

# The Trefoil

[www.trefoilguild.co.uk](http://www.trefoilguild.co.uk) | December 2020 | Issue No 259



Write way to  
raise funds



GUIDING FOR ADULTS  
**Trefoil Guild**

*In this issue*

Life with Granny  
– Olave, Lady  
Baden-Powell

Find out about  
our action plan  
for recruitment

Read all about it!  
Tell your story of  
life in lockdown

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### The official journal of the Trefoil Guild

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**National Chair** Eileen Martin

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## Welcome

Hello everyone

As 2020 draws to a close, I feel sure we will be reflecting on what a strange year it has been for all of us. Months of being in lockdown and not being able to go out; restrictions in different areas of the country; cancelled Annual Meetings and outings; face-to-face guild meetings and meals out unable to take place, have all been challenging.

However, I have been amazed by the resilience of Trefoil members and the ways in which you have faced and overcome the challenges. Letters, cards, phone calls, Zoom meetings, meeting outside in small numbers when that was possible, have all helped keep us together. Taking part in the STARS Challenge or working towards Bronze, Silver or Gold Voyage awards has provided many of you the opportunity to try new activities. These have been shared with others and have encouraged new members to join us. Guilds have invited members from other guilds to join

them for Zoom meetings, including those from overseas from friendships made over the years. I have really enjoyed being able to Zoom chat with members, often with coffee in hand.

The staff have worked tirelessly to keep everything up to date. Charlotte left us to set out on a new career path, to take up teacher training. All our advisers, committees (including the Editorial Board who produce *The Trefoil*) and the Board of Trustees have learnt new ways of working online to meet and plan our direction going forward.

I really want to thank each and every one of you for your support and friendship throughout 2020 and I look forward, as I am sure you do, to meeting up next year.

Season's greetings to you all, and here's to 2021!

**Eileen Martin**



# Granny and me

From careful cleaning and consideration for others to thousands of Christmas cards, Robin Clay shares memories of his grandmother, Olave, Lady Baden-Powell

My grandmother was Olave, Lady Baden-Powell, World Chief Guide. In 1938, Granny, then 49, and her husband Lord Robert Baden-Powell, 81, retired to Kenya where, in 1939, I was born and the next day B-P and Olave visited their daughter Betty – and me. I was named Robin after Granny's pet name for her husband – and he held me as I was christened.

On my first birthday, I was photographed with my grandfather – the last photograph taken of him. Eight months later he died. He had written to Olave, "You have the best form of consolation... plenty of work with the Guides. I do hope too that so soon as I go you will be off at once to stay with Betty..." , so she did! Back in Kenya, a letter arrived that said, "Come home, see



The last photo of B-P



Olave at her desk



Lord Baden-Powell holds a young Robin

what the Guides are doing in the War. You will never forgive yourself if you don't." As World Chief Guide, she felt that she should not be 'hiding away' in a safe backwater, so she sailed back to England in convoy – the ships either side were torpedoed.

After a period on a camp bed at Guide HQ, she was granted a grace and favour apartment at Hampton Court Palace.

When in 1954 I came to school in England, Granny acted almost as a guardian. I stayed with her occasionally in the holidays, and she bought me a bicycle on which I toured the West Country that summer, and part of Europe the next.

In 1968-9, as a student, I lived with Granny for a year. On one occasion, she was the VIP at a large event at Wembley Stadium. As she was getting ready, I noticed her cleaning her Guide badge, not just the front, but the back as well –

she said it was a reminder to be clean in all ways, not just visible ones.

I went along too. Now, imagine the scene – thousands upon thousands of girls, the organisers in a slight panic, wondering if their guest would arrive before they were ready for her, or wondering what they would do with all those girls if she was late! She actually arranged for us to arrive a good half-an-hour before the due time. I was sent in to tell the organisers that she was there,

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***“A letter arrived that said, ‘Come home, see what the Guides are doing in the War. You will never forgive yourself if you don’t’”***

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Robin with his grandmother at Hampton Court

and when they were ready, I went and fetched her, so that it seemed as if she arrived at exactly the right moment. “Consideration for others,” she said.

On another occasion, she entertained a friend – the lady who had been on the ocean liner *Arcadia* and had introduced her to her husband-to-be. Granny accidentally dropped a bean. She picked it up with her fingers, saying “Fingers



Olave pictured with a trug of flowers in 1971

were made before forks.” Said the friend, acidly, “Yes, dear, but not yours.”

She used to tour all over the world, and one of her cardinal rules was to write and thank everyone who had been involved – and those letters had to be written and posted in that town before she went on to the next, so she would often stay up until two or three o’clock in the morning, bashing out letters on her typewriter.

She used to send out 2,000 Christmas cards every year, to her friends across the globe. On one occasion someone happened to mention a small town in the United States. Immediately, Granny told us of some friends who lived there, with details that included the birthday of their dog! I realised that one could have named almost any small town almost anywhere in the world and she would have known someone there – in that sort of detail.

Granny had an allotment, where she loved to relax. On one occasion, as she carried her laden trug back to her apartment, a small boy was spelling out her name on the sign outside her door. “Come along, Johnny!” called the father. “Forget that; she’s been dead for years!”

Well, now she has, indeed, been dead for years – but the memories linger on...

# Noticeboard

Bulletins and information for all our members compiled by Frances Parrett



Did you manage a 'rule of six' get-together?



And baby Edith makes six in this gathering

## Rule of six

How many 'Rule of Six' get-togethers did you manage before the weather turned chilly? The rule to meet socially only out of doors and with only six people or fewer is tough, but six people walking is much easier. Have you met anywhere interesting or unusual?

## Girlguiding shop

If you wanted to buy the smaller version of the newest scarf, you can now, because the Girlguiding Shop has re-opened. There is a good stock of the larger version too. Go to [girlguidingshop.co.uk/products/trefoil-guild/](https://girlguidingshop.co.uk/products/trefoil-guild/) to see the full range of Trefoil items.

## Zooming

Zoom and other video conference meetings are being held throughout our membership; not only executive and advisers meetings, nationally, regionally and in counties, but also by individual Trefoils.

Do you have some good ideas for enjoyable 'Zooms'? Julie from 2nd Bath Trefoil has been offering her services, running origami Zoom evenings (see page 11) – it's very popular! Other Trefoils have been doing quizzes and even cooking together online. Singing Zooms are weird, but it's great to see the happy faces of our friends Zoom-singing along at home, with their cats and dogs – and husbands.

By now you must have heard that the National 2021 Annual Meeting will be held virtually on Saturday 19 June. Look out for more information about that. It will be a meeting for the Trefoil history books – one needs to be there!

## Real and virtual meetings

We have some proposed real-life meetings and postponements in 2021:

- Swanwick October 2021 will be a Teams Conference, and invitations will be issued through country and region Chairs.
- The country and region advisers conference will be held online on Saturday 6 March 2021.
- The cancelled TOPAZ trip to Lesotho and the Australian Gathering will take place in 2021/2022 respectively.

