

# The Trefoil

[www.trefoilguild.co.uk](http://www.trefoilguild.co.uk) | June 2019 | Issue No 253



On a roll  
to Get  
Active



GUIDING FOR ADULTS  
**Trefoil Guild**

*In this issue*

We meet the new  
national Chair,  
Eileen Martin

Plans revealed  
for the future  
of Trefoil Guild

Say 'g'day' to  
Trefoil members  
in Australia

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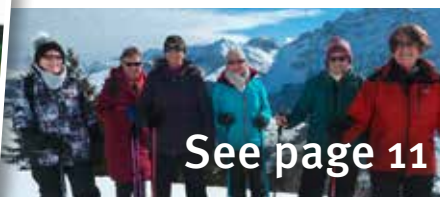
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## The official journal of the Trefoil Guild

Published each March, June, September and December

**National President** Liz Burnley

**National Chairman** Pat Downer

**Editorial Board** Jo Taylor (Chair), Frances Parrett, Charlotte Anslow, Pat Downer, Judy Ellis, Ann Hall, Linda Hill-Tout, Margaret Froome, Jane Webster

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© The Trefoil Guild 2019.  
Registered charity number 1075232.



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## Design and Production

Newhall Publishing Ltd  
New Hall Lane

Hoylelake  
Wirral CH47 4BQ

**Tel:** 0844 545 8102

**Email:** hello@newhallpublishing.com

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Thank you  
and farewell

Hello everyone

I really can't believe that this will be my last letter to you as your national Chair. Just where have the last five years gone? I would like to thank every one of you for having the trust in me to take Trefoil Guild forward and I am now delighted to be able to hand over a vibrant, enthusiastic association to Eileen Martin in the middle of June. You can read all about our new national Chair on page 4.

During my term of appointment together we have produced a new magazine that is delivered directly to you four times a year; we have set up an online register of all our members and enabled those who wish to pay online; we have developed the Voyage award and introduced STARS as well as international opportunities with TOPAZ. We have also developed a new website and come to terms with social media, and we now see regular posts on Facebook and Twitter.

But most importantly, we have supported Girlguiding with grants for new units and for every GOLD participant, and provided hands-on help at units and large-scale events. We have also learned how to deal with

GDPR and all the other legal/social issues that seem to hit us every month!

Our 75th birthday year was a real celebration of all we do and will be complete when we hand a huge cheque to the Chief Executive of the RDA at our Annual Meeting and then again to their President at the official opening of their new training centre. You are such a generous group of people and many users of the RDA will benefit from your kindness.

For me personally, this appointment has enabled me to make many good friends from all over the UK and further afield with our TGIFC members. It has been a joy to visit you all and to see places I didn't know existed!

To you all: if you are ever offered an opportunity in Trefoil, do not hesitate, take it with both hands, learn from it, but most of all enjoy it – it has so many rewards.

You will have a great new Chair in Eileen and I trust you will support her in the way you have all supported me.

With thanks and best wishes

*Pat.*

Pat Downer

## Who is Eileen Martin?

New national Chair of Trefoil Guild, Eileen Martin tells us about her guiding life and opportunities for the future...



Eileen and Colin have moved around the UK

When I was first appointed as national Chair, I had all sorts of feelings, all at once. I was amazed, honoured and excited all at the same time alongside a healthy dose of nervousness.

I joined Brownies aged seven in Paisley where I was also a Guide and Pack Leader, leading to leadership. My favourite memory as a Brownie is the night I passed my 1st Class Badge, tested by the district commissioner. I can still pack a neat suitcase and make a mean cold custard dessert.

I have moved around a fair bit through my husband Colin's job; in Kinross I became a Brown Owl, then to West Lothian. In Dunbartonshire I became a Rainbow leader, district and division commissioner and a trainer. At this point I also undertook a university course as a mature student, gaining an honours

degree in Human Resource Management. Our furthest move took us to Colchester in Essex North East where I was a district, division and county commissioner. After eight great years we moved back to Scotland where I did a second term as county commissioner in Tweed Valley.

My final role in guiding was as a deputy Scottish chief commissioner, serving as the representative on the Trefoil Guild Scotland Executive, cementing my relationship with Trefoil – 39 years of guiding in two regions and six counties. What a great organisation that allows us to get involved wherever we are.

Having been married for 45 years, I love spending time with my husband and our family, including our three grandchildren.



Madeira is a magical place for Eileen

Colin and I visit Madeira regularly – a magical place – and we love going on cruises. When I get time to relax, I love playing Scrabble, jigsaws, knitting and reading. Life would be really difficult without my car, which is my sanctuary, and in it you will find amongst other things both savoury and sweet snacks, a small pack of essential toiletries and an emergency blanket. And, of course, as anyone who knows me could tell you, a spare pair of tights – one of the first pieces of advice given to me when I became a prospective trainer.

During my term of office I want to continue the excellent work already under way to improve our communications, embracing technology while at the same time continuing to reach those who don't use computers, the internet or email. As we move forward, the digital era is going to be a real help in taking part in activities and training. Instead of spending hours phoning around a group of people to organise something, one quick email lets everyone know what is going on at the same time. That said, nothing beats sitting down to write a personal thank you to someone, a skill we must not lose. There is also a great opportunity for us to work even more closely with Girlguiding and encourage more members to join Trefoil and do something for themselves as well as for our girls and young women.

A number of people have influenced me during my guiding life: my Brown Owl May Muir; Pat Lister, who encouraged me to return to guiding after a break and then to become a commissioner and a prospective trainer; my tutor Sister Margaret Rose who inspired me to



Eileen is delighted to be the new national Chair

***"I was amazed, honoured and excited at the same time alongside a healthy dose of nervousness"***

do my best; and Elizabeth Ferrier, who encouraged me as a prospective trainer and whose wise words are invaluable and often come to mind when I am trying to work through something.

I am always happy to share a campfire supper and would love to invite everyone who has encouraged and supported me and all those I have come into contact with over the years through guiding. Now, where do I find a field big enough?



## Noticeboard

Bulletins and information for all our members compiled by Frances Parrett

### Achievements page

Please send us news about your fabulous achievements. Your help is needed to recognise the amazing things our members do. We keep news of Voyage Gold awards on the website so we can print a variety of other achievements in the magazine. You can find this issue's Achievements on page 23.



### Readership Panel

Now that we have so many young members, we need to ensure our Readership Panel reflects your opinions too. It won't take much of your time; have a look at the job description on our website at [trefoilguild.co.uk/Readership-Panel](http://trefoilguild.co.uk/Readership-Panel).

