessions and learning many new activities. Guiders if you are coming, encourage your Young Leader to come with you.

Remind all the Rangers and Young Leaders to keep checking the Association Senior Section website for all the up to date information. Also, the e-update YeSS is another good source of info:
www.girlguiding.org.uk/info/login/register.asp .

Once they have registered it will automatically be emailed to them about 4 times a year. As always I'm here as and when you need me!

Midge Lillie

Centenary

Most of you will be aware that Guiding as an organisation will be 100 years old in 2010. Girlguiding UK has been preparing for this event for several years now. Those of you who have looked at the Girlguiding UK website will already have visited the Centenary pages and started to have some awareness of the plans.



Later this year you will start to receive information in a variety of ways, providing you with details about the Centenary celebrations and letting you know how girls and adults can participate in the events. Each Country and Region has been invited to appoint a Centenary Champion. I have been appointed as Centenary Champion for BGIFC.

The main purpose of my role is to ensure that you and the girls in your Units are aware of the wonderful activities, journeys and events which are being organised during the Centenary and how to become involved in them. You will also receive information and ideas which you will be able to incorporate into your local celebrations

Sometimes I will send out information directly to Commissioners and Independent Units. I will also remind you when information is being sent out through Guiding magazine and when information is placed on the website. Start looking out in the next BGIFC newsletter for my first article

The Centenary will be a fantastic celebration make sure that everyone is able to say 'I was there!'

Dorothy Naylor
Centenary Champion

Jakarta Guides Go To Camp (Twice)

Guiding has really taken off in Jakarta and we now have 25 Guides and 3 Young Leaders. As a Guide and Ranger myself in the UK, camping was always a major feature of Guiding so I decided it was now time to go camping in Asia!

8 Guides and 2 Young Leaders were the first Jakarta Guides to go to camp, thanks to an invitation from 1st Singapore Guides. There was much excitement when we met at Jakarta airport at 6 am on the Friday morning, tents in tow. We joined up with the Singapore Guides at Camp Christine for a weekend packed with activities such as kayaking, wall-climbing and hiking and for many of the girls it was the first occasion that they had done their own cooking outdoors. This was also a fantastic opportunity for Guides to make new friends from BGIFC.



More Jakarta Guides, disappointed not to be able to go to Singapore, had another opportunity when I ran our own camp in November at Lido Lakes, about 2 hours south of Jakarta. We camped in a field by a lake with lovely views of volcanoes. Fortunately, the tents proved to be waterproof as we were camping in the Rainy Season! On Saturday, after a 2 hour hot and sweaty hike up and down through beautiful rice terraces, we stopped to harvest sweetcorn and cassava before heading back to camp for lunch. Afterwards, it was time for the Flying Fox across the lake! Then, it was model-boat building with banana fruit pods and bamboo; seaworthiness was tested on the lake the next day. Despite heavy downpours in the evening, we were able to have a blazing campfire with lots of songs and toasted marshmallows

It was hard to believe that the majority of the Guides had never slept in a tent before and certainly not in a dark field with pretty-basic toilet facilities! By Sunday when we struck camp, all the Guides were camping and cooking experts. They were a fantastic group of girls to take away and thoroughly deserved the Camper and Outdoor Cook badges that they earned. I was being assessed for my Guide Camp Licence by Laura Pollock who very kindly came over from Singapore to join us and was generous enough to pass me! Now that 1st Jakarta Guides have got the camping bug, where can we go next?

Beryl Scott Rous (Papillon)
Guide Leader 1st Jakarta



Friends of Girlguiding BGIFC

Please note the date of our Annual Gathering has been changed from 19 April to Saturday 26 April 2008

and we are delighted and honoured that our Guest Speaker will be

Denise King, Chief Executive, Girlguiding UK

so why not bring your friends and come along to CHQ to hear all the latest news from the very heart of our organisation!

Follow this by joining us for the BGIFC reunion lunch afterwards. This is for anyone with BGIFC connections, you don't have to be a member of the Friends.

Further details and application form from Pauline Wainwright (for contact details see back page)

Have you enjoyed your Guiding overseas? Please support Girlguiding BGIFC when you return to the UK. By becoming a member of Friends your subscription will be helping other girls and leaders in the future. It is only £10 a year (or £12 for two or more people at the same address)

Please see the website or contact Carole McColl at c_mccoll@sky.com or the Girlguiding BGIFC office



Christine Richards
Chair, Friends of Girlguiding BGIFC

CONGRATULATIONS! To Ann Mitchell, a long-time BGIFC person, for the MBE she was awarded in the New Year Honours.



www.BGIFC.org.uk

To everyone in BGIFC,
the next Annual Gathering and Reunion Lunch
will be in London on Saturday 26th April 2008 -
make a note in your diary now, we'd love to see you!



WHO'S WHO AT Girlguiding BGIFC

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Commissioner	Ruth Sara	ruth@sara71.freemove.co.uk
Girlguiding BGIFC Advisers:		
Financial	Karolyn Culverwell	karolynculverwell@btinternet.com
Guiding Development	Fiona Carle	fionacarle@btinternet.com
International	Dorothy Naylor	naylordor@aol.com
Leadership Qual. Coordinator	Sally Inshaw	t.inshaw@tiscali.co.uk
Outdoor Activities	Alison Johnson	bgifc_alison@yahoo.co.uk
Public Relations&Website	Chris Tozer	christozer68@btinternet.com
Rainbow	Judy Hyde	judyhyde@tiscali.co.uk
Brownie	Rosie Spence	r.m.spence@bath.ac.uk
Guide	Margaret Sinclair	margaret@parade6.fsnet.co.uk
Senior Section	Midge Lillie	midge@care4free.net

Registrations and Warrants

BGIFC@girlguiding.org.uk

Friends of Girlguiding BGIFC

Chair	Christine Richards	cah.richards@btinternet.com
Secretary	Pauline Wainwright	paulinewainwright@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Don Fisher	fisher@pam-don.freemove.co.uk

Girlguiding BGIFC Office

Administrator Ellie Crane

c/o Commonwealth Headquarters CHQ 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road
London SW1W 0PT United Kingdom

Tel: 0044 (0) 20 7592 1814 (Direct Line).

Fax: 0044 (0) 20 7828 7951

Via CHQ: 0044 (0) 20 7834 6242-Ext 354

Email: BGIFC@girlguiding.org.uk Web site: www.BGIFC.org.uk

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christozer68@btinternet.com

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