## Annual subscription

Annual subscriptions are due early in the new year. The online payment process is easy to use, and your membership will be instantly renewed. Check out the details on pages 28 and 29.



Netherurd's closure is a sad sign of the times

## Netherurd is no more...

During lockdown we were very sad to hear that Netherurd has been closed. Despite the efforts of staff and supporters, the effect of the coronavirus resulted in it no longer being a viable undertaking.

## Local heroes and heroines

Do you know any Trefoil members who are going above and beyond in their jobs at this difficult time? They could be workers in any field – the only requisite is that they must have been a Trefoil member for at least a year. We would like to hear about them, please.

## Searching online

Both the Trefoil and Girlguiding websites are full of useful information.

- You may find it useful to check the Get Involved tab on the website for the latest information about the Voyage award and STARS Challenge. The guidelines are for all participants.
- Keep an eye on the Return to Trefoil tab for the latest information about holding Trefoil meetings.
- Have you looked at Girlguiding's Adventures at Home information? There are a lot of ideas to share and enjoy. Go to [girlguiding.org.uk/what-we-do/adventures-at-home/](http://girlguiding.org.uk/what-we-do/adventures-at-home/)



## Time to advertise

The Trefoil needs more advertisement customers. Do you know of any companies, organisations or individuals who might be interested in purchasing advertising space in our magazine? *The Trefoil* staff at HQ would be delighted to talk to them. Our magazine goes to over 18,000 people nationally.

## 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 March issue is 3 January 2021





## Your snapshots

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

### *Dream makers*

Chelmsford South Trefoil Guild have continued to hold fortnightly Zoom meetings to ensure we all keep in touch. We have taken part in our Essex North East county commissioners weekly challenge, one of which was to make a dreamcatcher. Some of us found it quite tricky, but it was lovely to see everyone's creations in all shapes and sizes!

**Maxine Jones,**  
**Chelmsford South Trefoil Guild**



### *Great comfort*

Burton-on-Trent Trefoil Guild in conjunction with Girlguiding in Burton delivered the 1,000th comfort bag to Queen's Hospital Burton. The scheme has been running for two years and it was on quite a small scale until we became hospital volunteers and started to deliver the bags directly to the wards in June 2019. We have received many letters of thanks, and every member of the guild and guiding in the Burton area has been supportive, supplying us with items to put in the bags. The guild is also supplying the Bereavement Office with cloth bereavement bags, which are used for the return of patient property, rather than the plastic property bags.

**Janet Maxim,**  
**Burton-on-Trent Trefoil Guild**

### *Sheep and cheerful*

We all really enjoyed hunting round Settle for the flowerpot sculptures and having a socially distanced picnic. It was great to be joined by a member of Belper Trefoil too. Our favourites included the sheep, seen here in our picture.

**Lindsey Cooper,**  
**Windermere Evening Trefoil Guild**







## Blanket challenge

The 2.6 Challenge created by London Marathon Events is designed for people to take part in activities based around the number 2.6 or 26 to raise money for charity. I decided to challenge members of our guild to knit 26 blankets between us to donate to charity. Well, they have produced an amazing 74 blankets – 39 for babies, 20 blankets for Romania and 15 knee blankets for residential homes. The ladies have also knitted five baby jackets, 13 hats, and seven scarves. They are all quite special and will keep someone warm this coming winter.

**Marie Burton, Higham Ferrers & Rushden Trefoil Guild**



## Flower power

Members of Caterham Trefoil Guild joined other local groups and organisations to enter a flower show at St John's Church, Caterham. It was organised as part of the Heritage Open Days with a theme of Hidden Nature. We included red and white carnations to represent the Trefoil badge, a boot to demonstrate our love of the outdoors, and seeds and little creatures that you may find around and about were also in the display.

**Caroline Smith, Caterham Trefoil Guild**



## Wet walk

Trefoil friends from different guilds met for a walk at Eglinton Country Park, North Ayrshire, since guild activities are on hold at the moment. This was their first walk after lockdown restrictions were relaxed. It was wet all day and they were very happy that the cafe had also been allowed to re-open a few days earlier!

**Patrice Graham, PRA Scotland**



### *Charity draw*

For part of the Voyage award, I undertook the challenge to Fill a Pencil Case for Mary's Meals, a charity that aims to provide children with meals. I gave out pencil cases with a leaflet and a letter explaining why I was doing this and requesting that people filled the pencil case with the items listed in the letter and returned it, filled, to me. Now 55 of these have been donated to Mary's Meals.

**Anne McGregor,**  
**Bishopton Trefoil Guild**

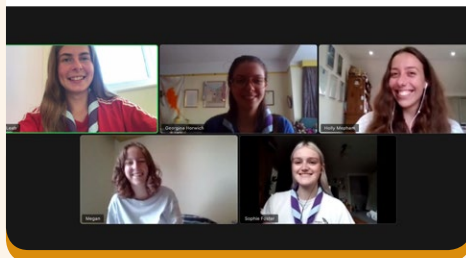
### *Student support*

We are a group of students from the University of Southampton, brought together by a love of guiding and the Student Scout and Guide Organisation (SSAGO). We are studying different subjects: medicine, maths and aeronautic and astronautic engineering to name a few, and we all volunteer in both our home cities and in Southampton.

During the pandemic we've been meeting weekly to work on badges; as avid walkers we aim to walk 100 miles in a month, and have been supporting our units by running online meetings for our girls.

We are looking forward to meeting in person when we return to university, and to meeting other Trefoil Guild members in the future.

**Sophie Foster, 1st Southampton North**  
**West Trefoil Guild**



### *A splashing time*

To achieve the clause 'Try a new water-based activity' in the 'Out of doors' category of Trefoil Guild Scotland's Scottish Challenge 2020, our family had a day at Loch Tay and I learned how to kayak!

**Patrice Graham, Ayr & District Trefoil Guild**



## Back together

We are a large guild, and some members are not ready to meet, so we are holding meetings with different personnel each time. We spent our first meeting discussing the STARS Challenge and had some delicious refreshments provided by our Chair, Val. We are looking forward to our next small meeting. It was so nice to see some of our friends again.

**Rita Hall, Tavistock Trefoil Guild**



## Origami online

Julie Ottley led a session of origami on Zoom for members of 2nd Bath Trefoil. Members folded jumping frogs, a fox, a hedgehog and an owl, and heard about the history of origami and a story of a snail getting some career advice – told using origami models.

**Julie Ottley, 2nd Bath Trefoil Guild**



## Special thanks

At a socially distanced gathering in St Austell, the new Chough Thanks brooches were presented to Daphne Anderson and Val Chapman of Gribbin Trefoil, and Mary Fisher and Micky Mitchell from St Austell Trefoil. Barbara Nicolaou, Cornwall Trefoil Chair, and Angela Thomas, Cornwall Trefoil President, also received their brooches.

**Angela Thomas, various guilds, Cornwall**



## Monster knits

Pam Adams of Ballymena Trefoil Guild has knitted Worry Monsters, to be given to the children of mothers being supported by Women's Aid. This will count towards the STARS Challenge.