### Facebook group for STARS

A Facebook group for our new STARS Challenge has been set up (search for Trefoil Guild STARS in Facebook to find it). It's a group designed to discuss activities, ask questions and talk about the STARS programme. This is an official, closed group so you need to ask for permission to join – nearly 300 members have done so already!

### Holiday reminders

Travelling abroad or within the UK with our young members is fun, but when filling in your emergency card, please give the emergency number of someone who CAN come to your support, just in case you have to be hospitalised. The leaders won't be able to stay with you because their first priority HAS to be the young members. Find that important emergency card at [trefoilguild.co.uk/Forms](http://trefoilguild.co.uk/Forms).

And when going away as a Trefoil group, don't forget to leave a LOCAL group contact person for emergencies. They need to be near home for the duration of your trip with a phone number you can give to your individual emergency contact.

### Talking Trefoil

Does your guild have members who have difficulty reading *The Trefoil*? Let the Trefoil Guild office know and they can be put in contact with *Talking Trefoil*, to receive an audio version of the magazine.

### A Safe Space regulations

If you help at Girlguiding events you MUST adhere to the regulations regarding A Safe Space. To find out what level of training you need, look at [girlguiding.org.uk/making-guiding-happen/learning-and-development/a-safe-space-training/](http://girlguiding.org.uk/making-guiding-happen/learning-and-development/a-safe-space-training/).

### Our Scarf

If you are someone who said of the Trefoil scarf "It is too long" or "I don't like the fabric" then you will be delighted that a smaller version in a different fabric but with the same design will be on sale in June. Price £6.60.



Do you have a festive recipe to share with us?

### Calling all chefs...

Are you or one of your Trefoil members a skilful chef? For our December issue we would like to feature a chef and his/her Christmas recipe, or inventive recipe other members need to know about. Perhaps one of the 'younger' guilds have a chef member? Contact the Trefoil office with your suggested chef's details.

### Welcome Eileen

*The Trefoil* editorial team are looking forward to working with Eileen Martin, our new national Chair of Trefoil (see pages 4 and 5). Four new region Chairs also take up their posts this year and we bid them a warm welcome too (pages 20 and 21).

### TRIO

A Trefoil International Opportunities (TRIO) weekend will be held on 27-29 September. Application forms are on this magazine's address label – and on the website.

### Challenge success

The 75th Birthday Challenge was a great success – more than 41,000 girls and adults took part and bought a badge. Rose growers Harkness sold Trefoil Roses totalling £2,578.40. So far, we have raised more than £100,000 for RDA (although the final sum will be revealed at the Annual Meeting in Southport).



### Southport Annual Meeting

Do come and visit *The Trefoil* stand at Southport. We always want to know about stories from your regions, but also come and write on a diamond-shape (like one of the STARS badges) and add it to our tree. Your contributions were really valued in the past and we have a variety of questions this year. Looking forward to seeing you there!

### Submissions to the magazine and website

We welcome all submitted items using the appropriate pro forma, which can be downloaded from the website and sent to the corresponding email address. If items are for the magazine,

please state whether you're happy for them to be considered for the website if there is too little space in the magazine. Submission date for the September 2019 issue is 2 July.



## Your snapshots

We take a look at what guilds around the country have been up to recently

### Charity cheque

After a year of fundraising as part of our 75th birthday celebrations, we were pleased to present a cheque to the Riding for the Disabled Association for £548.

**Vivien Macpherson,**  
**Clyde Trefoil Guild**



### Murder mystery day

Members of Burwell Trefoil Guild became 'Agatha Christie's Fan Club' for the day to compete in a murder mystery case organised by CluedUp. Based around Cambridge city centre and suitably attired, we had to answer questions before being able to interview witnesses and suspects, via an app, to solve the crime. Although not completed in the fastest time, we did 'arrest' the correct villain and identify the correct weapon. A great day out!

**Linda Lerner, Burwell Trefoil Guild**

### Fabulous Forties

Many of us dressed in 1940s' fashion and sang war time songs. Several members had baked recipes used when rationing was still in force and several had brought china cups and saucers – no mugs on this night!

**Lynda Marsden,**  
**Sale Trefoil Guild**



### Indian adventure

It was a wonderful experience to visit Sangam for the 'When we Shine' and Ganesha festivals, and to experience the place we had all heard about. We met Trefoil members from Ottawa, Canada, with whom we are now twinned. The most enjoyable activity was Laughing Yoga, which took place

in the Sangam garden; it was uplifting and members couldn't remember when they had laughed so much. Thank you to Sangam for a marvellous experience. We also visited the Country Club used for the filming of *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* movie (pictured above).

**Audrey MacNaughton,**  
**Blackpool Internet Belles Trefoil Guild**



### Coastal walk

Members of Arfon Trefoil Guild, along with Flo the dog, walked part of Anglesey's coastal park and enjoyed sandwiches and chips at the end.

**Wendy Moore,**  
**Arfon Trefoil Guild**





### Segway speedsters!

After receiving our helmets plus knee and elbow pads, we were given an introduction to using the Segways on various surfaces and slaloms before having the speed restrictors taken off and away we went. There was some anxiety about whether we'd be able to manage our rides, but so long as we could balance on both legs and move our weight from our toes to our heels, or vice versa, then we were fit for the purpose. What a wonderful experience and so easy to do.

**Sheila Simpson, Crofton Trefoil Guild**

### Meeting Rick Stein

Whilst volunteering at Padstow Christmas festival we were delighted when Rick Stein, who was one of the chefs taking part, came to speak to us.

**Irene Mortimer, Padstow Trefoil Guild**



### Foxbreak walk

We enjoyed our walk during a recent Trefoil Foxbreak, despite the mud!

**Bridget Elliott,  
Goldsworth Park Trefoil Guild**



### Snow business

When spending four nights on a marvellous visit to Our Chalet, we spent Thinking Day doing activities on the Tschenten Alp, including walking to the summit in snow shoes and sledging. The photo shows us about to set out on our walk.

**Nicky David, Guernsey and Sarnia Trefoil Guild**



### In and out

Indoor archery, out of doors, was one of the activities at Berkshire's Annual Meeting, which took place in Maidenhead.

**Sue Kitchener,  
Berkshire Trefoil Guilds**





### Thinking Day wander

Girlguiding Scotland organised Wander the World – Edinburgh Edition, for World Thinking Day 2019. Four Trefoil members from Ayrshire North and Renfrewshire participated and completed some of the activities on their passport. We decided a walking route would be good and so indoor balloon modelling and Bollywood dancing were left behind in favour of taking photos of Greyfriars Bobby, ‘selfies’ with Edinburgh Castle and the Scott Monument, and a visit to the

bronze statue of Wojtek, the Polish soldier bear (above). That left time to visit the craft location to make a bead bracelet and finish our ‘wander’ with a drumming session before returning to the McEwan Hall to renew our Promise. As we made our way round Edinburgh we attracted attention, with adults and family groups asking what was going on – a great opportunity to talk about Girlguiding and Trefoil.

**Patrice Graham,**  
**Kilwinning and Bishopton Trefoil Guild**



### New Zealand visit

Whilst visiting Ohauiti Brownies in New Zealand, who are penfriends with 7th Bangor Brownies, Caernarfonshire, Wales, I gave letters from the Bangor unit to the Ohauiti pack and they gave me a bag of badges to take back to Bangor.

**Wendy Moore, Llandudno Trefoil Guild**



### Beware the beast!

Members of Ballymena Trefoil Guild visited a local Guide unit to find out about the new programme. They worked in groups with the girls on the ‘Build a Beast’ challenge. The beast had to be made out of junk material with each group constructing a different part of the creature. As you can see from the photograph, the beast turned out to be a lovely Guide! The ladies then joined the girls in a World Thinking Day ceremony. An evening of fun and reflection enjoyed by all.

**Lizzie Hogg, Ballymena Trefoil Guild**

### Driving delight

I decided to go for the Advanced Driving Test, which I passed with a Silver Award. Not bad, as I will be 80 years old in November!

**Margaret Hakin,**  
**Coopers Hill Trefoil Guild**



### Picture this...

If you'd like to see images of your own guild's activities here, check that your photos are the right size – see the Photo Tips on the Trefoil Guild website – and send them to *The Trefoil* at the address on page 2.

## *“I hadn’t realised how prepared I had become, thanks to guiding”*

Eleanor Bird, from Hilmorton Trefoil Guild, tells us how her leader experience helps her successfully run a foodbank and give back to the community

I was leader of a thriving Guide unit for over 40 years until I was required to retire on my 65th birthday. Having been a volunteer for all my adult life, I wanted something else to do to fill the gap.

I was well aware of our motto ‘Be Prepared’, but I hadn’t realised just how prepared I had become, thanks to guiding, for what I was to do next. I used my catering skills – honed over many camps and holidays – to provide breakfast for the local clergy who meet to share a meal, prayer and ideas. Replete with a full English, they outlined plans for the opening of a foodbank in our town. It was just what I had been looking for, although another skill I had learned through guiding caused me to disregard the claim that it would only be an hour or two a week!

A year later, the warehouse manager of the foodbank asked if I would take on

more responsibility. “Just for six months”, he said, “while I refurbish my yacht.” My guiding experience suggested that reality might be otherwise, but I knew about commitment and said yes. So now I had a team of volunteers to manage, standards to maintain, paperwork and deadlines to meet. A bit like running a district, except that now there were men in the mix. Thank goodness I knew how to work the patrol system...

Rugby Foodbank, like many others, is modelled on guidelines set by The Trussell Trust ([trusselltrust.org](http://trusselltrust.org)). We begin our day in the warehouse, by weighing in donations from our permanent collection baskets in the main supermarkets in the town.

The goods are sorted, first by commodity, then by date and are shelved in crates ready to be used. There is no heating in the warehouse, so we move quickly to keep warm.

A bag of donations consisting mainly of tins is quite heavy, and a crate full of milk weighs over 20 kilos, so most of us do not feel the need to go to the gym at any point.

During the morning, other donations will arrive, mainly from local churches but also from individuals who support us on a regular basis. Some have been coming for a long time and are regarded



Tins and other donations are sorted



Eleanor at the Rugby Foodbank warehouse

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***“Now I had volunteers to manage, paperwork and deadlines to meet. A bit like running a district...”***

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as friends, even when their visits coincide with our much-needed coffee break.

We then prepare boxes of food for the clients who come to our distribution centres. Currently, we are providing for over 100 people a week. They will receive enough for each person in their household to have three meals a day for three days. We also offer toiletries, bagged separately to avoid shampoo-flavoured noodles!

Two of our distribution sessions are in a building adjacent to the warehouse, so the volunteers can walk through to get what the clients need. The other two sessions are further afield and for these

we use our van. Ensuring the centre is fully stocked is another task to complete.

Many local schools support us with special collections at harvest or Christmas. I am often asked to speak during an assembly and my experience with Rainbows, Brownies and Guides enables me to target my audience appropriately.

Sometimes units ask to visit the warehouse during their meeting time, to tick the box for community action. They are always welcome, even when they – especially the Cubs – show more interest in the mechanics of our van than in the work we do.

If anyone had told me when I first became a unit leader that the experiences and skills that I gained would equip me to run a successful foodbank warehouse I would have been astonished, but I am really glad that this is what has happened.





## Future Girl

The new five-year plan targets the topics that matter the most to girls and young women throughout Girlguiding

In 2018, we asked the girls in Girlguiding to tell us what they really cared about. They responded in their thousands – some 76,000 of them, aged four to 25. The activity packs and surveys covered topics from the environment to online safety and got girls talking about what it's like to be a young woman today.

We used all these responses to create Future Girl; our five-year plan to help our girls and volunteers make changes they want to see in the world. In April 2019, we launched five topic areas to help our members explore and act on the issues they said matter to them the most.

### Planet Protectors

Girls want people to take better care of our precious planet, and the animals we share it with. They want to see a world with less plastic polluting our oceans and affecting wildlife; a world where recycling and reusing things are part of everyday life, and they want real action on climate change. After all, it's their future that's at stake.

### Adventurers

Girls want to be able to have adventures wherever they find them without worrying about being treated differently

or feeling unsafe because they're girls. They believe that all girls, including those with disabilities, should have places to relax and do the things they love doing – welcoming spaces outdoors and safe spaces online. They believe that women's sports should be just as visible and celebrated as men's.

***“Our vision is to see a world in five years' time where girls are happier and more confident... and to know that Girlguiding has played a part”***

### Self-believers

Girls want to be able to be themselves – without feeling that they have to look or act a certain way because they're girls. They'd like adults to be more aware of the pressures on young women – from school, from friends, from the media – and help them learn how to manage and challenge them. Girls would like to see themselves accepted, by each other and the wider world, so they can be the person they want to be – not just what others want to see.

### Respect Makers

Girls want to see a respectful world. One where people don't make fun of, hurt, or leave out others just because they're different, or because they're girls; one where they feel safe and accepted online and one where everyone understands the importance of being kind to each other. They want girls to feel safe and supported as they grow up and as their relationships change – knowing where to get help when they need it and not feeling ashamed if they do.