**Pam Adams, Ballymena Trefoil Guild**







### *Picnic in the park*

At the end of August, members of Bangor Trefoil Guild met for the first time since lockdown in their local park. 'Be prepared' was the order of the day, with picnic baskets containing not only tasty treats but also hand sanitiser and wipes. Social distancing was strictly adhered to and a great time was had by all.

**Glynis Wilson, Bangor Trefoil Guild**

### *Promise made*

Carole, a new member of Pinoso Trefoil Guild, wanted to make her Promise. In spite of lockdown, and keeping to all social distancing rules, she was able to don her mask and make her Promise. A real sign of the times we are living in.

**Glen Aston, TGIFC coordinator**



### *Tractor trail*

Edith Boyd, a member of Clogher Trefoil Guild, challenged herself to do something different for part of the Silver Voyage award and took part in a tractor run. It just so happened the date was 22 February! There were 60-plus tractors participating, both vintage and modern and Edith decided to drive a 61-year-old tractor, which belonged to her late father, 20 miles over bumpy roads and across a mountain! She says that the view was lovely, but it was cold, and there was even a shower of hailstones! Edith was one of only two female drivers – and the other happened to be one of her former guides, 20-year-old Sarah, driving a modern tractor.

**Edith Boyd, Clogher 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.



## Zooming across the globe

When the pandemic struck, Allington Trefoil were well equipped to keep in touch with pen pals in Tasmania through the power of technology

When we first asked Trefoil Guilds to tell us how they were ‘going global’, this process seemed to be a rarity. Strangely, thanks to the pandemic, things have changed and many of us have become ‘Zoomers’, able to chat to the USA, Canada and Australia, all at the same time.

Allington Trefoil members had previously met members of Tasmania’s Glenorchy Trefoil Guild at a Swanwick Gathering and stayed in touch. Janette Willetts tells us about their techno journey and using Zoom for an international meeting with their pen pals.

“Glenorchy Trefoil Guild in Tasmania is our ‘twin guild’. Glenorchy is a city near Hobart in the state of Tasmania, Australia. It has Mount Wellington to the west and Hobart City to the south. FaceTime calls on World Thinking Day with our Tasmanian friends was an adventure, and quite difficult on a mobile phone, but we were undaunted, and throughout the Covid-19 pandemic we have been linking up, sharing newsletters and quizzes and swapping small gifts in the post.



Tasmania and the UK meet on Zoom

“Each Trefoil group embraced new ways of keeping in touch during the pandemic, but the biggest challenge for us was going to be to hold an international Zoom meeting to include members from both guilds.

“Participants were asked to have a flag in the frame and emails were sent to each member explaining what they needed to do to appear on screen. The Zoom meeting finally took place on Monday 21 September. It was amazing to see so many faces smiling out from our laptops and iPads.

“Members could put names to faces, listen to accents from the other side of the globe and share in the excitement of being part of the first Zoom between the two guilds. It was a real bonus that we were all able to share in the moment when Jean from Glenorchy was presented with her 50-year Membership of Girl Guides Australia Award.

“Everyone decided it had been a very successful event – and we aim to link up again for a Christmas Carol Zoom meet!”



Bev and Janette plan the twin Guild Zoom

# Getting back to the gardens

From north to south, Trefoil members are handy with a fork and trowel. Here we find out what more of our green-fingered members get up to...

During the strange months of lockdown, members found their gardens kept them going. Those who are involved in larger community gardens were sorely missed and are itching to get back to their borders, rockeries and welcoming duties.

In Scotland, Amanda, a member of Perth Trefoil Guild, was very involved in creating a garden for a playgroup to enjoy; a prize-winning wildlife garden called Kinross Potager Garden, which is right in the middle of town. Volunteers provide a teaching programme for children, and also for people with learning disabilities or mental health issues, who learn about the organic flowers and vegetables and gain from the therapeutic effect of gardening. Amanda loves being outside and nurturing



Splendour and tranquillity at Bodnant

plants and is happy that she has found her niche in community gardening.

Not far from Perth, Evelyn Young of Arbroath Trefoil Guild worked very hard to improve her town. "I am one of the volunteers for Arbroath in Bloom and recently I was involved as part of a small team who replanted an area on the outskirts of the town, designed with a seaside theme," she explains. "After removing the weeds and preparing the ground, we planted a variety of plants suitable for our theme that would withstand the cold, biting winds coming



A seaside-themed garden in Arbroath



Blickling is a real East Anglian gem



There is always something to see at Blickling

off the North Sea and also the salt sea air. This was a challenging task that gave us great satisfaction when completed.”

Our next stop is Birstall, West Yorkshire, where Kathleen O’Shea of Dewsbury Trefoil Guild enjoys working with a Britain in Bloom group to provide beautiful plots and tubs around the town. She says these groups are ideal for people who wish to make friends – or no longer have a garden. See [rhs.org.uk/get-involved/find-a-group](https://rhs.org.uk/get-involved/find-a-group).

In North Staffordshire, Joan Mason of Congleton Trefoil tells us about the National Trust’s Biddulph Grange Garden, where she is a guide. Her knowledge of the variety of flora and all the garden offers is impressive. In the 19th century, the owner used plant hunters to bring new, unusual plants from around the world, and Joan says you can visit China, Egypt, Italy and the Himalayas without a passport – the best way to visit them during this strange year.

In Wales we meet Angela Owens, a member of Llandudno Trefoil, who has

been a volunteer at Bodnant Gardens for more than ten years now, greeting the many visitors who visit from all over the world. “The garden is 80 acres of splendour, tranquillity, colour and hidden treasures,” she says.

A smaller Welsh gem lies within Singleton Park in Swansea, and Jane Terrett tells us that members of Swansea and Bishopston Trefoil Guild have been volunteering for more than ten years to maintain, enhance and preserve these Botanical Gardens for the benefit of the local community and visitors alike.

In Norfolk, Ann Russell tells about the Millefleur garden at Hautbois, started by Norfolk Trefoils as a Millennium project, but now, 20 years on, they still have 19 keen members from six different guilds who work hard to maintain it. The garden attracts toads and frogs, and they recently found a hedgehog, disguised as a pile of dead leaves! It’s a shared garden that is giving a lot of pleasure to Trefoil members at their activity centre in Coltishall.

Also in Norfolk, the National Trust’s Blickling Garden is special to many people, but for three Trefoil members it is much more than that. Carol’s son, Mike, is the Assistant Head Gardener, Linda is a volunteer gardener and Frances is a garden guide. Between them, they have nearly 40 years’ service to this garden.

Whatever time of year you visit, something is at its best – spring bulbs, followed by colourful shrubs and then on to fragrant summer flowers, autumn colours and floodlit trees at Christmas time... not forgetting the incredible kitchen garden created from scratch in less than five years – a real East Anglian gem.

# Girls' Attitudes Survey 2020

## A snapshot of girls' and young women's lives today

Since 2009, Girlguiding has provided a platform for girls and young women to speak out on the issues that matter to them through the Girls' Attitudes Survey (GAS), our flagship research asking girls and young women how they feel about their everyday lives.