### Barrier Breakers

Girls want to see an equal world. One where girls know they can be or do whatever they want to and where they can see girls and women leading the way. One where they're taught useful life skills and encouraged to follow their passions – where no subject or job is off limits. They want to feel confident in speaking out about the things they care about; and to know that people will listen to what they say and respect what they think.

Our vision is to see a world in five years' time where girls are happier and more confident. Where unfair pressures and limitations are fewer and where girls know how to deal with them. A world where girls and young women are not afraid to use their voice, and when they speak, people listen. And to know that the Girlguiding community has played a part in changing attitudes and in reshaping the world we live in, for the good of us all.



To find out more about Future Girl and how we'll be encouraging our members to get involved, go to [girlguiding.org.uk/futuregirl](http://girlguiding.org.uk/futuregirl).

## An away day in... Coventry

Jane Webster of Hillmorton Trefoil Guild gives us a guided tour to the City of Culture 2021



Coventry Cathedral is part of the Peace Trail



Coventry Transport Museum is worth a visit

Coventry was just a scattered settlement when Leofric, Earl of Mercia, and his wife, the legendary Lady Godiva, founded a church here in 1043. By the end of the 14th century, Coventry was the fourth most powerful city in England. It benefitted from the wool trade, became a major centre for pilgrimage and in 1345 received a Royal Charter – the first of its kind in England.

Weaving, ribbon making (including school name tapes), watchmaking, cycles and car manufacture – Coventry's industries have developed to meet the changing demands of the centuries.

Today, Coventry offers an interesting selection of attractions. **Coventry's Peace Trail** ([covpeacetrail.uk](http://covpeacetrail.uk)) is a walking tour that will take you to **Coventry Cathedral** and other sites associated with peace around the city. There are plenty of places for rest and refreshment on your walk.

Next door to the cathedral is **Holy Trinity Church**, which was rebuilt after a fire in the 14th century and is still in use today. Inside is a surviving painting of the **Last**

**Judgement** (or the **Coventry Doom**) above the tower arch. The church is home to peregrine falcons nesting in the spire.

Find out about women's role in transport at the **Coventry Transport Museum** ([transport-museum.com](http://transport-museum.com)), which houses the world's largest collection of British road transport and is well worth a visit.

**The Herbert Art Gallery and Museum** ([theherbert.org](http://theherbert.org)) is a short walk from the cathedral and has interesting social, industrial, archaeological and natural history collections as well as an art gallery.

Browse around an eclectic collection of niche retailers, artists' studios, creative workspace, crafts, markets, quirky shops and eateries at **FarGo Village** ([fargovillage.co.uk](http://fargovillage.co.uk)) – check the website for special events before you go.

**The Weaver's House** ([theweavershouse.org](http://theweavershouse.org)) is a living museum in a restored weaver's house in a row of 15th century workers' cottages. Why not have a go at weaving on a public drop-in day, or tailor your visit to meet your group's interests.

## Our forward plan

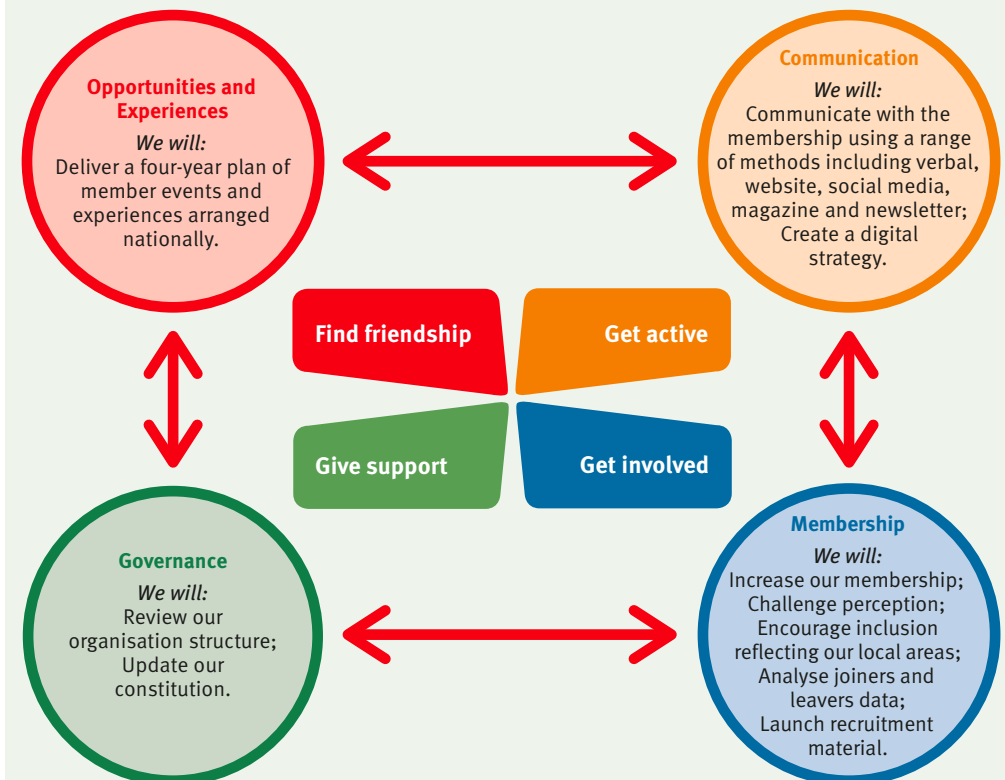
Formulating a strategy for the next four years of Trefoil Guild

The national Board of Trustees of Trefoil met at Swanwick for two days to evaluate the present business plan and start to formulate a new one for the next four years.

We acknowledged that much of the past plan had been achieved including all our celebrations for our 75th birthday, a vibrant magazine, programme development, our membership database, retaining existing members, implementing

a new constitution and good staff support. Work still needs to be done on our governance, programme, communication and increasing our membership.

An outline plan was devised that will be worked on throughout the year. If you have expertise in any of the areas mentioned please do contact your country/region Chair who can pass your name on. We would like to use as much professional help as possible.





## Changing places

Meet the new Chairs of four of our country/regions...

### Chris Martin LaSER

I'm Chris Martin from Kent East. In my time in Girlguiding I was a Ranger, Guide and Rainbow leader, district and division commissioner and county and region international adviser. I became a member of Trefoil when I was a district commissioner and have been Trefoil county Chair for nearly two years.

Trefoil shares the same principles as Girlguiding – sharing and learning new skills; meeting and making new friends; completing challenges; enjoying activities involving food and having fun with plenty of laughter. I would like members to expand their experiences in counties and region and possibly internationally. I look forward to my new challenge.



### Susan Hogg Scotland

I am a member of Gordon Trefoil Guild where I am the programme coordinator and also county Chair for Gordon, which is in Aberdeenshire. I joined Trefoil when I retired five years ago but I am also still an active member of Girlguiding. I enjoy the friendship and the variety of activities our Trefoil takes part in and I am currently working on my Silver Voyage award.

I was also a member of the TOPAZ 2017 team and had an amazing time in Russia, working with young people and leaders to promote Girl Scouting. I am looking forward to meeting and working with our members across Scotland over the next three years.



### Jennifer Watson North West England

If women had been allowed to go to sea when I was younger, I would have joined the Navy. Instead, I set up my own business as a monument conservationist, repairing and conserving statues, building facades, memorials and works of art.

My interest in the Navy remained and in 1981 I joined the Royal Naval Reserve in Liverpool. I retired after 37 years during which time I travelled with the RNR to North America, the Balkan States, South America, the Falkland Islands, the Baltic States and the Arctic Circle.

I'm a widow with one son and enjoy walking, local history and organising projects and fundraising events for my church and local voluntary groups. Keeping Milly, my 1956 Austin A35, roadworthy also keeps me on my toes.



### Dianne Bollom North East England

Born in Somerset, I spent my college and early married life in London and Sussex and for the last 39 years have become an adopted northerner in Yorkshire. I was a primary schoolteacher and latterly worked for the Peak District National Park – a teacher with a rucksack on my back.

Although never a Brownie or Guide I was persuaded by a friend to become a leader. I loved camping and soon became an outdoor adviser at local, region and national level. Various posts and committees followed but I continued in the Guide unit. In Trefoil I have been county Chair for Sheffield.

I have a patient husband, two sons who were Scouts and two grandchildren about to start on their Scouting and Guiding journeys.



### Farewell and thank you

The work of outgoing Chairs was also acknowledged with Trefoil Guild Silver brooches...

### Eileen Martin Scotland

As Chair of Scotland Trefoil, Eileen has excelled in supporting existing members and encouraging more guilds, including lones, to open. Now, of course, she is the new national Chair of Trefoil Guild.

### Jackie Dickinson North East England

Jackie has been Chair of North East England Trefoil for five years. Her aim was to enable members to make the most of all opportunities. She managed that and has just returned from taking more than 100 members to Holland.

### Aileen Higgs North West England

Aileen was presented with a Trefoil Guild Silver brooch by Pat Downer, outgoing national Chair, for her dedication and enthusiasm in leading North West England region over the past five years. Aileen will finish as region Chair after the national Annual Meeting in Southport.



Pat, Aileen and Sheila Pattison, Region President

## African adventure

Jean Edusei, Chair of Newcastle Trefoil, who visits Ghana every year, was joined by three fellow guild members...

Armed with sun cream, mosquito repellent and anti-malarial tablets, Cath Dixon, Carol Hood and Christine Crompton of Newcastle Trefoil Guild travelled to Ghana in West Africa to join Jean Edusei and her husband, Nana, at their home in Kumasi. The next two weeks included sightseeing and visiting a local orphanage.

The King Jesus Charity Home is supported by the Ghanaian Children's Trust, a UK-registered charity that Jean and members of Girlguiding established in 2004 following fundraising by Girlguiding Newcastle. In 2017, Jean was awarded an MBE for services to young people in Ghana and Girlguiding Newcastle.

The programme for Cath (also one of the charity's trustees), Carol and Christine included visits to museums and cultural centres, shopping in the old, chaotic shops and the new Kumasi Mall. They visited surrounding craft villages and learnt about the weaving of kente cloth and how the dye is made to print adinkra symbols on to cloth. They printed their own kente stole to bring back to Newcastle Trefoil.

At the orphanage they saw the problems being caused by a leaking roof and the work the



The ladies printed their own kente stoles

Ghanaian Children's Trust is doing to replace it. They talked to the staff about the problems the orphanage faces with lack of money and food; they were appalled to see mouldy bread being delivered from a local bakery and the staff and children picking off the mould and eating the bread – any food is better than no food.

When the children came home from school, our ladies were amazed at how clean and tidy they looked in their school uniforms, even down to their white socks, after a day in the heat and dust. The group did some reading, colouring and games with the children and Cath in particular was delighted to talk with some of the older children who had been quite small on her previous visits some years earlier.

Jean, Cath, Carol and Christine travelled by coach to Cape Coast where they visited Cape Coast Castle to see where the slaves were kept in appalling conditions until they were shipped abroad – a very moving experience that will not be forgotten.



Jean with her MBE



## Bravery recognised

Last year, Amanda Plunkett of Etwell & Mickleover Trefoil Guild had to make the huge decision to have her leg amputated. She was so brave and positive throughout and, after coming home, was back with her Rainbows and attending Trefoil meetings within weeks.

We have all come to love and admire her and decided to nominate her for a Trefoil Guild Silver brooch. Her nomination was accepted and we 'crowd bombed' her Rainbow meeting one night where the award was presented by Liz Robertson, Derbyshire County Trefoil Guild Chair. Amanda had been told the chairs were put out for a game! She will never trust us again, but we are so proud of her. She is truly what guiding is all about.

## Well done, Marjorie!

The new Yeadon War Memorial was a huge achievement for a small committee, chaired by Marjorie Emsley of Billing Division Trefoil Guild in Leeds. It was a dream that took three years to become a reality, with a target date of 11 November 2018 – 100 years since the end of the First World War.

There were problems on the way, raising enough money being the greatest one. Another major challenge presented itself when the stone was delivered – to a wildflower meadow because the quarry lorry couldn't reach the right spot! Trefoil know-how was needed to get that stone into place.

The plaque was added on 9 November, just in time for its unveiling and dedication, so Yeadon could celebrate Remembrance Day with a fitting and beautiful memorial.



*Have you received an award, or know someone who has? Why not shout about it? Send the details and a photo to The Trefoil. Contact details on page 2.*



## Meet a guild

The fun-loving members here are always ready for Trefoil adventures

### 93rd Belfast

Just like the first 'Old Guides', 93rd Belfast Trefoil Guild was formed in 2016 out of 93rd Belfast Senior Section, as many were too old to be Rangers and they wanted to continue having the same adventures they'd enjoyed for the previous ten years!

93rd members are all leaders with local Rainbow and Brownie units and have an average age of 30. "We have all signed up for our Voyage awards and are excited to get started on the STARS Challenge!" said Roxy, one of this fun-loving group who are also avid badge collectors.