In late September 2020 we published our latest findings. We worked with ChildWise, the leading specialists in research with children, and we received responses from more than 2,000 girls and young women aged 7 to 21, from both guiding and non-guiding backgrounds, on how they feel about the specific and emerging pressures facing them today, and what these mean for their happiness, well-being and opportunities in life.

We started working on this year's Girls' Attitudes Survey before lockdown in early March and finished it in April, following the closure of schools and the unprecedented changes to our lives due to Covid-19. Our data straddles two quite different realities for girls and young women, yet it is consistent on the key themes that have come out of the last decade of evidence from the survey.

There are persistent issues for girls that are just not going away. The combination of specific pressures and challenges girls face, because they are girls, stops them reaching their potential and enjoying life to the full. At Girlguiding, our mission is to help to change this and support girls to thrive.

Appearance pressure stands out



amongst these issues again this year as a barrier to girls being happy and confident. And we know from our separate lockdown research with girls, that the lockdown period reinforced this pressure as girls spent more time online –increasing exposure to images in adverts and on social media portraying ‘perfection’. This is a contributing factor to girls reporting low levels of self-esteem, which impacts their well-being and is sadly a recurring theme with a downward trend.

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***“We are all about supporting girls and young women to gain the skills, confidence and resilience they need to have the best chance to fulfil their potential”***

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We have also seen this year a significant opportunity for us all to rethink how we engage with racial justice through the increased attention to the Black Lives Matter movement. As part of our focus on listening to diverse voices, we highlight in our findings the experiences of girls and young women from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds. Their different experience of pressures compared with their white peers can be marked, and it is right that we recognise and commit to an intersectional approach to supporting all girls and young women.

The data shows clear majority views on what change girls want to see. They want a society where the media reflects diversity, that celebrates women and girls for who they are and not how they look, where companies take responsibility for ending the use of outdated and damaging gender stereotypes, and where manufacturers do more for environmental sustainability.

At Girlguiding, we are all about supporting girls and young women to gain the skills, confidence and resilience they need to have the best chance to fulfil their potential, use their voices for change and make a positive difference in their communities and the world. We are actively supporting girls with their well-being and tackling the root cause of some of the immense pressures they face. We would like to see decision-makers across society do more to tackle them too. We must continue to listen, be guided by girls' voices, and use this unprecedented moment of recovery as an opportunity to do things differently.

Our youth panel of Advocates lead the development of the survey each year and analyse the results.

Read the report at [girlguiding.org.uk/girlsattitudes](https://girlguiding.org.uk/girlsattitudes) to find out more.

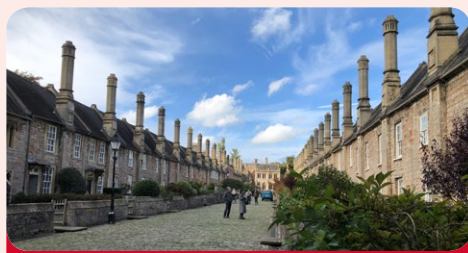


# An away day in... Wells

From knights jousting on a clock to swans that ring a bell when they're hungry, there is plenty to see and do in this medieval city



Croquet on the lawn of The Bishop's Palace



Vicar's Close was built 650 years ago

Sitting 21 miles south of Bristol and 21 miles southwest of Bath, the magical city of Wells lies snugly beneath the Mendip Hills a quarter of the way for those walking the 50-mile (80km) **Mendip Way**, from Weston-super-Mare to Frome.

This busy market venue attracts tourists who find so much to appreciate – such as the delightful **Wells Cathedral**. Started in 1175, its glorious West Front still has 300 medieval statues, and is described as 'overflowing with statues, peering out from ornate niches'. There's lots to see inside; the 14th century **Jesse Window** is one of the earliest European examples of stained glass; an ancient **mechanical clock** can be seen inside and outside (watch the jousting knights, and do try and work out what the time is...).

By 1340 cracks had begun to appear in a tower because of unstable foundations. The solution they found were the now famous '**scissor arches**', which are still strong and beautiful. The cathedral's **Chapter House** was started in 1286 and you will be amazed at the

vaulted roof. But mind how you get there – the worn stone steps are definitely photo worthy.

If you walk from Market Place to the cathedral you will go through **Penniless Porch**. It was created for medieval beggars but today's talented buskers still enjoy the shelter. While you are in the area of the cathedral, don't miss **Vicars' Close**, the oldest purely residential street in Europe, built for cathedral staff 650 years ago.

Walk along the moat of **The Bishop's Palace** with its hungry bell-ringing swans, and you can enjoy a cuppa and good cake while maybe watching croquet being played on the lawn. Pay to enter the grounds and find the wells from which Wells gets its name; the water from these springs still trickles down the High Street. The palace gardens are sometimes used for outdoor theatre – what a backdrop!

For more information about Wells (courtesy of Leslie and Jenny, Somerset Trefoil Chairs) and more photos, visit [trefoilguild.co.uk](http://trefoilguild.co.uk) and under My Trefoil click on South West England.

# You're all STARS of 2020!

Skills learnt during lockdown count towards our STARS Challenge badges, says Sheila Leete, National Programme and Development Adviser

Coming to the end of 2020, every member, guild, country or region, or nationally, will be looking back, knowing that our programme for this year hasn't been fulfilled; many of those programmes will be carried over to the year to come.

Many of us have learnt new skills and met new challenges – crafts, online art or music or singing workshops, dance classes, walking and cycling, virtual walks or exploring other lands. And let's not forget all the lockdown gardening – even those without gardens have been filling planters with flowers, herbs and edibles.

Throughout, we have kept in touch, caring for each other. We have made scrubs bags or masks, delivered shopping or medicines, and helped in so many other ways. At the start of 2020, who would have felt confident enough to take part in an online meeting?

Look back at all these new challenges – they can be used for your STARS activities. If you haven't already done so, start filling in your STARS charts now. You may well find that you are well on your way to achieving the clauses. I look forward to seeing you all wearing your special metal STARS when we meet next.



Guilds have planned Christmas programmes

Meanwhile, Christmas is approaching. I am sure that every guild has planned their alternative Christmas celebration and a virtual Christmas programme. Maybe you will share unusual seasonal recipes or crafts, or a Zoom panto visit, or maybe your own panto reading?

It has not been an easy year for any of us. Each one of us has been cut off from loved ones at some stage during the Covid-19 pandemic. There is nothing better than meeting our Trefoil friends with a smile. We look forward to being able to greet each other face to face; that time will come.

I hope that you all have a happy and peaceful Christmas; a time to reflect and to look forward.

## WORLD THINKING DAY 2021

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) theme for Thinking Day 2021 is 'peacebuilding'. For programme ideas, log on to [wagggs.org](http://wagggs.org) and download the 'Stand Together For Peace' activity pack.

# Remembering 2020

A new Trefoil booklet aims to record our lives under lockdown and we need your contribution, says Sheila Leete, National Programme and Development Adviser

At the start of this year, none of us knew what lay ahead. The changes brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic have affected us all in so many ways.