The 93rd members are very involved in local guiding, in peer education and in the



Getting involved with the Period Poverty project

Action For Change project. Chair, Susan, is a district commissioner for Girlguiding Ulster, and three members have taken part in GOLD (Guiding Overseas Linked with Development). Susan went to Oman to work with leaders and girls, and to spend a week on camp with the Guides, where camels were regular visitors – a popular song on camp was, unsurprisingly, 'Alice the Camel'! Nicola went to Zambia to work with girls and leaders. She won't forget when they lost their biscuits to a cheeky baboon at a roadside picnic spot.

Nicola, the youngest member, is on the TOPAZ team that hopes to go to Africa



Celebrating the centenary of some women getting the vote



Members of the 93rd Belfast Trefoil Guild enjoy their time at last year's Annual Meeting

in 2020 and Roxy is attending the World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia this year as a Global Ambassador working on the Service Team. "We'll be setting up the opening and closing ceremonies and supporting young people from each visiting country to keep them up to date with the goings-on at the event!"

The guild has become involved in the Period Poverty project. They have also found out and thought about peer education's Breaking Free topic regarding gender stereotypes, have looked into disability awareness, and examined how parliament works, particularly in Ireland. Some members attended processions with Girlguiding Ulster to celebrate the centenary of some women getting the vote.

We should be proud to have these young women amongst our number; they are working hard to promote

Girlguiding and take issues they care about very seriously, giving their time and energies to try to make things better.

Members of 93rd Belfast attended the Trefoil Guild Annual Meeting in Birmingham last year. "We had a fab time meeting guilds from all across the UK and explored all the stands. We also enjoyed a visit to the Cadbury factory!" said Roxy.

She then went on to reveal some of the activities they have undertaken that are less serious: a pamper challenge; an evening of yoga; making mocktails; and relaxing with face masks. Fun and food definitely also feature in their programme!

She summed up: "We love to have the opportunity to regularly hang out and relax, enjoying activities and badges that we want to try and making plans for future Trefoil adventures!"



## International outlook

from Judy Ellis,  
National International Adviser

### TRefoil International Opportunities (TRIO)

In the spring magazine, I told you that the participants at the TOPAZ selection in 2018 had recommended that we offer similar international action weekends regularly. In response, we are planning the first TRIO weekend, which will offer enjoyable activities, information and the opportunity to get to know members from across the UK who have similar interests.

#### Who is it for?

Are you one of the many Trefoil members who enjoys the international aspect of guiding? Are you thinking of organising an overseas trip for your guild or county? Have you thought of joining a TOPAZ team to work with a WAGGGS Association on a mutual project? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then the TRIO weekend is an event you shouldn't miss!

#### What's it about?

The programme will include information sessions, practical challenges, teamwork and informal discussion, as well as the opportunity to be considered for selection for the Lesotho TOPAZ project in 2121. Places are limited and priority will be given to those wishing to be considered for TOPAZ.

#### When is it?

It will take place from the evening of Friday 27 September 2019 to after lunch on Sunday 29 September 2019.

#### Where is it to be held?

TRIO will be held at Abney Scout and Guide Centre, Abney Park, Cheadle, Cheshire. It's five miles from Manchester airport and under a mile from East Didsbury for trains and the Metrolink. Accommodation is in small dormitories.

#### How much will it cost?

The weekend fee will be £60 plus your travel expenses. There is an application form on this magazine's carrier sheet and on the Trefoil website.

The final deadline for applications is 31 July 2019. Successful applicants will be invited to join the event after 1 August.



Getting to know each other through teamwork



Concentrating on a practical challenge

### What's happening around WAGGGS?

WAGGGS Regional Conferences – which are held in the year before a World Conference – are going to be held this summer. These give time for the member organisations to discuss proposals for the World Conference and the direction they want the Region to take.

#### Europe Region

The 16th European Guide and Scout Conference takes place in Croatia in August. This is the only conference where Guide and Scout delegations plan the future of their Regions together. Europe Region has a large number of Associations that are either joint, which have parallel structures for boys and girls within the same Association, or merged, where boys and girls follow the same programme within a mixed organisation. In both these types of association, boys belong to the World Organisation of Scout Movements (WOSM) and girls belong to WAGGGS. It obviously makes it easier

for such organisations to have close co-operation between the two Regions to which they belong so that their programmes can comply with both WAGGGS and WOSM. EUROJAM, which takes place in Gdansk, Poland in 2020, is a good example of the benefits of this co-operation. It is an international jamboree for about 10,000 Guides and Scouts and could be an opportunity for you to get involved in the service team.

#### Africa Region

Nigeria Girl Guides Association has its centenary this year and is holding an International Jamboree to celebrate.

#### WAGGGS opportunities for you

Do you ever visit the WAGGGS website ([waggs.org](http://waggs.org))? You can find all sorts of opportunities for volunteering at international events, from volunteering at a World Centre for three months or more to joining a service team at international camps and jamborees. If you have a particular country you'd like to visit, check out the national Association's website via WAGGGS' membership organisation pages and find out if they have any opportunities on offer.



Volunteer at international events



# Well dressing in the Peak District

Sue Baranek of Matlock Trefoil Guild reveals her fascination with this ancient tradition and how she helped create one

The ancient British custom known as well dressing is peculiar to England, and Derbyshire and Staffordshire in particular. It is the decoration of springs and wells with pictures made from living plants and flowers, and usually happens in the summer and early autumn. Participating villages decide on a theme for the dressing, which can range from religious, historical or modern day.

During 2016, a Trefoil friend and I visited and photographed every well dressing in Derbyshire as part of my Silver Voyage award. Eventually, we were inspired to become part of one of the



Marking out the design in the damp clay



Adding leaves and other natural materials

village teams the following year, helping to create one of the wells.

The origins of well dressing are obscure, with theories ranging from pagan veneration of water deities to medieval celebrations after a community's survival of the Black Death or some other scourge.

The pictures are made of natural materials gathered from the countryside and local gardens that are then pressed into a frame spread with wet clay. The process takes a team of volunteers up to seven days, and a great deal of skill and enthusiasm, to complete.

The frames are soaked in local ponds or streams for days until they are sodden, to keep the clay wet and materials fresh. After removing the frames from the water, the wet clay is thrown on to them and smoothed out by hand.

Now they are ready to receive the designs, which are drawn on to paper. This is then placed on to the damp clay and marked out with a sharp implement. The paper is carefully removed and the design outlined with lichen, wool, sweet corn, seeds or tiny cones.

Designs are built up using the longest-lasting materials such as mosses, lichens and tough leaves first. Colour is gradually added and finally the last patches of bare clay are lost beneath the blues and pinks of hydrangea, the scarlets and oranges of geranium and the gold of buttercups.

This is a time-consuming task using fingers, tweezers and nail scissors. The



petals and leaves are laid like tiles on a roof, starting at the base, so that the rain drains off without damaging the picture.