The values that Girlguiding and Trefoil instilled in us have helped to shape us over the years and have enabled us to find an inner strength to cope with challenges; I'm sure that this ethos has helped us during this pandemic, supporting those around us and reaching out in times when we have needed support too.

To record our experiences from the start of the pandemic, it has been agreed to produce a Trefoil Guild booklet, recording our thoughts, feelings and experiences through photos, poetry, prose, or reflections.

Each Trefoil member can contribute, whether a poem, paragraph or just one line, or maybe a memorable photograph. Please help us to create memories that shouldn't be lost.

**Please do be aware that:**

- For copyright purposes any written article must be your own work.
- Any photographs should be over 1MB in size to ensure that the printed reproduction quality is clear.

Many of our members are key workers, working tirelessly in hospitals or care homes, in schools and other essential services. Many members may have been ill themselves, or found themselves caring for or even, sadly, losing loved ones.

I'm sure we all remember those first



Have you found new places to explore?



days of lockdown; with no traffic on the roads or planes in the sky, with only the birdsong to wake us up each morning. Looking out for rainbows became a daily joy and every Sunday evening, from '1910 to 2020', we lit our Guiding light to remind us of our Trefoil friends.

Isolation has been difficult; not being able to meet with our families or friends and sometimes unable to shop for what we want. But a strong community spirit has shone through, with neighbours looking out for each other, or helping in

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***"Each one of us will have memories of this time – all should be recorded and treasured"***

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Staying connected was vital in 2020



Many have taken up new hobbies in lockdown

so many different ways. These times have brought happiness too, with the birth of several Trefoil babies!

And throughout we, as Trefoil members, have adapted to virtual contact through Skype or Zoom meetings with our fellow guild members. Many have enjoyed a variety of experiences, including tea parties, trying new crafts, or just laughing together! We have also had

singing circles meeting online. We may not be able to hear the others singing but it doesn't stop us enjoying our favourite guiding songs! Few of us would have thought we would become so tech savvy in such a short space of time.

Each one of us will have memories of this time, some happy, some sad, but all should be recorded and treasured, which is why we need you to help us to make our booklet special.

Articles for selection should be submitted to your country or region programme and development adviser by Friday 15 January 2021. Ask your Trefoil Guild Chair for their contact details.

It is planned to have these booklets printed, distributed and available for purchase by spring 2021. The target audience should not only be members of Trefoil or Girlguiding, but also our family members, as well as the public.

# Step out of your comfort zone...

Next year's Annual Meeting will be the first one held virtually and we all have a part to play in making it a success, says Eileen Martin, National Chair

Here we are in December, a time for planning – for Christmas and other festive events, New Year, maybe booking holidays for the coming year and, of course, for our Annual Meeting. Well, that is just what we are doing and we hope you will join us for this new adventure – our first Annual Meeting to be held virtually!

Yes, we are all disappointed that we will not meet face to face in Llandudno in 2021, but just think of the opportunity this gives us to involve members who may not have been able to join us previously. This is their chance to see what we do at the Annual Meeting, so let's make it the best we possibly can, to show them why we all love the event so much. For that to happen, we all need to encourage others to join us.

Many of us – and I count myself in this – have had to learn new skills over the past few months. Members have taken up the challenge and learned about Zoom, Skype and other means of meeting virtually. Of course, not everyone has been able to take part, but there have been phone calls, letters, emails to keep them in touch. We used the September

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***“My challenge for each of you is to encourage a member who has not attended the Annual Meeting in person to join us”***

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The 75th Trefoil Annual Meeting

magazine to write to every member to keep them in touch.

It is now time to face a new challenge – how are we going to organise this event so that it is the best it can possibly be? We have a team in place who are working on this and I feel sure members will enjoy what is planned. We will share more about the event in the March magazine.

My challenge for each of you is to encourage a member who has not attended the Annual Meeting in person to join us.

At the 2019 Annual Meeting in Southport, our President, Liz Burnley, opened the meeting with a quote from Michelle Obama, “Just try new things, don't be afraid, step out of your comfort zone and soar.” Since my appointment was announced at that meeting, I have tried to live up to this and I would like you all to join me.

I will be there, will you?



## Top cyclist

Jean Ashton, a member of Chester Kilmorey Trefoil, was featured in a recent edition of *Cycle*, the magazine of Cycling UK and was selected as one of their 100 Women in Cycling.



## Election

In August, at a Zoom meeting, Jane Busuttil, a long-standing member of Burwell Trefoil Guild was elected Mayor of Mildenhall High Town Council, Suffolk.

## Birthday honours

Congratulations to the following Trefoil members whose service to Girlguiding was acknowledged in the Queen's Birthday Honours list: Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) – Madelaine Reid (Wallington) and Patricia Mayle (Swinton Division). Patricia's award also recognised her work during the Covid-19 response. Jill Hedgecock (Avid Adventurers), Denise Williams (Hartlepool Division), Susan Hopcroft (Blackpool Internet Belles), Susan Howden (Formby), Tanya Bennett (Stockport Hatters Internet), and Teresa Ricketts (Plymouth Drake), were all awarded the British Empire Medal.

## Silver brooch

Judy Ellis, former National International Adviser, has been awarded the Trefoil Guild Silver brooch. Judy is aware of the award, which will be presented in the future, so we are sure that you would like to join us in heartily congratulating her.

## Mayoral role

Trefoil member Angela Jacques, Mayor of Fylde, is serving an additional year in office due to Covid-19. One of Angela's chosen charities is the Girlguiding Kilgrimol Centre, fundraising for a new meeting hall and residential centre for guiding activities.



*Have you received an award, or do you 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

Frances Parrett chats to Hilary Wensley about this large guild with a wide age span

### *Blakewater Trefoil Guild*

Blackburn established its first Trefoil Guild in 1951, and a second one (Blakewater) was established in 1988. These guilds merged in 1997 and at this year's census we had 49 members. Our age span (30 to 90+) is a strength. Emma says, "As a younger member of Trefoil, I really enjoy spending time with the members who were Guiders when I was a Brownie and Guide. They are a source of encouragement and great fun."

These Trefoil members meet monthly and enjoy a range of speakers and activities, like learning Makaton, doing



Members get to grips with technology

STEM activities and tasting African food. To make sure everyone stays in touch there is a monthly newsletter.

The guild holds monthly evening meetings and has three interest groups: **Craft group**, where Dorothy Mortiboy inspires members with new techniques; creating items for the guild's contribution to Waddow's Tree Festival and making comfort bags for hospital patients for



The Trekkers group enjoy walks whatever the weather!



North West England's project; **Trekkers group**, led by Margaret Mitchell, with walks every four to six weeks. Often a walk ends with lunch and those unable to walk meet and eat too. During lockdown, the Trekkers continued meeting up in groups of two or three, and their walks included visits (through glass) to members who were isolating; and **Arts group**, which enjoys exciting monthly visits to dramas, films and musicals.