The completed frame, by now weighing anything from 500-750kg, is erected in the early dawn of the festival day, ready for the service of blessing. It will stay in place for a week and will be admired by local people and tourists alike.



Above, well dressings photographed by Sue

## Your letters

Find out what other Trefoil members have on their minds



Joan loves to travel and hopes to go to India

### Jet-setting Joan

The photograph is of my mum, Joan Heslop, proudly wearing her Trefoil scarf in Thailand. She was in Thailand with all of her family to celebrate her 80th birthday. The photo above was taken at the Big Buddha Temple near Koh Samui.

She has been involved with guiding since joining Brownies in Billingham, Co Durham (Cleveland) until she took over the same unit, running it until she retired at 65. Unfortunately, the unit did not survive for much longer after

my mum left. She is now an active member of Trefoil Guild and would love to go to India to tick off all the guiding World Centres, having already been to Mexico and Switzerland plus camps in the USA and far too many others to mention here.

Perhaps you could ask if anyone else would like to join her on a trip to India?

**Mark Heslop,**  
(Billingham Trefoil Guild)



### Meeting our challenges

The average age of 2nd Hants East Lones Trefoil Guild is high, so we have paper meetings and between us have covered all parts of the Trefoil 75th Birthday Challenge:

Teamwork – because we do not meet physically, we all worked towards supporting a charity of our own choice.

Remember – we contributed to the county's Trefoil 75th birthday book.

Explore – those less mobile watched TV programmes or read books about great explorers.

Fun – local active guilds invited us to join their celebrations.

Outdoors – we reminisced about making furniture from conkers, looked out for seasonal changes and grew unusual plants.

International – several of our members have been leaders overseas and have lots to share with us.

Learning – we all learned something as we accept the challenges of getting older.

My final challenge was to find out how to have something published in *The Trefoil*

by sending in this account of what we have achieved and raise the profile of being a Lone.

You are never too old to enjoy being a member of Trefoil!

**Margaret Cherrett,**  
2nd Hants East Lones Trefoil Guild

### Talking about Trefoil

I work as an editor for *Talking News* in West Yorkshire, where we provide a weekly audio magazine in USB and podcast formats. *Talking News* is available to anyone who is blind or visually impaired or is unable to read an ordinary printed newspaper.

We provide local news, features, 'what's on', book corner, local history and in my 'column' snippets providing information about new technology and services our listeners may find useful.

The features vary from famous Yorkshire people to anniversaries of people's lives and events. I decided I would write a short piece about Trefoil Guild – who we are; what we do and how to join, as it was our 75th birthday. Interestingly, some of our listeners go to RDA for their hobbies or outdoor pursuits.

I joined new guild All4Hudds about two years ago and got straight on with my Bronze Voyage award, which I have now achieved. The award included a visit to Our Chalet and I have now begun my Silver award.

**Penny Swiffen, All4Hudds Trefoil Guild**

### 'We'll be there for you'

This poem was written by a member of Ivybridge Trefoil Guild after she had been going through a very difficult time. She read it out to us and we all thought it was worth sharing.

#### Our Trefoil Thinking Day

*When the sky is grey and heavy  
Without a trace of blue  
And storm clouds seem to  
gather round  
Then we'll be there for you.*

*When problems rear their  
ugly heads  
And troubles fill your life  
Our guiding light will light the way  
To ease the stress and strife.*

*We'll share the happy, joyful days  
The good times and the bad  
Our memories will warm the hearts  
To sweep away the sad.*

*So as the years go swiftly by  
No matter what you do  
Remember friendship never dies  
Our Trefoil's there for you.*

**Anon, Ivybridge Trefoil Guild**

Please send your letters to: Trefoil Office, Girlguiding, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT, or email: [thetrefoilmagazine@girlguiding.org.uk](mailto:thetrefoilmagazine@girlguiding.org.uk)



## Thinking ahead

Kelly Taylor of WAGGGS reveals how Trefoil Guild donations have been used to make a difference to girls' lives around the world



We want to start by saying a great big thank you to every Trefoil member. When it comes to the World Thinking Day Fund, Trefoil Guilds are some of our biggest supporters.

Even though we have been celebrating World Thinking Day (WTD) since 1932, last year's was one of our biggest ever – it was celebrated in 119 countries around the world, and the activity pack was downloaded nearly 60,000 times! In 2018, the World Thinking Day Fund raised more than £127,000 – and we received donations from more than 100 Trefoil Guilds both in the UK and abroad.

As a thank you for your incredible support, we wanted to let you know what the WTD Fund helped the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) achieve.

In March last year, 11 young women from around the world represented WAGGGS at the United Nations' 62nd Annual Commission on the Status of

Women (CSW). Their mission was to elevate the voices of all girls and young women and ensure that their views were heard by decision makers from across the globe. Hannah, our delegate from the UK, spoke about how life-changing her delegate experience was. "When we started our training the weekend before the conference, I started to doubt myself," she admitted. "I didn't feel I could advocate on behalf of 10 million young people... What pulled me through were the other delegates – my incredible guiding sisters. I've never felt so much support and encouragement from people I'd only just met."

After speaking at CSW, Hannah went on to stand up for girls' rights at the Commonwealth Youth Forum in London. She said, "Without being a WAGGGS delegate at CSW I would have never had the confidence to do that on my own."

Your donations and support not only give girls and young women the

confidence to succeed in the world, but to stand up and elevate the voices of those around them. In March, our 2019 delegation arrived in New York for



Girl Guides having in fun in Montenegro...



... and the Maldives



World Thinking Day celebrates a global sisterhood of 10 million girls and young women

the 63rd CSW, and we were excited to see just what they would achieve.

The WTD Fund also supports one of WAGGGS' key projects – the Stop the Violence programme we deliver around the world. Its goal is to eradicate gender-based violence and make the world a safer place for girls and women. Following advocacy training in the summer, the Girl Guides in Malaysia became the driving force behind a call to close loopholes that make child marriage legal. They were at the forefront of protests in the capital and delivered a petition with more than 100,000 signatures to the government.

WTD celebrates a global sisterhood of 10 million – and its original purpose was to grow the movement to touch the lives of even more girls. We haven't lost sight of this principle, and to this day the World Thinking Day Fund helps us bring Girl

Guiding and Girl Scouting to new girls and help our member organisations grow.

2018 donations funded country visits to Zambia, France, Bangladesh, Mauritania and Spain, amongst others.

This year's theme is leadership. For more than 100 years we've helped girls to lead the way, putting them at the forefront of everything we do. Whether it's our new programme, our campaigns on issues that matter to girls and young women, or our research into their lives today, World Thinking Day is a chance for us to celebrate our girl-led movement.

**For more information about World Thinking Day and to donate to the World Thinking Day Fund, please visit [waggs.org/en/what-we-do/world-thinking-day](http://waggs.org/en/what-we-do/world-thinking-day)**

## Greetings from the other side of the world

Sue Downey of Fraser Coast Trefoil Guild reveals what they get up to and how they connect with Keynsham Ammonites



Members of Fraser Coast Trefoil Guild with 'Teddy Brownie'

Hello from Fraser Coast Trefoil Guild, Keynsham Ammonites' sister guild in Australia. In the 7½ years since we started and 19 registered members later, we have done many adventurous activities. We help local Guides, go camping and visit local attractions – our monthly meetings are often at one of these venues. We do everything we can to promote Fraser Coast



Breakfast on the beach in Australia

Trefoil Guild, especially at the annual Over 50s Lifestyle Expo at which many care providers – plus other essential services, emergency services (such as Police and Ambulance), travel agencies and interest clubs – all provide help and information packages to visitors.

As a Trefoil Guild, on this one day of the year, we become part of the social network in Hervey Bay, providing opportunities to learn new skills, the chance to become part of a family, offering a social, friendly network to like-minded people. It is a great way to showcase what we do and we find a surprising number of ex-guiders looking to get back into the guiding movement.

In 2019, Girl Guides in Queensland will celebrate 100 years of guiding, and



Celebrating Girl Guides in Queensland

Fraser Coast Trefoil Guild have offered to help with all the Guide celebrations in Hervey Bay. We're going to do it in style, with a formal dinner in July at the Hervey Bay Returned Services League (RSL) Club (which is like the Royal British Legion).

We are working on a display of 'uniforms from the past', which will be interesting, as there have been quite a few changes in colours and style. Our former President, Dot, has designed place mats with a photograph of our first Brownie/Guide group as a memento, and we plan to have a commemorative badge.

Special guests on the night will include our State Commissioner, local government representatives and our Fraser Coast Mayor, along with as many past local Brownies and Guides as we can find. It should be a fun-filled and interesting event with singing, and stories from past and present members.

So, greetings to you all from Fraser Coast Trefoil members, on the other side of the world!

*Let us know if your guild has pen pals around the world and what you do to connect with them. Send details to The Trefoil using the contact information on page 2*

## Friendship across the planet

"Keynsham Ammonites Trefoil Guild has been friends with Fraser Coast Trefoil Guild for six or seven years," explains **Frances Parrett**. "During that time, we have had lots of fun with them. In 2014, guild members knitted celebration Brownie bears to give to local units and our Australian pen pals received one too."

"They were really pleased with her and her uniform (because Brownies in Oz aren't brown and yellow any more) and call her 'Teddy Brownie'. This expat bear has travelled extensively with Queensland Trefoil members and has amassed many badges."

"Small gifts and Trefoil publications, a member's published book, badges... so many objects cross the planet between us. Ammonites Chrissie and Kim have visited Fraser Coast and spent time with our friends, and Barb from Fraser Coast and her husband came for a meal with us when they visited Bath. We follow and contribute to their Facebook page, and they do the same with ours."

"It has been really good to chat, send congratulations, exchange wishes and share their events. We can recommend having pen pals!"



## Raising funds for Trefoil

Marjorie Kipling reveals how to donate while shopping



Shop online and raise funds for Trefoil Guild

If you shop online, you can raise money for Trefoil Guild at the same time by using the site [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk). For example, you can make donations when you buy from Amazon or Trainline, and I raised £20 when I renewed my car

insurance! Simply visit [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) before you shop online and set up an account to support Trefoil Guild. Use the web address [easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/trefoilguild/](http://easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/trefoilguild/) or just search for Trefoil Guild. There is even a reminder logo you can set on your computer that will pop up to help you. Please pass this on to family members and guild friends who can help support Trefoil Guild too.

**Marjorie Kipling is a member of Bourne Trefoil Guild and the Finance & General Purposes committee**



## Classified

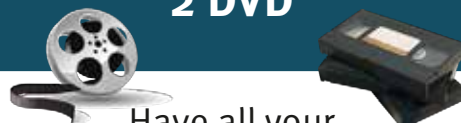
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## Classified

### Drama for ladies

Large quantity of assorted brief drama items written by myself for ladies' groups and suitable for acting or play reading. Items include sketches, mini pantomimes, duos, trios and much more. Extremely reasonable prices.

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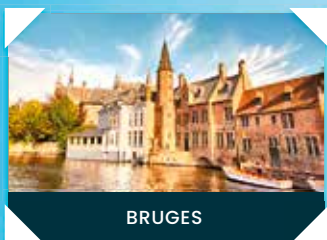




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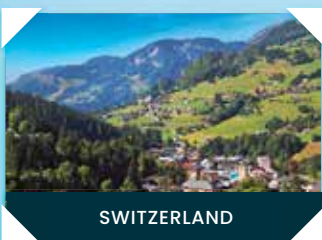
Did you know that as well as a range of set departure holidays for the Trefoil Guild, Venture Abroad also offer bespoke trip options? All you need is a group of 10+ members and we can help create the perfect holiday, tailored to your individual interests and requirements. Get in touch with our friendly team on **01332 342 050** or visit [ventureabroad.co.uk/trefoil-guild](http://ventureabroad.co.uk/trefoil-guild) to find out more.

## EUROPEAN CITY BREAKS



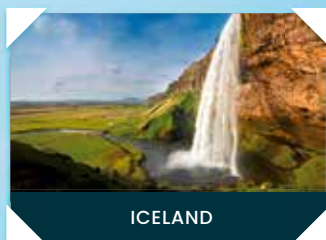
BRUGES

## WORLD CENTRE TRIPS

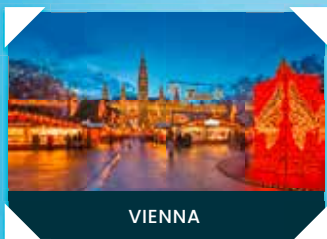


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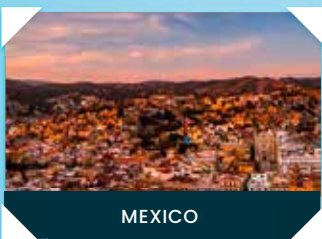
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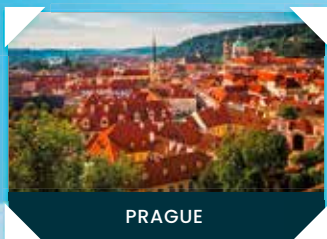
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