No group has a set membership; they decide on their own dates, announce them in the monthly newsletter, and members can dip in and out. We introduce people who might like to join the guild to smaller groups first. Helan recalls, "I was invited to go to see a ballet with the Trefoil ladies, but thought I had to be a Guide to become a member. Hilary said 'no', so I joined and what a fantastic experience that was. I joined the craft club, met lots of new friends and even did a demo Christmas craft."

Many members like to challenge themselves and several have completed Voyage Bronze and Silver awards, while Susan gained her Gold award. This year our division celebrated its centenary; Anne updated the division history and Carolyn used it for her Service/Teamwork – Gold Voyage award project, explaining, "We held a wonderful World Thinking Day celebration in Blackburn Cathedral; I co-ordinated bookings and helped with an artwork creation."

Getting to grips with technology during the Covid-19 lockdown brought new challenges. Members who had to shield were happy to join in a WhatsApp group so we could swap recipes, jokes, gardening tips, books, jigsaws etc. One member says, "I have been very happy to use this

app because it has kept me in touch with my Trefoil friends and even supported me in a family crisis." Once confident, we graduated to Zoom meetings. We now meet fortnightly for a quiz. There are usually some technical hitches – someone always arrives on her head, and others we hear but don't see – but it's great fun and keeps us all in touch. This confidence with new technology meant that older members could participate with their guiding grandchildren in the county's 'Virtually Wild Camp'.

Our guild has a long history of supporting local, national and international charities. Blakewater Trefoil uses all the talents and interests of our members, and it works. We know we must be doing something right, as 40 years a member, nonagenarian Celia says, "The fun and friendship I've had on events, trips and holidays has been brilliant."

When we can all meet together again, we will party to celebrate our friendship and make fresh plans to 'Look Wider and Go Further'!



Getting together to see a ballet



## International outlook

from Sheran Oke

*National International Adviser*

### *A different way of thinking*

This has been a year with a difference! Our lives have changed, and we can be assured that we have a way to go before we reach our 'new norm'. For most of us, plans we have made this year have been altered at the last minute and some have never been realised. We may have booked holidays overseas, planned to visit World Centres etc. but although these have not happened, they are certainly there to be looked forward to in the future. Many of us have embraced technology more and kept in contact with friends overseas using Skype, Teams or Zoom to name a few tools available – creating and maintaining international links from the safety of our own homes and communities.

Our last TOPAZ group to travel was to India in 2019. Their project was to work with the charity 'Deep Griha' based in Pune, Maharashtra state. After extensive preparation in the UK, the group of six found themselves delivering a craft programme for village ladies and children from the local orphanage and primary school local to where they were staying.

Craft sessions varied depending on the participants; weaving mats on a loom, knitting hats, making pompoms, hair braiding, making wall hangings with decorated lolly sticks, accordion note

books and funky foam bracelets to name just a few. These sessions were much appreciated by all and allowed fundraising opportunities to be explored.

Experiencing the local culture was also appreciated and the group couldn't go home without a visit to Sangam. The final reflection from the group was to 'be prepared for anything'. To find out more about their visit, go to the Trefoil Guild website.

From a national Trefoil perspective, we have unfortunately not been able to proceed with our planned TOPAZ trip to Lesotho due to take place last month. Our team are continuing to prepare for the trip, which we hope will be in 2021. We are seeking some new partners to work with in 2021 and beyond and are hoping to holding a Trefoil International Opportunities (TRIO) selection weekend in the Spring of 2021. The date has yet to be



TOPAZ group in India in 2019

confirmed but will be communicated via your international adviser and published on the Trefoil website – we really look forward to making international Trefoil come alive again.

We are looking ahead too and hope that all our World Centres will be able to open their doors again soon. Up to date details can be found on their respective web pages at [waggs.org/en/our-world/world-centres](http://waggs.org/en/our-world/world-centres).

A challenge for you to consider is how you can keep the international aspect of our programme alive. Apart from being able to connect virtually with guilds and individuals both in the UK and overseas, think about how you can have international conversations locally. The Ulster international adviser has shared how she introduced the idea of asking individual members to look into facts about a particular country or international event and then share this with other members of the guild. In so doing they



Visiting the iconic Taj Mahal

are building a picture and developing their international understanding and knowledge. In Midlands region the International Challenge is being relaunched. And in the box below on this page is another idea. You are encouraged to consider others.

## World quiz Can you name the country from the symbols?

🐱 + R = \_\_\_\_\_

👔 + 🚚 = \_\_\_\_\_

👁️ + 🚶 = \_\_\_\_\_

🦠 + 💵 = \_\_\_\_\_

🐙 + S = \_\_\_\_\_

🥒 + U = \_\_\_\_\_

🔔 + 🏋️ = \_\_\_\_\_

J + 🔍 = \_\_\_\_\_

🍷 + U + 🧑 = \_\_\_\_\_

U + 🏠 = \_\_\_\_\_

The answers will be published on the Trefoil website in January, and in the March edition of *The Trefoil* magazine.

# How to pay your subscriptions

## Your deadline is 22 February



It's coming up to that time of year again when your annual subscription is due, and we are here to help with a quick rundown of the procedure and some need-to-know info.

The procedure for paying annual subscriptions in 2021 is the same as previous years; we've included a basic timetable to help you prepare. We are also publishing reminders on our website and on Twitter/Facebook, so make sure you're following for updates.

To see how your subscriptions contribute to Trefoil income, you can check out the Financial Report in the September issue of *The Trefoil*.

On 16 November 2020, your guild treasurer (or relevant guild contact) received an email which included the following info:

- The national rate for the 2021 annual subscription fees is £16.
- Your country or region and county levy information (also available from your executive team).
- A list of members and their membership numbers.

Remember, the payment window is every year between 3 January and World Thinking Day on 22 February.

If you are a treasurer and have not received this email, please contact the

office via [trefoilguild@girlguiding.org.uk](mailto:trefoilguild@girlguiding.org.uk) to request a replacement email.

### HOW TO PAY

As agreed by the Board of Trustees, there are two ways of paying subscriptions each year. For those who are able to pay online using a credit or debit card, you can pay securely via the Trefoil Guild website. The whole guild must pay the same way:

- A)** Either each member logs into their account and pays individually;
- B)** Or one member (such as the guild treasurer) collects the subscriptions for all members and then logs into their account and pays for all the members in the guild.

The online payment process has proven popular with more opting to pay this way each year. The process works just like online shopping: add the membership(s) to your basket and go through an online checkout. The payments are secure, and if the transaction is successful your membership is instantly renewed and a receipt is emailed to you. This is the fastest way to pay and is especially useful when unexpected situations affect working in the office or relying on postal services.

For members unable to pay online, either as an individual or as a guild, you can pay instead by one cheque for the whole guild, for the full amount, accompanied



## SUBSCRIPTIONS PAYMENT TIMELINE

**16**  
**November**



16 November  
2020  
Treasurers  
receive email  
with a  
membership list,  
rates and  
information

**3**  
**January**



3 January 2021  
Payment window  
opens. Guilds can  
pay in two ways:  
online (as a guild  
or individually) or  
by cheque and  
form in the post

**22**  
**February**



22 February  
2021 Payment  
window closes.  
All guilds must  
pay by this time

**April**  
**May**



April/May 2021  
Guild  
treasurers  
receive  
follow-up email  
confirming who  
has paid

by a Guild Bulk Subscription Payment Form. This form is updated annually, so please ensure you are using the 2021 version. It can be downloaded from our website and was included as an attachment to the email sent to guild treasurers on 16 November 2020. Please ensure you read the form carefully and fill it in fully, particularly the information regarding sending in cheques. Issues caused by incorrectly filled out cheques can incur costs charged by the bank and time spent following up with guilds causes delays to regions, countries and counties being paid back.

We know there may be members who have transferred guilds or passed away over the year. You can keep us up to date with guild changes by emailing us at [trefoilguild@girlguiding.org.uk](mailto:trefoilguild@girlguiding.org.uk) and helping us to keep Trefoil running as smoothly as possible. To update contact details or obtain your membership number, you can call the dedicated membership helpline on 0151 668 0493.

All the information, including step by step instructions with pictures, is available on the Trefoil Guild website at [trefoilguild.co.uk/Subscriptions](http://trefoilguild.co.uk/Subscriptions).


## Your letters

Find out what other Trefoil members have on their minds



One of the Burton on Trent swans

### Follow the swans

 Burton on Trent has a long association with swans, dating back to the 7th century and the foundation of a religious establishment by St Modwen. A traditional story relates that when St Modwen died, her companions saw her soul being taken up to heaven by silver swans. The swans became her emblem and she became Burton's patron saint. A large flock of swans inhabits the Trent washlands to this day.


When Burton decided to have a charity art trail, it was only fitting that swans should be chosen, and 25 swans, each sponsored by local businesses, were located around the town and surrounding area. In normal times, Collingwood Trefoil would have explored the swans together, but as most of us were still shielding, I went with family members. The swans referenced aspects of Burtonian life

– several referred to brewing; the swan painted as a flower meadow was sited in a meadow, the swan by the supermarket was covered with plastic bottle tops and the one near the police station looked a bit like fingerprints. Three had been made interactive for children to enjoy.

Whilst not as large as other trails – Manchester's bees for example – they made a colourful show, especially as they had been produced during lockdown.

**Cheryl Greateorex, Collingwood Trefoil Guild**

### Wonderful work of GIS

 I recently re-read the book *All Things Uncertain* by Phyllis Steward Brown, published by The Girl Guides Association (1966). I think the title would suit what is going on this year in the world.

The book covers the wonderful work of the Guide International Service (GIS) at the end of World War II, and for many years afterwards. The Guide movement both here and abroad, such as in Australia and New Zealand, provided the funds for it.

I have also re-read *A Hospital on Wheels* by Marjorie Brindley, also about the GIS, regarding a mobile hospital sent out to Europe to do voluntary work in 1945/1946.

With all the talk about the war recently, I feel we should make sure our members know about this, so that they can feel as proud as I do to belong to the Guides.


I also feel we should let the general public know that so many Guides and Scouts gave up years of their lives to help others in great need, and how many people were overjoyed to see the Guide and Scout badges on the vehicles at that time, and even more surprised to see women driving them!

**Pat Briggs, North Petherton Trefoil Guild**



Pat says 'yes' to adventure on her 80th

## Birthday walk


 I celebrated my 80th birthday in August, and influenced by the headline *Say 'yes' to new adventures* in the March issue of *The Trefoil*, I decided to 'walk the O2'. It rained all day, but with my two sons and two granddaughters we carried on regardless. Our guide saw my 80th badges and entered into the birthday spirit with us – it was such fun! The surface is mainly trampoline-like material but we were asked to refrain from bouncing. I hope many more members will be inspired to have a go – I loved every minute.

**Pat First, Reigate Trefoil Guild**



Dorchester Trefoil with the memory blankets

## Thriving creativity

 As well as Zoom meetings, music groups and choirs, researching family history, writing a book and growing almost everything possible to grow, guilds across Dorset have been using their hands creatively by knitting, sewing and crocheting all sorts of things – some for families and friends but mainly for the community.

Memory blanket squares are sewn up into blankets and then given a crocheted edge to finish them off. They are put on beds to help patients remember which is their bed and then, when someone goes home, they take the blanket with them and it becomes a lap blanket.

Members of Dorchester Trefoil have made about 20 during lockdown – that's 600 squares – and have a production line going. It was a project they started before lockdown and 12 blankets had already been donated to Dorset County Hospital prior to the pandemic.

**Judy Thompson, Dorchester 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)

# Join us for our Walking Festival 2021

Pull on your boots and shoulder your rucksacks to explore the picturesque countryside of Shropshire



With so many interesting places on offer, we have chosen Coalport, in the county of Shropshire and sitting on the Welsh borders, for our first Walking Festival.

The small town of Coalport was made famous by the iron bridge, built as a symbol of where the Industrial Revolution started in 1779. With the Severn Gorge and wonderful open landscapes, as well as beautiful villages and towns, there is so much to explore.



Exploring some wonderful landscapes



The Trefoil 75k Celebration Walk was popular

Our walk leaders, led by walk co-ordinator, Dianne Bollom, will make sure that you enjoy our Walking Festival 2021. Dianne was key to the organisation of the Trefoil 75k Celebration Walk in 2018.



*“With the Severn Gorge and wonderful open landscapes, as well as beautiful villages and towns, there is so much to explore”*

<b>When:</b>	From Monday 11 October to Friday 15 October 2021
<b>Where:</b>	We have booked 80 places with sole occupancy, at the YHA Ironbridge Coalport. The address is John Rose Building, High Street, Coalport, Telford, TF8 7HT, positioned within the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site. Situated on the banks of the River Severn, with canal paths and old railway line walking routes to the Iron Bridge, the hostel was one of the original factory buildings of the Coalport China Works.
<b>Accommodation:</b>	Full board. Bedrooms are over three floors, in rooms of various sizes, mostly bunk beds.
<b>Walking programme:</b>	There will be a number of walks of varying length – less than five miles, five to eight miles and up to ten miles. Participants will be asked on the booking form to state which length of walk they wish to join. The walks will be around the Bridgnorth, Church Stretton, Ludlow and Much Wenlock areas. If at any time you want to explore alone, you will be free to do so, you are not obliged to join every walk. The idea is for everyone to enjoy themselves.
<b>Cost:</b>	£250 per person includes full board, all walks, transport to and from walks and evening activities. A non-refundable deposit of £50 is required when you book; the balance to be paid by 14 August 2021.
<b>How to get there:</b>	Public transport: Nearest train station is Telford Central, 5.5 miles away. By car: Check route planner with hostel postcode. More comprehensive directions will be available when you book.
<b>How to apply:</b>	Members can book directly via the Trefoil Guild website, which is the preferred option. Please complete the booking form fully. On the form you will need to include your email address or phone number, to ensure that your application can be followed up if the database information is incorrect. Your postal address will not be required. For anyone unable to access the website, postal applications should be sent to the Trefoil Guild office, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PT.

If you're interested in joining us, why not log on to [trefoilguild.co.uk](http://trefoilguild.co.uk) now, before all the available places are taken. We look forward to seeing you at Ironbridge!

# Action plan for recruitment

A recruitment task and finish group has put forward proposals to reverse the falling number of Trefoil members, as Linda Hill-Tout, National PRA, reports



For the last few years, the number of members leaving Trefoil has been greater than new members joining. Over the last three years in particular, our numbers have reduced significantly, and 2020 has been particularly difficult because of the pandemic.

The Board of Trustees decided that action needs to be taken, particularly to encourage new members of all ages, and to retain existing members.

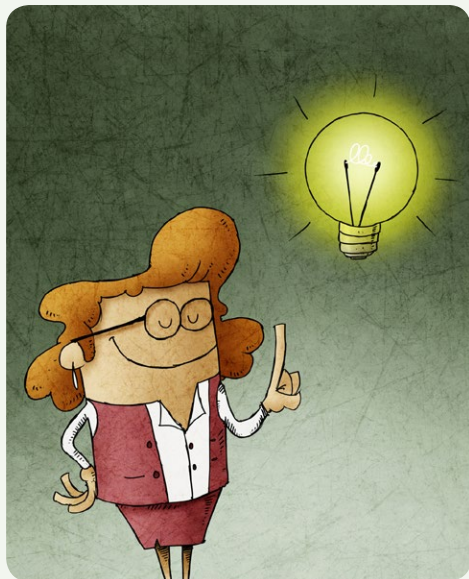
## **The recruitment task and finish group**

This was set up in February this year by the Board of Trustees. Its purpose was to look at ways to recruit new members. The group was chaired by the national PR adviser and included three Trefoil members who were chosen from those who had applied to serve on the group. These

members were Tracey Johnson from Stockport Hatters Internet Guild, North West England; Ann McDougall from Blyth Trefoil Guild, North East England, and Janet Webster from Beaminster Trefoil Guild, South West England.

## **We held our first meeting in February and examined our Terms of Reference as set out by the Board of Trustees, which were to consider and review:**

- Ways to recruit new members of all ages.
- Our age profile and our image.
- How Trefoil Guild could work more closely with Girlguiding and their members to increase our numbers.
- A national recruitment strategy.
- A national recruitment campaign.
- A proposal to present to the Board of Trustees.



We set ourselves a timescale of six months to complete the project, aiming to present our report to the Board of Trustees at their September meeting. The onset of the Covid pandemic meant that we were not able to meet again in person, so we individually examined the key recruitment themes, and kept in touch by email and using Teams for face-to-face meetings online.

### **Myths about Trefoil Guild**

We found that there are some established myths about Trefoil. These are:

- That Trefoil is for the over 50s, which it is not. It is for all aged 18 and over.
- That Trefoil is for women only, which it is not. There are non-female members of Trefoil too.
- That to join Trefoil, guiding experience is needed, which it is not.

We all need to do everything we can to dispel these myths and to explain to people who might want to join exactly who we are, how to join and what we offer.

### **What does the Board of Trustees plan to do?**

The recruitment task and finish group has presented to the Board of Trustees a plan setting out recommendations to improve the recruitment of new Trefoil Guild members.

### **The recommendations cover a wide range of proposals including:**

- Encouraging the growth of more diverse guilds.
- Using digital systems and social media more extensively.
- Advertising locally and nationally.
- Marketing what we offer as professionally as possible.

The complete set of recommendations was considered by the Board of Trustees at its September meeting, and the national, country and region Chairs and the national advisers will be working on the recommendations over the winter months to prepare for a recruitment campaign later next year.

### **What can you do?**

I am sure that we all agree that Trefoil Guild is a really important part of our lives, and the fall in our numbers is a matter of real concern, so let's all work together by accepting the Chair's challenge for every guild to increase our numbers each and every year.

Our President, Liz Burnley, said in the September edition of *The Trefoil*, "The bonds we have through Trefoil are so important, so let's make sure we do our very best to welcome new members to be part of this amazing organisation. Our magic is too good to keep to ourselves!"

# Getting together

In the latest in our series about groups that might interest you, we find out about singing circles around the country

All over the country and throughout the year, Trefoil Guild members join with Girlguiding leaders to 'Keep Guiding Singing'. Songs old and new, many written by our own talented members, are learnt and enjoyed.

Each of the activity centres has a singing circle attached to it, who meet once or twice a year. No audition is required, and everyone is welcome. If you enjoy singing you'll have a great time at Foxlease, Waddow, Broneirion, Lorne, Hautbois, London – the list goes on. There are region groups, county groups, some are just division groups – and there is fun to be had at all of them!

Every two years we celebrate with a National Singing Circle Meet when hundreds of enthusiastic singers get together over the May Day holiday and enjoy a long weekend of music and friend making. There is even a scratch orchestra – all abilities accepted – a chance to dust off your instrument and join in.

Groups are often asked to perform at guiding events in many famous places and, of course, singing circle members are



A great session being enjoyed at Hautbois

always available to help with local units.

No longer do we learn by rote, but use many different songbooks from the UK and from all around the globe. Friends we have made through singing – from the USA, Canada, Australia and elsewhere – come here and share their songs, and we travel to them to share ours.

Singing is good for us all. For some, it brings back many happy memories of camps and holidays in our youth; for others it's a chance to learn new fun songs to share with today's Brownies and Guides!

**Does your county have a singing circle? Why not find out and go along. Contact [janette.walker1@bopenworld.com](mailto:janette.walker1@bopenworld.com) if you need help to find yours.**



Hampshire East members – it takes concentration to get the part right



Foxlease Singing Circle performing for Friends of Foxlease



# Raising funds

Fiona Waddell of East Lothian  
County Trefoil talks TOPAZ

Five Trefoil members make up the team for TOPAZ 2020 – Lesotho. The trip has been postponed until 2021 but the group continues to raise funds.

Trefoil members might be interested in a challenge that has been developed for all sections, details of which can be found at [topaz2020lesotho.travel.blog/](http://topaz2020lesotho.travel.blog/)

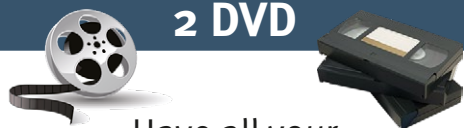
We have a supply of badges for sale to raise funds for TOPAZ (Trefoil Overseas Partnership – Adventure with Zest), which cost £1 plus postage. We are sure that they will help fill spaces on camp blankets!



*Please email: [topazlesotho20@gmail.com](mailto:topazlesotho20@gmail.com) to order badges and for the challenge pack.*

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# *When you're ready we're ready*



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# Looking ahead to 2021

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Book today! Visit our website for these and a wide range of events at all of our activity centres.

[girlguidingactivitycentres.org.uk](http://girlguidingactivitycentres.org.uk)

Activity Centres



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